

Moroccan *Jems*

RABAT, FES & MARRAKECH

SPONSORED BY



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

January 28 – February 7, 2027



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Join us on an incredible journey through Morocco, an enchanting land that has lured traders and explorers for centuries. This balanced nine-night itinerary features extraordinary cultural highlights and must-see landmarks that connect you to the heart of this spectacular country.

Begin in Rabat, Morocco's capital, rich with celebrated landmarks and Roman and Islamic ruins. In Fes, wander the winding alleys of the buzzing medina and explore colorful souks. Visit Casablanca, a symbol of Morocco's bygone era, and admire its brilliant architecture. Then make your way to Marrakech, home to serene gardens, red-earthen cityscapes, a bustling central square and tangled souks pungent with spices. Master the flavors of traditional Moroccan cuisine, practice the art of Arabic calligraphy and experience warm Berber hospitality amid the breathtaking Atlas Mountains. The mysteries of Morocco are yours to enjoy!

This exceptional program has been thoughtfully designed with educational enrichment from expert guides and lecturers. It also offers you the security, ease and value of group travel with plentiful opportunities for independent exploration. You'll appreciate the camaraderie with other curious travelers and make your own discoveries during free time. Book your Moroccan adventure today!

All the best,

Debbie Vargo
Director, Alumni Tours
The Ohio State University Alumni Association, Inc.
ADV-AlumniTours@osu.edu

Visit our website at **www.go.osu.edu/travel**
Questions? Please call **800-323-7373**.

UNESCO World Heritage

1. Rabat, Modern Capital and Historic City: a Shared Heritage
2. Historic City of Meknes
3. Medina of Fes
4. Archaeological Site of Volubilis
5. Medina of Marrakech



Royal Palace, Meknes

Citadel of Chellah, Rabat





Discovery begins here



Discover the magic of Morocco, where ancient traditions meet vibrant modern life. From the imperial streets of Rabat to the labyrinthine medinas of Fes, the cosmopolitan energy of Casablanca, and the legendary “Red City” of Marrakech, each city tells its own story. Savor aromatic tagines, explore bustling souks, or simply linger in sun-drenched bazaars, watching the bewitching buzz of local life. Your Moroccan adventure awaits!

Top: Jemaa el-Fnaa, Marrakech | Above: Moroccan musician
Cover: Fes | Mail panel: Rabat

Inspiring Moments



- Thrill to **Morocco's** captivating fabric of colors, intricate architecture and African, Arab and European cultures.
- Listen to the song of **Jemaa el-Fnaa square in Marrakech**, home to storytellers, musicians and snake charmers.
- Marvel at **Casablanca's Hassan II Mosque**, an architectural wonder.
- Discover the **Medina of Meknes**, rich in history and royal heritage.
- Journey to the foothills of the **Atlas Mountains** to visit a Berber village where a local family will welcome you into their home for traditional bread and mint tea.
- Enjoy a hands-on **cooking class** at the Amal Targa Center.
- Explore **Volubilis**, the largest Roman archaeological site in Morocco.
- Experience five **UNESCO World Heritage sites**.



Courtyard of Al Attarine Madrasa, Fes

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Casablanca, Morocco. 🌐

Day 2 | Casablanca, Morocco | Rabat

Upon arrival, transfer 🔄 to Rabat and check in to the hotel.

Join your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception and Dinner this evening.

Day 3 | Rabat

Enrichment: Moroccan History. Learn about the country's fascinating history, from the Berber dynasty to modern-day Morocco.

Rabat Walking Tour. View the breathtaking architecture of the Royal Palace, the residence of Morocco's royalty. Next, stroll the streets of Kasbah des Oudayas, a peaceful neighborhood with whitewashed houses. Continue to the striking Mausoleum of Mohammad V, the resting place of past kings, and gaze in wonder at the majestic Hassan Tower, rising above the ruins of its mosque. Cap off today's excursion at the Citadel of Chellah, which has been abandoned since the 1100s.

Day 4 | Meknes | Volubilis | Fes

Meknes & Volubilis. Travel to Meknes, home to a beautifully preserved royal palace and the stunning Bab Mansour, a monumental gateway to the Medina overlooking El Hedim Square. Continue to a local winery for a vineyard tour and a special tasting, followed by lunch.

Next, uncover the remarkable ruins of Volubilis, Morocco's largest Roman archaeological site.

Day 5 | Fes

Fes. Explore this diverse city shaped by more than 12 centuries of history and tradition. Begin in Fes el-Bali, the ninth-century district within the medina, where narrow alleyways wind through lively souks, artisan workshops, spice stalls, and the city's iconic tanneries. Admire the Nejjarine Fountain, carved from cedarwood and adorned with zellij tilework, and see the Quaraouiyin Mosque, the world's oldest university, before entering the spiritual Al Attarine Madrasa.

