



**32nd IAS Meeting of Sedimentology
International Association of Sedimentology
May 23rd -25th, 2016
Marrakech, Morocco**

BRIDGING SCIENCES, BRIDGING CULTURES

Second Circular

Invitation

The International Association of Sedimentology (IAS) and the Ibn Battuta Centre (Marrakech), in collaboration with the Université Cadi Ayyad, Faculté de Sciences Semlalia (Marrakech), the Université Mohammed Premier, Faculté Pluridisciplinaire (Nador, Morocco) and the International Research School of Planetary Sciences - Università d'Annunzio (Pescara, Italy) cordially invite you to Marrakech, Morocco, for the 32nd IAS meeting of Sedimentology.

The meeting will take place from 23 to 25 May 2016 at the Palais des Congres de Marrakech.

This meeting is part of a long-lasting series of successful annual meetings that started in Bochum (Germany) in 1980. Since the beginning, these meetings gathered together a considerable number of people ranging from young Ph.D. students to well experienced scientists. They have covered a wide spectrum of sedimentological disciplines keeping the

pace with the development and evolution of the investigation of sediments and sedimentary rocks. The meeting in Marrakech will try to keep this tradition by attracting both senior and junior scientists and creating a lively environment.

Meeting Calendar

Meeting Schedule

- Pre-meeting field trips: 19-22 May 2016
- Pre-meeting short courses: 22 May 2016
- Registration: starts 22 May 2016
- Scientific Sessions: 23-25 May 2016
- Welcome Party: 23 May 2016
- Social Dinner: 24th May 2015
- Post-meeting short courses: 26 May 2016
- Post-meeting field trips: 26-31 May 2016

Important Dates

- Deadline Special Session and Short Course submission: 30 November 2016
- Abstract submission deadline: 1 February 2016
- Abstract acceptance notification: ends 1 March 2016
- Early registration (reduced fees): ends 13 March 2016
- Field-trip and short course registration deadline: 13 March 2016
- Third circular and Abstract with Programme available: 10 April 2016
- Late registration deadline: 15 May 2016

Only on-site registration: after 16 May 2016

Registration

Registration covers meeting material, access to programme with abstract, morning and afternoon coffee breaks and Welcome Party.

The cost of the Social Dinner is 50 EUR that can be paid at the registration. Field Trips must be paid with the registration. The number of participants for field trip is limited, therefore please try to register to your field trip as soon as possible.

	Until 13/3/2016	14/3/2016 - 15/5/2016	On site
IAS Members	340 EUR	390 EUR	440 EUR
Non IAS Members	390 EUR	450 EUR	510 EUR
IAS Student Members	240 EUR	275 EUR	330 EUR
Student non-IAS Member	275 EUR	315 EUR	360 EUR
Accompanying person	110 EUR	110 EUR	160 EUR
Social Dinner	50 EUR	50 EUR	50 EUR

For Field Trip pricing see below in the Meeting Field Trip Section.

The Registration form will be available soon in the web site.

IAS Travel Grants

The International Association of Sedimentologists (IAS), will financially support students who are IAS members. IAS Student Members can apply for travel grant on the IAS website.

Invitations

Letter of invitation to enable participants to obtain visas and financial supports will be sent by the organisation of the meeting. Please request these letters to 32ias@ibnbattutacentre.org. The letters of invitation do not imply financial support.

Limitation of Liability in Relation to the Conference

The Meeting organisation reserves the right to cancel the 32 IMS without notice or compensation in the event of any delay, default, failure or cancellation of implementation of any deliverable to or for the 32 IAS Meeting in Sedimentology which has been caused, directly or indirectly, by any incident of "force majeure". For the purposes hereof, the term "force majeure" shall mean any incident, circumstance or cause which renders delivery of the 32 IMS substantially or totally impossible or impracticable and which is beyond the control of the organisers. The term shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Any strike, or other industrial action of any kind;
- Fire, flood, or adverse weather conditions;
- Unavoidable breakdown or destruction of facilities or equipment;
- Failure of carriers, delays in performance or delivery by sub-contractors or any other breach by a third party of a material obligation towards the organisers of 32 IMS;
- Power failure;
- Promulgation/amendment/rescission of any relevant legislation or regulation by local or national government;
- Any occurrence of any nature which renders it reasonably necessary for organisers to

