



WORLD AFFAIRS
COUNCIL OF
PHILADELPHIA
& PARTNERS

With Distinguished Guest Lecturers
RICHARD DAWKINS and **DANIELLE
SANCHEZ**, Associate Professor of
History at Colorado College

PASSAGE FROM DAKAR TO CASABLANCA

A Voyage Exploring Senegal, Mauritania & Morocco

Aboard the New Expedition Cruise Ship *DIANA*

April 29 - May 8, 2026



Senegal's Gorée Island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site



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We are delighted to invite you on a voyage along the Atlantic shores of West Africa, from Dakar to Casablanca, April 29 - May 8, 2026. This program, designed to attend to both natural and cultural history, offers an opportunity to explore a fascinating part of the world that has been shaped both by the natural forces of geology and climate and by human forces.

We begin in the cosmopolitan city of Dakar, where museums and markets teem with African arts and crafts, and where the somber legacy of the transatlantic slave trade is memorialized at the UNESCO Heritage Site of Gorée Island. Sailing northward, we call in two cities on the seldom-visited coast of Mauritania, where Arab, Berber, and Sub-Saharan cultures mingle in fascinating ways, and then we set sail for Lanzarote in the Canaries, where the geography created by ancient volcanoes continues to dominate life on the island.

Returning to the mainland, we devote two days to the cities of central Morocco. We begin with a day in the 16th-century walled town of Taroudant, nestled between the High Atlas and the Anti-Atlas Mountains, followed by a day exploring the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Essaouira. The voyage comes to an end in fabled Casablanca.

Joining us will be distinguished guest lecturers **Richard Dawkins** and **Colorado College's Associate Professor of History Danielle Sanchez**, who specializes in the history of French and Portuguese - speaking Africa. They look forward to sharing their experience and expertise in a series of lectures and discussions throughout the voyage.

Our vessel for this extraordinary journey, the Swan Hellenic *Diana*, is a state-of-the-art, new-generation expedition cruise ship, launched in early 2023. Accommodating only 192 guests in beautifully appointed staterooms and balcony suites, *Diana* features several lounges, a restaurant, outdoor café, spa, library and beauty salon, and is equipped with the latest safety and environmentally-friendly technology.

We hope you will be able to join us as we travel on this *Passage from Dakar to Casablanca: A Voyage Exploring Senegal, Mauritania & Morocco*.

AKRON ♦ ALABAMA ♦ ALASKA ♦ ARIZONA ♦ ATLANTA ♦ AUSTIN
BALTIMORE ♦ BOSTON ♦ BUFFALO ♦ CHARLESTON ♦ CHARLOTTE ♦ CHICAGO
GREATER ♦ CINCINNATI ♦ CLEVELAND ♦ COLORADO SPRINGS ♦ COLUMBUS
CONNECTICUT ♦ DALLAS ♦ FORT WORTH ♦ DAYTON ♦ DENVER ♦ GREATER
HAMPTON ROADS ♦ HARRISBURG ♦ HILTON HEAD ♦ HOUSTON ♦ INLAND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ♦ JACKSONVILLE ♦ KANSAS CITY ♦ KENTUCKY
SOUTH INDIANA ♦ LAS VEGAS ♦ LOS ANGELES ♦ MAINE ♦ MIAMI ♦ MID-HUDSON
VALLEY ♦ MILWAUKEE ♦ MONTANA ♦ MONTEREY BAY ♦ NAPLES ♦ NEW ORLEANS
NEW HAMPSHIRE ♦ NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ♦ ORANGE COUNTY ♦ OREGON
PALM BEACH ♦ PEORIA ♦ PITTSBURGH ♦ GREATER READING ♦ RHODE ISLAND
RICHMOND ♦ SAN ANTONIO ♦ SAN DIEGO ♦ SANTA FE ♦ SAVANNAH
SEATTLE ♦ SONOMA COUNTY ♦ SOUTH TEXAS ♦ ST. LOUIS ♦ STAMFORD
TACOMA ♦ TENNESSEE ♦ TRAVERSE CITY ♦ UTAH ♦ VERMONT
WESTERN COLORADO ♦ WESTERN MICHIGAN ♦ WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURERS

RICHARD DAWKINS



Richard Dawkins is one of the world's most respected scientists, writers and thinkers. His books on science have significantly impacted his own field of evolutionary biology, and his critiques of religion, culminating in his best-selling book *The God Delusion*, have made him a leading advocate for secularism and evidence-based thinking. From 1995 to 2008 Richard Dawkins was the Charles Simonyi Professor of the

Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University. He is an internationally best-selling author. Dawkins is a Fellow of the Royal Society and of the Royal Society of Literature. He is the recipient of numerous honours and awards, including the 1990 Michael Faraday Award of the Royal Society, the 1994 Nakayama Prize, the 1997 International Cosmos Prize for Achievement in Human Science, the Kistler Prize in 2001, the Shakespeare Prize in 2005, the 2006 Lewis Thomas Prize for Writing about Science, and he was named Author of the Year at the 2007 Galaxy British book Awards. His around-the-world speaking tour is the focus of a 2013 documentary *The Unbelievers* which also features appearances by Woody Allen, Stephen Colbert, Cameron Diaz, Ian McEwan, Ricky Gervais, Stephen Hawking, Eddie Izzard, Bill Pullman, and Sarah Silverman. Dawkins was named the top "World Thinker" by a 2013 Prospect Magazine poll of 10,000 readers from over 100 countries. He coined the term "meme" in his book *The Selfish Gene*, a term that has gained significant prominence in the online world. In 2006 he founded the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science (www.richarddawkins.net) to promote a more scientifically literate and secular world. His American foundation merged with the Center for Inquiry in 2016 with the mission to foster a secular society based on reason, science, freedom of inquiry and humanist values.

DANIELLE SANCHEZ,

Associate Professor of History at Colorado College



Danielle Sanchez is a historian of Africa who specializes in social histories of war in French and Portuguese-speaking Africa.

Employed at Colorado College, Dr. Sanchez engages with students in courses that examine transformations in global and local histories in Africa, from the Bantu migration (approximately 4000 years ago) to the present. She teaches a wide range of courses including the history of healing and medicine in Africa, colonialism and

decolonization, Star Wars and anti-colonial resistance movements, and Africa and the Atlantic world.

Sanchez has conducted extensive research throughout the world. She is currently leading the 2025 Moskowitz/Rafalowicz International Research Workshop at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which focuses on the limitations of neutrality during the Holocaust. Her research has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *History in Africa*, *The Journal of African Military History*, *The Routledge Handbook of French History*, *The World History Bulletin*, and *Sports in African History, Politics, and Identity Formation*.



THE 192-GUEST EXPEDITION CRUISE SHIP *DIANA*



Oceanview Stateroom



Balcony Suite



Swan Restaurant



Swimming Pool



Observation Lounge

Built in Finland, and launched in April 2023, Swan Hellenic's *Diana* is a new generation expedition cruise ship. Although at 12,100 tons the ship is large enough to accommodate more than 350 passengers, *Diana* will accommodate a maximum of 192 guests in 96 spacious staterooms and balcony suites. The low guest density results in one of the most generous indoor and outdoor space-to-guest ratios among cruise ships.

Featuring the latest advances in technology and engineering, *Diana* is among the world's first environmentally responsible ships. Equipped with hybrid engines and a unique water filtration system, *Diana* leaves a minimal footprint. For cruising in Polar regions, the ship meets the stringent requirements of the new Polar Code with its high PC5 Category A ice strengthened hull and other advanced features. A computer-controlled Dynamic Positioning System allows the ship to maintain position without anchoring. Operated by a complement of 135 experienced European officers and international crew members, *Diana* will

carry a fleet of Zodiacs, versatile landing boats, and kayaks. Powerful stabilizers provide a smooth ride.

Diana's interior spaces exude sophisticated elegance, with most rooms opening to panoramic views of the sea. All staterooms and suites face outside and are equipped with private facilities, climate control, TV, Wi-Fi and USB connections and other amenities. Of the ship's 96 staterooms, 76 have balconies. Public areas include a spacious observation lounge equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for lectures and presentations; a club lounge; a restaurant that accommodates all guests at one seating; an outdoor café/bar that surrounds the heated swimming pool; a wellness area with gym, spa, and sauna with an adjoining outdoor jacuzzi; library; beauty salon; and an infirmary that is attended by a full-time doctor and nurse. The ship also features expansive open-deck areas. Two elevators connect all decks. Attentive service is provided on a 24-hour basis. The outstanding cuisine is complemented by fine wines at lunch and dinner.

FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA AT 800-942-5004

ITINERARY



Wednesday, April 29, 2026

DEPART THE US

Depart the United States for Dakar, Senegal.

