

U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC 20530

Supplemental Statement**Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended**For Six Month Period Ending June 30th 2017

(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant

(b) Registration No.

Moroccan National Tourist Office

1793

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant

104 West 40th Street, Suite 1820
New York, NY 10018

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following?

(a) If an individual:

(1) Residence address(es)	Yes ☐	No ☐
(2) Citizenship	Yes ☐	No ☐
(3) Occupation	Yes ☐	No ☐

(b) If an organization:

(1) Name	Yes ☐	No ☒
(2) Ownership or control	Yes ☐	No ☒
(3) Branch offices	Yes ☐	No ☒

(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in Items (a) and (b) above.

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5(a).3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.Yes ☐ No ☒If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes ☐ No ☒

If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date Connection Ended
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(b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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5. (a) Has any person named in Item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such person and describe the service rendered.

(b) During this six month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes ☐ No ☒

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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(c) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or Connection	Date Terminated
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(d) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their connection with any foreign principal during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or Connection	Foreign Principal	Date Terminated
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6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(b) of the supplemental statement?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal

Date of Termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal(s)² during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and Address of Foreign Principal(s)

Date Acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principal(s)² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Morocco National Tourist Office

10. (a) Have you filed exhibits for the newly acquired foreign principal(s), if any, listed in Item 8?

Exhibit A³ Yes ☐ No ☒

Exhibit B⁴ Yes ☐ No ☒

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

- (b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during this six month period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes ☐ No ☒

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in Section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3, sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

⁴ The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form NSD-4, sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

- 1/ The New York Times travel show - New York / January 2017
- 2/ PGA Show - Orlando / January 2017
- 3/ Sea Trade Travel Show - Fort Lauderdale / March 2017

12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates, places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

Moroccan National Tourist office is in charge of promoting the tourist product of Morocco (monuments, hotels, tours, and other tourist products)

- Participations in Trade Shows
- Familiarization trip to morocco
- Sales calls and events for travel agents.

13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits your foreign principal(s)? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ "Political activity," as defined in Section 1(d) of the Act, means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION**14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies.⁶

Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
See Attachment			

Total

(b) RECEIPTS - FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fundraising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D⁸ to your registration? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____

(c) RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal	Date Received	Thing of Value	Purpose
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^{6, 7} A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, moneys, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fundraising campaign. (See Rule 201(e)).

⁸ An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fundraising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

⁹ Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To Whom	Purpose	Amount
see Attachement			

\$ 297,866.92

Total

(b) DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Recipient	Foreign Principal	Thing of Value	Purpose
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(c) DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or Thing of Value	Political Organization or Candidate	Location of Event
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^{10, 11} Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. (a) During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials?¹²
 Yes ☒ No ☐

If Yes, go to Item 17.

- (b) If you answered No to Item 16(a), do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, please forward the materials disseminated during the six month period to the Registration Unit for review.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

Moroccan National Tourist Office

Angle Rue Oued El Makhazine et Rue Zellaka - Agdal
 Rabat - Morocco

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- ☐ Radio or TV broadcasts ☐ Magazine or newspaper ☐ Motion picture films ☐ Letters or telegrams
☐ Advertising campaigns ☐ Press releases ☒ Pamphlets or other publications ☐ Lectures or speeches
☐ Other (specify) _____

Electronic Communications

- ☐ Email
☒ Website URL(s): visitmorocco.com
☐ Social media websites URL(s): _____
☐ Other (specify) _____

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- ☐ Public officials ☐ Newspapers ☐ Libraries
☐ Legislators ☐ Editors ☐ Educational institutions
☐ Government agencies ☐ Civic groups or associations ☐ Nationality groups
☒ Other (specify) Distribute brochures in the travel trade show

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- ☒ English ☐ Other (specify) _____

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☒ No ☐

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act?

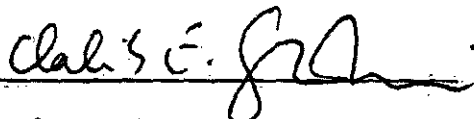
Yes ☐ No ☒

¹² The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI - EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Print or type name under each signature or provide electronic signature¹³)Chakib Chadonani10-25-2017

¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

15. (a) DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
2/1/2017	Park House Plaza	Office rent 01/2017	6,487.63
2/1/2017	RELX Inc. Reed Exhibitions	PGA show 2017 at Orlando	10,397.85
3/1/2017	Chakib Ghadouani	Salary Allowance 01/2017 / Housing	734.21
3/1/2017	Fedex	Shipping fee	9.27
3/1/2017	Network Solutions	renewing domain name	75.98
3/1/2017	The New York Times show	New York Times Travel show 2017 / New York	13,050.00
3/1/2017	Velocity Airfreight corp	broker fees	680.00
3/1/2017	wells fargo	bank fee	16.00
9/1/2017	Network Solutions	renewing domain name	29.98
12/1/2017	dhl	Shipping fee	36.82
17/1/2017	Adobe systems	adobe systems software	130.52
17/1/2017	Chakib Ghadouani	mission fee	406.29
17/1/2017	hamid aberaouz	mission fee	202.64
17/1/2017	hamid aberaouz	mission fee	406.29
17/1/2017	Integral Imaging system	brochure print for NYTTS 2017	5,500.00
22/1/2017	Access self storage	storage rent 01/2017	269.00
24/1/2017	dhl	Shipping fee	307.38
25/1/2017	wells fargo	bank fee	16.00
26/1/2017	VIP sports hospitality llc	PGA show 2017 / Polos-short	4,925.00
29/1/2017	Innov Gnaoua	music performance at NYTTS 2017	3,500.00
1/2/2017	ATT mobility	Phone service - 02/12/16 au 01/01/2017 (646-469-3243)	281.01
1/2/2017	Chakib ghadouani	Salary Allowance 01/2017 / Transportations	499.70
1/2/2017	Chakib ghadouani	Salary Allowance 02/2017 / Housing	749.55
1/2/2017	Morea Management	MNT O booth / PGA show 2017 - Orlando	14,875.00
1/2/2017	Morea Management	MNT O booth / NYTTS show 2017 - New York Orlando	17,692.19
1/2/2017	Park House Plaza	office rent 02/2017	6,487.63
1/2/2017	UBMI Princeton llc	Seaside cruise global show 2017 / Fort Lauderdale	18,994.00
1/2/2017	verizon	phone service du 04/01/2017 au 03/02/2017 (212-221-1583/84)	243.29
1/2/2017	verizon	Internet service 01/2017	106.98
1/2/2017	Wells fargo Bank	bank fee	16.00
10/2/2017	fedex	Shipping fee	89.94
16/2/2017	Wells fargo Bank	bank fee	16.00
22/2/2017	Access self storage	storage rent 02/2017	269.00
24/2/2017	Aziza El Hayat	Moroccan pasetry and Henne tatooat NY Y T show 2017 - New York	1,250.00
24/2/2017	DHL	Shipping fee	36.82
24/2/2017	Oceaire restaurant	MNT O guest dinner invitation	260.58
24/2/2017	Rosen center	copies fee	47.93
24/2/2017	staples	boxe	8.25
2/3/2017	ATT mobility	Phone service from 02/01/17 to 01/02/2017 (646-469-3243)	291.93
2/3/2017	MAPTA	Registration fee 2017	475.00
2/3/2017	verizon	Internet service 02/2017	108.58
2/3/2017	verizon	Phone services from 04/02/2017 to 03/03/2017 (212-221-1583/84)	233.57
2/3/2017	Wells Fargo	bank fee	16.00
7/3/2017	Tom Pryor	Photographer fee Gnaoua music festival	1,500.00
10/3/2017	VIP sports hospitality llc	Catering for Gnaoua music festival	5,750.00
13/3/2017	Chakib ghadouani	mission fee	405.81
13/3/2017	Fedex	Shipping fee	23.37
13/3/2017	Fedex	Shipping fee	30.29
13/3/2017	Fedex	Shipping fee	46.36
13/3/2017	hamid aberaouz	mission fee	405.81
13/3/2017	Import from Marrakech	Moroccan decoration for Gnaoua Music festival	2,000.00
13/3/2017	Samir Biqine / Innov gnaoua	Music performance at Gnaoua music festival	5,500.00
22/3/2017	Access self storage	storage rent 03/2017	269.00

24/3/2017	Mend's restaurant	Catering for Jewish fall festival / American sephardic federation	6,500.00
27/3/2017	Fedex	Shipping fee	43.20
30/3/2017	Staples	tonner	101.12
30/3/2017	Staples	boxe	19.80
30/3/2017	Wells Fargo	bank fee	16.00
3/4/2017	Wells Fargo bank	bank fee	16.00
4/4/2017	ATT mobility	Mobile communication charges from 02/02/17 to 01/03/2017 (646-469-3243)	313.29
4/4/2017	fedex	Shipping fee	21.44
4/4/2017	Mendy's Restaurant	catering expenses of the opening evening of the 20th edition of the Jewish Film Festival organized by the American Sepharic Federation in NY.	12,172.06
4/4/2017	Park House Plaza	Office rent 03 & 04/2017	12,877.73
4/4/2017	Verizon	Internet service 03/2017	108.61
4/4/2017	Verizon	phone service from 04/03/2017 to 03/04/2017 (212-221-1583/84)	215.44
4/4/2017	VIP Sports Hospitality	Complementary Catering for Gnaoua music festival	9,875.00
7/4/2017	International Health Coop	Health insurance plan 02/2017	3,198.84
7/4/2017	International Health Coop	Health insurance plan 03/2017	3,198.84
7/4/2017	International Health Coop	Health insurance plan 04/2017	3,074.60
10/4/2017	Travelers	Settlement insurance expense policy policy # 4E604913 UB for the period from 28/03/2017 to 28/03/2018	1,206.00
11/4/2017	fedex	Shipping fee	20.96
18/4/2017	Chakib ghadouani	Salary allowance 02/2017 / transportations	498.05
18/4/2017	Chakib ghadouani	Salary allowance 03/2017 / transportations	498.05
18/4/2017	Chakib ghadouani	Salary Allowance 03/2017 / Housing	747.08
18/4/2017	Chakib ghadouani	Salary Allowance 04/2017 / Housing	747.08
18/4/2017	Chakib ghadouani	mission fee	111.56
18/4/2017	Dhl	Shipping fee	154.81
18/4/2017	Morea Management	Set-up fees, Assembly and dismantling of the ONMT booth at Seatrade show 2017 in Fort Lauderdale, FL.	17,692.19
19/4/2017	Dhl	Shipping fee	531.52
21/4/2017	oussaden tours	Airline ticket for Mr Aberaouz, subject of OM 05 of 10/01/2017	356.21
21/4/2017	oussaden tours	Airline ticket for Mr Colby Therese & Dowling J. Michael / Pres trip from 25/03 to 08/04/2017	3,440.00
21/4/2017	oussaden tours	Airline tickets Mrs Maxwell Heather Anne/ Press trip Nomade Festival	1,340.00
21/4/2017	oussaden tours	Airline tickets crew member - Better late than Never.	14,640.00
21/4/2017	oussaden tours	Airline tickets Mr Ghadouani et Mr Aberaouz, objet de l'OM 04 et OM 06 du 10/01/2017	402.40
21/4/2017	oussaden tours	Airline tickets Mr Ghadouani et Mr Aberaouz, objet de l'OM 33 et OM 34 du 06/02/2017	490.00
22/4/2017	Access self storage	storage rent 04/2017	269.00
22/4/2017	Morea Management	Set-up fees, Assembly and dismantling of the ONMT booth at Seatrade show 2017 in Fort Lauderdale, FL.	19,374.31
25/4/2017	Integral imagine systeme	papier A4 et enveloppes	211.76
25/4/2017	Integral imagine systeme	tonners	495.38
28/4/2017	Chakib ghadouani	Salary Allowance 04/2017 / transportation.	504.01
28/4/2017	Wells Fargo bank	bank fee	16.00
1/5/2017	Chakib ghadouani	Salary Allowance 05/2017 / housing	756.01
9/5/2017	fedex	Shipping fee	123.21
9/5/2017	fedex	Shipping fee	2.39
17/5/2017	ATT mobility	Phone service from 02/03/17 to 01/04/2017 & 02/04/17 au 01/05/17 (646-469-3243)	809.40
17/5/2017	Verizon	Internet fees 04 + 05 /2017	217.22
17/5/2017	Verizon	Phone service from 04/04/2017 to 03/05/2017 & 04/05/2017 au 03/06/2017 (212-221-1583/84)	447.03
22/5/2017	Access self storage	storage rent 05/2017	269.00
25/5/2017	Chakib ghadouani	mission fee	188.75

25/5/2017	Hamid aberaouz	mission fee	262.60
30/5/2017	Chakib ghadouani	Salary Allowence 05/2017 / transportation	514.42
30/5/2017	fedex	Shipping fee	16.62
30/5/2017	fedex	Shipping fee	4.34
30/5/2017	Wells Fargo bank	bank fee	16.00
1/6/2017	International Health Cooperative	Health insurance plan 05/2017	3,074.60
1/6/2017	Park House Plaza	Office rent 05+06 /2017	12,975.26
2/6/2017	Chakib Ghadouani	Salary Allowence 06/2017 / Housing	773.11
6/6/2017	Fedex	Shipping fee	146.30
9/6/2017	Wells Fargo	bank fee	16.00
13/6/2017	DHL	Shipping fee	127.75
13/6/2017	DHL	Shipping fee	220.07
13/6/2017	DHL	Shipping fee	155.19
13/6/2017	Hamid Aberaouz	mission fee	239.29
14/6/2017	Fedex	Shipping fee	12.96
16/6/2017	Oussaden Tours	Airline tickets for participants to FAM Trip from 14 to 19 may 2017	16,640.00
16/6/2017	Oussaden Tours	Airline ticket for participants to Press trip from 03 au 13 may 2017	10,735.00
16/6/2017	Oussaden Tours	Airline ticket for Mr.Aberaouz pour le voyage de repérage equipe TV5 Canada du 29/05/2017 au 07/06/2017	1,386.00
19/6/2017	Fedex	Shipping fee	33.13
19/6/2017	Integral Imaging Systems	02 PC HP 24-250s + Imprimante Brother MFC 9340 + scanner Ads 1000w)	4,174.27
21/6/2017	Dropbox	renewing dropbox services	795.80
21/6/2017	Wells Fargo	bank fee	16.00
22/6/2017	Access Self storage	storage rent 06/2017	269.00
23/6/2017	ATT mobility	phone service from 02/05/17 to 01/06/17 (646-469-3243)	433.95
23/6/2017	Verizon	Internet fee 06/2017	129.84
23/6/2017	Verizon	phone service from 04/06/2017 to 03/07/2017 (212-221-1583/84)	212.42
30/6/2017	Wells Fargo	bank fee	16.00
Total Periode			297,866.92

15. (a) DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES - Part 2

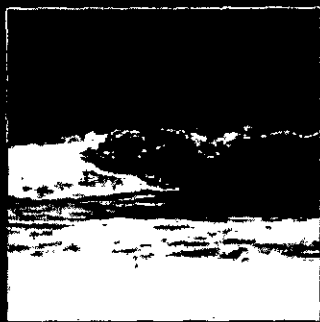
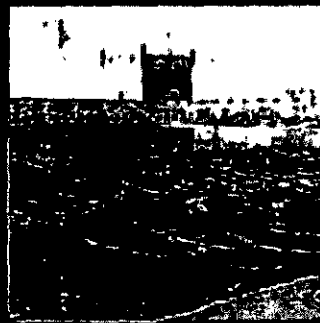
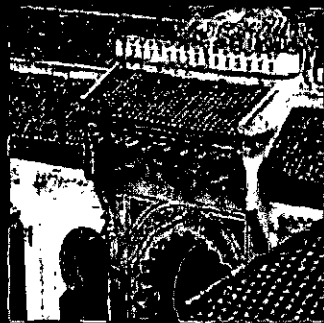
Date	Payee	Purpose	Amount
01/25/2017	Hamid Aberaouz	2016 Bonus	674.32
01/25/2017	Chakib Aberaouz	2016 bonus	1,168.82
02/01/2017	Hamid Aberaouz	January 2017 - Salary	7,869.67
02/01/2017	Chakib Aberaouz	January 2017 - Salary	7,928.86
02/16/2017	Chakib Aberaouz	Reimbursement School fee / Ghadouani son	34,326.00
03/02/2017	Hamid Aberaouz	February 2017 - Salary	7,869.67
03/02/2017	Chakib Aberaouz	February 2017 - Salary	7,928.86
03/30/2017	Hamid Aberaouz	MARch 2017 - Salary	7,869.67
03/30/2017	Chakib Aberaouz	MARch 2017 - Salary	7,928.86
04/28/2017	Hamid Aberaouz	april 2017 - Salary	7,890.53
04/28/2017	Chakib Aberaouz	april 2017 - Salary	7,928.86
05/30/2017	Hamid Aberaouz	May 2017 - Salary	7,890.53
05/30/2017	Chakib Aberaouz	May 2017 - Salary	7,928.86
06/30/2017	Hamid Aberaouz	June 2017 - Salary	7,890.53
06/30/2017	Chakib Aberaouz	June 2017 - Salary	7,928.86
Total Periode			131,022.90

14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES

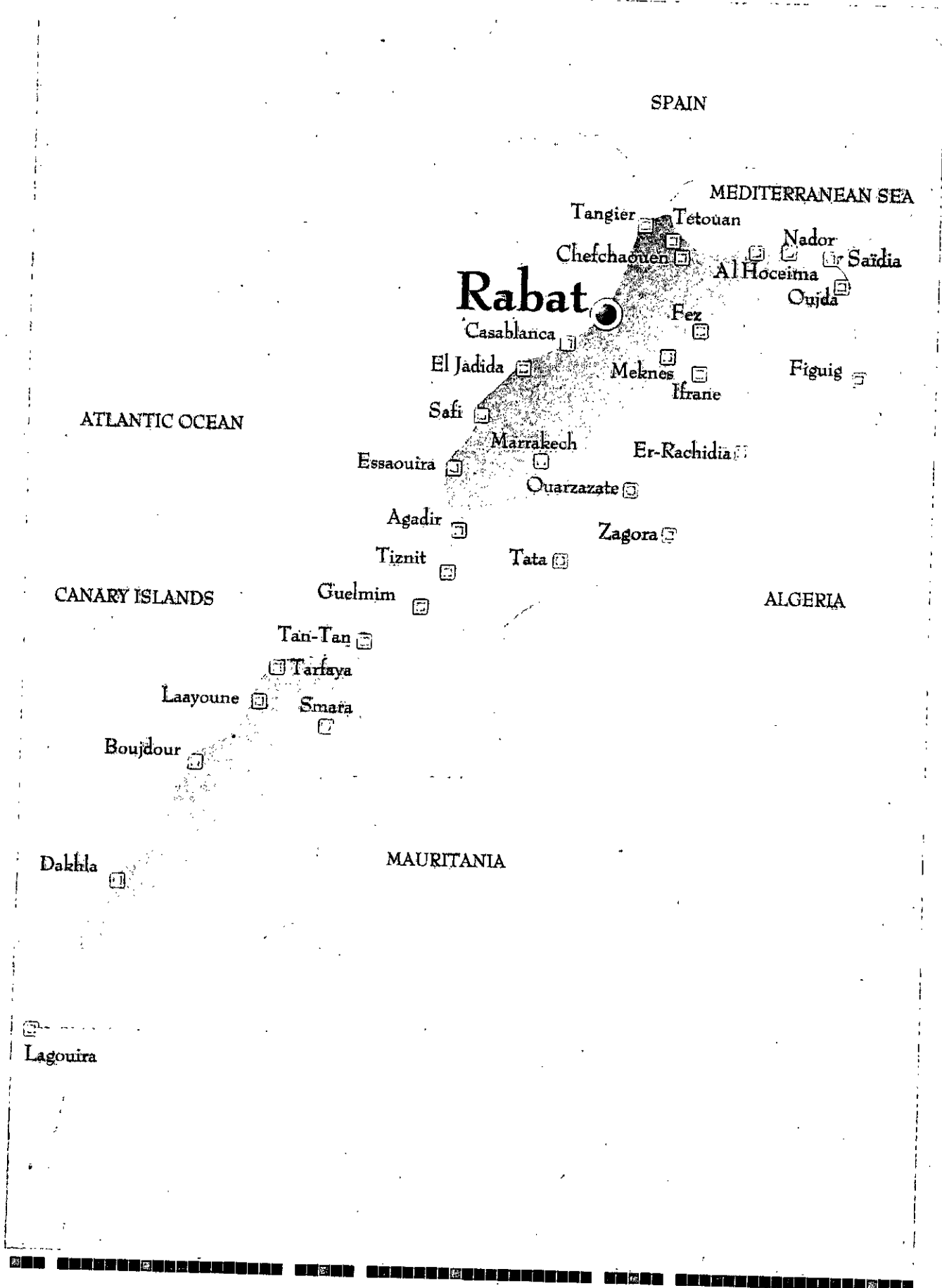
Date	From	Purpose	Amount
01/25/2017	Moroccan Tourist Office / Morocco	2016 Bonus	1,843.14
02/01/2017	Moroccan Tourist Office / Morocco	January 2017 - Salary	15,798.53
02/16/2017	Moroccan Tourist Office / Morocco	Reimbursement School fee / Ghadouani son	34,326.00
03/02/2017	Moroccan Tourist Office / Morocco	February 2017 - Salary	15,798.53
03/30/2017	Moroccan Tourist Office / Morocco	March 2017 - Salary	15,798.53
04/03/2014	Moroccan Tourist Office / Morocco	2017 Budget	149,416.83
04/28/2017	Moroccan Tourist Office / Morocco	April 2017 - Salary	15,819.39
05/30/2017	Moroccan Tourist Office / Morocco	May 2017 - Salary	15,819.39
06/09/2017	Moroccan Tourist Office / Morocco	2017 Budget	94,980.48
06/30/2017	Moroccan Tourist Office / Morocco	June 2017 - Salary	15,819.39
Total Periode			375,420.21



MOROCCO



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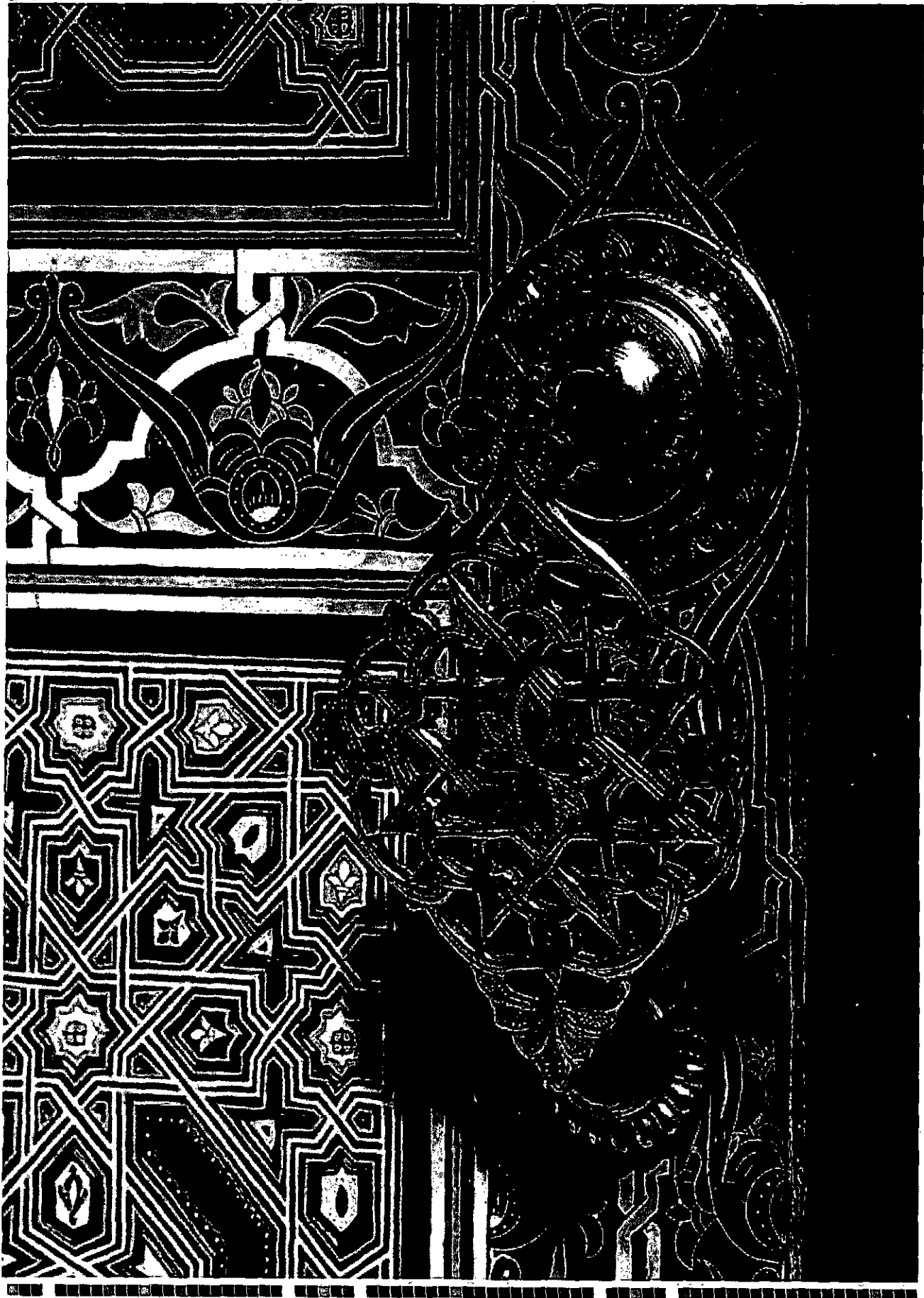


Morocco



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4



Overview

Morocco, land of contrasts

Morocco is the land of a thousand contrasts. With its diversity of landscapes, exceptional cuisine, and breathtaking nature, coupled with an extraordinary cultural and human heritage, Morocco is enticing.

In Morocco, nature has given free rein to its imagination. From the Atlas to the Rif Mountains, from the Atlantic coast to the Mediterranean shores, from the wide sandy bays to small isolated rocky coves, from the southern large golden dunes to green oasis, the charm is boundless.



Cedar tree in snowy Atlas Mountains

From the luxuriant forests to the barren high plains, from the deep wadis to the incomparable caves, from the lakes and waterfalls to the daunting Kasbahs, Morocco's wonders lie before you as far as your eye can see, endowed with history and wild beauty. A Country of unusual landscapes and memorable views, Morocco will surprise those who are curious enough to go beyond its trodden paths to discover its true nature.

Its multiple crafts offer the best traditions culminating in a jealously guarded know-how by generations of craftsmen. A country rich with flavors, contrasts, unsuspected treasures and new acquaintances, full of throbbing memories in the authentic medinas and the untouched alleys of its cities.

A natural enclave, Morocco offers sports and adventure lovers all types of sporting activities including mountain biking excursions, rafting in the upper rivers, paragliding and hiking in beautiful deserts.

Just as the beauty of its landscape will ravish the eye, the authentic welcome will warm your heart. In Morocco you will find enthralling hotels, unique in style, memorable hammams, soothing spas, thalassotherapy and balneotherapy centers with exceptional beneficial effects and virtues.

In Morocco, culture is always on the agenda. Throughout the year, music festivals, artistic gathering, folk moussems glorify art in every region of the Kingdom. Let your

Self be taken by the exalted atmosphere and enjoy an enchanting lyrical program.

Morocco, a royal welcome and a magic stop which worth the trip



Discovering the Mediterranean



Three Forks Cape

The Mediterranean coast:

Melodious waves, golden sand, large bays, the Mediterranean coast will be up to your desire for breaking away and free air. An amazing blend of emerald green and sky blue, balancing between a wild landscape and silver crested waves. At the heart of the Mediterranean shores made of beaches, coves and creeks and close to the cliffs and the Rif Mountains, the cities of northern Morocco will charm you and whisper to your ear countless secrets. Saidia, Al Hoesi-

ma, Cala Iris, Chefchaouen, Mdiq, Cabo Negro, Martil, Tetouan will show you that from translucent ocean sprays to deep canyons, there is only one step: emotion...



Golf of Cabo Negro

Tétouan

Tetouan is set where the mountain reaches into the sea. Sometimes green and lush, sometimes with translucent blue hues, Tetouan, the beautiful subtly combines the sweetness of the Mediterranean to the authenticity of the Rif. Surrounded by wild landscapes, canyons, wadis, steep trails on one side and beautiful beaches with wavering waters that run along the coast on the other side, Tetouan shows its natural grace.

A glorious past

Tetouan maintains with great mastery its past Moorish influence illustrated in every corner and every house or streets. Surrounded by five miles of walls and guarded by seven magnificent carved doors, the town is named after the Berber word «Titaouin» which means «springs» as they are very numerous in the city. The Medina of Tetouan has been on UNESCO's World Heritage list since 1997. Its prestigious history is told in the Archaeological Museum and the Ethnological

Museum of Moroccan Arts, two symbolic places for Tetouan's customs and traditions.

Around Tetouan:

With a hilly landscape, luxury hotels, a thick vegetation, and a heavenly coastline, the Tarruda Bay seaside resort beaches all contend to make your stay as peaceful and sweet as possible. Mdiq, charming coastal town and renowned for its waterfront, its pedestrian streets, its fishing port; Cabo Negro, one of the finest golfing heritage of the kingdom; Marina Smir, luxurious ultra modern marina, located in the heart of a unique site; Martil, charming place where the northern breeze mingles with the essences of sea pines ...

Further east, the village of Oued Laou offers an experience of pure contemplation, an out of time moment of peace in an untouched universe where mystical silence vies with wild beauty...

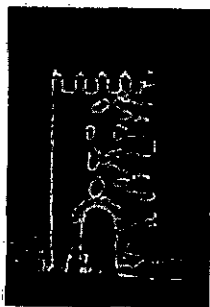


The city center



Hispano-Moorish architecture

Chefchaouen



■■■ ■■■■■■■■

*The Kasbah in
Chefchaouen*

Embraced by the Rif Mountains

Registered as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by Unesco in 2010, its rustic charm stems from its mysterious alleys where you can stroll among the white and bright blue painted houses looking out onto the fruit tree shaded Andalusian patios. Its medina is buried in the mountains and its winding cobbled streets, with colorful stalls and spicy scents are meandering beautifully along its slopes. Its main square is dominated by the red ramparts of the Kasbah, built in the seventeenth century with colorful Andalusian gardens and a small museum where you may find treasures of embroidery and colorful and varied clothes in the style of those worn by the women of the area.

A land of unlimited resources

Chefchaouen is known to be a dietary model thanks to rich and healthy products. It is a real come back to authentic virtues, drawing on the resources of the land: olive oil, fruits and vegetables, cereals and many spices and condiments.

An exhilarating nature

The region of Chefchaouen in Morocco is a leader in terms of environmental commitment and environmental preservation and it offers a variety of stimulating activities combining trekking, hiking, climbing, caving, hunting, fishing and canoeing to discover the fascinating Rif mountains, the pine, cedar and oak forests. This region is one of the first in Morocco to take part in the flagship project «Tourism host land», an initiative which promotes the development of rural areas through routes which bring you in touch with the people and their lifestyle. Talassemtane National Park extends over a breathtaking landscape and contains over 1,380 plant species, including many endemic ones and a rich fauna with more than one hundred species. Near the park, God's Bridge in Akchour, is an impressive natural arch, carved in the red rock, overlooking the crystal clear waters of the Oued Farda. You can also visit Cherafat waterfalls, a place where only the sound of the towering waterfalls breaks the silence.



Typical alley Chefchaouen medina

From Al Hoceima to Saidia



*Dolphin in the
Mediterranean*

Al Hoceima is a coastal town overlooking the sea with a succession of bays and coves with calm and clear waters. Tourists and residents devote themselves to the pleasures of water sports or relaxation. Al Hoceima is also the home of the National Park in the Bokkoya Mountain with its high cliffs and a large part of which is at sea. Three species of dolphins live there: The common dolphin, the striped dolphin and the bottlenose dolphin. 69 species of birds have been counted, including specifically one of the largest concentrations of osprey world. It is also the home of very rare species like the monk seal and the Audouin's Gull.

Saidia, the blue pearl

With a pleasant beach, shallow clear waters, a backcountry which calls for adventure and excursions, Saidia, is the new beach resort

and the future jewel of the Mediterranean coast. Saidia is becoming a tourist attraction in the heart of Eastern Moroccan, two or three hours from the major European cities by two international airports, Oujda and Nador. With a marina worthy of a boating destination equipped to international standards and considered to be the third largest marina in the Mediterranean. The city boasts of 4 and 5 star hotels, villas and luxury residential apartments, three golf courses and a «Medina Center» with many shops, restaurants and cafes.

Close to Saidia, the small fishing village of Ras el Maa is not without charm. Small eucalyptus covered dunes dot the landscape, with a well protected beach backed to a cliff and a site of biological interest at the mouth of the Moulouya.



The mediterranean coast

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The oasis of Figuig



The cave of the Camel

The cave of the Camel

The name was originally chosen because of a stalagmite shape eerily reminiscent of the camel. This cave open to caving throughout the year, is the most famous and most visited of the region. A lit circuit allows visitors to marvel at its stalagmites and stalactites, sublime sculptures of nature.

Figuig

433 km from Oujda, Figuig is one of the most beautiful oases of Morocco, the closest to Europe. It has preserved its history, its ramparts

and its mosque dating from the fifth century of the Hegira, and rock carvings dating from the Neolithic Age. The town and its area count 7 ksours. Because of its unique old buildings, it has been listed as a National Heritage, and among the most famous are Zenaga Ksar, Ksar El-Hammam Oudarhir and Ksar Foukani. The Figuig palm grove is a maze of greenery and with over 100,000 date palm trees and a dozen varieties including the famous «Aziza».

The Atlantic Coast

Tangier

Over more than 2900 km, from Tangier to Lagouira, you will discover a succession of attraction of truly genuine diversity. Surrounded by the rolling waves of the ocean, the coastal towns attract both adventure sports lovers and board sports fans.

Tangier, crossroads of civilizations

Located in northern Morocco, Tangier overlooks the Strait of Gibraltar, 15 km off the Spanish coast, glorified by artists and scholars from all around the world who have walked its land and created their works (Henri Matisse, Eugene Delacroix, Paul Bowles and many others ...).

Where the sea meets the ocean
 Legendary shores between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, two capes are looming proudly to chisel the beautiful Tangier landscape, Cape and Cape Malabata. Cape Spartel houses the spectacular Caves of Hercules,

natural caves with stunning views over the Strait of Gibraltar, lit by a single pass over the ocean which walls shaped like a map of Africa.

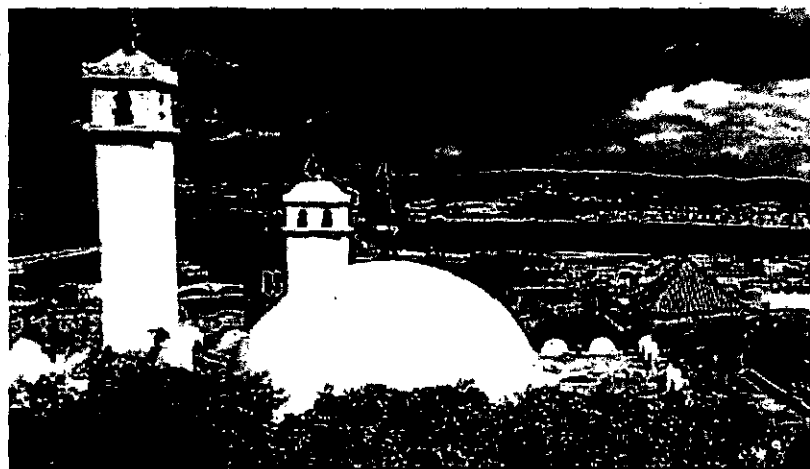
Cape Malabata offers a spectacular view over the bay of Tangier. Planted with pine trees and shrubs, it is the keeper of an undaunted lighthouse and a mysterious medieval castle.

Tangier the exuberant

After the mild sea air, comes the excitement of the medina and its great socco (souk in Spanish). From shop in shop and street to street, you shall be enthralled by the authenticity of the souk. Taking the Siaghines street (jewelers) will take you to the small Socco, a small picturesque square lined with cafes once frequented by the emblematic figures of Tangier. A little further on stands Tangier soul, the Kasbah, the old fortress which ramparts overlook the medina.



Cape Spartel



From Assilah to Larache



ASSILAH

A small street in Assilah

Assilah is an Arab Andalusian city with a Portuguese history still very alive in the city. The Portuguese ramparts that encircle the city and part of which overlooks the cliffs onto the sea testify for the glorious past with the Hispano-Moorish architecture and the successive arches, doors and columns. Bastions, towers and fierce ramparts offer today an intact glimpse on the past.

Incredibly serene, Assilah lives to the rhythm of the waves and the enchantment of its shows, during festival periods. The vast expanse of the beach invites for long horseback riding and relaxing moments.

Larache

90 km from Tangier, Larache attracts people in search of relaxation and idleness and promises pleasant walks along the blue waters, and near the fishing port. A typical Andalusian architecture, more present in

the city center. The Kasbah with winding alleys overhung with arcades used to be a stronghold for privateers. The restaurants are famous for their succulent grilled fish and a delight for seafood lovers.

Near Larache, perched on a hill are the ruins of the Roman city of Lixus. Nestled in this serene setting, the ancestral city reveals impressive remains and is preparing to host the Azur «Lixus» resort, a modern beach resort under construction. It is a haven of «well-being, health and nature» for those who love boating, water sports and nature. The site with an important environmental dimension will include a marina, a forest park, two championship 18 hole golf courses and a shopping center.

A myriad of activities to explore the back country, namely hunting, trail rides and tours will delight nature lovers.



Casablanca



The twin center

Hectic and modern, Casablanca, the economic capital of the kingdom, is a city which never sleeps. Impetuous, vibrant and frenzied by nature, it shows its worldly flamboyance and traditional charm, a duality it demonstrates immoderately with brilliance. While eyeing the future, Casa the white will retain openly its original aura. Between modernism and authenticity, it cultivates an ever-renewed and secret energy.

Socialite Casablanca

On the doorstep of Europe, the city attracts many companies and hosts seminars and conferences throughout the year. With top-class facilities and efficient services, it is a show case for modern Morocco, resolutely turned towards the future, with no less than 60% of Morocco's industrial and business companies and the majority of banks. The foreign cultural institutes and centers are

legion and offer a rich variety of events. Cultural activities abound, with prestigious programming including concerts, exhibitions, plays and cultural quality.

An architectural patchwork

Even when constantly changing, Casablanca still retains a rough charm. From the church of the Sacré Coeur to the central market, between alleys, passages and boulevards, the city perpetuates the avant-garde architectural mastery skills specific to the 20s and 30s. An architecture combining urban planning and aesthetics, found all around the centers of power. Admire the Art Deco buildings with their domes, columns and carved balconies glorifying an era that was the scene of unique architectural expressions. A mixture of neo-Moorish style and art deco geometric shapes, punctuated by zellige and neoclassical expressions, is creating at every street corner, an eloquent patchwork.



The Hassan II Mosque



THE HABOUS

The Habous district

At the heart of the city

Casablanca famous places are scattered in several districts of the city. The medina is the oldest part of the city. Destroyed by an earthquake in 1755, it stands out for its Arab-Muslim and colonial architecture. The city flagship site, the Hassan II Mosque, the largest in the Maghreb and the third largest in the world after Mecca and Medina, has a splendid esplanade. A national pride, close to the tallest minaret in the world, is a long reach of marble and emerald zellige rising 210 meters into the sky. Grand and timeless, the Great Mosque is constantly busy, a meeting point for Sunday strolls. Another essential site of

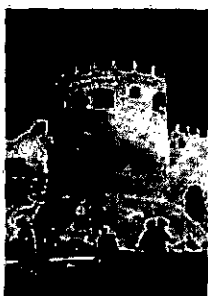
the city, the Habous, a traditional neighborhood, made up of narrow streets, small squares and stone arcades with many bazaars and artisan shops.

The Corniche of the city is a harmonious living space offering many activities: restaurants, ice cream stores, luxury hotels, shopping centers, playgrounds, shows, nightclubs, movie theaters, yacht clubs ... Soon the city will build a huge marina combining luxury hotels, luxury apartments, business center and shopping malls. An ambitious project designed to become a major tourist attraction, sealing forever the growth of the booming city.



Casablanca Art Deco at its best

From El Jadida to Mazagan



El Jadida, the former Mazagan

Azemmour is a small walled coastal town nestled on the bank of Oued Oum Er R'bia. Strolling through the Medina, you find traces of Portuguese architecture on the house front doors and a ruined Kasbah protected by its ramparts.

El Jadida, the fortified city
Southwest of Casablanca, the Portuguese fortified city of Mazagan is an ancient coastal town, impressive testimony of Portuguese architecture with houses adorned with pilasters and wrought-iron balconies. Listed as World Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, the former Mazagan, known now as El Jadida, has preserved its bastions, tangled streets and walls in a holiday resort atmosphere.

Portuguese famous places

The Portuguese cistern is a remarkable underground room, part of the castle built by the Portuguese in 1514 ...

Enduring traditions

Traditionally, the city of El Jadida has been a horse-riding place for decades. Famous for the quality of its horse breeding, the town hosts

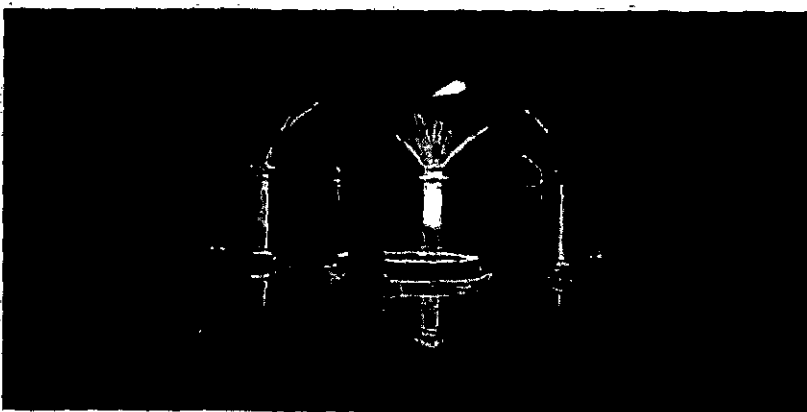
one of five national stud farms in the country. It is especially known for the famous annual moussem «Moulay Abdallah Amghar» which brings together more than a thousand horsemen, and fantasias, where different tribes follow one another until dusk.

The horse show, another equestrian event in El Jadida, has quickly become the annual gathering of breeding and equestrian art amateurs since 2008. El Jadida offers pleasant horse riding excursions along the beaches or in the surrounding forests.

Falconry, an ancestral know-how, once reserved for lords, is the prerogative of El Jadida, where falcons training and hunting exercises are the pride of the region.

Mazagan

Vastness of the ocean, never ending beach, fragrant plants, this natural setting was chosen for the new «Mazagan Beach Resort.» With luxury hotels, cozy villas, a casino, a golf course and various activities, the Mazagan Beach Resort satisfies all requirements.



Portuguese Cistern

From Safi to El Oualidiya

Safi: A glorious past

Free as the vast surrounding expanse, soft as the Atlantic breeze, Safi has a rich and great historical heritage. The city tour starts in the Sea Castle or Ksar El Bahr, a square stronghold built near the water in the sixteenth century by the Portuguese, then continues in the charming old town lined with stalls and craft guilds. The medina has kept intact its wall of Portuguese style. The Alleys lead to the mosque and the Portuguese chapel.

At the end of the Blacksmith street stands the potters' hill, home of pottery, ceramics. Famous for their skills, Safi's artisans transmit their mastery

from generation to generation. Moreover, a museum in the city is dedicated to ceramics. Another

must in the city, the port of Safi, renowned in Morocco, for its rich fisheries. Tourists and passersby savor the sardines, the region famous fish. If the city attracts history lovers, it is also a favorite place for surfers. Listed among the «World Class Waves,» the waves of Safi, fast and powerful, are one of the ten best in the world.

El Oualidiya: a relaxing breeze

Nestled beside a heavenly lagoon, Oualidiya is a haven of peace. You will never forget the taste of those succulent oysters in the parks or in one of the many restaurants lining the beach. Suitable for swimming, sailing and fishing, Oualidia is a charming seaside town you can't afford to ignore.



