



# MOROCCO TRAVEL GUIDE

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## INTRODUCTION

Located a few miles from the coast of Spain, Morocco is known not only for its early Islamic architecture but also for its great tasting dishes and beautiful beaches. Hence, the tourism industry in this country is continuously growing, with millions of tourists spending days, weeks and even months in this country every year. Well, we cannot blame them for wanting to travel to this marvelous country, especially with the fact that the exteriors of the Moroccan buildings are artful, featuring mosaic tiles and Moroccan pottery, enough to amuse all of its visitors.

In travelling to another country, regardless of whether it is in Morocco or not, we need to be equipped with knowledge about the country, its history, tradition, etc. We need to know certain things about the

place where we would be going to in order for us to have a fun and safe travel. Therefore, this guide has been created in order to allow you to make the most out of your travel.

In this Morocco travel guide, we have listed down the things that you can do in the country and the places that you should not miss, regardless of whether you are looking for a place that offers an adventure, mouth-watering local dishes, a fun encounter with nature and places that can provide you a glimpse of the rich history of Morocco. We have also listed down the 12 rated tourists' attractions in Morocco that would even make your travel worthwhile. After all, Morocco is a country that has a lot to offer to tourists like you.

Of course, in order for you to ensure a comfortable travel, you need to make sure that you got everything that you need and so, we have created a checklist of the things that you must bring during your travel. On the other hand, just like other countries, Morocco has their own sets of laws and these laws apply to everyone who visits the country. To make sure that you would not be violating any of them, we also have a list of the foreign laws and the things that you should not do while you are there. With this complete travel guide in your hand, rest assured that you would have the best days of your life travelling in Morocco!

## **CHAPTER 1: SOME INFORMATION ABOUT MOROCCO**

Morocco has been chosen as a shooting location of several successful movies and even series and perhaps, that is one of the reasons why you have chosen this country. So, we are here to provide you some information before you actually travel to the country. We believe that these information would be of great help for you somehow during your stay there.

### **Location**

Morocco is located in the Northwest Africa, bordering Algerian to the East, Atlantic Ocean to the West, Mediterranean Sea to the North and Mauritania to the South. Geographically speaking, it is a very big country and in here, you can find a variety of landscapes. It is also considered to be mountainous and so, you can likely expect that you would be having mountains as a background. Here, you can search for an oasis, go trekking while riding the camel, surf the ocean and even hike the palm grove. There are so many things that you can do in this country.

### **Capital**

The capital of Morocco is Rabat and not Casablanca, which is only the economic and business capital of the country. Rabat is the home of the most prestigious organizations, foreign embassies and academic institutions in the country including the Mohammed V. University. It is also the city where the parliament is held and where the big decisions are made like approving the budgets and laws. Throughout the years, it has served as an important economic center and tourist destination in the country. After all, in here, you can find world class restaurants and markets as well as historic sites that will surely bring you back in time.

### **Population**

Based on the estimates of the United Nations, the current population of the country is 35,203,036 as of May 31, 2017. Hence, the population in the country is now equivalent to 0.4% of the total population of the world. In addition to that, it is also projected that the population would continue to increase by the beginning of 2018. Nevertheless, this increase in population is viewed in a positive light as this means that the number of births would exceed the number of death.

### **Religion**

The majority of the people who are residing in Morocco are Islam – Sunni in particular. Islam is an Arabic word that means obedience, submission and surrender, so the people here are obedient followers who have submitted themselves to Allah. On the other hand, Islam is also a word that literally means peace. So, the people there believe that they can only find real peace not only of mind but also of body by submitting themselves to Allah. Hence, here, you can find a lot of mosque, a place that the Muslim goes to for worshipping. However, they are not open for Christians and other religions, with the exception of the Hassan II Mosque where visitor tours are allowed at certain times a day. In addition to that, if you are a non-Muslim and you plan to visit the holy town of Moulay Idriss, then there is a need for you to know that you are not allowed to stay the night.

### **Government**

The government in Morocco is considered to be parliamentary constitutional monarchy and so, the one who serves as the head of the government is the Prime Minister. This kind of government is also a multi-party system. Hence, the government is the one who exercises executive power.

## Language

Unless you have been to Morocco several times already and you are already very familiar of the place or you would be going for a vacation there with a tour guide, for sure, you would be needing some help from the locals. Hence, you need to know what language they speak in order for you to converse with them easily. Well, the language that Moroccans speak is a combination of Berber, French, Arabic and English. However, the official language of Morocco is Moroccan Arabic and this is different from the classical Arabic. So, as you are going on a trip to the country, try to learn at least the basic Moroccan Arabic.

On the other hand, English is also an emerging language, especially in the larger cities. In fact, hotels and museums in larger cities tend to have a staff who can speak English. However, if you are dining in a restaurant here, you cannot expect that their menu would come in English. Now, if you can't speak English or the Moroccan Arabic but you can speak French, then you would not have a hard time conversing with the natives for French is considered to be the unofficial second language of the country while speaking Spanish can help you if you would be travelling in the North.

These are just some of the basic information that you should know about Morocco. By knowing and learning these things, you would be able to understand the country and its people more. It would also help you survive as you travel around the country.

## **CHAPTER 2: THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE TRAVELLING TO MOROCCO**

So, you have finally chosen Morocco as your next travel destination. However, do you know something about the country or are you one of those people who is only familiar with the country's name and no more than that? Well, if you consider yourself in the latter category, then here are some things you need to know and things that you are probably curious about. So, here they are.

### **ATM use and foreign transaction fee**

In case you run out of money during your travel, then there is no need for you to worry much since ATM machines exist in Morocco. However, you need to be aware of the fact that the ATM machine would dispense money in Dirham and a foreign transaction fee may be charged to you but it would still depend on your credit card your bank. So, you need to ask your bank about it prior to your flight. It is also very important for you to call them if you want your debit card to work in Morocco. On the other hand, while large stores accept ATM cards, smaller stores may ask you to pay them in cash, so make sure that you bring a sufficient amount of it with you.

### **Holidays**

As you would be going to a Muslim country, then there is a need for you to be knowledgeable about the holidays that they are spending. As much as possible, schedule a flight or stay in the country that does not fall within the holidays. Otherwise, you may not be able to enjoy your stay for most stores and tourist attractions are closed during holidays and that includes Fridays since they consider it as their holy day.

### **Proper clothing**

If you are a Westerner, then for sure, you are fond of wearing shorts and tank tops, especially when the weather is hot and as we know, the weather in Morocco is typically hot. However, despite the hot weather, it is advisable for you to wear modest clothing because about 99% of the population in the country are Muslim. Also, believe it or not, the clothes that you wear may also affect the kind of experience you would be getting in the country as it may affect how the locals would treat you. So, before travelling there, prepare clothes that are not too revealing or at least, does not reveal the thighs and shoulders. On the other hand, if you don't have such clothing, then you can also buy for clothes at the local store and it would also be a great souvenir for your trip as well.

### **Paying the cab fee**

As you are travelling in Morocco, the most common mode of transportation there is riding the cab. However, you need to know that typically, the Moroccan cab drivers don't have a change. So, you need to bring some coins as a way of ensuring that you would only be paying for the right amount of money for the transport. Typically, the cost of travelling within the city is 30 dirham but it is possible for you to bargain for the price with the cab driver. On the other hand, although you need to bring change with you, you need to spend all of it before you return to your country for it would be quite difficult for you to change it back,

### **Eating manners**

If you would be dining in with a Moroccan, then you need to be mindful of the hand that you are using to eat the food. It is a big NO for you to use your left hand while eating. As a matter of fact, using more than your thumb, index finger and your middle finger is a sign of gluttony. You can only use your left hand for passing the dishes to other people and for picking up bread. It is also important for you to clean your

hands before you eat using other orange or rose scented water. Also, if a Moroccan local has offered you food, you should also not refuse.

### **Water**

In order for you to avoid being ill while you are travelling in Morocco, it would be best for you to bring bottled water. Also, as much as possible, avoid using ice whenever you eat outside. Of course, it is also essential for you to wash your hands with soap and water often. After all, it is always better to be safe than sorry and for sure, you don't want to spend the rest of your vacation in bed, right?

### **Cats**

Do you consider yourself a cat lover? If you do, then you would surely love Morocco. After all, cats are everywhere and you can often find them on the streets. On the other hand, if you are allergic to cats, then you need to make sure that you bring your allergy medicine with you.

### **Mosques**

Since you would be travelling to a country where most of the locals are Muslim, then you can expect that there would be Mosques all around the country but in most of them, non-Muslims are not allowed to enter. So, if you wish to enter one, then you might need to have the God of Luck on your side. On the other hand, there is also a Mosque in Casablanca called the Hassan II Mosque where tourists like you are allowed to take a photo from the outside. So, make sure that you bring a camera with you.

### **Drinking and partying**

Although we have mentioned a couple of times already that Morocco is a Muslim country and they are quite strict when it comes to drinking and partying, it would still not be that difficult for you to get alcohol at the bars in the country. In fact, in larger cities including Marrakech and Casablanca, it is very much possible for you to find nightclubs and bars where you can drink and party even until midnight. On the other hand, you can also consider participating in the so-called Aissawa. It is a sacred party in a musical form with the focus on elevating the spirit.

### **Women travelers**

For the traditional Muslims in Moroccan, it is not ideal for a woman to be travelling alone. Women should also not be seen after dark alone. So, for them, it is quite difficult to understand why the foreign tourists would be doing this. In fact, if you are a woman who came from a foreign country and you wander on the streets after dark, they might find you suspicious. So, it would be best for you to bring some friends with you.

### **Using your camera**

For sure, you would want to take a photo of every place that you have been in Morocco as a remembrance and something that you can share with your friends once you go back. However, you need to ask first on whether it is allowed to take a photo of the place first or not. Otherwise, you may end up paying for the photo that you have taken.

### **Filming locations**

Do you know there are movies that were shot in Morocco? Perhaps, you have even seen some of them. For example, have you seen the film entitled, “The man who knew too much”? If you have, then the world class luxury hotel that was featured there was actually the La Mamounia Hotel here in Morocco. On the other hand, while the film “Sex and the City 2” was set in Abu Dhabi, most of the scenes of the film were actually shot in Rabat and Erfoud, two of Morocco’s wonderful cities. So, you might as well check them out while you are in the country, take some photos and share the experience with your friends.

### **Toilet paper**

Perhaps, in your country, you got used to not bringing a toilet paper with you for the reason that the bathrooms in your country always have them but you cannot expect that every bathroom in Morocco would have a toilet paper. So, no matter where you go, make sure that you have it with you. You should also bring a sanitizer as well. In addition to that, in case you would be using a public restroom with an attendant, you should ask the attendant first on how much the use of the restroom would cost if you don’t want to be surprised later on when they ask you to pay for it later on.

By being equipped with the knowledge on all of these things, you can be assured that you would have the best travel experience of your life in Morocco.

## **CHAPTER 3: History of Morocco**

Even though only a short distance from Spain, the golden kingdom of Morocco feels very cold. As the historic gateway to Africa, it covers a unique position. Justifiably proud of its strong independence, its history is one, which has seen it both as a conqueror and conquered. Settled by the Berbers many years ago and conquered by Roman, European and Islamic armies, Morocco has remained spirited throughout.

### **EARLY HISTORY – 1000BC**

The Phoenicians were the first to discover this far western land, establishing a post at Lixus on the Moroccan coast in 1000BC. In the following centuries, they and their followers, the Carthaginians, established outposts at Tangier and Essaouira, while developing a town in the area of present-day Rabat.

The Greek traders called the ferocious inhabitants of the interior “barbario,” which means “not for our people,” a term, which has remained through the times as “Berber.” A few is known of the ancient Berbers until its land became a part of the Roman Empire. The Romans have established important centers of settlements, which includes Volubilis whose remains at present are the most impressive from that time of Morocco.

### **ISLAMIC DYNASTIES – 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Century**

In the 7th and 8th centuries, the Arabs presented Islam to Morocco, as well as the great Arab dynasties started to rule over huge swathes of the Spain and Maghreb.

One of the numerous remarkable sultans was Moulay Ismail, a 55-year old reign was known to be the most brutal and longest in the Moroccan history. Ismail was cruel reputed to have had a harem of around 500 women, and father more than 700 children. The imperial town of Meknes was his huge projects and many died in the building of his triumphal arches and palaces.

### **MODERNIZATION AND INDEPENDENCE – 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

At the start of 20th century, Spain, Germany, France and Britain view with one another in order to dominate Morocco, one of the several remaining areas of the land outside the colonial grasp. With Spain and France’s occupation of Morocco, hatred of foreign rule for around 40 years until the independence of the country was recovered in 1956.

### **The Reign of Mohammed VI**

The time Muhammed Ben El Hassan was crowned as Mohammed VI in 1999, Morocco started to enter a new era. The new king was bright, young, and modern and plan on implementing different pioneering reforms. In the start of his reign, he was able to overhaul the family legal code known as “mudawana” that would change the lives of the Moroccan women and developed the Equity and Reconciliation Commission. All at once, he saw the need to create closer bonds with the West and increase foreign investment in the country, especially noticeable in the foreign tourist mecca of Marrakech that has observed a boom in the building of resorts and tourists hotels.

### **Important Dates in the History of Morocco**

**670** – Arab invasion of North Africa as well as the foundation of the very first Muslim Dynasty.



- 1666** – The Alawite Dynasty takes power while the family remains to rule Morocco to this day.
- 1860** – Spain announces war on Morocco after the protracted argument of the Ceuta enclave.
- 1912** – The Treaty of Fez founded Morocco as the French Protectorate
- 1956** – National discontent leads to independence from France, while Spain keeps a coastal foothold.
- 1961** – The King Hassan II comes to power, after the death of King Mohammed, and rules for around 40 years.
- 1963** – The country holds its very first general elections.
- 1973** – King Hassan delivers 350,000 Moroccan civilians into neighboring Spanish Sahara in a presentation of strength called as The Green March.
- 1976** – Algeria comes in the fray. The land becomes gradually militarized and full-blown war started.
- 1991** – The United Nations enters and a ceasefire was declared, even though unrest remains as an independence problem.
- 2003** – Over 40 persons are killed in the terrorist bombing throughout Casablanca.
- 2004** – Over 500 persons are killed in the shocking earthquake in Northern Morocco.
- 2011** – The Arab Springs demonstrations spread throughout a number of big cities in Morocco, later on resulting King Mohammed to change the constitution.

