

The Imperial Cities of Morocco

Prepared by Adam Vacations



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Imperial Cities of Morocco



Sample Itinerary





Imperial Cities of Morocco—Suggested Itinerary

DAY 1

You are met upon arrival at Casablanca airport. Drive along the Atlantic Ocean to Rabat, the “Pearl of Morocco” (approximately 42 miles.) Founded in the 12th century, this entrancing Imperial city became the administrative capital of the Kingdom of Morocco in 1912.

The afternoon is at leisure for you to rest from your flight, or to begin exploring this fascinating city on your own. In the evening, meet your fellow travelers for a welcome cocktail and dinner party. During cocktails you will hear about the intriguing itinerary that awaits you and meet the staff who will be assisting you along the way.

Overnight at the Sofitel Rabat Jardin des Roses Hotel. Occupying a majestic position in the heart of the capital city, it is close to the Royal Palace and Mausoleum of Mohamed V. Completely renovated, its contemporary design blends with the best in Moroccan architecture and is set amongst 17 acres of gardens. This hotel has an international reputation and it’s history is closely tied to many international events that have taken place within the kingdom.



Sofitel Jardin Hotel, Rabat

DAY 2

Rabat & Fes

This morning’s tour of Rabat begins with the Mohamed V Mausoleum, the resting place of the late King Mohammed V and of his son, and guarded by the mounted Royal Household Guard. Next, see the minaret of the Great Mosque, the Hassan Tower, whose construction was left unfinished at only half of its intended 260-foot height. Explore the Kasbah of the Oudayas, whose alleyways are reminiscent of a whitewashed Andalusian villages. Then drive to Chellah, which in the 5th century was a prosperous Roman enclave called “Sala Colonia”. In the 14th century it was transformed into a vast cemetery or Necropolis. Today it is a garden with flowers and fruit trees, but you can still see evidence of the Roman ruins. See the Méchouar Precinct of the King’s Palace, with its impressive Islamic architecture, before driving east to the Salé Fortress, the lair of the infamous Moroccan corsairs of the Barbary Coast who raided the seas from the Crusades through the 1800s. Next, visit Morocco’s best

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museum the Dar Belghazi Museum, to see its impressive collections of jewelry and artifacts dating back to the 10th century. Arrive in the ancient Imperial City of Fes (or Fez) by late afternoon.

Overnight at the Sofitel Fes Palais Jamaï. This luxury hotel preserves the authenticity of Fez, the spiritual and cultural capital of Morocco. This hotel was built in 1879, in the finest Moorish style, and became the residence of the Grand Vizir of Jamaï.



Sofitel Palais Jamaï, Fes

DAY 3

Fes



Today's tour begins with a visit to the Saâdien watchtower and the Dar Batha Museum, with its large collection of carpets, woodwork and weapons. Next, explore the labyrinth of the ancient Fes Medina, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then on to the beautiful Mausoleum of Moulay Idriss and the impressive al- Quarawiyyin Mosque. See the caravanserail (old relay station for traveling merchants and pilgrims), at el-Nejjarine Square. Enjoy the aromas of the nearby Souq el- Atterine, with its spices and savory delights. After lunch, drive to the bank of the Oued Fes, to see the renowned tanneries and Souq el- Henna, with its potteries and perfumes.

Admire the impressive seven bronze gates the Dar el Makhzen (Royal Palace), and visit the Mellah (Jewish quarter) to see examples of Mauro-Hispanic architecture. End the day with a drive to the Borj Sud, for a panoramic view of the city and medina below.

Sofitel Palais Jamaï, Fes

DAY 4

Volubilis to Meknes

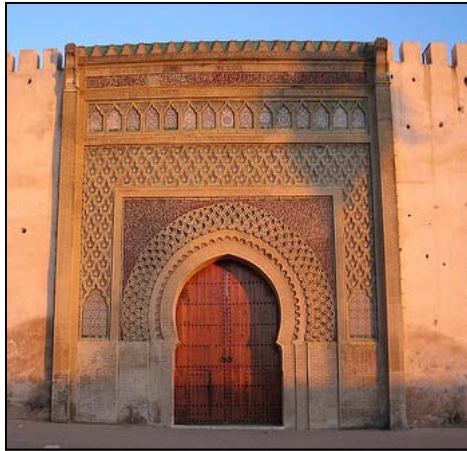
This morning visit the extensive archaeological site at Volubilis, a UNESCO World Heritage Center, with its ancient Roman mansions, monuments and mosaics. Explore the medallions of Bacchus, the

