MOROCCAN DISCOVERY
FROM THE IMPERIAL CITIES TO THE SAHARA
January 3-16, 2020

14 days from $5,579 total price from Boston, New York, Wash, DC
($4,895 air & land inclusive plus $684 airline taxes and fees)

This tour is provided by Odysseys Unlimited, six-time honoree Travel & Leisure’s World’s Best Tour Operators award.

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for Alumni & Friends of Brandeis University
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Join Brandeis Travelers on a spectacular 14-day journey to Morocco. Discover the cultural treasures and storied history of this fascinating ancient land.

Jonathan Decter, the Edmond J. Safra Professor of Sephardic Studies in the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University, will lead the tour in partnership with local guides and experts. Professor Decter is a specialist in the Jews of the Islamic world and will enrich the journey with his insights into Moroccan Jewry during the medieval and modern periods.

Begin your journey in seaside Rabat, Morocco's capital. Next, visit five UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the imperial city of Meknes, the impressive Roman ruins at Volubilis and Morocco’s oldest imperial city, Fez. Enjoy a camel excursion at sunset along Merzouga’s breathtaking sand dunes. Explore the snow-topped High Atlas mountains, including dramatic Todra Gorge. Travel a fabled caravan route and visit scenic Ait ben-Haddou village. Spend three nights in alluring Marrakech before concluding your journey in Casablanca.

Join us for a uniquely Brandeisian experience – one that offers stimulating conversations, camaraderie and connection with other intellectually curious alumni and friends. Make your reservation today as space is limited and we expect this exclusive small-group tour will fill quickly.

Sincerely,

F. Patricia Fisher
Vice President, Alumni Relations, Brandeis University

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BRANDEIS RESERVATION FORM: MOROCCAN DISCOVERY

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $______($500 per person) for ____ person(s) on Moroccan Discovery departing January 3, 2020. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or personal check. Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, with completed reservation form, to: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., One Newton Place, 275 Washington Street, Suite 300, Newton, MA 02458. Or call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free 888-370-6765, or fax your reservation to 617-454-9199.

Full Passport Name ________________________________ Date of Birth __________ Gender ____ Class Year _____

Full Passport Name ________________________________ Date of Birth __________ Gender ____ Class Year _____

Badge Name ______________________________________ Badge Name ____________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________________________

City ______________________________________________ State ________________ ZIP _______________________

Home Phone (______)_______________________________ Cell Phone (______)_______________________________

E-mail __________________________________________ I/We permit sharing my/our e-mail address with other travelers

Please book my/our air from _______________________ I/We request an air upgrade to _____________________

I will share a room with ______________________________________ I request a single room (limited availability)

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for Moroccan Discovery, January 3-16, 2020, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) ____________________________________________________________________ Date _______________

Method of Payment

- Check
- American Express
- Discover
- MasterCard
- VISA

Account # ____________________________ Security Code _________ Exp. Date ______________

Name of Cardholder ________________________________________________________________

Signature __________________________________________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.
This land of dramatic contrasts invites us to encounter its ancient ruins and sacred mosques, endless desert and storied mountains, imposing kasbahs and spirited souks. As we travel from the imperial cities of Rabat, Fez, and Marrakech to the High Atlas and vast Sahara, we open our eyes, and hearts, to a truly foreign land, an age-old culture, and genuinely hospitable people.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Casablanca, Morocco

Day 2: Arrive Casablanca/Rabat  Upon arrival this afternoon in Casablanca, the commercial center of Morocco, we transfer by coach to Rabat and our hotel located near famed Hassan Tower. We have time to relax and refresh before dinner tonight at the hotel. D

Day 3: Rabat  One of Morocco’s four ancient capitals, or imperial cities, Rabat is again the country’s capital, at once historic and contemporary, as we discover on today’s tour. We visit the necropolis of Chellah, built on ancient Roman ruins, and the Mohammed VI contemporary art museum, then have lunch in a private home. On tap this afternoon: the 12th-century Kasbah of the Oudaias, the peaceful Andalusian Gardens, and Rabat’s medina, a UNESCO site. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner of traditional Moroccan fare at acclaimed Dinarjat in Rabat’s Old Town. B,L,D

Day 4: Rabat/Meknes/Volubilis/Fez  This morning we depart Rabat for Fez, stopping along the way in Meknes, Morocco’s youngest imperial city (and UNESCO World Heritage site). We visit the Bab el Mansour gateway and the ruins of the imperial stables before lunch in a local restaurant. Then we continue on to the ancient Roman ruins at the UNESCO site of Volubilis, known for its intricate and colorful mosaics. Late afternoon we reach Fez and our elegant hotel overlooking the medina. B,L,D

Day 5: Fez  Today we explore Morocco’s oldest imperial city, considered the “Athens of Africa” for its wealth of cultural, educational, and religious institutions. We begin with a comfortable walk through the Fez medina, where we see some hidden treasures, including the Blue Gate, the most picturesque of the Old City’s historic gates; the medieval school of Bouanania; the 12th-century Kasbah of the Oudaias, the peaceful Andalusian Gardens, and Rabat’s medina, a UNESCO site. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner of traditional Moroccan fare at acclaimed Dinarjat in Rabat’s Old Town. B,L,D
We see the distinctive Koutoubia Mosque – Marrakech’s largest – on Day 11.

