

# THE BEST OF MOROCCO

## Presentation of Casablanca, Marrakech and Rabat cities

### CASABLANCA CITY

Casablanca is a large and bustling city located on the western coast of Morocco. It is the largest city in the country and is also the economic and business capital.

The city is known for its vibrant culture, stunning architecture, and bustling port. It is home to many iconic landmarks, such as the Hassan II Mosque, the Maârif neighborhood, and the Art Deco-style Cinema Rialto. The city also has a rich history, having been inhabited by various cultures and civilizations over the centuries, including the Phoenicians, Romans, and French.

The city is also known for its shopping and dining scene, with a variety of markets, malls, souks, bazars

Casablanca is a modern Metropolis and center in work affairs where the most important business dealing t congress, political summits are held. The city shows the face of a



r a taste of Moroccan cuisine and culture.

Using importance, Casablanca is today an important seminars, king rapid progress into the modern world.

### Places to visit in Casablanca :

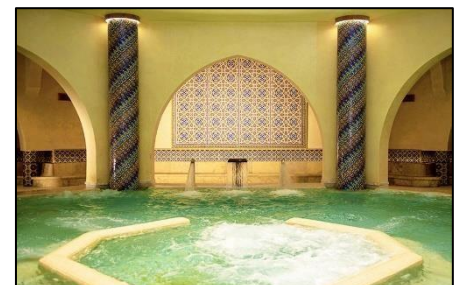
#### Hassan II Mosque:



The Hassan II Mosque is a prominent mosque located in Casablanca. It is one of the largest mosques in the world, with the tallest minaret at 210 meters (689 feet) tall. The mosque was completed in 1993 and is named after King Hassan II, who initiated its construction.

The mosque's architecture is a blend of traditional Moroccan and Islamic design, with modern technology incorporated into the construction. The mosque features intricate mosaics, marble floors, and a retractable roof that can be opened to the sky. It also has a large prayer hall, a madrasa (Islamic school), a hammam (bathhouse), and a museum.

Non-Muslims are also welcome to visit the mosque outside of prayer times, although they must be dressed modestly and respect the religious significance of the site.



**Downtown Casablanca's architecture:**



Place Mohammed V is a central square located in the heart of downtown Casablanca. The square is surrounded by important government buildings, including the Palace of Justice, the Wilaya (Prefecture) building, and the Bank of Morocco. It is also home to the iconic fountain called "La Victoire" which is popular landmark in the city and is widely recognized for its beauty and historical significance.

The architecture of the buildings around Place Mohammed V is a mix of modernist and neoclassical styles. The buildings are known for their elegant facades, ornate details, and grand entrances.

**Casablanca's Medina**



The heart of the Medina is the Casbah Mosque, surrounded by narrow streets and local shops. While not as large or well-known as some other Moroccan medinas, the Casablanca Medina is still a charming and authentic district that offers a glimpse into the city's cultural and architectural heritage. Visitors can wander the winding streets, admire the white-washed buildings with their decorative tilework and ornate doors and windows, and stop at local cafes and restaurants for a taste of traditional Moroccan cuisine.



**Rick's Café**



**Rick's Café** is a famous restaurant and bar located in Casablanca, Morocco. The restaurant was actually built in 2004 and designed to recreate the ambiance of the famous bar in the classic 1942 film "Casablanca." It has become a popular tourist destination for visitors to Casablanca who want to experience a little bit of Hollywood nostalgia.



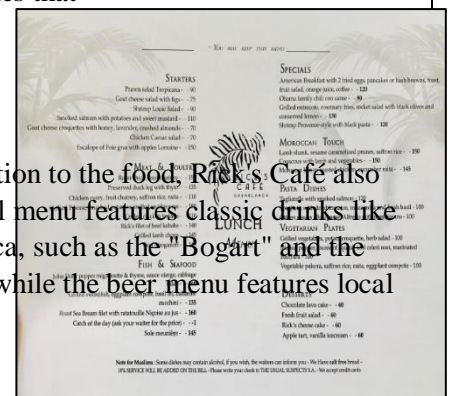
The décor is designed to evoke the atmosphere of the film, with a piano in the center of the room and vintage photos of Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, and other stars from the movie adorning the walls. The restaurant also has a rooftop terrace with views of the city.

While the original Rick's Café from the movie was fictional, the recreation in Casablanca has become a beloved destination for movie buffs and travelers from around the world.

