



NAYA TRAVELER

CURATED JOURNEYS

MOROCCO

MARCH 21 - 28, 2020

Led By

DR. MALIHA CHISHTI



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A delicate balance between East and West with ancient traditions and modern-day conveniences; a spiritually uplifting culture grounded by gracious hospitality and compelling customs. Moroccans are a warm and welcoming people who open their doors wholeheartedly to visitors to boast their wealthy culture.

With its strategic location in North Africa, Morocco stretches across fertile valleys, snowcapped mountains, two extensive coastlines and an immense desert. Every region harbors a distinct local culture, tied to a distant past that shapes Morocco's distinguished personality of the Muslim World. Over thousands of years, Berber tribes, Roman legions, Arab conquests, and European colonists have contributed to the formation of its heritage, and have left their mark on its history and cities.

Today, the kingdom is the oldest reigning monarchy in the world. Its people's fervent practice of age-old tradition and faith has allowed Morocco to retain its unique character, grounded with a deeply spiritual attitude, which is consistently present in the very substance of the country's arts and customs. Morocco's Western edge that sets it apart from other North African countries stems from decades of French occupation.



ITINERARY OVERVIEW

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DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

MARCH 21 - RABAT

Welcome to Morocco

Casablanca Airport Transfer

10:00am: Meet your guide at Casablanca Airport Arrivals Terminal 2 (look for “UChicago” sign).

10:30am: Shuttle departs Casablanca Airport Arrivals Terminal 2. Transfer to Rabat (approx. 1 hour). Water and snacks will be provided along the way.

For other arrival times, participants can catch the train from Casablanca Airport to Rabat Ville (approx. 1 hour) and from here, taxi to hotel.

Arrival at Rabat

Arrival at your hotels in Rabat, where you will be staying in two separate riads, across the street from each other: Riad Kalaa 1 and Riad Kalaa 2. With the assistance of your tour leader and guide, settle into your rooms and enjoy the afternoon at leisure to recuperate from your journey.

Oudayas Walking Tour

Optional walking tour of the Oudayas Kasbah, located walking distance from your hotel. Stroll through the Andalusian gardens and enjoy tea and biscuits overlooking the neighboring city of Sale and the Bouregreg River.

Group Dinner

7:00pm: Meet at your hotel Riad Kalaa 1 area for a welcome dinner.

MEALS

Snack, Dinner

ACCOMMODATION

Riad Kalaa 1 & 2





MARCH 22 - RABAT

Guest Lectures & Rabat Tour

Group Orientation

9:30am: At the central courtyard of Riad Kalaa 1, Dr. Chishti will provide the group with an introductory orientation.

Guest Lecture: History of International Aid & Civil Society

10:30am: Greeting by your guide and private transfer to Amideast in Agdal, one of Rabat newer neighborhoods location outside the old city walls. Guest lecture at Amideast to be confirmed on “History of International Aid and Civil Society in Morocco”.

12:30pm - 1:30pm: Lunch break in Agdal.

Talk: The Western Sahara Project

2:00pm: Talk at Amideast on Western Sahara Project from the Moroccan Government’s Perspective.

Rabat Sightseeing Tour

3:30pm: Meet your guide at Amideast for an optional sightseeing tour of Rabat. Visit the Oudayas, entering from its 12th century main gate to explore an extraordinary Medieval Moorish marvel overlooking the delta, and stroll through Andalusian gardens. Continue on to the Hassan Tower and Mohamed the V Mausoleum, an emblem of the real Moroccan architecture at its finest. You will reach the Royal Palace and the Necropolis of Chellah at the end of your tour.

Evening at leisure.

MEALS

Breakfast

ACCOMMODATION

Riad Kalaa 1 & 2

MARCH 23 - RABAT

Foreign Aid in Morocco

Group Discussion

10:00am: At the central courtyard of Riad Kalaa 1, meet with the group for a discussion with Dr. Chishti on USAID in Morocco – an overview of American-Moroccan Aid policies and programs.

11:30am: Discussion on SIDA/or European Partner: Overview of European aid approach in Morocco.

12:30pm - 1:30pm: Lunch at leisure.

Field Visit

2:00pm: Greeting by your guide and private transfer to a local development project. Location to be confirmed.

6:00pm: Back at Riad Kalaa 1, optional group plenary debrief/discussion with Dr. Chishti.

Evening at leisure.