cancel the 32 IMS

In such circumstances, the organisers, are hereby indemnified and shall not be liable to any participant, supplier or other service provider for any loss or damage save that 32 IMS shall only be liable to reimburse the relevant party the amounts described in the section Cancellations of this website/circular as may actually have been received by the organisers of the 32 IMS. This limited liability does not extend to any payments that may have been made directly or indirectly (on behalf of participants/attendees/service providers, etc.) to third parties such as hotels or airlines.

The organisers of the 32 IMS and the Local Organising Committee shall not be responsible for any theft, breakage, destruction or damages of any kind whatsoever and howsoever caused to personal and/or business items of participants, accompanying persons, children, or other attendees.

Social Programme

Icebreaker party

An ice breaker party will be organized in the evening of the first day in the premises of the Hotel Mansour Eddahbi linked to the Palais du Congres.

Conference Dinner

A conference dinner will be held within the Medina, an UNESCO World-heritage. The dinner will be organized in a Riad, typical house of old Arabic cities. The participants will be able to taste several dishes of the Moroccan cuisine. The cost of the Conference Dinner is 50 €.

Leisure programme

Marrakech has a number of attractions within the city and in its surroundings, for example, the Atlas Mountains (Mount Toubkal – the highest mountain of Northern Africa, the Ourika Valley, Asni) or the Atlantic coast such as Essaouira. Participants can organize their own visits, but a conference link with a major travel agent will become available in the near future. You will be able to organize visits in Marrakech and trips in the neighbouring areas.

Scientific programme

A Call for proposing Special Session will be available in the 2nd Circular. However, early proposals, comments and suggestions can be sent to 32ias@ibnbattutacentre.org.

The meeting is aimed to cover the entire spectrum of subjects in sedimentology and sedimentary geology. Facies and sedimentary environment, transport and sedimentation, carbonates, chemical and biochemical deposits, diagenesis, sequence stratigraphy, external and internal geometries of sedimentary bodies, oil exploration concepts and models, and the entire range of subjects will be considered. Some frontier arguments will be discussed as well, such as geomicrobiology and sediments, planetary sedimentary

geology, outcrop and 3D imaging. The oral presentations and posters will be accommodated in Meeting Sessions and Special Sessions.

The Meeting Session will cover the entire spectrum of the sedimentology, as example:

- Mechanical sedimentary Processes
- Biotic sedimentary Processes
- Chemical sedimentary processes
- Biogeology of sediments
- Microbial activity as sedimentary processes
- Diagenesis
- Geochemistry of sediment
- Marine and freshwater carbonates
- Alluvial depositional systems
- Glacial depositional systems
- Coastlines and deltas
- Shallow-water depositional systems
- Deep-marine depositional systems
- Cyclicity in sedimentary record
- Sequence stratigraphy in seismic sessions
- Sequence stratigraphy in outcrops
- Sedimentary signatures of global changes
- Paleoclimate and sedimentation
- Paleontology and trace fossils
- Planetary sedimentology
- Depositional systems on Mars and Titan

The Special Sessions will have specific subjects based on areas of particular interest. The participants are invited to submit proposals to organize Special Sessions by filling in the form below. Special Sessions are an important element in the conference and we hope to provide an interesting and provocative set of subjects.

Enquiries, comments and questions can be sent to Marco Brandano (marco.brandano@uniroma1.it).

Short Courses

Short courses will be offered the day before and after the Meeting. Any subject is acceptable, but themes that need updating and the dissemination of new interpretations and data are preferable.

The participants are invited to submit a proposal for Short Course by writing directly to Marco Brandano (marco.brandano@uniroma1.it).

