

## CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

The Semester at Sea Field Program has a strong academic component. Faculty members develop field requirements that constitute 20% of the contact hours for each course they are teaching. As part of these field requirements, all Semester at Sea faculty design and lead field trips that integrate with their course work. The following is a representative sampling of the types of Faculty Directed Practica (FDPs) that may be offered during this voyage:



### **THE EVOLUTION OF THE MOROCCAN WOMAN [FDP: WOMEN'S STUDIES]**

Rachida Laraki-Tazi will present a talk on “The Evolution of the Moroccan Woman”. She was the Moroccan representative to the United Nations for women’s issues and currently works on family planning with the Ministry of Health. She will present Moroccan history from a woman’s perspective, citing milestones of women’s rights developments. (PRICE: Free)

### **INDUSTRIAL VISIT: AZBANE COSMETIC FACTORY [FDP: BUSINESS]**

Visit the AZBANE Company, a cosmetic factory owned by a very famous Berber family. The factory is very modern, but the owners prefer to keep some traditional ways of managing the company. We will meet with the managers, the owner (Mr. Hadj Azbane), the marketing director, and the managing director (Mr. Khalid Azbane). We will be the guests of Azbane for lunch. (PRICE: \$17.00)

### **CASABLANCA'S CULTURAL LANDSCAPE [FDP: GEOGRAPHY]**

Observe Casablanca’s cultural landscape during a walking tour of the city. We will begin with the port district and continue to the city’s Medina and to the Place des Nations Unies. We will then travel by bus to view the outer city. Discussions will center on Casablanca’s pre-colonial origins, French colonial influence in cultural geography, economic modernization, architectural types and religious attitudes. (PRICE: OOPEX)

### **WATER RESOURCES IN MOROCCO [FDP: ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES]**

Visit a local municipal water source to discuss with a knowledgeable representative the process of water management, problems of consumption, and how the water resource is managed in this very arid land area. We will learn of the facilities available and if possible, visit one of the production sites. (PRICE: \$16.00)

### **GOODYEAR FACTORY VISIT [FDP: BUSINESS]**

Visit the Goodyear factory in Casablanca, which is the main production facility for Northwest Africa. We will begin with a panel discussion by several members of the economic community including representatives from the Department of Commerce, the American Chamber of Commerce and Goodyear. Students are encouraged to prepare and ask questions based on the topics discussed in class. Following the discussion, we will tour the factory, which produces \$80 million in materials per year and have an opportunity to observe the production of the various products.

**The remaining trips in the Semester at Sea Field Program provide a variety of opportunities for students to enhance their overall study abroad experience. Students can visit sites of historical and cultural interest; learn about local environmental, political, economic and social issues; interact with local university students and other residents; become involved in community service; explore what is unique in each country; and enjoy some recreational activities. The following is a representative sampling of the types of standard field trips that may be offered during this voyage:**

## CASABLANCA CITY ORIENTATION

Over 150 years ago, the village that eventually developed into modern-day Casablanca, contained a mere 600 inhabitants. Today it is the economic center of Morocco, the country's largest city and Africa's second-largest city,



with a population of over 3 million people. It is a new and vital city, clearly a product of the twentieth century. Casablanca is a modern and well-planned city and is good at hosting the many foreign visitors who pass through it each year. The orientation includes a drive through the Ain Diab coastal area and the new city, with an hour's walk from the produce market in new town to the old souq, followed by a visit the recently completed Hasan II Mosque. (PRICE: \$23.00)

## WELCOME RECEPTION

Meet Moroccan university students, taste Moroccan cuisine, and enjoy traditional Moroccan music at this welcome reception. Hosted by several local universities, this reception will include English-speaking Moroccan students from business, engineering and literature schools. The Moroccan students will offer their talents by providing traditional music. Refreshments will include soft drinks, tea, coffee, Moroccan hors d'oeuvres and Moroccan cookies. (PRICE: \$32.00)

## RABAT

Although Rabat has a thousand-year history, it became a major city only in the twentieth century when the French moved the administrative capital from Fes to Rabat. Since then it has become a distinguished, elegant, and modern city. Travel by motorcoach along the scenic coastal road to Rabat (about 1 ½ hour). Upon arrival, drive through the city to view the massive ramparts, the royal palace and the embassy area. Next visit the Chellah 14<sup>th</sup> century necropolis of the Merinide dynasty and Roman tombs within the complex. Then stop at the Mausoleum of Mohammed V and the adjacent ruins of 13<sup>th</sup> century Hassan mosque. Lunch is on your own. After lunch, walk the narrow alleyways of the casbah and through the main commercial streets of the old medina. (PRICE: \$46.00)