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Gordian Palace, the Triumphal Arch, the Capitol and many more. Next, drive to the small hilltop town of Moulay Idriss, the holiest Islamic town in Morocco. (Each August throngs of faithful pilgrimage here to the tomb of the Sultan Moulay Idriss the Elder, a descendant of the Prophet Mohammed.) This afternoon drive to the city of Meknes, one of Morocco's four Imperial Cities, with origins tracing



back to the Roman occupation in 3BC. See its 25 miles of ramparts, monuments and Babs (gates), including the beautiful Bab Mansour el Alj. Visit El Heri es-Souani, a huge granary with stables that housed the Sultan's 20,000 Arabo-Berber 'Barb' horses, and the splendid Moulay Ismail Mausoleum. Next explore the Dar Jamaï Museum, built in 1882 by the illustrious Jamaï family. Today it is the Museum of Moroccan Art, containing crafts of the region including wrought iron work, wooden sculpture, weaving and pottery, as well as jewelry, traditional costumes and rare carpets.

Sofitel Palais Jamaï, Fes

DAY 5

Fes to Casablanca

This morning drive to the bustling commercial capital of Morocco, Casablanca. Your afternoon tour starts at the beautiful Hassan II Mosque, the second largest mosque in the Islamic world. This architectural masterpiece took seven years to complete, with more than half a million square feet of carved cedar wood. Next, drive through the corniche to Anfa, the elegant hillside residential district and the original site of Casablanca. Continue through Mohammed V Square to the bustling Central Market, a colorful kaleidoscope of street musicians, fresh fish, flowers, fruit, and spices.

Next, visit the New Medina, or Habous Quarter, with its picturesque arch-covered alleys lined with shopkeepers. There is an entire section dedicated just to olives, and you must see the renowned Patisserie Bennis Cake, whose interior is decorated with amazing mosaics. Visit the Church of Notre Dame de Lourdes, with its large stained glass window and contrasting wooden copula, and the busy United Nations Square in the heart of the modern town.





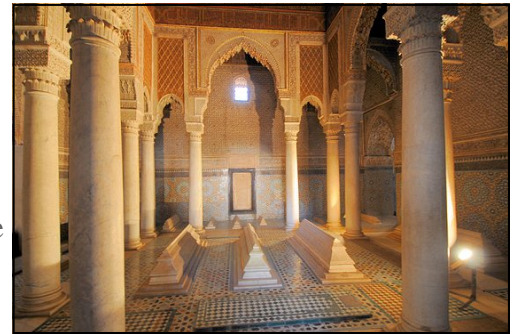
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Overnight at Le Royal Mansour Meridien with stunning views of Casablanca's harbor and the Hassan II mosque, set in the heart of the economic capital of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Le Royal Mansour Meridien, Casablanca

DAY 6 & 7

This morning explore the historic sites of the city, starting at the lavish Saâdien Tombs. Dating back to the 1550s, this is the ancient cemetery of the descendants of the Prophet Mohammed. See the Prayer Hall with its tall arches, the 18th century tombs of the Alaouite princes, and a large tomb of the Black Sultan. Next explore the remnants of the vast and magnificent El Badii Palace. Built in the late 1500s it took 16 years to complete, but just a century later, it was destroyed by the Alaouite Sultan Moulay Ismail. Continue to the Dar Si Saïd Museum, an 18th century palace, which today houses both traditional and contemporary exhibitions of Moroccan arts and sculpture.



Then visit Ali Ben Youssef Medersa, built in the 14th century as an Islamic school. It is one of the most beautiful buildings in Marrakech, made of carved cedar wood, exquisite stuccowork, and colorful zellige tiles. This evening visit the Souqs of Marrakech - a labyrinth of narrow alleyways overflowing with colorful and aromatic wares.

The legendary Moroccan Palace, La Mamounia is sheltered within the walls of the old city. It is a haven for relaxation under the sun of Marrakech. This palace is the quintessence of the Moroccan Art de Vivre.



