

Pacific Horticulture Presents the Imperial Cities of Majestic Morocco

October 18 - 30, 2025



Departures from the USA Oct 17th, 2025: Please advise Sterling if a pre night is desired.

OCT 18 – SAT: ARRIVE CASABLANCA/RABAT - Independent arrivals at Casablanca or Rabat airports and transfers to the hotel* in the stately capital of Rabat, a World Heritage city. The remainder of the day is free to relax from the journey. An early evening cocktail reception at the hotel, followed by a Continental dinner. *(Two group transfers will be provided on October 18 only, one for Casablanca airport and one for Rabat airport, in conjunction with the largest number of arrival flights in a similar time frame. Individual transfers may be arranged for other participants, at cost.)



Villa Mandarine, the city's foremost boutique hotel, is in the diplomatic enclave, full of art and museum-quality crafts, a heated pool, and one of the city's most renowned cuisines. 3 nights here. **(D)**

OCT 19 – SUN: BOUKNADEL/RABAT -

In the morning we depart on an excursion a half-hour north of the city to the Jardins Exotiques of Bouknadel. These vast gardens, with 7 world themes, were created in the 1950s by a French resident and have been



recently restored to their original beauty and as an educational center under the guidance of the King's youngest sister. A seafood lunch by the crashing waves of the Atlantic is followed by a leisurely walk through the picturesque Oudaya Kasbah.



A former lair of Barbary Coast corsairs, with an Andalusian Garden and the Oudaya Gate, a prime example of the purely Moroccan architectural style developed under the 12th-century Almohad Dynasty. There we visit the National Museum of Jewelry and Adornment. A welcome dinner of Moroccan delights

awaits at the Dinarjat in the medina. **(B, L, D)**

OCT 20 – MON: RABAT - The city tour continues with a walk through the Chellah fortress, its remains are of the Roman colony of Sala and the necropolis of the 14th-century Marinid Dynasty amid lush vegetation. Next, the kingdom's prime National Archaeological Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Moroccan Art, in a magnificent structure of neo-Moorish architecture. Lunch awaits at the Center for Cross Cultural Learning in the Rabat medina, with a presentation on U.S.-Moroccan relations over the centuries.* A stop to see the ornate mausoleum of modern Morocco's "father" King Mohamed V, set on the grounds of what had been meant to be the world's largest mosque with the tallest minaret in the Almohad Dynasty period. The remainder of the day is free to relax amid the hotel's lounges and gardens. Tonight's dinner is French at the Restaurant Cosmopolitan. **(B, L, D)**



OCT 21 – TUE: RABAT TO FES - The Rabat visit concludes this morning at the city's Botanical Gardens, established in 1917 and set on 42 acres, with hundreds of plant varieties. We return to the hotel in time to check out and enjoy a light lunch, following which there is a 2½-hr drive to spiritual capital Fes, whose medina is considered by scholars to be the last true example of a typical medieval Arab city. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure, albeit those interested may proceed in the late afternoon to one of the city's ateliers for ceramics and zellige (mosaic tile), a Fesi specialty since the 14th century. Dinner at the hotel.



Le Grand Alcazar, a majestic former mansion within the old city that has been converted to a boutique hotel with traditional Moroccan décor. 3 nights here. **(B, L, D)**

OCT 22 – WED: FES - The day belongs to Fes. Founded by Idriss II, a direct descendant of the Prophet, and former capital of the 14th-century Amazigh Marinid Dynasty. Begin with a walking tour of 9th-century “Old” Fes, with its jewels of art spanning a millennium –

pilgrimage shrines, intricately embellished theological schools, caravanserais, and the world’s oldest still functional university, the Qarawiyine. Along with the famed leather tanneries and craft quarters where the arts are passed in ageless ways from master to disciple. Lunch during the walk at the Ruined Garden. In the afternoon we tour 8-centuries-old “New” Fes, with its Bou Inaniya theological school, to many the top masterpiece of Marinid architecture, and the famed “Blue” Gate. Dinner of Fesi delicacies at the Maison Bleue. **(B, L, D)**



OCT 23 – THU: VOLUBILIS/ MEKNES/ MEDITERRANEAN CEDARS - An



excursion takes us first west to the ruins of Rome’s regional commercial hub Volubilis, renowned for its numerous mosaics still in situ. Then south to Meknes, the 17th-Century capital of the current dynasty’s founder Sultan Moulay Ismaïl, where we see the World Heritage

immense granary he built to sustain the city’s population and his thousands of horses for up to a year-long siege. The Meknes region is the Kingdom’s main wine center, and we enjoy a tasting of prime crûs and lunch at one of the foremost prime vineyards. A short drive from there brings us into the Middle Atlas Mountains, where we admire the last forest of giant Mediterranean cedars and may spot a band of the indigenous Barbary macaques. Return to Fes via mountain station Ifrane, site of Africa’s most prestigious university, the Al Akhawayne, with late afternoon arrival. Dinner today is on your own. **(B, L)**



OCT 24 – FRI: MARRAKECH - An early morning departure on the limited-access autoroute east to Casablanca and then south to legendary Marrakech, with a break in route at a service station eatery where you can purchase a light lunch. A mid-afternoon arrival at the hotel. A welcome cocktail followed by dinner at the hotel.



