



Morocco 2025 Itinerary

Travel Dates: May 13th – 22nd, 2025



Day 1, May 13th

- Depart for Casablanca, Morocco

Day 2, May 14th - Casablanca

- We will arrive in Casablanca, Morocco.
- Then we have On-ground Briefing and check into the hotel.
- **Orientation Walking Tour** - The group will become oriented with their neighborhood, the public transportation systems, nearby pharmacies, markets, ATMs, etc. Additionally, an in-depth safety briefing will be provided in case of an emergency. Students will begin writing in their travel journal that they will turn in at the end of the trip. They will write a minimum of 200 words a day (from the day we land until the day we depart for home) describing the sites, the food and make connections between the course material and Morocco itself.
- The group will be taken for an authentic dinner with a wide variety of menu options to cater to all diets. Students will taste traditional Moroccan foods described in our text *The Last Story Tellers*.

Day 3, May 15th - Casablanca

- Breakfast & Day Briefing
- We will go on a **Casablanca Drive Tour**. On the tour, we will get familiar with the largest city in Morocco and the heart of commerce and industry, and visit Hassan II Mosque, which is beautifully located beside the Atlantic Ocean. Students will see marketplaces that they will read about in the course text Moroccan Folktales. They will also see the Hassan II Mosque which is mentioned in the text.

Day 4, May 16th - Marrakech

- Breakfast & Day Briefing
- Transfer to Marrakech
- **Marrakech Walking Tour** - Marrakech, also known as the red city, is most famous for its square, Jemaa El Fna - the locals and foreigners favorite meeting point. Here, you will be able to consume fresh juices and dried fruits, buy the most colorful spices, but you will also find many storytellers, women applying henna, a myriad of nightly food stalls, snake charmers, and more. Marrakech is the setting for one of our works called **The Last Story Tellers: Moroccan Literature**. Students will get to see many of the locations where these stories took place.

Day 5, May 17th - Marrakech

- **Breakfast & Day Briefing**
- **Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden** - *One of the first of its kind on the continent, MACAAL nurtures an understanding of contemporary art from Africa through collecting and exhibiting established and emerging artists, highlighting the creative energy and cultural diversity found across the continent.*
- **Cultural Time**

Day 6, May 18th - Taroudant

- **Argan Forest** - On average each Argan tree produces 140 kilos of fruit per year. Amounts may vary and are highly dependable on rainfall. Seventy kilos of fruit will yield around five kilos of kernel. Five kilos of kernel will result in only two liters of Argan oil. Each tree will produce an average of four liters of Argan oil annually.
- **Argan Oil Cooperative** - Known for centuries by the Berber tribes for its gastronomic and cosmetic properties, Argan oil is produced by female-owned cooperatives in the Agadir region.
- **Stop at Agadir Beach**- with great panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean. **Taroudant** - Taroudant is the former capital of Morocco, built by the Saadian dynasty as a base to attack the Portuguese on the Atlantic Coast. The city walls, which are almost completely intact, were built in 1528 and reflect the glow of the setting sun; making them a favorite location for locals to hang out and promenade on summer evenings. Students will see some of the sites that Fatima Mernissi discusses in our course textbook, **Dreams of Trespass** which chronicles Fatima's life in a Harem.
- **Overnight in a riad**

Day 7, May 19th - Zagora

- **Breakfast & Day Briefing** - This small town is famous for its production of saffron and is one of the main exporters of this spice worldwide. The town celebrates Annugar Amadal N Zafran, Le Festival International de Safran every year in winter (usually November), the season in which the saffron flower germinates.
- **Arrive in Zagora.**
- **Evening Camel ride** - Two hours ride to the highest dune; a great and memorable adventure. Clear your mind and admire the charming beauty of the Sahara Desert.
- **Group dinner with local Berbers** - Savor your dinner under the stars in the desert, while listening to the nomad Berber music, and spend the night in the glamping style nomad yurts. Students will have the experience of riding a camel and staying in a yurt which Koudia describes in **Moroccan Folktales**.

Day 8, May 20th - Ouarzazate

- **Breakfast & Day Briefing** Try to wake up at an early hour in the morning if you wish to see a magnificent view of the sun rising over the Sahara Dunes.
- **Depart to Ouarzazate**
- **Business Visit - Berber Women Rugs Cooperative** - This area is famous for the production of soft luminous rugs with traditional designs, and earthy palette of colors, pure sheep wool, enriched with meaningful symbols that transmit the Berber art's script and rhythm. Students will see how the rugs that Fatima Mernissi discusses in our course textbook, **Dreams of Trespass**, were made.
- **Historical & Cultural Tour of Ouarzazate** – This ancient caravan stop between the Sahara desert and the main Moroccan cities is today the Hollywood setting for classics such as *Lawrence of Arabia* or *Gladiator*.
- **Group Dinner**

Day 9, May 21st - Marrakech

- **Breakfast & Day Briefing**
- **Driving through the Atlas Mountains** -Passing by the Tichka mountain, we are going to leave the main road, and take the side to the Telouet Kasbah, which belonged to the Glaoui family, the wealthiest of the Atlas, and recently became rubble, after its last Pasha escaped the country (following the departure of the French.) The wealthy Atlas family is discussed in detail in our text, **The Last Story Tellers: Moroccan Literature**. Students will get to see where this famous family lived.
- **Stop at Fortified Village of Ait Ben Haddou** -Aït Benhaddou sits amidst a valley near the foothills of the Atlas Mountains. Ouarzazate first came into the international spotlight with the Hollywood film **Lawrence of Arabia**; Orson Welles used it as a location for **Sodom and Gomorra** and for **Jesus of Nazareth**; the whole lower part of the village was rebuilt.
- **Overnight in Marrakech**

Day 10, May 22nd

- Breakfast & Day Briefing
- Depart Marrakech, Morocco for Home