Safi's Portuguese fortifications



El Oualidia lagoon

Essaouira - Mogador



THE PORT OF ESSAOUIRA

The port of Essaouira

In Essaouira, far from the urban bustle, delight and easy living are always on the agenda. Proud and imposing, the city proudly unveils its landscape of towering walls, historical fortifications and guns pointed towards the ocean.

Listed as a World Heritage Site by Unesco, its medina, dotted with proud and untouched buildings travels through the ages and seems protected from the ravages of time. You can stroll and let yourself be taken by the fragrance of spices and scents of wood working. Inside the medina, the Moulay Hassan square is the liveliest place in the city, near the ramparts and the port where grilled fish is savored by all amateurs.

Further away, in an old stately house built the nineteenth century, the Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah museum presents the cultural heritage of Essaouira. Essaouira, a renowned art city, is a harmonious watercolor, and offers, along its walls, frescoes of powerful colors.

In its streets a range of art galleries, exhibit the works of local talent. Legendary setting of Orson Welles' film «Othello», and a replica of Jerusalem in the movie «Kingdom of Heaven», it falls in step with the major film productions. Essaouira also vibrates to the rhythm of music, especially gnaoua percussions during its annual festival.





Mogador resort

On the Atlantic coast, facing the medina, tourists are welcome in the new Mogador resort in a natural landscape. With a design that preserves the surrounding vegetation and topography of the site, Mogador resort is a shining example in terms of sustainable development.

It offers luxury hotels, lakes with facilities and two golf courses. Popular seaside resort, the waves of the trade wind city attract each year thousands of surfers from all backgrounds.



Mogador Golf

Agadir



One the most beautiful bays in the world, the beach of Agadir is over 10 km.

Its coastline extends south towards the Saharan provinces, and penetrates inland to the mountains of the Anti-Atlas.

Two emblematic sites overlook the beautiful bay: the cornice and the ancient Kasbah. The first is an invitation to a stroll among the shops, cafes and pubs for a moment of relaxation on the seafront, the second, stands majestically with its prestigious past and overlooks the bay and the fishing port. Strolling through this bustling port is a refreshing moment. An enthusiastic and exciting atmosphere prevails with the fish diner stands, the

restaurants in the port offering you fresh grilled fish or cooked the Gadiri way. Agadir blends harmoniously with its mild climate. The «new town» was recreated by the Italian architect Coco Polizzi, 5 km from the center, in a eucalyptus forest. This cultural village has retained in its narrow streets the regional tradition of its craftsmen. A spa treatment in the Atlantic is perfect for fitness and an invigorating and revitalizing health and beauty stay.

Most major hotels have luxurious steam rooms, spas and provide beauty care based on natural ancestral beauty products like argan oil, herma, ghassoul...





Taroudant

In the Amazigh heritage museum, collections of finely crafted silver jewelry testify to the richness of the Berber culture. The Argan tree, omnipresent in the region, found nowhere else in the world. You will recognize its foliage and the goats that do not hesitate to climb on it.

Located 80 km east of Agadir, Taroudant is protected by magnificent adobe walls.

You will relax in its many scattered gardens enjoy the scenery, feeling far from home.

Strolling through the sinuous streets of its medina and both Arabic and Berber souks is a real pleasure. The souks are filled with spices, herbs and delicious fruits, while jewelers, antique dealers are plenty.



Rampart Taroudant

Tan Tan

On the doorstep of the Moroccan Sahara, the city of Tan Tan is proud to bring together the largest population of desert nomads.

Its moussem glorifies the traditions of these tribes coming from different African places. Camel races, horsemen parading, tents erected for the occasion and art shows and scenes of desert life are the mainstay of moussem.



Moussem of Tan-Tan

Moussem of Tan-Tan

Oued Chbika

Spectacular beaches, cliffs, fine sand dunes, the scenery is breathtaking! Oued Chbika has a natural park hosting migratory birds like the flamingo, the great cormorant or the Black Scoter.

Smara

You will find a warm and welcoming atmosphere in Smara, a city nestled between the desert and the Atlantic with buildings topped with white domes.

Laayoune

Crossroad of southern Morocco, Laayoune is a city of warm colors and long stretches of golden sand. A pleasant and unusual coastal city, near the Atlantic and 500 km south of Agadir on the road to Dakhla. Laayoune is dominated by the amazing Spanish cathedral, and the vast Mechouar square, the meeting point of the inhabitants.

Dakhla

Dakhla is an enclave of a striking beauty. Mysterious, it is a unique peninsula. The city hosts a great annual cultural and sport festival in February between sea, sky and desert. Dakhla is the kingdom of board sports where many tourists and locals get carried away by its massive waves. Something which makes it stand as the undisputed queen of the wave.



Lagoon near Laayoune

Looking for cultural heritage

Rabat



The Chellah

Everlasting imperial cities

Welcoming buildings, majestic madrassas, impressive mosques, enchanting palaces, ancient Kasbah, the ancient cities of Morocco preserve the soul of their old buildings.

Rabat, Meknes, Fez and Marrakech are an ode to the prestigious history of the Kingdom through the various civilizations it has known. Divinely preserved, every part carries a glorious heritage that transcends the eras.

Rabat the elegant

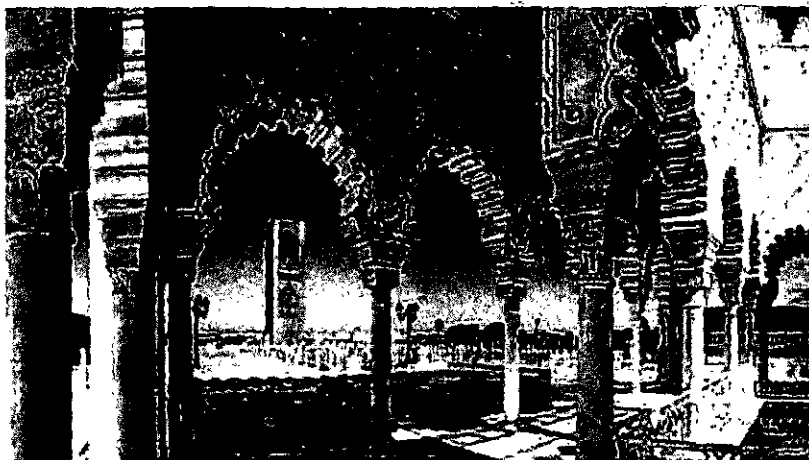
Capital city of the Kingdom, Rabat is a prestigious stop where calm and privacy are synonymous of elegance and lifestyle. This modern city has managed to preserve its authentic nature.

Famous places of the capital

The wall surrounding the old town is pierced with five monumental stone gates (Bab el Alou, Bab el Had, Essoutara Bab, Bab and Bab er-Ruach Zaer). In Chellah, Sala Colonia is the necropolis and the ancient city of Sala. All these ruins, with thousands of birds, stores and wild vegetation, are one of the most endearing sites of Rabat.

The remains of the Hassan Tower show the importance of a mosque that must have been one of the most important places of worship in the Muslim world.

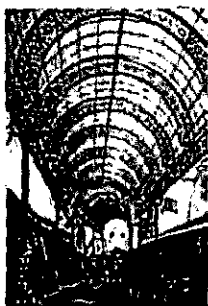
The Mohamed V Mausoleum is a masterpiece of Moroccan traditional art showing all the skills of Morocco master craftsmen. The Oudayas kasbah is filled with a calm atmosphere with its garden and Andalusian Moorish gate.



Mohammed V Mausoleum

The medina

The medina is heart of Rabat craftsmanship, recognized for its excellence, refinement and finesse inherited from the Andalusian tradition. The Consuls street is most active.



Consuls street

Cultural Dialogue

Committed to an artistic and cultural life, Rabat has many museums. The national library duly preserves the documentary Moroccan heritage enshrined in the collective memory. Rabat is the capital of the music of the world. It hosts the prestigious «Mawazine Rhythms of the World» festival which became of the major world music festivals.

The Chellah Jazz festival is one of the leading fusion musical events in Morocco.

City of the Future

Symbolizing the Kingdom's revival, Rabat is a must destination thanks to its quality tourism infrastructure, its conference centers, restaurants, recreation areas, beaches.

If competition is for you, you can choose to compete in horse riding competition in equestrian clubs, or in golf games.

Rabat is also a destination for wellness and relaxation.

The splendors of Salé

Regarded as the twin sister of the capital, the city of Salé has yet a culture and identity of its own.

Its glorious past as a Pirate Republic appears at every stop of the journey. Going beyond the walls that once preserved Sale from Spanish pirates attacks, the charming streets covered with thuya wood reveal an authentic medina.

From the souk Al-Ghazal, the auction market, to the souk El-Merzouk dedicated to jewelers, you wander delightfully through the stalls. On the city heights is the great mosque and the madrasa of Sale, now a museum. Its yard is a fine example of Hispano-Moorish refined art.



The Andalusian garden of Oudayas casbah

Fez



*Inside the Fouk
Nejjarine*

Cradle of Morocco's great dynasties, the prestigious city of Fez is outstanding in cultural, religious and historical terms.

Founded in the 18th century, the city experienced a golden age between the eleventh and fourteenth centuries, in particular under the Merinid Dynasty. It is a meeting point of civilizations mixing Arabs, Berbers, Sephardic Jews, Andalusians, Sicilians, culminating in a flourishing of art and knowledge, coupled with a commercial development. The creation of Fez el-Jadid marks the full development of the city and the climax of Moorish art illustrated by the construction of magnificent buildings.

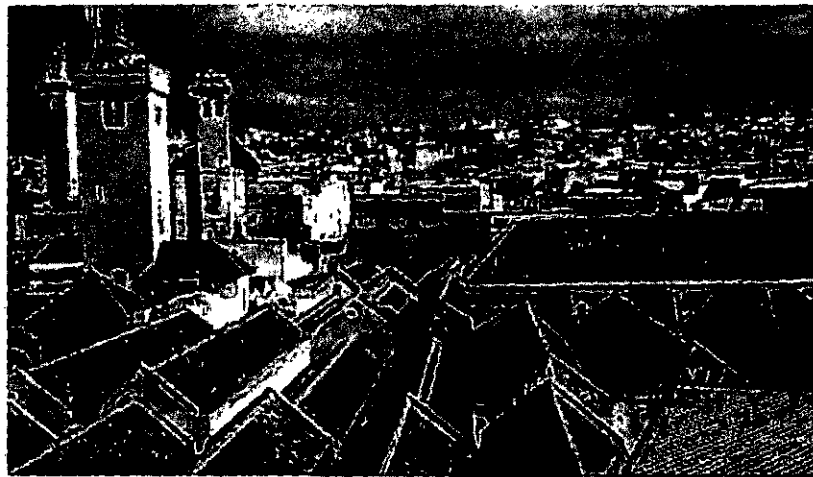
The medina a labyrinth of wonders

The Fez medina is a labyrinth left intact since the Middle Ages. Listed since 1981 in the Universal Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, it has many authentic and sustainable treasures that have been kept for over 1200 years. The largest medina in the Arab world is surrounded by 24 kilometers

of walls and counts 9500 houses, 176 mosques, 83 mausoleums, 11 madrasas, and 40 hammams.

Behind the ancient gates of the old town are hiding magnificent palaces standing close to each other and jealously kept secret by block of walls. Once behind the gate, it's an amazing sight! Stucco, carved cedar wood, zelliges, arcades surmounted by stalactites; balustrades, wrought iron gates; indoor gardens combining marble fountains and greenery. The Glaoui palace rivals with the Mokri Palace, the latter being part of Morocco's heritage. There, you can admire the fine work of the woodcarvers or the delicate lines of the wrought iron sculptured with surgical precision.

In Fez you will find beautiful madrasas, buildings dating from the Merinids dynasty. The vast esplanade of the Royal Palace, the main monument of Fez el-Jadid, offers impressive views over its finely carved doors. The Mellah, Jewish Quarter founded after the sixteenth century by the Sultan to protect the Jewish community in the city is crossed by the main





Fassi Embroidery

street, a bustling thoroughfare gathering all kinds of businesses: jewels, upholstery, fabrics. The houses of the Mellah differ from Muslim houses by the windows looking on the outside and their wooden and wrought iron balconies. The Synagogue Ibn Danan is a seventeenth-century Judeo Moroccan heritage masterpiece and worth a visit.

The North Borj has now become an Arms Museum. The remains of Merinids Tombs are perched on the hill of Al qolla. From these heights overlooking the city, the view of Fez el Bali and the Sebou Valley is magical.

Art as a Legacy

In the streets of the old Fez you can see the legendary craftsmanship at work. Each district of the medina turns into a bustling small business area.

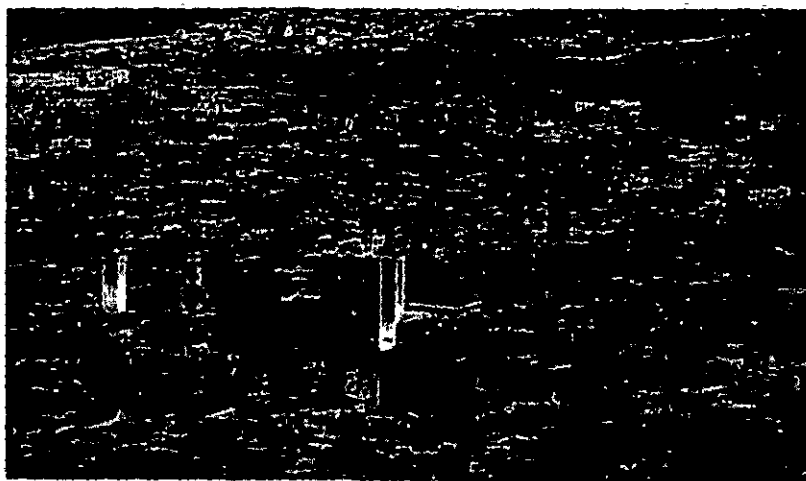
From Nejjarine with its numerous carpentry shops, to Seffarine

known for its Boilermakers and coppersmiths, to glazed ceramic workshops marked by the famous cobalt blue of Fez, to embroidery another delicate know how of this city and to the tanneries, renown working place of the pelt workers, Fez boasts of those trades bequeathed from father to son, talents honed over the time, of this unique energy for craftsmanship.

Fez is refinement in everyday life and wellness culture.

You shall be immersed in its hammams, its spas and thermal springs, the magical world of oriental fantasy! Its exquisite cuisine is transmitted from generation to generation, a master stroke for Fassi women.

Many cultural events are organized throughout the year in Fez and they take place in unique settings charged with history (palaces and estates of the medina, museums ...)



The Medina of Fez: A view of a city no one suspects the feverish activity

Meknes



Stud farm in Meknes

Meknes is one of Morocco's imperial cities, which medina is listed as world heritage of humanity. Embedded between the Atlantic plains and the Eastern highlands, between the northern Middle Atlas and the hills of the Rif Mountains, it unveils a harmonious splendor.

You will never forget your visit inside its walls where are combined wellness in its purest form, smooth lifestyle and ancient grandeur.

Meknes, with its architectural heritage, is an enchantment for its visitors: its wide ramparts, impressive palaces, its mosques, madrasahs, gardens, pools and museums.

Buildings that defy time

The ramparts of the city covering nearly 40 km in length are pierced 20 fortified gates, towers and bastions. At first glance, the Medina appears as a strong fortress. Here, the gates are works of art and souks offer a scenic and unusual journey. The Al-Hedim place, a vast esplanade is an essential thoroughfare to access the souks. At dusk, the square and its large market come to life to accommodate

merchants, acrobats, storytellers and fire eaters. A popular and timeless atmosphere is renewed.

On the edge of the Al-Hedim and the medina, the Dar Jamai Museum, in the Moorish style is now the Regional Museum of Ethnography, where gold threaded embroidery, pottery and antique jewelry recall the past splendors of the Kingdom. The Bou Inania madrasah is a masterpiece built according to traditional Koranic school plans. The walls of the courtyard are covered with zelliges, chiseled stucco, and beautiful cedar wood carvings, offering a wonderful example of Moorish decor. Heri Souani dates from the time of Moulay Ismail. With huge proportion, it consists of 23 naves supported by pillars and arches. This place was used in many international films: such as «The Last Temptation of Christ» and «Jesus of Nazareth.»

The Moulay Ismail mausoleum, built in 1703, is one of the few religious buildings open to non-Muslims.



Bab El Mansour



*Damascene a specialty
of the city of Meknes*

The little treasures of Meknes

With more than 50,000 artisans, Meknes and its region perpetuate ancestral knowledge in the art of wood carving and painting, weaving (carpets, hanbel, embroidery ..), wrought ironing or inlaying, leather (leather goods, binders and slippers).

Ecotourism destination per se, the resources of the Meknès-Tafilalet region are infinite. It is «Morocco's water reserve» as well as a forest, pastoral and agricultural land. A land with limitless resources, famous for its olive oil, its date palm culture, horse farming, trout farming....

Around Meknes

About twenty miles north of Meknes, built on the rocky outcrop overlooking the valley of Oued Erroumane, the quiet town of Moulay Idriss houses the mausoleum of the founder of the Idrisides dynasty.

Volubilis, another key city in the region, was listed World Heritage by UNESCO in 1997.

Volubilis is the largest archaeological site in Morocco and is renowned for the many mosaics decorating the antique buildings.

Going up towards the Middle Atlas, you will see along the road, huge cedar forests land, dotted with green valleys, lakes and springs. Plenty of options for hiking, horse riding, trekking, mountain biking, fishing. At the heart of the mountains flows the longest river in Morocco, Oum Er-Rbia, rising 40 km from Khénifra.

Ifrane, nicknamed Morocco's Switzerland is a charming traditional province at 1650 m. Displaying an urban character reminiscent of the alpine resorts with stone chalets and red tile roofs, it has a delightfully quiet and discreet atmosphere.

The mountain tops are often snowy in winter and the landscapes are pastoral.

Skiers should not miss the slopes of nearby stations, Michlifen (2036m) and Jbel Heb (2104m).



The Arch of Triumph, Volubilis

Marrakech

A mystical and yet exciting city, sparkling with life, Marrakech reveals its splendor to tourists eager to discover art galleries, exhibitions, celebrities, luxurious palaces and trendy nights. Its thrilling magic works divinely, know why?: People always come back.

The «musts» of the Red City

In Marrakech, there are two cities in one: The old city behind its walls and the new city with the Guéliz and wintering districts, and the Mohammed VI Avenue. Marrakech offers hiking, cycling or horse-drawn carriage strolls in the traditional Marrakchi way.

A green and spacious city, Marrakech has many gardens and woodlands. The Majorelle Gardens, the Arsat Moulay Abdessalam park, the gardens of Bahia Palace, the orchards of the Menara and Agdal are places of tranquility, relaxation and delight.

Surrounding the palm grove, with over one hundred thousand trees, offer tourists a pleasant opportunity for carriage rides.

Built by the Almohad in 40 years with simple lines, with a sophisticated decor and balanced propor-

tions, the Koutoubia is one of the most beautiful monuments of the Maghreb, with a minaret you can see 25 km away. Jemaa el Fna is a spectacular open space and meeting point, with outdoor cafes and plenty of entertainments, listed as Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

It's a rendezvous point for spice merchants, storytellers, fortune tellers, acrobats and the famous Gnagwas. Ben Youssef madrasah, is a unique work of art in marble, stucco, tile and cedar wood. Nearby is the M'Nebhi palace, beautifully restored, it has become the Museum of Marrakech with exhibitions on contemporary art and cultural heritage of Morocco. The Saadian Tombs are a royal necropolis (fourteenth century) with columns of Italian marble and dome made of carved cedar wood.

Two must visit are the ruins of El Badi Palace, once considered the wonder of the Muslim world.

The Bahia Palace (Palace of the «Beauty») from the late nineteenth century which building lasted seven years, is remarkable for its architecture, fountains and shady courtyards.



Menara



Square Jemaa El Fna



Saadian Tombs

Cities of artists

Marrakech is more than ever a city of artists. The many art galleries and literary cafes, offering beautiful spaces dedicated to painters, sculptors and artists are here to prove it.

Marrakech Enchantment

Dream Palaces, luxury hotels, beautiful riads, and social gatherings, Marrakech deploys its opulence without shamelessly. All world leaders come here to relax and experience the magic of the enchanting Red City. International Film Festival, Festival of Popular Arts, Comedy Festival, «Caftan» Party ... There are countless events that have chosen Marrakech to be known.

The back country: Lakes and mountains:

In winter you can enjoy the ski resort of Oukaimeden. A must visit is the Ourika valley sinking into the foothills of the Atlas: a beautiful green valley fringed with villages with houses built in adobe and a perfect setting for hiking.

Tizi-n-Test and Tizi-n-Tichka

Two passes cross the High Atlas to the south: Tizi-n-Test and Tizi-n-Tichka. The road leading to Tizin-Test is one of the most spectacular in Morocco. It climbs up into beautiful valleys up to 2092 m, where you will discover a splendid view of the Souss valley.

Toubkal National Park

In the High Atlas, Toubkal National Park, offers an exceptionally diverse population. With a mountain guide, climbing takes two days with an overnight in a camp or shelter.

Beni Mellal Azilal

Enjoy a stop in Beni Mellal to bathe in the springs of Ain Asserdoune or the Ouzoud waterfalls.

With its waterfalls and many streams, the area is perfect for canoeing and kayaking, rafting and canyoning.

We can also go fishing on the lake of Bin el Ouidane, north of Azilal. In Beni Mellal you can go paragliding, jump with a parachute or ride an ultralight aircraft and fly over the valleys of the Atlas.



Berber village in Ourika valley

The Deep South



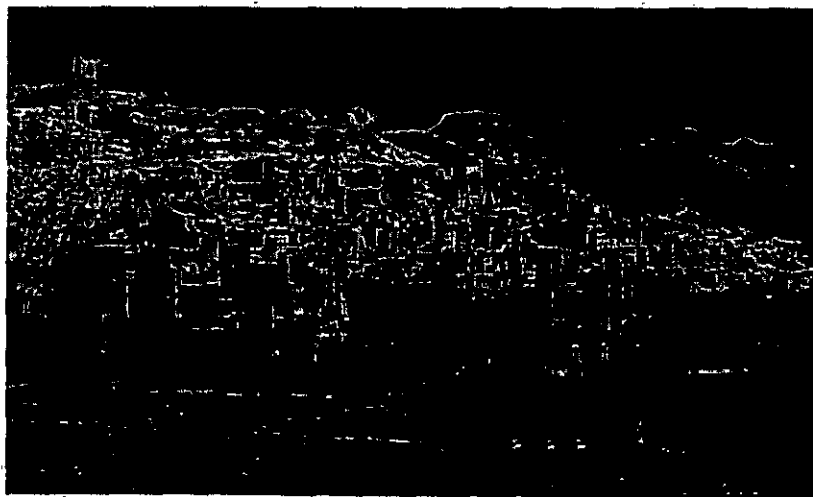
Surreal landscapes, unique scenery, desert land as far as you can see, the Deep South creeps quietly where the sand quietly creates dunes and palaces, where water give birth to green oasis, fertile plains and deep valleys. Amid these natural treasures, the journey begins, continues, and never ends, between hiyouacs, casbahs, palm groves and wadis. From Ouarzazate to the Draa, Dades and Ziz valleys towards the pre-Saharan nomad villages, the adventure of the Deep South stretches indefinitely, constantly pushing the limits in a timeless purity.

At the crossroads of the valleys of the Draa, Dades and Ziz, between the mountains of the High Atlas

and the desert areas of the pre-Saharan region, stands Ouarzazate. It is the guardian of the Deep South typical emotions.

Fortifications of another age, shadows of palm trees creeping on the walls and water gorges flowing slowly, it all participates in making this place a coveted setting for the greatest filmmakers of this world. Ouarzazate jealously watches over this out of time legacy.

In the souk, henna, dates, roses, spices and sage stands beside Berber pottery, carved stone objects and Taznakht carpets. The craft center contains sculpture workshops and silk embroidery with flamboyant colors.



The Kasbah of Ait Ben Haddou

Quarzazate



*Majestic and immortal,
the casbahs look down on
travelers and ignore the
passing of time*

Guardian of the Kasbah

Filled with powerful serenity, the majestic Ouarzazate Kasbah stand on the heights of the city, great other citadels built in adobe, a mixture of clay and straw. See for example the Taourirt Kasbah and the Tifoultout Kasbah, two imposing buildings listed as national heritage. You must also visit the epic Kasbah of Ait Ben Haddou located thirty kilometers from Ouarzazate, and listed as world heritage by UNESCO

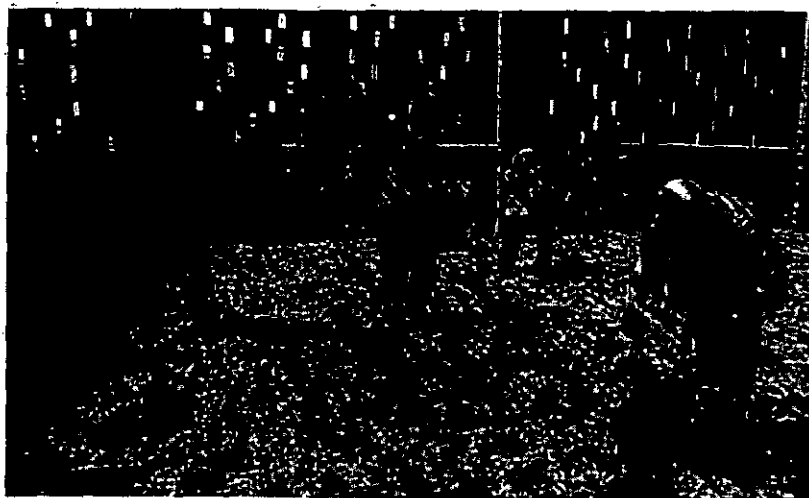
An epic aura

Setting of great film productions in the world, the city hosts the best of cinema. With its magnificent setting for great international films, Ouárazzate has been, for decades the meeting place of the directors in the world. For example «Kundun» by Martin Scorsese, «The Jewel of the Nile» by Lewis Teague, «Tea in the Sahara» by Bernardo Ber-

tolucci, «Gladiator» and «Kingdom of Heaven» by Ridley Scott, «Asterix and Obelix» by Alain Chabat . With several movie studios and a film museum, its visitors are immersed in incredible settings. The city has also founded a film school offering training programs in film business, a commendable initiative to encourage young talent in the making.

In the Valley of Roses

Famous throughout Morocco, the roses of the Kalaat M'gouna Valley are valued for their beauty and exceptional fragrance. They are picked up in May and it is the occasion of a big celebration, «The Moussem of Roses» in Kalaat M'gouna. The most fragrant one, the Rosa Damascena is cultivated in beautiful rose gardens and its rose water is a delicacy for the senses.



Picking roses in Kalaat Magouna

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Towards Ziz valley



From Tineghir to Todra: A unique wadi

Tineghir is a small town on the road that goes deep into the stunning Todra Canyon. There is a beautiful palm grove dotted with farming plots separated by séguias. Further north, the steep road, lined with Berber provinces and nomadic herdsmen, leads to a surreal landscape, the Todra Canyon. They are embedded in a plateau dividing the High Atlas and the Djebel Sarhro, where runs crystal clear river. The pink-tinted rocks become bright red ochre with the sunlight.

To prolong this moment of grace, stay overnight and go hiking with organized groups on site.

In this valley towards Errachidia, the Ziz river finds its way into limestone rocks, between dry red high cliffs. It leads to an incredible stretch of water, fringed by a thin strip of green land, with ochre shade banks where apricot trees are growing. The palm groves follow one another along the river which goes to the south where it feeds the huge Tafilalet palm grove.



The Ziz valley

From Errachidia to Merzouga



Further south is the historical province of Rissani, last stop before the unforgettable adventure of Merzouga. The city is the birthplace of the Alawite dynasty. It contains a lively souk, the Ksar Aber and remains of palace walls, and is probably where the famous city of Sijilmassa used to be.

Merzouga

In Merzouga, you will see the first dunes, undisturbed sand hills, infinite spaces subject to the sun and wind. In turns their color become pink, ocher and reddish subject to the dazzling sun, they mesmerize the onlookers ... A divine show which calls for contemplation.

The activities offered by the locals are up to the grandeur of the place. Hiking, biking or camel riding, night in an inn or in bivouacs in Berber tents will make your experience unforgettable. At the heart of the Sahara, it is time for meditation and relaxation. Revel in the healing virtues of sand dunes. Take a dive and experience the healing powers of sand baths and let yourself be carried away by total feeling of well-being.

Untouched by the constraints of time and space, alone in a silent and pure open land, Merzouga is simply subjugating.



The dunes of Merzouga

Zagora and the Draa Valley

Draa valley: A picturesque pre-Saharan land

About fifty miles south of Ouarzazate is the river Draa with fascinating shores stretching nearly over 200 km running along the sides, passes and gorges of the southern mountains. The Draa, once the longest river in Morocco, has its sources in the High Atlas and irrigates the pre-Saharan villages before flowing into the Atlantic.

Its huge valley surrounded by date palm tree and henna plantations, is a colorful extent of palm groves, orchards, authentic Kasbahs and welcoming Berber villages.

From Zagora to Tamegroute: A taste of the desert

Green oasis and main stop before the caravan route leading once to Timbuktu, Zagora contrasts with the dunes of the Sahara, and is surprising by its colors: bunches of yellow dates at the top of palm trees, pink laurel flowers, mud houses and ochre slopes of the "Jebel Zagora".

Further away, the road continues through the mountains and on a strip of cultivated land to the village of Tamegroute. Several mosques with blue faience covered roofs and white minarets lie ahead, as well as a renowned madrasa and a famous library containing religious works of great value.

Tinfou: Mecca of magic nomad life

5 km from Tamegroute on the outskirts of Tinfou, the first dunes of the desert appear. There are few vehicles and shepherds give way to nomad people. Here, with large and undisturbed dunes, time stops, and pristine scenery stretches as far as the eye can see. Further away, when reaching the village of El Ghizlane M'hamid, the feeling of touching the end of the world is overwhelming. The desert province is surrounded by sand ergs of breathtaking beauty... Camels, Berber tents, bivouacs and sand baths await adventure lovers.



SAND MARATHON

Sand marathon



The Draa Valley



THE MROUZIA

Pigeon pastilla with
almonds

The great classic dishes

The imperial cities offer plenty of renowned dishes perpetuated from generation to generation. Heir to the thirteenth century Arab-Andalusian cuisine, Moroccan culinary art combines deliciously the sweet and salted, expertly using all sorts of spices and condiments: curcumin, coriander, saffron, paprika, cinnamon... Ingredients found in the pigeon pastilla with almonds, a local recipe. The light puff pastry that envelops the filling is a specialty that Fez women transmit to each other from generation to generation. The Mrouzia is a great success of Fez gastronomy; initially prepared during the festival of Eid al-Adha (the «Feast of Abraham's Sacrifice»), it uses an original blend of spices, the Ras el hanout, or literally «head shop», which is made of 35 and 45 different spices from Morocco but also from the Middle-

East or Sub-Saharan Africa. Fish is also on the menu in Moroccan cuisine: Tuna tagine with raisins, monkfish with preserved lemon, sea bream with fennel and celery, and fish balls in saffron rice... Moroccan cuisine also benefits from Berber products (argan oil, saffron, honey, almonds).

The tagine is a Berber meal, and dates are a Bedouin delight accompanied by milk or Lben. The Moors introduced olive oil, almonds, fruits and herbs.

Arabs brought the spices, not to mention the British, who, in the XVIIIth century, imported the famous tea which has become the national emblem.

From traditional dishes to the famous pastries that Moroccan women only know the secrets, you can have Moroccan cuisine without moderation.



Crafts and Shopping

Handmade Treasures

Strong with an artisan origin, Morocco has cumulated over history typical business activities and knowhow immortalized from father to son. Each region is distinguished by its craftsmanship and its field of competence. The traditional souks of the medinas exhibit admirable ingenuity and traditional works shaped by talented hands. An unmatched dexterity whose secrets are transmitted inside the workshops boundaries by master craftsmen.

Tapestry is a major art in the kingdom and a female-dominated crafts involving infinite subtlety in the making. As a proof, the reputation of the traditional carpet of Rabat is equal to that of oriental carpets. Pottery handicraft is second after tapestry and considered among the oldest specialties in the country, especially in the areas of Rabat-Salé, Fez and Safi. A subtle art that gives us wonders such as colored tagine dishes, miniatures, decorative vases, lamps.

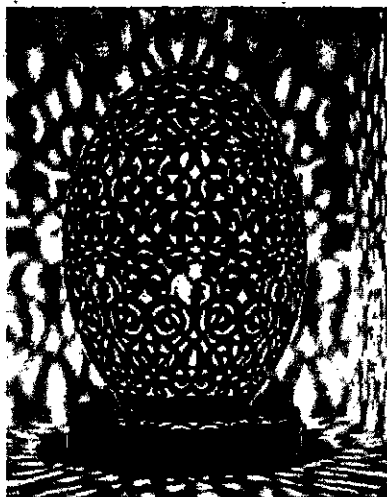


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The new Moroccan design

The traditional souks of the medina live side by side with the new district and their elegant fashion boutiques. The major western brands are represented in the Moroccan shops: Leather goods, clothing, jewelry, shoes, represent the modern side of Moroccan shopping.

Today we are witnessing the development of a revisited Moroccan crafts. This marriage of tradition and modernity is an opportunity for ingenious discoveries and generates original quality productions that meet the contemporary sensibility. Many creators, Moroccan or foreign, redesign materials and tradition to create modern and trendy objects. Marrakech has become a temple of design.



Back to the origin

Morocco, the Kingdom of well-being

Introduction: In Morocco, well-being is an ancient culture. Nothing beats the deliciously vaporous atmosphere of the mythical hammams, where the soul hovers in the midst of purifying scent. With massages, natural treatment and fitness, spas are a haven of peace with equipped with advanced devices and skilled personnel. From Ghassoul to argan oil, not mentioning the benefits of the soothing ocean waters and healing power of countless plants, nothing disturbs your moments of relaxation.



Rose water

The hammam: Ancestral virtues
The hammam is a ceremony of blessings and virtues that has its origins in the Greco-Roman antiquity.

In this magical place, with walls of *tadelakt* and *zelliges*, a special atmosphere prevails, veiled by the heat and vaporous moisture where you find peace of mind. Black soap scrub, *ghassoul* wrap, rose water or orange flowers mask, massages with

essential oils; argan oil hydration: It all creates a euphoric moment of bliss.

Thalassotherapy: A wave of well-being

Spa in Morocco is the quality of treatment, the change of scenery and an enchanting atmosphere. With its 3000 kilometers of Atlantic coastline and 500 kilometers of Mediterranean coastline, Morocco has everything to provide care quality thalassotherapy. To the virtues of sea water, with both modern and authentic amenities are combined advanced technology and qualified personnel.

Spa: Heaven on earth

Spas are developing very fast in all Moroccan cities. You will find a full range of services combining quality natural products and expert hands, for a unique sensory journey. From aromatic massages to face treatments, scrubs and baths, all for one purpose: to offer you a great time.



A hammam

Sports naturally

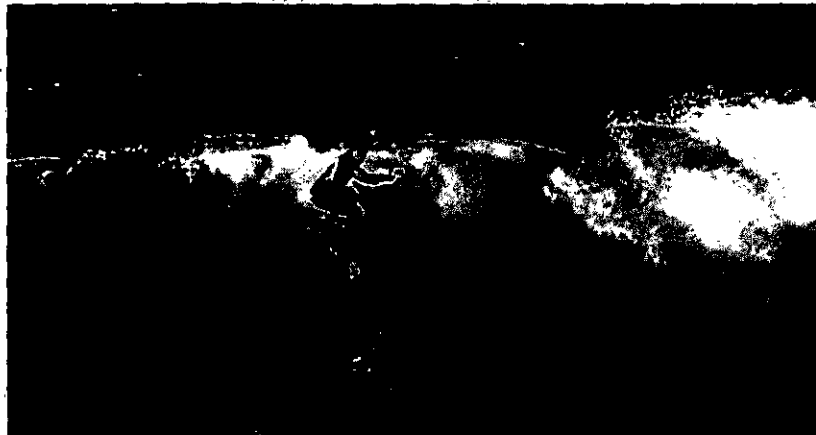


Morocco is the land of adventurers. On the calm waters of the Mediterranean, all water sports lovers find are in heaven. Fishing trips on sailboats or catamarans, diving to discover dolphins, water skiing, Jet Ski or sea kayak: there is something for everyone. On the Atlantic side, it is paradise for board sports lovers! Surfing, kite surfing, windsurfing, yachting; they're all on the long white sandy beaches from north to south. Venture into the backcountry, the Middle and High Atlas and a live as one with nature through hiking, trekking, hunting parties.

Further south, experience the magic of the dunes, and then have a rest in the shade of Berber tents. Last but not least in Morocco, skiing on the steep slopes attracts winter sports lovers.

Boating is fun

On the Mediterranean, all sailing lovers can take to the sea: light boats, long cruise, fishing trips aboard sailboats and catamarans. The Mediterranean in Morocco enjoys a moderate and constant prevailing wind, a moderately rough sea and at the right temperature, and a pleasant climate that encourages all water activities and sports. Scuba diving in crystal clear waters reveals the seabed flora and fauna in the southern coast of the Mediterranean. The absence of strong current, the diversity of diving spots and the equipment available on site, they all make the Mediterranean one of the most interesting spots for divers of all levels. In addition, places and equipment are specifically made available to all fans to create the ideal conditions for fishing.



Bodyboarding, surfing, windsurfing, funboard: all sports are practiced in heavenly spots along Morocco's southern coast



A thrilling coast

Along the coast connecting Safi, Essaouira, Dakhla, are some of the best surf spots in the world. Today the region is world famous for its powerful waves and steady swell from September to April. Another revered spots for surfers, the coast of Imessouane is a paradise of biodiversity, wild and authentic, where you can surf all year round. Essaouira is a mecca for surfers. The city has become in recent years, a paradise for water sports and hosts the final stage of the Kiteboarding World Cup, a rendezvous the best kiteboarders world never miss.

Board sports in Dakhla

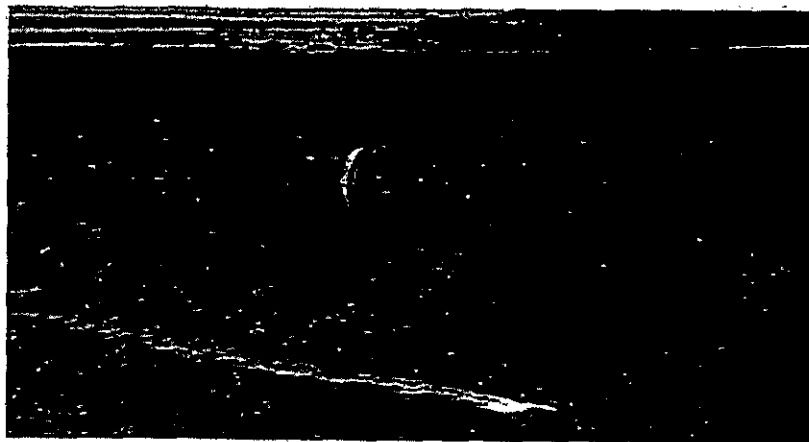
In Dakhla they practice all sports including windsurfing, kitesurfing and stand up paddle. In late February, the international surfing competition takes place in Labouir Foun, the stronghold board sports. Dakhla is also where the world longest race takes place with over 40 km. In this unique competition, the best windsurfers and kite surfers in the world compete.

Adventure in nature

Whatever the region, hiking trails are varied and numerous. Hikers will choose walks in the oak forests, the steep paths of the Atlas Mountains or trekking in the desert. The mountains in Morocco offer a wide variety of activities such as trekking, hiking, climbing, caving, hunting, fishing, canyoning. A network of rural resting places managed by the local people, hiking trails, guides familiar with the natural environment and local traditions, everything is set up to facilitate your stay. Hunters will also get something out of it.

Defying the slopes

In winter you can both ski and swim, in the ski resort of Oukaimeden for example, that meets international standards and located 75 km from the city of Marrakech.





In the canyons of southern Morocco, rafting and canyoning are popular sports

Go for adventure!

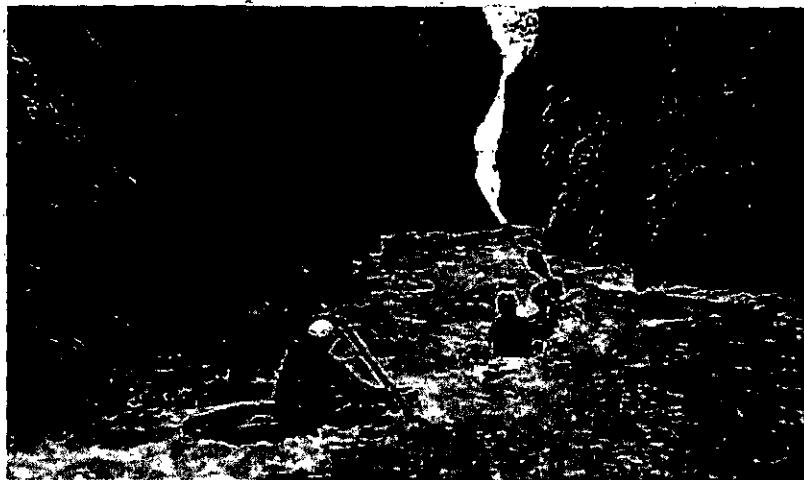
A mountainous country, Morocco offers all types of activities, hiking, rafting, paragliding, caving climbing, hunting, fishing, canyoning ...

In winter, a good equipment quickly becomes indispensable and board sports like surfing and skiing, can become an appropriate option to tough trekking. The more experienced can try climbing to the top to reach «the roof of Morocco» and enjoy a fabulous view of the country. Whatever the region, hiking trails are varied and numerous. Hikers will choose walks in the oak forests, the steep paths of the Atlas Mountains or trekking in the desert. A network of rural resting places managed by the local people, hiking trails, guides familiar with the natural environment and local traditions, everything is set

up to facilitate your stay. Hunters will also get something out of it. Feel free to take the lake route that runs through the wild landscapes of mountain heights. Most of the lakes in the Middle Atlas are located between Beni Mellal, and Azilal Khénifra. Several streams flow into the Ouzoud River which rushes down from over 110 m high to the bottom of a green pit lined with limestone.

These are the beautiful Ouzoud waterfalls. The mist rising above the rocks creates a permanent rainbow. The cold water of the river makes a refreshing swim.

It is also possible to combine hiking uphill into M'Goun Mountain and skiing downhill when there is enough snow.



Morocco, Kingdom of Golf



THE _ _ _ _ _

Friendliness, taste and elegance, the golf courses are an invitation to exceptional moments, and relaxation in the open air. Distinguished by specific settings, they are sometimes near the ocean, surrounded by dunes, embedded in lush nature or at the heart of ancestral sites. Discover the unique golf courses in a country where the sense of hospitality and service are legendary. Agadir, Marrakech, Rabat, Casablanca, Benslimane, Essaouira, Tangier, Cabo Negro, Bouznika, Settat, Lixus, Saidia, Fez, Meknes,

El Jadida and Mazagan, they are all golfing destinations for all the fans. Each course has its own personality, the fruit of its architecture and the wide variety of lands, trees and climates found in Morocco.

Whether beginners or professionals, all players here will find a golf course to their liking, with personalized services.



Useful information and addresses

Practical Information

Entry formalities:

A valid passport for a stay of less than 90 days is required.

A visa is required for some nationalities - enquire at a Moroccan consulate or diplomatic representation in your country. No specific vaccinations are required for entry into the Kingdom of Morocco. If you are taking your pet along with you, make sure you have its vaccination booklet available.

Changing money

Moroccan currency is the dirham, made up of 100 centimes. Foreign currency must be exchanged at banks or other accredited establishments.

Time zone

Morocco is in the Greenwich Time zone, and time is G.M.T.

