

Morocco

Casablanca - Fes - Marrakech

November 5 - 15, 2019

Sarasota & Friends



Day 1: Tuesday Nov. 5-Departure Day

Depart USA on Royal Air Maroc from JFK to Casablanca with connections from Sarasota, FL and other US cities; or Depart Sarasota via Delta Airlines/Air France to Casablanca (Other airlines are available to those considering the Spain Post Optional Trip).



Day 2: Wednesday Nov. 6-Welcome to Morocco!!

- Arrival at Casablanca Airport
- Pick up and transfer to Kenzi Tower Hotel
- Hotel Check-in
- Spend the rest of the day relaxing at the Hotel (Hotel Spa: Optional)
- Welcome - Moroccan Theme Dinner at Chez Basmane Restaurant

Kenzi Tower Hotel

The Kenzi Tower Hotel is a true emblem of Morocco that asserts its stunning position in the 28 story B tower of the Twin Center of Casablanca. Since 2009, the luxury hotel impresses with its size, the magic of its sight and the quality of its services. Its luxurious comfort and the elegance of its decoration make it Casablanca's address of customized service and the hotel to be when in search of excellence.



Chez Basmane Restaurant

Chez Basmane is a sumptuous, Moroccan-theme restaurant decorated in stucco, woodwork and mosaics. Its welcoming and comfortable dining rooms are filled with flowers and candles, and the prevailing colors of ochre, red and blue. Chez Basmane offers Moroccan gastronomic cuisine, which is accompanied by the musical sounds of the gimbri lute and tbal drum, and dancers.



Day 3: Thursday Nov. 7-Casablanca

- Breakfast at the Hotel (Included each day)
- Morning Activity - start your city tour of Casablanca ("The White City") by visiting:
 - Hassan II Mosque
 - Boulevard de la Corniche
- Lunch & Visit with Sidi Moumen Cultural and Idmaj Cultrual Centers - Ain Sabaa (Global Linkages Community Partners)
- After Lunch, you will continue your city tour by visiting:
 - Habous District
 - Place Mohammed V
- Evening Activity - Dinner at Rick's Café and "Casablanca" Movie Night



Hassan II Mosque

The Hassan II Mosque is one of the largest mosques in the world. It has a Minaret with a height of 200 to 210 meters; according to sources, the highest in the world.



Boulevard de la Corniche

Extending for several kilometers, the Boulevard de la Corniche is long avenue where you can walk and enjoy the beautiful Atlantic Ocean panorama, and experience a variety of activities: cafes and restaurants, playgrounds, leisure centers and cinemas.



Habous District

Habous District was built by the French between 1918 and 1955 to create a new Medina. It looks like a traditional Moroccan city, but with a few additions: modern facilities and bigger streets. In addition, Habous District is home to various traditional markets and the Royal Palace.



Place Mohammed V

The main square of the City, Place Mohammed V has a large fountain and is surrounded by beautiful examples of French colonial architecture.



Rick's Cafe

Rick's Cafe' recreates the bar made famous by Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman in Casablanca, the 1942 film classic. Set in an old courtyard-style mansion and built against the walls of the Old Medina of Casablanca, the restaurant-piano bar is filled with architectural and decorative details reminiscent of the film: curved arches, a sculpted bar, balconies, balustrades, and beaded and stenciled brass lighting.



Day 4: Friday Nov. 8-Casablanca/Rabat/Fes Road Trip!

- After Breakfast check out of the hotel for departure to Rabat, Morocco's capital city
- Arrive in Rabat and start your city tour by visiting:
 - Royal Palace
 - Hassan Tower
 - Kasbah Oudayas
 - Mohammed V Mausoleum
- Lunch (Included)
- Depart for Fes
- Arrive and Check-in at Riad Fes
- Dinner (Included) and overnight at the hotel

Riad Fes

Located in the heart of Fes medina (historic quarter), the hotel offers ornate Moorish-style quarters and a panoramic pool-side terrace with views of the Atlas Mountains. You can relax in the outdoor swimming pool or hammam. The Riad Fes Restaurant serves authentic Moroccan cuisine; and meals can be served in the hotel's dining room or on the rooftop terrace.



Monuments

The Hassan Tower is the most famous monument in Fes. Begun in 1195, the tower was intended to be the largest Minaret of the largest mosque in the Muslim world, but unfortunately construction was never completed. Before construction stopped, the tower reached 44 meters tall, approximately half of its intended 86 meter height. Instead of stairs, the tower is ascended by ramps. The architect of the Hassan Tower also designed the Koutoubia of Marrakech and the Giralda of Seville.



