

LAW & CULTURE MOROCCO

== New York State ==
ACADEMY
OF TRIAL LAWYERS

Casablanca | Fes | Rabat: January 9-15, 2020
Optional Extension to Marrakesh: January 15-17, 2020

Organized by CLE Abroad™ CST 2060914-40





ITINERARY

*This trip will require quite a bit of high-intensity walking on uneven cobblestone streets along with stairs where an elevator is not always available. **Participants must be able to walk unassisted.***

DAY 1

THURSDAY, JAN 9

Casablanca (L)

Morning Participants arrive independently to Casablanca Mohammed V International Airport (CMN). Recommended flight itineraries will be provided.

Welcome Lunch at **Café La Sqala**, serving traditional Moroccan favorites.

After lunch we visit the **Habous Quarter** followed by the **District Courthouse**.

INTRODUCTION TO MOROCCO'S COURTS & LEGAL SYSTEM

Morocco has a dual legal system consisting of secular courts based on **French legal tradition** as well as courts based on the religious precepts of **Islam**. We will meet with a local judge who help explain the basic tenants of the Moroccan legal system and how these two legal traditions coexist.

Guided tour of the awe-inspiring **Hassan II Mosque**. Completed in 1993, the mosque is a celebration of ornate craftsmanship and over the top grandeur on a scale that has to be seen, to be believed. The interior can accommodate a staggering 25,000 worshipers while the exterior courtyard will host additional 80,000 of the faithful. Hassan II t is the largest mosque in Africa, the fifth largest in the world and boasts a 700-foot-tall minaret (world's tallest). It is also one of the few mosques in the world that will allow non-Muslims to enter.

Afternoon Check-in to the **Kenzi Tower Hotel** or equivalent 5 Star Riad or Boutique Luxury Hotel.

Reminder of the afternoon and evening free to rest and recuperate from your travels.

Evening *Dinner on your own. Recommendations will be provided.*

DAY 2

FRIDAY, JAN 10

Casablanca, Meknes, Fes (B,L,D)

Complimentary breakfast is served daily throughout the trip.

Morning **MOROCCAN COMMERCIAL LAW, TRENDS & INTERNATONAL TRADE**
Presentation by **Hicham Naciri**, managing partner of *Allen & Overy* in Casablanca. Hicham is an expert on commercial law with extensive experience in large scale, high profile transactions. He will provide



a high-level overview of Moroccan commercial law, relevant legal trends, foreign investment in Morocco and the unique challenges of operating in a constitutional monarchy.

Check-out of Casablanca accommodations and depart to the **City of Fes** by coach, stopping along the way for lunch at the imperial city of **Meknes**, former home of the **Grand Sultan Moulay Ismail** in the 17th century. His former palace is surrounded by massive walls interspersed with grand entryways decorated with mosaics. The palace has been granted **UNESCO World Heritage** status. Highlights include the imposing yet refined **Bab el Mansour Gate** and the imperial stables.

Afternoon Lunch at a local Meknes Restaurant.

After lunch, we continue our journey to **Fes**.

Check-in at **Palais Amani** or similar Riad/Hotel.

Dinner at our Riad/Hotel.

DAY 3

SATURDAY, JAN 11

Fes (B,L)

Founded in 781 AD, Fes is considered the world's largest car-free urban area, with 80,000 people inhabiting the walled city center, known as the Medina. The entire medina is a confusing labyrinth of narrow alleys filled with artisans, vendors and residents. Without motorized vehicles, the residents rely solely on people-power and donkey-drawn carts to receive their daily deliveries. Of the 9,000 alleyways forming the Medina, 8,000 have no exit, giving the first-time explorer to Fes a mind-boggling navigational challenge. Fortunately, we will be shepherded through this maze by our local tour guides who will share their intimate knowledge of the ancient cultural, religious and educational institutions tucked into this warren of alleyways.

Morning We will gather after breakfast and divide into small groups to better navigate the narrow passages.

