WHERE MOROCCAN HERITAGE MEETS ORIENTAL CHARM
From Saharan dunes to the peaks of high atlas, Morocco is considered one of the most diverse countries in northern Africa.

Lyrical landscapes of rugged mountains – not just the famous high atlas but also the rif and suntanned ranged leading to Saharan oasis; dramatic coastlines starting from Tangiers North to Dakhla South, waterfalls and caves in forested hills and Imperial cities with winding alleyways and traditional souks, will all permit breathtaking pleasures throughout your journey in Morocco.
The name Morocco comes from Berber, being the diminutive of «Amurakuc», original name of «Marrakech», and itself from the Berber «amur n ukuc» which means in Berber «earth of God» or «sacred earth».

Understanding

Morocco and its people radiate warmth and energy. It is a contrast country - at the same time modern and traditional, Arab and Berber, and was the cradle of several civilizations, having their chief towns in Fez, Marrakech and Rabat.
The indigenous Berber people and a series of foreign invaders as well as religious and cultural influences have shaped Morocco’s architectural styles. The vernacular architecture can range from ornate with bold colors to simple, clean lines with earth tones. Influences from the Arab world, Spain, Portugal and France are seen in Moroccan architecture, both on their own and blended with Berber and Islamic styles. Among the buildings, and old Kasbah walls, sit French style-towns left behind by colonisation and intersect with intricately detailed mosques and riad-style homes. Sleek, modern designs are being constructed in cities like Rabat and Casablanca that give no particular homage to any of the past Moroccan architecture styles.

Moroccan literature is written in Arabic, Berber and French. Under the Almohad dynasty Morocco experienced a period of prosperity and brilliance of learning. The Almohad built the Koutoubia Mosque in Marrakesh, which accommodated no fewer than 25,000 people, but was also famed for its books, manuscripts, libraries and book shops, which gave it its name; the first book bazaar in history. The Almohad Caliph Abu Yakub had a great love for collecting books. He founded a great library, which was eventually carried to the Kasbah and turned into a public library.
MUSIC

Moroccan music is of Arabic, Berber and sub-Saharan origins. Rock-influenced chaabi bands are widespread, as is trance music with historical origins in Islamic music. Morocco is home to Andalusian classical music that is found throughout North Africa. It probably evolved under the Moors in Cordoba, and the Persian-born musician Ziryab is usually credited with its invention. A genre known as Contemporary Andalusian Music and art is the brainchild of Morisco visual artist/composer/oudist Tarik Banzi, founder of the Al-Andalus Ensemble. Chaabi («popular») is a music consisting of numerous varieties which are descended from the multifarious forms of Moroccan folk music. Chaabi was originally performed in markets, but is now found at any celebration or meeting. Aita is a Bedouin musical style sung in the countryside.

CUISINE

Moroccan cuisine is considered as one of the most diversified cuisines in the world. This is a result of the centuries-long interaction of Morocco with the outside world. The cuisine of Morocco is mainly a fusion of Moorish, European and Mediterranean cuisines. The cuisine of Morocco is essentially berber cuisine (sometimes referred to as the Moorish cuisine). It is also Influenced by Sephardic cuisine by the Moriscos when they took refuge in Morocco after the Spanish Reconquista.
Marrakech is more than just a city. It is a pearl polished by history and its tradition of hospitality which, for centuries, has known how to welcome visitors.

**Geography**

*Marrakech lies towards the north of Morocco. It is 240 kilometres from Casablanca, 250 kilometres from Agadir and 390 kilometres from Fes. The desert and the ocean lie to the south of the city, while the cities of Casablanca and Fes can be found towards the north.*

*The excellent highway network facilitates travel between destinations.*
HISTORY

Founded around 1062 by the Almoravids, Marrakech is one of Morocco’s four Imperial Cities, along with Meknes, Fes and Rabat. It would go on to become the capital of the Almohad caliphate in the 12th century, which sprawled through Spain and Africa. Although Marrakech was founded in the 11th century, Berbers had been living in the region since the Neolithic era.

