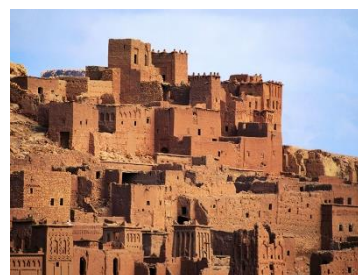




*Tour:* **MOROCCO DESERT FIELD STUDIES**  
*Itinerary:* 9-days / 8-nights total trip  
*Availability:* Year-round

MOROCCO - DESERT FIELD STUDIES & CULTURE					
Day	Meals	Morning	Afternoon		Evening
1	In Flight	Travel overnight to Marrakesh, Morocco			
2	D	Arrive Marrakesh; transfer to Hotel	Welcome, Safety & Orientation Briefing		Moroccan Welcome Dinner
3	B, L, D	Full-day Guided City Tour of the History & Culture of Marrakesh Medina Historical District, Palaces, Monuments, Souks, Mosques & Local Artisans			Hotel Dinner Atlas Golf Observatory & Astronomy Master Class
4	B, L, D	Atlas Kinder Orphanage Service Project	Morocco Geography & Ecology Master Class	Museum of Water Civilization - Guided Tour	Local Dinner & Free Time
5	B, L, D	Argan Oil Cooperative - Methods/Chemistry of Extraction; Sustainability	Travel to Imlil Village, Armed Village exploration, waterfall visit, tea with a Berber family and local school visit		Hotel Dinner
6	B, L, D	Field Studies Program - Flooding and Hazards in a Mountain Environment	Field Studies Program - River & Water Quality Studies		Hotel/Local Dinner
7	B, L, D	Field Studies Program - Ecotourism and Rural Settlement Study	Field Studies Wrap-Up Session	Return to Marrakesh via Tahanout	Moroccan Cooking Class with Chef Tarik
8	B, L, D	SPANA Marrakesh - Lecture & Volunteerism Animal Welfare Treat-Train-Teach	Camel Ride & Master Class Lifecycle, Diet, Anatomy & Behavioral	Agafay Desert Quad Bike Adventure	Chez Ali Fantasia Presentation
9	B	Transfer to Marrakesh Airport; return trip Home			



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



**Hammock Expeditions, LLC**  
 51 Hillcrest Way  
 Bluffton, SC 29909 USA  
 P: 984.223.9866  
[www.HammockExpeditions.com](http://www.HammockExpeditions.com)  
[www.STEMStudyTours.com](http://www.STEMStudyTours.com)



## Day 1

*Overnight flight; meals in flight*

Depart on your journey to Morocco! Most groups will depart in the evening hours for an overnight flight, but it will depend upon your origination and your flight routing. Dependent upon your air carrier, meals may be available for purchase or may be included. Best practice is for students to plan to purchase meals until your flights are confirmed and all inclusions are stated.



## Day 2

Lunch & dinner

**MOROCCO...** A country of dazzling diversity, Morocco has epic mountains, sweeping deserts and ancient cities, and it greets travelers with warm hospitality and the perfect glass of mint tea. Morocco is a country that draws you in. If you're interested in rich cultures, vibrant architecture, colorful markets, stunning landscapes and bustling cities, Morocco is definitely a place that needs to be on your bucket list. From the colorful, heady markets filled with the rich scents of spices to the vibrant Atlas Mountains, there's so much to see in this incredible North African country.

The fabled Red City of Marrakesh is a sensory overload of sights, sounds and smells. Its ancient medina is a maze of narrow streets with the Djemaa El Fna – arguably Africa's most famous square – at its heart, and its nightly circus of storytellers, snake charmers and musicians. The hoopla has been non-stop here since the 11th century. The whine of snake-charmer pungi flutes hits full throttle by mid-morning, and the show doesn't really kick off until sunset when restaurants fire up their grills, cueing musicians to tune up their instruments. Between tradition and modernity, Marrakech is the promise of unequalled sensations.

Once part of the Carthaginian Empire, the first independent Moroccan state emerged around 225 BCE as the Berber kingdom of Mauretania. That kingdom eventually became a Roman province, though, by the 7th century CE, Muslim conquest of North Africa was in full swing. A French Protectorate from 1912-1956, Morocco gained its independence in 1956 and has been an independent state ever since.



