

Your Program's Highlights:

- ❖ Learn in-depth insights into the traditional ways of life of the native Berber culture as you penetrate their hinterland in the Atlas mountains
- ❖ Explore hidden treasures unknown to mass tourism: the remote, forbidding Telouet fortress, a fascinating story of power and intrigue in the early 20th Century, and Sijilmassa, once Africa's greatest city, its ruins now scattered amid the sands of the Sahara
- ❖ Enjoy receptions in lavish homes and visit private art collections
- ❖ Savor the very finest that Morocco's renowned cuisine has to offer at select eateries, plus a private wine cellar tour
- ❖ Experience the true essence of Morocco's architecture, social life, historical achievements, politics and more from our own walking encyclopedia of the land, study leader Piotr



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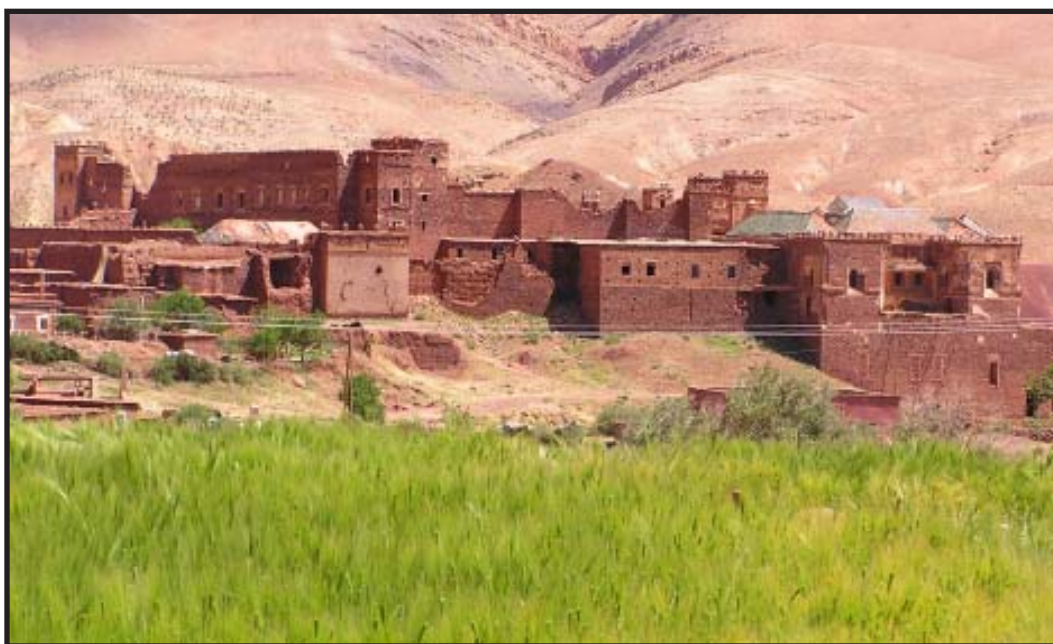
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Amid Scented Gardens and Sultans' Palaces



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The Telouet casbah, High Atlas Mountains

The Lore, Arts
& Culture of
MOROCCO

Piotr Kostrzewski
Study Leader
March 11 - 25, 2010

Dear National Trust Member,

Ancient citadels hewn of rough adobe blocks tower over lush meandering vales filled with blooming almond and apricot trees. The last forests of giant cedars spread along the snow-capped crests of the magnificent Atlas mountains. Amid the cobblestoned alleyways of millennium-old cities master craftsmen create a myriad of dazzling wares still fashioned by hand, while the aromas of attar, musk, saffron and citrus fill the air. This is enchanting Morocco. The National Trust is proud to present the 15th(!) of its highly acclaimed series of explorations of this still very exotic "Land of the Farthest West," all designed by expert leader Piotr Kostrzewski, whom participants on past programs have dubbed the "Walking Encyclopedia of Morocco."

Our program reaches far beyond the well-beaten paths to observe an immensely rich native culture whose charm has seduced travelers from Eugene Delacroix to Malcolm Forbes. Trust members who have enjoyed these journeys have unanimously applauded the unsurpassed insights the program offers into magical Morocco's peoples, their daily lives, history, arts and architecture. From severe contrast to pure beauty, from stark reality to history intertwined with legend, Morocco exudes strong emotions, captivating colors and wonders to surprise all.

