

Commonwealth Club Travel presents

# MOROCCAN DISCOVERY

From the Imperial Cities to the Sahara

March 7-20, 2015

**14 days for \$5,758 total price from San Francisco**  
(\$5,295 air & land inclusive plus \$463 airline taxes and departure fees)



**An Exclusive Small Group Tour for  
the Commonwealth Club**



Dear Members and Friends of the Commonwealth Club,

Join us in 2015 on a comprehensive and exciting 14-day exploration of Morocco. Discover this land of age-old traditions and witness its striking natural beauty. We will visit five UNESCO World Heritage sites including Meknes, Morocco's youngest imperial city; Volubilis, with its ancient Roman ruins; and Fez, Morocco's oldest imperial city prized for its cultural, religious, and educational institutions.

Moroccan culture will come to life with a special Arabic music performance in Fez. We will follow a fabled ancient caravan route in the snow-topped High Atlas Mountains, see spectacular Todra Gorge, and travel to Ait ben-Haddou, another UNESCO World Heritage site. Along the way, experience lush desert oases, precipitous mountain canyons, dozens of kasbahs and souks (markets), and villages where life proceeds much as it has for centuries. A tour highlight is a sunset excursion by four-wheel-drive vehicles to towering sand dunes at the edge of the Sahara, followed by a camel ride. We then spend three nights in alluring Marrakech before concluding in cosmopolitan Casablanca.

This exclusive departure has space for a maximum of only 24 guests. Don't be disappointed - book today and secure your space on this small group tour of Morocco!

Sincerely,

Kristina Nemeth

Kristina Nemeth
Director of Travel

COMMONWEALTH CLUB RESERVATION FORM: MOROCCAN DISCOVERY

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$\_\_\_\_\_(\$500 per person) for \_\_\_ person(s) on Moroccan Discovery departing March 7, 2015. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure (or by December 2, 2014). Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. Please make deposit check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and send to: Commonwealth Club Travel, 595 Market Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105. For reservations and information, call (415) 597-6720, or email travel@commonwealthclub.org. You may also fax your reservation to (415) 597-6729.

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Ph. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Ph. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please book my/our air from \_\_\_\_\_ I/we request a Business Class upgrade

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, March 7-20, 2015, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms & 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 by December 2, 2014, and is payable by check or credit card.

Tour membership limited to 24 Guests

# MOROCCAN DISCOVERY

## From the Imperial Cities to the Sahara

**14 days for \$5,758 total price from San Francisco**  
(\$5,295 air & land inclusive plus \$463 airline taxes and departure fees)

**T**his land of dramatic contrasts invites you to encounter its ancient ruins and sacred mosques, endless desert and storied mountains, imposing kasbahs and spirited souks. Travel from the imperial cities of Rabat, Fez, and Marrakech to the High Atlas and vast Sahara, to experience a truly foreign land, an age-old culture, and genuinely hospitable people.



**Saturday, March 7: Depart U.S. for Casablanca, Morocco**

**Sunday, March 8: Casablanca/Rabat** After arriving in Casablanca, the commercial center of Morocco (and of all North Africa), travel to Rabat and check in at your hotel near famed Hassan Tower. Tonight enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant in Rabat's Old Town. *L,D*

**Monday, March 9:** 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. Enjoy a morning briefing at the U.S. Embassy. Visit the fortified Kasbah of the Oudaias, 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 Rabat's archaeological museum and a walk through the *medina*. Late afternoon, return to your hotel, where we'll dine tonight. *B,L,D*

**Tuesday, March 10: Rabat/Meknes/Volubilis/Fez** This morning depart Rabat for Fez, stopping along the way in Meknes, Morocco's youngest imperial city (and UNESCO World Heritage site). Visit the Bab el Mansour gateway and the ruins of the imperial stables before lunch in a local restaurant. Continue on to the ancient Roman ruins at the UNESCO site of Volubilis, known for its intricate and colorful mosaics. Reach Fez late afternoon and your elegant hotel adjacent to the *medina*, another UNESCO World Heritage site. *B,L,D*

**Wednesday, March 11: Fez** Today explore Morocco's oldest imperial city, considered the "Athens of Africa" for its wealth of cultural, educational, and religious institutions. Begin with a walking tour of Fez's fascinating *medina*, a UNESCO World Heritage site, focusing on the artisans' quarters, the 14<sup>th</sup>-century Koranic schools, and Al Karaouine, the medieval theological university. Return to the hotel for lunch

Avg. High (°F)	Mar	Apr
Rabat	68	71
Marrakech	74	79

### Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Private Sahara sunset excursion and camel ride on the dunes ... Imperial cities of Rabat, Meknes, Fez, Marrakech ... Embassy briefing in Rabat ... Ancient ruins of Volubilis ... Private Arabic music concert in Fez ... Dramatic Todra Gorge ... Kasbah of Ait ben-Haddou ... Marrakech's *medina* and Djemaa el Fna Square ... Visit with a local Imam ... Storied Casablanca and Hassan II mosque

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Casablanca		
2-3	Rabat	La Tour Hassan	Sup. First Class
4-6	Fez	Hotel Sahrai	Deluxe
7-8	Erfoud	Le Palais du Désert	Sup. First Class
9	Ouarzazate	Le Berbere Palace	First Class
10-12	Marrakech	Sofitel Marrakech	Deluxe
13	Casablanca	Hyatt Regency Casablanca	Deluxe
14	Depart Casablanca for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Cover photo: See the beautifully proportioned Koutoubia Mosque in Marrakech.



