

Morocco Becomes A.C. Frieden's Latest Literary Research Focus

MARRAKECH, Morocco (Nov. 27, 2008) – Author-lawyer A.C. Frieden arrived in Marrakech, Morocco on November 24 to find scenes for a crime novel, as well as scenes and settings for an anthology contribution (also a mystery). “From the moment I headed into the Medina, the old quarter, of the city,” said Frieden, “I realized that its unique architecture, rich history and mystical atmosphere would offer a wealth of materials for my fiction writing.”

From his temporary abode at the lavish Riad Camilia, Frieden ventured through the Souks, the narrow alleyways filled with small stores, located in the Medina. He also researched other historically significant sites in the Medina, including the *Badii Palace*, the *Jemaa El Fna* market square, the *Madersa* mosque, the Royal Palace, and the most famous landmark, the *Koutoubia* mosque.

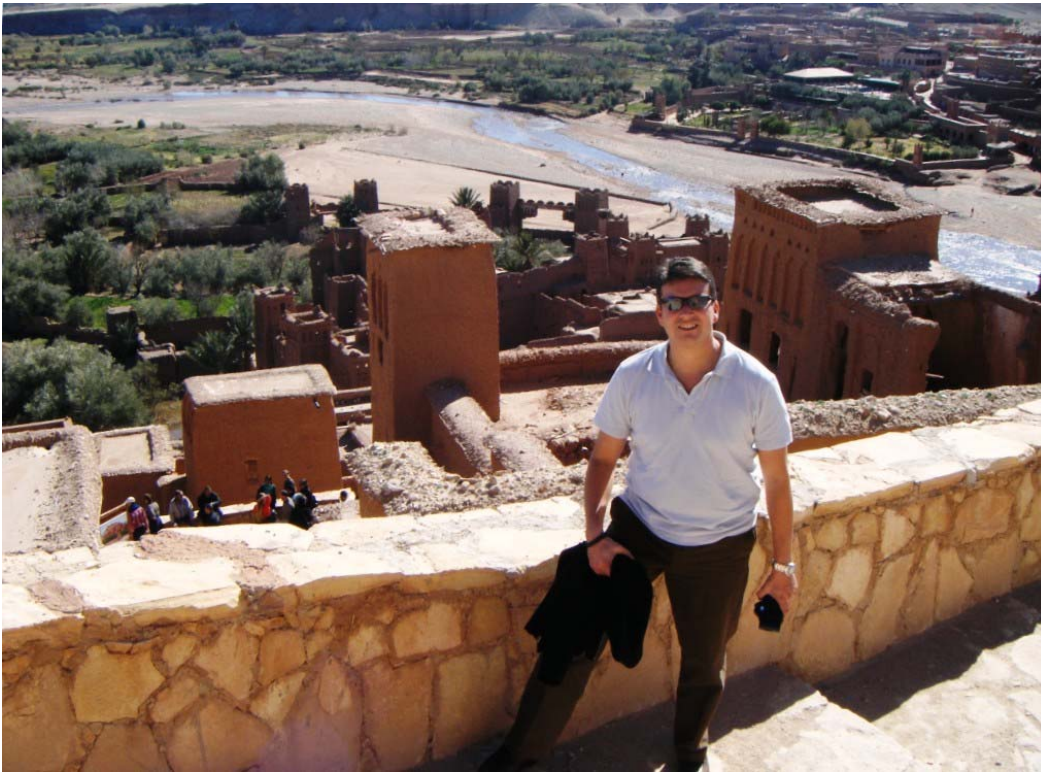


Above: A.C. Frieden visiting the ruins of the Badii Palace, a large fortified site dating back to the 16th century. The palace was recently featured as a prison in the movie *Rendition*.

Frieden also visited more modern parts of Marrakech, outside the Medina walls, including the area around the high-end shopping areas long *Mohammed V* avenue and nearby streets, as well as the more distant *Palmerie* district, where most of the city's luxury villas, golf courses and resorts are located.

Having spent enough time in Marrakech, Frieden decided to cross the Atlas Mountains to the pre-Saharan plains in the east. His journey began at dawn along route P31 towards the snow-capped mountains and the town of Ouarzazate some 200km east. He crossed the Tizi-n-Tichka mountain

pass half way along the journey and visited the historic village of Ait Ben Haddou and the town of Ouarzazate, including the Atlas Studios, which hosted scenes from a variety of well known movies, such as *Gladiator* and *Kingdom of Heaven*.



Above: Frieden walking up the hillside village of Ait Ben Haddou, overlooking the Ouarzazat River. The village is a UNESCO World Heritage Site because of its well preserved architecture.

Below: Frieden updating notes after an afternoon of researching scenes for his literary work.





Above: Frieden near the summit of the Tizi-n-Tichka pass over the Atlas Mountains. The road is one of the most dangerous in Morocco.

After the trip, Frieden returned to his research in Paris (see press release of Nov. 24, 2008).

About the author: A.C. Frieden is a Swiss-Brazilian mystery novelist and lawyer living in Chicago. He is currently working on two political novels, as well as the sequel to *Tranquility Denied*. For more information, visit his website at www.acfrieden.com and his literary travel blog.

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