Along the way we will benefit from unique experiences specially programmed for our members: Tangier's American Legation, the sole U.S. National Historic Landmark on foreign soil; receptions in the homes of Morocco's expatriate elite; the forbidding Telouet casbah of the sinister lord El Glaoui; the ruins of Sijilmassa, Africa's "City of Gold" until the 14th century; and even a winery. Special attention will be focused on the heritage of Morocco's native Berber population, whose early dynasties, starting in the 11th century, developed an architectural style that is uniquely Moroccan and spread it throughout North Africa and Andalusia.

Accommodations are the best available throughout, selected for their character, service and location. Nearly all meals are covered, at select Moroccan or continental eateries. I hope you join us for this superb look at the very best of The Moors' Cradle.

Scott Gerloff
Director, Travel Programs



Itinerary

Thursday, March 11 — New York/Casablanca

Board an evening flight from New York JFK on Royal Air Maroc's direct overnight flight to Casablanca. Dinner and breakfast on board.

Friday, March 12 — Rabat

After an early morning landing at Casablanca airport, transfer to the capital city of Rabat and the centrally located *Hotel Farah*, with the remainder of the morning and lunch open. A leisurely walk in the afternoon takes us through the millennium-old Oudaïa casbah, a former lair of Barbary Coast corsairs, and its Andalusian garden. Then a stop at the ornate mausoleum of modern Morocco's father, Mohamed V, and the adjoining ruins of the 12th-century Hassan mosque, meant to have been the world's largest. A light dinner concludes our day.

Saturday, March 13 — Rabat/Tangier

This morning we first head to the Chellah fort, with its exquisite gardens, Roman vestiges and the elaborate tombs of the 14th-century Merinid dynasty. Also a stop at Rabat's rich archaeological museum. After a seafood lunch by the Atlantic shore, we proceed north to Tangier, Morocco's once-international enclave on the Strait of Gibraltar. A cocktail reception for us at a home on Tangier's "Hill" is followed by dinner at our hotel, the century-old *El Minzah* (2 nights), built in the style of a Spanish parador.

Sunday, March 14 — Tangier

Tangier is one of the land's oldest cities, for ages the focus of power struggles between Europe and North Africa. We begin with a walking tour through the old town



Oudaïa casbah, Rabat

(medina) to the American Legation, the sole edifice outside the U.S. to be declared a National Historic Landmark, where we will be hosted by its director. Then, walk through the city's rich produce markets on our way to a private lunch as guests in a chalet amid an exquisite hillside garden. In mid-afternoon, an excursion to nearby Malabata Cape, from which we may see Spain. Moroccan dinner awaits at the hotel.

Monday, March 15 — Chefchaouen/Fes

In the morning we head East into the Rif mountains until whitewashed Chefchaouen, northern Morocco's most picturesque town. A walk uphill on the cobblestone alleyways of the old city brings us to lunch in an old home converted to a restaurant. Then, a transfer South across hilly farmland to fabled Fes, one of the two prime jewels among Morocco's ancient cities, considered by scholars to be the last true example of a typical medieval Arab town. The exquisite *Palais Jamaï*, a former vizier's palace and the sole hotel within the old town (3 nights in deluxe medina-view rooms). Moroccan dinner at the hotel, in the original palace wing.

Tuesday, March 16 — Fes

A full day's in-depth look at the 12 centuries of Fes, a treasure trove of architecture and urban planning that is one of but a few world cities under the direct supervision of UNESCO. As we walk through the labyrinth of its narrow alleyways, where no wheeled traffic is possible and thus no modern reconstruction was feasible, we see the colorful leather tanneries, grandiose mausoleums and former centers of Islamic learning, visit the museum of wood arts inside the superbly restored Nejjarine caravansary, pass by the world's oldest functioning university, the Qaraouine, and witness

photo by Art Wolf



The Medina (old city) of Fes

craft making still passed on in ageless ways from master to disciple. Lunch at a converted residence in the heart of the medina. A driving tour of the ramparts and a visit to a pottery and tile factory concludes our day.

