



Imperial Cities, Middle Atlas & the East

الامبراطوري المدن و الأطلس المتوسط والشرق

Includes ➤

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Moulay Idriss	338
Ifrane	339
Azrou	342
Midelt	344
Taza	347
Oujda	351

Best Places to Eat

- ➡ Ruined Garden (p309)
- ➡ L'Amandier, Palais Faraj (p310)
- ➡ Marhaba Restaurant (p333)
- ➡ Dar Hatim (p309)
- ➡ Hôtel Les Cèdres (p343)

Best Places to Stay

- ➡ Dar Finn (p303)
- ➡ Funky Fes (p303)
- ➡ Ryad Bahia (p331)
- ➡ Dar Kamal Chaoui (p324)
- ➡ Ksar Timnay Inter-Cultures (p345)

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 remains at Volubilis, followed in turn by Muslim dynasties who birthed Morocco's grandest imperial city: Fez.

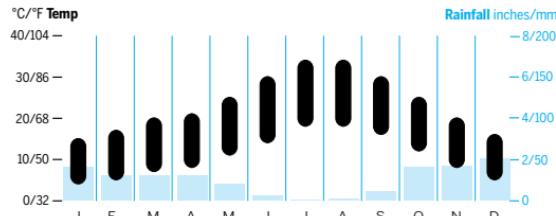
The narrow streets of the Fez medina are a true assault on the senses. Meknès, another old imperial capital, offers a slightly more pocket-sized experience.

The Middle Atlas mountains, 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



Apr Perfect spring weather and markets full of orange blossom scenting the air.

Jun Hit Fez for the Festival of World Sacred Music.

Sep Summer's heat has burned off making for perfect sightseeing conditions.



Imperial Cities, Middle Atlas & the East Highlights

- ➊** Dive into the warren of the **medina** (p302) looking for souqs and souvenirs in ancient Fez
- ➋** Time travel amid the mosaic-strewn Roman ruins of **Volubilis** (p336)
- ➌** Explore the outsized imperial architecture of **Meknès** (p324)
- ➍** Spend a day and night on pilgrimage in the holy town of **Moulay Idriss** (p338)
- ➎** Hike in the **Ifrane National Park** (p341) in the Middle Atlas
- ➏** Enjoy the sound of the sublime at the **Festival of World Sacred Music** (p311) in Fez
- ➐** Make like a troglodyte in the weird caverns of **Gouffre du Friouato** (p351)