Explore Morocco, reaching beyond the Kingdom’s most famed attractions — including its seven World Heritage Sites — to also penetrate the hidden facets of the land, visiting astounding locales of history and nature, meeting with locals in all walks of life. The program reaches from legendary Tangier in the far North to the Sahara Desert in the deep South, crossing the majestic Atlas Mountains in between. Along the way you will wander through vibrant medinas, where scents of spices and leather abound; learn about the traditions of Morocco’s indigenous Berber tribesmen at Mt. Toubkal National Park; hear insights from the curators of the unique Museum of Moroccan Judaism and the historic American Legation Museum; enjoy private home receptions as well as a tasting of fine crûs at a vineyard dating back to French days; explore ancient kasbahs well off tourism tracks; see Barbary macaques and tree-climbing goats; and enjoy the best of one of the world’s most refined cuisines.

Itinerary:

Day 1 (Oct. 9) | Depart Home
Depart your gateway city on a flight* to Casablanca, Morocco. (*flights not included in program price)

Day 2 (Oct. 10) | Casablanca
After arriving in Casablanca, meet your local guide and transfer to your hotel. This afternoon take a driving tour of Casablanca and visit the Hassan II Mosque, Africa’s largest Mosque. Tonight enjoy a welcome dinner at Rick’s Café Casablanca. (D)

Day 3 (Oct. 11) | Casablanca and Rabat
Start the day with a special program at the Museum of Moroccan Judaism, with an exposé by its curator on the coexistence of Judaism and Islam in Morocco over the centuries. Then proceed to the state capital Rabat and enjoy a seafood lunch by the crashing waves of the Atlantic. From there stroll through the Chellah fortress and its lush gardens and Roman remains. (B, L, D)

Day 4 (Oct. 12) | Rabat and Salé
This morning, take a tour of Salé across the Bou Regreg river, a gem overlooked by mass tourism. For lunch, head to the Center for Cross-Cultural Learning within Rabat’s medina and enjoy a lecture on women and Islam in Morocco. In the afternoon visit the new Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, the King-
Day 5 (Oct. 13) | Tangier
Transfer to Tangier, once known as the ‘Den of Intrigue’ on the Strait of Gibraltar. Experience a private lunch in the garden chalet of a long-time British resident. Explore the American Legation Museum’s collections of art and historical documents with the museum curator. (B, L, D)

Day 6 (Oct. 14) | Celliers to Fes
Visit Celliers de Meknes, Morocco’s prime wine producer and enjoy lunch, a tour of the caves, and a tasting of their finest crus. Later, see the astounding granary in Meknes, which in the 17th century could feed the city’s whole population and 12,000 horses for an entire year. Finally, delight in the numerous beautiful mosaics in Volubilis dating back to the 3rd century. Dinner tonight is at the hotel, home to one of Northern Morocco’s finest traditional cuisines. (B, L, D)

Day 7 (Oct. 15) | Fes
This morning, walk through 9th century “Old” Fes, considered by scholars to be the last true example of a typical medieval Arab town. Visit the recently restored Attarine Medersa, the finest artistic achievement of the 14th century Merinid Dynasty and the 17th century Nejjarine caravansary, now an exquisite museum of wood art. Next visit the world’s oldest functioning university, the Qaraouine, with its famed, colorful leather tanneries, specialty bazaars, and craft workshops amongst other sights. In the afternoon, visit the famed “Blue Gate” and see workshops where locals create pottery and zellige mosaic tile, a Fes specialty. (B, L)

Day 8 (Oct. 16) | Cedars to the Sahara
Drive into the Middle Atlas Mountains this morning, home of the last forest of giant Mediterranean cedars. You may even see a band of the indigenous Barbary macaques (monkeys). Stop for lunch in the Berber enclave Midelt and then arrive in time for dinner at the edge of the Sahara Desert. (B, L, D)

Day 9 (Oct. 17) | Tafilalet and Sijilmassa
Visit the Tafilalet oasis, Morocco’s largest oasis with 120,000 date-bearing palms to see the remains of former caravan hub Sijilmassa. Enjoy a lunch of local Saharan specialties. In mid-afternoon head out into the desert to the Erg Chebbhi sea of dunes, rising 600 feet above the desert’s floor. Take time to clamber up the dunes (or take an optional camel) to witness sunset over the Sahara. (B, L, D)

Day 10 (Oct. 18) | Valleys of Castles
Today, head west along desert hills until you reach the deep, narrow Todgha River Gorge, Morocco’s “Grand Canyon.” Eat lunch overlooking the valley in market center Tinghir, where we take time to walk through the narrow alleys of its 16th century adobe Kasbah, to see how these outposts were designed for defense against desert marauders. (B, L, D)

Day 11 (Oct. 19) | Aït ben Haddou
View World Heritage Site Aït ben Haddou, an assembly of multi-storied fortified granaries used often as background for films (e.g., “Gladiator”). Arrive in Marrakech around midday and learn about the ancient city with a tour. Finish up at the private Dar Tiskwin Museum of fine rural crafts from Morocco and sub-Saharan Africa and then feast on a dinner of Moroccan specialties in the heart of the old city. (B, L, D)

Day 12 (Oct. 20) | Souq and Majorelle
Explore the country’s largest market, where many types of crafts are still fashioned by hand (and foot!). After browsing among the myriad of wares and colors, proceed to the new city for a continental lunch. This afternoon, stroll in the exotic garden of French Orientalist Jacques Majorelle and its new Museum of Berber Culture. (B, L)
Day 13 (Oct. 21) | Essaouira