## EL JADIDA

Drive to El Jadida, a former Portuguese maritime town that is beautifully situated in the arms of a bay. Moroccans christened this town, "the new one," when they recovered it from the Portuguese in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Stop at the maritime citadel of Azemmour and then visit El Jadida's ramparts and impressive underground cistern -- an immense square hall supported by 25 columns and lit only by a circular opening in the roof. The Portuguese built it originally as an arsenal but transformed it in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century to a cistern. Orson Welles used the cistern as a setting in his "Othello." Lunch is on your own. There is free time in the afternoon where you can participate in activities such as horseback riding (OOPEX) or swimming. (PRICE: \$40.00)

### **SERVICE PROJECT: ORPHANAGE VISIT**

Visit the Lalla Hassana Orphanage, which provides for 160 babies (mostly females) under three years old. Administrators are currently in the process of starting a pre-school. We will tour the facilities and meet with orphanage personnel to learn about their program, sources of funding, and problems associated with operating an orphanage in Morocco. There will be time to interact with the children. (PRICE: \$17.00)



### **DINNER WITH A MOROCCAN FAMILY**

Sharing a meal with a Moroccan family provides a unique opportunity to experience their wonderful hospitality and a chance to sample the local fare. By engaging in candid conversations with your hosts, you will gain many insights into the Moroccan culture and way-of-life. Information on transportation and meeting your host family will be provided at a later date. (PRICE: \$10.00)

### **ARCHITECTURE AND GARDENS OF CASABLANCA**

Casablanca is a city with many spectacular and unique homes. Some of the homes we will visit display examples of the unparalleled artisan craftsmanship, which is an integral part of the Moroccan heritage. Included in the visit is the Villa Marador (where the Casablanca summit was held with Churchill, Roosevelt, DeGaulle, and Stalin) and other historic homes. The American Women's Club will arrange this visit, and the price of this practicum includes a small donation to the club's charity fund. (PRICE: \$25.00)

### **VOLUBILIS/FES (TWO DAYS/ONE NIGHT)**



Volubilis is the site of the best preserved Roman ruins in Morocco. Dating primarily from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries, Volubilis was one of the Roman Empire's most remote outposts.

The oldest of Morocco's Imperial Cities and the kingdom's spiritual center, Fes is central to the Islamic world. Founded around 790 by Moulay Idriss I, many mosques and mederas (Koranic schools) were constructed in Fes. Considered by scholars to be the last true example of a typical medieval Arab town, Fes is under the strict building code supervision of UNESCO. Its labyrinth of alleyways open to craft workshops, vast leather tanneries and richly ornamented monuments.

Travel by motorcoach to Volubilis for lunch and visit the well-preserved Roman ruins. Continue to Fes and begin your exploration of the "new" city with a visit to the 14<sup>th</sup> century Royal Palace, Jewish Quarter and Dar Batha, museum of northern crafts. In the evening, enjoy a Moroccan dinner and folklore show. The next morning will include a walking tour of 9<sup>th</sup> century "old" Fes, a visit to the world's oldest functioning university (the Qaraouine) as well as the Attarine Koranic School, the mausoleum of Moulay Idriss II, leather tanneries and various workshops where craft trades are passed on generation to generation. After lunch, depart for Ifrane to visit Al Akhawayn University, the only American-style university in North Africa that provides instruction in English. In the afternoon, you will return to Casablanca. (PRICE: \$189.00)

### **DISCOVERY OF THE HIGH ATLAS MOUNTAINS (THREE DAYS/TWO NIGHTS)**

Travel into the High Atlas Mountains, where a minibus will take you on a 1 1/2-hour drive through the mountains to the village of Imlil. On the road, you will pass low stone houses of the Berber Gheghaia tribe, farmers and herdsmen who have tenaciously created fertile garden terraces from a wilderness of stone. The dress of the High Atlas women compensates for a life of continual hard labor with a brilliant panoply of color. Village life around Imlil remains surprisingly undisturbed.

