

SMI/TDY

June 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Re: Morocco Trip – 8 to 14 APRIL 2019**

I am pleased to inform you that after many successful visits over recent years, I have decided to run another trip during the Easter break next year to Marrakech, Morocco from Monday 8 April – Sunday 14 April 2019.

The trip has been tailor-made for students to gain an appreciation of a different, vibrant culture and also to understand educational differences.

Marrakech is an amazing destination and will provide your child with inspirational experiences that will stay with them for life. I cannot stress enough the educational impact that this trip will provide. If you have doubts as to either the merit or benefits of this trip, then please do not hesitate to contact me and I'll be happy to discuss these with you.

The cost will be **£879** per student, which is inclusive of return flights, full board accommodation and coach transfers. All restaurant costs whilst on our excursions are also included in the price. I have worked very hard with the tour operator, Travelbound, to ensure that this trip is as cost efficient as possible and I believe it offers very good value for money.

I have only managed to secure a limited amount of flights; therefore students will be allocated places strictly on a 'first come, first served' basis. If your child would like to participate in this trip, please complete the slip below and return to Mrs Minai with a non-refundable deposit of £100.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours faithfully



Mrs S Minai  
Morocco Trip Coordinator

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**MOROCCO 2019 – REPLY SLIP TO MRS MINAI**

I/We\* am/are\* interested in securing a place for:-

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FORM: \_\_\_\_\_

on the Morocco Trip 2019 (8 April to 14 April 2019).

I/We\* am/are\* aware the cost of the trip is **£879** and enclose a non-refundable deposit of £100 (Cheques made payable to Northampton School *for Boys*).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian)  
(\*Please delete as necessary)

### **Day 1: Marrakech**

Arrive in Marrakech and transfer to Hotel Farah. Lunch in hotel. If time permits your tour leader will give you a briefing on the tour this evening (Or the next morning if there is not enough time) after this you'll head out to the famous Djemaa el-Fna square for dinner in Dar Nejjarine & a short walk around the food stalls. Dinner in local restaurant. Guide ½ day. Overnight in Hotel Farah 4\*. (Lunch / Dinner)

### **Day 2: Marrakech to Imin Tanout**

After breakfast, drive to Imin Tanout. The day will be based in the village of Boulaouane, a traditional Berber village of around 40 houses built into the mountainside overlooking High Atlas Mountains. At the arrival and after a welcome mint tea, the group will be split into smaller groups to learn about traditional cooking techniques used, to prepare a tagine (for lunch) and traditional bread making. Learn about the important role of subsistence agriculture, the crops they grow, the way they rear and look after their livestock and the importance of water management in this arid area. The day will also



provide a fascinating insight into the close community of the Berber people and the different roles men and women play in this community. Lunch will be provided. Stay overnight in the village in a traditional guest house where students will have a special cookery lesson to prepare the evening dinner where they will have the opportunity to eat under the stars that look so large in the clear sky that you might even try to touch them. There will be also a nice ambiance of Folklore music played by the local family. Please note this is not a touristic activity. A guest house consists of a village house with simple bed rooms each with space for approximately 5 people in each room. Each room is generally furnished in traditional Berber style with beds, tables, carpets and cushions. On warm nights it's generally possible to sleep out on a terrace under the stars. Communal facilities usually consist of a couple of showers and toilets. Please bring a sleeping bag and torch. Overnight in Guest house Boulaouane (Breakfast / Lunch /Dinner)

### **Day 3: Imin Tanout to Essaouira**

Morning in Imin Tanout with the Berber families where you will try your hand at goat herding before an early lunch and packing up to take you coach transfer to the Atlantic coast, to the fortified town of Essaouira, the former Portuguese city, Mogador. The best way to see Essaouira, the blue and white town, is on foot, inside the 18th Century ramparts and its medina and mellah – very different to that of Marrakech. Moroccan and Portuguese architectural styles are combined, narrow streets past the clock tower and great Mosque, the jewellery workshops, and the carpenters souk. Essaouira is renowned for its famous marquetry craftsmen – using the thuya wood, inlaid with citron wood, walnut, ebony and mother of pearl. Essaouira has long been



known as an artist's meeting place, attracting poets, scholars and craftsmen from all over Morocco.

Time permitting; a stop at Frederic Damgaard's gallery is a must (optional). Those of you who watch 'Games of Thrones' will recognise Essaouira as the slave trading city of Astapor where Daenerys Targaryen overthrew the slave masters and started a revolt. In the early evening time for a stroll to the beach and a game of football. Dinner and overnight Hotel Al Jazira, Essaouira. (Breakfast / Lunch /Dinner)



#### **Day 4: Essaouira to Marrakech**

Breakfast in hotel, depending on weather, drive 38 kms north or south of Essaouira – to an oasis, this is a fertile spot in the middle of the desert where water, plants and trees can be found. You will enjoy a 2 hour JEEP

Safari through the countryside, in the deserts of Essaouira and Sidi Kaouki. Please note that for jeep safari, in Morocco 4x4 wheel drive cars provided are for 5

people only, each passenger has a seat and seatbelt. (Subject to health and safety approval after risk assessment by Travelbound).

Berber picnic for lunch OR lunch in Sidi Kaouki beach restaurant.

Return to Essaouira (if visit not done on day 3) and visit the port with its gaily painted fishing boats and brightly coloured nets piled up on the quayside, and see the traditional trawlers. Return to Marrakech. Dinner and overnight in Hotel Farah 4\* (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

#### **Day 5: Marrakech**

After breakfast, your group will spend the morning at a local college. Whilst at the school, you will spend some time meeting students at a local school. You will see how teaching in Morocco differs from teaching in the UK and have the opportunity to properly interact with children from another culture. Lunch in a local restaurant.

This afternoon is free at leisure at the hotel. Your coach will transfer you back so that you can spend some time relaxing around the pool. In the early evening, before dinner, your coach will take you back out to the famous Djemaa el-Fna square and take a short walk around the stalls and do some souvenir shopping (don't forget to haggle!!). Dinner in restaurant Charly's Cabana after this your coach will return you to the hotel for overnight. Hotel Farah 4\* (Breakfast / Lunch (hotel) / Dinner)

#### **Day 6: Marrakech**

After a late breakfast today your coach and guide will meet you and transfer you to the Dar Cherifa (or similar) for a cookery lesson. Students will learn how to make traditional homemade bread, Moroccan salad and Gribiba dessert - which will be lunch. After this you'll be transferred back to the hotel, where you can take some time away from the heat of the day by the pool. At about 6pm, before dinner, your coach will meet you and transfer you back to the sprawling souks. Here individual trades and crafts are concentrated together in a single street or area, so all the shoemakers are next to each other, as are the jewellers, the potters, the weavers, etc. This is the best place in Morocco to sharpen your bargaining skills and you're almost certain to be tempted by some of the extraordinary variety of merchandise on display - even if it's only a trinket or a packet of exotic spices. Dinner and show at Palais Chahramane\*\*.

<http://www.palaischahramane.com/> Overnight at hotel Farah 4\*. (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)



#### **Day 7 – Marrakech to UK**

After Breakfast you will have a coach and guide at your disposal for half a day before your departure to the airport. (Breakfast / Lunch in local restaurant)

***All participants to bring a sleeping bag and warm clothing for cold nights. Visas not included.***