



Morocco 2017

Cross-Cultural Explorations

Culture, Service, and Communication



The breathtaking scenery, great diversity, and famous hospitality of the Moroccan people provide a wonderful context for this program. A melting pot of histories, religions, and cultures that demonstrate the intricate connections that bind us together, Morocco is an ideal setting for students to develop cross-cultural competencies, build stronger Arabic language skills, and deepen their knowledge of other cultural contexts. Through interacting and engaging with diverse Moroccan traditions, students will also be able to understand and reflect on a range of global issues, and on their place within our international community.



Culture

Students will explore the myriad historical, linguistic, and cultural traditions that make up Morocco today through structured and unstructured interactions with their Moroccan peers. We believe these are critical competencies to building understanding and empathic learning within new cultural contexts.

Service

Upholding the principles of service learning within the Friends community, students will engage meaningfully with diverse members of Moroccan society through volunteering on site-specific visits. Students will integrate deeper understandings of others' experiences with social responsibility, preparing to bring about a world that ought to be.



Communication

Students will navigate a variety of communicative challenges, including encountering unfamiliar dialects of Arabic and French and contexts built around multilingualism. As they engage and interact within these contexts, students will develop their internal sense of efficacy and capacity to explore the world around them.

Program Locations

1. RABAT

DAYS 1-4, 7

2. FES

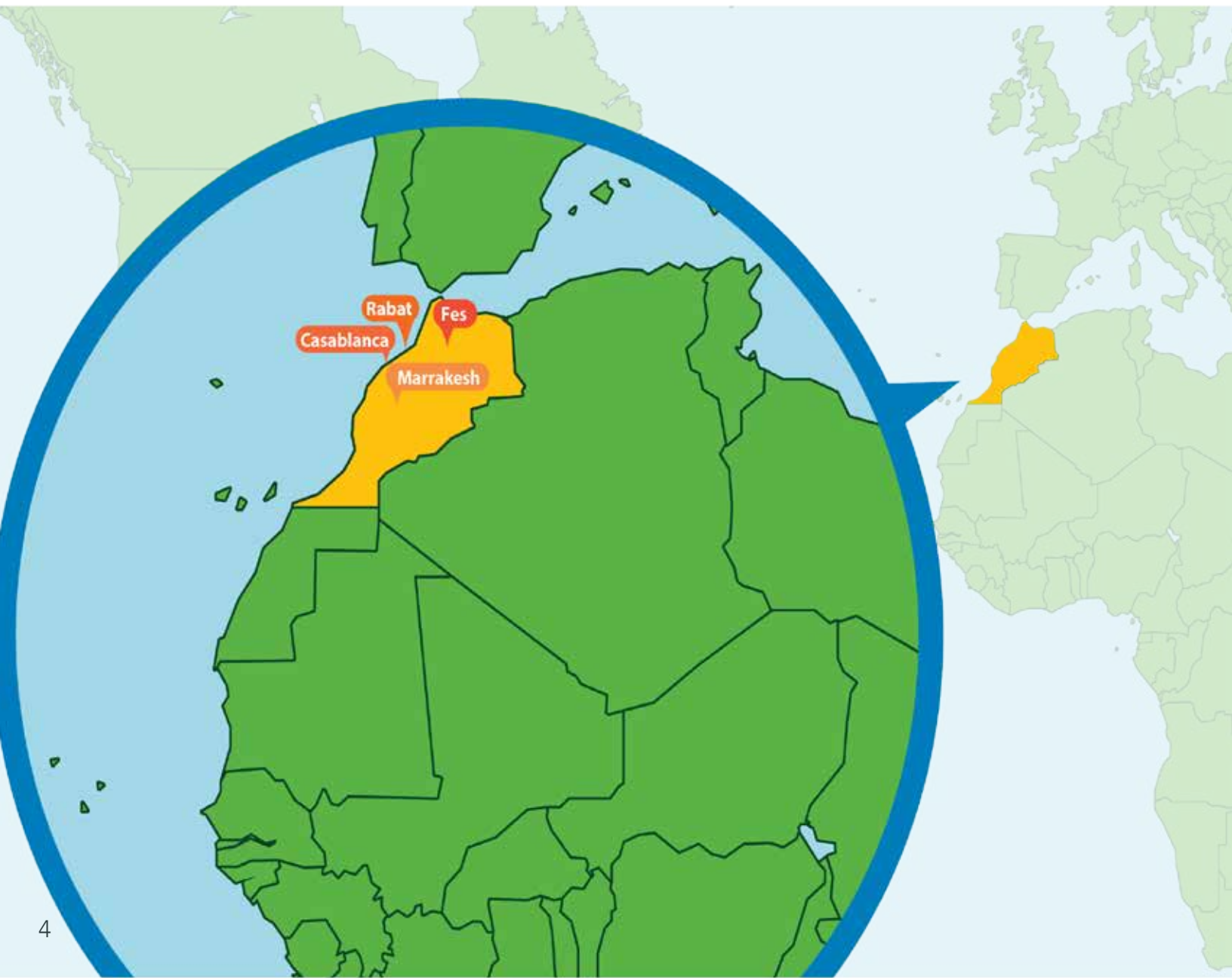
DAYS 5-6

3. MARRAKECH

DAYS 8-10

4. CASABLANCA

DAY 11





Program Highlights

Homestays

With their host families, students will learn about the lived experiences of Moroccans within their homes and their cities as they navigate different aspects of private and public spaces. Through exploring and participating in the routines and daily practices of Moroccans, students will deepen their understanding of contemporary life in Morocco.