The other important monument on Hassan Tower's esplanade is the **Mausoleum Mohammed V**; which is a royal tomb. It houses the sarcophagus of King Mohammed V and the tombs of his sons (Prince Moulay Abdellah and King Hassan II). The mausoleum is beautiful, both outside with its white marble and pyramidal roof covered with green tiles, and inside with its Koranic calligraphy and marble columns.



The Kasbah Oudayas was built in the 12th century and housed the soldiers who went to holy war against the Christians in Spain. The houses and alleys of this old, fortified military camp have been repainted in blue and white. North of the Kasbah Oudayas is the semaphore platform that offers a panoramic view of the Beach of Rabat, the ocean and the Muslim cemetery Sidi Benachir Sale. The Kasbah Oudayas is a beautiful place to lose yourself in its alleys and admire this city within a city.



The Royal Palace or Dar al Makhzen was built in 1864 on the ruins of the former royal palace. Today, it is royal palace of the Alaouite sultan of the city of Fes and the seat of the government. While the palace is not open to the public, you are able view the imposing brass doors surrounded by zellige tilework and carved cedar wood, and view buildings that are capped with green tile roofs, vast gardens and decorated courtyards.



Day 5: Saturday Nov. 9-Fes

- Start your city tour by visiting:
 - Bab Bou Djeloud
 - Chouara Tannery
- Lunch (Own Account)
- Continuation of the city tour
 - Madrasa Bou Inania
 - Nejjarine Fountain
- Return to the Hotel for Rest and Relaxation
- Les Jardins de Sheherazade at the Palais Sheherazade Hotel

Monuments

Walk through the door of **Bab Bou Djeloud** and enter the largest medina in Morocco. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, we strongly encourage you to stroll through its labyrinthine streets and take in the tanners, ceramists, and aromas of bread, copper and tea; a journey of all senses.



Chouara Tannery is the oldest (dating back to the Middle Ages) and most impressive of all tanneries. Take the opportunity to walk around the pools of dye and meet local artisans who continue this ancestral craft. For the photographer: take to the heights for a view of all the tanneries. The pools form a patchwork of bright colors.



The Nejjarine Fountain is located to the right of the entrance of Fundouk, Fes. It is a pretty zellige-decorated fountain with a carved wooden pediment. The Nejjarine Fountain is one of the most beautiful public fountains in the medina of Fes and dates back to the 17th century.



The Madrasa Bou Inania was built between 1350 and 1357 on the orders of Sultan Abu Inan. It is last madrasa—or college of Islamic studies—built by the Marinids in Fes, and is also the largest and most expensive. The only particularity of Bou Inania is its courtyard, paved with marble. A diversion of the wadi Fes was practiced; bringing water into the madrasa which served the faithful arriving on foot to practice their ablutions before praying.



Palais Sheherazade

Located within the Palais Sheherazade, Les Jardins de Sheherazade offers a unique gastronomic Moroccan table. The restaurant welcomes you into a luxurious environment and allows you to discover the inventive and ancestral cuisine of Fes, the cultural and gastronomic capital of Morocco. The menu includes classic Moroccan dishes as well as inventions from the Palais Sheherazade that are inspired by historical books from century old thinkers. You will enjoy your meal in the open sky patio, surrounded by the garden with century-old palms and beautiful vegetation. Les Jardins de Sheherazade's zellige columns adorned with sculpted plaster, white marble fountain, copper chandeliers and giant vegetation wall with intoxicating aromas will transport you centuries away to the era of 1001 nights.



Day 6: Sunday Nov. 10-Fes/Marrakech

- After Breakfast, Hotel Check Out and departure to Marrakech
- Arrive in Marrakech and Lunch
- Check-in at Palais Aziza & Spa
- City tour will start with a visit of Koutoubia Mosque and the Famous Jamaa El Fna Square
- Dinner at Café Arabe (Included)
- Late Evening Activity - Night visit to Jamaa el Fna Square (Optional)

Palais Aziza & Spa

While conveniently close to the heart of Marrakech, Palais Aziza & Spa is discreetly nestled away in the exclusive Palm Grove "La Palmerie", and is an elegant and serene haven of luxury and simplicity.



Monuments

Located in Marrakech's Djemaa el Fna Square, the **Koutoubia Mosque** is a landmark and the largest mosque in Marrakech. The meaning of 'mosque' is place where one bows down in a prayer. Consequently, a mosque is the center of religious life in Islam. Built during the Hispano-Moresque period, which is known for its simple, yet masterful craftsmanship and luxury, the Koutoubia Mosque is said to be the most beautiful and proportioned mosque in the world.