During this period, Marrakech was blessed with its mighty walls built from red sandstone, gleaming mosques like Koutoubia, fine gardens and palaces. The architectural influence of the Almohads was strong and featured carved domes and arches. When blended with influences from the Sahara and West Africa, it created a unique style of architecture in the city.

Marrakech’s rapid growth turned it into a cultural, religious and trading centre and despite a later period of decline, it resurfaced in the 16th century during the reign of wealthy Saadian sultans, who built magnificent palaces such as El Badi Palace.

French influence lingers on in the wide boulevards of the new town, Gueliz, and its few remaining art deco villas, most notably landscape painter Jacques Majorelle’s stylish cobalt blue retreat in the Jardin Majorelle. But the most significant legacy of colonial rule is the French language, which is still spoken by all educated Moroccans.

After WWII, a vast array of pleasure-seekers rediscovered Marrakech. Winston Churchill, Yves Saint Laurent and the Rolling Stones rubbed shoulders with American beat writers, hippies and a new breed of curious visitors anxious to see what all the fuss was about. Few years ago, a tourism drive led by King Mohammed VI has resulted in new luxury hotels, shops and restaurants.
EXPERIENCES

Authentic Marrakech

You can find thousands of foodstuffs, fabrics and handicrafts in the medina and its souks which are enclosed by fabulous 12th century ramparts. Here everyone attends to his affairs, as he has for centuries. In an unchanging but, nevertheless, modern world where, in the Place Jemaa El Fna; here the past suddenly appears in the form of storytellers, street performers, snake charmers and magicians dispensing secret potions and medicines. You can find some calm, far from the crowds, in the Arabo-Andalusian garden which houses the Saadian Tombs. You will have an unrestricted view of the roofs of the city from the terrace of the El-Badi Palace which is close by. From the northern corner you can admire the ancient minbar (pulpit) of the Koutoubia mosque. This pulpit is beautifully ornamented with delicate sculptures and marquetry.

Tradition

Head straight to the Ben-Youssef medersa, a koranic school which, in the past, took in hundreds of students in this setting favourable for uplifting the soul. Don’t miss the Marrakesh Museum which is close by in the medina. It has been installed recently in the 19th century M’Nebhi Palace. You will be able to admire eight centuries of Moroccan arts and crafts. Take in the tanners’ quarter which is situated a little to the east. There you will leave for an exotic journey to a world where the smells and colours will carry you away.

Then take one of the horse-drawn carriages available in the city to the Menara. This small pavilion has an immense ornamental lake beside it. Marrakshis frequently come to picnic in this cool spot. You can do the same by filling up a basket with food found in the medina. Local food of course since Marrakech is renowned for its gastronomy.
NATURAL ESCAPE

Gardens

Many treasures, especially famous riads (riad, garden), are hidden away in Marrakech. Riads are houses, built around a central patio, whose outside walls are entirely closed. They are often converted into guesthouses or restaurants and are a symbol of the Moroccan art of fine living. You can visit the newly renovate les Jardins Secrets; a must visit historical site garden.

Aerial view

Marrakech is the right place for your first flight. You can then discover the city and realize the striking contrast between it and the surrounding countryside whether from a helicopter, microlight or, if you prefer silence, a hot air balloon.

Ski on water or snow!

The Lalla Takerkoust Lake is just 20 minutes from Marrakech. You can explore its 7km by pedal boat, motorboat or even jet ski. The Oukaimeden ski resort in the Atlas gives you access to one of the most extensive ski domains in Africa. Imagine the panorama you will have from a height of 3300m. You can climb Mount Toubkal (4167m) which is situated to the south of Oukaimeden. The climb is not particularly difficult provided that you are in good physical shape, have hired a certified guide and done the necessary preparation. So, in no time, you can leave the heat of the valley for pure mountain air. Real luxury is to leave the pool, go skiing and then return for a relaxed Marrakech evening.
SPORT & ADVENTURE

Green is better

Those immense soft green areas? They are the prestigious golf courses which give Marrakech such an international reputation.

Those horses? You are looking at horse riding clubs or the Royal Polo Club. If you are more interested in motor sports, don’t worry.

Try go-karting or riding an ATV, for example. If you take a trip in a hot-air balloon, you may even see the large crowd trying to finish the annual Marrakech International Marathon.