Wednesday, March 17 — Volubilis/Meknes/Celiers/Fes

Travel West to the vast ruins of Volubilis, ancient Rome's capital for northwestern Africa, famed for its numerous mosaics still *in situ*. Next we reach Imperial City Meknes, the capital of 17th-century Sultan Moulay Ismail. There we see his immense granary, built to meet the city's needs for up to a year-long siege, his mausoleum, the sole religious shrine open to non-Moslems, and the Jamaï museum, set in a former palace. Lunch at the Hotel TransAtlantique, overlooking the old city. From there proceed to the Celliers de Meknes, the country's foremost wine producer, for a private tour of the cellars and a tasting. Late afternoon return to Fes, with dinner at the Maison Bleue, the North's finest traditional restaurant.

Thursday, March 18 — Across the Atlas

Travel South this morning into the Middle Atlas range, its mountain hamlets and the last forests of giant Mediterranean cedars, with their Barbary macaques. We stop for lunch in Berber enclave Midelt and then continue over the eastern High Atlas, whose multi-hued slopes and vast expanses reach to the edge of the Sahara. A final stretch along the date-palm groves of the Ziz Valley brings us to Arfoud. Dinner and the night at the adobe *Kasbah Xaluca*, decorated in Saharan style (2 nights).

Friday, March 19 — The Sahara

We begin with the Tafilalet oasis, Morocco's largest, with a walk over the ruins of Sijilmassa, Africa's greatest city until the 14th century, and a former Alaouite dynasty fort. A "Saharan" lunch awaits in Rissani, with free time to relax by the pool. In mid-afternoon, Land Rovers take us to the vast Erg Chebbi, a sea of sand dunes rising 600 ft above the desert's floor, to see sunset over the Sahara's expanse. En route, a stop at a vast fossil quarry.

Saturday, March 20 — Valleys of Castles

A transfer West through the desert brings us to the Todgha Vale, filled with dense palm groves, until its narrow gorge, one of Morocco's most grandiose natural sites. Next, a look at the unique settlements on the desert's edge as we walk through the twisting alleys of a 16th-century adobe citadel in market center Tinghir. Lunch is at the Hotel Saghro, overlooking the oasis. From there we reach the Dades Valley, considered the Kingdom's prettiest, with varied orchards guarded by ancient fortified granaries. We follow the so-dubbed "Route of 1000 Casbahs" until Ouarzazate. This city's surroundings, with mountains, fortresses, oases and desert starkness, have been a favorite international filming locale ever since "Lawrence of Arabia." Dinner and the night at the *Hotel Berbere Palace*, a favorite of the "film set."

Sunday, March 21 — "Lords of the Atlas"

North into the magnificent High Atlas range, North Africa's highest, with several peaks over 13,000 feet. First stop is at the Ait ben Haddou casbah, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and frequently used film backdrop (e.g., "Gladiator"). Once in the mountains, we take a side trip East to El Glaoui's massive, crumbling Telouet fortress, an official "non-place" from which this ruthless Berber chieftain ruled most of southern Morocco until 1956! We enjoy a local Berber lunch there and then wind our way down from the Tizi-N-Tichka pass, with breathtaking views of deep green vales and their adobe settlements. By late afternoon we reach legendary Marrakech, the "Berber" capital of the country, and its *La Maison Arabe* within the medina, the city's finest boutique hotel, each room rich in traditional decor (4 nights). Dinner awaits at a converted palace in the heart of the old city.

Monday, March 22 — Marrakech

Our exploration begins with Marrakech's magnificent monuments, prime examples of Moorish-Andalusian architecture at its best: the superbly preserved 17th-century necropolis of the Saadian dynasty and the immense Bahia palace of Vizier Ba Ahmed. We also stop to view the craft collection of Bert Flint, an expert on rural traditions. A seafood lunch awaits in the new city, followed by a stroll in the exotic garden that French artist Jacques Majorelle built in the 1930s, within which we see the late Yves St. Laurent's collection of Islamic arts. Dinner is on your own, to sample from Marrakech's vast array of excellent eateries.

