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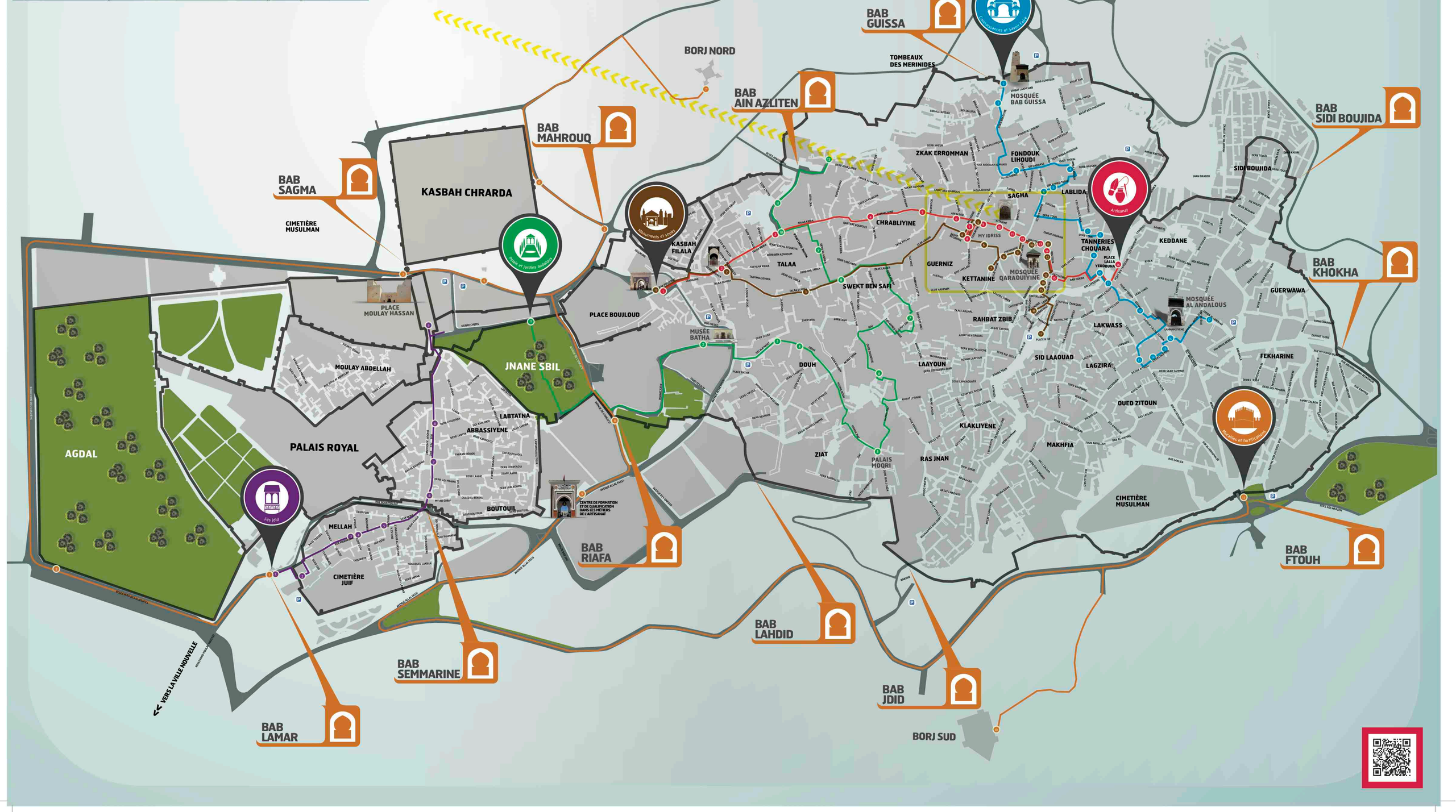
المزارات السياحية لفاس المدينة

TOURISM CIRCUITS OF FEZ MEDINA



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المدارات السياحية لفاس المدينة

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TOURISM CIRCUITS OF FEZ MEDINA

Walls and Ramparts

Handcrafts

Monuments and Souks

Wisdom and Knowledge

Palaces and Andalusian Gardens

Fes Jdid

Walls and Ramparts

The medina's skyline is punctuated with ramparts, borjs, and kasbahs, which create an impressive architectural display. Originally erected for the protection of Fes's inhabitants and riches throughout the centuries, the ramparts and walls mark the succession of several dynasties.
The walls' defensive nature was supported by the artistic and technical care put into their construction, and they also illustrate how artisans' skill and techniques in military architecture have changed with time. Imposing gates like Bab Sagma or Bab al-Mahrouq open the ramparts, and other, richly decorated gates will also certainly grab your attention.
The surrounding country hillsides change from verdant in the winter to tawny in the summer months.

