

# مكن المغرب MOROCCAN CITIES



Chefchaouen  
Al Hoccima  
Essaouira  
Fez  
Dakhla  
Ifrane  
Marrakech  
Rabat  
Saidia  
Taghazout  
Tangier  
Tetouan

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ASSAHIFA  
ENGLISH

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## MOROCCAN CITIES

مدن  
المغرب

## Context

The late King of Morocco, Hassan II, once said, «Morocco is a tree whose roots lie in Africa but whose leaves breathe in Europe.» These words embody the importance of Morocco's geographical location as a country overlooking the Mediterranean Sea shared with Europe and the Atlantic Sea that reaches deep into Africa.

This link between the two continents has contributed throughout history to forming an ancient culture, a rich civilization, authentic traditions, and a diverse human heritage in the Kingdom of Morocco.

All this civilizational accumulation shaped, over decades, the antiquity of the cities of Morocco, their historical specificity, and their urban development, so these cities became a source of inspiration for Moroccans and visitors from different countries.

With this richness of a country that formed the most important part of the North African civilization, «Assahifa», in partnership with the Moroccan National Tourism Office (ONMT), decided to shed light on the cultural, heritage, and tourism aspects of some Moroccan cities that attract the attention of tourists, whether Moroccans or foreigners..

Through 12 reports that can be considered a «road map», the tourist discovers many aspects of the cities of the Kingdom of Morocco, including their natural, cultural, historical, and entertainment qualifications, the most important places to visit, options for accommodation, transportation, shopping, and eating, as well as what distinguishes each city from others according to their cultural and historical backgrounds.

It is then a tour through history by visiting the cities of the kingdom to discover the nobility of a people, the civilization of a nation, and the culture of a country over 12 centuries old.

ASSAHIFA  
ENGLISH



Chefchaouen

Al Hoceima

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Tetouan

ملكن  
المغرب

# MOROCCAN CITIES

Rabat

Saidia

Taghazout

Tangier

Tetouan



MOROCCO  
Kingdom of light



[visitmorocco.com](http://visitmorocco.com)



## Chefchaouen

*'The blue pearl' with beautiful landscapes  
and adventures full of enjoyment*

.6

## Marrakech

*The warm 'land of God', destination of celebrities,  
source of inspiration and human wealth*

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## Al Hoceima

*Jewel of the Mediterranean  
turquoise beaches*

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## Rabat

*Home of ancient empires, great place for  
tourists to explore past and present*

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## Essaouira

*City of history, music, museums,  
and seagulls above waves of sea*

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*City of summer, turquoise beaches,  
and many other secrets*

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## Fez

*The spiritual, cultural capital of  
Morocco, city of learning and history*

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## Taghazout

*The sea, nature, quiet resorts,  
and leisurely pace of life*

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## Dakhla

*Water and desert paradise in Morocco's Sahara*

.32

## Tangier

*City of myth and Mediterranean charm,  
best integrated tourist destination*

.70

## Ifrane

*Favorite destination for those wishing to enjoy  
nature and snow*

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## Tetouan

*A tourist trip to the past, present,  
and the blue coast*

.84





# شفشاون CHEFCHAOUEN

*‘The blue pearl’ with beautiful landscapes  
and adventures full of enjoyment*

*Assahifa from Chefchaouen*

The city of Chefchaouen, or as it is called locally in short as «Chaouen», is one of the world-known tourist destinations. Pictures of this city, nicknamed «The Blue Pearl», are widely spread on social media, after the city has known in recent years the influx of many celebrities, and influencers who chose the walls and paths of Chefchaouen to take pictures and make it look more amazing.

The history of the founding of the city of Chefchaouen dates back to 1471 AD, by a Moroccan military commander named Moulay Ali bin Rashid, who chose its difficult mountainous location, in order to use it as a starting point to confront the European invasion, especially after the Portuguese occupied the nearby cities of Ceuta and Tangier.

Chefchaouen was a refuge for hundreds of Muslims fleeing from Andalusia after the fall of their cities one by one at the hands of the Castilian Christians, starting from the late fifteenth century and the beginning of the sixteenth century, when Moulay Ali bin Rashid made it a haven for them, knowing the suffering of these, especially since he spent several years fighting in Andalusia against the Christians, before deciding to return to Morocco to found the city of Chefchaouen.

The geographical location of the city of is considered distinct, as it is located at the foot of a mountain called the «Kalaa» (Castle), and the city is surrounded by many mountain peaks, and many historians say that the name Chefchaouen is a Berber name that means mountain peaks.





#### ARRIVAL TO CHEFCHAOUEN

The city of Chefchaouen is located in the north of Morocco, close to the cities of Tangier and Tetouan, and the foreign tourist can reach it through the airport of one of the two mentioned cities, or through two ports of Tangier City and Tangier Med, and then go to Chefchaouen by bus or taxi for a trip that does not exceed 3 hours at most.

#### GETTING AROUND IN CHEFCHAOUEN

Chefchaouen is one of the small tourist cities where the tourist does not need to ride taxis or buses, so getting around the city on foot is the best way to visit the place and enjoy its scenic views and discover its multiple tourist sites.

However, blue Petit taxis are available in sufficient numbers in the city, to take you anywhere you wish, and there are two stations for this type of taxi, the first of which is located next to the Parador Hotel, while the second is located next to Bir Anzran Square, and the price of the trip is often not more than 10 dirhams.

The city of Chefchaouen also has 5 stations for Grand taxis, which connect Chefchaouen to major cities and neighboring villages. The first of them is located next to the Hassan II Mosque.

#### WHERE TO SPEND YOUR NIGHT IN CHEFCHAOUEN

Accommodations in Chefchaouen and the surrounding areas are widely available with multiple options. In the city, there are many classified and unclassified hotels, in addition to guest houses and hostels, all of which are located on the various main streets of the city, especially in the old Medina.

There are also many mountain shelters in the area surrounding Chefchaouen, and the prices are reasonable compared to other cities and tourist places in Morocco.

#### PLACES TO VISIT

A tourist can visit many tourist sites in the city of Chefchaouen, which is characterized by the presence of these sites in close proximity to each other, and therefore the visitor can visit a number of them in one day and spend an enjoyable day without getting bored in this charming city.

#### THE OLD CITY (THE MEDINA)

The most prominent tourist place that you can visit, is «Old Chefchaouen», which is the founding point of this city, as it is full of many monuments and beautiful tourist sites, such as the historical Kasbah, which was built by Moulay Ali bin Rashid as a fortress protecting Chefchaouen from attacks, and a place to monitor what is happening outside the city walls and gates.

#### SOUIKA NEIGHBORHOOD

This neighborhood is considered one of the oldest places and neighborhoods in the old city of Chefchaouen. It is one of the tourist sites that has taken great fame in the world, thanks to the pictures spread on social media and websites interested in tourism in the world, where tourists come to take pictures in front of its walls painted white and blue and its paths that take the same colors.

#### RAS EL MA WATERFALL

This waterfall is one of the natural tourist sites that tourists prefer to visit in Chefchaouen to get some rest and calm, by watching the water streams descend from a mountainous height and pass over the stones, making beautiful and relaxing sounds.

#### OUTA EL HAMAM SQUARE

Outa El Hamam Square is a famous square located in the center of Chefchaouen, and is characterized by the presence of many shops, restaurants, and kiosks.

It is also a place where tourists from all over the world meet to exchange conversations and take pictures with the birds present in the place.

#### PLACES TO VISIT NEAR CHEFCHAOUEN

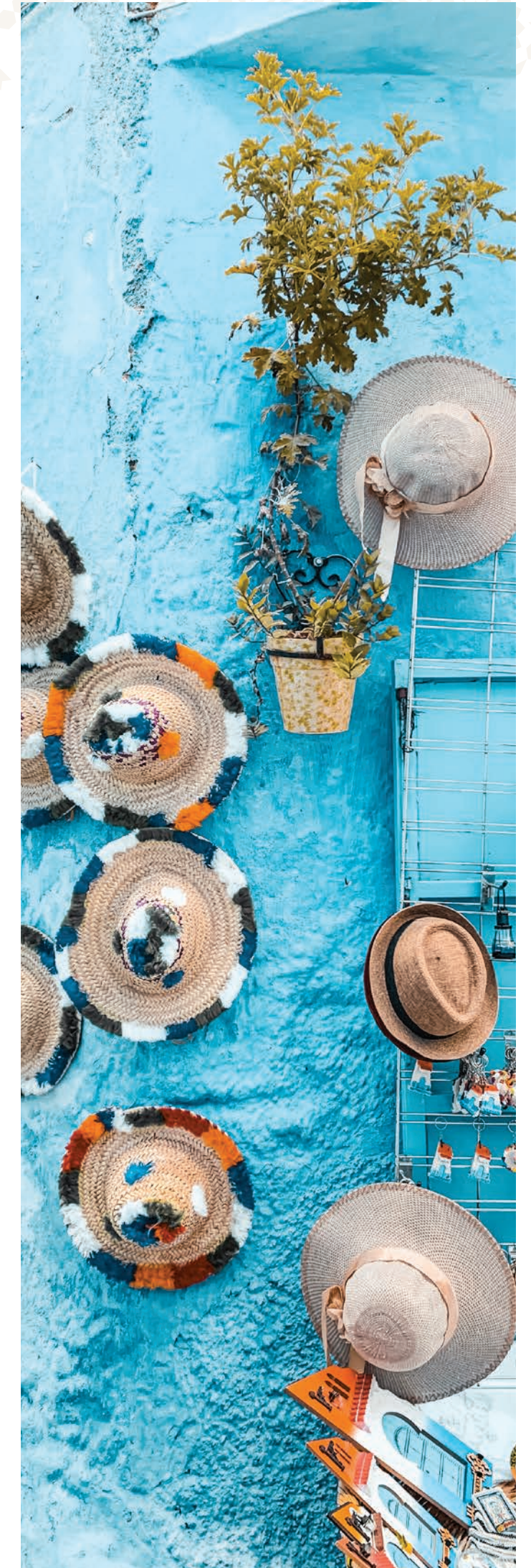
##### AKCHOUR RESORT

Akchour is the name of a picturesque natural resort that is only 30 kilometers from the city of Chefchaouen, but reaching the resort when approaching requires walking for about two hours through the mountain paths, which makes the trip a wonderful adventure.

This resort is characterized by waterfalls and mountains with high peaks, in addition to the presence of a wonderful green forest cover, and a natural water pool, to which tourists from different regions of the world flock, either to swim in or take pictures next to it and sometimes some tourists camp there for several days.

##### TALASSEMTANE NATIONAL PARK

In the vicinity of the resort of Akchour, there is a natural park called Talasemtane Park, which is a national reserve that includes many places for outdoor picnics in the presence of scenic landscapes, dozens of species of birds, and peaceful wild animals.





### *BOUHACHEM PARK*

This park is a nature reserve that extends over an area of 8000 hectares and belongs to Chefchaouen, while other areas of it, belong to Tetouan and Larache. It is also characterized by the presence of many mountain peaks and is considered a suitable place for lovers of mountain tourism.

### *CHEFCHAOUEN COAST*

Although the city of Chefchaouen is a mountainous city far from the sea, however, many coastal villages belong to the province of Chefchaouen, which makes it other tourist options that enrich the Chefchaouen tourist offer.

The beaches of Chefchaouen province are located on the coastal national road No. 16, the most prominent of these beaches are Stihat, Chmaala, Targha, Qaa Asras, Azenti, Sidi Yahya Aarab, Amtar, Taghasa, and Jebha.

### *SHOPPING PLACES*

There are many shopping places in Chefchaouen, ranging from traditional markets where there are various food products, modern shops selling clothes, shoes, and various devices, bazaars dedicated to selling souvenirs to tourists, and traditional shops selling traditional clothes.

In the surrounding areas of Chefchaouen, whether mountain villages or coastal villages, there are many weekly markets specialized in selling all products, clothes, food, and various products that tourists desire.

### *EATING IN CHEFCHAOUEN*

Chefchaouen is a city that offers tourists with many meals and dishes rooted in authentic Moroccan cooking, with some Andalusian touches related to the history of the city.

Chefchaouen has many restaurants and shops serving delicious meals, such as Moroccan meat Tagine, chicken Tagine, and Couscous, in addition to popular foods such as green pea soup and vegetable soup with meat.

A visit to the city of Chefchaouen is an unforgettable tourist experience, and the experience's pleasure increases with the pictures that you will take through the paths and alleys covered in blue, the scenic landscapes, the adventures that you will experience climbing mountains and rugged paths to reach the charming natural resorts.







# الحبيمة Al Hoceima

*Jewel of the Mediterranean turquoise beaches*

*Assahifa from Al Hoceima*

The beautiful city of Al Hoceima is located along the Mediterranean coast, on the edge of the Rif Mountains in northern Morocco. The region is known for the diversity of ethnic tribes that have formed over the centuries the local population, the majority of whom are Riffians Berber in the first place.

The first landmarks of the city appeared, according to historians, in the seventeenth century, and some monuments still resist the factors of time, just as yesterday they resisted attempts to destroy them by European colonial powers, especially Spain, which faced fierce local resistance before the occupation of Al Hoceima.

The Spanish military forces attacked the city in an unprecedented naval landing in 1925, supported by air from the French, as a response to the defeat received by the armies of the Spanish leaders, Manuel Silvestre Fernandez and Felipe Navarro, in the historic Battle of Annual, in front of the fierce resistance of the local Riffian leader Abd al-Karim al-Khattabi in the year 1921.

Today, Al Hoceima stands in a splendid view of the Mediterranean coasts and allows tourists to look at the horizon towards the European continent, with the beauty of its wonderful marine nature and the

appropriate temperatures for recreation throughout the year. The city has a good reputation as one of the safest cities in the Kingdom of Morocco.

The city of Al Hoceima witnessed a remarkable change at various levels. Despite the conservative nature of its inhabitants, this did not prevent it from becoming a national tourist pole par excellence. The development of the infrastructure has also helped it to be ready to receive tourists from all over the world. Perhaps the expansion project, which was launched recently at its Cherif Al Idrissi airport, proved concretely that the jewel of the Mediterranean is a favorite tourist destination for visitors.

The urgent program for the reconstruction of the Al Hoceima region, which came with royal instructions after 2004, contributed to changing many of the city's landmarks, which today have become a sought-after area on the list of tourist trips, whether internal or external, especially since King Mohammed VI singled it out with unique royal patronage represented in the launch of development programs projects, such as the «Al Hoceima Lighthouse of the Mediterranean» program, which will serve the tourist offer with high-quality specifications.



### HOW TO REACH AL HOCEIMA FROM EUROPE?

To reach Al Hoceima is very easy. It is enough to head from any European country towards the Spanish port city of Motril and book your ticket from the Naviera Armas company, which provides two trips per week on a regular basis during regular periods of the year, in addition to 11 trips per week at peak times, like in the summer.

The duration of the trip between the two banks does not exceed five hours, and the tourist coming from Europe can take his car on board the ship.

### OTHER CONTINENTS

Cherif El Idrissi Airport in Al Hoceima provides dozens of international and domestic flights throughout the year, where travel lovers can come to Al Hoceima from America via Royal Airlines or American Airlines, or Jet Blue airlines on a direct flight to Casablanca, and after only one stop at Mohammed V Airport, the flight can be resumed to Al Hoceima Airport. For those coming from Asia, Australia, and neighboring regions, can travel onboard any airline company to Casablanca's airport and then take another flight towards Cherif El Idrissi Airport.

For more clarifications, you can contact the help and inquiry center at the airport at the following phone number +212539982560.

### GETTING AROUND THE CITY

Once you exit the airport terminal, you will find Grand taxis directly in front of you, which will transport you at a price of 120 dirhams (12 dollars).

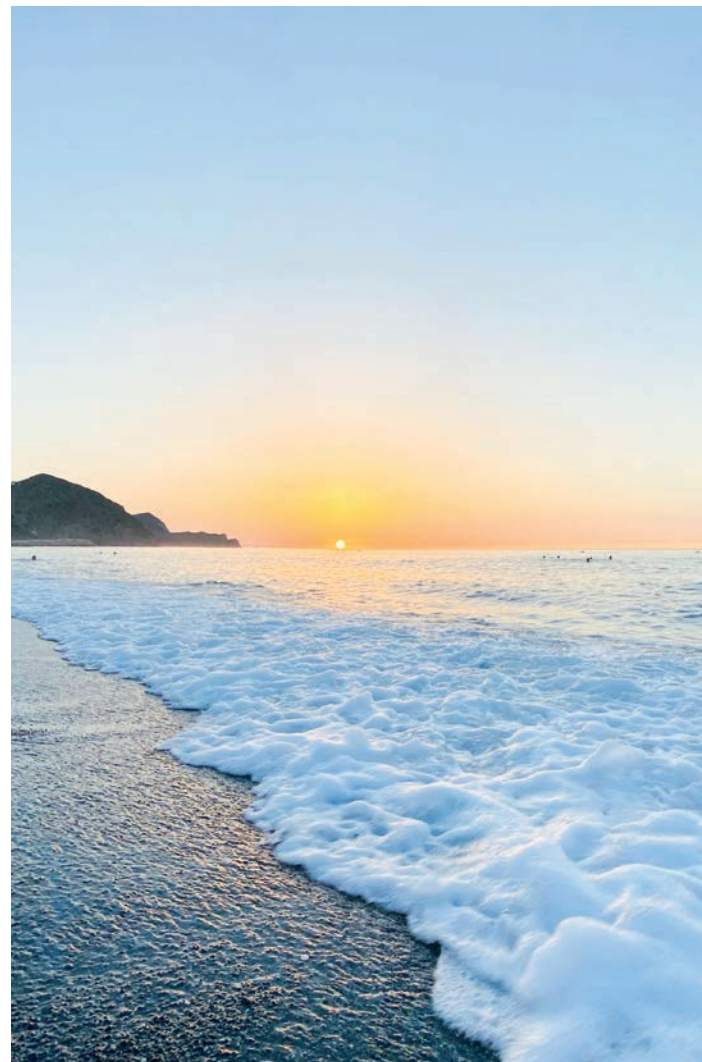
Upon reaching the city center, there are Petit blue and yellow taxis that can take you to any place within the city at a flat rate set at only 7 dirhams, or about half a euro.

