



Global | **Learning
Across
Borders**

EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Get Global Expeditions (GGEx)

From Souq To Sufi

An Encounter with Morocco's Music & Medinas, Mountains & Shore

June 5 – June 17, 2008

Optional Marrakesh/High Atlas Mountains Excursion, June 17- 22

*Global Learning Across Borders (Global LAB) is pleased to announce a summer 2008 **Get Global Expeditions (GGEx)** journey to Morocco that will explore the sounds, cultures, landscapes, colors, contrasts, and hospitality for which this North African country is renowned. Designed specifically for adults and inspired by Global LAB's experiential education programs for students, this expedition will feature exclusive introductions to fascinating people and places well off the typical tourist track. A highlight of this expedition is the acclaimed Fes Festival of World Sacred Music, a fantastic and hope-filled musical gathering that celebrates the interconnectedness of cultures and faiths—intertwining spirituality through sound. The late King Hassan II described Morocco's complexity and essence best: "Rooted in Africa, watered by Islam and rustled by the winds of Europe." We welcome you to join us on this intimate and intriguing journey. Group size limited. Advance reservations highly recommended.*

Day 1 → 2 (June 6, day of arrival)

Casablanca

The metropolis of **Casablanca**, Morocco's largest city and home to the largest port in Africa, is our portal into North Africa. After check-in, we'll try to decipher this Bogart and Bergman mythologized city that wraps commercialism and cosmopolitanism around a prevailing core of history and tradition. Mini skirt meets the *hijab* (head scarf). iPod co-existing with the *niqab* (veil). *Medina* ("old city") alongside stock market. Affluence and *bidonville* (shanty town). European, African, Islamic, and Arab. "Casa" is a revealing microcosm of the complex and often conflicting forces shaping modern-day Morocco.

We'll embark on a guided cultural and architectural tour that includes: the extraordinary Hassan II mosque, the 2nd largest mosque in the world after Mecca, the only one in Morocco permitting non-Muslim access, and an exclamatory testament to faith and the 1400 master-craftsmen who created it; the Mauresque ("Neo-Moorish"), Art Nouveau, and Art Deco styles that characterize many of the structures from the French colonial period; and a visit to the Jewish Museum of Casablanca, the only such museum in the Islamic world, which catalogues Morocco's significant Jewish heritage once accounting for nearly 300,000 Jews but now just 5,000.

Days 3-6 (June 7-10)

Fes

In the morning, we will depart by 1st class train for a 4.5 hour ride to the most medieval of Arab and Islamic cities, **Fes**, a source of intellectual and cultural splendor for centuries and Morocco's heart and soul. After settling in at a restored Dar (a traditional home with a central court) in its extraordinary *medina*, we'll get acquainted with its serpentine alleyways and sensory deluge. A brief introductory lesson on select Moroccan Arabic greetings and phrases—keys to bargaining for the multitude of handicrafts that will beckon—will be followed by a group dinner. From the Dar's terrace overlooking the *medina*, experience the dusk call-to-prayer, with flocks of swifts in flight, and realize you're in a very different and special place. The walled city will be redolent with joie de vivre, hope, rhythm, and languages from near and far as the Fes Festival of World Sacred Music will be in full swing.

Over the next three days in Fes, we'll immerse ourselves in this one-of-a-kind global music intensity and attend 2-3 performances each day. What might they be? Perhaps an observance of a Sufi *dhikr*—Islamic mystical chanting, often in repetition, to reach a state of love with the Divine—which will vividly undercut any perception of a "monolithic Islam". Maybe some lushly beautiful *fado* folk music from Portugal. Or a mellifluous *A Capella* act from Ireland. Or a swelling, ecstatic Russian chorale. Perhaps heart-wrenching vocals from an Afghani longing for her homeland. Quite possibly a blues ensemble from Mali or Mauritania. Certainly other traditional music forms of Morocco, including the percussive Gnawa, orchestral Andalusian, or poetic Melhoun. And maybe even song from an Algerian Jew whose sheer presence and sincere message is symbolic of this event's virtuous charter: realizing the essential oneness at the core of all religions and faiths. All aspire to enlightenment through "the hearing of the heart"—the Sufi way. Fes, with its renowned history of tolerance, is the ideal setting for such aspiration.