If flying from the Americas, groups will generally have an overnight flight and arrive the following day. After transferring to our hotel and checking-in (if available), we'll take our time to get settled, have a bit of rest, have our **Welcome, Safety & Orientation Meeting** and then have a **Moroccan Welcome Dinner** before getting caught up on rest for tomorrow's adventure.

### **SAMPLE HOTELS**

Marrakech:

[Almas Hotel](#)

Atlas Mountains Field Study:

[Hotel Aremd](#)

**Welcome, Safety & Orientation Meeting** – This is our group meeting to set your team up for success. Your Tour Director will go over everything from safety to weather, your itinerary, plus a fire drill. Have questions or want to add something to your itinerary? Your Tour Director is appointed to serve your group throughout your stay in the Morocco.



Hammock Expeditions, LLC  
51 Hillcrest Way  
Bluffton, SC 29909 USA  
P: 984.223.9866  
[www.HammockExpeditions.com](http://www.HammockExpeditions.com)  
[www.STEMStudyTours.com](http://www.STEMStudyTours.com)



### **Day 3**

Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Rise and shine Morocco! Today we'll spend getting to know Morocco – its culture and history.

***Marrakesh Guided City Tour*** - Sitting at the crossroads between Arabia, Europe, and Africa, Marrakech has been a welcome port of call for far-flung visitors for more than a thousand years. The maze-like medina and the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Djemaa el-Fna are a testament to how much and how little has changed since the Moroccan city was founded in the 11th century. Your full-day Marrakech tour will provide a fascinating insight into the people and the places. You'll meet local artisans whose skills remain uniquely unchanged, and visit historically significant palaces and monuments offering a fascinating insight into the history and culture of Marrakesh.



After dinner this evening, we'll get schooled on astronomy!

***Atlas Golf Observatory & Astronomy Master Class*** - An evening passed in the sky awaits at the Atlas Golf Observatory. Begin with a lecture on space and the solar system before viewing the sky with the largest telescope in Morocco!

### **Day 4**

Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Hello Marrakesh! We'll start this morning by giving back with a volunteer project at the Atlas Kinder Orphanage. Later in the day we'll participate in a geography lecture and then in the late afternoon, we'll get to enjoy a guided visit at the Museum for Water Civilization. Its going to be a great day!

**Atlas Kinder Orphanage** - Bring smiles to faces this morning on a visit to Atlas Kinder, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping children who have been abandoned or surrendered due to social pressure, illness, or poverty. Plan and facilitate a language or fun sports activity for the children to share in with you. We'll have our lunch at the orphanage with the local children.



**Museum of Marrakech: Morocco Geography Lecture** – The Marrakech Museum, located in the old center of the city, offers a journey through the rich cultural and artistic heritage of Morocco. Housed in the Dar Menebhi Palace, a beautiful example of classical Andalusian architecture, the



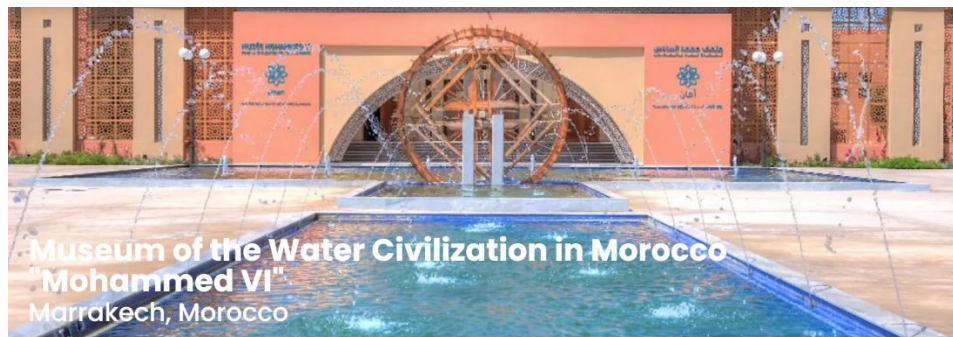
Hammock Expeditions, LLC  
51 Hillcrest Way  
Bluffton, SC 29909 USA  
P: 984.223.9866  
[www.HammockExpeditions.com](http://www.HammockExpeditions.com)  
[www.STEMStudyTours.com](http://www.STEMStudyTours.com)





museum presents a diverse collection of Moroccan art, archaeological artifacts, and ethnographic objects. While here, students will participate in a master class lecture based on Morocco's geography, geology and ecology.

