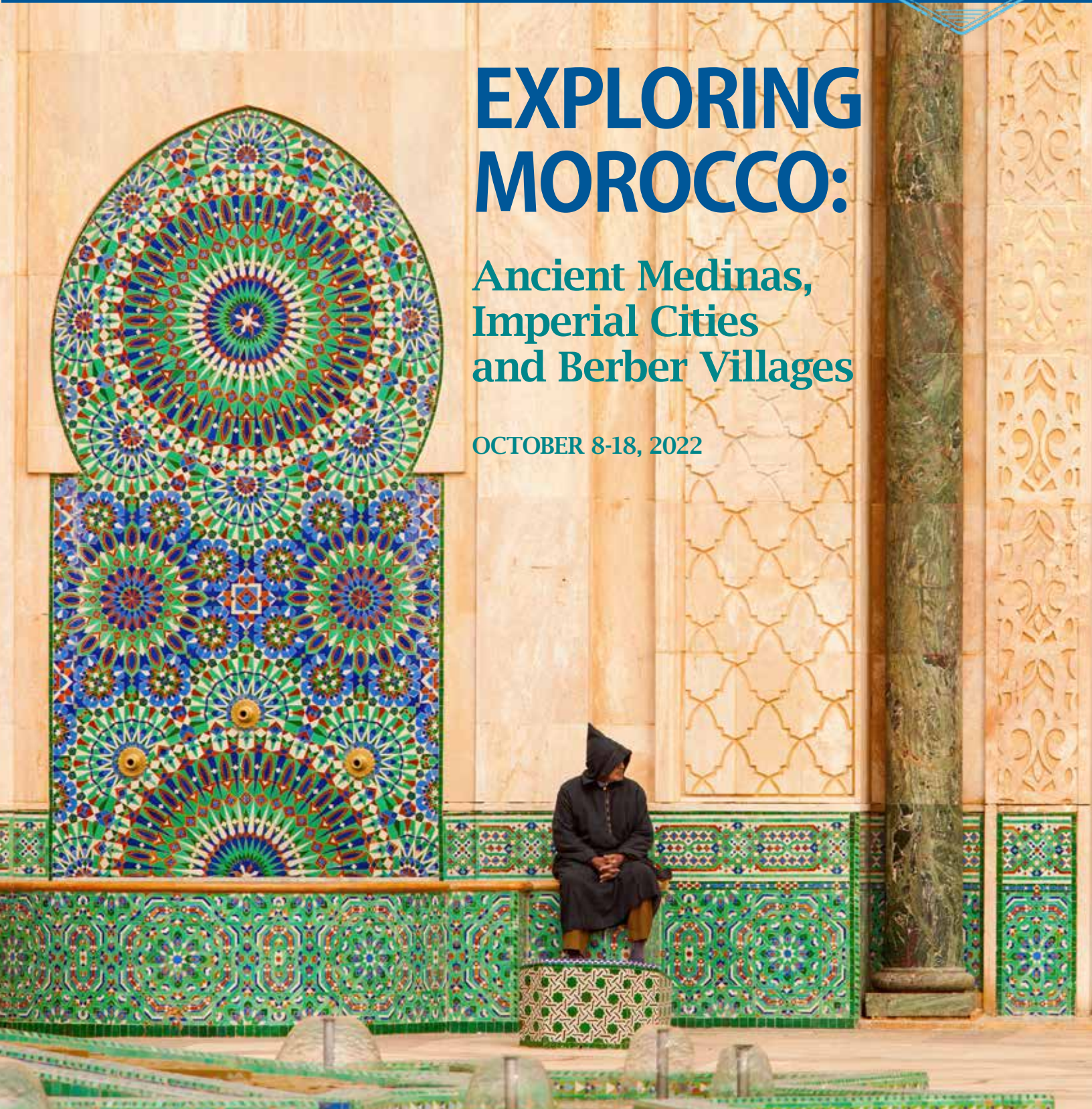


# EXPLORING MOROCCO:

Ancient Medinas,  
Imperial Cities  
and Berber Villages

OCTOBER 8-18, 2022







## Dear UCSC Alumni,

Morocco has captured the imaginations of visitors for centuries with its layers of rich history, vibrant mountainous landscapes, and bustling souks that are just as beautiful as they are chaotic. Join us and be immersed in the intertwined history and culture that fuses indigenous Berber traditions with Arab, Jewish, Andalusian, and other European influences. Accompanying this program will be Dr. Alma Heckman, the Neufeld-Levin Chair in Holocaust Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz and associate professor in the Department of History.