Jamaa el Fna is a large public square and marketplace in Marrakech's medina quarter (old city). It remains the main square of Marrakech, filled with merchants and hawkers, and is known for its traditional activities by storytellers, musicians and performers. Jamaa el Fna is magical and a destination for all. It opens in early morning, and activities and performances continue until late evening. Jamaa el Fna Square is listed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.



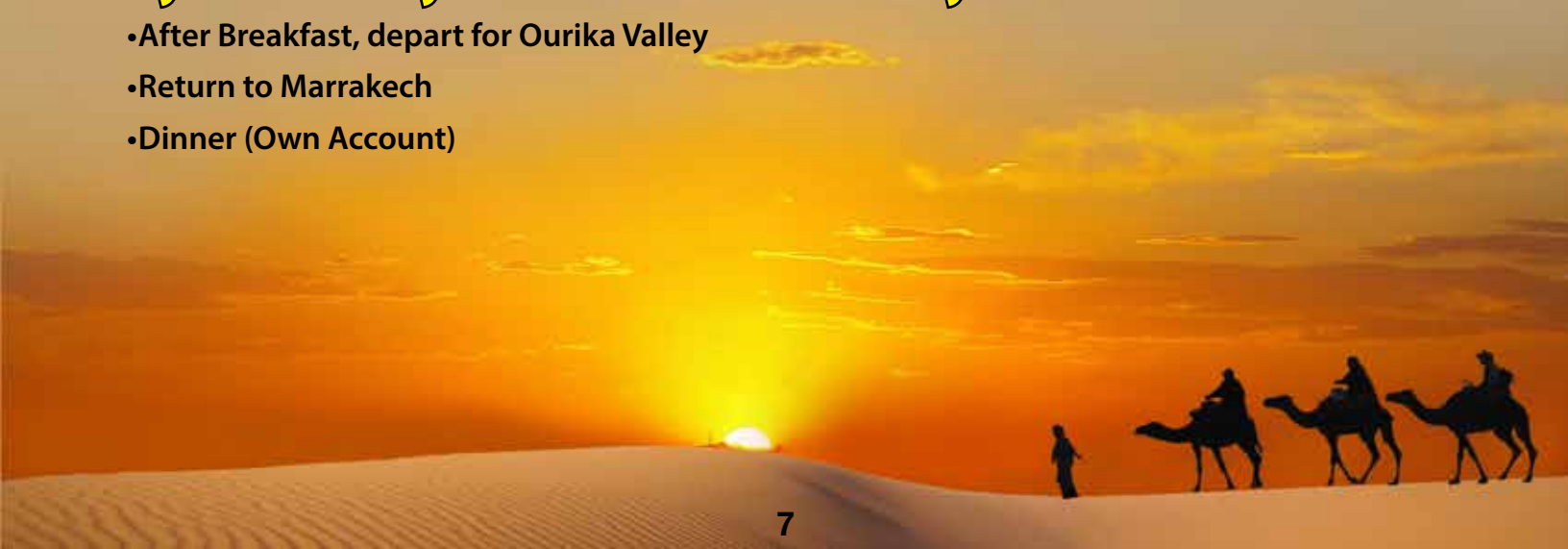
Dinner At Café Arabe

Located in the medina of Marrakech, The Cafe' Arabe offers Italian and Moroccan cuisine, served in the restaurant's courtyard or on the terrace. You will dine in a traditional, yet contemporary environment, and be immersed into a magical, enchanting and charming atmosphere.



Day 7: Monday Nov. 11-Ourika Valley

- After Breakfast, depart for Ourika Valley
- Return to Marrakech
- Dinner (Own Account)



Full Day Excursion to Ourika Valley

Discover the delights of Ourika Valley in Morocco's Atlas Mountains on our one day trip from Marrakech. Along the way, you will visit a traditional Berber House to sip mint tea with the locals and learn about their lifestyle and have an opportunity to visit the weekly Berber Market. Afterwards, you will have a chance to experience the wonderful panoramas of the waterfalls in Setti Fatma and enjoy a hike through the village in Ourika Valley that is carved into the foothills of the Atlas Mountains. You will then cross a charming footbridge to a traditional restaurant along the river for lunch.