ONCF Railway station

Call Center: 08 90 20 30 40

Website: www.oncf.ma

Airport :

Call center : 00 212 890 00 08-00

Emergency phone numbers

Police: 19

Fire Brigade: 150

Directory enquiries: 160

Road safety services: 17

Weather forecast:

www.meteoma.net

Office des Changes (Currency regulator authorities):

www.oc.gov.ma

For further information: www.visitmorocco.com

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Zurich

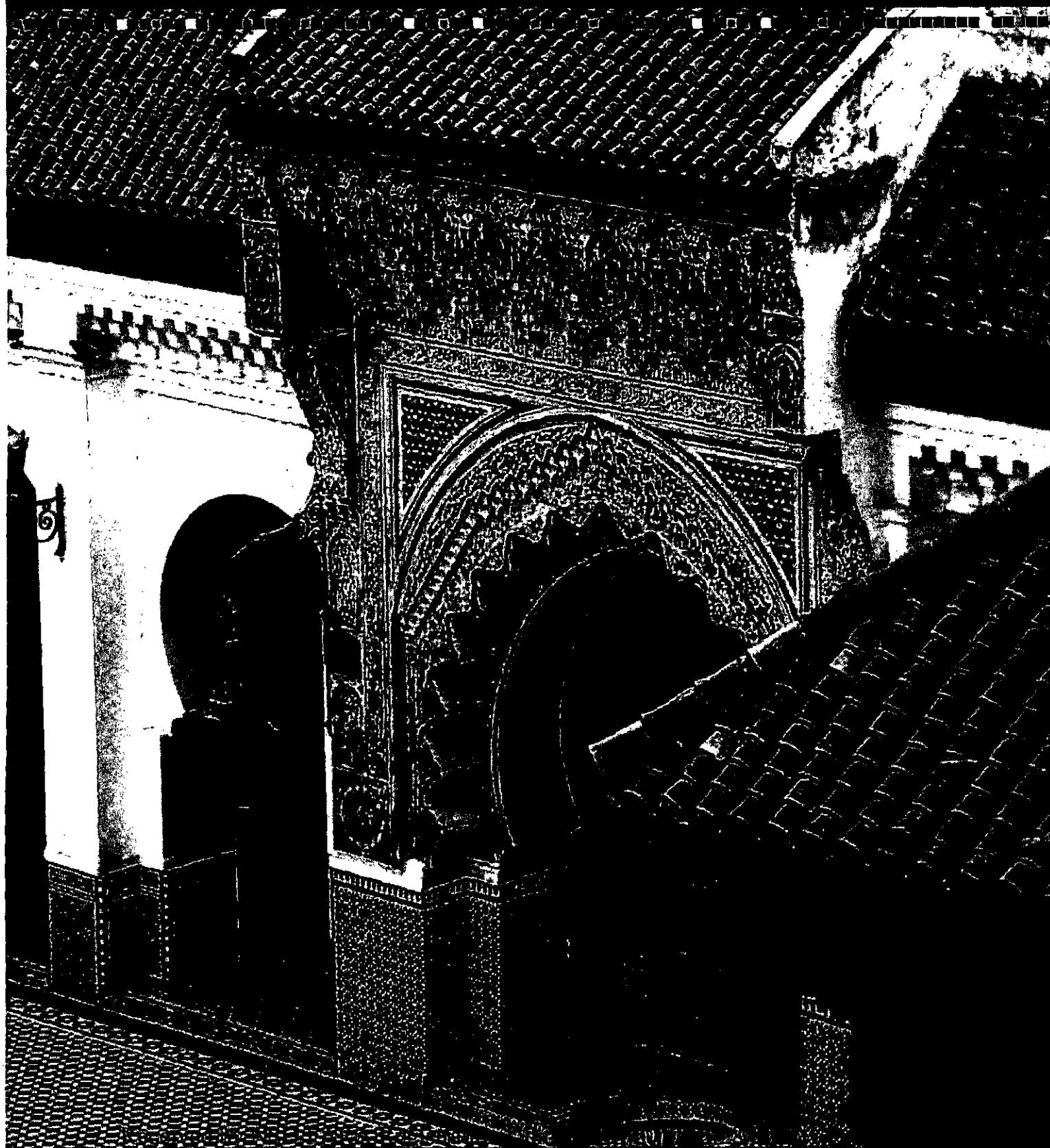
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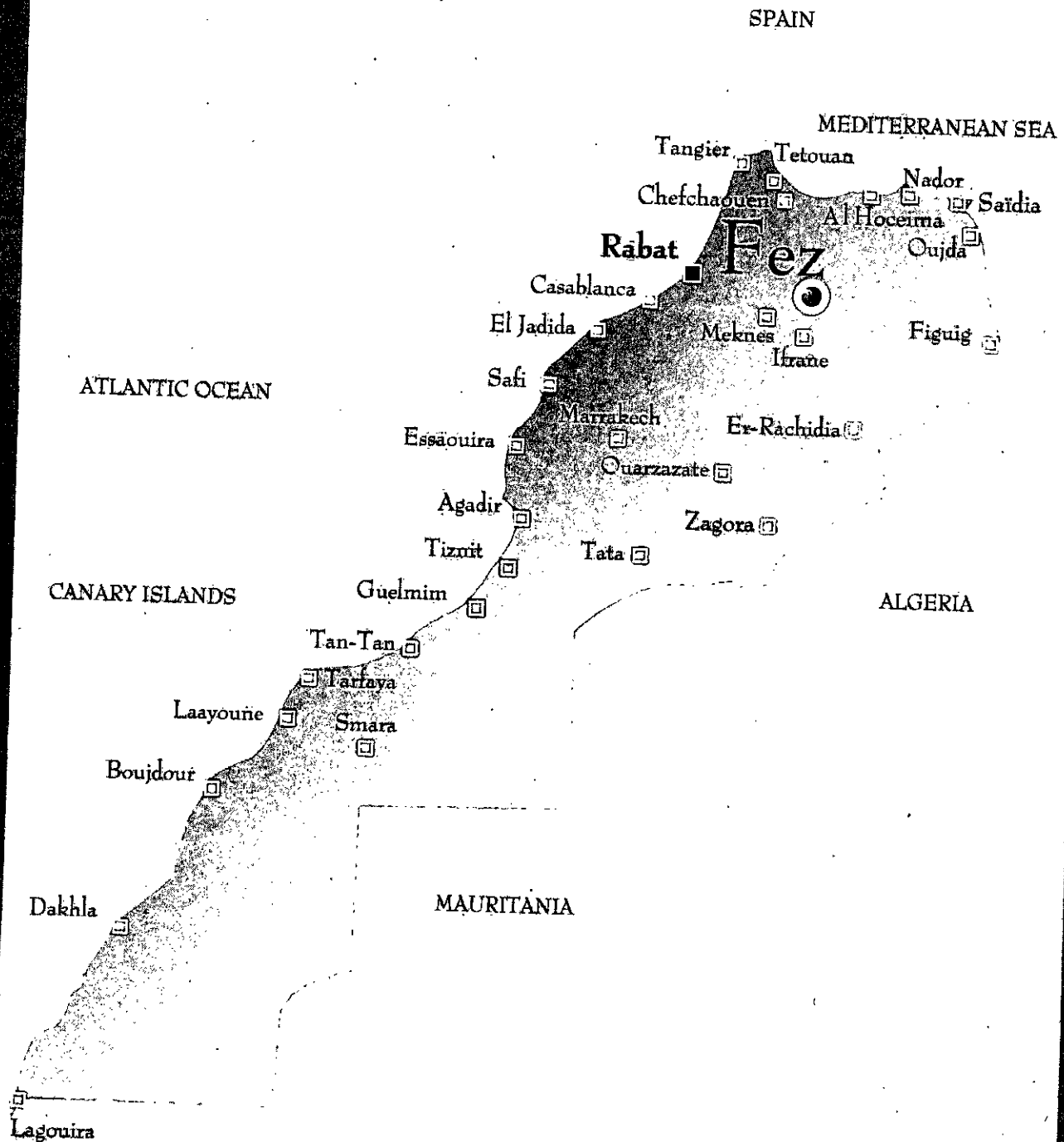
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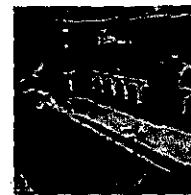
Fez
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2



Fez

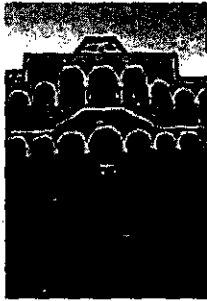


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Editorial



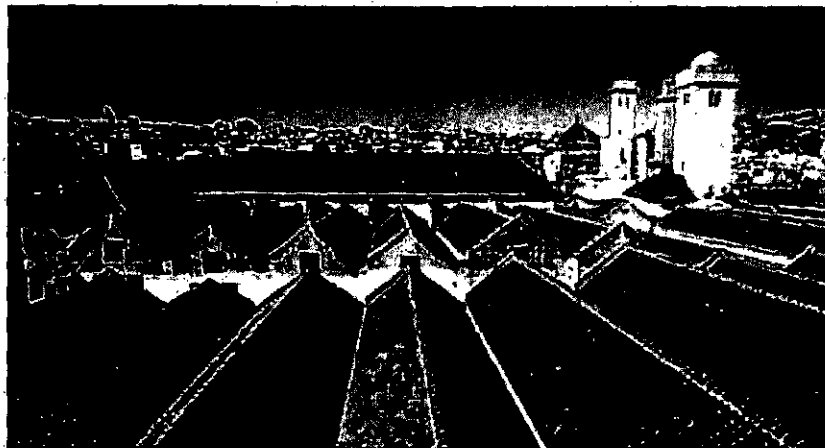
Balance and harmony the city's architecture is an inspiration to reverie and the quest for wisdom

Fascinating Fez

When the most imperial of all Morocco's cities welcomes its guests, it is to have them experience an altogether unique art of living for themselves. Fez is nothing less than a great open-air museum, on equal terms with Venice, Florence and Athens as an example of living world heritage. The subtle sumptuousness of its palaces, the richness of its museums, the solemn grandeur of its medersas, home to the greatest sages of the city's Golden Age, and the magnificent profusion of its mosques, each one raised in devout homage to the glory of God - for all those who love art and culture, these many wonders are an irresistible and ever open invitation to discovery.

The Kingdom's spiritual and cultural centre, city of a thousand and one faces, Fez has lost none of its splendour over the centuries, unwavering in its determination to preserve its traditions and keep its ancient stones vibrantly alive. Its medina, a listed UNESCO World Heritage site, is as unique and authentic as it was over 1200 years ago.

Fez, a melting pot of so many succeeding cultures, has absorbed the very best from each, inheriting Arab nobility, Andalusian sophistication, Jewish ingenuity, and Berber tenacity. Its glorious past, its marvellously preserved material and immaterial heritage, and the timeless aristocracy that lies at the centre of its being are all part and parcel of the fascination that the city holds for all those who visit it today.



The city that founded Morocco



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A first overview of 1200 years of history...

The town of "Madinat Fas" was founded by Idriss I in 789. Twenty years later, in 809, his successor, Idriss II, started work on making it his capital, building his royal palace there, along with his mosque, his kissaria (covered market), his canals and his city walls. The site was no haphazard choice, being carefully selected by the Idrissid dynasty with a canny eye on the future. Its geographic location on the fertile Saiss Plain, in the hollow of a valley at the foot of Mount Zalagh, made it an economic, political, and strategic crossroads, and was a decisive factor in the city's development and influence.

In 817-818, two successive waves of new arrivals began flowing into the city. 800 Andalusian families expelled from Cordoba by the Umayyads who settled in Fez and founded the Andalusian

district, and, soon afterwards, around 2000 families from Kairouan fled there to escape Abassid persecution and created the Quaracuiyine district. Both groups were to have a major impact on the city's future. The newcomers brought their knowledge and know-how with them, along with long experience of city life. It was at their instigation that Fez was to become an important urban centre, whose way of life, so closely bound up with Oued Fez, a river watered by some sixty springs, is something of a rarity in the history of Moroccan cities.

The foundation of the Al Quarauiyine university mosque in 857 marks the start of the city's Golden Age. The centuries that followed were years of unparalleled architectural creation - mosques, fondouks (caravanserais),



The Mellah district



Views of the medina from the surrounding hillsides have always inspired contemplation



The minarets of the mosque Quaraouiyine

luxurious residences, and renowned medersas (universities) sprang into being. The city saw itself become capital of a vast empire, and aspired to yet dizzy heights, with merchants, artists, scholars and students from throughout the world flocking to its gates. Its cultural and spiritual influence was such that it came to be referred to as the "Athens of Africa."

When the Merinids seized power in the 13th century, they had a new city, Fez el Jdid, built outside the existing walls to accommodate their palaces and the famous Mechouar (a huge square designed for ceremonial occasions and where the sovereign assembled the city dignitaries for consultation and advice).

As capital of the empire, Fez became the refuge of choice for Andalusian Muslims and Jews, the latter being responsible for the creation of its Mellah (Jewish quarter). In the 16th century, under the Saadian dynasty, the city's fortunes fell into temporary decline, and it had to wait until 1666 to regain its lost prestige and rank of capital.

Over the course of its long and remarkable history, Fez has endowed itself with a rich and varied architectural and urban heritage, whose value has been deservedly recognised by UNESCO in its listing of the city's medina as a World Heritage site.

The treasures of Fez-el-Bali

The whole of the old city, Fez -el-Bali, is nothing less than a great open-air museum, with countless masterpieces of architecture awaiting your discovery in its 9,400 narrow little streets. Among the 10,572 listed buildings of historical interest it contains, Fez boasts 185 mosques, numerous medersas, and a selection of truly magnificent palaces. There are so many sights that must simply not be left unseen.

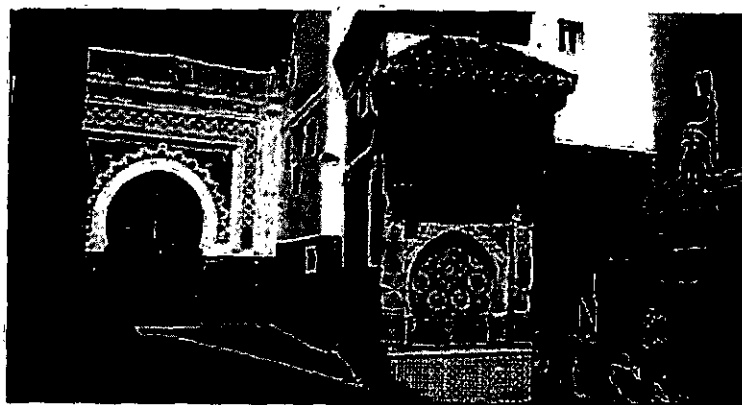


THE FOUNTAINS

From its earliest days, the city's history has been bound up with the river upon whose banks it lies, as is evidenced by its wealth of magnificent fountains

Without a doubt, the most imposing of all its mosques is the Quaraouiyine. Founded in 859 by Fatima El Fihria and later enlarged, it is the very beating heart of the city. Its name derives from the district in which it stands, then inhabited by refugees from Kairouan. The Andalusian Mosque dates back to 860, and its great zellij-adorned gateway and carved wooden eaves are not to be missed out on. The Moulay Idriss Zaouia houses the tomb of the city's founder, Moulay Idriss II.

The medersas (Koranic universities) bear living witness to the city's intellectual and scientific past. They are the work of the Merinid sultans, and played a prominent part in political, educational, and cultural life. Founded in the 13th century, the first to be built was the Sefarine Medersa, outstanding for the restrained elegance of its decor. The Bou Inania Medersa is remarkable for the sumptuousness of its architecture - its wealth of sculpted stuccowork and carved cedar wood, and its rich onyx and marble decor. Ibn Khaldoun taught there. The El-Attarine Medersa was built in 1325 and is one of the wonders of the city, a true masterpiece, its decor - sculpted marble and calligraphy, cedar wood arches, finely worked mosaics and arabesques - of breath-taking delicacy. The Cherratine Medersa was built by Sultan Moulay Rachid in the 17th century, and could accommodate up to two hundred students at a time.



In days gone by, the fondouks (caravanserais) were mercantile centres, used as trading houses, hotels, and warehouses. They are located along the medina's major thoroughfares (Tala el Kibira, Tala Sghira, Ras Cherratine, and Nejjarine) and close to its main gateways (Bab Boujloud, Bab Elguissa, and Bab Ftouh). The fountain extends the fondouk into the square with subtle elegance. Among the city's 70 monumental public fountains, many are real masterpieces of decorative art - the Nejjarine



The left-hand pavilion and its ablution basin in the inner courtyard of the Qaraouiyine Mosque



Inside the Nejjarine fondouk

fountain, along with the one in Souk Hayek and the Qouas fountain, are particularly fine examples.

The Batha Palace is now a Museum of Arts and Traditions, conserving rich collections of traditional Fassi artwork, including jewellery, embroidery, carpets, pottery, copperware, and wrought iron. The Nejjarine Museum of Wood Arts and Crafts is accommodated in a magnificently restored former fondouk, whose rooftop terrace affords splendid views of Fez and the surrounding hillsides.

The Qaraouiyine Library dates back to the 12th century. Since 1613, it has housed over 32,000 manuscripts, playing a major role in ensuring the city's influence as the Maghreb's scientific and intellectual capital. It has recently been restored, and continues to conserve its unique collections of rare documents - works from the pens of such great sages as Averroes and Ibn Khaldoun.

Fez, past and present



Fassi craftsmanship is remarkable for its extraordinary sophistication

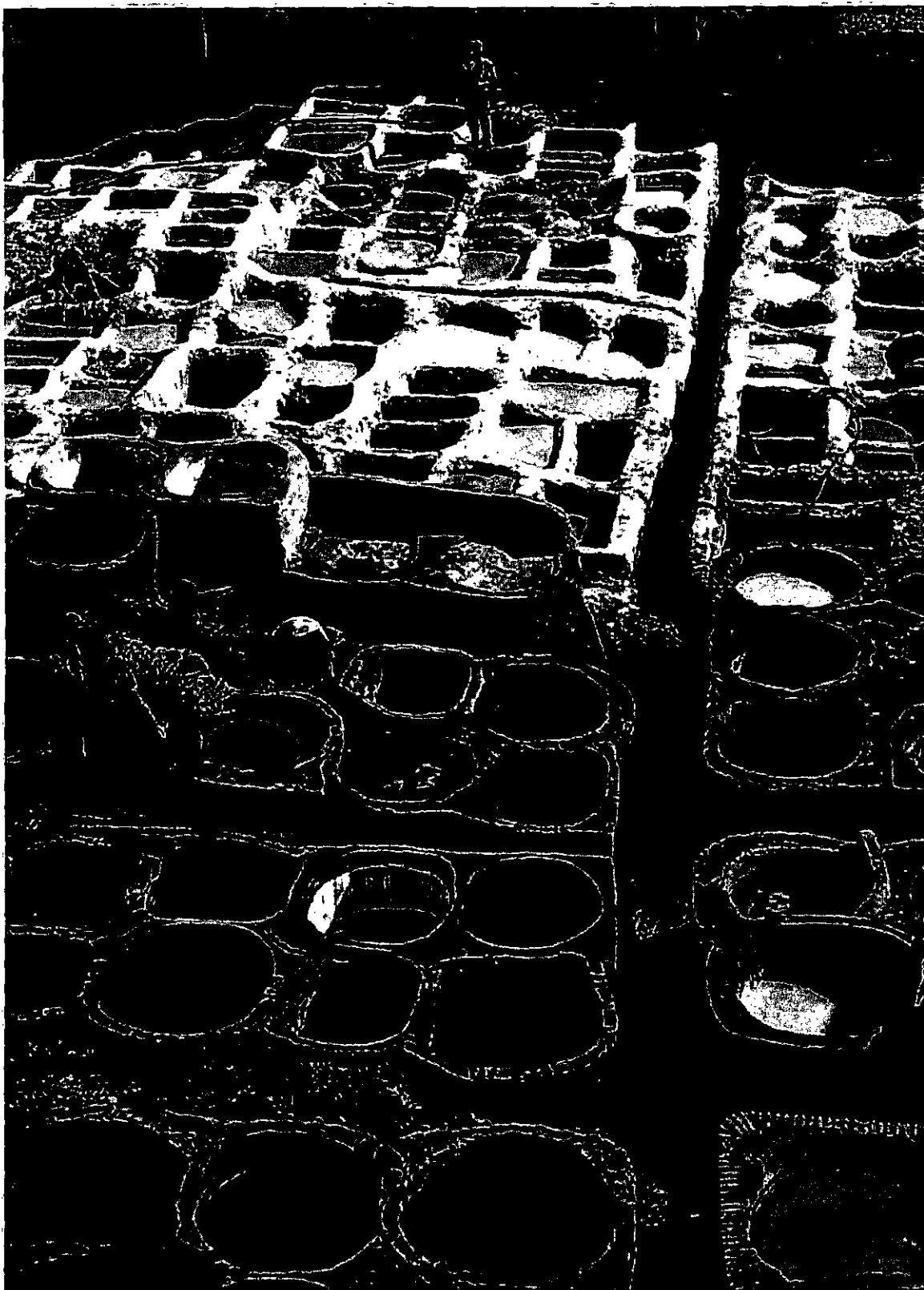
The city's souks are part and parcel of Fassi life, and are organised corporately. Souk Attarine is without doubt one of the liveliest in the city, a market street with two monumental wooden doors at either end, which are closed in the evenings at the end of business. In bygone olden days, it specialised in the sale of traditional medicines, and according to Leon the African, its shops knew no rival anywhere in the world. Souk el-Henna has been selling cosmetic products for centuries (including rhassoul, soft soap, kohl, rosewater, and henna). And if it's a piece of unique Fassi embroidery you're after, look no further than Kissaria Serrajine, where an irresistible range of silks, brocades, braided trimmings, embroidered slippers and kaftans awaits your coming.

Souk Tillis is renowned for its carpets, the Nejjarine district for its cabinetwork (moucharabieh, coffee tables, armchairs and, marquetry work), and the coppersmiths in Es-Seffarine square produce finely chased trays and teapots, along with countless other items of iron, copper and silver ware.

A morning visit to the tanners' district (the Choufara tanneries) is an absolute must. The tanneries, made up of innumerable ditches filled to the brim with a dazzling variety of pigments, process skins for production of sheep, cow and goat leather in the traditional manner. Look down at proceedings from a neighbouring rooftop terrace - a giant artist's palette in all its colourful splendour!



A medina street



A panoramic view over the tanneries - nothing less than a giant artist's palette

Surprising Fez

The Royal Palace

The most imposing of all Fez Jdid's monuments is undoubtedly the Royal Palace, which began construction in the 13th century. From Place des Alaouites, a vast esplanade created nearby in 1968, you can enjoy impressive views of the palace's delicately worked doorways.

The Mellah

The Jewish quarter was founded by the sultan at the end of the 16th century, to offer protection to the city's Jewish community. The Grand Rue des Merinides cuts across it, a bustling thoroughfare packed with shops of all kinds, selling, among other things, jewellery, household textiles, and a wide assortment of other fabrics. The houses in the Mellah are of different design to Muslim residences, with windows looking out on to the street and wooden or wrought-iron balconies. The 17th-century Ibn Danan synagogue is a masterpiece of Judeo-Moroccan architecture, and is well worth going out of your way to see.

The Fez Jdid discovery tour

A very enjoyable four-wheel excursion, carrying you off to experience the city and its countless terraces and minarets in a whole new way, and taking in the North Borj, which today houses the city's Weaponry Museum, the Merinid Tombs, and the South Borj, an ideal departure point for discovery of the medina.

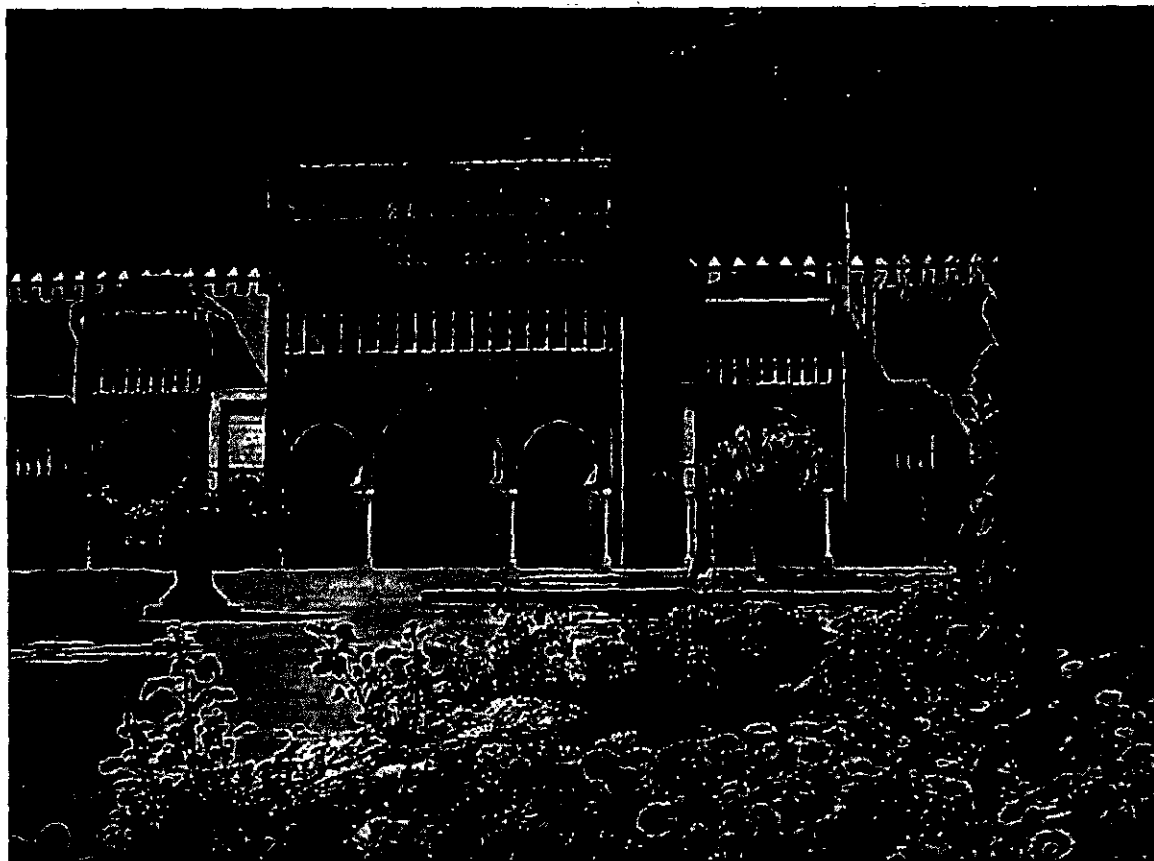
The remains of the Merinid Tombs stand on the slopes of Al Qolla, a hillside selected in the 14th century as the site of the royal necropolis. From 1361 to 1398, Abou El Hassan's successors and others of royal lineage were buried there. Now in ruins, little is left of the necropolis beyond the remains of three cupolas and a mosque, and a few sections of wall. But from the top of this gentle hillside overlooking the city, the views to be had of Fez el Bali and the Sebou Valley are an altogether spellbinding experience.



The remains of the Merinid Tombs keep watch over the city



Bab Boujloud and its green and blue ceramics



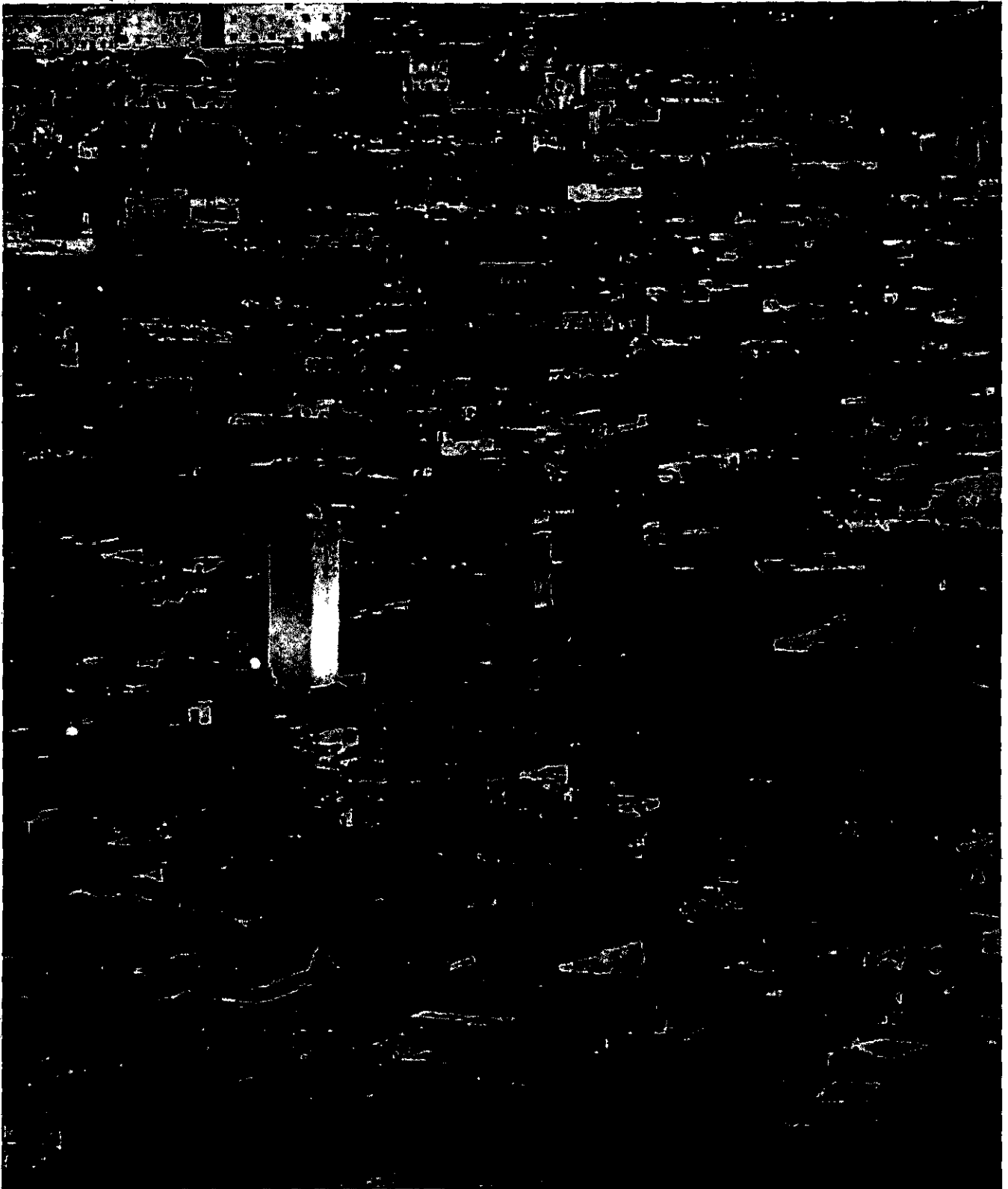
The exquisitely worked doors of the Royal Palace in Fez



Time has come to a standstill for the Magana Bou Inania clock

Across from the Bou Inania Medersa stand the venerable remains of a water clock (clepsydra) dating back to the 16th century, its mechanism sadly no longer intact. A number of studies have been carried out in recent years with a view to restoring it to active duty, the latest of which suggests that the clock may well have sounded hours of unequal length, based on the time elapsed between sunrise and sunset. For the moment, though, the Magana is still waiting for modern man to show as much ingenuity as his forebears evidently possessed 5 centuries ago, and finally gets it going once again.

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Fez medina: a panorama that reveals nothing of the feverish activity within



Palaces from the Thousand and One Nights



The austere exterior walls of Fassi palaces give little indication of the magnificence awaiting discovery on the other side

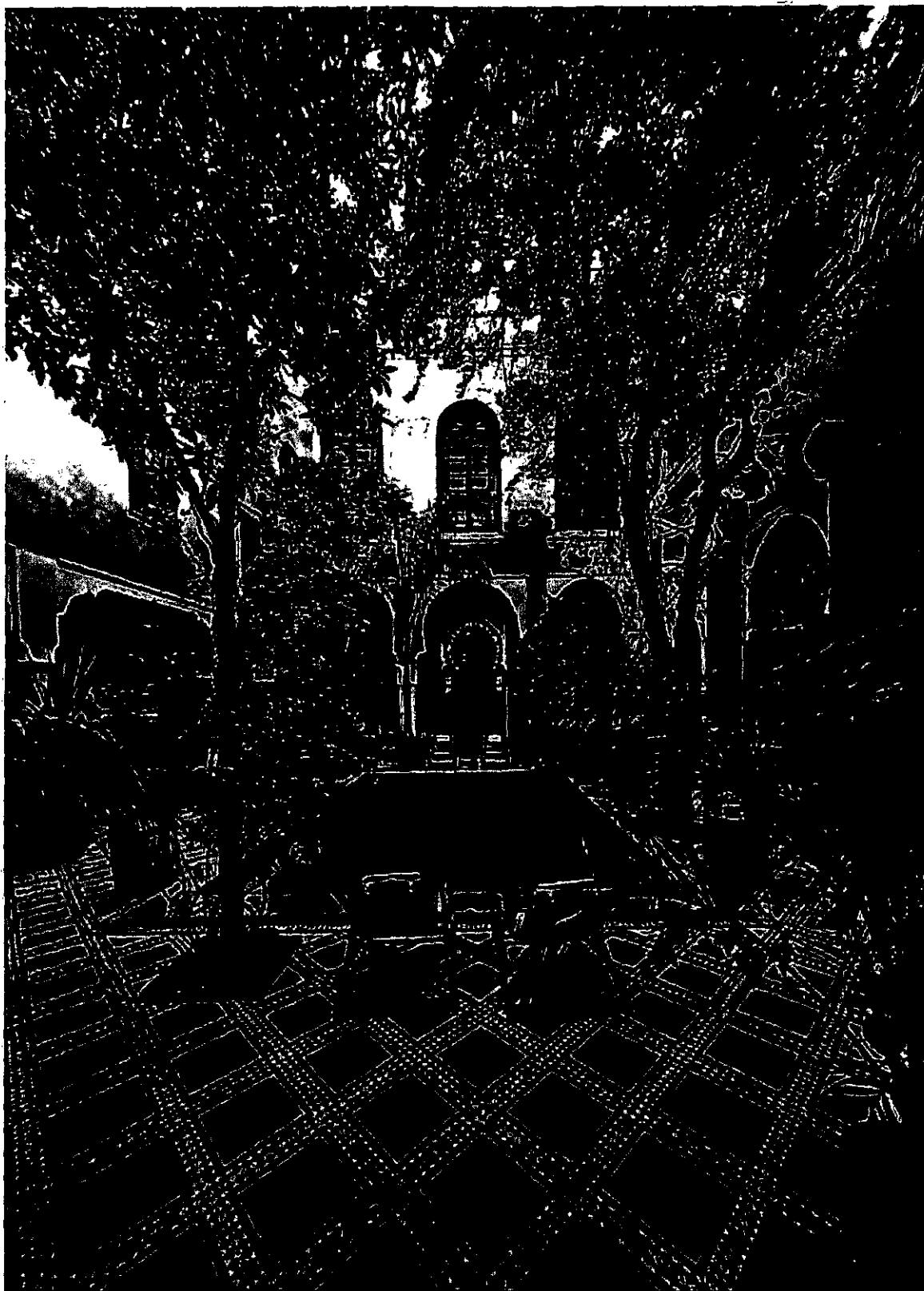
A thousand palaces lie hidden away in the labyrinthine streets of the medina, residences huddled side by side, their secrets jealously guarded by blind walls behind which daily life takes its course. Worlds of breath-taking wonder await those who cross their thresholds - fine stuccowork, carved cedar wood, zellij, stalactite-topped arches, balustrades, wrought-iron grills, and high double doors that are opened during the day to let in the sunlight and cool morning air. Each house has its fountain adorning the centre of the patio and its Andalusian or interior garden - in all, a magical combination of marble, water, and lush greenery. The Glaoui Palace, the Pasha of Marrakech's second home, comprises 1000 rooms, two gardens, 30 fountains, a Koranic school, a Moorish bath for men and another for women, an oven, an oil mill and a flour mill, stables, and a great central kitchen communicating with the

17 edifices of which it is composed. It is, without a doubt, the finest of all Fassi palaces, only rivalled by the Mokri Palace.

This latter is an integral part of Morocco's architectural heritage. Visitors are bedazzled by the exquisite cabinetwork and the delicacy of the wrought iron, sculpted by true master craftsmen. Painted and carved ceilings and cupolas vie for attention with baroque woodwork set with frosted Venetian glass windows and adorned with the colours of old Baghdad.

The Mnebbhi Palace is one of the imperial city's more recently built monuments. Work started on its construction in the late 19th century, and it took the very finest Moroccan artists and craftsmen a full fifteen years to complete. The magnificent edifice that resulted is now a restaurant, and lovers of fine food can wine and dine in sumptuously decorated surroundings fit for prince.





When Fassi palaces open their doors to visitors, they enter a world straight out of the Thousand and One Nights

The Fassi art of living



The Fassi art of living relies on the culture of well-being.

Life in Fez is a daily round of sophisticated pleasure - a fine roof over your head, subtle cuisine, elegant clothing, harmonious colours, age-old rituals of beauty, delicate perfumes, and bewitching music. The truest way to experience the Fassi art of living is to stay in one of the many riads in the heart of the medina, residences combining modern comfort with an authentic setting (architecture, patio and garden) and a warm welcome. Here, you will be immersed in Fassi tradition at its purest. The city also boasts a wide selection of top-of-the-line hotels, including the world famous Palais Jamaï.

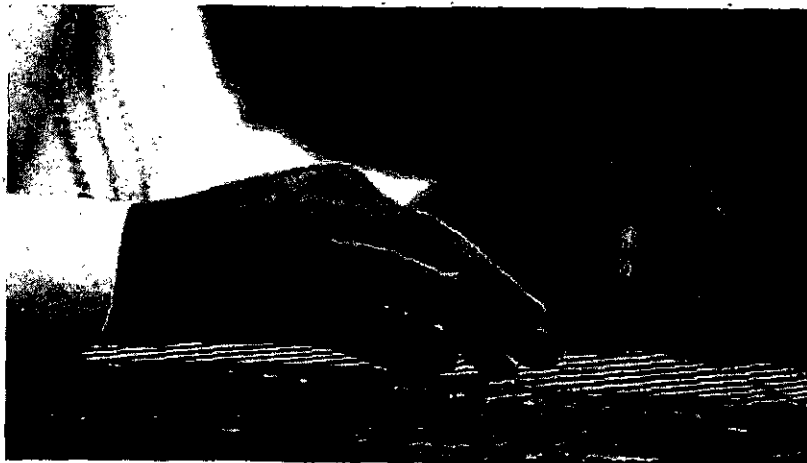
The culture of well-being

In Fez, with its many hammams, spas and thermal springs, the culture of well-being is apparent everywhere you look - the spellbinding world of the Oriental dream! Hammams and spas are an essential part of the service in the city's luxury riads and hotels, introducing you to rituals of body and beauty care passed down

from generation to generation since time immemorial.

Arousing the taste buds

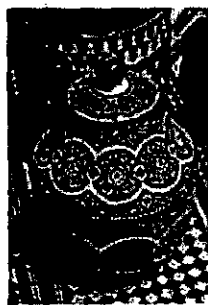
With its roots in 13th-century Arabo-Andalusian cuisine, Fassi gastronomy combines sweet with savoury, treating fruits as vegetables and making cunning use of a whole range of spices and condiments, including cumin, coriander, pepper, capsicum, and cinnamon - all ingredients to be found in that mouth-watering local delicacy, pigeon and almond pastilla. The knack required for creating the feather-light flaky pastry that covers the stuffing is a secret Fassi women pass down from mother to daughter. The real highpoint of Fassi cuisine, however, is Mrouzia, a dish originally prepared especially for Aid-el-Adha (the sacrifice feast) and making use of a unique blend of spices known as Ras El Hanout (literally, "the top of the shop"), composed of between 35 and 45 different spices from Morocco, the Orient, and sub-Saharan Africa.





Subtle combination of sweet and savoury is one of the secrets underlying Fassi cuisine

Fassi craftwork: quality and true refinement



Fassi pottery is characterised by its intricate motifs and famous cobalt blue colour

Master craftsmen with the golden touch

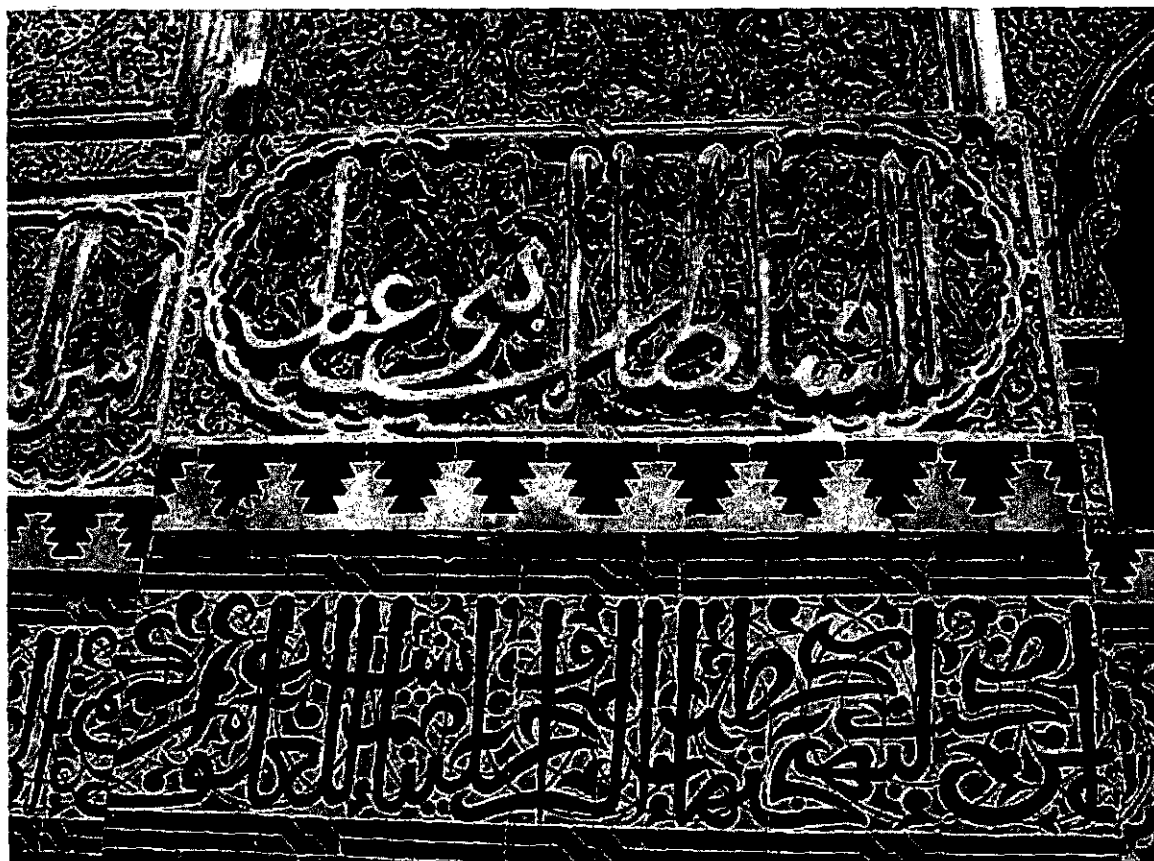
There are three basic principles that Fassi craftsmen never depart from: love of work well done, nobility of materials selected, and full mastery of required know-how. It is a fascinating experience watching their hands at play in their tiny workshops and cramped courtyards, creating items of such extraordinary quality with such apparent ease - the fruit of many centuries of inherited experience.

Pottery and the famous "Fez blue"

Fassi craftsmen have been producing enamelled ceramics since the 11th century. From

initial lump of clay to first firing of the potter's work, a whole series of stages must be accomplished before handing over the piece to its decorator, who adds his own floral and geometric motifs. Many of Morocco's finest ceramics come from the imperial city, instantly recognisable by their famous cobalt blue, a unique colour obtained by mixing a number of different ingredients in proportions that are kept a closely guarded secret. The dark green colour that distinguishes the tiles of the Qaraouiye comes from a mixture of copper, sand, and lead oxide. A final firing at very high temperatures brings out the colours and waterproofs the finished item.





The extraordinary delicacy of Fassi craftsmen's work is fully apparent in the zellij and carved stucco work they create

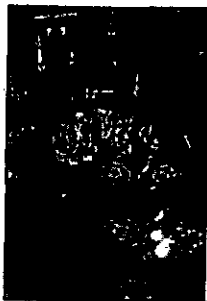


Fazi stitch embroidery

This form of embroidery, unique for its double-face stitch, is a Fazi speciality that has been around since the days of the Almohads. The technique, which is carried out entirely by hand, consists of embroidering each motif on either side of the fabric so that both faces are identical, with stitches no

larger than 2 millimetres across. Fazi stitch embroidery workshops are famous for the high quality of their products, which include exquisitely decorated tablecloths, doilies, napkins and shawls.

