Travel with The Met

Morocco: Land of Mists & Mysteries
with Christopher Noey, Lecturer

September 29–October 12, 2023
Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

As a crossroads of cultures through history, Morocco is an exhilarating destination. Join me in September 2023 for a 12-day tour of this mesmerizing North African country. I’ve worked on museum projects across Morocco, and I look forward to introducing you to its exceptional museums, vibrant artisans’ workshops, lavish palaces and mosques, Roman ruins, and energetic, exuberantly colorful cities.

We’ll begin with four nights in Marrakesh, where we’ll explore its bustling markets, spectacular gardens, and the opulent 16th-century Saadian Tombs of Moroccan royals. At the Berber Museum, before opening hours, a curator will guide us through 600 precious Berber objects collected by Yves Saint Laurent, followed by a private visit to his beautiful estate, Villa Oasis. We will also visit El Badi Palace, where we’ll see how Met conservators have restored the 12th-century Koutoubia minbar (pulpit). In the scenic nearby Atlas Mountains, you may enjoy an optional day-excursion to a local Berber village.

Over a stop in Casablanca, Morocco’s largest city, view its ornate Hassan II Mosque, one of the world’s largest. In the capital of Rabat, the majestic Hassan Tower, Mohammed V’s white marble tomb, and the winding streets of the medieval Kasbah des Oudaïas will inspire awe. Traveling by high-speed train, we’ll arrive in the fabled Tangier and visit the little-known nearby city of Tétouan. In its UNESCO-recognized medina, we’ll witness artisans creating wonderful crafts, from embroidery to traditional Moroccan zellige tiles.

After a stop in Chefchaouen, the famous blue city, we’ll enjoy three nights in magical Fes at a boutique riad (traditional Moroccan house) reserved exclusively for us. Fes’s exquisitely tiled courtyards will dazzle us, an excellent example of which we’ll find at the 14th-century Al-Attarine Madrasa, an inspiration for the design of The Met’s Moroccan Court. We will venture outside Fes to ancient Volubilis, one of North Africa’s best-preserved Roman cities, and UNESCO-listed Meknes, once Versailles’s 17th-century rival, before concluding with a return to Casablanca. I hope you join me on this unforgettable exploration of Morocco’s splendors.

Sincerely,
Christopher Noey
Lecturer
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

### Trip Highlights

- Join a curator for a before-hours tour of Marrakesh’s Berber Museum, featuring Yves Saint Laurent’s extensive collection of ancient Berber treasures, followed by an exclusive visit to Villa Oasis, Saint Laurent’s private sanctuary.

- Explore Marrakesh’s El Badi Palace and its 12th-century Koutoubia minbar, whose intricate marquetry has been beautifully restored by Met conservators.

- Delight in a full-day excursion to the scenic Atlas Mountains near Marrakesh and visit a local village to learn about the Berber culture and hospitality.

- In the often-overlooked city of Tétouan, with its spectacular UNESCO-listed medina, take a private visit to its Dar Sanaa school to observe local artisans at work.

- Go behind the scenes at the Fes Arabesque Ceramic Factory / Art Naji Studio, where you will see ceramists at work and learn about Morocco’s world-famous pottery traditions.

- Tour the UNESCO-listed hilltop city of Meknes, whose palatial grandeur rivals that of Versailles, and marvel at Volubilis, one of North Africa’s best-preserved Roman cities.

- Enjoy three nights at a boutique riad in Fes exclusively reserved for us and visit the city’s 14th-century madrasas and the extensive souk with its 11th-century tannery.
Photos clockwise from top right: Map of the region; Chefchaouen; Spice stall in Marrakesh market, Morocco; The Nejjarine Funduq, Fes; Villa Oasis, Marrakesh; Ceramic decoration of Hassan II Mosque. Front cover: Marrakesh architecture. Back cover: Tannery district, Fes (top) and Marrakesh and the Atlas Mountains (bottom).
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Marrakesh
Monday, October 2
Before opening hours at the Berber Museum, enjoy a curator-led tour of its rich collection of Berber objects before a private visit to Villa Oasis, the home of the late fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent. Stroll in the lush Jardin Majorelle, then have lunch. 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. This evening, attend a private reception on the rooftop of Les Jardins de la Koutoubia overlooking the Koutoubia Minaret. B, L, R

