

The University of Alabama presents

# MOROCCAN DISCOVERY

From the Imperial Cities to the Sahara

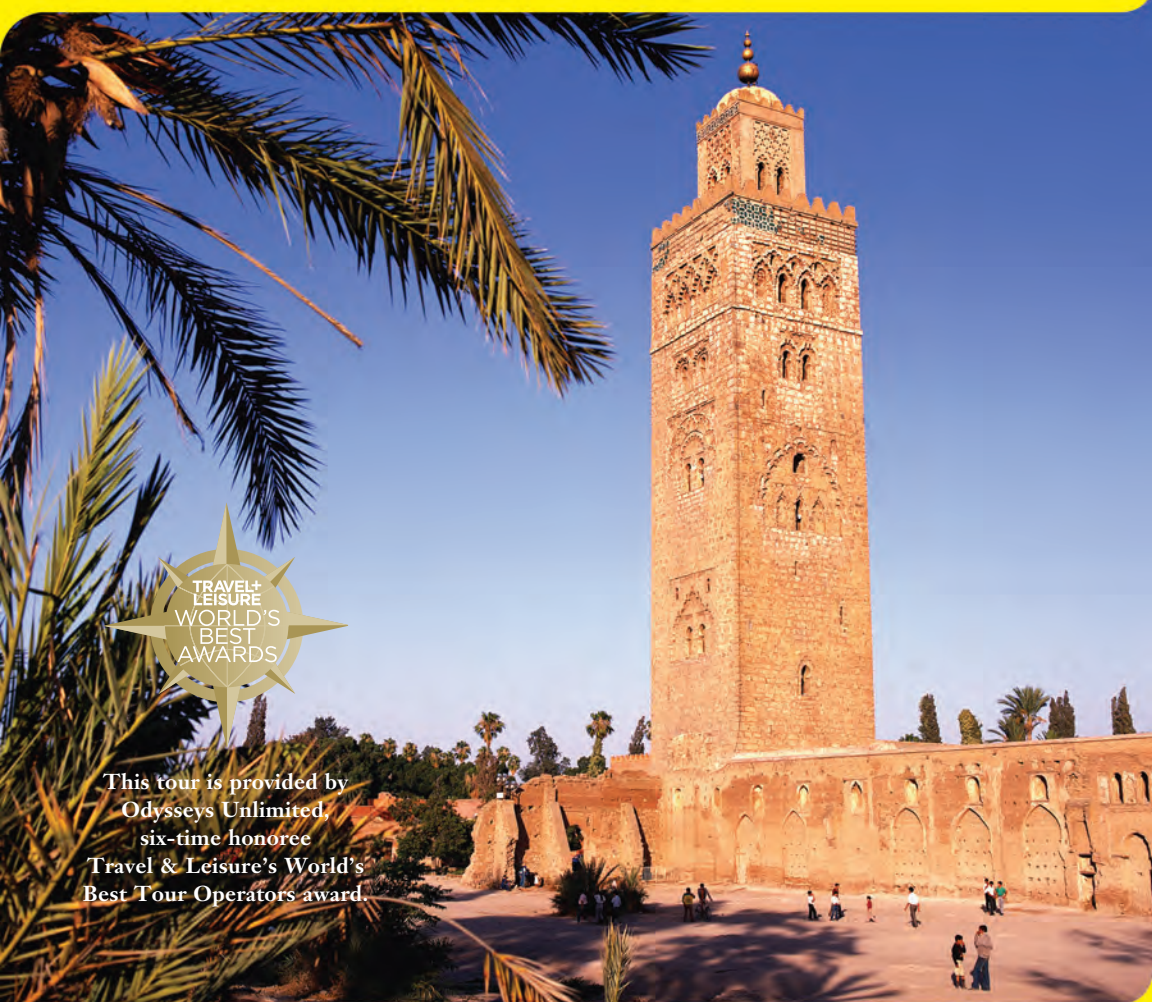
January 27-February 9, 2017

**14 days for \$5,179 total price from Birmingham**

(\$4,495 air & land inclusive plus \$684 airline taxes and fees)



This tour is provided by  
Odysseys Unlimited,  
six-time honoree  
Travel & Leisure's World's  
Best Tour Operators award.



An Exclusive Small Group Tour for  
Alumni & Friends of The University of Alabama



### Dear Alabama Alumni and Friends,

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 sunset 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.

With space for only 24 guests in total, we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today and secure your place to experience the wonders of Morocco!

Sincerely,

Ashley Olive  
Alumni Tour Coordinator  
The University of Alabama

### THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA RESERVATION FORM – MOROCCAN DISCOVERY

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) on **Moroccan Discovery** departing **January 27, 2017**. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. 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 mail check (along with the completed reservation form) to: The University of Alabama Alumni Association, PO Box 861928, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486. For more information, please call Ashley Olive at 205-348-1547 or e-mail aolive@alumni.ua.edu.**

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home Ph. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. Ph. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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, January 27-February 9, 2017**, 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 October 24, 2016, 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 \$5,179 total price from Birmingham  
(\$4,495 air & land inclusive plus \$684 airline taxes and fees)

This 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.



### Day 1: Depart U.S. for Casablanca, Morocco

**Day 2: 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*

**Day 3: 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 Oudaïas, 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 Rabat’s Archaeological 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*

**Day 4: 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 adjacent to the *medina*, another UNESCO World Heritage site. *B,L,D*

**Day 5: 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 schools, and Al Karaouine, the medieval theological university. After lunch together in the *medina*, we tour the old *mellah* (Jewish

### 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.





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

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**

**Day 6: 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. The remainder of the afternoon is free for independent exploration and lunch on our own. Tonight we dine together in the hotel’s international restaurant **B,D**

**Day 7: Fez/Midelt/Erfooud** 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**

**Day 8: 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**

**Day 9: 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**

**Day 10: 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**

**Day 11: 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

“HE DID NOT THINK OF  
HIMSELF AS A TOURIST;  
HE WAS A TRAVELER.”

– PAUL BOWLES

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**

**Day 12: 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



Traditional Moroccan tile work

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. The afternoon is at leisure before dinner tonight at a local restaurant in the city's Old Town. **B,D**

**Day 13: 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 open to non-Muslims. Tonight we celebrate our Moroccan adventure at a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. **B,D**

**Day 14: Depart for U.S.** After breakfast this morning we transfer to the airport for our return flight to the U.S. **B**



We watch the sun set over the dunes at Merzouga on Day 8.

### Tour Departs: January 27, 2017

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

Boston, New York, Washington, DC	\$4,679
Atlanta, Chicago	\$4,879
Baltimore, Charlotte, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, Philadelphia	\$4,979
Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Minneapolis, Orlando, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle, Tampa	\$5,079
Birmingham	\$5,179
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$3,695

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 \$1,195.

Airline upgrades on round-trip International 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 involves full days of sightseeing and significant amounts of walking. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to the fullest.**

**For reservations and information please call The University of Alabama Alumni Association**

**205-348-1547**

**Or e-mail Ashley Olive at [aolive@alumni.ua.edu](mailto:aolive@alumni.ua.edu)**

### 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
- 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

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 traveler, per day); 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 charge; Cancel 94-85 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.**

Responsibility

The liability of the University of Alabama, 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 University of Alabama 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

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and The University of Alabama request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a significant 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, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and The University of Alabama 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.**



The University of Alabama  
PO Box 861928  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486

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