



GASTON
COLLEGE

Globetrotters

GASTON

A Publication of Bob Blanton Study Tours @ Gaston College

Spring 2022

Kingdom of Morocco



The **Kingdom of Morocco** continues to be one of our most popular Gaston College Study Tour destinations. In May 2022, we will once again embark on a Moroccan adventure for a select group of 18 participants. This time we are adding some new locations on our Morocco itinerary, making this our most comprehensive tour.

This 10-day tour will include a visit to the northern **Mediterranean Coast**. We have arranged a quick trip from **Casablanca** to **Tangier** on the **Moroccan Fast Train**. Our luggage will be transported by our private motorcoach so that we do not have to bother with it on the train, and the trip that usually takes half a day is only a 2-hour journey by fast train. We will also go into the picturesque **Rif Mountains** in the north,

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Design & Layout by Debbie Bowen*

Itinerary Overview

Day 1 - Sunday, May 15

Flight to Casablanca

Day 2 - Monday, May 16

Arrive Casablanca, Hassan II Mosque, Old Medina area and souk

Day 3 - Tuesday, May 17

Casablanca to Tangier

Day 4 - Wednesday, May 18

Tangier to Fes via Chefchaouen

Day 5 - Thursday, May 19

Fes City Tour

Day 6 - Friday, May 20

Fes to Erfoud & Merzouga, Ziz Gorge, Midelt, Sahara Desert

Day 7 - Saturday, May 21

Merzouga – Todra – Boumalen-Dades

Day 8 - Sunday, May 22

Boumalen-Dades to Marrakech, Quarzazate, Kasbah of Ait Benhaddou, High Atlas Mountains

Day 9 - Monday, May 23

Marrakech to Casablanca, Koutoubia Mosque, Djemma al Fnaa, Majorelle Gardens

Day 10 - Tuesday, May 24

Depart Casablanca to Charlotte



Kingdom of Morocco

May 15 - 24, 2022

where we will do sightseeing at **Chefchaouen**, the jewel of the north. We will still travel to **Fes**, **Merzouga** and the **Sahara Desert**, the **Todra Gorge**, the **High Atlas Mountains**, **Ouarzazate** and **Marrakesh**. We are excited about this new itinerary, and hope that even if you have already visited Morocco you will join us from May 15th through May 24th for this five-star tour.



DAY 1

Sunday, May 15

Flight - Charlotte to Casablanca

- You depart from **Charlotte** for the overnight flight to **Casablanca**.

DAY 2

Monday, May 16

Arrive Casablanca

- Welcome to **Morocco**! Arrival in **Casablanca** where you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel in the center of the city.
- There will be a city tour which will include a visit to the vast **Hassan II Mosque**, the largest in Morocco.



- You will also be able to explore the old **Medina** area and souk.
- There will be time for you to explore the city on your own and to shop for souvenirs.
- Our hotel is located on the Corniche with various shopping opportunities close by.
- Dinner this evening will be arranged at a restaurant close to the hotel.



DAY 3

Tuesday, May 17

Casablanca to Tangier

- You depart from **Casablanca** this morning, taking the new high-speed train which travels to **Tangier** in just two hours. **Tangier** has a history dating back to when it was an important trading port on the **Barbary Coast**. Its more recent dissolute past, when the likes of Jack

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Kerouac and William Burroughs might have frequented its drinking dens, have been brushed aside and it is now a modern artistic city, retaining a colorful and lively Medina.

- You will arrive in time for lunch and an afternoon to explore the city. Make sure you visit the **Kasbah** and stroll through the ancient cobbled streets of the **Grand Socco**.

DAY 4

Wednesday, May 18

Tangier to Fes via Chefchaouen

- You depart from Tangier this morning and travel up into the mountains to **Chefchaouen**.
- Along the way we plan to stop for a photograph of the southern coast of Spain across the Mediterranean.
- Founded in 1471, **Chefchaouen** was largely cut off from the outside world until the early 20th century. The houses of **Chefchaouen** are painted in extraordinary vibrant shades of blue and white, testament to the Jewish community from Spain that once thrived here.
- You can explore the Medina and main square with its lively cafés and restaurants. The town is famous for its silks and wools and can be a good place to buy

a rug or kilim from the souk. Be prepared to bargain hard!

- In the afternoon you continue to **Fes** with time to explore on your own.
- In the evening, dinner will be in a restaurant overlooking the souk.



DAY 5

Thursday, May 19

Fes City Tour

- The day will be spent in **Fes**, a fascinating city which dates from medieval times. It is undoubtedly one of the jewels of the north of Morocco and an afternoon spent exploring its labyrinthine souks will reveal a city lost in time, while its palaces, city walls and Kasbah will enthrall you.
- Dinner this evening will be at your hotel.



