

Travel with The Met

January 29–February 11, 2022

Morocco: Land of Mists & Mysteries
with Sheila R. Canby, Curator Emerita, Islamic Art



THE
MET

Morocco: Land of Mists & Mysteries

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

During my years as the Curator in Charge of the Department of Islamic Art at The Met, I oversaw the installation of the Patti Cadby Birch Moroccan Court, the Museum's beautiful tribute to medieval Islamic art and architectural traditions. Before I joined the Museum, a team from The Met traveled to Fes, where they were introduced to a team of Moroccan craftsmen who took inspiration from gorgeously tiled courtyards of two 14th-century madrasas, including the impressive Al-Attarine Madrasa. Please join me next January in Morocco to experience this monument and much more on an exclusive program. Over 12 nights, we will travel through a land of fascinating art, colorful architecture, and intriguing history.

First, cosmopolitan Casablanca will offer us a wonderful glimpse of modern Morocco, and we'll behold the imposing Hassan II Mosque. We will transfer to the capital of Rabat, where highlights include the striking, unfinished Hassan Tower and the medieval Kasbah des Oudaïas, with its gorgeous views of the roaring Atlantic.

Traveling by high-speed train, we'll arrive in enchanting Tangier. On an excursion to little-visited Tétouan, we'll wander its UNESCO-listed medina and observe artisans at work. A visit to the magical blue city of Chefchaouen will inspire awe, and we'll enjoy four nights in Fes at a palace that was once the residence of the Grand Vizier Jamaï. One after the other, marvels will be revealed, including the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Meknes, once viewed as a 17th-century rival to Versailles, and Volubilis, one of the best-preserved Roman cities in North Africa.

Finally, in bustling Marrakesh, we'll visit El Badi Palace to behold the wonderful work of Met conservators in their restoration of the Koutoubia *minbar* (pulpit). A curator will guide us on a tour of the Berber Museum, which houses ancient treasures collected by designer Yves Saint Laurent and his partner, Pierre Bergé. Saint Laurent famously made Marrakesh his adopted home, and we will be treated to a remarkable behind-the-scenes visit at Saint Laurent's extravagant, art-filled former estate, Villa Oasis.

I hope you'll join me to savor this mesmerizing country and its wealth of wonders.

Sincerely,
Sheila R. Canby
Curator Emerita, Islamic Art
The Metropolitan Museum of Art



Traveling with You

Sheila R. Canby

Sheila R. Canby is Curator Emerita, formerly the Patti Cadby Birch Curator in Charge of the Department of Islamic Art. She previously led two Met programs to Iran and a trip to Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar. Prior to joining The Met in 2009, she was Curator of Islamic Collections at the British Museum. Her publications include *Persian Painting* and *Shah Abbas: the Remaking of Iran* (London 2009). At The Met, Dr. Canby is one of the editors of *Masterpieces of the Department of Islamic Art* and author of *The Shahnama of Shah Tahmasp*, two books published in conjunction with the opening of the galleries for the art of the Arab Lands, Turkey, Iran, Central Asia and Later South Asia. With her colleagues Deniz Beyazit and Martina Rugiadi, she curated the special exhibition, "The Great Age of the Seljuqs," which was presented in 2016. Her latest project is editing a book of highlights from a private collection of Islamic art, which will be published by Yale University Press in 2022.

Trip Highlights

- Discover the often-overlooked city of Tétouan, with its spectacular UNESCO-listed medina, and visit its Dar Sanaa school to observe local artisans at work
- Enjoy four nights in magical Fes at the luxurious Palais Faraj, a refurbished 19th-century palace that was once the residence of the Grand Vizier Jamaï, and visit 14th-century madrasas and the extensive *souk* with its 11th-century tannery
- Tour the historic hilltop city of Meknes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site whose richly ornamented fortifications and palatial 17th-century grandeur rival that of Versailles
- Marvel at the archaeological site of Volubilis, one of the best-preserved Roman towns in North Africa, and behold the many influences of cultures who lived there, from African to Arab-Islamic
- Take an exclusive inside look at Marrakesh's El Badi Palace and its 12th-century Koutoubia *minbar* (pulpit), whose intricate marquetry has been beautifully restored by Met conservators
- Delight in a curator-led visit to the Berber Museum, an exquisite showcase of the achievements of North Africa's most ancient people



Hassan II Mosque



Photos clockwise from top right: Regional map; Medina, Tétouan, photo by Steven dos Remedios; *Astrolabe*, Dar El Bacha Museum, Marrakesh, photo by Courtney Ann Stewart; *tajines* at the souk, Marrakesh; Chefchaouen; Ensemble Nejjarine, Fes, photo by Barbara J. Anello-Adnani; Kasbah Museum, Tangier, photo by Mmoss. Front cover: The Royal Palace, Fes, photo by Christopher Rose. Back cover: *Study of Two Figures* (detail), ca. 1878. Edwin Lord Weeks (American, Boston, Massachusetts 1849–1903 Paris). Oil on canvas, laid down on Masonite. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of Kenneth Jay Lane, 2017, [2017.202.13] (top); Jardin Majorelle, Morocco (bottom).

Morocco: Land of Mists & Mysteries

January 29–February 11, 2022



Djemaa el-Fna Square, Marrakesh

Departure

Saturday, January 29

Depart on an overnight flight to Casablanca.