Handcrafts

While on this tour, you will get to see the human side of the thousand and one objects on display around the medina's winding streets, and visit the craftsmen who spend their livelihoods creating them. Beyond their decorative qualities, each piece is part of both tradition and the artisans' savoir-faire, gained from a long apprenticeship and a refined attention to detail.
Little by little, you will discover and take in the richness of Fes's artisanal goods- leatherwork, textiles, and even historic buildings. View the unusual craft of horn work on Mechatine Street, and even artisanal horse saddles on Seqqatine Street. Marvel at the elegant embroidery and delicate silk at the Kissariat, a sprawling covered textiles market. As part of the Fes medina's flourishing commercial activity, the Kaat Smen and Tazi Fondouks are also stops on this itinerary, as is Souk el-Henna, where you will find Fes's iconic blue ceramic pottery.

Monuments and Souks

Leaving from Bab Boujloud (blue gate) and travelling to R'cif Square, this tour takes you through major heritage sites around Fes, such as the Moulay Idriss Mausoleum or the Qaraouyine Mosque. You will explore the medina, traveling from West to East, passing through its center, and discovering the artisans' quarters, such as the Dyer's Way (Sebbaghine), Coppersmith's Square (Seffarine), and the Nejjarine complex, dedicated to woodworking, as well as many fondouks and caravan inns where artisanal activities are still practiced. Stopping at renowned buildings, visitors can admire these iconic symbols of the Fes medina, and appreciate the priceless work performed by artisans long ago. The crafts seen in the numerous souks and fondouks you will pass will give you an idea of the incredible skill of the artisans who proudly continue their ancient crafts, even today.

Wisdom and Knowledge

Bringing together both spiritual knowledge and manual skill, this tour traces the path of knowledge within the confines of the medina, stopping at sites dedicated to spiritual understanding as well as those focused on manual and technical skills. During this walk you will stop at mosques, madrasas, and workshops, soaking in both culture and wisdom.
Travelling from one end of the medina to the other, this tour takes you from the banks of the Andalusian to the banks of the Qaraouyine. As a spiritual capital and seat of knowledge, for many years Fes was home to scholars and thinkers from around the world. The numerous madrasas, or Islamic schools, such as Sahrij and Sbaiyine, concretely express generations of artisans' creative genius and delicate craftsmanship. For centuries, the prestige of al-Qaraouyine Mosque and University, the world's first multidisciplinary university, shone alongside the madrasas.

Palaces and Andalusian Gardens

During this tour you will explore one of the medina's more recent eras, as you stroll through the winding streets, lined with stunning homes and numerous green spaces.
This itinerary begins by crossing the resplendent Jnane Sbil Garden, one of Fes's stunning promenades, and continues toward the walled garden at the Batha Museum. A bit further around the way, luxurious buildings such as the Abdelselam Moqri Palace, Riad Driss Moqri, Dar Adiyel and Mnebhi Palace are open to visitors. These buildings once housed high-ranking dignitaries under the Alouite dynasty and date from the 18th and 19th centuries. Today they have been converted into community centers (Fes Saiss), learning centers (International Centre for the Promotion of Crafts, Centre International pour la Promotion de l'Artisanat in French), and even restaurants (Mnebhi Palace).
After crossing Talaa Sghira and Talaa Kbira Streets, this tour ends up at Ain Azliten (Azliten spring), where green spaces, a traditional tannery, and a second-hand shop surround various riads.

Fes Jdid

Beginning at the gate of the Royal Palace, and ending at Moulay Hassan Square, this tour reveals much more than just a neighborhood, taking you to a new city. Fes Jdid, which means "new city", or "white city", is the 13th century royal city, built to house the newly reigning Marinid dynasty. One striking feature here is Morocco's first Jewish quarter, the Mellah. As skilled artisans and traders, the Jews left their mark on this neighborhood, building numerous synagogues, such as the Ibn Danan, and the al-Fassiyine. As you leave Mellah and cross the monumental Bab Semmarine gate, you will find yourself on the bustling Fes Jdid Street, which takes you to the majestic Moulay al-Hassan Square, and then to the Jnane Sbil Garden.