Thursday, April 30

DAKAR, Senegal

Arrive in Dakar, the vibrant capital of Senegal, where you will be met and transferred to the *Pullman-Teranga Hotel* (or similar). In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner. (D)

Friday, May 1

DAKAR/EMBARK

In the morning, a short ferry ride will bring you to Gorée, the small island that for over three centuries played a central role in the transatlantic slave trade. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the evocative island is known for its narrow alleyways and pastel houses, some of which have been turned into museums. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the Théodore Monod Museum of African Art, one of the continent's best, and the Soumbédioune artisan market. Later in the afternoon, embark on *Diana* and sail. (B,L,D)



Saturday, May 2

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania

After a morning at sea, arrive in Nouakchott, Mauritania's capital, built between the desert and the sea. The culture of the city, like that of the country at large, is a blend of Arab, Berber and sub-Saharan influences. Explore the city visiting the National Museum, which houses a fine collection of artifacts, the interesting Artisanal Center market, and the colorful Fish Market. (B, L, D)

Sunday, May 3

NOUADHIBOU

Nouadhibou, an important fishing port, is both a charming coastal town and the site of one of the world's largest ship graveyards. Visit





Mauritania's sand dunes



Souks in the old medina, Essaouira, Morocco

the Grand Mosque and spend some time browsing the nearby souks, where vendors hawk everything from dried dates and colorful fabrics to spare car parts. (B,L,D)

Monday, May 4

AT SEA

As you sail toward the Canary Islands, attend lectures by Richard Dawkins and Professor Sanchez and perhaps also use the time to relax and enjoy cruising the open sea and treating yourself to some of *Diana's* many amenities. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, May 5

ARRECIFE, Lanzarote Island, Canary Islands, Spain

Arrecife is your gateway to Timanfaya National Park, an area of unique volcanic landscapes, and to the Cueva de los Naturalistas, an impressive underground lava cave. Lunch at El Diablo Restaurant, where dishes are cooked using the natural heat of the volcano, is followed by a walking tour through the Old Town of Arrecife, including San José Castle and the Marina. Enjoy time at leisure for independent exploration before returning to the ship. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, May 6

AGADIR, Morocco/TAROUDANT

Today's excursion begins with a scenic drive through the stunning

landscapes of southern Morocco to the historic walled city of Taroudant. Explore the well-preserved 16th-century ramparts and take in panoramic views over the city. Visit the bustling medina and souks, where artisans sell Berber jewelry, carpets, and leather goods, followed by a stop at a women's argan oil cooperative to learn about the oil-making process and sample both cosmetic and culinary oils. Enjoy a traditional Moroccan lunch before time at leisure in the historic Kasbah district. (B,L,D)

Thursday, May 7

SAFI/ESSAOUIRA

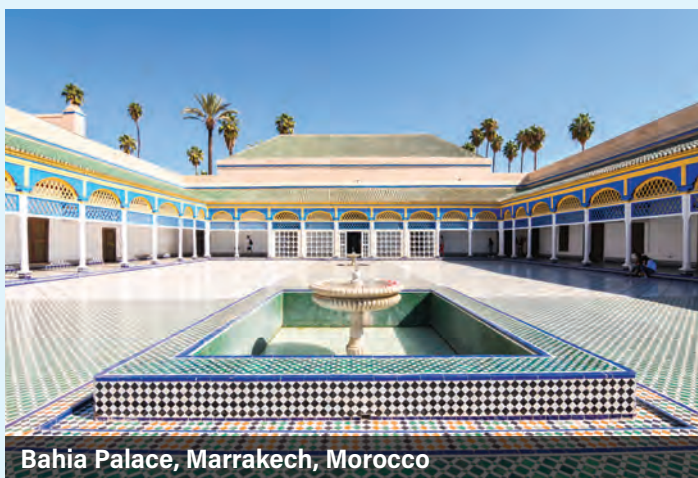
A full-day tour to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Essaouira begins with a drive south from Safi along the coast, with splendid views of the Atlantic Ocean and the surrounding landscape. Visit the Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdallah Museum, home to a collection of artifacts that showcases Essaouira's rich cultural heritage. Wander through the medina of souks selling woodwork, textiles, and spices, followed by lunch at a seaside restaurant. In the afternoon, visit Skala de la Ville, a sea wall offering panoramic views of the city and the sea, followed by a stroll through the Portuguese Quarter. (B,L,D)

