Smith College presents

MOROCCAN DISCOVERY
From the Imperial Cities to the Sahara
March 8-21, 2014

14 days from $4,729 total price from New York
($4,295 air & land inclusive plus $434 airline taxes and departure fees)

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for Smith Travel
Featuring Professor Ibtissam Bouachrine
Tour limited to 24 alumnae and friends of Smith College

MOROCCAN DISCOVERY
From the Imperial Cities to the Sahara

14 days from $4,729 total price from New York
($4,295 air & land inclusive plus $434 airline taxes and departure fees)

This land of dramatic contrasts invites you to encounter its ancient ruins and sacred mosques, endless desert and storied mountains, imposing kasbahs and spirited souks. Travel from the imperial cities of Rabat, Fez, and Marrakech to the High Atlas and vast Sahara, to experience a truly foreign land, an age-old culture, and genuinely hospitable people.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Casablanca, Morocco

Day 2: Casablanca/Rabat After arriving in Casablanca, the commercial center of Morocco (and of all North Africa), we travel to Rabat, where we check in at our hotel near famed Hassan Tower. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant in Rabat’s Old Town. L,D

Day 3: Rabat One of Morocco’s four ancient capitals, or imperial cities, Rabat is again the country’s capital, at once historic and contemporary as we discover on today’s tour. We visit the fortified Kasbah of the Oudaias, the peaceful Andalusian Gardens, and the necropolis of Chellah, built on ancient Roman ruins. Then we cross the river to Sale for lunch in a private home followed by a visit to Rabat’s Archaeological Museum and a walk through the medina. Late afternoon we return to our hotel, where we enjoy dinner tonight. B,L,D

Day 4: Rabat/Meknes/Volubilis/Fez This morning we depart Rabat for Fez, stopping along the way in Meknes, Morocco’s youngest imperial city (and UNESCO World Heritage site). We visit the Bab el Mansour gateway and the ruins of the imperial stables before lunch in a local restaurant. Then we continue on to the ancient Roman ruins at the UNESCO site of Volubilis, known for its intricate and colorful mosaics. Late afternoon we reach Fez and our elegant hotel adjacent to the medina, another UNESCO World Heritage site. B,L,D

Day 5: Fez Today we explore Morocco’s oldest imperial city, considered the “Athens of Africa” for its wealth of cultural, educational, and religious institutions. We begin with a walking tour of Fez’s fascinating medina, a UNESCO World Heritage site, focusing on the artisans’ quarters, the 14th-century Koranic schools, and Al Karaouine, the medieval theological university. We return to the hotel for lunch and some time at leisure then mid-afternoon tour the old mellah (Jewish quarter) and

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Private Sahara sunset excursion and camel ride on the dunes ... Visits to five UNESCO World Heritage sites ... Imperial cities of Rabat, Meknes, Fez, Marrakech ... Ancient ruins of Volubilis ... Dramatic Todra Gorge ... Kasbah of Ait ben-Haddou ... Home visit with Berber family ... Marrakech’s medina and Djemaa el Fna Square ... Storied Casablanca and Hassan II mosque

Day Itinerary Hotel Rating
1 Depart U.S. for Casablanca
2-3 Rabat La Tour Hassan Sup. First Class
4-6 Fez Sofitel Palais Jamai Deluxe
7-8 Erfoud Kasbah Hotel Chergui First Class
9 Ouarazate Le Berbere Palace First Class
10-12 Marrakech Sofitel Marrakech Deluxe
13 Casablanca Kenzi Tower Hotel Sup. First Class
14 Depart Casablanca for U.S.

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Cover photo: See the beautifully proportioned Koutoubia Mosque in Marrakech.
its 17th-century synagogue, the royal gates, and the Museum of Fez. Tonight we enjoy a private dinner at an intimate family-run riad in Fez. B,L,D

**Day 6: Fez** This morning we visit a Berber village where residents live much as their ancestors did centuries ago. We share tea with a local family in their cave dwelling then continue on to whitewashed Sefrou, an old Jewish town at the foot of the Middle Atlas Mountains. Returning to Fez, we stop at the renowned pottery factories. The remainder of the afternoon is free for independent exploration. B,D

**Day 7: Fez/Midelt/Erfoud** Traveling inland today, we cross the fertile plains beyond Fez and continue through the Middle Atlas mountain range. We stop in the small town of Midelt for lunch. Continuing on we cross the Ziz River, passing rows of sky-scraping palm trees and fortified villages before reaching our kasbah-style hotel in Erfoud late in the day. B,L,D

**Day 8: Erfoud/Rissani/Merzouga** This morning we visit the city of Rissani, with its 18th-century ksar, a virtually impenetrable warren of alleys; then continue on to the ruins of Sijilmasa. We enjoy a tour highlight this afternoon as we set out on a sunset excursion to the breathtakingly beautiful sand dunes at Merzouga on the edge of the Sahara. In the enormous silence we watch the sun set over the desert as we take a camel ride along the dunes. B,D

