HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY
Located at the intersection of Europe and Africa, Morocco is at the crossroads of the Mediterranean and the vast Atlantic Ocean. In fact, in Morocco one can find the vestiges of the great Mediterranean civilizations, such as the Roman ruins of Volubilis in the North and architectural works attesting to the old French presence. Curiosity is piqued by the treasures of Muslim civilizations scattered throughout the rest of the country, including the Kasbah of the Oudayas, the green expanses of the Menara gardens and many other examples of the myriad dynasties that succeeded one another.

GASTRONOMY
Morocco is a land of tradition, where eating habits and cooking art has reigned for many centuries. Being at the crossroads of many civilizations, the cuisine of Morocco is a mix of Arab, Berber, Moorish, French, Middle Easter, Mediterranean, African, Iberian and Jewish influences.
Welcome to Marrakesh
MARRAKESH: Marrakesh the legendary; Marrakesh the imperial

At the foot of the High Atlas mountains lies a beautiful city, built in red and surrounded by age-old palm trees. It is in this fairy tale décor that Marrakesh was founded nearly 1,000 years ago. The city owes this name to its more than 13-km long ramparts, an absolute must-see, which surround the old town: the medina. From sumptuous palaces to multicolored souks, from mosques to medersas, from the medina to the modern town, it’s almost impossible to walk through Marrakesh for more than five minutes without finding some architectural wonder to marvel at.
WELCOME TO MARRAKESH

MARRAKESH: Marrakesh the legendary; Marrakesh the imperial

MARRAKESH ...

✓ Is listed in the UNESCO world heritage since 1985
✓ Is the city of worldwide events and conferences
✓ Offers a legendary Moroccan hospitality
✓ Offers a large hotel capacity
✓ Has an international airport “Marrakesh Menara”
✓ Is few hours flight to reach Marrakesh from all continents
MARRAKESH : THE ESSENTIALS

Majorelle Gardens and the Yves Saint Laurent Museum

Marrakesh offers such a wide range of sights and curiosities to discover its most unusual aspects. It contains many treasures, and among them "the Gardens of Majorelle" which bring together a collection of plants from the four corners of the world, which flourish alongside the elegant basins of the Villa Art Deco and the museum "Yves Saint Laurent" recently inaugurated in October 2017.
WELCOME TO MARRAKESH

MARRAKESH : THE ESSENTIALS

THE SOUKS

Marrakesh is a place to engage the senses, especially thanks to its famous souks. These vibrant markets are a whirlwind of color and sounds, where throngs of people weave between tightly packed stalls exhibiting pyramids of brightly colored spices, richly woven rugs and a thousand other exotic goods. Then, while stepping into the alleys of the Medina, the visitor discovers **The Jemaa el-Fna Square**, one of the main cultural spaces in Marrakesh and which has become one of the symbols of the city since its foundation in the 11th century. Located at the entrance of the Medina, this triangular square, which is surrounded by restaurants, stands and public buildings, represents a unique concentration of popular Moroccan cultural traditions performed through musical, religious and artistic expressions. Jemaa el-Fna Square is a meeting point for both the local population and people from elsewhere.
MARRAKESH : THE ESSENTIALS

BEN YOUSSEF MEDERSA

Right in the heart of the medina, the Ben Youssef Medersa, one of the biggest medersas in the Maghreb, is one of the most remarkable historical monuments in Marrakesh and is worth a visit. It was built in the 16th century by the Saadian Abd Allah Al Ghalib, which is confirmed by the inscriptions on the lintel of the entrance gate and on the capitals of the prayer room. Created on a 1,680-sq.m quadrilateral plan, the medersa used to accommodate 130 students rooms over two floors around an interior patio leading to the prayer room.
“Bahia”: literally, the marvelous, the brilliant, this name probably refers to the favorite wife of Ba Ahmed, the grand vizier who had the palace built. The plans were designed by the Marrakchi architect Si Mohamed El Mekki El Mesfioui, like a real labyrinth reflecting the whims of a powerful man. The best Moroccan and Andalusian craftsmen worked on this palace for fourteen years. The tiles were imported from Tetouan, the marble from Meknes while the cedar wood used for the painted and shimmering ceilings, came from the Atlas.
WELCOME TO MARRAKESH

MARRAKESH : THE ESSENTIALS

EL BADII PALACE

Dar El Badii, the unrivalled palace was built between 1578 and 1603 by Yacoub El Mansour, an Almohade ruler. The richest raw materials, some of which came from India were chosen for its construction: gold, onyx, Italian marble...The Andalusian influence in the plans of the palace is undeniable and one may think that the unknown architect must have come from Granada. An almost absolute symmetry was imposed in the plan of this magnificent residence completely built on arches with extremely solid bricks. The interior gardens, called gardens of desire, of which only an immense esplanade remains today with artificial lakes and orange trees, are surrounded by the ruins of the palace and high walls on which a multitude of storks is nestled.
MARRAKEST : THE ESSENTIALS

THE MENARA

Created under the Almohad dynasty, the Menara is a vast olive-tree garden at a 45-minute walk from Jemaa El Ftna Square. In the middle of the garden there is a large artificial lake along which it is a delight to walk. It faces a small pavilion. The lake is supplied with water thanks to a 700-year old hydraulic system, which carries the water from the mountains situated about 30km from Marrakesh. This lake mainly irrigates the olive grove.
THE SAADIAN TOMBS

The royal necropolis of the Saadian family, a first series of funeral chambers was created after the burial of Prince Mohamed Cheikh in 1557. His son had a koubba erected, known as Koubbat lalla Messaouda, where he was himself buried in 1574. In 1591, Ahmed El Mansour had his mother buried there. His three successors also lie there.

A second edifice was raised, with a central room called the room of the twelve columns, it houses the Sultan Ahmed El Mansour’s grave, the mirhab room, the room with the three alcoves. Another space is reserved to children’s graves. All the rooms are exquisitely decorated.
MARRAKESH : THE ESSENTIALS

THE KOUTOUBIA MOSQUE

One of the most spectacular monuments in Marrakesh and one of the most beautiful mosques in the western Muslim world. Marked by a complex history, it is actually a double sanctuary with a minaret. The first Koutoubia was inaugurated in 1157 and the second one as well as the minaret were built a year later on the initiative of Abdelmoumen. The two sanctuaries are distinguished by the T-plan giving great importance to the wall of the qibla (orientation of the prayer). Outlined against the landscape, the 77-m ashlar minaret has a ramp which leads to the top. Soberly decorated with carvings and white and green tiles on the upper parts of the façade and the pinnacle.