
Travel with The Met

September 29–October 12, 2023

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

THE
MET



Morocco: Land of Mists & Mysteries

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



Traveling with You

Christopher Noey

Christopher Noey is an art historian, author, and Emmy Award-winning producer of films on art and culture. An expert in Asian and Islamic art, Mr. Noey has taught at Williams College and the City College of New York. At The Met, he created video installations for a diverse array of exhibitions including *Jerusalem 1000-1400: Every People Under Heaven*, and he was series director of the innovative online features *82nd & Fifth* and *The Artist Project*, in which he interviewed 120 contemporary artists on how they are inspired by The Met and its collections. He also documented the building of the Museum's Moroccan Court and traveled to Fes to film mosaic tile production as well as the great historic courtyards of the city.

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



Berber Museum, Marrakesh



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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Koutoubia Minaret

Departure

Friday, September 29

Depart on an overnight flight to Marrakesh, Morocco.

Marrakesh, Morocco

Saturday, September 30

Upon arrival in Marrakesh, transfer to the hotel and enjoy lunch. Gather this evening for introductory remarks from Chris Noey and a welcome reception, with dinner at leisure. L, R

Marrakesh

Sunday, October 1

After a morning lecture, unearth the secrets of Marrakesh. Beginning in the medina, the old walled section of town, gaze up at the Koutoubia Mosque and its soaring minaret. Stroll through the *souks* on our way to the famous Djemaa el F'na Square, an ancient meeting place filled with dancers, storytellers, and snake charmers. At the opulent, Moorish-inspired La Mamounia hotel, enjoy a lunch filled with a variety of local delicacies. Afterwards, visit the El Badi Palace to see the Koutoubia *minbar* (pulpit), beautifully restored by the Met conservators. Continue to the Bahia Palace, the former home of a 19th-century Grand Vizier, and the graceful arcades of the 16th-century Saadian Tombs, the burial ground of the royal family. Enjoy a festive welcome dinner. B, L, D

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

Thursday, October 5

Following a morning lecture, visit the Archaeological Museum to admire its collection of excavated treasures highlighting Morocco's impressive history, and/or explore the Mohammed VI Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art. Continue to the ancient Chellah necropolis, which features Roman ruins alongside medieval Islamic tombs. After lunch, see the Hassan

Tower and the white marble tomb of King Mohammed V. Then, in the oldest part of the city, tour the Kasbah des Oudaïas, which has sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean and the river Bou Regreg. This evening, we might have the opportunity to attend a performance at the recently built Grand Théâtre de Rabat designed by Zaha Hadid (*pending schedules*). B, L

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



Chefchaouen

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

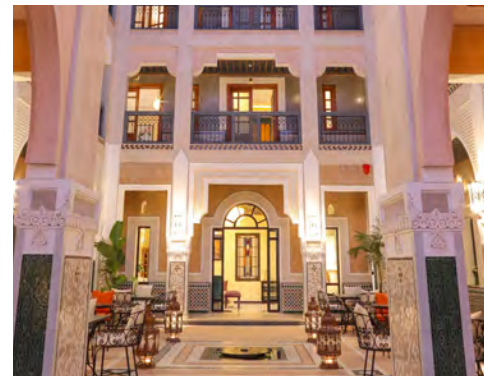
Rate Includes

- 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 portage 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.

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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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.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

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 _____

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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New York, NY 10028

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