Jnane Tamsna, a boutique hotel set on 9 acres of greenery amid the palm groves outside of the city. 6 nights here. **(B, D)**

OCT 25 – SAT: MAJORELLE GARDEN/ RED

MEDINA - The day begins with a stroll in the exotic garden that French Orientalist Jacques Majorelle created in the 1920s, restored by Yves Saint-Laurent, who lived in Majorelle's former home. There we visit the exquisite Museum of Berber Arts as well as the new YSL Museum



next to the garden. Then into the old city and its Monde des Arts de la Parure, a unique venue showcasing some 3,000 articles of ornament, clothing and other ethnographic arts from nearly every corner of the world, based on the lifelong collection of an Italian couple who reside in the city. A Lebanese lunch awaits on the museum's shaded rooftop terrace. From there we head to the Bahia ("Resplendent") Palace of a late 19th-Century vizier, a showcase of Moorish-Andalusian art once spread on 20 acres and still



used by the Royal family for special occasions. Also, a stop by the 12th-Century Koutoubia Mosque, the symbol of the city and a "reference" of world Islamic architecture, built under the Amazigh Almodad Dynasty (who also built Seville's Giralda minaret as a "sister" to the Koutoubia). Afternoon return to the hotel, with a wine tasting and dinner there this

evening. **(B, L, D)**

OCT 26 – SUN: THE SAADIANS/ AFRICAN

ART - In the morning, we head to the Al Badi Palace of the Saadians, the first Arab Dynasty to rule over the land that is now Morocco. With Marrakech their capital, the palace, according to travelers of that period, was the most lavish in the world, surpassing even those of India's Moghul emperors. Yet, the founder of the succeeding dynasty laid it to waste, taking anything of value to use in the building of his own palace in Meknes. While its ruins still give a feel for its former grandeur, within it we see the Koutoubia minbar, a 12-foot-high preacher's pulpit of inlaid wood, fashioned in Cordoba in 1139 CE and recently restored by the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



We move on to the Saadian Dynasty's mausoleum, the last window left into the lavishness of their late 17th-Century art. Lunch is at the exquisite Oberoi hotel, amid a manicured garden designed by Madison Cox.

Post-lunch a visit of MACAAL, the museum of sub-Saharan African art, with the stroll through the unique sculpture garden next to it. Return to the Jnane Tamsna in the afternoon, in time for a cooking class, followed by dinner. **(B, L, D)**

OCT 27 – MON: INTO THE SOUQ - In the morning penetrate the vast bazaars, Morocco's largest, to see a myriad of crafts still fashioned by hand. We wind our way to Le Jardin Secret, a vast green space hidden amid the maze of the souqs, part of a royal residence initially established in the 16th century, rebuilt twice, eventually abandoned and finally restored and opened to the public for the first time in its history in 2016. Also a visit of the Ben



Youssef Medersa, a theological school initially built in the 14th Century. An astounding buffet lunch awaits us at the Hotel la Mamounia, the country's most famed, where Churchill spent much of his retirement and whose guests have included the "who's who" of the world. We also have time to walk through its garden. The return to the edge of the medina for a visit of the grandiose Dar al Basha palace of T'hami el Glaoui, the city's overlord during French days, to see the museum within of interreligious currents as expressed in crafts and beliefs. In the evening the hotel's owner Meryanne Loum-Martin shall provide a talk on Moroccan lifestyles and her book "Inside Marrakech," followed by dinner. **(B, L, D)**



OCT 28 – TUE: THE ANIMA - A mid-morning excursion to the Anima, on everyone's list of "must-see" world gardens. A whimsical, magical world spread on over 7 acres 35 min South of the city, the creation of Austrian artist André Heller, with lush vegetation from around the world interspersed with large works of modern art by renowned world artists, including such as Picasso and Alexander Calder. Lunch is at a nearby garden hotel and the remainder of the day is free for personal pursuits. Dinner tonight is on your own, to try Marrakech's variety of world-class eateries. **(B, L)**



OCT 29 – WED: INTO THE ATLAS - This morning we drive to the Ourika Valley the foothills of the High Atlas Mountains with ethnobotanist Gary Martin, to visit Dar Taliba, a boarding school for girls from remote mountain communities where they might not have had a chance for education otherwise. The school's ethnobotanical program and garden is one of Gary's Global Diversity Foundation (GDF) projects.