Tuesday, March 23 — Berber Realms/Marrakech

An excursion into the heart of the Atlas at the base of 14,000-ft Mt. Toubkal, North Africa's highest. There we mount mules for a ride through walnut-shaded fields to a hamlet crowning a hilltop, observing the ways of life and work of the indigenous Berber tribesmen, nearly unchanged for centuries. Lunch is at the Kasbah du Toubkal, a fortress converted to an award-winning eco-lodge, with splendid views of snow-capped peaks and the valleys below. Return to Marrakech in the afternoon. Dinner with exuberant entertainment at the city's prime "in" bistro caps the day.

Wednesday, March 24 — The Souqs of Marrakech

The morning takes us through the city's famed reed-covered bazaars, the country's largest, and the 15th-century Ben Youssef Koranic school, a prime jewel of Merinid architecture. After browsing through myriad craft treasures, the afternoon is open for individual interests: shopping, relaxing or additional sight-seeing. For our farewell dinner we are guests in a private villa amid the city's palm groves.

Thursday, March 25 — Marrakech/New York

An early morning transfer to Marrakech airport for the home-bound flight through Casablanca, with a mid-afternoon landing at JFK.

Study Leader

Having spent part of his childhood in Tunisia, Piotr Kostrzewski landed in Morocco in 1977 as a high-school teacher, spending much of the next two years in the study of Berber culture, local languages, and exploring all nooks of the Kingdom. In 1982 he founded Cross Cultural Adventures to offer travelers the most insightful insider's look at Morocco, its peoples and their rich, varied heritage. Over the years, his extensive personal local contacts, from the Royal Palace to villagers in remote vales of the High Atlas, have enabled participants in his specialized programs to gain entry to private homes, palaces and gardens unattainable to any but the most privileged. Mr. Kostrzewski has designed customized Morocco programs for major American museum and university travel groups. He lectures frequently on Morocco and its Berber heritage.

Tour Costs

\$6,532.00 land cost per person, based on double occupancy and minimum participation of 20 tour members.

\$1,793.00 supplement for single occupancy.

\$1,085.00 *estimated* Coach airfare New York-Casablanca/Marrakech-New York on Royal Air Maroc. A lower group rate may become available pending finalization of participants' air routings.

Terms & Conditions

Reservations & Payments: Reservations will be accepted in order of receipt if accompanied by a completed reservation form and a deposit of \$500.00 per person. Final payment for all land and air costs will be due by January 11, 2010. *Only checks will be accepted for the land and any net airfare costs and must be made out to Cross Cultural Adventures.*

Tour Size: This tour will operate with minimum 20, maximum 30 participants. The right is reserved to cancel the tour if minimum group size is not met.

Your Tour Price Covers: Accommodations in 4- to 5-star hotels, as listed in the itinerary or similar, based on a shared double room with private bath; single rooms are available at the supplement. In-country meals listed, with continental or buffet breakfasts, Moroccan or European lunches and dinners, table d'hôte basis. Coffee/tea included only with breakfast; mineral water provided with lunches/dinners and on inter-city transfer days only. Transport by 44-seat a/c coach and 6-seat 4WD vehicles, as outlined. All special arrangements outlined in the itinerary. All entry fees covered by itinerary. Services of study leader throughout, plus national guide and/or local guides as needed. Baggage handling of 1 piece of baggage per person, limited to 44 lbs (*baggage and personal effects are taken at owner's risk; baggage insurance is advised*). All taxes and service charges assessed by hoteliers and local authorities for services specified in the itinerary. All tips for portage and restaurant service, except for room service and any other individual service requested.

These services are included only for passengers arriving and departing with the group. Individual transfers will be an additional charge.

The land cost is based on currency exchange rates at the time of printing. Significant exchange-rate fluctuations will result in cost adjustment. Airfares are subject to change by the airline without notice prior to ticketing.

Additional expenses incurred due to change or cancellation by client of flight or land services will be the responsibility of the client.

Your Tour Price Does Not Include: Any airfares. Meals other than those specified in itinerary. Any medical insurance nor medical expenses (*international health insurance is strongly advised*). Any beverages, aside from standard breakfast and mineral water with lunches/dinners and inter-city travel. Cost of obtaining passports. Any tips for local guides, drivers or room service. Purely personal expenses and service beyond extent of itinerary listed.