Cultural Fez



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A wide range of cultural events are on the Fassi calendar from one end of the year to the other

The World Sacred Music Festival and the Fez Encounters colloquium. Since its first airing in 1994, the World Festival of Sacred Music, under the auspices of the "Esprit de Fez", has met with a success that has reached far beyond the Kingdom's frontiers. The event offers a wide range of spiritual music and songs, upholding the spirit of Fez as a cultural capital orchestrating exchange between civilisations. It is recognised as one of the most important world music festivals anywhere, and was honoured by UNO in 2001 for its major contribution to promotion of dialogue between cultures and religions.

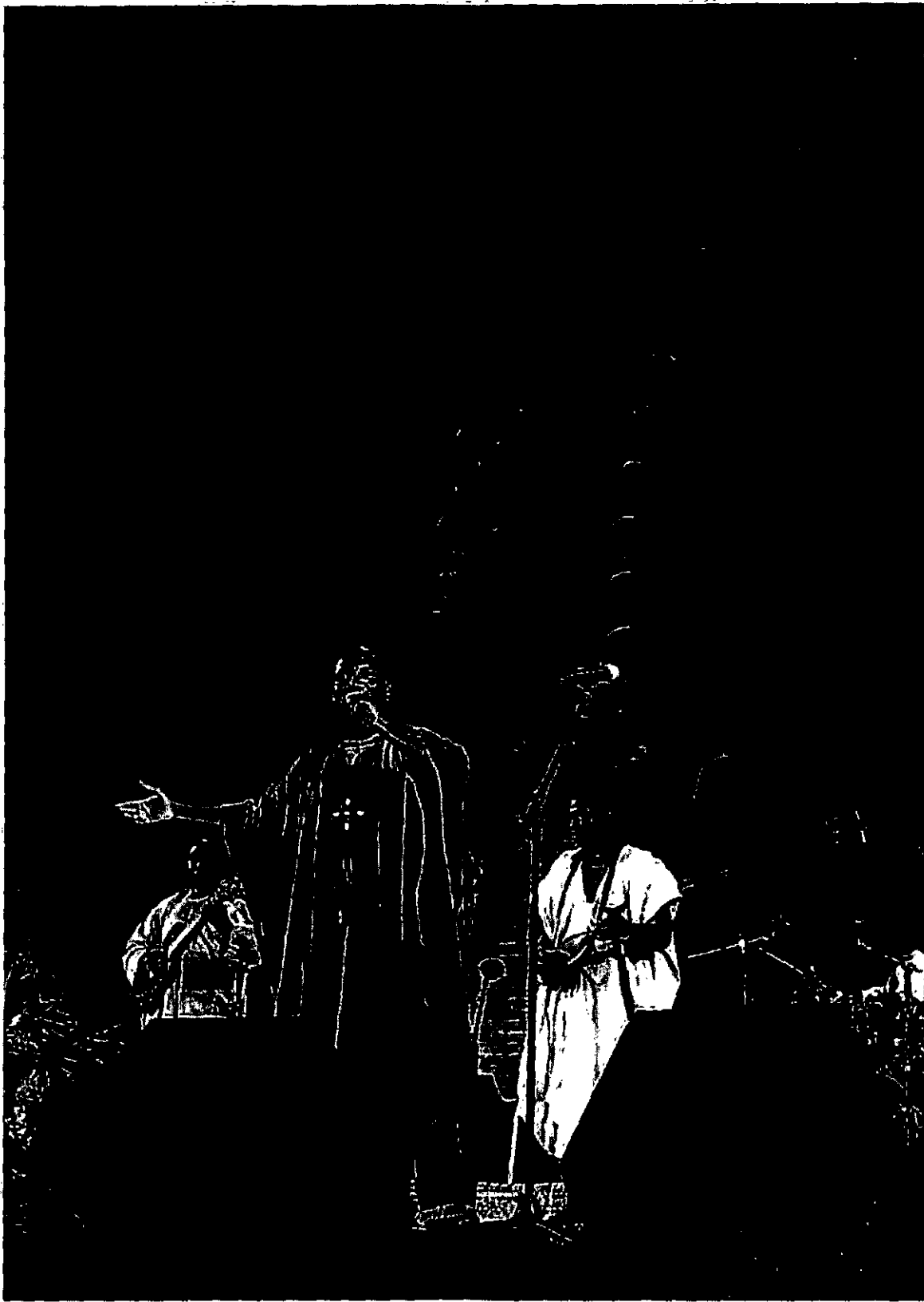
As part of the event, and open to a wide public, the Fez Encounters colloquium brings together intellectuals, scientists and humanists around a selected topic, and provides an occasion for exchange, dialogue, and debate in

the shade of the stately Barbary oak gracing the gardens of the Batha Museum.

Besides these two major events, the "Esprit de Fez" Foundation is also behind the Jazz in Riads Festival, held in a selection of the medina's palaces and residences and bringing together a whole host of famous musicians. The festival is an occasion for lovers of jazz to better acquaint themselves with its African and Mediterranean roots.

Held in October, the three-day Festival of Culinary Arts is a recent and unique addition to the Moroccan calendar, focusing on a theme that binds all of humanity together. Moroccan cuisine, like all the Kingdom's arts, acts as a lever of dialogue between cultures, and the event provides an opportunity for cuisines of the world to show their colours.





A crossroads of musical cultures, Foz celebrates its timeless spirituality with the World Sacred Music Festival

Sporting Fez



THE FEZ ROYAL GOLF CLUB

The variety of landscapes offered by the city's natural surroundings make them an ideal setting for all kinds of outdoor activities

The Fez Royal Golf Club

Located 15 km along the road to Immouzzet, the Fez Royal Golf Club's first-rate 18-hole course makes its way through luxuriant olive groves with the peaks of the Middle Atlas as a backdrop. Designed by architect Cabell B. Robinson, its naturally undulating terrain has been accentuated to provide steeply cambered fairways and insidiously sloping greens, and dotted with lakes and giant bunkers, the largest of which covers some 1200m². Amenities include clubhouse, bar and restaurant, and it is regarded as one of the Kingdom's finest courses.

The Henri Leconte Academy

The Henry Leconte International Tennis Academy's Royal Tennis Club (RTC) provides fertile

ground for winking out future lawn tennis champions. Set in 7 hectares of lush greenery, the centre is equipped with state-of-the-art professional infrastructures that meet all the requirements for top level play.

The Ain Amyer Equestrian Centre

If you're a horse-riding enthusiast, Fez provides a whole range of activities to choose from, whatever your particular interests or level of skills, including riding lessons, excursions, and full-scale treks through the region. The horse moussem held at Tissa (45 km from Fez) by the Hyaynas tribes pays well-deserved tribute to Arab horses and the traditions that have grown up around them.



Fez Royal Golf Club

The city's surroundings: springs and mountains

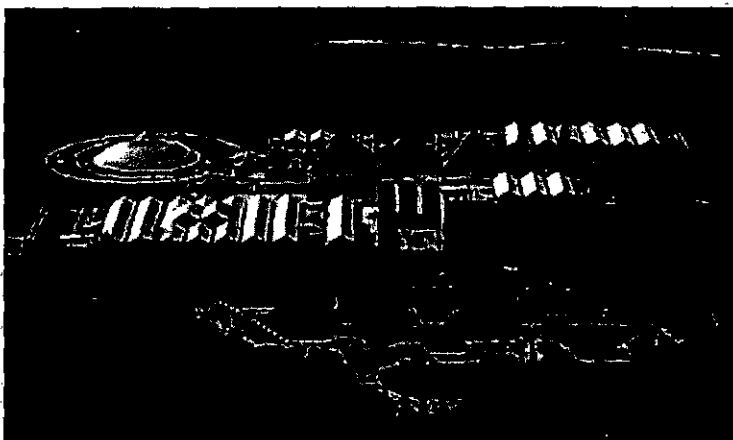
Fez lies on the Saiss Plain at the very edge of the Middle Atlas mountain range, in a region that is a nature lover's paradise. Its richly varied landscapes - lush green valleys, cedar forests, thermal springs, and yellow ochre-toned mountainsides - provide opportunities for excursions of all kinds, to experience unimagined worlds beyond the reach of time.

Moulay Yacoub

The best time to visit this historic spa town 20 km west of Fez is probably in spring, when reawakening nature transforms its surroundings into an ocean of greenery. The town's sulphurous hot waters have long been famed for curing rheumatisms and other ailments, and its thermal baths also offer a range of programmes designed to get you back on tip-top form. The resort has always been popular among Moroccans, and in the 1930s, both André Gide and Henry de Montherlant made good use of its amenities.



The mountains surrounding the city are famed for their thermal springs, and provide opportunities for excursions of all kinds



Sidi Harazem

Located just 15 km from Fez, this thermal spring has been known for its therapeutic properties since the 16th century. These days, you can enjoy the waters in the comfort of a modern spa resort. And between glasses, pay a visit to the nearby white Koubba of Sidi Harazem, where an ancient sacred pool, protected by a cupola, stands in the midst of eucalyptus, palm trees and oleanders.

Sefrou

Sefrou is a small Berber town 30 km south of Fez, known for its waterfalls and the diversity of the surrounding countryside. A major farming centre, the town's name has become synonymous with the Cherry Festival that takes place there every June. A few kilometres away, along a road that climbs through slopes dotted with olive trees, lies the village of Bhalil, celebrated for its troglodyte cave dwellings.

Imouzzar Kandar

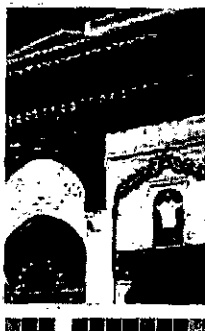
Imouzzar Kandar is a delightful little village thirty kilometres from Fez and standing some 1300 metres above sea level, enjoying a mild climate during the summer. A real haven of peace, the region is known for its fruit trees, and is a major producer of apples, walnuts, and figs. Its landscapes are well worth exploring, and such simple pleasures as trout fishing and mushroom gathering are yours to enjoy.

Information and useful addresses

Practical information

Entry formalities

A valid passport for a stay of less than 90 days is required. An identity card may suffice, depending on country of origin, if the trip is organised by a travel agency for a group of over 3 people. A visa is required for some nationalities - enquire at a Moroccan consulate or diplomatic representation in your country. No specific vaccinations are required for entry into the Kingdom of Morocco. If you are bringing your pet along with you, however, you will need to be able to produce an anti-rabies certificate less than 6 months old.



Changing money

Moroccan currency is the dirham, made up of 100 centimes. Foreign currency must be exchanged at banks or other accredited establishments.

Time zone

Morocco is in the Greenwich time zone, and time is G.M.T.

Event Calendar

May : Fez World Sacred Music Festival
 July : Festival of Amazigh Culture
 October : Fez Culinary Arts Festival
 November : Fez Jazz Festival

Useful addresses and contacts

Regional Tourist Office :

Avenue Mohamed V

Tel. : (00 212) 5 35 62 34 60

Fax : (00 212) 5 35 65 43 70

Regional Tourism Council :

89, avenue Allal Ben Abdellah

Tel. : (00 212) 5 35 94 24 92

Fax : (00 212) 5 35 65 01 88

ONCF Railway station :

rue Imarate Arabia

Call Center : 08 90 20 30 40

www.oncf.ma

Fez-Saïss Airport :

Call center : 08 90 00 08 00

Golf : Royal golf de Fez

www.golfdumaroc.com

Weather Forecast :

www.meteoma.net

Office des Changes

(Currency Regulator Authority):

www.oc.gov.ma

Emergency phone numbers

Police 19

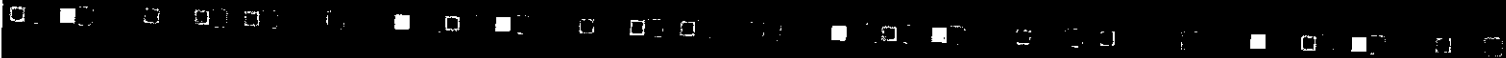
Fire Brigade 150

Directory enquiries 160

Road safety services 177

For further information: www.visitmorocco.com

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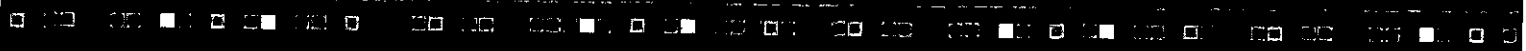
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SKY

Marrakech

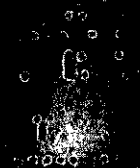
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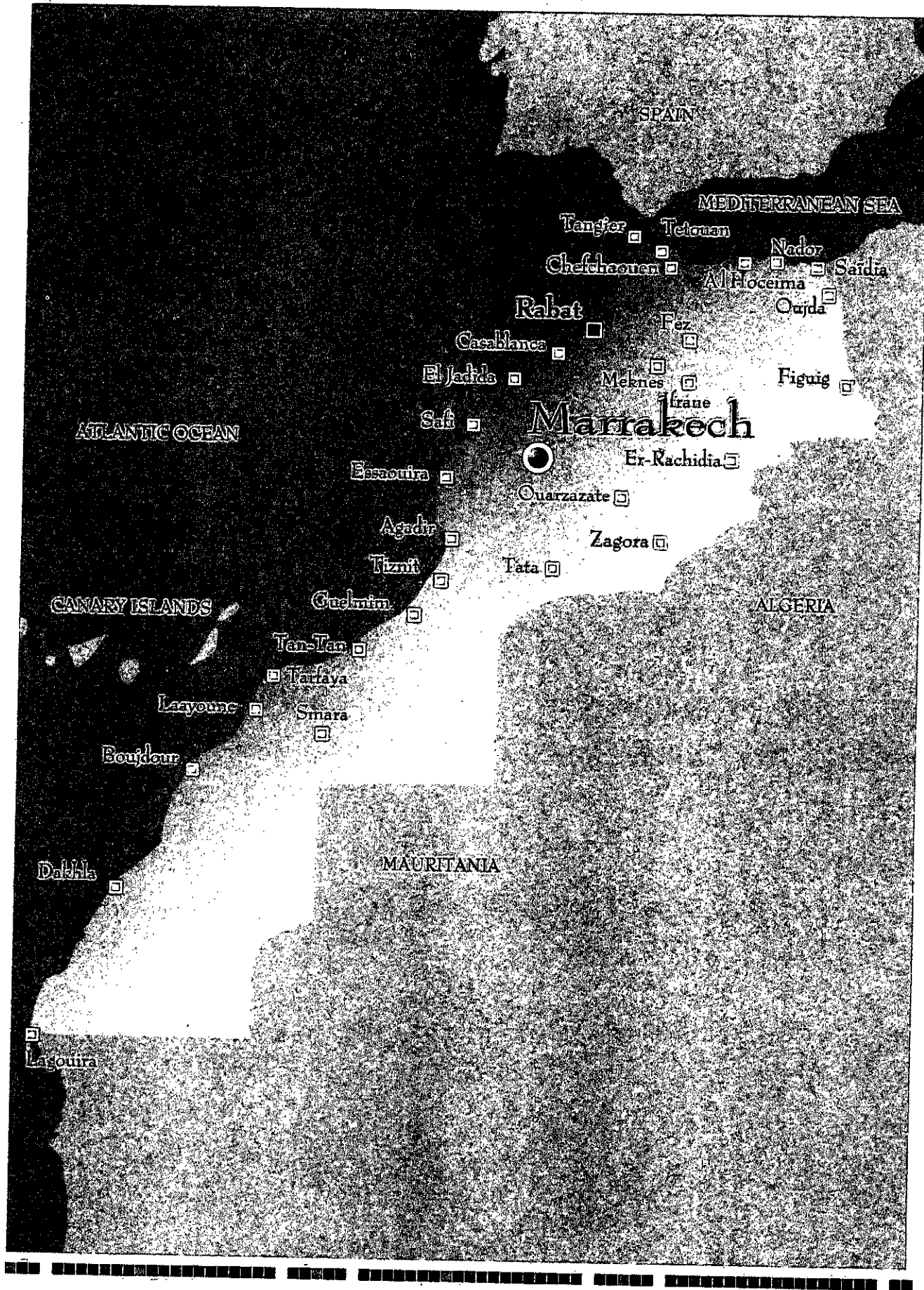
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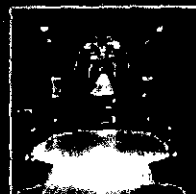
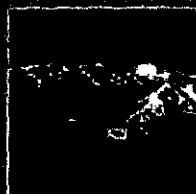
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Marrakech

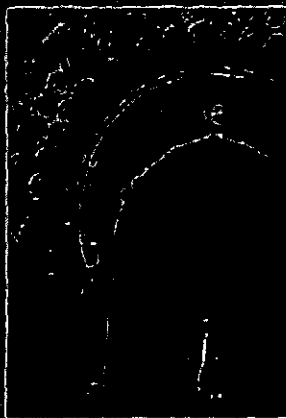


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4



Editorial



Bob Agmon leads to Marrakech's main palace

The Pearl of the South

The moment the traveller sets foot in Marrakech, he is awestruck by the contrast in colours – the ochre of its adobe city walls, and its bougainvillea-covered exterior, from behind which great bouquets of palm trees and lush greenery burst forth. A magnificent array of architecture set against the snow-capped peaks of the High Atlas Mountains, beneath a brilliant blue sky that reveals the city's true nature – a luxuriant, sun-soaked oasis, brady with the scent of the jasmine and orange blossom that adorn its gardens.

Within its adobe walls, in the sun-streaked shade, the medina's teeming streets are alive with activity. A hubbub of voices calling back and forth, vibrant colours, the air filled with the fragrance of cedar wood and countless spices. Sounds, colours and smells unite gloriously to compose an astonishing sensorial symphony.

Marrakech, city of legend, cultural capital, inspirer of artists, fashions and events; Marrakech with its art galleries, festivals, and exhibitions; Marrakech with its famous names, its luxurious palaces and its glittering nightlife. Marrakech, tourist capital for over a hundred years, cunningly blends the treasures of its age-old heritage with the vibrant energy of living cultures.

Yes, Marrakech is an unforgettable experience. New discoveries await you every time you return – and many have returned never to leave.



A city with a thousand years of history behind it



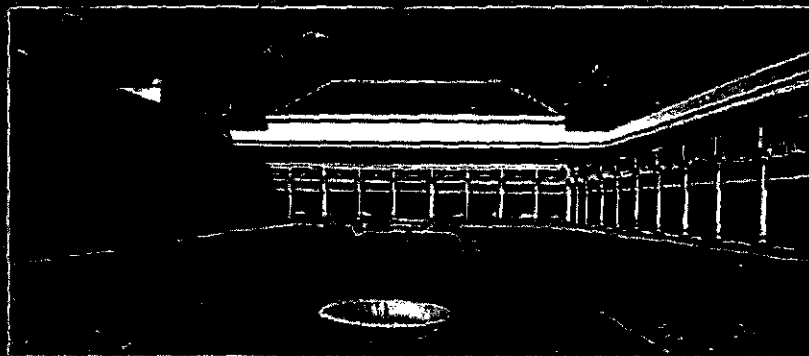
Marrakech, a thousand years of history

Marrakech has seen 5 dynasties come and go, each one leaving their indelible mark on its destiny. It was founded in 1062 by the Almoravids, whose greatest legacy was to bring water to the city, harnessing spring waters through an ingenious system of wells and piping networks. We owe them the city's Palmerie, its gardens and orchards, and the many other amenities that led to its development and influence. Under their rule, Marrakech became the capital of Morocco.

The Almohads took over the reins in the 12th century, improving irrigation systems, enlarging the city walls, creating the town's first hospital – presided over by the great scholar and scientist Averroes – and, among other monuments, leaving us with the magnificent Koutoubia.

Following this great period in the city's history, the Marinids conquered the Moroccan south in 1269, turning their backs on Marrakech and making Fez their capital.

When the Saadians from the Sous region came to power in 1549, the city regained its former status as capital of Morocco. A new era began, reaching its peak during the reign of Ahmed El-Mansour, known as El Dehli, "the Golden", because of the fabulous wealth he amassed in Sudanese gold. He had the vast and luxurious El Badi Palace built, a replica of the Alhambra, adorned the city with mosques, fountains, and medinas (Islamic universities), and commissioned a magnificent necropolis in which the leading members of his dynasty were to be buried – the Saadian Tomb.



The Badi Palace



The Soudan Tombs are a magnificent royal necropolis in which the Dynasty's major monarchs are buried



In the 19th century, under the Alaouite dynasty, Moulay Slimane rebuilt the Ben Youssef Mosque and created the Menara Gardens, and Moulay Hassan and his son Moulay Abderraziz edited the sumptuous Dar Si Said - the Bahia Palace. Following construction of the new town, Gueliz, in 1913, and of the Mamounia in 1923, Marrakech began to attract artists, writers and members of the world's high

aristocracy. The painter Jacques Majorelle laid out his famous garden there in 1931. Winston Churchill first stayed in the city in 1935, on a painting holiday, and went on to become a regular visitor, referring to his "beloved Marrakech" in his memoirs. And so many other famous names have also fallen under the city's spell and contributed to its international renown.

Not to be missed out on



The Koutoubia,
Marrakech's "spiritual
lighthouse"...

Most of the city's "unmissable" sights are to be found within the old city walls - the Koutoubia, the great square of Jamaa el Fna and the Menara are all symbols of Marrakech.

The Almohads started on the building of the Koutoubia in 1150, and it took them 40 years to complete. With its simplicity of design, highly sophisticated decoration and perfectly balanced proportions, it is regarded as one of the Maghreb's most beautiful monuments. It served as a model for two sister mosques, the Giralda in Seville and the Hassan Tower in Rabat. Its 77-metre minaret can be seen from 25 kilometres away and, lit up in the evenings, it becomes the city's "spiritual lighthouse".

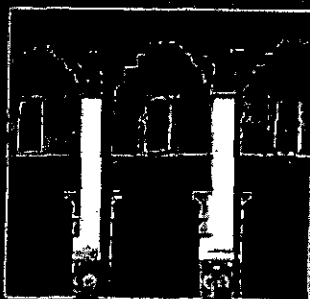
Jamaa el Fna is the living heart of the city, and is on UNESCO's Oral and Intangible Heritage list. It owes its fame to its size, its bustle of activity and its unique atmosphere. Open only to pedestrians, it is a whirligig of people to meet and sights to see, scattered with

restaurant stalls offering an endless variety of food and drink. Jamaa el Fna really comes to life at night, with locals and visitors alike flocking to the terraces of the cafes that surround it. There are storytellers to listen to, fortune-tellers to consult, acrobats to marvel at, and, of course, the famous Gnaoua dancers, leaping higher and further to the hypnotic rhythm of their "khalachas" (metal castanets).

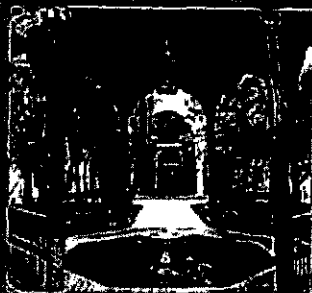
If it's a bit of peace and quiet you're after, then the Menara Gardens are just what you're looking for. The Almohads built a gasalil summer pavilion there in the 14th century, its reflection shimmering on the waters of an artificial lake surrounded by an immense garden planted with olive trees. As night falls, the place becomes a wonderland, aglow with every shade of gold. The lake serves as a reservoir for irrigating the olive grove, and is supplied by a 700-year-old hydraulic system that harnesses water from the mountains and brings it in through 20 kilometres of pipes.



The Minaret, for peace, tranquility and quiet meditation



The Ben Youssef Madrasa



The Dar S-Said Museum

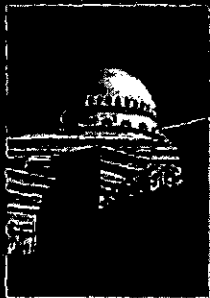
The Ben Youssef Madrasa was built by the Saadians and is an undisputed jewel of Moroccan architecture, a great Koranic university composed of marble, stucco work, mosaics and carved cedar wood, and which attracted students from throughout the Muslim world. Facing it, the Almoravid Koubba (or Koubba Ba'Adhyal), built in 1064, is all that is left of the Almoravids and their architecture. The nearby MNdthi Palace has been superbly restored and now houses the Marrakech Museum and its exhibitions of contemporary art and Moroccan cultural heritage.

Located near Bab Agnaouj, the Saadian Tombs are a royal necropolis (14th to 16th century) adorned with

columns of Italian marble and topped by a finely worked cedar wood cupola. Not far away stand the imposing ruins of the El Badi Palace, once regarded as the wonder of the Muslim world and a source of meditation on bygone glories. Only its high walls remain, popular as a nesting place for the region's storks.

Just round the corner from the Bahia Palace and its gardens, the Dar Si Said Museum houses rich collections of popular arts and crafts from Marrakech and the surrounding Berber regions. Also close by is the Dar Tadjwin Museum, home of the Best Flint collection and a perfect complement to Dar Si Said.

A first look around the city and its surroundings



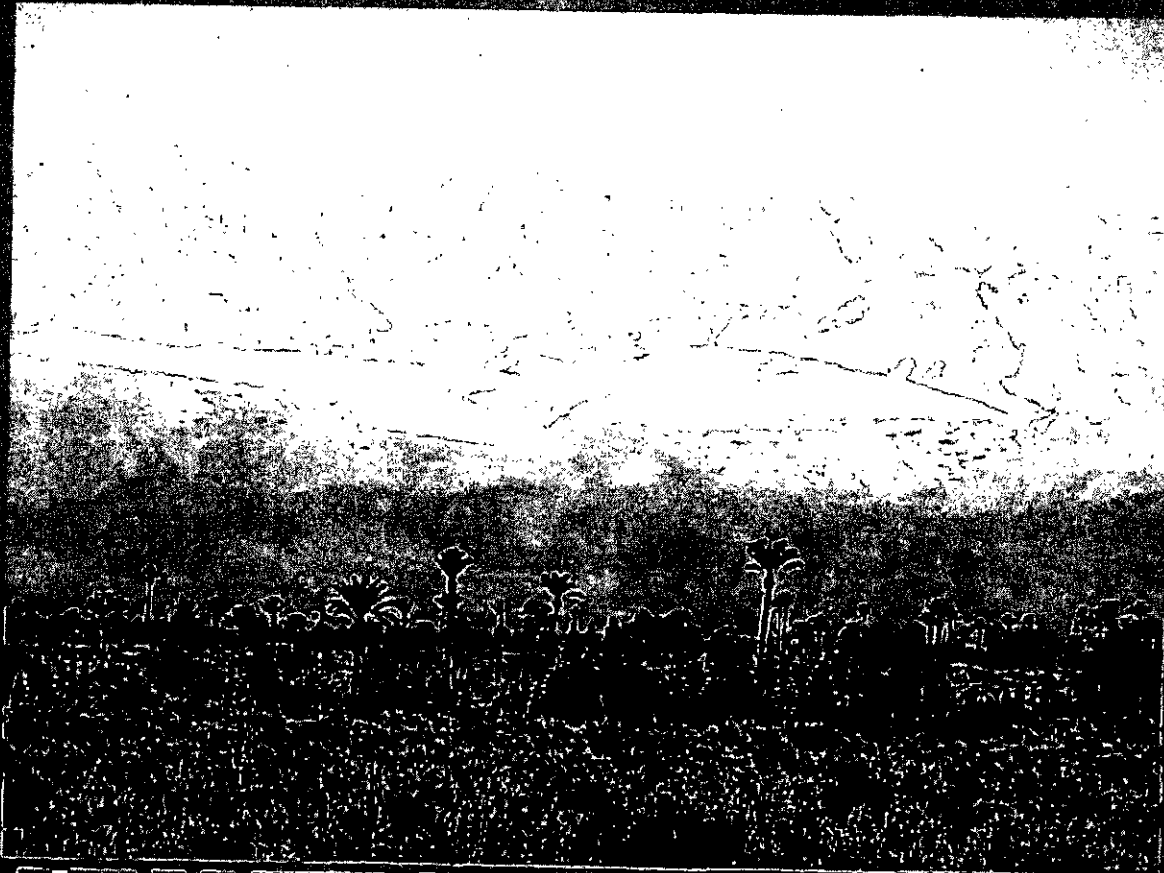
The Marrakech Theatre

Marrakech is really two cities standing side by side - the old town within its historic walls and the new town with its districts of Gueliz and Melloussa, and intersected by Avenue Mohammed VI. The city covers a good deal of ground, and is ideal for exploring on foot, by bicycle or by barouche, the traditional Marrakechi way of getting from one place to another.

Marrakech lies open to the air, and boasts numerous gardens and green spaces in its old and new towns alike. The Majorelle Garden, Aïssat Moulay Abdessalam Park, the gardens of the Bahia Palace, and the Menara and Agdal orchards - each, in its own unique way, a haven of peace, relaxation, and pure delight!



The Bahia Palace contains 17 meeting rooms of various capacities, adaptable to suit a wide range of situations



Marrakech, an oasis at the foot of the snow-capped Atlas



The Marrakech Palmerie covers some 14,000 hectares, comprises over 100,000 trees, and is very well worth a tour in the traditional barouche. It is irrigated by means of "khettaras", an ingenious system of underground pipes supplied by ground water.

The old town's adobe walls are 19 km long and include a score

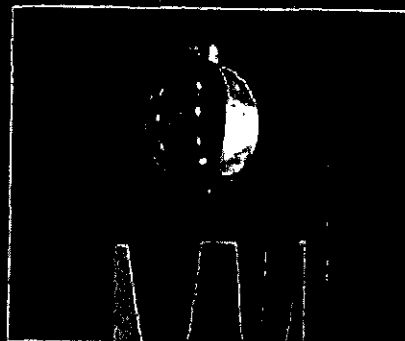
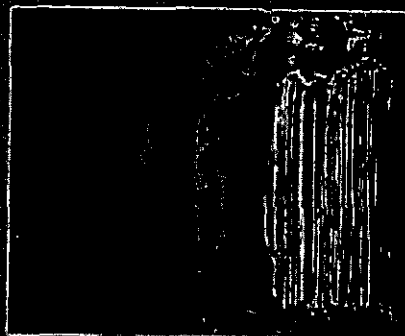
of gateways ("Bab" in Arabic). It takes a good two hours' barouche ride to get all the way round them - provided you don't make too many stops along the way, that is! Make the tour in the late afternoon, when the light is at its best. The gateways stand watch over all who enter and leave the city. Some, such as Bab el Dakhagh and Bab Agnaou still preserve their original architecture.

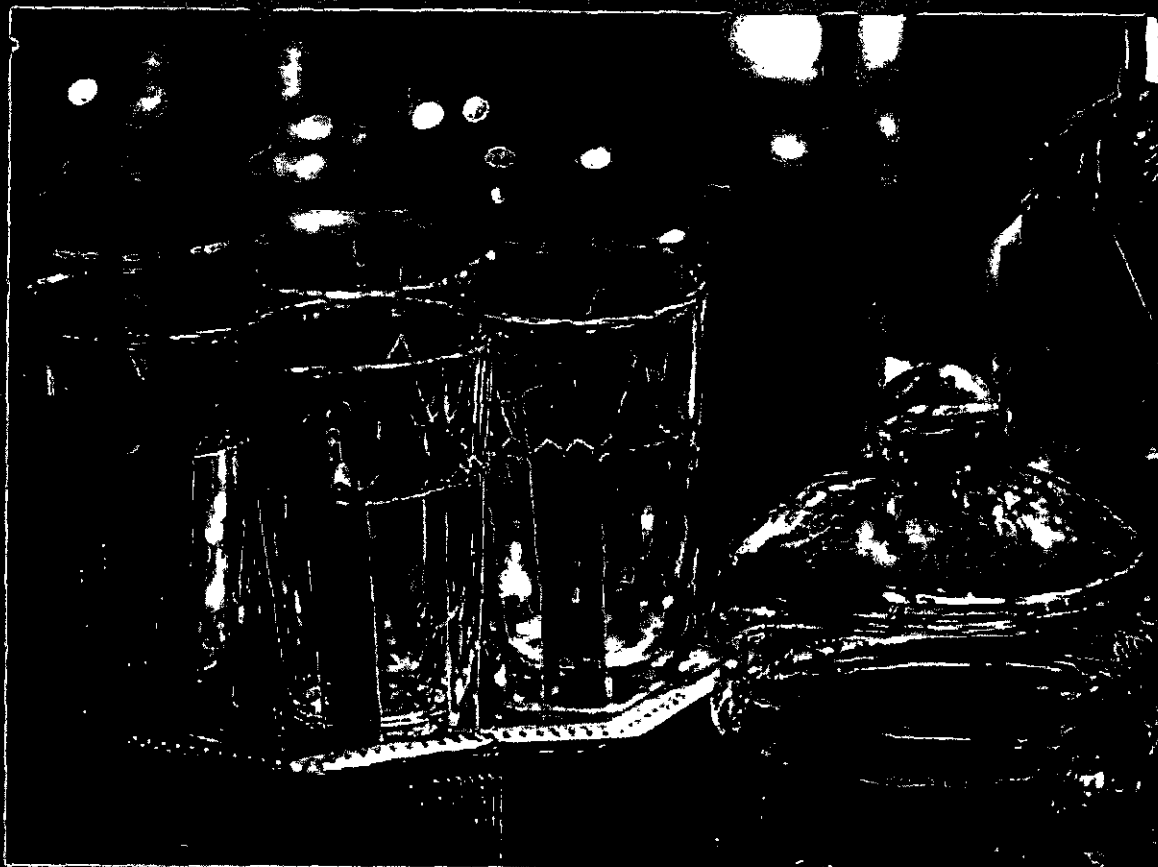
There's nothing like wandering through the medina's souks if you want to get a real idea of the richness of Moroccan craftsmanship and of the extraordinary know-how of the city's master craftsmen. These are some of the finest souks anywhere in Morocco, renowned for their diversity and lively atmosphere. They are organised by corporation - souk Cheratine for fine leather goods, Zabi for carpets, Fethatine for pottery, Sebbaghine for dyes, Seffarine for copperware, and so on... The "intalem" (master craftsman) is keeper of age-old know-how and the secrets of his craft.

Today, fresh developments are afoot in the Moroccan craft industry – tradition revisited, a combination of ancient and modern that is producing a plethora of ingenious adaptations and resulting in a range of highly original top-quality work in line with

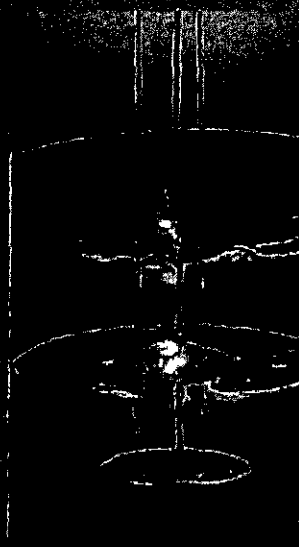
contemporary taste. A good many designers, Moroccan and foreign alike, are busy interpreting materials and traditions and coming up with creations that mirror the latest trends in fashion. Marrakech has become a temple dedicated to design, and although most creators have their outlets located in the new town, in Gueliz, they are also increasingly to be found at work in the medina.

More than ever today, Marrakech is a city of artists, as is evidenced by the many art galleries that have come into being over the past few years, providing elegant venues for painters, sculptors and visual artists to exhibit and sell their works. Marrakech's literary cafes are havens of peace where you can browse through books on Morocco and acquaint yourself with the latest exhibitions while enjoying a glass of mint tea or a fresh fruit juice.





Moroccan craftsmanship perpetuates age-old know-how, and is the very symbol of a living culture



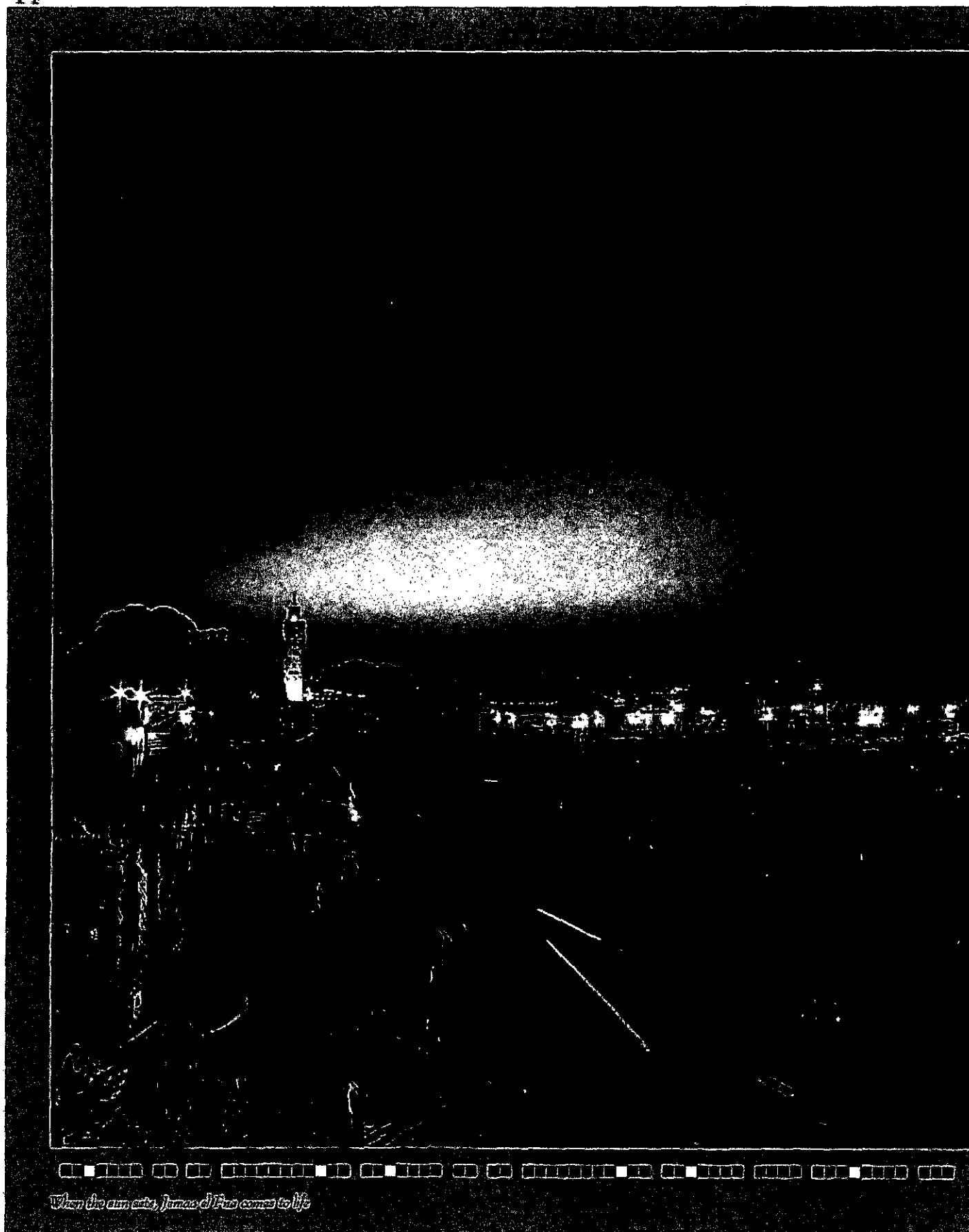
Creating in nickel silver

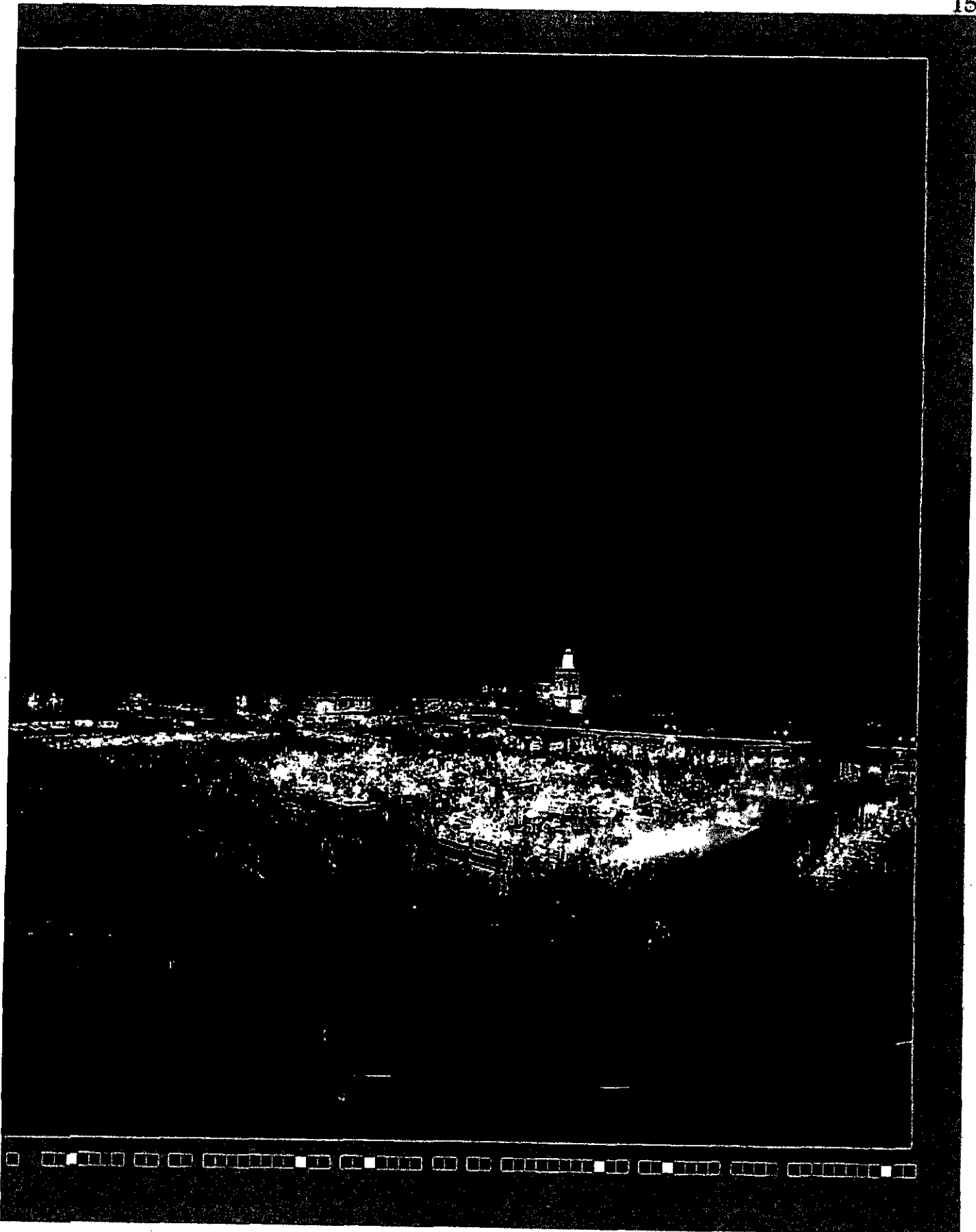
The process for producing nickel silver, an alloy composed of copper, zinc and nickel, was perfected in 1819. Marrakech's designers have found a highly creative use for the material - hammered, polished and engraved, it is turned into caskets, dishes, mirror frames, jewellery, trays, and a host of other decorative items. Easy to machine and weld, its silvery brilliance goes perfectly with other materials traditionally employed by the city's craftsmen in production of woodwork, copperware, brocade and pottery.

Shopping in Marrakech

The medina's traditional souks stand side by side with Gucci's elegant brand-name boutiques. The great names in Western fashion are all represented here, with fine leather goods, clothing, jewellery, and shoes revealing the modern side of the red city.

14





Marrakech, The Fiery



Parks open to the world at large

The Ansar Moulay Abdessalam Cyber park

Ansar Moulay Abdessalam is one of the oldest of the city's parks, dating back to the 18th century. Since its restoration, however, it also happens to be the most modern, with interactive multimedia terminals installed along its pathways and Internet equipment on hand boasting the very latest in technology. You'll find excellent virtual guides to the city and to the park itself, with full information on its history and the many species of flora to be found there, as well as on the city's cultural life.

