Featuring: the enigmatic Ka’aba, singular Dome of the Rock, urban Suleymaniya, Isfahan’s labyrinthine Bazaar, the incomplete Sultan Hasan madrassa, sensuous Alhambra, infinite Cordoba, photogenic Taj Mahal. Extant structures from 7th to 16th century in different regions will be introduced along with concurrent Muslim thinkers, poets, mystics, scientists and architects. As the enigmatic buildings are laden with inscriptions (given the the centrality of Quran and status of calligraphy in Muslim culture), they provide us clues to decipher the monument’s meaning in our attempt to make sense of the past as of the present. We conclude with a visit to a local site.

Feb 26th
Introduction (Ka’aba)
1 Memorial: Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem

March 5th
2 Mosque: The Great Mosque, Cordoba
3 Palace: Alhambra, Granada

March 12th
4 College: Sultan Hasan Madrasa, Cairo
5 Bazaar: Great Bazaar, Isfahan

March 19th
6 Urban Complex: Suleimaniye, Istanbul

March 26th
7 Tomb: The Taj Mahal, Agra

April 9th
Visit: Delegation of the Ismaili Imamat, Ottawa