Marrakech: Gardens, Art and Cuisine  
May 12 – 21, 2016

In support of the University of California Botanical Garden  
Escorted by Katherine Greenberg

Come with us to the exotic city of Marrakech and explore its fascinating medina, palm groves, and Berber villages in the High Atlas Mountains. Once the capitol of Morocco, the Imperial City of Marrakech is an alluring oasis with a fascinating culture. We have special invitations to visit private homes and gardens as well as palaces and monuments dating from the 12th century.

The traditional arts of Morocco include weaving and ceramics, wood working, metal work, and jewelry. We will visit artisan workshops and see outstanding examples of traditional and contemporary Moroccan art and design in private homes, museums, and galleries. The allure of Marrakech has long attracted artists, designers, writers, and collectors from abroad.

Moroccan cuisine is also a feature of this special tour. Meals at Jnane Tamsna are a fusion of Moroccan and European, using organic fruits and vegetables sourced from the estate’s gardens and orchards. We will also sample some of Morocco’s award-winning wines.

Gary Martin, ethno-botanist and Director of the Global Diversity Foundation, and his wife Meryanne Loum-Martin, a talented designer, will be our hosts. Jnane Tamsna, the private estate created by Gary and Meryanne in the palm groves of Marrakech, will be our home for this tour. The property features elegant architecture, extensive gardens, and gracious hospitality in a tranquil setting. Jnane Tamsna is featured in Gardens of Marrakech by Angelica Gray.
Trip Itinerary

Thursday, May 12: USA to Marrakech, Morocco

Friday, May 13: Arrival in Marrakech (D)
Independent arrivals and transfers to Jnane Tamsna. Enjoy a refreshing swim or a stroll in the garden. This evening we are invited to join Meryanne Loom-Martin and Gary Martin for cocktails, canapés, and dinner in their home.

Saturday, May 14: Jnane Tamsna and Marrakech (BLD)
After breakfast, we will walk through the oasis garden created by Gary at Jnane Tamsna and explore with him the kettara water harvesting tradition whose vestiges are still evident in the Palmaria, the centuries-old palm groves of Marrakech. Meryanne will also show us the art and architectural elements of Jnane Tamsna. As Angelica Gray wrote in Gardens of Marrakech, “The couple share a passion for Marrakech and have combined their interests in architecture, design, anthropology, and botany to make something new, based on the rich cultural history of the region.”

After lunch, we will spend the afternoon getting to know Marrakech with a knowledgeable local guide. The historic medina of Marrakech, the old walled city dating from the 12th century, is a World Cultural Heritage Site. Among other historical places, we will visit the 16th century Badi Palace and see the 12th century minbar of the Koutoubia Mosque, the city’s most dominant landmark and a reference of world Islamic art; the 19th century Bahia Palace, which features a remarkable ryad garden and Moorish-Andalusian architecture; and Place Jemaa El Fna, the city’s lively main square.

After a visit to the souks in the medina, we return to Jnane Tamsna for drinks and dinner.

Sunday, May 15: Marrakech and La Mamounia (BLD)
After breakfast, we will visit Casa Botanica, the best local plant nursery and perhaps meet its owner Sadek Tazi, before having lunch at the Maison Arabe’s country place. We will also visit the private garden of its owner Fabrizio Ruspoli.

Later we will visit the legendary La Mamounia Hotel and see its lovely gardens, followed by drinks at the terrace café. There is the option to stay for dinner in one of the hotel’s restaurants (French, Italian or Moroccan) at own expense or return to Jnane Tamsna for an early evening rest and dinner.

Monday, May 16: Marrakech and Majorelle Garden (BD)
After breakfast, we have a leisurely morning at Jnane Tamsna before we leave for lunch and a personal tour of the Majorelle Garden and the Berber Museum. The Majorelle Garden was the former home and garden of the French painter Jacques Majorelle who came to Marrakech in the 1920s and was enchanted by its people and culture. He imported plants from all over the world to create a private paradise. The garden was restored to its original beauty and color by the late Yves St. Laurent and his partner Pierre Berge. The painter’s studio within the garden is now the Berber Museum, which has an amazing collection of decorative arts and artifacts. We will be hosted by Madison Cox, garden designer and director of the Majorelle Garden.

