



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DES JOURNALISTES ET
ÉCRIVAINS DU TOURISME



ASSOCIATION MAROCAINE
DES JOURNALISTES ET
ÉCRIVAINS DU TOURISME

The Imperial Cities

Programme





MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 201

MARRAKESH / FES



08 am: Breakfast in the hotel.

09 am: Departure for Fes through the Middle Atlas

The road crosses the plain of Tadla one of the most important cereal plains of Morocco with big farms known for their plantations of orange trees and olive trees.

1 pm: Lunch in Khenifra.

3 pm: Continuation towards Fes

After the plain of Tadla, the road rises up to the mountain of the Middle Atlas with slopes covered with cedars and with holm oaks via Azrou until Ifrane, very beautiful ski resort 1,600 m high.

Then, the road goes down again towards the fertile plain of Saiss which leads to the city of Fes, the ancient imperial city, cultural, religious and craft capital of the Kingdom.

7 pm: Arrival at the hotel in Fes

8 pm: Dinner





TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018
FES / MEKNES



08 am: Breakfast.

Whole day dedicated to the visit of the oldest imperial city, the cultural, religious and craft capital. Established in the end of the VIIIth century, the city of Fes welcomed several hundred emigrants from Andalusia and Kairouan bringing wealth, culture and art of life making of Fes the first Muslim city of the country.

09 am to 12.30 am: Visit of the old medina of Fes

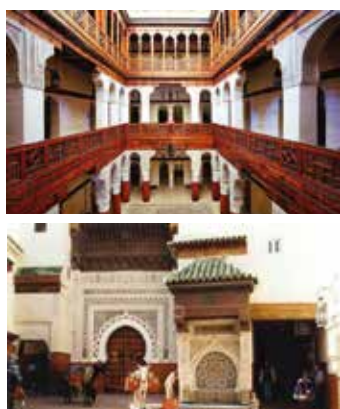
FES EL BALI



Al Quaraouiyyine is a university situated in Fes . According to the tradition, its construction began in 859 under the reign of the Idrissid dynasty. Throughout the centuries, the mosque architecture evolved and developed. It became, from the Xth century to the XIIIth century, an important center of education and one of the first universities in the world. In the XIIIth century, a whole series of names among the biggest are going to be associated somehow or other to the Quaraouiyyine: the big precursors of Sufism, such Ibn Hrizim, Abou Madyane, Abdeslam Ben Mchich Alami, the philosophers Avempace and Averroes, the geographer Al Idrissi but also Maimonide and Ibn Khaldoun to quote only those.



The Medersa Attarine is a former coranic school of Fes . It was built between 1323 and 1325 by the Merinid sultan Abou Said Othman. Named after the adjacent Souk of flavors and spices, Souk El Attarine. It is situated near Al Quaraouiyyine.



The Nejjarine Museum is the first private museum specialized in the wood arts and crafts in Morocco. Situated on a site dating of about 300 years, it offers a singular vision of the know-how and the dexterity of craftsmen and Moroccan masters of works. The exhibition with thematic character, extends over three levels of the building.

The ground floor presents tools of joinery(joiner's workshop) and other traditional fields. The second floor is dedicated to the islamic liturgical wood. There are rosaries and other cult furnitures and a sample of traditional musical instruments as well as a set of antique weapons.

1 pm: Lunch in a Moroccan restaurant inside the medina.





3 pm to 5 pm: Visit of the new medina of Fes

FES EL JDID



The Palais Royal of Dar el-Makhzen opens onto the Alaouite place with huge doors chiselled in copper relazed by the local craftsmen around 1970. In the twilight, the last beams of the sun fire the metal, and the appears as a golden jewel. It extends over a big domain and includes a mosque, a medersa, a parade ground and large gardens.



Mellah means in Morocco the district where lived the Jewish residents of the city. High walls surrounded the place to separate Muslim and Jewish populations. Fes Mellah is the most important of Morocco, it was the 1st district reserved for the Jews in the history of Morocco. In 1438, the sultan, wishing to protect the Jewish population of the city, from the fanaticism of the Almohad dynasty, built for them this district, near the Royal Palace.



Bab Boujloud was built the 1st time in the XIth century: this door was many times restored and reorganized. In 1913, under the reign of Sultan Alaouite Moulay Hafid, it was decorated with ceramic enamelled, blue on one side and green of the other side. The green face of the door gives onto a recently reorganized esplanade where take place the free concerts of Fes Festival of the sacred musics.



The Batha Museum is a moroccan ethnographical museum created in 1915, at the beginning of the French protectorate in Morocco and inside the palace of the same name. Spanish-Moresque architecture, it was beforehand built under the reigns of Moulay Hassan Ier (1894-1873) and Moulay Abdelaziz (1908-1894).

DISCOVERY OF THE MEDIEVAL CORPORATE ASSOCIATIONS

The Dyers



The Tanners



The Coppersmith



The Embroiderers



The Weavers



The Potters



5 pm: Departure towards Meknes.

6 pm: Arrival at the hotel to Meknes.

8 pm: Dinner.



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 201

MEKNES / VOLUBILIS



08 am: Breakfast .

09 am: Departure to Volubilis.

Arrival to Volubilis, the most important Roman city of Morocco established in the 1st century B.C. It is only in the 2nd century that Volubilis prospered thanks to the oil wheat and wild animals trade and is equipped with beautiful buildings.

The forum, the basilica, the rich paved mosaic houses along the decumanus maximus, the triumphal arch and the oil-works.

Visit of Moulay Idriss, holy city which shelters the mausoleum of the founder of the 1st Muslim dynasty in Morocco, the Idrissids.

12 am: Trip back to Meknes.

1 pm: Lunch.

3 pm: Visit of Meknes.

Imperial city which knew its real glory under Moulay Ismail reign in the 17th century. Meknes is surrounded by 40 km ramparts, consisting of three leaky surrounding walls with beautiful doors: Bab Bardaine, Bab El Khemis and Bab El Mansour.

The discovery continues with the visit of grain lofts, stables, Aguedal pond and Moulay Ismail mausoleum , the only religious building which the non-Muslims can visit.

6.30 pm: Back to the hotel.

8 pm: Dinner.





THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018

RABAT / MARRAKESH



08 am: Breakfast.

09 am: Departure to Rabat.

11 am: Arrival to Rabat and visit.

Capital of the Kingdom of Morocco and imperial city based in the XIIIth century by the Almohad dynasty.

Among sites to be visited:

- The Royal Palace, the main residence of Kings of Morocco since 1912;
- The mausoleum Mohamed V built by late Hassan II for his father, on the site of the unfinished mosque of Hassan and Hassan II burial place also;
- The Tower Hassan, minaret of the XIIIth century destroyed partially by the 1755 Lisbon earthquake .
- The big esplanade with a beautiful view on the mouth of the Bouregreg river which separates Rabat from Sale ;
- The Oudayas Kasbah , former military fortress known now for its beautiful gardens and its Moorish café, meeting place of artists and poets where we can taste the famous cornes de gazelles and a delicious mint tea, while admiring from afar the city of Sale and the mouth of the river.

1.30 pm: Lunch in Rabat.

2.30 pm: Transfer to the airports of Marrakesh or Casablanca.



Safe journey back