And for those who do not prefer public transportation, they can rent a small car from those provided by a number of car rental agencies in the city at very reasonable prices, starting from 240 dirhams per day, equivalent to 24 dollars.

The city of Al Hoceima is not that vast to require means of transportation, its neighborhoods give the desire to walk to explore the quiet and safe alleys and streets.

### WHERE TO SPEND YOUR NIGHT IN AL HOCEIMA

In Al Hoceima, it's all about the beach, whether you want to walk barefoot, relax on the sand, head out on a boat to do some diving, or just relax on your private balcony watching the sea. All of the accommodations that we'll show you here will help you make the most of your beach trip.



On the coastal front, you can get a room overlooking the Gulf of Al Hoceima from classified hotels, the price of which starts at 400 dirhams for the services of a three-star hotel (equivalent to 40 dollars) per night. But if you want to spend your night in hotels with a higher rating, the tourist can find five-star hotels directly overlooking the sea, and their prices range from 800 to 1000 dirhams per night (equivalent to approximately \$ 100).

However, if the visitor finds himself facing prices that do not suit him or more than the expenses allocated for his travel, there are other options available, such as renting furnished apartments that allow spending quality time with family or friends, at a price starting from 200 dirhams (equivalent to 20 dollars).

### PLACES TO VISIT

Al Hoceima, where the place is like a paradise of diverse beaches that tempt you to relax in the chair and enjoy the warm sun.

### QUEMADO BEACH

It is one of the most famous tourist beaches in the city of Al Hoceima, Quemado beach with crystal turquoise water and pure golden sand, so you will not

need special shoes, the water surface is very smooth, this beach is suitable for all different groups of visitors, lovers of relaxation, the elderly and children, it is a family place par excellence.

This tourist space is divided into two parts, the first in which you can spend the day on the beach and enjoy the charming atmosphere, and the second in which private yachts and motor boats are moored, and it provides entertainment places for children, as well as a service for renting boats and kayaks to tour the beach.

The beach is really wonderful with calm and clean waters. Chairs with sun umbrellas are available for visitors at a simple price set at 10 dirhams per chair (equivalent to 1 dollar), and for lovers of relaxation under the sun, there are deck chairs available at 40 dirhams per person (equivalent to 4 dollars), drinks are available and a restaurant for those who wish to order food services.





### *SFIHA BEACH*

About 8 kilometers east of the city of Al Hoceima, there is Sfiha Beach, which has a refreshing atmosphere. It can be reached by taking buses. The price of the trip is set at only 7 dirhams (less than 1 dollar), and for those who prefer to go independently, you can rent a Grand taxi, the price of the trip is 60 dirhams (equivalent to 6 dollars).

The place is comfortable to spend a fun day on the beach, which is distinguished by the view of Nekor Island, in a charming natural painting, as it floats on the sea water directly in front of you. The beach also provides chairs and umbrellas for vacationers and visitors.

### *CALA BONITA BEACH*

Tourists cannot miss the opportunity to visit this beach, which mimics the beaches of the Caribbean islands. The place is only half an hour away from Quemado Beach.

Soft sands and clear waters offer you a natural sea combination, ideal for swimming and relaxing sunbathing. It also has a camp that includes 150 places, with a restaurant and cafe serving a number of seafood and refreshing drinks, as well as some sports facilities.

### *TORRES DE ALCALA CASTLE*

A unique architectural masterpiece with a great heritage and historical value in the memory of Al Hoceima and the Rif in general. The castle was built during the Almohad period at the end of the thirteenth century. It played an important role in defending the city since the Almohad era and witnessed four different eras, which are the Almohads, and the Iberian occupation, ending with the Saadians, and the Alawites.



This historical landmark remained steadfast during the Spanish colonial period in the late twentieth century, and today the visitor to the neighboring areas of the city of Al Hoceima can explore the impact of the history that abounds in the region, and the beauty and privacy of this building, which includes five towers, all overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, a very suitable place to take memorial photos amazing.

### *MAZAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE*

The archaeological site of Mazama is the remains of a medieval city founded by the Banu Saleh in the Emirate of Nekor in the ninth century. It is located in the town of Ajdir near Souani beach in the middle of a forest near the city of Al-Hoceima. The city was abandoned in the seventeenth century. The place is one of the most famous tourist spaces that Attract the tourist to visit.

The historical city has some ruins left, including an old fortified military prison located in the middle of the upper part of the site, in addition to the city wall, which

was discovered several meters away on the southern side and part of it in the northwest.

### *AL HOCEIMA NATIONAL PARK*

Among the heights close to the sea, the Al Hoceima National Park cannot but amaze you with the beauty of its landscapes, where the Mediterranean Sea is as far as the eye can see, and the forest that overlooks them, the place is truly tempting for hiking.

For adventure lovers, they can go out on enthusiastic bike rides and explore a number of caves in the area. The tourist will find himself in an enjoyable experience within the wildlife, where the animals and plants vary in the park. The place is suitable for taking a break and a picnic to enjoy the picturesque beauty of Mediterranean nature.

### *SHOPPING IN AL HOCEIMA*

Visitors coming from inside and outside the Kingdom prefer to visit one of the most popular and abundant markets in terms of products, which is the “Mirador” market. It is a commercial center for all kinds of goods, clothes, kitchen appliances, mattresses, and others.

The market opens its doors to the public every week on Sundays and Tuesdays, and displays in one of its wings the vegetables and fruits brought by farmers from the villages near the city. It also provides places for sellers of fresh fish of all kinds.

### *EATING IN AL HOCEIMA*

The city of Al Hoceima has a number of modern and very old restaurants that are worth a visit, some of which are located in the city center and others located close to its quiet beaches, where you can eat a variety of dishes, including a menu of fish dishes and its types.



What distinguishes the city of Al Hoceima from the rest of the cities of the Kingdom is its reputation for restaurants serving seafood, most of which are grilled sardines, and other popular foods that also include a number of types of sea mollusks, tuna salads, and fish soup. Most of these restaurants are spread on the coastal road and in the center of the port as well.





# الصويرة Essaouira

*City of history, music, museums, and seagulls  
above waves of sea*

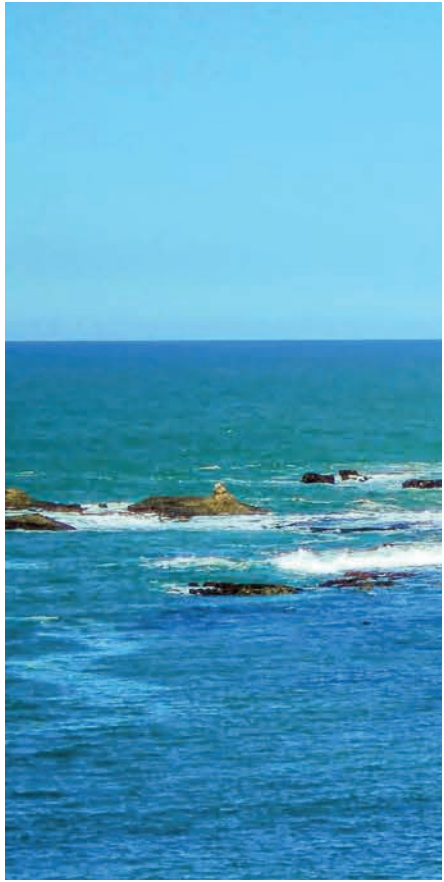
*Assahifa from Essaouira*

The port of Essaouira is not as famous as the major ports of Morocco, such as the ports of Casablanca, Tangier, and Agadir, but this is exactly what attracts visitors to it. The simple wooden fishing boats spread on the Atlantic coast give the visitor a great sense of relief, calmness, and the ability to take a breath after getting tired, especially at sunset when the sun's rays cast their last lights on the ancient walls and watchtowers.

It's a small town with big secrets. It is enough to know that great cinematic and television works were filmed, such as Orson Welles' «Othello» in 1951, and the world's most famous «Game of Thrones» series.

Essaouira is not satisfied with being an artistic painting, but rather adds to this a beautiful semi-permanent habit of organizing art exhibitions and music festivals, including the Gnaoua Festival, which attracts music lovers from different regions of the world.





### *A RICH HISTORY*

The history of Essaouira dates back to before Christ, when the Phoenicians and Carthaginians were anchoring on the island of Mogador during their travel by sea to Ecuador. Essaouira, during the reign of the Tangier Mauritanian King Yuba II, witnessed the establishment of the first factory for the manufacture of dyes extracted from oysters, which were exported to the Romans. During the sixteenth century, the Portuguese settled in it and called it Mogador, and at that time it was fortified by King Manuel I of Portugal, who built a fort there in 1506.

The actual establishment of the city can be considered to have started in the year 1765, when the Alaouite Sultan Muhammad III entrusted the task of rebuilding it in its current version to the engineer Theodore Comud, to become the city of Essaouira that we know now.

### *HOW TO GET TO ESSAOUIRA*

Essaouira has a small airport about 17 km from the city center, and it is possible to travel to it from outside Morocco by direct flight lines from European cities: Paris, Brussels, Toulouse, Bordeaux and Lyon. In general, the prices of flights to Essaouira are appropriate, especially since many low-cost companies provide direct flights to this windy city.

This does not preclude taking a different path, as it is possible to get off at Marrakesh or Agadir airport, coming from anywhere in the world, and then move towards the city, either by Grand Taxis or by bus towards Essaouira, on a trip that usually takes 3 hours. As for the transportation prices to Essaouira from Marrakesh, it is by bus in the range of 100 Moroccan dirhams (approximately \$ 9), or in Grand Taxis, whose price is less than \$ 9 per person.

### *GETTING AROUND 'MOGADOR'*

To get to the city center you have to take a Petit taxi at around 150 dirhams (\$14) for a ride that takes about 20 minutes. If you prefer public buses, there are buses that take visitors to the city from the airport at cheaper prices, throughout the day. For transportation within the city, there are public buses or Petit taxis, and their prices do not exceed 10 dirhams in total (one dollar).

### *ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS*

The city of Essaouira provides many options, from simple apartments provided by the owners at very reasonable prices to guest houses and hotels of various classifications, according to the ability and budget of each tourist.

Most of these residences and hotels are located in the city center, and therefore transportation is hardly a problem in this extravagant city. Knowing that young people and students also have a place in Essaouira, where you can stay in the city's youth hostel, at low and appropriate prices.

### *WHERE TO START*

Essaouira is a really small city, but it has a great history. So, it is okay to start your tour and get lost in the middle of the port fort, which is an old military barracks located in the heart of the port, and it is the landmark that was built during the eighteenth century as one of the main defensive fortifications to house soldiers and ammunition and receive water supplies in order to protect the port from possible attacks.

This tour will lead you to get acquainted with the neo-classical style of European military buildings, especially what distinguished King Manuel I of Portugal, which consists of two fortified wings of 200 meters that intersect at right angles, connected to the marina door overlooking the sea, where you will find blueness and seagulls that tell you the story of a rich history.

And after taking a deep breath of the sea air and the aromas of delicious grilled sardines, you can stop by the old city of Essaouira, or «Mogador» in its original name.

Due to its importance and value, the ancient city of Essaouira was included in the list of World Heritage Sites by UNESCO in 2001. Essaouira is a living example of the seventeenth century fortified cities in Morocco and North Africa according to the military engineering foundations of that era, and a model for the blending of European and Islamic engineering.

As for the Mellah or the Jewish neighborhood, it is a testament to the feature of coexistence that has been imprinting the Moroccan people and their ethnic and spiritual richness. You can enjoy a lot of your tour in this neighborhood, whose construction dates back to the Saadi Sultan Ahmed Al-Mansur Al-Dhahabi at the end of the 16th century AD, to whom he brought a group of Jewish merchants to revitalize the commercial port of Essaouira, so it was known historically as the Sultan's merchants' Mellah.

The tour may lead you to discover the Jewish cemetery (access is free), where exist the tomb of Haim Pinto VI, a 19th-century rabbi, and community leader still respected by the Essaouira Jews in the diaspora, then continue along the Mellah Street to find yourself facing the Haim Pinto small Synagogue, Famous for its blue-tiled prayer room.

At the end of the tour in the Mellah neighborhood, do not forget to visit the Museum of Memory House, which is a concrete example of the coexistence that characterized the city between its inhabitants, Muslims, and Jews.





### MOGADOR ARCHIPELAGO

You can reach the Mogador Archipelago, via simple boats, which is a large rock that appears to you one kilometer from the historical harbor, and it is composed of two main islands and 5 small islands.

These islands offer a beautiful, distinct and charming landscape that appeals to nature lovers and those interested in ancient history through its impregnable fortifications and ancient cannons, as well as scenes of migratory birds and seagulls that greet you during your coming and going. And if you want to rest from the fatigue of a busy day, it is sufficient to stop by Moulay El Hassan Square, in the center of the city, to communicate with the people of the city and watch life as it fills with bustle in the evenings of Essaouira, which does not leave you a chance to get bored.

### CITY OF CULTURE AND FESTIVALS

A state of beautiful disorientation will afflict you as you discover the permanent art exhibitions of Essaouira, from the luxurious «Le Real Mogador» palace, which includes paintings by contemporary Moroccan artists, to the «Kasbah Gallery», which is the largest and most eclectic, and which includes different art schools in which reality mixes with the surreal dream. In addition to many other museums and galleries spread in the city.

### WHAT ABOUT FESTIVALS?

It is the strong point of the city of Essaouira, as it organizes one of the largest festivals in Morocco, the Gnaoua World Music Festival, which lasts for 3 weeks, and carries with it different styles of music. The Gnaoua and World Music Festival is a festival organized in June of each year and presents unique musical performances that promote Gnaoua music and enhance the richness of the world's musical heritage.

### THE TOUR IS OVER BUT THE STORY IS NOT OVER

The story of Essaouira is a long and timeless tale. It's hard to end up with a tour through the city, as what you don't see is always more than what you did. But you can finally, after tiring a long day, to sit on the walls of the old city to contemplate the sun of Essaouira as it sets, leaving behind many dreams of passers-by, at the sound of seagulls exchanging expressions of love, and the return of exhausted fishermen, over the sound of warm tea flavored with Moroccan mint, or even a traditional sardine dish.



## CASABLANCA MARINA

LIVING • LEISURE • BUSINESS  
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## HABITEZ CASABLANCA MARINA, C'EST ENCORE POSSIBLE !

Situé au bord de l'atlantique et à proximité des axes majeurs de la métropole, Casablanca Marina est le nouveau quartier multifonctionnel de Casablanca, qui entend développer un pôle d'excellence régional en termes de qualité de services et de cadre de vie.

Ce projet d'envergure aux standards internationaux, regroupe sur une superficie de 26 ha, entièrement piétonne, un programme intégré avec une offre résidentielle de très haut standing, livrable immédiatement, des lieux de loisirs, de business, de shopping et de plaisance, le tout en plein centre-ville.

Sur ce site où se manifestent la modernité et l'excellence, l'ensemble résidentiel révèle un large choix d'appartements en simple et duplex avec des surfaces qui varient entre 127 à 300 m<sup>2</sup> dont 85% jouissent d'une vue sur mer et sur les jardins de la Mosquée Hassan II.

Il se distingue par une architecture originale et épurée où le style et la fonctionnalité s'allient pour donner forme à un art de vivre et un confort sans précédent, au bord de l'océan.

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# فاس Fez

*The spiritual, cultural capital of Morocco, city  
of learning and history*

*Assahifa from Fez*

A large part of Morocco's history is still engraved on the walls of an ancient city like Fez.

Fez was the capital of the Idrisid dynasty after it was founded by them in 789 AD to become the city of knowledge, with the first university known to mankind. And the city knew its golden age in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries under the rule of the Marinids, when it became the capital of the kingdom instead of Marrakesh.

Although the location of the capital of the Kingdom of Morocco was transferred to Rabat in 1912, Fez maintained its position as the cultural and spiritual capital of Morocco. With all its historical weight, UNESCO classified it in 1981 AD on the World Heritage List.

Fez, which celebrated its 12th birthday in 2008, is a city that kings took as their capital, scholars inhabited it, and thinkers visited it. It is a city that is of Moroccan national heritage, with its history, identity, architecture, and the coexistence that it knew within its walls between Muslims and Jews.

The construction of the city of Fez began in the year 789 AD by order of Idris I, who fled from the Abbasids in the Middle East, and settled in Morocco, where its inhabitants gathered around him when they learned that he was a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad. Its construction was completed by his son, Idris II, and significant increases were made by the successive sultans of Morocco who ruled the ancient city.

It was one of the first Islamic cities to be established in North Africa, and its name has brightened since then, attracting human delegations from all over the world. Where the people of Kairouan came to it from Tunisia and settled in the eastern part of it, so it was called «Adwat al-Qarawiyyin» (district of the Kairouans), and the people of Andalusia came to it and settled in the western part, so it was called «Adwat Al-Andalus».

This great polarization of the population is what made the city's houses close to each other, and made its alleys narrow, because the city was first surrounded by walls, which forced the residents to build inside it, taking advantage of all the city's space to build their homes and palaces, which today have become a cultural heritage and tourist attractions.

Fez was the capital of Morocco since the establishment of its first Islamic state (the Idrisid state), and it remained so until the beginning of the twentieth century. As for the Al-Qarawiyyin Mosque and University, it was and still is the first landmark of Fez, and Morocco as well, as the historian Dr. Abd al-Hadi al-Tazi said about it: "What is Morocco if not the Qarawiyyin?" A mosque that entered the city into the Guinness Book of Records as the first university in the world where teaching continues since its founding in the year 857 AD by the Tunisian Fatima al-Fihriyya.



### *HOW TO GET TO THE CITY OF FEZ VIA FLIGHTS?*

There are many flights connecting Fez with various airports in the world.

According to the Moroccan National Airports Office, tourists can travel to Fez by booking Moroccan and foreign airlines through direct flights. Tourists can reach Fez from 9 countries in Europe, including France, Belgium, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Italy, and Britain.

Fez not only welcomes foreigners but also receives the people of the country at the top of every hour coming from all Moroccan cities via trains that take the Casablanca Station as a starting point. In addition to the buses that go to Fez from the north and south of Morocco. As for tourists who prefer to shorten the time and reach Fez via flights, the airports of Casablanca, Ouarzazate, Nador, Tangiers, Marrakesh, and Agadir are stations for direct flights to Fez.

