

Morocco  
Yesterday & Today

October 4 - 18, 2008

Experience and learn not only about Morocco's ancient traditions and culture, but also gain insights into the contemporary local customs and the current social, economic and political situation of Today's Morocco.

Experience the magic of "1001 Arabian Nights" in Morocco where a myriad of sights, sounds, and smells await you. Feast on the culinary delights of Morocco including fresh olives and dates, chicken, lamb, and saffron flavored couscous always followed by a glass of hot mint tea. Visit the souks of Fez where you can smell the fresh fruit and vegetables, and mounds of freshly ground spices. Discover the mystery and magic of the Djemaa el Fna Square, where you will be surrounded by fortunetellers, snake charmers, acrobats, and fire-eaters. Visit the breathtaking Hassan II Mosque, built on the edge of the sea in Casablanca and see the Sahara the way it was meant to be seen, from the back of a camel.

People to People Experiences: Meet the Moroccan people at a special lunch with Moroccan families in the Medina at Fez, arranged by university representatives.

Sample Lectures: "Moroccan Traditions and Islam," "Women in Morocco," "Fez: The Spiritual City of Morocco," "Life in the High Atlas Mountains," "Growing up in the Medinas of Morocco."

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Day 1 - Saturday  
USA / Casablanca  
Depart on a regularly scheduled flight from U.S.A.

Day 2 - Sunday (L, D)  
Casablanca / Rabat  
Morning arrival in Casablanca. You will be assisted through customs by our local representative and transferred to your motorcoach for the scenic drive along the coast to Rabat. Lunch at a local restaurant. Rest of day at leisure.  
Hotel Golden Tulip Farah

Day 3 - Monday (B, L, D)  
Rabat  
You will visit the offices of the Association Rabat Al Fath and hear a lecture on "Moroccan Traditions and Islam." Your tour of Rabat will enable you to view its many attractions: museums, monuments, and mosques, including the Royal Palace, the Kasbah of the Oudayas and the exquisite gold and marble Mausoleum of Mohammed V.  
Hotel Golden Tulip Farah

"We enjoyed the opportunities we had to meet and talk with Moroccans. The discussion by Dr. Bentahila and meeting and having lunch with his family. Having tea and almonds with the elderly woman, her daughter and granddaughter at Ait Benhaddeu. Small number of participants. Excellent driver. Variety of places visited. and having some free time to explore on own."

Morocco - E. & M. Tiberg, VA

Day 4 - Tuesday (B, L, D)  
Rabat / Volubilis Drive through enchanting bark oak and cork forests to Meknes, the Moroccan Versailles. Meknes was created in the 17th century by Moulay Ismail, the first great Alaouit Sovereign. Here you will admire the Bab-El-Mansour and Bab-Berdaine, two of the striking gates built into the 25 miles of wall surrounding the ancient city, and visit the mosque housing the tomb of Moulay Ismail. You will see the incredible stables built by Moulay Ismail to accommodate 12,000 horses, and the granaries of cathedral-like proportions, where 20,000 prisoners and slaves could be held at one time. Tour the ruins of Volubilis, an ancient Roman city that covers an area of over 100 acres. Until the late third century, Volubilis was the

Roman Empire's most remote base. A magnificent Triumphal Arch and several well-preserved and still colorful mosaics are among the city's most impressive vestiges.

Hotel Zaki

Day 5 - Wednesday (B, L, D)

Volubilis / Fez

Take a short drive to the town of Moulay Idriss, named for the grandson of the prophet Mohammed who arrived there in the year 787. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. After a short tour of Moulay Idriss, the rest of the afternoon will be at leisure. Continue to the imperial city of Fez.

Hotel les Merinides

Day 6 - Thursday (B, L, D)

Fez

Early morning you might hear the Mouazane calling the faithful to prayers from one of the 320 mosques in Fez. You will begin your sightseeing day in the Medina (ancient city). Here you will see the Karaouine Mosque, capable of accommodating 22,000 people for worship, and the 14th-century El Attarin Medersa, an Islamic religious university, built around a beautiful courtyard with walls of carved plaster and cedar. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. Hotel De Fez, followed by a tour of Fez Jedid (or New Fez) for an introduction to the city's contemporary side. In the evening, dine at your hotel, perhaps sampling some of the excellent Moroccan cuisine and local wines.

Hotel les Merinides

Day 7 - Friday (B, L, D)

Fez

A lecture/seminar by a faculty member of the University Med Ben Abdellah will provide you with an understanding of "Fez: The Spiritual City of Morocco." Lunch will be arranged by representatives of the University at homes of Moroccan families within the medina. You will stroll through the maze of alleyways, experiencing the excitement and mystery of the souks (markets) while observing local artisans at work - wood carvers, copper engravers, rug weavers, and the famous tanners and dyers of fine Moroccan leather.

