

Morocco: From the Desert to the Sea

SUGGESTED READING GUIDE

Here is a selection of favorite, new, and hard-to-find books prepared for your journey. These books should be available at local public or university libraries, and most of them may be purchased and/or downloaded for e-readers through local and online bookstores.

MAPS & GUIDEBOOKS

Eyewitness Guides. *Eyewitness Guide Morocco*. DK Publishing, 2017. Gorgeously illustrated and filled with excellent maps, this compact guide introduces Morocco's history, culture, and attractions.

Lonely Planet Morocco (12th edition), by Jessica Lee, et al. Lonely Planet Publications, 2017.

Lonely Planet Moroccan Arabic Phrasebook. Lonely Planet Publications, 2020. This handy phrasebook includes pronunciation, basic grammar, and essential vocabulary.

Michelin Travel Publications. *Morocco Map*. Michelin Travel Publications, 2018. A road map featuring city and town plans at a scale of 1:1,000,000. Two sides. 28 x 36 inches.

The Rough Guide to Morocco (12th edition), by Keith Drew, et al. Rough Guides, 2019.

HISTORY & CULTURE

Armstrong, Karen. *Islam, A Short History*. Modern Library, 2002. Armstrong brings authority and experience to this vivid, clear-headed survey of the history and impact of Islam, from the birth of Mohammad to present-day challenges.

Burckhardt, Titus (transl. from the German by William Stoddart). *Fez, City of Islam*. Cambridge: Islamic Text Society, 1992.

El Hamel, Chouki. *Black Morocco: A history of slavery, race, and Islam*. Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Garcia-Arenal, Mercedes. *Ahmad al-Mansur: The Beginnings of Modern Morocco*. Oneworld Academic, 2008.

Guinaudeau, Madame, and Claudia Roden (Introduction). *Traditional Moroccan Cooking, Recipes from Fez*. Interlink Publishing Group, 2000. First published in 1958, Guinaudeau's charming guide to Moroccan cuisine explores the rich culinary traditions of Fez with anecdotes, recipes, drawings and chapters on everything from choosing spices and preserving lemons to the art of making and drinking tea.

Howe, Marvine. *Morocco, The Islamist Awakening and Other Challenges*. Oxford University Press, 2005. A penetrating look at political, social, and cultural life in Morocco under King Mohammed V, by a former *New York Times* correspondent.

Njoku, Raphael Chijioko. *Culture and Customs of Morocco*. iPage, 2005. General readers finally have a substantive resource for cultural information on a country most known in the U.S. for the Humphrey Bogart classic *Casablanca*, images of the souks (markets), readily available hashish, and Berber rugs.

TRAVEL, BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR

Maxwell, Gavin. *Lords of the Atlas*. Sickle Moon, 2005. A classic account of the tribal warlords of the Atlas Mountains, and of life in French colonial Morocco. A rousing tale and excellent introduction to Marrakech.

Mayne, Peter. *A Year in Marrakesh*. Sickle Moon, 2003. This brilliantly entertaining, insightful classic account of Marrakesh captures the rhythm and spirit of life in the alleyways of the Medina in the 1950s.

Shah, Tahir. *The Caliph's House, A Year in Casablanca*. Bantam Doubleday, 2006. A great storyteller, of Afghan descent and English-raised, Shah leads us through Moroccan society and culture with deft portraits of ordinary neighbors and craftsmen as he and his wife transform a crumbling palace in old Casablanca.

Wharton, Edith. *In Morocco*. John Beaufoy Publishing, 2016. Wharton's enjoyable account of her month-long journey through Morocco after WWI captures the landscapes, architecture and many aspects of Muslim culture and history with emphasis on the cities of Rabat, Fez, and Marrakech.

LITERATURE

Faculty leader Dana Strand particularly recommends the first three books as preparation for presentations and discussions during the tour:

Abouzheid, Leila. *The Year of the Elephant*. Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Univ. of Texas, 1990 (rev. ed. 2009).

Lalami, Laila. *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits*. Harvest Books, 2006. In recounting the circumstances that lead four Moroccans to cross the Strait of Gibraltar illegally in the hopes of finding a better future in Spain, Lalami offers a probing view of the challenges facing contemporary Morocco.

Mernissi, Fatima. *Dreams of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood*. Perseus Books, 1995. "I was born in a harem in 1940 in Fez, Morocco..." In this illuminating narrative of a childhood spent in a domestic harem in colonial Morocco, the world-renowned sociologist Mernissi weaves her own memories with the dreams of the women who surrounded her in the courtyard of her youth -- women who, without access to the world outside, recreated it from sheer imagination. A beautifully written account of a girl confronting the mysteries of time and place, gender and sex, *Dreams of Trespass* explores the tensions between modernity and tradition as seen through the lens of nostalgia, refreshingly laced with Mernissi's insights as a feminist Islamic scholar.

Bowles, Paul. *The Spider's House*. HarperCollins, 2006. Set in Fez during a 1954 nationalist uprising, this richly descriptive novel may be the most evocative of Bowles' many works based in Morocco. Originally published in 1955.

Lavington, Stephen, and Barnaby Rogerson (Editor). *Marrakesh, Through Writers' Eyes*. Sickle Moon, 2006. A choice collection of travel writing on the Red City by 40 luminaries, including George Orwell, Winston Churchill, Gavin Maxwell, and Peter Mayne.

Maalouf, Amin. *Leo Africanus*. Rowman & Littlefield, 1998. A fictional memoir of the first 40 years in the life of Leo Africanus, a Muslim whose travels led him throughout the Mediterranean and North Africa in the 15th and 16th centuries.