La Mamounia, Marrakech



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DAY 8

The Atlas Mountains



Today, take an exhilarating drive into the High Atlas Mountains. Pass the Moulay Brahim Gorges, the high valleys of the Tizi n°Techka, to 5700 feet and the Berber town of Imlil. Set in the upper level foothills of the Western High Atlas Mountains, admire the surrounding snow-capped peaks, including Jbels Toubkal (13,670 feet), the highest peak in North Africa. Descend through the Aït Mizane Valley, dotted with Berber hamlets built on the stark slopes of the mountains. Later this enjoy dinner at the famed Yacout Restaurant. (B)

La Mamounia, Marrakech

Day 9

Free Day



Today is a free day to explore Marraech on your own. This evening a special farewell dinner at a private restaurant—time to bid farewell to old friends and new.

La Mamounia, Marrakech

DAY 10

Depart Marrakech

Today you are taken to the airport for your flight home or on to your next destination.



EXTENSIONS

If you would like this program to extend to a 14-day program we would suggest flying from Marrakech to southern Spain.

Southern Spain—Andalucia Extension

Andalucía is the southernmost territory of Spain; and the part of the Iberian Peninsula that is most quintessentially Spanish. The influences that have washed over Andalucía since the first paintings were etched on cave walls, more than twenty five thousand years ago, are many – The Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Greeks, Romans, Visigoths and the Vandals. And the most influential conquerors of all, the Moors, who ruled the region for seven centuries and named it Al- Andalus, have left enduring imprints on Andalucian culture and customs. Delve into the Andalucian richness as you explore the cities of Sevilla, Cordoba, and Granada, where the real Spanish life is still intact.

Day 10

A 2-hour flight from Marrakech will bring you Toledo. Afternoon will be spent exploring the medieval city.

Day 11

Full day in Granada including a tour of the Alhambra, the fabled 14th century Moorish palace.

Day 12

Full day in Cordoba. Afternoon flight to Madrid.

Day 13

Fly Madrid to the US.



History and Site Description



World Heritage Sites—Morocco

Morocco has eight Unesco World Heritage-listed sites which provide some excellent focal points around which to build our Morocco journey.

1. **Fez Medina**—the jewel in the crown is the vast, living, ram shackled museum that is the medina and the first to be inscribed on the list.
2. **Meknes**— the splendor of this imperial city has caused it to be called the Versailles of Morocco.
3. **Volubilis**—the Roman city, with its astonishing mosaics left in situ, suggesting that this area has inspired world-class architects.
4. **Tetouan**—a splendid Andalusian medina in the north.
5. **El-Jadida**—a famed Portuguese port.
6. **Essaouira**—the medina here is also deservedly on the list.
7. **Djemma el- Fna**—in Marrakesh where the carnival-like hubbub has been dubbed by Unesco as a Place of the Oral and Written Intangible Heritage of Humanity’.
8. **Ksar of Ait Benhaddou**—represents the extraordinary mud brick architecture of the south.



Imperial City of Fez

Fez was Morocco's capital city for over 400 years from its beginnings in 789. It is the country's leading cultural and religious centre.

There are two distinct towns within Fez: the old town of Fez el Bali which is largely mediaeval, and the 'new' town of Fez el Jedid. Fez medina (a medina is a walled city), Morocco's largest medina, is a Unesco World Heritage Site, and walking through it is like walking back in time. It is a maze of narrow alleyways and small 'quarters' which have their own distinctive atmosphere.

Fez has mosques, museums, palaces and medersas (Koranic schools), plus sights and smells you will never forget, such as at the famous dye pits. It is city that requires you to relax and let it take hold of you—there is no other way.

Kairaouine Mosque—has been the centre of Islamic learning in Morocco for more than 1000 years. It is an unusual and huge structure (not open to non-Muslims) and its many entrances are seen throughout Fez el Bali. It was founded in 857 but most of the current building is of 10th and 12th century origin. It can accommodate 20,000 worshippers.

Medersas (Islamic Schools) - number many around the Kairaouine Mosque, probably the most famous of which is the 14th century Attarin Medersa. It has a beautiful bronze door and an elegant courtyard. Bou Inania and Seffarine mosques are also worth visiting.

Souk Dabbaghin (The Tanner's Quarter or Dye Pits) - a short distance from the Kairaouine Mosque is the tanning quarter, one of Fez's main attractions - despite the smell. Huge piles of hides in various stages of being cured with pigeon dung and dyed are strewn over roofs and doused in large tubs. It is a definite must see.

