



VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

*presents*

# MOROCCAN DISCOVERY

## FROM THE IMPERIAL CITIES TO THE SAHARA

*Featuring Richard B. Woodward, VMFA curator of African Art*

**14 days for \$5,129 total price from Richmond**  
**(\$4,695 air & land inclusive plus \$434 airline taxes and departure fees)**



March 1-14, 2014

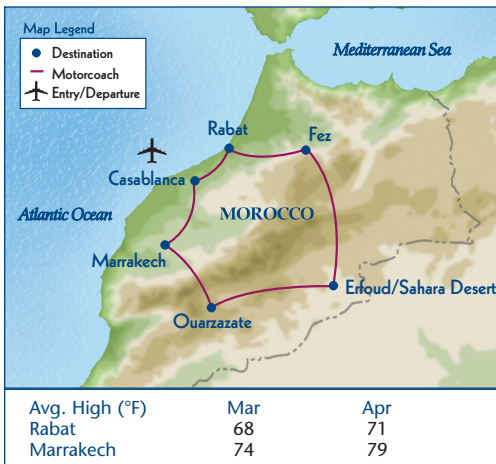
An Exclusive Small Group Tour for  
Members of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

# MOROCCAN DISCOVERY

## FROM THE IMPERIAL CITIES TO THE SAHARA

**14 days for \$5,129 total price from Richmond**  
 (\$4,695 air & land inclusive plus \$434 airline taxes and departure fees)

**T**his land of dramatic contrasts invites you to encounter its ancient ruins and sacred mosques, endless desert and storied mountains, imposing kasbahs and spirited souks. Travel from the imperial cities of Rabat, Fez, and Marrakech to the High Atlas and vast Sahara, to experience a truly foreign land, an age-old culture, and genuinely hospitable people.



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

**Day 2: Casablanca/Rabat** After arriving in Casablanca, the commercial center of Morocco (and of all North Africa), travel to Rabat and check in at your hotel near famed Hassan Tower. Tonight enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant in Rabat's Old Town. **L,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 you'll discover on today's tour. Visit the fortified Kasbah of the Oudaïas, the peaceful Andalusian Gardens, and the necropolis of Chellah, built on ancient Roman ruins. Cross the river to Sale for lunch in a local restaurant, and then visit Rabat's Archaeological Museum followed by a short walk through the *medina*. Late afternoon return to your hotel where you enjoy dinner tonight. **B,L,D**

**Day 4: Rabat/Meknes/Volubilis/Fez** This morning depart Rabat for Fez, stopping along the way in Meknes, Morocco's youngest imperial city (and UNESCO World Heritage site). Visit the Bab el Mansour gateway and the ruins of the imperial stables before lunch in a local restaurant. Continue on to the ancient Roman ruins at the UNESCO site of Volubilis, known for its intricate and colorful mosaics. Reach Fez late afternoon and your elegant hotel adjacent to the *medina* (old city), another UNESCO World Heritage site. **B,L,D**

**Day 5: Fez** Today explore Morocco's oldest imperial city, considered the "Athens of Africa" for its wealth of cultural, educational, and religious institutions. Begin with a walking tour of Fez's fascinating *medina*, a UNESCO World Heritage

### Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Private Sahara sunset excursion and camel ride on the dunes ... Visits to five UNESCO World Heritage sites ... Imperial cities of Rabat, Meknes, Fez, Marrakech ... Ancient ruins of Volubilis ... Scenic "Route of a Thousand Kasbahs" ... Dramatic Todra Gorges ... Spectacular Atlas Mountain scenery ... Kasbah of Ait ben-Haddou ... Home visit with Berber family ... Marrakech's *medina* and Djemaa el Fna Square ... Casablanca's 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	Sofitel Palais Jamai	Deluxe
7-8	Erfoud	Kasbah Hotel Chergui	First Class
9	Ouarzazate	Le Berbere Palace	First Class
10-12	Marrakech	Sofitel Marrakech	Deluxe
13	Casablanca	Kenzi Tower Hotel	Sup. First Class
14	Depart Casablanca for U.S.		

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

Cover photo: See the beautifully proportioned Koutoubia Mosque in Marrakech.



Traveling the “Route of a Thousand Kasbahs,” see many of the traditional fortresses that protected cities from attack.

site, focusing on the artisans’ quarters, the 14<sup>th</sup>-century Koranic schools, and Al Karaouine, the medieval theological university. Return to the hotel for lunch and some time at leisure. Mid-afternoon tour the old *mellah* (Jewish quarter) and its 17<sup>th</sup>-century synagogue, the royal gates, and the Museum of Fez. Tonight enjoy dinner together at an intimate family-run *riad* in Fez. **B,L,D**

**Day 6: Fez** This morning visit a Berber village where residents live much as their ancestors did centuries ago. Share tea with a local family in their cave dwelling then continue on to white-washed Sefrou, an old Jewish town at the foot of the Middle Atlas Mountains. En route back to Fez, stop at the renowned pottery factories. Enjoy lunch on your own in Fez and a free afternoon for independent exploration. **B,D**

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

**Day 8: Erfoud/Rissani/Merzouga** This morning visit the city of Rissani, with its 18<sup>th</sup>-century *ksar*, a virtually impenetrable warren of alleys; then continue on to the ruins

of Sijilmasa. Enjoy a tour highlight this afternoon as you set out on a sunset excursion to the breathtakingly beautiful sand dunes at Merzouga on the edge of the Sahara. In the enormous silence watch the sun set over the desert while taking a camel ride along the dunes. **B,D**