Our journey begins exploring the rich Jewish history in the port city of Casablanca with its burgeoning arts scene. Stop in Rabat, the country's diplomatic center which appropriately reflects the many influences that have shaped the city. As we drive to Fez explore the imperial city of Meknes, once home to the grand Moroccan sultanate, and the ancient Roman settlement of Volubilis, whose outstanding collection of mosaic floors rival any in the world. Hidden in a valley surrounded by kaleidoscopic hills, Fez's legendary labyrinthine medina has something breathtaking hidden around every corner. Travel to the picturesque sea-side town of Essaouira and learn about efforts to preserve the historic memory of its Jewish community. In Marrakesh, an ancient trading center, spend time discovering the city's proud traditional artisanship. End the program exploring villages located deep in the High Atlas mountains and learning about the unique ways of life of Morocco's native peoples, the Berbers. Return home from Marrakesh.

Bring a travel partner and a thirst for history and culture. If you wish to join the trip or have questions, please contact Nichole Silva at [ietravel@ucsc.edu](mailto:ietravel@ucsc.edu) or (831) 459-3689.

Nichole Silva (Stevenson '95)  
Director, Strategic Travel and Experiences

UC SANTA CRUZ

## MOROCCO • ITINERARY

October 8, Saturday: Depart.

Independent flight from U.S. to Morocco.

October 9, Sunday: Casablanca. (D)

Arrive at Casablanca and transfer to the *Sofitel Casablanca Tour Blanche Hotel*.

Enjoy a light dinner at the hotel.

October 10, Monday: Casablanca (B,L,D)

Begin exploring the port city of Casablanca with a visit to the **Beth-El synagogue**, one of the largest and most beautiful in Casablanca.

Continue on to the city's **Jewish Museum**, set in an attractive garden villa that once functioned as a Jewish orphanage. The museum traces the 2000 year history of Jews in Morocco.

At lunch, schedule permitting, we invite singer, scholar and oral historian **Vanessa Paloma** who is committed to preserving everything associated with Moroccan Jewish music.

After lunch, meet **Kristi Jones** at the vibrant art space l'Uzine to discuss the challenges of funding contemporary art in Morocco.

End the day at the **Hassan II Mosque**, one of the only mosques in the country open to non-Muslims. This flamboyant building was built at enormous expense to commemorate the former king's 60th birthday.

"TO VISIT MOROCCO IS STILL LIKE TURNING THE PAGES OF SOME ILLUMINATED PERSIAN MANUSCRIPT ALL EMBROIDERED WITH BRIGHT SHAPES AND SUBTLE LINES."

— EDITH WHARTON



Enjoy a welcome dinner this evening at **Rick's Café**, designed to recreate the bar made famous by Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman in the movie classic *Casablanca*.

October 11, Tuesday: Rabat, Meknes, Fez. (B,L,D)

Depart Casablanca early, stopping in **Rabat** to stroll through the cobblestone alleys of the millennium-old **Oudaya Kasbah**, a former lair of Barbary Coast corsairs. Visit **Rabat's Jewish cemetery** with its tombs and inscriptions of important saints, such as Eliezer de Avila and Chalom Zaoui.

Drive east to explore the Imperial City of **Meknes**, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the 17th century imperial capital of Morocco, offering a fusion of color, culture and history.

After lunch visit the vast ruins of **Volubilis**, Rome's commercial capital for the region and home to an extraordinary collection of mosaics.

At the end of the afternoon arrive at the fabled city of **Fez**, Morocco's 1,200-year-old spiritual capital. Check into the *Palais Faraj*, a graceful 17th century palace, located on the edge of the medina.

Enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening.







### October 12, Wednesday: Fez. (B,L,D)

After breakfast spend the day exploring Fez, the country's ancient spiritual capital and only medieval Arab city completely intact. Begin the day at the *Arab Language Center in Fez* with a discussion about preserving the Medina of Fez with **Naima Lahbil**, professor of Economics at the Faculty of Law. After the discussion, stop in at the **Glaoui Palace** where you can sense the former grandeur of a feudal palace.

After lunch at **Les Jardin des Biehn**, continue exploring Fez. Marvel at the **Fez water clock**, the oldest form of time keeping in the world, finished in 1357. Stop at the house where **Miamonides**, a great Jewish teacher, physician, and philosopher once lived. Explore **Nejjarine Square**, built in 18th century Andalusian-style, and its corresponding museum that displays traditional Moroccan woodwork.