Late afternoon, we will go to the Menara to see the lovely pavilion and basin created by the Almohads in the 12th century. The Menara has spectacular views of the snow-covered High Atlas Mountains, and Moroccan families enjoy gathering here for picnics in the shade of the centuries-old olive trees. We return to Jnane Tamsna for cocktails and dinner.
Tuesday, May 17: Berber Villages in the High Atlas Mountains (BLD)
After breakfast, we will take all-terrain vehicles into the High Atlas Mountains, along the scenic Tiz-n-Test route. Our day-long tour will begin with some stops to explore the southern Moroccan flora in conifer woodlands dominated by *Tetraclinis articulata* and various *Juniperus* species. After an early lunch at a charming auberge further in the mountains, we will see populations of *Cupressus atlantica* (a narrowly distributed endemic species) and visit the Tinmel mosque.

On the return to Marrakech, we will stop in the village of Imegdal, where the Global Diversity Foundation is collaborating with the High Atlas Foundation to create a community plant nursery, distribute fruit and nut trees, and support the sustainable harvest of aromatic and medicinal plants.

Before heading back to Marrakech, we will stop for drinks at another mountain retreat, where there are native plant gardens. In the evening, we return to Jnane Tamsna for dinner.

Wednesday, May 18: Cooking Class and Souks of Marrakech (BLD)
After breakfast, there will be an optional camel ride through the palm groves beyond the walls of Jnane Tamsna. Then Gary will give us an introduction to the variety of culinary and medicinal plants available in Marrakech. Using the garden’s herbs and vegetables, we will have a cooking class at Jnane Tamsna, followed by lunch to measure the success of our efforts.

Late afternoon, we will embark on a deeper tour of the Mellah and souks of the Marrakech medina, with a focus on herb and spice sellers. We will gain an appreciation of the mixture of spices and herbs used in many Moroccan dishes. After an evening visit to the Place Jemaa El Fna, we will proceed to drinks and dinner on the upper terrace of Fondouk Restaurant, where a Moroccan and Mediterranean fixed menu will be on offer.

Thursday, May 19: Moorish Garden and Artisan Workshops (BLD)
After breakfast, Meryanne and Gary will take us to the site of an emerging Moorish garden just twenty minutes from Jnane Tamsna. We return to Jnane Tamsna for lunch and then spend an afternoon with Meryanne learning about Moroccan arts and visiting artisan workshops and galleries in the medina. This evening, drinks and dinner will be served at Jnane Tamsna.

Friday, May 20: Museums and Galleries in Marrakech (BD)
After breakfast, we can explore additional monuments, such as the Saadien tombs, visit a photography museum or art gallery, and stop for lunch at Café Nomad, a trendy restaurant serving innovative Mediterranean cuisine on a rooftop terrace overlooking the medina.

Some people may wish to lounge around the pool in the morning and enjoy a lunch in the gardens of Jnane Tamsna. Lunch will be at own expense, wherever chosen.

After a free afternoon with various options, including time for shopping or a siesta, we will enjoy a special farewell dinner this evening at Jnane Tamsna, with traditional Andalous music.

Saturday, May 21: Marrakech to USA (B)
After breakfast, private transfers to Marrakech airport for return flights. Lunch will be available at Jnane Tamsna at own expense for those with afternoon flights. There are a number of possibilities for those who wish to extend their stay. Guides will be available for visits to additional historical sites or places of botanical and horticultural interest.
Other Trip Details

**Jnane Tamsna and Post-tour Options:** The estate features nine acres of gardens, several guest houses, swimming pools, and a gallery devoted to Moroccan arts and crafts. Optional activities include yoga, spa treatments, cooking classes, and specialized shopping. Further explorations of Morocco, including a day trip to Essaouira, may be arranged upon individual requests.

**Physical Endurance Level:** The tour includes a moderate amount of walking, and some of the places that we’ll be visiting can only be seen on foot. Walking surfaces may be uneven, and comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

**Shopping:** There will be limited time for shopping during the tour. There is a tradition of bargaining in the medina. A purchase may involve negotiations over several cups of mint tea.

**Cuisine:** Moroccan cuisine is a unique blend of Berber, Arabic, Spanish, and French culinary traditions. Spices are an essential part of Moroccan cooking, used to enhance the flavors of meats and vegetables. We will see the amazing displays of Moroccan spices, olives, and herbs in the medina. According to the season, meals feature a selection of salads, soups, couscous or tagine, fragrant bstilla, and delicate pastries served with mint tea.