Stop at a cooperative to see how the area’s precious argan oil, used both for cuisine and therapy, is manually extracted from the nuts of the endemic argan trees. Walk through Essaouira and explore the colorful port town, including a visit to a gallery for a taste of the town’s unique naïve art scene and a fresh seafood lunch. (B, L)

Day 14 (Oct. 22) | Mt. Toubkal National Park

Depart early this morning for Imlil village at the base of Mt. Toubkal, North Africa’s highest peak at 14,000 feet tall. From there take a mule ride through the village to observe the ways of life of the Berber tribesman, Morocco’s indigenous inhabitants. Take a tea break in a local home and enjoy a Berber lunch at the award-winning Kasbah du Toubkal Ecolodge. Tonight, enjoy a farewell private dinner at the home of a former U.S. Ambassador amid the palm groves outside the city. (B, L, D)

Day 15 (Oct. 23) | Return home

Today after breakfast, transfer to the Marrakech airport for your homeward flight. (B)

(*flights not included in program price)

*Price is per person based on double occupancy unless otherwise noted and is subject to change.

Meals Included as listed: B=Breakfast; L= Lunch; D=Dinner

Enrichment Lecturer: Dr. Laurence Michalak is a cultural anthropologist who was Vice Chair of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Cal for 23 years. Since retiring Larry continues to do research and publish on the Arab world. He teaches occasionally at Cal and on Semester at Sea. From 2006 to 2010 he was Director of the Center for North African Studies in Tunis. After serving in Tunisia as a Peace Corps Volunteer (1964-66) and Associate Director (1967-69), he has visited and worked in almost every country of the Middle East. His main foreign languages are Arabic (including Moroccan dialect) and French. He received his BA from Stanford (1964), his MA from the University of London (1970) and his Ph.D. from Cal (1983). Among his interests are markets, migration, and Islam. He has published edited books on social legislation in the contemporary Middle East and international migration in North Africa. This will be his third Cal Discoveries trip to Morocco.

Please note: Cal lecturer’s participation is contingent on a minimum number of 14 paying travelers and cannot be guaranteed.

About the accommodations:

Kenzi Tower, the tallest building in the city, located in the fashionable Gauthier district. (Casablanca)

Villa Mandarine boutique hotel, located in the Agdal diplomatic enclave outside town, with each of its rooms opening up to a lush garden (Rabat - 2 nights).

The legendary El Minzah in the heart of the city, built in the style of a parador, in Deluxe rooms. (Tangier)

Riad Maison Bleue, three former vast homes within the medina, connected and converted to a unique boutique hotel, with spa and one of Northern Morocco’s finest traditional cuisines (Fes - 2 nights in Junior Suites).

Kasbah Xaluca, built in regional adobe style, with eclectic interiors using local crafts (Arfoud - 2 nights).

Le Berbere Palace, the favorite of the film crews. (Ouarzazate)

La Maison Arabe, each of its but 26 units in a different style full of Oriental character, with a traditional spa, located just inside the medina (Marrakech - 4 nights).
Enclosed is my/our deposit of $_______________($600 per person) for ___________ person/people on the above tour.

Make check payable to Cal Alumni Association (CAA), or charge my deposit to:

□ AMEX  □ Discover  □ MasterCard  □ VISA

Card # ___________________________________________________________ Expiration Date ___________________________

Signature: __________________________________________________________________ Date ___________________________

Names of each traveler as they appear on your Passport:

Traveler 1 ____________________________________________________________ Cal Class Year _________________________
Email:_______________________________________________________________ Date of Birth: ________________________

Traveler 2 ____________________________________________________________ Cal Class Year _________________________
Email:_______________________________________________________________ Date of Birth: ________________________

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Signature: __________________________________________________________________ Date ___________________________

CAA MEMBERSHIP POLICY
One traveler per room, whether alumni or friend, must be a current Cal Alumni Association members to participate in CalDiscoveries travel offerings. For the Cal Alumni Association, $50 for seniors 65 years and over, and $60 for those who are 64 years and under establishes a regular or affiliate membership with all other Association benefits. A married couple and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. Memberships are for individuals only, and are nonrefundable and non-transferable. Please make dues payable to CAA by separate check, or if you prefer, provide a Visa, Mastercard, or American Express number with expiration date for payment.

PLEASE NOTE:
Your deposit will be charged upon receipt and is completely refundable until we receive your sign-off on the final brochure. At that time we will send you a confirmation with information about travel insurance. Please do not make any non-refundable airline reservations until we can fully confirm the completion of this trip.

Cost includes:
Group transfer from the airport upon arrival and departure if on the day of program arrival/departure; 1 night at Casablanca's Kenzi Tower, 2 nights at Rabat's Villa Mandarine, 1 night at Tangier's El Minzah, 2 nights at Fes's Riad Maison Bleue in Junior Suites, 2 nights at Aorfoud's Kasbah Xaluca, 1 night at Ouarzazate's Berbere Palace, 4 nights at Marrakech's La Maison Arabe; Daily breakfast; 12 lunches; 10 dinners; house wine and beer with all dinners; 2 private home receptions; Private tour of the Jewish Museum and American Legation with their curators; All coach transfers; All entrance fees and sightseeing listed in the itinerary; English-speaking guide; Price listed is per-person based on double occupancy.

Cost does not include:
International air fare; Meals and beverages not listed through the program; Personal insurance, medical expenses, passport or visa fees; Activities not listed as part of the daily itineraries; Alcoholic beverages or sodas with meals (aside from those listed); Travel insurance; Items of a personal nature

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