Hotel les Merinides

Day 8 - Saturday (B, L, D)

Fez / Midelt / Erfoud

Departure to Midelt through the wooded Middle Atlas region. On the way you will visit Azrou, an important handicraft center specializing in cedar wood-working. After the Zad pass, arrive in Midelt, an important mining center. After lunch, you will continue your trip to Erfoud. Cross the River Ziz, shimmering between two rows of high palm trees, and pass through a series of fortress villages whose architecture heralds that of the pre-Saharan castles. Arrival in Erfoud, situated at the foot of the djebel Erfoud, near the right bank of the Ziz River.

Hotel El Ati

Day 9 - Sunday (B, L, D)

Erfoud / Rissani / Tineghir

Departure to Tineghir via Rissani, the Holy City where the ancestor of the Alaouite Dynasty is buried in Moulay Al Sherif Mausoleum. Rissani is the capital of Tafilalt, located in the confines of the desert and the immense Hamada de Guir. You may also visit a 17th-century Kasbah, as well as the imposing ruins of Ksar Abbar. After lunch at Erfoud, continue to Tineghir by taking the Tinejdad road. Tineghir is situated in a magnificent palm grove, at the mouth of the Todrha Gorge. Todrha Gorge is an extremely wild region from which dark rocky masses and peaks emerge from a backdrop of tints and hues of light that have to be seen to be believed. Arrival in Tineghir.

Hotel Kenzi Bougafer or Hotel Sargho

Day 10 - Monday (B, L, D)

Tineghir / Kelaa / Ouarzazate

Visit the Todrha Gorge en route to El Kelaa. Visit the Kasbah in Kelaa des Mgouna, which stands out in massive silhouette on a crag overlooking a cool oasis in which there are fruit, almond, and apricot trees, and hedges of small strongly scented roses used in the manufacture of perfume essences. Enormous partially ruined earth villages overhang the river. Lunch at the famous Dades Gorges. Travel on to Ouarzazate, a fairy land of mud castles and green oasis.

Hotel Azghor

"I would recommend TravelLearn to anybody who truly wishes to understand and get to know a country. It was an adventure! The excellent escort and in-country guide were open, friendly, personable, humorous, and knowledgeable. The variety of activities: never a boring day. Sunrise in the Sahara...Visiting Old Fez...Length of the trip was perfect!"

Day 11 - Tuesday (B, L, D)

Ouarzazate / Marrakesh

Enjoy a short tour of Ouarzazate and then travel over the High Atlas to Marrakesh, set against the background of the snow-covered Atlas Mountains. After lunch in Marrakesh enjoy some free time to relax at the hotel or explore the city on your own.

Hotel Kenzi Farah

Day 12 - Wednesday (B, L, D)

Marrakesh

You will begin your tour of Marrakesh, the second-oldest of the imperial cities founded in the 11th century, which spreads out in a huge palm grove at the foot of the snow-capped High Atlas Mountains. Visit the venerable monument of Koutoubia, known as a masterpiece of Almouhad art; the richly decorated rooms of the Saadian Tombs; the remains of the 16th-century El Badi Palace; the Bahia Palace; and the Dar Si Said Palace, now converted into the exquisite Museum of Moroccan Art. After lunch you will be given a lecture on the art of Morocco with an exhibit of textiles, paintings, and jewelry.

Hotel Kenzi Farah

Day 13 - Thursday (B, L, D)

Marrakesh

You will have the morning at leisure. Lunch at the hotel. In the early evening, visit the enormous Djemaa el Fna Square which abounds with storytellers, snake charmers, fire-eaters, acrobats, and fortune tellers, with local people sitting around the ever-present tea kettles producing the fragrance of fresh mint tea. Dinner and special floor show at the Restaurant Chez Ali.

Hotel Kenzi Farah

Day 14 - Friday (B, L, D)

Marrakesh / Casablanca

Depart for Casablanca, Morocco's largest city and commercial capital. After lunch, take a short tour of the city, stopping at the newly completed Mosque Hassan II. The Mosque is the world's second largest, and was built with donations from Moroccans of all faiths.

Royal Mansour Hotel

Day 15 - Saturday (B)

Casablanca / USA

Transfer with assistance to Mohammed V Airport for your flight to the U.S.A.

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## PROGRAM FEATURES

Accommodations in four and five-star hotels with private bath. The best hotels in the southern portion of Morocco will be utilized. Meals as indicated.

Lecture/seminars on ancient and contemporary Morocco by faculty at Moroccan Universities in Rabat, Fez, and Marrakesh.

Airport transfers with assistance and land transportation by deluxe motor coach throughout program.

Services of a specially selected professional English speaking national guide as well as English-speaking local guides throughout the program.

All sightseeing and park entrance fees, and tips and taxes normally added to your hotel bills are included.

Lunch with Moroccan families in the Medina at Fez.

## PROGRAM PRICE

\$3,195 p. p. double occupancy Land Only- Plus Airfare

(does not include international airfare, giving you the flexibility to use frequent flyer miles or search the internet for the best airfares available.)

\$795 single-room supplement

B - Breakfast

L - Lunch

D - Dinner

Drinks are not included.