Tasting tour of Fes: Our morning will be spent exploring the various **souks** (marketplaces) spread across the medina. Each souk specializes in a specific product or trade. A chance to witness the happy and persuasive merchants of Fes in action and feel the wonderful energy of a slightly chaotic bazaar that has prospered for a millennium relatively unchanged. The shops and stall offer a vast assortment of locally produced goods. These include spices, delicate handmade Moroccan clothing, wood carvings, Fes pottery, leather goods and intricate metal work.

Visit to the colorful and legendary open-air **Leather Tannery of Fes**, to see and smell the stinky ancient all-natural techniques still used for tanning high quality Moroccan leather. An unforgettable sensory experience for the eyes and nostrils!



Afternoon We reunite for lunch.

Remainder of the afternoon free. You may decide to continue exploring the Medina and Souks at your own pace or return to your hotel. Try and set aside some time to enjoy a relaxing Moroccan spa treatment (Hamman).

Evening *Dinner on your own. Suitable recommendations will be provided.*

DAY 4

SUNDAY, JAN 12

Fes (B,L,D)

Fes is the oldest imperial city and considered the “Athens of Africa” for its concentration of educational and religious institutions known as madrasas. These schools were designed by the ruling elite both as a training ground for state bureaucrats learning law and a theological learning center. The madrasa forged links between the religious scholars who directed Islamic education, and the ruling government authorities. Fes is home to the oldest university in the world, the University of Karueein (Quaraouiyine) first opened its doors in the year 859 and currently enrolls 8000 students. Prospective students are required to have memorized the entire text of the Qur’an. (77,000 words).

Morning Visit the **el-Attarine Madrasa**, built in 1325. An architectural masterpiece filled with dazzling geometric mosaics and intricately carved plaster and cedar.

Visit **Fes Jdid**, the historic Jewish Quarter. Time permitting, we also visit the medieval school of **Bouanania**, 12th century home of Jewish scholar **Maimonides**.

Continue exploring Fes beginning with a visit to the **Batha Museum**. Housed in a wonderful 19th century summer palace and converted to a museum in 1915, the Batha Museum houses an excellent collection of traditional Moroccan art and crafts. Historical and artistic artifacts include fine woodcarving, sculpted plaster, much of it from the city’s ruined or decaying medersas.

Lunch in the Medina.

Afternoon Depart the medina by coach to visit a **ceramic factory** where talented artisans showcase their skills at crafting intricate mosaics and pottery. We will enjoy a step by step explanation of the process used to create traditional Moroccan ceramic designs.

ANIMAL RIGHTS IN MOROCCO

Visit the **American Fondouk**, a veterinary clinic founded in 1927 by an American traveler, Amy Bishop, who build the clinic with support from the Massachusetts Society for Protection and Care of Animals (MSPCA). The American Fondouk is dedicated to providing free veterinary care for the hard working donkeys, mules, and horses of Morocco. Treating working animals in the developing world is considered to offer a significant contribution towards safeguarding the livelihoods of the poorest and most vulnerable members of the community. We will meet with the Director of the clinic, **Dr. Gigi Kay**.

Evening Group dinner at **Nur**, fine dining in the Medina of Fes featuring flavors of the Middle Atlas.

DAY 5

MONDAY, JAN 13

Volubilis, Rabat (B,L)

Morning We will check-out of our Fes accommodations and make the 1.5-hour drive to visit the ancient Berber and Roman ruins of **Volubilis**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We explore the dramatic ruins of homes, temples and public buildings of the original Greek, Syrian and Jewish city dwellers.

Lunch in the neighboring local village of **Moulay Idriss**.

Afternoon Continue our drive to Rabbat. (aprox. 2 hrs)

Arrive in **Rabbat**, the political capital of Morocco.

Check into our accommodations at **Villa Mandarine**.

Afternoon Lecture on **Moroccan Political Systems**.

Evening *Dinner on your own at hotel.*

DAY 6

TUESDAY, JAN 14

Rabat (B,D)

Rabat is the political capital of Morocco and known for its public gardens and parks, upscale neighborhoods populated with embassies and important monuments to past leaders and heroes.

