Moroccan Discovery
From the Imperial Cities to the Sahara

Alan Plattus '76
Professor of Architecture and Urbanism

May 3-16, 2019
Dear Yale Traveler,

We warmly invite you to join an exciting 14-day exploration of Morocco’s captivating history and its remarkable landscapes, from the imperial cities of Rabat, Fez, and Marrakech to the imposing High Atlas Mountains and the vast Sahara.

Yale's journey begins in the Moroccan capital, seaside Rabat, with an enjoyable lunch in a private home. Next, stop in imperial Meknes and at Volubilis’ Roman ruins, one of five UNESCO sites you’ll visit during the program. Travel on to explore Fez with its fascinating medina, then pass through the magnificent Middle Atlas Mountains. In Merzouga, embark on a sunset camel excursion along the breathtakingly beautiful sand dunes. View spectacular scenery traveling to Ouarzazate in the snow-topped High Atlas, including dramatic Todra Gorge. Then traverse the fabled “Route of a Thousand Kasbahs,” and visit scenic Ait ben-Haddou village, another UNESCO site. In alluring Marrakech, a tour of its colorful, bustling medina ends in the city’s heart, Djemaa el FNA Square. Conclude in storied Casablanca, including a visit to the magnificent Hassan II Mosque.

Joining you will be Alan Plattus ’76, Professor of Architecture and Urbanism, who will lead a series of lectures and discussions to enhance your experience, providing a more in-depth understanding of Morocco’s rich architectural treasures and heritage. A popular professor with students and alumni alike, he has led many Yale travel programs. Both he and his wife Dr. Nancy Berliner ’75, ’79 MED, are delighted to share in the discovery of the extraordinary facets of Morocco.

Space is limited on this small group tour, so we encourage you to secure your spot right away. To register, please visit yaleedtravel.org/morocco19. Or contact us at (203) 432-1952 or edtravel@yale.edu for more information.

Best from Yale,

Lauren Summers
Senior Director, Lifelong Learning & Travel

Highlights

Private Sahara sunset excursion and camel ride on the dunes.

Visits to five UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the ancient ruins of Volubilis and uninhabited Ait ben-Haddou.

Dramatic Todra Gorge and Atlas Mountain scenery
Professor Alan Plattus began teaching at Yale in 1986 after serving on the faculty of Princeton University for seven years. He is the current director of the School’s Ph.D. Program, and also is the Director the Yale Urban Design Workshop and Center for Urban Design Research, which he founded in 1992 and which undertakes research and design studies for communities throughout Connecticut and the metropolitan region. Current projects include planning for a Heritage Park along the Thames River between New London and Groton, and resiliency planning for Bridgeport and the Connecticut coast funded by H.U.D.’s Rebuild by Design program. Professor Plattus also directs the School’s China Studio, a collaboration between Tsinghua University in Beijing and the Yale School of Architecture, and led a Yale and international team to develop plans for a Peace Park along the Jordan River on the Israeli-Jordanian border. He has served on the boards of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, the National Architectural Accrediting Board, the Journal of Architectural Education, and Architectural Research Quarterly, as well as the Connecticut Main Street Center and the New Haven Preservation Trust. He received a B.A. from Yale University (1976) and an M.Arch. from Princeton University.

Upcoming Trips

Costa Rica: A Family Adventure
Dec. 26, 2018-Jan. 3, 2019
Professor Harvey Goldblatt

Egypt: Land of the Pharaohs
Mar. 21-Apr. 3, 2019
Professor Harold Attridge

Italy Immersion
Jun. 2-25, 2019
Professor John Paoletti ’61, Ph.D. ’67
MAY 3–16, 2019

WELCOME PHONE CALL
Thursday, April 18 (tentative)
Join the Yale group at 4PM EST for a pre-trip welcome call with Professor Plattus in order to learn more about what to expect and to ask questions you may have.

DEPART U.S. FOR CASABLANCA, MOROCCO
Friday, May 3

ARRIVE CASABLANCA/RABAT
Saturday, May 4
Upon arrival this afternoon in Casablanca, the commercial center of Morocco, transfer by coach to Rabat and the hotel located near famed Hassan Tower. There is time to relax and refresh before dinner tonight at the hotel. (D)

RABAT
Sunday, May 5
One of Morocco’s four ancient capitals, or imperial cities, Rabat is again the country’s capital, at once historic and contemporary, as you discover on today’s tour. Visit the fortified Kasbah of the Oudaia, the peaceful Andalusian Gardens, and the necropolis of Chellah, built on ancient Roman ruins. Then cross the river to Sale for lunch in a private home followed by a visit to the new Mohammed VI contemporary art museum and a walk through the medina. Return to the hotel late afternoon; tonight enjoy a welcome dinner of traditional Moroccan fare at acclaimed Dinarjat in Rabat’s Old Town. (B,L,D)

FEZ
Tuesday, May 7
Today explore Morocco’s oldest imperial city, considered the “Athens of Africa” for its wealth of cultural, educational, and religious institutions. Begin with a comfortable walk through the Fez medina, where you will 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 home of Jewish scholar Maimonides; and the authentic food market. Also visit the traditional quarter where you will watch artisans craft the acclaimed Fez pottery and ceramics. After lunch in the medina, tour the old Mellah (Jewish quarter) and the royal gates. (B/L/D)

