



**Commonwealth  
Club Travel**

# MOROCCAN DISCOVERY

From the Imperial Cities to the Sahara

May 12-25, 2017

**14 days for \$5,879 total price from San Francisco**  
(\$5,195 air & land inclusive plus \$684 airline taxes and fees)



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



Dear Club Travelers,

Join us on an exciting 14-day exploration of Morocco! Our journey highlights the country's unique history and culture from the imperial cities of Rabat, Fez, and Marrakech, to the imposing High Atlas Mountains and the vast Sahara.

Our visit takes us to five UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Meknes, Morocco's youngest imperial city, Volubilis, with ancient Roman ruins; and Fez, Morocco's oldest imperial city, prized for its cultural, religious, and educational institutions. We will follow an ancient caravan route in the High Atlas Mountains; see spectacular Todra Gorge; and travel to Ait ben-Haddou, a fortified city and UNESCO World Heritage site. A highlight will be our excursion to the towering sand dunes at the edge of the Sahara, followed by a camel ride to watch the sun set over this dramatic landscape. We will proceed to spend three nights in alluring Marrakech before our adventure concludes in storied Casablanca.

Space on this exclusive Commonwealth Club tour is limited to just 24 travelers and will fill quickly. Please call today to reserve your place on this unique and exciting journey!

Sincerely,

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 **May 12, 2017**. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure (or by February 6, 2017). Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. **Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and send to: Commonwealth Club Travel, P.O. Box 194210, San Francisco, CA 94119. For reservations and information, call (415) 597-6720, fax (415) 597-6729, or email [travel@commonwealthclub.org](mailto:travel@commonwealthclub.org).**

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please book my/our air from \_\_\_\_\_

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, May 12-25, 2017**, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms & Conditions.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

We require membership to the Commonwealth Club to travel with us. Please check one of the following options:

- I am a current member of the Commonwealth Club.
- Please use the credit card information below to sign me up or renew my membership.
- I will visit [commonwealthclub.org/membership](http://commonwealthclub.org/membership) to sign up for a membership.

**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.

Tour membership limited to 24 guests

# MOROCCAN DISCOVERY

## From the Imperial Cities to the Sahara

**14 days for \$5,879 total price from San Francisco**  
(\$5,195 air & land inclusive plus \$684 airline taxes and fees)

**T**his land of dramatic contrasts invites us 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, we open our eyes, and hearts, to a truly foreign land, an age-old culture, and genuinely hospitable people.



**Friday, May 12: Depart U.S. for Casablanca, Morocco**

**Saturday, May 13: 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**

**Sunday, May 14: 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 fortified Kasbah of the Oudaia, the peaceful Andalusian Gardens, and the necropolis of Chellah, built on ancient Roman ruins. Then we 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*. We return to our hotel late afternoon; tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner of traditional Moroccan fare at acclaimed Dinarjat in Rabat's Old Town. **B,L,D**

**Monday, May 15: 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. **B,L,D**

**Tuesday, May 16: 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 walking tour of Fez's fascinating *medina*, a UNESCO World Heritage site, focusing on the artisans' quarters, the 14<sup>th</sup>-century Koranic

Avg. High (°F)	May	Jun
Rabat	74	77
Marrakech	84	91

### Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Private Sahara sunset excursion and camel ride on the dunes ... Visits to five UNESCO World Heritage sites ... Ancient ruins of Volubilis ... Scenic "Route of a Thousand Kasbahs" ... Dramatic Todra Gorges and Atlas Mountain scenery ... Kasbah of Ait ben-Haddou ... Fez touring ... Marrakech's *medina* and Djemaa el Fna Square ... Storied Casablanca and Hassan II mosque ... Outstanding accommodations

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	First Class
9	Ouarzazate	Le Berbere Palace	Sup. 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.



On May 20 and 21, we travel through the High Atlas.

schools, and Al Karaouine, the medieval theological university. After lunch together in the *medina*, we tour the old *mellah* (Jewish quarter) and its 17<sup>th</sup>-century synagogue, the royal gates, and the Museum of Fez. Tonight we enjoy a private dinner at an intimate family-run *riad* in Fez. **B,L,D**

**Wednesday, May 17: Fez** This morning we return to the *medina* to discover some hidden treasures, including the Blue Gate, the most picturesque of all the Old City's historic gates; the medieval school of Bouanania; and the 12<sup>th</sup>-century home of Jewish scholar Maimonides. We also visit the traditional quarter to watch artisans craft the acclaimed Fez pottery and ceramics. Lunch is on your own in Fez before gathering for a private Arabic music concert where we learn about the different local music styles. Tonight we dine together in the hotel's international restaurant. **B,D**

**Thursday, May 18: 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**

**Friday, May 19: Erfoud/Rissani/Merzouga** This morning we visit the city of Rissani, with its 18<sup>th</sup>-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*. **B,L,D**

**Saturday, May 20: Erfoud/Tinehir/Todra Gorges/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**

**Sunday, May 21: 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**

“HOW FRAGILE WE ARE  
UNDER THE SHELTERING SKY.”