## **CHAPTER 4: History of Moroccan Jews**

Legend has it that the Moroccan Jews have been there since the times of King David. In the southern part of Morocco, 3 days route from Sousse – there's a rock on which is etched, "Joab, son of Zerah, drove the Philistines to this point." At that time, Joab ben Zerah as one of the captains of King David. Thus, it has been concluded that some Moroccan Jews have been in the North African land since the time of King David.

Jews rarely led a calm existence in the country for they were subject to the fancies of their Islam rulers. Way back in 809, the Caliphate issued several decrees in contradiction of the Jews. They were prohibited from riding horses, they wore black garments only and sandals were allowed to them – no shoes. Apart from that, they need to pay exorbitant taxes and were obliged to live separately from the population of Arabs in Mellahs.

The Moroccan Jews fell into 3 categories. Those who resided in the Mellahs, the mountain cave desert dwellers, and the so-called Spanish Jews. In case you didn't know yet, the Mountain Jews were totally pious loving in the spirit of the Biblical Palestine. You will find some of them who would roam around the country, such as pilgrims – searching for a "mohel" or "shochet," while some traveled around to bless each Jew they encounter. Some understand not much about Hebrew even though their language is Berber.

Most of them wore accessories like earrings as a symbol to the world that every time Hebrews in the wilderness obliged Aaron to arrange a golden calf and offer him ornaments in order to melt down – the elders of the present mountains Jews disagreed to perform homage to the idol.

Furthermore, 80% of the Moroccan Jews lived in the cities and towns of Mellahs. Mellah is referring to the Arabic word meaning salt and many folklore has it that the Jews were given the security and protection of the Sultans in interchange for keeping the heads of their opponents is salt.

Every major city of Morocco has their own Mellahs – remnants of older times. There were crowded streets where the trading can be heard in high-toned tones, where there was a continuous movement of forms in black and white turbans and small round skullcaps. Some businesses were set up on the sidewalk, and hammering silver and gold.

### **The Contemporary Times**

Before World War II, the population of Moroccan Jewish reach around 225,000. Even though Jews weren't deported throughout World War II, they did experience huge humiliation under the Vichy rule. After the landing of United States in 1943, some pogroms did happen. During June 1948, gory riot in Djerada and Oujda killed 44 Jews and injured scores more. The same year, an informal economic boycott was initiated against the Jews of Morocco.

In 1956, the country announced its independence and the migration of Jewish to Israel was postponed. In 1963, emigration restarted letting over 100,000 Moroccan Jews touch Israel. In 1965, a Moroccan writer named Said Ghallab narrate the behavior of his fellow Muslims toward the Jewish people.

Luckily this attitude no longer triumphs. Earlier in his death in 1999, King Hassan attempted to safeguard the population of Jews and today, Morocco has one of the top and most tolerant settings for Jews throughout the Arab world. Jewish in Morocco emigrates, even those who have Israeli citizenship, visit their friends and family freely in Morocco. Moreover, the Moroccan Jews have held the top positions in the government and business community. The major organization in Jewish symbolizing the community was known to be the Conseil des Communautés Israelites located in Casa Blanca. Its works include general communal affairs, cultural and religious life, youth activities, and maintenance of holy places, finance, communal heritage, and external relations.

The Moroccan Jews no longer live in the conventional Jewish mellahs; however, intermarriage is unknown. Further, the community has at all times been tolerant and religious. The younger era wants to keep its higher education out of the country and is more likely not to return to Morocco. Therefore, the community is in the stage of aging.

In the beginning of 2004, the Marrakech had a little population of around 260 people, the majority of the age of 60. Apart from that, Casablanca has the biggest community, around 3,000 people. You will find kosher restaurants, old-age homes, mikvaot, nynagogues in Casablanca, Tangier, Tetuan, Rabat, Mogador, and Marrakesh. In 1992, the majority of Jewish schools were closed, but Casablanca has suffered a bit of renewal and today ten schools serve over 800 students.

The community of Jews has established a wonderful tradition or pilgrimages and rituals to the tombs of holy sages. You will find 13 such popular sites, centuries-old that are well restored by the Muslims. Each year on special dates, the people of Moroccan Jews from all around the globe, throng to such graves including Israel. A distinct Moroccan festival, known as Mimunah is being celebrated both in Israel and in Morocco.

There's no doubt that Israel is the closest friends of Morocco within the Arab world. King Hassan frequent tried to be a promoter in the Arab-Israeli peace process. During July 1986, he was able to host the Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres in a determination to stimulate progress. After 2 months, Hassan was able to meet along with a delegation of Moroccan Jews, which includes an Israeli Knesset member. On 1993, after signing the deal along with the PLO, the great Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was able to pay a visit to Morocco. And during May 1999, the King Hassan conducted the first meeting of the World Union of Moroccan Jews, which was held in Marrakech.

On May 2003, a sequence of suicide bombers attacked 4 Jewish targets in Casablanca, and a 5th attack was made from the Spanish consulate. No one Jews were injured in the attack as it happened on Shabbat when the establishments were vacant of Jews. 29 Muslims were killed there. Even though the bombings influenced the sense of security of the Jewish, they were seen by the majority of Moroccans as an assault to the political and social order of the country and test the power of the young king.

King Mohammed VI was able to visit the area of one of the attacks the day it happened and advised the Jewish community to restart again. The government organized a big rally in the streets of Casablanca to show support for the Jewish community, at the same time the king also reasserted the traditional protection of his family for the sake of the Jews in his country.

## CHAPTER 4: ESSENTIAL PACKING LIST FOR MOROCCO TRIP

Quite excited for your upcoming Morocco trip and plunge all your gladness to its breath-taking sand dunes? First, get ready for your pack ups. Before boarding your plane, maybe you will find yourself browsing around of what to pack and what you should wear and putting an effort to figure out the activities and exact activities to be prepared for.

If you successfully determine the essential things to bring on your trip, you get no worry wherever part Morocco you will be hanging around. So, before your complete excitement starts, make sure that you already have your packing list for a more stress-free travel experience.

Thus, see to it that before feet kiss the sand dunes, you already have the best ideas how to make yourself comfortable during your explorations. Here's what your packing list should consist of:

### Clothing

For women, make sure to wear a culturally appropriate clothing while spending your time in traveling Morocco. Even if you will find this destination to be predominantly Muslim country, it is considered to be more relaxing and its major tourist spots have already gotten used to foreign tourists and their style. You still have to be culturally respectful by covering your shoulders and knees where full-lengths will be better and bring scarfs when visiting mosques.

For men, you do not have to put so much consideration to figure out what to wear when traveling Morocco. Jeans and t-shirts will be fine for you and long shorts and t-shirts will be ideal for hotter regions, but sometimes shorts can be viewed as underwear.

### Suggested Packing List for Clothing

Even if you are on a short visit to Morocco, chances are you can't escape from sweating around through your t-shirt from exploring Marrakech to shivering on a cold night while enjoying the Atlas Mountains. You can wear loose fitting pants and tunics which are perfect during hotter months as well as wearing t-shirt, baggy pair of jeans, light sweater, flip-flops, and slippers.

But it is still important for your to have at least few idea of what you wanted to do and where you are going to have better idea of what and how to pack. Below is the packing list ideally for travelers who wanted to spend most of their time doing a variety of activities and visiting places in Morocco at the same time:

- ✓ 1 pair of loose and breathable pants and 1 pair of jeans
- ✓ 1 long skirt – for women
- ✓ 1 long sleeve shirt
- ✓ 1 light sweater/sweatshirt
- ✓ 1 jacket – for cold places
- ✓ Underwear

- ✓ 1 pair of sneakers – for hikes and other outdoor activities
- ✓ 1 pair of sandals/flip flops/shower flip flops – when visiting hammam or staying hostels
- ✓ Socks
- ✓ Bathing suit/bikinis – for women
- ✓ Scarf
- ✓ Hat – either floppy top or wool cap depending on the season

### **Packing List by Season**

In Morocco, from December to February are considered to be the coldest months of the year where it goes chilly. So, it will be an opportunity for you to see snow on the tops of the mountains.

Thus, you can experience very cold temperature during night time where this can be a perfect time for you if you are planning for an overnight camel trek.

If wondering the best time to go, choose spring or fall when things have already warmed up a bit, but haven't yet hit the summer highs. Remember, Morocco offers an arid climate, there is a big tendency for temperature to go down after sunset all year round.

- **Winter**

When traveling to Morocco during winter, you have to bring closed toe shoes, jacket, socks and wool cap. Make sure if you are heading to the coast to bring a jacket that is windbreaker while if you are planning to camp or stay in a rustic accommodation, considering your own sleeping bag is ideal.

- **Spring/Fall**

You still have the freedom to bring windbreaker or jacket even in spring or fall, but see to it that you will pack clothes that can keep you cool during that day. You may choose to wear a long skirt or loose fitting pants and breathable t-shirts.

- **Summer**

The same way of what you will wear during fall or spring time, you still have to bring clothes that will effectively keep you cool and a light jacket for after dark. Thus, it is quite important for you to bring sunscreen.

Never planning a bottle of sunscreen for you will find it expensive in Morocco, better for you to just buy at home. Also, it will be ideal for you to pack a floppy hat to keep you comfortable and bottled water to keep you hydrated.

So before getting excited about the day you will be traveling to Morocco, make sure you already have the idea of the things to pack, most especially if you are a first-time traveler to that place. This way, it will be easier for you to enjoy your Morocco trip the best way.

### **Culture and Custom Guide for Successful Morocco Trip**

If you hear about Morocco, you can jump into an idea of one of the best travel destinations in the world. This place can truly introduce you to a variety of different mesmerizing tourist spots, scenic views and landscapes, savory cuisines, perfect subjects and so much more.

So, there is no room for you not to love this place and include on your travel list. On the other hand, as you go to different place, especially if out of your homeland, you should expect that you can experience different custom, beliefs, and culture.

In order for you to completely enjoy and avoid any conflicts, you have to be aware of it first and respect it. Like any other countries, Morocco has its own special culture where it can be considered as a place for acceptance towards differences.

As you travel across the country, you will be able to discover its amazing art and rich culture where it hosted Phoenicians, Arabs, Berbers, Sub-Saharan African, Romans, Vandals, and Spanish-Andalusians. On the other hand, the majority of the population in Morocco is Arab and Berber by identity having with at least a third of Moroccan Population is speaking the Amazigh language.

- **People**

Moroccans are the citizens and inhabitants of Morocco. Thus, most of the Moroccan people have an Arab and Berber origin. It was estimated that there are a total of 38 million Moroccan in the world and about 33 million are living in Morocco and at least 2.5 million are living in Spain and France.

- **Traditional Clothing**

The traditional dress in Morocco is called Djellaba, but nowadays the younger generation is not wearing them anymore. Also, there is a dress called Caftan which the Moroccan people can wear during weddings. Typically, these can be worn with flat slippers made of leather called Balgha, but during weddings, women are wearing Takchitas or Caftans with heels.

- **Values and Attitudes**

The people of Morocco are following the principles of Islam. The Moroccan families have a strong foundation with regards to unity whether it is a nuclear or extended family. Usually, children are expected to take care of their parents as they grow old. Meaning, you can find quite a few elderly homes as compared to western countries.

- **Weddings**

During a Moroccan wedding, the groom is required to provide his bride with special gifts before the wedding day such as henna or sugar and other gifts are chosen by the groom. 2 days before their wedding, the bride is required to go to a traditional Moroccan hammam with her relatives.

This is a part of the purification act while singing their traditional songs together. The next ceremony will be using Moroccan henna where symbols will be drawn on the hands and feet of the bride. Typically, the Moroccan wedding will last at least 4 to 8 hours.

- **Architecture**

The architecture in Morocco was greatly influenced by a number of architectural styles such as geometric design, Arabic architecture for fountains, Islamic calligraphy, Al-Andaluz architecture for gardens and arches and Persian techniques for tiling concept. Thus, recent buildings are being influenced by the French architecture because France occupied Morocco in 1912.

- **Music**

The Moroccan music is considered to be Moroccan culture's fundamental aspects. There are a variety of different musical styles you can find in this country having its own unique story to tell. You can find Andalusian music from Rabat, Ahidous from Souss and Gnawa, Chaabi from Atlas and Amazigh from the Rif.

- **Hospitality**

The Moroccan people are known for their hospitality. They will definitely welcome you into their homes where they will provide you food and interesting stories as well as they will guide you through your entire trip.

Now, you already have an idea about the Moroccan customs and culture. It will be more comfortable and easier for you to explore different places. Get ready to discover more thing about this beautiful country!

### **Other Essential Things to Pack for Morocco Travel – Tips for Clothing and Supplies**

In 1912, Morocco forcedly became a French protectorate and the Moroccans have resented their loss of independence. The entire country wasn't subdued until 1934. And in 1942, the allies landed in Morocco and Roosevelt developed sympathy to Moroccans during the World War II.

A Manifesto of Independence was successfully published in 1944 and in 1947, the Sultan favored independence. In 1956, Morocco became independent and by 1999, Mohammed VI became the king. Today, Morocco is considered to be one of the fast developing countries in the world and tourism is one of its main industries.

As you plan to travel Morocco, you get no surprise that this is a warm country. But, you still have to be aware of its cultural considerations about when packing that you may find unusual for tourists used to the Western culture. Now, as you plan or getting ready to explore Morocco, here are some tips for your packing list.

### **Clothes**

Morocco is definitely hot and humid, so pack light clothes. While in the city, it will be safe for you to wear a nice shirt and long shorts or long trousers. But, in the countryside, shirts are seen as inappropriate and t-shirts are perceived as underwear.

