



SOJOURN TO IMPERIAL MARRAKECH

Palaces, Gardens, Souks & Chamber Music

**With CMS Co-Artistic Director Wu Han
and other CMS artists**

May 25 – June 1, 2020



Dear Friends,

Founded in 1062 at the crossroads between the Sahara, the snow-capped peaks of the Atlas and the Anti-Atlas mountains, and commanding a strategic position on the great Saharan caravan trade, Marrakech prospered and rose to become the hub of a great empire and one of Morocco's four "imperial" cities. Today, Marrakech is one of the world's most alluring cities.

Perhaps no other city in Morocco epitomizes the past and present as Marrakech does. Within the Medina, the original section of the city, are numerous ancient palaces, other historic buildings of distinctive architecture, crenellated ramparts, colorful souks and labyrinthine and twisting streets and alleyways. Outside the Medina is the Ville Nouvelle, the "new" Marrakech, designed by the French in the early part of the 20th century, with its trendy shops and boutiques, cafés, lovely gardens and wide boulevards.

During our six-day stay in this fabled city, our "home" will be the exquisite and historic boutique Hotel La Maison Arabe. We will have the opportunity to explore its landmark monuments, shop in the fascinating souks and craft centers, admire the elegant gardens, and taste its cuisine, for which Marrakech is justly notable. We will also venture into the desert outside of the city for a camel trek and an unforgettable dinner in a Berber tent, with traditional Moroccan musical performance.

The unique feature of traveling with Chamber Music Society will be three concerts performed by our accompanying CMS artists, led by Wu Han, CMS's Co-Artistic Director, at specially-selected places.

2020 marks the 50th Anniversary of CMS. What better way to celebrate so many achievements and so much sublime music than joining us on this journey of discovery to renowned Marrakech.

Warm regards,



Suzanne Davidson
Executive Director





Koutoubia Mosque



ITINERARY

Monday, May 25 ~ DEPART THE USA

Depart the United States for Marrakech, Morocco.

Tuesday, May 26 ~ MARRAKECH, Morocco

Arrive in Marrakech and transfer to the hotel La Maison Arabe, where we will spend the next six nights. One of the city's most distinctive and historic hotels, La Maison Arabe is conveniently located in the atmospheric Medina of Marrakech. In the evening, enjoy a welcome cocktail reception and dinner at the hotel.

Meals: D

Wednesday, May 27 ~ MARRAKECH

In the morning, begin our exploration of Marrakech, starting in the Medina, the original part of the city, dating to the 11th century. Here is the world-famous Jemaa el Fna, the central square that vibrates with the traditional sights and sounds of Marrakech. Rising dramatically from one side of the square is the 252-foot-high minaret of the Koutoubia Mosque, an architectural masterpiece, built around 1150. Nearby are the Koutoubia Gardens, beautifully laid out with pools and fountains. Conclude with a walk through the old souks and the artisans quarters. After lunch at the celebrated restaurant of La Mamounia, visit Dar El Basha, the recently restored palace of the ruler of Marrakech in the first half of the 20th century. Continue to the Secret Garden, a lovely restored medieval garden. Later, attend our first concert, followed by dinner.

Meals: B, L, D

Thursday, May 28 ~ MARRAKECH

In the morning, visit the Bahia Palace, known for

its extensive courtyards, halls and apartments; the 16th-century El-Badi Palace, which, in its ruined state displays its former splendor; and the decorated tombs of the Saadians, the dynasty that ruled Morocco from 1554 to 1669, which are considered among the architectural gems of Marrakech. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, tour the sumptuous Dar Si Said Palace, converted to the Museum of Moroccan Arts. Then explore the Mellah, the once-thriving old quarter of the city's Jewish community.

