

ON THE ROAD TO MOROCCO
AN INTERFAITH TRIP
APRIL 21-28, 2009

Departure: Tuesday, April 21 from JFK airport, New York
Cost: \$2100 roundtrip; all intercity transfers are by air conditioned bus
Deposit: \$500 per person; Single supplement \$310
Checks should be made payable to: Ibn Asheer Institute
Return: Tuesday, April 28 to JFK

Country Full Name Kingdom of Morocco

Population 33,000,000

Currency Moroccan Dirham

Electrical Plugs



127/220V 50Hz

Languages Spoken Official: Arabic, Tamazight

Itinerary

Day 1, April 21– Depart JFK

Day 2, April 22 – Arrive **Tangier**

Hotel Les Almohades, a Ramada property 43, Avenue Mohamed VI – located in city center

At the crossroads of Africa & Europe, the Mediterranean Sea & Atlantic Ocean, **Tangier** has an individual character. It is one of the oldest cities in Morocco. The Phoenicians & Carthaginians established trading posts here. The Romans made it a capital city. It was occupied by the Arabs and invaded by Vandals and Visigoths before the Spanish. In the early part of the 20th century, Tangier was an international city whose tax-free status and cosmopolitan image attracted European and American artists and writers. Although it has lost a little of its glamorous image, it is still a bustling city with an air of mystery surrounding it.

Tangier is very much a tourist town. The town beach has a great setting with a several kilometer long curve with the white houses of Tangier as a frame before it ends in the barren mountains of which there is nothing further north than sea and the European continent.

The **Medina** of Tangier is a real one: streets are narrow, houses in many different styles & most of the medina is in good condition. It is more difficult to find any areas where real handcraft is offered than here. The gate to the medina near the Great Mosque, is the easiest entry to the most fascinating part of old Tangier.

The **Kasbah Place** fronts the former sultanate palace and is not a museum. The Kasbah is dominated by its fortifications which are in very good condition. The **Dar El Makhzen** was built by sultan Moulay Ismaïl, and is organized around two inner courtyards. While the palace was not of the largest a sultan could reside in, this one is still tastefully finished with wooden ceilings, arabesques and marble fountains. The palace was abandoned in 1912, and was later turned into a museum of art and architecture. Among its exhibits you will find old examples of craftsmanship, but it is probably the finds from Volubilis which is the most interesting for most visitors.

Place de France is one of the focal points for activities in the modern part of Tangier.

Day 3 April 23 – Rabat

Hotel Sofitel Diwan, Place de Unite Africaine . Behind its sleek, glass façade, the Sofitel Diwan is designed with sublime refinement and elegant nuances. Conveniently located in the heart of downtown.

Rabat is considered the most regal of all the imperial cities, Rabat combines traditional culture with contemporary politics. Here, relics of the world's largest mausoleum rub shoulders with contemporary skyscrapers. Rabat is clean and open. There are both old Muslim quarters as well as beautiful remains from all periods of Moroccan history. As the capital, it has the actual **royal palace** and the **Kings' mausoleum**. Its main attraction is the weird **Hassan tower**, while **Kasbah de Oudaias** is on the shortlist of having Morocco's most picturesque streets. Almost mystical and very beautiful is the **Chellah**.

DAYS 4 – 6 APRIL 24, 25, 26 – FEZ

Hotel Menzeh Zalagh, 16 Rue Mohammed Diouri - The Menzeh Zalagh Hotel in Fez offers a wide range of in-room amenities like air-conditioning, television, fully stocked mini-bar, hairdryer, and 220v are also offered in all the rooms.

Fez, the capital of Morocco for more than 400 years, is home to the oldest university of the country and the leading cultural and religious centre. Fez is also the home of the oldest and largest medieval city in the world, a city that is almost unchanged through the modern ages and still most definitely alive.

Fez was founded in 789 at a place between the mountains where the river was flushing by. History has provided the city with long periods of hardship, but Fez has never died. Today it has its own The Bali, or the oldest quarters of Fez, which were to a large degree saved by the French General Lyautey. When the French got control of Morocco around the time of World War I, he made all necessary arrangements to protect the medieval structures against the modern development. The result is that Fez el-Bali has taken good care of its old architectural structures and is also very much a living city, where most streets are too narrow for cars and donkeys and mules are in common use. Just like all through its history, Fez el-Bali has a striking combination of poverty and developed culture.

Day 7 April 27 – Casablanca

Hotel Idou Anfa - 85 Boulevard d'Anfa – a modern hotel in the downtown business area near the Hassan II Mosque, and four kilometres from The Habous, the old town. Idou Anfa Hotel has two restaurants on site, and two bars; there is also a poolside bar, and a café for snacks. A complimentary breakfast is offered daily.

The centre of Casablanca is fairly impressive. It's modern, with big, lively boulevards, high, white, well-kept buildings. And it's clean and efficient. People visiting Casablanca as their first city, could easily end up hating this place: There are few things here confirming the newcomer's conception of the Orient. But for people having visited other parts of Morocco first, Casablanca is good! The city is modern in a Moroccan way, and an excellent example of Moroccans capacity of taking charge of the future of their country. But as soon as you step out of the impressive centre of town, dark clouds cover the realities of people here. Extreme poverty and prostitution only to be matched by [Tangier](#) is what you'll find without even looking for it. No other place in the country displays bigger differences between the haves and the have-nots.

If anything in Casablanca should fit the Casablanca of Bergman and Bogart, it should be the old city. It's small, consisting mainly of smaller houses, which all seem to be from this century, and the alleyways dominating in other old cities, are rarely found here. There is a good market here, but look around before you buy, shop keepers here know their skills. Some thousand people live here, and in one or two spots, true beauty occurs.

Day 8 April 28 – Depart for NY

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In order to get the best airfares and make other arrangements for the trip to Morocco, April 21-28, 2009, it is necessary for Aziz to have the following information:

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE # _____ CELL PHONE # _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

NATIONALITY _____

PASSPORT # _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS:

_____ single _____ double _____ other (specify)

The cost of the trip, including airfare from New York, hotels, in-country transfers, is estimated to be \$2100. Additional air charges apply from Albuquerque, Denver, or elsewhere.

_____ Enclosed is my deposit check of \$500 made out to **Ibn Asheer Institute***

_____ I am very interested in the trip and will give you a final decision no *later than 12/5/08*

_____ I am NOT interested in this trip

_____ Please send trip information to the following people who may be interested

- Completed application and deposit checks should be mailed to : **Imam Aziz Eddebbbarh Taha Mosque 302 E. Barcelona Road, Santa Fe 87505**. Questions can be directed to Imam Aziz at 795-3230 or aeddebbbarh@hotmail.com