Presentation Information

Oral Presentation

Oral presentations will be organized into two categories: special sessions proposed by

conveners and open sessions in the frame of given themes. Depending on the number of submitted oral presentations, each talk will be 15-20 minutes long, including time for questions and discussion. Exact allocated time for each oral presentation will be given in the 3rd circular.

Each session room will be equipped with a computer with MS PowerPoint and Adobe Acrobat Reader (.ppt, .pptx or .pdf format files), a digital projector, a laser pointer, and a microphone. You will not be able to use your own computer. Presentations must be uploaded in the central system well in advance of the time of the presentation. Details will be provided in the 3rd circular.

Poster Presentation

A large space will be available for poster presentations, and several poster sessions will be programmed. Materials (e.g., double-faced adhesive tape) for mounting the posters on the boards will be available at the session.

Submission of Abstracts

Abstract submission will be handled entirely by the Ex Ordo system. Please follow the guidelines given in the submission workflow. The abstract text body should be limited to 500 words. The abstract submission deadline is 1 February 2016.

The submission form will be available before the end of October.

You may submit your abstract by visiting the Ex Ordo abstract submission system (you will be required to setup an account first): **COMING SOON**

The submitted abstracts will be evaluated and the acceptance will be communicated during the acceptance procedure and, however, no later than 1 March 2016. The authors should suggest their preferred mode of presentation (oral or poster), but the scientific committee will decide the destinations of the abstracts.

The programme will be available no later than 10 April 2016. The online version of the programme along with the abstracts will be available on line during the meeting.

All accepted abstracts will be scheduled for oral or poster presentation and will be compiled in PDF format. A digital version of the abstracts and the meeting's final programme will be available on the IAS Meeting's website.

Enquiries and questions about abstracts and their submissions can be sent to 32ias@ibnbattutacentre.org.



Meeting Field Trips

A set of field trips has been organized to cover a large fraction of the Moroccan geology that is dramatically diverse and complex. Morocco is the house of many mountain chains from Hercynian to Alpine age. They are complex entities that show a variety of orogenic styles. The Sahara is represented by the North African craton that extends farther south into the continent. A large part of the Atlantic coastline and adjacent area consist of topset deposits of the prograding passive margin. Eight excursions will try to give you a sense of vastness and uniqueness of the Moroccan geological settings and the feeling of a history that is rooted in the Precambrian rocks of the Anti Atlas and that spans up to the Quaternary.

Morocco is a huge country and the field trips are spread over a large territory. Consequently most field trips require long days of driving. A few field trips last 4 to 5 days long and they include long transfers. Some travels, mostly in the Sahara, require off-roading and the travels may become rough and uncomfortable. But this is the way to do geology in the desert. Other field trips are carried on and near the Atlantic or Mediterranean seaside. And most cross over a variety of mountain chains.

The number of field trips has been left intentionally small to avoid extensive cancellations. However, most of them, due to the dimension of the outcrops and the broad landscape can sustain a considerable number of participants.

Field trips may be cancelled if under-subscribed. Before purchasing non-refundable travel tickets, please ask organizers for confirmation that the trip will actually take place.

In some of the hotels chosen for the field trips, single-bed rooms may be sparse or unavailable. Therefore even if you ask for a single room, it may happen that you will have to share a room.