Bab Boujeloud—this is the impressive main entrance gate to Fez el Bali, and was built in 1913. On the outside of the gate the mosaic work is mainly blue, which is the color for Fez and on the other side it is green, denoting Islam.

The Souks—One of the main enjoyments for visitors to Fez el Bali is simply walking through the medina with its different souks, or market areas. Here all the craftsmen or businessmen of one trade come together in one area, so you pass through food markets, markets for copper products, musical



Imperial City of Fez—Page Two

instruments, spices, wood carving, and many more such as the dyers' souk. This is a street which is constantly and colorfully draped with multi-colored yarns and cloth drying in the heat of the day, while in the buildings the workmen slave over cauldrons of dye.

The Mellah— This is the Jewish quarter of the city, which is mostly abandoned today. A visit to see the Habanim Synagogue (now a museum) and some of the architecture here is worthwhile.





Imperial City of Marrakesh

The southern city of Marrakesh, with a backdrop of High Atlas peaks in the distance, will draw you into its charms immediately. Explore the old walled city (medina) where the narrow alleyways of the bustling souks, busy mosques and the main square, the Djemmaa el Fna, will be the focus of your attentions.

The Djemmaa is the heart of Marrakesh's old town and constantly pulses with life. Also visit the city's other main sights, such as the Koutoubia Mosque, or the Saadian tombs to see the richly decorated mausoleums, with mosaics, magnificent domed ceilings, stalactite plaster work, intricate carvings and marble pillars.

But there is always more to see in Marrakesh if you have time. Here are some of the site you might choose to include on your stay here.

Dar si Said Museum—This is one of the best museums in Morocco for arts and crafts. From clothes, furniture, and everyday objects to intricately woven carpets and stunning jewelry, this collection will give you a wonderful introduction to the workmanship of the Arabic and Berber cultures of Morocco.

Djemmaa el Fna (Place of the Dead) – This huge square is the heart of Marrakesh's medina life. During the day, it is a market and gathering place with date and orange juice stalls, wandering water sellers, and a few entertainers. However, once the sun begins to set food sellers begin wheeling out their stalls and the preparation of the night's food gets underway. Also at night performers of every kind, including snake charmers, singers, musicians, story tellers and acrobats, fill the square. They are joined by the healers with pots of herbs and potions who minister to the local visitors. The crowds are mainly Moroccans, as this is not a spectacle just for tourists. It offers a glimpse of medina life little changed since medieval times. The square is surrounded by cafés and restaurants, where you can escape from the hustle and bustle, relax with a mint tea and watch life in the square unfold.

El Badi Palace—Once known as the “incomparable” this famous palace is sadly now just a ruin. However it is pleasant to wander through its derelict courtyards and see the massive walls and sunken pools, and imagine a time when the gardens would have been filled with jasmine, orange blossom and cypress trees.



Imperial City of Meknes

Meknes is an imperial city about 60km from Fez, built by the tyrannical Sultan Moulay Ismail (1672 -1727). Over 50 years, about 50 palaces, gardens, shops, mosques and fifteen miles of walls were constructed, including some spectacular gateways such as the magnificent main gate of Bab Al Mansour. Sadly it was never completed, but the remains of this dream are still very impressive. Today you can still see the imperial city of palaces and gardens, barracks, granaries and stables.

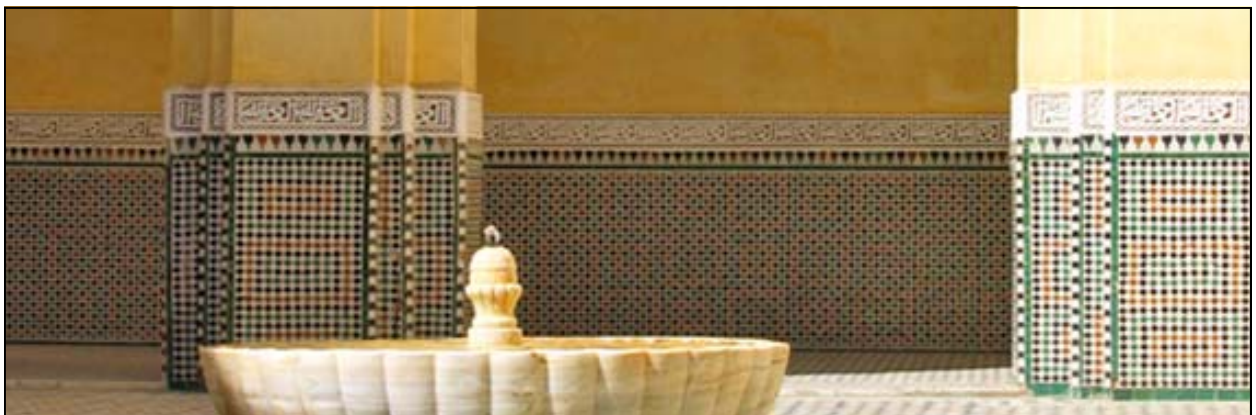
Apart from its architecture and historical ruins, Meknes is also known for its olives, which are reputed to be some of the best in the world. Be sure to head for the excellent souk to try some!