The restaurant features live music and offers a mix of Moroccan and international cuisine, with an emphasis on fresh and locally-sourced ingredients. Some of the typical dishes that might be found on the menu include:

- **Couscous with vegetables or meat,**
- **Tagines (slow-cooked stews) with chicken, lamb, or beef,**
- **Seafood dishes such as grilled fish or shrimp,**
- **Salads with local ingredients like olives, dates, and chickpeas,**
- **Appetizers like hummus, baba ganoush, and Moroccan-style pastries,**

In addition to the food, Rick's Café also has a bar with a variety of drinks, including cocktails, wine, and beer. The cocktail menu features classic drinks like martinis and daiquiris, as well as specialty drinks inspired by the movie Casablanca, such as the "Bogart" and the "Ingrid." The wine list includes a selection of Moroccan and international wines, while the beer menu features local and imported brews.



### **The Habous Market:**



The Habous Market is a bustling souk, or market, located in the Habous Quarter of Casablanca. The Habous Quarter was built in the 1920s during the French Protectorate era and features a mix of Moroccan and European architectural styles, with white-washed buildings and wide, tree-lined boulevards.

The market is one of the highlights of the quarter and is a great place to shop for traditional Moroccan crafts and souvenirs, such as leather goods, carpets, pottery, and spices. Visitors can also find a range of local food products, including olives, dates, and honey.



Habous market is a vibrant and lively place to explore, with narrow streets and alleys that lead to hidden squares and courtyards. It offers a glimpse into traditional Moroccan culture and is a must-visit destination for anyone interested in experiencing the country's unique sights, sounds, and flavors.

## **MARRAKECH CITY**



Marrakech, also known as the "**Red City**" due to the red walls and buildings that surround its old town, is a popular destination in Morocco. The city is famous for its bustling souks, stunning palaces and gardens, and the lively Djemaa el-Fna square, which comes alive with food stalls, performers, and storytellers at night.

Visitors can explore the narrow streets of the medina, marvel at the intricate tilework and architecture of the Bahia Palace, and relax in the serene gardens of the Majorelle Garden. Marrakech is also known for its traditional Moroccan cuisine, with its unique blend of spices and flavors that tantalize the taste buds. With its vibrant culture, rich history, and warm hospitality, Marrakech is a fascinating city to explore and a must-visit destination in Morocco.

### **Places to visit in Marrakech**

#### **Bahia Palace:**



Bahia Palace is a stunning 19th-century palace located in Marrakech. It is known for its beautiful architecture and intricate tilework, as well as its lush gardens and courtyards.

The palace features over 150 rooms, including a grand reception hall, living quarters for the royal family, and a harem. Each room is decorated with ornate tilework, carved wood, and painted ceilings. The palace also offers beautiful views of the surrounding gardens and courtyards.

It is a true masterpiece and a testament to the wealth and power of its former owners. A visit to Bahia Palace is an unforgettable experience, a chance to

#### **Semmarine SOUK:**



Semarine Souk is a vibrant and bustling marketplace located in the heart of Marrakech's historic Medina. It is one of the largest souks in the city and is a popular destination for tourists and locals alike. The souk is known for its colorful stalls and narrow alleyways, which are filled with vendors selling everything from textiles and ceramics to spices and jewelry.

The souk is particularly famous for its textiles, including colorful carpets, blankets, and clothing made from wide range of ceramics, including traditional tagines and other cooking vessels, as well as intricate pottery and decorative items.

Walking through Semarine Souk is a sensory experience, with the scent of spices and the sounds of bargaining and bartering filling the air. The souk is a labyrinth of winding alleyways and covered stalls, and visitors can easily lose themselves among the many vendors and products on display.



on, and wool. Visitors can also find a

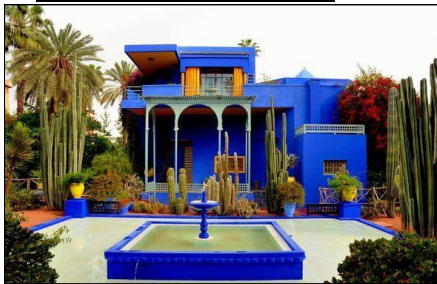
A Souk is another popular item for sale in Semarine market is filled



with vendors selling colorful spices and blends, including saffron, cinnamon, and cumin, as well as traditional Moroccan spice mixes like ras el hanout.

