



CAREER ENRICHMENT



Music Education Journey to Casablanca, Rabat, Fez & Marrakech Morocco

9 days / 7 nights

August 6-14, 2016

\$4,899 (Based on double occupancy)

Enjoy the unique culture and traditions of Morocco while you spend time with the locals. This adventure includes very special visits with a variety of local music troupes as well as time with a local music education teacher!

BOOK NOW 888.747.7501

Morocco Highlights

- ✓ 9 days & 7 nights
- ✓ Explore the markets, mosques, local museums, Roman ruins and other sites of historic note.
- ✓ Interact with **music experts** from a variety of locations, backgrounds, and musical influences throughout the country.

Community Connections

- ✓ Take part in a social service project in a local community
- ✓ Spend time making new friends as you immerse yourself in giving back

Educational Interaction

- ✓ Examine Morocco's education infrastructure
- ✓ Enjoy lunch with an **Andalusian troupe** of local Moroccan musicians
- ✓ Meet with **local music teachers** to learn about the education of students in the musical arts. Even though schools are closed during the summer, the journey will provide a variety of opportunities to learn about music education.
- ✓ Interact with a **local ISSAWA troupe**, a religious and mystical brotherhood founded in Meknes in the 1400s known for their spiritual percussion music, to learn about their instruments and enjoy playing music with their members.
- ✓ Learn about Berber music from a local singer in Azrou.

What's included?

- Deluxe hotel accommodations throughout
- All transportation and activities outlined in the itinerary
- Group transfers to and from the international airport
- International air to and from Morocco (gateway city set tentatively out of New York)
- Local English speaking guide
- Meals as mentioned and most tips

Not included:

- Personal expenses at the hotels
- Meals not specified
- Tips for national guide
- Passport renewal or issuance
- Domestic flight to gateway city
- Departure taxes where applicable



ITINERARY | DAY-BY-DAY



📍 New York, New York

DAY 1

Fly to Casablanca today

Depart from New York today and make your way to Morocco. The stunning beauty and friendly people alone are worth a visit!

📍 Arrival in Morocco

DAY 2

Arrival and Casablanca city tour

Upon arrival at the Casablanca Mohammed V Airport you will be met by your local guide. The journey begins this morning with a driving tour of **Casablanca** with the chance to see the Hassan II Mosque, The Habbous, the Royal Palace, the Art Deco area and Marché Central on your way to lunch at a local restaurant

This afternoon you will meet with a **music teacher** in their home. If possible (*schools are closed in August*) you may have the chance to visit a local music conservatory or other international music school.

Make your way onward to **Rabat** to check into your local hotel. In route see some additional sites including a short tour of Rabat to see Oudaya Kasbah, the Medina, Hassan Tower, Mohamed V Mausoleum and the Chellah.

Dinner will be provided this evening.

Overnight: Mercure Sheherazade Hotel
Included meals: Lunch & dinner

📍 Rabat to Fez

DAY 3

From Rabat, Meknes, Volubilis to Fez

Please Note: Breakfast is included daily in your program

After breakfast at the hotel explore Rabat. Visits today will include a chance to further explore the **Hassan Tower, Mohamed V Mausoleum**, the **Chellah Necropolis** and the **Museum of Modern Art**. Head to Meknes which is a short distance away.

Stop for lunch at a typical restaurant in the old city Palais Terrab, where you will meet with a **professional ISSAWA troupe** after they perform while you dine. Immediately following, you will talk with musicians to learn about their instruments and play some music together. They are known for their spiritual music, which generally comprises songs of religious psalms, characterized by the use of the *oboe ghaita* (similar to the mizmar or zurna) accompanied by percussion using polyrhythm.

The afternoon will be dedicated to a visit to the Roman ruins in **Volubilis** (a UNESCO World heritage site). A Mauritanian capital, founded in the 3rd century B.C., this city became an important outpost of the Roman Empire and was graced with many fine buildings. Extensive remains of these survive in the archaeological site.

Continue on to Fez for dinner and check in.

Overnight: Barcelo Hotel
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



📍 Fez, Morocco

DAY 4

Explore Fez

The day will be devoted to exploring the wonders of Fez, the most ancient of the imperial cities founded in the 8th century by Moulay Idriss II. Stops today will include the **medieval Medina (market)** with its minarets of Madrasa Bou Inania & Attarine. Visit the lovely and historic Nejjarine Fountain, Moulay Idriss Mausoleum, and the Karaouine Mosque.