FEZ/MIDELT/ERFOUD
Thursday, May 9
Traveling inland today, cross the fertile plains beyond Fez and continue through the Middle Atlas mountain range. Stop in the small town of Midelt for lunch. Continuing on, cross the Ziz River and reach the kasbah-style hotel in Erfoud late in the day. Dinner tonight is at the hotel. (B/L/D)

ERFOUD/RISANAI/MERZOUGA
Friday, May 10
This morning visit the city of Rissani, with its 18th-century ksar, a virtually impenetrable warren of alleys. This afternoon enjoy a sunset excursion to the beautiful sand dunes at Merzouga on the edge of the Sahara. In the enormous silence, watch the sun set over the desert as you take a camel ride along the erg. Following this experience, enjoy dinner in this desert setting before returning to the hotel tonight. (B/L/D)
**What Is Included:**

- Program of lectures and discussions with Yale Professor Plattus
- 12 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- 31 meals: 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 11 dinners
- Services of a Tour Director
- Welcome & Farewell Dinner (including glasses of domestic wine/beer)
- Gratuities for the tour director, local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers
- Assistance and porterage at the airports
- Bottled water and private transportation in air-conditioned vehicle
- Emergency medical evacuation services through UHC Global Assistance

**What Is Not Included:**

- Expenses of a personal nature like laundry, telephone/fax calls, alcoholic beverages, medical expenses, etc.
- Any insurance
- Any meals or beverages that are not specified in the itinerary
- Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package
- Expenses caused by factors beyond our control like rail and airplane delays, roadblocks, vehicle malfunctions, political disturbances, taxes, lost luggage, etc.

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**ERFOUD/TINEHIR/TODRA GORGE/OUARZAZATE**  
**Saturday, May 11**

The destination today is in the snow-topped High Atlas. Today 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 948-foot Todra Gorge, home to a variety of rare bird and plant species. Following lunch here, 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 reach the town of Ouarzazate (the “door of the desert”) where you spend the night. *(B/L/D)*

**OUARZAZATE/AIT BEN-HADDOU/MARRAKECH**  
**Sunday, May 12**

En route to Marrakech today, 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. Then as you begin the descent from the High Atlas, pass through typical villages with fortified walls and stone houses with earthen roofs. In Tizi N’Tichka, 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. Arrive in Marrakech late this afternoon and dine tonight at the hotel. *(B/L/D)*

**MARRAKECH**  
**Tuesday, May 14**

This morning 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. Then visit the newly renovated Berber Museum here, with art and artifacts reflecting Berber culture in Morocco. The afternoon is at leisure before dinner tonight at a local restaurant in the city’s Old Town. *(B/D)*

**MARRAKECH/CASABLANCA**  
**Wednesday, May 15**

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

**DEPART FOR U.S.**  
**Thursday, May 16**

After breakfast this morning, transfer to the airport for the return flight to the U.S. *(B)*

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**Included meals indicated each day as B/L/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.**

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<https://www.yaleedtravel.org/morocco19>
Le Berbère Palace
A traditional Moroccan-style hotel, the 241-room Le Berbère Palace is located in Ouarzazate town center and features three on-site restaurants, two coffee shops, and an outdoor pool.

Program Cost
The base cost for this program, per person, based on double occupancy:

$6,195 including air from Boston, New York, Washington, DC
$684 airline taxes and fees additional.

Single Supplement: $1,395 (limited availability)

Please note: This trip involves full days of sightseeing and significant amounts of walking on stairs and uneven surfaces. Yale travelers should be in good physical condition to enjoy this tour to the fullest.

Accommodations

Le Palais du Désert Hotel
Set on the outskirts of the city of Erfoud, this 44-room kasbah-style hotel offers a traditional Moroccan desert setting surrounding a courtyard.

Hotel Sahrai
Opened in 2014, Hotel Sahrai is a contemporary hotel designed to resemble the architectural layout of the Fez medina. Hotel Sahrai is located on the southern hills overlooking the medina, and is a short drive from this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

La Tour Hassan
Dating to 1914, the 140-room La Tour Hassan represents Rabat’s last surviving hotel to be constructed using traditional Moorish-Andalusian design. The citadel-style hotel stands inside a fortress wall at the center of the city.

Le Berbère Palace

Sofitel Marrakech
Sofitel Marrakech sits on the edge of the city at the foot of the High Atlas Mountains and within easy reach of the Medina and Djemaa El Fna Square. This contemporary hotel features immense columns, sculpted ceilings, and artwork.

Hyatt Regency Casablanca
This Deluxe 255-room hotel is conveniently situated in the center of Casablanca in United Nations Square, close to the Old Medina, Habous Quarter, and the central market. The hotel features contemporary rooms, on-site restaurants, and stylish cocktail lounge.

Reserve Your Trip to Morocco Today!
Book online: www.yaleedtravel.org/morocco19
Moroccan Discovery

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Final payment is due January 28, 2019.

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Experience the authenticity and magic of this exotic country.

This land of dramatic contrasts invites us to encounter its ancient ruins and sacred mosques, endless desert and storied mountains. As we travel through 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.