In some towns or villages, women have to dress conservatively. Thus, you have to remember that women need to cover their heads when entering a Mosque, so see to it that you will pack some wrap of cover up if you want to take a visit to some beautiful Mosques in Morocco.

### **Cameras**

In Morocco, there are lots of beautiful places and amazing things to take pictures, so it is ideal for you to bring a camera. Meanwhile, you have to keep in mind that some locals know how to determine tourists taking pictures of them, so they may charge you a fee.

### **Toiletries**

You will find shampoos and soaps from nice hotels, but if you will travel outside of the city, better for you to bring your own. Thus, it will be perfect to bring other toiletries or medical supplies which you think you will need. These supplies include a toothbrush, toothpaste, spare glasses, makeup, feminine hygiene products, a razor blade for shaving and any medicine.

Through these other essential things to pack for your much awaited Morocco, trip you will have a stress-free experience. Also, this will help you to have a more enjoying and comfortable travel to your desired destinations.

### **Etiquette in Morocco – Make Your Travel Successful**

Morocco is having a well-developed tourism having a strong tourist industry with a focus on coast, culture, and history. Then by 1985, the Moroccan government established a Ministry of Tourism.

Way back the second half of 1980's and early 1990s's, about 1 to 1.5 million Europeans have visited Morocco and most of them were Spanish and French. Most of the tourist visited the country's large beach resorts. And by 2016, more than 10.3 million international tourists have attracted by Morocco and as a result, it is the most visited African country.

Morocco offers you a unique travel experience. From diversity to culture and beliefs to etiquette, you successfully find the perfect place to be a traveler, adventurer, and photographer or even you just wanted to escape wearies of your office, to enjoy music and to find time to unwind.

If you are quite serious about taking a travel to Morocco, take effort and time to research for the culture and etiquette of the Morocco so that you will be more acquainted before you arrive. This will successfully benefit your travel experiences where each of your will be more enjoyable and meaningful.

### **Greetings**

As you enter Morocco, you have to be aware of the proper greetings in order for you avoid an offense. Moroccans are known to be formal to all social situations.

You have to always greet using your right hand since the left hand is considered to be traditionally unclean.



- ✓ Greetings need to always include queries pertaining to health as well as to family's well-being.
- ✓ Kissing on the cheeks is only practiced between the members of the same sex, especially if they are friends not unless each is well-known to the other.
- ✓ It is considered to be polite to remove shoes when entering someone's home, especially before entering the living and dining area.

### **Gestures**

Other than greetings, you also have to be aware of your gestures.

- ✓ It is considered to be impolite to use your index finger to motion a person in approaching you.
- ✓ Moroccans beckon someone by means of placing palm downward and then sweeping the hand close themselves.

### **Appropriate Attire**

Moroccans are known to be conservative by nature and wholeheartedly Muslim, but they are also been exposed and understanding about the Western culture. Still, Moroccans will definitely treat travelers with higher respect if they are going to dress conservatively.

- ✓ It will be worthy for men to figure out which type of dress that Moroccan men generally wear. T-shirt or collared shirt that covers the shoulders, jeans or long pants and shoes and sandals are best options. When at the beach or even playing sports, it is allowed to wear beachwear, sleeveless shirts, and running shoes. If you will wear this at some other time, you will be perceived wearing underwear.
- ✓ For women, you have to dress conservatively through wearing short-sleeve shirts covering the shoulders, loose and long pants and sandals or shoes into the full-length Moroccan robe, locally known as jellabah.

In respecting the culture and etiquettes in Morocco, you are not recommended to be revealing, but you can be classy with regards to the appropriate attire. The proper attire covers both day and night.

### **Punctuality**

When you visit Morocco, you may find that punctuality is not part of Moroccan trademarks. Most often, their tasks are being achieved in the so-called "Moroccan Time". This means that tasks can be completed anything from half-hour late because of personal appointments or even arriving the other day. On the other hand, there is an exception to the rule, specifically to the faux guides and hustlers which are known to wait for a long time before the agreed schedule or time.

### **Eating and Drinking**

In Islamic cultures, left hand is considered be untidy since people use this hand for sanitary tasks.

- ✓ Moroccans infrequently eat with their left hand, instead, they will use it to drink from or to pass the bread. So, if you are going to eat from a communal tagine, make sure to eat only with your right hand.
- ✓ A respectful procedure when being offered with food is for you to politely decline it. If it is offered again to you, you may accept a small portion. It is also considered to be polite when reciprocating the offer and can afford respect. For you to properly decline the offer of food, you can simply pat your stomach and then shake your head, followed by “La, shukrran” which means “No, thank you.”

### **Hammams**

In traditional Moroccan culture, Moroccan women used to nude when bathing. But nowadays where there are lots of younger women and most of them are travelers, it appeals to go topless yet wearing underwear or even bikini bottoms.

This practice will not cause any offense and those women who choose to wear bikini top or bra may do so. But, this will cause the local women to wonder why tourists does like to bare all. Both Moroccan and Western men bathe in shorts. Thus, it is not required to shower beforehand.

### **Avoiding Offense**

Even though non-Muslims are not expected to participate or to fast during the Ramadan, it will be polite if they are going eat, drink or smoke indoors or away from public eye. It will be better to show respect to the dress code and demeanor when you are near in Mosque. This is applicable at any time of the year and most especially during Ramadan.

It also acceptable to take photos of Mosque as long as you are not too close or as if you are photographing its interior. Thus, you have to keep in mind that it is strictly forbidden to take photos of military, police, border checkpoints and airport installations.

Now, it is now easier for you to effectively determine of what you have to do and not to. This way, you are not only respecting their culture and customs, you are also creating a successful trip and relationship between the locals.

## CHAPTER 5: Reasons Why You Need To Visit Morocco

It is a fact that everybody loves to travel. Travelling is one of the ways to relax and to take a break from the world. Well, are you planning to travel with your family, friends or with special someone? Then, you should find a place that can provide you the best travel experience. One of the most beautiful places in the world that you must visit at least once in your life is Morocco.

Morocco is a paradise like place where you can enjoy your travel. There are many reasons why you need to visit this wonderful place. It is best summed up in the following examples.

### Foods

It cannot be denied that everybody loves to eat. Well, if you choose Morocco as your travel destination, for sure you can have a satisfying and luxurious food experience. They have variety of cuisines that you can widely choose from. With this, you can have the chance to choose the kind of foods that highly match to your taste.

Furthermore, as a guest in the latter tourist place, you will always be served with the best foods for you to have an indulgent experience during your stay. To mention a few, some of the delicious foods that can savour your taste include fresh salads, delicious pastries, tagines, homemade bread as well as couscous. They can also offer you with biscuits and mint tea for your snacks.

Well, did you know that these foods have already been part of the Moroccan history? Way back in ancient times in Morocco, the first inhabitants called Berbers use local ingredients in making their food. These include olives, dates, figs that are perfectly match in poultry stews as well as lamb cuisines.

As time passes by, Moroccan people started to use spices on their dish. They use ginger, cinnamon, cumin, caraway, and saffron. On the other hand, they also learned to make sweet and sour cookeries under the influence of the Persians. In addition to this, Moroccan cooking is also influenced by the Moors in Andalusia in the Southern area of Spain. Example of Moorish dish is the bisteeya or pastilla, a famous pigeon pie in Morocco today.

Moreover, the Moroccan dish was also influenced by the British and French these modern times. There are many other interesting things that you must know about the foods of the Moroccans. Morocco has a lot to offer to feed its people in the best possible way. The place has many home grown fruits such as melons, oranges, potatoes, tomatoes as well as hot and sweet peppers.

When you visit Morocco, you must also be familiar with their important five cooking products namely almonds, lemons, dates, figs and olives. The country is also abundant in fish and other seafood. To give you some trivia, Morocco is not plenty in beef; this is why their meals are commonly poultry and lamb.

Tajine, poultry stew or lamb is considered as their national dish. They also use additional ingredients such as prunes, vegetables, hard-boiled eggs and lemons. As their national food, Tajine is made up from a unique flavouring of popular spices like saffron, cumin, cinnamon, ginger, and coriander as well as ground red pepper.

To give you some information about their national dish, the word Tajine is derived from typical earthenware dish having a cone-shaped top wherein it was cooked and served. Aside from the latter food,

another popular Moroccan cuisine is the couscous which is made from semolina, a fine grain of a wheat product. This dish can be served together with meat, vegetables and seafood.

In addition, sweet foods also play a very significant part in the diet of the Moroccans. What makes unique in the Moroccan culture is that each household has a massive supply of homemade delicious desserts that are made from honey, almonds and other ingredients. These delicious foods are always accompanied with a sweetened mint tea.

Meanwhile, the Moroccans have particular foods that they need to eat during holiday and religious celebrations. To mention one, there is a dietary restriction during the holy season of Ramadan. Eating pork and alcohol is strictly prohibited.

## **Mountains**

As an aspiring traveller, for sure you also love adventure. Well, the Morocco has beautiful mountains known as the Atlas Mountains. The said mountains divide the country which forms a barrier which results to the climate difference between the South and North. If you want high level of relaxation, then maybe you can take a walk or go climbing for a nerve wracking and awesome adventure. To give you a trivia, it takes 4167m to climb the majestic Jebel Toubkal. Probably, this can be one of the best adventures that you can treasure for the rest of your life.

Well, do you know that there are many historical events that happened with this popular mountain? These events are best summed up in the following examples. The Atlas Mountains stand from million years. The people of the latter mountains are called the Berbers. For centuries, the Berbers live with the combination of Islam as well as indigenous mountain traditions. Before, one of the primary livelihoods of the Berbers was herding.

Lately, the region of Atlas Mountains was already controlled by the French during the colonial times. With this, French language was entirely heard in the region.

## **Riads**

Morocco is a country that is rich in culture and traditions. One example why many travellers choose Morocco as their destination is because of its traditional Moroccan house called the Riads. It has a refreshing internal courtyard with a fountain that replicates the Roman villa. This traditional creative architecture which is designed with mosaics, calligraphy as well as geometric patterns became very popular for many years. Even more important, attractive old buildings were also improved into remarkable restaurants and hotels that provide people with genuine Moroccan experience.

When you are an aspiring traveller, you can be amazed with the great accommodation that you can receive in Morocco. They have the best Riads or houses where you can stay for your vacation in the latter country.

To give you some short background about the Riads, this was located inside the old city districts in Morocco. As a matter of fact, the Riads were already abandoned many years ago. However, this gained its popularity because it was bought by noble family particularly European tourists and investors and restored as private houses way back in 1970s.

Meanwhile, the Riads also have various central patios that you can widely choose from. These are the following:

- Riad Porte Royale, Marrakech
- Riad Les Ammonites, Marrakech
- Riad Cinnamon, Marrakech
- Riad Karmela Marrakech
- Riad Samsli Marrakech
- Riad Papillon Marrakech

To further explain about this excellent architecture in Morocco, Riad was derived from the Arabian word ryad which means garden. The usual Riads tend to have few stories high, with a ground floor as well as a fountain and patio.

Nowadays, Riads is one of the most popular guest houses that Moroccans can provide to many aspiring travellers like you. Riads are perfect for those who are seeking high level of privacy and authenticity, thus it only contains limited rooms. Staying in Riads can be a great adventure for you thus they really provide you the best accommodation that you are actually looking for.

When you want to attain the highest clientele satisfaction, then you can make the best decision if you will stay in the latter Moroccan architecture. They have a lot to offer for you to have a luxurious stay. Thus, they have a professional team that can accommodate you in the best possible way.

## **People**

Berbers can be considered as one of the friendliest, approachable as well as most hospitable people in the world. In some far-off villages in the South Morocco, people have a simple way of living. The best thing about them is that they will always make sure that you are comfortable and feel welcome as their guest. With them, you can have wonderful conversations since language is not a barrier. You can have the best experience with their people with their gestures, smiles, foods as well as their ever-present mint tea. When you stay with the people in Morocco, you can always feel like you are at home. Thus, they can treat you as one of their family members, not a stranger.

People in Morocco will never disappoint you when it comes to great treatment. They can treat you with respect and professionalism. They are also concerned for their visitors, thus they really have strong family relationships.

## **Hotel and Restaurants**

If you visit the fantastic place of Morocco, you can have a wonderful stay on their famous and world class hotels and restaurants. They can offer you with the best accommodation that you truly desire and deserve. Whatever your need is, they have a team that will support and provide you the best customer

service that you are actually looking for. Their hotel and restaurant personnel can work in a very positive attitude and professional manner. They will be right there for you from start to finish.

In addition to this, they have a friendly hotel staff that can help to lighten up your day. With them, rest assured that you can have the highest level of happiness and satisfaction regarding their service. On the other hand, you will definitely have a luxurious dining experience on their remarkable hotels. They can always offer you the best foods that can satisfy your craving.

Some of their most sought after cuisines are mutton, lamb, and beef, chicken, seafood, fish, bread, tagine and couscous. You must also try their other cookeries like the brochettes, bissara, pastilla as well as harira. You can also find pizzas and sandwiches that suits to your taste.

With their elegant and luxurious hotels and restaurants, you can make sure that your money; time and effort that you have invested in going to the latter place are all worth it. In addition to this, you can also be surprise about the savings that you can get, thus you can afford delicious and excellent quality accommodation in just a very affordable cos.

### **Beaches**

Morocco has the best beaches wherein you can enjoy surfing and swimming. The best thing about it is that you can bath in clear, sparkling and clean water. There are many beaches that you can choose from in the place in order to relax and enjoy the sand and water. Some of the most popular beaches in Morocco can be found in Tamuda Bay, Essaouira, and in Al Jadida.

If you want to perform nerve wracking water sports, then you can best do it in the amazing beaches of Morocco. Aside from the enjoyment that you can experience with Morocco's exotic beaches, you can also have the chance to see the beauty of nature.