### *MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO VISIT ALL THE LANDMARKS OF FEZ*

Tourists can rely on Petit taxis, the price of which starts from 5 dirhams and rises according to the distance. But if you want to go to remote places within Fez, for a fixed price, Grand taxi stations are the best option. And the price starts at only 5 dirhams for different destinations. The urban transport bus «City Bus Fez», whose price does not exceed 4 dirhams, can take you to different places in the city, including the city's historical monuments.

There are also alternative ways to get around the city, and it is related to transportation applications dedicated to Petit taxis and private cars, through which you can communicate with the driver to take you to the destination you want.



### *PLACES WORTH VISITING*

A tourist cannot come to the city of Fez without visiting the Al-Qarawiyyin Mosque. Upon entering each wing of this mosque, you can see the place of ablution, which was built of alabaster, as it was artistically designed along the lines of the Lions Court in the Alhambra Palace in Granada. In addition to the large chandelier that mediates and decorates the mosque, you can also see the judge's cabin, the widely decorated mihrab, and the bookcase and Qurans.

### *DAR BATHA MUSEUM*

This museum was built by the order of Sultan Moulay Abdel Aziz in 1897, and it was converted in 1915 into a regional museum of arts and customs. The museum was originally a palace intended for a summer residence and to receive guests, and it is of Moroccan-Spanish design.

The Dar Batha Museum includes a large collection of exhibits that include artifacts and handicrafts, and it is a place frequented by many ancient art lovers who come from all over the world to learn about the Moroccan heritage in the city of Fez.







#### *MUSEUM OF WOODEN ARTS AND CRAFTS*

The Museum of Wooden Arts and Crafts has a large collection of ancient wooden works and carvings, which are displayed in a historical building that is one of the most beautiful buildings in the city in a historical template that shows the originality of carpentry and wooden arts.

#### *BOU INANIA 'MADRASA' (SCHOOL)*

The Bou Inania Madrasa, which was founded by Sultan Abu Inan Al-Faris, was built between 1350 and 1355 AD. The school rises to the northeast of the Kasbah of Boujloud, and overlooks the city of Fez. The building constitutes a school and a mosque at the same time, and it was established to teach science and perform Friday prayers.

#### *THE WALLS AND GATES OF THE HISTORIC CITY OF FEZ*

The city of Fez is characterized by its historical walls, which bear witness to many historical periods of the Kingdom of Morocco. The walls of Fez are among the most prominent historical monuments that date back to the period in which Al-Nasir Almohad ruled between 1199 and 1213 AD. However, the doors that penetrate it bear names dating back to the period of Idrisid and Zenati rule, such as Bab al-Futuh and Bab al-Kisa.

#### *BOUJLOUD GATE, THE MOST FAMOUS HISTORIC MONUMENTS*

The walls and gates of the old city of Fez bear witness to the greatness and nobility of the city, speaking of its contribution to the fortification of Fez in the face of all the invaders who tried to storm it and control it, as the defensive structure of the walls, gates, and towers prevented many times from attempts to break into it.

Among the most famous of these gates is Boujloud or Bab Boujloud, in addition to the Northern Tower, which is also called the North Tower, which is an old fort built by the Saadians in 1582 in the north of the city of Fez, as its design is inspired by the shape of the Portuguese castles that existed in the sixteenth century.

#### *JIAF GATE*

Among the historical places in the ancient city of Fez, there is the «Bab Jiaf», which carries many stories and tales.

This place has become a market for traditional clothes of all kinds, such as clothes made of leather. It is a place frequently visited by city dwellers and tourists.

#### *MELLAH NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE JEWS*

It is one of the historical neighborhoods of the city of Fez in Morocco. The neighborhood was designated for Jewish notables in the thirteenth century AD. The construction of the first Jewish neighborhood (Mellah) in Morocco dates back to the beginning of the 13th century AD, with the arrival of the Marinids to power, and the construction of their capital in New Fez near Old Fez. On the western side of Mellah is the Jewish cemetery that still exists and is in use today.

The Jewish cemetery is located at the edge of the neighborhood, and is considered one of the most important features of the area, in addition to the Jewish Museum, which includes a collection of pieces that reflect the culture and lifestyle of the Jews of Fez.



#### *DAR DEBBAGH (TANNING HOUSE)*

It was built in the eleventh century and is the largest tanning house in the city. It is located in the Fez al-Bali neighborhood, which is the oldest neighborhood in the ancient city. The tannery in Fez is one of the most important tourist destinations.

Dar Debbagh extends over an area of about 7,200 square meters, including 4,000 square meters covered, and includes 193 workshops in which more than 600 traditional craftsmen work, and produce between 3,000 and 5,000 ready-made leathers every day.

Among the dozens of tanning houses, only a few were able to maintain their continuity, so today, in addition to being the main place for tanning leather in a traditional way, it is one of the most important tourist attractions that attract all visitors to the Moroccan scientific capital, whether they are Moroccans or foreigners.

Dar Debbagh dates back to the eleventh century, and it is the largest leather tanning house in Morocco. It is the oldest vegetable tannery in the world, as it preserved its traditional method of processing leather.







### *SHOPPING AND EATING IN FEZ*

Besides the popular markets that offer a range of traditional products such as clothing, leather shoes, and jewelry, tourists can visit modern centers that offer international brands, in addition to restaurants that offer various Moroccan cuisine of a local character, as well as dishes prepared from international cuisine.

Old Medina of Fez is famous for making Fassi dishes, such as the famous Moroccan «pastilla», stuffed with chicken or pigeons in addition to almonds, and it is a dish that combines salty and sweet taste at the same time. There is another food that Fassi cuisine is famous for, which is the «Khlii or Khlea». It is dried meat dipped in fat and is usually served at breakfast with eggs. Likewise, the chicken dish with almonds and chickpeas that adorns the pottery tagine in every Fassi restaurant. these dishes are served in various famous restaurants in Fez or hotels scattered in various neighborhoods of the old city.

### *WHERE CAN YOU SPEND YOUR NIGHT?*

There are many options for staying in Fez between classified and unclassified hotels, as well as guest houses and furnished apartments for daily rent. Overnight pricing in Fez enables the tourist, whatever

his budget, to spend the night, as the price starts from 400 dirhams (40 Euros) per night in a small apartment located in a popular neighborhood, all the way to unclassified hotels whose price does not exceed 300 dirhams per night. These prices may rise according to supply and demand in some seasons of the year.

The city of Fez has many luxury hotels and historical guesthouses, with prices that remain relatively low, as the choice remains for the tourist according to his budget, and there are many hotels that offer discounts and offers for tourist groups in various seasons.

Visiting the city of Fez is one of the unforgettable moments for tourists. It is a city that brings its visitors back to many historical eras and stops them to contemplate the greatness of the civilizations that succeeded in this ancient city, whose features still bear witness to the greatness of the Moroccan man. A city that has been a source of knowledge, a reference in the cultural heritage, and an inspiration for social stories of races and religions.





# الداخلة Dakhla

*Water and desert paradise in Morocco's Sahara*

*Assahifa from Dakhla*

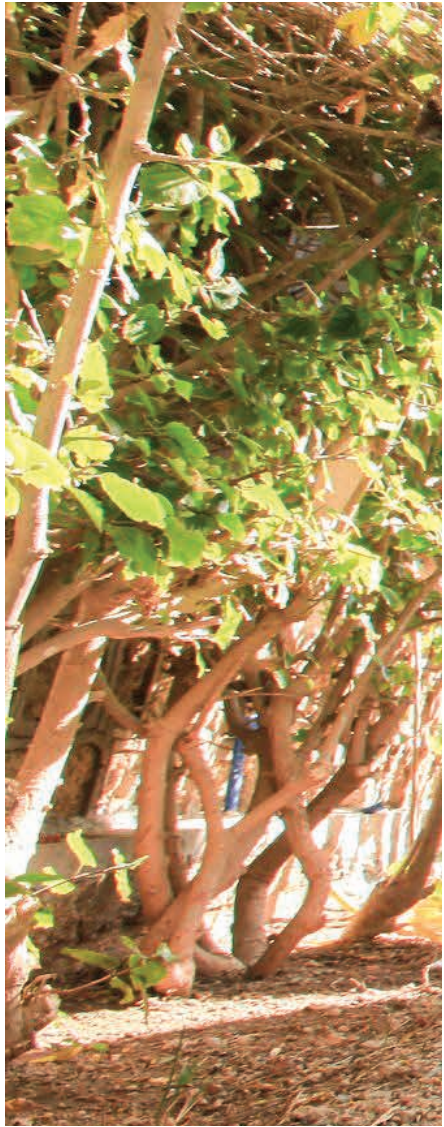
Dakhla is the pearl of the Moroccan Sahara and the city where the desert atmosphere and sand dunes mix with the salinity of the sea and its waves that extend along its coast, which opens its arms, especially to water sports enthusiasts.

If you want to learn about the many secrets of the desert and its diverse beauty, do not hesitate to make your destination to Dakhla. And if you want to get acquainted with the city's fisheries dishes, while practicing water sports or even just meditating, Dakhla welcomes you.

The city of Dakhla is located in the Moroccan Sahara region, 530 km from the city of Laayoune, and 1,700 km from the capital, Rabat. It is a peninsula that extends to a depth of 40 km in the Atlantic Ocean.

The history of the establishment of the city of Dakhla dates back to the year 1884 when it was then a Spanish colony bearing the name Villa Cisneros, and it is likely that this name derives from the name Francisco Jimenez de Cisneros, a Spanish cardinal who lived in the sixteenth century AD.





#### *REACHING DAKHLA AND ACCOMMODATION*

The city of Dakhla has an airport of international standards, which receives 330,000 passengers annually, and is directly linked to the Moroccan cities of Agadir and Casablanca, and at the international level to Las Palmas and Paris. It can also be reached by land via National Road No. 1 through public transport buses that connect it to major cities such as Marrakesh, Agadir, Laayoune, and Guelmim.

It is also expected that the Tzint-Dakhla highway project, which is nearing its end, will be a new and fast way that will bring those wishing to travel there by land, and discover different scenes of desert nature in particular.

The city's infrastructure also provides a range of options for classified hotels and guesthouses with a total of 43 classified units (with a total of more than 1800 beds), and therefore, the choice will not be difficult for you.

#### *EXCEPTIONAL WEATHER*

Dakhla has a constant water temperature all year round (25°C), which makes it suitable for most water sports. The constant winds also made the place for surfers with sails and boards a real paradise, without neglecting the possibility of hiking in boats in the midst of calm and tranquility that enables the tourist to explore Dakhla Lake and visit the surrounding islands.

It is a wonderful feeling to open your eyes in the morning to the view of the sea and the sound of roaring waves, after a night spent in a tent among the sand dunes, in a surfing camp, for example.

The temperature in Dakhla is moderate throughout the year and ranges between 14 at the minimum and 28 at the highest degree. This may vary slightly from year to year, but it is certain that it is one of the most beautiful climates not only in the region but also in the world.

Dakhla is the pearl of the Moroccan Sahara and the city where the desert atmosphere and sand dunes mix with the salinity of the sea and its waves that extend along its coast





### SAND DUNES

In Dakhla, there are many natural and environmental sites that allow breathing fresh air, contemplating white sand dunes, and practicing activities in them. There is Dragon Island, the sites of «Puerto Rico» and «Oum Lambouir», the coastal resorts, the «Imlili» natural resorts, and the source of the natural hot sulfur water.

In the midst of all this, Dakhla Bay, which cuts through a desert plateau with an openness to the ocean, invites you to moments of pleasure and to overcome daily fatigue and exhaustion, amidst the remarkable activity of local fishermen who roam the coast.

As for Dragon Island, located in the middle of the bay, it is an ideal place to bathe in turquoise waters, take a white mud bath, discover the landscapes surrounding the island, and head towards the rocky heights that dominate it. The place will also make you get acquainted with rare biodiversity with crabs and different types of birds, which are things that photography professionals love.

Not far from the city, you will find sand dunes that take your body and soul from the blue of the water to the expanse of the desert and its sands. You can also enjoy the wonderful «Imlili» site, which is located 130 km southeast of the city of Dakhla that contains 160 permanent water pockets rich in fish species, in addition to other types of rare plants and animals.

Try not to miss the opportunity to visit biological reserves that host several endangered species such as Dorcas deer, monk seals, migratory birds such as pink flamingos, as well as a number of species of turtles.

On the outskirts of the city, there are important archaeological sites such as rock carvings in the Karkaar Mountains, archaeological remains in the Anzran well, sand dunes famous for the «sugar mold», in addition to various historical landmarks such as the Spanish Catholic Church, the ancient marine lighthouse on the coast of Dakhla, and the main gate of the old administrative city.

### ADRENALINE LOVERS

With its mild climate and 667 square kilometers of coastline, Dakhla also attracts professionals and amateurs of windsurfing from different regions of the world, as Dakhla was ranked among the best places for surfing in the world. If you are a fan of these sports, then Dakhla will certainly be your haven, otherwise, watching the national and international competitions organized throughout the year will be enough for you to enjoy the region.

But if you love adventure and breathtaking, Dakhla also has places designated for sporting activities: fishing, quad biking, buggy, 4x4 safari, horse and camel riding, cycling, and desert excursions.

### HISTORIC MONUMENTS

You may also be a fan of historic monuments, and here the city of Dakhla will not deprive you of a unique experience and a historical landmark, which is the Nuestra Señora del Carmen Church, which was built by the Spanish colonialists more than six decades ago. The church is distinguished by the Spanish architectural style, which significantly affects the city through its neighborhoods that were inhabited by the Spaniards before they turned into housing for soldiers and a group of public administrations later.

And because the city of Dakhla is the city of the ocean par excellence, there is nothing wrong with taking a look at the old marine lighthouse, which is 60 meters long, overlooking a rugged sea cliff in the west of the city on the Atlantic coast, which was established to guide ships. And near the same lighthouse, you find «Lambris», an ancient historical landmark that was a marine lighthouse before the Spaniards turned it into a prison.

### MIX WITH THE CULTURE OF THE REGION

If you happen to visit the Dakhla Festival, which is organized in March of each year, it will be an occasion to celebrate with the festival visitors the sea and the desert and what they represent of the momentum and richness of the Moroccan Sahrawi culture. It is really your chance to enjoy and explore the cultures of the Sahara tribes, especially through the musical masterpieces created by the desert nomads.

The city of Dakhla abounds with a Hassani heritage rich in its rituals and cultural and artistic demonstrations, and its distinctive clothes such as the M'lahfas for women, and the Darraa for men, and its distinguished literature that begins with Hassani poetry and ends with the traditional songs of the region, passing through the popular story.



### EATING IN DAKHLA

It is inconceivable to visit and leave Dakhla without trying the fresh fish meals, as well as the traditional cuisine of the region. The city of Dakhla is mainly famous for marine products, as the peninsula's tables celebrate oysters, lobsters, and hammar, and give them special importance, and there is a large farm for the production of oysters in its lagoon. As for the sea bay, it is also rich in lobsters and langoustines, in all their red, green, and royal colors. And you can taste this seafood in the city's restaurants, which are prepared in different cooking ways.

With regard to Sahara dishes, you can enjoy a traditional meal, which is prepared from rice and meat and marinated with olive oil and salt, not to mention the well-known quintet Couscous, which is baked five times by hand, and five special herbs are used in the process of cooking and preparing it.

Camel meat is also very popular in the region and can be eaten with couscous or other traditional meals, or on its own by cooking it grilled. These dishes are served accompanied by the wonderful Sahara tea, whose preparation in this region is subject to real and very accurate traditions.

It is the city of Dakhla, where you can find what you will not find in others. It is the jewel of the Moroccan Sahara and the spirit of warmth and love in the four seasons of the year when the world is so cold.





# إفران Ifrane

## ‘Little Switzerland’

*Favorite destination for those wishing to enjoy nature and snow*

*Assahifa from Ifrane*

In the midst of the Moroccan Atlas peaks, where the sounds of birds’ echo, the rustle of trees is heard, and the sound of a waterfall flows into a lake, there lies an exceptional city, called Ifrane, or «Little Switzerland», as some like to call it.

Some historical references narrate that the word «Ifrane» means caves, and it is originally a Berber word, and there are those who believe that the name is inspired by the caves scattered around its natural surroundings. Ifrane is one of the oldest Moroccan

mountain cities, located at an altitude of 1,600 meters above sea level, on an estimated area of 3,573 square kilometers.

It is characterized by severe cold and snow that covers the slopes of its mountains in autumn and winter, and mild weather in spring and summer. It is also classified, according to international studies, as the cleanest Moroccan and Arab city.





### *THE CITY THAT POSSESSES THE 'WEALTH OF CALM'*

The city of Ifrane is characterized by its ability to give tourists precious moments of calm. It is a mountainous city that takes you back to the sounds of mother nature, where all that surrounds you are pristine forests and lakes that have not been polluted or affected by the many human changes. And with all the natural richness of the «Switzerland of Morocco», Ifrane has accommodations worthy of its visitors, and affordable means of transportation.

### *HOW DO I GET TO IFRANE?*

The city of Ifrane has a regional airport, but it does not provide commercial flights, only for entertainment and private trips. Therefore, to reach Ifrane from outside Morocco, it is necessary to travel toward the city of Fez, whose airport is linked to a large number of European cities such as Frankfurt, Brussels, Rotterdam, London, and Istanbul.

And from the city of Fez towards Ifrane, the tourist will have to travel approximately 65 kilometers, by riding a public bus or taxi, and the two means together take about an hour and a half, for an amount that does not exceed 400 dirhams (\$40) in general.

### *ACCOMMODATION IN IFRANE*

The city of Ifrane provides its visitors with a range of options for accommodation, starting with a list of hotels, in which overnight prices range between 400 and 700 dirhams (40 to 70 dollars), depending on the quality and services provided. There are also private apartments and guesthouses in Ifrane, with prices starting at 300 dirhams (\$30).

### *MICHLIFEN: THE PLEASURE OF SKIING*

Since the city of Ifrane is the city of snow in winter, visiting it without practicing many activities related to skiing remains incomplete. Therefore, the Micheliven Station, which was opened in 1950, is considered the most important point for winter sports lovers, as it is located 17 km from Ifrane, and at 2000 meters altitude.