Mohammed VI Museum for the Water Civilization with Guided Tour – Enjoy exploring the science behind water conservation with an interactive and educational hydraulic adventure. This museum is a fascinating cultural site conveying the message of humans and water in Morocco through installations, mock-ups, new technology, historic reconstruction and a review of water management as it applies to this Moroccan desert region.



This evening we'll enjoy a local dinner and then have free time for exploration.

### **Day 5**

Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Good morning Morocco! Today we'll travel to Imlil, a small village in the high Atlas Mountains. Today's focus includes learning about the extraction and chemistry of Argan Oil, a guided waterfall hike, and time getting to know the **Berber** people and culture.



**IMLIL** - Imlil is a typical mountain village located 90 km from Marrakech, in the High Atlas. It is the starting point for all hikes to the Toubkal, the highest peak in Morocco and North Africa (4167 m). The landscapes are of exceptional beauty whatever the season. For several months of the year the ridges around Imlil are covered in snow. Crystal-clear streams flow into the river that runs through the Berber villages along the valley offering views of the surrounding mountains, stone and adobe villages while giving a rewarding insight into the way of life of the local mountain people.

**Argan Oil Comparative Workshop** - Learn about the importance of Argan oil in Moroccan culture and its economic significance. Learn the traditional argan oil-making process used to transform argan kernels into luxurious oil, cherished for its beauty and culinary benefits. You'll learn essential techniques to create this liquid gold and understand its benefits for hair, skin, body, and nails. By the end, confidently distinguish between culinary and cosmetic argan oil. Prime interests:

- **Methods of Extraction:** Hands-on demonstration and explanation of traditional and modern methods of Argan oil extraction



- Chemistry of Extraction: Overview of the chemical processes involved in extracting oil from argan nuts.
- Sustainability: Discussion on the sustainability of Argan oil production and its impact on local communities and ecosystems



After lunch we'll take a **guided hike to the Imlil Waterfall** where we can enjoy the scenic beauty of the area and learn about the local flora and fauna.

**Berber Village Visit** - Visit the traditional Berber village of Armed. Explore the village, tea with a Berber family, and experience Berber hospitality with a traditional tea ceremony. Later, we'll visit a local school to understand the education system while interacting with students and teachers.

In the evening, we'll get checked into our new riad accommodation and have dinner at our hotel. Tomorrow kicks off our field studies!

### **Day 6**

Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Rise and shine Imlil! After breakfast we'll kick off our field studies in the Atlas Mountains!

#### ***Morning Field Study: Flooding and Hazards in a Mountain Environment***

- Introduction: Overview of mountain hazards, focusing on flooding and landslides
- Case Studies: Examination of past incidents and their impacts on the local environment and communities
- Field Observations: Visit areas prone to flooding and landslides, observing warning signs and mitigation measures

#### ***Afternoon Field Study: River Studies***

- Hydrology Basics: Introduction to river systems, hydrology, and the water cycle in mountain environments
- Field Measurements: Conducting measurements of river flow, sediment transport, and water quality
- Environmental Impact: Discussing the impact of river dynamics on local ecosystems and human activities

Tonight, we'll have dinner at our hotel as we settle in for a stunning mountain evening.

### **Day 7**

Breakfast, lunch & dinner Cooking Class

Hello Imlil! After breakfast we'll engage in our second day of field studies. After, we'll head back to Marrakesh and try our hand at Moroccan cooking!

#### ***Morning Field Study: Ecotourism and Rural Settlement Study***

- Tourism Impact: Exploring the effects of tourism on the Imlil area's environment and communities
- Sustainable Practices: Identifying sustainable tourism practices that benefit the local economy and preserve the natural environment



**Hammock Expeditions, LLC**  
51 Hillcrest Way  
Bluffton, SC 29909 USA  
P: 984.223.9866  
www.HammockExpeditions.com  
www.STEMStudyTours.com



- Rural Settlement Study
- Settlement Patterns: Examining traditional and modern settlement patterns in the Imlil area
- Cultural and Economic Factors: Understanding how geography, culture, and economy influence settlement and development in mountain regions

In the afternoon we'll spend have a **Wrap Up Session**, summarizing our key learning from the last two days. Afterwards, we'll travel back to Marrakesh via Tahanout.