DAY 6

Friday, May 20

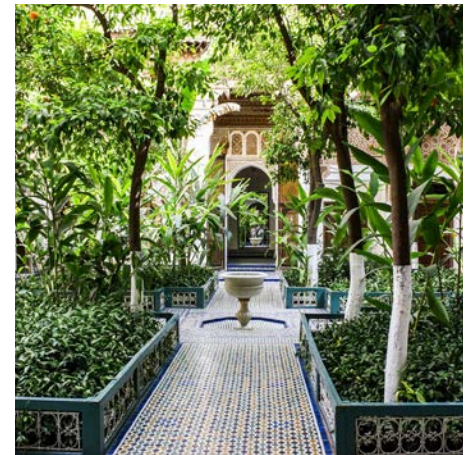
Fes to Erfoud

- Today, you'll travel to the **Merzouga Desert** over the **Col du Zad** at almost 7000 feet in the **Moyen Atlas via Azrou, Zaida, Midelt Er-Rich, Errachidia** and **Erfoud**.
- As you near, you'll see the 600 foot high **Erg Chebbi** sea of sand dunes on the horizon.
- In **Merzouga**, after some welcoming mint tea at your hotel, if you wish you can take a camel ride to a high sand dune for the sunset before stargazing in the evening.
- Overnight in Xaluca Tombouctou hotel.

DAY 7

Saturday, May 21

Merzouga-Todra-Boumalen-Dades



- Departing from **Erfoud** you now travel west to **Tinghir** to visit the spectacular **Todra Gorge**, where the **Dades River** has carved out a 25-mile-long canyon with sheer walls rising several hundred feet.
- You have time here to explore the canyon and have lunch.

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- After lunch you continue to the town of **Boumalen-Dades** which is inhabited by Berber people and where you spend the night.

DAY 8 **Sunday, May 22** **Boumalen-Dades to Marrakech**



- Today you drive to the town of **Ouarzazate** which has an impressive old Medina. **Ouarzazate** has a vibrant film industry and many Hollywood films are made at its studios or on location outside the city.
- You continue the journey towards **Marrakech** and stop at the renowned **Kasbah of Ait Benhaddou**, the setting of many famous Hollywood films.
- You cross the **Atlas Mountains** via the spectacular **Tizi n Tichka** pass and descend on the north south side of the pass to reach **Marrakech**.

DAY 9 **Monday, May 23** **Marrakech to Casablanca**

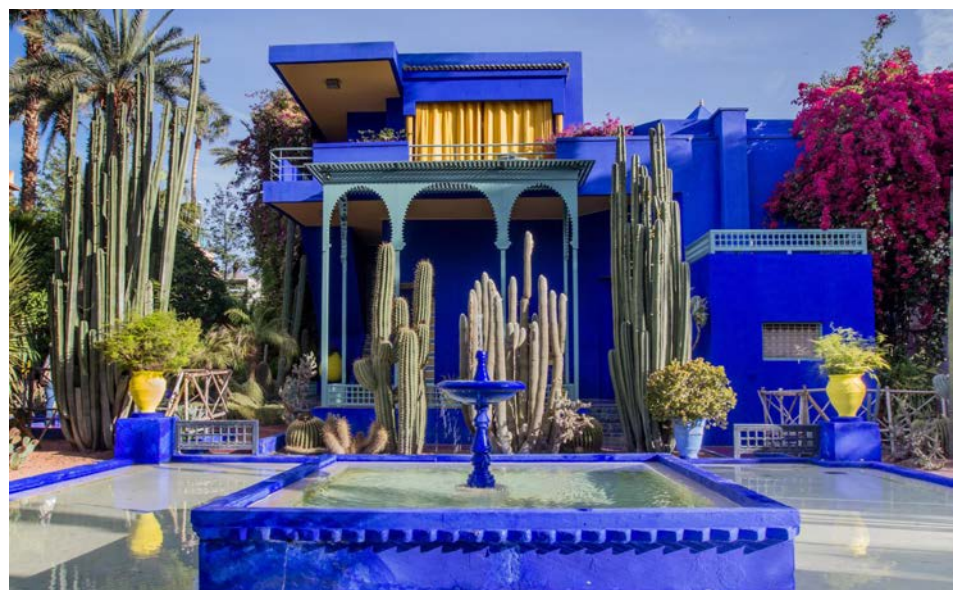
- This morning you have a guided tour of the **Old Medina** quarter of the city starting with the ancient **Koutoubia Mosque**, which dates from the 12th century. While it's not possible for non-Muslims to go inside the mosque, you can explore the surrounding gardens.
- You then walk over to the main square of **Marrakech**, the **Djemma al Fnaa**. This huge square (often just called the main square) is a vibrant mix of food stalls, musicians, jugglers, snake charmers and other performers, all vying for your attention.
- Beyond the **Djemma** you can find the **Souk**, a cavernous and rambling maze of narrow

alleyways with stalls selling every manner of products imaginable. You need your bargaining skills to be at their sharpest here.