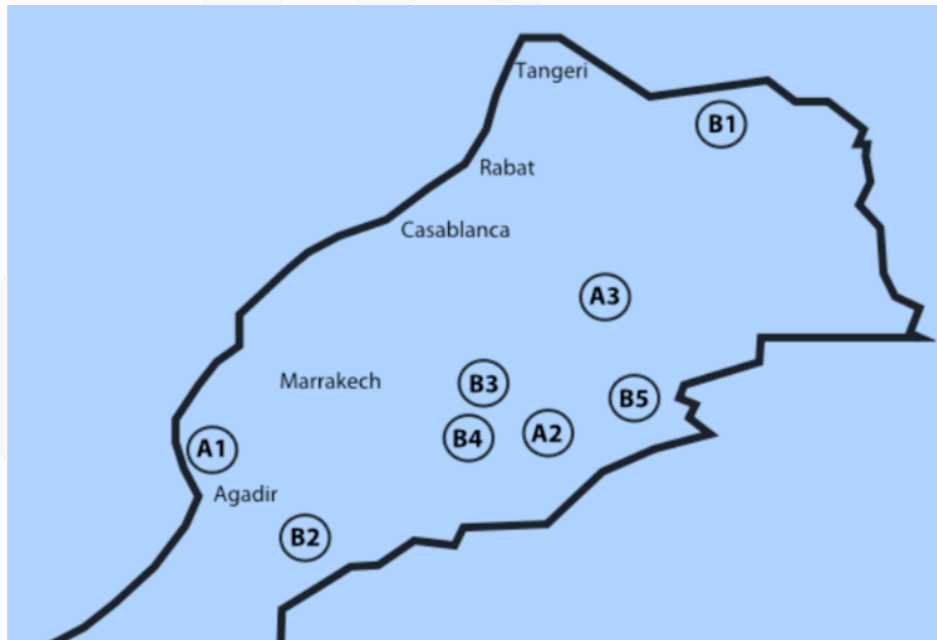
Several weeks prior to the field trip, you will receive information about the details of meeting points, transportation during the trip, phone numbers and email addresses of field trip leaders.

The climate in May is usually warm and dry. Temperature over 30° are more than common during the day, but at night the temperature is mild and nice. In the mountains it may become also somewhat cold. Hats with large brims are a good option and long sleeved shirts are preferable. You will get the details about your selected trip about one month

before departure. Field trips will be held in various areas, from the seashores to the mountains, and the participants are advised to check local weather forecasts.

Neither the organizers nor the field trip leaders can offer insurance covering illness, injury or any other accidents for participants.

For inquiries about the field trips, please contact Stefania Celenza (celenza@irsps.unich.it).



Pre-meeting field trips

Excursion A1

SEDIMENTARY AND TECTONIC EVOLUTION OF A PASSIVE MARGIN BASIN DURING THE MESOZOIC (AGADIR ESSAOUIRA BASIN)

Leaders:

M. Masrour and B. Lhamyani, *Université Ibn Zohr, Maroc*

Duration: 2 days

Start: Marrakech, Saturday 21 May 2016 End: Marrakech, Sunday 22 May 2016

Transportation: Minibus or Bus Difficulties: short walk

The tour is about 500 km and stretches from Marrakech to Agadir and Marrakech via Essaouira.

The area, object of the present excursion, contains a thick Mesozoic series composed of carbonate platform deposits interspersed with siliciclastic deposits (fluvial and lacustrine). The excursion will visit the Atlantic Atlas where a thick sequence of Triassic fine-grained deposits and evaporite induce the formation of salt diapirs that play an important role inducing salifère diapiric with tectonic events, faults and folds spilled, generalized fold coverage (post Triassic) in connection with its detachment (Jura style). The existence of Quaternary deposits raised indicates the magnitude of the recent deformation near the coast in this region.

Paleozoic deposits strongly affected by deformation rest on the Precambrian basement. They are overlain by Triassic red beds and evaporites, locally associated with basalt flows (related to the initial opening of the Atlantic Ocean). Lower Jurassic series composed of

deltaic sediments, alluvial and marine (reef and evaporite) deposits, show evidence of the first marine incursions on the continent and the formation of the passive margin. This evolves, in upper Jurassic to the Eocene, into shallow water marine sedimentation (marl and limestone).

Price: 185 € double room per person; 220 € single room per person (including meals, accommodation, transportation, guidebook).

Excursion A2

HIGH ATLAS AND CENTRE-EASTERN ANTI-ATLAS: CAMBRIAN, ORDOVICIAN AND VISEAN BASINS ALONG OF THE SOUTH ATLAS FAULT.