Friday, May 8

CASABLANCA/DISEMBARK

Disembark the ship in the morning and transfer to the airport for flights homeward. (B)

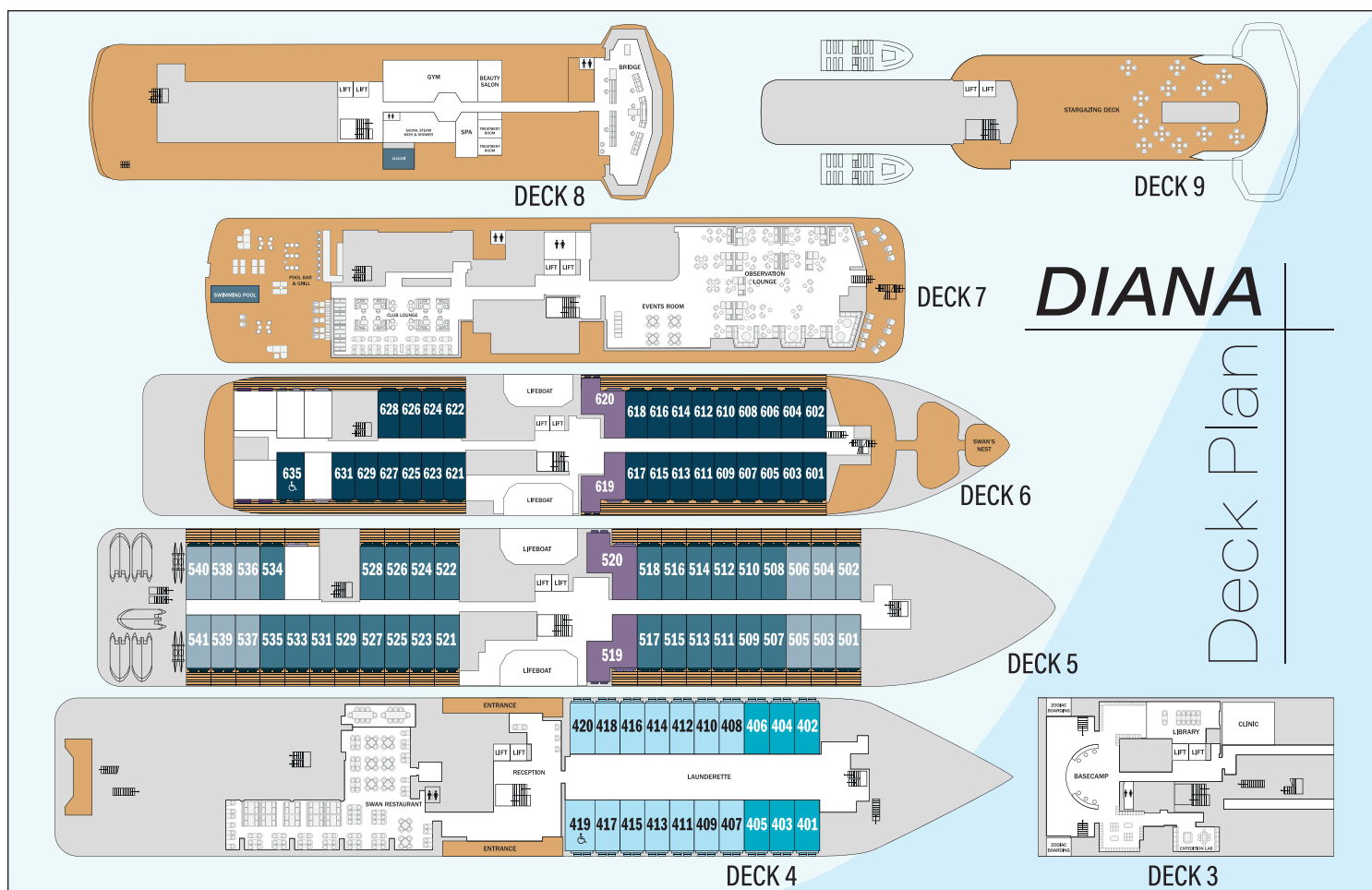
EXPLORE MARRAKECH | MAY 8 - 10, 2026



Bahia Palace, Marrakech, Morocco

Continue your exploration of Morocco spending optionally two days in Marrakech, the country's fabled Imperial city. Hotel accommodations for two nights will be at the *Sofitel Imperial & Spa Hotel* (or similar). Included are also tours of the city's most important landmark sites such as the Djemaa el-Fna, Koutoubia Mosque, Saadian Tombs and Bahia Palace; two lunches and two dinners; transportation from Casablanca to Marrakech; and hotel/airport transfer.