– PAUL BOWLES

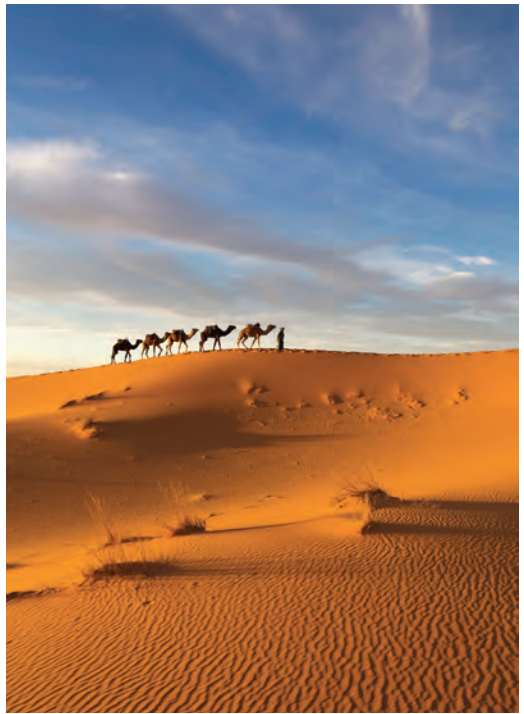
**Monday, May 22: Marrakech** Once the capital of southern Morocco, the imperial city of Marrakech is an alluring oasis with a temperate climate, distinct charm, and fascinating sights. Our day-long tour includes the beautifully proportioned Koutoubia Mosque with its distinctive 282-foot minaret visible from miles away; the lovely Andalusian-style El Bahia Palace (part of which is still used by the royal family); and the ruins of 16<sup>th</sup>-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*

**Tuesday, May 23: 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 newly renovated Berber Museum there, with art and artifacts reflecting Berber culture in Morocco. Learn 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, we have a unique opportunity to visit with an Imam to learn more about the Islamic religion. *B,D*

**Wednesday, May 24: 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

### 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
- Educational lecture program/study leader with a minimum of 15 guests
- Additional Commonwealth Club representative at 20 guests
- 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



We watch the sun set over the Sahara on May 19.

open to non-Muslims. Tonight we celebrate our Moroccan adventure at a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. *B,D*

**Thursday, May 25: Depart for U.S.** After breakfast this morning we transfer to the airport for our return flight to the U.S. *B*

### Tour Departs: May 12, 2017

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

San Francisco, Seattle	\$5,879
Los Angeles	\$5,779
Boston, New York, Washington, DC	\$5,479
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$4,395

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.

**Please note: This trip is moderately active and involves walking up to 2-3 miles per day, walking up hills or stairs, or on uneven or cobblestone streets, and at sites of ancient ruins. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.**

**Contact Club Travel**

**415-597-6720**

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

## 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 Odyssey's 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 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 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 a guest makes any changes to their reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odyssey's 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.**

### Eligibility

We require membership to the Commonwealth Club to travel with us. People who live outside of the Bay Area may purchase a national membership. To learn about membership types and to purchase a membership, visit [commonwealthclub.org/membership](http://commonwealthclub.org/membership) or call (415) 597-6720.

### 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 Odyssey's Unlimited Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odyssey's Unlimited, Inc. purchases 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, their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. The Commonwealth Club and Odyssey's 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 moderate 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 our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. 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, Odyssey's Unlimited, Inc. and the Commonwealth Club assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

### Air Transportation - Important Information

Odyssey's 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 2-3 months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are provided at airport check-in. Odyssey's Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of our 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, Odyssey's Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**

Odyssey's Unlimited, Inc. CST#207793-40  
The Commonwealth Club CST#2096889-40



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San Francisco, CA 94119

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JOIN THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB  
ON AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR  
TO MOROCCO!

*Guaranteed Small Group:  
Limited to 24 Guests*