Continue on to **Al-Karaouine University** and its mosque, regarded as the oldest continuously used center of learning on earth and just one of dozens of medieval madrasas, or religious schools, found in Fez. Visit the **Qarawiyyin Library**, recently restored by Fez native and architect Aziza Chaoui.

Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

### October 13, Thursday: Fez. (B,L)

This morning begin at the ancient **leather tanneries** whose dyeing vats have endured for centuries.

Continue on to a special visit at the **American Fondouk**, a unique nonprofit organization dedicated to the welfare of the hard working donkeys, mules, and horses of Morocco.

After lunch, accompanied by documentarian Youness Abedour, explore the city's **Mellah**. Here, around 1438, after one

particularly extreme attack, the Sultan moved the city's Jews to a walled neighborhood near his palace.

Close by is 17th century **Danan Synagogue**, named for a rabbinical family that goes back 50 generations. The nearby **Slat Al Fassiyine** is an equally exquisite 17th-century synagogue named and created for the residents of Fez.

Take pause at the **Jewish cemetery** whose graves, only recently fully cataloged, are spread over a large sloping plot where notable rabbis are set off in a separate section. You will see offerings (including olives and fruit) left for Sol Hachuel, a Jewish female saint whom both Jews and Muslims venerate for her defiance of forced conversion, one of several examples of such shared worship that is specific to Morocco.

Adjoining the cemetery is **Edmond Gabbay's Jewish museum**. One of less than 100 remaining Jews of Fez, Mr. Gabbay, 81, has made it his mission to collect and display the goods and chattels the Jews left behind: the passports and report cards; the eye charts and the baskets spilling over with prayer shawls. His mission is driven by fear that without tangible signs, people might forget who the Jews were in the city.

Evening at leisure.

### October 14, Friday: Essaouira. (B,L,D)

This morning, visit **Sefrou** to meet **Jessica Stephens** of **Culture Vultures** who is opening the new **Museum of Multiculturalism (SMM)** in the heart of the Sefrou medina (a UNESCO world heritage site). The museum will present a diverse representation of the many cultures that have passed through the Fez/Sefrou region over the centuries. Meet with local craftspeople and through conversations, learn more about their traditional lifestyle.





After a home-prepared lunch, drive 30 minutes to the airport in Fez for your flight to Marrakesh.

Upon arrival in Marrakesh, drive to the enchanting town of **Essaouira** located on Morocco's Atlantic coast whose name means "little picture." It is a painter's dream location, with a vibrant blue-and-white "medina" enclosed by fairy-tale, sand-colored ramparts and imposing stone gates.

Overnight and dinner at the *Suites Azur* which has succeeded in preserving the character of a traditional Moroccan house.

October 15, Saturday: Marrakesh. (B,L,D)

Discover **Essaouira**, established in the mid-18th century on the site of a 16th-century Portuguese fortress. It quickly became a major trading post between Africa and Europe. Explore this strategic port used by the Phoenicians, Portuguese, and Arabs and famous for its purple dye and Gnawa music.

Not far away is the crumbling **Jewish Quarter** established to extend the sultan's protection to the city's Jewish inhabitants. It has long been a symbol of tolerance, with Jews and Muslims coexisting in peaceful community. During the French Protectorate, Essaouira ceased being a major trading post, forcing families to migrate to larger cities. After the founding of Israel, the Mellah lost around 98 percent of its population, and after the 1980s, the Jewish community abandoned the area.

Visit the newly opened **Bayt Dakira museum** (House of Memory) dedicated to the historic coexistence of its Jewish and Muslim communities. Situated in a former family home of a wealthy trader, the museum showcases objects donated by local families alongside stories of members of the Jewish community.

We hope to meet with staff from the **World Monuments Fund** whose documentary "The Untold Stories of the Jewish Quarter of Essaouira" documents this vanishing history with the goal of recording and creating awareness of Morocco's cultural plurality.

Head just out of town to the **Bbio organic farm** where owner Khalid will share his ingenious farming methods. Afterwards enjoy a leisurely alfresco lunch lounging on Berber rugs.

Continue on to Marrakesh and head straight to the **Maison de la Photographie** with its extraordinary collection of 3,500 photographs about Morocco between 1870 and 1950. Sip mint tea at the Maison's secret rooftop café which offers the highest, sweeping panoramic views of Marrakesh.