Day 8: Tuesday Nov. 12-Camel Ride & Artistic/Cultural Tour of Marrakech

- One hour Camel Ride
- Jardin Majorelle
- The new Museum of Yves Saint Laurent
- The Saadian Tombs
- Return to the hotel for some rest
- Dinner and Cultural show at Chez Ali



Monuments

The Jardin Majorelle in Marrakech is one of the most visited sites in Morocco. It took French painter Jacques Majorelle 40 years of passion and dedication to create this enchanting garden in the heart of the “Ochre City”, and was his residence until the 1950s. In the 1980s, the property was purchased by fashion designers Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Berge’ who worked to restore it. Today the garden and villa complex (Villa Oasis) is open to the public. As you walk along the garden’s shady lanes in the midst of trees and exotic plants, you will pass burbling streams and pools filled with water lilies and lotus flowers; you will hear rustling leaves and chirping birds; and you will smell sugared fragrances.



The Villa Oasis currently houses the Islamic Art Museum of Marrakech, the Berber Museum and the recently opened (October 2017) **Musee Yves Saint Laurent**. The Musee Yves Saint Laurent is a 43,000 square foot building adjacent to the Jardin Majorelle, and features Moroccan influences with terrazzo and intricate brickwork making up its facade. The interior is characterized by both curving and straight volumes, which bely the colorful archives of fashions and sketches on display. In addition to permanent and temporary exhibition space, the Musee Yves Saint Laurent encompasses a 140 seat auditorium, boutique, bookshop, cafe-restaurant and research library comprising 5,000 volumes.



The Saadian Tombs, which are located in the Almoahidi Kasbah in Marrakech, were constructed during the reign of Sultan Ahmad al-Mansur in the late 16th century. Hidden from the world for approximately 200 years, the tombs were discovered in 1917 and renovated by the Beaux-arts service. Housing two lavish mausoleums with approximately 60 tombs, including those of Ahmad al-Mansur and his family, and over 100 more in the beautiful gardens, the Saadian Tombs are an architectural masterpiece and one of the most elaborate and best preserved resting places in Morocco today. As a result of the beauty of their decoration, the tombs are a major tourist attraction.



Chez Ali

Chez Ali Restaurant is THE place of 1001 nights. Your evening will include a sumptuous dinner and memorable show in Berber tents; belly dancers, acrobats, riders, fireworks and folk music. An enchanting wonderland filled with Moroccan hospitality!



Day 9: Wednesday Nov. 13-Optional Activities

- Choose to participate in one or more of the Optional Activities Offerings for an additional cost:
 - Hot Air Balloon Ride at Sunrise
 - Quad (Dirt Bike) in the Palmeraie of Marrakech
 - Spa/Hammam Day
 - Belly Dancing Class
 - Moroccan Cooking Class

Hot Air Balloon Ride

In the magical and amazing world of ballooning everything takes on another dimension! Your balloon will serve as a unique balcony that allows you to see Marrakech and the Atlas Mountains from a different vantage point. Floating approximately 20 kilometers above ground, you will partake in an exceptional experience and enjoy an unforgettable view of Marrakech.

Balloon Ride Itinerary

- Transfer by bus to flight location at approximately 5:30 am
- Welcome and general briefing
- Flight of about 1 hour 30 minutes
- Snack and Breakfast in one of the villages overflown
- Return to the hotel around noon



Quad (Dirt Bike)

Take a dirt bike ride and be surprised by the little-known Marrakech Desert. Enjoy a half day circuit on the rocky desert plains and through the grove of Marrakech between the wadis and palm trees. You will have an opportunity to explore the Berber villages, while simultaneously enjoying the scenery of the Atlas Mountains.



Spa/Hammam Day

Treat yourself to a relaxing, rejuvenating and pamper-filled day at a spa/hammam. Morocco has an exceptional selection of spa treatments through its traditions of hammams, massages, facials and use of highly therapeutic natural products, some of which are unique to the country. Moreover in Morocco, the hammam experience-- hot steam and scrub -- is more than just a visit to the public bathhouse or luxury spa, its a ritual! A list of Spas/ Hammams to follow. Be prepared to indulge yourself!



Day 10: Thursday Nov. 14-Relaxation Day

- Rest & Relaxation
- Farewell Event: White Party at Jnane Tamsna Hotel

Jnane Tamsna Hotel

The Jnane Tamsna Hotel is owned by Meryanne Loum-Martin, a Parisian lawyer of Senegalese and Caribbean descent, and is the only Black-woman owned business in Marrakech. Noted in Town & Country and Black Enterprise, Jnane Tamsna is a luxurious property within a walled garden and offers a sensuous experience in Moroccan and traditional African design. Although this boutique hotel is too small to provide lodging accommodations for our group, the Global Linkages Final Dinner will be held here. The restaurant offers a fusion of Mediterranean and Modern Moroccan food and serves dishes made with ingredients from the on-site organic garden.



