

Morocco close up

Picture yourself studying Arabic
in a historic immersion
environment with
enthusiastic classmates and
dedicated teachers

Summer, 2017

The Program

- | | |
|--|---|
| June 3 | Depart from USA |
| June 4 | Arrive Casablanca or Rabat,
travel of Meknes on your
own; meet host family |
| June 5 | Begin 4-12 week Arabic
language and culture
immersion programs

2 day-trips to Roman ruins
and the ocean or similar,
weekly cultural activities |
| June 30,
July 14 or 28,
Aug 11 or 25 | Ends immersion 4-12 week
programs, final party,
transcripts; leave host
family the next morning |



AALIM
(www.aalimorocco.com)

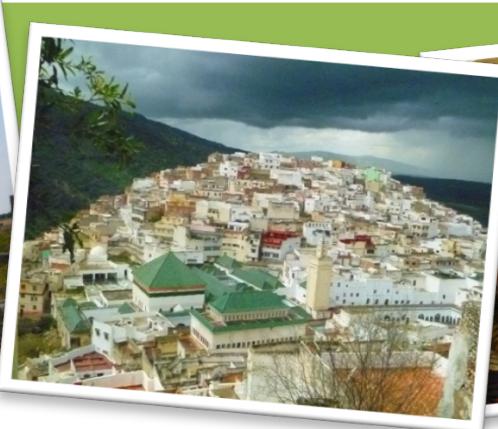
The heart of Morocco

The Kingdom of Morocco is located on the northwest edge of the African continent, a land that has been inhabited by human beings since pre-historic times. It has been home to Arabic speakers since the 700s CE and the oldest continually functioning university in the world is found in Fez, about 45 minutes from Meknes, where your immersion program is held at the Arab American Language Institute in Morocco (AALIM). The Institute is a recognized language and cultural center, which hosts hundreds of American students each year.

The faculty is experienced, knowledgeable and dedicated. AALIM's goal is to help each student meet his or her language learning goals while enjoying a rich cultural experience.

Why is Meknes special?

Much of Meknes was built in the 1600s by the ruler Moulay Ismail to rival Versailles in France (you will visit his tomb and see the amazing walls of the Imperial City). Today it is a vibrant mixture of old and new, visited by few tourists. It is large enough to be interesting, small enough to be interested.



History, human geography

See a Roman olive press from 2,000 years ago, eat authentic Moroccan food, see amazing Moroccan crafts and the people who make them, learn to talk to them, get to know real Moroccans!

You will experience an intensive and productive language learning program, but you will also live with a Moroccan host family. See the culture from the inside as a tourist never will. You will eat authentic Moroccan food prepared fresh from local ingredients. The menus follow the seasons, and the variety of the food is

impressive. Most dishes feature generous portions of vegetables and most often fruit is served for dessert. This is not to downplay the fantastic selection of Moroccan pastries and sweets, almost always accompanied by the ubiquitous mint tea.

On outings, you will visit the ruins at Volubilis, the furthest

south of Roman outposts. The Romans inhabited this city for 200 years but never dominated the surrounding area. Feel the spirit of these ancient people, reflect on how many clothes were washed at the stone basin to wear it down to a smooth hollow...

The nearby village of Moulay Idriss



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(above), established by the first Muslim leader in the region, is a site of religious pilgrimage to this day. It was long closed to non-Muslims and is still off the beaten tourist track. The main plaza in the village provides a chance to shop for local goods.

A trip to the ancient Portuguese fortress-village of Asila on the Atlantic coast allows you to experience northern Morocco and frolic on summer beaches. The Saturday trip allows you the option of continuing to Tangier and returning on your own to Meknes by train

on Sunday night. Other free weekends give you the chance to organize your own adventure travels by train or bus throughout the country.



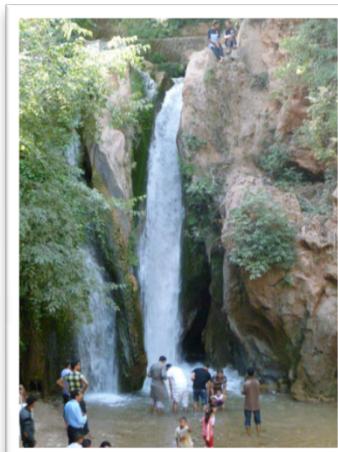
Fez is made up of a “modern” city built by the French during the Protectorate (1912-1956) and an “Old Medina” built in the 800s. Fez Al-Bali, as the Old Medina is known, is home to the oldest continuously operating university in the world as well as several other famous sites and countless craftsmen’s workshops, including the famous vats (above) where leather is dyed using centuries’-old techniques. Fine pottery and traditional musical instruments are handmade in Fez, as are baskets and woven blankets. The Medina’s narrow alleys do not allow for car traffic and donkeys are still a popular choice for transporting heavy objects.

After visiting Fez, you may go on to the nearby village of

Where can you go on your own? Fez, Safrou, Rabat, Marrakech.....

Fast forward a thousand years from Volubilis to Fez, home to the largest “Old Medina” in North Africa and believed to be the largest car-free urban area in the world. Safrou is important for Jewish history, Rabat is the country’s capitol of and Marrakech is...Marrakech!

Safrou, famous for its springtime cherry festival. This town, with its charming



small Old Medina bordering a stream, and its impressive waterfall, was long populated by a large community of Moroccan Jews. Today, the Jewish population in Morocco is only about 1% but Moroccans remain proud of the centuries of good relations between Muslims and Jews living side by side in their country.

In Rabat, you can visit the magnificent Chellah ruins, which boast not only Roman



Hundreds of storks nest in the Chellah ruins ruins, but earlier Phoenician ruins and later Arabo-Islamic ruins. You can visit the Hassan Tower and the mausoleum of Mohamed V, grandfather of the present king, Mohamed VI.

In the “Red City” Marrakech, get a taste of southern Morocco with its crafts, mountains and monuments. The Place Jmna A-Fnaa is a non-stop street festival! Marhaba bikum! (Welcome!)