Gates and walls of the Royal Palace

At the entrance of the Fes Jdid quarter, the gate to the Royal Palace, which was built during the second half of the 20th century, is a jewel among the era's masterpieces. The best tile workers, marble workers, and master coppersmiths worked together to create this harmonious arrangement. Take a moment to admire the diverse materials and elegant decor. Both the "Walls and Ramparts" and "Fes Jdid" tours take off from this distinctive starting point. The urban landscape of Fes Jdid incorporates a long wall around the Royal Palace, punctuated with immense gates, which you will admire during your tour.

Seqqatine and Mechatine Streets

Mechatine

Mechatine Street
Explore this eponymous street and discover the highly unusual and rare craft of horn work. A lone artisan remains on this street, practicing his craft in an unassuming workshop. Raw materials pile up at his feet as he softens and shapes them under a flame.
Seqqatine Street
Combining leatherwork and detailed embroidery, this souk is dedicated to crafting horse saddles and accessories. Both men and women work side-by-side here on different parts of the saddle. While the master craftsman, or maallem, works on and assembles the leather, his wife or another maallema (master craftswoman) embellishes it.

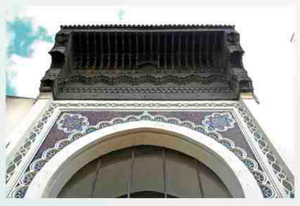
Bou Inania Complex

Comprised of an exceptional madrasa and a unique hydraulic clock, Bou Inania is one of the medina's major sights. Built by a Marinid sovereign during the 14th century, the Bou Inania madrasa is much more than beauty and elegance. With a stucco, marble, and sculpted wood façade and adorned with multicolored tiles, admire the detailed work performed by different artisans. The best master artisans took six years of working together to build this harmonious arrangement. Across from the madrasa, look up toward the hydraulic clock, which is no longer in use, but which preserves the memory of this stunning piece of machinery. Please be respectful during your visit, as the Bou Inania madrasa is a place of worship.

Dar magana

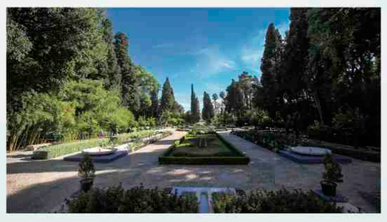
Al-Andalous Mosque

Memorable for its immense gate and fourteen-step entrance, the al-Andalous Mosque, which is the medina's second cultural and spiritual center, is at the very heart of the Andalusian quarter. Its elegant white minaret, fashioned after that of the Qaraouyine's, dominates the neighborhood and is irrefutably the seat of knowledge in Fes. The mosque has been expanded, restored, and equipped with trappings such as a minbar, chandeliers, and clocks. The stunning entrance, embellished with a sculpted cedar awning and multicolored tiles, was built during the Almohad dynasty.



Jnane Sbil Garden

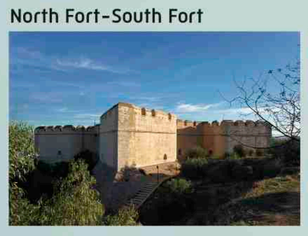
This sprawling, shady park is Fes's green lung and has historically served as a prime location for meeting, strolling, or pic nicking. Adorned with a variety of plant species, such as giant timber bamboo, and pine, lemon, myrtle, and orange trees, the garden also boasts a large water source, creating a refreshing and tranquil atmosphere. As you meander, you might notice a noria, or a wooden wheel with buckets that was once run by the park's waterway. Like many green spaces, Jnane Sbil has evolved with the passage of time, becoming an imperial park in the 19th century, before being opened to the public in the 20th century.



