2019
HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS
DISCOVER • LEARN • CONNECT • EXPLORE

Morocco Explorer
April 24 – May 5, 2019
Walled clay villages and ornate palaces behind grand tiled gates, colorful medinas lined with rows of exotic spices, Berber families carrying on ancient ways of life high in the mountains—this is the enchanting mix that is Morocco. Wander the narrow alleyways of Casablanca, Rabat, and Fez, exploring its lively bazaars and medinas. Travel across vast landscapes to the glittering dunes of the Sahara, where you will camp under a blanket of stars and see the first rays of dawn flicker across the shifting sands. Experience Marrakech, once a stop on the ancient caravan routes and still infused with the magic of a cultural crossroads.

Activity Level 3: ⚠️ ⚠️ ⚠️ ⚠️ ⚠️

A LITTLE MORE TO IT

This moderately active program includes multiple hotel changes, and a number of long drives on windy roads. A spirit of flexibility and adventure is welcome during these drives. Most days are heavily scheduled so that you can see as many highlights of Morocco as possible. Travelers should be in good health, and in good enough shape to navigate stairs and walk along uneven terrain. The temperatures during your stay in Morocco should range from the low-40s to the mid-80s. Morocco is a conservative country, especially in terms of dress. The general dress code is casual with a focus on modest western-style clothing. Women should cover their knees and shoulders in public, and their hair in mosques. During the day we recommend clothing that can be layered to provide warmth in the cool mornings and evenings, and removed during the warmer parts of the day. A coat, jacket, or heavy sweater may be especially useful in the High Atlas Mountains and in the Sahara Desert. It is a good idea to bring a hat and sunglasses for touring in Morocco due to the strong sun. Comfortable, practical shoes are also essential as there will be substantial walking and many floors are uneven, as well as the grounds and pathways at some sites.
Schedule by Day

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24
Fly to Morocco
Depart from home on independent flights to Casablanca, Morocco.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25
Casablanca / Rabat
Arrive at the Mohammed V International Airport (CMN). Meet your guide and driver outside the baggage collection area. Visit Casablanca, Morocco’s largest city and its business and industrial center. Casablanca is home to one of the modern world’s architectural wonders, the Hassan II Mosque. After your visit, drive through the scenic countryside to the imperial city of Rabat. Settle into the hotel and enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure. This evening, enjoy a welcome reception and dinner.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27
Rabat / Volubilis / Meknes / Fes
Drive east through the Middle Atlas Mountains to the ancient Roman city of Volubilis, which was the northwest African capital of the Roman Empire and was named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1997. Continue to Meknes, another one of Morocco’s imperial cities. Meknes was the 18th-century seat of Sultan Moulay Ismail during the reigns of Louis XIV of France and James II of England. Visit the monumental Bab el-Mansour and the Mausoleum of Moulay Ismail. Stop at a winery for lunch. Continue to Fes, Morocco’s first imperial city. Enjoy the atmospheric hotel overlooking the medina.

MONDAY, APRIL 29
Fes / Midelt / Erfoud
Travel south to Erfoud, one of Morocco’s largest oases. Drive through fertile valleys and into the cedar forests and beautiful lakes of the Middle Atlas Mountains Pass. Continue through Ifrane, a charming European-looking ski resort, and Azrou, a typical Berber town with flat-roofed earthen houses. Stop at the nature reserve of Midelt. Continue across the Pass of the She-Camel and through the Tunnel of the Legionnaires looking out over the Ziz River valley to Errachedia.

FOR DETAILED ITINERARIES, VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL
**Erfoud / Merzouga**

Transfer by 4x4 Dakar Rally tour vehicles to the dunes of Erg Chebbi, possibly the largest dunes in the Sahara Desert. En route, study the desert ecosystem. Visit the Sijilmassa and Rissani Village, home to a great number of ksars, or fortified villages, where you often find a palace. Explore Ksar El Fida and the Ksar Oulad Abdelhalim, traditional souks of Rissani, and meet local nomads for mint tea. In the late afternoon, enjoy a short camel trek to of ksars, or fortified villages, where you often find a palace. Explore Ksar El Fida and the Ksar Oulad Abdelhalim. Explore the traditional souks of Rissani, and meet local nomads for mint tea. In the late afternoon, enjoy a short camel trek to witness the sunset from over the desert dunes. Continue to your private desert camp for the evening.

