Moroccan Discovery
from the Imperial Cities to the Sahara
November 19-December 2, 2024

14 days for $6,079 total price from San Francisco
($5,195 air & land inclusive plus $884 airline taxes and fees)

This tour is provided by Odysseys Unlimited, seven-time honoree Travel + Leisure’s World’s Best Tour Operators award.

Featuring Dr. Alma Rachel Heckman, Associate Professor of History and Jewish Studies
Dear UC Santa Cruz Alumni and Friends,

We invite you to join us on an exclusive 14-day journey through Morocco. From the imperial cities of Rabat, Fez, and Marrakech to the imposing High Atlas Mountains and the vast Sahara, explore Morocco’s unique history and culture.

Visit five UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Meknes, Morocco’s youngest imperial city; Volubilis, with its impressive ancient Roman ruins; and Fez, Morocco’s oldest imperial city, prized for its cultural, religious and educational institutions. Follow an ancient caravan route in the High Atlas mountains, see spectacular Todra Gorge and travel to Ait ben-Haddou, a fortified city and UNESCO World Heritage site. A highlight will be your excursion to the towering sand dunes at Merzouga on the edge of the Sahara, followed by a camel ride to watch the sun set over this dramatic landscape. Spend three nights in alluring Marrakech before concluding your adventure in storied Casablanca.

Space is limited to only 24 guests, and we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today!

Sincerely,

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

THE UC SANTA CRUZ INSPIRED EXPEDITIONS RESERVATION FORM:

To reserve your place on tour, please call UC Santa Cruz Inspired Expeditions at 831-459-3689 or e-mail ietravel@ucsc.edu. Please have the information outlined below available to share with a Inspired Expeditions representative.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and submit it to UC Santa Cruz’s Inspired Expeditions office. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to:
UC Santa Cruz Inspired Expeditions
1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

MOROCCAN DISCOVERY  •  NOVEMBER 19-DECEMBER 2, 2024

I/We would like to request __________ place(s). (Deposit amount is $500 per person.)

Full Passport Name ___________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender ______
Full Passport Name ___________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender ______

Address ________________________________________________________________________________________
City _________________________________________________________ State __________ ZIP _______________

Home Phone (______)____________________________ Cell Phone (______)_______________________________

E-mail(s) _______________________________________ Badge Name(s) __________________________________

Please book my/our air from _____________________ I/We request an air upgrade to _____________________

I will share a room with ___________________________________ I request a single room (limited availability) q
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This land of dramatic contrasts invites us to encounter its ancient ruins and sacred mosques, endless desert and storied mountains, imposing kasbahs and spirited souks. As we travel from the imperial cities of Rabat, Fez, and Marrakech to the High Atlas and vast Sahara, we open our eyes, and hearts, to a truly foreign land, an age-old culture, and genuinely hospitable people.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Casablanca, Morocco

Day 2: Arrive Casablanca/Rabat

Upon arrival this afternoon in Casablanca, the commercial center of Morocco, we transfer by coach to Rabat and our hotel located near famed Hassan Tower. We have time to relax and refresh before dinner tonight at the hotel. D

Day 3: Rabat

One of Morocco's four ancient capitals, or imperial cities, Rabat is again the country's capital, at once historic and contemporary, as we discover on today's tour. We visit the necropolis of Chellah, built on ancient Roman ruins, and the Mohammed VI contemporary art museum then have lunch in a private home. On tap this afternoon: the 12th-century Kasbah of the Oudaias, the peaceful Andalusian Gardens, and Rabat's medina, a UNESCO site. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner of traditional Moroccan fare at acclaimed Dinarjat in Rabat's Old Town. B,L,D

Day 4: Rabat/Meknes/Volubilis/Fez

This morning we depart Rabat for Fez, stopping along the way in Meknes, Morocco’s youngest imperial city (and UNESCO World Heritage site). Here we visit the Dar Jamai Museum, housing a collection of traditional Moroccan handcrafts. Then we continue on to the ancient Roman ruins at the UNESCO site of Volubilis, known for its intricate and colorful mosaics. Late afternoon we reach Fez and our elegant hotel overlooking the medina. B,L,D

Day 5: Fez

We begin today with a visit to the Al-Attarine Madrasa, whose highlight is a small courtyard showcasing intricately detailed tilework and carving decorations dating to the early 1300s. We then continue our discovery on a walking tour of the medina focusing on the artisans’ quarters, the 14th-century Koranic schools, and Al Karaouine, the medieval theological university. We also visit the traditional quarter where we watch artisans craft the acclaimed Fez pottery and ceramics. After lunch together in the medina, we tour the old Mellah (Jewish quarter) and its 17th-century synagogue and the royal gates. Tonight, we enjoy a private dinner at an intimate family-run riad in Fez. B,L,D

Tour membership limited to 24 alumni & friends

Cover photo: We travel the “Route of a Thousand Kasbahs” ancient caravan trail during our journey.
Day 6: Fez  Today we explore Morocco’s oldest imperial city, considered the “Athens of Africa” for its wealth of cultural, educational, and religious institutions. We begin with a comfortable walk through the Fez medina, where we see some hidden treasures, including the Blue Gate, the most picturesque of the Old City’s historic gates; the medieval school of Bouanania; the 12th-century home of Jewish scholar Maimonides; and the authentic food market. The remainder of the afternoon is free for independent exploration and lunch on our own. B,D