Mellah

As Morocco's first official Jewish quarter, Mellah was home to the local Jewish community until late in the 20th century. Within the quarter, Jews could practice any artisanal vocation they wished. Some activities were even reserved for them, such as those relating to jewelry or minting money. Recognized by its wide and almost straight main street, Mellah has a charm of its own.
Denoted by the large wooden balconies and wrought iron-decorated facades, this street is unique in that it opens toward the homes' exterior, in contrast to what one finds in the ancient medina's traditional Muslim neighborhoods. Just a stone's throw away, the Jewish cemetery gives you an idea of the community's former scale.

North Fort-South Fort



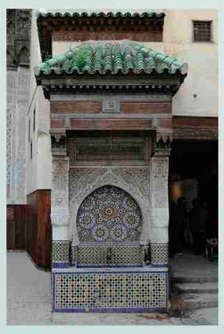
Overlooking the city and leaving a striking landscape silhouette, either the North Fort or South Fort is the ideal place to take in a panoramic view of the medina and its surrounding area. Make out the medina's landmarks, such as the Qaraouyine Mosque with a white minaret, and nearby, the green pyramid-shaped dome of the Moulay Idriss Mausoleum.
The Arms Museum of the North Fort was opened in 1963. It boasts a vast collection, following the evolution of weapons from prehistoric times to the present era. A total of 15 themed rooms display swords, spears, daggers, guns, cannons, and much more from around the world.
épées, lances, poignards, fusils, ou canons d'ici et d'ailleurs et bien plus encore.

Five souls and Kissariat el-Kifah

Bright colors mingle at the Kissariat, a large covered market where you can still find silk, traditional Moroccan slippers, and elegant accessories. The Kissariat is a famous textile hub, and is located near five souks dedicated to traditional textiles, which wind around the shaded streets punctuated with trees and fountains- Souk Tellis (woolen saddlebags that are easy to load onto a donkey or camel for transporting grains); Souk el-Haik (feminine drapes in fine wool); Souk Esselham (long capes worn by men over a djellaba, known as burnous); Souk el-Bali (second-hand clothes); and Souk Tribaa (traditional hats known as tarbouches and chachias).

Nejjarine Complex

A visit to this complex transports you to the world of woodworking craft. At Nejjarine Complex you are in for a treat, discovering a carefully restored historic monument and visiting a woodworking museum. The attention-grabbing Nejjarine Fondouk, a nearby 19th century fountain, and a souk complete the site. The souk is dedicated to cabinetmaking and woodwork, and comprised of a set of workshops surrounded on each side by two gates, which were once closed every evening at dusk. Today, this highly colorful souk is nearly exclusively dedicated to materials for Moroccan weddings.



Weaving and embroidery workshop-Brocade workshop

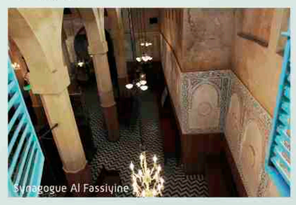
After visiting this brocade workshop, the only one of its kind in Morocco, you will certainly leave with new admiration for this textile craft, for its complexity and richness. Today, the exceptionally skilled Si Abdelkader Ouazzani is the sole brocade craftsman left.
Not very far away, weaving and embroidery workshops are open to visitors. Standing behind their looms, the weavers move their shuttles back and forth, as the woven fabric floods the workshops and shops with color.

Abdeslam Moqri Palace – Riad Driss Moqri

These two gorgeous bourgeois residences boast both charming gardens and elegant architecture. Built in the early 20th century and the end of the 19th century, respectively, these homes shed light on just how important green spaces were to the period. Like the architecture, the gardens reflect the aspirations of those who commissioned them, and period style. They are refreshing and sophisticated. Inspired by Andalusian style, the flora mixes with fountains, decorative tiles, and sculpted wood. These buildings, which overlook a panoramic view of the city, are the perfect opportunity to take a moment to relax and unwind.

Palais Moqri

Ibn Danan Synagogue – Al-Fassiyine Synagogue


Synagogue Al Fassiyine

Many places of worship were built by the Jewish community in Mellah, but these synagogues are particularly notable. Of the 17 synagogues in Fes by the beginning of the 20th century, these two are the most memorable, even more so than the Mansano or Emhabbanim. Ibn Danan and al-Fassiyine are renowned for their historic and architectural significance, and are cared for by restoration and rehabilitation initiatives. Since 2002, the Ministry of Culture has recognized Ibn Danan Synagogue as a historical monument.

