An Exclusive Small Group Tour for Alumni & Friends of Duke University

With Dr. Corina Stan, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at Duke University

Moroccan Discovery
from the Imperial Cities to the Sahara
October 8-21, 2024

14 days from $6,279 total price from Boston, New York, Washington, DC
($5,395 air & land inclusive plus $884 airline taxes and fees)

This tour is provided by Odysseys Unlimited, seven-time honoree Travel + Leisure’s World’s Best Tour Operators award.

duke-travels.com
Dear Duke Travelers,

Join other Duke Travelers on an exclusive 14-day journey through Morocco. From the imperial cities of Rabat, Fez, and Marrakech to the imposing High Atlas Mountains and the vast Sahara, explore Morocco’s unique history and culture.

Visit five UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Meknes, Morocco’s youngest imperial city; Volubilis, with its impressive ancient Roman ruins; and Fez, Morocco’s oldest imperial city, prized for its cultural, religious and educational institutions. Follow an ancient caravan route in the High Atlas mountains, see spectacular Todra Gorge and travel to Ait ben-Haddou, a fortified city and UNESCO World Heritage site. A highlight will be your excursion to the towering sand dunes at Merzouga on the edge of the Sahara, followed by a camel ride to watch the sun set over this dramatic landscape. Spend three nights in alluring Marrakech before concluding your adventure in storied Casablanca.

Your Duke study leader is Dr. Corina Stan, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at Duke University.

Space on this exclusive departure is limited to 24 guests and may sell out quickly. Call to reserve your space today at (919) 684-2988.

Forever Duke,

Beth Ray-Schroeder ’83
Senior Director, Duke Travels
Duke Alumni Engagement and Development

DUKE TRAVELS RESERVATION FORM: MOROCCAN DISCOVERY

To reserve your place on tour, please call Duke Travels at (919) 684-2988 (preferred registration method) or email duketravels@duke.edu. Please have the information outlined below available to share with a Duke Travels representative. If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and mail it to Duke Travels’ office. Please alert Duke Travels to your pending reservations request.

Once this request is received by Duke Travels (either by phone, email, or mail), a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or Visa, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and include with the form. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure. For trip information only, please contact Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. at (888) 370-6765.

Send to: Duke Travels
Box 90572
Durham, NC 27708
Moroccan Discovery
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This land of dramatic contrasts invites us to encounter its ancient ruins and sacred mosques, endless desert and storied mountains, imposing kasbahs and spirited souks. As we travel from the imperial cities of Rabat, Fez, and Marrakech to the High Atlas and vast Sahara, we open our eyes, and hearts, to a truly foreign land, an age-old culture, and genuinely hospitable people.

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

Day 2: Arrive Casablanca/Rabat
Upon arrival this afternoon in Casablanca, the commercial center of Morocco, we transfer by coach to Rabat and our hotel located near famed Hassan Tower. We have time to relax and refresh before dinner tonight at the hotel. 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 necropolis of Chellah, built on ancient Roman ruins, and the Mohammed VI contemporary art museum then have lunch in a private home. On tap this afternoon: the 12th-century Kasbah of the Oudaias, the peaceful Andalusian Gardens, and Rabat’s medina, a UNESCO site. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner of traditional Moroccan fare at acclaimed Dinarjat in Rabat’s Old Town. 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). Here we visit the Dar Jamai Museum, housing a collection of traditional Moroccan handcrafts. 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 overlooking the medina. 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 today with a visit to the Al-Attarine Madrasa and then continue our discovery on a walking tour of the medina focusing on the artisans’ quarters, the 14th-century Koranic schools, and Al Karaouine, the medieval theological university. We also visit the traditional quarter where we watch artisans craft the acclaimed Fez pottery and ceramics. Tonight, we enjoy a private dinner at an intimate family-run riad in Fez. B,L,D

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Day 6: Fez
Today we tour the old Mellah (Jewish quarter) and its 17th-century synagogue and the

Small Group Tour Highlights
Private Sahara sunset excursion and camel ride on the dunes • Visits to five UNESCO World Heritage sites • Ancient ruins of Volubilis • Scenic “Route of a Thousand Kasbahs” • Dramatic Todra Gorge and Atlas Mountain scenery • Kasbah of Ait ben-Haddou • Fez touring • Marrakech’s medina and Djema el Fna Square • Storied Casablanca and Hassan II Mosque • Outstanding accommodations