Michlifen is located in the middle of cedar forests and knows snowfall starting from mid-November. This station offers 5 ski slopes for amateurs and professionals, with the possibility of skiing on different slopes. It is also possible to do other activities at this station, such as going on a hiking trip or horseback riding, in addition to riding mountain bikes to explore the mountains.

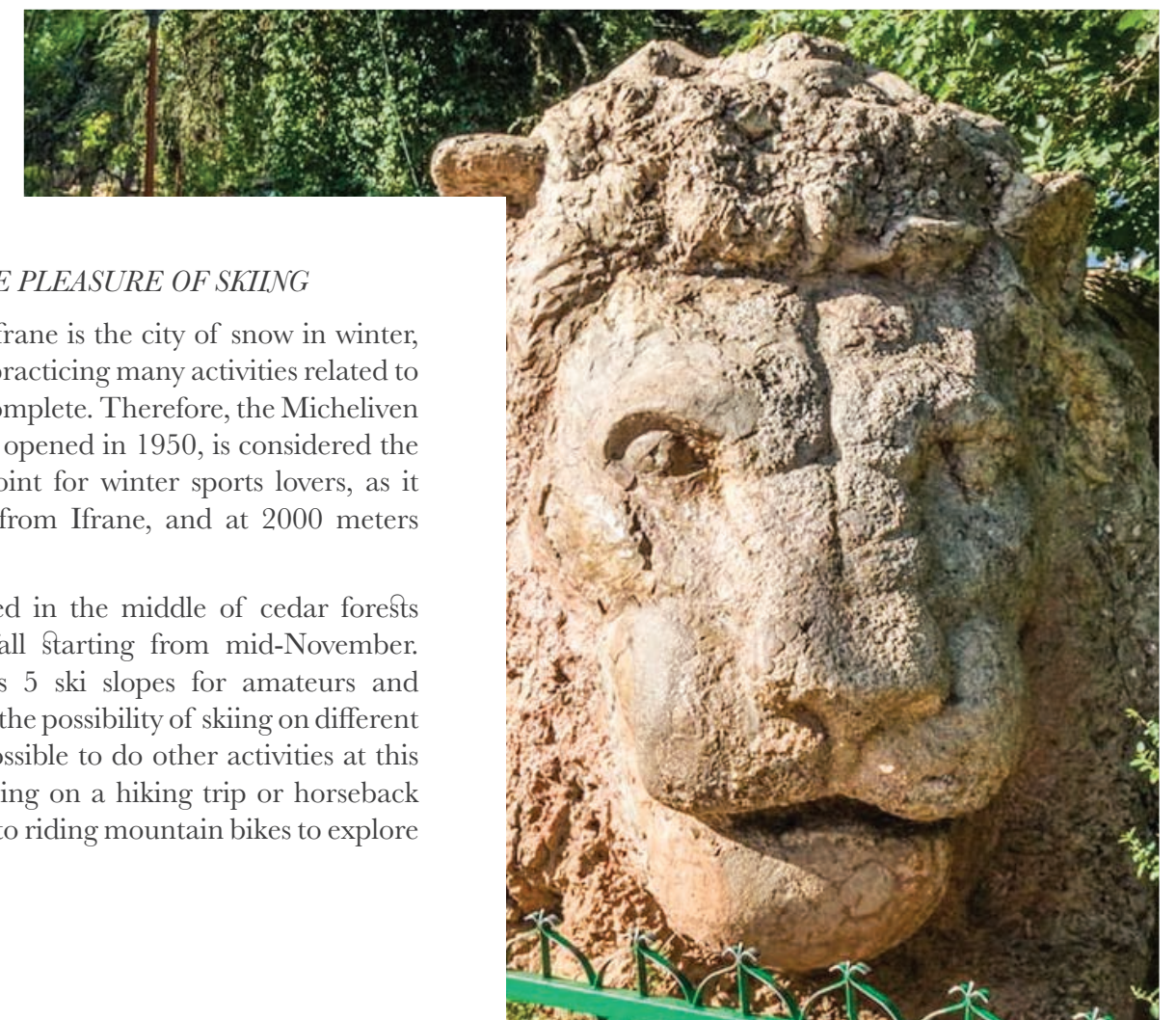
### *TOURIST TRAIN*

It is best not to pass your visit without experiencing the unique Ifrane train, which takes you on a tour between the most important streets and alleys of the city to give you the opportunity to explore the city's landmarks and neighborhoods, as well as the local and typical handicraft shops.

### *THE LION OF IFRANE: HELLO AND BYE!*

The Lion of Ifrane is the one who welcomes you and who bids you farewell when leaving the city, and it is also called the Lion of Atlas. It is a statue located in the center of the city.

There are conflicting opinions and references about who carved the lion. According to the residents of the region, a prisoner from World War I named Jean-Henri Moreau was the one who carved it, a Frenchman born in Bordeaux. The same references add that the process of carving the Lion of Ifrane began in March of the year 1930 and ended at the end of April of the same year, on a rock measuring seven meters in length, one meter and a half in width, and two meters in height.







# مراكش Marrakech

*The warm 'land of God', destination of celebrities,  
source of inspiration and human wealth*

*Assahifa from Marrakech*

It is the best tourist destination in the world in 2015, and one of the best tourist destinations in general. It is a city of history and cultural diversity. A city of joys, colors, warmth, art, food, and ancient traditions.

It is very difficult to describe the city in a few lines, and it is more difficult to surround it through a single visit, so be prepared to visit Marrakech in order to return to it again.

The city has witnessed the passage and residence of a number of international writers and artists, who have taken it as a residence or as a subject for their creations, as it is a city that encourages creativity.

The city of Marrakech is the city of time travel, from wandering through the picturesque alleys of the ancient city, which dates back to the Middle Ages, to the famous Jemaa El Fna Square, where an atmosphere of joy prevails from ancient times as if time had stopped completely there.

From there, as far as the eye can see, the symbol of the city stands erect. The magnificent 12th-century Koutoubia minaret, with decoration similar to the Giralda in Seville or the Hassan minaret in Rabat.

And if you are a fan of the East, you should visit the magnificent Bahia Palace, where you evoke the time of secret patios in an elegance that is also embodied in the amazing Andalusian gardens.

This is Marrakech, which opens its doors to you and the doors of ancient history that Morocco witnessed and extended to Andalusia for centuries.



### HISTORY SPEAKS

The founding of Marrakesh dates back to the time of the Almoravids, and exactly in the year 1062, by Abu Bakr bin Omar Al-Lamtouni, the leader of the Almoravids and cousin of the great leader Youssef bin Tashfin.

There are different accounts about the name Marrakech, as some believe that the word is derived from a Berber word meaning «pass quickly», and others believe that «Aksh» is the name of an ancient god, while others see that the name «Marrakech» is due to a Berber word meaning «God's land».

The name Marrakech was called the state of Morocco in the past, and it remained so until the era of the French occupation in the modern era, and this name is still in circulation in most languages with some distortion, so it is pronounced, for example, in Persian «Marrakesh» as it is, and Spanish «Marruecos» and English «Morocco».

Marrakech was known, especially during the rule of the Saadian state, as a «red city» because most of its houses were painted red, and since then it has kept the red color in a characteristic that distinguishes it from the rest of the cities in the world, and how beautiful and bright it looks with the reflection of the sunset light on its homes.

Among the names of Marrakech is also the «City of Seven Men», a designation attributed by researchers to a group of senior scholars and Sufis who lived in the city and played a major role in spreading awareness among its inhabitants.

And Marrakech, under the rule of the Alawites, received interest in the days of Sultan Sidi Muhammad, so many neighborhoods and monuments were built in it, and a number of its mosques, walls, and prominent landmarks were restored.



### CITY OF CELEBRITIES AND GREAT WEATHER

The accommodation offers in Marrakech are suitable for different types of visitors and tourists, from simple apartments to luxurious and charming hotels. Riads here open its doors to lovers of everything that is authentic and traditional, with indoor gardens and an Andalusian patio in which the fragrant history blends with the magic of nature.

And the luxury classified hotels here as well, a number of which have been classified as the best hotels in the world, and combine in their architecture what is authentic and contemporary.

The wonderful thing about Marrakech is that it is a sunny city most of the time of the year, as it gives you wonderful sunbathing in the summer, and pleasant warmth in the fall, spring, and winter seasons. And because its secrets are endless, Marrakech is surrounded by the Atlas Mountains, whose steep slopes are an invitation to adventure, where you can hike through hills and valleys crisscrossed on suspension bridges.

Why not try climbing Mount Toubkal, for example, or visit its national park, which includes the largest adventure park in Africa? Where the ropes lines, ropes courses, and aerial bridges allow you to get the height of the thrill.

The mountainous surroundings of Marrakech also give you the opportunity to ski in the winter days, the Oukaïmeden region adjacent to the city contains all the amenities you would expect, plus it tempts you with the option to ski all day before heading to the more temperate climate of Marrakech in the evening.

It is also beautiful that the city is known for the popularity of world-famous people, either for permanent residence or in order to celebrate their special occasions such as birthdays or weddings, like Jennifer Lopez, Maitre James, Adriana Karembeu, David Beckham, and others.

And the matter does not stop there, as the city has become a real destination for famous investors such as Cristiano Ronaldo, Robert De Niro, and others, due to its great tourist attraction and adequate infrastructure.

who knows? You may encounter a big party for one of these stars during your stay in the city's hotels. Staying in Marrakech hotels is not just an overnight stay, it is a world open to all the beautiful surprises and secrets.





#### ARRIVAL AND TRANSPORTATION IN MARRAKECH

Marrakech is located in southern Morocco at the foot of the Atlas Mountains, 327 km from the capital, Rabat. The city is characterized by a semi-arid climate, with mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers, which makes any period of the year very suitable for visiting, wandering, and discovering.

Marrakech can be reached by more than one means of transportation, and from different parts of the world. The city has a network of transportation and modern roads, and it has a railway and an international airport, which is the second in Morocco in terms of passenger traffic.

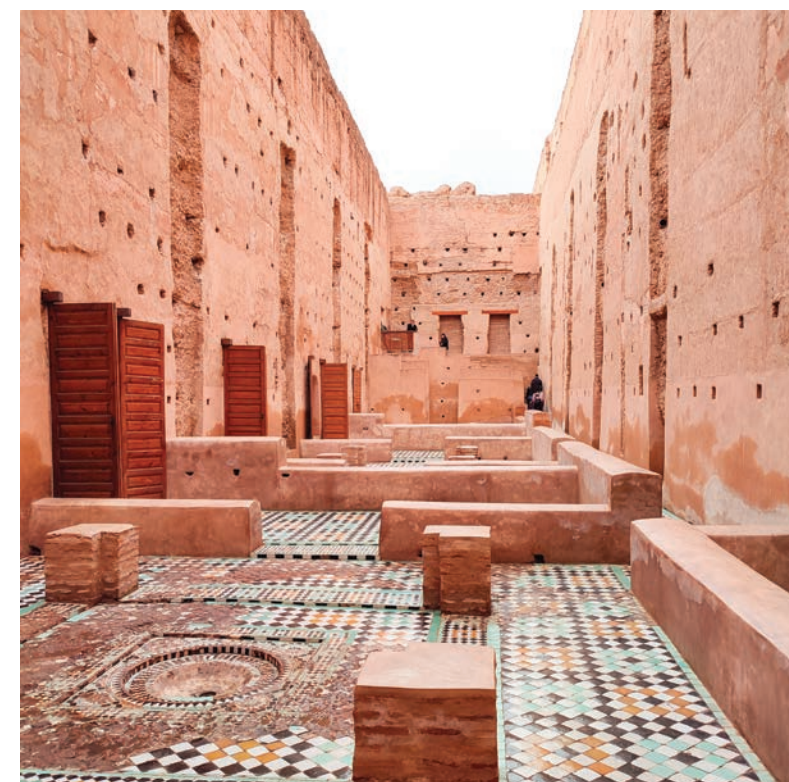
Menara International Airport is the main point of arrival and departure from outside Morocco towards Marrakech, and you can reach it through more than one airline, including low-cost ones, and from various European cities in particular, in addition to Turkey and African destinations such as Dakar or Cape Verde.

Upon arrival, Petit taxis will cost you about 60 dirhams for a trip during the day and 80 dirhams for a night trip, to move to the city center, and you can agree with the driver if you want to go to a specific destination.

As for inside Morocco, you can reach the city by bus from several Moroccan cities, or by train through direct flights linking the city with major cities such as Rabat and Casablanca, or other indirect ones, in the case of traveling from Tangier, for example, and the prices of trips vary according to the destination.

As for moving within the city of Marrakech, it is easy and convenient due to the variety of means of transportation, between public buses and Petit taxis (which are more practical) and Grand ones.

Marrakech also gives you more beautiful and environmentally friendly options, such as the possibility of renting motorcycles or riding horse-drawn carts, which are called “Kotchi” in Marrakech.



#### JEMAA EL FNA AND THE OLD CITY

The best place to start your tour in Marrakech is Jemaa El Fna square. In one moment you suddenly return to the past with storytellers, street artists, snake charmers, and herbalists who offer their secret medicines.

The Jamaa El Fna square was classified by UNESCO as part of the Oral Human Heritage List in 1997. Its establishment dates back, according to some historical sources, to about four centuries. It was originally a commercial market that people from all over the world came to.

In Jemaa El Fna, you will find enchanting entertainment shows in front of you, in addition to various tables and foods that invite you to savor its delicious, pungent taste, full of spices that characterize the region.

A few steps away, you will find a «drink and see» fountain in front of you near the Ben Youssef Mosque, on which a phrase is engraved calling on passers-by to «drink and see what will happen.»

And without straying too far, do not resist the call of the ancient city, with its markets filled with thousands of goods, dresses, and traditional jewelry, hidden behind majestic walls dating back to the twelfth century, where the Arab-Andalusian gardens, and house the Saadian tombs, give you a moment of tranquility that takes you away from the crowds of people.

And not far from that, there is nothing wrong with an unparalleled view of the roofs of the entire city from the balconies of the Badi Palace. As for the northeastern corner, you can contemplate the ancient pulpit of the Koutoubia Mosque, a pulpit decorated with delicate carvings and inlays of exquisite beauty.



## PALACES AND MOSQUES

If you are a fan of ancient architecture, head straight toward the Badi Palace, which is truly considered one of the jewels of architecture in Morocco. It was built by the Saadi Sultan, Ahmed al-Mansur al-Dhahabi, in the year 1578, and for its construction, he used the most skilled Moroccan and foreign engineers, which some historians describe as one of the wonders of the world.

As for the Bahia Palace, which had an original area of 22 thousand square meters before the construction of some facilities inside its garden, it is truly an architectural masterpiece covered with decorations and mosaics and includes many halls, suites, vast ponds, and large gardens that contain large quantities of plants, in addition to the park. And the garden includes a well-known cistern called “Agdal Ba Ahmad”, which is the name of the founder of the palace, Minister Ahmed Benmoussi, nicknamed “Ba Ahmad”, who named the palace after one of his wives.

And here is the Koutoubia Mosque, one of the most important mosques in the Maghreb, which was built in the twelfth century, also invites you to discover the greatness of architecture in the city of Marrakech. The minaret of the mosque decorated in the Andalusian style, which is very similar to the minaret of La Giralda in Seville, is the most important visual historical landmark that enables you to see most of the city's areas due to its height of about 77 meters.

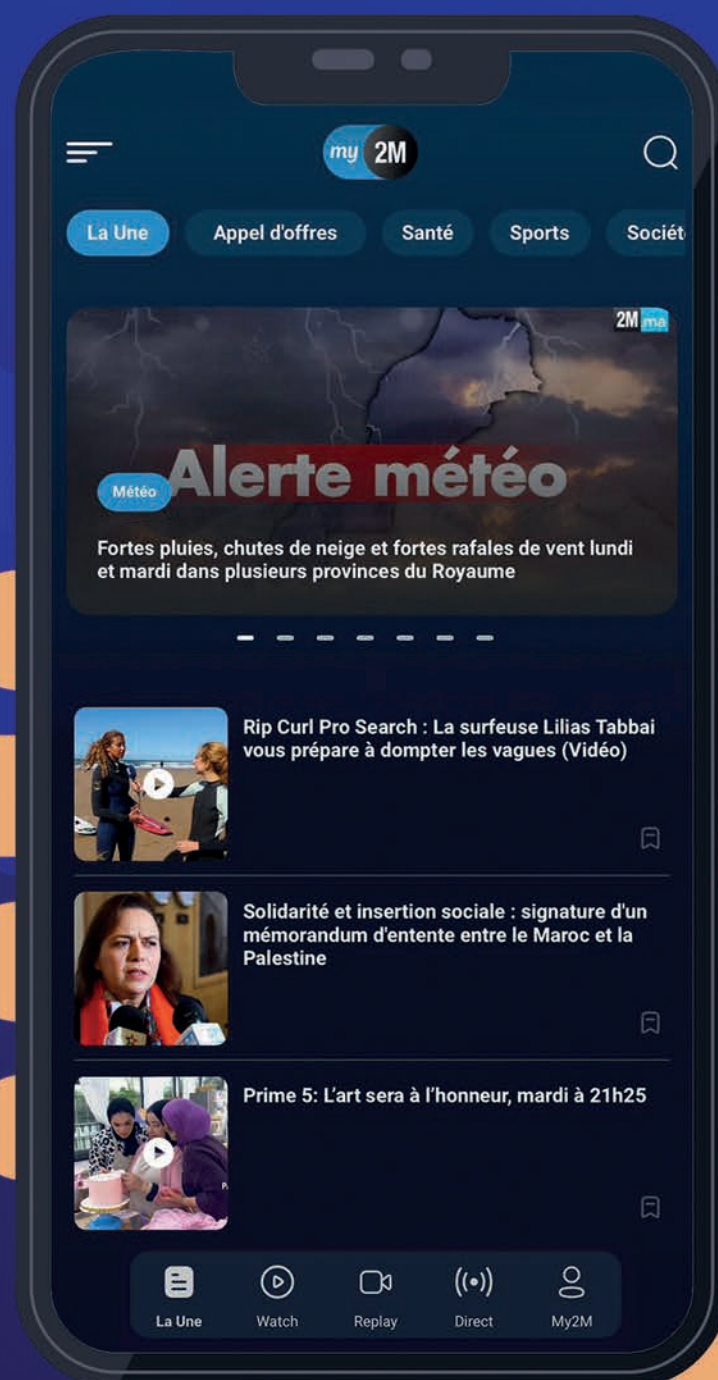




my 2M

# Bien plus que de la télé

LIVE TV INFOS REPLAY EXCLUS



Nous rassemble

## LUSH GARDENS

The Menara Gardens is a group of gardens established in the twelfth century and includes a group of tree species in the middle of an artificial pond, which should not be missed to visit.