End the day at the **Djemaa el-Fna square**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. By late afternoon the square becomes an open-air theater as it begins to fill with food vendors, water-sellers with fringed hats, henna tattoo artists, monkeys and oboe-playing snake charmers.

Dinner and overnight at *Jardins de la Koutoubia*.

October 16, Sunday: Marrakesh. (B,L)

Begin learning about Marrakesh at the beautiful 12th century minaret of the **Koutoubia Mosque** – Marrakesh's iconic landmark – visible for miles around. Proceed to visit the **Bahia Palace**, a prime example of Moorish-Andalusian architecture.

Accompanied by an **English anthropologist**, visit the **Slat Al Azama Synagogue**, one of the last functioning synagogues in the Mellah.

"THERE ARE CERTAIN PLACES ON THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH THAT POSSESS MORE MAGIC THAN OTHERS, AND ONE OF THOSE PLACES IS MARRAKECH."

— PAUL BOWLES

Djemaa el-Fna square







Lunch has been arranged at the **AMAL Restaurant** which is run by the Amal Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to the empowerment of disadvantaged women through restaurant training and job placement so that trainees can achieve economic and social stability.

After lunch, discover Yves Saint Laurent's garden called **Marjorelle**. Close by is the new **Yves Saint Laurent Museum** which houses thousands of articles of clothing and haute couture accessories.

Enjoy dinner at leisure.

October 17, Monday: Marrakesh. (B,L,D)

Enjoy an excursion to the **Ourika Valley**, a lush expanse of terraced fields and forested hillsides in the foothills of the High Atlas Mountains.

Stop at a local **traditional village** to learn more about Berber life and their farming techniques to provide their families with a year-round food supply as rich as it is diverse. Visit the **Co-operative Tifawin**, a women's rug cooperative who create one off designs in a remote and beautiful location.

Enjoy lunch in the delightful gardens of **Bab Ourika**, perched on a hilltop against a soaring backdrop of the tallest mountain in North Africa.

Return to Marrakesh for some free time before a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

October 18, Tuesday: Return. (B)

Independent transfers to the Marrakesh airport for homebound flights.







## YOUR UC SANTA CRUZ STUDY LEADER DR. ALMA HECKMAN

Dr. Heckman is the Neufeld-Levin Chair in Holocaust Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz and associate professor in the Department of History. Her research interests include modern Jewish history, labor history, transnational Jewish political activism, colonialism, nationalism, third worldism, syncretism, and North Africa and the Middle East. In addition, she is working to digitize, transcribe, and publish interviews with European Jewish refugees from World War II who found safe harbor in the Middle East and North Africa in an effort to expand Holocaust studies beyond a Eurocentric narrative.

Heckman received her PhD from UCLA and has previously held fellowships at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and at the UCLA Center for Jewish Studies.







## YOUR JOURNEY COSTS

Per person trip price, (based double occupancy)	\$6,380
Single room supplement, additional	\$1,580

## YOUR JOURNEY INCLUDES

Accommodations at hotels as listed • Meals as listed in the program with bottled water at each meal • Domestic flight from Fez to Marrakech • All sightseeing, entrance fees and activities listed in a private air-conditioned vehicle • Bottled water on the bus at all times • All private events and speakers as listed (subject to availability) • One transfer on arrival and one on departure based on suggested flight • English speaking Moroccan guide who will travel with the group throughout • Porterage • Dr. Alma Heckman will accompany the group with a minimum of 10 travelers • Complimentary pre-departure materials and reading list.

## YOUR JOURNEY EXCLUDES

International air to/from Morocco • Travel/lost baggage/medical insurance • Drinks other than bottled water • All gratuities to drivers, guides, and tour manager • Luggage charges • Meals not listed • Airport transfers if not arriving or departing with the group • items of a purely personal nature and any items not listed. Any increases in the in-tour airfare, security, or fuel surcharges imposed after the initial pricing of this program may be passed along to the travelers.



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# CONDITIONS

**HOW TO BOOK:** Fill out and sign the enclosed reservation form and send it, along with the deposit of \$1,000 per person for the main program, to: UC Santa Cruz, attention: Nichole Silva at 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz CA 95064. Upon receipt of your signed reservation form and deposit, we will, subject to availability, reserve your spot on the tour. You may consider your booking confirmed when you receive a confirmation notice from us.