Training center

Take a moment to visit this artisanal training center on your tour, to appreciate the wealth of its artisanal heritage. This site offers much more than craft exhibits; it is a center for teaching and sharing skills. In addition to technical courses and practical workshops, courses in management and accounting are also available. Young students sit around their master craftsmen, at the beginning of a long apprenticeship, during which they acquire finesse and dexterity, as well as creativity and contemporary design. Discover textiles, leatherwork, basketry, and even woodwork along the classrooms and workshops. A traditional musical instrument workshop is also open for viewing.

Attarine Madrasa

An architectural jewel, the Attarine Madrasa is a major example of artisanal skill during the Marinid dynasty. This school and student residence is a masterpiece, most notable for its graceful and elegant decor. Marinid leaders sought to solidify their political and religious authority, and took great care when it came to constructing such bastions of learning. In Fes, the Marinid madrasas- Bou Inania, Sahrij, and Sbaiyine- are all representative of the Marinids' ornate style.

Moulay Idriss Mausoleum and Qaraouyine Mosque

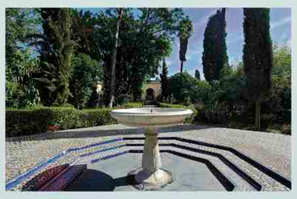
Mosquée Qaraouiyine

Qaraouyine Mosque
As the world's first multidisciplinary university, the influence of Qaraouyine University goes far beyond Morocco's borders. As one of the most prestigious teaching centers, and a seat of legitimate scientific and religious learning, it has attracted scholars from around the world.
Moulay Idriss Mausoleum
Easily recognized on the city skyline for its green pyramid-shaped dome, this building houses the tomb of the patron saint and founder of Fes, Moulay Idriss II. The sovereign himself built the mosque and outbuildings in 809 AD, and Sultan Alaouite Moulay Ismail expanded it and added the cupola. The very popular mausoleum is a place of pilgrimage, and every autumn, Moulay Idriss's moussem is celebrated with ceremonies and festivities.

Chouara Tannery

As a center of traditional artisanal craft and a veritable symbol of the city of Fes, the Chouara Tannery remains authentic, even today. Go inside or look on from above from one of the surrounding terraces, and discover the secrets of the workshop's layout and traditional craft. See how each generation has passed traditional tanning techniques to the next.

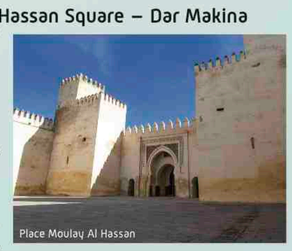
Batha Museum



As you enter this museum to view its incredible collections, you will discover both a spectacular home and its relaxing garden. The palace, which dates from the 19th century, is comprised of two separate buildings linked by a series of gardens (riads), which make up over half of the palace's total surface area. Around a central fountain, wide paths divide the space into four large sections adorned with a variety of plant species, including cypress, palm, walnut, and myrtle trees. These gardens, which were built for royalty and receiving high-ranking dignitaries, are both relaxing and beautiful to look at. Take a few minutes to wander around here after your visit to the museum's collections of traditional Moroccan art.

Moulay al-Hassan Square – Dar Makina

Moulay al-Hassan Square is both spacious and picturesque. Since the 1980's it has been the site of one of the year's most anxiously awaited events, the International Festival of World Sacred Music. The square forms a large rectangle and is surrounded by high walls. Sultan Moulay Hassan rehabilitated the space at the end of the 19th century, and though buildings from different eras are found here, this square has lost none of its coherence or harmony. Financed by the Sultan, the Dar Makina arms factory was also incorporated here. This building's features include a European-inspired architectural style, harking back to the participation of Italian architects in this ambitious project.


Place Moulay Al Hassan

Military legacy

Defensive or military architecture is typical of historic Moroccan architecture, and includes a variety of elements such as outer walls, fortified gates, towers, and moats. Moroccan defensive complexes, made of either cut stone or earth, continue to leave their mark on the urban landscape. By using a Toubia construction technique (lime-coated earth and stone formwork), the Almohads proved themselves as masters of the craft, from the 12th century. The ramparts in Fes, as well as Marrakech and Rabat reach astounding heights and thicknesses. Described as Hispano-Moorish, this style of architecture served as a model for future dynasties, particularly the Marinids, who built the walls around Fes Jdid.