Visitors to Semarine Souk can easily spend hours wandering the stalls, admiring the handicrafts and soaking up the vibrant atmosphere. The souk is also a great place to practice your bargaining skills, as vendors expect customers to haggle over prices.

### Majorelle Garden



Majorelle Garden is a beautiful botanical garden located in the heart of Marrakech. It was designed by French painter Jacques Majorelle in the 1920s and features a stunning collection of plants and flowers from around the world.

Majorelle Garden offers a unique blend of natural beauty, cultural heritage, and historical interest. Visitors can admire the diverse collection of plants, including the famous cacti and succulents, explore the Berber Museum, and relax by the pool or in the bamboo grove.

### Yves saint Laurent Museum

The museum is housed in a building designed by the French architectural firm Studio KO, which also designed the Musée Yves Saint Laurent in Paris. The museum houses a permanent collection of clothing, accessories, and other fashion items designed by Yves Saint Laurent over his career, as well as temporary exhibitions highlighting different aspects of his work and influence.

In addition to the fashion exhibits, the museum also has a research library and an auditorium for events and screenings related to fashion and art. The museum is located near the Jardin Majorelle and is a must-visit for fashion enthusiasts.



### Djemaa El Fna :



Djemaa El Fna, is a famous square in the heart of the medina (old city) of Marrakech. The square is a UNESCO World Heritage site and is known for its vibrant atmosphere, entertainment, and bustling market stalls.



During the day, Jamaa El Fena

is a hub for local merchants selling everything from fresh orange juice to handmade crafts and traditional clothing. At night, the square transforms into an outdoor carnival of sorts, with snake charmers, street performers, and street food vendors offering a variety of Moroccan delicacies.

Jamaa El Fena is considered the cultural and historical center of Marrakech,

and visitors can find several important landmarks nearby, such as the Koutoubia Mosque and the Bahia Palace. It's a popular tourist destination and a great place to immerse oneself in Moroccan culture and everyday life.



### The Mellah

The word "Mellah" refers to the Jewish quarter in traditional North African cities. It was a walled-off section of the city where Jews were required to live during certain periods of history. The Mellah in Marrakech is located near to the royal palace. It was established in the 16th century during the Saadian dynasty and contains several historic synagogues, such as the Lazama and Ibn Danan synagogues, which are popular tourist attractions.

The Mellah is known for its distinctive architecture, narrow streets, and traditional adobe buildings adorned with intricate tilework.



## El Badi Palace

El Badi Palace is a historic palace in Marrakech built in the late 16th century. It was known for its grandeur and large courtyards. However, despite its opulence, the palace was only used for a short time and was abandoned after the fall of the Saadian dynasty. Over time, much of the palace was stripped of its valuable materials, leaving only ruins behind.

Today, visitors can explore the palace's ruins and appreciate its cultural heritage.



## Chez Ali Restaurant:



The most popular traditional restaurant in Marrakech is Chez Ali. Its known for its nightly dinner and entertainment show, "Fantasia." The restaurant is designed in a traditional Moroccan style with ornate decor and colorful lighting.



The main attraction at Chez Ali is the "**Fantasia**" show, which takes place in a large arena adjacent to the restaurant. The show is a reenactment of traditional Berber horsemanship, featuring a procession of horse riders dressed in colorful costumes and wielding rifles. The riders perform a series of synchronized movements and maneuvers, accompanied by live music and sound effects. The highlight of the show is the firing of the rifles, which creates a dramatic spectacle of gun smoke and sound.

In addition to the show, Chez Ali also offers a traditional Moroccan dinner, served buffet-style. The menu typically includes dishes like Harira soup, Tagines with meat or vegetables, Couscous with vegetables and meat, and Moroccan pastries for dessert.



Non-alcoholic beverages are included in the price of the dinner, while alcoholic drinks are available for an additional cost. Reservations are also recommended for the "Fantasia" show and dinner.

