

Spain and Morocco: Human Migration and Language Study

Week 1: Arrival and Program Orientation in Fes, Morocco

Making the trans-Atlantic journey from JFK airport, the group transfers to a train and makes our way to the ancient city of Fes, Morocco. Fes' medina (old walled section and marketplace of many North African cities), one of the largest car-free urban areas in the world, is a labyrinth of sites, tastes, sounds, and people selling everything imaginable! From friendly vendors and tea shops, to ancient universities, blacksmith shops, and the Chouara leather Tannery (one of the oldest on Earth), the medina is a fascinating place to explore, people watch, get lost (and found), and is a cornerstone of Moroccan culture. It's also the site of our orientation hostel! We stay for the next 4 days, building bonds, setting intentions, and setting the foundation for the upcoming journey.

Week 2-3: Rabat, Morocco

Leaving Fes, we transfer back to the capital city of Rabat, on the shores of the Atlantic. Rabat is a modern Moroccan city with an ancient traditional heart; it's walled medina is an UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here we dive into Arabic language lessons and cultural exchange by staying with local families. Living in the medina, we begin to learn about the culture of our host nation. Through our language school and a collaboration with a local community development NGO, we begin to examine topics such as: immigration, gender, indigenous populations, and religion. Students will also gain further cultural understanding by participating in Moroccan cooking classes, calligraphy lessons, visits to historical sites, and even a trip to a Hammam, the traditional Moroccan spa.

Week 4: Tetouan, Morocco

From Rabat, we take a bus up to Tetouan, on the edge of the Mediterranean Sea. Nicknamed "the White Dove", Tetouan is a beautiful whitewashed city, with roots stretching back well over 2000 years. The city is a mix of Spanish Andalusian and Northern African cultures, with a strong history and population from both regions melding to create a fascinating location to continue our study of Arabic language and culture. We have Arabic classes in the day time, with afternoons spent learning

about local crafts and folk arts, famed across Morocco. In our down time, we'll explore the medina and enjoy the national pastime, drinking mint tea. We continue our study of immigration with discourses from local university professors, discussions about the complex interconnectedness of Europe and North Africa, and visits to local sites in the city.

Weeks 5-6: Marrakesh, Ait Ourir and Tighdween valley, Morocco

Now that you have some of the basics of Arabic, and a better understanding of Moroccan culture, we make our way to the small towns of Ait Ourir and Tazirt, stopping en route in Marrakesh for a few days to take in the sites of this ancient yet cosmopolitan city. Upon arrival in Ait Ourir, we stay with local families for our second round of homestays. Living with a Moroccan family in a village setting, the group will get a sense of place and begin to understand what it means to be from this part of the world. Our days will be spent engaging with community leaders, youth directors, olive farmers, and business owners, who will teach us about their way of life, letting us engage in agricultural work, meeting with local high school students to discuss how immigration has personally affected them, and their families', lives, as well as engage with a local after school program and woman's cooperative. After 8 days in Ait Ourir, we say goodbye to our families, and head east to the small village of Tazirt. Here we spend 4 days learning about traditional ways of life, visiting the local souks (marketplaces), having a touch up on our Arabic with Peace Corps tutors, as well as engaging in local craft production with master artisans.

Week 7: Trekking in the High Atlas Mountains, Morocco

Upon leaving Tazirt, we have a few days to make our way to the small community of Amizmiz. We are here to meet our trekking guide, Latifa, a legend in the Moroccan trekking community, and one of only 4 certified female trekking guides in Morocco. It's time to get outside and into nature! Latifa will lead us on a 4-day trek through the mountains of her homeland, sharing stories and laughter as we walk from village to village through the beautiful and legendary Atlas Mountains.

Week 8: Volunteer with Dar Si Hmad, Agadir and Sidi Ifni, Morocco

Leaving the mountains behind us, we head back to the Atlantic coast, arriving in Agadir, where we meet with our host organization, Dar Si Hmad. Dar Si Hmad is a local NGO and Ethnographic Field School that works on multiple fronts from women's empowerment, climate change, to irrigation by harvesting water from fog! Agadir provides a dynamic base from-which to explore Morocco's rich ethnic

diversity and pressing questions about the impacts of globalization on local economies, with a specific focus on sustainable agricultural practices, water conservation initiatives, and related challenges with immigration from rural to more urban centers.

Week 9: Student Directed Travel in Morocco. Begin in Agadir, end in Tetouan

This is your group's chance to take the reins and put into practice all the travel skills you have learned thus far. You have one week to decide, as a group, where to go, where to stay, and how to get there. The Overseas Educators will take a mindful back seat and allow the group to create their own itinerary, eventually bringing us back to Tetouan to prepare for our crossing into Spain.

Week 10: Spanish lessons and homestays in Malaga, Spain

We cross into Spain via the Ceuta border, a small enclave of Spain located on the coast of North Africa. This is one of the most important borders in Europe in regard to the flow of immigration between continents. Prior to boarding our boat, we'll take a moment to contemplate the fact that thousands of people attempt to make this crossing each year. Whether in makeshift, over populated rafts, or even by swimming, many of these people die attempting to make this journey. Taking a ferry across the Strait of Gibraltar, we make our way to the ancient city of Malaga, founded in 770BC. We get our first taste of the Spanish way of life through 5 days of Spanish study, mixed with cooking lessons, tapas tastings, and visits to local sites. We also visit the Spanish Commission for Refugee Assistance (CEAR), to gain an understanding of local and national response to immigration into Europe.

Week 11-12: Granada, Cordoba, the Camino Mozarabe, and departure

Now that we have the basics of Spanish, we head up to the fascinating Moorish city of Granada, where Morocco and Spain mix in a beautiful combination of North African and Andalusian heritage. Granada was controlled by North Africa for nearly 700 years, and the city retains its North African heritage. Visit the incredible Alhambra castle, and prepare for your walk on the ancient pilgrimage route, the Camino Mozarabe. Your group will work together to hike 6 days on this spiritual path, with the goal of arriving in Cordoba. Your group may choose to hike all 6 days, or you might rest in small Spanish villages for a day or two. Your time on the Camino is designed to help you reflect on the theme of human movement and immigration, as well as the journey thus far. During this time, the group will explore ways of preparing for the upcoming reintegration to life at home, and strategies in

keeping our sense of adventure and inquiry engaged in the context of our daily lives.

Arriving in Cordoba, you will be greeted with the amazing Mesquita mosque-cathedral, an awe-inspiring site, and a beautiful area to close out your semester. Head back down to Malaga your last day for a final night dinner with your group and bid goodbye to Spain and Morocco as you head home. Adios and Maasalaama!

****Carpe Diem reserves the right to make changes to the program at any time, and indeed has the responsibility to do so in some instances; changes may be required to provide the best possible experience, protect the safety of participants, or respond to changes in weather or political conditions.***