We'll take time to embrace Fes beyond the festival as well. A guided tour of its *medina*, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, will bring to light the challenges in balancing sustainable tourism, cultural preservation, and available resources. We'll visit a site or two currently being

restored to grasp the realities on-the-ground. Immerse yourself in the Souq el Attarin (spice market), Souq en Nejjarin (carpentry), Souq el Henna (henna, traditional/herbal medicines), and the honeycombed tanneries. Admire the artisanship of the 14th century Medersa Bou Inania with its exquisite *zillij* tilework, woodcarving, and *tadelakt* plasterwork. Get lost in the narrow serpentine maze, embracing the fragrances of orange blossoms and cumin and absorbing the sounds of metalworkers hammering copper trays, donkeys braying, and children at play. Participate in a lunch discussion with notable Fassi artisans, celebrities, or activists. A lecture introducing Islam, Sufism, and the unique role of saints (*marabouts*) and religious festivals (*moussems*) in Moroccan spirituality will provide insights and new perspectives. Even by now, you will have experienced this country's legendary hospitality.

Days 7-8 (June 11-12)

Chefchaouen

The Rif Mountains contain some of the wildest and off-the-track reaches in all of Morocco, and the region is characterized by its historic outlaw nature with the central government (not to mention its cannabis-based economy). This northernmost range spans over 180 miles with peaks as high as 8200 feet and acts as a natural boundary between Europe and Africa. We'll switchback north by private coach before finding our photogenic nook of **Chefchaouen**. With its whitewash and pastel blue medina, Andalusian architecture, friendly vibe, and picturesque surroundings, Chefchaouen is easy to embrace. We'll walk the hills, perhaps visit a public *hammam* (bath house), and draw a bead on life in this cozy village. This is a sacred region with a long lineage of *marabouts*, so if we receive some *baraka* (blessing), we may even stumble upon one of their tombs and visiting pilgrims. During one of our days, we'll take an excursion into the Rif and either indulge in an authentic *jebli* (mountain cuisine) cooking class or participate in an aromatic and medicinal herb field trip in the Tanghaya forest.

Days 9-10 (June 13-14)

Asilah

From mountains we descend to the shores of the Atlantic Ocean and the scenic, easy-going seaside town of Asilah. As with Chefchaouen, much of the town is whitewashed with blue accents, and with its coastal setting is more reminiscent of Greece than North Africa. Elegant Portuguese ramparts and fortifications from the 15th century and other Andalusian architectural influences characterize the atmospheric medina as do numerous murals—a testament to Asilah's burgeoning status as an artist colony. Asilah has undergone an extraordinary transformation over the past 30 years from decrepit backwater to cultural magnet: its annual international cultural festival held each August attracts eminent writers, poets, film-makers, and

artists from all over the Arab World and Africa and is frequently referenced as a model in how culture can rehabilitate communities responsibly.

We'll relish our time here at an unrushed and spontaneous pace, enjoying the pleasant medina and restored harbor, strolling along Paradise Beach, and observing artists at their craft and fishermen at their trade. Sampling the local catch, mauve Atlantic sunsets, and some area birdwatching may round out our relaxed experience here.

Days 11-12 (June 15-16)

Tangier

Onward to **Tangier**, the Mediterranean resort that lured artists, musicians, authors, and aimless decadents during its moment of 20th century fame and infamy. Its most famous US residents were authors Paul Bowles and William Burroughs, but many of the Beats such as Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg passed through as well. The scene got progressively tawdrier until "The Great Scandal" erupted in the early 1960s, resulting in a wholesale cleansing of brothels, gay bars, pedophiles, and other unsavory elements. We'll dig a bit deeper into Tangier's role of 20th century cultural libertine with an informal discussion with a local historian, and learn how the city is recasting itself as part of King Mohamed VI's ambitious "10 million tourists by 2010" campaign. We'll draw the curtains on the day with a dinner overlooking the Mediterranean.