Souks and handcrafts

As trading hubs par excellence, the medina's iconic souks are essential threads, which hold the urban fabric together. Historically, each souk was dedicated to a specific activity, and they were found scattered throughout the various neighborhoods. Commercial and artisanal activities were indicated by place names, which are preserved today as the names of the streets running through the medina. During your visit you will find the Souk Attarine (spices), the Souk el-Henna (henna), and even the eponymous Mechatine Street, named for horn work.
As is typical in Muslim cities, the souks sprang up concentrically around the mosque, according to their degree of purity or impurity. Perfume and incense vendors are found next to the mosque, while noisy or otherwise polluting activities are kept further away.

the fondouks

Built on the major arteries of the medina, the fondouks, or caravan inns, are the site of Fes's flourishing commercial activity. As a stopping point for merchants from around the Kingdom, Fes boasts many of these special buildings, which serve as a sort of inn for merchants and their wares and equipment. Most fondouks follow a similar layout, with one or several floors, and are organized around a central court lined with galleries where merchants lodge, and their wares are stored. Animals might stay in the courtyard. As both an inn and commercial center, the courtyard and its galleries are still a hub of communication and trade.
Today the fondouks serve as a headquarters for various artisanal activities and trade.

Places of knowledge

Much more than a place of worship, the mosque has withstood the test of time as a veritable seat of knowledge and spiritual wisdom. Alongside the mosques, madrasas, or Islamic schools, were constructed for the purpose of teaching. First and foremost, the madrasas lodged students coming from other regions or even abroad. As they double as places of worship, the madrasas include a prayer room and occasionally even a minaret. A basin or central fountain is also present, as purifying the body is vital. The madrasas were named for the neighborhood where they were built, their architectural features, or even their teaching specialty. Therefore during your tour of Fes, you will discover madrasas in the Attarine and Seffarine quarters, the Sahrij (basin) Madrasa, or even the Sbaiyine Madrasa, named for the seven Koran readings taught there.

Oasis garden

These Arab-Muslim style gardens, which are part of a Persian legacy and Koranic inspiration, are notable for their very existence in a hostile environment. They developed into simple places, where water played a vital role. Modeled after an oasis, the antithesis of the desert, the original garden is a clearly demarcated and closed space, representing an idealized world. These gardens are generally located in the courtyards, where they provide a refreshing and relaxing place for the entire household. So-called Andalusian ornamental gardens or patios are based on the myth of the famous gardens of Alhambra or Generalife in Granada. These striking gardens are also an example of the Almohads' hydraulic skills, which they brought to North Africa in the 12th century.
While ornamental gardens are certainly very important, market gardens and orchards, which provided the population with food, once spread out beyond the ramparts.

The Marinids, the White City

Fes Jdid was built during the 13th century when the Marinid dynasty came to power. As successors to the Almohads, after taking Fes, the Marinids decided to make it their capital. It was during this period that Fes's architectural jewels, such as the Bou Inania and Attarine madrasas were built, as was the entire urban center of Fes Jdid.
The Marinids previously lived in the Boujloud Kasbah, but undertook large-scale projects within the city once their power was solidly in place. Under Sultan Abu Youssef Yacoub, the first Marinid sovereign, El Beida, or the "white" extension to the ancient medina, Fes el-Bali, was built. As a royal city, high walls encircle it. Henceforth, as home to the Court, the new city includes a mosque and a residential building with fountains, artisanal ovens, and public baths.

1. باب القصر الملكي — Porte du Palais Royal
2. أسوار القصر الملكي — Murailles du Palais Royal
3. باب السّاكمة — Bab Sagma
4. ضريح أبي بكر ابن عربي — Mausolée Abou Bakr Ibn Arabi
5. باب محروق — Bab Mahrouq
6. قصبة الشراردة وأسوارها — Kasbah Chrarda et ses murailles
7. البرج الشّمالي — Borj Nord
8. باب رياقة — Bab Riafa
9. مركز التّكوين والتّأهيل لحِرَف الصّناعة التّقليدية بفاس — Centre de Formation et de Qualification dans les Métiers de l'Artisanat
10. برج الجنوب — Borj Sud
11. باب فتوح — Bab Ftouh