The Bahia Palace

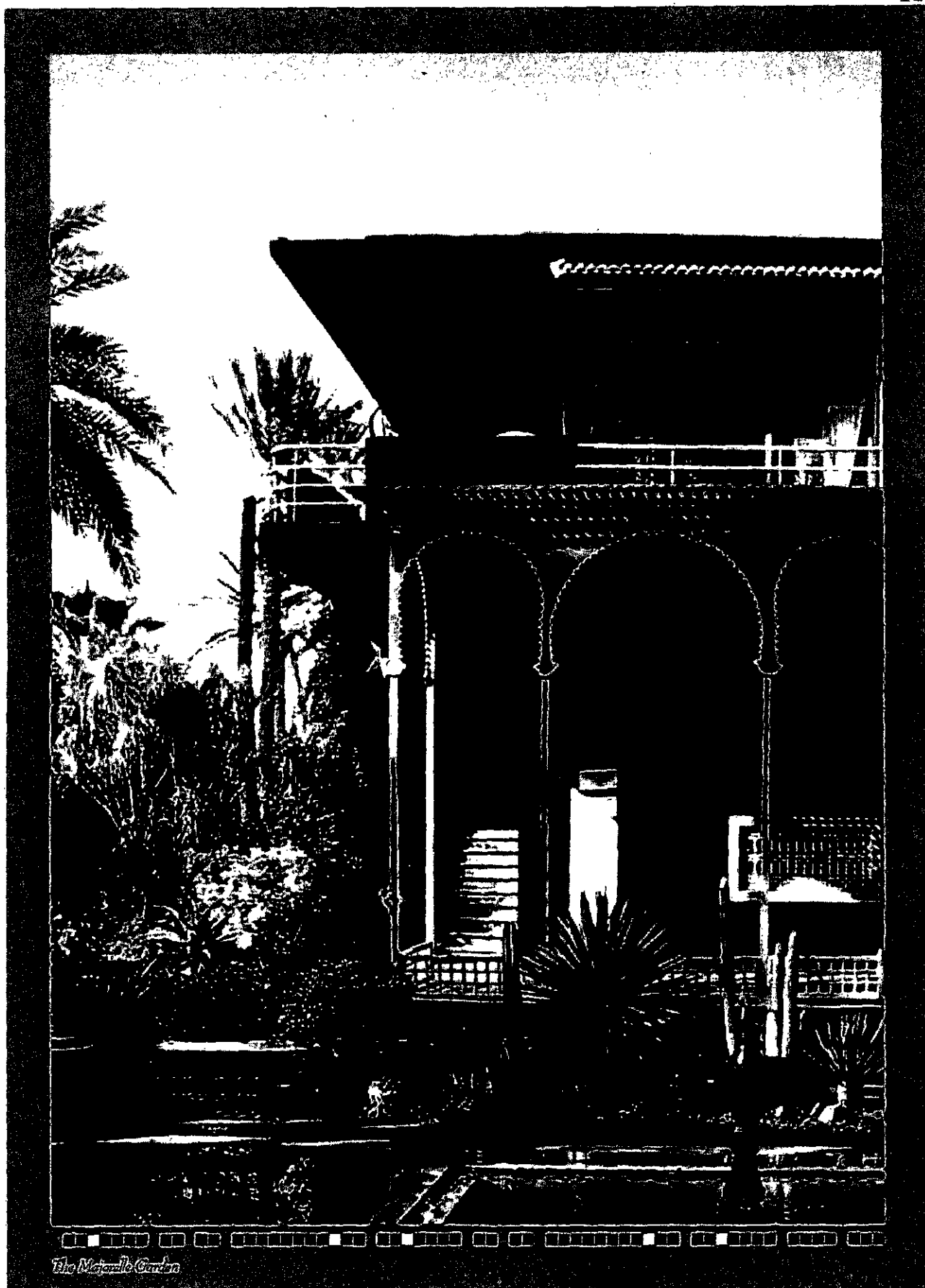
(Palace of "The Beautiful")

Build in the late 19th century by the architect El Melhi, as a residence for the Vizier, Ba Ahmed Ben Moussa, the palace is a true masterpiece, remarkable for the sophistication of its decor, its gardens, fountains and tree-shaded courtyards, and also for its architectural design. The palace was home to the Vizier's family, which included 4 wives, 24 concubines and countless children.

The layout of its rooms, doors and corridors was designed to ensure that each occupant could protect his or her privacy and avoid unwanted meetings with others who lived there. It took 7 years to build - a fact at the origin of the Moroccan expression, "the Bahia is finally finished", referring to any piece of business that has taken time to get done.

The Majorelle Garden

This enchanting spot, a symphony of light and colour, filled with exotic flowers and plant life and alive with birdsong and the murmur of fountains, was created by the French painter Jacques Majorelle, who came to live in Marrakech in 1922. The artist painted the walls of his Art-Deco villa and garden a vibrant and luminescent ultramarine. Set as it is in the heart of an ochre red city, his blue garden certainly raises a few eyebrows - it is, however, the blue of Marrakechi skies! The property now belongs to the Pierre Bergé-Yves Saint-Laurent Foundation, and houses a museum of Islamic art, along with the ashes of the famous couturier himself.



The Majestic Garden

A fairytale world



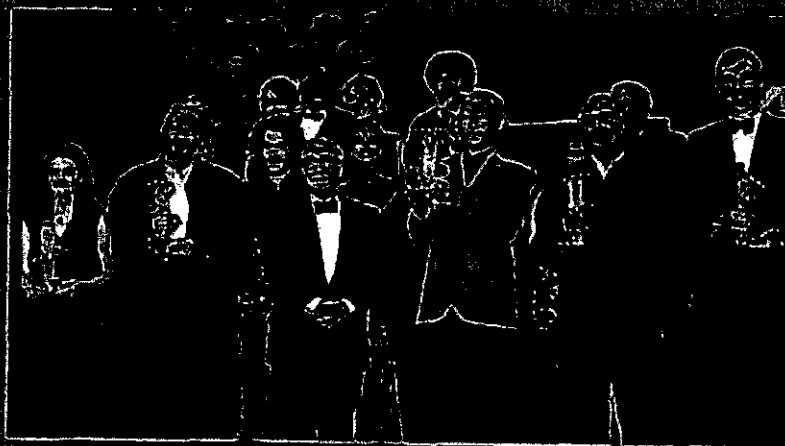
The Popular Arts Festival

A welcome fit for a prince. Palaces to dream of, luxury hotels and elegant minds – the fairytale world of Marrakech begins with a magnificent variety of accommodation, equipped with every modern comfort yet enabling visitors to immerse themselves to the full in the local culture.

Marrakech, the jet set's playground. The city is a second home to the international jet set. Artists, sportspeople, businesspeople – all its great names flock to Marrakech to relax and relive its magic. With a little luck you might bump into

Brad Pitt, and there are more than a few shopkeepers who will proudly produce photographs of themselves posing alongside Paul McCartney or Jeremy Irons.

Marrakech festivals: International Film Festival, Popular Arts Festival, Magic Festival, Laughter Festival, "Cafan" Soirée – Marrakech is the chosen venue for countless events. Whatever the time of year, you'll be sure to find plenty of entertainment on hand, and an opportunity to party to your heart's content.



The Marrakech International Film Festival



Marrakech in all its flamboyance



Mouth-watering Marrakech

You have the choice of sampling delicious Moroccan dishes or the finest in international cuisine. You can dine in gourmet restaurants or seated beneath a star-studded sky at one of the stalls in Jemaa el Fna. Whatever you do, however, don't leave Marrakech without trying the great local speciality, Tanga Marrakechia, a real institution whose flavour is not just a matter of its ingredients, but also of how they are cooked...

Marrakech by night

When night falls in Marrakech, a new life begins. You've got all the exotically medieval ambience of Jemaa el Fna, of course - or perhaps you'd prefer an elegant evening at the casino? Or a cabaret show? A pub? A nightclub? Whatever you decide to do, you'll be spoiled for choice!

Marrakech in a new light



Oukaimeden,
for skiing fans

Golfing in Marrakech

You have four greens to choose from, each with the stately Atlas Mountains as a backdrop. The Marrakech Royal Golf Club (27 holes) is the oldest. Built in 1923, it has seen a host of illustrious players tackle its course, including King Hassan II, Winston Churchill, Lloyd George, and President Eisenhower. The Palmerie Golf Club (27 holes) is a delight for players of whatever handicap, thanks to the diversity of its holes. The Amelias Golf (36 holes) is a very popular course in a spectacular setting, while the Samanah Golf Club (18 holes) is a "desert course", as is reflected by the cacti, palm trees, olive trees and other plant life selected to adorn it.

Skiing in Marrakech

From Christmas to Easter, you can take to the slopes at the ski resort

of Oukaimeden, located just 75 km from the city and equipped in full compliance with international standards. Its ski slopes lie between 2500 and 3200 metres above sea level, on the northern face. What greater pleasure than to spend the day abating the mountainsides and then return to enjoy an evening's entertainment in Marrakech! In the summertime, the same slopes are ideal for exploration on foot.

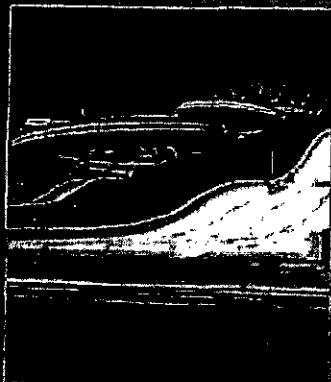
Well-being in Marrakech

To ensure you keep on top form, the city's major hotels, along with its many fitness centres and specialised institutes and beauty salons, are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and offer a full range of quality services, including hammams, saunas, jacuzzis, massages, spas, relaxation, and body and beauty care.





Getting into the evening with the Atlas Mountains in the background



Taking to the water in Marrakech

Among the city's countless swimming pools, the Aquaparc is particularly well worth the visit for its toboggan slides, its immense wave pool, its two children's lagoons and its half-kilometre of olive-tree bordered watercourse. For something still more out of the ordinary, drive 10 km along the road to Ourika and you'll come to 80 metres of sun-soaked fine sandy beach, complete with deckchairs and Balinese beds, and with excellent restaurant service and entertainment on hand - a true haven of well-being!

Marrakech from the skies

If you want to appreciate the beauty of Marrakech to the full, then take to the skies. From the silence of a hot-air balloon, you can drift over the imperial city as the wind takes you and look down upon the stunning contrast between its ochre walls and the countryside that surrounds them - a giddy spectacle of Berber villages, snow-capped mountain peaks and timeless desert. An unforgettable experience, which you can also enjoy by helicopter or ultra-light aircraft.

The hinterland – lakes, mountains and waterfalls



On the shores of Lake Lalla Takerkoust

Lake Lalla Takerkoust

A trip to Lake Lalla Takerkoust, 40 Km from Marrakech, makes for a refreshing outing, and you can explore the surrounding countryside on foot, by quad, or by cross car. Savour the local cuisine at one of the tents along the lakeshore, while enjoying the superb views they afford. 20 km further on, the Berber village of Amizuz is well worth visiting for its splendid setting, its potteries and its Tuesday souk.

The Ourika Valley

30 km south of Marrakech, the Ourika Valley lies in the first foothills of the High Atlas, a

beautiful expanse of luxuriant green, its adobe villages clinging to the mountainside. The "Jardin du Saffron" in the village of Taïne-Ouzka is a saffron farm open to visitors, while a little further on, the Bio-aromatic Gardens grow 45 varieties of aromatic and medicinal plants, which you are invited to taste as well as to smell. The terraced Timalizene Garden also offers visitors its special Berber tea, scented with home-grown herbs. The road stops at Sati-Fatma, at the end of the valley, but the more adventurous can continue on foot to the seven waterfalls that await their discovery.



A Berber village in the Ourika Valley



The Ouroud Waterfalls

Morocco's most famous waterfalls are well worth the 150-kilometre drive from Marrakech. Once past the village of Ouroud and its multitude of open-air food stalls, you carry on downwards, along a well-maintained road bordered with olive trees, until you come to the foot of the falls themselves. Some 110 metres high, their waters tumble from

one level to the next, their fine spray adorning the scene with a permanent rainbow halo. You can enjoy a swim there, while observing the antics of the local rhesus monkeys.

Just a step away



Messages left 2000
metres up the moun-
tain side by car distant
ancestors

Tizi-n-Test and Tizi-n-Tichka

Two passes cross the High Atlas into the deep south. Tizi-n-Test links Marrakech to Taroudant while Tizi-n-Tichka takes you to Ouarzazate. The Tizi-n-Test road is one of the most spectacular in Morocco, climbing the mountain slopes through magnificent scenery to a height of 2092 metres and offering breath-taking views over the Sous Valley. The Tizi-n-Tichka road runs through the pass at an altitude of over 2500 metres, through mineral-gray lunar landscapes that gradually take on ochre tones as you descend to Ouarzazate.

Asni and Ourgane

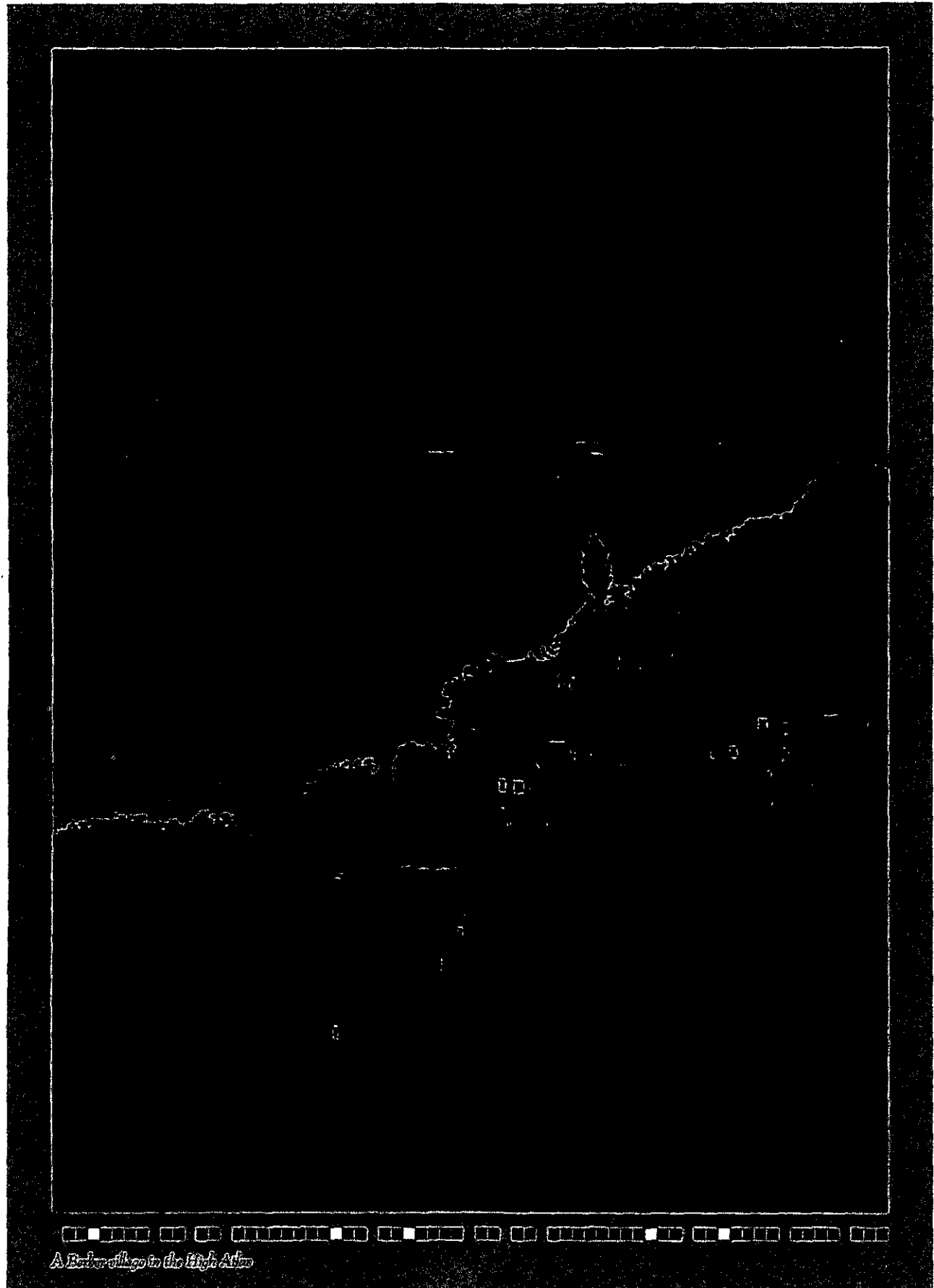
Asni, a little village on the Tizi-n-Test road, is famous for its bustling Saturday morning souk and its panoramic views. The region is a popular sport hunting area (with game including gambra partridges, wild boar, turtle doves and common quail). 17 km from Asni, the village of Ourgane is set in alpine countryside and makes a very pleasant stop-off for the night, in one of its delightful little hotels, some of which are former hunting lodges.

The rock art of the High Atlas

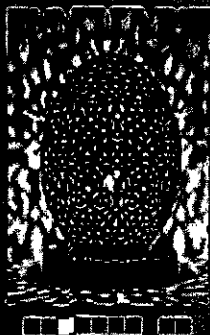
The heights of the Atlas Mountains south of Marrakech boast some remarkable prehistoric rock carving sites - located near the ski resort of Oukaimeden, on the Yagour plateau and around Demnate (Jbel G'hat) as well as at Tizi N'Tighaist (2690 metres). The carvings, some of which are gigantic in size, decorate slabs of sandstone and depict weapons, battle scenes and animals as well as spelling out Lybico-Berber inscriptions similar to those found in the Moroccan Sahara. They are of uncertain date (possibly 1st millennium BC).

The Toubkal National Park

The Toubkal National Park begins in the central High Atlas, between the N'fis and Ourika Valleys. Its 38,000 hectares boast a remarkable biodiversity - green oaks, thujas, junipers and herbaceous plants, many species of birds of prey, including royal eagles, booted eagles and Bonelli's eagles, along with such rarities as Barbary sheep, lynxes and Quvier's gazelles. Under the experienced eye of a mountain guide, you can make the climb in two days, with the night spent bivouacking or in a mountain hut.



Information and useful addresses



Practical information

Entry formalities:

A valid passport for a stay of less than 90 days is required. An identity card may suffice, depending on country of origin, if the trip is organized by a travel agency for a group of over 8 people. A visa is required for some nationalities - enquire at a Moroccan consulate or diplomatic representation in your country. No specific vaccinations are required for entry into the Kingdom of Morocco. If you are bringing your pet along with you, however, you will need to be able to produce an anti-rabies certificate less than 6 months old.

Changing money:

Moroccan currency is the dirham, made up of 100 centimes. Foreign currency must be exchanged at banks or other accredited establishments.

Time zones:

Morocco is in the Greenwich time zone, and time is G.M.T.

Event Calendar:

January : Marrakech International Marathon
February : "Coupe de l'Unité" d'échiquier
March : Morocco Classic Rally
March : Magas Festival
March : AVATAR Harz Cultural Festival
April : Blue City
May : Marrakech Grand Prix
July : National Popular Arts Festival
October : Ultra Trail Atlas Trail
December : Marrakech International Film Festival

Useful addresses and contacts

Regional Tourist Office:

Avenue Mohammed V,
Place Abdelmoumen Ben Ali
Tel. (+212) 05 24 43 61 51
Fax (+212) 05 24 43 60 57

Regional Tourism Council :

Place Youssef ben Tachfine
Marrakech Medina
Tel. : (+212) 05 24 33 52 61
Fax : (+212) 05 24 33 52 49

ONCF Railway station :

Boulevard Mohammed VI
Call Center : (+212) 05 90 20 30 40
Website www.oncf.ma

Ménara Airport :

Call center : (+212) 03 90 00 03 00

Golf clubs:

Golf d'Amelina
Palmerie Golf Club
Royal Golf de Marrakech
www.golfdumaroc.com

Weather forecast : www.meteoma.net

Office des Changes

(Currency regulation authority):
www.oc.gov.ma

Emergency phone numbers :

Police 19
Fire Brigade 150
Directory enquiries 160
Road safety services 177

For further information: www.visitmorocco.com
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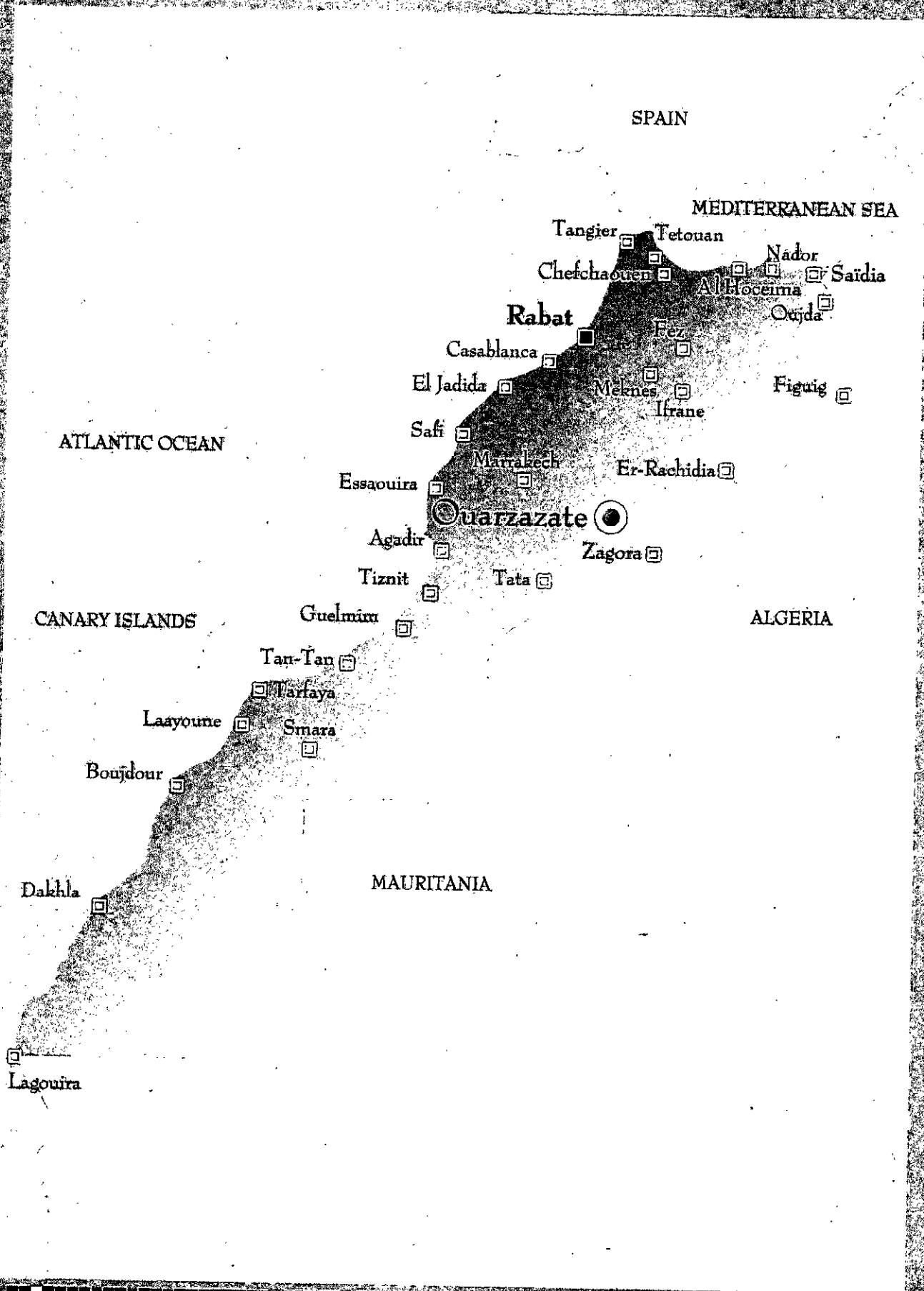
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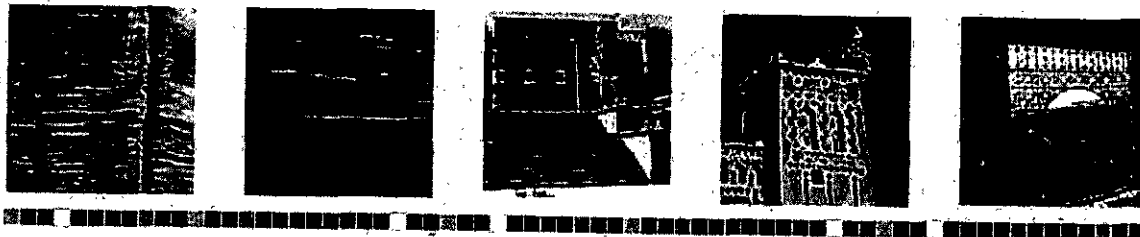
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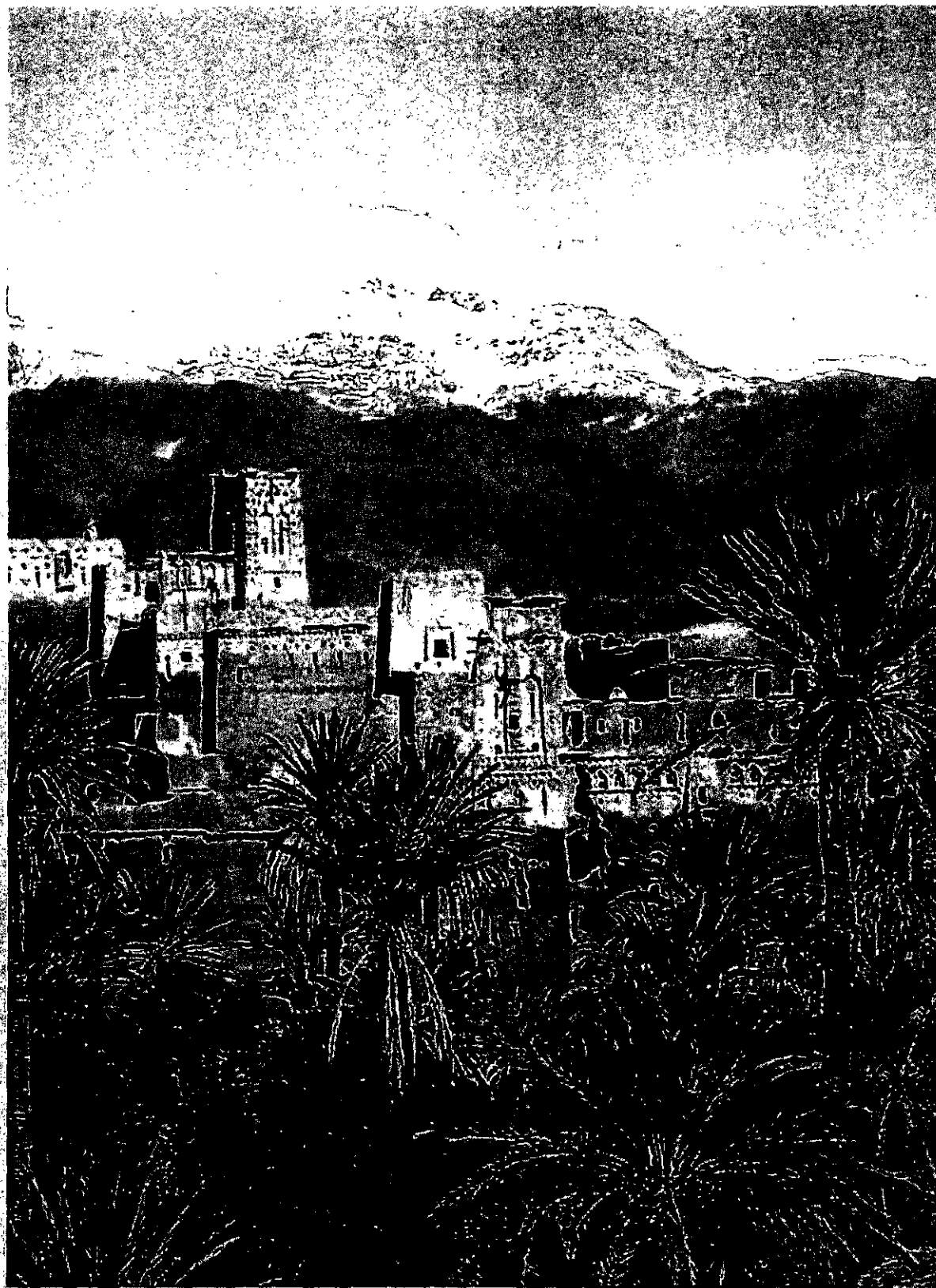


Ouarzazate



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4



A panorama to take your breath away

Editorial

The timeless draw of the deep south



There are certain places that draw the traveller irresistibly to them, and Ouarzazate is one of these. Set at the crossroads of the Drâa, Dades and Ziz Valleys, the city stands guard over treasures coveted by the moguls of Hollywood, keeping jealous watch over its remarkable heritage and breathtaking natural surroundings. Here, in the midst of the desert, far away from the turmoil of modern life, in a world where the sand imperceptibly fashions its dunes and palaces and where precious water brings forth lush green oases and valleys, you will come to understand the true meaning of the word mirage...

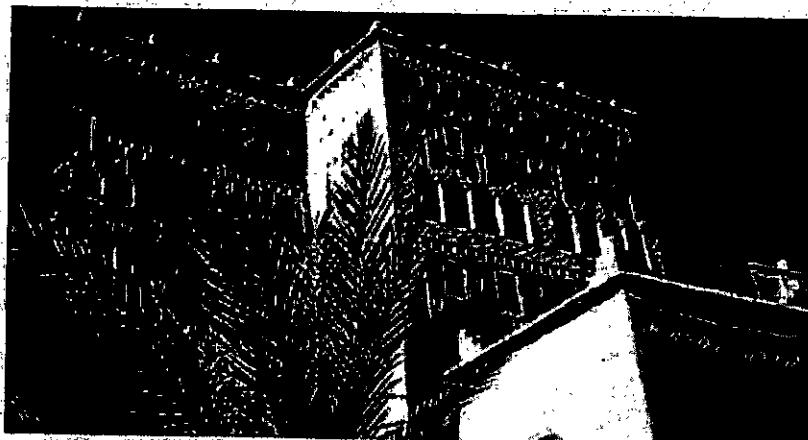
Ouarzazate marks the beginning of the journey... the traveller spellbound by the magic of the deep south. Along the way, in the midst of nowhere, fortified villages out of another age appear shimmering out of the blue, sheltered from the sun by the palm trees that stand basking against their walls, and watered by lazily flowing rivers. Time comes to a standstill...



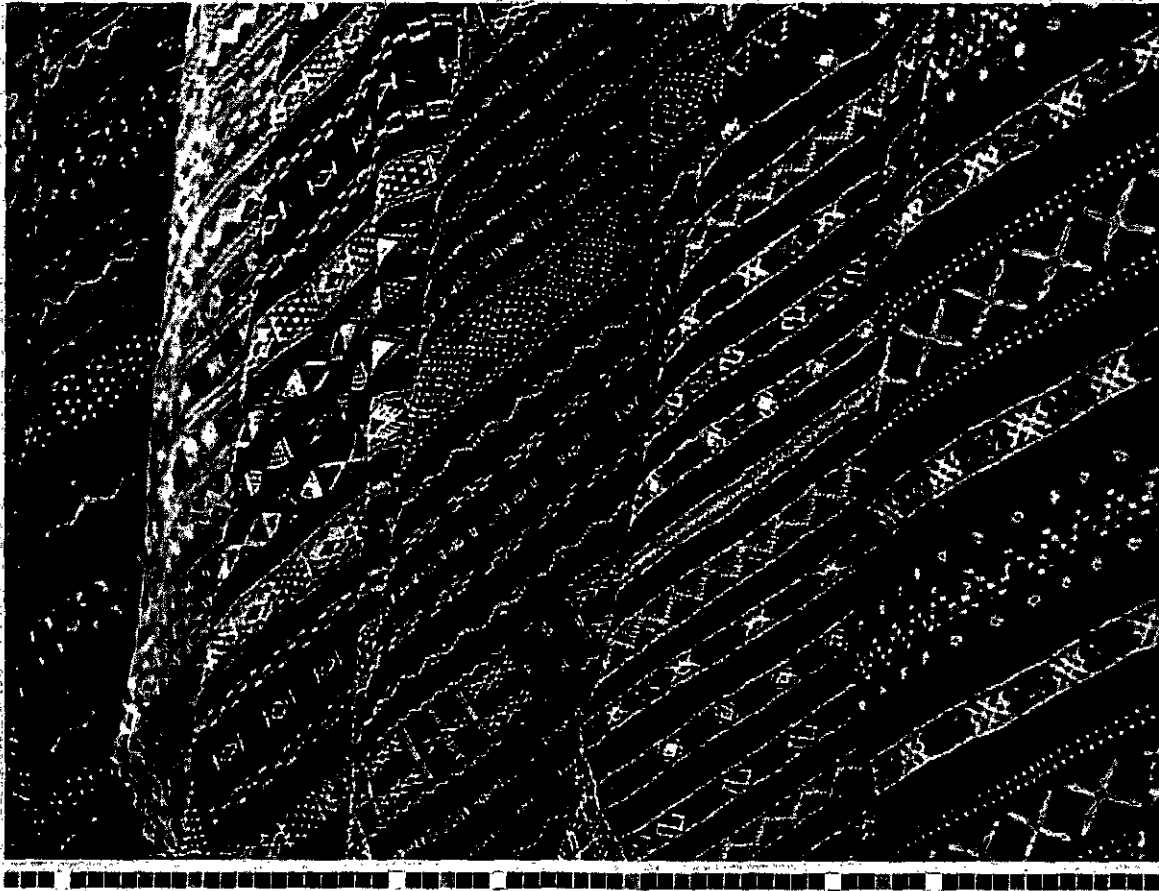
The town of Ouarzazate was first and foremost a trading centre for camel caravans from sub-Saharan Africa on their way to Fez or Marrakech. Adobe villages and kasbahs, lush green oases and lunar landscapes – such phantasmagorical surroundings could not fail to work their magic on those who passed through them, and the town lost no time in becoming a tourist destination for those in search of new worlds – a haven of serenity, generosity and hospitality.

Ourazate has developed a full range of quality infrastructures to ensure visitors enjoy a comfortable and carefree stay, including an international airport, luxury hotels, holiday clubs, conference centres, restaurants, and a golf club.

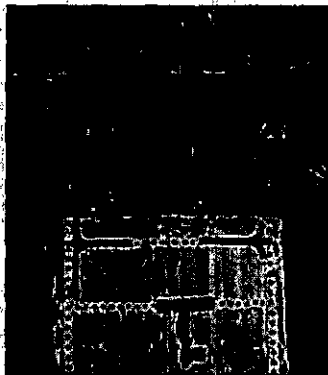
Beneath its sheltering palm trees, Ouarzazate lies on the edge of a vast rocky wilderness swept by the winds of the Sahara – a town gently preparing its visitors for the extreme experience of the desert itself.



Taouit kasba



Carpet making, an art based on age-old tradition



Departure point for the road to the oases, Ouarzazate is also a point of arrival for crafts and cultures. In its souk, henna, dates, roses, spices, and Artemisia are to be found side by side with Berber pottery, artefacts fashioned from stone, blankets, and those Taznaght carpets so famous for their intricate geometrical motifs.

The arts and crafts centre

This modern building houses workshops for sculptors in stone, copper and silver. Embroidery work and carpets of original design, woven in vibrant colours from the silkiest of wools, are also to be found there. And it's also the perfect place to enjoy a refreshing glass of mint tea while admiring the Taourirt kasbah.

The Kasbah Trail

The Kasbahs -- sandcastles beyond the reach of time

Great rose-coloured citadels stand proudly on the hillsides, defying anyone who passes to ignore them. These are the far-famed kasbahs of the Moroccan south, residences built from adobe, a mixture of clayey earth and straw, their architecture of striking originality and rare elegance. Morocco's kasbahs retain all of their poetry, serene in their power and living witness to the victory and apogee of the mountain culture that brought them into being. Perfectly adapted to their natural surroundings, they are also an expression of the social life of a sedentary mountain people. Standing eternal, they are southern Morocco's dearest heritage.

The Taourirt Kasbah

The majestic Taourirt Kasbah is listed as a national heritage monument. It was built in the 19th century, and was the Pasha

of Marrakech's largest residence. Its architecture, with its many crenellated towers, geometric motifs, and interior richly attired in painted stuccowork and cedar wood, is a marvel to behold. The Kasbah has just been restored throughout, and now houses exhibition galleries, a library and an amphitheatre.

The Tifoultout Kasbah

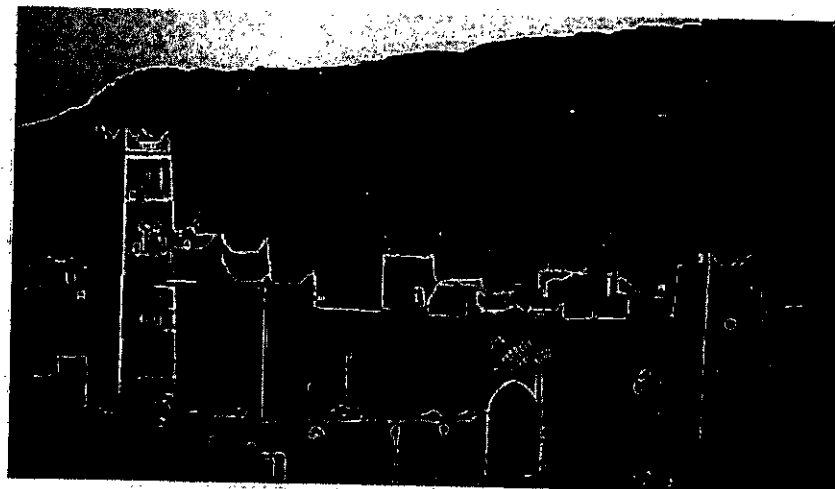
Built in the 17th century to accommodate the Pasha of Marrakech's guests, the Tifoultout Kasbah was renovated thirty years ago and is now a hotel and restaurant.

It stands beside the village of Tifoultout, near Oued Drâa, a spot where tranquillity and peace of mind reign supreme.

From its terrace, you can enjoy magnificent views of the city of Ouarzazate below, and of the surrounding mountains.



Majestic and immortal, the Kasbahs stand in careless defiance of travellers and the passage of time



Less well preserved, but equally well worth seeing, is the Kasbah of the Storks (Talinasla), a group of buildings on three levels, the highest of which has been specially decorated and has become a favourite stop-off for migrating storks.

Set in the midst of the Skoura palm grove, the great Amridil Kasbah, with its square patio, four storeys, and four wide towers, differs architecturally from its peers. Its interior layout, however, is faithful to tradition, with the first floor given over to the kitchen, the other floors to living space, and the towers to storage of food.

Construction started on the Telouet Kasbah in 1860, and further buildings were added over the course of the decades. The result is a masterly work of art, fortress, chateau and caravanserai all rolled into one, a marvel of painted woodwork, wrought iron, sculpted stucco and colourful zellij. Legend has it that it took 300

craftsmen three years to sculpt its ceilings and walls.

Tamdakht Kasbah is a remarkably impressive edifice, comprising no fewer than five storeys and nine towers. It was built in the 19th century, and has been undergoing restoration. Its inner courtyard is framed by magnificent archways affording unrestricted views of the fortified village.

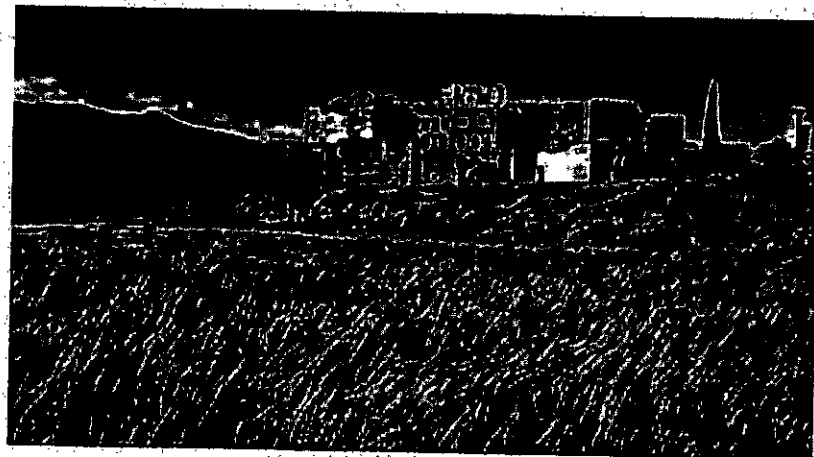
Tamnougalt Kasbah dates back to the 16th century and is one of the oldest in the Kingdom. Its interior boasts sumptuously painted wooden ceilings, sculpted plasterwork, and geometric motifs. An altogether perfect example of a ksar!

The walls of Amzrou Ksar overlook the M'hamid road. The village is divided into two, a Muslim half with its requisite mosque and a Jewish half with its synagogue and mellah (Jewish quarter).



THE KESAR

A Ksar is a fortified village made up of several kasbahs built side by side, forming an architectural ensemble of rare beauty



Telouet Kasbah

The Kasbah of Aït Ben Haddou



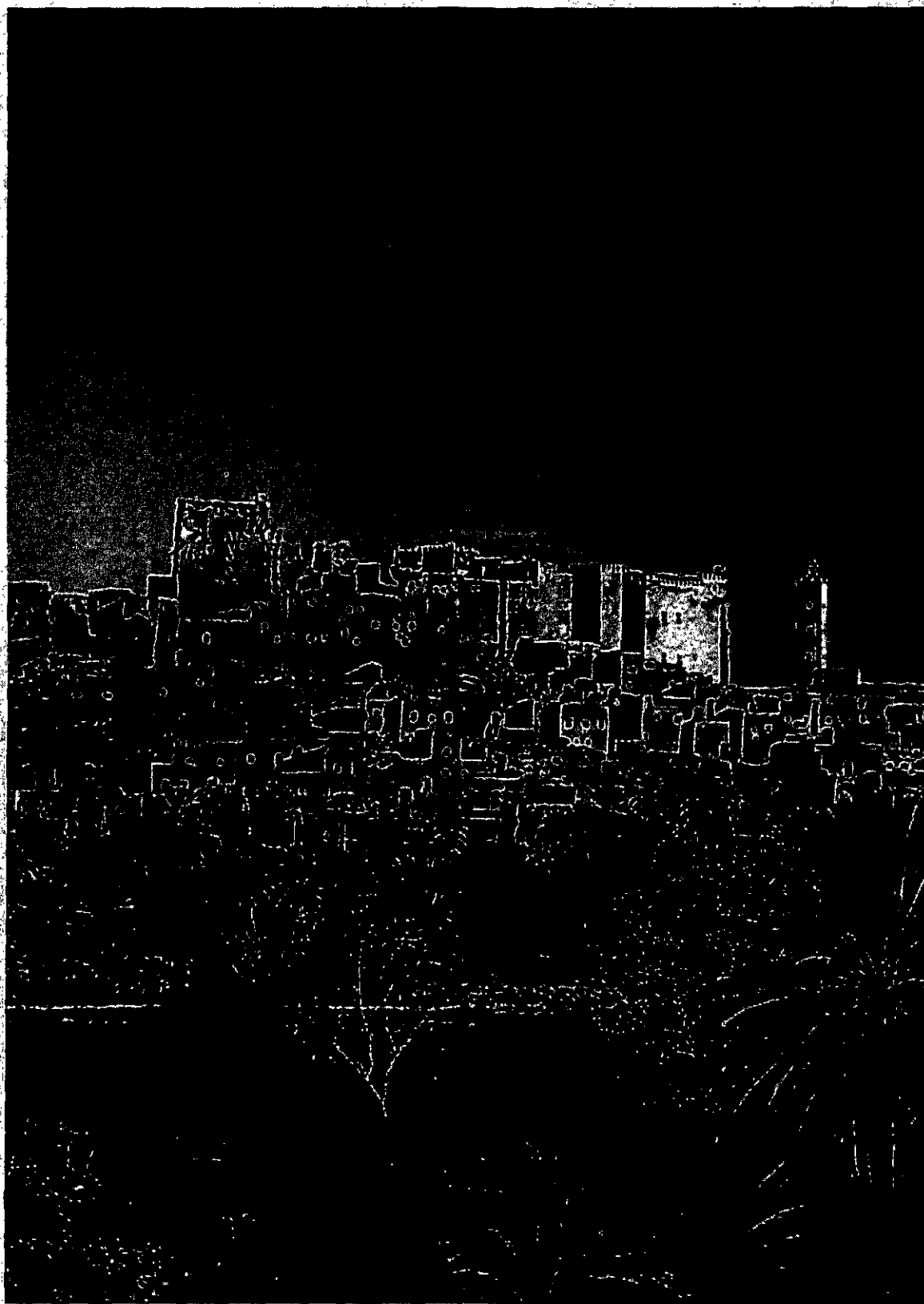
THE KASBAH OF AÏT BEN HADDOU

A fortress of sand

A revelation of pure beauty listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Aït Ben Haddou Kasbah is a stunning work of architecture overlooking the Ounila Valley. A graceful ensemble of adobe kasbahs, this is one of the oldest and most impressive ksars in all Morocco. The earliest of its buildings, a granary standing on the hilltop, dates back to the 11th century. The village gradually grew up around it over the course of the centuries, adding houses, more granaries, cowsheds, a well, and protective surrounding walls.