Service Learning

In Salé, students will meet with members of an organization working to provide skills training and educational opportunities for disabled youth. By participating in the ongoing work of the organization, students will gain a stronger understanding of the world and their place in it.



Historic Sites

From Qarawiyyin University, the oldest university in the world, to the Roman ruins of Chellah and the Kasbah of Rabat, we will explore Morocco's most famous sites. Students will explore both the historic and modern contributions of Morocco and its influences on the region and the world.

Flavors of Morocco

From homestyle cooking with their host families to the rich variety of food we will taste during our travels, students will explore Morocco's culinary traditions. In Marrakech's Djemaa, a famous marketplace of food, spices, and wares, students will also learn how to prepare a traditional dish, bringing a piece of Morocco's rich gastronomy back with them.





التلغراف البريد التليفون

TELEGRAPHE POSTE TELEPHONE





Argan Oil Harvest

Students will visit a cooperative that specializes in the harvesting and production of argan oil. While there, students will sit down with the local population to learn about their way of life and about the changes to their trade resulting from the increased global demand of argan oil.

Cultural Explorations

Throughout the program, students will alternate between interactive and observational experiences, deepening their knowledge of Morocco and themselves. While visiting a Moroccan high school, students will have the opportunity to engage with their peers and gain insight into teenage experiences beyond their own. They will also have time for reflection and discussion individually and with the group.





Program Itinerary

Day 1 - March 17

- Overnight Flight
- New York City - Casablanca

Day 2 - March 18

- Transfer to Rabat
- Full Value Contract.
- Health, Safety, and Security
- Program Introduction
- Initial Explorations of Medina
- Night: Hotel in Rabat

Day 3 - March 19

- Tour of Kasbah of the Oudayas
- Workshop on Moroccan Arabic and homestay brief
- Welcome into host families
- Night: Homestays in Rabat

Day 4 - March 20

- Travel by tramway to Sale and visit group working with disabled youth
- Service learning opportunities
- Return to Rabat
- Tour of Medina with host families
- Night: Homestays in Rabat

Day 5 - March 21

- Travel to Fes
- Stop at organic farm
- Visit American School of Fes and engage with students
- Night: Hotel in Fes

Day 6 - March 22

- Visit Qarawiyyin University and Bou Inania, a 14th-century religious college
- Tour forts of Fes
- Travel to Rabat
- Night: Homestays in Rabat

Day 7 - March 23

- Explorations of Rabat
- Communicative challenges
- Negotiations workshop
- Farewell Dinner with host families
- Night: Homestays in Rabat

Day 8 - March 24

- Travel to Marrakech
- Explore Djemaa marketplace
- Cooking Class
- Night: Hotel in Marrakech

Day 9 - March 25

- Travel outside of Marrakech
- Visit Ouarzazate in Atlas Mountains
- Discussion of Islamic spirituality
- Night: Hotel in Marrakech

Day 10 - March 26

- Explore markets of Marrakech
- Visit argan cooperative and meet with workers
- Travel to Casablanca
- Night: Hotel in Casablanca

Day 11 - March 27

- Program Closing
- Flight
- Casablanca - New York City



Applications and Program Costs

Eligibility

- The Cross-Cultural Explorations trip is designed for all Upper School students interested in learning more about contemporary Morocco and North Africa, and in having opportunities to directly experience a uniquely different culture in order to better understand their place in the world. The program is open to all Upper School students, but priority will be given to students of Arabic, History of the Middle East, and French. However, knowledge of Arabic or French is not required.

Applications

- Applications should be made online at www.envoys.com by entering the program code 'friendsseminary' in the website menu.
- Applications are due on November 21st, 2016 and decisions will be made by December 5th, 2016.



Program Leaders

- This program will be led by Joseph Sills and Nadim Bawalsa from Friends Seminary. They will be accompanied by two Envoys staff members.

Program Cost

- Friends Seminary is underwriting certain costs of the trip to make it as affordable as possible to all families. The total projected cost per student (including airfare) for this trip is estimated to be \$4,500. Increase or decrease of costs will depend on final group numbers.
- Inquiries regarding financial assistance for global education trips should be made to Boji Wong, Director of Financial Aid. Boji can be reached at bwong@friendsseminary.org.

