



Please see the **NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES** at the bottom of this sample itinerary for details on program changes.

**Please note that program activities may change in order to adhere to potential COVID-19 regulations.**



## MOROCCO: Cultural Kaleidoscope™

Uncover the secrets of magical Morocco as you immerse yourself in unique spices, meaningful service, and smiles you'll never forget.

### OVERVIEW

On this program you will explore and spend time in four Moroccan cities—Rabat, Marrakesh, Casablanca and Oukaimeden, a small city at the foot of the Atlas Mountains—to acquire a holistic perspective on the intricacies of North African culture. With a distinctive mix of Arab, African, and European influence, Morocco is a colorful, fragrant and uniquely diverse country ripe for exploration. Through formal Arabic instruction and practicing with children in the summer camp at which you will volunteer, you'll be fully immersed in all that this country has to offer.

#### 14-DAY PROGRAM

July 2 - July 15, 2023

Tuition: \$3,999  
Service Hours: 20  
Language Hours: 10  
Max Group Size: 22  
Age Range: 14-18  
Student-to-Staff Ratio: 6-to-1

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Volunteer at a summer camp for elementary school children
- ★ Tour Marrakesh's famous medina & markets
- ★ Experience a traditional hammam, or Arabic steam bath
- ★ Visit historic Casablanca and the capital city of Rabat
- ★ Learn to cook tajine, the most popular Moroccan dish
- ★ Engage in ten hours of Modern Standard Arabic instruction through an accredited language school

## SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteer your time at a summer camp for primary school students from underserved communities, where you'll do everything from teach simple English lessons to facilitate games or craft activities to assist with physical refurbishment projects.

## SAMPLE ITINERARY: DAILY BREAKDOWN

*Actual schedule of activities will vary by program session.* The information detailed here is typical for what you can expect to experience; however, service work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather and specific needs of the student group.



### DAY 1: WELCOME TO MOROCCO!

Touch down in Casablanca, where our staff will greet you with open arms! Travel by private bus to our first Home Base in Rabat before settling in, getting to know your fellow participants, and learning about your host country at orientation. Rabat is the capital city but has a calmer feel and coastal breezes, making it an ideal city in which to ease into Moroccan life.

### DAY 2 - 3: ORIENTATION & INTRO TO SERVICE & EXPLORING RABAT

After orientation, We'll jump right into community service with an introduction at a *medina* (old city center) school and an afternoon at a refugee center. One afternoon we'll explore the coastal Kasbah des Oudayas, a fortified area perched where the Bouregreg River meets the Atlantic; take in the ocean views and spend time in the picturesque gardens there. We'll also tour the Chellah ruins, a medieval tomb site and trading post.

### DAY 4: CASABLANCA

Today we'll rise early for a day trip to Casablanca, Morocco's largest city and home to the iconic Hassan II, the largest mosque in Africa. Built over a period of seven years and using the work of over 10,000 artists from the region, this decadent place of worship was built to commemorate the former king's 60th birthday. We'll return in the evening just in time for dinner at the Home Base and a session with our Mentor groups.

### DAY 5: MARRAKESH & ATLAS MOUNTAINS

Back on the bus! This time we'll head south to Marrakesh for a morning of exploration. This city is known for its bustling, colorful *souks*, or marketplaces, full of winding passageways, street vendors and vibrant doorways. Shop for handcrafted goods or just browse the beautiful rugs and brass lanterns for which the region is famous. After touring the medina and enjoying a local lunch, we'll continue onward to our main





Home Base in the Atlas Mountains.



## DAYS 6-10: SUMMER CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE, ARABIC CLASSES & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

We'll settle into our oasis guest house situated in a sleepy Berber village up in the Atlas mountains. This is where we'll begin our main community service project. Spend the week at a summer camp for primary school students, where we'll help facilitate programming, assist with physical school refurbishment projects and help students to learn and practice their English skills.

This is also the time for doing some language learning ourselves! In the afternoons we'll take classes in Modern Standard Arabic--these lessons will come in handy in our volunteer endeavors and when interacting with the small village community.

After service one day, we'll learn to make some traditional Moroccan fare! *Tajine*, a fragrant and flavorful baked dish made with couscous, vegetables, and meat, is named after the unique earthenware pot in which it's made.



## DAY 11: HIKING EXCURSION

Today we'll explore some of the Atlas mountain range on foot. Spend the day hiking through rocky terrain filled with wildflowers and take in incredible views of the Atlas Mountains dotted with Berber villages. After the hike, we'll get steamy in a *hammam*, a traditional steam bath. In the evening, learn how to prepare traditional Moroccan food from local women in the community. We'll prepare and enjoy the evening meal together!



## DAY 13: CAMEL RIDE & MARRAKESH MARKETPLACE

Bid our hosts and young students farewell--today we journey back to Marrakesh. Before we return to the city, we'll stop for a mini-adventure: camel ride! Camels (commonly known in Morocco "ships of the desert") have been an important part of Moroccan culture and commerce for thousands of years. Pull in those core muscles and maintain your balance while their dangly legs take you on a journey through the palms and dusty sand.

Afterwards, we'll continue on our way to Marrakesh. Visit the Bahia Palace, famous for its intricate tilework and lush gardens. We'll also make a stop at El Badi Palace, then wrap up the day with some last-minute shopping and farewell dinner. Put your Arabic to the test as you haggle in the souks and say *beslama* (goodbye) to our local staff.

