In the Cradle of the Moors
The Hidden Faces of Morocco

with Janie Vanpée
Professor of French Studies
March 7 - 19, 2017

Program Highlights Include:

- Discover the traditions of Morocco’s indigenous Berber peoples amid the spectacular setting of the Mt. Toubkal National Park.
- Private lectures on post-Arab Spring political developments and Muslim-Jewish relationships in Morocco over the centuries.
- Explore treasures untouched by mass tourism: the ruins of Africa’s “City of Gold” until the 14th century; a typical residential town with its 700-year-old theological school; Barbary macaques amid cedar forests; more...
- 6 World Heritage Sites.
- A private home reception, a tasting of top crus at the country’s prime vineyard, and some of the finest cuisine Morocco has to offer.
In the Cradle of the Moors – The Hidden Faces of Morocco

Dear Alumnae and Friends,

We invite you on an in-depth exploration of the wondrous Kingdom of Morocco, whose multi-cultural history and achievements span over two millennia, on an “insiders’” program designed exclusively for Smith Travel. The journey will naturally cover the Kingdom’s best-known treasures, including its thousand-year-old cities, four of them World Heritage Sites, surrounded by ramparts within which we find a hive of ageless activity, a myriad of scents and colors, and astounding architecture.

But it will also offer insights into the fabric of life of Moroccan peoples and reach off-the-beaten-track sites of glorious history and breathtaking nature. Along the way we will discover the traditions of Berber tribesmen amid the pristine setting around North Africa’s highest peaks; hear from a local university professor on political changes in the wake of the Arab Spring movement and from a museum curator on the history of Judaism in the Kingdom; witness “real” Morocco on walks through enclaves that seldom see tourists; venture into the Sahara Desert to learn the story of what was once Africa’s second largest city; and stop in the heart of the world’s last forest of giant cedars. We shall also benefit from private venues, such as a tasting at the land’s foremost wine producer and a dinner at the home of a former U.S. Ambassador.

Come join us on what will hopefully be one of the most enriching travel experiences of your life.

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director, Smith Travel

Itinerary

Tuesday, March 7 — Outbound
Independent departures from the U.S. for Casablanca.

Wednesday, March 8 — Casablanca
Land in Casablanca and transfer to the hotel. This afternoon includes a visit of the Hassan II Mosque, Africa’s largest, built over 7 years by thousands of workers and craftmen. Welcome dinner at Rick’s Café Casablanca.

Thursday, March 9 — Casablanca & Rabat
We start the day with the Museum of Moroccan Judaism, the sole institution of its kind in the Arab world, with an exposé by its curator on the coexistence of Judaism and Islam in Morocco. Then proceed to stately capital Rabat, added in 2013 to the World Heritage List. We begin with a leisurely walk through the whitewashed Oudaïa casbah, once a lair of Barbary Coast corsairs, its Andalusian Garden and the Oudaïa Gate, a reference of Almohad Dynasty architecture. From there, a stroll in the Chellah fort, its Roman remains and the intricate 14th-C. necropolis of the Merinid Dynasty. We conclude the day with a stop at the mausoleum to modern Morocco’s “father” Mohamed V, on the grounds of the ruined Hassan mosque, meant to have been the world’s largest in the 12th century. Enjoy a traditional Moroccan dinner at a former palatial home in the old city. Villa Mandarine boutique hotel, each of its rooms opening up to a lush garden (2 nights).

Friday, March 10 — Rabat & Salé
Take a morning tour of Salé, walking through this typical traditional residential town to its restored 14th-C. medersa (religious college), a gem overlooked by mass tourism. Then a stop at the country’s only archaeological museum, renowned for its Roman and prehistoric collections. Lunch at the Center for Cross-Cultural Learning within Rabat’s medina, where we learn about political reform after Arab Spring developments in the region and how they affect Morocco. End the day with a visit to the new Museum of Contemporary Art, in a magnificent structure of neo-Moorish architecture.

Saturday, March 11 — Meknes, Volubilis & Fes
Head East to the former Imperial City of Meknes and its astounding granary, built in the late 17th century to feed the city’s population and the Sultan’s 12,000(!) horses for a year-long siege (World Heritage Site). After a tour of the city we reach the Celliers de Meknes, the Kingdom’s prime wine producer, where we enjoy a tour of the cave with a tasting of its finest crús. Travel North to the ruins of Volubilis, Rome’s commercial hub for the region until the 3rd C., renowned for its numerous mosaics still in situ. Then arrive in the spiritual capital of Fes. Riad Maison Bleue, former homes within the medina converted to a boutique hotel, one of the city’s finest traditional cuisines (2 nights in Junior Suites).

