

Morocco

📄 212 / POP 33.3 MILLION

Includes ➔

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Why Go?

For many travellers Morocco might be just a short hop by budget airline, or by ferry from Spain, but culturally it's a much further distance to travel. On arrival, the regular certainties of Europe are swept away by the full technicolour arrival of Africa and Islam. It's a complete sensory overload.

Tangier – that faded libertine on the coast – has traditionally been a first port of call, but the winds quickly blow you along the coast to cosmopolitan, movie-star-famous Casablanca and the whitewashed fishing-port gem Essaouira. Inland the great imperial cities of Marrakesh and Fez attract visitors in droves; the winding streets of their ancient medinas hold enough surprises to fill a dozen repeat trips.

If you really want to escape from everything, Morocco still has a couple of trump cards. The High Atlas Mountains seem custom-made for hiking, with endless trails between Berber villages, and North Africa's highest peak to conquer.

Morocco can feel like another world, but you don't need a magic carpet to get there.

Best Places to Eat

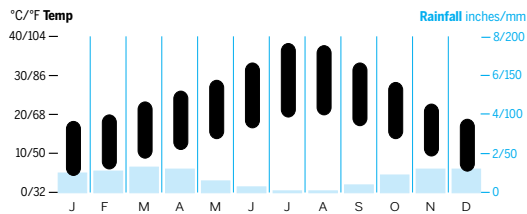
- ➔ Le Salama (p281)
- ➔ Outdoor Fish Grill Stands (p269)
- ➔ Ty Potes (p263)
- ➔ Café Clock (p275)
- ➔ Rick's Café (p267)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Dar Finn (p273)
- ➔ Le Pietri Urban Hotel (p263)
- ➔ Dar el Janoub (p287)
- ➔ Dar Baraka (p261)
- ➔ La Tangerina (p259)

When to Go

Marrakesh



Mid-Mar–May
Morocco is at its best in spring, when the country is lush and green.

Sep–Nov Autumn is also good, when the heat of summer has eased.

Nov–Jul In winter, head for the south – but be prepared for bitterly cold nights.



Enlargement

Morocco Highlights

- 1 Dive into the clamour and endless spectacle of Morocco's most dynamic city, **Marrakesh** (p279).
- 2 Lose yourself in the exotic charms of a medieval city replete with sights, sounds and smells in **Fez** (p273).
- 3 Laze by the sea in Morocco's coolest and most evocative resort at **Essaouira** (p267).