Leaders:

H. Ouanaimi, *Université Cadi Ayyad, ENS, Marrakech, Maroc* L. Baidder, *Université Hassan II, Casablanca, Maroc*

Duration: 4 days

Start: Marrakech, Thursday 19 May 2016 End: Marrakech, Sunday 22 May 2016

Transportation: 4WD

Difficulties: short walks in rough terrain

The itinerary concerns, the Middle Cambrian basin in the High Atlas with the marine transgressive carbonate horizon of the "breccia Micmacca", the marine tidal and storm "Schists à Paradoxides" topped by Floian sandstones and conglomerates. In the central Anti-Atlas we present a lower Cambrian detrital and carbonate shelf sedimentation developed in an E-W Gulf. In Alnif-Tineghir area the Ordovician detrital platform will be observed: clayey silt Fezouata Fm (Arenig) and Tachilla Fm (Llanvirn), 1st Bani sandstones (Lalndeilo-Cardoc) and 2nd Bani sandstones and conglomerates that represent the peri-glacial and glacial Hirnantian event. Then we visit the Carboniferous turbid and gravity facies, (olistostrome).

We compare most of these formations with those of the Skoura inlier (Middle Cambrian-Lower Ordovician clastic facies) and we present essentially the gravity Visean facies of Ait Tamlil inlier and its early "nappes".

Price: 480 € double room per person; 535 € single room per person (including meals, accommodation, transportation, guidebook).

Excursion A3

MESOZOIC EVOLUTION OF THE HIGH ATLAS BETWEEN MIDLET AND ERRACHIDIA

Leaders :

D.Chafiki and A. Ait Addi, *Université Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech, Maroc*

Duration: 3days

Start: Marrakech, Friday 20 May 2016 End: Marrakech, Sunday 22 May 2016

Transportation: Minibus

Difficulties: short walks in rough terrain, long road transfers

This field trip deals with the tectono-sedimentary evolution of the Lias – Dogger sequence of the Central High Atlas that involves the internal shelf deposits and axial basins.

The focus will be on different mud-mound type carbonate buildups, well developed in the Midelt area, towards the boundary between the Lower and the Upper Sinemurian. These structures show a real evolution within the Upper Sinemurian interval, from simple small-scale bodies at the base, up to big and complex forms at the top. Their sedimentological and palaeontological features indicate microbolites and sponge buildups developed in deep and open marine conditions, within the subphotic zone, at the lower part of the storm wave interval. These buildups are closely linked to tectonic processes as they grow on the

normal syn-sedimentary faults which affected the central Atlasic area during the Lower Liassic period, leading to the breakup of the Early Sinemurian carbonate platform and the induced installation of the Upper Sinemurian subsiding basin. The deposition of fine-grained sediment (mostly silt) will terminate the buildup construction.

Price: 310 € double room per person; 365 € single room per person (including meals, accommodation, transportation, guidebook).

Post-meeting field trips

Excursion B1

MESOZOIC AND CENOZOIC SEDIMENTARY BASINS IN THE RIF MOUNTAIN CHAIN

Leaders:

M.N. Zaghloul, *Université Abdelmalek Essaadi, Tanger, Maroc*. A. Azdimousa, *Université Mohamed Ier, Nador, Maroc*

Duration: 6 days

Start: Marrakech, Thursday 26 May 2016 End: Tanger, Tuesday 31 May 2016

Note: the 6th night in Tanger is included in the fees. It will be possible to continue some private travel from Tanger or fly from the Tanger Airport on the 27 May. There is the possibility of a return to Marrakech by car but you must contact Stefania Celenza (see above) to get information and arrange this possibility. No change in the schedule or price is envisaged.

Transportation: Minibus

Difficulties: short walks in rough terrain, long road transfers

This 1400 km-long field trip gives the opportunity to visit the Rif's alpine mountains.

Between Larache and Tangier coastal deposits "shoreface and foreshore" type of beach and deposits related to extreme events (tsunami) will be shown.

Between Tangier and Al Hoceima, southern slope of the western Mediterranean, the crossing will allow us to observe: various units of the northern and central Rif chain, the limit of the internal Rif area, the Maghrebian turbiditic basin, resedimentation mass deposits, rock-fall deposits, produced by earthquake, Tyrrhenian Quaternary deposits, transgressive Tertiary deposits, and Triassic red beds.