**Day 9: Erfoud/Tinehir/Todra Gorges/Ouarzazate** Visit the snow-topped High Atlas today. 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 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 arrive in the town of Ouarzazate (the “door of the desert”) and spend the night here. **B,L,D**

**Day 10: Ouarzazate/Ait ben-Haddou/Marrakech** En route to Marrakech today, stop first at uninhabited Ait ben-Haddou, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of southern Morocco’s most scenic villages (it’s often used as a location for fashion and film shoots). Begin the descent from the High Atlas, passing through typical villages with fortified walls and stone houses with earthen roofs. In Tizi N’Tichka, traverse the Pass of the Pastures (alt. 7,415 feet), where life is much as it was

centuries ago: shepherds bring their flocks to the high pastures every summer, then return with them to their villages in autumn. 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. A day-long tour includes the beautifully proportioned Koutoubia Mosque with its distinctive 282-foot minaret visible from miles away; the beautiful Andalusian-style El Bahia Palace and the ruins of the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Palais El Badii. After lunch at the hotel, embark mid-afternoon on a walking tour of the *medina*, ending at Djemaa el Fna Square, a UNESCO site and the



Traditional Moroccan tile work

heart of Marrakech, crowded with snake charmers, entertainers, storytellers, musicians, barbers, and sellers of fruit, water, and spices. Dinner tonight is on your own in this exotic city. **B,L**

**Day 12: Marrakech** This morning 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. The afternoon at leisure before dinner tonight at a local restaurant in the city's Old Town. **B,D**

**Day 13: Marrakech/Casablanca** Leave Marrakech this morning by coach for storied Casablanca, Morocco's largest and most cosmopolitan city. After a brief orientation tour of the city, visit the magnificent Hassan II

Mosque, Morocco's only functioning mosque open to non-Muslims. Tonight celebrate your Moroccan adventure at a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. **B,D**

**Day 14: Depart for U.S.** After breakfast this morning transfer to the airport for your return flight to the United States. **B**

### Traveling With You



Traveling with you is Richard B. Woodward, VMFA Curator of African Art. We are honored to have Richard with our members for this wonderful trip to Morocco.

### Tour Departs: March 1, 2014

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

New York	\$4,729
Baltimore, Boston, Miami	\$5,029
Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Detroit, Orlando, Richmond, Tampa, Washington, DC	\$5,129
Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Minneapolis, Phoenix	\$5,229
Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle	\$5,329
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$3,895

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees of \$434, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add \$1,395. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: \$3,795 per person (upgrades are on request and pricing is subject to change).

**Please note: This trip involves full days of sightseeing and significant amounts of walking. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to the fullest.**

**For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited toll-free at**

**888-370-6765**

Monday-Friday, 9:00am-7:00pm, Eastern Time

**For further information contact VMFA Member Travel at 804-340-1519.**

### 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



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Dear VMFA Members,

Join us on a 14-day exploration of Morocco and discover this land of age-old culture and natural beauty. An experienced local tour director will lead this program highlighting Morocco's unique history and culture as you travel from the imperial cities of Rabat, Fez, and Marrakech to the imposing High Atlas and the vast Sahara. We are pleased to have Richard B. Woodward, VMFA Curator of African Art, accompanying this tour.

Visit five UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Meknes, Morocco's youngest imperial city; Volubilis, with its ancient Roman ruins; and Fez, Morocco's oldest imperial city, prized for its cultural, religious and educational institutions. Follow a fabled ancient caravan route in the snow-topped High Atlas Mountains, see spectacular Todra Gorge, and travel to Ait ben-Haddou, another UNESCO site. Along the way, experience lush desert oases, precipitous mountain canyons, dozens of kasbahs and souks (markets), and villages where life proceeds much as it has for centuries. Enjoy a sunset excursion to the towering sand dunes at the edge of the Sahara by four-wheel drive followed by a camel ride. Then spend three nights in alluring Marrakech before your adventure concludes in storied Casablanca.

Space on this program is limited to VMFA members and family and will fill quickly; your early reservations are encouraged.

Sincerely,

*Hutch Livingston*

Adele "Hutch" Livingston  
Coordinator of Member Travel

**VMFA RESERVATION FORM: MOROCCAN DISCOVERY**

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person) for \_\_\_\_ person/people on **Moroccan Discovery** departing **March 1, 2014**. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. **Please make deposit check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and mail check (along with completed reservation form) to: **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., Attn: Special Interest Groups, One Newton Place, 275 Washington Street, Suite 300, Newton, MA 02458. Or call Odysseys Unlimited toll-free at 888-370-6765, or fax reservation to 617-454-9199.**

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please book my/our air from \_\_\_\_\_ I/we request a Business Class upgrade

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, March 1-14, 2014**, 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 at least 95 days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

## 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 tour package; costs of passports and visas, if required; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only tour package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per day, per traveler); optional sightseeing; travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline prior to departure.

### **Cancellations, refunds and changes**

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person changes: 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 a guest makes any changes to their 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.**

### **Responsibility**

The liability of the VMFA Foundation, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, 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 will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The VMFA Foundation 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 air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make 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**

We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. If you require the use of a wheelchair or have other personal needs, you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and the VMFA Foundation assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

### **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 they feel 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 assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure 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.**



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JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE VMFA  
SMALL GROUP TOUR TO MOROCCO