

2021

Study
Abroad
Program



Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation

Southern Spain and Morocco

ISLAM: DISTINGUISHING RELIGION FROM CULTURE
THROUGH THE LENS OF CHRISTIANITY



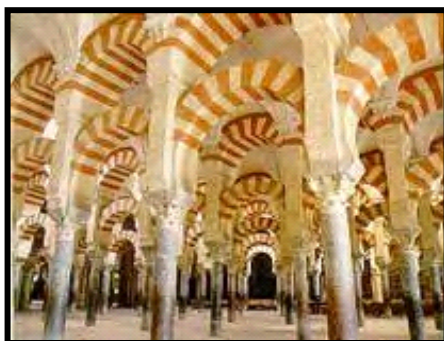
LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

Loyola University Maryland

February 26 – March 7, 2021

Students and Non-Students Welcome!

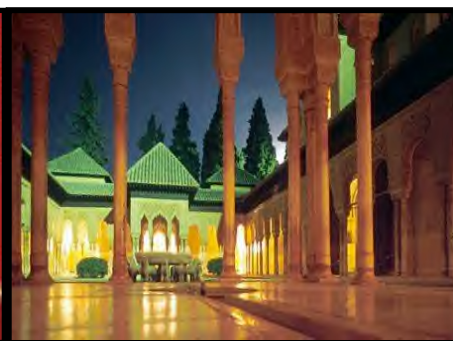
Southern Spain



Cordoba



Culture of Madrid

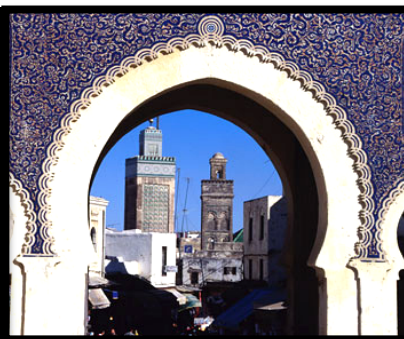


Al Hambra - Granada

Morocco



Arabic, African & French Culture



Moroccan Architecture



Traditional Musicians in Tangier

- Learn about the history of Islamic Civilization in Europe, Islamic Art, geometric design and architecture in Spain
- Experience prayer, culture and daily life
- Identify cultural practices from religious practices
- Deepen ones' understanding of both Christian and Islamic practices, as well as cultural traditions that exist in the two societies
- One day Seminar in Morocco at Mohammad V University
- Briefing & Reception with Cultural Attaché - U.S. Embassy in Rabat

Islam: Distinguishing Religion from Culture Through The Lens of Christianity

great for students interested in religious studies,
international studies, cross-cultural and international
relations programs

COST: \$3,575

(Includes airfare, lodging, two meals daily (breakfast & lunch or dinner), receptions, ground transportation & program fees)

For more information and registration contact:

Rev. Bao Nguyen, S.J., PhD
Loyola University of Maryland
410-617-2910 Ext. 7088
bqnguyen@loyola.edu

Program will be conducted in collaboration with:

Imam M. Bashar Arafat, President
Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation
410-944-6077
info@cecf-net.org

Introduction:

Since September 11, 2001, Americans have put forth great effort to better understand Muslims and the theology of Islam. Stereotypes and misunderstandings still exist as we try to distinguish the religiously based practices from those that are purely cultural. Both Morocco and Southern Spain "Andalusia" have rich historical legacies that exemplify religious and cultural practices of the people, who have inhabited their lands for centuries. We will see the struggle with modernity, globalization, and the challenges that exist today between Europe and Muslim countries across the Mediterranean. Causes of extremism and the need to build relationships between the Muslim world and the U.S.

This study program will deepen participants' understanding of both Christian and Islamic practices, as well as cultural traditions that exist in the two societies. They will have first-hand experiences with their culture, faiths and daily activities of the people. Participants will visit rich historic sites and interact with professors, students, politicians and religious leaders, in addition to enjoying the beauty, food and hospitality in Morocco.

The program is through Loyola University Maryland and conducted in collaboration with *Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation (CECF)*.

Program Goals/Objectives:

To gain a deeper understanding of:

- The importance of Andalusia Spain within the Islamic Civilizations
- Theology and its relationship to the daily lives of both Muslims and Christians
- Comparative theology between Christianity and Islam—the religions of Abraham under same God
- Religious traditions and their roots
- Cultural traditions in ancient societies
- The Importance of building relationships with one another in our every shrinking world

Program Requirements:

- Two pre-trip meetings, with lecture component
- Reading: (*encouraged - to be announced*)
- Full participation in lectures and travel to Southern Spain and Morocco
- One post-trip follow-up meeting
- Journaling (*encouraged*)

Health and Safety:

Both Spain and Morocco are considered to be safe hubs for tourists and visitors from around the world. The arrangements of the study program will be brought to the attention of the Cultural Office of the American Embassy in Morocco. No health warnings are issued to Americans who travel to Spain or Morocco. According to the U.S. Department of State website on Foreign Travel, "Adequate medical care is available in Spain and Morocco's largest cities."

