



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

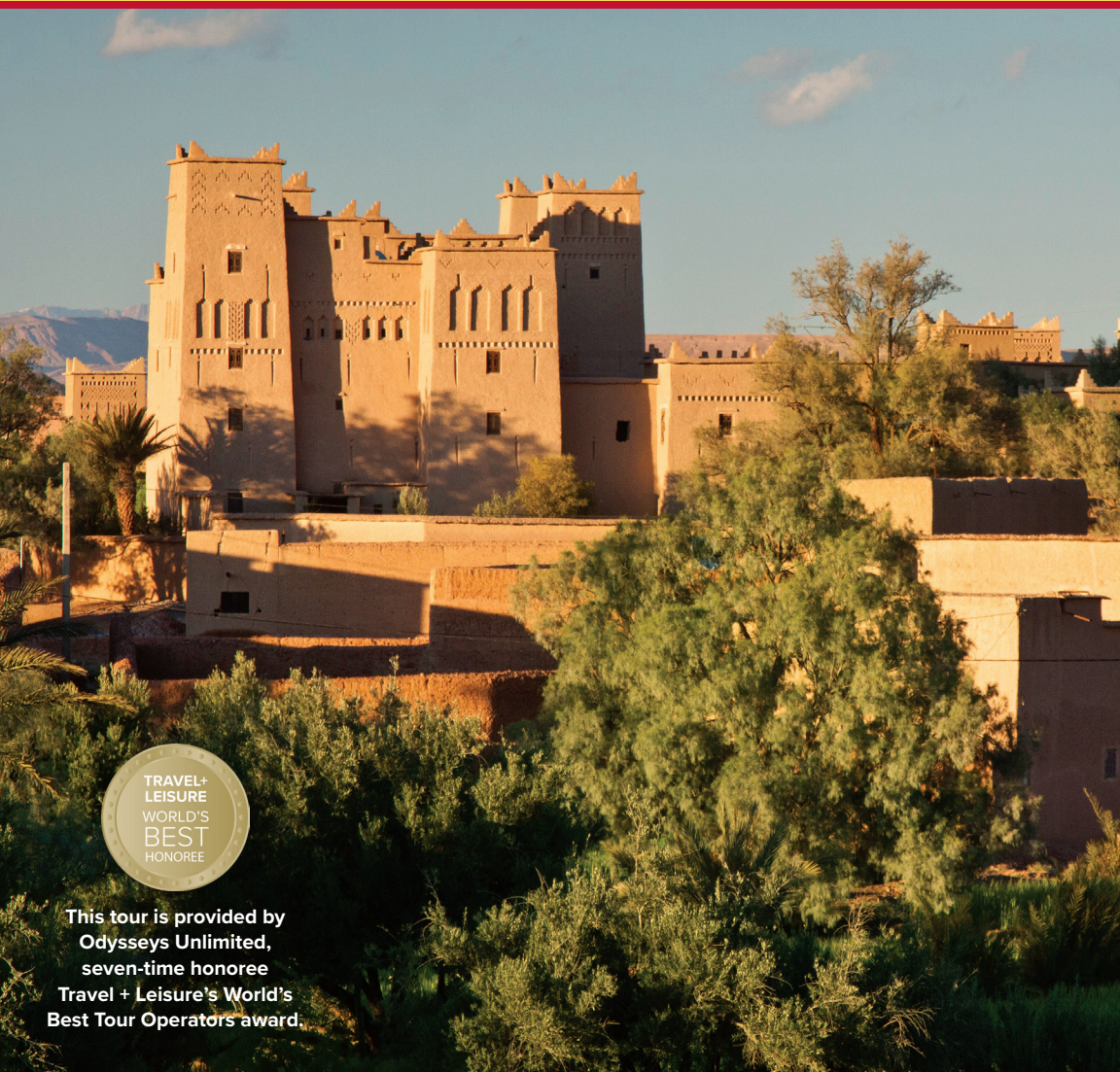
Moroccan Discovery

from the Imperial Cities to the Sahara

March 1-14, March 24-April 6, 2024

14 days for \$5,979 total price from Washington, DC

(\$5,195 air & land inclusive plus \$784 airline taxes and fees)



This tour is provided by
Odysseys Unlimited,
seven-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**



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Dear VMFA Members,

Travel with us on an exclusive 14-day journey through 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 your 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 exciting program is limited and will fill quickly. Book today!