Meals: B, L

Friday, May 29 ~ MARRAKECH

Spend the morning at leisure to relax and explore the colorful souks on your own. In the afternoon, visit the Marrakech Museum. Housed in a magnificent palace, the museum exhibits Moroccan art and sculpture. Nearby stands the Almoravid Koubba, the only structure in Morocco to have survived from the 11th-century Almoravid



Traditional Moroccan tajine

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (212) 875-5795



Spices at the market

dynasty. Late in the afternoon, attend our second concert, followed by dinner.

Meals: B, D

Saturday, May 30 ~ MARRAKECH & THE AGAFAY DESERT

In the morning, visit two superb gardens. Start at the Menara Garden, laid out around an enormous pool that was dug in the 12th century.

Captivated by Marrakech, the couturier Yves Saint Laurent had established a close and devoted relationship with this storied city, going back to the 1960s. From Menara continue to the exquisite Majorelle Garden. A meticulously designed botanical garden created in the 1920s by the French painter Jacques Majorelle, the garden was subsequently owned by Yves Saint Laurent. A specially-designed museum in the garden is dedicated to the work of the couturier. Enjoy lunch at the Majorelle Garden. In the afternoon, drive an hour out of Marrakech to the scenic Agafay Desert for a memorable afternoon and evening that will include a camel trek and dinner in a Berber tent, with a traditional Moroccan musical performance.

Meals: B, L, D

Sunday, May 31 ~ MARRAKECH

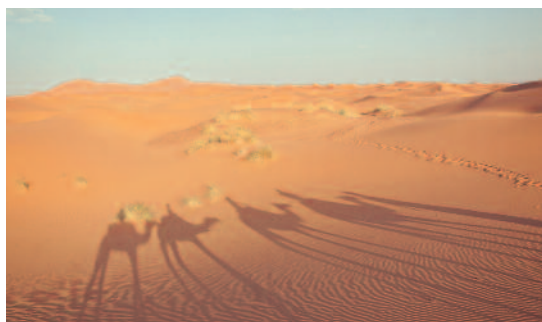
Spend our last day at leisure in this fabled city for independent activities and discoveries. Later, we will attend the closing concert, followed by a farewell dinner.

Meals: B, D

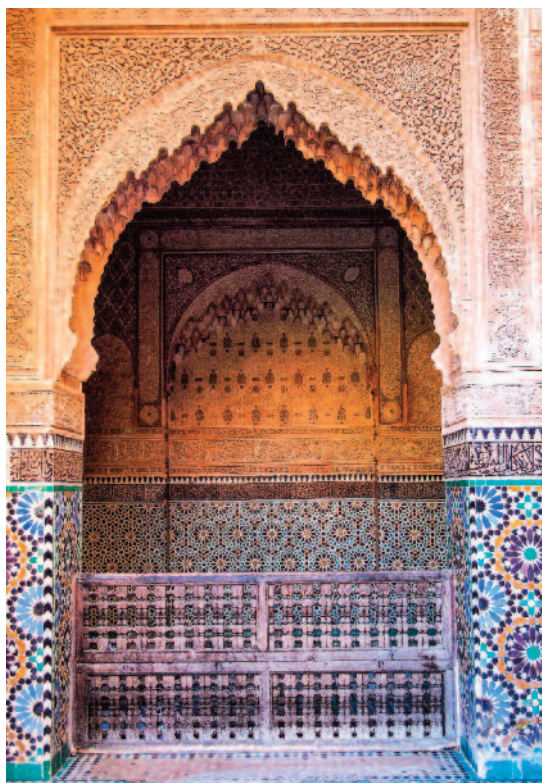
Monday, June 1 ~ MARRAKECH/USA

Transfer to the airport for the return flight home.

Meals: B



Agafay Desert



Saadian Tombs



The elegant restaurant of the hotel

LA MAISON ARABE: Marrakech's historic hotel

Our "home" in Marrakech will be La Maison Arabe, the city's intimate and historic hotel that has hosted a long list of celebrities and dignitaries. With only 32 rooms and suites, La Maison Arabe is more akin to a magnificent mansion than a commercial hotel. The spacious rooms feature antiques and objects of fine Moroccan craftsmanship, all of which reflect the eclectic taste of Count Ruspoli, the hotel's owner. Facilities include a restaurant, bar, pool and steam room/hammam. Located in the old town, within walking distance to the Jemaa el Fna square and the souks, the hotel also has a country resort outside the old town that features a large swimming pool, elegant garden, restaurant and cooking school. The country resort is available to the hotel's guests and can easily be accessed by the hotel's shuttle bus.