As for the Majorelle Gardens, which return to the French painter Jacques Majorelle when who decided to create an unprecedented garden on a piece of land he acquired in 1924, it is indeed a popular tourist destination for many. This garden was restored by the French fashion designer, Yves Saint Laurent, after he bought it in 1980, as it is distinguished by the diversity of its plants were brought from five continents and reached 350 species, in addition to palm trees that are more than 100 years old, bamboo and cacti of all kinds. The park includes an Islamic Museum containing artifacts dating back thousands of years.

## MUSEUMS: COLORS AND SMELLS

How beautiful it is to get lost in the city of Marrakech, where you find in front of you, wherever you turn your face, a monument, a palace, a museum, or a garden. Here is the Ben Youssef School, the Quranic school that in the past attracted hundreds of students. And here is the Marrakech Museum, which was recently created in the Palace of Menbhi, whose construction dates back to the nineteenth century, presenting to you eight centuries of artistic and craft traditions in Morocco.

There is also the Museum of the Art of Living, where the importance of the museum and its exhibitions is complemented and integrated with the vast space, where you can enter the historical building that it embraces, which is a Riyad, and learn about its characteristics and the architecture of its construction. As for the Museum Dar Tisquin, it is really an imaginary journey in the footsteps of the ancient caravan routes: from southern Europe to its north, in the form of thematic exhibits, and a collection of artifacts.

## KITCHEN: THE MAGIC OF TASTE

Marrakech cuisine has a reputation comparable to that of the city, as Marrakech is the only Arab city whose dishes entered the list of Business Insider magazine in 2015, Marrakech dishes ranked 11th on the list of the 25 best cities in the world.

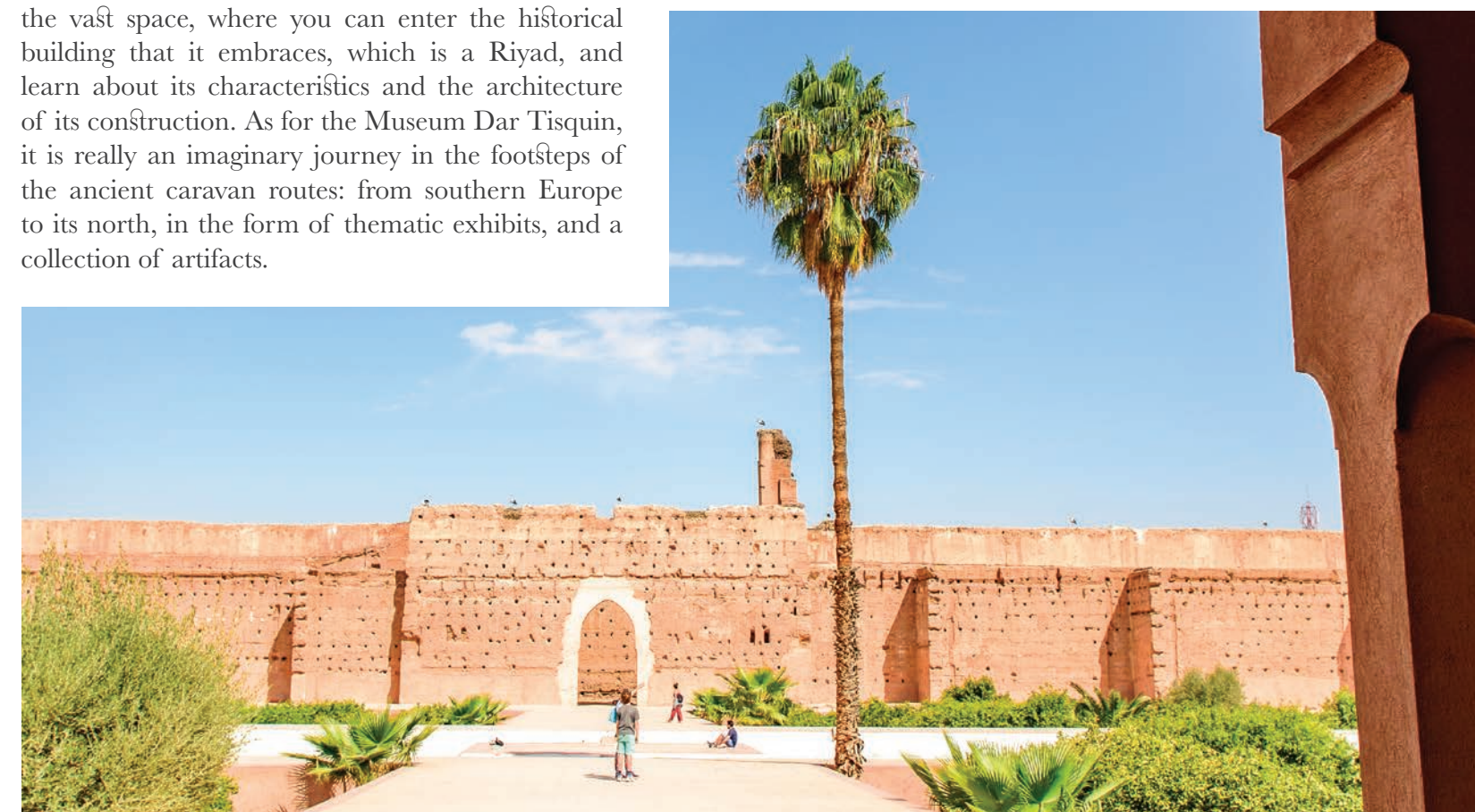
Let's start with the «Babouch» meal or snails cooked with great care, then we will move on to the «Marrakech pastilla» stuffed with chicken livers, and the «Bawlo» meal consisting of steamed lamb's head. Marrakech is also famous for its «Bakula» and sausages called «Markaz», in addition to the Marrakech «Chebakia», which is served with Moroccan tea and mint or other herbs upon request.

The tour of the Marrakech kitchen is not complete without tasting the «Marrakech Tanjia», which is considered the most famous food in the city.

All of these meals can be eaten in popular restaurants surrounding Jemaa El Fna square in particular, or even in luxury restaurants, according to your choice.

## MORE «SECRETS»

Despite all of the above, what Marrakech hides more than it shows, its secrets and pleasures are many, so within its paths or behind its walls, or even in the many tourist areas surrounding it, you may find your way or your beautiful story that you will tell your friends and acquaintances when you return, and when you invite them - for sure - to another journey towards the land of magic: «The land of God» or Marrakech.







# الرباط Rabat

*Home of ancient empires, great place  
for tourists to explore past and present*

*Assahifa from Rabat*

If you are someone who loves to explore the past of cities and the history of ancient empires, you need to change the destination of your trip towards the Atlantic Ocean, where a city was born to be a lookout guardian. This is how Abd al-Mu'min, ruler of the Almohad Caliphate, wanted it to be in the middle of the twelfth century AD. An eye on the river and another watching the sea. It is the city of Rabat, the current capital of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Historians say that it is the city of extended walls that were built by the army of the Caliph Ya'qub al-Mansur of Almohad, who completed the establishment of the city during the era of Muslim rule in Andalusia after their return from the battle of Alarcos in which he faced Alphonse VIII in the year 1197 AD, so he returned and made Rabat a city like a fortified fortress. The design of the city was inspired by the Egyptian city of Alexandria, according to multiple historical accounts, as the fortified city still maintains its walls and gates to this day.





#### HOW TO REACH RABAT FROM EUROPE

It is easy for a tourist coming from the European continent to visit the city of Rabat and enjoy its atmosphere, with the presence of various and comfortable means of transportation without trouble, and from any country of the European Union.

The tourist can go to any of the Spanish ports overlooking the Mediterranean coast, and book a ticket towards the city of Tangier at preferential, then a Petit taxi will take you to the train station in order to ride the high-speed train «Al-Buraq», where its luxurious station provides the opportunity for some time to eat in various restaurants, before a short trip that will not last more than an hour and 20 minutes and you will find yourself in the center of the capital, Rabat.

#### FOR THOSE COMING FROM OTHER CONTINENTS

The Kingdom of Morocco is located at a geographic point between the continents and is connected to dozens of flights from Asia, Australia, the Americas, and even those coming from Africa.

Tourists can come to Rabat on a plane and getting off at Rabat-Salé airport or at the airport in the nearby city of Casablanca, then head to the capital, Rabat, whether by taxi, bus or train, as the means of transportation are very available.

#### GETTING AROUND THE CITY OF RABAT

Getting around the city of Rabat is not as difficult as some cities that know annoying congestion. Once you arrive, you will find blue taxis waiting for you to take you to the nearest hotel that suits you. The meter starts calculating the price of the ride from one dirham and 40 centimes. If you are a fan of roaming and discovering places slowly, there are urban transport bus lines with a fixed price at only 5 dirhams. on board, it is possible to travel to the outskirts of the city or to visit the most important streets and neighborhoods from early morning until ten at night.

But if the night comes to you at a party or during a visit to a tourist area late or even after midnight, do not worry, you can use the InDriver application, which is considered one of the favorite applications even among the residents of Rabat, because it is the

safest due to the fact that the transportation service providers through it are mostly residents of Rabat, even the pricing is reasonable and not much different from regular taxis.

The city of Rabat also has two lines of transport, «Tramway», through which the tourist can go on a tour through the city, on a railway punctuated by stations in famous neighborhoods and places that entice picnic and exploration, where the price of the trip is set at 6 dirhams, or about half euro. The first line passes you along most of the ministries' headquarters in the capital, and reaches the borders of Mohammed V Street, which includes the city's train station and parliament. The second line takes you through historical landmarks such as «Bab Chellah», «Bab Al-Ahad» and «Al-Rusiyah Square».

#### WHERE CAN YOU SPEND YOUR NIGHT?

The calm atmosphere in Rabat is a special break from the routine that tourists can encounter in crowds in big cities. If you head to the city center along Hassan II Avenue, you will find classified and standard hotels, in addition to guest houses.

You can also access the Marketplace service on Facebook, and get the latest advertisements for furnished apartments at very reasonable prices, and the majority of accommodations are near the city center and neighboring areas.

In the city of Rabat, you will be able to spend your night or day in a small, furnished and comfortable apartment, the price of which does not exceed 500 dirhams, approximately 50 dollars.

And if you are one of those who are interested in hotels with an old traditional urban structure, you can book your room in the many hostels located at the intersection of Mohammed V Street and Hassan II Street, at a price ranging from 100 to 150 dirhams per night, equivalent to \$ 15 at most.

#### VISITING THE HISTORIC PLACES IN RABAT

Rabat is home to historic places par excellence as these places tell the visitor about the empires that successively ruled the country. The city's historical landmarks extend along the road passing by the Bouregreg River along the western edge of the city, separating it from its sister city, Sale, which is worth exploring while the tourist is there.

As the Palestinian poet Mahmud Darwish said about the city of Rabat, "In the city of Rabat, which is raised on the high waves of the Atlantic, the poet walks on the street in search of a coincidence of meaning, and the meaning of coincidence," Therefore, in Rabat, the tourist will encounter "history" with its letters and meanings.







### *KASBAH OF THE UDAYAS*

Rabat's Kasbah district is one of the city's most charming tourist spots. Inside the walls, the 11th-century Kasbah of the Udayas is a small neighborhood of winding lanes surrounded by Andalusian-style houses. The place gives a great opportunity to take pictures inside the narrow blue-and-white lanes and on the outskirts of old historic homes.

At the southern end of the Kasbah, you will find the tranquil Andalusian gardens, while at the northern end of the area there is a platform that offers panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean to the west and Salé to the north, where it is nice to drink a cup of Moroccan mint tea.

Afterward, you can visit the most impressive gate of the Kasbah, the 12th-century Bab Aouda in the southern wall. You will come across it in front of you as you sneak up the main road leading to Al-Jamaa Street, the Kasbah Mosque, which is the oldest mosque in Rabat.

### *HASSAN TOWER*

One of the oldest monuments left by the Almohads in the city of Rabat since the twelfth century is the "Hassan Mosque" with an incomplete minaret, which was built by Sultan Yacoub Al Mansour Almohad, which can be seen from multiple angles while you are wandering on the coasts of the Bouregreg River, its height is about 45 meters, The site of this unfinished mosque extends over an area of 183 square meters and a width of 139 square meters.

Andalusian motifs cover the facade of this minaret, which shows the magnificence of what was going on in the mind of Yacoub Al Mansour, as he wanted to complete its construction in the manner of its sisters, the minaret of the Koutoubia Mosque in Marrakech and the minaret of the Giralda in Seville. It's a public place that whets the appetite for strolling and taking souvenir photos with history.

### *THE TOMB OF MOHAMMED V*

The mausoleum of King Mohammed V, sparkling at night, was built on the same spot where the sultan stood upon his return from exile in Madagascar, where he delivered a speech to thousands of Moroccans on the occasion of Morocco's independence in 1956. In addition, there is also the tomb of the late King Hassan II.

The building is characterized by luxury and decorations that combine traditional Moroccan designs, and it is decorated with Moroccan Zellij that covers the walls around the mausoleum.

### *CHELLAH CASTLE*

Chellah Castle is the remains of the Marinid city of Chellah, and behind it stretch cemeteries dating back to the fourteenth century, where the meeting with history takes place in a wonderful place, especially if you know that you are visiting the site of the ruins of an ancient Roman town, which archaeologists revealed evidence of in the thirties of the last century.

The city of Chellah flourished in the Marinid period in the early 14th century, and today the crumbling



ruins of the mosques and shrines they built here are now covered with scattered trees, providing nesting sites for storks. The excavated Roman part of the site includes an archaeological platform that provides a view of the site as well as a bath and a temple. All of them are ancient historical facilities, giving an overview of the history of the empires that ruled the region, which was classified by UNESCO as a world heritage in 2012.

### *THE OLD CITY*

Rabat's Old Town district has a distinctly Andalusian style for its buildings, with most of the architecture here dating back to the 17th century when Muslims arrived from northern Andalusia.

Tourists can enjoy strolling by searching for the Great Mosque on Market Street to take wonderful souvenir photos. It is a pure Marinid building that was built in the fourteenth century, and near it is a Marinid fountain that is still resisting in the Al-Mallah neighborhood (the Jewish quarter) in the southeastern corner of the city.





#### *SAINT PETER'S CATHEDRAL*

The city of Rabat includes a tall building for one of the most important churches in Morocco, which is the Cathedral of St. Peter, a historical Roman Catholic church, which is the work of the architect Adrien Laforgue, whose construction began in 1919, and was opened for the first time on November 17, 1921, by the general resident Hubert Lyautey.

It is located in the famous Golan Square in the center of Rabat, within an architectural building designed in a circular shape. The cathedral is still in service and religious rites and rituals are performed by Christians to this day. Two towers were added to it later in the thirties of the last century.

#### *TO EAT AND REST NEAR THE SEA BREEZE: RABAT MARINA*

When you come to the city of Rabat, you should not miss the opportunity to tour the coasts of the Rabat Marina on the southern coast of the Bouregreg River, which is close to its meeting point with the ocean.

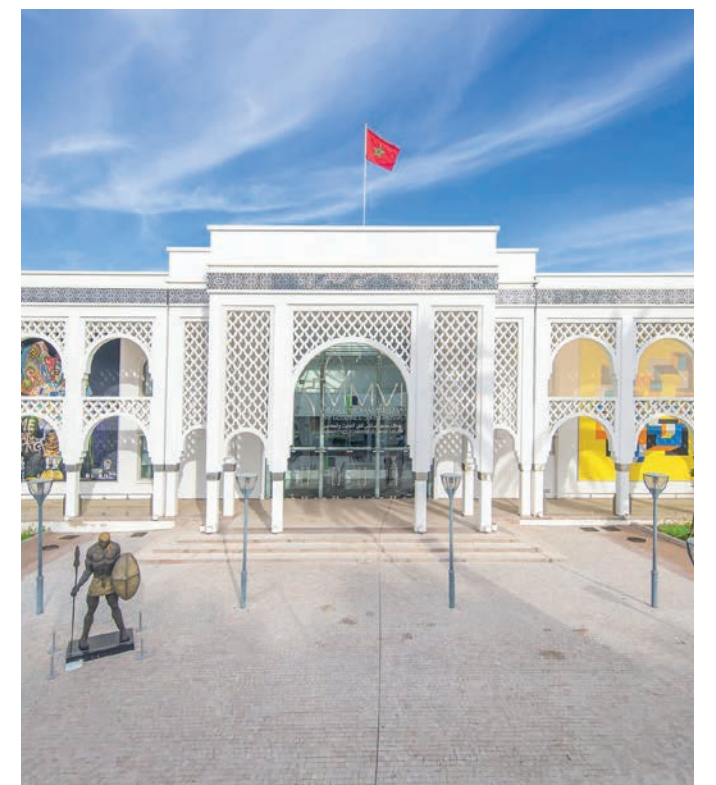
This entire bank is very refreshing and extends on its sides luxurious restaurants and various cafes, giving you high-quality services to have dinner or lunch with family or friends. The place has a comfortable and varied character and offers all kinds of food, including distinct dishes of fresh fish.

#### *MOHAMMED VI MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS*

For any tourist who is interested in museums and the modern Moroccan art movement, this museum is one of the top things to do in Rabat.

The museum is located close to all the various means of transportation in the city center. An impressively restored building dating back to the French colonial days, despite its small area, contains works of art from almost all the prominent names in the art world, from the mid-twentieth century to the present day. Also, a program of temporary exhibitions featuring local and international artists.

The visit will undoubtedly give you a wonderful feeling, especially while watching the traditional craftsmanship that the Kingdom of Morocco is famous for, as it shows the contemporary side of the artistic expressions presented by the museum as created by Moroccan and foreign artists.





### MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND CIVILIZATIONS

The Archaeological Museum in Morocco is a must-see, the original museum was built in 1932, and since then it has been greatly expanded in order to provide a suitable space for the large number of archaeological discoveries that have been found in Morocco, documenting the era Stone and other Roman and other civilizations.

You can enter after booking a ticket that does not exceed 20 dirhams, equivalent to two dollars, and 10 dirhams for university students and children.

### NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY (FORTRESS ROTHENBURG)

For lovers of ancient castles, there is a charming place on the coastal road to the city of Rabat, a fort that became a museum of photography, built during the reign of Sultan Moulay Hassan I, and the works ended in the late nineteenth century, to be opened in 1902.

Fort Rothenburg is the work of the German engineer Walter Rothenburg. It has two huge cannons, each weighing about 30 tons, whose nozzles were directed towards the sea.

One of the German companies specialized in heavy armament at that time gave them to the Sultan, then he ordered the construction of the fort in a strategic place, where the Sultan intended to strengthen the defense of the country's coasts, and today it is one of the most famous museums in the city of Rabat and displays the work of photographers from different countries of the world.

### NOUZHAT HASSAN GARDEN

If a visitor to the city of Rabat wants to take a break and meet with nature during a tour in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the city, he will not find a better garden than the Nouzhat Hassan with tall trees and lush shade. The garden is public and its entry is free. It was included in the antiquities of the city, according to a decree issued in 2003, after the quality of its rare plants and trees was determined.

### HASSAN II PARK

On a vast area of ten hectares, Hassan II Park gives an opportunity to stroll, play sports and take pictures throughout an enjoyable day, as this park is characterized by spaces that are a destination for cultural associations, for outdoor theater enthusiasts, it has an amphitheater, musical fountain, play area, two skate parks, and a 10-meter climbing wall.

If you are a fan of the most popular sports, you will find three small football fields, three basketball and volleyball courts, and a soccer field. The visitor's passage to this place will undoubtedly be a wonderful opportunity to discover the atmosphere of this comprehensive park.



### ZOO

The zoo was established for the first time in 1973, which initially included the lions that were in the Royal Palace in Rabat and maintained by King Mohammed V before it was transformed into its current form, and it was renewed in recent years.

The park gives you an interesting opportunity to see hundreds of diverse animals coming from the depths of Africa, as well as the atmosphere of swamps, tropical forests, savannas, the desert, and the Atlas Mountains.

### SHOPPING PLACES

At any hour of the day, tourists can spend quality time inside the largest commercial space in Rabat, the Rabat Center located in the Agdal district. Hundreds of shops provide you 85 famous and international brands of clothes, perfumes, electronic devices, and unlimited items.

And if you feel hungry, the upper floor provides you with various restaurants of international and local brands, at very reasonable and regular prices. These are the same services provided by the Rabat Square Mall in the upscale Riyadh neighborhood, and the Mega Mall in Mohammed VI Street.

### OLD CITY'S MARKET

A place with a very traditional style, the old medina market or Souika Street is one of the largest and most famous shopping places in Rabat, the place is great not only for shopping but also for the visitor to wander and discover the local colors.

The place is great for getting a perfect gift for your loved ones, as here all kinds of clothes, shoes, jewelry, carpets, handicrafts, pottery, and many other unique and interesting things can be found.

Souika Street is the busiest street in the city. It extends from the market square of "Bab Al Hadd" and heads east until it reaches the port located in Bab Al Bahr in Bouregreg river. It also includes popular restaurants that serve 100% Moroccan traditional food at reasonable prices.







# السعيدية Saidia

*City of summer, turquoise beaches,  
and many other secrets*

*Assahifa from Oujda*

It is the city of the summer season par excellence, it is the city of Saidia, where the beaches of soft sand, and the pure turquoise waters that tempt you to swim and then take a warm sunbath that makes you forget the fatigue of work and the pressures of life.

The city not only gives you the opportunity to relax but also the opportunity to wander around its famous Corniche, after the end of a long day, to refresh yourself with the cool evening air and the gentle waves spray that refreshes the soul and body together, among the thousands of other vacationers who came to relax, exchange conversations.

In the city of Saidia, there is no place for boredom. The blue of the sea gives you the desire to do activities during the day, and the Corniche gives you

the pleasure of roaming at night. Between this time and that, you can spend the rest of your day visiting the recreational port that includes 850 anchors, and why not get acquainted with schools to learn boating, kitesurfing, snorkeling, windsurfing.

And in the middle of the day, you can change your destination towards the restaurants scattered along the coast, or even visit a spa treatment center or do some shopping. What is certain is that the city of Saidia offers you a variety of activities and services to spend a wonderful holiday that is not to forget.



## ARRIVAL AND ACCOMMODATION

Saidia is located on the Mediterranean coast in the northeast of the Kingdom of Morocco, 22 km from the city of Berkane, and 60 km from the city of Oujda, with a population of 9,000 people. It is one of the newly established cities in Morocco, as its establishment dates back to the year 1548, and in the year 1881, the city witnessed the construction of a castle and two mosques in a remarkable development.

The city was subjected to French control in 1913, and it was affiliated with the French protectorate in Morocco. After Morocco gained independence, the city captured the attention of the authorities and turned into a tourist destination.

For those coming to it from outside Morocco, the city of Saidia is surrounded by two airports, Oujda Airport, and Nador Airport, which can be reached from a number of European cities located in the countries of Spain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany. Domestic flights to the two cities are also available through Tangiers and Casablanca airports.

Other than that, access to the city of Saidia remains easy, either by taxi (from the airports) or by public buses coming from other cities.

At the level of accommodation, the city of Saidia provides a generous tourist offer, through many accommodation options among classified hotels, residences, and private apartments, at reasonable prices that vary according to desire and the number of individuals.



## WHERE DO I START?

The best start to exploring Saidia is the 14-kilometer beach, making it the longest beach in North Africa, and the third longest beach in the Mediterranean basin.

This beach is located close to the famous Ras El Ma area, on the road leading to the city of Nador, and it can be easily reached by riding small boats at an affordable price, as soon as you approach it, a beautiful small bay surrounded by high rocky cliffs appears. This area and its beach have gained great fame.

You can also go to the south, 30 kilometers from Ras El Ma, where there is Lake of Marchica, where you can discover Sidi Al-Bashir Beach, which is a bay surrounded by high cliffs, and has very soft sand.

These extended beaches are not devoid of a range of high-level services, such as the water city «Aquapark», as well as many facilities directed to sports activities, including quiet sports such as golf courses, in addition to tennis courts and fitness clubs, as well as exciting sports such as kayak, kitesurfing, and diving.

## NATURE: MAGICAL WORLDS

From the blue atmosphere, you can move to the green atmosphere, to discover a group of natural places that abound in this coastal city. There, on an area of 2,700 hectares, the Moulouya Nature Reserve awaits you, which is a wonderful environmental haven for approximately 270 different types of birds.

The reserve was classified as an Important Biological and Environmental Site in 2005, as it is a very special destination that should not be neglected.

And to explore more the greatness and beauty of what you are coming to, it is okay to know that the Moulouya River starts from a point located between the Middle and High Atlas in the Midelt region, extending over a distance of more than 600 kilometers across the Kingdom, before it empties into the Mediterranean Sea in the Ras El Ma region, Near the city of Saidia.

And if you want to mix exploration and sports, and you are an adventure enthusiast, there is a tourist orbit that awaits you, extending over a distance of eight kilometers, passing through the Bani Yazanasin mountains, which are rich in natural qualifications, to the camel cave, which is a privileged site for lovers of this sport.

And with the help of a guide and the inhabitants of the area, do not forget to give yourself the opportunity to discover valleys and caves there, and the picturesque town of Tafogalt, with the splendor of the breathtaking nature that surrounds it.

## SAIDIA..BYE!

As you prepare to leave this extravagant city, on an evening tour under the eucalyptus and mimosa trees that surround the beach, as the sun dips below the horizon, a bittersweet sigh escapes your lips. Saidia, this vibrant tapestry of sun-kissed beaches begins to fade into the twilight. But in your heart, you know this isn't a goodbye, but rather a «see you soon.»



## KASBAH AND LOCAL FOOD

To retrieve some of the beautiful history of the city, you can head towards the Kasbah which was built by Hassan I in 1883 at the mouth of a valley, with the aim of putting an end to the expansion of the French.

The Kasbah is surrounded by square walls, each of which is about 100 meters long, and about 6 meters high. Inside, you feel that time has brought you back and that the voices of the departed who crossed from here are still echoing in the place.

It is certain that after these many exploratory tours, you will respond to the call of the stomach, and here you will discover that the city of Saidia, which is famous for its fried fish meals and grilled sardines, is also famous for the Karan food, which is very well known among the people of the region. It is a meal prepared by spreading chickpeas pie on fresh bread with a sprinkle and little cumin, it is served in the form of a delicious and quick-digesting sandwich.

Saidia is also famous for pastries, especially crispy cakes that are prepared in the form of a ring with anise and sesame.

As for local products, the region abounds with loquat trees, of which the region produces 80% of the national production.





# تغازوت Taghazout

*The sea, nature, quiet resorts,  
and leisurely pace of life*

*Assahifa from Agadir*

Taghazout has a welcoming, laid-back vibe and an astoundingly wide range of reasonably priced lodging and dining alternatives. Visitors are most attracted to the area by its white-washed houses' understated elegance and the glimpses of the deep blue Atlantic.

The sun pours its rays and the city enjoys a pleasant climate whatever the season is. Aside from its consistently pleasant weather, for those who love sport, sun, sea and nature, you will find no better than the resort of Taghazout.

Taghazout is best known among surfing fans, as they could find great waves year-round for enthusiasts of all levels.





#### *REACHING TAGHAZOUT AND ACCOMMODATION*

Morocco's village Taghazout is located approximately 20 km from the southern city of Agadir, with 5,000 inhabitants, you can reach Taghazout either by driving or by public transport, which is the cheapest option to get there. You can take a taxi from El Batouar (a taxi station in Agadir), which costs only 6 DH, or take Agadir's local bus No. 32 or 33, which costs only 7DH.

The windswept fishing village of Taghazout has a variety of choices when it comes to accommodation, the village offers both luxurious hotels and affordable lodging, with nightly rates ranging from 300 DH to 900 DH (including breakfast). You will not need any transportation within the village due to its small area.

Tourism offers great opportunities for locals as the main sources of income for Taghazout residents are fishing, tourism, and the production of Argan oil.

#### *TAGHAZOUT BAY*

The beach promenade connecting Taghazout with Tamraght, 5 km away, has recently been finished. Evening strolls and bike rides are especially pleasant on this pristine path perched just above the ocean. The path concludes at the town of Tamraght's beach. In addition to this path, you can easily reach your destination by strolling down the seashore. Seafood is the most popular food in the village, where guests can enjoy the delicious cuisine and warm hospitality of restaurants as well as stables where kids may go horseback riding.

Taghazout Bay resort in Agadir is part of the Moroccan National Tourism Strategy "Vision 2020." The Resort covers an area of 615 hectares of coastal strip with 4.5 kilometers of beach, Taghazout Bay consists of hotels, tourist residences and high-end residential areas, as well as entertainment areas.

The tourism office recorded 4,641,882 total overnight stays in tourist accommodations in Agadir in the first 10 months of 2019. Taghazout has seen more than 83,304 visitors.



#### *THE ARGAN MUSEUM*

The argan museum or "Targant" is a concept that brings together the ideas of honesty, equality, solidarity, ethics, and sustainability. It tells the story of the argan tree, which is a symbol of the region of Agadir-Souss-Massa, in a space that is consistent and harmonious. It promises tourists and visitors a deep dive into the world of this oil, which has many uses in beauty, medicine, and food.

It is also a place for organic advice, well-being, promoting local products, and making the resort more social and unified. Targant is also a window that shows the unwritten history of the Argan tree and the women of the area who have kept its habits and many uses alive.



#### *YOGA*

Yoga is very popular in Taghazout and the villages around it. Yoga can be done anywhere and in the smallest of spaces but doing Yoga in Taghazout is another experience with Many hotels offering yoga and surfing classes. There are often yoga retreats in Taghazout, and teachers come from all over the world to lead them. A number of hotels offer yoga classes that are open to all tourists.

#### *SURFING*

Taghazout is the perfect destination for water sport, and many visitors get there with no prior surfing expertise. You don't need to be an expert surfer to ride the waves.

There are several surfing schools, teachers, regular starting classes, and rental shops where you can pick up all the essential equipment. You may reserve a weekly package that includes your lodging, food, surfing lessons, and yoga sessions at numerous hotels and hostels.





# طنجة Tangier

*City of myth and Mediterranean charm,  
best integrated tourist destination*

*Assahifa from Tangier*

Are you looking for a city that combines history, the warmth of the sun, the beauty of the beaches, the rich heritage, and above all, the meeting point between two continents?

If you put a map of the world in front of you, you will find only one city with all these advantages, it's Tangier!

It is one of the most beautiful cities in the Mediterranean, whose foundation dates back to the fourteenth century BC.

When talking about Morocco, it is first necessary to cross from this city, not because it is the gateway to the Kingdom's land for those coming from Europe, but also because it is one of the oldest Moroccan cities at all, as many writings indicate that the date of its construction was in the fourteenth century BC by people who wanted to settle near the strait, before it was occupied by the Phoenicians in the tenth century, and nine centuries later it will become the capital of the Tangier Mauritania province of Caesar's rule in Rome.

The arrival of the Arabs to Tangier was at the beginning of the eighth century AD, during the period of the Islamic conquests, and after a long struggle with the Berbers, Tangier became part of the Umayyad State, and the military leader Tariq bin Ziyad became its ruler, and from its shores, he went to Europe to conquer Andalusia, but Tangiers will remain in the centuries that followed this date as part of the successive Moroccan empires, and always remained coveted by Western countries due to its strategic location, which makes it the world's gateway to Africa, and the city that overlooks the most important commercial sea crossing between Europe and Africa.

A visitor to this city will realize without much trouble that the spirit of Tangier is not only in the unique cultural diversity that derives its legacy from successive civilizations, but also from the legend that was and still is one of its historical tributaries. Its name itself is closely related to Greek mythology, as the story says that its founder is Sufax, the grandson of Poseidon, the Greek god of seas and oceans, who gave it the name of his mother Tangis.

Sufax is also the son of Antaeus, the common legend between the Greeks and the Berbers, and one of the giants of mythology, as it is said that he wrestled with Hercules on the land that connected Tangiers with Europe, and with a blow from his fist, the latter separated the two banks, and with the name of Hercules also the most famous and symbolic cave of the city are associated, and it is said he dug it himself to rest in when he was on his way to carry out the task of recovering the golden apples from the keepers of the gardens of the Hesperides so that Zeus, the father of the gods in the ancient Greek belief, would gift them to his wife Hera.

It is therefore a city with a long history, and legends that make Tangiers a city with a vibrant spirit, and a historical identity mixed with many cultural tributaries that enriched this city, which is considered the gateway to Africa, the meeting point of the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, and it is only 12 kilometers from Europe.





#### HOW TO REACH TANGIERS VIA FLIGHTS?

A tourist who wants to visit Tangier will not find much trouble to reach it. There are many options.

From outside Morocco, the tourist will find that there are many Moroccan or international airlines that provide direct flights from the most important European capitals to Tangier, at competitive prices.

According to the Moroccan National Airports Office, you can travel to Tangier via Royal Air Maroc from 6 countries: Spain via Barcelona and Malaga airports, France via Paris Orly airport, the Netherlands via Amsterdam airport, Belgium via Brussels airport, and finally the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia via Jeddah airport. Royal Air Maroc has domestic flights between Tangiers and 4 Moroccan cities: Casablanca, Al Hoceima, Nador, and Fez.

But Royal Air Maroc is not the only one that can bring you to Tangier. Tourists can visit Tangier from Madrid via Air Nostrum, and from Barcelona

and Paris via Vueling Airlines. Ryanair connects Tangiers to many airports such as Beauvais (Paris), Marseille, Bordeaux, and Toulouse in France, as well as Charleroi Airport in Belgium, Madrid, Seville, and Valencia in Spain, Frankfurt and Dusseldorf in Germany, and Rome and Milan Bergamo in Italy. As for Tui fly, it provides flights to the Dutch airports of Rotterdam, Lille, Brussels, Antwerp, and Charleroi in Belgium.

Air Arabia represents one of the strengths of Tangier's air link. In addition to providing two domestic flights to Nador and Agadir, it connects Tangier with flights to London Gatwick Airport, Madrid, Paris Charles de Gaulle, Barcelona, Amsterdam, Brussels, Malaga, Valencia, Bilbao, and Lyon. Germanwings offers flights between Tangiers and Cologne. Corendon Airlines provides flights to Amsterdam, while Portugal Airlines operates flights to and from Lisbon.

#### ACCESS BY SEA

Tangier's strength in terms of border crossing points is not only in its airport but in its two ports, Tangier Med and Tangier City, which provide tourists with the opportunity to discover the pleasure of traveling across the Mediterranean, making it a favorite for many foreign visitors and also the main gateway for members of the Moroccan community residing in Europe.

The Tangier-Med port received 1,387,661 tourists in 2016, 1,387,661 tourists in 2017, then 1,371,880 tourists in 2018, and during the last year preceding the coronavirus pandemic, 1,258,640 tourists arrived, according to official figures from the Moroccan Ministry of Tourism.

This port is about 51 kilometers away from the city center, which means a journey within 50 minutes by car, but there is no need to worry, as soon as you exit the passenger hall, you will find Grand taxis that can take you to your destination. There is also a public transport bus line «ALSA» which bears the code LI13 and connects Tangier Med port and the train station in the city center.

The Mediterranean port is ideal for travel for tourists from Europe, as it is linked to Spain via the port of Algeciras, France via the ports of Marseille and Sete,



and Italy via the port of Genoa, but if you want to visit the city through this port, it is better to see the port administration's tips through the official website [tangermed-passagers.com](http://tangermed-passagers.com) because it informs you in advance of the dates when the traffic density is strong or vice versa, and in general avoid the month of July and the first half of August because it coincides with the arrival of the Moroccan community residing abroad.

