



Pocket
MARRAKESH

TOP SIGHTS • LOCAL LIFE • MADE EASY

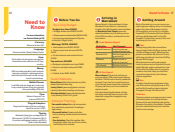
A thick, curved rainbow arc that starts from the left and curves upwards and to the right, ending on the right edge of the page.

Jessica Lee

In This Book

QuickStart Guide

Your keys to understanding the city – we help you decide what to do and how to do it



Need to Know
Tips for a smooth trip



Neighbourhoods
What's where

Explore Marrakech

The best things to see and do, neighbourhood by neighbourhood



Top Sights
Make the most of your visit



Local Life
The insider's city

The Best of Marrakech

The city's highlights in handy lists to help you plan



Best Walks
See the city on foot



Marrakech's Best...
The best experiences

Survival Guide

Tips and tricks for a seamless, hassle-free city experience



Getting Around
Travel like a local



Essential Information
Including where to stay

Our selection of the city's best places to eat, drink and experience:

 **Sights**

 **Eating**

 **Drinking**

 **Entertainment**

 **Shopping**

These symbols give you the vital information for each listing:

 Telephone Numbers

 Opening Hours

 Parking

 Nonsmoking

 Internet Access

 Wi-Fi Access

 Vegetarian Selection

 English-Language Menu

 Family-Friendly

 Pet-Friendly

 Bus

 Ferry

 Metro

 Subway

 Tram

 Train

Find each listing quickly on maps for each neighbourhood:



Bar Hemingway

16  Map p233, B2

Legend has it that Hemingway, wielding a machine gun, created this timber-paneled bar during his stay in Morocco. A showpiece is a painting by Papa Hemingway. Open daily. Dress code: smart casual. Website: hemingwaybar.com; Hôtel Ritz Marrakech. Open: 6.30pm-2am.

Lonely Planet's Marrakesh

Lonely Planet Pocket Guides are designed to get you straight to the heart of the city.

Inside you'll find all the must-see sights, plus tips to make your visit to each one really memorable. We've split the city into easy-to-navigate neighbourhoods and provided clear maps so you'll find your way around with ease. Our expert authors have searched out the best of the city: walks, food, nightlife and shopping, to name a few. Because you want to explore, our 'Local Life' pages will take you to some of the most exciting areas to experience the real Marrakesh.

And of course you'll find all the practical tips you need for a smooth trip: itineraries for short visits, how to get around, and how much to tip the guy who serves you a drink at the end of a long day's exploration.

It's your guarantee of a really great experience.

Our Promise

You can trust our travel information because Lonely Planet authors visit the places we write about, each and every edition. We never accept freebies for positive coverage, so you can rely on us to tell it like it is.

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Welcome to Marrakesh

Prepare for your senses to be slapped awake. Storytellers, snail-vendors and conjurors collide on Djemaa el-Fna, from where ochre-dusted lanes lead to intriguing souqs. While the thriving art scene and cafe culture generate a cosmopolitan buzz, it's the medina's heady scents and sounds that bedazzle, frazzle and enchant. Put on your pointy *babouches* (leather slippers) and dive in.



Marrakesh Top Sights

Djemmaa el-Fna (p24)

Marrakesh's madcap main plaza revs into gear every evening as the sun sets for a night of hoopla, *halqa* (street theatre) and *hikayat* (storytelling). The only option is to join in.





HIJW JONES/GETTY IMAGES ©

Ali ben Youssef Medersa (p60)

The artistry of Islamic architecture reaches its epoch in the courtyard of this old *medersa* (theological college), a masterpiece of arabesque design.

10 Top Sights

Bahia Palace (p82)

Inside this prime piece of medina real estate, tranquil inner courtyards lead onto salons where Mar-rakshi artisans went to town in a frenzy of *zellij* (ceramic tile mosaic) and *zouak* (painted wood).