Morning Some of our visits may include: the **Royal Palace**, official residence of King Hassan II of Morocco; **Mohammed V Mausoleum**, a tangible icon of post-independence Morocco; **Hassan Tower**; **Kasbah of the Oudayas**; **Chellah Necropolis**, occupying the site of the ancient Roman town of Sala; the **Mamora Forest**; and the **US Embassy**.

Afternoon **ANTI-CORRUPTION AND TRANSPARENCY IN MOROCCO**

Lecture by **Mr. Ahmend Bernoussi** of **Transparency Maroc**, part of Transparency International, a non-profit watchdog organization operating in over 100 countries that gives voice to victims and witnesses of corruption. Working together with governments, businesses and citizens to stop the abuse of power, bribery and secret deals.

Evening Group dinner at **Dinarjat**, real Moroccan bourgeois cuisine.

DAY 7

WEDNESDAY, JAN 15

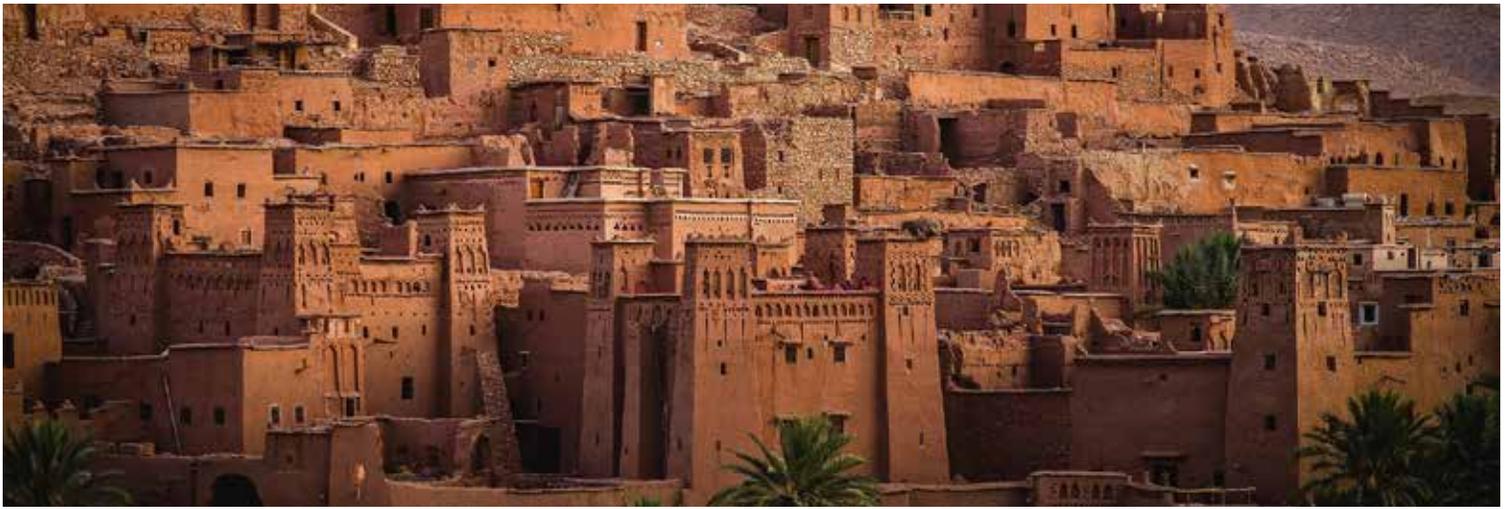
Rabat, Marrakesh (B,L)

Morning *Check-out of our accommodations in Rabat and drive to Casablanca airport (1hr) for those not continuing to Marrakesh.*

For those continuing on, hotel check-out and drive to **Marrakesh** (3.5 hours from Rabat.)