As day two dawns, if the prevailing winds and dew point cooperate, perhaps you can glimpse Spain, a mere 9 miles across the Strait of Gibraltar. With such proximity, Morocco's place as historic cultural crossroad becomes starkly evident, and its strategic location was the envy of colonial powers. Today we'll embark on a guided tour of Tangier's *medina*, people-watch at the Petit Socco ("Little Market")—ground zero for licentiousness during Tangier's heyday of "International City", and take a drive along the coast to the picturesque Caves of Hercules and "Atlantic Beach". We'll also encounter a novel "restaurant rehabilitator" which serves to reintegrate dispossessed, abused, and neglected women back into society. Finally, we'll pay homage to author Paul Bowles by visiting his former apartment.

We'll linger one more day in **Tangier** for the grand finale of our Morocco experience. Leisure time in cafés, strolls on the beach, a promenade along the corniche, one last bargain in the *medina*, a group farewell dinner, and one final night in North Africa. And you were just starting to understand Morocco. Or so you thought. But what's the rush? Leave this colorful land and hospitable culture with a Moroccan proverb in mind: "Little by little, the camel goes into the couscous." Life will happen at its own pace.

June 17

Tangier → US

Early morning departure to NY/JFK via Casablanca.

Optional Excursion

Days 13-14 (June 17-18)

Marrakesh

For those who elect to continue on our optional, southward excursion, we'll rise early to catch the 6am flight, via Casablanca, to The Rose City...The Pearl of the South...or simply **Marrakesh**, Morocco's second largest city. Where Fes conveys a sense of timelessness, Marrakesh pulsates with the possible. Its frontier-like and African spirit is certainly a reflection of its history as a depot for caravans transporting slaves, gold, and ivory from Timbuktu. Stylish, ambient, and sun-filled, Marrakesh is on a jet-set and international real estate investment tear: more European retirees are calling it home and many have spawned a revival in restoring decrepit domiciles to former artisanal glory. There is a societal consequence to this dynamic, however: rising property values have displaced many Moroccan families and maintaining cultural authenticity will be an enduring challenge.

After checking into our riad (a traditional home with central courtyard/garden and fountain) in Marrakesh's own UNESCO-recognized *medina*, we'll first visit the splendid subtropical Jardin Majorelle, maintained by fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent. Here, color is in high definition—particularly the cobalt blue, created by French painter Jacques Majorelle, which accents many planters, pergolas, and structures within this placid 12 acre setting.

We'll close day one by encountering Marrakesh's primary source of spirit and energy: the place and spectacle of Djemaa el Fna, "Assembly of the Dead"—an open square where musicians, peddlers, merchants, snake charmers, fortune-tellers, and acrobats co-mingle and perform day into night, every night. Marrakesh's anything-can-happen air is nowhere thicker than here. Against this fascinating backdrop, you will awaken to new layers of the Moroccan experience.

Day two will largely be devoted to a guided *medina* walking tour, experiencing Marrakesh's own storied cultural and historical treasures, including: the Koutoubia Minaret; the Ben Youssef Medersa; the Bahia Palace; and the Saadian Tombs. We'll also traverse the *medina's* various souqs and leisurely quaff a cup or four of mint tea, the "whiskey of Morocco", as we settle in for a good-natured haggle over a Berber rug, tajine vessel, or pointed leather slippers known as *babouche*. Finally, we'll enjoy a lively discussion—by the grandson of a former slave—on Berber-Sahara culture before heading into the High Atlas Mountains.

Days 15- 16 (June 19-20)

The High Atlas Mountains

The largest of four mountain ranges in Morocco that stretch across Algeria and into Tunisia, **The High Atlas Mountains** are home to the highest peak in North Africa, Mount Toubkal, at 13,665 feet. They are also considered a bastion of the Berbers, the indigenous peoples of North Africa who pre-date the Arab conquest of the 7th century. And so for the next two days we will dramatically shift our geographic milieu to peaks and valleys and our cultural lens to one with a distinct language, music, lifestyle, and history. The village of Imlil, launch point to Toubkal, will be our cradle. Despite the hard labor of rural mountain life, we will experience a boundless warmth and hospitality that characterize the *Imazighen*, or “free men”, in their native tongue.