Trips into the valleys

You can visit the Ourika Valley which is about 30km from Marrakech: granary for the area, with its fields for different crops laid out like a draughtboard, will often pleasantly surprise you: its waterfalls punctuating the beautiful unspoilt scenery. Asni village, with its very beautiful red kasbah, should be seen. The valley of the same name gives access to some sumptuous gorges. Ouirgane is a very popular spot for Marrakchis. Don’t hesitate to take a break for lunch in one of the many restaurants in the area: another opportunity to savour the delicious local cooking.
Marrakech boasts an extraordinary history and the art displayed in the Old & New city ranges from Islamic and Berber to elements of Roman design and modern, contemporary creations.

**Majorelle Gardens**

Majorelle Gardens, which were designed by a French artist in the 1920s and bought by Yves St-Laurent in the 1980s. His ashes were scattered here after he died in 2008. The gardens are home to a collection of cacti, beautiful fountains and many native birds, as well as the Islamic Art Museum of Marrakech. The garden is also famed for its cobalt blue buildings, a shade that has become known as Majorelle Blue. The Majorelle Gardens are 12 km from The Oberoi, Marrakech.

**Yves Saint Laurent Museum**

Yves Saint Laurent Museum, opened in 2017. Yves Saint Laurent moved to Marrakech in the late 1960s and spent a number of years there with his partner, Pierre Bergé. Located very near the Jardin Majorelle – acquired by Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé in 1980 – the musée YVES SAINT LAURENT marrakech occupies a new 4,000 m² building. It includes a 400m² permanent exhibition space devoted to the work of Yves Saint Laurent and designed by Christophe Martin. The museum also includes a hall for temporary exhibitions, a research library with over 5,000 volumes, a 140-seat auditorium, bookshop and terrace cafe.
SHOPPING
SOUK & MEDINA

Babouches & jewelry
A stroll round the Semmarine souk will convince you of the wide range of Moroccan Handicraft skills. Between delicious pastries, very traditional babouches (leather slippers) or djellabas (flowing garment), you are sure to find something to spoil your loved ones. Don’t miss the dyers, blacksmiths or jewellers souks: excellence and high quality are always present!

Spices
Don’t miss the spice market in the mellah (old Jewish neighbourhood). Stock up on the flavours you will use for delicious treats for your friends all year round! All the shopkeepers will be pleased to explain how to follow Moroccan recipes.

Leather & rugs
From morning on, you can enjoy the bustle of the shops and stalls on Place Rahba Kédima. Take your time to choose your leatherwork, skin or carpet in this friendly atmosphere where you will be offered mint tea as you haggle.
MARRAKECH, UNDER THE STARS

Party, gaming table and gastronomy

Don’t hesitate to spend an elegant evening catching the gambling fever at the casino. Enjoy, too, the many bars, lounges around the city. The place to be for high end Cantonese cuisine and best cocktails is the LING LING by Hakkasan.

Before and after

After dinner pursue your enjoyment by taking advantage of Marrakech’s pubs and nightclubs with your friends. You will always be warmly welcomed and you will have no trouble finding a spot, lit by the dim glow of cleverly placed candles, to watch the sparkling stars in the clear and immense sky. In the Marrakech night, a new life begins!
With the snow-capped Atlas Mountains forming a breathtaking backdrop, Mandarin Oriental, Marrakech is surrounded by majestic gardens filled with olive trees and more than 100,000 fragrant roses.
Rustic yet sophisticated, the design of Mandarin Oriental, Marrakech was undertaken by the French duo Patrick Gilles and Dorothée Boissier. With its Berber and Andalusian-Arabic influences, the feel is of relaxed luxury for the cosmopolitan traveller. Interior and exterior spaces co-exist and the focus is on essential materials rather than ostentatious affectations, with a particular emphasis placed on light.

Morocco’s cultural diversity has been fused with Eastern and Western touches to give a sensation of travelling around the world as one moves through the main building. The villas, meanwhile, whose architecture recalls that of intimate riads, lend a timeless feel, while the suites, with their scenic views of the Atlas Mountains, immerse guests in the heart of the local landscape. The architecture of the spa, a tribute to the ancient mosques and cathedrals of Andalusia, encourages spiritual contemplation and deployment of the senses.