Rate: \$ 1,295 per person, double occupancy.
Single supplement: \$ 495.



All accommodations aboard *Diana* are spacious staterooms and balcony suites. They are elegantly decorated, face outside, affording sea views, and include a queen-size bed that can be arranged as two twin beds, a spacious bathroom, mini-refrigerator, safe, ample closet space, climate control, telephone, TV, Wi-Fi, and USB connections, as well as other amenities.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	RATES PER PERSON / DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
E	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. 206 sq. ft. Deck 4. Staterooms 401-406.	\$ 9,590
D	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. 206 sq. ft. Deck 4. Staterooms 407-420.	\$ 9,890
C	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 501-506, 536-541.	\$ 10,790
B	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 507-518, 521-529, 531-535.	\$ 10,990
A	Suites with balcony and living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 6. Suites 601-618, 621-635.	\$ 11,490
AA	Suites with large balcony, separate bedroom & living room. 474 sq. ft. Decks 5 & 6. Suites 519, 520, 619 & 620.	\$ 14,990

FOR SOLO TRAVELERS | A limited number of cabins are available for single occupants in Category D at 120% of the per-person, double occupancy rate, and in Categories C, B, and A at 150% of the per-person, double occupancy rate.

LOYALTY REWARD PROGRAM

Travel on this cruise program and enjoy savings of **\$400 to \$900** per person on your next voyage with **WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL and THALASSA JOURNEYS** aboard a Swan Hellenic ship. Savings are determined by the stateroom category booked and is applicable when you reserve your trip within 30 days of the completion date of **PASSAGE FROM DAKAR TO CASABLANCA**

This saving cannot be combined with other offers and is subject to change.

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

The rates are all-inclusive. There are no hidden costs and no additional charges such as shore excursions or embarkation and port charges. Other than the international airfare and expenses of a personal nature, all else is included. Specifically, the rates include:

- Accommodations for one night at the *Pullman-Teranga Hotel* (or similar) in Dakar, breakfast included.
- Welcome dinner in Dakar.
- Lunch on the day of embarkation.
- 7-night cruise aboard the luxury expedition cruise ship *Diana*.
- Airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage.
- Lectures by Richard Dawkins and Colorado College's Professor Danielle Sanchez.
- Complete program of excursions and activities ashore as described.
- All meals aboard the ship, with a selection of wines, beer and soft drinks during lunch and dinner.
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard the ship hosted by the captain.
- Open bar with select alcoholic beverages.
- Coffee, including espresso and cappuccino, tea and soft drinks throughout the day and night.
- 24-hour room service.
- Gratuities to the ship's crew, guides, porters and drivers.
- Basic Wi-Fi aboard the ship.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director.
- All local taxes and service charges, including port and embarkation taxes.
- Complete pre-departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the itinerary or the above inclusions.



Théodore Monod Museum of African Art, Dakar, Senegal

REGISTRATION

WACP 26D-0429

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$ 1,500 per person) as a deposit to hold _____ place(s) on **PASSAGE FROM DAKAR TO CASABLANCA**, April 29 - May 8, 2026 with World Affairs Council. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check.

You may visit our website to submit your reservation online or send a check payable to Thalassa Journeys with this reservation form to:

Thalassa Journeys: 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835

Email: travel@wacphila.org

Phone: 800-942-5004 or 215-561-4700 x 231 or x 209

Visit our website to submit your reservation online.

<https://wacphila.org/tour/dakar-to-casablanca>

PLEASE SELECT STATEROOM CATEGORY IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE

1st choice ☐ _____ 2nd choice ☐ _____ 3rd choice ☐ _____

☐ Double Occupancy

☐ Single Occupancy (Inquire for rates)

PREFERRED BED CONFIGURATION

Double ☐ _____ Twin ☐ _____

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

TELEPHONE (DAY)

(EVENING)

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

SIGNATURE

DATE

SIGNATURE

DATE

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,500 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 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 71-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 70 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 and arrangements 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. Thalassa Journeys acts 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 Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida 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.

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WACP 26D-0429

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For Reservations and Information,
Please Call **866-633-3611** or Email:
reservations@thalassajourneys.com



The Medina of Essaouira, Morocco, a UNESCO World Heritage Site