Fall 2015 Parent Trip

Morocco

October 20 - 28, 2015

www.semesteratsea.org/parent-trip
Dear Semester at Sea Parent,

Did you know that you have the opportunity to be a part of your child’s Semester at Sea experience?

The Institute for Shipboard Education coordinates a Parent Trip during each Semester at Sea voyage and we invite you—the parents and family members of voyagers—to explore a foreign country with your son or daughter and share in their development and understanding of our interdependent world.

The Fall 2015 Parent Trip to Morocco is October 20-28, 2015, beginning and ending in Casablanca. The trip is planned around the voyage itinerary, and students will join the trip from the time they arrive in Casablanca until the ship departs Morocco. The trip includes six nights in Casablanca, a night in the Agafay Rocky Desert, and one night in Marrakech.

As a Semester at Sea parent and the Parent Trip Chair, I cannot overstate the excitement you will experience by participating in this trip! The look on your son’s or daughter’s face, along with the big hug you will get when you meet up with them, will have you thrilled that you decided to join them for a part of their life-transforming voyage.

Sincerely,

Kate Mulligan
SAS Parents Council Co-Chair
DAY 1
October 20: Arrival in Casablanca
Travel to Casablanca. A transfer is included from the Mohammed V International Airport (CMN) to the hotel on the day you arrive. This day will be open for hotel check-in and leisure time followed by a Welcome Reception in the hotel featuring Moroccan wines and cuisine. 
Evening Reception | Lodging: Casablanca Hyatt Regency Hotel

DAY 2
October 21: Casablanca
Breakfast is included and on your own schedule each morning (except on mornings with an early departure). This morning will be free, allowing time to explore your neighborhood or rest after the long journey. In the afternoon we will meet our guide for an introductory tour of Casablanca, including the Palace Mohammed V, followed by a Welcome Dinner in Casablanca.
Meals: B, D | Lodging: Casablanca Hyatt Regency Hotel

DAY 3
October 22: MV World Odyssey Arrival / Casablanca and Rabat
This morning we will have an early breakfast and head to the Port of Casablanca to see the arrival of the MV World Odyssey. Parents and family members will be able to board the ship for a tour. Please note that some students will have required, faculty-led Field Labs and parents and family members are not permitted to attend Field Labs. This afternoon parents and students not on field labs will depart for Rabat, Morocco’s elegant and modern capital city, where we will visit the Mohamed V Mausoleum and the Hassan II Tower, the minaret of a mosque that was intended to be the largest in the world. Even unfinished, the mosque is spectacular as two hundred columns mark where it was to stand, reflecting the glory of the Almohad Empire which, in the 12th century, stretched to Tunisia and Moorish Spain. From here we will visit the Kasbah Oudaya medina and have Moroccan tea before heading back to Casablanca. Dinner tonight is on our own.
Meals: B, L (optional, on ship) | Lodging: Casablanca Hyatt Regency Hotel

DAY 4
October 23: Casablanca and El Jadida
This is the second day of required Field Labs for some students. Parents and students not on Field Labs will visit the medinas (old towns) of El Jadida and Azemmour, which exude the charm of yesteryear in a labyrinthine collection of narrow streets, beautiful buildings, gates to mysterious passageways, and a mixture of Portuguese, Arab, Andalusian and Berber architectural styles. Following lunch at the Mazagan Beach Resort, we will have a guided walk through the old town of Mazagan, a Portuguese city also known as El Jadida. On the way back to Casablanca, we will stop for the stunning panoramic view of the port and the Atlantic Ocean. We will have dinner tonight at the famous Rick’s Café.
Meals: B, L, D | Lodging: Casablanca Hyatt Regency Hotel
DAY 5
October 24: Casablanca—Marrakech—Agafay Rocky Desert
This morning we will drive from Casablanca to the beautiful city of Marrakech, where we will have lunch. From here we will board 4x4 vehicles for the drive to Agafay, a rocky desert in the foothills of the High Atlas Mountains in the heart of Berber country. Here your camels will be waiting for you and you will ride to an authentic nomad camp where you will enjoy a Moroccan dinner under the stars with a traditional folkloric show that includes belly dancers and a henna tattoo artist.
Meals: B, L, D | Lodging: Agafay Nomad Camp, Agafay Rocky Desert

DAY 6
October 25: Agafay Rocky Desert—Asbu—Marrakech
This morning we will explore the desert in our 4x4 vehicles following the N’fis Wadi River on the way back to Marrakech. Renowned Chef Tarek will welcome our group in a beautiful garden outside Marrakech, where he will reveal secrets of Moroccan cuisine and teach us to make his famous and incomparable tagines. While lunch is being prepared we will go for a walk in this tiny Berber village. Following lunch we will return to Marrakech, where we will check in to the 5-star Kenzi Menara Palace, located opposite the original ramparts, the ancient walls of this unique and captivating city. Dinner tonight will be at the Riad Lotus Privilege Restaurant.
Meals: B, L, D | Lodging: Kenzi Menara Palace

DAY 7
October 26: Marrakech—Casablanca
Today we travel back to Casablanca, where we will have a guided tour of the Hassan II Mosque, the crowning achievement of King Hassan II and the world’s third-largest mosque. We will have free time to explore Casablanca for the last time before heading back to the ship for a late afternoon reception for parents and family members. Parents will check into the hotel and then watch the MV World Odyssey’s departure from the Penthouse at the Sofitel Tour Blanche, which offers the best view of Casablanca.
Meals: B, Reception | Lodging: Casablanca Hyatt Regency Hotel

DAY 8
October 27: Casablanca
The final full day in Casablanca features an exploration of some of the up and coming wineries and wines of Morocco, beginning in Casablanca and venturing north to the Ben-slime province for a visit to Morocco’s oldest winery. We will have a farewell dinner at the hotel.
Meals: B, L, D | Lodging: Casablanca Hyatt Regency Hotel

DAY 9
October 28: Casablanca and the Journey Home
Departures from Casablanca. Transfers to the airport are included.
Meals: B
“Joining other parents and traveling together to meet our Semester at Sea voyagers was an experience beyond compare. It was easy to feel the excitement of this unique program by participating in these well-organized and educational trips. Greeting the ship as it docks in a foreign port, reconnecting with your student, and then exploring a foreign culture together gives parents a greater understanding of life on Semester at Sea. We highly recommend that parents explore this wonderful opportunity to share in their student’s Semester at Sea voyage.”

SHELLY GALLOWAY, GLENCOE, IL

“Participating in the Summer 2011 Parent Trip was the second-best decision we’ve made this year (right behind sending Andrew on this amazing journey)! To experience the incredible history, beauty and food of Greece was unbelievable, but to do so with our son and other SAS students and their parents was beyond all expectations. But our most lasting impression will be how our shared experiences in Greece transformed so many of us from strangers into friends who will remain so long after the suitcases are unpacked.”

MIKE ALLISON, LA VERNE, CA

MORE INFO
For more information, pricing and registration form, visit: www.semesteratsea.org/parent-trip

FOR QUESTIONS
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