Marrakesh / Atlas Mountains
Tuesday, October 3
You may opt for a full-day excursion to the scenic Atlas Mountains, which separate the coastal lowlands from the Sahara Desert. Visit a local village and learn about the Berber culture and hospitality. Lunch is at an award-winning retreat featuring peaceful landscaped gardens, breathtaking views, and an on-site farm. Alternatively, spend a day in Marrakesh exploring contemporary art galleries, perusing local boutiques, and enjoying the cultural richness of the red city at a leisurely pace. B, L

Marrakesh / Casablanca / Rabat
Wednesday, October 4
Depart for Rabat with a stop in Casablanca, where you will visit the Hassan II Mosque to admire its dramatic architecture and tour the Museum of Moroccan Judaism. Drive along the coast to the capital city of Rabat to check in at the new Fairmont La Marina Rabat-Salé Hotel. Gather for dinner this evening at a local restaurant. B, L, D

Rabat / Tangier
Friday, October 6
Travel by the new high-speed train to Tangier. Upon arrival, lunch is at an exquisite property overlooking the ocean. After a visit to the American Legation Museum, the only U.S. National Historic Landmark outside the United States, tour the Kasbah Museum, which houses local treasures dating to antiquity, including Roman floor mosaics from Volubilis. Stop at St. Andrews Church and/or Nahon Synagogue. This evening, dinner is at the hotel. B, L, D

Tangier / Tétouan
Saturday, October 7
Drive to nearby Tétouan, with its UNESCO-recognized medina. Discover 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. Then peruse the Museum of Religious Heritage housed in the Luqash Madrasa. Return to Tangier for an evening at leisure. B, L
Tangier / Chefchaouen / Fes
Sunday, October 8
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 to the Dar Lys, a beautiful riad reserved exclusively for us. Dinner this evening is at a local restaurant. B, L, D

Fes
Monday, October 9
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 (pending confirmation). In the afternoon, tour the Bou Inania Madrasa and the Al-Attarine Madrasa, both great examples of Islamic architecture followed by a visit to the tannery quarter. This evening, attend a reception and lecture at our exclusive riad. B, L, R

Volubilis / Meknes / Fes
Tuesday, October 10
In the company of a historian, drive to the Roman town of Volubilis, where houses are adorned with mosaics from the second and third centuries A.D. Lunch is at a prestigious wine estate surrounded by luxurious gardens. Continue to Meknes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to see the beautiful Bab Mansour gate and shrine of Moulay Ismail. Return to Fes, where this evening you are invited for a festive farewell dinner at a private venue. B, L, D

Fes / Casablanca
Wednesday, October 11
Visit 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. After lunch, depart for Casablanca and check into the Four Seasons Hotel Casablanca. This evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel. B, L, D

Casablanca / Return
Thursday, October 12
This morning, check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for your 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.

Program Rate
$12,999 per person, double rate
$15,499 single rate

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

Not included in rate
International airfare; passport/visa 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; excess baggage; trip insurance; 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); email: met@arrangementsabroad.com; or complete this form and return it with your deposit of $1,000 per person (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. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

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

Accommodations
Hotel room preference
☐ One bed  ☐ Two beds  ☐ Single

I wish to share a room with _______

Form of payment
☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to Arrangements Abroad)  ☐ Debit card  ☐ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

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

Accommodations

Dar Lys Luxury Riad & Spa, Fes
Les Jardins de la Koutoubia, Marrakesh
This stylish Marrakesh hotel is renowned for the quality of its service, its luxurious spa, and the diversity of its cuisine.

Fairmont La Marina Rabat Salé Hotel
This luxurious resort-style property has a sleek waterfront setting, a large spa, and well-appointed guest rooms and suites.

Fairmont Tazi Palace Hotel, Tangier
Set atop a lush hilly site, this new hotel is housed in a historic palace and consists of luxurious hotel rooms, two VIP villas, and one Royal villa.

Dar Lys Luxury Riad & Spa, Fes
Reserved exclusively for us, this splendid boutique hotel is built on the ruins of an old house belonging to Morocco’s legendary Bennani family.

Four Seasons Hotel Casablanca
Bathed in natural light, the seaside luxury hotel is just 10 minutes from the heart of Morocco’s largest and liveliest city.

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