### **Amazing Tourist Attractions**

In Morocco, you can be amazed with various tourist spots that are truly pleasing to the eye. Apart from its beautiful culture and traditions, you can attain a peace of mind that will help you to feel relaxed and comfortable during your stay. To mention a few, some of the most famous cultural places in Morocco are Koutoubia Mosque in Marrakech, Marrakech Railway Station, Hassan Tower in Rabat, Bahia Palace Marrakech, as well as Bou Inania Madrasa in Fes.

On the other hand, their popular historical spots include Kasbah of Udayas in Rabat, El Badi Palace in Marrakech, Volubilis near Meknes, Chellah in Rabat, as well as the Ksar of Ait Benhaddou. With the amazing tourist destinations in Morocco, you can assure that the hard earned budget, effort as well as time that you have invested for your travel experience in the latter place.

### **Theatres and Museums**

When you choose Morocco as your vacation destination, then you must visit their beautiful theatres and museums that highly reflect their rich history. Some of their most famous museums are Ethnographic Museum, Morocco Museum of Antiquities, Rabat Archaeological Museum, and Ecomusee Berebere in Marrakech as well as the Moroccan Art Museum. If you are an aspiring traveller who loves art, then going to these museums can be the perfect one for you.

On the other hand, you can relax while watching nerve wracking live performances on their theatres. They have fabulous actors and actresses that you can surely admire in terms of their acting performances. They are really passionate and very dedicated in doing their work. As a result, you can feel what you are watching and be satisfied about it. Meanwhile, some of their famous theatres include Gran Teatro Cervantes and Alliance Franco-Marocaine.

### **Spectacular Nightlife**

When you spend nightlife in Morocco, you can have three categories that will make your travel more exciting and satisfying. These are the local up market, tourist tack and the local sleaze.

The local sleaze comprises all local bars that are not meant for women. On the other hand, tourist tack includes belly dancing. Lastly, the local upmarket include nightclubs and bars which are commonly associated with five star Morocco hotels. If you are a party goer, then you can party in Morocco to have a satisfying and luxurious nightlife.

### **Shopping**

There are several shopping avenues in Morocco where you can find various items that you can buy that can serve as your remembrance during your visit on the latter place. The good thing about it is that these valuable items can be availed in just a very wallet friendly and affordable cost. With this, you can be thankful about the great savings that you can receive in your shopping experience.

To give you some hint, you can visit two of their most sought after shopping destinations namely Morocco cities of Fez and Marrakech. In these shopping venues, you can have a wide array of options of charms and knickknacks that you can bring home with you. Some of these items are woven carpets, kilims as well as carved wood items.

To sum it up, if ever you are planning to have a vacation or trip with the people you love, then going to the paradise like place of Morocco can be the best option for you. Thus, you can really enjoy luxurious travel experience without spending more of your hard earned budget. Even more important, Morocco can also be the perfect place for you to unwind and release the stress and tension that you feel brought about your very busy schedule nowadays.

You can even spend quality time with your family, special someone and with your friends in just a very affordable amount. So, if you are a budget conscious person who has great standards, then Morocco is the perfect destination for you. The above mentioned features of the place are the reasons why you need to visit Morocco. What are you waiting for? Visit the place now!

## **CHAPTER 6: 10 Best Summer Destinations in Morocco for Travelers**

Any traveler would be delighted to visit Morocco not only because of its famous cities but also with the summer destinations. From the beaches to the mountains, you have a wide variety of choices to enjoy, have fun and relax with family and friends during your summer vacation.

Morocco has many summer destinations to offer and most tourist and travelers who want to see the beauty of the place and experience the Arabic Culture would be amazed. Do you want to have a relaxing and fun summer vacation of tour? Here are the best summer destinations in Morocco that you would love to see.

### **Sidi Ifni**

Located at the Southwest of Morocco, this place is famous for tourists due to the famous surfing event being held here. The small fishing town with a population of 20, 000 gives both tourist and any traveler the amazing and thrilling life of surfing. Aside from the activities, the Spanish heritage of the town remains in some parts of it that results to an exciting discovery. You could shop in at the fish markets in the area and get an affordable price.

### **Meknes**

Take a trip off the beach and visit the imperial city of Meknes. Considered as one of the imperial cities found in Morocco, a traveler who wants to discover the Spanish-Moorish style of the City could have a tour here. The high walls and the huge gates offer a magnificent view of the culture and tradition that the city is famous for several years.

Be amazed by the historical sites and large monuments found in the city and make your travel memorable and worthwhile.

### **Rabat**

Considered as Morocco's top tourist destination, Rabat was named as one of the top travel destinations by CNN in the year 2013. Travelers would love to see the outdoor cafés and boulevard here and eat the food and drinks famous in this city. The old town, medina and the great walls would give a fantastic experience all throughout your travel time.

The amazing site of Kasbah des Oudaias would not disappoint due to the captivating view it has looking from the ocean.

### **Asilah**

Located at the North Coast of Morocco, Asillah is a famous seaside resort that still has the historical attractions dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The growing selection of budget hotels and restaurants add to the fascination of both travelers and tourists. There is more to expect as you have complete enjoyment from the sites of Asilah.

The Paradise Beach located in the south portion of Asilah offers a lot of fun and excitement to the vacationers who visit the beach. Hence, the vacation and travel adventure would be complete with a taste of discovery and excitement.



## **Chefchaouen**

If you love to purchase Moroccan handicrafts, you love to go to this city. Often referred to as the “Blue City” due to the blue buildings, this is famous for tourists due to the attractions you would see. You could also find goat cheese in the area together with kief. Aside from the handicrafts, you would also have selected goods of your choice. If you travel to the blue city, you would have a chance to experience more than just the sites but also the foods.

## **Essaouira**

Formerly called as Mogador, this city is famous for the whitewashed homes and the blue shutters: the perfect background if you want to enjoy beach activities such as windsurfing and kitesurfing. The coastline offers a scenic view of the ocean and the mountains found in the near regions. You would have the best travel adventure to fill your satisfaction.

There are also handicraft products found around the city. One of the most amazing features of these products is the use of old techniques such as thuya wood and cabinet making. There are also souvenirs that can be bought with an affordable price. The fascinating view and the products are not enough, as you would expect more if you were a traveler or tourist. There are more things to see and discover!

## **High Atlas**

Mountain travelers would love not only the beauty but also the majestic view offered this mountain range. Located at the coast of Morocco towards Alergia, you would find the joy and thrill of mountain climbing. One of the many attractions is the Toubkal National Park where visitors could experience some fun and serious mountain climbing.

You would have a great time in doing outdoor activities with your friends and family. You could enjoy the experience sports that would fit your interests such as winter skiing. People who want to experience more fun and adventure could visit Tudra that is located on the east part of North Atlas.

This would give you a sweeping view of the mountains and canyons around the area. The several kilometer adventure that ranges from 600 meters or equivalent to 2, 000 feet is a sure hit for tourists. There is also the mud rock city found within the area. Famous for the attractive sites and the activities made around the area, any traveler would love to stay in here a while longer.

## **Fes**

Formerly known as the capital of Morocco, Fes or Fez is now considered as the third largest city of the country. There are many centuries old medina travelers night want to see. You could effectively see and experience the culture of the place due to the transportation system it has. Pulled by donkeys and handcart, a tourist or a group of travelers would have a chance to enjoy the way of life of the people.

Home of 150,000 people, this place is considered the largest car free location in the world. The style of living, the old homes and the mosaic tiles of the floors of houses delivers the cultural tradition of the country together with the lifestyle of the people. You would be delighted as you see and experience the life of the people here.

The maze on the streets and the alleys would provide an awe for any visitor as the streets and alleys create a great wonder for them. Hence, there are more discoveries to take note of.

### **Marrakech**

Dazzled with architecture and courtyards, you would have a great time with this summer destination. Formerly recognized as one of the imperial cities of Morocco, this is also called the “Red City” due to the sandstone buildings it has. The attractive sites are not only famous to local tourists but to celebrities as well such as the Rolling Stones and the Beatles who had once visited the Red City.

You could do fun activities here such as watch a snake charmer, sit on a red carpet and watch the view of the sunset or eat the tasty delicacies of the place such as a sheep’s head and other delightful foods. Relax yourself from the long and hot travel and enjoy the comfort of a massage in a public bath. There is always a reason to enjoy both the view and the attractions.

For those who love the aroma and taste of tea, there is a great teahouse available in the area where a traveler drinks tea. There are also wonderful varieties of plants to see in the botanical garden found in the area. You could also do strolling activities along the towns and beaches found here. This would give you great memories to enjoy with your friends and family.

### **Merzouga**

Located in southeastern Morocco, this small town would give any traveler the charm to enjoy his or her summer adventure. The beautiful place and the things to do offer a great time to anyone who wants to enjoy the summer vacation or bonding they plan to do.

One of the best activities you can do is the camel ride in the red dunes found in the sand areas. The perfect temperature together with the excellent camel ride would give you a chance to discover the other interesting features of the town together with the culture and tradition of the people. Your fun and exciting adventure would never stop as each day, you are offered many things to do.

An exciting dinner is prepared as the locals have their tents outside the dunes. Travelers could expect a great time together with the memorable experience the town would offer. Here fun and excitement for any traveler is enjoyed in a satisfying way.

For any traveler, Morocco is the best place to travel and make a travel adventure. The great weather with the lovely and fascinating attractions would be a sure delight for most of the people who want to have an excellent and memorable travel time. Morocco is one of the best travel destinations for you.

## **CHAPTER 7: Best Romantic Locations for Dating in Morocco**

### **1. Marrakech/Marrakesh**

Known as a major city in the Morocco Kingdom, it is also considered as the fourth city after the Fez, Tangier and Casablanca. It is located about 580 km southwest of the Tangier region and in the Southwest of Rabat, this city is referred to as one of the most important cities belonging to the former main city of Morocco...

Similar to many Moroccan cities, this city is made up of modern neighborhoods and vendors selling different varieties of products. Today, Marrakesh is considered a busy city and the presence of tourists in the area makes it livelier. The rising development of hotel and real estate gave the city a wide progression in this 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### **History**

During the Neolithic times, Berber farmers made residence in the region. Founded in 1062 by Abu Bakr Ibn Umar, the city has numerous mosques and Koranic schools that became the center of religion and learning in the area. The establishment of the trading center made possible for the city to achieve a wide growth in terms of industry and commerce.

The unique style of architecture was the influence of the Andalusian heritage. The mosques that are found in the place became the living proof of the unique architecture of the area. In later time, the city became a capital of the Almoravid Estate that stretches to the Senegal shores to the main region of Spain and to the Atlantic coasts.

#### **Population**

Based on the 2014 census, the city has a large population of more than 928 thousand. This is a huge number compared to the 843 thousand in the 2004. When it comes to the households, the city has more than 217 thousand in its towns and villages.

#### **Economy**

The construction of the high ways and the airports mark a huge tourism scale in the city. Each year, it is expected to have 2 million tourists from the vacation and tourist spots around the area. Due to the booming economy, French celebrities have invested property around the area that further heightens the growth on the economy of the city.

Investments and real estate made a greater leap in the 2011 with the emergence of the local housing industry. The improvements made are related to the hotels and leisure centers around the area.

#### **Culture**

The city is rich in Moroccan and Berber Culture. Notable landmarks could be found in the city such as the Marrakech Museum that holds the famous Dar Menebhi Palace. This is located in the old city and was built around the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

One of the most fascinating about the culture of the city is the festivals. The festivals are classified as both national and Islamic. Each year, a great number of tourists come to join the festival or attend it. A few of

the festivals being held in the city are the International Film Festival of Marrakech that is the North African version of the Cannes Film Festival.

If you happen to travel at this city, you would be grateful and satisfied with the places, the tradition and culture that the place has to offer. A traveler would be delighted to stay or have a vacation here.

## **2. High Atlas Mountains**

Also known as the Grand Atlas Mountains, the High Atlas Mountains could be found at the Central part of Morocco in Northern Africa. The mountains could also be seen at the western part of the Atlantic Ocean. It travels to the east direction where you can see the border of Morocco and Algeria.

If you would like to travel to the ranges, you would have the chance to see Jbel Toubkal that is considered the highest mountain located and the range. This is part of the Toubkal National Park. The range of mountains serves as a weather barrier in the Morocco region that could be seen in the western and east part.

The falling of snows in the mountain ranges launched the idea of having winter sports in the region. The ski stations are found at the North Western High Atlas Mountains.

### **History**

The Berbers were the first inhabitants of the High Atlas Mountains. They have made a living in cultivating the land and doing pastoral work. During that time, the locals have developed a technique in terms of using precipitations.

This resulted in a major growth in terms of farming wherein the easy cultivation of the fertile land left a significant mark in many years to come. The cultivated valleys were known as Agdal or the Garden of Berber. The western agriculturists were amazed with the technique used that made a big contribution to the High Atlas Mountains but also to the other areas of Morocco.

This resulted to the exploration of the French Scientists who want to discover the great agricultural system that developed in the mountain range. Today, the system of agriculture at High Atlas Mountain has improved due to the construction of waterways and canals.

### **Places to Visit**

The mountain has a wide range of places that a travel might want to travel One of these is the fortified village known as Alt Benhaddou. The village has made appearances in films so it is often referred to as the Moroccan Hollywood.

If you would travel further down the mountain range, you could see the Amesfrane Rock Wall. This site is famous due to the horizontal ridges that could be observed due to the occasion of heavy erosion in the area. Despite of this, it made a cathedral like impression to the travelers. In due time, a great number of the travelers has named it the Cathedral due to its close resemblance to the gothic cathedral.

### **Languages**

The language of the High Atlas Mountains is Arabic and Berber. Over 14 million people living in the mountain ranges speak the languages. However, at some point the spoken language are used in an interchangeable manner so you could expect a certain combination of these languages

The High Atlas Mountains has rich history and culture that would fascinate any traveler. Hence, with this profound richness you could expect a lot more to see when you climb up the mountain ranges. The culture, sites and languages would give you the attractions you would not forget. This would make your travel time more worth it.