Savor a Moroccan lunch at a local restaurant, then continue to Fes Jdid, known as "New Fes," to explore the historic Mellah, the former Jewish district, and view the impressive Royal Palace. Cap off the day with breathtaking panoramic views across the entire medina.

Day 6 | Fes | Casablanca | Marrakech

Casablanca Discovery. Experience the vibrant atmosphere of Casablanca's central square, Place Mohammad V. As Morocco's largest city, Casablanca combines contemporary life with centuries of cultural heritage. The square is lined with striking Mauresque architecture. Pause to admire the façade of the Church of the Sacred Heart. Then, visit the state-of-the-art Hassan II Mosque, beautifully nestled on Casablanca's coastline. The mosque is one of the largest places of worship on Earth!



Settle in for a memorable lunch before continuing your journey to Marrakech.

Day 7 | Marrakech

Enrichment: Moroccan Culture. Learn how Arab, European and African influences created Morocco's captivating culture.

Monuments of Marrakech. Begin today's tour at the Ben Youssef Medersa, a 14th-century icon of Andalusian-Arabic architecture. Continue to Souk Semmarine, where colorful alleys invite you to browse local handicrafts. Visit the Bahia Palais, the "Palace of Brilliance," known for its luxurious apartments, courtyards, zellige mosaic floors and lush gardens. Stop for a delightful Moroccan lunch of authentic flavors. Early this evening, admire the iconic Koutoubia Mosque minaret and experience the vibrant heart of Marrakech's medina, Jemaa el-Fnaa. This legendary square comes alive with fire-eaters, performers, storytellers, and musicians. Take in the action from a rooftop café, then join your guide to stroll the bustling square.

Enjoy a dinner of tantalizing Moroccan cuisine.

Day 8 | Marrakech

Cooking & Calligraphy. Visit the Amal Targa Center, a nonprofit helping disadvantaged women develop cooking skills, gain roles in the hospitality industry and prepare for financial independence. Learn to prepare traditional Moroccan dishes, including salads, bread, tagine and dessert. While your lunch is cooking, enjoy a lesson in Arabic calligraphy, practicing the beautiful patterns, lines, and curves.

Free Time: Spend an afternoon at leisure exploring beautiful Marrakech.

Day 9 | Atlas Mountains | Ourika Valley

Atlas Mountains. Journey through dramatic landscapes deep within North Africa's highest mountain range. Take in breathtaking vistas of the Atlas Mountains from the impressive ANIMA Garden, where panoramic views are complemented by the art of André Heller. Continue through the serene Ourika Valley,

Ourika Valley & the Atlas Mountains





where Berbers continue farming traditions that have shaped this landscape for centuries.

AHI Connects | Berber Home Visit.

Meet a local Berber family in their traditional home and learn about their fascinating traditions and generous nature.

Enjoy lunch beside the rushing Ourika River, surrounded by sweeping mountain vistas.

Day 10 | Marrakech

Gardens & Souks. Discover Jardin Majorelle, an oasis of fountains, flora and vivid cobalt architecture created in the 1920s by French artist Jacques Majorelle and later restored by Yves Saint Laurent and his partner Pierre Bergé. Visit the Yves Saint Laurent Museum, featuring the designer's haute couture and a library. Return to the buzzing souks for a tour with tastings of local products and insights into the spices and herbs used in traditional meals.

Free Time: Discover more of Marrakech at your own pace.

Bid farewell to your Moroccan adventure during a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 11 | In Transit

Transfer to Marrakech airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Active Travel

This **Active Program** is designed for people who are in good health and can comfortably participate in a demanding daily schedule of physical activities. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this program require:

- walking on unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches
- walking distances of up to 3-5 miles

Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **2 nights** in Rabat, Morocco, at the first-class Sofitel Rabat Jardin des Roses.
- **2 nights** in Fes at the first-class Marriott Jnane Palace.
- **5 nights** in Marrakech at the first-class Les Jardins de La Koutoubia.

Transfers (with baggage handling)

- All transfers in the Land Program: deluxe motor coaches.