Architecturally, this museum-village, located some thirty kilometres from Ouarzazate, is without parallel. Its outer walls sport few shutters and only two doors, making sure that its inhabitants knew who was coming and going, while inside, a public square, a mosque, a Koranic school and the village residences jostle for space. Immortalised in such films as "Lawrence of Arabia", "Babel" and "Indiana Jones", this magnificent fortress stands radiant and untouched by time, an uncut diamond shining proudly forth from its rocky setting.





The Art Ben Haddon Kashah

Ouarzazate, cinema city



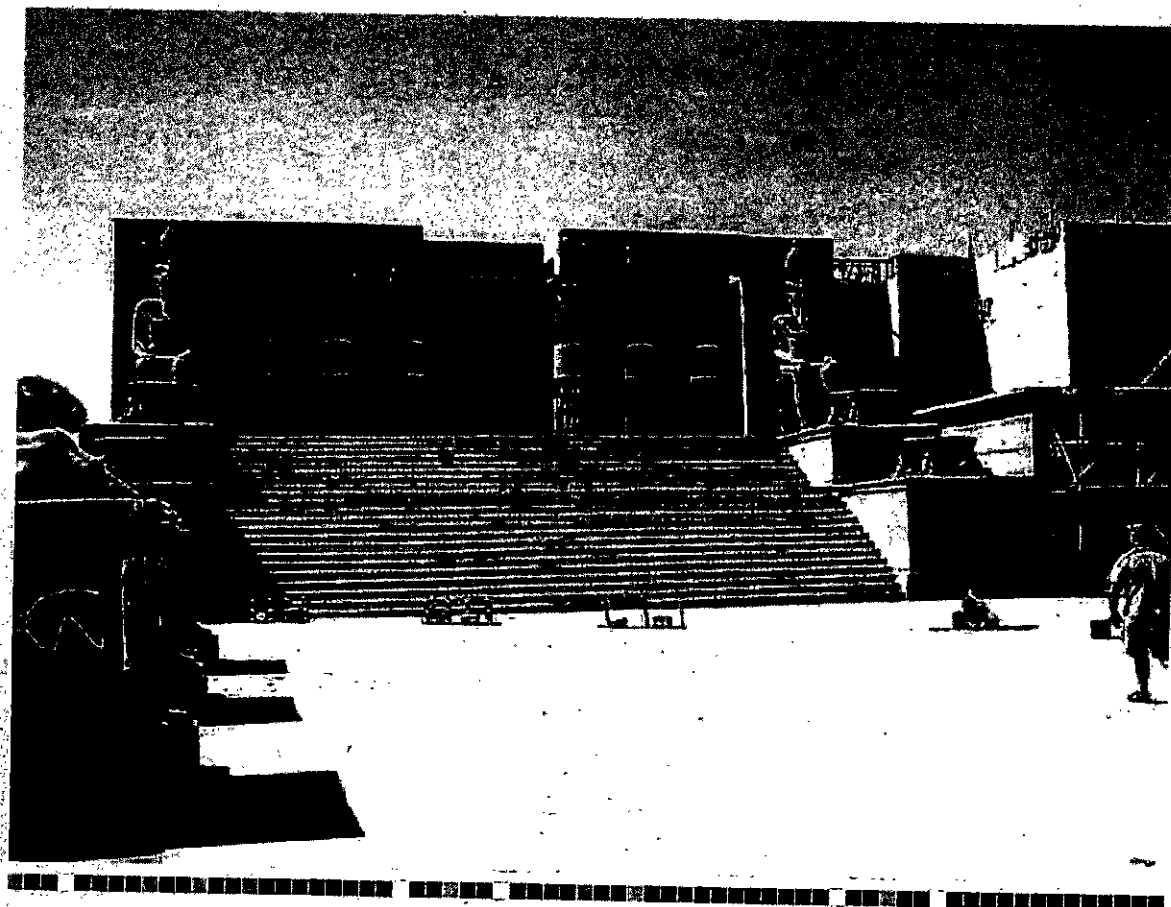
The world's greatest directors, Americans, Italians and French alike, flock to Ouarzazate to shoot their films in its sumptuous surroundings

Ouarzazate, the new Hollywood

Ouarzazate's magnificent landscapes, radiant light and ideal climatic conditions have always drawn filmmakers to the region. Louis Lumière himself filmed his "Chevalier Marocain" there as far back as 1897! Jacques Becker made his version of "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" there in 1954, with the unforgettable Fernandel in the starring role, and David Lean's masterly "Lawrence of Arabia" followed in 1962. In the 1980s, the movie industry began a full-scale assault on the region, and numbers of big-budget films have since been made there, including Martin Scorsese's "Kundun",

Lewis Teague's "Jewel of the Nile", Bernardo Bertolucci's "Sheltering Sky", Ridley Scott's "Gladiator" and "Kingdom of Heaven", and Alain Chabat's "Astérix et Obélix". The town now contains three large studios. The Atlas Studios were set up in 1983, are open to the public, and are certainly well worth going out of your way to see. Behind their doors, guarded by gigantic pharaohs, you can wander through a host of amazing sets, peek into the workshops where they are created, and get a real idea of what goes on behind the scenes in the movie industry.





From Tibet to Ancient Egypt, and from Ancient Rome to the Sudan, all the sets are created in Ouarzazate itself

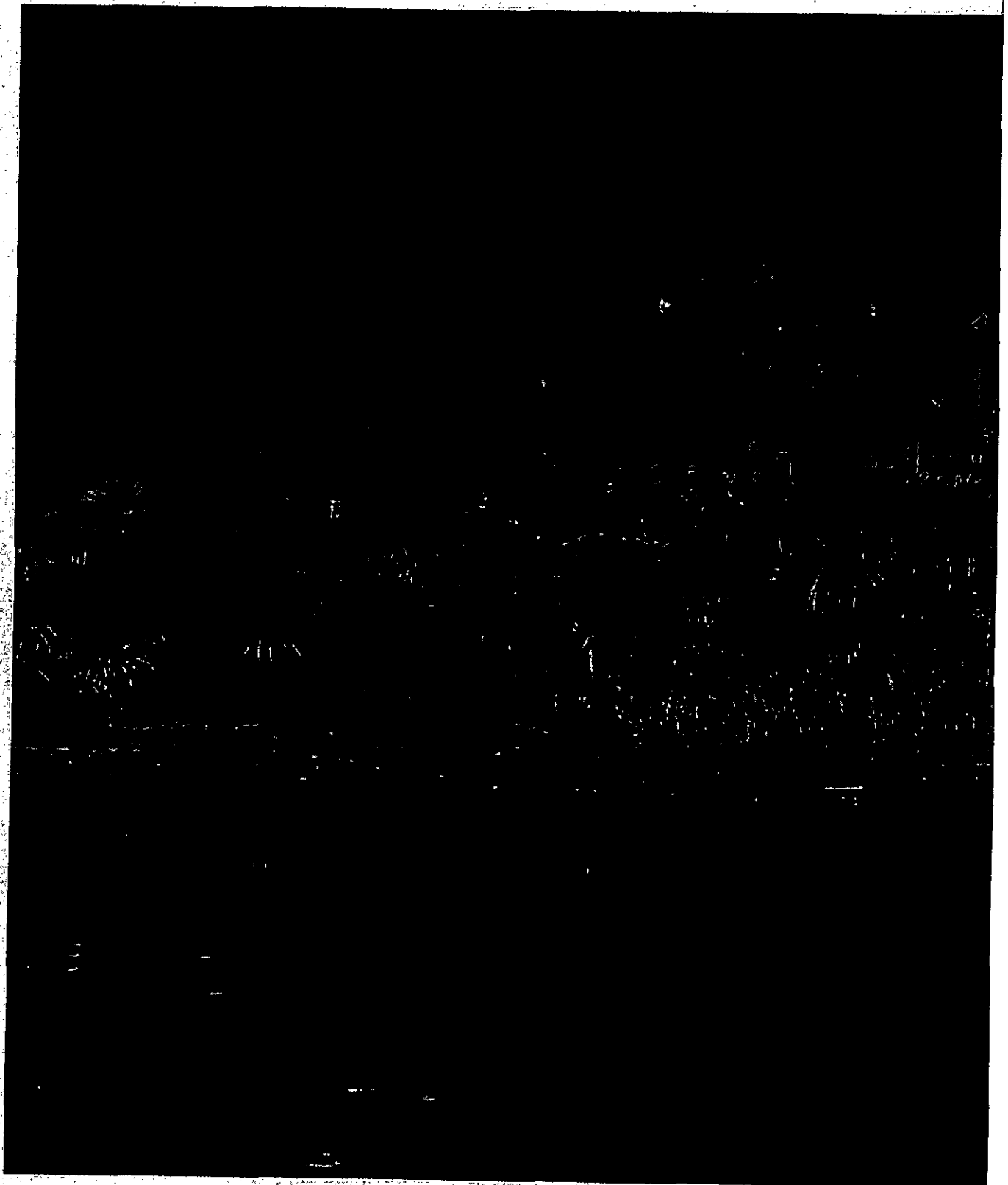


Another attraction is the town's Museum of Cinematography, which is housed in a former Italian studio from the 1990s. The exterior may appear typically Moroccan, but once across the threshold, visitors find themselves stepping from Ancient Greece to the Middle East of days gone by, from church patio to grim dungeon. Amazingly authentic as they may seem, all the sets here are created out of plaster! All in all, a novel way of acquainting yourself the remarkable know-how of the local craftsmen.

Ouarzazate's movie industry school

Ouarzazate attracts filmmakers from all over the world, along with those enamoured of the seventh art and its creations. In order to meet the very considerable demand for human resources in terms of movie-making professionals, Ouarzazate now has its own training institute, whose students learn the ins and outs of the industry and its various branches – "film sets and machinery", "production management" "set decoration and props", "hairstyling and makeup", "costumes and dressing", and "special effects".

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The Ait Ben Haddou Kasbah, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site



The timeless desert

The Valley of Roses

Roses from Kalaat M'gouna Valley are celebrated throughout Morocco, prized for their beauty and heady fragrance. They are gathered in the month of May, during which the great "Rose Moussem" festival is held.

Damascus roses (*rosa damascena*), the variety that grows in the valley, are highly resistant to cold and drought. They are said to have been introduced into Morocco in the 10th century, by pilgrims returning from Mecca and scattering seeds along their way. Ever since their passing, the valley has been adorned with rosebushes, filling the air with their fragrance. A highly scented variety, the flowers are grown in a series of magnificent rose gardens, and are used in the making of a delicate and much sought after rosewater. In early May, at the first light of dawn, the local women begin gathering the precious blooms, one by one – some 3 or 4000 tonnes a year in the course of a single week! Once harvesting is over, it's

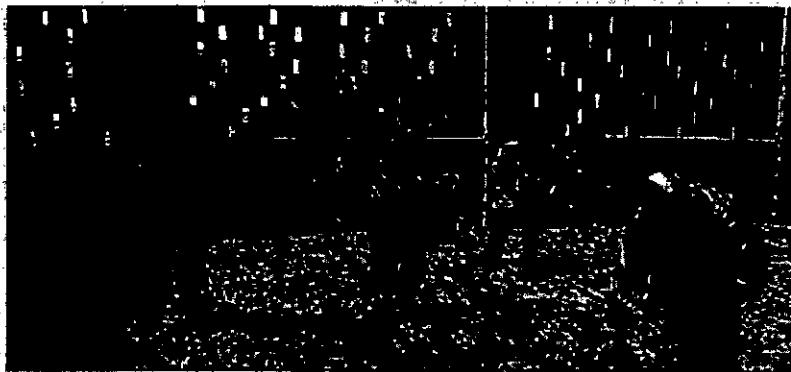
time for festivities to begin. The inhabitants of all the neighbouring villages gather at Kalaat M'Gouna for a three-day festival that includes exhibitions of farming produce and locally made jewellery and carpets, musical events, and competitions. The women from the valley's cooperatives will be more than happy to show you exactly how they distil rosewater and demonstrate the techniques behind the beauty creams and perfumes they produce.



The Rose Festival, a gathering paying homage to the country's most beautiful flower, the Damascus Rose

The great Date Festival

When Morocco's deep south is bathed in its most radiant light, you know that October's great Date Festival is close at hand. No less than a million date palms grow in the region, and production is widespread (Bouzekri, Boufegous, Majhoul, and Bouslikhan). The festival is an opportunity for southern tribes to gather together to celebrate the fruit in song and dance in the purest Berber tradition, and a traditional camel race is held in the dunes to mark





Traditional regional festivals succeed one another in accordance with the harvest calendar, giving visitors an idea of the deep south's rich cultural heritage.

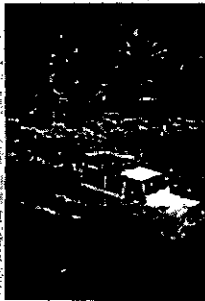


the occasion. You can gorge yourself on sweet, melt-in-the-mouth dates, delicately matured in the sun throughout the summer and flavoured any which way you choose, or enjoy them in a bread roll garnished with eggs, onions and spices - medfouna, a treat for the taste-buds!

A celebration of Ahwach culture
The annual National Ahwach Festival is held each September at

the Taourirt Kasbah, celebrating and perpetuating an age-old oral heritage. The festival is a non-stop round of entertainment that includes drums, dance, improvised poetry, and solo and choral singing. Every tribe from the deep south has its own troop, and the continuous show is an altogether unique experience. Alongside the festivities, exhibitions, parades, films, plays, and lectures are also on the programme.

Ouarzazate in a new light



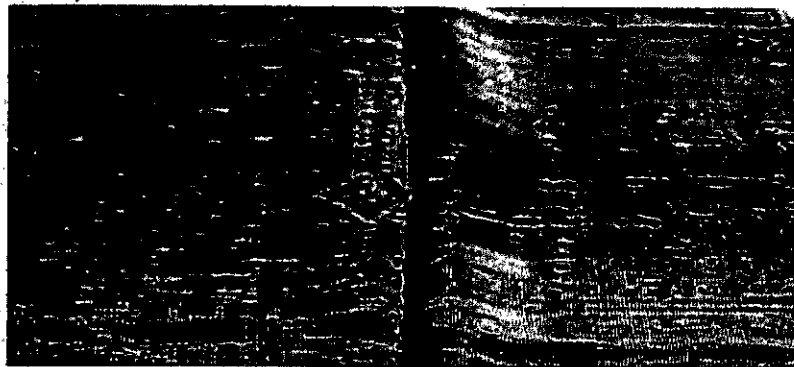
Excursions in the region are truly unforgettable experiences, whether your means of transport is 4-wheel drive, mountain bike, camel, quad, or simply your own two feet

A night in the desert

Imagine it – absolute silence reigning, and the feeling that you could reach up and touch the stars... a night spent in the desert is an experience unlike any other, and one you'll never forget. Bivouacking immerses you totally in the world of the desert dunes. Under cover of fully equipped Berber tents, you can steep yourself in the timeless wonder of your surroundings, struck dumb by the magic of the sunset and held spellbound as dawn creeps over the horizon.

The Garden of Eden

Lost in a desert landscape of ochre stone a few kilometres from Ouarzazate, Lake Fint and its seemingly impossible oasis of luxuriant greenery appears before the traveller like a mirage. Palm trees, eucalyptus, cedars, cypress, and bamboo surround a vast stretch of water that supplies the valley's rivers. This is a bird paradise harbouring a multitude of species, including eagles, falcons, buzzards, storks, passerines, swallows, magpies, blue tits, and chaffinches.



A Tasmakht carpet



Bivouacking in the desert



Taznakht carpets

Carpets have been produced in Taznakht since time immemorial, and are the pride of Morocco's craft industry. Originating in the High Atlas, they are composed of knots on two lines, their deep red, dark green and off-white geometric motifs set against a saffron yellow background.

This type of carpet is woven from finely spun pure wool or high-quality cotton, and the pigments used for dyeing are obtained from local plants. Motifs are of Berber origin, their design inspired by the natural world and borrowing characters from the Amazigh alphabet.

In the heart of the oasis



THE DADES VALLEY

Known as the Road of a Thousand Kasbahs, the Dades Valley boasts unspoilt landscapes of stunning grandeur.

Ouarzazate makes an ideal point of departure for a wide and varied range of excursions. Just follow the rivers, and they will lead you into some of Morocco's most beautiful valleys.

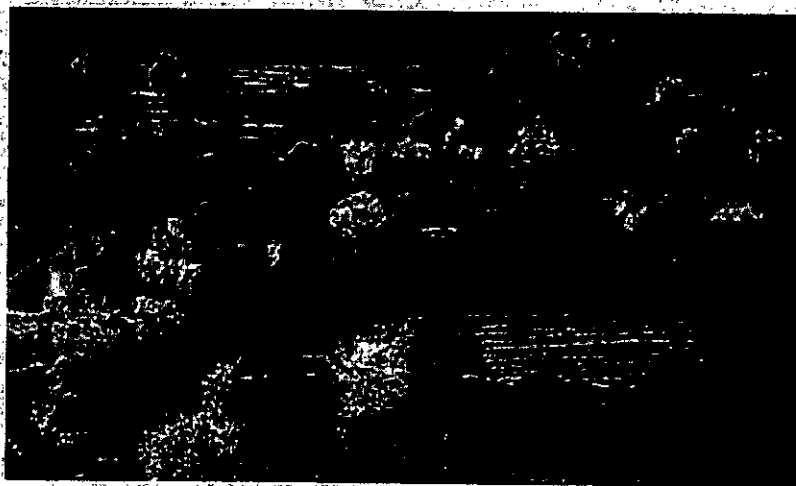
The Dades Valley

This has to be one of the most amazing landscapes in Morocco. Flowing past countless kasbahs and hemmed in by Jbel Sarho on one side and the High Atlas massif on the other, Oued Dades winds its way through arid desert countryside, eating away at the strip of greenery that borders it. Passing through lovingly nurtured palm groves, the road continues on to the rose gardens of Kalaat M'Gouna, after which the valley

draws in its giddy slopes to become the Dades Gorge.

The Dades Gorge

A huge block of limestone, cleft in two by a single sword stroke. A stark, jagged landscape, where kasbahs blend in with the mauves, russets and fawns of the rocks upon which they stand. An icy river flows through depths of the gorge, and the more adventurous can follow its course, either by kayak or simply by wading barefoot for one or two kilometres. Further on, the road becomes no more than a track, crossing the Dades, zigzagging up to the top of a giddy canyon, and finally leading you into a realm inhabited only by birds and moufflon.





Almond trees, date palms, fig trees and olive trees -- an oasis of refreshing greenery in a stark world of jagged rock



The Dades Gorges

The Todra Gorge

Continuing along the same road, gardens give way to ochre red countryside where rock takes the upper hand, hollowed out into starkly impressive gorges. The most fascinating of all is the Todra Gorge, the Grand Canyon of Morocco. Its 300-metre high pink limestone cliffs form a sheer drop into a narrow corridor through which flows Oued Todra. Between these eternal walls of stone, rough pathways follow the river's sombre banks, and you can slither and

climb your way along its course for a good 600 metres. And here, in the very depths of the gorge, you finally come across the sacred fish spring, a hot water spring alive with fish that are forbidden to anglers, whoever they may be.

The desert attraction

From Tinghir to Erfoud

The first place to stop off at is the town of Tinghir, departure point for 4-wheel drive expeditions across the desert. Built in terraces at the mouth of the Todra Gorge, Tinghir is overlooked by a mound upon which stand the ruins of a former kasbah.



The Tinghir palm grove

The Ziz Valley

Nearing Errachidia, Oued Ziz cuts its way through the limestone rock of its valley, hemmed in on either side by arid, russet coloured cliffs. The river carries its extraordinary abundance of emerald waters through a narrow strip of greenery, its banks shaded by apricot trees, lined with a succession of palm groves, and overlooked by ksours. On either side of the road, stand the wells used for digging and maintaining the "foggaras",

underground channels designed to capture water from the water table to be used for irrigation purposes. The oued continues on its way southwards, where it nourishes the vast Tafilalet palm grove.

The next stop, Erfoud, is Tafilalet's great oasis, numbering over 700,000 date palms. The little town standing alone in a world of arid stone, is overlooked by a fortified tower (a borj) that affords unrestricted views over the Erfoud palm grove and the desert against which it stands.

Take time off to sample the local speciality, kahlia, a mutton tajine garnished with eggs, onions, tomatoes and peppers, and flavoured with a blend of 44 different spices.



The Ziz Valley



The golden sand dunes are in constant change, at the mercy of the winds, and the quality of the sunlight



Rissani

From Rissani to Merzouga

Crossing black desert, red dunes, and the blue waters of the highly improbable Dayt Serji, where shimmering flights of pink flamingos take to the air, we finally arrive in Rissani, the town that cradled the Alaouite dynasty. Stop and meditate a while at the mausoleum of Moulay Ali Cherif, the dynasty's founder. The town used to be a major stop-off for camel caravans, and much trading activity still goes on there today, thanks to its great souk. Fidi leather is known for its quality; soft and supple, it is manufactured from goatskins tanned with tamarisk bark.

Further on, tarred roads give way to tracks, and the dunes of Merzouga appear in the distance. Red sand stretching as far as the eye can see, and an ever-changing landscape, blown by the winds and scorched by the sun's rays. This is Erg Chebbi, a vast ensemble of dunes reaching up to 150 metres in height. Watching the sun rise or set over them is a truly unique experience. Trekking, bivouacking and expeditions on camelback are all on the agenda here, bearing you away to explore the Sahara and its timeless mystery.

In the steps of the nomads



nomads

The Drâa Valley

Some fifty kilometres south of Ouarzazate, you enter the Drâa Valley, a full 200-kilometre stretch of lush greenery. Once Morocco's longest river, Oued Drâa waters the valley's slopes, bringing forth cereals, henna, vegetables, and the finest dates to be found anywhere in the Kingdom – no less than sixteen varieties in all!

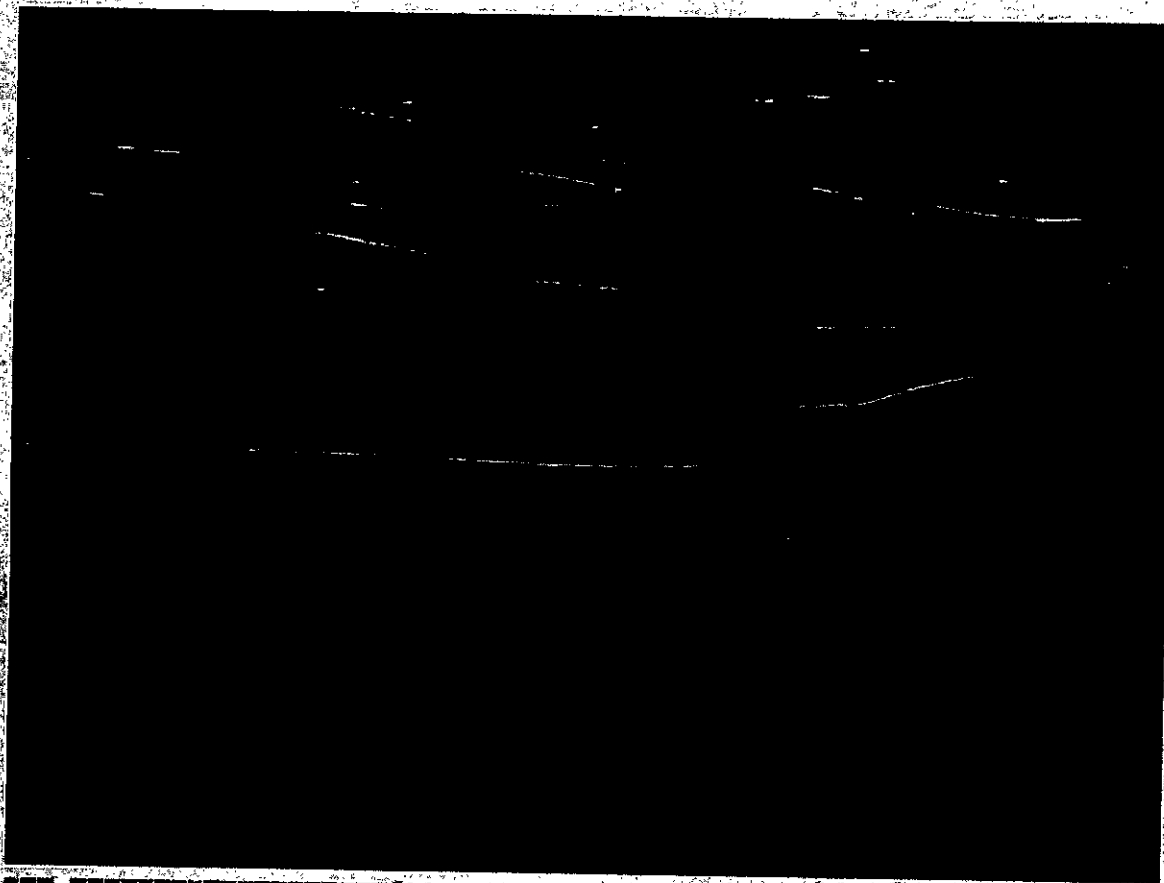
From Zagora to Tameghroute

Famed for its "Timbuktu 52 days" signpost and the last oasis on the caravan road before the desert, Zagora is set in breathtaking surroundings and is an unexpectedly colourful little town – bunches of yellow dates atop the palm trees, pink oleander blossom, and houses of red ochre clay beneath the dazzling sunlight.

The road crosses the mountains, then winds its way through a strip of cultivated land. There are no lack of ksars well worth visiting along the way, including those at Tamenougalt, Igdaoun, and Tinzouline.

The village of Tameghroute contains a number of mosques with blue earthenware tiled roofs and white minarets, a highly reputed medersa and, of course, the famous Zaouïa Naciria library. It is also known for its hand-worked pottery, and you can visit numerous open-air potter's workshops equipped with simple ovens and producing jars, dishes, pitchers, and other household containers.



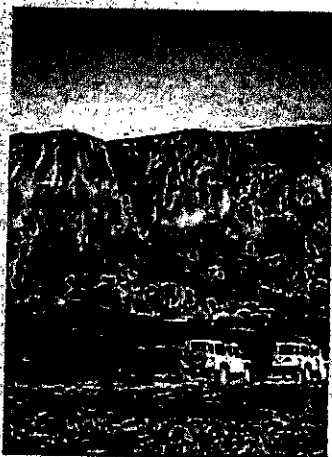


Absolute silence and sand as far as the eye can see - in the vast Ch'gaga dunes, you might well be the only person in the world

The Tinfou dunes at M'hamid El Ghizlane

Cars are a rare sight around Tinfou, and shepherds give way to nomads. You feel as if you had reached the very edge of the world. But it's only when you finally get to M'hamid El Ghizlane that the real desert, in all its vast authenticity, takes over. The village comprises seven little douars that have preserved the Saharaoui, Jewish, Berber and Arab influences that brought them into being. This is the epicentre of nomad culture, and an annual international festival

here brings together nomadic peoples from throughout the world in celebration of their age-old traditions. M'hamid El Ghizlane is surrounded by impressive sandy ergs - the largest being Erg Lihoudi, the Bogarn dunes, the howling dunes, Erg Smar and the Ch'gaga dunes. For those in search of adventure, 4-wheel drive and camel excursions, as well as bivouacking under the desert stars, are all on offer.



Information and useful addresses

Practical information

Entry formalities

A valid passport for a stay of less than 90 days is required. An identity card may suffice, depending on country of origin, if the trip is organised by a travel agency for a group of over 3 people. A visa is required for some nationalities - enquire at a Moroccan consulate or diplomatic representation in your country. No specific vaccinations are required for entry into the Kingdom of Morocco. If you are bringing your pet along with you, however, you will need to be able to produce an anti-rabies certificate less than 6 months old.



Changing money

Moroccan currency is the dirham, made up of 100 centimes. Foreign currency must be exchanged at banks or other accredited establishments.

Time zone

Morocco is in the Greenwich time zone, and time is G.M.T.

Event Calendar

March : Aïcha des Gazelles Rally
 March : Marathon des Sables
 May : Rose Festival
 September : International Desert Music Festival

Useful addresses and contacts

Regional Tourist Office:

Avenue Mohammed V, BP. 297

Tel: 05 24 88 24 85

Fax: 05 24 88 52 90

Ouarzazate Provincial Tourism Council:

Avenue Mohamed V BP. 297 - Ouarzazate

Tel: 05 24 88 24 85

Fax: 05 24 88 52 90

Zagora Provincial Tourism Council:

email: cptzagora@gmail.com

Airport : B.P. 30

Call center : 08 90 00 08 00

Weather forecast: www.meteoma.net

Office des Changes

(Currency regulation authority) :

www.oc.gov.ma

Emergency phone numbers

Police 19

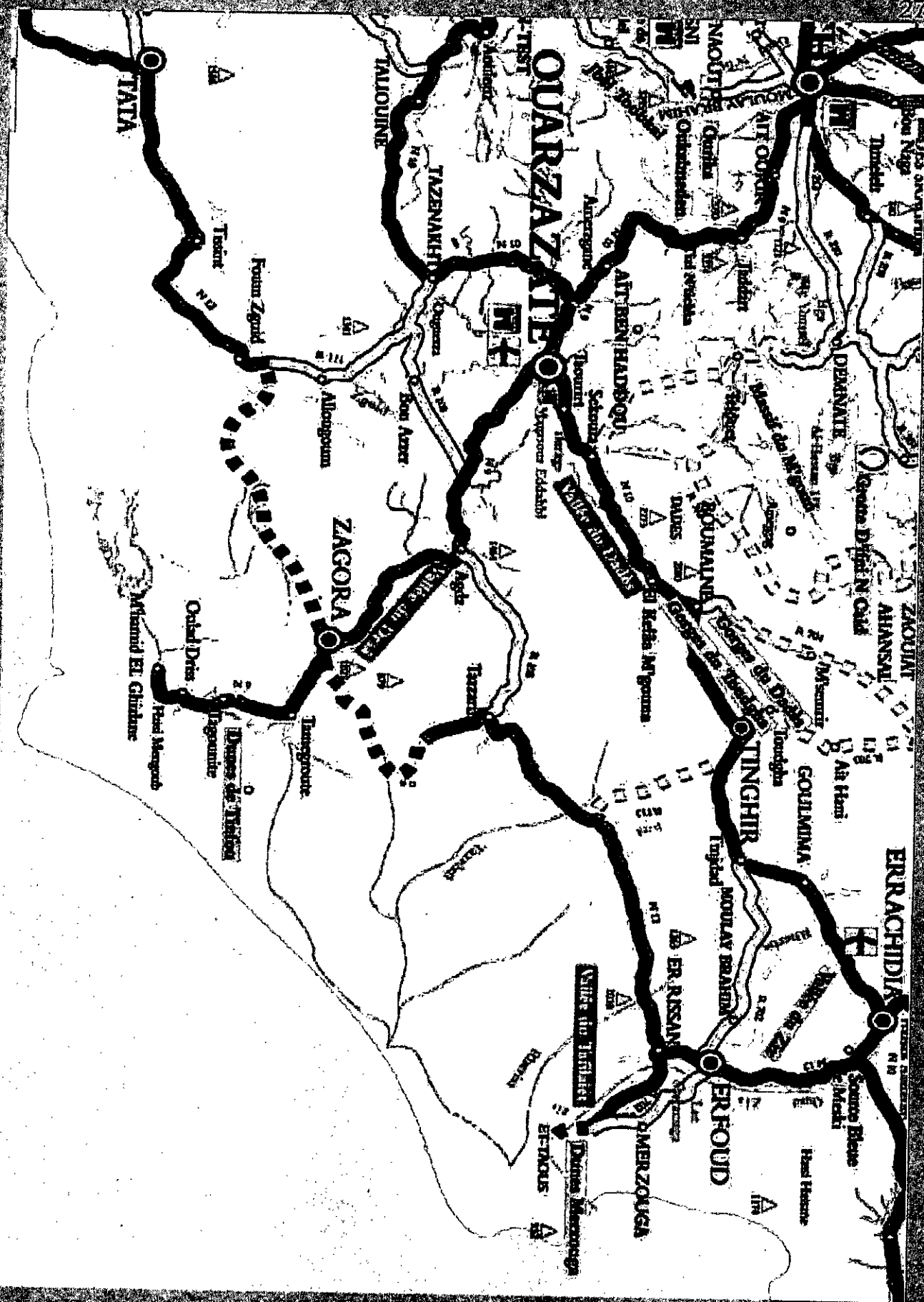
Fire Brigade 150

Directory enquiries 160

Road safety services 177

For further information: www.visitmorocco.com

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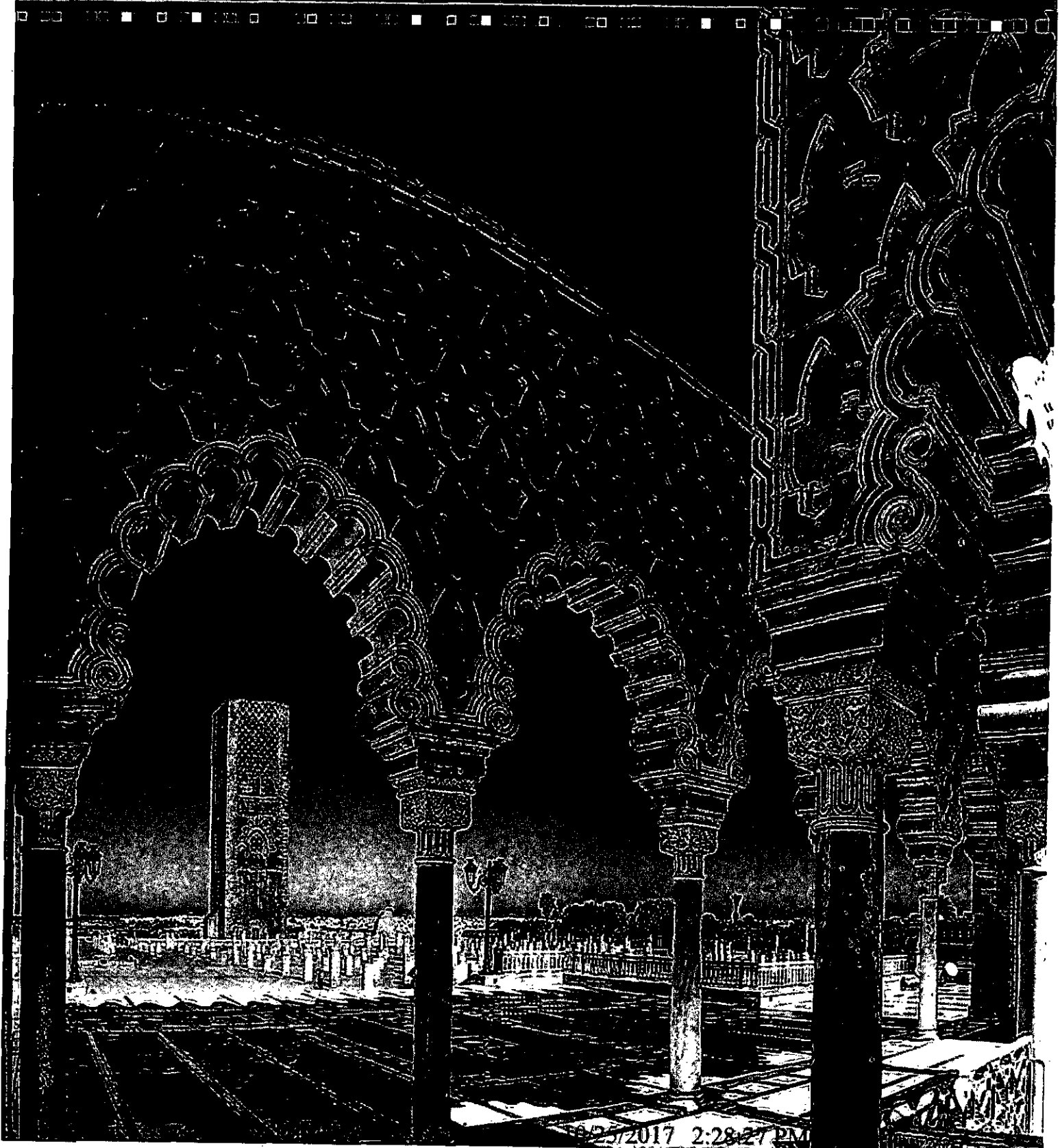


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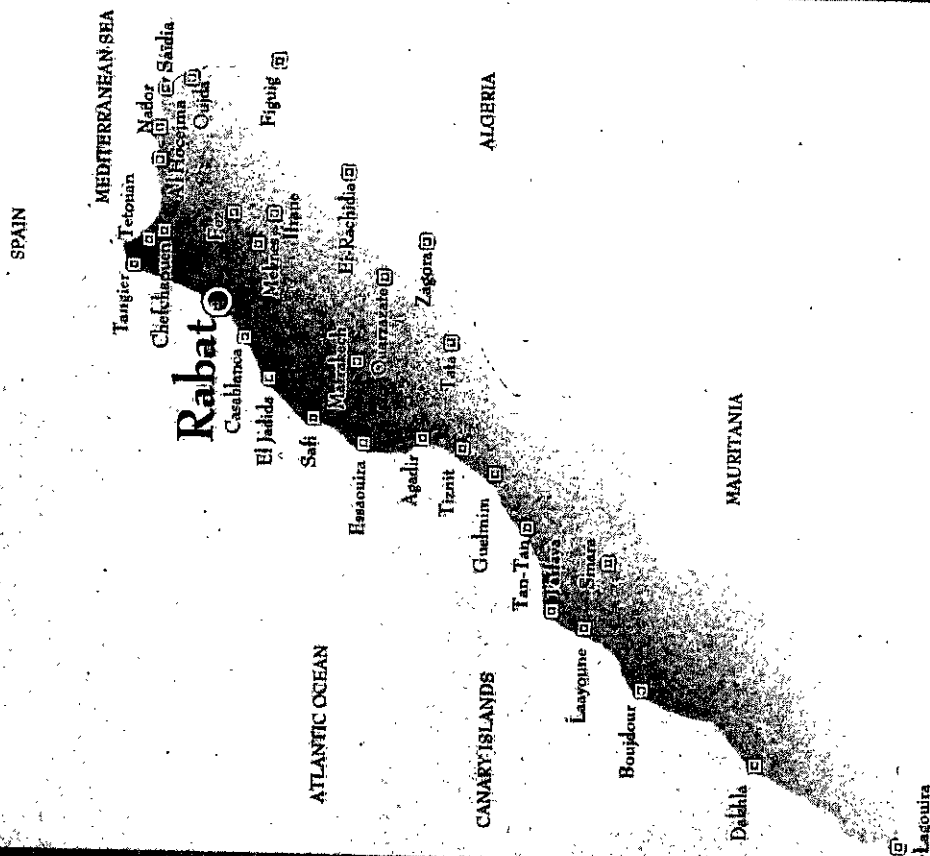
Rabat
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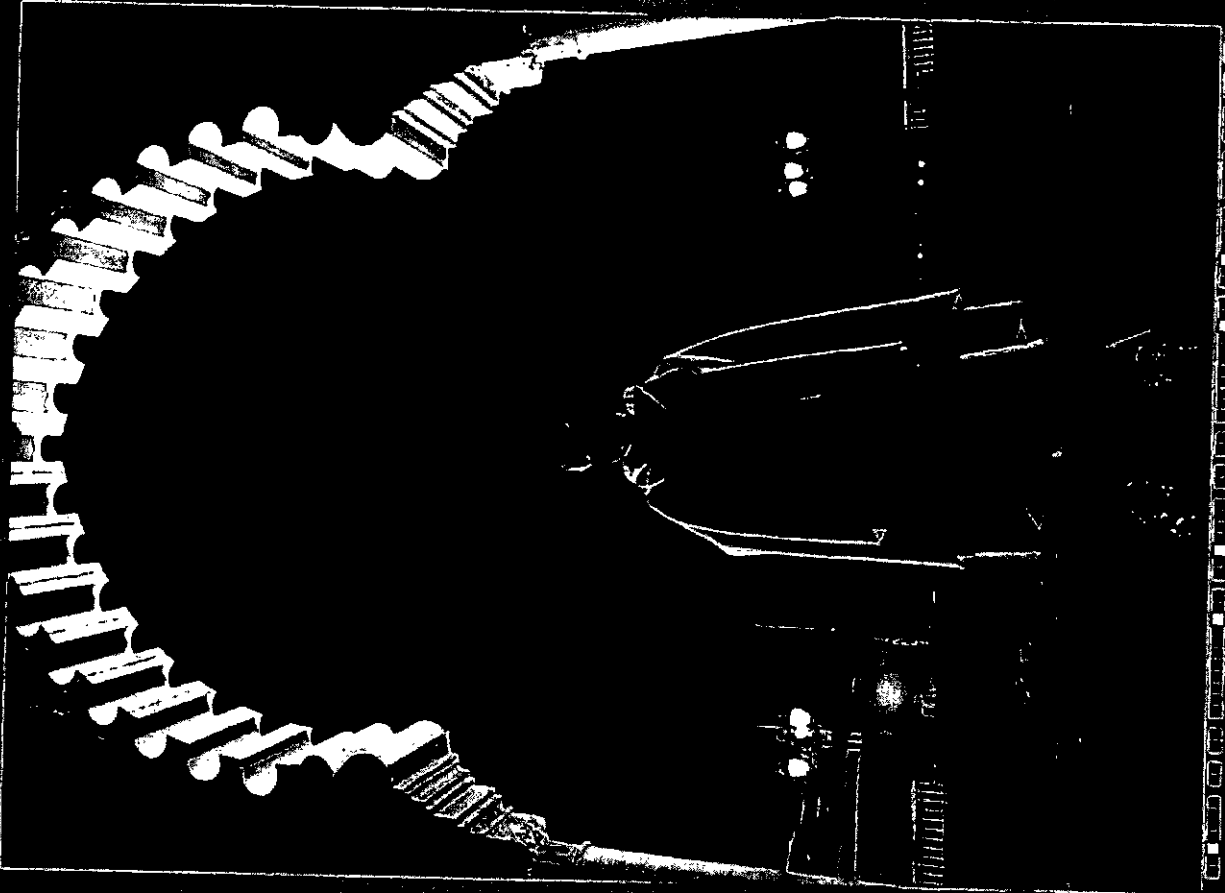


Rabat



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Editorial

Rabat, city of elegance

Rabat, capital of the Kingdom, is more than worth your attention - a city where tranquillity and discretion go hand in hand with sophistication and the art of good living. A absolutely modern town that has nonetheless preserved all its authenticity, its historical heart combines elegantly with its modernity. It stands proudly at the mouth of the River Bouregreg, its colourful yachting harbour a delight to the eye, its ochre-hued walls surrounded by brilliant green nettle trees with the cries of the seagulls as a background.

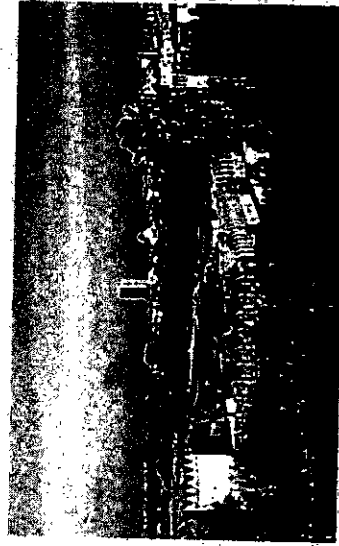
A beautiful city justifiably proud of its heritage. Rabat lives and breathes among wide boulevards and luxuriant parks. It is the country's political and administrative centre and its seat of government, containing the royal palace and the embassies to the Kingdom, and the many fine edifices that adorn it bear magnificent witness to a history reaching back into Antiquity. It is also the cultural capital, with a plethora of museums and exhibitions, and acting as host to major international festivals that draw a wide audience.