Sincerely,

Adele "Hutch" Livingston
Coordinator of Member Travel

THE VMFA RESERVATION FORM: MOROCCAN DISCOVERY

To reserve your place on tour, please call **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765**. Please have the information outlined below available to share with an Odysseys Unlimited Travel Counselor.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and submit it to Odysseys Unlimited's office. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to: **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.**
Attn: Special Interest Groups
One Newton Place
275 Washington Street, Suite 300
Newton, MA 02458

MOROCCAN DISCOVERY • MARCH 1-14, MARCH 24-APRIL 6, 2024

I/We would like to request _____ place(s). (Deposit amount is \$500 per person.)
Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____
Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____
E-mail(s) _____ 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)

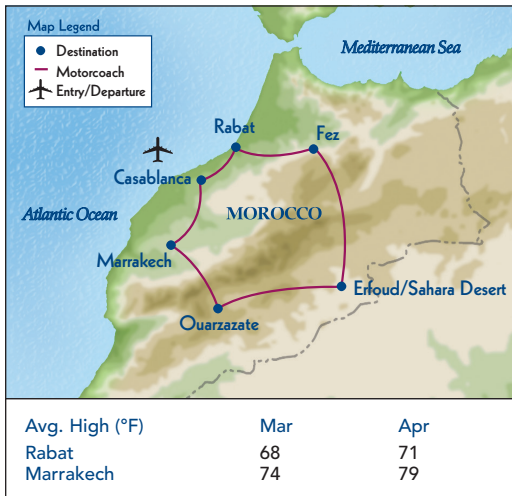
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This land of dramatic contrasts invites us to encounter its ancient ruins and sacred mosques, endless desert and storied mountains, imposing kasbahs and spirited souks. As we travel from the imperial cities of Rabat, Fez, and Marrakech to the High 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 necropolis of Chellah, built on ancient Roman ruins, and the Mohammed VI contemporary art museum then have lunch in a private home. On tap this afternoon: the 12th-century *Kasbah* of the Oudaïas, the peaceful Andalusian Gardens, and Rabat's *medina*, a UNESCO World Heritage site. 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). Here we visit the Dar Jamai Museum, housing a collection of traditional Moroccan handicrafts. 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 overlooking the *medina*. *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. We also visit the traditional quarter where we watch artisans craft the acclaimed Fez pottery and ceramics. After lunch together in the *medina*, we tour the old *Mellab* (Jewish quarter) and its 17th-century synagogue and the royal gates. *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 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	Le Casablanca Hotel	Deluxe
14	Depart Casablanca for U.S.		

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

Cover photo: We encounter many of Morocco's age-old kasbahs on our journey.



We see the distinctive Koutoubia Mosque – Marrakech’s largest – on Day 11.

Day 6: Fez We begin today with a visit to the Al-Attarine Madrasa, whose highlight is a small courtyard showcasing intricately detailed tilework and carving decorations dating to the early 1300s. We then continue our discovery 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,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-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*. 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 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



Traditional Moroccan tile work



IF LIFE GETS TIGHT,
LOOSEN IT BY TRAVEL.”

– BEDOUIN PROVERB

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. We arrive in Marrakech late this afternoon and dine tonight at our hotel. *B,L,D*

Day 11: Marrakech Our day-long tour of Marrakech includes the Koutoubia Mosque; the lovely Andalusian-style El Bahia Palace; 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 World Heritage site and the heart of Marrakech. 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 known for its cobalt blue accents. Following a tour of the gardens we visit the nearby Yves St. Laurent Museum. 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



Rabat’s Kasbah des Oudaias

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 ride camels in the Sahara.

Tour Departs: March 1 & March 24, 2024

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

Boston, New York, Washington, DC	\$5,979
Atlanta, Chicago	\$6,179
Baltimore, Charlotte, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, Philadelphia	\$6,279
Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Minneapolis, Orlando, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle, Tampa	\$6,379
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$5,095

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$784, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,695. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: Business Class – \$3,995 per person; Premium Economy – \$1,395 per person (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change). Upgrade costs are in addition to the costs above.

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 Member Travel
200 N. Arthur Ashe 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; immunizations, inoculations, and COVID-19 testing; 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 notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; cancel 94-85 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.**

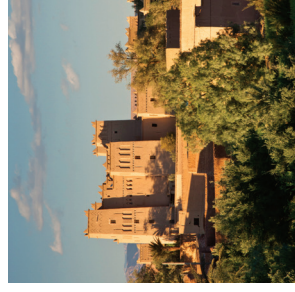
Responsibility: The liability of VMFA, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents 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. 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.

VMFA Member Travel reserves the right to use photos that might include you in marketing materials and for other purposes unless you specify otherwise.

Health and Medical Issues: We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a significant amount of walking and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats 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 many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. 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, 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 usually done 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.**

COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols: The well-being of our guests and staff members on tour will continue to be our highest priorities. To maintain a healthy environment for travel, we will be establishing and adhering to a detailed set of health and safety protocols for all facets of your tour. We are committed to following the guidelines of the State Department, CDC, WHO, and authorities of respective countries regarding travel to a particular destination. Detailed protocols for this tour, based on conditions at the time, will be provided to you prior to your departure.



**JOIN US FOR AN
EXCLUSIVE VMFA
TOUR TO MOROCCO!**

Guaranteed Small Group