Overnight: Merzouga Tent Camp (B, L, D)

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1**

**Merzouga / Tinghir/ Todra Gorge / Ouarzazate**

Drive though lunar-like landscape to Tinghir, one of the largest and most beautiful oases in Morocco. Visit the Mellah Jewish quarter. Continue to nearby Todra Gorge and enjoy mint tea on a terrace looking out at canyon walls rising 1,200 feet on either side. Continue towards Ouarzazate along the southern flank of the High Atlas Mountains. En route, stop in the Dades Valley at the oasis Kaalat M’Gouna. Arrive this evening in Ouarzazate, which has become a major cultural center and base for the many films shot in this area.

Overnight: Le Berbère Palace (B, L, D)

**THURSDAY, MAY 2**

**Ouarzazate / Aït Benhaddou / Marrakech**

Begin the day with a tour of Ouarzazate. Visit Kasbah Taourirt, the former capital of the Gloumi and one of the most important kasbahs in the region. Have a traditional mint tea overlooking a panoramic view of Ouarzazate Valley. Explore the UNESCO-restored Kasbah Aït Benhaddou, arguably Morocco’s most impressive village and virtually unchanged since the Middle Ages. Continue on to Marrakech via North Africa’s highest passage, the Tizi n’Tichka mountain pass linking the Sahara Desert and the great Marrakech Plains. Arrive at the hotel and settle in before dinner tonight.

Overnight: La Sultana Marrakech (B, L, D).

**FRIDAY, MAY 3**

**Marrakech**

Explore Marrakech, the “Pearl of the South.” Visit the Koutoubia Mosque and the 16th-century Saadian Tombs, resting place of the Saadian royal family. Visit the lavishly decorated Bahia Palace, built in the late 19th century and noted for its Moorish-Andalusian architecture. Continue to the Majorelle Garden with its Moorish-style villa, now a Berber culture museum, and 12 acres of garden. This afternoon, discover the Medersa Ben Youssef, founded in the 14th century and famed for its geometric patterns of decoration. End the day at the visual extravaganza of Marrakech’s Djemaa el-Fna, the city’s exciting main square.

Overnight: La Sultana Marrakech (B, L, D)

**SATURDAY, MAY 4**

**Marrakech**

This morning, drive to the Amizmiz Valley, populated by Berbers who still follow a traditional way of life, to enjoy a Moroccan cooking class. Chef Taik has extensive experience running the kitchens of many hotels and restaurants both locally and internationally. Harvest ingredients from the garden and learn the art of seasoning with aromatic Moroccan herbs as you prepare a typical two-course Moroccan meal. Enjoy the fruits of your labor with some excellent Moroccan wine. Spend the afternoon on your own. This evening, enjoy a farewell reception and dinner.

Overnight: La Sultana Marrakech (B, L, D)

**SUNDAY, MAY 5**

**Marrakech / Aloft**

Transfer to Marrakech Menara Airport (RAK) for your international flight home. Depart for home.

Overnight: Aloft (B)
Includes:

• Harvard study leader
• professional tour director
• local English-speaking Moroccan guides
• airport transfers on days other than the scheduled arrival and departure dates
• accommodation as indicated in itinerary
• local beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages at included meals
• bottled water and snacks in vehicles
• activities as indicated in itinerary
• entrance fees to sites as indicated in itinerary
• airport transfers on designated arrival and departure days
• private, air-conditioned vehicle throughout the trip.
• gratuities for guides, drivers, hotel staff, and restaurant staff at included meals
• $200,000 emergency medical assistance and evacuation insurance provided by Harvard Alumni Travels

Does not include:

• international flights (home – Casablanca/CMN; Marrakech/RAK – home)
• international airport departure taxes (included in most international tickets)
• meals not included in the itinerary
• alcoholic beverages (discretionary)
• travel insurance (discretionary)
• passport fees, visas, and visa photos as required
• phone calls, laundry, and other items of a personal nature (discretionary)

Rates Per Person

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TO BOOK A TRIP, CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL
Trip Sampling
A Sampling of other upcoming Harvard Alumni Travels Programs

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
JAN 23–FEB 13, 2019
DAVID AGUILAR