Day 6: Fez Today’s touring features the Museum of Fez, housing traditional arts. Then we embark on a walking tour of the medina focusing on the artisans’ quarters, the 14th-century Koranic schools, and Al Karaouine, the medieval theological university. The remainder of the afternoon is free for independent exploration and lunch on our own. Tonight, we enjoy a private dinner at an intimate family-run riad in Fez. B,D

Day 7: Fez/Midelt/Erfoud Traveling inland today, we cross the fertile plains beyond Fez and continue through the Middle Atlas mountain range. We stop in the small town of Midelt for lunch. Continuing on, we cross the Ziz River, passing rows of sky-scraping palm trees and fortified villages before reaching our kasbah-style hotel in Erfoud late in the day. Dinner tonight is at our hotel. B,L,D

Day 8: Erfoud/Rissani/Merzouga This morning we visit the city of Rissani, with its 18th-century ksar, a virtually impenetrable warren of alleys. We enjoy a tour highlight this afternoon as we set out on a sunset excursion to the breathtakingly beautiful sand dunes at Merzouga on the edge of the Sahara. In the enormous silence we watch the sun set over the desert as we take a camel ride along the erg. Following this experience, we’ll have dinner together in this desert setting before returning to our hotel tonight. B,L,D

Day 9: Erfoud/Tinehir/Todra Gorge/Ouarzazate Our destination today is in the snow-topped High Atlas. The day features one beautiful scene after another, including the village of Tinehir, a stunning mountain oasis rising on a series of riverside terraces lush with palm trees; and the spectacular 984-foot Todra Gorge, home to a variety of rare bird and plant species. Following lunch here we visit El Kelaa des Mgouna, known for its roses, then set out on the fabled “Route of a Thousand Kasbahs” ancient caravan route, a region of fortresses with elaborately decorated façades. Late afternoon we reach the town of Ouarzazate (the “door of the desert”) where we spend the night. B,L,D

Day 10: Ouarzazate/Ait ben-Haddou/Marrakech En route to Marrakech today, we stop first at uninhabited Ait ben-Haddou, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of southern Morocco’s most scenic villages that is often used as a location for fashion and film shoots. Its old section consists of deep red kasbahs packed together so tightly they appear to be a single unit. Then, as we begin our descent from the High Atlas, we pass through typical villages with fortified walls and stone houses with earthen roofs. In Tizi N’Tichka, we traverse the Pass of the Pastures (alt. 7,415 feet), where life is much as it was centuries ago:
shepherds bring their flocks to the high pastures every summer, then return with them to their villages in autumn. We arrive in Marrakech late this afternoon and dine tonight at our hotel. B,L,D

Day 11: Marrakech Once the capital of southern Morocco, the imperial city of Marrakech is an alluring oasis with a temperate climate, distinct charm, and fascinating sites. Our day-long tour includes the beautifully proportioned Koutoubia Mosque with its distinctive 282-foot minaret visible from miles away; the lovely Andalusian-style El Bahia Palace (part of which is still used by the royal family); and the ruins of 16th-century Palais El Badii. After lunch at our hotel, mid-afternoon we embark on a walking tour of the medina, ending at Djemaa el Fna Square, a UNESCO site and the heart of Marrakech, crowded with snake charmers, entertainers, storytellers, musicians, barbers, and sellers of fruit, water, and spices. Dinner tonight is on our own in this exotic city. B,L

Day 12: Marrakech This morning we travel by horse-drawn carriage from Menara Park to Majorelle Gardens, a private botanical garden with some 15 species of birds native to North Africa and known for its cobalt blue accents. Following a tour of the gardens we visit the nearby Yves St. Laurent Museum, housing a vast collection of the designer’s haute couture and design works. The afternoon is at leisure before dinner tonight at a local restaurant in the city’s Old Town. B,D

Day 13: Marrakech/Casablanca We leave Marrakech this morning by coach for storied Casablanca, Morocco’s largest and most cosmopolitan city. After a brief orientation tour of the city, we visit the magnificent Hassan II Mosque, Morocco’s only functioning mosque open to non-Muslims. Tonight we celebrate our Moroccan adventure at a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. B,D

Day 14: Depart for U.S. After breakfast this morning we transfer to the airport for our return flight to the U.S. B

Your Tour Price Includes
• Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
• 12 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
• 31 meals: 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 11 dinners
• Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
• Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
• Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
• Luggage handling for one bag per person
• Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Faculty Lecturer
Jonathan Decker is the Edmond J. Safra Professor of Sephardic Studies in the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University. He is a specialist in the Jews of the Islamic world (including Morocco) during the medieval period and in the Jews of medieval Spain. His research focuses on the literature, thought and social history of Arabic-speaking Jewry and on the interplay of Islamic and Jewish traditions throughout the medieval Mediterranean. His most recent book, Dominion Built of Praise: Panegyric and Legitimacy Among Jews in the Medieval Mediterranean (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018), recently won the National Jewish Book Award in Sephardic Culture. His first book, Iberian Jewish Literature: Between al-Andalus and Christian Europe (Indiana University Press, 2007), was the winner of the 2008 Salo W. Baron Prize for best first book in Jewish Studies.

Tour Departs: January 3, 2020
Prices include int’l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

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<th>Location</th>
<th>Price</th>
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Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $684, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $1,395.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: Business Class – $3,795 per person; Premium Economy – $1,195 per person (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change). Upgrade costs are in addition to the costs above. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at (888) 370-6765
Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a $500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Tour Price

Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas, if required; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication changes; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: cancel 95 days or more before departure: $200 charge; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund. If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a $100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy, for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.

Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.

Responsibility

The liability of Brandeis University, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Brandeis University and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. Brandeis University and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues

We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and Brandeis University assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

JOIN US ON AN EXCLUSIVE BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY TOUR THROUGH MOROCCO!

Guaranteed Small Group:
Limited to 24 Alumni & Friends

Institutional Advancement Division
Brandeis University, Mailstop 124
415 South Street
Waltham, MA 02454-2110

Presorted Standard U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.