Guest Lecturer

Belgian-born Janie Vanpee (BA from Smith; PhD from Yale) has been with the French Studies faculty since 1985 and with the comparative literature program since 1987. She is deeply committed to Smith’s international outreach and, as Faculty Director of the Lewis Global Studies Center, developed a year-long Humanities Laboratory which focused in part on Morocco’s important role in the sub-Saharan refugee crisis. Dr. Vanpee has led several Smith Travel programs to France and Belgium.
Thursday, March 16 — Aït ben Haddou, Marrakech

Begin the day with a side trip to view World Heritage Site Aït ben Haddou, an assembly of fortified granaries often used as a backdrop in films (e.g., “Gladiator”). From there we cross the High Atlas on the spectacular drive over the Tizi-n-Tichka pass, with vistas on deep vales below snow-clad peaks. Arrive midday in legendary Marrakech, where our first stop is the 12th-century Koutoubia minaret, a “reference” of World Islamic architecture. Here we receive a briefing on the city’s glorious history. Next, a late 19th-century vizier’s Bahia Palace, a prime example of Moorish-Andalusian art. Then proceed to the private Tiskwin Museum of fine rural crafts from Morocco and sub-Saharan Africa. Enjoy a dinner of Moroccan delicacies in the heart of the medina, La Maison Arabe boutique hotel, each of its units in a different style, located just inside the medina (3 nights).

Friday, March 17 — Into the Souq & Majorelle Garden

This morning traverse the reed-covered bazaars, the country’s largest, exploring quarters where all types of crafts are still fashioned by hand. There we stop at the Ben Youssef school, another gem of Merinid art. Afterwards, take a stroll in the exotic garden of French painter Jacques Majorelle, with its exquisite Museum of Berber Culture.

Saturday, March 18 — Mt. Toubkal National Park

Transfer to Imlil village at the foot of 14,000-ft Mt. Toubkal, North Africa’s highest peak. There we take a mule ride through walnut-shaded terraced fields to observe the ways of life of Berber tribesmen, Morocco’s indigenous inhabitants. Lunch awaits at the award-winning Kasbah du Toubkal ecodge. Return mid-afternoon to Marrakech, where we see the necropolis of the Saadian Dynasty, the last window into the splendor of early 17th-century Moroccan interior art. Also visit the Saadians’ ruined El Badi palace to admire its 12-ft-high early 12th-century preacher’s pulpit of inlaid wood, recently restored by the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Enjoy a private farewell dinner at the home of a former U.S. Ambassador.

Sunday, March 19 — Outbound

Transfers to Marrakech airport for our flights home.
Terms & Conditions

**Tour Costs:**
$4,575 per person, based on double-room occupancy and on a minimum participation of 14 tour members.
$1,488 supplement for single-room occupancy.

**Reservations & Payments:** Reservations will be accepted in order of receipt if accompanied by a completed reservation form and a deposit of $500.00 per person. Final payment for all land and any requested air costs will be due by January 6, 2017. Only checks will be accepted for the land costs and must be made out to Cross Cultural Adventures.

**Tour Size:** This tour will operate with minimum 14, maximum 24 participants. The right is reserved to cancel the tour if minimum group size is not met.

**Your Tour Price Covers:** Accommodations in 4- to 5-star hotels, as listed in the itinerary or similar, based on a shared double room with private bath; single rooms are available at the supplement. All hotel breakfasts (buffet), 10 lunches & 9 dinners, Moroccan or Continental, with select menus where available. Mineral water provided with lunches/dinners and on coach travel days. Wine (or beer) with all included dinners on the basis of up to 2 glasses per person. Transport by a/c vehicles throughout. All special arrangements/lectures/services outlined in the itinerary. All entry fees covered by itinerary. Services of guest lecturer, national guide and local guides throughout. Baggage handling of 1 piece per person, limited to 44 lbs (baggage and personal effects are taken at owner's risk; baggage insurance is advised). All taxes and service charges assessed by hoteliers and local authorities for services specified in the itinerary. All gratuities for drivers, local site guides, porterage and group restaurant service. These services are included only for passengers arriving/departing on the dates outlined. Transfers and services on any other dates will be an additional charge. The land cost is based on currency exchange rates at the time of printing. Significant exchange-rate fluctuations may result in cost adjustment. Additional expenses incurred due to change or cancellation by client of flight or land services will be the responsibility of the client.