## DAY 14: DEPARTURE

Unfortunately, our Moroccan adventure must come to an end! Head to the airport today with memories that will last a lifetime and new language skills to practice back home. Staff will assist students with checking in and accompany them until they have safely departed for their gates.



## NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES

Every year brings new and exciting opportunities for experiences we can offer students on our programs. While this program is being planned for this season, some activities or details may change between now and the program start date. Please note that references from past participants and previously published information may not accurately reflect every aspect of this program. Refer to the sample itinerary above or to the GLA website for the most up-to-date version of program activities, and please note that further updates may be made between now and the program start date.

## POSSIBLE CHANGES TO PROGRAM ACTIVITIES DUE TO COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that program activities may change in order to accommodate potential COVID-19 regulations. In particular, service projects and other activities that typically involve close contact or engagement with members of the local community may be curbed, altered or skipped depending on staff evaluations on the ground and/or at the discretion of our Executive Director and Director of Program Operations & Risk Management. Every effort will be made to provide an exceptional experience on-location, at whatever level of community interaction is deemed safe at the time.

## TRAVELING TO MOROCCO

**GLA HOME BASE** | Our main Home Base is a cozy guesthouse in the Oukaimeden valley, surrounded by hills and equipped with a large outdoor patio, swimming pool, and shared, gender-segregated bedrooms.

**FOOD** | Morocco is well-known for its cuisine, which is a mix of Berber, Arabic, Andalusian, and Mediterranean influence. Dishes made with couscous, vegetables such as squash and eggplant, lentil, and flatbread are very common. Moroccan dishes have a lot of spice (ginger, cumin, turmeric, saffron) but not a lot of heat.

**CLIMATE** | Be prepared for heat! Rabat, Casablanca, and Marrakesh, all in the lowlands, can experience extreme dry heat in the summer months, with daytime temperatures from the mid-90s to low 100s (F). In Oukaimeden in the High Atlas Mountains, the temperature is a bit cooler, with a daytime average of 90 degrees in July.

## LEADERSHIP

Global Leadership Adventures started as an educational institute, so we continue to think and act like educators—not tour operators—as we deliver life-changing programs. We intentionally weave a leadership curriculum into the daily experience on our programs. Through group discussion, meaningful service, workshops, speakers and excursions, staff guide students to reflect on program events through the lens of leadership, and celebrate outstanding examples of leaders they encounter in the local community. Lending this context to the experience creates opportunities for students to dig deep into their vision, purpose and knowledge of themselves and the world.

## ABOUT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

**Global Leadership Adventures** was founded in 2003 by Fred Swaniker, a native of Ghana, TED Fellow and educational entrepreneur whose work has been praised by Barack Obama. Born as a global extension of the revolutionary African Leadership Academy, Global Leadership Adventures now operates programs centered around leadership, sustainable community service projects, and meaningful travel across Africa, Asia, Europe or the Americas. Through life-changing adventures, we strive to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.



GLA HAS BEEN FEATURED IN:

**The New York Times**

 **USA TODAY™**

 **NBC NEWS**

**The Boston Globe**

*seventeen*

## Our Expectations

### **Be present**

Our mission at GLA is “to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.” To that end, we expect GLA students to maintain high standards of personal behavior and to be open-minded. The culture may be different, sometimes shockingly so. GLA will challenge students as they are expected to work hard and be present physically and mentally for all activities. We also ask students to take a step back from regular use of technology - particularly their smartphones - so as to maximize their engagement with the program and their fellow participants. Students may get hot, dirty and bug-bitten along the way, but their contribution can transform the community. The goal is for each student to return home having had a life-changing experience.

### **No tolerance**

GLA has a no-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, tobacco and disruptive behavior. Those who violate or are suspected of violating this policy will be immediately dismissed from the program at the sole discretion of GLA staff.

### **Community-Led experiences**

GLA makes every effort to offer thoughtfully crafted programs for teens and young adults. Detailed planning and exhaustive communications with partners are indispensable parts of our program development process. However, occasionally service and activities are adjusted from session to session, due to weather, changing needs of our local community partners and/or various cultural celebrations and customs. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, willing to embrace the experience when plans change. GLA makes every effort to communicate adjustments to students and families with advance notice. We expect you to be open-minded and flexible.

### **Mentorship**

GLA is not a therapy program. Our staff are highly skilled, professional, caring and fun, but they are not licensed therapists. GLA programs can be physically and emotionally demanding, and applicants should be in good physical and mental health.

## We're Here to Help

### **Contact Us**

Want to learn more about Global Leadership Adventures and our available programs? Our Admissions Team has expertise and insights into our slate of program offerings, and we're happy to answer any questions you might have. We have collectively visited or staffed many of our GLA programs around the world, and we have advice to share on everything from getting your travel documents together to what a typical day on a program is like. Call us at 1-858-771-0645 any time during office hours for assistance.

**Enroll Now**

We encourage you to enroll on your 1st choice program as early as you can! In fact, our most popular programs fill early every year, and many students end up putting off the quick and easy application process only to end up on the waiting list. The best way to ensure that you save your spot is to place your deposit and apply early. You can easily enroll online at [www.experiencegla.com/enroll](http://www.experiencegla.com/enroll).