MEALS
Breakfast

ACCOMMODATION
Riad Kalaa 1 & 2





MARCH 24 - RABAT

Aid & the Moroccan Gov't

Meeting: Moroccan Government Officials

9:00am: Greeting by your guide and private transfer to the meeting venue for your discussion with a Moroccan government official to learn about the International Aid Council and on government's role in development and working with international community.

11:00am: Meeting with an International NGO. To be confirmed.

12:30pm - 1:30pm: Lunch at leisure.

Field Visit

2:00pm: Greeting by your guide and private transfer to a local development project. Location to be confirmed.

6:00pm: Back at your riad, optional group plenary debrief/discussion with Dr. Chishti.

Evening at leisure.

MEALS
Breakfast

ACCOMMODATION
Riad Kalaa 1 & 2

MARCH 25 - MARRAKESH

Onto the Red City

Travel to Marrakesh

9:00am: Greeting by your guide and begin your 3.5-hour journey to Marrakesh. Water and snacks will be provided along the way.

12:30pm: Arrival at your hotel in Marrakesh in time to settle in and freshen up before lunch.

AMAL Foundation

1:00pm: Have lunch at Nora Fitzgerald's AMAL Foundation - a non-profit that helps disadvantaged women gain work experience by training them in culinary arts.

Marrakesh Sightseeing Tour

3:00pm: Meet your guide for an optional tour of Marrakesh. Founded almost 1000 years ago, Marrakech is a feast for the senses and has remained at the heart of Moroccan life ever since, acting as Sultanate capital on occasions, but now undoubtedly as the country's cultural centre. Visit its main historical attractions, including the Koutoubia Mosque, an ancient university and the Bahia palace. Explore the souks and artisans of Marrakesh with your guide.

Jamaa El Fna Square

At sunset, option to explore Jamaa El Fna with your expert guide. This is a 1000-year old UNESCO site with everything from snake charmers and acrobats, magicians and storytellers, to food stalls and orange juice stands. This is a great place for a local Moroccan dinner.

MEALS

Breakfast, Snack, Lunch

ACCOMMODATION

Riad Dar El Aila



MARCH 26 - MARRAKESH

A Day with Berbers of the High Atlas Mountains

Ourika Valley

In the morning, greeting by your guide and private transfer to the Ourika Valley (approx. 40 minutes away).

Along the way, stop by a number of development projects including a women's cooperative.

High Atlas Mountains: Imlil

Driving further past Ourika into the High Atlas Mountains, arrive at the village of Imlil and share lunch with a Berber family. Enjoy this delicious traditional meal for a taste of local flavors in the local surroundings of the Berber heartland.

Meet with the village chief and partake in a Moroccan tea ceremony as you learn about their old customs and festive traditions. Hike on foot through the mountains and the valley.

Later, private transfer back to your hotel in Marrakesh in the afternoon.

Evening at leisure.

MEALS

Breakfast, Snack, Lunch

ACCOMMODATION

Riad Dar El Aila





MARCH 27 - MARRAKESH DESERT

Day-Trip: Aghafay

A Day in Marrakesh's Desert

10:00am: Meet your guide and transfer to a camp in the rocky desert landscape outside of Marrakesh, Aghafay.

11:00am: Arrival where you will be greeted by the staff and settled into your private tent for a final group discussion.

12:00pm: Lunch is served in private.

Afternoon: Enjoy a group camel ride through Aghafay Desert with a local guide. Depending on the number of camels available, there will be smaller groups of tours taking place for this experience.

Note: More activities and details of this day to be provided closer to date. Location to be confirmed.

6:00pm: Private transfer back to Marrakesh.

Evening at leisure.

MEALS

Breakfast, Lunch

ACCOMMODATION

Riad Dar El Aila



MARCH 28 - DEPARTURE

Bid Morocco Farewell

Transfer to Casablanca Airport

10:00am: Meet your guide at the hotel lobby, and depart for Casablanca Airport (approx. 2.5). A snack and water will be provided on the way.

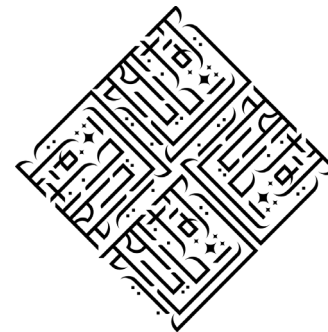
After the airport drop-off, the Sprinter will drop off participants at a central location in Casablanca for those staying on and in need of a ride.

End of University of Chicago Trip and Naya Traveler Services.

MEALS

Breakfast, Snack





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