In turn, the city's port is also a convenient option for tourists to access Tangier. In terms of numbers, this port attracted 478,478 tourists throughout 2016, then 594,654 tourists in 2017, and 659,795 tourists in the following year. In 2019, 670,513 tourists crossed it, and it has one external line that connects it to the port of Tarifa in southern Spain through fast ferries that move every hour, and the trip lasts only 35 minutes when the weather is normal.

This port is very ideal for those who want to reach directly to the city center, as it is located next to the marina, near the Marqala Corniche and the Beach Corniche, the latter, which hosts many hotels, restaurants, commercial tourist, and entertainment spaces, but it is necessary to pay attention to an important matter, is that the trips from and to this port stop when the winds are strong.



### *REACHING TANGIER VIA THE FASTEST TRAIN IN AFRICA, AL BURAQ*

If your arrival is via Mohammed V International Airport, in Casablanca, or through Rabat-Salé Airport in the Moroccan capital, you can reach Tangier via the fastest train in Africa, which is called in Morocco as “Al Buraq”, which is also among the ten fastest trains in the world.

Do not miss the experience of traveling through Al-Buraq, and enjoying its stations in various transit cities, which is one of the most beautiful stations in Africa which give you the opportunity to shop and eat different meals with cafes offering sweets of various forms, so you can live a unique experience.

And through Al-Buraq, you can travel to 3 main cities, the first of which is Kenitra. Thanks to its speed of up to 320 kilometers per hour, you will find yourself in Tangier within 50 minutes. It will not be difficult if you want to reach it from the capital, Rabat, because the journey will take only 80 minutes of your time, instead of 4 hours via the regular train. As for Casablanca, you need only two hours and 10 minutes to reach it by the same train, and even if you need a comfortable place to work during the travel period, this experience provides you with that and more.



### *GETTING AROUND IN TANGIER*

The experience of getting around in Tangier may be not easy for a first-time visitor, so in the following lines, we will provide you with a set of instructions and tips that will facilitate this task for you, for a safe and smooth movement to the maximum extent possible within the city.

Regarding taxis, you should know that the city has two types of taxis. The first is Petit Taxis (Small Taxis). In Tangier, there is the lowest starting price at the national level at only 5 dirhams, which is the minimum price for the trip, and it rises by 30 cents for every 120 meters or for every minute of parking. In all Petit taxis there is a counter that starts calculating the fare from one dirham and 60 cents.

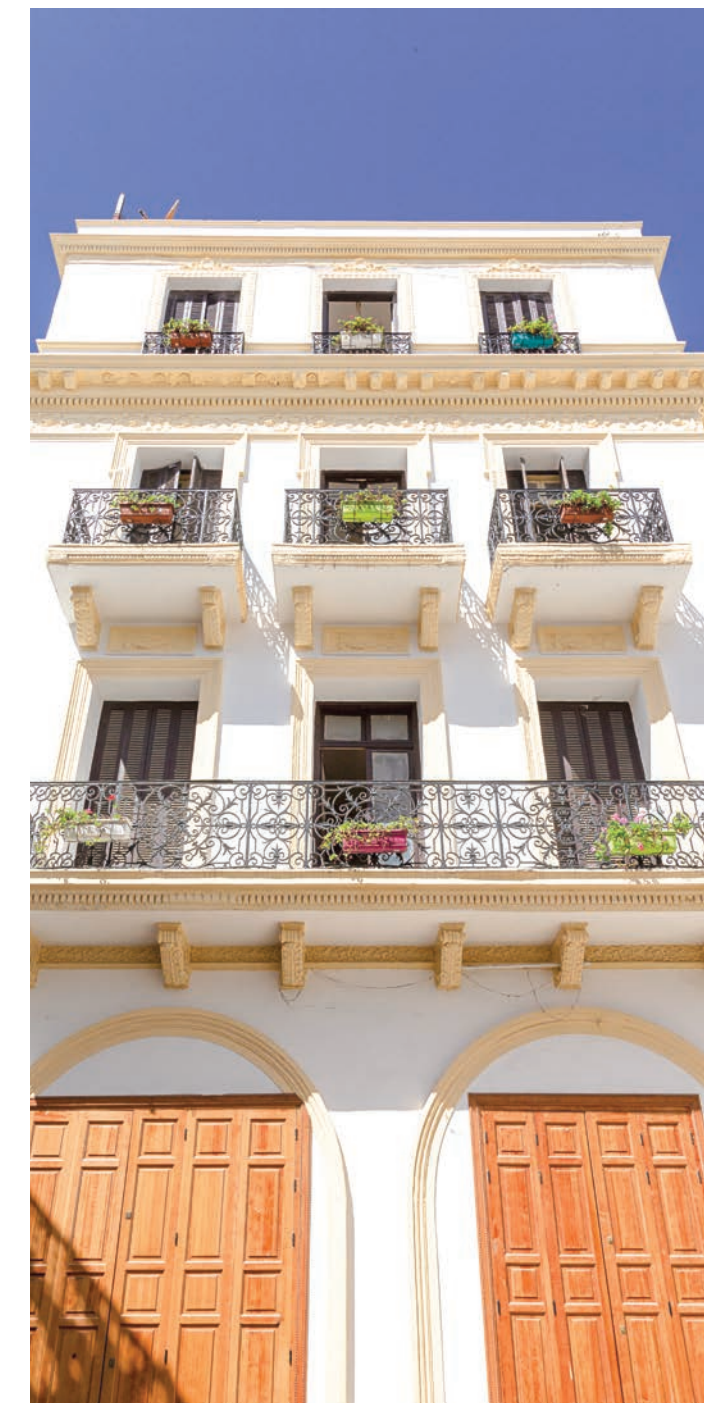
When you need a petit taxi in the early morning or late at night, you will often not find any problem, but in peak periods such as midday and after six in the evening, and also in the summer day and night, you will often have to wait for the taxi for some time. So, you have to take precautions when it comes to an important date.

On the other hand, there are also alternative solutions in exchange for adding some money, and it is related to transportation applications, one of which is the Careem application for taxis, through which you can communicate with the driver who will reach your destination. In the same principle, the In Driver application works, but it does not only provide transportation by taxi, but also by private cars, for the lowest price you want.

Tourists in Tangiers can travel by Grand Taxis (Big taxis), which are useful and economical for faraway places. This type of taxi does not usually roam in the middle of the streets, but you have to go to its fixed stations, and it can be easily identified by asking any driver who picks you up or the drivers present at any of the stations. Also, hotel staff is often familiar with their locations.

In Tangier, there is also a bus transportation network, provided by Alsa company, which literally covers all residential communities in the city and reaches the neighboring communities that petit taxis do not reach, at a low price ranging between 3 and a half and 7 dirhams, depending on the length of the distance.

To distinguish between the types of lines, pay attention to the fact that the buses that will take you to a place within the urban area bear the letter L before the line number, such as L1 that connects the Bani Makada area with Bukhalef, or the L16 that connects the Caſtia neighborhood with the Al-Manar area, while those that reach places outside the urban area carry a letter LI before the number, such as LI12, which connects the train station to the neighboring city of Ksar Sghir. In general, you can find out about all lines and trips time via the following link [alsa.ma/tanger/lignes](https://alsa.ma/tanger/lignes).







#### WHERE DO YOU SPEND YOUR NIGHT?

There are many options for accommodation in Tangier, from classified hotels to guest houses and unclassified hotels. The city also provides its visitors with the possibility of renting furnished apartments, which are multiple options in the city.

A tourist, whatever his budget, can find a place to stay in Tangier, between three-star hotels that start at 500 dirhams (equivalent to \$50) per night, to four-star hotels that start at 900 dirhams (equivalent to \$90), and the five-star, which starts from 1,300 dirhams (equivalent to \$130) in most months of the year, except in the height of the summer season, when these prices rise according to supply and demand.

The tourist has many other options including unclassified hotels, although it is not recommended for families, but for individuals with limited budgets, it is acceptable. There are also many furnished apartments in Tangier, noting that there is an option of hotels that are in the form of guesthouses, which are popular with foreign tourists because they represent a historical attraction with their Andalusian architecture or those that date back to the colonial style, which makes them masterpieces that represent the first choice for the tourist looking for a stay that has a spirit of culture and history in the place.

#### TANGIER'S HISTORIC SITES: THE CAVE OF HERCULES

Talking about Tangier is not complete without invoking the Cave of Hercules, the place that combines the magic of nature - for being a unique geological marvel - and the mystery of legend, due to its close connection with Greek mythology, which formed an essential part of the city's identity. So, if you are going to visit Tangier and pass the coastal road that crosses the picturesque Atlantic beach of Achakkar, don't forget to go there.

The cave was first discovered in 1906 and in 1920 it opened its doors to visitors, and in 2014 it went under a vast restoration process that made it a tourist site worth visiting, where you can enter it for only 10 dirhams, and discover the deepest caves in Africa, which extend 30 meters into the ground. It is also possible to stand in front of its gate overlooking the Atlantic, which resembles the map of Africa to an impressive degree.

#### CAP SPARTEL

If you hold in your hands a Moroccan banknote of 200 dirhams, know that you have a miniature map of the city of Tangier: the blue of the Mediterranean Sea, the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean port, and the «Cap Spartel» lighthouse, the oldest lighthouse in Morocco, which was inaugurated in 1864 by order of Sultan Muhammad IV so that the tragedy of the sinking of the Brazilian ship «Dona Isabel», during which 250 sailors died, would not be repeated.

The place is not only a lighthouse but a coastal tourist and entertainment site worth visiting. The 25-meter-long building, located on a 315-meter-high cliff, is a unique marine museum. In 2021, it was restored and the surrounding area was also restored, which now includes cafes and parks overlooking the seashore, with stunning spaces for photography enthusiasts.

# Tanger Med Gateway to Moroccans of the World



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### *CERVANTES THEATRE*

In addition to its political and diplomatic weight, Tangier was the city that experienced a great cultural renaissance at the beginning of the twentieth century. Among those who contributed to it were the Spanish citizens whose country wanted to monopolize this strategic region. During this period, the first theater in Morocco, the Cervantes Theater, was built in 1913 by the Spanish trio Antonio Galego and the couple Manuel Peña and Esperanza Orellana.

The 1,400-seat theater lived through long golden periods for decades, during which it was the largest and most prominent in North Africa. Its era ended in the seventies of the last century when it closed its doors and was condemned to oblivion and neglect for several decades before life began to return to it again starting in October of the year 2021 through a restoration project that is expected to end by opening its doors soon. Therefore, visitors to the city should put this theater on their list.

### *PLAZA DE TOROS*

There is an area in Tangier, on the national road leading to Tetouan, called Plaza de Toros or Bulls Square. When you get there, know that you are actually standing in front of a part of Spanish history in Tangier during the international era. It is actually the only bullring in Africa, and one of the very rare sites outside Spain, where it was an arena for bullfighting matches attended by hundreds of spectators.

The arena was built in 1950, and its golden age did not last long. In the year 1957 the international era of Tangiers ended, and with its end, the foreign presence, especially the Spanish, began to shrink gradually. The arena was turned into an administrative facility before it fell into oblivion for several decades.

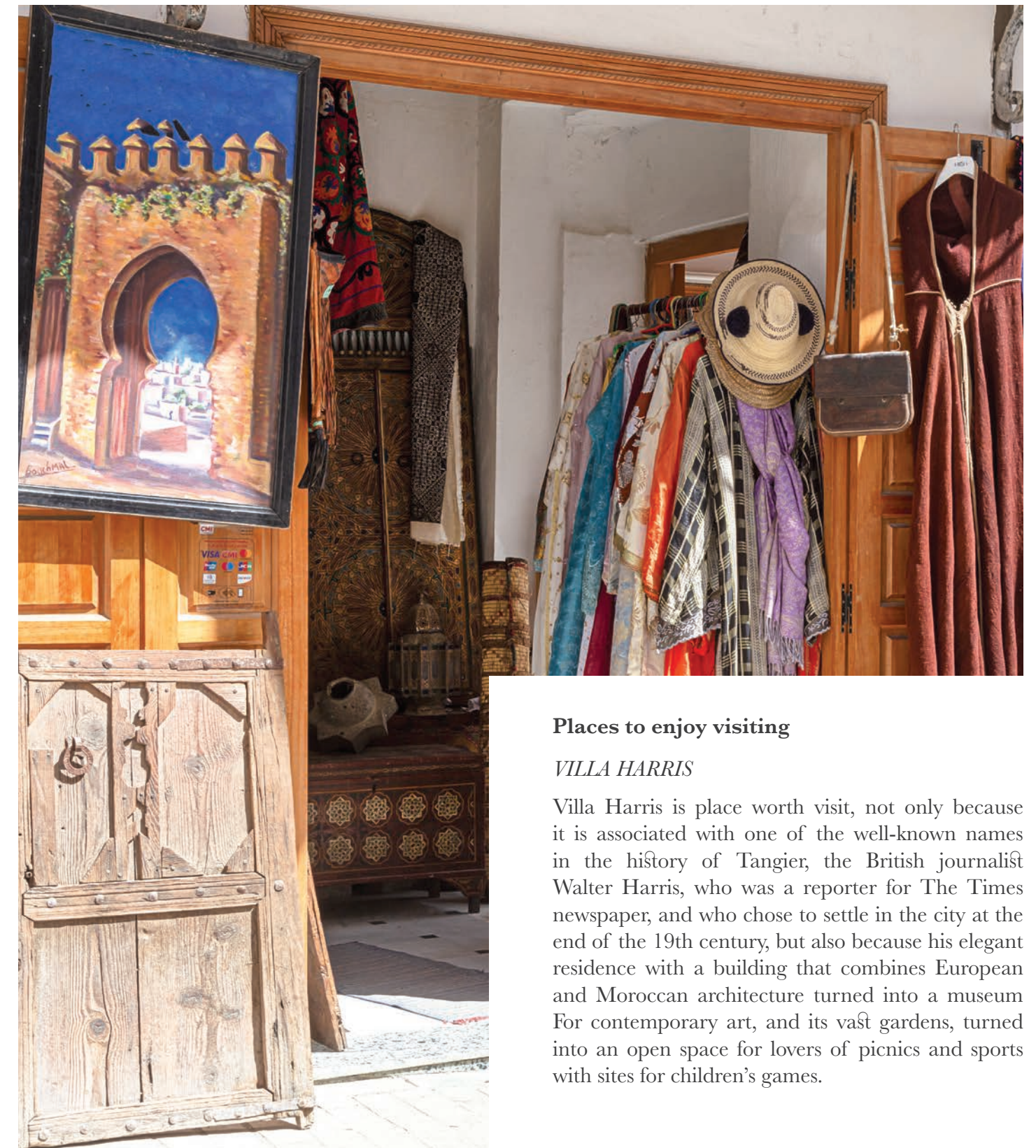
But good news broke out in the year 2021 when the project to revive the place was announced, and works were launched aimed at restoring Plaza de Toros and preserving its distinctive circular shape and its terraces, while transforming it into a space for concerts and plays, with the capacity to accommodate 7000 people under the open air, with commercial, service and cultural facilities.



### *APRIL 9 SQUARE*

There is no place in Tangier where the ancient history of the city meets its modern history, as in the case of April 9 Square, which is the square that was in the past a market located outside the walls of old Tangier, and the residents of the neighboring villages used to come to offer their products, before this square and its surroundings, today turned into the modern city of Tangier.

In this square, there is Bab al-Fahs (Fahs gate), which is the entrance door to the old city through its forked paths to reach the famous Kasbah.



### **Places to enjoy visiting**

#### *VILLA HARRIS*

Villa Harris is place worth visit, not only because it is associated with one of the well-known names in the history of Tangier, the British journalist Walter Harris, who was a reporter for The Times newspaper, and who chose to settle in the city at the end of the 19th century, but also because his elegant residence with a building that combines European and Moroccan architecture turned into a museum For contemporary art, and its vast gardens, turned into an open space for lovers of picnics and sports with sites for children's games.

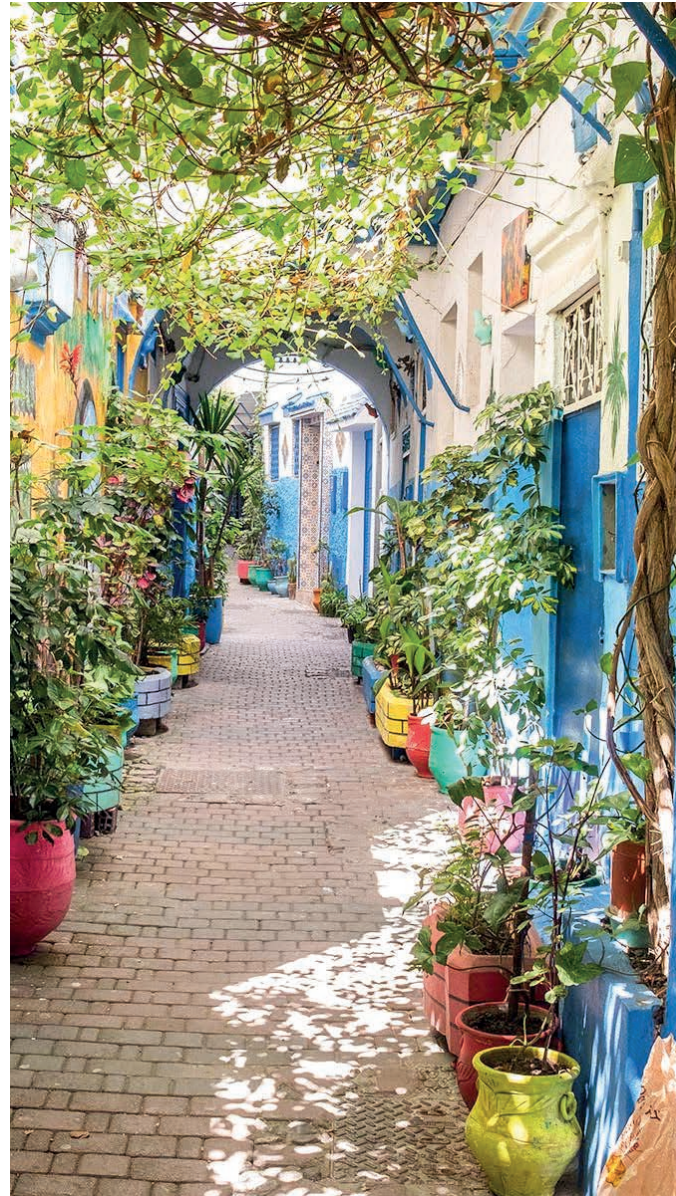


### PERDICARIS

Tangier is not only a city with tall buildings and crowded streets day and night, but Tangier is also a city for those who want to calm down and enjoy the magic of nature, and here there is nothing better than the Rmilat Forest and Perdicaris Park, an area that was also associated with the political history of the city because it earned its name from the American diplomat Ion Perdicaris who lived there between 1898 to 1905 in his villa.