Day 7: Fez/Midelt/Erfoud  Traveling inland today, we cross the fertile plains beyond Fez and continue through the Middle Atlas mountain range. We stop in the small town of Midelt for lunch. Continuing on, we cross the Ziz River, passing rows of sky-scraping palm trees and fortified villages before reaching our kasbah-style hotel in Erfoud late in the day. Dinner tonight is at our hotel. B,L,D

Day 8: Erfoud/Rissani/Merzouga  This morning we visit the city of Rissani, with its 18th-century ksar, a virtually impenetrable warren of alleys. We enjoy a tour highlight this afternoon as we set out on a sunset excursion to the breathtakingly beautiful sand dunes at Merzouga on the edge of the Sahara. In the enormous silence we watch the sun set over the desert as we take a camel ride along the erg. We’ll have dinner together in this desert setting before returning to our hotel tonight. B,L,D

Day 9: Erfoud/Tinehir/Todra Gorge/Ouarzazate  Our destination today is in the snow-topped High Atlas. The day features one beautiful scene after another, including the village of Tinehir, a stunning mountain oasis rising on a series of riverside terraces lush with palm trees; and the spectacular 984-foot Todra Gorge, home to a variety of rare bird and plant species. Following lunch here we visit El Kelaa des Mgouna, known for its roses, then set out on the fabled “Route of a Thousand Kasbahs” ancient caravan route, a region of fortresses with elaborately decorated façades. Late afternoon we reach the town of Ouarzazate where we spend the night. B,L,D

Day 10: Ouarzazate/Ait ben-Haddou/Marrakech  En route to Marrakech today, we stop first at uninhabited Ait ben-Haddou, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of southern Morocco’s most scenic villages that is often used as a location for fashion and film shoots. Its old section consists of deep red kasbahs. Traditional Moroccan tile work
packed together so tightly they appear to be a single unit. Then, as we begin our descent from the High Atlas, we pass through typical villages with fortified walls and stone houses with earthen roofs. In Tizi N’Tichka, we traverse the Pass of the Pastures (alt. 7,415 feet), where life is much as it was centuries ago. We arrive in Marrakech late this afternoon and dine tonight at our hotel. \textit{B,L,D}

\textbf{Day 11: Marrakech} Our day-long tour of Marrakech includes the Koutoubia Mosque; the lovely Andalusian-style El Bahia Palace; and the ruins of 16\textsuperscript{th}-century Palais El Badii. After lunch at our hotel, mid-afternoon we embark on a walking tour of the medina, ending at Djemaa el Fna Square, a UNESCO site and the heart of Marrakech. Dinner tonight is on our own in this exotic city. \textit{B,L}

\textbf{Day 12: Marrakech} This morning we travel by horse-drawn carriage from Menara Park to Majorelle Gardens, a private botanical garden known for its cobalt blue accents. Following a tour of the gardens we visit the nearby Yves St. Laurent Museum. The afternoon is at leisure before dinner tonight at a local restaurant in the city’s Old Town. \textit{B,D}

\textbf{Day 13: Marrakech/Casablanca} We leave Marrakech this morning by coach for storied Casablanca, Morocco’s largest and most cosmopolitan city. After a brief orientation tour of the city, we visit the magnificent Hassan II Mosque, Morocco’s only functioning mosque open to non-Muslims. Tonight we celebrate our Moroccan adventure at a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. \textit{B,D}

\textbf{Day 14: Depart for U.S.} After breakfast this morning we transfer to the airport for our return flight to the U.S. \textit{B}

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{camel.jpg}
\caption{We ride camels in the Sahara.}
\end{figure}
Please read this information carefully, as payment of a $500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Tour Price:
- Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas, if required; immunizations and inoculations; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified in the itinerary; personal expenses such as alcoholic beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified in the itinerary; tips for tour director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes:
- If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon receipt of your written notice to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Full cancellation fees may apply:
  - 95 days or more before departure: $200 charge
  - 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price
  - 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price
  - 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price
  - 29-0 days before departure: no refund
- If you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes to this tour.

Responsibility:
- The liability of UC Santa Cruz Inspired Expeditions, as sponsor, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore we assume no responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. UC Santa Cruz Inspired Expeditions and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party.
- All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the airlines, hotels, and other suppliers. We will make every effort to provide you with the itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues:
- You must be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. You should be able to carry your own luggage, and we reserve the right to make itinerary changes if we determine it is necessary to do so.
- The tour operator reserves the right to remove anyone whose physical, mental, or emotional condition may be detrimental to the health and safety of the other passengers. In that event, UC Santa Cruz Inspired Expeditions and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information:
- Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore we assume no responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. UC Santa Cruz Inspired Expeditions and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party.
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General Terms and Conditions

Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that you arrive at the airport at least two hours prior to flight departure to avoid missing your flight. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns about your tour.