Neogene basins of the eastern Rif, which are part of post-plies neotectonic basins, will be observed in the region of Nador. It presents various facies ranging from carbonated to detrital pole with volcanoclastic influences. Here will be shown: deposits whose implementation is very influenced by global eustatic variations; Messinian deposits concordant with those of the Tortonian; the sedimentary hiatus from the late Messinian; the great influence of calcoalcalin volcanism; the establishment of a carbonate platform reef north of Melilla and the absence of marine Pliocene sedimentation related to regional emersion due to compressive tectonics that continue until the present.

Price: 780 € double room per person; 995 € single room per person (including meals, accommodation, transportation, guidebook).

Excursion B2

PRECAMBRIAN-CAMBRIAN BOUNDARY IN THE WESTERN ANTI ATLAS

Leaders:

H. Bouougri and A. Soulaïmani, *Université Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech*

Duration: 4 days

Start: Marrakech, Thursday 26 May 2016 End: Marrakech, Sunday 29 May 2016

Transportation: Minibus Difficulties: none

The purpose of the tour is to revisit the Precambrian-Cambrian transition across the Western Anti-Atlas in the light of new sedimentological and radiochronological data. The exact positioning of this limit is still widely debated. New dating argues for a limit set to the last level of the Ouarzazate Group.

The outcrops provide rare spectacular outcrops for Precambrian deposits of volcano-sedimentary sequences and large conglomeratic units at the limit with Cambrian sediments.

Price: 380 € double room per person; 450 € single room per person (including meals, accommodation, transportation, guidebook).

Excursion B3

FROM RIFTING TO COLLISION IN CENTRAL HIGH ATLAS: SEDIMENTARY AND TECTONIC EVOLUTION OF AN INTRACONTINENTAL, PERI-TETHYSIAN BASIN

Leaders:

A. Souhel and D. Chafiki *Université Université Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech, Maroc*

Duration: 3 days

Start: Marrakech, Thursday 26 May 2016 End: Marrakech, Saturday 28 May 2016

Transportation: 4WD

Difficulties: Short walk on rough terrain

This 900 km-long field trip gives an opportunity to visit the northern half of the High Atlas belt in the area where it connects with Middle Atlas. The high mountainous range (hardly less than 4000 m), made up of smoothly folded Mesozoic sediments, abruptly dominates its northern Neogene foredeep (Tadla plain). Abundant wadis and springs permit luxurious cultivations all along the piedmont, whereas the mountains are rather devoted to nomad sheep and goat breeding. Gorgeous sceneries are encountered during the trip, such as the Ozoud falls, the Ait Bougemmez valley, the Azourki pass (nearly 3000 m a.s.l.), the Cathedral conglomerates, etc.

From the point of view of the sedimentary basin evolution, emphasis is put on the following points: i) Triassic-Jurassic rifting and transgression of the Tethyan sea; sequential stratigraphy of the Liassic-Dogger deposits from the external platform to the basin axis; ii) Basin upfilling and late evolution during the Middle-Late Jurassic and Early Cretaceous; syn-sedimentary tectonics, basaltic volcanism, deltaic red beds, Dinosaur tracks; iii) Early-Late Cretaceous transgression from the Atlantic ocean into the Atlas-Meseta Aptian gulfs; Cenomanian-Turonian platform.

Tectonics mainly concerns i) the relationships of the Middle and High Atlas domains during the Jurassic, then during the Cenozoic compression period; and ii) the inverted fault and fold structures, particularly along the Atlas-Tadla boundary, close to Beni Mellal.

Price: 400 € double room per person; 460 € single room per person (including meals, accommodation, transportation, guidebook).