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_975.html#medical

Accommodations and Meals:

- Double occupancy rooms at 3 or 4-star hotels (**single occupancy available for an additional fee*)
- Daily breakfast and a second meal of either lunch or dinner

Preliminary Itinerary:

Feb 26 (Fri): Late Departure from the USA (JFK) to (MAD) Madrid, Spain

Feb 27 (Sat): Arrival to Madrid, Spain (MAD), Travel to Cordoba, **Check-in**, Tour the City, Torre De Calahorra, **CECF Lecture / Discussion** (*title tba*), Dinner Program with the local community

Feb 28 (Sun): Cordoba – Leisurely morning, Attend Sunday Mass at the Baroque Cathedral and continue with a guided tour inside the historic Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba Complex (*Mezquita-Catedral De Cordoba*). Late Afternoon Travel to Granada, Dinner and **Check-in**

Mar 01 (Mon): Granada - Tour the Old City and Alhambra Palace, Lunch, Free time and Visit to the Granada Mosque

Mar 02 (Tue): Depart for Algeciras, Ferry to Tangier, **Check-in**, Visit the Tomb of Ibn Battuta, Dinner and Free time

Mar 03 (Wed): Tangier - Visit St. Andrew's Church, the Museum of Contemporary Art, and Grand Soq (Market), Late Afternoon Travel to Fez and **Check-in**

Mar 04 (Thu): Fez - Visit the Old City and its rich, historic educational center, Al Quraween Mosque, Travel to Rabat, **Check-in**

Mar 05 (Fri): Meeting at the U.S. Embassy, observe Friday Service, Program with local leaders and educators of Mohammed V University "**Distinguishing Religion from Culture in Morocco**", Dinner with a Moroccan family.

Mar 06 (Sat): Travel to Casablanca, **Check-in**, Tour Old Medina and Hassan II Mosque, Dinner on The Corniche and Free time

Mar 07 (Sun): Depart for the USA

Program Leaders:

- **Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat, PhD**, Civilizations Exchange and Cooperation Foundation (CECF)
mohamadba@aol.com – 410-944-6077

Born and raised in Syria, graduate of Islamic Law “Shari’ah” from Damascus University and Islamic Studies & Arabic Language from the Islamic Call University in Damascus. He served as an Imam in Damascus, Syria from 1981 to 1989. He was invited to the U.S. to serve as Imam of the Islamic Society of Baltimore from 1989 to 1993. He has taught Islamic Studies and Culture at several colleges and universities in Maryland, including the College of Loyola University Maryland, Ecumenical Institute of Theology at St. Mary’s Seminary and University, Johns Hopkins University and other colleges and universities. He served as the Campus Imam at Johns Hopkins University from 1993 to 2003, Adjunct Chaplain at Johns Hopkins Hospital from 2000 to 2003 and the Muslim Chaplain for the Baltimore Police Department from 1998 to 2006. He is President of the Islamic Affairs Council of Maryland and the Founder & President of Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation (CECF) www.cecf-net.org.

Since 2005, Imam Arafat has visited over 40 countries through the “International Speakers Program” at the U.S. Department of State to lecture on the subject, “Islam & Muslims in America.” He was invited to Spain & Morocco through the U.S. Embassies in Madrid and Rabat, in which several universities and religious institutions in both countries were involved. He laid the foundation with Al Quraween University in Fes and Al Hasan II in Casablanca and institutions in Spain for the upcoming program with Loyola University Maryland and other universities. He will serve as the primary interpreter to Arabic for the delegation.

Imam Arafat previously led delegations to Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Spain, Morocco, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

- **Rev. Bao Nguyen, S.J., PhD**, Loyola University Maryland
bqnguyen@loyola.edu - 410-617-2910 Ext. 7088

Rev. Nguyen received a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) - Higher education from the School of Education—Boston College, a Sacred Theology License (STL) and Master of Divinity (MDiv) from the School of Theology and Ministry—Boston College, a Master of Art in Social Philosophy (MA) from Loyola University Chicago, and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Bachelor of Business in Accounting (BBA) from the University of Houston.

He is currently the Assistant Director of International Programs and Coordinator of International Jesuit Collaborations for Loyola University Maryland. He is also Founder and Director of Formation Support for Vietnam—Non-profit organization and a Coordinator, Consultant and Representative for the Vietnamese Catholic Bishops and Major Superiors in Vietnam (2006-Present).

From his early university years, Rev. Nguyen was quite active in a number of capacities such as a chaplain, mentor, computer tutor, teacher of Catholic Catechism for Confirmation, spiritual director, volunteer in a soup kitchen and more.

Rev. Nguyen is interested in international education, administration and supervision, non-profit educational institutes, ecclesiastical theological foundations, student affairs, campus ministry, Catholic tradition, global curriculum, especially Ignatian pedagogy in higher education, and educational development in international communities. He is also interested in educational system in developing countries and cross-cultural issues.

***CECF** is dedicated to fostering cooperation rather than confrontation among people of different religions and cultures and to creating better understanding between the East and the West through face-to-face dialogue and visits.*

FOR RESERVATION AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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