MOROCCAN DISCOVERY
FROM THE IMPERIAL CITIES TO THE SAHARA
October 23-November 5, 2018

14 days from $5,379 total price from Boston, New York, Wash, DC
($4,695 air & land inclusive plus $684 airline taxes and fees)

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

A Special Small Group Tour for the
Columbia Alumni Association Travel Study Program
Dear Fellow Columbian,

Join the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) from October 23-November 5, 2018, on an extraordinary journey through Morocco. Travel from the imperial cities of Rabat, Fez, and Marrakech, to the imposing High Atlas Mountains and the vast Sahara, while learning about the unique history and culture of this fascinating country.

The CAA is a global network connecting Columbians of all Schools to one another and to the intellectual and social fabric of Columbia University, even after graduation. It links 338,000 alumni through more than 100 Regional Clubs and Shared Interest Groups, online resources, and over 200 thought-provoking programs around the world. The CAA Travel Study Program is one of the benefits offered to alumni and is an opportunity to continue one’s Columbia education through new intellectual, cultural, and geographical horizons.

Space is limited to just 24 guests and will be shared with participants from Alumnae Association of Barnard College. Please contact the Alumni Travel Study Program at travelstudy@columbia.edu or 866-325-8664 for more details and to reserve your place on this exciting tour of Morocco!

Sincerely,

Donna H. MacPhee ’89CC, P: ’17CC
Vice President for Alumni Relations
President, Columbia Alumni Association

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY RESERVATION FORM: MOROCCAN DISCOVERY

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $______($500 per person) for ____ person(s) on Moroccan Discovery departing October 23, 2018. I/We understand the final payment is due 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or by personal check. Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, with completed reservation form, to: Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program, P.O. Box 930, Riverside, CT 06878. Phone: 866-325-8664; fax: 203-724-0844; e-mail: travelstudy@columbia.edu; website: http://alumni.columbia.edu/travel.

Full Passport Name __________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender _______

Badge Name _____________________________ School/Degree/Year ___________________________

Full Passport Name __________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender _______

Badge Name _____________________________ School/Degree/Year ___________________________

Address __________________________________ City __________________ State _____ ZIP _______

E-mail ________________________________ Columbia UNI ______________________

Home Phone (______)_______________________ Cell Phone (______)________________________

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) 

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for Moroccan Discovery, October 23-November 5, 2018, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms & Conditions.

Signature(s) ____________________________________________________________________ Date ______________

Method of Payment  [ ] Check  [ ] American Express  [ ] Discover  [ ] MasterCard  [ ] VISA

Account # ______________________________________ Security Code _________ Exp. Date ________________

Name of Cardholder ______________________________________________________________________________

Signature __________________________________________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.
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 fortified Kasbah of the Oudaïas, the peaceful Andalusian Gardens, and the necropolis of Chellah, built on ancient Roman ruins. Then we cross the river to Sale for lunch in a private home, followed by a visit to the new Mohammed VI contemporary art museum and a walk through the medina. We return to our hotel late afternoon; 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). We visit the Bab el Mansour gateway and the ruins of the imperial stables before lunch in a local restaurant. 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 adjacent to the medina, another UNESCO World Heritage site. B,L,D

Day 5: 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. Late afternoon we reach Fez and our elegant hotel adjacent to the medina, another UNESCO World Heritage site. B,L,D

Small Group Tour Highlights

Private Sahara sunset excursion and camel ride on the dunes • Visits to five UNESCO World Heritage sites • Ancient ruins of Volubilis • Scenic “Route of a Thousand Kasbahs” • Dramatic Todra Gorge and Atlas Mountain scenery • Kasbah of Aït Ben Haddou • Fez touring • Marrakech’s medina and Djemaa el Fna Square • Storied Casablanca and Hassan II mosque • Outstanding accommodations

Day Itinerary Hotel Rating
1  Depart U.S. for Casablanca
2-3  Rabat  La Tour Hassan  Sup. First Class
4-6  Fez  Hotel Sahrai  Deluxe
7-8  Erfoud  Le Palais du Dessert  First Class
9  Ouarzazate  Le Berbere Palace  Sup. First Class
10-12  Marrakech  Sofitel Marrakech  Deluxe
13  Casablanca  Hyatt Regency Casablanca  Deluxe
14  Depart Casablanca for U.S.

