MOROCCO
MYSTIQUE AND BREATHTAKING BEAUTY

October 9–23, 2016
Accompanied by Dr. Laurence Michalak
Explore Morocco, reaching beyond the Kingdom’s most famed attractions — including its seven World Heritage Sites — to penetrate the hidden facets of the land, visit astounding locales of history and nature, meeting with locals from 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, wander through vibrant medinas where scents of spices and leather waft along alleyways framed by centuries-old architecture; learn about the traditions of Morocco’s indigenous Berber tribesmen in the spectacular setting of the 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 crus at a vineyard dating back to French days; explore ancient kasbahs off tourism tracks; see Barbary macaques and tree-climbing goats; and enjoy the best of one of the world’s most refined cuisines.

**DATES:** October 9–23, 2016

**COST PER PERSON:** $5,495 per person double occupancy (single supplement $1800)

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Group transfer from the airport upon arrival and departure if on the day of program arrival/departure; one 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 Arfoud’s Kasbah Xaluca, 1 night at Ouarzazate’s Berbere Palace, 4 nights at Marrakech’s La Maison Arabe; daily breakfast; twelve lunches and ten dinners; house wine and beer with dinner; two private home receptions; lectures by Dr. Laurence Michalak; 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.

**NOT INCLUDED:** International airfare; costs of passports; meals other than those specified; beverages other than those specified; optional tipping or gratuities; travel insurance, and other expenses of a personal nature (liquor, laundry, etc.).
**ITINERARY**

**DAY 1 | OCTOBER 9 Depart**
Depart your gateway city on a flight* to Casablanca, Morocco.

**DAY 2 | OCTOBER 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 | OCTOBER 11 Casablanca & Rabat**
Start the day with a special program at the Museum of Moroccan Judaism, with an exposé by its curator on the centuries-long coexistence of Judaism and Islam in Morocco. 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 | OCTOBER 12 Rabat & 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 Moroccan women and Islam. In the afternoon visit the new Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, the Kingdom’s sole museum built to world standards in a magnificent structure of neo-Moorish architecture. (B, L, D)

**DAY 5 | OCTOBER 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 | OCTOBER 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 seventeenth 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 third century. Dinner tonight is at the hotel, home to one of Northern Morocco’s finest traditional cuisines. (B, L, D)

**DAY 7 | OCTOBER 15 Fes**
This morning, walk through ninth-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 fourteenth-century Merinid Dynasty and the seventeenth-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 among other sights. In the afternoon, visit the famed Blue Gate and see workshops where locals create pottery and zellige mosaic tile, a Fesi specialty. (B, L)

**DAY 8 | OCTOBER 16 Cedars & Monkeys en Route 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. 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 | OCTOBER 17 The Tafilalet & Sijilmassa**
Visit the Tafilalet oasis, Morocco’s largest oasis with 120,000 date-bearing palms to see the remains of former caravan hub Sijilmassa, once Africa’s second largest city. 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 | OCTOBER 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 sixteenth century adobe kasbah, to see how these outposts were designed for defense against desert marauders. (B, L, D)

**DAY 11 | OCTOBER 19 Aït ben Haddou, Marrakech**
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 *International flights not included in program price
meals included as listed: B=breakfast buffet; L=lunch; D=dinner
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 | OCTOBER 20**
**Into the Souq & Majorelle Garden**
Explore the country’s largest traditional 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 | OCTOBER 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 this colorful port town, and visit a gallery for a taste of the town’s unique naïve art scene and a fresh seafood lunch. (B, L)

**DAY 14 | OCTOBER 22**
**Mt. Toubkal National Park**
Depart early this morning for Imlil village at the base of 14,000’ Mt. Toubkal, North Africa’s highest peak. From there take a mule ride through the nearby hamlets to observe the ways of life of the Berber tribesman, Morocco’s indigenous inhabitants. Take a tea break in a local home and savor a Berber lunch at the award-winning Kasbah du Toubkal Ecolodge. Tonight, enjoy a private farewell dinner at a former US ambassador’s home amid palm groves outside the city. (B, L, D)

**DAY 15 | OCTOBER 23**
**Return Home**
Today after breakfast, transfer to the Marrakech airport for your homeward flight. (B)

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**LECTURER**

Dr. Laurence Michalak is a cultural anthropologist and former 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 visited and worked in almost every country of the Middle East. His main foreign languages are Arabic (including a Moroccan dialect) and French. He received his BA from Stanford (1964), his MA from the University of London (1970) and his PhD from Cal (1983). Among his interests are markets, migration, and Islam. He has published and 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.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Make check payable to Cal Alumni Association (CAA) or charge my deposit to: [ ] Visa [ ] MasterCard [ ] American Express [ ] Discover

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