**Tour Escort: Katherine Greenberg** is a garden designer and author from California. Katherine first traveled to Morocco over 30 years ago when her father was working there as an agricultural consultant. She has returned many times, and this will be her 5th tour to Morocco. Katherine is on the Advisory Board of the UC Botanical Garden and a past president of the Mediterranean Garden Society, the Pacific Horticulture Society, and the Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. She is the co-author of *Growing California Native Plants*, 2nd edition, published by University of California Press, as well as several cook books.

**Global Diversity Foundation: Gary Martin,** Director of the Global Diversity Foundation (GDF), has been involved in conservation and ethno-botanical work for over 30 years. After receiving his PhD from UC Berkeley, he founded the GDF to help local communities maintain their agricultural, biological, and cultural heritage through project in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Gary will take us to see several of his projects in the High Atlas Mountains and share his knowledge of Moroccan culture and traditions. His garden in the palm groves of Marrakech reflects his interest in Mediterranean and Moroccan plants and their uses.
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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 $600 per person is required at time of booking. Written confirmation will be provided upon receipt of deposit. Balance of payment will be due 60 days before departure. Tour price is based on exchange rates in effect as of July 2015 and are subject to adjustment on final invoice.

Number of Guests: A maximum of 18 guests can be accommodated. A minimum of 12 guests are required to operate the tour at the quoted price. Purchase of non-refundable services outside of the tour itinerary (such as airline tickets) before 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 60 days prior to departure and is non-refundable. Accordingly we strongly recommended 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, Tips & 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. Tips to your guides and drivers are not included and are left to your discretion.

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 passports, visas, excess baggage charges, items of a personal nature such as laundry, communication expenses, room service, meals not specified in your itinerary, gratuities to guides and drivers, 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.

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

Physical Capabilities - The tour includes a moderate amount of walking and occasional use of stairs or steeply sloped pathways. Walking surfaces may be uneven or unpaved. Some of the places that we will be visiting may only be seen on foot with no other access possible.

Responsibility Clause – Sterling Tours – the “Operator”, Katherine Greenberg, UCBG, and/or their agents or representatives, act only as agents for the various companies involved in providing 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 conditions 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 be commenced within one year following the date of tour completion. Neither the Operator nor Katherine Greenberg nor UCBG shall in any case be liable for compensatory damages and you hereby waive any right to punitive damages.

STERLING TOURS, LTD
A California Corporation
2907 Shelter Island Drive Suite #105-262
San Diego, CA 92106  Tel: 619 299-3010  800-976-9497 CST2023849-40
www.sterlingtoursltd.com  info@sterlingtoursltd.com
Katherine Greenberg, University of California Botanical Garden, and Sterling Tours invite you to join Marrakech: Gardens, Art and Cuisine * May 12-21, 2016

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

RESERVATION FORM  ----PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM PER PERSON TRAVELING

Full Name as on your passport: ____________________________________________________________

First name you prefer to be called: ___________________________________________ Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr: ____________________

Date of Birth: _______________ Passport #: __________________ Issue Date: ______________________

Expires: __________ Country: ______ Telephone: ____________________________________________

Email: ______________________________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip, Country __________________________________________________________________

Emergency Contact Name and Phone #: ____________________________

Special Food or Physical Requirements: ______________________________________________________

Celebrating an event during the tour? ______________________________________________________

Need help booking flights? __________ Planning to arrive early or stay after tour? ______________

HOTEL ROOM   Please check appropriate room type

Double Room, One Large Bed: ________ Double Room, Two Beds: ________

Sharing room with: __________________________________________________________

Single Room, I am willing to share ________ Single Room, not sharing ________

(We will attempt to find a roommate, but if unsuccessful the single supplement will apply)

INSURANCE   information to be provided after receipt of deposit.

LAND-ONLY TOUR PRICE AND DEPOSIT INFORMATION

Tour Price for members is $4695 per person land only based on double occupancy & a minimum of 12 guests. Non-member price is $4745.

Single occupancy of a room requires additional payment of $1048.

A nonrefundable deposit of $600 per person is required to register for this tour.

Please make your check payable to Sterling Tours, Ltd and mail with this form to the address below.

Payment by credit card is subject to 3% surcharge, please call Sterling Tours with credit card information.