**Day 9: Erfoud/Tinehir/Todra Gorges/Ouarzazate** Our destination today is in the snow-topped High Atlas. The day features one beautiful scene after another, including the village of Tinehir, a stunning mountain oasis rising on a series of riverside terraces lush with palm trees; and the spectacular 984-foot Todra Gorge. Following lunch here we visit El Kelaa des Mgouna, known for its roses, then set out on the fabled “Route of a Thousand Kasbahs” ancient caravan route, a region of fortresses with elaborately decorated façades. Late afternoon we reach the town of Ouarzazate (the “door of the desert”) where we spend the night. B,L,D

**Day 10: Ouarzazate/Ait Ben-Haddou/Marrakech** En route to Marrakech today, we stop first at uninhabited Ait Ben-Haddou, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of southern Morocco’s most scenic villages that is often used as a location for fashion and film shoots. Its old section consists of deep red kasbahs packed together so tightly they appear to be a single unit. Then as we begin our descent from the High Atlas, we pass through typical villages with fortified walls and stone houses with earthen roofs. In Tizi N’Tichka, we traverse the Pass of the Pastures (alt. 7,415 feet), where life is much as it was centuries ago: shepherds bring their flocks to the high pastures every summer, then return with them to their villages in autumn. We arrive in Marrakech late this afternoon and dine tonight at our hotel. B,L,D

**Day 11: Marrakech** Once the capital of southern Morocco, the imperial city of Marrakech is an alluring oasis with a temperate climate, distinct charm, and fascinating sights. Our day-long tour includes the beautifully proportioned Koutoubia Mosque with its distinctive 282-foot minaret visible from miles away; the lovely Andalusian-style El Bahia Palace (part of which is still used by the royal family); and the ruins of 16th-century Palais El Badii.
Tour Departs: March 8, 2014

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

New York $4,729
Baltimore, Boston, Miami $5,029
Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Detroit, Orlando, Tampa, Washington, DC $5,129
Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Minneapolis, Phoenix $5,229
Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle $5,329
Land Only (transfers not included) $3,895

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees of $434, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $1,395. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees) are guaranteed. Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: $3,795 per person (upgrades are on request and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves full days of sightseeing and significant amounts of walking. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to the fullest.

For reservations and information, please call Smith Travel at 800-225-2029

Meet Your Faculty Lecturer

Professor Ibtissam Bouachrine was born and raised in Casablanca, Morocco. After receiving her B.A. from West Virginia University (summa cum laude, phi beta kappa), she attended Florida State University and Tulane University, where she earned a Ph.D. in medieval Iberian literatures and cultures. She is Director of the Middle East Studies Program and teaches in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Smith College. She has published on feminism and democracy in North Africa, Islam in Europe, and Muslim-Western relations before and since 1492. Her most recent work focuses on the history of Jewish women in Morocco and women’s education in Muslim countries.

Day 12: Marrakech
This morning we travel by horse-drawn carriage from Menara Park to Majorelle Gardens, a private botanical garden with some 15 species of birds native to North Africa and known for its cobalt blue accents. Following a tour of the gardens we visit the newly renovated Berber Museum there, with art and artifacts reflecting Berber culture in Morocco. The afternoon is at leisure before dinner tonight at a local restaurant in the city’s Old Town.

Day 13: Marrakech/Casablanca
We leave Marrakech this morning by coach for storied Casablanca, Morocco’s largest and most cosmopolitan city. After a brief orientation tour of the city, we visit the magnificent Hassan II Mosque, Morocco’s only functioning mosque open to non-Muslims. Tonight we celebrate our Moroccan adventure at a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 14: Depart for U.S.
After breakfast this morning we transfer to the airport for our return flight to the U.S.

Your Tour Price Includes

• Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
• 12 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
• 31 meals: 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 11 dinners
• Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
• Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
• Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
• Luggage handling for one bag per person
• Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

We watch the sun set over the dunes at Merzouga.

After lunch at our hotel, mid-afternoon we embark on a walking tour of the medina, ending at Djemaa el Fna Square, a UNESCO site and the heart of Marrakech, crowded with snake charmers, entertainers, storytellers, musicians, barbers, and sellers of fruit, water, and spices. Dinner tonight is on our own in this exotic city.

Tour Departs: March 8, 2014

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

New York $4,729
Baltimore, Boston, Miami $5,029
Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Detroit, Orlando, Tampa, Washington, DC $5,129
Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Minneapolis, Phoenix $5,229
Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle $5,329
Land Only (transfers not included) $3,895

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees of $434, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $1,395. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees) are guaranteed. Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: $3,795 per person (upgrades are on request and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves full days of sightseeing and significant amounts of walking. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to the fullest.