The Roman ruins of Volubilis are not far away from Meknes.

Dar Jamaï—Museum of Moroccan Arts—Set in the former vizier's palace, which is fascinating to see in itself, the museum houses excellent collections of jewelry, porcelain and wood carvings.

Moulay Ismail's Mausoleum—The series of courts hold fountains and a sundial from the 17th century. The sanctuary is decorated with some good *zellij* (mosaic) and stuccowork.

Dar El Kebira—This is Ismail's palace complex, the main sight of which is the *Heri as Souani* which is a series of storerooms and granaries below the Dar el Makhzen (one of the last palaces built by Ismail).





Imperial City of Rabat

In the Imperial city of Rabat, the color blue is the color of the sky and sea. The city hood of Morocco was in the seventh century by the conqueror Yacoub el Mansour chose Rabat as the capital because of its impressive beauty.

The Almohads took control in the 12th century and built a new city, Rabat, as their capital; this was replaced during the rule of Morocco's notorious sultan, Moulay Ismael, by Meknes. Rabat again became capital under the French protectorate, which began in 1912, and retained the title after Morocco gained independence. Today, Rabat is a city of contrasts with colorful alleys to the peaceful and green chellah necropolis.

Royal Palace—is in the heart of Rabat and open to the public. It is impressive from the outside but its true beauty lies inside. The palace is open to the public to explore. The king's personal mosque stands nearby. The palace is a fine example of Islamic architecture. The Palace was built in 1864 and is surrounded by beautiful gardens and trees. The complex is well protected and the gates of the palace are impressive. The main attractions include the Royal Palace, where since 1912 the government sits.

Hassan Tower—the tower is actually a minaret, which belongs to an unfinished mosque. The construction of the mosque and its tower started somewhere in **1195 AD**, under the instructions of the city's Sultan, named Yacoub Al- Mansour. The ruler wanted this mosque as well as the tower to be the world's largest Muslim constructions. However, Yacoub Al- Mansour died in 1199 AD. Hence, the construction of both the mosque and the tower stopped, keeping it incomplete.

Necropolis of Chellah—is an ancient burial site. Most of the tombs and their enclosing structures now lie in ruins. The necropolis is located on the outer edges of the Rabat city. The burial site was a ghost town abandoned by the Romans and is comprised of the ruins of the Roman town. You can still walk the Roman Decumanus Maximus, an ancient road. You can see a triumphal arch and a forum, which are typical **Roman constructions**.

Bab El Had Gate—from here you can walk to Es Saba Souk, the shoe market, covered with reed mats and overflowing with babouches (leather slippers) as well as silver and gold jewelry.



Imperial City of Rabat—Page Two

Rue des Consuls—in a partially glass roofed souk sit craftsmen working in front of you making woolen carpets, fabrics and copperware.

Oudayas Kasbah—this fortress area has kept its old cannons placed on a bastion. It has a beautiful and massive carved gate. Its blue and white walls and cobbled streets are truly unique.

Oudayas Palace - now houses the National Museum, a must see visit.

Andalusian Gardens—a haven of peace, full of fruit trees, rose-laurels, and cascades of bougainvilleas.





Roman Ruins of Volubilis

Founded in the 3rd century BC, Volubilis began as the capital of Mauritania before becoming an important Roman town, and, later, the capital of Idriss I who is buried at nearby Moulay Idriss.

Today Volubilis is mostly noted for its Roman history as the empire's most remote outpost, and main administrative centre for this region of Africa, even though Roman rule here only lasted about 200 years. The site was in fact only abandoned in about the 18th century. The Romans left some impressive buildings, but sadly many of them were looted to provide building materials for Moulay Ismail's palaces at nearby Meknes.

