SPRING BREAK IN MOROCCO
FOR STUDENTS & ALUMNI
MARCH 9–17, 2018

Discover Morocco’s vibrant culture and history on a captivating spring break journey. This “mini-grand” tour begins in Rabat, wandering the narrow alleyways of the city’s medina. See the extensive archaeological remains of Roman Volubilis, and the ancient Imperial City of Meknes. Explore Fes, Morocco’s intellectual and spiritual capital, and observe the ways of life of Berber tribesmen, Morocco’s indigenous inhabitants, on a scenic visit to Mt. Toubkal National Park, and enjoy tea in a local home. Conclude in Marrakech, where the city’s prime monuments, including the Bahia Palace of vizier Ba Ahmed and the necropolis of the Saadian Dynasty, await you.

HAA spring break trips are specially designed for Harvard students and alumni to travel together. They provide meaningful and accessible travel opportunities to students and expose alumni travelers to the Harvard College students of today. Special rates are available for all Harvard University students, and there are travel scholarship opportunities for current Harvard College students (the HAA collaborates with the Financial Aid Office to establish need). Although shorter and less expensive than a typical HAA trip, these programs—led by Harvard professors—contain the same educational content you would expect from a Harvard travel program. A diverse audience of students, alumni, and expert leaders enlivens discussion and educational exchange.

GROUP SIZE: 16 to 28 guests

PRICING: (Land Only—price does not include airfare; Double Occupancy)

- Harvard College Student: $2,295*
- Harvard Graduate Student: $2,895**
- Harvard University Alumni: $3,295
- Single supplement: $550

*Must be currently enrolled as a fulltime Harvard student

**This rate also applies to recent Harvard College graduates from 2008–2017
STUDY LEADER: **ALI ASANI**, Professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic Religion and Cultures, Associate of Lowell House, and Director of the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Islamic Studies Program.

Born in Nairobi, Ali S. Asani completed his high school education in Kenya. He attended Harvard College with a concentration in the comparative study of religion, graduating summa cum laude in 1977. He continued his graduate work at Harvard in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and civilizations, receiving his PhD with high distinction in 1984. Since then he has been on the faculty at Harvard providing instruction on Islam in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, on Islamic mysticism, and on Islamic civilizations around the world, including a popular course in the undergraduate core curriculum program, "Understanding Islam and Contemporary Muslim Societies." He also offers instruction in various South Asian and African languages. The author of several books and articles on aspects of Muslim religious life, he is a recipient of several grants and awards, most recently the Harvard Foundation medal for his outstanding contributions to improving intercultural and race relations by promoting a better understanding of Islam.

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**SCHEDULE BY DAY**

*B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner, R=Reception*

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**FRIDAY, MARCH 9**

**DEPART U.S. FOR MOROCCO**

Independent departures from the U.S. on the overnight flights to Morocco.

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**SATURDAY, MARCH 10**

**RABAT**

Upon your arrival, transfer to your hotel in Rabat. The remainder of the day is free to relax and refresh, or, if you have time, to begin exploring the city on your own during the afternoon.

Tonight, a welcome dinner of Moroccan specialties takes you into the narrow alleyways of the medina (old city) to a former palatial home converted into the city’s most renowned eatery.

*Overnight: Le Pietri* *(D)*

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**SUNDAY, MARCH 11**

**RABAT**

Your visit to stately capital Rabat begins with a leisurely walk through the whitewashed Oudaia Kasbah, once a lair of Barbary Coast corsairs, its Andalusian Garden, and the Oudaia Gate, a reference of Almohad Dynasty architecture. From there, stroll through the Chellah fortress, its lush gardens, Roman remains, and the intricate 14th-century necropolis of the Merinid Dynasty.

For lunch, head to the Center for Cross-Cultural Learning within Rabat’s medina, where you’ll enjoy a lecture on the cultural and political interactions between the U.S. and Morocco over the centuries.

Next, stop at the mausoleum of Mohamed V, the “father” of modern Morocco. The memorial is located on the grounds of the ruined Hassan mosque from the 12th century, which was meant to have been the world’s largest at the time.

In the afternoon, visit the country’s sole archaeological museum, renowned for its Roman and prehistoric collections.

Dinner this evening is on your own in Rabat.
MONDAY, MARCH 12
VOLUBILIS / MEKNES / FES

Begin this morning with a visit to the ruins of Volubilis, Rome’s commercial hub in northwestern Africa until the 3rd century CE. Observe the extensive archaeological remains and well-preserved mosaics that are still in situ.

Next, head to Imperial City Meknes, which Sultan Moulay Ismail built as his capital. See his mausoleum, still a pilgrimage site, and the immense granary he built to feed the city’s population and his 12,000(!) horses for up to a year-long siege. Also tour the Dar Jamaï, originally built as a palace and now housing a museum of city crafts.

After a traditional Moroccan meal in a former palace, continue to Fes, Morocco’s intellectual and spiritual capital.

Tonight, enjoy a Moroccan dinner at the hotel together.

Overnight: Les Merinides (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 13
FES

Start with a morning walk through 9th-century “Old” Fes, considered by scholars to be the last true example of a typical medieval Arab town. See the restored Attarine Medersa, the finest artistic achievement of the 14th-century Merinid Dynasty; the mausoleum to city founder Idriss II; the 17th-century Nejjarine caravansary, now an exquisite museum of wood arts; and the area of the world’s oldest functioning university, the Qaraouine, with its famed, colorful leather tanneries, specialty bazaars, and craft workshops.

Pause for a typical Fesi lunch during a visit at a converted home in the midst of the city.

This afternoon, take a driving tour to explore the ramparts and visit 14th-century “New” Fes, its 700-year-old Bou Inania Koranic school, and the famed Blue Gate that leads to the old medina.

Both the “Old” and “New” sectors are a UNESCO World Heritage City.

Dinner tonight is on your own in this remarkable city.

Overnight: Les Merinides (B, L, D)

THURSDAY, MARCH 15
INTO THE SOUQ AND MAJORELLE GARDEN

This morning delve into the vast reed-covered bazaars, the country’s largest, exploring quarters where all types of crafts are still fashioned by hand (and foot!).

Also stop at the Ben Youssef school, another gem of Merinid art, to browse among the myriad of wares and colors.

After lunch, proceed to the new city to visit the exotic garden created in the 1930s by French Orientalist Jacques Majorelle, restored by the late Yves St. Laurent. While there, tour the exquisite Museum of Berber Culture.

Dinner is on your own tonight to sample the city’s vast variety of excellent eateries.

Overnight: Le Diwan (B, L)
FRIDAY, MARCH 16
MT. TOUBKAL NATIONAL PARK

Rise for an early departure for Imlil village, at the foot of 14,000-ft Mt. Toubkal, North Africa’s highest peak. There take a mule ride through walnut-shaded terraced fields to observe the ways of life of the Berber tribesmen, Morocco’s indigenous inhabitants, nearly unchanged in centuries.

After a tea break in a local home, proceed to a Berber lunch at the Kasbah du Toubkal ecolodge.

In the mid-afternoon return to Marrakech, with the remainder of time free for personal pursuits or additional sightseeing.

Tonight, celebrate your journey with a farewell dinner of Marrakchi specialties in the midst of the medina.

Overnight: Le Diwan (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, MARCH 17
DEPART FOR U.S.

Depart today for independent transfers to Marrakech airport for the homebound flights.

(B)