- An optional visit could include the famous **Majorelle Gardens**, which were once owned by Yves St. Laurent.
- In the afternoon you travel by road back to **Casablanca**.
- Your farewell dinner this evening will be arranged at **Rick's Café**, a recreation of the original movie set.

DAY 10 **Tuesday, May 24** **Depart Casablanca-Arrive in Charlotte**

- Your flight departs from Casablanca this morning and arrives in Charlotte the evening of the same day.





What IS Included in the Tour Package

- Round-trip flights from Charlotte to Casablanca
- Accommodations at 4- and 5-star hotels in twin or double rooms throughout your stay in Morocco
- Breakfasts and dinners at your hotel (except for three dinners at local restaurants)
- Welcome dinner at a city restaurant in Casablanca
- One dinner at a restaurant in Fes
- Farewell dinner at Rick's Cafe in Casablanca
- Transportation by private coach for airport transfers, sightseeing and all touring
- Land Rover (or similar) 4x4 vehicles for Merzouga and the desert dunes drive
- Bottled mineral water provided on the coach throughout the tour
- Professional tour guide throughout
- Specialized local guides as required
- All admission fees and excursions as mentioned on your itinerary
- 100% Financial Protection through our Travel Trust Association License

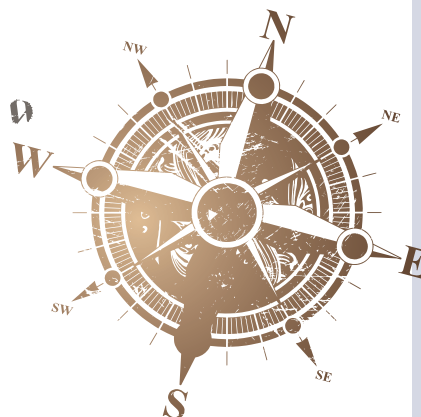


IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The airlines and overseas countries are **REQUIRING** that all participants on our international study tours **MUST** present proof of full-vaccination for COVID-19 before boarding the plane.

What Is NOT Included in the Tour Package

- Valid passport (Visas are not currently required for US citizens)
- Travel Insurance
- Lunches and drinks with meals
- Tips for driver and guide
- Additional single-room supplements
- Cost of Gaston College registration



All-Inclusive Tour Price

Land and air package:
\$3,535 per person, double-occupancy hotel with transportation and fees (based on 18 paying tour members).

**Reservation Form
Kingdom of Morocco**

May 15-24, 2022

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM, DETACH AND SEND TO
GASTON COLLEGE STUDY TOURS AT THE ADDRESS BELOW.**

Send a \$500 (per person) deposit by check or credit card
(credit card payments can be made at 704.922.6435).

Deposits must be received on or before **February 5, 2022**,
by Bob Blanton at the address below:

Full name (as it appears on your passport): _____

Current address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email: _____

Valid passport number (for airlines): _____

Expiration date: _____

Note: Many foreign countries now require that your passport be
valid at least 6 months after you end your visit. Make sure yours
will meet this requirement.

I wish to room with: _____

I require a private room at additional cost: _____

Special dietary/health needs (for hotels/airlines): _____

- I am covered by my own health/hospitalization insurance
policy while overseas. You must provide proof of coverage.
- I plan to purchase additional health/hospitalization insurance
(on my own). Trip Mate is our preferred company.

Bob Blanton, Study Tours Director
Box 76, Gaston College
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Dallas, NC 28034-1499



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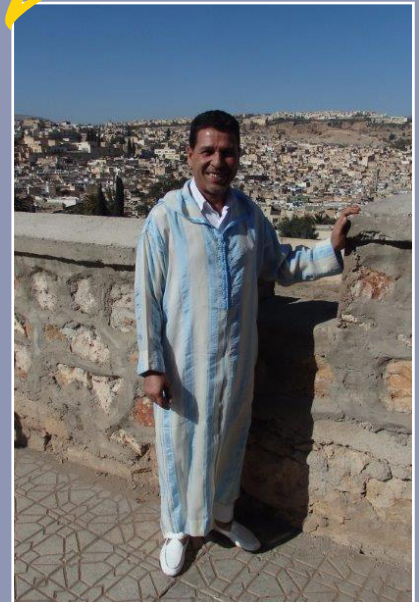
Reservations

Kingdom of Morocco
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All prices based upon a minimum of 18 paying participants (prices are valid at the time of this printing, but are subject to change). Tours are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Checks should be made payable to Gaston College Study Tours, and payment should be sent directly to Bob Blanton, Gaston College Study Tours, Box 76, Gaston College, 201 Highway 321 South, Dallas, NC 28034. NOTE: Even those who pay by credit card are required to return this reservation form.

Final Payment Deadline
February 15, 2022

Zahir
OUR GUIDE



**THE BEST NATIONAL GUIDE
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