Marrakesh, located in the temperate foothills of the Atlas Mountain, has always been a must-see destination for globetrotters in-the-know. The French left Morocco in 1956 but their cultural influence is very evident in this cosmopolitan city that still retains many remnants of their occupation. Wide boulevards, tasteful neighborhoods and hip modern shopping centers are all trademarks of Marrakesh. Toss in a thriving art and design scene and it's not hard to understand why this city is at the top of the list of so many global wanderers.





10:30 am Brief tour of Pinhão before boarding a traditional **Rabelo** style boat for our private **river cruise**.

1:00 pm Lunch a **DOC** by **Chef Rui Paula** along the Douro riverfront.

In the afternoon, return to our Quinta for R&R.

7:30 pm Farewell dinner at our Quinta.

DAY 8

THURSDAY, JAN 16

Marrakesh (B,L,D)

Morning Depart for a visit to tranquil oasis of green in the middle of the city. **Majorelle Gardens** was created over 40 years by French artist Jacques Majorelle as a private botanical garden that highlighted landscape design using succulents and cacti. It was restored to its former glory by longtime Marrakesh resident, Yves St. Laurent, and his partner Pierre Berge. Adjoining the property is the YSL Museum, dedicated to the Berber culture as well as the fashion career of Yves St. Laurent.

View the **Koutubia Mosque** completed in 1157, and the magnificent **Saadian Tombs** deliberately hidden for centuries eventually uncovered in 1917.

Afternoon **GENDER EQUALITY IN MOROCCO**

Lunch & Lecture at **Amal Café**. The **Amal Foundation** is a Non-Profit association dedicated to the empowerment of disadvantaged women through culinary skills, restaurant training and job placement. Founded by **Nora Fitzgerald Belahcen**, an American-Moroccan who conceived Amal due to her desire to help disadvantaged women of Marrakesh.

Visit to the **Bahia Palace**. Created in the late 19th century by an important political advisor of the Sultan named Abu Ahmed, who rose up from slavery to wield great power. The palace was designed to showcase the essence of Moroccan and Islamic style and is considered an iconic design. A vast courtyard sits at the center of the complex, surrounded by numerous rooms to accommodate his sizeable harem consisting of 4 wives and 24 concubines.

Return to hotel to relax or head to the souks for more shopping. Time permitting, optional Tangine cooking class.

Evening Farewell dinner in the French quarter at **Grand Café de la Poste**.

DAY 9

FRIDAY, JAN 17

Marrakesh (B)

Check-out of hotel and transfer to Marrakesh Airport.

Please note: This is a Model “Working” Itinerary. All programs are customized with input from lead organization. There may be some changes, additions and/or subtractions to the Final Itinerary. All venues are subject to final confirmations. Be assured that any changes made will be done to enhance the total program, and to promote a smooth operation of the tour.



TRIP COST

7 DAYS AND 6 NIGHTS

CASABLANCA, FES, RABAT

DOUBLE, PER PERSON: \$4,425

SINGLE OCCUPANCY: \$5,285

3 DAY AND 2 NIGHT EXTENSION

MARRAKESH

DOUBLE, PER PERSON: +\$1,125

SINGLE OCCUPANCY: +\$1,395

CUSTOM PROGRAM INCLUDES

- Itinerary design and coordination
- 6 or 8 nights' accommodations as indicated (1 night in Casablanca, 3 nights in Fes, 2 nights in Rabat, optional 2 nights in Marrakesh)
- Air-conditioned ground transportation throughout trip equipped with water
- Full time CLEA tour escort and specialized local tour guides
- Daily breakfast and meals as listed in itinerary (including tips)

EXCLUDES

- Airfare to/from Morocco
- Airline baggage fees
- Gratuities for guide and driver
- Meals other than listed on itinerary
- Individualized hotel expenses (mini bar, room service, laundry fees, etc)
- Trip cancellation insurance

REGISTRATION

Online Registration: www.cle-abroad.com/trip/nysatl-morocco

Early-bird registration!

Deposits received prior to August 1 receive \$100 off final invoice.