There will be ample opportunities for day hikes, encounters with villagers (and their cattle, sheep, chicken, and goats), taking in the sweeping vistas, hillside adobe homes and green terraced fields, and free time for photography, journal writing, and sketching over hot mint tea. A guided eco-tour of the region will highlight its flora and fauna and the environmental challenges that lay ahead. We will also take a moment to give back and engage in a community service endeavor—be it helping to plant a few new cherry trees or distributing some desperately needed school supplies to teachers and students. Finally, we’ll attend an authentic Berber musical performance that will highlight yet another dimension of sound and song in a land rich in this performing art. The stars will beam and seem within reach.

Day 17 (June 21)

Marrakesh

We’ll depart the High Atlas and return to Marrakesh this afternoon by private coach for one final glimpse of the Koutoubia and one last jolt of the Djemaa el Fna.

Day 18 (June 22)

Marrakesh → US

Early morning departure to NY/JFK via Casablanca.

Tariff*

Primary Expedition: \$5,995 per person ♦ Single supplement: \$1,700

Primary Expedition + Excursion: \$8,695 per person ♦ Single supplement: \$3,350

**tariffs are per person, based on double occupancy, & all-inclusive with the exception of alcoholic beverages & international airfare; rates are subject to change based on lodging availability at time of booking*

Terms & Conditions

Health: All participants must be in good health. This program involves traveling to high altitudes, walking over uneven surfaces, climbing in and out of various conveyances and climbing stairs at locations not handicapped accessible. Contact Global LAB for more details.

Insurance: For the protection of all Global LAB travel participants, trip cancellation insurance is highly recommended. Global LAB will provide recommendations for insurance providers upon request.

Changes in Itinerary & Costs: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Global Learning Across Borders. All prices quoted are based upon prevailing airfares, fuel prices, and currency exchange rates in effect as of January 2008 and are subject to change.

Deposit: A deposit of \$1,000 per person per tour is required to reserve space on a Global LAB travel program. The deposit is applied toward the full cost of the program. Remaining balance of program cost is due 120 days prior to tour departure. For late tour reservations (made after the due date of final payment), payment in full is required.

Cancellation Policy: Tour cancellations must be made in writing and are effective from date of postmark or email time-stamp. Cancellations made 120 days or more prior to departure, a refund less an administrative fee of \$250 per person will be made. Cancellations made less than 120 days prior to departure are subject to full forfeiture of the tour price unless the tour is fully subscribed and your space is resold (in which case the \$250 handling fee will apply). Leaving the tour in progress, for any reason whatsoever, will not result in a refund, and no refunds will be made for any unused portions of the tour.

Global LAB reserves the right to cancel any tour due to insufficient enrollment that makes the tour economically unfeasible to operate or because of good-faith concerns with respect to the safety, health, or well-being of the participants. If Global LAB cancels a tour prior to departure, registrants will receive a full refund of all monies paid to Global LAB. Should Global LAB cancel a tour in progress, participants will receive a prorated refund based on the number of days not completed on the tour. Global LAB will not be responsible for any refund for nonrefundable airline tickets or for any airline tickets purchased by the passenger directly from an airline or travel agent.

From Souq to Sufi
MOROCCO ♦ JUNE 5 – 17, 2008
{Optional Excursion: June 17 – 22, 2008}

RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please return this form along with your deposit of \$1,000 per person to:

Global Learning Across Borders
4818 43rd Street, Ste. 4C
Woodside, NY 11377
Or call (800) 984-4522 or email info@global-lab.org for more information

Final payment is due no later than April 1, 2008.

Name/s of Traveler/s _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

ACCOMODATIONS

I wish to share a room with: _____

Double Twin Single Occupancy (\$1,700 supplement for base trip; \$3,350 incl. excursion)

PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check for my deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Global Learning Across Borders

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms and Conditions of this program, and agree to full payment to Global Learning Across Borders by check no later than April 1, 2008.

Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required) _____ Date _____

Signature (required) _____ Date _____



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Global Learning Across Borders, a non-profit 501(c)(3) based in New York, exists to educate and inspire new generations of young people and adults to become responsible and committed global citizens in their local communities and beyond. We do this through international cultural immersion and community service programs for young adults; global studies professional development programs for educators; partnering with schools to help design and launch experiential global education and service programs; and through global expeditions that offer exceptional cultural experiences for adults.