Excursion B4

THE MESO-CENOZOIC LANDS IN HIGH ATLAS OF MARRAKECH AND SOUTH SIDE OF CENTRAL HIGH ATLAS

Leaders:

Ab. Algouti and Ah. Algouti, *Université Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech*

Duration: 4 days

Start: Marrakech, Thursday 26 May 2016 End: Marrakech, Sunday 29 May 2016

Transportation: Minibus Difficulties: none

This tour offers an opportunity to cross the High Atlas Mountains and observe different litho-stratigraphic units on both sides. Particular attention will be placed on the Mesozoic series unconformably on the pleated base. This sedimentary cover includes: a continental Triassic deposit mainly consisting of silty clays. At the end of the Triassic basalt flows reflect the beginning of the Atlantic opening. The Lias is represented by confined and shallow internal platform deposits (red siltstones, limestones and evaporites). The Dogger comprises conglomeratic sandstone deposits and silty (continental and lagoon). The Apto-Albian, in transgressive trend corresponds to greenish marl passing more or less fossiliferous dolomitic limestones deposited in a restricted marine environment. This formation is overlain by fluvial deposits (silt, sandstone and conglomerates) attributed to the Infra-Cenomanian. The Cenomanian Turonian consists essentially of training dolomitic limestones reflecting a major transgression. Above this developing detrital formations characteristics of a coastal sebkha (marl and sandstone red gypsiferous), surmounted by the Maastrichtian phosphatic limestones.

This tour also includes a visit to the Imini manganese mine. This is a manganese deposit where mineralization is hosted by carbonate facies between the Cenomanian and Turonian.

Price: 425 € double room per person; 510 € single room per person (including meals, accommodation, transportation, guidebook).

Excursion B5

MARS ANALOGUE SEDIMENTARY ENVIRONMENTS IN THE ANTI ATLAS

Leaders: G.G. Ori and K. Taj-Eddine, *Ibn Battuta Centre, Université Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech*, Duration: 5 days

Start: Marrakech, Thursday 26 May 2016 End: Marrakech, Monday 30 May 2016

Transportation: 4WD

Difficulties: short walks in rough terrain, long road transfers and long off-road reaches. This field trip will deal with several geological features that are used to interpret similar features on Mars. This kind of features, called Mars analogues, are extensively present in arid, hot and cold, areas and provide a good background for the interoperation of the geological and paleoclimatological evolution of the planet. In the recent years the geological view of Mars has deeply changed and from a dry, volcanic-dominated planet is now a place where water and wind have shaped the surface with lakes, deltas and shorelines. In this field trip we will visit Cambrian stromatolites, Quaternary travertines and related lacustrine deposits, Ordovician glacial deposits, sand dunes, regolith and other desert features and fine-grained carbonate volcanoes dominated by hot water and methane, The latter are particular interesting because these system lasted several hundreds of millions through large part of Devonian and Carboniferous.

The field trip is rather long with more that 1500 km on road and a couple of days entirely off road in the desert. The outcrops that will be visited stretch out over a large area from Ouarzazate to Erfoud. One night will be spent in the desert sleeping in Beduin tents. In spite of these characteristic the field trip is rather comfortable .

Price: 565 € double room per person; 640 € single room per person (including meals, accommodation, transportation, guidebook).

Short Courses

Short courses will be offered the day before and after the Meeting. Any subject is acceptable, but themes that need updating and the dissemination of new interpretations and data are preferable.

The participants are invited to submit a proposal for Short Course by writing directly to Marco Brandano (<http://wikitravel.org/en/Morocco>).

Reaching Marrakech

By air

Marrakech is easily reached by air. The Marrakech Menara Airport is the busiest airport in Morocco after the Casablanca Airport. It goes continuously under upgrading and the construction of a new airport in the Marrakech outskirt will begin soon.

The Menara Airport is served by a number of low-cost airlines that connect Marrakech from many European cities with direct flights. The majority of the two millions tourists visiting Marrakech use these airlines. Direct flights of major air companies such as Air France, TAP, Alitalia/Ethiad, Iberia, Swissair, British Airways, etc. show airfares that in many cases are competitive with those of the low-cost airlines. In addition, they offer an easy way for intercontinental participants to obtain an air ticket to reach Marrakech. Royal Air Maroc does not provide direct connections from Europe to Marrakech and a change of planes must be done in Casablanca. However there are 5 or 6 flights per day (depending on the day) from and to Marrakech.

