

VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

MOROCCAN DISCOVERY

FROM THE IMPERIAL CITIES TO THE SAHARA

March 23-April 5, 2018

14 days from \$5,179 total price from Washington, DC
(\$4,495 air & land inclusive plus \$684 airline taxes and fees)



TRAVEL+
LEISURE
WORLD'S
BEST
AWARDS

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

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

VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Dear VMFA Members,

We invite you to join us on a special 14-day journey to 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 our 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 on this program is limited to only VMFA members. We expect it will fill quickly; your early reservations are encouraged.

Sincerely,



Adele "Hutch" Livingston
Coordinator of Member Travel

VMFA RESERVATION FORM – MOROCCAN DISCOVERY

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$_____ (\$500 per person) for _____ person(s) on **Moroccan Discovery** departing **March 23, 2018**. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 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: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., Attn: Special Interest Groups, One Newton Place, 275 Washington Street, Suite 300, Newton, MA 02458. Or you may call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765, or fax your 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 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, March 23-April 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.

MOROCCAN DISCOVERY

From the Imperial Cities to the Sahara

14 days from \$5,179 total price from Washington, DC
(**\$4,495 air & land inclusive plus \$684 airline taxes and fees**)

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 Oudaia, 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 walking tour of Fez's fascinating *medina*, a UNESCO World Heritage site, focusing on the artisans' quarters, the 14th-century Koranic schools, and Al Karaouine, the medieval theological university. After lunch together in the *medina*, we tour the old *mellah* (Jewish quarter) and its 17th-century synagogue, the royal gates, and the Museum of Fez. Tonight we enjoy a private dinner at an intimate family-run *riad* in Fez. *B,L,D*

Avg. High (°F)	Mar	Apr
Rabat	68	71
Marrakech	74	79

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 Ait 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 Désert	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.

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



On Days 9 and 10, we travel through the High Atlas.

Day 6: Fez This morning we return to the *medina* to discover some hidden treasures, including the Blue Gate, the most picturesque of all the Old City's historic gates; the medieval school of Bouanania; and the 12th-century home of Jewish scholar Maimonides. We also visit the traditional quarter to watch artisans craft the acclaimed Fez pottery and ceramics. The remainder of the afternoon is free for independent exploration and lunch on our own. *B,L,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-scrapping 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 snowtopped 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.



Traditional Moroccan tile work

ALL SUNSHINE
MAKES THE DESERT.

— ARAB PROVERB

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. 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



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

Tour Departs: March 23, 2018

Prices include int'l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Boston, New York, Washington, DC	\$5,179
Atlanta, Chicago	\$5,379
Baltimore, Charlotte, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, Philadelphia	\$5,479
Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Minneapolis, Orlando, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle, Tampa	\$5,579
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$4,095

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 call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765

Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-7:00 PM, Eastern Time
For further information, contact VMFA Member Travel at 804-340-1519



VMFA Travel
200 N. Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23220-4007

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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 specified; 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 94-95 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.**

Responsibility

The liability of the VMFA, as sponsor, and 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 will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. The VMFA 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 lines, 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 tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own.** We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. 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, the VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. 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 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 provided at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. 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 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.**



JOIN US ON AN EXCLUSIVE
VMFA TOUR TO MOROCCO!

March 23-April 5, 2018