1. باب بوجلود — Bab Boujloud
2. المدرسة البوعنانية — Médersa Bou 'Inania
3. الطالعة الكبيرة — Talâa Kbira
4. قاعة السّمَن — Qaât Smen
5. فُنْدق التازِي — Fondouk Tazi
6. سوق عين علّو — Souk Aïn Allou
7. سوق البلاجين — Souk El Bellagine
8. السقاطين — Seqqatine
9. سوق الحنّاء — Souk El Henna
10. سوق العطارين — Souk Áttarine
11. الأسواق الخمس و قيسارية الكفاح — Cinq Souks et Qissariat el Kifah
12. مِدْرَسَة العطارين — Médersa Áttarine
13. المدْرَسة المصباحية — Médersa Misbahiya
14. فندق السطاونيين — Fondouk Staouniyine
15. زنقة المَشّاطين — Rue Mechatine
16. ساحة للا يدونة — Place Lalla Yeddouna

1. باب بوجلود — Bab Boujloud
2. المدرسة البو عنانية — Complexe Bou 'Inania
3. الطالعة الصغيرة — Talâa Sghira
4. مركب النجارين — Complexe Nejjarine
5. سوق الحناء — Souk El Henna
6. ضريح المولى إدريس — Mausolée Moulay Idriss
7. فندق البِرْكة — Fondouk El Berka
8. فندق الشماعين والسبيطريين — Fondouks Chemmaïne et Sbitryine
9. دار المؤقت — Dar Al Mouaqqit
10. جامع القرويين — Mosquée Qaraouiyine
11. المدرسة المصباحية — Médersa Misbahiya
12. فندق السطاونيين — Fondouk Staouniyine
13. خزانة القرويين — Bibliothèque de la Qaraouiyine
14. ساحة الصفارين — Place Seffarine
15. مدرسة الصفارين — Médersa Seffarine
16. العوادين — El 'Aouadine
17. ساحة الرصيف — Place R'Cif

1. باب الكُّيسة — Bab el Guissa
2. جامع باب الكُّيسة — Mosquée Bab el Guissa
3. العشّابين — Al-Achabine
4. ورشة البروكار — Atelier de brocart
5. زاوية سيدي أحمد التيجاني — Zaouiat Sidi Ahmed Tijani
6. ورشة التطريز والنسيج — Ateliers de broderie et de tissage
7. درب الطويل — Derb Touil
8. دار الدبغ الشوارة — Tanneries Chouara
9. ورشات حرف الجلد — Ateliers des artisans du cuir
10. جسر و ساحة بين لمدُّون — Pont et Place Bin Lemdoun
11. ساحة للا يدونة — Lalla Yeddouna
12. زنقة الصفاح — Rue Seffah
13. جامع الواد — Mosquée el Oued
14. مدرسة الصهريج — Médersa Sahrij
15. مدرسة السباعين — Médersa Sbaïyine
16. جامع الأندلس — Mosquée Al Andalous
17. جامع الأنوار — Mosquée Al Anouar

1. جنان السّبيل — Jardin Jnane Sbil
2. متْحف البطحاء — Musée Batha
3. دار الباشا التّازي — Dar Pacha Tazi
4. المركز الدُّوَلي للنّهوض بالصّناعة التّقليدية — Centre international de promotion de l'artisanat (CIPA)
5. قصر عبد السلام المقري — Palais Abdeslam Moqri
6. رياض إدريس المقري — Riad Driss Moqri
7. دار عديل — Dar Adiyel
8. قصر المنبّهي — Palais Mnebhi
9. دار بّا محمّد الشّرقي — Dar ba Mohammed Chergui
10. الطالعة الكبيرة — Talâa Kbira
11. السّبيل إلى عين أزليطن — Accès Ain Azliten
12. دار الدبغ عين أزليطن — Tanneries Ain Azliten

1. باب القصر الملكي — Porte du Palais Royal
2. المقبرة اليهودية — Cimetière Juif
3. بيعة ابن دنان — Synagogue Ibn Danan
4. الملاح — Le Mellah
5. بيعة الفاسيين — Synagogue Al Fassiyine
6. باب السّمّارين — Bab Semmarine
7. جامع الحمراء — Jamaa Al Hamra
8. درب فاس الجديد — Rue Fès Jdid
9. ساحة مولاي الحسن — Place Moulay Hassan