

Thursday, January 14 – Thursday, March 4, 2010

Johnson IMAX® Theater, National Museum of Natural History

Visit www.si.edu/imax or call the theater reservation center at 202 633-4629 or 866 868-7774 (toll free) for information, tickets and showtimes. Call 202-633-IMAX to inquire about special school and community group programs.

Join Ibn Battuta, one of the greatest travelers in history on his epic pilgrimage to Mecca in 1325. Witness the triumphs and obstacles Battuta faced on his journey to participate in one of the most spectacular cultural and spiritual gatherings on Earth. Experience the Hajj as it was performed in the 14th century, and as it is conducted by millions today. *Journey to Mecca* includes footage filmed from within Mecca, capturing the spirit of the Hajj as no other IMAX® film has done before.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

To complement *Journey to Mecca*, the following programs are offered by the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, Freer and Sackler Galleries, and The Smithsonian Associates.

Connected Cultures: Religious Traditions of the Middle East

Date: **Tuesday, February 9, 2010**

Time: **6:30pm**

Location: **Baird Auditorium (Ground Floor), National Museum of Natural History**

Free and open to the public. RSVP by e-mail to Journeytomecca@si.edu

This panel discussion explores the cultural connections between the three largest monotheistic traditions. All three traditions originated in the Middle East and are all inextricably linked, as they have influenced each other over centuries. The evening interfaith panel aims to foster gain a better understanding of human diversity and cultural change through the lenses of Islam, Christianity and Judaism.

Ibn Battuta's Marvelous Travels

Date: **Wednesday, February 10, 2010**

Time: **7:00pm**

Location: **Moroccan Ambassador's Residence, Potomac, MD**

Tickets required; visit www.residentassociates.org for tickets. \$50: Resident Associate Members; \$70: Non-members.

An evening at the home of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco features a lecture on Ibn Battuta, his travels, and his writings, by Dr. Larry Butler, professor at George Mason University. Following the lecture, enjoy a sumptuous buffet of Moroccan specialties. *Produced by The Smithsonian Associates.*

Reception and Screening of *Journey to Mecca* in conjunction with the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia

Date: **Wednesday, February 24, 2010**

Time: **7:00pm**

Location: **Rotunda and Johnson IMAX® Theater (First Floor), National Museum of Natural History**

Tickets required; visit www.residentassociates.org for tickets. \$20: Resident Associate Members; \$25: Non-members.

In conjunction with the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, a screening of *Journey to Mecca* is followed by a reception in the museum's dramatic rotunda. Light fare reflecting tastes of the region surrounding Mecca is featured at the reception. *Produced by The Smithsonian Associates.*

Gallery Talk: Footsteps through Asia

Date: **Thursday, February 25 and Saturday, February 27**

Time: **1:00pm**

Location: **Freer Gallery of Art**

Free and open to the public. No registration required.

A tour through the collections of the Freer illuminates other places in Asia that Ibn Battuta visited in his world travels. A docent guides participants on discoveries of the arts of the Islamic world, India, and China.

Evening Seminar on the Hajj

Date: **March 4, 2010**

Time: **6:45pm**

Location: **Baird Auditorium (Ground Floor), National Museum of Natural History**

Tickets required; visit www.residentassociates.org for tickets. \$27: Seniors; \$30: Resident Associate Members; \$40: Non-members.

An evening seminar on the Hajj examines the annual pilgrimage, its history, the rituals of the five locations in and near Mecca, and its importance within the Islamic faith. The seminar is led by Dr. Sumaiya Hamdani, Director of Islamic Studies and Associate Professor of History at George Mason University. *Produced by The Smithsonian Associates.*

OTHER PROGRAMS January – March 2010

The programs below occur multiple times during the run of *Journey to Mecca* at the Johnson IMAX® Theater. The number of programs and frequency with which they are offered will vary.

Discover Station program

Students visit the Natural History Museum's *African Voices* exhibition where artifacts are available to handle and where researchers may be available on occasion to talk about their work.

Title I School programs

Location: **National Museum of Natural History**

Qualifying schools in the Washington metropolitan region will be provided with free tickets for their classes to see the film, followed by a visit to the *African Voices Hall*. In the event of financial obstacles, the Museum may also use program funds to provide transportation for the students to and from their school (pending availability of funds). *Please e-mail to Journeytomecca@si.edu or call 202-633-1123 to schedule your group.*

Arts of the Islamic World School Tour

Location: **Freer Gallery of Art**

Recommended for grades 6-12, Tours limited to groups of 20; subject to availability

In this tour, students open their minds by actively observing, discussing, and exploring Arabic calligraphy, lavishly illuminated and illustrated manuscripts, glittering glasswork, and breathtaking metalwork, primarily from West Asia (the Middle East) and North Africa. Teachers may request a tour for a maximum of 20 students with four weeks advance written notice through the online tour request form, available at: <http://www.asia.si.edu/education/tours.htm>

Arts of the Islamic World Teacher's Guide

The first 300 teachers who register groups for the film will receive hard copies of the Guide. An electronic copy is available at: <http://www.asia.si.edu/education/teacherResources/onlineGuides.htm>