Casablanca, Morocco / Rabat

Sunday, January 30

Arrive in Casablanca, Morocco's largest and most modern city, and continue to the vast Hassan II Mosque to admire its dramatic architecture and interiors. After lunch, stop at the Museum of Moroccan Judaism for a visit, and 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 from Sheila Canby and a welcome dinner. L, D

Rabat

Monday, January 31

Following a morning lecture, visit the Archaeological Museum to admire the collection, which offers an overview of Morocco's impressive history. Continue to the ancient Chellah necropolis. After lunch, see the Hassan Tower and the white marble tomb of King Mohammed V. We will also tour the Kasbah des Oudaïas, which occupies the oldest part of the city and has sweeping views of the river and ocean. Dinner is at leisure. B, L

Rabat / Tangier

Tuesday, February 1

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. This evening, dinner is at the hotel. B, L, D

Tangier / Tétouan

Wednesday, February 2

Drive to nearby Tétouan, with its UNESCO-recognized medina. At the Ethnographic Museum, view traditional Moroccan costumes, jewelry, embroidery, weapons, and musical instruments. Continue to Dar Sanaa, the school of traditional arts and crafts, to see local artisans at work and learn about the different artistic expressions that have flourished for centuries in the city. Return to Tangier for an evening at leisure. B, L

Tangier / Chefchaouen / Fes

Thursday, February 3

Travel to Fes, the oldest of Morocco's imperial cities, stopping en route for lunch in the magical blue city of Chefchaouen. Upon arrival in Fes, check in at the luxurious Palais Faraj Hotel, and gather for dinner tonight. B, L, D

Fes

Friday, February 4

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 library. In the afternoon, tour the Bou Inania Madrasa

or the Al-Attarine Madrasa, both great examples of Islamic architecture followed by a visit to the tannery quarter. B, L, D

Meknes / Volubilis

Saturday, February 5

Drive to Meknes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to see the beautiful Bab Mansour gate and shrine of Moulay Ismail (*pending reopening after renovation*). Join a special tour to a local vineyard to learn about wine production in Morocco, the second-largest wine-producing country in the Arab World. 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

Sunday, February 6

Attend a morning lecture, before driving 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 the recently reopened Dar Batha Museum (*pending reopening after renovation*), 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

Fes / Marrakesh

Monday, February 7

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 (*pending flight schedules*), and check in at the Four Seasons Resort Marrakesh. Dinner tonight is at a popular local restaurant. B, L, D

More Travels with The Met

Arts & Traditions Along the Silk Road: Celebrating Nowruz in Central Asia March 12–26, 2022

Crossroads of Cultures:

Canary Islands, Morocco & Iberia Aboard *Sea Spirit* April 22–May 5, 2022

English Elegance: Majestic Manors of Bath & Cornwall May 18–26, 2022

Timeless Islands of the Mediterranean:

From Malta to Genoa Aboard *Sea Cloud II* October 8–18, 2022

For details and more trip information, please go to metmuseum.org/travel

Marrakesh

Tuesday, February 8

After a morning lecture, unearth the secrets of Marrakesh. Beginning in the medina, the old walled section of town, marvel at the Kutubiyya Mosque and its soaring minaret. Stroll through the *souks* on our way to the famous Djemaa el F'na Square, an ancient meeting place where dancers, storytellers, and snake charmers still practice their trades. At the opulent, Moorish-inspired La Mamounia hotel, enjoy lunch filled with a variety of local delicacies. This afternoon, we plan to tour the Ben Youssef Madrasa, a beautifully restored 16th-century Koranic school (*pending confirmation*), before a visit to the Dar El Bacha Museum. The evening is at leisure. B, L

Marrakesh

Wednesday, February 9

Today admire the gardens and beautifully painted rooms at the Bahia Palace, former home of a 19th-century Grand Vizier and the graceful arcades of the 16th-century Saadian Tombs, burial ground of the royal family. We will also stop at the El Badi Palace to see the Koutoubia *minbar* (pulpit), beautifully restored by the Met conservators. Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure. This evening, you are invited for a festive farewell dinner at a private venue. B, D

Marrakesh / Casablanca

Thursday, February 10

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*). Following a light

lunch, tour the YSL Museum, full of couture gowns and the history of the designer's time living in Marrakesh. Depart for Casablanca, where dinner and overnight accommodations are at the Four Seasons Casablanca. B, L, D

Casablanca / Return

Friday, February 11

Transfer to the airport for flights home. B

This 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.



Bahia Palace, Marrakesh, photo by Peter Lendvai

Accommodations

Hotel Palais Faraj Suites & Spa, Fes

Many artists, writers, and world leaders have been touched by the unique aura that makes the hotel, which opened in 2012, a new legend in luxury hospitality.



Hotel Palais Faraj Suites & Spa entrance

Sofitel Rabat Jardin des Roses, Rabat

Hilton Tanger City Center, Tangier

Four Seasons Resort, Marrakesh

Four Seasons Casablanca

Program Rate

\$11,499 per person, double rate

\$13,449 single rate

Rate Includes

- Twelve nights accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner); bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at welcome and farewell dinners
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Internal economy-class flight (Fes/Marrakesh)
- High-speed train (Rabat/Tangier)
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

Not included in rate

International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than 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.

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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 (**fully refundable until 120 days prior to departure**), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, Suite 1701, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full. Please print.

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Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

Accommodations

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds Single

I wish to share a room with _____

Form of Payment

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Name on debit/credit card

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3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms and detailed in 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) or to opt out from receiving mail, email travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org





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**The Metropolitan
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New York, NY 10028

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