COLOMBIA: FROM BOGOTÁ TO CARTAGENA
MAR 6–18, 2019
MARK VAN BAALLEN

TANZANIA MIGRATION SAFARI
MAR 10–20, 2019
BENCE ÖLVECZKY

AMSTERDAM: FROM GOLDEN AGE CANALS TO DUTCH MASTERPIECES
MAR 29–APR 3, 2019
SARA SCHECHNER

PRIVATE HOMES & GARDENS OF BERMUDA
APR 1–5, 2019
MICHAEL WEISHAN

HMSC SILK ROAD IN CENTRAL ASIA & IRAN
APR 6–23, 2019

BEHIND THE SCENES AT CERN & ITER; CELEBRATING THE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES, CULTURE & CUISINE OF GENEVA & PROVENCE
MAY 5–14, 2019
MELISSA FRANKLIN

JOURNEY THROUGH THE SOUTH CAUCASUS
MAY 8–22, 2019
ALEXANDRA VACROUX

VILLAGE LIFE IN DORDOGNE
MAY 16–24, 2019
ROBERT J. KIELY

HMSC WILD AFRICA
MAY 20–JUN 3, 2019
ZARIN MACHANDA

HMSC MONGOLIA: LAND OF THE BLUE SKY
JUN 3–14, 2019
ANDREW BERRY

GATEWAY TO AUTHENTIC IRELAND
JUN 7–17, 2019
CATHERINE MCKENNA

HBS KILIMANJARO TREK & WILDLIFE SAFARI
JUN 15–26, 2019
DAVID FOSTER

TRANS-SIBERIAN BY PRIVATE TRAIN WITH THE NADAAM FESTIVAL
JUN 29–JUL 13, 2019
PETER GALBRAITH

SCOTLAND’S ORKNEY & SHETLAND ISLANDS HIKING ADVENTURE
AUG 23–SEP 2, 2019
DANIEL SMAIL

HMSC MADAGASCAR: THE EIGHTH CONTINENT
SEP 3–16, 2019
JAMES COSTA

AZORES GETAWAY
OCT 11–14, 2019
JEREMIAH TRIMBLE

SILK ROAD IN CENTRAL ASIA (THE FIVE STANS)
OCT 10–28, 2019

HMSC DISCOVER ETHIOPIA
OCT 11–28, 2019

EXPLORING THE WINE REGIONS OF BORDEAUX & RIOJA
OCT 12–20, 2019

MYSTICAL INDIA
OCT 13–29, 2019
EMILY O’DELL

JOURNEY THROUGH VIETNAM
OCT 16–NOV 1, 2019

EXPLORING HAVANA, CUBA
OCT 17–21, 2019

LEBANON & JORDAN: FROM CASTLES TO CARAVANS
OCT 31–NOV 3, 2019
JOSEPH GREENE

BUDAPEST AND CENTRAL EUROPE ON GOLDEN EAGLE DANUBE EXPRESS (WITH NEW YEAR’S IN VIENNA)
DEC 28, 2019–JAN 5, 2020
GA will not be liable for any air carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket to or from the participant’s trip departure city. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant.

**Payments, Cancellations, and Refunds:** To reserve space on this Trip, a $1,000 per-person deposit is required. Final payment is due no later than 90 days prior to departure. Payments must be made by credit card. A participant’s reservation may be canceled if full payment has not been received by 90 days prior to departure. For reservations made within 90 days of the departure date, full payment is required when the reservation is accepted. All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of the postmark. If a participant cancels 120 days or more prior to departure, a refund less an administrative fee of 50% of the deposit will be made. Per-person charges for cancellations that occur less than 120 days prior to departure (“Cancellation Period”) are as follows: 91-119 days prior to departure: 100% of the deposit amount; 45-90 days prior to departure: 50% of the Trip cost; 44 or fewer days prior to departure: 100% of the Trip cost. This policy also applies to pre- and post-Trip extensions and extra arrangements confirmed on any participant’s behalf. Any revisions made within the Cancellation Period, such as a change in departure date or choice of trip, are subject to this cancellation policy. Any airline tickets issued are subject to the carrier’s refund policy. Arriving late or leaving a Trip in progress, for any reason whatsoever, will not result in a refund, and no refunds will be made for any unused portions of a Trip.

**FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS, INCLUDING ARBITRATION POLICY AND PROCESS, ARE AVAILABLE AT tinyurl.com/MoroccoTerms**