In this place the famous kidnapping of Perdicaris' wife by Ahmed Raisuni took place, and US President Theodore Roosevelt was forced to move his army towards the coast of Tangier.

Rmilat and Perdicaris are originally one forest space, which was divided into a park and a nature reserve, and in addition to being the place that guarantees its visitors the pleasure of wandering among the oak and pine trees that exceeded hundreds of years of age and the animals and birds that inhabited the area and still live there/ It is also a charming mixture between Greenery, mountain, and sea. If you get there, don't forget to visit the restaurants specializing in local meals, such as pea soup, grilled meats, and cups of sweet herbal tea.



### MARSHAN

A visit to Tangier is not complete without reaching the Marshan area, which is almost the most famous space in the city. In Marshan, there is the Royal Palace, which bears the name of the same neighborhood, and there was also the Marshan Stadium, one of the oldest historical sports spaces in Morocco, which today turned into two small stadiums after the demolition of the stands and the fence, and its surroundings became an open space for a picnic.

In this place, there is the famous popular Café called Hanafta, and every Friday evening, music lovers can enjoy free concerts. When you're done sipping a cup of tea or a cup of coffee, cross the opposite street and visit the Ghanam Rock, where Roman tombs are located. There, enjoy a charming view of the port and the Markala Corniche, then head to the world famous Hafa Café overlooking the blue of the Mediterranean, and if you are lucky on a sunny morning without clouds, Spain will be visible to you from there.

### THE MEDINA (OLD CITY) AND THE KASBAH

The Medina or the old city is one of the most colorful and diverse areas among all the ancient cities of Morocco. There you can visit the Great Mosque, which was first built in the 17th century and rebuilt in the 19th century, which was originally a Roman temple and then a Portuguese church.

When you reach the Medina, do not forget to turn around the Kasbah, the most important military site of the old city of Tangier, and the area that is one of the historical gates, which is called Bab al-Bahr (Sea Gate) overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

After that, you can head to the Kasbah Museum, which became the Museum of Mediterranean Civilizations, which was originally called "Dar Al Makhzen" or the House of authority. Its construction dates back to the 17th century.

When you finish your tour of the museum, go ahead and you will find, on the opposite side of its main gate, an entrance to the old city. This point is the beginning of the road to what looks like a maze, where you can wander among the narrow and forked paths, but what you should not miss, is to follow the marked path that will lead you to a very unique place, it is the tomb of Ibn Battuta, the traveler who started and ended his journey in Tangier.

### Beach destinations

#### 1 - Marina and City Beach

The city's beach is the closest coastal destination for those who do not want to move away from Tangier. It is one of the most famous waterfronts in Morocco and has the most recreational spaces and service facilities. In addition to the fact that all means of transportation are available to this destination, you can also go to it on foot if you are in The Place des Nations square, the administrative district, the train station, or even the old city. Car owners will find a series of underground parking available in front of them there.

When you visit the beach, you can head to the many restaurants, cafes, and nightclubs in the area. You can also head west towards the Markala Corniche, where you can enjoy running or walking. But on the way there, it would be great to try a tour of the marina filled with recreational facilities including the oldest royal boat club in Morocco dating back to 1925, as well as the small marina dedicated to mooring boats and yachts with 1,400 berths.





## 2 - Ba Kacem Beach

It is obvious that visitors to Tangier look for beautiful beaches with golden sand in order to enjoy swimming and the heat of the sun, and here the Atlantic coastal strip must be Achakkar on your list of interests, but make it your priority to go to Ba Kacem Beach specifically because you will be in one of the cleanest beaches in the Kingdom. This year, this beach received the Blue Flag assigned to the cleanest beaches for the tenth year in a row, an unprecedented record for any other Moroccan beach.

Ba Kacem Beach and the adjacent Achakkar Beach are among the ideal places to spend a fun time away from the hassle, after the successful experience of taking care of them by two companies, Amendis and Maroc Telecom, which provided all the necessary facilities that enable vacationers to spend a comfortable time with their children. The two beaches highly respect safety and security standards.

## 3 - Dalia Beach

From the Atlantic side of Tangier, we will head this time east, on the Mediterranean front, and we will go to the Dalia beach, which is close to the Tangier Med port. It is free of waves and easy to swim in during the summer.

Dalia Beach is among the typical beaches in Morocco, it contains all the necessary facilities to ensure an enjoyable trip with family members and friends, and embraces many recreational activities, especially in the summer. It also provides a library for lovers of reading, so when you arrive at this place you will need only swimming clothes so that you can enjoy your time in a beautiful space with all amenities.

Your visit to Tangier will also give you an opportunity to enjoy shopping, as the city contains a group of large commercial spaces, which embrace the most famous international brands, in addition to being sites for entertainment and relaxation, and therefore we suggest 3 of them for you.



### *SOCCO ALTO*

This mall is located in an area called Boubana, near the nature parks and the horse club, in the vicinity of the California neighborhood, where the atmosphere is quiet away from the hustle and bustle of the city. It is an ideal destination for those who want to spend an integrated day in which the pleasure of shopping is mixed with entertainment, as it is related to a commercial and entertainment complex with an area of 55,000 square meters.

### *CITY CENTER MALL*

This mall provides an integrated shopping experience. The 3-story space allows you to buy what you want from clothes, shoes, perfumes, and cosmetics, as it contains many well-known brands.

The beauty of this space is also that the entire upper floor is devoted to restaurants and entertainment, where you will find famous restaurants, and places for Asian and Middle Eastern meals that you can eat in a panoramic space overlooking the express train station, in addition to spaces for children's games, but if you want to watch movies, you are in the right place, because this floor also hosts cinema halls.

### *IBN BATTUTA MALL*

This mall is characterized by many things, including its proximity to the city center, where you can go to it on foot, and it is close to the Marina, but most importantly, it is an important destination for lovers of clothing and cosmetics brands, because it is the place where there are many shops of well-known brands.

The mall, which has an area of 14,000 square meters, is also a suitable place for those looking for furniture or home and office decorations. It also includes the Carrefour shopping space, and for those wishing to rest, there are also cafes and restaurants, overlooking the gardens of Place de Nations square, which is generally a suitable space for lovers of luxury and those looking for pleasure of shopping.

Visiting Tangier is not an ordinary experience, but rather a long path of history and civilization, and manifestations of modern urbanization, pleasure, and luxury, so when you want to visit Tangier, be sure that you will find many things that will fascinate you, and you will discover sites and experiences that will remain stuck in your memory.





# تطوان Tetouan

*A tourist trip to the past, present, and the blue coast*

*Assahifa from Tetouan*

Tetouan or the 'White Dove', is one of the ancient Moroccan cities characterized by a unique Andalusian history and is considered a distinctive destination for tourists who want to travel through time to discover a city that still reflects much of the history of Andalusia after 5 centuries ago.

Although Tetouan was a place for the passage of many races and nations, its true history begins with the late fifteenth century AD, coinciding with the fall of Granada in the hands of the Castilian Catholics in the year 1492 and the beginning of the migration of the Muslim of Granada to Morocco in search of a new land after they lost their "paradise" in the Iberian Peninsula.

The history of the city of Tetouan is related to a military leader from Granada, Sidi Ali El Mandri, who is considered the city's founder. This military leader crossed the Strait of Gibraltar after the fall of the Kingdom of Granada, accompanied by a large number of people, and then proceeded directly to the construction of the city of Tetouan, which overlooks the coast of Spain, believing that his choice of the city's location would help him return home to Andalusia one day.

People of Granada, under the leadership of El Mandri, built the city of Tetouan on the geometric shape of which Granada was built. That is why historians call it "Granada's twin", as it is very similar in its architecture, paths, houses, and doors to Granada, and that is why when a tourist visits the old city of Tetouan, he goes back centuries, in a smooth progression towards an authentic historical depth.

Tetouan witnessed a steady growth in population at the beginning of the sixteenth century, with the increase in the migrations of Muslims from Andalusia towards Morocco, to become with the passage of time one of the important cities in the Kingdom of Morocco, before being subject to Spanish protection during the colonial period at the beginning of the twentieth century, when it knew an expansion with the construction of the modern city by the Spaniards, and making Tetouan one of the Moroccan cities that have the old city and the modern city.



### REACHING TETOUAN

Tetouan is one of the few Moroccan cities that a tourist can reach by land, sea, and air. It is located close to the cities of Ceuta and Tangiers, which have special ports for the transit of passengers, and it has an air airport that links it to a number of international airports, in addition to the possibility of reaching it by land by bus or car.

Thus, foreign tourists, especially those who come from Europe, can cross into Morocco by sea to the port of Ceuta or to the port of Tangier Med. Then, upon arrival, there are means of transportation, which are taxis that lead the tourist directly to the city of Tetouan. At a distance of no more than kilometers.

### TRANSPORTATION IN TETOUAN

Tetouan is not one of the large cities in Morocco, and therefore it is one of the cities in which it is easy for tourists to move within it easily and visit its tourist sites and places without much trouble, whether by walking or choosing the appropriate means of transportation.

Tetouan has a network of public buses that roam the various neighborhoods and neighboring small towns, at very low prices, most of which do not exceed 10 dirhams. The farthest point connected by buses is the one that runs from Tetouan to the city of Oued Lou, which is located on the Mediterranean coast, 41 kilometers to the east, at a price not exceeding 7 dirhams.

These buses connect the most important neighborhoods of the city of Tetouan, in addition to the beautiful small coastal cities nearby, such as the city of Martil, which is only 10 km from the city center, and the city of M'diq, which is only 17 km away, and the city of Fnideq, which is 32 km away, passing through many tourist resorts and Marinas.



### TAXIS

The city of Tetouan has small taxis 'Petit taxi' in yellow, and these taxis play an important role in bringing the distance and getting tourists to the destination they want, as these taxi drivers know all the tourist areas of the city.

The tourist can find these taxis near the road station, near the airport, in addition to their presence on most roads, where the hand signal can be raised to stop them to take you to the destination you want at prices not exceeding 20 dirhams as the maximum price for long distances.

Given the geographical location of the city of Tetouan, the presence of big taxis 'Grand taxi' to transport the city's residents and tourists to the suburbs is essential, as this means of transport operates at a station called «Al-Shallal» and connects Tetouan with Martil, M'diq, and Fnideq.

There are also other separate stations, linking Tetouan to the city of Oued Laou, in addition to other taxis linking Tetouan with the neighboring villages and valleys, such as the village of Benqreish and others.

There is also a taxi station adjacent to the road station for buses, and these taxis link the city of Tetouan with the big neighboring cities, such as Tangier, Chefchaouen, and Al Hoceima.

### WHERE DO YOU SPEND YOUR NIGHT?

The city of Tetouan offers multiple options for the tourist regarding accommodation, where there are classified and unclassified hotels, in addition to guest houses and furnished apartments.

As for hotels, Tetouan and its neighboring areas have luxury hotels, especially those located on the beach strip that extends from Martil to Fnideq, while there are many suitable hotels in the city center.

As for guest houses, Tetouan has the best guest houses in Morocco, and most of them are located in the old city, with its Andalusian.

Furnished apartments are one of the options available in and around Tetouan, and there are even villas for rent to tourists.

Regarding prices, they vary based on the features and luxury offered by the accommodation, but in general, Tetouan remains one of the Moroccan tourist cities where prices are suitable for tourists.



## Places to visit in Tetouan

*THERE ARE MANY PLACES IN THE CITY OF TETOUAN WORTH VISITING:*

### 1- The old city

The old city of Tetouan is an Andalusian city of Granada style. It was built by the Granada's people after their arrival in the late fifteenth century, and its neighborhoods, paths and many of its buildings still date back to that historical period, and therefore touring the old city of Tetouan is a journey that takes you back to centuries ago.

There are many archaeological sites that can be visited in the old city, such as the Kasbah, which was the first building that was built by the Granada commander Sidi Ali El Mandri.

The city also has 7 historical gates and a wall surrounding it and separating it from the modern city, in addition to palaces and residences belonging to many historical figures who passed through this city.

There are banners attached to the historical buildings inside the city that make it easy for the tourist to know its history and information about it.



### 2 - The modern city

The modern city of Tetouan, in turn, has an important history dating back to the Spanish colonial era at the beginning of the twentieth century to the late fifties of the last century, when the Spaniards built most of its streets and neighborhoods located in the center of the city, and therefore the Spanish architectural character dominates this area.

The city center, which consists of Moulay El Mahdi Square and Mohammed V Street, or what was called in the past the Spanish Quarter, is an open-air museum, where many buildings built during the Spanish period are still standing, talking about the history of the city in that era.

### 3 - Feddan square

It is a square in the middle of Tetouan, separating the modern city from the old city. It was built in the style of Granada Andalusian architecture before it opened to the public in late 2016. It is a favorite destination for tourists, where they can take pictures of a number of the old city's neighborhoods.

Tourists can also rest in this square and take pictures of themselves near the arches in the middle of the square.



### 4 – The Royal Palace

The Royal Palace, which is located in the city center, is one of the tourist destinations that many tourists want to visit to see the front facade of the palace and take pictures of it.

This palace was built after Morocco's independence from Spanish colonialism, and then witnessed a major expansion process in the eighties to take its current shape, which includes a large area next to it called «Michouar's square».

This palace is not far from many tourist sites, such as the old city and Feddan square, as it is located in the modern city.

### 5 - Tamouda

For lovers of history and archeology, near the city of Tetouan, there are historical relics dating back to an ancient city called Tamouda, founded by a Berber king named Baka in 200 BC, and many monuments still bear witness to this city.

The tourist can reach the site of the remains of this historical city by a Petit taxi from the city center in less than 15 minutes, and there is a poster on the front of these monuments that includes historical information about them.



## TETOUAN COAST

The Mediterranean coast, which includes a number of small tourist cities, is a natural extension of the city of Tetouan, and it starts from Oued Laou in the east to the city of Fnideq in the west.

This vast area of the Mediterranean coast includes many tourist villages and picturesque scenery, in addition to 4 medium tourist cities, tourist resorts, and fishing and Marinas.

### 1- Oued Laou

It is a coastal and tourist city belonging to the Tetouan province, and it is characterized by a long beach, and it is a favorite destination for tourists during the summer.

Oued Lou is also located close to mountain heights suitable for mountaineering enthusiasts, in addition to many valleys and waterways such as «Oued El Kannar».

### 2 - Martil

The city of Martil is one of the cities closest to the city of Tetouan, and it has a beautiful beach and a long Corniche that attracts tourists.

Martil is considered a summer tourist destination par excellence, and it also has a number of historical monuments, and buildings dating back to the Spanish era, such as an old watchtower, and the Spanish cathedral, which is one of the large churches that were built during the Spanish era in northern Morocco.



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### 3 - Cabo Negro

Cabo Negro is a primarily touristic beach area, located in a mountainous highland overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. In this area, there are luxury hotels and restaurants, and there are tourist accommodations that provide all amenities.

This area is also surrounded by mountainous heights dedicated to sports and hiking, in addition to a beach and a recreational port that can be used for water sports.

### 4 - M'diq

M'diq or «Fishermen's Village» is a beautiful beach town not far from the city of Tetouan, also has a beautiful Corniche and a wonderful beach.

This city also has a fishing port with restaurants serving delicious meals of seafood and fish of various kinds. There is also a club for sailing boats and during different periods of the year, competitions are organized on the beach.

### 5 - Fnideq

Fnideq is also a beach city that does not differ much in its size and characteristics from Martil and M'diq, but it is characterized by the presence of a number of wonderful beaches which are located on the

coastal line that links it with M'diq, in addition to a recreational port in an area called «Almina» that has recreational boats where water sports can be practiced.

### SHOPPING PLACES IN TETOUAN

The city of Tetouan has many places for shopping, and tourists can find what they want, whether in modern commercial centers, or traditional local markets.

As for the acquisition of souvenirs, the old city of Tetouan has many shops that sell souvenirs of the city, in addition to locally made products, such as clothes, covers, jewelry, ornaments, and others.

Tetouan also has many local markets called «souks» that are found in the old city, and in other places in the modern city, especially with regard to the acquisition of foodstuffs, while in the city center there are many shops selling various types of clothing.



### EATING IN TETOUAN

Tetouan is one of the Moroccan cities that were historically known for the ingenuity of its people in cooking many food dishes and making many sweets. The origin of Tetouan cooking goes back to Andalusia, given that the Andalusians of Granada, upon their arrival in Tetouan, transferred with them all their cooking habits, with new additions that appeared with the Spanish era in the city.

Famous foods such as «Paella», which is a mixture of fish and vegetables, and «Tortilla» consisting of fried potatoes in eggs, are among the meals that the Tetouanis prepare in special ways that make them popular meals for tourists.

However, what distinguishes Tetouan more is the making of sweets, as the Tetouanis have excelled over 4 centuries in preparing many types of sweets, such as «Bishkitto» cakes, «Kaab Al-Ghazal», «Fakakis» and «Briwat» honeyed, which every tourist should taste during City visit.

These meals and sweets are found in most food stores in the city, as well as hotels and guesthouses in the city and its suburbs.

There is also a special place called the «Mallah», meters away from the royal palace, where there are many public restaurants that offer fast food and sweets of various shapes and types at very low prices. This place is considered one of the best places to buy «Zaazaa», one of the most famous drinks that originated in the city. It is a mixture of avocado juice, dry fruits.

To sum up, the city of Tetouan is an integrated tourist city, where the tourist can visit the city, eat its food, drink a «Zaazaa», take pictures, go back to the past in the old city, and enjoy the charming beaches, all in a short time and without much effort.







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