

The Society for Biblical Studies
Points of Contact—Christian, Jewish and Islamic Heritage in Morocco
10 Day Journey to Morocco
1—10 November 2023
2 Day Elective: Reconnaissance du Tangier (or the Hippie Trail), returning 12 November 2023
Syllabus

Objectives:

- To explore points of contact between Christianity, Islam and Judaism
- To engage authentic interfaith conversation with a variety of people, Moroccan and expatriate, who are themselves engaged in authentic interfaith dialogue
- To experience the natural, historical and cultural charms of Morocco
- To enjoy the cultures and explore the idea of desert spirituality

Texts: All participants would find reading one of the following books to be beneficial.

1. Ellsberg, Robert, ed. *Charles de Foucauld: Essential Writings*. Marynoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1999.
2. Elmaleh, Raphael David & George Ricketts. *Jews Under Moroccan Skies: Two Thousand Years of Jewish Life*. Santa Fe, NM: Gaon Books, 2012.
3. Harris, Walter. *Morocco That Was*. London: Eland Books, 2007.
4. Hoffman, Katherine E. & Susan Gilson Miller. *Berbers and Others: Beyond Tribe and Nation in the Maghreb*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2010.
5. Maxwell, Gavin. *Lords of the Atlas: The Rise and Fall of the House of Glaoua 1893-1956*. London: Eland Books, 1966.

Itinerary:

Day 1 1.11, W	Depart USA
Day 2 2.11, Th	Arrive Casablanca Field trip: meeting at St. John's Episcopal Church, Fr. Medhet Sabry, tour mosque of Hassan II, additional touring as time permits, orientation, introductions Overnight in Casablanca
Day 3 3.11, F	Theme: Introduction to Islam and Judaism in Morocco Field trip: Museum of Moroccan Judaism, Beth El and Eim Habanim Synagogues, the Mellah, meeting with Dorith Benmoha (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) Overnight in Casablanca
Day 4 4.11, Sa	Theme: The Red City Field trip: drive to Marrakech, visit Majorelle gardens, Saadian tombs, Palace of Bahia, Museum of Moroccan Arts, the Souk, PM meeting with Warda Belkass, dinner on your own

Overnight in Marrakech

- Day 5
5.11, Su Theme: Streets, Souks and Squares
AM forum: *Orientalism*
Field trip: the Jewish Quarter, Koutoubia mosque, Jemaa al Fanaa
dinner on your own
Overnight in Marrakech
- Day 6
6.11, M Free day: explore Marrakech at leisure or join an excursion into the foothills of
the Atlas mountains
dinner on your own
overnight in Marrakech
- Day 7
7.11, Tu Theme: The Gateway to the Sahara
Field trip: embark from Marrakech into the High Atlas Mountains (14,000 ft.),
cross the Tizi n Tichkah Pass (7,600 ft), visit the Todra
Gorge, Ait Ben Haddou kasbah
Overnight in Ourzazate
- Day 8
8.11, W Theme: The Road of a Thousand Kasbahs
Field trip: Kalaa Mgouna--the Rose City, Dades Valley, the Valley of the
Roses, Erfoud, Merzouga, optional sunset camel ride
Overnight Erg Chebbi
- Day 9
9.11, Th Theme: Desert Life & Desert Spirituality
AM forum: *Desert Spirituality*
Field trip: the sand dunes of Erg Chebbi by jeep and on foot, visit Amazigh
camp, flight to Casablanca
Overnight Erg Chebbi
- Day 10
10.11, F Return to the U.S.A. or continue on the elective

2 Day Elective: Reconnaissance du Tangier or the Hippie Trail

- Day 10
10.11, F Travel & Explore
Field trip: depart Casablanca by train, arrive Tangier, explore the Medina
dinner is on your own
Overnight in Tangier
- Day 11
11.11, Sa Theme: Tangier & Its Environs
Field trip: Cap Spartel Reserve, the Caves of Hercules, Mendoubia Gardens, souk,
medina.
dinner is on your own
Overnight in Tangier
- Day 12
12.11, Su Return to USA

- Meetings with indigenous people are subject to change. Appropriate substitutions will be made in the event a speaker is unavailable.
- Daily itinerary is subject to local conditions, including weather, opening and closing hours, holidays, flight schedules, etc. Sometimes the order of the itinerary will change due to such circumstances and sometimes substitutions will be made.
- Morning and evening fora on various topics will be arranged throughout the program.