Dine this afternoon at a private old Andalucía riad while you listen to a **troupe playing Andalusian Moroccan music**.

The classical music of Andalusia reached North Africa via centuries of cultural exchange, the Almohad dynasty and then the Marinid dynasty being present both in Al-Andalus and in Morocco and most of North Africa. Mass resettlements of Muslims and Sephardi Jews from Cordoba, Sevilla, Valencia and Granada, fleeing the Reconquista, further expanded the reach of Andalusian music. The musical and poetic traditions of those who fled have been preserved in Morocco and other Maghreb countries.

Dinner will be provided back at your hotel.

Overnight: Barcelo Hotel

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



📍 Marrakech, Morocco

DAY 5

Driving tour from Fez to Marrakech

Immediately after breakfast, depart for Marrakech via the mountains and the cedar woods of the middle Atlas passing by Ifrane, a charming ski resort and Azrou, an important handicraft center.

In Azrou stop for some mint tea and **enjoy listening to a Berber singer**. *Mohamed Rouich* is a Moroccan artist best known for promoting the Berber music through his original compositions. He is considered one of the last instrumental players of "loutar", a rare Moroccan instrument falling under the family of violins. In 1964, he started his career as an amateur singer on the National Radio of Morocco to become, in 1979, a professional singer in the Berber and Arab category.

Continue on to Beni Mellal for lunch.

After lunch continue on to Marrakech via Ouzoud to see the **Ouzoud Waterfalls**, the most impressive in the kingdom. Your walk in to see the falls will showcase the local flora and fauna.

Dinner with your fellow travelers will be provided at a local restaurant this evening after hotel check-in.

Overnight: Atlas Medina & Spa Hotel

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner





📍 Marrakech, Morocco

DAY 6

Explore the Red Pearl City

Spend the day exploring Marrakech, founded by the Almoravides at the end of the 11th century. The historical sites you will visit today include **Medersa Ben Youssef**, the **Majorelle Garden**, the souks & the famous **Jemaâ el Fna Square**.

Lunch will be provided at the Ksar el Hamra Restaurant.

After lunch and just before you start to explore the souks (markets), you will enjoy listening to the famous Gnaoua music while **meeting with a young Gnaoua troupe**. Morocco's gnaoua (or gnawa) tradition is music where Arab and black sub-Saharan Africa meet. With its special mix of African magic and Islamic rituals, Gnaoua rituals combines both music and acrobatic dancing to create a trance and promote healing.

Enjoy dinner at Chez Ali.

Overnight: Atlas Medina & Spa Hotel
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



📍 Marrakech, Morocco

DAY 7

Day trip to Asni & Imlil

Located in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains, Asni is a well visited small Berber town. Enjoy your drive to Asni and see some of the local sites before continuing to Imlil, a small Berber village in a stunning valley, to explore some of the most beautiful scenery Morocco has to offer. **Enjoy tea in a Berber home** as well as the wonderful natural hospitality of these kind mountain people. Enjoy lunch on your own before you head back to Marrakech for dinner.

Overnight: Atlas Medina & Spa Hotel
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

📍 Marrakech, Morocco

DAY 8

Free time to explore

Breakfast will be provided today and the remainder of the day is yours to explore independently. Lunch is on your own today.

A final farewell dinner will be provided at the Jad Mahal Restaurant.

📍 Marrakech, Morocco

DAY 9

Depart

Head home today saying goodbye to Morocco!



📍 Rabat, Morocco

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21 Rue de Tunis

Rabat, Morocco

Telephone: +212 530-200394

<http://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-2962-hotel-mercure-rabat-sheherazade/index.shtml>



📍 Fez, Morocco

Barceló Hotel

53 Avenue Hassan II

Fez, Morocco

Telephone: + 212 53 594-8800

http://www.barcelo.com/barcelohotels/en_us/hotels/morocco/fez/hotel-barcelo-fes-medina/descripcion-general.aspx



📍 Marrakech, Morocco

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<http://www.atlasmedinaspamarrakech.com/index.htm>

