

MOROCCO

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2017

MAP:



SCHEDULE:

1. Night 1 - Dec 27th (Tuesday): arrive into Casablanca at 12:20pm - Train to Fes
2. Night 2 - Dec 28th (Wednesday): Fes
3. Night 3 - Dec 29th (Thursday): Fes to Marrakech
4. Night 4 - Dec 30th (Friday): Marrakech
5. Night 5 - Dec 31st (Saturday): NYE in Marrakech
6. Night 6 - Jan 1st (Sunday): New Years Day - train from Marrakech to Casablanca
7. Jan 2nd (Monday): Fly out of Casablanca to Boston then LAX

HOTELS:

FES checkin 12.27 (Tuesday) checkout 12.29 (Thursday)

Algila Fes Hotel: 1-2-3/17, Akibat Sbaa Douh Fes, 30110 MA

MARRAKESH checkin 12.29 (Thursday) checkout 12.30 (Friday)

Riad Le Jardin d'Abdou: ¾ derb Makina Arset bel Baraka, Marrakech, 40000

MARRAKESH checkin 12.31 (Saturday) checkout 01.01 (Sunday)

Riad Yasmine Hotel: 209 Diour Saboun - Bab Taghzout, Medina, Marrakech, 40000

CASABLANCA checkin 01.01 (Sunday) checkout 01.02 (Monday) 10 miles from CMN airport

Club Val D Anfa Hotel: Angle Bd de l'Océan Atlantique &, Casablanc, 20180

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

1. Rabat to Fes: ~3 hours by bus/train ~\$10
2. Casablanca to Marrakesh: ~3 hours by bus/train ~\$10
3. Casablanca to Rabat: ~1 hour by train ~\$5
4. Fes to Chefchaouen (blue town): 3 hours 20 minutes by car
5. No Grand Taxis (for long trips. Take the bus or train)
6. Camel 2 day/1night in Sahara Desert:
<https://www.viator.com/tours/Marrakech/Overnight-Desert-Trip-from-Marrakech-with-Camel-Ride/d5408-8248P5>
7. **1 USD = 10 Dirhams.** Convert money as you go. It's a closed currency and can't convert back.

Friend's Recommendation:

We flew to Casablanca and went by car with a guide and driver to Fes, where we stayed for 3 nights. Then we flew back to Casablanca, where the guide and driver met us and took us to Marrakech, where we stayed for 3 nights. We then went back to Casablanca for 1 night before flying to NYC via Paris.

- **Fes:** we visited Dar el-Makhzen, the royal palace, and we went to the tanneries
- We went to the imperial city of Meknes (UNESCO), a day trip from Fes
- From Fes we had a day trip to Volubilis (~1 hr by train UNESCO), Roman ruins known for mosaics
- **Marrakech:** Our hotel was a riad and it had a wonderful hammam (you must do this)
- A highlight was Place Jemaa el-Fna (large public square), with snake charmers and vendors
- We also went to the Saadian Tombs, and then we went to Richard Branson's resort, Kasbah Tamadot, for lunch (Atlas Mountains ~1 hr by taxi)

Friend's Recommendations:

Marrakesh (3 nights)

Accommodations: We stayed at a hostel in the very center of the Medina. Along with young travelers, there were also couples and families in private rooms at the hostel. It's affordable and well maintained!

<http://www.equity-point.com/our-hostels/equity-point-marrakech-hostel/general-information.html>

- My family friend was staying at a very nice hotel: <http://www.royalmansour.com/>

Sightseeing:

- The culture is captured by walking through the Medina and night market
- Tourist spots: Saadian Tombs and Medina - UNESCO

First hand Notes about Marrakesh:

- In Marrakesh, nothing is free. If you ask someone for directions, they can be extremely nice and even walk you to where you need to go, but they'll harass you for money. Map everything out before you get to Morocco and know exactly how to get from point A to point B beforehand.
- Be careful when you're shopping. Everyone says it's a good place to haggle and bargain for prices but men can be very aggressive when trying to sell things to women.
- Wear modest clothing - cover shoulders... the locals tend to stare if otherwise

Fez (Fes) (1 night)

Sightseeing

- We rented a local guide to tour us through the Medina as it can be confusing like a literal maze.
- Jemaa Karaouiyine University: one of the first universities ever established.