The GDF supports biodiversity conservation in the High Atlas, while maintaining cultural landscapes and conserving biocultural heritage. From there we cross the mountains to the pristine N'Fis Valley until the Olinto Atlas Mountain Retreat for a gourmet lunch based on local seasonal produce. On our way back to the city we stop at the garden home of celebrated Moroccan artist Abderrahim Yamou, whose paintings, often inspired by nature, offer a 3-dimensional effect. Late-afternoon return to the hotel.



A special evening is planned at Jnane Tamsna with Moroccan music and drinks on the roof terrace and a farewell candlelight dinner. **(B, L, D)**

OCT 30 – THU: DEPARTURE - Transfers to Marrakech airport in conjunction with outbound flights. **(B)**

TOUR PRICE:

\$ 8,260.00 per guest without Pacific Horticulture Membership

\$ 8,160.00 per guest for Pacific Horticulture Members

The single supplement is \$ 1,855.00 per guest

To become a Pacific Horticulture Member please visit:

<https://pacifichorticulture.org/membership-registration>

Tour cost is based on a minimum of 14 guests - 18 max.

To Register for the tour a deposit of \$ 1000.00 pp will be due with each guest's Booking Form (see final page) and signed agreement of Sterling Tours LTD's Terms and Conditions.

Costs Include

- Accommodations for 3 nights at Rabat's, Villa Mandarine, 3 nights at Fes's, Le Grand, and 6 nights at Marrakech's, Jnane Tamsna, all inclusive of breakfasts and taxes.
- Meals as outlined, with 10 lunches and 10 dinners, on preset group menus and inclusive of water and coffee/tea. Most individual dietary restrictions may be accommodated. Restaurant gratuities are included.
- Services of a licensed national guide throughout the program, including his expenses. (Guide is not expected to be present for dinners.)
- Services of local guides for Rabat (1 day), Fes (1 day), Volubilis (up to 1½ hr) and Marrakech (3 days).
- Transport by a 48-seat coach throughout the program, inclusive of driver's expenses, taxes and fuel.
- Group transfers from CMN and from RBA airports to Villa Mandarine on Oct. 18 only, and a group transfer from Jnane Tamsna to RAK airport on Oct. 30 only.
- Sightseeing and entrances as stated in the itinerary
- An English-speaking tour Escort from Sterling Tours LTD
- Luggage port at hotels
- A copy of Meryanne Loum-Martin's book, Inside Marrakesh: Enchanting Homes and Gardens. One copy per household.
- A \$350 patronage to Pacific Horticulture Members

Costs Do Not Include

- Any airfares.
- Any meals nor beverages beyond those stated in the itinerary.
- Any transfers outside of those listed above.
- Any insurance nor medical expenses. We strongly advise you to insure your travels with Travel Guard or travel insurance operators.
- Any gratuities beyond those for restaurant meals covered above, or for your guide, any items of a personal nature, nor any individual request services beyond the listed program.

Terms & Conditions

This information is important. Please read it carefully. Submission of an online or printed Booking Form along with payment of required trip deposit indicates you have read and expressly agree to these Terms and Conditions. If there is something that you do not understand please ask us about it!

Reservations and Payments - A non-refundable deposit of \$1000.00 per person is required at the time of booking. Written confirmation will be provided upon receipt of deposit. Balance of payment will be due 90 days before departure. The tour price is based on exchange rates in effect as of October 24, 2024, and are subject to adjustment on the final invoice.

Number of Guests - A maximum of 18 guests (this includes the tour escort and guide) per tour can be accommodated. A minimum of 14 guests are required to operate the tour at the quoted price. Purchase of non-refundable services outside of tour itinerary (such as airline tickets) before the minimum number of guests have registered is at the sole risk and expense of the guest.

Cancellations - All cancellations must be made in writing. As noted, final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and is non-refundable. Accordingly, we strongly recommend that you purchase appropriate cancellation insurance.

Hotels - Hotels are shown on your itinerary. Sterling Tours reserves the right to change any hotel through any circumstance---the substitute will be of equal or higher quality.

Scheduled Activities - Every effort will be made to provide such services as listed, but where unavoidable circumstances necessitate changes, the best substitute alternatives will be made at the discretion of Sterling Tours, the local escort, or the ground operator without financial compensation to tour members.

Service Fees & Taxes - Today there are frequently service charges and taxes imposed by hotels, suppliers, and governments. These fees and taxes are included to the extent possible, but where pre-payment is not allowed the amounts concerned must be paid locally by tour members.