### **3. The Rif and the Mediterranean Coast**

On the northern part of Morocco there lies a mountainous region with mostly fertile plains called the Rif or Rif. The name of this region was derived from the term Arrif, an Arabic word that means “the country side”. The Rif Mountains is characterized by a few small towns and other major cities that make up the entire place. One thing that you should take note about the Rif Mountains is that it’s not an extension of the Atlas Mountains.

#### **History**

During the prehistoric times, it is believed that the Rif has been inhabited by the early civilizations in Morocco known as the Berbers. Earlier in 11<sup>th</sup> century BC, it was the Phoenicians who started the establishment of trading posts with the help of the local Berbers. Upon establishing a great partnership, the two groups of people began the punic language somewhere at the Atlantic and Mediterranean Coasts. Together, they founded some of the cities in Morocco including Melilla (Rusadir), Tangier and a lot more. Each of these cities has its own name back then and later the names were changed in the passing of time.

The Rif officially became a part of Mauretania, a province in Morocco succeeding the Third Punic War. The war gave way for Tangier to become the capital of the province under the leadership of Emperor Claudius. The Romans ruled until the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

Then in 710, both the Berbers and the Rif decided to be converted to Islam under the rule of Salih I ibn Mansur of the Kingdom of Nekor. Upon conversion, the Berber Muslims began putting up more cities. It was in the 15<sup>th</sup> century when the Rif had experienced several battles in one place to another. With those wars, the Riffian Berbers had won the higher number of victories over the Spaniards.

#### **Geography**

Compared to other regions in Morocco, the Rif receives higher amount of rainfall in a year. Meanwhile, the eastern part of the Rif precipitation appears to be lesser in comparison to the western part. The central portions also receives lesser while it is covered by the forests of Atlas etc. The Rif Mountains has an estimated of 5 to 8 various subpopulations of *Macaca Sylvanus*.

Because of the massive deforestation in the mountain, the locals started converting some part of the forest into cannabis plantations especially in the past few century. As of now, the mountain undergoes a process of a great change.

#### **The Riffian People and Their Language**

Riffian locals are actually a part of the Berber ethnic group who are the first inhabitants of Morocco especially on the Northern part. There are over 5 million Riffian in the whole area of the region. Their mother tongue is called Tmaziyt by the Riffian themselves. For the non-Riffians the language is called Tarifit. Yet, a high number of Riffians also speak Spanish, French and their own Moroccan Arabic being their second or their language.

#### **4. Cirque du Jebel Tazekka**

The Jebel Tazekka is a well-known tourist attraction in Morocco that is great for couples and for anyone who wants to visit the place for fun and thrill. It's considered the highest mountain in Morocco that lies in the northeast summit of Middle Atlas.

If you get the chance to reach the peak of the mountain, you'll be surprised to see a panoramic view of the southern mountains with densely wooded region all over. This famous Moroccan park is located approximately 120km going to the east part of the region if your reference point is the city of Taza.

#### **History**

Many might be thinking about the history of Jebel Tazekka National Park. Actually, it has been created as protection for natural resources from the top of the Tazekka down to the grove of the cedars. The mountain of Jebel Tazekka is considered a major part of the park dominating a greater portion of the surrounding area.

The construction of the park started in 1950 during the French colonial times. Setting up the Tazekka Park with the Jebel Tazekka mountain with it took up an estimated of 680 hectares. The greater part of the park is actually meant to protect the greater part of the flora in the park. Years after it was finished to become a tourist attraction in Morocco, the local government decided to enlarge the park for up to 13, 737 hectares for the sake of the fauna and flora and other species in the mountain. The expansion has been necessary to control the entire place.

In 1989, an extension was made covering 120km mainly for the forests of holm oak as well as the other landscapes in the park. The extension made a great impact in the entire park as it has become more attractive for tourists and even to the locals themselves. The enlargement is indeed extensive that one of the well known caves in Morocco has become a part of the park as well. The Dripstone Cave situated in northern Africa has been included as an extension of the park.

#### **Climate**

Don't be surprised to experience the atmospheric moisture in the park as it is surrounded by mountains and forests. Since it's orographically lifted in a woody mountain, there are instances that you'll see cap cloud that shows frequently in a year. This is why you have nothing to worry about the weather when you decided to go to the place because the weather there is really good and ideal for travelers like you. Precipitation falls in white and cold form of snow.

## CHAPTER 6: Top Hotels to Stay in Morocco

Your vacation will not be complete without a place to stay in Morocco. Being with your special someone in your travel must be the best feeling that you can experience but you should make sure that you know where to stay in the place for relaxation and private time.

Looking for highly affordable but high standard hotels in Morocco? Here's a list of the top hotels in the country that are surely within your budget.

### 1. Riad Dar Anika

Are you looking for a luxurious and engaging boutique in Morocco? The best option for this is Riad Anika. Get soak to a luxurious treat in their spa and you won't have any regrets of paying the price. The ambiance at Riad Dar Anika offers an individual style of sophistication that lovers will surely love. You'll experience a great personal treatment that will keep you coming back to the place. The hotel has a large swimming pool perfect for relaxation. Enjoy the evening and cocktail drinks served for couples. Riad Anika guarantees 100% privacy for guests that you will truly appreciate.

### 2. El Fenn

One of the most popular hotels in Marrakesh, Morocco is El Fenn. The hotel has 28 individual rooms and suites set in a countryside filled with trees. El Fenn is a perfect place for a temporary retreat of the exotic cities of Africa. Its historic architecture, well-maintained gardens and terraces are perfect for your vacation in the city because it offers you great quality treatment as guest. Just a few walks away, you'll reach the Djemma Fna square. The bustling maze of most of the streets add to the great view of the hotel. Not only the façade is amazing but the entire place is completely incredible.

### 3. Riad Du Sud

Do you want to get the best price out of your stay in a hotel? With Riad Du Sud, you'll surely get the best of your money in the hotel. If you're short of budget, this one's suitable for you. The only thing that you will have to worry is that how you will spend your time in the hotel with your lover. Make yourselves comfortable in the place just like you do when you're at home. Facilities and amenities are complete. You have nothing to ask for. There are private bathrooms as well as showers. Other amenities are also offered for guests. You only have to choose which one is most appropriate to your needs.

### 4. Rabat Hotel

Unwind and relax in one of the top hotels in Morocco which is the Rabat Hotel. It offers high quality service to guests especially to couples who want to make their vacation as memorable as possible. Be stunned of the great ambiance in the hotel that will make you want to stay longer. The hotel is excellently designed combining modern and traditional designs. The rooms and suites are good for two people thus, if you're with your special someone in the trip, the hotel gives you lots of reason to stay in it.

## CHAPTER 8: Top Moroccan Restaurants

Morocco is a home of unique, delicious, and flavorful cuisines. With a number of restaurants all throughout the place, you can satisfy your cravings. Every food is made by globally competitive and highly qualified chefs. You will totally love its cuisines. After travelling from your desired destination, going to one of its restaurants is the best thing you can do.

Below are one of the top notch restaurants in Morocco.

- **Le Jardin**

Le Jardin combines a touch of French refinement and elegance to the bustle of Morocco. It is a home of peace, allowing a multitude of diners to try the palatial charm of Marrakech. Situated in an old mansion, it is built in the large central courtyard that features a stunning and magnificent combination of retro 1 and traditional Moroccan design.

When you enter Le Jardin, you will be quite amazed with its 60s interior design. It was started by Anne Favier and Kamal Laftimi. They were also the ones who discovered the house and rebuilt it in a manner that represents their distinctive tastes. Now, it is considered as a place to relax and enjoy. It offers special events like film screenings.

- **Gastro MK**

Situated within the luxury Maison MK, Gastro MK focuses on customer care, artistic creativity, and cutting edge innovation. It provides a fusion of Moroccan and French cuisines. It really evokes the Francophone culture in the past and create excellent infusions or North African and European culinary cultures. Its head chef has created a holistic menu with classical dishes.

Tourists or diners should take advantage of the five-course tasting menu that features chicken pastille, lettuce salad, pumpkin puree, carrot crisp, potato sarladaise, duck leg confit, and apricot sauce. For sure, you will enjoy every bite you take.

- **Dar Moha**

Known for its atmospheric riad, Dar Moha is considered one of the best places in Morocco. When you want to try new Moroccan cuisine, you should make a reservation at Dar Moha. It reinvents classical gastronomy in which Moroccan cooking core flavors are interweaved with modern cooking techniques or styles.

It is run by Mohamed fedal who is able to transform it into a beautiful riad and a comfortable dining space. Most tourists request for pastilla lobster coriander juice, and chakhchoukha (cockerel with preserved lemon and olives). They are astonishing and comforting as well.

- **Le Grand Café de la Poste**



Being a 20<sup>th</sup> century innovation of the style in 1920, Le Grand Café de la Poste integrates the sophistication of Moroccan colonial era into most contemporary trends. It has a retro décor that emphasizes Art Deco style. It also has a relaxing and soothing ambiance in which you can see a touch of Francophone.

When it comes to food, it is a bit multi-faceted with Moroccan flavors and French styles. It gets its popularity because of its tender roast beef, grilled sardines, as well as foie de veau persille. It has a large terrace where people often visit. In the late afternoon, it is packed with cocktail drinkers. Its luxurious surroundings welcome a broad range of people, including famous personalities and tourists.

- **Al Fassia Gueliz**

Al Fassia Gueliz and Al Fassia Aguedal (identical sister restaurant) provides stimulating and motivating selections of traditional home cooking in Morocco. They are not only popular in the locals but also to many tourists in different parts of the world. They provide hearty as well as simple dishes that emphasizes on freshness.

Al Fassia Gueliz also features a la carte menu that gives many diners a number of dish options. Being a sumptuous pigeon, pastilla is highly recommended. Aside from that, you should grab mechui which is a roast lamb leg. It is recognized as a centerpiece to a meal, so make sure to order it ahead of time to avoid discomfort.

- **Le Tobsil**

As a banquet hall that attempts to provide luxury as well as extravagance of Pashas in Morocco, Le Tobsil is a convenient and peaceful haven. It is situated in the alleyways of Medina. A wide array of couples really love it because of its romantic escape. It has white table cloths, stone arches, and candle lit that will never ruin your time with your special someone.

Every day, it has a different and unique set meal, using fresh and traditional flavors in Morocco. Its foods are cooked with thorough attention and meticulous care. Also it has 'cous cous' and tagine that is presented with extravagance or indulgence. This is why any tourist keep coming back.

- **Comptoir Darna Marrakech**

A combination of Art Deco villa and luxury ballroom, Comptoir Darna Marrakech can complete your travel experience with a sense of fulfillment. They provide regular performances of dancing and music for your entertainment.

Apart from that, it has an opulent dining area that is complemented with a crafter menu. When looking for the best of Moroccan and French cuisine with a touch of Asian culinary traditions, Comptoir Darna Marrakech comes to your rescue. Seafood tagine, mussels, a steam cooked and roasted lamb shoulder are one of the highlights in its menu.

- **Bo-Zin**

Providing a trendy and contemporary Moroccan food, Bo-Zin has services with a touch of the Medina traditions. It creates a very welcoming atmosphere that any tourist love. It is bar, pergola and garden space that diners always choose.

Aside from offering good food, it offers regular performances from good singers, DJs, and bands. When you have been exploring Morocco all day long, go to Bo-Zin. It is one of the best restaurants you cannot afford to miss.

- **Dar Yacout**

Recognized as a Medina Institutions, it is one of the most popular and the best restaurants in Morocco. With its theatrical design and wonderful cooking, it entices every diner and tourist. Like other Moroccan restaurants, it is unique and stunning. It has a reinvention of Moroccan design motifs that represents a palace in the Arabian Nights.

Not only that, its interiors have extravagant grandeur that is complemented with rustic and hearty cuisine. It features Moroccan cuisine that is perfectly cooked.

There you go the list of the best restaurants in Morocco. When you are tired of exploring different attractions in the place, go to one of the Moroccan restaurants. Their services are highly tailored to cater your needs that can guarantee a hassle-free travel.

- **Le Relais de Paris**

When looking for a haven of French culinary delights in Casablanca, Morocco, Le Relais de Paris is one of the best restaurants you should grab. Located in La Corniche beach region, Le Relais de Paris gives different guests an opportunity to taste delicious as well as flavorful French food. Aside from good food, they can enjoy a panoramic and stunning view of the sea.

Le Relais de Paris combines enticing flavors, comfortable atmosphere, and refined style to provide one of the most unforgettable services in the place. It has a mix of the traditional as well as modern elegance in order to catch customers' attention and interest.

When it comes to its menu, it encompasses of fish, spaghetti, and meat. All guests or tourists can even enjoy its famous Skybar following a meal that can make them feel happier and more fulfilled. When your next destination is Casablanca, Morocco, it has Le Relais de Paris that can boost your appetite.

- **La Sqala**

This charming restaurant offers an escape from the noise in the city. Having a classic interior and stunning garden with a variety of flowers, it can be considered as a place of tranquility. It provides typical Moroccan specialties such as tagines and couscous. This is why all guests can give these traditional dishes a try with sweet mint tea in the country.

When it comes to its Andalusian inspired garden, you should not miss the live entertainment to complete your travel experience. You should invite one of your friends, relatives, and colleagues to have fun from the start to finish.

- **Rick's Café**

Because of the film Casablanca in 1942, Rick's Café has transformed. Located in an old country-yard style mansion, it proudly features a piano bar with a range of replicas you can see in curved arches, brass lighting, and balconies as well.

Having four fireplaces and very romantic dining with a captivating view of the port, it offers an experience with maximum comfort and optimal convenience. When it comes to its menu, it is said to be an international one. Its chefs specialize in dishes with fresh seafood, and organic vegetables in Casablanca, Morocco.

- **Brasserie de la Tour**

Situated in the luxury Sofitel Hotel, Brasserie de la Tour provides dishes that are highly inspired by "bistronomy", combining gastronomy, satisfaction, and conviviality. You can eat authentic French cuisine with lots of creativity.