**Moroccan Cooking Class** – Enjoy a traditional Cooking Class with Chef Tarik! Watch this [VIDEO LINK](#). Learn how to prepare and cook a Moroccan meal while enjoying the countryside relaxation. The Garden is located about 29 km from the city of Marrakech. Upon arrival, you'll have the opportunity to visit the organic farm and be able to enjoy a fabulous experience.



### **Day 8**

Breakfast, lunch & farewell dinner

Good morning Marrakesh! Its our last full day and we'll spend the morning with a learning service project, have lunch in the Palmeraie area, followed by an afternoon of adventure! Then for our last night, get ready to be wowed with Chez Ali!

**89.9K**

ANIMAL OWNERS TRAINED IN THE LAST YEAR

**260**

TEACHERS TRAINED

**1,988**

VETERINARY STUDENTS TRAINED IN THE LAST YEAR

**SPANA Marrakesh** - Established in 1923, SPANA's goal is simple: to improve the welfare of working animals in vulnerable communities across the world. Through three key areas – treating, training and teaching – they're inspiring others to act in the best interests of working animals while also providing practical, professional and sustainable solutions today. They recognize that the fortunes of working animals and people go hand in hand: in low-income countries, just one working animal can support an extended family of up to 30 people. SPANA's work improves the lives of working animals while supporting the communities that depend on them. Today we'll visit the care center, lean about working animals in the local community, and participate in a lecture on animal welfare in Morocco.



**Camel Ride Adventure** - Experience the thrill and beauty of Marrakesh's Palmeraie on a unique adventure that combines tradition and excitement. Begin with an interactive talk led by an expert on camel anatomy and physiology. Learn about the unique adaptations that make camels suited for desert life, including their water

**HAMMOCK  
EXPEDITIONS**

Hammock Expeditions, LLC  
51 Hillcrest Way  
Bluffton, SC 29909 USA  
P: 984.223.9866  
www.HammockExpeditions.com  
www.STEMStudyTours.com

**STEM  
STUDY TOURS**  
TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE



conservation mechanisms, heat tolerance, and distinctive physical features then embark on a leisurely camel ride where you can soak in the serene landscape of lush palm groves and distant Atlas Mountains, experiencing the traditional mode of transport that has been used by Moroccans for centuries.

**Quad Biking Adventure** - After the calm of the camel ride, switch gears and ramp up the excitement with a quad biking session through the same landscapes. These powerful all-terrain vehicles offer a more adrenaline-pumping way to explore the extensive network of tracks that wind through the palm and olive trees. The quad experience provides a perfect balance of speed and manoeuvrability, allowing you to experience the beauty of the Palmeraie with a thrilling twist.



**Dinner & Show at Chez Ali** - In a setting worthy of the tales of a thousand and one nights, guests will be enchanted by a traditional Moroccan dinner. Enchanted by the legendary Moroccan folklore, you will eat, listen and watch a recreation of ancestral Berber celebrations. Riders dressed in traditional costumes imitate the battles and demonstrations of battle between warring tribes. The atmosphere is magical and you will quickly plunge into a fairytale world. Dinner includes Moroccan soup called Harrira, a barbecue, couscous with vegetables and a platter of fresh fruit. During dinner, the Berber tribes of Zaïanes and Kelaat M'gouna will perform choreographed dances that show the rich history of the Kingdom of Morocco, followed by a belly dancing and acrobatic games. You'll enjoy the horsemen reenacting scenes of war between the ancient Berbers and the desert knights, and to close the show, a fireworks display will light up the sky!



Hammock Expeditions, LLC  
51 Hillcrest Way  
Bluffton, SC 29909 USA  
P: 984.223.9866  
[www.HammockExpeditions.com](http://www.HammockExpeditions.com)  
[www.STEMStudyTours.com](http://www.STEMStudyTours.com)



### **Day 9**

Breakfast (dependent upon departure time)

Rise and shine Morocco! After breakfast at our hotel and dependent upon flight times, we'll pack-up and wave goodbye to our new friends as we head to the airport to travel home, taking away memories that will last forever.

