



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Morocco - Marrakech

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Rabat
- ✓ **Language:** Moroccan Arabic (*Darija*), Standard Arabic, Berber (*Amazigh*), French
- ✓ **Population:** ± 928.850
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 239,57
- ✓ **Currency:** Dirham (Dh)
- ✓ **Country code:** +212 (44)
- ✓ **Visa:** Probably not (*up to 90 days*), but check [here](#) just in case!
- ✓ **Emergency phone:** 190/112 (*police*), 15 (*fire*), 150 (*ambulance*)
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A/B& Typhoid



History Recap Over 1 Drink

7/8th Century: Arab invasion/Muslim dynasties. 1860: War Spain over Ceuta enclave. '84: Protectorate Spain coastal area. '06: Algeciras Conference → France/Spain police Moroc. '12: Treaty of Fez. '21-26: Tribal rebellion Rif mountains: suppressed. '43: Istiqlal Party of Independence. '56: End French protectorate, nationalism. '57: Sultan Mohammed → king. '61: King Hassan II: human rights violations. '63: First elections. '65: Social unrest/no parliament. '71: Failed deposition king for republic. '73: Polisario movement: independent state in Spanish Sahara (*Algerian support*). '75: Green March: 350,000 civilian volunteers into Sahara → Western Sahara under Moroc-Mauritanian control, Algeria objects → '76 war, Algeria announces SADR, Moroc/Maur divide territory. '83: Elections cancelled. '84: Moroc leaves Organization of African Unity because SADR admitted. '88: Resumption diplomatic relations Algeria. '91: UN-monitored ceasefire in W-Sahara, status undecided. '94: Borders Algeria closed. '99: King Mohammed VI. 2002: Resolution Perejil Island (*with Spain*). '03&'07: Suicide bombers Casablanca. '04: 500+ killed in earthquake. '04: Free trade US. '05: Deportation illegal immigrants Melilla/Ceuta. '07: Istiqlal wins elections. '11: Protest against king. Bomb attack Marrakech. Arab Spring. '13: Law: rapists underage girls can marrying victims.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Budget												

Altitude: 466m. Climate: Hot Semi-Arid (BSh)

Bucket List For Free

☺ **Sights:** Medina, Souk, Jemaa el-Fnaa, Train Station, Rahba Kedima Square, Cyber Parc Arsat Moulay Abdeslam, Mellah, [Menara Gardens & Pavillion](#), Koutoubia Mosque, Kasbah Mosque, Ali Ben Youssef Mosque, Mosque Sidi-bel-Abbes, Bab Agnaou Gate, Kik Plateau, Miaara Jewish Cemetery, New Town Tree Sculptures (*Av. Mohammed V*).

☺ **Museums:** [Dar Bellarj](#), [Wall Street Gallery](#), [Ke'ch Collective](#), [Comptoir des Mines Galerie](#).

☺ **Hiking:** High Atlas Mountains, La Palmeraie.

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👉 **Sights:** [Jardin Majorelle](#), [Musée YSL](#), [Bahia Palace](#), [Ben Youssef Madrasa](#), [Le Jardin Secret](#), [El Badi Palace](#), [Saadian Tombs](#), [Anima Garden](#), [Cactus Thiemann](#).

👉 **Museums:** Boucharouite Museum, Dar Si Said Museum, Musée Tiskiwin, [Museum of Marrakech](#), [Dar el Bacha – Musée des Confluences](#), [Photography Museum](#), [Musée de Mouassine](#), [MACMA](#), [Berber Ecomuseum](#), [Musée Aman](#), [Orientalist Museum](#), [MACAAL](#), Heritage Museum, [Musée du Parfum](#), Observatoire Astronomie.

👉 **Daytrips:** Sahara, Setti Fatma, [Plage Rouge](#).

Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Carrefour, Champion, Label'Vie, Acima.
- ⌘ **Markets:** Djemaa el-Fnaa, Souk Cherifia, Souk el Attarine,
- ⌘ **Local food:** Couscous, Tajine, Mechoui (*roasted lamb*), Camel Burgers, Mechoui (*roasted lamb*), R'fissa (*chicken-lentil stew*), Sheep Brains / Head, Snail Soup, Bastilla (*pigeon meat pastry*), Harira (*Soup*), Makouda (*deep-fried potato balls*), Chebakia (*syrop cookies*), Sardines, Zaalouk (*cooked vegetable salad*), Bissara (*bean soup*), Calve Liver, Tanjia (*beef/lamb stew*), Brochettes (*skewers*), Kefta (*meatballs*), Chermoula (*marinade*).
- ⌘ **Go vegan:** Being vegan is quite easy in Morocco, as their most famous dishes are vegan or can be veganized if you simply ask. Try Tajine, Couscous, Harira, Zaalouk, Bissara, Eggplant Fritters, Chermoula and Makouda. For vegan restaurants, check [Happy Cow – Marrakech](#).

Festivals

- ⚙ Marathon: Jan.
- ⚙ Grand Prix Hassan II: Apr.
- ⚙ International Film Festivals: Nov-Dec.

Mama Said

- ☠ Morocco generally isn't a safe country and caution should be practiced at all times. As a solo female traveler I highly discourage women to travel here alone... only go in groups or with a man. Always dress conservatively and wear a wedding ring. Hiking generally isn't safe due to robbers and serious crime. The Western Sahara is highly dangerous.
- ☠ Tap water is not drinkable.
- ☠ Most mosques and religious sites can only be visited if you're both man and a Muslim.
- ☠ Islamic Law is strongly enforced. An unmarried man and woman aren't allowed to share a room when one or both are Moroccan, neither is premarital sex; you can face lengthy prison sentences. Avoid public displays of affection. Homosexuality is a criminal offence. Alcohol generally isn't allowed, let alone drugs. Pornographic material is illegal. You need permission to fly drones.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Tourist accommodation is pretty cheap in Morocco. Use [this link](#) for €15 discount at [Booking.com](#). Get [€25 travel money for free](#) on Air BnB with [this link](#). Keep in mind unmarried couples can't share a room when one or both hold a Moroccan passport. Besides hotels, resorts and hostels, you can stay in riads (*former private houses of the wealthy*), kasbahs (*fortress/medina*), auberges (*guest houses*) and berber houses (*homestays*).
- ❖ Camping is very affordable / free, but can be dangerous due to crime and robbers especially working forested areas.
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or Housesitting: get [20% off your yearly Trusted Housesitters membership](#) via [this link](#). Also check [WorkAway](#).

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ **Nightlife areas:** Alcohol is generally prohibited and is only served in hotels. Djemaa el-Fnaa has a lot going on at night.
- ◆ **Theaters:** Theatre Royal.

Free-Riding?

- The centre of Marrakech is walkable.
- Biking isn't recommended due to the locals entirely ignoring any kind of traffic rules. The horse-drawn carriages aren't the most animal-friendly alternative.
- Buses run from 6AM-10PM, generally running every 15-20min. Find more info on routes on the [Asla website](#). The intercity bus station is dependent on the company you're traveling with (CTM/Supratours).
- Marrakech's train station is located at Centre Guéliz, and are operated by [ONCF](#).
- Taxis are often shared. All taxis are metered, if they say their meter is broken it's a tourist trap to quote you higher rates.
- Airport: Menara Airport (RAK).
- Hitchhiking is not recommended in Morocco, especially not for solo female travellers. It's unsafe.

Next?

- ➔ In Morocco: Essaouira, Casablanca, Rabat, Fez.

The Earth Becomes My Throne