# PATHNORTH MOROCCO EXPERIENCE November 3-11, 2018

**Tentative Itinerary** 

#### **Overview**

Saturday, November 3: Sunday, November 4: Monday, November 5: Tuesday, November 6: Wednesday, November 7: Thursday, November 8: Friday, November 9: Saturday, November 10: Sunday, November 11: Arrive in Casablanca Casablanca to Fez Fez Fez to the Agafay Desert Agafay Desert to High Atlas Mountains High Atlas Mountains to Marrakech Marrakech Depart from Marrakech

#### **Pricing**

Single - \$11,250/person Double - \$8,985/person

\*The above planned itinerary is subject to change as we finalize details. All accommodations, group meals, in country transfers and activities are included in the trip cost. You are responsible for travel to Casablanca and from Marrakech.

## Saturday, November 3: Casablanca

Arrive in Casablanca, Morocco's largest city. Enjoy a free day as others in the group arrive to explore this unique and modern city. That evening, we will stay at Kenzi Tower Hotel, a luxury 5-star hotel. Dinner on own.



#### Sunday, November 4: Casablanca to Fez



Transfer from Casablanca to Fez. Once in Fez, we will experience a private guided tour of the medina, the colorful streets and souks and the rich tapestry of life that exists within this ancient city. Along the way, we will experience a number of surprises as we wander through private palaces and Islamic gardens, venture into the depths of tanneries, observe weavers at their loom and discover hidden workshops where generations of artisans ply their

individual trades and adapt century old techniques to a modern market. That evening, will we stay at the highly acclaimed Riad Fés.

## Monday, November 5: Fez

In the morning, we will visit Al Qarawiyyin Library & University, originally opened in 859 CE. In addition to touring this astounding site, author and international consultant Moha Ennaji will join us for a discussion on his research, centered on intercultural dialogue and migration studies in Africa and the Middle East.



Following lunch at Palais Amani, we will embark on a Jewish heritage tour. Morocco is home to one of the oldest Jewish communities in the diaspora dating back 2,000 years. Our journey will take us into a history that shaped Sephardic Judaism, visiting its synagogues, museums and historic sites. While much has changed in the past 2,000 years a small but vibrant, Jewish community still exists in Fez with a functioning synagogue, kosher restaurant and community center. We will return to Riad Fés for the evening.

## Tuesday, November 6: Fez to the Agafay Desert



Before we depart for the Agafay desert, we will hear the story of The Keys of Mercy, an organization that supports lower socio-economic families and their children with disabilities. Additionally, the Association Solidarité Feminine will join us to share how they are helping single mothers gain work experience by training them at the association's restaurant, patisserie and hammam.

That afternoon, we will transfer to the Agafay Luxury Desert Camp via plane. The stunning landscape will provide the opportunity to relax, unwind and watch the setting sun. Haj Al Ezarghani, a master storyteller who has performed throughout Morocco for the past 57 years, will join us. The Moroccan tradition of Hikayat, or storytelling, dates back almost 1,000 years and is a form of entertainment found throughout the country.

Lit by candlelight, we will gather for a dinner in the surrounding canyons featuring local musicians. Our evening will conclude with a dessert soirce of music, dance and stargazing. Overnight, we will stay in a private luxury desert camp.

#### Wednesday, November 7: Agafay Desert to High Atlas Mountains

After a quiet morning, we will depart for Project Soar. Project Soar's mission is simple: to empower Moroccan adolescent girls to continue their education by providing after-school academic support as well as life skills and leadership coaching. While education is obligatory in Morocco until age 16, socio-economic barriers often get in the way of



making education equal and accessible for girls. We will join the girls for lunch and have the unique opportunity for a leadership exchange between PathNorth and the girls at Soar.

That afternoon, we will depart for the High Atlas Mountains, home to a variety of Berber populations. As we journey to our hotel, we will experience the breath-taking beauty presented by the mountain range that stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Moroccan-Algerian border. Once in the mountains, we will spend the evening at La Rosarie.

## Thursday, November 8: High Atlas Mountains to Marrakech



Together we will experience the Berber Culture as we wander by foot or mule through the surrounding villages overlooking valleys of olives, walnuts and juniper groves. We will visit various coops that have provided opportunities for women in the region to support themselves.

After lunch, we will transfer to Marrekech and check-in to the Jardin de la Koutoubia. We will

convene after a free afternoon for a unique foodie experience. In small groups accompanied by a guide, we will 'forage' in the wilds of the markets looking for spices and special ingredients. Back together, we will take our finds and re-create some of Morocco's most traditional recipes, enjoying the meal together afterwards.

#### Friday, November 9: Marrakech

The first half of the day will feature a private historical overview of Marrakech. While Marrakech is alive with modern life and development, it is also home to a wealth of buildings, sites and artifacts of crucial importance to Moroccan history. Some of the sites we will visit include the Koutoubia Minaret and Gardens, the Saadien Tombs, the El Badi and El Bahia Palaces and Dar Si Said, home to the



Museum of Moroccan Arts. The rest of the day is open for individual exploration. Guides will be available. At night, we will return to Jardin de la Koutoubia.

#### Saturday, November 10: Marrakech



Our final day in Morocco is open for shopping and individual exploration. Additionally, there will be an opportunity for structured activities that are still being determined.

We will end our time together at Villa de Orangers for our final farewell dinner. In true PathNorth fashion, we will reflect on our time together and celebrate our experiences. We will return for one more night at Jardin de la Koutoubia before we depart for home in the morning.