*Ma'a Salama!*



**Hammock Expeditions, LLC**  
51 Hillcrest Way  
Bluffton, SC 29909 USA  
P: 984.223.9866  
[www.HammockExpeditions.com](http://www.HammockExpeditions.com)  
[www.STEMStudyTours.com](http://www.STEMStudyTours.com)





## DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ Morocco's official name is the Kingdom of Morocco and it's the second oldest ruling dynasty in the world. The royal family has been in power since 1631 and claims descent of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad.
- ✓ Morocco has two official languages - Berber and Moroccan Arabic (aka Darija), plus plenty of regional dialects. Due to the French colonization, a lot of Moroccans speak French and, in the northern regions they often speak Spanish. English is also widely spoken due to tourism.
- ✓ Morocco has the oldest university in the world with a long history of civilization. The Kairaouine Mosque in Fes became the world's first university in 859. The University operated independently for a long time but became part of the state educational system in 1963. It is known today as the University of al-Kairaouine.
- ✓ Morocco has been rated as one of the top destinations in the world for food lovers. Traditional Moroccan cuisine is based on flavorful, fresh ingredients and balanced use of dried spices and herbs. Famous Moroccan dishes include tajine and couscous. Moroccan cuisine is also bread-based, and it is served with almost every meal, sometimes used instead of utensils (be sure to handle it with your right hand, as eating with your left hand is considered impolite).
- ✓ Morocco produces excellent wine. As a Muslim country, it might surprise you to know that Morocco has a thriving wine production. The Romans first brought viticulture to Morocco some 2,000 years ago. When Islam was established in the 7th century, the vineyards were mostly abandoned until Morocco became a French Protectorate and revived the vineyards. In the 1990s, French wine brand Castel took over the wine production in Morocco. The most popular Moroccan wine is a fruity rosé called Gris de Boulaouane.
- ✓ Morocco exports dates and argan oil, which comes from the fruit of the argan tree that's native to the country. Argan oil is rich in antioxidants and fatty acids, and is used all over the world for cosmetic purposes.
- ✓ Not just writers and singers love Morocco; filmmakers do as well. Outside of Hollywood, Morocco is home to the largest film sets in the world. The Atlas film studios in Ouarzazate are nicknamed "Morocco's Hollywood." *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Gladiator*, Bertolucci's *The Sheltering Sky*, and Scorsese's *Kundun* were all shot in Morocco. As were *Mission Impossible*, *Babel*, *Kingdom of Heaven*, *The Mummy Returns*, and of course: *Casablanca*. Most recently, Morocco served as a film location for *Game of Thrones*. In 2014, indie movie director Jim Jarmusch borrowed the lovely scenery of Tangier as a shooting location for the arthouse vampire movie *Only Lovers Left Alive*.
- ✓ Morocco is the most visited country in Africa. The popularity of Morocco as a tourist destination lies in its diversity. It is both historic and modern, African and European.
- ✓ Moroccans love coffee, but worship tea. Traditional Moroccan tea is a blend of Chinese green tea and mint with a lot of sugar and requires several steps, or "washings," to brew. Real Moroccan tea is worth the wait and perfect in the heat. The sweet and fragrant drink is nicknamed "Berber Whiskey" and offered to guests upon visiting Moroccan houses and shops.



Hammock Expeditions, LLC  
51 Hillcrest Way  
Bluffton, SC 29909 USA  
P: 984.223.9866  
[www.HammockExpeditions.com](http://www.HammockExpeditions.com)  
[www.STEMStudyTours.com](http://www.STEMStudyTours.com)



# COUNTRY INSIGHTS

**Geography:** Morocco is located in Northern Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, between Algeria and Mauritania; geographic coordinates 28 30 N, 10 00 W.

**Climate:** Most of Morocco, particularly along the coast, experiences a typical Mediterranean climate, with mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers. [CLIMATE DETAIL](#)

**Population & Age Structure:** Total population is approximately 37,387,585 with 18,664,263 males and 18,723,322 females as of a 2024 estimate. 0-14 years: 25.7%, 15-64 years: 65.9%, 65 years and over: 8.4%. The median age is 30.6 years.



**Passports & Visas:** US, Canadian & UK citizens don't currently need a visa to visit Morocco for up to 90 days if they have a valid passport and a return or onward ticket. You must have at least one blank page in your passport. The 90-day maximum stay begins on the date of the entry stamp. Visit the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco website for the most current visa information.