On the other side, on the right bank of the river, its twin sister Salé has preserved the memory of the corsairs of bygone days, leading you off into the maze of its medina in discovery of its mysterious past.

Whether you're coming to the city as a tourist, on business or to live, you will find Rabat and its region a perfect setting for discovery, shopping and relaxation. Rabat, in all its elegance, guarantees visitors a royal welcome.



Rabat, a city with its
few broad, tree-lined
avenues



Rabat in history

Historical landmarks

The earliest traces of humanity in Rabat date back to the 8th century B.C. on the present-day site of the Chellah. It was the Romans who gave the name to this place, a deformation of the Latin word "Sala" meaning "cave". They set up a river port there, which disappeared with the fall of the Roman Empire.

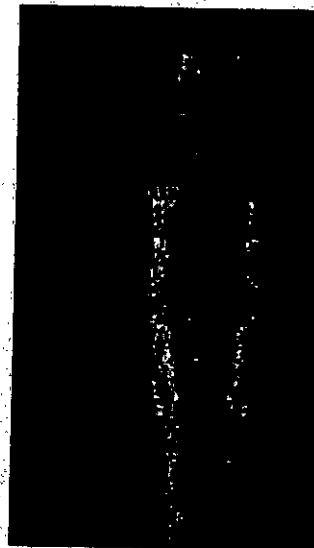
Bedouins settled there, on lower ground on either side of the Bouregreg. In the 10th century, soldier-monks built a "ribat" (fortified monastery) on top of a thirty-meter cliff on the right bank of the river, an edifice that was later to give the city its name and from which Ali al-Ma'mun, founder of the Almohad dynasty (Berber tribes from the High Atlas who had been converted to Islam) led his holy war.



Minaret of the Chellah mosque overlooking the mouth of the river

In 1150, he helped with the fortification of the kasbah, turning it into a fortress that played a major role in the conquest of Andalusia and in controlling the rest of the Maghreb. This edifice, the present Oudaya Kasbah, was named "Rabat al Fath" (Camp of Victory) in commemoration of the Almohad conquests.

In the late 12th century, the powerful Almohad sovereign Yacoub El Mansour built the Hassan Tower in the image of the Koutoubia in Marrakech and the Giralda in Seville, and fortified the kasbah, surrounding it with two towering walls entered through five gateways.



View over the Oudaya Kasbah

Yacoub El Mansour died before he finished his work, and the city lost something of its allure. The world's largest mosque, the Hassan Tower, was never to be completed. The end of the Almohad dynasty hastened the city's decline.

Although the Merinids chose Fes as their capital in the 13th century, they did not lose their interest in Rabat, building the Chellah Necropolis outside its walls. In the years that followed, Rabat was gradually to become a city of pirates.

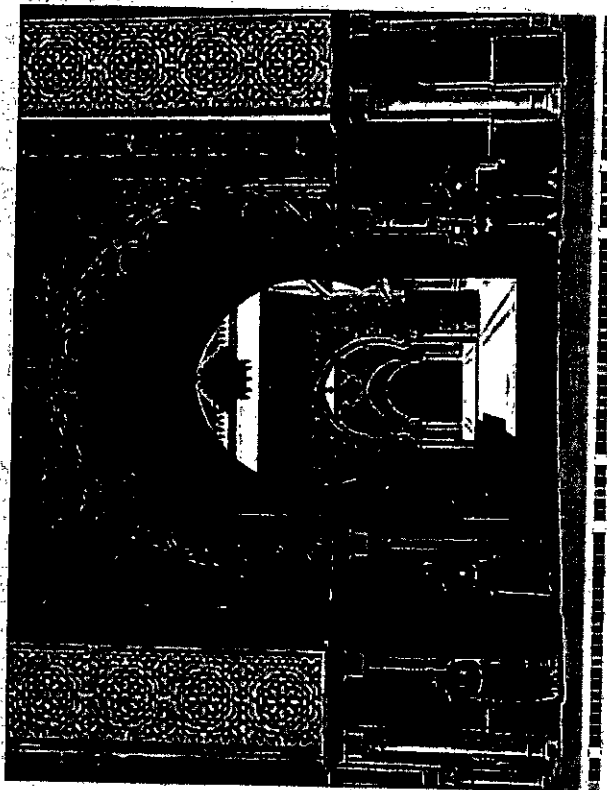


The pillar in Mausoleum de la Victoire, bearing the inscription "Sala la hawana au poignee" ("Welcome, stranger")

It was not until the coming of the Alaouite dynasty that the city regained its former glory. The Royal Palace, Dar al-Makhzen, was built there in 1866 and is still the place where all the Kingdom's foreign guests are received as well as being the seat of government, where over two thousand people live and work.

In 1912, Sultan Moulay Youssef left Fes in favour of Rabat, making it Morocco's administrative capital. Rabat has since become the country's second largest urban area, the seat of government and of parliament.

Entrance to the royal palace



Rabat, a majestic beauty

Rabat has taken care to expand and develop harmoniously. Architectural rigour is apparent everywhere—wide tree-lined boulevards, buildings rarely more than five stories high, and administrative and residential districts where tranquillity reigns supreme. The "city of flowers", as Marshal Lyautey liked to call it, is also an authentic Moroccan city, the very opposite of a capital without a soul. If you need convincing, just make your way through the little streets of its medinas and the major roads through the new town.

The wall that surrounds the old town is entered through 5 monumental stone gateways (Bab el Anou, Bab el Had, Bab Essoufara, Bab er-Rouah and Bab Zawiya). The largest of these Almoravid creations is Bab er-Rouah, its monumental sculpted, stone facade standing between two projecting towers. Its inner rooms have been re-

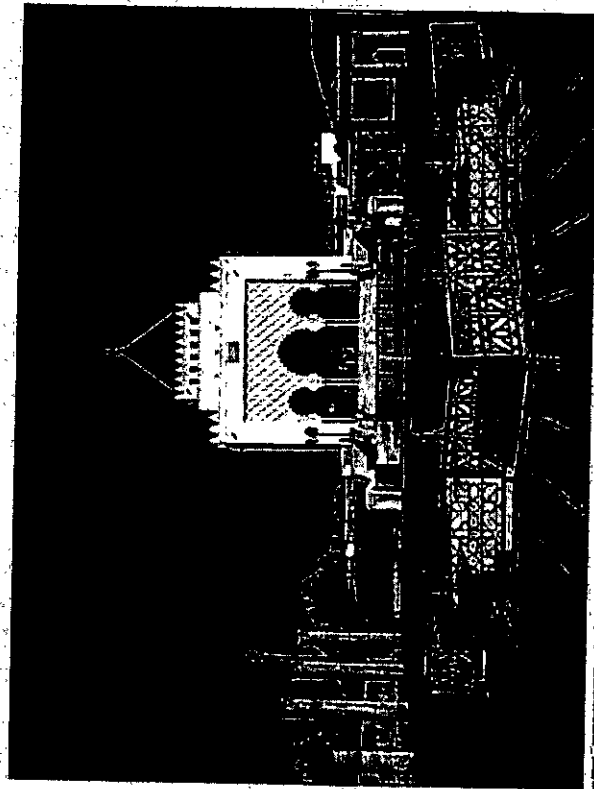
tored and now serve as an exhibition gallery. It was here, in 1960, that the first collective exhibition by Moroccan painters was held, testimony to the burgeoning of artistic creation in the field of modern painting. 200 metres further on, the Ambassadors' Gate (Bab Essoufara) gives access to the mechouar, a vast square where the major celebrations in honour of the King take place, and where the royal palace also stands.

The Chellah: Sala Colonia

The Chellah is located about 2 km from the city centre and is made up of the necropolis itself and the ancient city of Sala. The ruins, with their omnipresent handlike, nesting arches and wild vegetation, must be one of Rabat's most arresting features. Protected by an imposing surrounding wall and accessed through a monumental gateway, the necropolis is an oasis of tranquillity, a peaceful flower-



Changing of the Royal Guard



Mohammed V Mausoleum approach

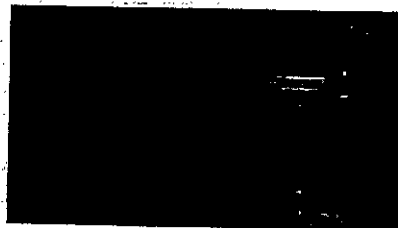
filled garden containing an ablutions room, a zawiya with an oratory, the zellij-adorned Merzouq minaret, and a series of burial rooms.

The Hassan Tower

The remains of the Hassan Tower bear witness to the size of what was to have been one of the largest places of worship anywhere in the Muslim world. Its construction was abandoned upon the death of its founder in 1199, and the Lisbon earthquake in 1755 caused further damage. The mosque comprised a great courtyard laid out over deep, restored cisterns and reaching to the foot of the minaret, and an immense hypocaust room above. 312 columns and 42 marble pillars were arranged to form

nineteen naves, not counting its lateral porticos. It was on this site that the Mohammed V Mausoleum was built, in fitting tribute to the Nation's liberator.

The Mohammed V Mausoleum
The design and decoration of the Mohammed V Mausoleum take one's breath away. This masterpiece of traditional Moroccan art, with its painted woodwork, sculpted plasterwork and marble, and chiselled bronze, required all the know-how of the Kingdom's master craftsmen. Mohammed V's tomb is carved from a block of white onyx and stands in the centre of the edifice's lower level. Today, his two sons, the late King Hassan II and Prince Moulay Abdallah, rest in peace alongside him.



The Hassan Tower



Rabat, a street's panorama

Rabat, a majestic beauty

The Oudaya Kasbah

The Oudaya Kasbah is a haven of tranquillity, with its flower-filled little streets, Andalusian garden and Moroccan café. The Oudaya gateway is built of dressed stone and is regarded as one of the jewels of Moroccan art. Most of the remains still to be seen date back to the 12th century, and the kasbah contains Rabat's oldest mosque. Its minaret, adorned with small decorative arabesques, is most probably the work of one of the first Almoravid sovereigns. From the ocean side of the old semaphore-station platform at the end of the main street, you can enjoy superb panoramic views over Sale and the Bouregreg Estuary.



Architecture from the days of the Protectorate

In the kasbah's main square, a warehouse built in the late 18th century now accommodates a cooperative where you can watch girls at work weaving carpets.

The Oudaya museum was renovated in 1995 and is housed in a residence built for Moulay Ismail between 1672 and 1694, and in which the sultan stayed during his visits to Rabat.

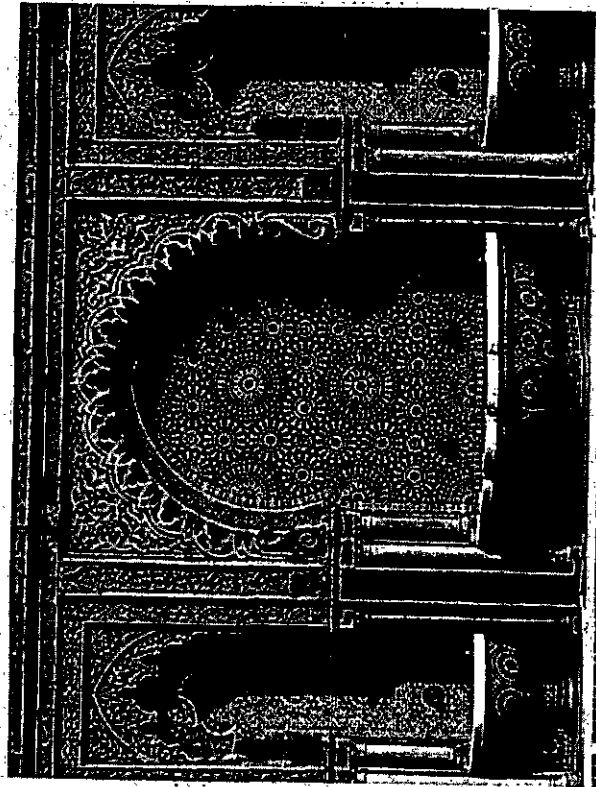
The museum exhibits rich and varied collections of jewellery, testimony to the extraordinary expertise of Moroccan craftsmen.

The medinas

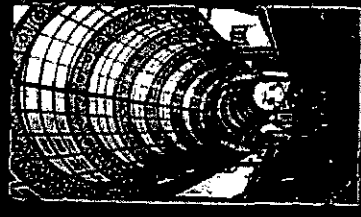
It takes its name from the Muslims who were chased out of Spain in 1492. Passing through the Andalusian wall, you find yourself in rue Souqia between two rows of shops selling traditional crafts. Rue Souqia-Sabat is an extension of rue Souqia and is a district of dealers in fine leather goods, fabric sellers and bazars. Along with these two streets, rue des Corvées is the busiest in the medina. It is lined with craftsmen's workshops and fabric and carpet-sellers' stalls, and on Thursday mornings, you can witness the Khazi carpet auction. Narrow little alleyways have the habit of opening out on to squares specialising in leather goods, ironware and woven fabrics - markets within the market. In such hidden islands of activity, the craftspeople work according to traditional methods and the atmosphere is always warm and welcoming.



Avenue Mohammed V



Mohammed V Mohammed V Avenue



In the medina Casbah

If you can't drive, the only way to get to the heart of the city is by walking. The medina is a maze of narrow streets, and it's easy to get lost. From the 17th century onwards, the medina's architecture was heavily influenced by the Andalusians, who brought with them their own style of building. The medina is a living museum, and it's easy to see why. The architecture is so beautiful, and the atmosphere is so warm and welcoming. The medina is a place where you can see the best of Moroccan culture, and it's a place where you can experience the life of the people who live there. The medina is a place where you can see the best of Moroccan culture, and it's a place where you can experience the life of the people who live there.

Rabat, a capital city with its face to the future

City of the future

A symbol of the Kingdom's renewed vitality, Rabat is a destination of choice thanks to its top-quality tourist infrastructures, conference centres, restaurants, relaxation areas, beaches, sports facilities and nightlife. On the Corniche, you can sit in the shade on one of the many restaurant terraces and enjoy a delicious lunch facing the ocean.

Resolute in its modernity, Rabat is implementing large-scale projects to make city life pleasant and easy. The development of the mouth of the River Bouregreg is a case in point and will result in the appearance of new tourist and residential districts, with creation of further entertainment, relaxation and shopping facilities. The river it-

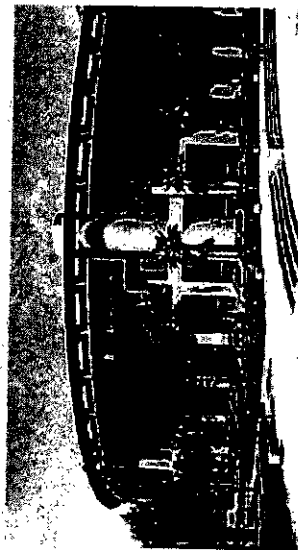
self is a major player in the city's life, providing a whole new range of leisure activities - cruises, restaurants, and excursions along its banks, not to mention its top-of-the-line yachting harbour for sailing enthusiasts.

To make travelling around the city easier, construction of two tramway lines with a total length of 22 km is underway, and new road infrastructures have been launched, including the new Rabat-Salé bridge, the tunnel, and the bypass.

The Kingdom's capital will soon be housing modern ecological gardens meeting all international standards. Apart from its major mission of conservation of endangered species, the zoo will be a centre for recreation and leisure activities.



A new town fully equipped with modern infrastructures



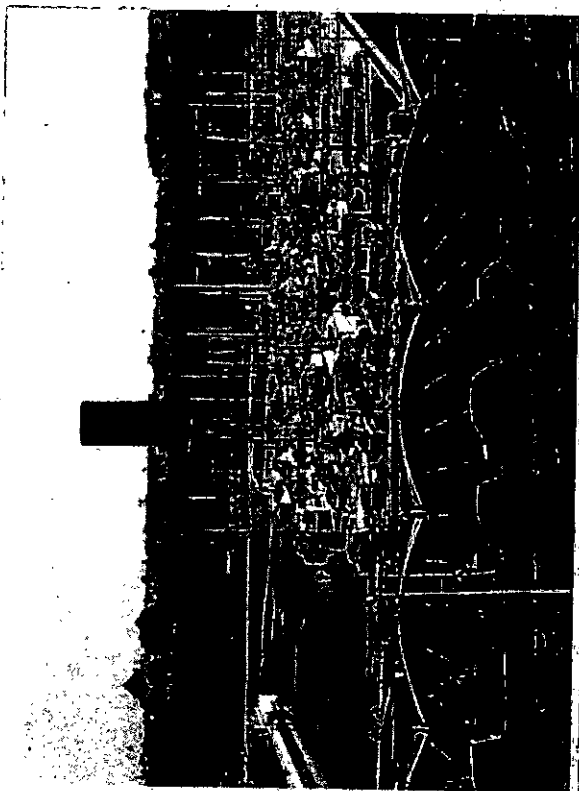
Finally, the Corniche running along Rabat's Atlantic coast has much on offer to attract visitors.

Prestigious hotels, fine residences and business towers will soon be changing the face of the city, and other leisure facilities are planned for to meet your every expectation, including a major shopping mall, cinemas, fitness clubs and a water theme park. The new Corniche will be the administrative capital of a tourist destination without parallel.

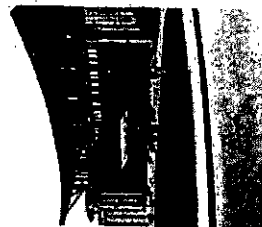
A peaceful and harmonious city, Rabat is also a student town, and its university district, the "city of

knowledge", contains a wide range of faculties, higher educational establishments and research institutes that attract thousands of students from Morocco and abroad.

Rabat boasts 230 hectares of green spaces apart from the 1063-hectare Maamora Forest. Thanks to its countless gardens, such as the Ibn Sina Forest, and the Babouch, Triangle de Vieux Esais and Oudaya gardens (to mention only a few of the largest), Rabat was proclaimed a "Green City" at international level on Earth Day in April 2010.



The Bou Regreg marina

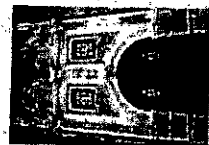


Palais des Congrès, Salé



The Arabidopsis garden and the Outage Exhibit

Rbati craftwork - excellence and sophistication



A door typical of the Rbati tradition

From traditional crafts to ultra-modern shopping malls, via stores selling international luxury brand names, Rabat provides a thousand and one ways to go shopping.

Craftwork

Rbati craftwork is renowned for its fineness, with expertise inherited from Andalusian tradition. Rabat is a national centre for a range of traditional skills. In the medina, the old districts in which craftsmen's corporations once flourished remain places of exchange and meeting points for people and civilisations. You must go and find the craftsman in his workshop - you won't just be

taking an artefact home with you, but also the memory of its creation.

The traditional Rbati carpet

This is an "urban" carpet, in contrast to the rural carpets woven in the Atlas Mountains. Fine in texture, with short-pile wool and often red in colour, the centre is decorated with a lozenge scattered with floral motifs. A knot carpet made by women, the Rabat variety has gained a reputation equalling that of Oriental carpets. There are close to 6000 weaving looms in operation in the region, either in craftwork co-operatives or in the hands of individual producers.



The Rbati carpet tradition



Salé pottery

Embroidery

Rbati embroidery is the domain of women, who practice their art on the traditional fabrics of cotton, linen and silk. They work in small groups, immobilising the section they are embroidering in screwed-down wooden frames. "Rabat" embroidery contains flat-stitched multicoloured floral motifs.

Salé pottery

Second only to carpet making, pottery making is regarded as one of the region's oldest activities. Pieces of pottery have been discovered that date back to the earliest centuries of the Muslim era and to Roman times.



The delicate touch of Rbati embroidery

Traditional know-how has been on the move since the opening of the El Oulja craftwork complex in Salé. Over sixty Oulja potters are at work competing with one another in ingenuity, adapting their products to today's tastes without robbing them of their authenticity - colourful faïences, miniature ornaments, decorative vases, lamps - you name it!

Activities in the city

The Dar Es Salam Royal Golf Club, Rabat - a challenge not to be ignored

Rabat's Dar Es Salam Royal Golf Club has become a legend among golf enthusiasts everywhere. It is here that the world famous Hassan II Trophy is held. The majestic course was designed by Robert Trent Jones and inaugurated in 1971, its splendid fairways making their way among eucalyptus, palm trees, hyacinth, narcissi, minnows, papyrus and Roman columns.

All along the course, columns and animals mingle to create a truly unique playing experience. Open all year round, the Dar Es Salam Royal Golf Club has three different circuits on offer, ensuring that amateurs and professionals alike can enjoy playing to the best of their ability. With its legendary and altogether magical course, Rabat's Royal Golf Club has gained international recognition as part of the European Tour, one of the two most prestigious professional golf tours in the world.



The Hassan II Trophy

Created in 1971 by the King whose name it bears, the Hassan II Trophy rapidly became an unmissable rendezvous for professional and amateur golfers who wanted to put their skills to the test. Such world famous players as Billy Casper, Santiago Luna, Payne Stewart, Colin Montgomerie and Vijay Singh have all left their mark on the tournament.

The Trophy goes side by side with a tournament for women players, the Princess Lalla Meryem Cup, which is a stage in the Ladies European Tour. The Hassan II Trophy and the Lalla Meryem Cup keep their separate identities as they are included in professional competitions. Encounters between amateur golfers, such as the Friendship Cup during which celebrities play exhibitions, are always organised alongside official competitions.



The Dar Es Salam Royal Golf Club

Sport à la carte

Rabat has a whole range of physical activities on offer for you to enjoy. On its beaches, there is no lack of clubs hiring out equipment and dispensing lessons preparing you to confront the waves in style, whether you choose surfing, sailboarding, jetting, sea kayaking or pedal-boating.

If you're enamoured of the great wide open, what better than to gallop the Atlantic beaches, among dunes of fine sand or through forests of age-old oak trees? Rabat's riding clubs will help you organise horseback treks suited to your skills. Or if you like a bit of competition, how about a game of polo, trying your hand at obstacle-jumping or taking part in a horse show? If you're looking for thrills, the Saleh As-rochub and the Oulfa sites make perfect settings for seeing how well you can handle light or sports aircraft, as well

as for paragliding and deltaplaning. Tennis is also a favourite sport in Rabat, which boasts a dozen or so clubs hosting national and international tournaments all year round.

Relaxation and lazing the day away

Rabat is also a top-quality well-being destination. The city abounds in hammams, traditional and modern alike. These "Moorish baths" comprise a series of steam rooms at different temperatures and dispensing a whole range of massages and body and beauty treatments. In addition, the last few years have seen the appearance of numbers of magnificent spas, combining all the benefits of water, traditional beauty care treatments, and the latest techniques to get you back on tip-top form.



Each year, Rabat hosts the "Week of the Hammam" at Dar Es Salam Royal Golf Club

Salé, the twin sister



Arab-Andalusian architecture: the medina Bou Inania in Salé

The splendours of Salé

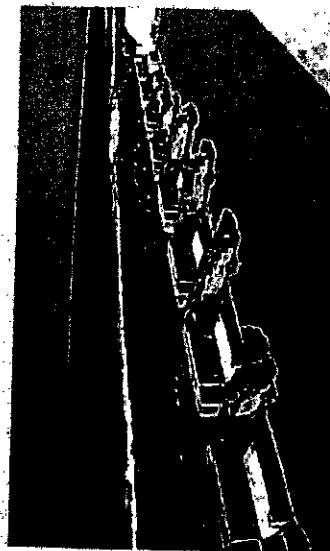
The city may be regarded as the capital's twin sister, but it possesses a culture and identity that are all its own. Its glorious past as a pirate republic is increasingly evident with every step you take. Once within the walls that guarded Salé against attack by Spanish buccanniers in bygone days, you find yourself walking through an authentic medina, its narrow little streets covered with thuya wood.

From Souk Al-Ghazal square, the auction market to Souk El-Mercoui, which specialises in jewellery, visitors wander from stall to stall in wonder. On the city's heights stand the great mosque and the Salé medina. The mosque was originally built in the 11th century, and was renovated and enlarged in 1196 by Sultan Yacoub El Mansour, who provided it with a majestic minaret and a monumental doorway, decorated with lalled arches sculpted from Salé stone. The for-

mer Koranic school, the medersa, is now a museum. Its courtyard is a fine example of the sophistication of Hispano-Moorish art, with the convoluted geometrical patterns of its ceramic marquetry and its finely sculpted stuccowork. A stairway takes you up to the roof, where the terrace provides fine views over Salé and the Bouregreg, with the Hassan Tower in the background.

The candle procession

Every year on the eve of Mawlid (the Prophet's birthday), Salé dons its finest attire for the candle procession. Decorated floats parade through the city streets bearing the thirteen candles originally carried by the gentlemen who once ferried people back and forth across the Bouregreg. The procession has been organised for the last four centuries by a renowned religious brotherhood, the Zaouia El Hassounia.



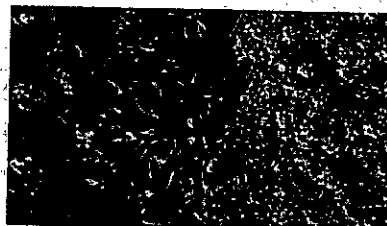
The entrance of Bou Inania medina, Salé



View over the Sidi Boughaba Reserve

The Bouknadel Exotic Gardens

A marvellously colourful journey around the world - natural gardens drawing inspiration from Brazil, Polynesia, Mexico, Andalusia and Peru. Rehabilitation of the Bouknadel Exotic Gardens in 2005 was carried out in full respect of the original project created in the early 1950s, and it's a real pleasure to visit them and discover the countless different species that flourish in the 14 gardens, and to wander along the mazes of footpaths, across suspended bridges and footbridges, observing the birds in their aviary and the fish and reptiles in the vivarium.



The Bouknadel Gardens

The Sidi Boughaba Reserve

The Sidi Boughaba Reserve is one of Morocco's most beautiful wild life sanctuaries, comprising 450 hectares of forestland including a lake covering

over 200 hectares. More than 210 plant species flourish there - red junipers, oleasters, imatitic trees, bulrushes and yellow irises, to name only a few... A wide variety of animal species is also to be encountered in the reserve, including hares, shrews, weasels, chameleons and over 205 species of birds.

Plages des Nations and de Mehdi
The two beaches, Plage des Nations and Plage de Mehdi, are located almost 25 km north of Rabat and are the birthplace of Moroccan surfing. Today one of the most active surfing and bodyboarding schools in the Kingdom dispenses lessons there. Nothing remains of the Mehdi kasbah except its surrounding wall, built by the Spanish in the early 17th century, and the monumental gateway called by Sultan Moulay Ismail.

The region

Beaches to dream of
South of Rabat, beaches reaching as far as Bouznika provide endless stretches of sand, while a little further south, a series of fine sandy beaches begins at the town of Temara.

Starting with El Harhoura beach, with its own microclimate and neighbouring forest, then on to Sidi Al Abed beach, Grand Val d'Or, Petit Val d'Or and Sables d'Or - each one of them as beautiful as its neighbour and equipped with all the necessary infrastructure (garages, areas, restaurants and first-aid posts), guaranteeing you a perfect day at the seaside.



A fishing boat in Sidi Al Abed beach

Both much prized by surfers, Sidi Al Abed and Bouznika beaches are famed for their impressive waves and are also ideal for fishing. A wide variety of Atlantic fish, including bass and bream, are put on sale at the Sidi Al Abed morning auction. Along the beach, facing the sea, a row of pretty little bungalows stands just a few metres from the royal palace and the beach's luxury hotels.

The Mamora Forest

Cork oaks and Eucalyptus flourish in the Mamora Forest north of Rabat a



The Mamora Forest



Hotel infrastructures at Sidi Al Abed

nature destination ideal for discovery on foot and picnicking in the shade of its trees. With its richly diversified natural reserves, it constitutes a major national forestland heritage.

The region's lakes

In the enchanting surroundings of the town of Khemisset lie the Dayet Roumi lakes, among the most beautiful in the region and developed for tourism. You can enjoy a range of water sports on them and they also provide good fishing. The lakes are a major draw for fishing enthusiasts and a highly recommended destination for anyone in search of fresh air and relaxation.



Alhasser's paradise
30 km east of Rabat, the rural region of Ain Aouda and Zammour Zaou is a paradise for hunting enthusiasts, nature lovers and fishermen. A forest covering hundreds of hectares, along with a remarkable variety of fauna (including wild boar, pheasants, hares and turkeys) and flora attracts large numbers every year at the opening of the hunting season.

Information and useful addresses

Informations Pratiques

Entry formalities

A valid passport for a stay of less than 90 days is required. An identity card may suffice, depending on country of origin, if the trip is organized by a travel agency for a group of over 8 people. A visa is required for some nationalities - enquire at a Moroccan consulate or diplomatic representation in your country. No specific vaccinations are required for entry into the Kingdom of Morocco. If you are bringing your pet along with you, however, you will need to be able to produce an anti-rabies certificate less than 6 months old.

Changing money:

Moroccan currency is the dirham, made up of 100 centimes. Foreign currency must be exchanged at banks or other accredited establishments.

Time zone:

Morocco is in the Greenwich time zone, and time is G.M.T.

Event Calendar:

May: *Musique Rhythm of the World Festival*
Mohamed VI International Athletics Meeting
 Moroccan Equestrian Trophy, Rabat
 June: *Week of the Horse*, Rabat
 Hassan II Golf Trophy, Rabat
 Chellah Jazz Festival
 July: *Karagana Festival*, Sale
 12 Rabia al Awd - Feast of Mouloud:
 "Fêtes des Cires" (Candle Festival), Sale

Useful addresses and contacts:

Moroccan National Tourist Office:
 Angle rue Oued El Makhazine et rue
 Zalega - Agdal
 Tel : 00 212 537 67 40 / 00 212 537 67 39 18
 Fax : 00 212 537 67 40 15

Moroccan National Tourist Office:
 22, rue d'Alger Hassan
 Tel : 00 212 537 66 06 63
 Fax : 00 212 537 72 59 91

Regional Tourist Office:
 C.R.I., 23, avenue de la Victoire
 Tel : 00 212 537 77 90 77
 Fax : 00 212 537 77 63 88

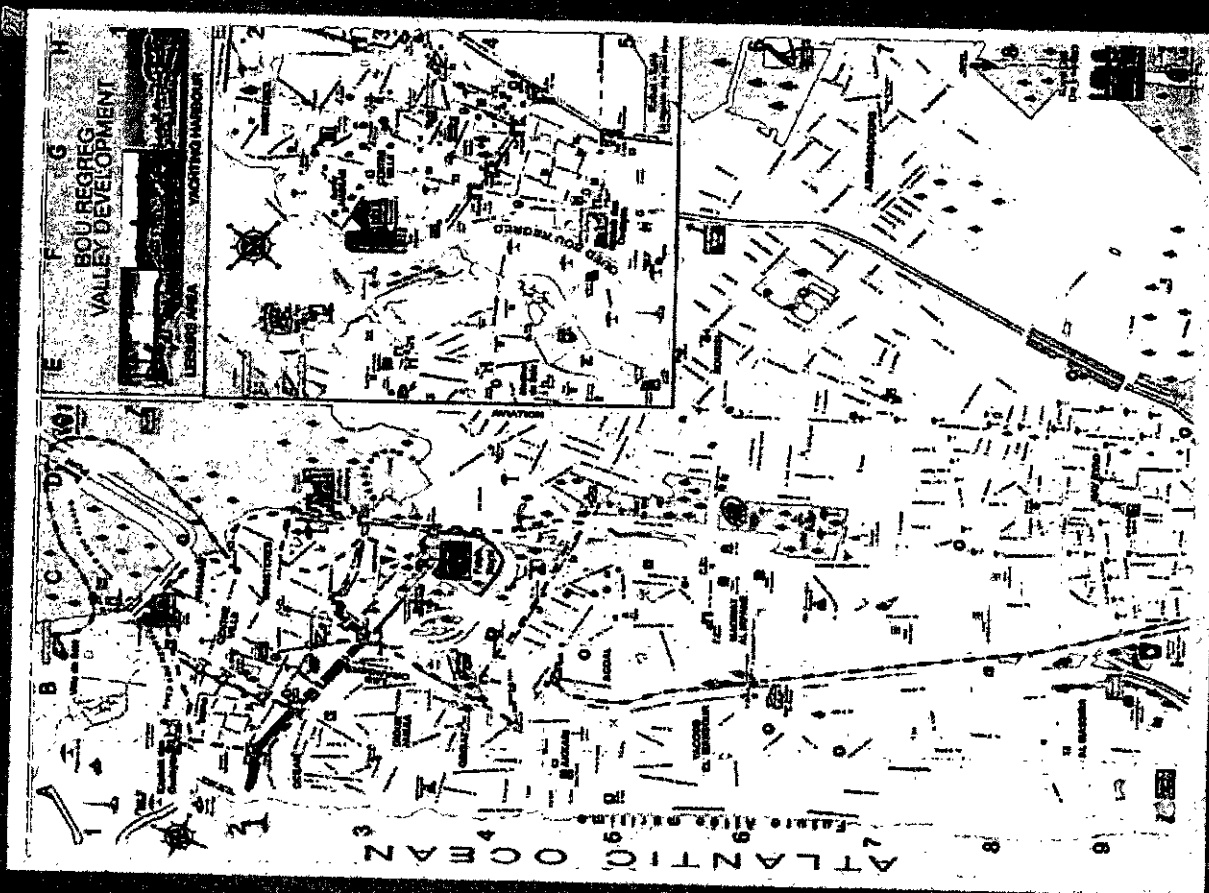
ONCF Railway station:
 Call Center : 00 212 8 90 20 30 40
 Website: www.oncf.ma

Airport:
 Call center : 00 212 8 90 00 08 00
 Golf: *Der Essalam Royal Golf*
 Website: www.golfdersalam.com

Weather Forecast : www.meteo.ma
Office des Changes
 (Currency Regulator Authority):
www.oc.gov.ma

Emergency phone numbers:
 Police 19
 Fire Brigade 160
 Directory enquiries 160
 Road safety services 177

For further information: www.visitmorocco.com





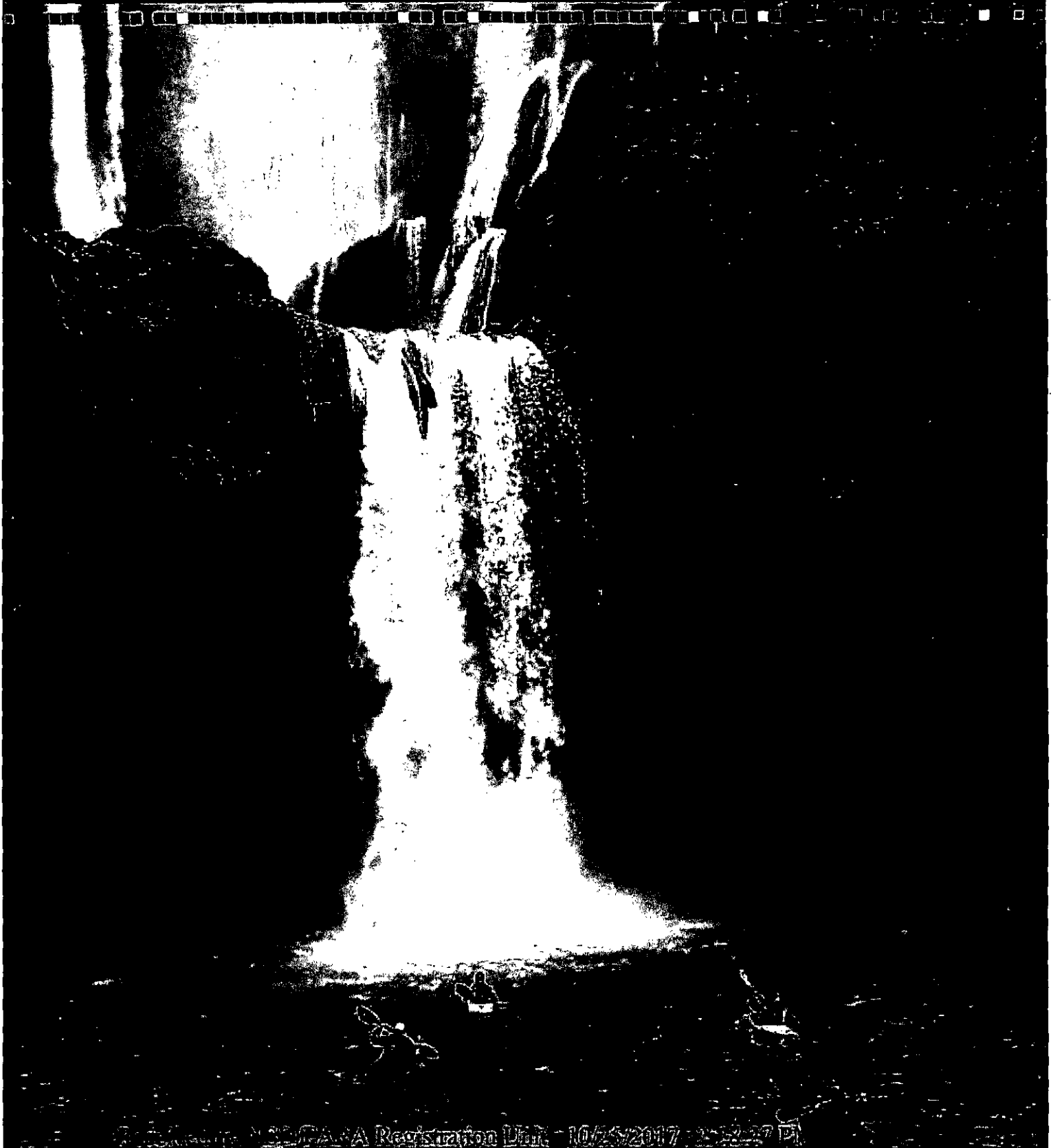
MOROCCAN NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICE

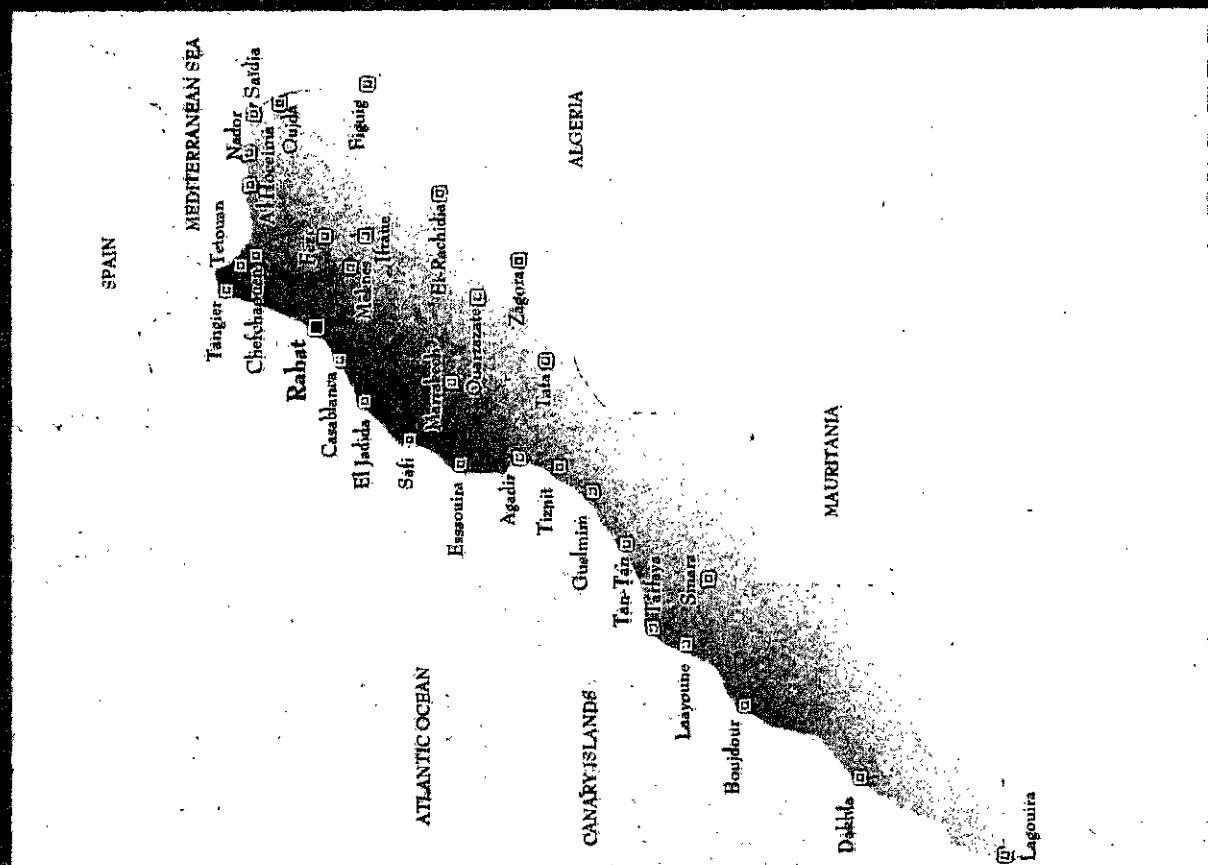
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Nature & Adventure

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Nature & Adventure



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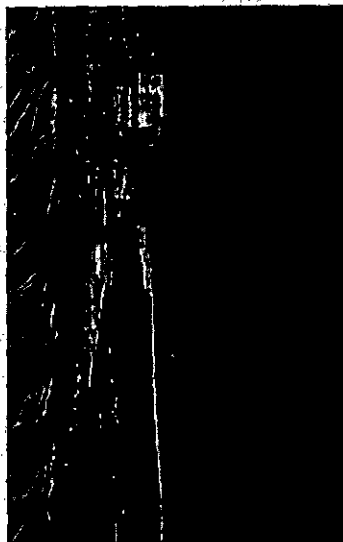
Editorial



A sign back on the Mediterranean coast

Morocco, land of nature and adventure. Few countries in the world are blessed with as much diversity as Morocco. Diversity of geology and landscapes, of flora and fauna, of humanity and of cultural heritages. From the Atlas to the Rif, from the Atlantic coastline to the shores of the Mediterranean, from fine sandy beaches to isolated rocky creeks, and from the great golden dunes of the South to luxuriant green oases - in Morocco, nature has let her imagination run wild.

A land of a thousand faces, changing with every season; a land where dreams are lived and where the ancient traditions of the Orient prosper; a land for fresh encounters and new sensations; a land where hospitality reigns supreme - Morocco will not fail to amaze all those curious enough to venture off the beaten track to discover its true nature.



Dunes near Tangier

Taking to the heights

A land of mountains

Morocco and its mountain. In the North, the majestic Rif rises steeply from Tangier in the east to the western of the Rif tribes on the Algerian border, a chain reaching 2000 metres in height, overlooking a succession of sun-soaked coastal towns. Its slopes dotted with magnificent isolated villages. Yet more impressive, the Atlas Mountains, with their snow-capped peaks, traverse the Kingdom from north to south, their name bringing to mind the Greek myth of the titan Atlas, condemned by Zeus to hold up the heavens forever on his shoulders. Nicknamed the "roof of Morocco", this is the highest range in North Africa, and separates Saharan Morocco from Atlantic and Mediterranean Morocco.



Height of pleasure.

Adventure calling!

Morocco's mountains are an irresistible invitation to sports lovers and nature lovers alike. In summer, exploration of their slopes can take the form of mountain-like trekking, rafting the rivers that course through their landscapes, or hang-gliding from their giddy heights. In winter, the right gear quickly becomes the order of the day and hard sports such as skiing and snow surfing make an ideal complement to more arduous excursions into the wild. The more battle-hardened can pit themselves against the slopes, climbing their summits up on to the "roof of Morocco" to enjoy breathtaking views of the land far below them.



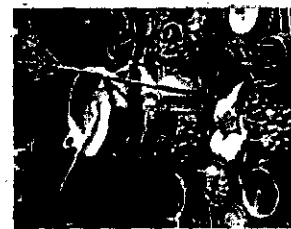
Providing, for beginner and professional alike, is another way of discovering Morocco's natural diversity.

Seen from the skies

Extreme sports fans can try their hand at parachuting. A small aerodrome near Beni Mellal welcomes beginners and old hands alike, and you can make your first jump (from 4000 metres) with an expert to accompany you on the way down.

A genuine welcome

The beauty of the landscapes is perfectly matched by the authenticity of the welcome you receive - the one



a feast for the eyes, the other a joy to the heart. Whatever you choose to stay in a hotel, a guesthouse or a gite, or to lodge with one of the locals, you'll find yourself in warmly welcoming and comfortable surroundings, with the right equipment available and professional guides on hand to help you discover the rich natural heritage awaiting you wherever you may be, and the best places to stop and rest a while over a good meal.