The hotel's courtyard

PRICE

\$9,240 per person, double occupancy; * Single room supplement: \$1,490
* Includes a \$1,250 tax-deductible contribution per person, payable to CMS.

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Six nights in Marrakech's deluxe hotel La Maison Arabe.
- American breakfast each morning at the hotel.
- Welcome cocktail reception and dinner.
- Three lunches and four dinners at local restaurants, with wine or beer.
- Special dinner under a Berber tent in the Agafay Desert.
- Three concerts as described in the itinerary.
- Tours and excursions by deluxe WiFi equipped motor coach and English-speaking guide.
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers and handling of luggage in Marrakech, on May 26 and June 1.
- All local taxes and service charges.
- Gratuities to drivers, guides and porters.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys tour manager.
- Complete pre-departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the Itinerary and Program Inclusions.

About the Weather & Activity-Pace Level

We will visit Marrakech during late spring/early summer. The weather at this time of the year is characterized by long sunny days, practically no humidity and no precipitation. The daytime temperature is expected to range from the mid-to-upper 80s. Evenings are cooler. The activity and pace levels of the program are moderate, with walking/standing up for about two hours at a time.

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (212) 875-5795

REGISTRATION

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$_____ (\$ 1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold _____ place(s) on **Sojourn to Imperial Marrakech**. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure.

Please make check payable to: **Thalassa Journeys** and mail this registration form to:

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

70 Lincoln Center Plaza, New York, NY 10023

Phone: (212) 875-5795

AmEx Discover Visa MasterCard

No. _____

Exp. _____ 3- or 4-Digit Security Code _____

Preference at hotels:

Double accommodation Single accommodation

DR./MR./MRS./MS. FIRST LAST

DR./MR./MRS./MS. FIRST LAST

ADDRESS

Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms.

CITY/STATE/ZIP

TELEPHONE (DAY) (EVENING)

SIGNATURE DATE

E-MAIL

SIGNATURE DATE

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure.

Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 30-45 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 30 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

ITINERARY: The itinerary, accommodations, arrangements, and artists are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

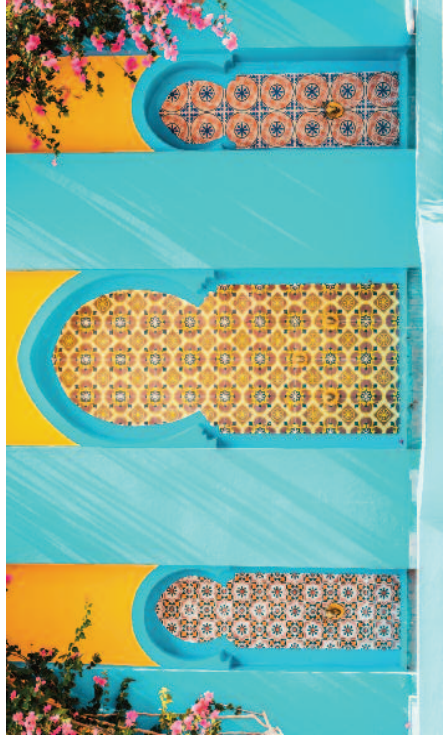
RESPONSIBILITY: Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys and the tour's sponsoring organization. Thalassa Journeys and the tour's sponsoring organization act solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in the City of New York, pursuant to applicable New York law.

RATES: Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.



70 Lincoln Center Plaza
New York, NY 10023

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Brentwood, NY
Permit No 36



Typical Moroccan architecture

For information contact
The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
at (212) 875-5795 or
travel@chambermusicsociety.org