**Time Zone:** During the month of Ramadan, Morocco apply GMT and GMT+1 the rest of the year.

**Health & Safety:** Apart from universal vaccinations, no additional vaccination is required to visit Morocco. Please check with your personal physician for any recommendations for travel to Morocco. **In case of a medical emergency, please call the single national toll-free number "141".**

**Currency:** The official currency unit of Morocco is the Moroccan dirham (DH) which is abbreviate (MAD). You can generally pay by cash or credit card. In establishments that don't give the possibility to pay by credit card, it is preferable to pay in dirhams. The best places to change your currency are the exchange offices that are located in the tourist squares of each city in Morocco. You can change your currency at the airport or in hotels as well.

**Phone calls:** To make calls from your mobile phone number, don't forget to contract the "International" option with your telephone operator. It is also possible to buy a Moroccan SIM smart card provided that you have unblocked your mobile phone beforehand. You can also find refills in all kiosks.

**Internet:** Generally, all hotels in Morocco have a high-speed connection, and many establishments offer free WI-FI connection: restaurants, cafeterias, airports, etc.

**Drinking Water:** Generally speaking, it's best to drink filtered water. In the major cities, the tap water is chlorinated and will usually cause no harm, but it's still wise to either purify this water yourself or choose another water source, as your body may react to unfamiliar bacteria in the water, causing sickness or diarrhea. Brushing your teeth with this water should be fine. In remote or rural areas, stick to treated water by either filtering or purifying it yourself, or purchasing a large bottle. Hot beverages are usually fine to drink, as boiling water should kill off any harmful bacteria in the tap water. If you wish to drink iced tea, however, it is best to check if this has been made using filtered water.



Hammock Expeditions, LLC  
51 Hillcrest Way  
Bluffton, SC 29909 USA  
P: 984.223.9866  
[www.HammockExpeditions.com](http://www.HammockExpeditions.com)  
[www.STEMStudyTours.com](http://www.STEMStudyTours.com)



# MOROCCO DESERT FIELD STUDIES

## **Minimum Booking Numbers:**

20 students

## **What's Included:**

Roundtrip international flights  
7-nights' accommodation in Morocco  
Breakfasts, lunches and dinners daily starting with dinner on arrival and ending with breakfast on departure (dependent on departure time)  
Airport transfers & transportation to all activities  
Full-day Guided Tour of Marrakesh – Historical Districts, Palaces, Monuments, Souks, Mosques & Local Artisans  
Atlas Golf Observatory & Astronomy Master Class  
Atlas Kinder Orphanage & Service Project  
Morocco Geography & Ecology Master Class  
Museum of Water Civilization – Guided Tour  
Argan Oil Cooperative – Chemistry, Extraction & Sustainability  
Imlil Waterfall Hike  
Armed Village & Berber Family excursion & School Visit  
Field Study: Flooding & Hazards in a Mountain Environment  
Field Study: River & Water Quality  
Field Study: Ecotourism & Rural Settlement Study  
Field Study Wrap-Up  
Moroccan Cooking Class with Chef Tarik  
SPANAN Animal Lecture & Volunteerism  
Camel Ride & Master Class – Lifecycle, Diet, Anatomy & Behavioral  
Agafay Desert Quad Bike Adventure  
Farewell Dinner & Show at Chez Ali  
Personal Tour Director  
24-hour emergency cover

## **What's Not Included:**

Fully comprehensive insurance (**mandatory**)  
Transfers to/from home airport  
Baggage costs, pay directly to airline if required  
Baggage handling - each student should be able to pull their own suitcase  
Transportation for activities not shown in the itinerary  
Snacks other than what is shown above at mealtimes  
BEVERAGES –table water is provided at restaurants; each participant will be able to purchase independent beverages at meal times  
Cost of passports nor required visas  
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel  
Sightseeing / Entertainment options not shown  
Hotel incidental deposits & bills – mini-bar, convenience mart, etc.  
Any gratuities – drivers, hotel services, tour ambassador  
Credit card fees if individuals wish to pay via credit card instead of ACH (online check)

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming.  
If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Hammock Expeditions, LLC  
51 Hillcrest Way  
Bluffton, SC 29909 USA  
P: 984.223.9866  
[www.HammockExpeditions.com](http://www.HammockExpeditions.com)  
[www.STEMStudyTours.com](http://www.STEMStudyTours.com)

