

Travel with The Met

March 8–21, 2019

Morocco: Land of Mists & Mysteries

With Courtney Ann Stewart
Senior Research Assistant
Department of Islamic Art



THE
MET

Morocco: Land of Mists & Mysteries

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

Over the last 10,000 years, the country Edith Wharton called “a land of mists and mysteries” has been home to Berbers, Arabs, sub-Saharan Africans, Romans, the French, and more. I hope you’ll join me next March to discover the art and architecture of Morocco on this exciting journey, which for the first time includes the rarely visited UNESCO World Heritage Site of Tétouan.



canvases.

In Fes, spend four nights in a palace that was once the residence of the Grand Vizier of Jamaï, learn how Moroccan ceramic tiles are produced and explore the mellah, or old Jewish quarter. Marvelous Meknes, a 17th-century rival to Versailles, is our base for a visit to Volubilis, one of the best-preserved Roman towns in North Africa. In Marrakesh, the great public square of Djemaa el-Fna is a special highlight, as are the opulent Majorelle Gardens. We will also visit the new Yves Saint Laurent Museum, dedicated to the designer who found his muse in the “red city.”

I hope you will join me on this immersion in the diverse arts and cultures of Morocco.

Sincerely,
Courtney Ann Stewart
Senior Research Assistant
Department of Islamic Art

Trip Highlights

- Explore seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the lesser-known city of Tétouan
- Spend four nights in Fes at the luxurious Palais Faraj, once the residence of the Grand Vizier of Jamaï
- Tour Meknes, a 17th-century rival to Versailles; and the well-preserved Roman ruins at Volubilis
- Watch master craftspeople create exquisite ceramics by hand at a family-run studio near Fes
- Gain insight into the work of Met conservators on a behind-the-scenes tour of a 12th-century *minbar* (Islamic pulpit)
- Discover the recently opened YSL Museum in Marrakesh, dedicated to the designer who found inspiration in Moroccan culture



Traveling with You

Courtney Ann Stewart joined the museum in 2010 and serves as Senior Research Assistant in the Department of Islamic Art. She has contributed to the reinstatement of the new galleries of the Arab Lands, Turkey, Iran, Central Asia, and Later South Asia (2011), as well as the exhibitions and publications *Treasures from India: Jewels from the Al-Thani Collection* (2014) and *Sultans of Deccan India, 1500–1700: Opulence and Fantasy* (2015). Courtney has taught courses on Islamic art history at the University of Toronto, and she continues to lecture in the School of Continuing Studies at New York University. Courtney, who holds graduate degrees from the University of Toronto and the Bard Graduate Center, is currently pursuing research on the history of Islamic jewelry.



Moulay Ismail, Morocco



Photos clockwise from top right: Hassan II Mosque, Casablanca; Chefchaouen; Jardin Majorelle; Volubilis; Nejjarine Funduq. Front cover: Section from a Qur'an Manuscript, ca.1300, attributed to Morocco or Southern Spain. Ink, gold, and opaque watercolor on parchment. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Purchase, Lila Acheson Wallace Gift, 2004 [2004.90]. Back cover: Chellah (top); Djema-el-Fna Square (bottom).

Morocco: Land of Mists & Mysteries

March 8–21, 2019



Royal Palace, Fes

U.S. Departure

Friday, March 8

Depart on an overnight flight to Casablanca.

Casablanca / Rabat, Morocco

Saturday, March 9

Arrive in Casablanca and continue to the vast Hassan II Mosque, to admire its dramatic architecture and interiors. After lunch, drive along the coast to the capital city of Rabat, to check in at the Sofitel Jardin des Roses. Gather this evening for introductory remarks and a welcome dinner. L, D

Rabat

Sunday, March 10

Following a morning lecture, the day's touring begins with the Hassan tower and the white marble tomb of King Mohammed V. At the Archaeological Museum, admire the collection, which offers an overview of Morocco's impressive history. In the afternoon, visit the ancient Chellah necropolis ruins and the Mohammed VI Museum of Modern & Contemporary Art. This three-story Moorish building features over 400 pieces by 200 Moroccan artists. Dinner is at leisure. B, L

Rabat / Tangier

Monday, March 11

Travel by the new high-speed train to Tangier. Upon arrival, visit the American Legation Museum, the only U.S. National Historic Landmark outside the United States, and tour the Kasbah Museum, also known as the Museum of Moroccan Art and Antiquities. Time permitting, admire the Moulay Hafid Palace (*Palais des Institutions Italiennes*), Tangier's most beautiful building. This evening, dinner is at the hotel. B, L, D

Tangier / Tétouan

Tuesday, March 12

Drive to nearby Tétouan, with its UNESCO-recognized medina. Tour the Museum of Modern Art, housing a permanent collection of contemporary Moroccan art, and view traditional Moroccan costumes, jewelry, embroidery, weapons, and musical instruments at the Ethnography Museum. Return to Tangier for an evening at leisure. B, L

