



Walls and Ramparts



Handcrafts



Monuments and Souks



Wisdom and Knowledge



Palaces and Andalusian Gardens



Fes Jdid



TOURISM CIRCUITS OF FEZ MEDINA



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.



Walls and Ramparts



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.

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 Qaraouiyine 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.

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.

2-3 hour tour

Can be done in car, taxi, or bus

Starting and ending points: Royal Palace gate- Bab Ftouh

Topics: Highlights of architectural heritage and main gates of the medina

SIGHTS

Royal Palace walls, Bab Sagma, Abu Bakr Ibn Arabi Mausoleum, Kasbah Chrarda and its walls, North Fort, craft training center, South Fort



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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 Qaraouiyne. 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 Shaiyine, concretely express generations of artisans' creative genius and delicate craftsmanship. For centuries, the prestige of al-Qaraouiyne Mosque and University, the world's first multidisciplinary university, shone alongside the madrasas.



Wisdom and Knowledge



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 Qaraouiyine'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.

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.

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.

3-hour tour

Can be done on foot

Starting and ending points: Al-Anour Mosque and Bab el-Guissâ Madrasa

Topics: Visit brocade, traditional textile, and embroidery workshops

SIGHTS

Al-Anouar Mosque, Al-Andalous Mosque, Sbaïyine Madrasa, Sahrîj Madrasa, Al-Oued Msoque, Souk Seffah, Chouara Tannery, leather workshops, Bin Lemdoun Bridge and Square, Derb Touil, weaving and embroidery workshops, Zaouiat Sidi Ahmed Tijani, brocade workshop, Al-Achabine



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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 Qaraouiyne 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), Coppermith'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.



Monuments and Souks



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.

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.

Moulay Idriss Mausoleum and Qaraouiyine Mosque

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.

Qaraouiyine Mosque

As the world's first multidisciplinary university, the influence of Qaraouiyine 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.

4-hour tour

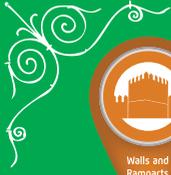
Can be done on foot

Starting and ending points: Boujloud Square–R'cif Square

Topics: Take in artisanal crafts at major fondouks and historic monuments in the medina

SIGHTS

Bou Inania Complex, Talaa Sghira, Nejjarine Complex, Moulay Idriss Mausoleum, Fondouk el-Berkā, Fondouk Chemmaine and Sbitryine, Dar e.-Mouaqqit, al-Qaraouiyine Mosque, Fondouk Staouiyine, Qaraouiyine Library, Seffarine Square, Seffarine Madrasa, El-Aouadine, R'cif Square



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Palaces and Andalusian Gardens



Fes Jdid



TOURISM CIRCUITS OF FEZ MEDINA



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.



Palaces and Andalusian Gardens



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.

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.

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.

3-hour tour

Can be done on foot

Starting and ending points: Jnane Sbil Garden– Ain Azliten

Topics: Discover Arab-Andalusian civilization in the Western Muslim world

SIGHTS

Batha Museum, Dar Pacha Tazi, International Center for Promoting Crafts (CIPA),
Abdeslam Moqri Palace, Riad Driss Moqri, Dar Ayidel, Mnebhi Palace, Dar Ba
Mohammed Chergui, Ain Azliten Tannery



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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.



Handcrafts



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 maalem, works on and assembles the leather, his wife or another maallema (master craftswoman) embellishes it.

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.

Five souks 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).

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 Sbaïyine- are all representative of the Marinids' ornate style.

4-hour tour

Can be done on foot

Starting and ending points: Boujloud Square- Lalla Yeddouna Square

Topics: View workshops and artisanal crafts for sale at the medina's main souks

SIGHTS

Talaa Kbira, Qaat Smen, Fondouk Tazi, Souk Ain Allou, Souk el-Bellagine, Seqqatine, Souk el-Henna, Souk Attarine, five souks and Kissariat el-Kifah, Attarine Madrasa, Misbahiyah Madrasa, Mechatine Street



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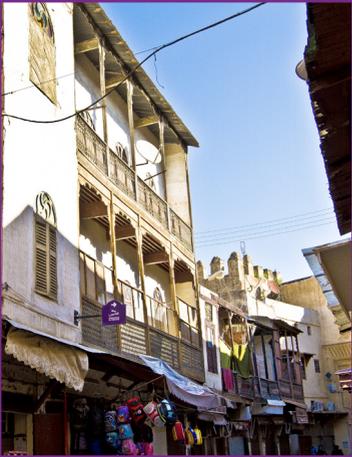


TOURISM CIRCUITS OF FEZ MEDINA



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-Fassiyyine. 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.





Fes Jdid



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.

Ibn Danan Synagogue – Al-Fassiyyine Synagogue

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-Fassiyyine 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.

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.

2-hour tour

Can be done on foot

Starting and ending points: Royal Palace gate-Moulay al-Hassan Square

Topics: Discover Mellah's artisanal crafts and Fes Jdid

Sights

Ibn Danan Synagogue, Bab Semmarine, Jamaa al-Hamra, Fes Jdid Street, al-Fassiyyine Synagogue