

## **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.

### **Weeks 2-3: Safir language study, home stays, and immigration study, 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 spend 10 days diving 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: Trekking and cultural exchange in the High Atlas Mountains, Morocco**

Upon leaving Rabat, 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 a handful of certified female trekking guides in Morocco. It's time to get outside and into nature! Latifa will lead us on a 6-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. You'll be able to stay in Amazigh (the indigenous people of Northern Africa) homes and experience Amazigh community life. In each community we stop in, we engage with a variety of enterprises and organizations from local women's cooperatives, cheese makers, to local pottery makers and Moroccan families, learning about their lives, and how the constantly changing society of Morocco has affected their communities.

### **Week 5: Immigration study with Amappe, Marrakesh, Morocco.**

We have a few days off to make our way to the bustling city of Marrakesh. Here we spend the week working with the Amappe organization, a Moroccan NGO supported by the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Amappe stands for "Association Marocaine d'Appui à la Promotion de la Petite Entreprise", (Moroccan association supporting small business promotion). Here we learn about how migrants and refugees make their way to Morocco and why they have been forced to leave their homes. We learn about how Amappe is working to provide an avenue of support to entrepreneurs, and visit their many partner organizations in the city.

### **Week 6: Volunteer with Dar Si Hmad, Agadir and Sidi Ifni, Morocco**

Leaving big city life 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! Here we spend one week learning about the intersectionality of climate change, immigration and gender. 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 the rural to more urban centers.

### **Week 7: Community development and cultural exchange in the Kik Plateau, and Ait Ourir, Morocco**

From Marrakech we head to the small village of Asflala, on the Kik Plateau. Here we stay with local host families and work with the AFCD foundation. AFCD stands for "Association Future pour des Chantiers et Développement" (Future Association for Building Sites and Development) and is a Moroccan created and led initiative working in the fields of environment, empowerment, and development. We join local community members and AFCD for 4 unique days of learning in the High Atlas, with a new topic each day to get a sense of local issues affecting the community: Agriculture, Education, Empowerment, Planting.

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. Upon arrival, we stay with local families for our second round of home stays. 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 7 days in Ait Ourir, we say goodbye to our families, and the group begins to plan its own adventure.

**Week 8: Student Directed Travel in Morocco and departure. Begin in Ait Ourir, end in Casablanca, Morocco.**

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 to the economic capital of Casablanca. What adventure will you choose?!

Upon arrival in Casablanca, we have a final night out, taking the time to enjoy a last dinner together as a group, and giving those last heartfelt gratitudes to your traveling family before heading to the airport and returning home.

***\*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.***