**Your Tour Price Does Not Include:** Any airfares. Meals other than those specified in the itinerary. Any medical insurance or medical expenses (international health insurance is strongly advised). Any beverages, aside from standard breakfast, mineral water with lunches/dinners and on transport days, and wine with dinners. Cost of obtaining passports (no visas are required for U.S. Citizens). Gratuities for National Guide, room service nor other personal services. Purely personal expenses and services beyond the extent of itinerary listed.

**Cancellations & Refunds:** Individual cancellations received up to 61 days prior to departure are subject to a $300.00 administrative fee. Thereafter, individual cancellations will be subject to the following forfeit of land tour costs: (a) If received up to February 3, 2017 — 30% of tour costs; (b) Up to February 17, 2017 — 50% of land costs; (c) No refund for cancellations received February 18, 2017, onward. Cancellations must be in writing and are considered valid on the day of receipt. Airfare cancellation penalties are strictly up to individual carriers’ policies. Cross Cultural Adventures will not intervene for airfare refunds on airlines not booked by us.

**Trip Cancellation/Interruption Insurance is strongly recommended. Information on insurance will be sent to you by Smith Travel upon receipt of deposit.**

**Health:** This program involves extensive walks through archaeological sites with occasionally steep, uneven paths and high steps. Thus, while the trip is designed for those in average physical condition, good walking ability is essential to benefit from all program features. There are a couple of full-day drives as well as 2 days of transport in all-terrain vehicles over tracks which at times are dusty and bumpy. If you have any doubt about your ability to participate fully due to a health condition or disabilities, please contact Cross Cultural Adventures at (703) 237-0100.

**Responsibility:** Cross Cultural Adventures and not Smith College is the tour operator and is responsible for the services provided. By the forwarding of a deposit and by completing and signing the reservation form for the “Morocco” tour, March 7 – 19, 2017, the depositor hereby agrees and assigns to release and hold harmless Smith College and Cross Cultural Adventures and any of their officers, agents or representatives from any and all liability which might be incurred during any portion of or in relation to this tour, and further agrees to be bound by the limitations and conditions of operator’s responsibility:

**Limitations and Conditions of Operator’s Responsibility:** Cross Cultural Adventures, operator of the tour herein outlined, its subsidiaries and/or its associated agents act as agents only for all services and disclaim any and all liability for property loss or damage, and/or any and all damages resulting from death or personal injuries, including loss of services which may be sustained on account of, or rising out of, by reason of, or while engaged on any aspect of this tour, whether due to the ownership, maintenance, use, operation, or control of any aircraft, vehicle, common carrier, inn restaurant or other, or whether caused by failure or delay or by any transportation company due to any cause whatsoever occurring during this tour under its management, sponsorship, procurement or otherwise. All tickets, vouchers and orders are furnished and issued subject in all respects to these terms and conditions and to any and all terms and conditions under which the means of transportation or any other services provided thereby are offered or supplied by owners or operators for whom Cross Cultural Adventures acts solely as agents.

Due to the unpredictable nature of travel in developing countries and/or in rare cases of safety concern, Cross Cultural Adventures reserves the right in its discretion to alter any part of the itinerary or change any feature without allowance or refund. Cross Cultural Adventures reserves the right to cancel the tour and to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time for reasons of health, safety and/or general welfare of the tour group or of the individual participant. In such cases, the refund will be based on the actual cost of the service remaining in the unfinished portion of the tour.

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### Reservation Form

**Smith Travel**

**Morocco – In the Cradle of the Moors**

March 7 – 19, 2017

Name(s): ____________________________

Address: ____________________________

City, State, Zip Code: __________________

Home Phone ( ) ______________ Business Phone ( ) ______________ Email: __________________

Accommodations: □ Single Occupancy; □ Double Occupancy; I will be sharing a room with __________________

□ Arrange flights as outlined in the itinerary — Coach □ Business □

[Should you have any queries about flights to Morocco, please contact Cross Cultural Adventures by email piotr@crossculturaladventures.us or call (703) 237-0100]

□ I/we desire land arrangements only.

**Declaration:** I/we have read and agree to the terms and conditions detailed for the “Morocco” tour, March 7 – 19, 2017, including the cancellation policy and operator’s responsibility, and agree not to hold Smith College nor Cross Cultural Adventures nor any of their representatives liable for any health or other damages incurred during or as a result of my/our participation in this travel program.

Signature(s): ____________________________ Date: ______________