



Imperial Cities, Middle Atlas & the East

الامبراطوري المدن و الأطلس المتوسط و الشرق

Includes »

Fez.....	300
Meknès.....	326
Ifrane.....	342
Azrou.....	344
Midelt.....	346
Taza.....	349
Oujda.....	354
Figuig.....	358

Best Places to Stay

- » Ziyarates Fes (p313)
- » Dar Bensouda (p314)
- » Ryad Bahia (p333)
- » Walila (p340)
- » Dar Zerhoune (p341)
- » Auberge Oasis (p359)

Best Places to Eat

- » Fès et Gestes (p318)
- » Tours Around Fez (p312)
- » Marhaba Restaurant (p335)
- » B'sara Stalls (p318)
- » Bou Jeloud Restaurants (p318)
- » Maison Blanche (p320)

Why Go?

If you're looking for Morocco in microcosm, this region takes the title, running the whole spectrum from imperial cities and ancient ruins to grand mountain vistas and desert oases.

The fertile plains of the north have acted as Morocco's breadbasket for centuries. The Romans left the remains at Volubilis, followed in turn by the Muslim dynasties who birthed Morocco's grandest imperial city: Fez.

The narrow streets of Fez' medina are a true assault on the senses. Meknès, another old imperial capital, offers a slightly more pocket-sized experience.

The Middle Atlas, home to the Barbary ape, rise to the south and the area is made for hiking.

Across the mountains the distinctive kasbahs of the south begin to make an appearance. The desert isn't far away, and by the time you reach the oasis of Figuig, the olive tree has long given way to the date palm.

When to Go

Fez

°C/°F Temp

40/104 —

30/86 —

20/68 —

10/50 —

0/32 —

J F M A M J J A S O N D

40/104 —

30/86 —

20/68 —

10/50 —

0/32 —

J F M A M J J A S O N D

40/104 —

30/86 —

20/68 —

10/50 —

0/32 —

J F M A M J J A S O N D

40/104 —

30/86 —

20/68 —

10/50 —

0/32 —

Rainfall inches/mm

8/200 —

6/150 —

4/100 —

2/50 —

0 —

J F M A M J J A S O N D

8/200 —

6/150 —

4/100 —

2/50 —

0 —

J F M A M J J A S O N D

8/200 —

6/150 —

4/100 —

2/50 —

0 —

J F M A M J J A S O N D

8/200 —

6/150 —

4/100 —

2/50 —

0 —

June
Hit Fez for the Festival of World Sacred Music.

September
Summer's heat has burned off and Ramadan is finished: perfect sightseeing conditions.

December & January
Cold in Fez and Meknès, but perfect for a desert trip to Figuig.



Imperial Cities, Middle Atlas & the East Highlights

- 1 Dive into the warren of the **medina** (p301) looking for souqs and souvenirs in ancient Fez
- 2 Time travel amid the mosaic-strewn **Roman ruins** (p337) of Volubilis
- 3 Explore the outsized **imperial architecture** (p329) of Meknès
- 4 Spend a day and night on pilgrimage in the holy town of **Moulay Idriss** (p340)
- 5 Hike into the wooded slopes of the **Middle Atlas** (p345) around Azrou
- 6 Enjoy the sound of the sublime at the **Festival of World Sacred Music** (p312) in Fez
- 7 Get away from everything amid the palms and kasbahs of the oasis town of **Figuig** (p358)
- 8 Make like a troglodyte in the weird **caverns** (p353) of Gouffre du Friouato