Transfer to the Casablanca train station for your trip to Marrakech. Upon arrival, begin your journey into the Atlas Mountains to the village of Aremd. Enjoy dinner and overnight in a village house that belongs to a Berber guide (labeled as such by the Ministry of Tourism). On Day 2, visit the valley situated close to Mount Toubkal, North Africa's highest peak at nearly 14,000 feet. The morning will include a hike to the small holy village of Sidi Chamarouch. Following a picnic lunch, the afternoon is free to meet the Berber families of the area and to learn about their lives and customs. The evening will include dancing, a traditional meal and overnight at the village house. The following morning, return to Marrakech for the return train to Casablanca. (PRICE: \$199.00)

### **MARRAKECH/OURIKA VALLEY (TWO DAYS/ONE NIGHT)**



Located on an oasis at the base of the High Atlas Mountains, Marrakech is the gateway city to the Sahara. Legend and fact both contribute to the explanation of Marrakech's unique character. The town's origins are attributed to the development of an oasis that grew out of the refuse of caravans from the south, whose food supplies contained dates. The palm groves that sprang up provided an ideal place for the Saharan nomad Almoravids to settle. Since this time, Marrakech has seen many dynasties rise and fall, resulting in a remarkably beautiful city which has not only become the capital of southern Morocco but also an integral city of the Islamic world.

Transfer to Marrakech by motorcoach (3 hours) to enjoy lunch. Afterwards, visit the sultans' summer pavilion of Menara, the grandiose 16<sup>th</sup> century Saadian Tombs and the Bahia and Dar Si Saïda Palaces, the latter now a museum of southern crafts. Spend the early evening at the bustling Jemaa el Fna Square, at the height of the day's activity. Continue to explore Marrakech the next morning with a visit to the 15<sup>th</sup> century Ben Youssef Koranic School and the city's famed maze of reed-covered bazaars. After a seafood lunch, the afternoon is free. In the evening, enjoy a Moroccan dinner and folkloric show at Chez Ali. The following morning includes an excursion to Ourika Valley, an orchard center amid red cliffs in the High Atlas Mountains. Return to Marrakech for lunch before continuing to Casablanca. (PRICE: \$180.00)

### **MARRAKECH & CAMEL TREK IN THE SAHARA (THREE DAYS/TWO NIGHTS)**

Travel by train from Casablanca to Marrakech. Upon arrival, there is free time to explore the city. Spend the night in Marrakech and depart the next morning in 4 x 4 land rovers to Zagora in the magnificent Drâa Valley. Stop in Ouarzazate for lunch. Ouarzazate lies at the confluence of three important oasis valley systems: the Ouarzazate, Dadès and Drâa. Enjoy a tremendous view of the Saharian world including its dunes, oases and small mud villages. You will have dinner in a nomad tent, which is a unique cultural experience. The next morning venture into the Sahara Desert on an early morning camel trek with nomads as your guides. Return by land rover to Ouarzazate and fly back to Marrakech. There is time in Marrakech to explore the famous Jemaa el Fna Square before your train departs for



Casablanca. (Participants should bring towels, sleeping bag and warm clothing for the evening. Sleeping bags will be available for hire.) (PRICE: \$250.00)

### **MARRAKECH/ESSAOUIRA (FOUR DAYS/THREE NIGHTS)**

Depart Casablanca and drive south along the Atlantic coast, stopping in the former Portuguese maritime fortress of El Jadida for a look at the 15<sup>th</sup> century cistern and for a seafood lunch. Continue to legendary Marrakech for dinner and overnight. Spend the next day exploring this millennium-old Berber capital, with its grandiose 16th century Saadian Tombs, the Bahia and Dar Si Said Palaces, the 15th century Ben Youssef Koranic School, and the city's famed maze of reed-covered bazaars. In the early evening, arrive at the bustling Jemaa el Fna Square at the height of activity. Later in the evening enjoy a Moroccan dinner and folkloric show at Chez Ali. The next morning is free in Marrakech. In the afternoon, transfer to Essaouira (2 1/2 hours), a picturesque fisheries center with a history dating back to the Phoenicians in the 7th Century B.C. The medina, with its white houses with blue doors, and its narrow, winding streets, is glimpsed through ornately decorated arches. It is one of the cleanest and brightest medinas in Morocco. Essaouira was a popular "hang-out" during the hippie days of the 60s, and both Mick Jagger and Jimi Hendrix spent considerable time here. It is now a mecca of contemporary Moroccan artists. Time allowing, you will visit a gallery that exhibits the best of these painters. The next morning, visit the colorful port area to watch the manual chain unloading of the sardine catch and the building of the wooden fishing boats. Then tour the ramparts where craftsmen reside who create exquisite decorative objects from the root of the indigenous thuya tree. After lunch, you will return to Casablanca. (PRICE: \$265.00)