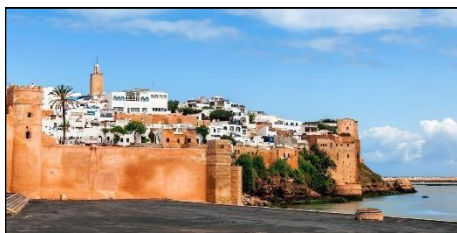


**Marrakech has a wealth of attractions and activities to offer visitors, and the places mentioned previously are just some of the many notable sites worth visiting.**

**In addition to these historic landmarks, Marrakech is also known for its vibrant food scene, lively nightlife, beautiful lakes, and the nearby desert, offering visitors a variety of experiences and activities to enjoy during their stay.**

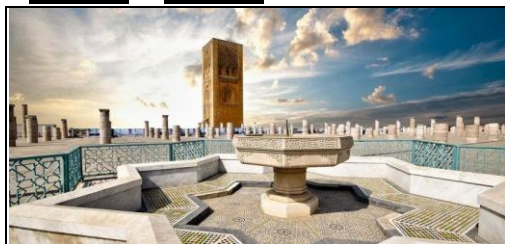


### RABAT CITY



Rabat is the capital city of Morocco known for its blend of modern and historic architecture. Popular attractions include the Kasbah of the Udayas, Hassan Tower and Mausoleum of Mohammed V, museums, Royal Palace, Chellah Necropolis, and Andalusian Gardens. It offers a chance to explore Morocco's rich history and culture while enjoying modern amenities and a beautiful coastal setting.

#### Hassan Tower:



The Hassan Tower is a historic minaret located in Rabat. It was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century during the reign of the Almohad dynasty, but was never completed due to the death of Sultan Yacoub alMansour, who commissioned it.

The tower was intended to be the largest and tallest minaret in the world at the time, but today stands at only about half of its intended height.

Despite its unfinished state, the Hassan Tower remains a significant landmark in Morocco and attracts visitors from around the world. It is the Mausoleum of Mohammed V, which houses the tombs of Morocco's former king

and are a testament to the country's architects offer a glimpse into Morocco's rich history and culture, achievements.



### **The Chellah Necropolis:**

The Chellah Necropolis is an ancient necropolis that dates back to Phoenician and Roman times. It was converted into a necropolis by the Merinid dynasty and features ruins of a mosque, minaret, tombs, and mausoleums. Visitors can also enjoy the gardens and a large pond with fish. The site offers a peaceful retreat from the busy city and a chance to explore Morocco's rich history and culture.



### **The Rabat Archaeology Museum**



The Rabat Archaeology Museum showcases a collection of prehistoric to Roman-era artifacts. The museum, established in 1932, has a diverse range of exhibits, including pottery, sculptures, and coins. The collection includes a Roman mosaic from Volubilis and prehistoric artifacts from the Atlas Mountains.

Visitors can explore the museum and learn about Morocco's rich cultural heritage and its impact on the Mediterranean world.

### **The Mohammed VI Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art :**

The Mohammed VI Museum of Modern and Contemporary is dedicated to showcasing modern and contemporary art from Morocco and around the world. The museum, which opened in 2014, is named after King Mohammed VI of Morocco, who commissioned its construction.

The museum's collection includes a wide variety of art forms, including painting, sculpture, installation, and video art. It features works by both Moroccan and international artists, including Andy Warhol, Pablo Picasso, and Henri Matisse. The museum also hosts temporary exhibitions, workshops, and cultural events throughout the year.



### **Ville moderne :**



Ville Nouvelle, or the New Town, is a district in Rabat, the capital city of Morocco. The district was built during the French colonial period and features a mix of colonial and modern architecture. Ville Nouvelle is known for its wide boulevards, spacious parks, and elegant buildings, which include government offices, embassies, and luxurious hotels.

Visitors to Ville Nouvelle can explore the district's many shops, cafes, and restaurants, as well as its cultural landmarks, such as the Mohammed V Theatre and the National Library of Morocco. The district offers a unique blend of French and Moroccan influences, providing a glimpse into the country's colonial past and its modern present.

### **Moroccan Gastronomy**

Morocco is especially renowned for its gastronomy, which is a key aspect of the country's culture and heritage.

Moroccan cuisine is known for its diverse and bold flavors, which are influenced by various cultures, including Arab, Berber, and Mediterranean cuisines. The country's cuisine is characterized by its use of aromatic spices, such as cumin, coriander, and saffron, as well as a range of ingredients, including meat, seafood, vegetables, and fruits.

Moroccan cuisine is best experienced through its iconic dishes, such as Tgine, Couscous, and Harira, which have become popular worldwide. Moroccan gastronomy also includes a range of sweet and savory pastries, such as Msemen and Pastilla, as well as refreshing Mint Tea.

visiting Morocco will give you the chance to taste all these delicious dishes



**Welcome to Morocco**