Extensive Meal Program

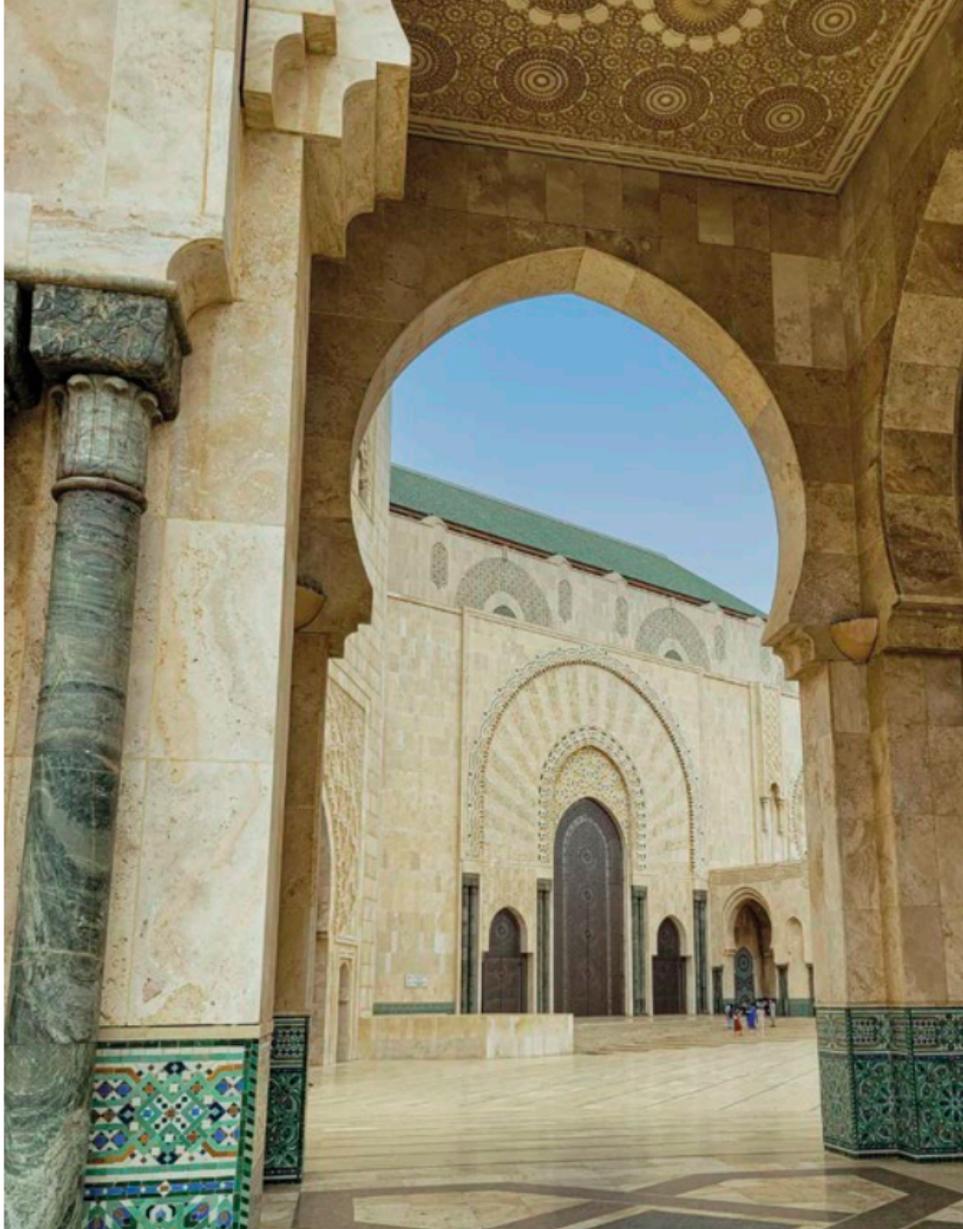
- 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 4 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 24 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **Free time** to pursue your individual interests.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Berber home visit





Hassan II Mosque, Casablanca



Above: ANIMA Gardens | Below: Colorful tagines at a Marrakech souk



2027 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates † **January 28 – February 7, 2027**

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates* **January 29 – February 7, 2027**

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Land Program

Full Price **\$6,245**

Special Savings **\$750**

Special Savings Price* **\$5,495**

***This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is \$1,000 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 150 days prior to departure.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single accommodations are an additional \$1,795 (limited availability).

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://ohst.ahitravel.com/destinations/2028A?schoollid=124>.

AHI FlexAir

Let us arrange your flights

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

AHI Travel Expertise

Travel Consultants guide you through the reservation process.

Travel & Air Coordinators offer assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

Handpicked Expert Guides and **Knowledgeable Lecturers** deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



Accommodations

Experience luxurious accommodations throughout your journey in Morocco. Each property is thoughtfully selected and features elegant design and world-class amenities. From the vibrant energy of bustling medinas to serene gardens and breathtaking landscapes, these properties offer the perfect space to relax after a day of exploring the country's rich culture.



Sofitel Rabat Jardins des Roses | Rabat



Marriott Jnane Palace | Fes



Les Jardins de La Koutoubia | Marrakech



Book your journey today!

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