“The earth and sand were the major influences” says Boissier. “Along with the colours of the street and traditional Berber women’s clothing. The sand colour of the stonework combined with the large expanses of dominant green from the lush vegetation makes for a true dialogue and fluidity between the exterior architecture and the surrounding nature, while the pools give the illusion of an oasis in this living desert.”
Gardens

Mandarin Oriental, Marrakech is set amid lush, lavish gardens surrounded by a walkway that allows guests to fully appreciate their charms. An avenue lined with palm trees provides a spectacular entrance, referencing the traditional Moroccan palm groves, while small mounds recall the dunes of the South Moroccan desert. Scattered among the palm trees, pink bougainvillea are cut into Japanese shapes in a nod to the group’s Asian origins. No less than 100,000 different coloured roses of 30 different varieties adorn the garden, and each villa has a rose colour of its own.

The gardens are home to orange trees, almond trees and many fragrant plants such as jasmine, rose geranium and night-blooming cestrum, so named because at night, its perfume is particularly pronounced, and can be recognised from up to 20 metres away.

At nightfall, illuminated by countless candles and lanterns scattered throughout the property, the gardens hold a particular magic as the flowers and plants release their essences.

The vegetable garden

Lovingly and rigorously maintained, the vegetable garden supplies the kitchens of the hotel, and is densely populated with dozens of fruits and vegetables. Organic practices are encouraged; the compost is natural and no fertilizers are used. The plants are treated with natural concoctions such as neem oil, which, when mixed with black soap is an effective deterrent against caterpillars.
VILLAS & SUITES

With the Atlas Mountains as a backdrop, Mandarin Oriental, Marrakech lies nestled in 20 hectares of olive groves and landscaped gardens.

Only ten minutes from the city’s famous Medina, this elegant, contemporary resort feels a world away in terms of serenity, with stunning villas and suites, a world-class spa and excellent dining.
VILLAS

54 PRIVATE VILLAS
Between 280-440m² with one or two bedrooms, a pool, hot tub and outdoor shower. Surrounded by a private garden, some of these cozy living spaces also feature outdoor dining.

MANDARIN POOL VILLA
288 SQM / 3100 SQF PRIVATE COURTYARD
Offering a contemporary take on a traditional riad, villas are entered via a walled courtyard with heated pool. A sumptuous master bedroom opens out to a jacuzzi, with a living area and bathroom with round bath and shower.

ORIENTAL POOL VILLA
423 SQM / 4553 SQF PRIVATE COURTYARD
Designed around a courtyard, these 423sqm two-bed villas feature a heated pool, jacuzzi, kitchen and sitting areas. Inside lies a main bedroom, living room and bathroom. A second ensuite bedroom sits to the side of the courtyard.
SUITES

ATLAS SUITE
135 SQM / 1453 SQF MOUNTAINS AND POOL
Overlooking the resort’s gardens with the Atlas Mountains behind, these suites feature a large bedroom and spacious bathroom with a bath and steam shower. An outside terrace offers a plunge pool, sunbathing area and dining table.

PANORAMIC SUITE
192 SQM / 2067 SQF MOUNTAINS AND POOL
Incorporating elements of Berber and Arab-Andalucian design, suites feature a spacious bedroom and elegant bathroom with a bath and steam shower. A large terrace features a private plunge pool, sun loungers and a dining table.

INFINITY POOL SUITE
290 SQM / 3122 SQF PRIVATE COURTYARD
These spacious two-bed suites are in the quiet surroundings of our spa. One ensuite bathroom features a bath and steam shower, while a second provides a hammam. A private garden offers an 18m-long heated infinity pool and dining table.