The legendary Atlas Mountains

The High Atlas

This is Morocco's highest massif, with the majestic Jbel Toubkal standing at over 4167 metres above sea level. It forms an immense natural barrier some 750 km in length, its abrupt slopes rising away from the green valleys in their folds - mountains that have resisted the passage of time and have preserved their natural splendour and the age-old civilisation that makes them its home. Board sports enthusiasts will delight in Oubaimeden, which, set at an altitude of over 2650 metres, is Africa's highest ski resort.

Curiosity

Over 2000 five-millennia-old rock carvings are to be found on sandstone slabs scattered around the village of Oubaimeden and on the Yagout Plateau. An unforgettable visit! Oued Ouzoud, near Beni Mellal, is born of the convergence of several mountain rivulets, and plunges from a height of over 110 metres to the bottom of a lush green abyss strewn with limestone rocks. The mist of spray arising from the rocks creates a permanent rainbow, along with which the thundering waters and luxuriant vegetation combine to create a truly breathtaking spectacle - the magnificent Ouzoud Waterfall, one of the most



The Ouzoud waterfalls

remarkable natural attractions in the Middle Atlas! Its old walls are ideal for a refreshing bath, and its surroundings provide plenty of scope for rambling through unspoilt countryside inhabited by monkeys and a wealth of wildlife.

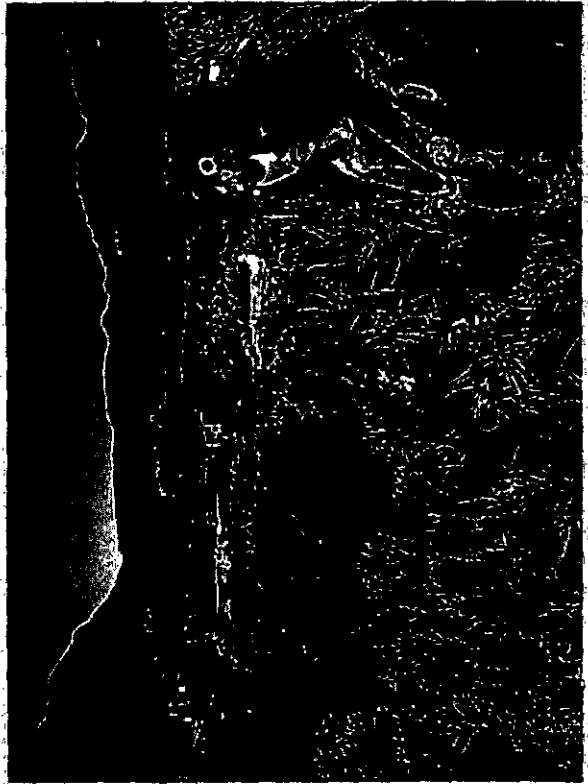
The Middle Atlas

The Middle Atlas range stretches for 350 km between the Rif and the High Atlas. Its great biodiversity, and its springs, superb lakes and delightful little villages make it a paradise for nature lovers and those in search of new worlds - a wonderland of age-old cedar woods, cherry groves, orchards and vineyards, easily accessible to one and all, and one of the Kingdom's most rewarding regions to explore.

Curiosity

The Middle Atlas Mountains present many features of geological and morphological interest, but it is their lakes above all that make them so remarkable. Making the tour is an unforgettable experience, taking you through wild mountain landscapes, high green plateaus, and vast stretches of forested olive with Barbary apricot. Most Middle Atlas lakes are to be found in the region around Beni Mellal, Khentia, and Ifrane.

Leaving the town of Ifrane, you drive 17 km along the Imouzzer Kanter road, and then turn right on to the lakes road. Morocco's most famous lake is undoubtedly Dail Arusi, followed by Agoumane Azegga, which is the Barber for "green lake", and Agoumane Sidi Ali (best to mention a couple of the larger). In the Oum Radda Valley, the springs of the same name form waterfalls, gushing down the limestone cliff faces. Regular in flow and alive with trout, they join up with Oued Fudjat and Oued Qum Rida to form Morocco's longest river, which goes on to make its arduous journey to Azemmour on the Atlantic coast.



Immense Jbel Oubaimeden. Even in the remotest villages, Moroccan hospitality is a feature that never dies

The Anti-Atlas

The Anti-Atlas Mountains form a junction between the High Atlas and the Sahara, their peaks reaching between 2400 and 3300 metres above sea level, and overlooking the coast of the Draa and Dades Valleys. Original trails around the magnificent Djebel Saguen and the Ennoua volcano reveal ancient vast stretches of desert with deep study valleys. The region's Berber villages are as always a wonderful experience, both for their beauty and for the warm welcome you will receive from their inhabitants.

Curiosity
Their fortified granaries (known as "agadir" or "agrim") are the villages' common property, and were used to store



Peaceful granaries in the Agadir region

The riches of the Atlas

Over 4000 spectacular species exist in Morocco, including the superb plant life which grows in the heights of the Atlas Mountains.

That most majestic of cedar trees, the Atlas cedar, grows only in Morocco and often reaches heights of 40 metres and more, its fragrant and highly resistant wood much prized by craftsmen. It is also known for its longevity: the famous Gournal Cedar in the Middle Atlas is over eight centuries old!

The internationally protected royal eagle, with its dark plumage and golden crest, makes its permanent home in Morocco. Don't forget to bring along your binoculars!



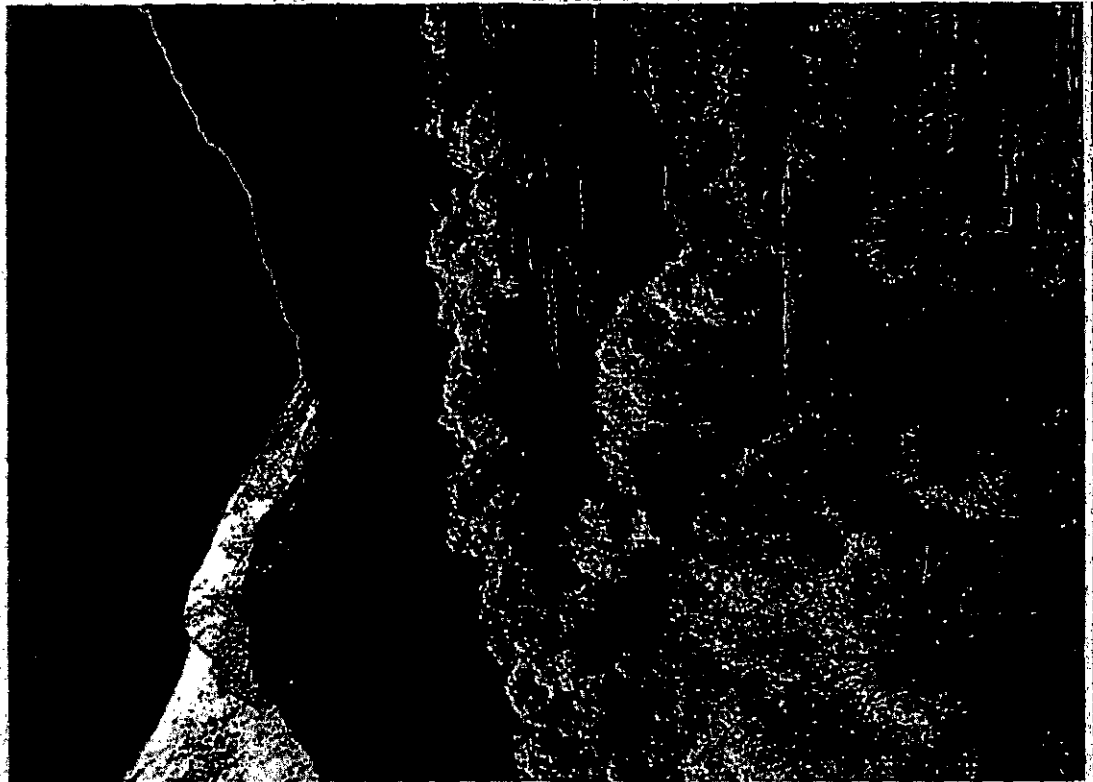
When you're in the Atlas forests, take the time to make the acquaintance of the Barbary ape - playful, curious, and greatly loved!



The Atlas cedars - a magnificent tree endemic to Morocco

The Barbary apes of the Middle Atlas are the only species of macaque to be found on the African continent, living mostly in the cedar groves of the Middle Atlas and the forests of the High Atlas.

With fully equipped resorts in the Middle Atlas, at Michlifen near Ifrane and at Jbel Hach, and in the High Atlas, at Oukaimeden, skiing enthusiasts can have the time of their lives throughout the winter season. It's also possible to combine a bracing climb up the M'Goun Massif with a descent of the same on skis when there's enough snow on the ground. Whatever the season, all three Atlas resorts are ideal destinations for ramblers and climbers - and, in spring, for sailing enthusiasts as well.



Atlas cedars in Morocco at the foot of the Aures Atlas

The Rif Mountains, timeless and authentic

A surge with its feet in the water. With their undulating red and ochre green slopes, dotted with almond trees and plunging directly into the shimmering waters of the Mediterranean, the Rif Mountains have a charm all of their own. Here, only man and mule can reach some of the houses nestled in their hollows. And although their peaks may be of no great height, they offer the explorer a wealth of wonders to discover - waterfalls, isolated crabs, flower-filled gardens, pine and cedar forests, and views to take your breath away... All the joys of walking and climbing combined with the joys of bathing in sun-drenched beaches and of discovering towns and villages of spellbinding beauty, such as Chefchaouen, Al Hoceima and Cala Iria, or the lush fishing ports of Mily, Jableh, Oued Loun and Ras el Ma.

Chefchaouen, an uncut diamond

Remote from the world at large, Chefchaouen, with its old medina

of white and blue houses, is a model of authenticity. Founded in the 16th century by Arabs fleeing from Spain, the town was long forbidden to Christians. Its remarkable religious heritage includes no less than 20 mosques, 11 zaouias and 17 mausoleums. The old fortified city standing above the town is marvellously preserved, as its streets are too narrow for cars. A wide range of mountain trails are on offer with this picturesque little spot as a starting point.

Curiosity

The "Bridge of God" is a natural work of art, a majestic rock arch, 25 metres high, spanning the Oued Farda, just a few kilometres from Chefchaouen in the Talassantane Nature Park. You get to it along a steep, well signposted mountain road which then takes you on to a waterfall where you can enjoy a refreshing bath in pure, icy cold waters.

A street in Chefchaouen



Unspoiled and authentic, the Rif is a region of delightful high villages and magnificent natural landscapes



The Bridge of God - a natural work of art

The riches of the Rif

The carob tree grows natively in the Rif Mountains, and can live for up to five hundred years. Its fruit is used in the food industry, for making ice cream and pastries.

In Morocco, the almond tree is second only to the olive tree. Over 16 million almond trees grow in the Kingdom, the largest numbers in the Al Hoceima region.

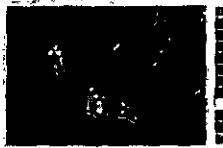
Fig trees are mostly to be found in the Taoudite region near Al Hoceima and Chelouquen. Their fruit is much appreciated, especially when dried.

Fig trees cover over 3500 hectares of the Chelouquen region, which is the largest reserve in the Kingdom. The same is true of the cedar tree, which

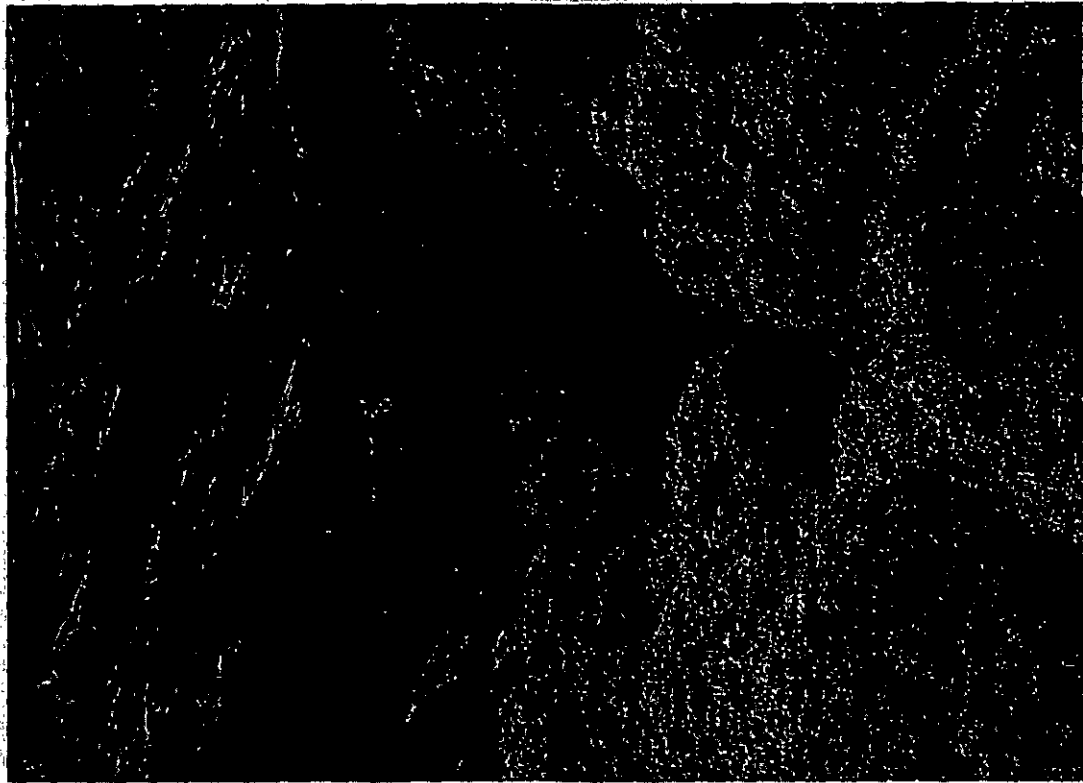
requires plenty of light and water, and which forms vast forests in the Rif massif at altitudes of over 1500 metres. Green oaks and pine trees grow at the foot of the slopes.

The Rif region is particularly popular with hunters, as it is home to a wide variety of game, including wild boar, foxes, partridges, hares and rabbits. Other species definitely not for hunting also live there peacefully, such as royal eagles, brooded eagles, Barbary apes, mountain goats and gazelles.

A fine selection of wild mushrooms is those for the picking in wet, tree-shaded areas, the most sought after being the chanterelle, the cep, the morel and the trompe-de-mort.



Endangered species such as the royal eagle are protected in the Rif Mountains, being and reproducing there in the depths of action in the region



The steep valleys and mountainsides of the Rif are covered with flowers and other plants in the early spring

The draw of the desert



Land of adventure, the
Mojave desert promises
its rugged traditions and
way of life.

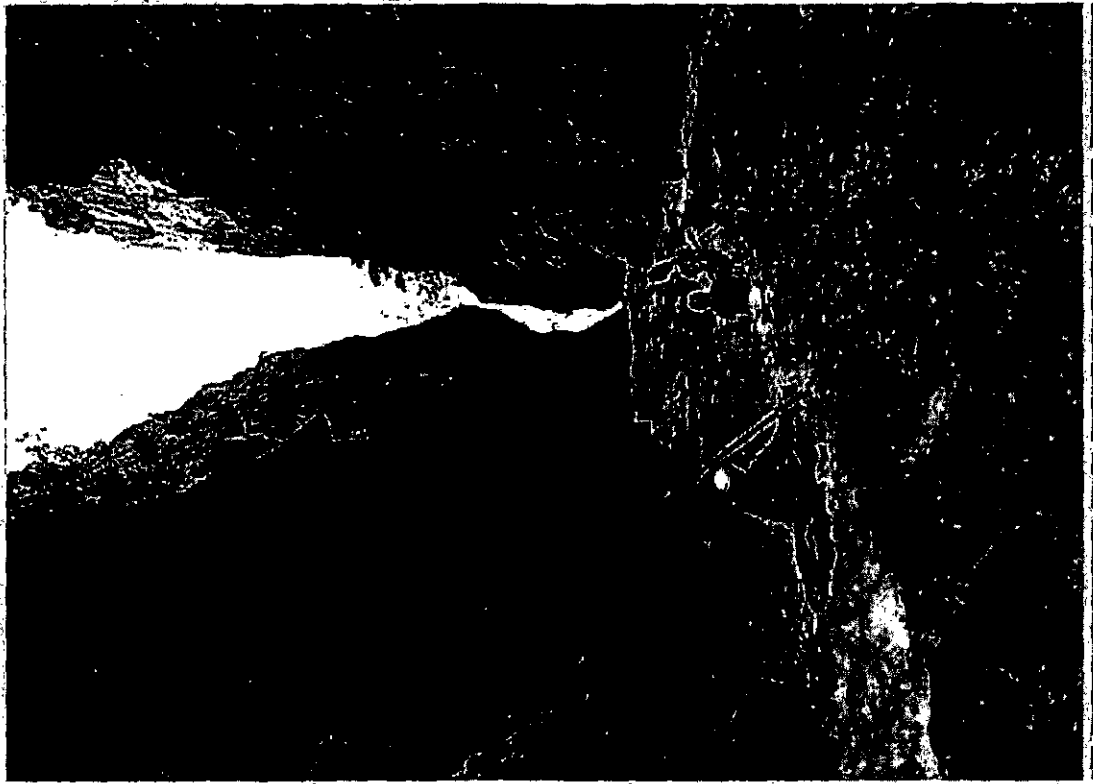
Leave the stresses and strains of everyday life far behind you and set off in discovery of your true self, at one with nature and living life in the footsteps of the Blue Men, on camellack, on foot, by four-wheel drive or by quad. Leave the comfort of your armchair for a few days and trust yourself to an experience you will never forget—a real human adventure!

There is nothing like a stay in the desert if you really want a change of scenery. And south of the Atlas Mountains, the world's largest desert, the Sahara, awaits you. River valleys, tiny villages, oases, and the great dunes of the ergs—the Moroccan desert is everything except monotonous!



We recommend that you take a guide along with you. He will be specially trained to lead expeditions into these mystery-laden landscapes, and, knowing where the most spectacular views are to be found and the customs and traditions of the peoples who live there, will help you discover the full wonder of this magical world.

The desert is within your reach! But here again, trust the official guides, who will give you all the information you need with regard to practicalities, types of accommodation, and what will be required of you in physical terms.



Refining and arranging are very popular sports in the pages of the Mojave Deep South

Living the Touareg life



Every year the village of Kount Hogoma celebrates the rose harvest

Alone in the dunes

A range of tents is on offer at the gateway to the desert. Complemented by visits to local cooperatives, informal oases around campsites and the discovery of local dunes, they are suitable for all ages and appetites. If you want to venture a little further, camelback excursions follow in the footsteps of the Touaregs, the Blue Men of the desert. There is no lack of magical sights to see and in the course of a single day you can travel through such luxuriant landscapes as the oasis of Siouara and come face to face with the great golden sand dunes of Merouaga.

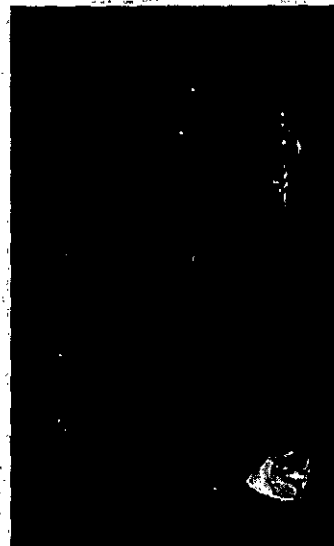
On the oasis trail

Whether you leave from Marabach or from Ouzazale, five-wheel drive

tours will take you through some of the most breath-taking scenery in the deep south. The road of a thousand Kasbahs, the Draa and Dades Valleys, the Valley of Roses, M'hamid El Ghilane, Enfoud, the Cheggaga dunes, Fingit — itineraries leading you wonderstruck from valley to erg and from gorge to oasis.

A thousand and one stars

Bivouacking in the desert and witnessing the sun rising and setting over the dunes is an unforgettable experience indeed! Out here, the night sky is ink black, and you can see the stars as you can nowhere else. Nomad camps can be mobile or fixed, for yet greater comfort.



Counting the golden flames in sunset will return you back to the depth of the wilderness

The riches of the desert



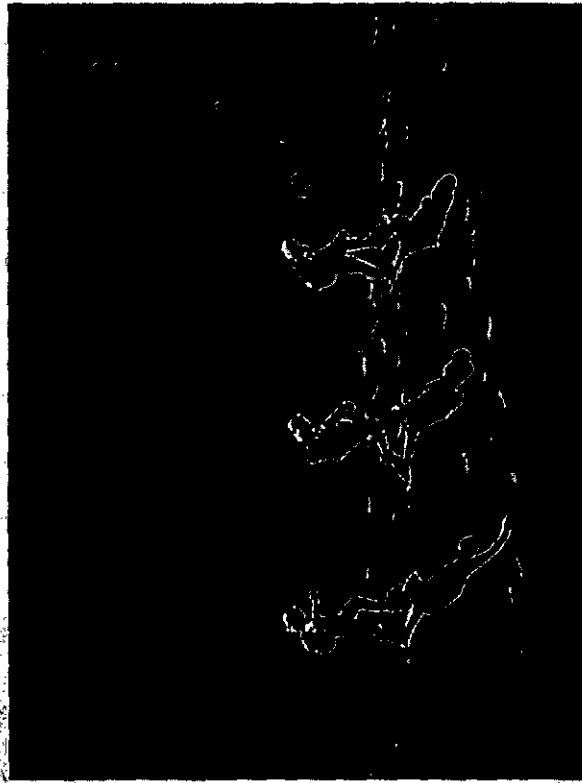
Erfoud's fossil bones attract to the deep desert the region for underwriter

Erfoud's fossil stones are over 350,000 years old, and are one of the unique features of the Moroccan Deep South. Local craftsmen sculpt them to create everything from simple pendants to finely worked fountain basins.

The Moroccan Deep South, land of a thousand palm groves, is the kingdom of the date. Those around Erfoud, a little town in the heart of the Tafilalet region, where since 800/900 date palms grow, are famed throughout the world, thanks to the annual October museum held there to celebrate the harvesting of this "gold of the desert".

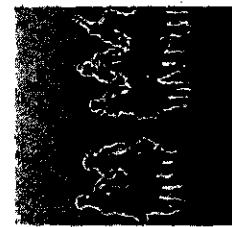
The dromedary makes an ideal companion on any journey into the desert. It is resistant to high temperatures, and can walk in the sand without sinking in - despite its 700 kilos! Its single hump is composed of fat, serving the animal well as an energy reserve.

In the early 1960s, the nomadic tribes of the Moroccan South, who had the habit of coming together once a year in Tan-Tan, decided to turn their annual meeting into a museum. Since that time, it has become a major festival and on occasion for cultural, economic, and social



The Marathon des Sables is a unique sporting event bringing together the finest and most dedicated runners every year

exchange, taking place over a week in the month of September. The Tan-Tan Museum celebrates traditional forms of entertainment and music, and a wide selection of craftswork is on sale there - along with camels, naturally! In 2005, in order to preserve the authentic nature of this remarkable event, UNESCO listed it as a Masterpiece of World Oral and cultural Heritage.



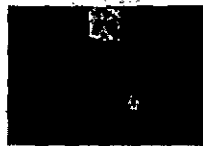
Taking the desert at a run? It may sound crazy, but that's exactly what participants in the Marathon des Sables attempt on a yearly basis in the Moroccan Deep South, with temperatures running as high as 50° and over! Runners must carry their own food and cover a distance of around 240 km in six days. For seasoned athletes only!

A dip in the Big Blue

Bathing, yachting, diving, or simply lazing away the day – the calm warm waters of the Mediterranean Sea are as ideal for all manner of water sports as they are for relaxing by and getting yourself back on form.

Located 50 km from Tifouan, set between river and sea beside a beach at the mouth of the oued whose name it bears, Oued Laou is a little village famous for its pottery. It makes an ideal departure point for visits to the gorges and waterfalls of Oued Laou, and to the Tidessemane National Park in the Rif Mountains.

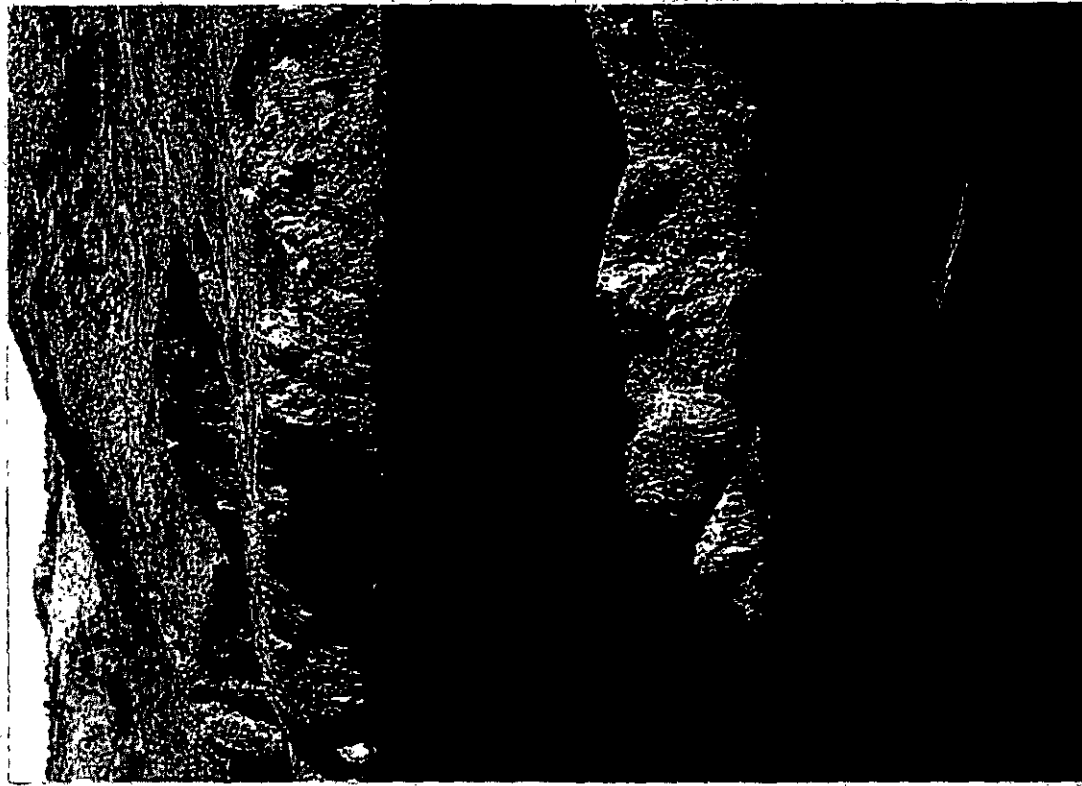
A little fishing port clinging to the mountain slopes and beyond the reach of passing time, the village of El Jebel lives to the rhythm of the boats that come and go. Here, the men fish by lantern, catching the fish that swim into the light. Nature has been beautiful here, endowing the area with



Tenacious water and occasional sunshine – the Mediterranean Sea never fails to keep its promise

tranquil beaches, tracks and rivers, and sculpting an impressive cirque in the limestone alongside the sea. Keep an eye on the shore here – you may well be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the dolphins at play...

Looking down from its cliff top, Al Hossana looks watch over an immense nature park. Here, you can take away the day or set off to explore as you like – it's an ideal spot for either position! The town overlooks a bay fringed with unspoilt beaches and rocky inlets. Fine golden sands, shimmering blue seas, and cloudless skies add their magic to such bewitching landscapes as the high cliffs of the mountainous hinterland formed by the Bekkaya massif. Al Hossana's crystal clear waters harbour a rich variety of marine life, including several species of dolphins. And as you explore this neighbouring coastline, you'll also come across your fair share of flamingos and green woodpeckers...



The burgeoning marine life in the cradle of Northern Morocco makes for some fast-paced fishing expeditions

The discreet charm of the North Atlantic

Lagoons, fishing villages and traditional port towns - from Tangier to Safi, the Atlantic coast boasts a wealth of top-notch treasures remote from the Kingdom's major seaside resorts. Here, tranquillity and serenity are the order of the day.

Lateral highway between Tangier and Rabat, the town of Moulay Bousseghem boasts a magnificent lagoon surrounded by fine white sand. With dunes stretching as high as 60 metres, the coastline lends itself perfectly to the joys of hang-gliding, and is also ideal for wind surfing, wheel drive or quad trekking, and expeditions out to sea, either for a spot of diving or a round or two of sport fishing. Not far off, the Merja Zerga Nature Reserve is a paradise for migrating birds.



The Merja Zerga Nature Reserve is a refuge for migrating birds.



A peaceful little town set between river and ocean 70 km South of Casablanca, Azemmour is a perfect destination for anyone looking for a bit of peace, a quiet holiday, or a leisurely ramble along the banks of the Oum er Rbia river, or the golden sands of El Yacoubia beach.

A lagoon sheltered from the wind, a perfect cove of a beach, and oysters renowned by gourmets the world over - Casablanca has it all, a unique spot where nature is at its most beautiful and bewitching and where calm and serenity have real meaning. Situated halfway between Casablanca and Essaouira, the town is a favoured destination for water skiers, surfboarders, fishermen, windsurfers and diving enthusiasts.



The Moroccan coastline is ideal for all types of water sports, and amateurs and professionals alike are sure to enjoy it.

The South Atlantic, from trade winds to sea breezes

A wild coastline, sometimes adorned with fine sandy beaches, sometimes bordered by towering white cliffs, the shores of the South Atlantic see desert and ocean join forces in an endless succession of perfect surfing spots, each with its own unique character and its own special waves to conquer, and each offering board sports enthusiasts everything they could wish for.

A surfer's paradise!

Thousands of birds - some, like the famous bald eagle in danger of extinction - peacefully share the shoreline with surfers some from all corners of the globe. All types of water sports are practised here, and there is no lack of clubs offering introductory lessons in windsurfing, water-skiing,

surfing, kitesurfing, and sea-ascending. The coast is also a great place to explore on horseback, by mountain bike or - and why not inland? - On a small boat.

Saï has its face turned resolutely seawards - but it is above all its famous wave, a byword in the surfing world, that draws board-sports enthusiasts from every continent. Regular, rapid, and powerful, the Saï wave is celebrated for its ability to form a tube varying from 800 to 1000 metres in length. Professionals compare it to its South African and Australian rivals, and include it in the world's top ten surf spots. The setting and excellent wind conditions also attract wind and kitesurfing adepts.



SEA SURFING
Sailing, kitesurfing, windsurfing and windsurfing - any board sport imaginable is yours to enjoy on the picturesque beaches along Morocco's southern coastline.



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Giddy up and downing white waves - Taghazout's beach is famed for its beauty and of course for its wave.

Essaouira: Whether you're a board sports professional or simply an enthusiastic amateur, Essaouira has got golden sands awaiting you, along with eternal sunshine and, above all, wind - for this is a town where the trade winds blow. Natural surroundings as yet untamed, a wide variety of point breaks, reef breaks and beach breaks, and the human, spiritual and cultural richness of a region replete with history and energy - all combine to make Essaouira the legendary surf spot that it is.

Taghazout is the surfing village par excellence. Long straight waves and challenging beach breaks alternate along

this stretch of coastline, an unmissable destination for surfers of all levels, from beginners to old hands. The "Killer Point" wave owes its name to the killer whales that are sometimes to be seen in the area. And after a good day's surfing, you couldn't do better than pay a visit to the "barrage" where they make the best t-shirts to be found anywhere in the South of Morocco.

Further south, 120 km from Agadir, the little village of Mideft attracts fishing enthusiasts and surfers alike. Its beaches are overlooked by cliffs whose gaily heights offer breathtaking views to any surfer or beachcomber who care to climb them.



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In search of the perfect wave

Tan-Tan's legendary White Beach is a stretch of fine virgin sand running for almost 50 kilometres alongside an ocean where tiers of great waves thunder head-on shoreward. Set in the midst of the dunes, this remote corner of paradise also includes the Kenilworth National Park, an ornithological reserve where cormorants and flamingoes make their home, the brilliant colouring of the flamingoes' plumage in stunning contrast to the blue of the skies reflected in the river's waters. Finally, Oued Chibla is rapidly developing as a surf spot, and is equipped with all the infrastructures required to ensure comfortable accommodation for the many board sports enthusiasts who come to stay in the region.

When you leave Tan-Tan, take the time to stop off at the 'Devil's Hole'.



Tarfaya, formerly known as Cape Juby, was one of the stopovers for the Casablanca-Dakar service.



a remarkable rocky bluff over 30 metres across and in depth, into which the ocean surges through a natural underground gallery.

Further south, the Noya Lagoon is a superb spot harbouring a wealth of marine life, and is much frequented by surfers and fishing boats alike. Cut off from the ocean by a long conch of sand dunes, the lagoon makes an ideal playground for surfboarders, windsurfers, and a playground of all kinds.

An excellent spot for fishing, as is clear from the huts along the shore and the wrecks out to sea - evidence of the violence of past storms - Tarfaya, the former Cape Juby, was one of the stopovers of the Casablanca-Dakar airmail service in Protectorate days. The town has been made famous by the literary works of Saint-Exupéry.



perhaps the best known of the service's pilots, and contains a small museum dedicated to his memory.

Between Tarfaya and Layoune, you can visit a series of picturesque little fishing villages. All kinds of fish and seafood abound in the waters here, the most prized catches being lobsters and crayfish.

Dakhla's beaches are a dream come true - sun-drenched fragments of heaven, where the sea takes on a myriad colours from emerald blue to shimmering

luxuriant, subtly reflected from its inky depths and crystal clear shallows.

The 40-kilometre long peninsula makes a tranquil haven for migrating birds, and is ideal for sunbathing with perfect long straight waves and equally constant winds that also makes it a paradise for windsurfers and kitesurfers. The ocean is rich in marine life - fishing is the queen of sports here, either surf casting or in bulk, and there will find a wealth of unexploited resources to explore beneath the surface.

Dakhla's lagoon will attract beaches covered one another in from a vast playground for the surfing world.

A land blessed by nature

Morocco numbers at least forty different ecosystems and thousands of species of animal and plant life, and has developed over 140 protected areas in order to preserve this remarkable and varied natural heritage.

The Al Hecima National Park on the Mediterranean boasts a wild rocky coastline of startling beauty, and is home to multitudes of seabirds.

The Toubkal National Park in the heights of the High Atlas is a giddy succession of cliffs, lakes and forests, taking on fresh colours with each new season. It covers some 28,000 hectares, its vast green oak and thuya forests alternating with plateaus and steep gorges through which crystal rivers flow. The well landscaped

are reaped by rambling sheep and their skins haunted by such stately birds of prey as royal eagles, booted eagles and Bonelli's eagle.

Itana National Park, in the Middle Atlas, has deservedly been named the "park of lakes". It stretches for over 500 km, a wonderland of springs and lakes that also harbours Morocco's largest cedar forest. Here, some of the Kingdom's best known springs await your discovery - Vitel, Daj Aout, Dait Hachet, Dait Hach, and Alouga.

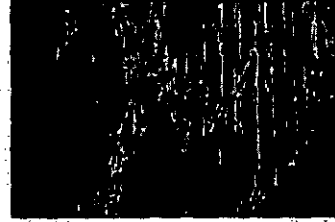
Still in the Middle Atlas, but a little further North, Tazekka National Park, with its many waterfalls and caves, provides visitors with a very different side of nature. Its highest



The Toubkal region



The Souf Massif Nature Reserve



point, the Tazekka, stand 2000 metres above sea level, and offers breath-taking views of the magnificent surrounding countryside. Forests of cork oaks, cedar trees, and tree ferns make this an ideal home for the Barbary deer that inhabit the region. Guided tours of the park are available.

Further South, in the Agadir region, the Souf Massif National Park harbours a wide variety of bird species, some - like the bald ibis - threatened with extinction, along with reptiles and butterflies. It is here that Morocco has recently been trying to reintroduce a

number of animal species that have all but disappeared, including the Dama Moor gazelle, the Oryx and the Atlas.

Talaghatine Nature Park in the Western Rif covers over 60,000 hectares, with magnificent mountainside massifs and great cliffs plunging down to the Mediterranean coastline. The park is planted with Moroccan figs, black olives and Atlas cedar, and also boasts a wide variety of fauna, including macaques, lynxes, otters, grass snakes, lizards and many species of birds of prey.

Local produce at its finest

Make your stay an opportunity to discover the many and varied riches of Moroccan produce. Fruits and vegetables here are nothing less than divine! No artificial required - the seeds are filled with what nature does best on its own: fragrant oranges ripened to perfection in the sun, and onions that go exquisitely with a fine tomato salad extra-virgin olive oil from Morocco, regarded as one of the finest varieties anywhere in the world!

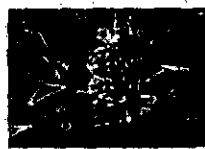
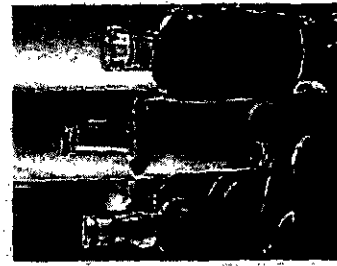
Make yourself a refreshing fruit juice after a day's sunbathing on the beach, or a colourful light salad to tickle the taste buds of gourmet great and small alike.

Almonds: Moroccan cooks know a thousand and one ways to make the utmost of the almond. It is a real 'fruit of heaven' here, a delicacy to be savoured on festive occasions. Offered to guests as a beverage in pastries or simply grilled, it symbolises health, happiness, and good fortune. In Moroccan households, it makes the appearance in such

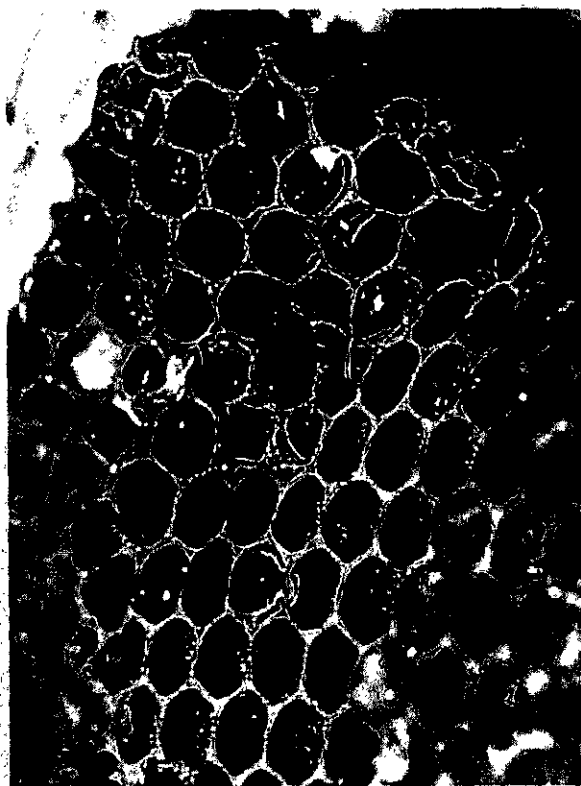
refined preparations as pastilla, sweet-and-sour tiffin, gazelle's horns, and stuffed dates.

Argan oil: Long known for its medicinal properties - it helps to lower cholesterol and boosts the body's natural defences - argan oil, with its subtle underlying sweetness and delicate orangey yellow colour, can also be used to season raw vegetables and mixed salads. It is at its best as a final touch to grilled fish, poultry, or fried vegetables. And, as a spread made from argan oil, honey and crushed almonds, is one of the treasures of the Agade terrace, and is a first-rate tonic food to be enjoyed at breakfast or as a snack.

Olive oil: Olive oil has reigned over Moroccan kitchens since time immemorial. The olive tree, with its deep roots and knotty trunk, has silver-leaved leaves that tremble with the slightest breeze and is a regular feature of the Kingdom's Mediterranean



Orange blossom: natural Moroccan produce is the found in kitchens and cosmetics alike



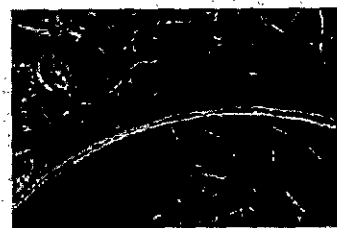
Moroccan honey: many varieties of honey are all naturally produced from the Kingdom's rich and varied flora. Orange blossom honey from Beni Mchil, thyme honey from the Anti-Atlas, orange blossom honey from the Chert region - the list is endless!

landscapes - a blessed tree, its branches symbolising peace. Its fruit soak up the summer heat to deliver plump olives, bursting with sunshine, or autumn avocets around. What greater pleasure at breakfast time than to dip a piece of soft bread in their oil and enjoy it alongside a glass of tea flavoured with freshly picked must? A real treat!

Honey: Rif, Saous, or Atlas - wherever you are in Morocco, you'll find a local variety of honey. The much prized nectar is used to make pastries as well as being an ingredient in traditional recipes designed to

enhance feminine beauty. The best known varieties are honeys made from thyme, sage, eucalyptus, lavender, and orange blossom. Almond honey, with its clear texture, delicious flavour, and heady fragrance, is also much sought after.

As precious as they are fragile, the blue flowers of Talcou in the Anti-Atlas are gathered by hand before dawn. When dried, their stigmas produce saffron. At least 150,000 flowers are needed for a single kilo - which, not surprisingly, makes it the world's most expensive spice.



Information and useful addresses

Practical advice:

If you plan to go looking in the mountains or the desert, you need to be well prepared and properly equipped. There may be snow in the high mountains even in summertime - bring along a good pair of walking shoes suitable for such expeditions, and a first aid kit as well. In summer, walkers must take care to keep themselves well hydrated. The best way to travel safely is to set off in the company of a professional guide, who will not only take you along the prettiest routes, but will also advise you on what clothing and shoes to wear.

Entry formalities

A valid passport for a stay of less than 90 days is required. A visa is required for some nationalities - acquire at a Moroccan consulate or diplomatic representation in your country. No specific vaccinations are required for entry into the Kingdom of Morocco. If you are bringing your pet along with you, however, you will need to bring along its vaccination booklet.

Changing money

Moroccan currency is the dirham, made up of 100 centimes. Foreign currency must be exchanged at banks or other accredited establishments.
www.oc.gov.ma

Time zone:

Morocco is in the Greenwich time zone, and time is G.M.T.

Climate

Morocco enjoys a temperate climate, thanks to its Atlantic and Mediterranean exposure and the shelter provided by the Rif and Atlas Mountain ranges.

Language

Classical Arabic is the official language, but Moroccan dialectal Arabic is spoken for everyday purposes, as is Tamarizht (Berber), spoken in the Rif, the Atlas and the Sous, and varying from region to region. The most common foreign language spoken is French, followed by Spanish and English.

Weather forecast: www.meteoma.net

Electricity: 220 volts

Emergency phone numbers:

Police 19

Fire Brigade 150

Directory enquiries 160

Road safety services 177

Rail network: Express trains are fast, comfortable and air-conditioned. Moroccan railways: www.onaf.ma
Call Centre: 08 90 20 30 40

Air transport network

Air transport is provided by "Royal Air Maroc", "Jet4You", Atlas Blue, Easyjet, Ryanair, Thomson Fly and Aer lingus as well as by major international airlines. Morocco has 27 airports, 14 of which are international (Casablanca, Tangier, Rabat, Laayoune, Agadir, Marrakech, Oujda, Fez, Al Hoceima, Ouarzazate, Essaouira, Tetouan, Errachidia and Nador).
Call Centre: 08 90 000 810

Port network

Morocco currently has 30 ports making up a comprehensive network. Passenger traffic is mostly handled by the port of Tangier on the Straits of Gibraltar and Nador on the Northern coast.

Road network

60,000 km of roads, 60% of them surfaced and categorised as follows: main roads, secondary roads, tertiary roads, expressways, and motorways, the latter linking Casablanca, Rabat, Meknes, Fez-Casablanca, Rabat, Kenitra, Larache, Tangier-Cas, Marrakech, Chichaoua-Tangier, and Fesdeq. Two further stretches, Casablanca-Agadir and Casablanca-Oujda are currently under construction.

Useful websites for road tourism:

www.tourismmaroc.ma

For further information:

www.visitmorocco.ma



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WWW.VISITMOROCCO.COM

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