The Triumphal Arch is still there at the end of the main street, though it only looks out onto fields now. Next to the Arch is the house of Euphebus which is worth stopping at, as are the houses of Orpheus and Dionysus. There is also an impressive olive press. The walls and columns of the Basilica are still standing, giving you a good frame around which to imagine how impressive the original building must have been. Most of the important finds from the site are now at the archaeological museum in Rabat, although there are about 30 good mosaics still in situ.





Planning and Pre-departure Information



When to Travel—Climate

Bordered by the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, joined to the African continent by the Sahara, and diagonally bisected by the long mountain chain of the High and Middle Atlas, Morocco does not have a uniform climate. It is cooled by moist northwesterly winds and seared by hot, dry southeasterly winds such as the chergui or sharqi. In summer, conditions are those of a hot arid zone. In winter, which is very mild except in the mountains, conditions switch to those of a temperate coastal zone. Water is in relatively short supply everywhere and agriculture, involving about fourth per cent of the economically active population, is acutely dependent on adequate rainfall.

Location	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Key	Day Night 24 hour average											
<u>Marrakech</u>	64 43	67 47	72 50	74 53	80 57	87 62	97 69	97 69	90 66	80 59	72 52	66 45
<u>Casablanca</u>	62 47	63 50	64 51	66 53	69 58	73 64	77 68	78 68	77 66	72 60	68 54	64 50
<u>Essaouira</u>	63 54	64 56	64 57	65 58	66 60	68 63	69 65	70 65	71 65	69 63	67 60	65 56
<u>Errachidia</u>	56 39	61 44	67 49	73 55	81 62	91 71	97 78	96 77	88 69	76 58	65 48	58 40
<u>Fes</u>	48	50	55	57	64	71	78	78	73	64	55	50
<u>Agadir</u>	68 47	69 50	72 53	71 55	73 59	75 62	78 65	79 66	80 65	75 60	74 55	69 49
<u>Midelt</u>	53 32	56 34	52 38	68 43	74 47	83 55	93 61	92 61	82 55	70 47	62 40	55 35
<u>Ouarzazate</u>	65 34	68 38	74 44	81 50	88 56	98 63	104 68	102 69	93 62	81 53	72 45	63 36
<u>Quirgane</u>	62	62	69	74	80	86	95	94	86	76	66	62
<u>Rabat</u>	62 46	63 49	66 50	67 52	71 56	74 61	80 65	80 65	79 64	74 58	69 53	64 49
<u>Taroudant</u>	72	73	79	81	86	90	99	100	95	90	77	72
<u>Zagora</u>	69	73	78	86	93	102	108	106	97	86	78	70

Morocco is at its best in spring (April to May), when the country is lush and green, followed by autumn (September to November) when the heat of summer has eased.



Visa Requirements

Please note that citizens of the following countries do not need a visa to enter the Kingdom of Morocco and may stay up to 90 days—

- A - Algeria - Andorra - Argentina - Australia - Austria
- B - Bahrain - Belgium - Brazil - Bulgaria
- C - Canada - Chile - Republic of Congo - Croatia - Cyprus - Czech Republic
- D - Denmark
- E - Estonia
- F - Finland - France
- G - Germany - Great Britain - Greece - Guinea (Conakry)
- H - Hong Kong - Hungary
- I - Iceland - Indonesia - Ireland - Italy - Ivory Coast
- J - Japan
- K - Kuwait
- L - Latvia - Libya - Liechtenstein - Lithuania - Luxemburg
- M - Mali - Malta - Mexico - Monaco
- N - Netherlands - New Zealand - Niger - Norway
- O - Oman
- P - Peru - Philippines - Poland - Puerto Rico
- Q - Qatar
- R - Romania - Russian Federation
- S - Saudi Arabia - Senegal - Singapore (Singaporean nationals may stay up to one month without visa) - Slovakia - Slovenia - South Korea - Spain - Sweden - Switzerland
- T - Tunisia - Turkey
- U - United Arab Emirates - United States of America
- V - Venezuela.

Citizens from countries not listed above do need a visa and should contact their nearest Moroccan embassy to procure a visa prior to departure to Morocco.