Cancellations & Refunds: Individual cancellations received up to 61 days prior to departure are subject to a \$200.00 administrative fee. Thereafter, individual cancellations will be subject to the following forfeit of land tour costs: (a) If received between 60 and 21 days before departure — 30% of tour costs; (b) From 20 to 7 days — 50%; (c) No refund for cancellations received thereafter. Cancellations must be in writing and are considered valid on the day of receipt. Airfare covered by tour costs cannot be guaranteed until time of purchase and carries a \$150 cancellation penalty once purchased. Cross Cultural Adventures will not intervene for airfare refunds on airlines not booked by us.

Trip Cancellation/Interruption Insurance is strongly recommended. Information on insurance will be sent to you upon receipt of deposit.

Health: This program does involve some extensive walks on occasionally steep alleys with uneven steps. Thus, while the trip is designed for those in average physical condition, good walking ability is essential to benefit from all program features. There are some long drives. Dusty conditions are possible. If you have any doubt about your ability to participate fully due to a health condition or disabilities, please contact the National Trust at (800) 944-6847.

Responsibility: Cross Cultural Adventures, and not the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is the tour operator and is responsible for the services provided. By the forwarding of a deposit and by completing and signing the reservation form for the "Amid Scented Gardens & Sultans' Palaces" tour, March 11–25, 2010, the depositor thereby agrees and assigns to release and hold harmless the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Cross Cultural Adventures, and any of their officers, agents or representatives from any and all liability which might be incurred during any portion of or in relation to this tour, and further agrees to be bound by the limitations and conditions of operator's responsibility:

Limitations and Conditions of Operator's Responsibility: Cross Cultural Adventures, operator of the tour herein outlined, its subsidiaries and/or its associated agents act as agents only for all services and disclaim any and all liability for property loss or damage, and/or any and all damages resulting from death or personal injuries, including loss of services which may be sustained on account of, or rising out of, by reason of, or while engaged on any aspect of this tour, whether due to the ownership, maintenance, use, operation, or control of any aircraft, vehicle, common carrier, inn restaurant or other, or whether caused by failure or delay or by any transportation company due to any cause whatsoever occurring during this tour under its management, sponsorship, procurement or otherwise. All tickets, vouchers and orders are furnished and issued subject in all respects to these terms and conditions and to any and all terms and conditions under which the means of transportation or any other services provided thereby are offered or supplied by owners or operators for whom Cross Cultural Adventures, acts solely as agents.

Due to the unpredictable nature of travel in developing countries and/or in rare cases of safety concern, Cross Cultural Adventures reserves the right in its discretion to alter any part of the itinerary or change any feature without allowance or refund.

Cross Cultural Adventures reserves the right to cancel the tour and to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time for reasons of health, safety and/or general welfare of the tour group or of the individual participant. In such cases, the refund will be based on the actual cost of the service remaining in the unfinished portion of the tour.

Reservation Form
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Amid Scented Gardens & Sultans' Palaces
March 11 – 25, 2010

Please complete and return with \$500.00 per person deposit to:
National Trust for Historic Preservation Tours
c/o Bank of America
PO Box 320, Washington, DC 20055-0320
(800) 944-6847 or (202) 588-6300

Name(s) _____ Date(s) of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone () _____ Business Phone () _____ e-mail _____

Method of deposit: Check for deposit enclosed, made payable to: National Trust Tours
 Credit card — Please charge my VISA; MasterCard

Card N°: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Name as it appears on card: _____

Accommodations: Double Occupancy; Single Occupancy
 Arrange flights as outlined in the itinerary — Excursion Business

Arrange flights from/to _____ (indicate class of service above)

Payment for flights: Please invoice at net rate as part of overall Tour Cost above.
 Wish to charge on a credit card at standard rate. Please send necessary charge forms.

I/we desire land arrangements only.

I/we are National Trust Members. Membership No. _____

National Trust Tours are open to members only. If you are not a member of the National Trust, please enclose a separate check payable to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for a one-year membership as follows: \$20.00 individual, \$30.00 family. (Mail check with this form.)

Declaration: I/we have read and agree to the terms and conditions detailed for the "Amid Scented Gardens & Sultans' Palaces" tour, March 11–25, 2010, including the cancellation policy and operator's responsibility, and agree not to hold the National Trust for Historic Preservation nor Cross Cultural Adventures nor any of their representatives liable for any health or other damages incurred during or as a result of my/our participation in this travel program.

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____