STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY


FROM THE SAHARA TO THE SEA

March 16 to 29, 2018

Kingdom of Morocco

From the Sahara to the Sea

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Few destinations offer as much exotic intrigue as Morocco, a land of impressive mosques, exquisite palaces and bustling souks. Morocco is home to a surprisingly diverse landscape with its snow-capped Atlas Mountains, vast Saharan sand dunes, haunting Roman ruins and quaint fishing ports. Above all else, Morocco’s people are welcoming and hospitable, inviting travelers into their homes in the centuries-old Berber tradition. On this trip we’ll have a chance to experience the traditional, indigenous Berber culture by taking a mule ride at the base of North Africa’s highest peak, and with professor Scott Pearson, we’ll meet local educators and artisans who will share with us their experiences and perspectives as citizens living in a multifaceted kingdom. We invite you to join us on this remarkable and memorable adventure!

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

**TASTE** some of the finest crûs and take a cave tour at Les Celliers de Meknès, Morocco’s prime wine producer.

**MEET** with Moroccan academics at the Center for Cross-Cultural Learning, a private institution in Rabat’s 19th-century medina.

**SPEND** the night in a luxury desert camp and enjoy the romantic thrill of taking a camel ride atop the dramatic windswept dunes of the Sahara Desert.

COVER: MOROCCAN LAMPS IN A MARRAKESH SOUK
Faculty Leader

Professor Scott Pearson, who has studied economic change in developing countries for four decades, taught economic development and international trade at the Food Research Institute at Stanford from 1968 to 2002. He has coauthored a dozen books, won several awards for his research and teaching, and advised governments on food and agricultural policy. He has also traveled and worked abroad in Africa, Asia and Europe. Scott has previously led more than 50 trips throughout the world for Travel/Study. Scott’s talks during this trip will focus on four key dimensions of Moroccan history: the Roman Empire (2nd century B.C.E.–5th century C.E.), the trans-Saharan gold and salt trade (10th–16th centuries), the Berber Empires (11th–15th centuries) and the Alawite dynasty (1666–present).

— Professor of agricultural economics, Stanford University, from 1968 until his retirement in 2002
— Director, Food Research Institute, Stanford University, 1991–1996
— Dean’s Award for Teaching, Stanford’s School of Humanities and Sciences, 1978
— MA, international relations, Johns Hopkins University
— PhD, economics, Harvard University

“Scott Pearson was passionate and amazingly well-prepared with a wealth of information above and beyond our expectations.”

Elsee, MBA ’75, and Thomas McEachin, Portugal and Galicia Food and Wine, 2016

SIGN UP ONLINE: alumni.stanford.edu/trip?morocco2018
OR BY PHONE: (650) 725-1093

GOLDEN SAND DUNES OF ERG CHEBBI
**Itinerary**

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 16 & 17**

**U.S. / MARRAKESH, MOROCCO**

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Marrakesh, arriving on Saturday and transferring to our hotel. The remainder of the day is free to relax from the journey. This evening enjoy a welcome cocktail reception and dinner of local specialties at a private venue in the heart of the old city. **HOTEL LA MAISON ARABE (3/17: D)**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 18**

**MARRAKESH**

Start the day with a visit to the 12th-century Koutoubia minaret—a reference of world Islamic architecture—and the late 19th-century Bahia Palace of vizier Ba Ahmed, an example of Moorish-Andalusian art. Also visit the nearby private Tiskiwin Museum of fine rural Moroccan and sub-Saharan crafts, and the Saadian Tombs, a last window into the splendor of early 17th-century Moroccan interior art. After lunch in the medina, head south to the archaeological site of Aghmat, the first capital of the 11th-century Berber Almoravid Dynasty that founded Marrakesh. Upon our return to Marrakesh, stop at the Al Badi Palace, site of the former palace of the Saadians that features a 12-foot-high, early 12th-century minbar (preacher’s pulpit) of inlaid wood, recently restored by the Metropolitan Museum of Art. **HOTEL LA MAISON ARABE (B,L)**

**MONDAY, MARCH 19**

**MARRAKESH**

Penetrate Marrakesh’s vast reed-covered souks, exploring quarters where all types of crafts are still fashioned by hand (and foot!). Stop at the Ben Youssef Medersa, the largest of the theological schools initially set up in the 14th century by the Marinid Dynasty. After lunch in the Medina, head south to the waves of Berber tribesmen. Enjoy a tea break in a local home and a Berber lunch at the award-winning Kasbah du Toubkal eco-lodge. Returning to Marrakesh, attend a private dinner at the home of the president of the Marrakesh Art Biennale set amid the palm groves outside the city. **HOTEL LA MAISON ARABE (B,L,D)**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 20**

**MARRAKESH / ESSAOUIRA**

Drive to the coastal city of Essaouira, noted for its lovely blue-and-white architecture displaying both Moroccan and Portuguese influences, 18th-century ramparts, colorfully painted fishing boats and for being the setting for much of Orson Welles’ *Othello*. On the way, look for the area’s infamous goats climbing up argan trees. Dine independently this evening back in Marrakesh. **HOTEL LA MAISON ARABE (B,L)**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21**

**MARRAKESH / MT. TOUBKAL NATIONAL PARK**

Take a mule ride through walnut-shaded terraced fields at the base of 14,000-foot-high Mount Toubkal, North Africa’s highest peak, to observe the Berber tribesmen. Enjoy a tea break in a local home and Berber lunch at the award-winning Kasbah du Toubkal eco-lodge. Returning to Marrakesh, attend a private dinner at the home of the president of the Marrakesh Art Biennale set amid the palm groves outside the city. **HOTEL LA MAISON ARABE (B,L,D)**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 22**

**MARRAKESH / BOUMALNE DADES**

Cross the spectacular Tizi n’Tichka pass to the World Heritage site of Aït Benhaddou, then on to the international filming center of Ouarzazate, whose exotic surroundings have been used in many films such as *Lawrence of Arabia*, and follow the Kasbah Trail with its fortified residences made of adobe. Drive up the Dades Valley, considered southern Morocco’s
most picturesque, with its va-
riety of orchards and odd rock
formations, before settling in for
the night in Boumalne Dades.