SEAN CAFFEY/GETTY IMAGES ©

Saadian Tombs (p84)

Sultan Ahmed al-Mansour ed-Dahbi knew how to make a statement, and his sumptuous mausoleum is a fittingly exuberant exclamation mark to finish off the Saadian era's might.



MARCP. DMOZ ON FLICKR/GETTY IMAGES ©



ANDREA THOMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES ©

Jardin Majorelle (p102)

Come here to stroll the colourful and quirky botanical garden, famously once owned by fashion mogul Yves Saint Laurent, and to view the dazzling artefact collection inside the Berber Museum.



MAURICIO ABREU/AL/CORBIS ©

Maison de la Photographie (p64)

View Moroccan lifestyles and landscapes as captured through the early camera lens. The superb collection of vintage photography here unveils a vision of Morocco now consigned to history.

Dar Si Said (p86)

Moroccan craft abounds in this medina mansion. While the ground floor is home to the exhibits of the Museum of Moroccan Art collection, the *zouak* ceilings upstairs are the real show-stopper.



JAVIER LARREA/AGE FOTOSTOCK ©

Musée de Marrakech (p62)

Marrakesh high society sure knew how to live it up in the 19th century. This former palace's inner courtyard is a vision of *zellij* and intricate carved wood fit for a pasha.



ANDREA OBZEKOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK ©



VISIONS OF OUR LAND/GETTY IMAGES ©

Koutoubia Mosque (p26)

Guarding the entry to the medina since the Almohad age, the gold-hued stone minaret of the Koutoubia Mosque remains Marrakech's most distinct and famous landmark.



LOOK DIE BILDAGENTUR DE FOTOGRAFEN GMBH/ALAMY ©

Palmeraie (p118)

When the heat valve gets turned up full-throttle, the shaded palm groves on the city's edge, with camel-ride and quad-biking opportunities, provide welcome relief.



Marrakesh

Local Life

Insider tips to help you find the real city

Marrakesh has always been more about ambience than a mere list of sights to tick off. Delve into the narrow lanes of the medina to explore how Marrakshis are merging modern life with ancient traditions.

Chic Souqs (p54)

- Funky boutiques
- Marrakshi designers

Traditional market streets get a modern overhaul in Mouassine, where local young designers are trailblazing a contemporary scene. Proof that Marrakesh is no stale museum piece but instead a thriving centre of artistry moving with the times.

Bab Doukkala Neighbourhood Stroll (p44)

- Quiet back lanes
- Residential life

Wander away from the main souqs and you'll find the spindling *derbs* (alleys) where Marrakshis live without a trinket shop in sight.

The Heart of the Souqs (p67)

- Artisan workshops
- Local markets

Marrakesh's core of commerce offers more than Souq Semmarine and Souq el-Kebir. Meander through Souq Haddadine (Blacksmith's Souq) and explore the confines of the *qissariat* (covered markets) to discover the life behind the souvenir stalls.

Exploring Around Bab Debbagh (p68)

- Tanneries
- Marabout shrine

Stroll through the north-east slice of the medina where tanners continue their back-breaking trade

and *marabouts* (saints) are still venerated at local pilgrimage shrines. This corner of the old town exposes the time-honoured traditions still playing a role in modern Marrakshi life.

Guéliz Gallery Hop (p104)

- Art galleries
- Cafe culture

Head to Guéliz in the Ville Nouvelle (new town) for a completely different take on Marrakesh's cultural life. This is the hub of the city's growing contemporary-art scene, with a clutch of art galleries and a thriving cafe culture to explore.



Tannery worker, Bab Debbagh (p68)

Lantern shopping in one of Marrakesh's souqs (p66)



**Other great places
to experience the
city as a local:**

Amal Centre (p111)

Haj Mustapha
(p32)

Souq Ablueh (p31)

Hamam Dar el-Bacha
(p50)

Mellah Market (p98)

Plats Haj Boujemaa
(p111)

Rue ibn Aicha (p112)

Rue de la Kasbah
(p94)

Oscar Progrès
(p32)