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Tour membership limited to 24 alumni and guests

Cover photo: See the beautifully proportioned Koutoubia Mosque in Marrakech.
Day 6: Fez  Today’s touring features the Museum of Fez, housing traditional arts. Then we embark on a walking tour of the medina focusing on the artisans’ quarters, the 14th-century Koranic schools, and Al Karaouine, the medieval theological university. The remainder of the afternoon is free for independent exploration and lunch on our own. Tonight, we enjoy a private dinner at an intimate family-run riad in Fez.  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. Following this experience, 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 (the “door of the desert”) 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 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:

On Days 9 and 10, we travel through the High Atlas, past fortified villages and through mountain passes.
shepherds bring their flocks to the high pastures every summer, then return with them to their villages in autumn. We arrive in Marrakech late this afternoon and dine tonight at our hotel. B,L,D

Day 11: Marrakech Once the capital of southern Morocco, the imperial city of Marrakech is an alluring oasis with a temperate climate, distinct charm, and fascinating sights. Our day-long tour includes the beautifully proportioned Koutoubia Mosque with its distinctive 282-foot minaret visible from miles away; the lovely Andalusian-style El Bahia Palace (part of which is still used by the royal family); and the ruins of 16th-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, crowded with snake charmers, entertainers, storytellers, musicians, barbers, and sellers of fruit, water, and spices. Dinner tonight is on our own in this exotic city. B,L

Day 12: Marrakech This morning we travel by horse-drawn carriage from Menara Park to Majorelle Gardens, a private botanical garden with some 15 species of birds native to North Africa and known for its cobalt blue accents. Following a tour of the gardens we visit the newly renovated Berber Museum here, with art and artifacts reflecting Berber culture in Morocco. The afternoon is at leisure before dinner tonight at a local restaurant in the city’s Old Town. B,D

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. B,D

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

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 12 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
- 31 meals: 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 11 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Tour Departs: October 23, 2018

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>Boston, New York</td>
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Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $684, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $1,395.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight:
- Business Class – $3,795 per person;
- Premium Economy – $1,195 per person (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change). Upgrade costs are in addition to the costs above.

All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Please note: This trip is moderately active and involves walking up to 2-3 miles per day, up hills or stairs, on uneven or cobblestone streets, and at sites of ancient ruins. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.

For reservations and information, please contact the Columbia Alumni Association Travel Study Program at 866-325-8664, or fax 203-724-0844, or e-mail travelstudy@columbia.edu

We watch the sun set over the Sahara on Day 8.

All sunshine makes the desert.

– Arab Proverb
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not included; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited 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 Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.’s receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: cancel 95 days or more before departure: $200 charge; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund. If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a $100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy, for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

Insurance

We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event you must cancel your participation in the travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be your only source of reimbursement. You will be sent information about insurance upon registration.

Responsibility

The Columbia Alumni Association, its agent, TSS, LLC (collectively known as TSS), and its operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., act solely as agents for the passenger with respect to all transportation, hotel, and other tour arrangements; and neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motorcoach, carriage, or other conveyance; or for the actions of any third party involved in carrying the passenger or otherwise affecting the tour. TSS and its operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay, or other changes in air or other services; sickness; weather; strikes; war; civil disturbances; acts or threats of terrorism; travel warnings or bans; termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance; quarantine; acts of God; or other causes beyond our control. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent sponsors. All such losses must be borne by the passenger, and tour itineraries provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, curtailment, re-scheduling, or rescheduling mandated by any of the above-mentioned causes beyond our control, the passenger shall have the option of accepting, in lieu of the original tour, such rescheduled tour(s) or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us; or else, of receiving a refund of as much as such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the passenger’s behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc.; but we shall not have any liability or responsibility for any additional expense the passenger may incur by reason of such changes or schedule alterations. We will not be responsible for any personal belongings, clothing or other articles lost to the passenger nor bear any liability beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour itinerary and to substitute hotels, vessels, or study leaders. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the passenger shall be entitled to a full refund of all moneys paid to that point if they so desire. Air transportation shall be made for any unused portion of the tour. By forwarding payment(s), the passenger certifies that they and/or their dependents, minors, and others covered thereby do not have any medical, physical, or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other passengers. We reserve the right to decline to accept, or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person’s health, condition, or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other passengers, or otherwise impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be handled, and stored at the passenger’s risk entirely, and we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or loss thereto. We reserve the right to cancel or substitute faculty. We cannot guarantee the safety of the Columbia group. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be effected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Greenwich, CT, pursuant to applicable Connecticut or federal law. The Columbia Alumni Association may receive nominal compensation for this travel program, contingent upon a minimum number of Columbia University-affiliated participants traveling under the auspices of the Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program.

Air Transportation – Important Information:

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operations, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that 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 in this tour.