During your experience at the Brasserie de la Tour, you will enjoy and love a very sophisticated setting. The hotel has a glass roof that creates a bright and airy atmosphere every day. At night, you will be able to witness a magical and appealing one for sure.

## CHAPTER 9: Different Outdoor Activities in Morocco

- **Morocco River Rafting and Kayaking**

Looking for a travel destination this 2017? Morocco should be the top on your list. It has several adventures that can make you active all throughout your travel. As a matter of fact, it is a place of kayaking and river rafting. A kayaking trip is one of the several river adventures you can afford. You will witness a picturesque and wonderful topography with a captivating Moroccan sunshine.

- **Horse-Riding**

Horse-riding across the beach through the lapping sea with an aesthetic backdrop from the setting sun, you will be able to have a perfect experience. Starting from Essaouira, you can take advantage of horse-riding and enjoy its beautiful surroundings. With the sound of the waves and the warmth of sun, horse-riding will be an ideal outdoor activity you can ever have.

Morocco offers different activities that can reach your expectations whether you are a thrill seeker or an adventure lover. With its range of landscapes and continuous innovation, horse-riding is an intimate activity you do not expect in the first place.

- **Camel Riding**

Have you ever experienced riding camels across a desert or dining with several Saharan nomads? If not, Morocco is the best travel destination you can ever have. Its camel ride is just a 20 minute experience. You will literally walk with a pair of nomad shoes and experience their way of living. You will have an adventure you will always remember as well.

A visit to the desert in Sahara is an experience all people should try in their lifetime. It is a travel journey in which you will be able to have many fond memories that will last forever. Once you hear every footstep of a camel, you will encounter a sense of fulfillment. Upon seeing the vast, clear, and bluish sky, you will realize that your 2017 travel destination is one of the best.

Near Merzouga, Erg Chebbi has the highest sand dunes in Morocco. As an ocean of Saharan sand, it gives you a way to have an authentic Arabian adventure. You will also have the opportunity to explore a one of a kind desert landscape. Indeed, you should include camel trekking in your travel adventures in Morocco. Surely, you will have fun.

- **Mountain Biking at Draa Valley**

Before going home, you should go to Draa Valley. There are a lot of bike tours that can give you many options. Though descending on the valley is exhausting, you will be quite amazed with the stunning views. This is why it becomes a special adventure that is an excellent alternative to camel ride. In addition, it boasts red rocks and sands against the green palm trees.

When you are eager to experience mountain biking at Draa Valley, make sure to choose a qualified tour service provider. That way, you will finish the adventure safely. You will also take the right path to reach

your desired destination. Its biking tour may link a few of the most varied or contrasting landscapes of the south eastern part of Morocco.

You and your friends will depart from Marrakesh and cross high plateaus. All of you will cycle through spectacular canyons and lush valleys. Once you set south, you will be able to witness the wildest part of the Djebel Saghro. It also has an array of incredible lunar like views. Once you reach the Draa Valley, you will be caught by its lush oases as well as palm groves.

- **Rock Climbing at Todra Gorge**

Are you obsessed doing different types of climbing? Worry no more as Morocco is a place for natural, thrilling, and outdoor climbing. Having many breathtaking and spectacular mountainous regions, Todra Gorge is one of the right climbing spots for you. It can be a bit challenging if you opt a tougher climbing path. This is best when you invite one of your friends and colleagues. You will realize that you have a worth it travel destination at the end of the day. Go to Morocco this year to have the best travel experience ever!

Todra Gorge is recognized as one of the premier sport climbing destination in Morocco. It is also a home of 400 climbs approximately, including single-pitch top ropes and 10 pitch adventures. On popular sectors, there is an excellent and fixed protection. Aside from that, there is an amazing selection of traditional routes and long mixed sports. When you are in search of more thrilling adventures, Todra Gorge will never disappoint you.

### **When to Go**

Pleasant temperatures, a lack of rain, or reliable sunshine gives Todra Gorge a hassle-free or desirable climate for you as a climber. This is the time when the place becomes an ideal escape during the winter season. It is always best to go to Todra Gorge from September to November. But, it can be extended to February or May.

### **Getting There**

The nearest international airport is in Marrakech. Daily flights are available from or throughout Europe and other countries. There are also bus services that run from Marrakech to Tinghir. It is 15 km away from Todra Gorge. If you prefer taxis, there is nothing to worry about as there are reliable service providers you can trust and count on.

### **Accommodation**

There are tons of riads, guest houses, and hotels between Tinghir and Todra Gorge. In the heart of the climbing, you can take advantage of Hotel Yasmina. By just a few minutes of walking, you can reach the exact location without hassles. At the entrance of the Todra Gorge, Hotel La Vallee and Hotel Mansour are one of the most outstanding options you can ever have. When you want a luxury one, you should grab Kasbah Lamrani in Tinghir. It is highly recommended by many travelers around the world.

## **CHAPTER 10: 12 TOP-RATED TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN MOROCCO**

Morocco is one of the most wondrous destinations in the world. It gives every traveler the chance to have a taste of exotic experiences along conjurers and snake charmers with their eyes open. You could be one of the millions who witnessed flea markets piling high with hordes of riches and the boundless glasses of mint tea.

Morocco is also a great choice for adventures. It has a number of stunning sceneries in North Africa with the Sahara desert on its threshold and the steep heights of the Atlas Mountains beyond it. If you are planning for your next trip, Morocco can surely promise you a tranquil and timeless journey.

It has a serene world of coastal villages, colourfully-painted towns clinging to the hillsides, and remote outposts that are guarded by fairy-tale adobe fortresses. You will surely not regret your visit to Morocco because this country is really fascinating. It merges the Arab and the African worlds effortlessly with age-old traditions.

There is no doubt why this place has been famous for writers and artists for decades. Until today, Morocco continues to enchant everyone who visits. Be enchanted by the unique charm of this country on your next trip! It does not matter if you are new to the place. In this chapter, you will discover the top-rated and most visited places that would make you more excited to see it with your own eyes.

### **The Top Tourist Attractions of Morocco You Should Never Miss**

Morocco is the country that fits all types of travelers. There are plenty to explore, to taste, and to learn in this enchanted destination. Whatever your interests are, you can surely find your heart here. Here are the top tourist spots that you can include to your bucket list:

#### **Marrakesh Medina**

It is the vibrant and bustling buzz in Marrakesh Medina that manifests how many visitors are in Morocco. You can enter this old city from the grandeur plaza of Djemma el-Fna Square where you can see that almost half of the city comes together all day. In the evening, people hang out with traditional musicians, stall vendors, random acrobats, and snake charmers.

Once you are already inside Medina, you will feel like you have entered a world of many mystifying alleyways and shopkeepers hustle. Marrakesh Medina will surely be an experience that is full of the noisy and colorful local life. You should not miss all of these and more when you go sightseeing trails in Morocco.

#### **Hassan II Mosque**

Hassan II Mosque is the landmark building of Casablanca. It is an extravagant symbol of the city and of Morocco itself. This is a modern mosque that was completed in 1993. The decoration of the mosque is an intricate detail that covers every centimeter of the mammoth 2 ha site and took 10,000 artisans to finish. There are vibrant mosaics, beautifully carved marble pieces, and zellige tiles that pay tribute to the old-style Islamic architecture but it still feels very contemporary.

#### **Oudaias Kasbah**

The neighborhood of Rabat's Oudaias Kasbah is a perfectly quaint and peaceful district that may be miles away from the city but feels to the heart. There are lanes of neat blue and white house inside the walls of this fort that are rimmed by flowerpots in different colors and a flapping washing. This is considered as the prettiest spot in the capital.

### **Fes el Bali**

Fes is another huge cultural destination in Morocco along Marrakesh. But it is different from its sister Imperial City to the south because it has not been bounded by tourists. Fes el Bali is an old city, an authentic mix-up of a place where it is impossible for you not to get lost in the view.

There are back alleys with whittled plasterwork and elegant old doors that will really catch your attention and make you want to take a picture of you on each corner. One of the most popular fascinations in Fes el Bali is its stinking tanneries especially for those who can deal with the smell.

### **Tangier**

Tangier is a Moroccan city that feels most European. It has a slightly debauched and mesmerizing role in the literary history of the 20th century. It is the past that draws a lot of visitors to this place. Tangier is a famous city that is inspired by remarkable works such as the "Naked Lunch" by William Burroughs and the "The Sheltering Sky" by Paul Bowles. This classic destination may really have been burnished since its era with louche bars and bohemian cafes but nevertheless, you can always catch a vestige of its decadent days.

### **Chefchaouen**

Chefchaouen is a stunning maze of blue-on-blue buildings in the gorgeous Rif Mountains. Chefchaouen has a picturesque glow, making it one of the main attractions of the town although there is not much in it for sightseeing. It is more about wandering around the alleys in Medina and getting enough of all the colorful architecture around. This place is easy-going, peaceful, and perfect for you to recharge yourself from being exhausted roaming around the cities.

### **Volubilis**

Volubilis is the number one Roman ruin of Morocco. It is the perfect place for traveler who is fond of history. History-lovers like you can have a clutch of notable mosaics that are still unearthed. This destination is full of temple remnants and tumbled columns that stand as reminders that even great empires could crumble. Its hilltop location lets the ruins to tower over the countryside and adds a romantic ambiance of glory. You can easily visit Volubilis via a day trip from Fes or Meknes.

### **Bab al-Mansour**

Bab al-Mansour is a mammoth gateway that guards the forts to the Imperial City district of Meknes from Medina. This is very popular because of its spectacular decoration. Bab al-Mansour is meant to be a monumental reminder of the might of the Sultan. It is one of the magnificent relics of the glorious era of Meknes as a capital.

### **Ait Ben Haddou**

Ait Ben Haddou is a golden adobe Kasbah that vividly plunges out of the earth amid a majestic scenery that wows everyone who visits. It is actually a magical place where there are orange turrets that made it a great filming location. If you are planning to take a trip to the inland regions of Morocco, do not miss to witness the surreal beauty of Ait Ben Haddou.

### **Dades Valley**

For trekkers, hikers, and to the general public who are nature-lovers by heart, Dades Valley is a raw landscape in Morocco that you should not miss visiting. A journey to this spot is definitely a promising and unforgettable one with a sneak view of the snow-capped Alps of the High Atlas at a distance.

This is a big sky country amid Fes and Marrakesh that provides an effective antidote to people who have been experiencing weary nerves. There are villages galore, wide stretch of lush fields, and opportunities of bird spotting.

### **Essaouira**

Essaouira is the most enchanting seaside village in Morocco. It is a laid-back and old hippie of the 1970s. Over the years, it has never lost its authenticity. There are always colorful and vibrant fishing boats bobbing afloat the water. Essa is a delightful discovery for new visitors in Morocco, offering a stately old shore-side entrance and twisty lanes of its old town.

### **Erg Chebbi**

In the inland eastern Sahara region of Morocco lies the grand and swelling sand dunes of Erg Chebbi. This is where adventure-seekers and explorers who want to have a close desert action. It is a haven for dune-surfing, camel trekking, and wheel-drive dune-bashing. For those who are less active, you can sit amid the splendid sand dunes and get enough of the fantastic view.

Morocco is absolutely your haven when it comes to adventures, attractions, cuisine, traditions, and culture. There are no reasons for you not to choose Morocco as your next vacation spot. Experience all of these top-rated attractions and more on your next trip!

### **How To Get Around The Top 4 Tourist Attractions In Morocco**

Now that you already have the idea of the top-rated tourist attractions in Morocco, the next thing for you to learn is how to get around these wondrous attractions once you are already there. As for your journey to the timeless and exotic country of Morocco, it is essential for you to be familiar with the place as much as possible so that you will not get lost.

For first time travelers in Morocco, this is a very helpful guide for you to get around its tourist attractions just fine. In this chapter, you will also have a preview of the brief history of Morocco's best tourist spots. Here is a brief guide on how to get around the top 4 tourist attractions in Morocco:

### **MARRAKESH MEDINA**

Marrakesh was a bit more than a far-flung settlement before the leader of the Almoravid Berber, Youssef bin Tashufin, who is the cousin of the Sultan, and his wife, Zeinab founded the city in 1062 A.D. Under the



leadership of Tashufin, the city grew bigger and eventually became the capital of the Almoravid Empire. It has remained as an economic, cultural, and political center for a long time.

With the independence of Morocco in 1956, the Glaoua family was ousted by the new monarchy. It was that time when Marrakesh Medina became a haven of activities and a sanctuary for artists. Now, after how many decades, it remains as an important attraction in Morocco that offers a rich culture and history to its visitors from across the world.

### **Best Ways to Get Around Marrakesh Medina**

- **Plane** – Marrakesh has a new and modern airport. Unless you are heading to southern parts, Moroccan buses and trains will do but if you are running for the time, there are several internal flights that link the country. Planes are very helpful for you to get to Fes el Bali in an instant.
- **Train** – Trains in Morocco are clean, frequent, and reliable. This is another great way for you to travel from one city to another. However, they do not go further south until Safi and do not pass the mountains. They connect popular cities like Marrakesh, Casablanca, Tangier, Fes, Rabat, and Meknes.
- **Bus** – There are inter-city buses, city buses, and private bus lines. As taxi is a more expensive travel in Marrakesh, you can look for buses to take a trip to Casablanca or Essaouira.
- **Taxi** – Taxis in Morocco are in 2 types: the grand taxi and petite taxi. Petite taxis charge by meter, only carry 3 passengers, and limited to urban zone while grand taxis have fixed prices that are negotiable, carry 6 passengers, and travel outside urban zones.
- **Caleche** – If you are not in a hurry and want to try a stylish travel, you can go with Caleche. This is a transport by a horse-drawn carriage. They are on the outskirts of the old city of Medina and also in the city proper. You can also find them outside the Djemaa el Fna Square.
- **Walking** – Marrakesh is meant for walking in flat and compact. The skinny maze of Medina's alleys and souks are best explore by foot. The central Gueliz is just a 25-minute walk from the Djemaa el Fna.