Day | Itinerary | Hotel | Rating
--- | --- | --- | ---
1 | Depart U.S. for Casablanca | | |
2-3 | Rabat | Tour Hassan Palace | Sup. First Class |
4-6 | Fez | Hotel Sahrai | Deluxe |
7-8 | Erfoud | Le Palais du Desert | First Class |
9-10 | Ouarzazate | Le Berbere Palace | Sup. First Class |
11-12 | Marrakech | Sofitel Marrakech | Deluxe |
13 | Casablanca | Le Casablanca Hotel | Deluxe |
14 | Depart Casablanca for U.S. | | |

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

Cover photo: We travel the “Route of a Thousand Kasbahs” ancient caravan trail during our journey.
We see the distinctive Koutoubia Mosque – Marrakech’s largest – on Day 12.

royal gates. Then we walk through the Fez medina, where we see some hidden treasures, including the Blue Gate, the most picturesque of the Old City’s historic gates; the medieval school of Bouanania; the 12th-century home of Jewish scholar Maimonides; and the authentic food market. The remainder of the afternoon is free for independent exploration and lunch on our own. 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. Dinner tonight is at our hotel. 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. 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 erg. We’ll have dinner together in this desert setting before returning to our hotel tonight. B,L,D

Day 9: Erfoud/Tinehir/Todra Gorge/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, home to a variety of rare bird and plant species. 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 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’Testka, we traverse the Pass of the Pastures (alt. 7,415 feet), where life is much as it was centuries ago. We arrive in Marrakech late this afternoon and dine tonight at our hotel. B,L,D

Traditional Moroccan tile work
Day 11: 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 nearby Yves St. Laurent Museum, housing a vast collection of the designer’s haute couture and design works. 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. Dinner tonight is on our own in this exotic city.  

B,L

Day 12: Marrakech  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. On the way back to the hotel, we stop to see the oldest historical gate of Marrakech, Bab Agnaou, built in the 12th century. Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant in the city’s Old Town.  

B,D

It was our first Duke Travels trip but assuming Morocco is typical of your offerings, it exceeded our expectations of what a group tour might be like.”

– Wedge and Debbie Ketcham Abels ’73

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.  

B,D

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

B

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
- Dr. Stan as faculty, with a minimum number of paying travelers
- $100 frequent traveler credit towards your next Duke/Odysseys Unlimited tour ($200 after 3 tours; $300 after 10 tours)

Tour Departs: October 8, 2024

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<th>City</th>
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<tr>
<td>Portland (OR)</td>
<td>$5,295</td>
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Land Only (transfers not included) $5,295

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $884, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $1,695. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: Business Class – $3,995 per person; Premium Economy – $1,395 per person (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change). Upgrade costs are in addition to the costs above.

For reservations and information, please call Duke Travels at (919) 684-2988

Monday–Friday, 8:30 AM–5:30 PM, EST

Duke Faculty

Corina Stan grew up in Romania, studied in Germany, France, and the US, and held academic positions in The Hague, Netherlands and Venice, Italy. Trained as a comparatist, she works at the intersection of literature and the arts, with interests in continental philosophy and the sociology of intellectuals. Currently Associate Professor of comparative literature at Duke University, she is the author of a book about interpersonal distance in literature and philosophy, The Art of Distances, and the co-editor of The Palgrave Handbook of European Migration in Literature and Culture. In addition to academic articles, she has written essays for The Point, The LA Times, Aeon, Public Books, and other venues. She enjoys travel, running, playing the piano, and spending time with her children.
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 package; costs of passports and visas, if required; immunizations and inoculations; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.’s receipt of your 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 you make any changes to your 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 Duke University (DUKE), as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and 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, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. DUKE 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(s), 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.

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 the company feels 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.

Health and Medical Issues: We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance, in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. 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, DUKE and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

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PLEASE NOTE: A minimum number of participants is needed to have a Duke University faculty or host accompany this trip. We make every effort to send a faculty lecturer on each departure, as our travelers tell us this greatly enhances their experience. However, due to faculty schedules, this may not always be possible; and due to group size, we may not quality to send a host.