Travel Documents - A passport valid for at least 6 months after the last date of this tour is required for this trip.

Baggage - Sterling is not responsible for loss, theft or damage to your baggage---travel insurance is strongly recommended to protect against loss. Guests are responsible for airline and government-imposed baggage regulations and fees.

Exclusions - Your arrangements exclude airfare, passports, visas, excess baggage charges, items of a personal nature such as laundry, communication expenses, room service, meals not specified in your itinerary, optional sightseeing and other excursions, and any items not listed in your documents.

Travel and Trip Cancellation Insurance - We strongly recommend that you purchase Travel Insurance. This decision to book insurance is at the guest's discretion and will be "as is" between the guest and their selected agency. Sterling Tours LTD shall not be held liable for any insurance claims resulting from usage of the product.

Physical Capabilities - The tour includes a SIGNIFICANT amount of walking, FREQUENT use of stairs and steeply sloped pathways on uneven or unpaved surfaces. Some of the places we will be visiting can only be seen on foot with no other access possible. Guests with limited mobility MUST consult with Sterling prior to tour registration.

Responsibility Clause - Sterling Tours - the "Operator", CEO, Michael Lee, Group Facilitator and Tour Escort, Shannon Cummins, and/or agents or representatives, act only as facilitators for the various companies involved in providing included visits and services. They assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any means of conveyance which may be used either whole or in part in the performance of its duty to the passenger. Likewise they will not be responsible for any act, error or omission or for any personal injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, irregularity or inconvenience which may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any vehicles, or through any act, neglect or default, or any company or person engaged in carrying out the purpose for which tickets or coupons are issued, whether negligent or not, including, but not limited to, any act of God, terrorism or war. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the Operator. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should the condition's warrant, also to decline to accept or retain passengers as members of the tour. Legal proceedings against the Operator may be instituted only in a State or Federal Court within the County of San Diego, State of California, and any claim involved in such proceedings shall be decided in the County of San Diego, State of California. Any legal proceedings against the Operator must commence within one year following the date of tour completion. Neither the Operator nor Shannon Cummins nor any organization involved in the tour shall in any case be liable for compensatory damages and you hereby waive any right to punitive damages.

Please sign you have read and agreed to these terms and conditions:

X _____

Sterling Garden Tours
By Sterling Tours LTD
306 West El Norte Pkwy Suite N #316
Escondido, CA. 92026 CST# 2023849-40

BOOKING FORM

IMPORTANT: Submitting this form and paying the tour deposit confirms you have read, signed and accepted the Terms and Conditions for this tour. Please review and make sure you understand the terms and conditions before registering.

RESERVATION FORM: PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM PER PERSON TRAVELING.

Full Name as on your passport: _____

Name you prefer to be called: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Passport # _____

Issue Date: _____ Expires: _____ Country: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone # _____

Special Food or Physical Requirements: _____

Planning to arrive early or stay after the tour? _____

HOTEL ROOM Please circle appropriate room type:
Double Room/ One Large Bed/ Double Room, Two Beds (where possible, some doubles in Europe are continental kings with sewn mattress but two duvets)

Sharing room with: _____

Single Room, I am willing to share: (Y/N)
(We will attempt to find a roommate, but if unsuccessful, the single supplement will apply)

Single Room, not sharing: (Y/N)

LAND-ONLY TOUR PRICE AND DEPOSIT INFORMATION

(For the land only main tour - based on double occupancy and a minimum of 14 guests)

Tour Price:

\$ 8,160.00 for Pacific Horticulture members

\$ 8,260.00 per non-Pacific Horticulture Member

Single supplement is \$ 1,855.00

A non-refundable deposit of \$1000.00 per guest is required to register for the main tour. This must be submitted with your booking form and signed and agreed Terms and Conditions document.

Travel Insurance is highly recommended. This decision to book insurance is at the guest's discretion and will be "as is" between the guest and their selected agency. Sterling Tours LTD shall not be held liable for any insurance claims resulting from usage of the product.

If paying deposit by credit card, please return this completed form by email or post.

Signature X _____

Credit Card Type Accepted: Visa, Mastercard, American Express

Name as stated on card: _____

Credit card #: _____

EXP: _____ Security Code: _____

Billing address: _____

Checks should be payable to Sterling Tours LTD and mailed with this form to the address below.

**Sterling Tours LTD
306 West El Norte Pkwy Suite N #316
Escondido, California 92026
C/O Group Development
Shannon Cummins**

Feel free to contact the Group Developer/ Facilitator/ Tour Escort, Shannon Cummins with your questions or concerns.

Telephone: 1 800 976 9497 ext. 13

Email: Shannon@sterlingtoursltd.com