HOTEL XALUCA DADES (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, MARCH 23
BOUMALNE DADES / ERG CHEBBI
Discover the Todgha Gorge,
Morocco’s “Grand Canyon,”
and see the remains of the
former caravan hub, Sijilmassa,
Africa’s second-largest city in
the 11th century. Spend the
night in a Saharan luxury desert
camp near Erg Chebbi, one of
Morocco’s two great sand dune
areas, rising 600 feet above
the desert floor. Ride a camel
or clamber up the dunes to
witness sunset over the Sahara,
followed by a dinner by bonfire
at our overnight camp.

LUXURY
GOLD SAND CAMP (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, MARCH 24
ERG CHEBBI / FES
Follow the palm-filled Ziz Valley
across the stark, multihued
expanses of the Eastern High
Atlas range to the Berber en-
clave of Midelt for lunch. Take a
detour into Ifrane National Park,
the last forest of giant Atlas ce-
dars, and try to spot a band of
indigenous Barbary macaques
before arriving this evening in
the spiritual capital of Fes.

HOTEL SAHRAI (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MARCH 25
FES
Walk the narrow alleys of Fes,
considered by scholars to
be the last true example of a
typical medieval Arab town,
with its bustling bazaars,
colorful tanners’ quarters and
fragrant spice market. Visit the
restored Attarine Medersa;
the mausoleum of city founder
Idris II; the 17th-century
Nejjarine caravanserai; now
an exquisite museum of wood
arts; the 700-year-old Bou
Inania Medersa; the famed
Blue Gate; and pottery and
zellige mosaic tile workshops.

HOTEL SAHRAI (B,L)

MONDAY, MARCH 26
VOLUBILIS / MEKNÈS / FES
Venture west to Volubilis,
Rome’s commercial hub for
the region until the 3rd century,
renowned for its numerous
mosaics still in situ. Then travel
south to former imperial city
Meknès and its astounding
granary, a World Heritage site
built in the late 17th century by
Sultan Moulay Ismaïl to feed
the city’s population and his
12,000(!) horses. Tour the cave
at Les Celliers de Meknès,
the kingdom’s prime wine pro-
ducer, and enjoy a tasting of
its finest crûs before returning
to Fes for a free afternoon.

HOTEL SAHRAI (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 27
FES / RABAT
Drive to the capital city of
Morocco, Rabat, designated in
2013 as a World Heritage site.
Enjoy a seafood lunch by the
crashing waves of the Atlantic,
leisurely walk through the white-
washed Oudaïa Kasbah and
the Chellah fortress, and an af-
ternoon stop at the Mausoleum
of Mohamed V, considered by
many to be modern Morocco’s
“father.” VILLA MANDARINE (B,L)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28
RABAT / SALÉ
Cross the Bou Regreg River for
a morning tour of Salé, a tradi-
tional residential town with a re-
stored 14th-century medersa, a
gem overlooked by mass tour-
ism. Enjoy lunch and a lecture
on post-Arab Spring develop-
ments at the Center for Cross-
Cultural Learning situated inside
Rabat’s medina. In the after-
noon, visit the new Museum of
Modern and Contemporary Art,
the kingdom’s sole museum
built to world standards and a
magnificent structure of neo-
Moorish architecture, followed
by a farewell cocktail recep-
tion and Moroccan dinner at a
former palatial home in the old
city. VILLA MANDARINE (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, MARCH 29
RABAT / U.S.
Transfer to Rabat airport for
flights home. (B)
Trip Information

Dates
March 16 to 29, 2018 (14 days)

Size
Limited to 36 participants

Cost*
$7,995 per person, double occupancy
$9,995 per person, single occupancy
*Stanford Alumni Association nonmembers add $300 per person

Included
11 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations; 1 night of luxury camping • 12 breakfasts, 11 lunches and 7 dinners • Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions • Bottled water on excursions • Gratuities to porters, guides and drivers for all group activities • All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary • Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days • Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance • Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information • Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

Not Included
International and U.S. domestic airfare • Passport and visa fees • Immunization costs • Meals and beverages other than those specified as included • Independent and private transfers • Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance • Excess-baggage charges • Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

Air Arrangements
You are responsible for booking and purchasing airfare to the start location of the program and from the end location of the program. These air purchases are NOT included in the program cost. To assist you in making these independent arrangements, we will send you information with your confirmation materials on when to arrive and depart.

What to Expect
We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program that is at time physically demanding. Much of the walking takes place at ancient and medieval sites, where paths can be rocky and uneven. In some instances, such as ruins, steps are a necessary part of the tour and may not have handrails. Some days require early-morning starts, as we often have a full schedule of excursions, lectures and special events on any given day. Our journey at times requires several hours of travel by motor coach, the longest drives being up to eight hours including stops. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?morocco2018 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Stanford Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a guest paid for by a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in June 2017 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
“I gave this Stanford Travel/Study trip ‘perfect tens’ across the board for research, planning, organization and execution… Interesting country, brilliantly presented.”