**RATES:** Rates are based on the minimum of 10 guests, plus airfare costs, currency exchange rates and other factors and are subject to change. We do reserve the right to assess a surcharge if the minimum is not met, or if increases are forced upon us by airlines or other partners or because of changes in currency exchange rates.

**INSURANCE:** It is a condition of booking that the sole responsibility lies with the guest to ensure that they carry the correct comprehensive travel and medical insurance to cover themselves, as well as any dependents/ traveling companions for the duration of their trip. This insurance should include cover in respect of, but not limited to, the following eventualities: cancellation or curtailment of the program, emergency evacuation expenses, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and goods. Distant Horizons, including their representatives, employees and agents will take no responsibility for any costs, losses incurred or suffered by the guest, or guest's dependents or traveling companions, with regards to, but not limited to, any of the above mentioned eventualities. Guests will be charged directly by the relevant service providers for any emergency services they may require, and may find themselves in a position unable to access such services should they not be carrying the relevant insurance cover. Please note insurance premiums are nonrefundable should tour be canceled by participant.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Neither Distant Horizons (the Company) nor any person or agent acting for, through or on behalf of the Company shall be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever arising from any cause whatsoever and without restricting the generality of the foregoing shall particularly not be responsible for loss or damage arising from any errors or omissions contained in its brochure or other literature, loss or damage caused by delays, sickness, theft, injury or death. In addition the

Company shall have the right at any time at its discretion to cancel any trip or the remainder thereof or make any alteration in route, accommodation, price or other details and, in the event of any trip being rendered impossible, illegal or inadvisable by weather, strike, war, government or interference or any other cause whatsoever, the extra expenses incurred as a result thereof shall be the responsibility of the passenger. The Company may at its discretion and without liability or cost to itself at any time cancel or terminate the guest's booking and in particular without limiting the generality of the foregoing it shall be entitled to do so in the event of the illness or the illegal or incompatible behavior of the guest, who shall in such circumstances not be entitled to any refund.

**HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:** You must be in good physical and mental health. It shall be your duty to inform us in case you have any medical condition that may affect your ability to enjoy and pursue fully the services of Distant Horizons. By registering for a Distant Horizons service/program, you certify that you do not have any mental, physical, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for yourself or others.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS:** All travelers on this program will be required to be fully vaccinated or, in the event of a medical exemption, produce a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than three days before departure. Additionally all travelers will be expected to comply with any local COVID requirements in place. As a result of possible changes in requirements, Distant Horizons will reach out to all travelers two weeks prior to travel with an update on local requirements. Whilst Distant Horizons and its local partners will follow all COVID protocols in place, it is important to acknowledge that travel outside of home brings risk of exposure to COVID 19. Each traveler will be required to sign an Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability prior to departure.

**CANCELLATIONS:** Cancellations are only effective on receipt of written notification: The following per person fees are applicable on this tour:

- Notice more than 90 days prior to departure: a full refund of your deposit
- Notice between 90 days and 60 days prior to departure: a refund less 50% of trip price.
- No refund shall be issued if cancellation is received less than 60 days prior to departure date.
- No refunds shall be issued after the tour has commenced. No refunds shall be issued for occasional missed meals, sightseeing tours or any unused services.

## RESERVATION FORM: (Please Print)

Enclosed is my deposit for (\$1,000 per person) to hold \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on EXPLORING MOROCCO , October 8-18, 2022. Final payment due date is August 8, 2022. Please make check payable to: Distant Horizons, and mail, with completed reservation form, to: UC Santa Cruz, attention: Nichole Silva, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064.

Method of payment for the deposit:  Check  MasterCard  Visa  Discover  American Express

NAME ON CARD \_\_\_\_\_

CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP \_\_\_\_\_ CVN \_\_\_\_\_

FULL PASSPORT NAME (TRAVELER #1): \_\_\_\_\_

FULL PASSPORT NAME (TRAVELER #2): \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like a room with:  ONE  TWO Beds (Make one selection only)

I am sharing with \_\_\_\_\_

I desire single accommodations, if available, and will pay the single supplement additional cost of \$1,790

Please contact me to discuss my airline reservations for this trip

We strongly recommend that you obtain travel insurance. Reservations are accepted subject to tour conditions and will be confirmed only if accompanied by completed form signed by the tour participant(s). I/We have read the conditions of travel on this brochure and understand and agree to the terms and conditions stated herein:

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