### **HASSAN II MOSQUE**

Hassan II Mosque is located in the business and economic capital of Morocco—Casablanca. It is the world's 2nd largest mosque. This mosque was designed by a French architect, Michel, Pinseau. The mosque was designed by Pinseau to be earthquake-proof.

At night, the lasers of the Minaret shines through the direction of Mecca. Now, this minaret stands to be the tallest around the world. The Hassan Mosque was finished in 1993. It stands on the prominent land on the shore the Atlantic Ocean, giving spectacular views to visitors.

### **Ways of Getting Around the Historic Hassan II Mosque**

Most of the travelers who fly to Morocco arrive at the Mohamed V International Airport located about one hour away from the city center of Casablanca but it depends on the traffic. Traffic is one of the problems of Casablanca just like in other metropolitan cities and may be worse until the construction of the Casa Tramway was finished.

However, getting around Casablanca is very simple. You can hire petite red taxis to take escort you to Hassan II Mosque and to other places in the city. It would be best if you could write down the name as well as the street address of the destination but most of the attractions like Hassan II Mosque are already well-known by local drivers. Tours to the mosque are always available except on Fridays or religious holidays.

## **OUDAIAS KASBAH**

Oudaias Kasbah is located in the capital of Morocco at the mouth of Bou Regreg River. It is one of the unique sites of the city. It was originally built during the 12th century and was renovated several times over the centuries. It is a home for Arab tribes, powerful Sultans of Morocco, and Andalusian immigrants.

The history of Oudaias Kasbah is the history of Rabat. Rabat replaced Fes as the capital of Morocco. It is the home of the Royal Palace of King Mohammed VI. This is where the city started in the 12th century under the Almohad dynasty. The dynasty needed a defense for its territory so they built a location on the Bou Regreg River. The Kasbah was placed here to ideally protect Rabat from invading forces and pirate ships.

### **Getting There and Getting Around**

- **Getting There**

- ✓ By plane – The Rabat-Sale Airport has JetAirFly, Air France, and Royal Air Maroc that serve Paris. The Royal Air Maroc serves Agadir while the JetAirFly flies on Charleroi and Brussels. Direct flights include Tripoli and Cairo.
- ✓ By train – ONCF trains run for every 30 minutes between Casablanca and Rabat and also to Kenitra. Other trains also run to Meknes, Fes, Tangier, Oujda, and Marrakesh.
- ✓ By car – You can rent a car with the international companies in Rabat.
- ✓ By bus – Bus is great for moving to different places like Casablanca, Agadir, El-Jadida, Fes, Essaouira, Marrakesh, Er-Rachidia, Tangier, Safi, Tiznit, and more.

- **Getting Around**

- ✓ **By car** – It is not recommended for you to drive by yourself because insurance rates are actually high. You can simply rent a car or ride a taxi around.
- ✓ **By public transport** – The simplest way to travel around the city is by petite blue taxis. Cost is about 10 to 20 dirham.

- ✓ **By foot** – If you are not in a rush, you can walk around Agdal, Center Ville, Median, the University, monuments, the ocean, and river. The Corniche on the river that leads to Oudaias has already been re-done.

## FES EL BALI

Fes el Bali is the largest and surviving ancient city in the world. It is crowded with stalls and shops, madrasas and mosques, and merchants who sell spices, dates, and meat. It is one of the major districts of the city where you can encounter a lot of leather tanneries, places for worship, tourist gimmicks, and stalls that sell fresh fruits.

The history of Fes can be traced back to the Idrisid dynasty where it has become as a capital in 789 through 808 A.D. It is a home to the oldest university in the world, the University of Al-Karaouine. In 1981, Fes el Bali was named as a World Heritage site and one of its notable icons is the Bab Bou Jeloud or “The Blue Gate” that leads to the pedestrian area of the city.

### How You Can Get Around Fes el Bali

- **Public Transport** – Local buses are usually crowded but they run regularly to connect the Ville Nouvelle with other parts of the medieval city. Route numbers are on the side of buses. Some useful buses include bus 9, 12, and 19.
- **Taxis** – The petite taxis operate just within the city limits, are inexpensive, metered, and has a 3-passenger capacity and grand taxis are more spacious and travel with upfront routes.
- **Car hire** – There are also car rental companies where you can rent cars that you can use for you travel.
- **Bicycle hire** – There is also a Rabat-based bike hire company that rents out mountain bikes around Morocco.

There you go with the ways on how to get around the top 4 most visited tourist attractions in Morocco. Getting around and familiarizing yourself with the best places in Morocco should be easy. This guide can surely help you while your journey to the famous land of Morocco.

## **CHAPTER 11: Explore the Berber Community in the Berber Villages**

If you plan to head to the African spots in Morocco, you don't want to miss the opportunity to visit, see and experience the Berber Villages. This calls your attention maybe because you heard about their skills in crafts, their knowledge about the lands, their indestructible history, or maybe something a bit more than just that. Or perhaps, you are curious about the place and never heard anything about the people at all.

Well, what you know has nothing to do when you personally see the place and experience the Berber people in their small community. So let us take a peek at this amazing place and the people that take good care of the spot.

### **Morocco Berber History**

Whether you believe it or not, the history of the Berbers goes back to the prehistoric times. The rich history of the Berber's culture dates back to the prehistoric times over 4000 years ago. Calling themselves as "Amazigh" known as the proud Raiders, they bravely fought against the large numbers of invaders such as Romans, French, and Arabs. Though the Roman invaders and other races tried colonized their community, the Berber people still able to preserve their culture and language, thus, in reality, they were never beaten at all.

The Berber's language was primarily oral in nature even though they have their own systems in terms of writing for over 2500 years. Sometimes difficult to find, their writing can be found being cataloged in the small museums in the south.

### **About the Morocco Berbers**

The Berbers are the people who are ethnically indigenous to the North Africa located west of the Nile River. As light-skinned people, the Berbers have been called by different names. The ancient Greek calls them as Libyans. The Romans called them as Numbians and Africans. And the medieval Europe calls them as Moors. The Islam people came to the Berbers from the ninth to the tenth century. With it, many Berbers in the Africa were Jewish or Christians. The two Islamic dynasties in the Berbers, the Moravids, and Almohads, built the Moorish empire that has been ruling the Northern Africa and Spain, Portugal.

Most of the Berber people are living in the mountains of Morocco and the Arabs and the Moors are living in the cities. As of today, it is already common to see some Berbers running and operating their own small shops and other types of commerce endeavors. Most of the Berbers today are farmers in the mountains and in the valleys in the Morocco. In the earlier days, they are traders.

While there are many Berbers are having a settlement in the Berber Village, there are different tribes inhabiting different regions in the Morocco. The Drawa Berber tribes are settling in the Draa Valley. The Dades tribe are living in the North East. The Mestiga Zeri and Seddrat tribes are living along the rivers of the North West. And the Ghomara makes the Moroccan Rif region as their home.

### **The Greatness of the Berber Community**

The Berber's long recorded influence had affected the commerce by establishing a trading route to the farther region, where they are able to transport their goods beyond the deserts to the cities in the

Northern Morocco. Indeed, the identity of the Berber people is usually a lot wider than of the language, ethnicity, and craft – it encompasses the entire history and the geography of the Morocco and the North Africa.

On the other hand, if you try to visit Souks in the Marrakech, your eyes will see overwhelming options of Berber’s craftsmanship – from the stunning silvers like Tuareg and Amazigh jewelry to the handmade rugs – you will surely appreciate their skills and talents of creating such wonderful products. However, if you feel like seeing the products don’t satisfy you that much or you are curious about the people who created those items and learn more about the authentic Berber people, we recommend you to travel to the traditional Berber Village for a trip, for example as part of your wondrous excursion to the Imlil in the High Atlas Mountains. So if you are ready, we will give you a great overview so you will know what to anticipate when you arrive there.

### **What to Expect When You Visit the Traditional Berber Village in the Atlas Mountain**

As of today, it is still possible for us to find lots of traditional Berber settlement in the Moroccan mountains. Though the Berbers don’t exclusively live in the rural locations, their communities are offering an exciting insight into their traditions and history. Thus, if you will happen to receive an invite to visit the traditional Berber Village for an exploit in the Atlas Mountain, you should not pass on the chance of going there and discover a never-before happening.

Let me give you a little guide if you’re willing to go there. It may take you an hour to reach the Berber Village when you travel from Marrakech. You may arrive at the stood as the cluster of the pise homes that is carved into a hillside, setting the backdrop of the fantastic Atlas Mountains. The Atlas Mountains is called by the Berbers in the village as “Idraren Draren,” which means “The Mountains of the Mountains.” Well, it is very easy to see why they call it that way. It is because the Atlas Mountain is standing tall like an unmoving monument that towers over the dozens of a small community of the Berbers. This scene is truly marked by the overwhelming stillness and prevailing tranquility – and these could be two of the significant luxuries we might rarely found at the effervescent Medina of the Marrakech.

If you wish to ascend upwards the narrow pathway that is lined with the clay homes, you may more likely want to create a delicate footstep so you can complement with the ambiance of the total scene. This doesn’t mean that you are not welcome in the place, but this has been a mutual feeling for everyone going there since the silence has partially become a feeling of amazement and wonder and partially an exciting attempt to witness the unnoticed life of the Berber people. And when you fully combine them together, you can seamlessly capture a vibrant glimpse of the local community in a pure way.

Indeed, the Berber people in the village are recognized for their attitude of being hospitable. Some people in the community might get a chance to invite the visitors to their small lovely homes to share a toast of their popular Moroccan mint tea. You should try it! With the help of your tour guide, you can even talk to the local people about the village, as they were very much willing to share some insights about the history of the place. Make sure to make the most of every second of your life while you are there as each of these experience counts not just for you as a visitor, but also to the Berber Village people. They love to accommodate guests and flaunt the richness of the place in a very hospitable way.

After all, the Berber Village is worth a visit. If you want to know about the Berber Villages and meet the community people, discover the place with your feet standing the villages.

## **CHAPTER 12: Fun Things to Do in Morocco that You Should Not Miss**

Morocco, one of the beautiful countries found around the world is one of the top choices when it comes to travel destinations. In this country, people with wanderlust souls can experience history and modernization at the same time. Choosing this country as your destination will never disappoint you instead it will satisfy your free-spirited and adventure seeking soul because it has a lot of fun things to do that will surely be unforgettable. Even though that Morocco is known for its strict laws when it comes to travelers, still, your money and time will be valuable especially when you know the things that you should do.

In Morocco, you can spend all your time wisely and properly because you will be able to enjoy it to the fullest. You will be able to learn and feed your hungry eyes with scenic views that you cannot find from other places. The country has great destinations and cities that will give you what you are looking. Your time will never be wasted when you set foot in Morocco.

Are you looking for some fun and adventure? Well, all your desires will come true once you are in the country of Morocco.

***Here are the things that you can do when you are in Morocco.***

### **Stroll the beautiful street of Chefchaouen**

When you are in Morocco, you should never miss strolling because it will allow you to have a glimpse of its beautiful street no matter what time of the day you choose. You will be able to see scenic views that are breathtaking and are worth capturing. You can take a stroll on the Blue Streets of Chefchaouen which is found in the heart of Rif Mountains. This place will give you a quiet yet satisfying sensation. The accommodations in Chefchaouen are competitive and absolutely budget-friendly. When you stroll in this street, you will be able to find it stunning. This is called the blue street because some of the buildings are colored in sky blue.

### **Return to the past by visiting Fez**

When you are in Morocco, you will be able to experience the past once again. When you visit the old town of Fez, you will be able to enjoy the narrow lanes that it offers just like you are inside a maze. This historic town is a great place for you to enjoy all your desires– from eating down to getting familiar with the history that has taken place in the city of Fez. The town is packed with museums that are open air where you will experience the Moroccan heritage for 13 centuries.

In addition, visiting the old city of Fez, you will also have a spectacular view of the sunset especially when you have it viewed on a rooftop. You can enjoy this scene with your friends, partner, or family whom you are traveling with.

### **Enjoy the sands in the Sahara Desert**

If you want to enjoy the sands of the famous Sahara Desert, you can make it happen when you visit Morocco. You can ride a 4x4 which will give you a bumpy yet thrilling ride over the desert that is surely unforgettable and will keep your spirit high. In addition, you can also enjoy the Sahara Desert by riding a camel which is more adventurous. You will be able to enjoy and explore the sand dunes which is far from what you see in the city. The sand dunes in this desert are the highest in the country of Morocco and this is something that you should not miss. If you want to see the sand dunes, the best time for you to enjoy the sands of the Sahara is during the sunset or sunrise where you will also have a glimpse of the red color that looks striking.

### **Experience everything at Marrakesh's central square**

Djemma El Fna is the central square that can be found in the city of Marrakesh in Morocco. This is the central square that will allow you to experience everything! You can taste the exquisite cuisines that melt in the mouth from high-end restaurants. Also, if you want to taste the street foods that the country offers, there are food stalls that you can enjoy which will give you the taste of what Moroccan food is all about. Djemma El Fna is also the place where you can purchase traditional medicines. The central square is perfect for people who would want to experience everything in one place.

### **Have a dip in the river and at the Cascades d' Ouzoud waterfall**

If you don't want to dip on the beaches of the country, then the next option is to visit the Water Rivers and the waterfall that is known in Morocco. The Cascades d' Ouzoud waterfall is a place where you can enjoy dipping. The Water Rivers are just below the waterfall. The Cascades d' Ouzoud waterfall is situated between the Atlas Mountains and is just nearby the Ouzoud village. If you are planning to visit the falls, take a dip during the late afternoon because rainbows are formed which makes the place look more impressive.

### **Visit the most sacred destination in Marrakesh Morocco: Koutoubia Mosque**

Koutoubia Mosque is the most sacred destination that you can visit in Morocco. Located in Marrakesh, which is one of the biggest cities in the country, this is the place that should be given with great respect no matter what religion you have. The highlight of the Koutoubia Mosque is its 70 meters high Almohad minaret which can be seen wherever you may be in the city of Marrakesh.