For reservations and information, please call Smith Travel at 800-225-2029

Meet Your Faculty Lecturer

Professor Ibtissam Bouachrine was born and raised in Casablanca, Morocco. After receiving her B.A. from West Virginia University (summa cum laude, phi beta kappa), she attended Florida State University and Tulane University, where she earned a Ph.D. in medieval Iberian literatures and cultures. She is Director of the Middle East Studies Program and teaches in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Smith College. She has published on feminism and democracy in North Africa, Islam in Europe, and Muslim-Western relations before and since 1492. Her most recent work focuses on the history of Jewish women in Morocco and women’s education in Muslim countries.

Day 12: Marrakech
This morning we travel by horse-drawn carriage from Menara Park to Majorelle Gardens, a private botanical garden with some 15 species of birds native to North Africa and known for its cobalt blue accents. Following a tour of the gardens we visit the newly renovated Berber Museum there, with art and artifacts reflecting Berber culture in Morocco. The afternoon is at leisure before dinner tonight at a local restaurant in the city’s Old Town.

Day 13: Marrakech/Casablanca
We leave Marrakech this morning by coach for storied Casablanca, Morocco’s largest and most cosmopolitan city. After a brief orientation tour of the city, we visit the magnificent Hassan II Mosque, Morocco’s only functioning mosque open to non-Muslims. Tonight we celebrate our Moroccan adventure at a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 14: Depart for U.S.
After breakfast this morning we transfer to the airport for our return flight to the U.S.

Your Tour Price Includes

• Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
• 12 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
• 31 meals: 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 11 dinners
• Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
• Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
• Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
• Luggage handling for one bag per person
• Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

We watch the sun set over the dunes at Merzouga.
Dear Alumnae and Friends,

You are invited to join Professor Ibtissam Bouachrine of the Smith College Middle East Studies Department on a comprehensive and exciting 14-day exploration of Morocco. Discover this land of age-old traditions and witness its striking natural beauty. Your tour will highlight Morocco’s unique history and culture as we travel from the imperial cities of Rabat, Fez, and Marrakech to the imposing High Atlas and the vast Sahara.

Visit five UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Meknes, Morocco’s youngest imperial city; Volubilis, with its ancient Roman ruins; and Fez, Morocco’s oldest imperial city, prized for its cultural, religious, and educational institutions. Follow a fabled ancient caravan route in the snow-topped High Atlas Mountains, see spectacular Todra Gorge, and travel to Ait ben-Haddou, another UNESCO World Heritage site. Along the way, experience lush desert oases, precipitous mountain canyons, dozens of kasbahs and souks (markets), and villages where life proceeds much as it has for centuries. A tour highlight is a sunset excursion by four-wheel drive vehicles to towering sand dunes at the edge of the Sahara, followed by a camel ride. Spend three nights in alluring Marrakech before concluding your adventure in cosmopolitan Casablanca.

Space on this exclusive Smith College tour is limited to just 24 guests. We invite you to reserve now for a trip that will fill quickly.

Warm Regards,

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director, Smith Travel
Office of Alumnae Relations

---

SMITH TRAVEL RESERVATION FORM: MOROCCAN DISCOVERY

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $______($500 per person) for ____ person(s) on Moroccan Discovery departing March 8, 2014. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. Please make deposit check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and send to: Smith Travel, Office of Alumnae Relations, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063. For more information, please call Smith Travel at (800) 225-2029 or contact us via e-mail at alumtrav@smith.edu or fax us at (413) 585-2015.

Full Passport Name __________________________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender ______

Badge Name __________________________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender ______

Address _______________________________________________________________________________________________________

City ______________________________________________________ State __________ ZIP _____________________

Home Ph. (_____)_________________________ Cell Ph. (_____)_______________________________

E-mail _______________________________________________________________________________________________________

Please book my/our air from ______________________________ I/we request a Business Class upgrade ❑

I will share a room with ______________________________ I request a single room (limited availability) ❑

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for Moroccan Discovery, March 8-21, 2014, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms & Conditions.

Signature(s) __________________________________________ Date ______________________

Method of Payment  ❑ Check  ❑ American Express  ❑ Discover  ❑ MasterCard  ❑ VISA

Account # __________________________________ Security Code _________ Exp. Date __________

Name of Cardholder ________________________________________________

Signature _________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due by December 3, 2013 and is payable by check or credit card.
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a $500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not included in tour price
Airfare when purchasing a Land Only tour package; costs of passports and visas, if required; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only tour package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per day, per traveler); optional sightseeing; travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline prior to departure.

Cancellations, refunds and changes
If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: Cancel 95 days or more before departure: $200 charge; Cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; Cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; Cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; Cancel 29-0 days before departure: No refund. If a guest makes any changes to their reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a $100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy, for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.

Upon reservation you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.

Responsibility
The liability of Smith College, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Smith College and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. Smith College and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. 

All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

Health and Medical Issues
We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. If you require the use of a wheelchair or have other personal needs, you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Smith College and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation - Important Information
Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are provided at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE SMITH TRAVEL TOUR TO MOROCCO!
Guaranteed Small Group: Limited to 24 Guests