Things to do/buy/enjoy: Leather - bags, belts - authentic and beautiful; Carpets or woven blankets – usually extremely intricate; Cool pants; Lip balm & Moroccan oil

TIPS: I would recommend asking people working at hotels for advice/suggestions! We tip 10%. Some restaurants included a tip in our bill. Taxis were fine. Ask them for a price before you get into the car. Ask your hotel to set up a taxi and they should give you a fair price. As for Credit card availability in taxis, I'd have cash to be safe! Trains/public transport were fine. Could pay with card at all stations. We used the metro in Rabbat and it was fairly simple to use. ATMs are everywhere so you'll be okay.

FES (Fez)

<http://goafrica.about.com/od/moroccotopattractions/a/fesguide.htm>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/photo-essays/2015-05-04/why-you-need-to-visit-fez-morocco-in-20-photos-travel-guide>

<http://jetsettimes.com/2015/02/11/11-must-dos-you-need-to-know-in-fez-morocco/>

1. There are two main alleys in old Fes, the **Talaa Kebira** and the **Talaa Seghir**. Both end up at the main gate of **Bab Boujeloud (Blue Gate)**. If you get lost, head for either of these, and ask for the direction of the Bab Bou Jeloud. The little square with rooftop restaurants that you'll enjoy even more.
2. **La Kasbah Rooftop Restaurant:** Inside the Bab Bou Jeloud gate
3. **Restaurant Numéro 7** (restaurantnumero7.com) Located in the medina, its monochrome interior is a modern take on traditional design, as is its approach to Moroccan cuisine.
4. **Tanneries:** View of tannery pits. Go in the morning for best color. Bring a scarf or a handkerchief to be prepared, and you might want to set up a guide at your hotel ahead of time to take you through the confusing alleyways to get to tanneries. Chouara Tannery is 20-30 min by foot from Blue Gate.



5. **Marinid Tombs (Meravid Tombs):** View of Fes. Good during sunset.



6. **Borj Nord Pottery Factory**
7. **Bou Inania Madrasa Mosque:** hours 9am - 6pm



8. **Al Attarin Medersa:** beautiful house with tilework, carvings of Arabic woodwork and calligraphy on walls



9. **Dar el Makhzen Royal Palace:** known for their golden doors

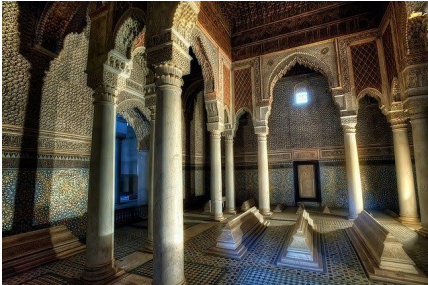


MARRAKECH (Marrakesh)

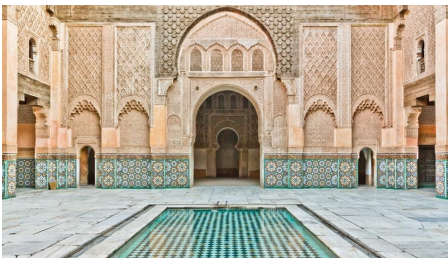
1. **Jemaa el Fna (Medina):** a square and market place in Marrakesh's medina quarter (old city). Main square of Marrakesh, used by locals and tourists. Must go to LAMP STORE! With snake charmers and vendors



2. **Saadian Tombs:**



3. **Ben Youssef Medersa:** Old Quranic school no longer in use. \$4 to enter. Hours 8am - 5pm



CASABLANCA

<http://www.fourseasons.com/casablanca/destination/things-to-do/activities-in-casablanca/>
<http://jetsettimes.com/2014/09/29/10-easy-must-dos-so-you-can-see-all-of-casablanca/>

1. **Grande Mosque Hassan II:** largest mosque in Morocco. Has glass floor.



2. **Restaurants:** More formal Moroccan restaurants (long-standing favourites include [La Sqala](#) and Al-Mounia) offer signature dishes like tagine, spit-roasted lamb and *pastillas*, the local meat pies. For a blend of Mediterranean and Provençal cuisine, dine at [Bleu](#), or try [Latitude 33](#) for tapas and finger foods inspired by cuisine from countries on the 33rd parallel.
 - *Zayna*: traditional moroccan food. Get mint tea after dinner. Have wifi.
 - *Sky 28 rooftop bar at Kenzi Tower Hotel*: located on the 27th floor, with a panoramic view