Arrival Cities—Airlines—Distances

Airline Carriers and Arrival Airports—

Morocco has three main international airports: Casablanca, Tangier and Agadir. You can also fly direct to Fes and Marrakech from Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin and other European cities. Most long distance flights will arrive in Casablanca. It's a modern airport with customs, immigration, and baggage claim very similar to US airports.

Most major European airlines fly to into Morocco including British Airways, Lufthansa, KLM, Air France, Alitalia, Sabena and Swissair. There are also several budget and charter airlines operating from Europe to Morocco including Atlas Blue North Africa's first low cost airline.

Flying direct from the US to Morocco your only option is Royal Air Moroc which has daily flights between New York and Casablanca.

Driving Distances—

The best way to see Morocco is by driving, it is a land of many different landscapes and tribes that can only be seen when traveling through the area by land.

Casablanca to Rabat—70 Km—43.5 miles

Rabat to Fes—180 Km—112 miles

Fes to Marrakesh—485 Km—301 miles



Currency & Exchange

The Moroccan unit of currency is the dirham which is divided into 100 centimes. There are ATM's throughout Morocco in all of the major cities and most towns. Credit cards are accepted at most of the higher end hotels, restaurants and shops. You can change money and traveler checks at all major banks, bureau de change and some hotels.

Exchange rate as of October 3, 2012 -

1 US Dollar = 8.4001 Moroccan Dirham

1 Moroccan Dirham (MAD) = 0.12 US Dollar (USD)



Moroccan Food

The cuisine in Morocco is varied. There are women selling home-made bread in the medinas, make-shift cafes that appear every evening in the Djmaa El Fna in Marrakesh, and palace restaurants established in some of the old riads, where the food is very traditional.

Below are six Moroccan dishes—

Briouat

Triangular or tubular-shaped pastries, filled with meat or rice and dusted with icing sugar and cinnamon—usually eaten as an appetizer.

Harira

A thick meat-based soup, made with chickpeas and coriander. It is available all year round but is traditionally eaten during Ramadan to mark the breaking of the fast.

Pastilla

A main-course pie, sweet and savory at the same time, made of layers of filo pastry, filled with a filling of meat mixed with vegetables and nuts. Dusted with icing sugar and cinnamon.

Tagine

The word tagine refers to the cooking dish—a flat pan, with the conical shaped lid—as well as its contents. These could consist of chicken or lamb, cooked with vegetables, dried fruits or lemons.

Mechoui

A piece of lamb—or a whole lamb if it is cooked for a large gathering—which is roasted in a traditional oven, and served in portions on a platter, usually accompanied by bread.

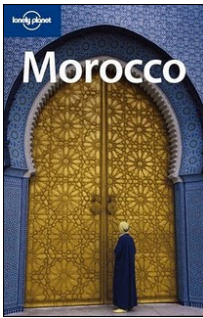
Corne de Gazelle

These tiny croissant shapes are the most famous of the Moroccan pastries. They are stuffed with ground almonds, nuts and honey, and are sold in bakeries and pastry stalls all over the country.

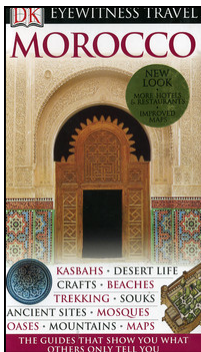


Recommended Reading

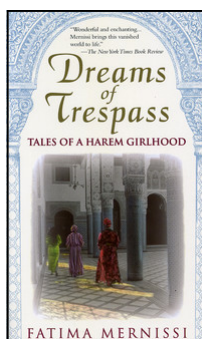
We recommend the following books as a starting point for those new to travel in Morocco—



One of the most up to date guide book available. This is the 2009 edition by Paul Clammer.



Gorgeously illustrated and filled with excellent maps, this compact book is a thorough overview of Morocco, its history, trade, costumes, and sights. Hundreds of color photos and illustrations.



This gentle memoir captures the hierarchy and decorum of growing up behind the door of a harem, which, as the author explains, is not necessarily a collection of wives, but rather a house in which all the women of a family are secluded. The work is also an engrossing portrait of Fez in the 1940s. Mernissi, a sociologist, brings to vivid and often hilarious detail the exploits of the various women in the house: her mother, fighting against the veil, her grandmother, clinging to tradition, and especially a divorced aunt, who teaches her much about rebellion. Surely the most charming feminist tract ever written. (Mernissi has also written "Beyond the Veil," a scholarly study of relations between the genders in Muslim society.