Day 11: Friday Nov. 15-Departure

- Departure to US via Casablanca/Marrakech to Sarasota FL or other US cities, or Post Optional Tours



Cost:

Per Person Sharing: \$5125-JFK via Royal Air Maroc

\$5750 Sarasota departure via Delta Airlines/Air France (Does not include Premium Economy Seating)

Single Occupancy: Additional \$1275

(These fares are subject to final confirmation by Royal Air Maroc and Delta Airlines.)

Hotels: Accommodations are 5 stars.

Meals: Full breakfast daily included at the hotels. Other meals are included as noted.

Tours: All tours are included except for Optional Activities.

Trip includes:

- JFK - Casablanca/Marrakech Roundtrip Airfare (US connecting cities are an additional cost)
- Five star hotel accommodations
- All breakfasts
- Lunch and dinners where indicated
- All group tours
- Customized Events and Excursions
- Ground transportation in Morocco
- Group Personal Guides
- Yoga in Morocco Classes (TBC)
- Welcome Packages & Conference Call Orientations
- On the ground assistance in Morocco
- Travel assistance in the US
- On Ground Portage Gratuities

Post Optional Trip:

These options are available for Global Linkages participants. Please see optional tours description brochure for full description of the activities. Post optional tours should be confirmed by November 1, 2018 for air-fare booking purposes.

•Sevilla, Spain: This option is available for Global Linkages Participants

A deposit of \$500 will be required to reserve a place and must be paid check, money order, credit card, PayPal or Zelle. Includes base airfare, transfers to hotels, full breakfast and other selected meals and tours, as noted.

A payment schedule and plan will be available. Global Linkages will handle the payments and coordinate airfare, hotel reservations and tours. Trip travel insurance is available at an additional cost.

Trip must be paid in full by September 5, 2019

Questions:

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lkjglobalink@gmail.com or 973-819 6484

Morocco Logistics:

Shems Travel Casablanca, Morocco

Morocco

Casablanca - Fes - Marrakech

November 5 - 14, 2019

Sarasota & Friends



Reservation Form

Yes! Please reserve my space for the Casablanca/Fes/Marrakech 2019 Morocco Trip.

I have read and understand the attached payment and refund policy.

\$500 DEPOSIT REQUIRED

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I would like the following accommodations (Check one) _____ Single _____ Double

If double, my roommate will be _____

Method of Payment

____ Check or Money Order – Payable to Global Linkages

____ Credit Card - (5% transaction fee will be added)

_____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration date ____/____

Signature _____

This card is a ____ MasterCard ____ Visa ____ American Express ____ Discover (check one)

____ **Paypal** Email: lkjglobalink@aol.com (personal)

____ **Zelle** Email: lkjglobalink@aol.com

Send payments and form to:

Global Linkages, Inc.
320 South Harrison Street
Suite 16C
East Orange, NJ 07018

Email: lkjglobalink@gmail.com

Phone: 973-819 6484

Payment Schedule and Refund Policy

After paying a deposit of \$500 minimum, payments of \$500 and above will be accepted from those who prefer to pay for the trip in installments. A suggested payment plan will also be included in the welcome package.

Global Linkages accepts checks, money orders, and major credit cards (MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover). A returned check fee of \$30 will be charged for all returned checks. ***Please make checks and money orders payable to GLOBAL LINKAGES.***

Final payment must be received by Global Linkages no later than September 5, 2019.

Trip participants with balances due after this date will be charged an administrative fee of 10% of the balance cost of the trip.

REFUNDS*:

The refund policy is as follows:

May 14, 2018-June 15, 2018 – Deposit minus \$100

June 16, 2018-November 1, 2018 – Payment minus \$500

November 2, 2018-June 30, 2019 – Payment minus \$1000

July 1, 2019 to September 4, 2019 – Payment minus \$2,500

September 5, 2019 to Trip Departure – NO REFUNDS

*Participants are strongly encouraged to take Travel Insurance. While not mandatory, we recommend the purchase of insurance and will provide information in the welcome package you will receive following receipt of your deposit.



Global Linkages, founded in 1997 and based in the NJ-NYC metropolitan area, is a management consulting firm that specializes in developing partnerships with the African continent and the diaspora. As part of its services, Global Linkages provides “boutique travel experiences” that connect individuals, educational institutions, governments and businesses with unique and exciting explorations in Africa. This is primarily due to those extensive relationships created by the firm’s international development work. Global Linkages Principal Lorna K. Johnson, trained as a lawyer and urban planner, has been working in Africa for over 25 years and has made over 150 trips to the continent. In 2017, Global Linkages expanded its journeys and development work to Cuba; and is now pleased to include Morocco in its program.