ROYAL SUITE
218 SQM / 2347 SQF MOUNTAINS AND POOL
This large suite offers a soothing décor with 2 bedrooms and adjoining bathrooms, both with baths and steam showers. Overlooking the gardens and Atlas Mountains, an outdoor terrace features a dining area and two plunge pools.
DINING

Where every taste is one to remember

From a contemporary take on traditional Moroccan cuisine to a delicious poolside lunch, our restaurants are destinations in their own right.
MES’LALLA

MOROCCAN CUISINE

The Mes’Lalla restaurant serves traditional Moroccan cuisine with contemporary touches. The result makes for the refined but casual discovery of an exceptional culinary heritage, with a particular focus on organic products grown on-site and by local farms or cooperatives. Through its ‘Tradition’ and ‘Signature’ menus, the restaurant offers seasonal dishes that draw on the ‘locavore’ trend.

LE SALON BERBERE

Adjacent to Mes’Lalla, the Salon Berbere offers an exceptional view over both the resort’s blue and green pools and the Atlas Mountains, and makes for a lively dining room that evolves throughout the day. The atmosphere changes again at sunset, as Salon Berbere morphs into a champagne bar, perfect for a pre- or after-dinner drink.
Beside the main pool, the Pool Garden offers a refreshing spot to enjoy lunch outdoors. The menu offers a selection of healthy dishes designed around fresh fruits and vegetables sourced directly from the garden.

The small islands on the water ponds can be used for a quiet drink or a more private lunch, while a handful of tables in the shade of the bougainvillea complement those of the adjoining garden.
Offering a vibrant, social experience that fits well with the Marrakech lifestyle, Ling Ling provides a creative twist to the renowned Hakkasan DNA, resulting in an experience that encompasses cocktails, dining and dancing in no particular order. Drawing inspiration from the Japanese Izakaya concept, Ling Ling offers an innovative cocktail list, smaller plates of beautifully prepared Chinese dishes, perfect for sharing. Located in the West wing of the lobby, Ling Ling moves from inside to out, with a spacious outdoor terrace overlooking the picturesque olive groves and serene pools. With sound design mastered and perfected by Pathaan, the resident Hakkasan DJ in London, an eclectic, high-energy soundtrack adds to the party vibe.
SPA & WELLNESS

With a design inspired by the historic cathedrals and mosques of Andalucia, the Spa at Mandarin Oriental, Marrakech is a temple of wellbeing dedicated to health, holistic healing and rejuvenation.

With a total area of 1,800m², the Spa has six treatment rooms including a couple’s and a single spa suite, each with vitality bath, and a Thai treatment room, featuring their own private garden where guests can choose to enjoy their treatment next to the olive tree. Two luxurious Moroccan hammams dedicated to the traditional black soap scrub, a hairdresser, a beauty salon including pedicure and manicure studios, a yoga studio and a modern fitness centre complete the offer.

Serenity is good for the soul
KID’S CLUB

Our kid’s rule the space at our Kasbah’s Kid’s Club. It ensues great and exciting adventures along with a dynamic list of interactive activities. At the heart of the Resort’s farm and the Chef’s vegetable gardens... our little ones will be able to enjoy exceptional moments in this ludic and fun area. From activities around our farm animals, to gardening, cooking with the chef, traditional carpet weaving and many more...
LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Mandarin Oriental, Marrakech offers its guests:

- An outdoor heated swimming pool of 610m² with a swimming area of 18m x 16m
- A jogging trail around the 20 hectares of the property
- Bike hire (subject to availability)
- Direct access to two local golf courses
- Direct access to two tennis courts
- Cooking classes with the Chef
- Customised tours with private driver and guide in the Atlas Mountains, Essaouira or the Agafay desert
- Direct access to quad, camel or horseriding
- Cultural visits to the medina
- Shopping trips to traditional markets and the new design district of Sidi Ghanem
MEETINGS & EVENTS

With a relaxed setting and cutting-edge facilities, we offer the perfect environment for all manner of event.

Feel inspired by our peaceful location and excellent facilities, designed to enhance and stimulate the meeting process.
EVENTS

In order for you to enjoy a truly unforgettable, tailor-made event in an exceptional setting, we offer the services of an on-site events team to ensure everything runs exactly to plan.

Weddings

With the Atlas Mountains as your backdrop, Mandarin Oriental, Marrakech offers an incredibly romantic setting in which to get married. Working closely with you, we will ensure that everything runs perfectly to plan, leaving you able to relax and enjoy your very special moment.
“Travel and you will see the meaning”

- Moroccan proverb