### **Stretch your muscles by trekking at the Atlas Mountains**

The Atlas Mountains is the highest peak that can be found in Morocco. If you love to climb mountains, then this is the place where you can enjoy trekking. The Atlas Mountains' peak is 4,000 feet which are the tallest all over North Africa. The trek may be exhausting but once you reach the top, you will be proud to say that you were able to reach the highest mountain in Morocco. Reaching the top of the Atlas Mountains, you have the best place where you will have a wide view of the cities that lie beneath.

### **Get surrounded by beautiful and rare plants and flowers at Jardin Majorelle**

Jardin Majorelle is one of the famous destinations that can be found in Morocco. This is a botanical garden that is 12 acres wide which are considered as an artist's paradise. Jardin Majorelle is made by Jacques Majorelle which is a French painter. As time passed by, the botanical garden was bought by Yves Saint

Laurent and Pierre Berge during the 1980 and restored it. When Yves Saint Laurent died, his ashes were spread on the oasis. Now, the botanical garden is now made into a small museum which focuses on Islamic Art and this botanical garden is a gift of Yves Saint Laurent to the city of Makkah.

### **Cook traditional and delicious Moroccan cuisine**

The cuisines of Morocco are combinations of influences and these are Turkish cuisine, Arabic Andalusian cuisine, Middle Eastern cuisine, French cuisines, and Berber cuisines. If you want to complete your travel by learning how to cook Moroccan food, you can make it happen and that is by through Riads. Plenty of Riads is providing cooking classes in the city of Fes, Marrakesh, and Essaouira. The classes are usually given for half-day and within this time, you will have the chance to buy fresh ingredients on your own and cook a cuisine you want to learn. Learning how to cook Moroccan food is one way of letting yourself adapt to the culture that the country lives.

### **Take a steam bath at Hammam**

If you want to try the public steam bath in Morocco, then the traditional Hammam is the best option for you. Hammams are made for the public so expect that you may have the chance to share it with other travelers. You can scrub your body and take a steam bath in a hammam is a way of widening your eyes on the culture that country has. Also, taking a steam bath in a hammam will allow you to socialize with the locals as well.

### ***Searching for more fun things to do in Morocco?***

Morocco is the perfect place where you can definitely experience the diversities that life offers. As a matter of fact, there are several fun things that you can do in this country. Even though that Morocco is a Muslim country, it does not stop you from enjoying your time as long as you respect the culture and religion they have.

If you want to maximize all your time in the beautiful country of Morocco, indulge yourself on doing all the fun things which will make your heart contented and happy. So, don't just sit around and wait for your departure time to come. Hence, once you step foot at Morocco, start exploring the place!

Still looking for more fun things to do in Morocco? Here are the other fun things that you can do in Morocco.

### **Play with the waves at Taghazoute**

If you love surfing, never let this thing pass by because you can enjoy playing with the waves at Morocco. The country is known for its big waves that have been enticing surfers ever since. If one of your purposes is to surf in Morocco, you should visit Taghazoute which is found in the north of Agadir. And the perfect time for you to surf is during the months of winter wherein the waves are good and also the air is still mild. You don't have to worry when you want to surf in Morocco because there are several surf shops that can be found in the country and there are hotels where you can stay that are near from the surfing camp.



Also, you can visit the city of Essaouira since it also a place where you can surf and fly kite but the waves are not as a consistent as the one in Taghazoute. So, if you want to enjoy surfing in Morocco, you know where to go.

### **Stay at the cozy and haven ambiance of Riads**

If you want to stay at a traditional home but are turned into hotels, Riads are what you are looking for. The home turned hotel is a place that is designed with great luxury that is truly stunning. Riads are filled with tiles and the architecture will leave you in awe. Also, you will be able to see fountains and courtyard which complete the place.

Riads are usually found at Marrakech and Fes which means that you are just in the center of the cities which make everything accessible. When you stay at Riads, you will a great glimpse of the sunrise and sunset because of its rooftops. Also, you can eat breakfast and enjoy the overlooking alleys and minarets in the area when you are on Riads' rooftops.

In addition, if you are going to Morocco during the summer, there are Riads that have swimming pools and that could be the best choice.

### **Ski at the Snow of Oukaimeden**

Who would have thought that you can also ski in the country of Morocco? Well, you can! You can have the chance to ski at Oukaimeden during the months of January and February because these are the months where the mountains are deeply covered with snow.

Oukaimeden is found 46 miles south of Marrakech in the High Atlas Mountains. When you reach the place, there are ski lifts that you can rent or you may ride a donkey. There is ski equipment that you can also rent but not all are in good quality. Visiting this place, you can grab some snacks to eat and also stay at some hotels overnight. When you are from Marrakech and planning to go to Oukaimeden, you can ride a taxi and spend \$40.

### **See the Hassan II Mosque**

If you are planning to visit the Hassan II Mosque, then you should head to Casablanca. This mosque is created for five years and 6,000 Moroccan artisans lent their hands to finish the beautiful Hassan II Mosque. The marbles, mosaics, columns, floors, ceilings, and plaster moldings are intricately done.

Hassan II Mosque is considered to be the hugest mosque found in the world where it can accommodate 100,000 worshippers. This is the mosque that you should not miss when you visit Morocco. However, if you are a non-Muslim, you cannot access the mosque. Still, you can explore the outside of the mosque.

### **Discover Meknes**

Well, if you want to feel at home when you are in Morocco, then Meknes is the place for you. This is a smaller city stop that can be found in Morocco and it is being surrounded by the busy streets of the bigger cities. The good thing in this small city is that you will be able to discover historical sites that are ancient. The city is small but genuine and quiet which will give you a relaxing time in getting to know the city better and here, you will not feel like a tourist but you may feel like you are part of the local community.

### **Enjoy the capital of Morocco: Rabat**

Rabat is known to be the capital of Morocco and here, you will never be disappointed. You will be able to enjoy everything. Also, you will have the chance to see the clean neighborhood of the area which will make your stroll more fun and fresh. You don't have to worry about your safety when you are in Rabat because the place is safe to everyone and can be navigated easily.

### **Experience the signature dish of Morocco – the Tagine**

When it comes to the famous signature dish of Morocco, the first dish that comes to mind is Tagine. This is the dish that you should not miss when you are in Morocco. The dish is baked in a closed clay pot and this is enjoyed with a round bread. Have a taste of Tagine and you will surely get familiar with Morocco.

Don't just settle on what you always do when you are traveling to different countries because when you are in Morocco, there are a lot of things that you can do that are fun and are definitely worthy of your time.

When you are in Morocco, you will be able to enjoy adventures and experiences that you don't usually see in your native land. There are several things that you can do in the country that is fun and worth taking. The things to do will guide you on how you can fully enjoy the country.

If you are planning to visit Morocco and would want to make your time and money all worth it, these are the fun things that you can do. In this country, you will not only make your wanderlust soul full but your mind will also be filled with satisfaction and your heart will be filled with joy and contentment.

## CHAPTER 13: The DO's and DON'Ts Travelers Need to Know before Visiting Morocco

Hello everyone, welcome to Morocco!

Situated in the southern portion of the Mediterranean, the place boasts lots of extraordinary and outstanding scenes, sights, and spots, where your eyes will please to see. The Morocco's multi-ethnicity is comprised of different combinations of cultures, beliefs, and customs, which are African, Arab, Islamic, European and Berber. With all these mixtures, Morocco remains as an Islamic country and the religion is one of the integral parts of their rich culture.

So, if you are a traveler and targeting to visit Morocco for your next adventure, you need to understand everything before you step your toes on their land. When you were here, whether you like it or not, you will have to encounter their practices every day. And wherever you go in the proximity of Morocco, you will meet people possessing these beliefs, so it is necessary to make some adjustments. Make your trip to Morocco become much enjoyable, memorable and rewarding by knowing the do's and don'ts. Here are some of them:

### Morocco Travel Don'ts

Moroccan people are sticking to their beliefs. If what is stated here, it should be practiced by everyone, even by the people who visit the place. Remember that it is not your place. So, it is important that you know what are the actions and things that offend them. Let us start with the don'ts so you will initially know the things you should avoid.

- Don't ever convince yourself to offer any type of alcoholic beverage to the Muslim people, unless if you are inside the bar or they're already imbibing.
- When thirst strikes, don't buy your water, juice or any kind of beverage in the main square, instead purchase them on the outside shops because their price is a lot cheaper.
- Don't drink and/or eat in the public places in Morocco during the Ramadan days as this is extremely rude and it insults their culture.
- Don't take pictures or videos of the dancers, monkeys and snakes when you don't have a plan to offer a penny. If you want, you can watch for free but no image-taking allowed.
- Don't wear too revealing clothes as it can offend the Muslim people in Morocco. You have to understand that Moroccans are wearing their dresses in a very conservative way. Both women and men are usually covering their bodies with clothes unless they are on the beach.
- Don't offer unnecessary eye contact to the people as this might be misinterpreted by them, which sometimes leads into trouble.
- Don't go to the Morocco at the time the Ramadan is celebrated if you don't have a plan to offer a faithful fasting together with the local people. And even you are not anticipated to fast each day until the sunset with them, in larger cities and towns, you can still find good places to eat during the day, so you might be tempted.
- Don't carry your Bible in this Arabic country, or get yourself involved in any religious activities that can upset the religious sentiments of the Muslim people. Watch also your language when the topic is about religion. Don't make any argument when it comes to this matter.

- When you are having a communal eating with the Muslim people, don't use your left hand, as people here believed it is used for a personal hygiene. Use your right hand instead because it is used for eating and greeting purposes.
- Don't take alcoholic drinks in view of the mosque because this considered by the Muslim people as highly disrespectful.
- Don't go to the Western Sahara of the Morocco because of the landmine presence. Feel free to check the safe Travel for the current government warnings.
- Don't carry a huge amount of cash when you travel here, but rather use a traveler's cheque.
- When you are hiring a taxi to go somewhere else, talk first to the driver about the fare or the meter before entering the vehicle. When the agreement is done, it is the right time to hop in.
- Don't get yourself involves in any kind of drug dealing or using. The penalties in Morocco in terms of drug issues are very harsh even it only involves a few amount of prohibited drugs.
- Don't accept direction coming from the strangers. Some people who are kind might tell you that those who offer directions to the tourists might give information in exchange for money. When you think you're lost, ask assistance from the police officers.

Knowing all these don'ts in Morocco, you can protect yourself against the potential harm that the environment, the people and you can create. Like any other countries, Morocco has their belief and they want to keep it that way and of course, it should be applied to all – even the tourists are no expectations.

Just because Morocco has all these restrictions, it does mean it is no longer a good place to go and spend your holiday. These rules are just a part of the mild considerations and if you know all these beforehand, you will have a good and stress-free escapade with the people here.

### **The Morocco Travel Do's**

Though there are lots of things prohibited things to do in Morocco, particularly when it comes to the cultural perspectives of the people living here, there are many good things you can do and enjoy while you are on your stay here. Just make sure you are guided by do's things. Here are some of them:

- Do learn to educate yourself with little Arabic words. Although everyone is speaking French and few are speaking English, learning some of the important native words can help you communicate with the local people here.
- Do sleep in the riads. There are lots of attractive riads in the midst of the Souk, the hidden treasures at the narrow street in the old part of Morocco.
- Do greet the local people with a smile and a handshake. And when you have any question to ask, offer a friendly inquiry either it would be about health, family pleasantries or happiness. Be friendly all the time.
- Do enjoy the foods of Moroccan people. There are lots typical Moroccan foods you can enjoy, including tajines, fresh fish, lamb chops, couscous, etc. You can even explore the restaurants and food centers to get amazing dinner experiences.
- Do bring tissues when you are using a toilet.
- Do explore the streets to buy souvenirs. There are lots of stuff you can buy on the streets and they are sold at a cheap price. You can give the souvenirs to your friends when you get back to your place.

- Do be careful when someone you don't know approached you about something without making any invitation to them. Just be careful as these type of people may take advantage of your innocence in the place or they might rip you off.
- Do visit the historical landmarks of Morocco and enjoy the information you are about to discover.
- Do wear a decent clothing when you are here. Even though a casual gear is widely acceptable, wearing any types of clothes that able to reveal your legs and arms can be a form of disrespectful to the place, unless if you are on a beach or a pool.
- Do avoid any large gathering. Keep your profile low and remain proactive for the duration of your stay.
- Do buy lots of treasures, including leather, carpets, jewelry, bags, shoes and much more. All you need to do is to haggle and get 50 percent of the price. The retailers here are kind to the customers, so with an easy talk, you can convince them and get a good price from the items.
- Do avoid the sexual harassment if you are a woman that travel alone. Just pretend you have been here and you know the environment you are staying. Walk purposely and always remember to avoid unnecessary eye contact to the people, particularly in the streets.
- Do be chatty and patient with the people you often get to contact with. The Moroccan open conversation has been the key to making a pleasant interaction with the people. And when they offer you a tea, accept the offer and at least let them see you take a sip on it.
- Do explore the night side of Morocco. There are nice bars await you here.

Moroccan people are great of you to know how to deal with them. Don't let your vacation be hindered by just not researching about Morocco. Still, overall, Morocco is a great country and all people who've been here are happy for their experience. And those who anticipate to visiting Morocco for the first time, I know you too can have a good time here.

See you in Morocco!

## CONCLUSION

Morocco is undeniably rich and overflows with the luxuries and experiences that you thought never existed. If you are looking for a sanctuary where you can relax while fulfilling your travel goals, write down Morocco on your bucket list today. With its diverse and stunning landscape, magnificent cities, rich cultural heritage, unmatched cuisine, and genuine hospitality, it is surely a paradise that you would always want to get lost in.

Morocco is welcoming you to have your ultimate experience of adventure, love, fun, and relaxation in it. Spoil yourself and have a taste of the luscious Moroccan culture and quality of life. There are a lot of destinations that you can visit across the world but a Moroccan trip will always be different from the others. Imagine a place where you can enjoy all the simple things in life with pure joy and warmth—this is Morocco. Give yourself a treat and travel to Morocco today!