Tangier / Fes

Wednesday, March 13

Travel to Fes, the oldest of Morocco's imperial cities, stopping for lunch in the magical blue city of Chefchaouen. Upon arrival in Fes, check in at the luxurious Palais Faraj Hotel. Gather for a lecture before dinner. B, L, D

Fes

Thursday, March 14

Visit the Nejjarine Funduq, an 18th-century *caravanserai* (inn) that is now a museum of wooden arts and crafts. Explore the Al Karaouine Mosque, including the reopened

library (*pending confirmation*). In the afternoon tour the Medersa Bou Inania and/or the Medersa el Attarine, both great examples of Islamic architecture, and explore the tannery quarter. B, D

Meknes / Volubilis

Friday, March 15

Drive to Meknes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to see the beautiful Bab Mansour gate and shrine of Moulay Ismail. Continue to the Roman town of Volubilis, where houses are adorned with mosaics from the 2nd and 3rd centuries. Return to Fes for an evening at leisure. B, L

Fes

Saturday, March 16

Drive to the Fes Arabesque Ceramic Factory / Art Naji Studio to view ceramists at work and learn the history and secrets of Morocco's famously beautiful pottery. Continue to Dar Batha Museum, the city's museum of traditional Moroccan arts, set in a gorgeous 19th-century palace that is itself a work of art. Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure, perhaps to enjoy a mint tea or shop for local handicrafts. Tonight, dine at one of the city's charming *riads* (traditional houses with interior courtyards). B, D



Colorful Moroccan Tagines

More Travels with The Met

In the Wake of the Vikings: Copenhagen to Edinburgh Aboard *Sea Cloud II* July 10–21, 2018

Artistic Legacies & Historic Estates of the Hudson Valley October 13–19, 2018

Bermuda: Exclusive Collections & Exotic Gardens December 6–10, 2018

Cuba by Sea: Cienfuegos to Havana Aboard *Variety Voyager* January 24–February 1, 2019

For details, please go to metmuseum.org/travel



Tetouan

Fes / Marrakesh

Sunday, March 17

Begin the day with a glimpse into Morocco's Jewish heritage on an exploration of the picturesque *mellah*, once one of the largest Jewish quarters in the country. Then, fly to the fascinating "red city" of Marrakesh and check in at the Four Seasons Resort Marrakesh. Dinner tonight is at a popular local restaurant.

B, L, D

Marrakesh

Monday, March 18

Visit Ben Yusef Maderasa, a beautifully restored Koranic school. After a morning lecture, discover this masterpiece of 16th-century architecture before a special visit to the Dar El Bacha Museum. In the afternoon walk through the medina to the vibrant Djemael-Fna Square, where dancers, story-tellers, and snake charmers still practice their trades. We will also stop at the El Badii Palace to see the Koutoubia *minbar* (pulpit), beautifully restored by Met conservators. Conclude with a cocktail at the MACMA (*Musée d'Art et de Culture de Marrakech*).

B, L, R

Marrakesh

Tuesday, March 19

Stroll in the lush Jardin Majorelle before a curator-led visit to the Berber Museum, with its rich collection of Berber objects. Then, enjoy a private visit to Villa Oasis, the home of the late fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent (*pending confirmation*). After lunch, discover the recently opened YSL Museum, full of couture gowns and the history of the designer's time living in Marrakesh. The balance of the day is at leisure.

B, L

Marrakesh / Casablanca

Wednesday, March 20

This morning, visit a few contemporary galleries to gain insights into Morocco's current art scene. Following lunch, drive to Casablanca and the Four Seasons for a one-night stay. Gather this evening for a festive farewell dinner.

B, L, D

Casablanca / Return

Thursday, March 21

Transfer to the airport for flights home.

B

The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

Program Rate

\$10,699 (per person, double occupancy)
\$12,299 (single rate)

Rate Includes

- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Twelve nights accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner, R=Reception); bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals; wine and beer at welcome and farewell dinners
- Guided sightseeing by private motorcoach and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers
- Taxes, service, and portage charges

Not included in rate

International airfare; passport fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; trip insurance; baggage in excess of one suitcase; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Accommodations

Sofitel Jardin des Roses (2 nights)

Farah Tangier (2 nights)

Palais Faraj (4 nights)

Four Seasons Resort, Marrakesh (3 nights)

Four Seasons Casablanca (1 night)



Palais Faraj, Morocco

If you no longer wish to receive Travel with the Met brochures, please call us at 212-650-2110 or email us at travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org

Morocco: March 8–21, 2019

Reservation Form

To secure your reservation, please call Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Arrangements Abroad*, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

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City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

Accommodations

One bed Two beds Single

I wish to share a room with _____

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Name on debit/credit card

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Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms and detailed in forthcoming program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date

For additional information, please call 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638)



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Mists & Mysteries**
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**The Metropolitan
Museum of Art**

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