A typical kasbah, as we see along the “Route of a Thousand Kasbahs” on Days 9 & 10.

and some time at leisure then mid-afternoon tour the old *mellah* (Jewish quarter) and its 17<sup>th</sup>-century synagogue, the royal gates, and the Museum of Fez. Tonight enjoy a private dinner at an intimate family-run *riad* in Fez. **B,L,D**

**Thursday, March 12: Fez** This morning visit a Berber village where residents live much as their ancestors did centuries ago. Share tea with a local family in their cave dwelling then continue on to whitewashed Sefrou, an old Jewish town at the foot of the Middle Atlas Mountains. En route back to Fez, stop at the renowned pottery factories. Enjoy lunch on your own in Fez before gathering for a private Arabic music concert where we learn about the different local styles. **B,D**

**Friday, March 13: Fez/Midelt/Erfoud** 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, passing rows of towering palm trees and fortified villages before reaching your *kasbah*-style hotel in Erfoud late in the day. Dinner tonight is at your hotel. **B,L,D**

**Saturday, March 14: Erfoud/Rissani/Merzouga** This morning visit the city of Rissani, with its 18th-century *ksar*, a virtually impenetrable warren of alleys; then continue on to the ruins of Sijilmasa. Enjoy a tour highlight this afternoon as you set out on a sunset excursion to the breathtakingly beautiful sand dunes at Merzouga on the edge of the Sahara. In the enormous silence watch the sun set over the desert while taking a camel ride along the dunes. Return to the hotel for dinner this evening. **B,D**

**Sunday, March 15: Erfoud/Tinehir/Todra Gorges/Ouarzazate** Your 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. 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 arrive in the town of Ouarzazate (the “door of the desert”) and spend the night here. **B,L,D**

**Monday, March 16: Ouarzazate/Ait Ben-Haddou/Marrakech** 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. Its old section consists of deep red *kasbahs* packed together so tightly they appear to be a single unit. Begin the descent from the High Atlas, passing 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. Arrive in Marrakech late this afternoon and dine tonight at the hotel. **B,L,D**

**Tuesday, March 17: Marrakech** Once the capital of southern Morocco, the imperial city of Marrakech is an alluring oasis with a temperate climate, distinct charm, and fascinating sights. A

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 the hotel, embark mid-afternoon on a walking tour of the medina, ending at Djmaa 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 your own in this exotic city. **B,L**

**Wednesday, March 18: Marrakech** 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. Following a tour of the gardens visit the newly renovated Berber Museum, with art and artifacts reflecting Berber culture in Morocco. Learn more about Moroccan cuisine with lunch on your own or by taking an optional cooking lesson including a visit to the local market for ingredients. Before dinner at a local restaurant in the city's Old Town, we have a unique opportunity to visit with an Imam and learn more about the Islamic religion. **B,D**

**Thursday, March 19: Marrakech/Casablanca** Leave Marrakech this morning by coach for storied Casablanca, Morocco's largest and most cosmopolitan city. Stop for lunch en route. 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**

**Friday, March 20: Depart for U.S.** After breakfast this morning transfer to the airport for your return flight to the United States. **B**



Watch the sun set over the dunes at Merzouga.

### Tour Departs: March 7, 2015

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Los Angeles, San Francisco	\$5,758
Atlanta, Chicago, Washington, DC	\$5,558
New York	\$5,158
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$4,295

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees of \$463, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,395.

All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: \$3,795 per person (upgrades are on request and pricing is subject to change).

**Please note: This trip involves full days of sightseeing and significant amounts of walking. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to the fullest.**

**Contact Club Travel**

**415-597-6720**

[travel@commonwealthclub.org](mailto:travel@commonwealthclub.org)

[www.commonwealthclub.org/travel](http://www.commonwealthclub.org/travel)

### 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
- Services of a Commonwealth Club Host with a minimum of 15 guests
- Private cultural and educational highlights
- Private motorcoach transportation including bottled water throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

## 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 tour 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 tour package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per day, per traveler); optional sightseeing; travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline prior to departure.

### Cancellations, refunds and changes

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **Cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 change; 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 a guest makes any changes to their 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.**

### Insurance

We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event you must cancel your participation in the travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Information will be sent upon registration.

### Responsibility

The liability of the Commonwealth Club, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, 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, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The Commonwealth Club 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 line, 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 tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own.** If you require the use of a wheelchair or have other personal needs, you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. 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, the Commonwealth Club and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. 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 they feel 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 assignments on your international flight are provided at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited 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 departure 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.**

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. CST#2077973-40

The Commonwealth Club CST#2096889-40



595 Market Street, 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105

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