Due to the large influx of tourists visiting Marrakech, reaching the city by air is rather simple. The Menara Airport is near the city and it is easy to take a taxi. Taxis are readily available at the airport. Please agree on the fare with your driver before you begin the journey. A taxi ride from the Marrakech Menara Airport to the city center will cost about MAD 150. A pick-up service will also be available at the airport for the participants. The booking of this service will become available in this website as it gets closer to the conference time.

By train

Trains are not the best way to travel in Morocco at least until the construction of high-speed railways will be finished in a few years. However, there are direct trains reaching Marrakech from and to Casablanca and to the Casablanca Airport as well. Transfer time from the Casablanca Airport station to Marrakech is about 4 hours. For more information, please visit www.oncf.ma.

Entering Morocco

Every visitor to Morocco must have a valid passport. Validity should last for at least six months from the time of entrance in Morocco. Please ensure that you have at least two (2) blank facing pages in your passport.

Travel regulations are known to change without notice to the public. We recommend before you travel, to check the current regulations with the Moroccan Embassy in your country. A list of Moroccan Embassies around the world can be found here at www.diplomatie.ma.

Arriving into Morocco is simple and straightforward. On arrival, you are required to complete an arrival form, normally provided on the airplane — be sure to complete it before arriving at the desk of the passport control official. On the form you will need to provide your address in Morocco. The same form is to be completed on departure and handed in as you pass through the passport control they are available in the airport before reaching the embarkation gates, but pens are not. It is recommended that you have a pen on hand as this form must be completed before arriving at the passport control official.

Visas

Some visitors to Morocco require a visa in order to enter the country. You cannot apply for a visa upon arrival. If you will require a visa to visit Morocco, be sure to allow plenty of time for the application process before your departure date.

Travel regulations are known to change without notice to the public. We recommend before you travel, to check the current regulations with the Moroccan Embassy in your country. A list of Moroccan Embassies around the world can be found at www.diplomatie.ma.

Electricity and voltage

The voltage in Morocco is 220 V, and outlets will fit the two-pin plug type E and F, the most used in the European Union. Be sure to bring your own adapter if needed. Check the [worldstandards website \(http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/\)](http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/) to get detailed information.

Money and credit cards

The Moroccan money is Dirham. You can change money at the airport in the baggage claim area or in the main all. You can also change money at the many bureau de change and banks, ubiquitous in Marrakech.

Credit cards are largely accepted (mostly VISA and MasterCard) in shops, restaurants and cafeterias. However, small business mostly attended by local people could accept only cash.

ATMs are widespread over the city.
In September 2015, 1 Dirham is about 0.09 EUR.

Further information

You can get detailed information about Morocco and travelling in Morocco in <http://wikitravel.org/en/Morocco>.

Accommodation

Marrakech has a large number of hotels ranging from very cheap to very expensive. The choice is huge and it is easy to find an accommodation according to personal requirements in term of price, facilities and position. A list of hotels offering special prices for the conference will be available in November. However, you can check web sites that offer a large set of choices.

Committees

Conveners

- Gian Gabriele Ori (Ibn Battuta Centre, Université Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech, Morocco)
- Kamal Taj-Eddine (Ibn Battuta Centre, Université Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech, Morocco)

Local Organisation

- Daniela D'Alleva, Ibn Battuta Centre, (Marrakech, Morocco)
- Ida Dell'Arciprete, Ibn Battuta Centre, (Marrakech, Morocco)
- Fatiha Hadach, Université Cadi Ayyad (Marrakech, Morocco)
- Zouhair Oughzi, Université Cadi Ayyad (Marrakech, Morocco)
- Stefania Celenza (IRSPS, Pescara, Italy)
- Attilio Grilli, Università d'Annunizio (Pescara, Italy)

Field Trip Committee

- Kamal Taj-Eddine, Université Cadi Ayyad (Marrakech, Morocco)
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