



Car rental Meknes — gates & Volubilis roads

Meknes is less crowded than Fes and a smart base for Volubilis and Moulay Idriss. Coches Marruecos: a favourite for Spanish and European visitors by car.



Photo: Steven Lek / Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 4.0)

Wide boulevards and Bab Mansour make orientation easy. Drive to Roman Volubilis early, then return for medina markets. Sultan Moulay Ismail's vast Heri es-Souani granaries and stables were built to hold enough grain and horses to withstand a long siege, and the scale of the vaulted ceilings still comes as a surprise to most first-time visitors.

This guide is prepared for visitors of Coches Marruecos (cochesmarruecos.com).

City guide

- Bab Mansour
- Heri es-Souani
- Mausoleum of Moulay Ismail
- Volubilis
- Moulay Idriss Zerhoun

Often combined with Fes stays. Ask for hotel delivery if you arrive by train. Meknes makes a relaxed overnight base if Fes feels too intense — hotel prices are usually lower for a similar standard of comfort. Book via Coches Marruecos to lock your preferred car.

Highlights



Bab Mansour

Widely considered the grandest of Morocco's imperial gates, built at the end of the 17th century under Sultan Moulay Ismail as the ceremonial entrance to the royal palace complex. The scale and tilework are worth seeing even briefly if you are only passing through Meknes on the way to Volubilis.

It sits right on Place el-Hedim, an easy and central place to park before continuing into the medina on foot.



Dar Jamai Museum & Medina

A 19th-century palace just off Place el-Hedim, now a museum of Moroccan crafts, with a quiet interior garden that is a good break from the busier streets outside. The surrounding medina is calmer and less visited than Fes's, which makes it a comfortable introduction to Moroccan old-town markets.

Meknes works well as a single stop combined with Volubilis and Moulay Idriss Zerhoun earlier in the day, since all three are a short drive apart.

Things to do

Berber and Jewish Art Gallery

Local art and craft gallery in the medina

Where to eat

Restaurant Dar Baraka

Rustic decor, time-honoured Moroccan recipes

Collier de la Colombe

Local favourite, medina dining

Riads & places to stay

Riad Yamcha

All-white modern riad in the medina, large breakfasts

Riad Lahboul

Panoramic rooftop terraces overlooking the Atlas

Good to know

A little history

Founded in the 11th century, Meknes became an imperial capital in the 17th century under Sultan Moulay Ismail, who built its extensive fortifications and palaces. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Local customs

- Dress modestly, especially at religious sites and in more traditional neighbourhoods.
- Ask before photographing people directly, especially women.
- Hagglng is expected in souks and markets; fixed-price shops and restaurants are not negotiable.
- A tip of around 10% is customary at restaurants; small tips for guides and porters are appreciated.
- Friday is the main day of prayer — some businesses close or reduce hours around midday.
- During Ramadan, avoid eating, drinking or smoking in public during daylight hours out of respect.
- Alcohol is available at licensed hotels, bars and some restaurants, but not sold everywhere — public intoxication is frowned upon.
- Driving is on the right; seatbelts are mandatory, and traffic already in a roundabout generally has priority.



Emergency information

- **Police: 19** (from any phone)
- **Gendarmerie Royale (rural areas / highways): 177**
- **Fire & ambulance (Protection Civile): 15**
- **Highway emergency (Autoroutes du Maroc): 5050**

For anything involving the rental car itself — breakdown, accident, or any question at all — call or WhatsApp us directly first; we're reachable and can usually help faster than a general hotline. Keep your embassy or consulate's contact details with you separately; Moroccan emergency operators may not speak English.

- **Hôpital Mohammed V** — Public hospital, open 24h · +212 535 52 11 34

Embassy & consulate phone numbers for Rabat are on the next page. Need a hospital, clinic, translator or other useful address? See our full, growing directory (<https://cochesmarruecos.com/en/guide/>).

Embassies & consulates in Rabat

Phone numbers only, most missions are based in Rabat. Numbers can change — if unreachable, ask your hotel or local police for help.

Algeria	+212 537 76 46 46	Equatorial Guinea	+212 537 76 94 54	Nigeria	+212 537 67 18 57
Angola	+212 537 65 92 39	Ethiopia	+212 537 65 99 38	Oman	+212 537 67 37 88
Argentina	+212 537 75 51 20	Finland	+212 537 65 87 75	Pakistan	+212 537 63 11 92
Australia	+212 537 63 33 33	France	+212 537 68 97 00	Panama	+212 673 14 42 37
Austria	+212 537 76 16 98	Gabon	+212 537 67 41 48	Paraguay	+212 537 63 23 50
Azerbaijan	+212 537 75 13 25	Gambia	+212 537 63 80 45	Peru	+212 537 72 32 36
Bahrain	+212 537 63 35 00	Germany	+212 537 63 54 00	Poland	+212 537 77 17 91
Bangladesh	+212 537 76 67 13	Ghana	+212 537 75 76 20	Portugal	+212 537 75 64 46
Belgium	+212 537 26 80 60	Greece	+212 537 63 89 64	Qatar	+212 537 54 45 44
Benin	+212 537 75 41 58	Guatemala	+212 537 63 99 47	Republic of the Congo	+212 537 65 99 66
Brazil	+212 537 57 27 30	Guinea	+212 537 67 41 48	Romania	+212 537 72 46 94
Brunei	+212 537 65 31 43	Guinea-Bissau	+212 537 57 21 44	Russia	+212 537 75 35 90
Bulgaria	+212 537 76 54 77	Hungary	+212 770 484 699	Saudi Arabia	+212 537 63 30 00
Burkina Faso	+212 537 67 55 12	India	+212 537 63 58 00	South Africa	+212 537 68 91 59
Burundi	+212 537 75 71 55	Indonesia	+212 537 75 78 60	South Korea	+212 537 75 17 67
Cameroon	+212 537 75 41 94	Iraq	+212 537 75 44 66	Spain	+212 537 63 39 00
Canada	+212 537 54 49 49	Israel	+212 537 71 94 00	Sudan	+212 537 75 28 63
Central African Republic	+212 537 63 16 54	Italy	+212 537 21 97 30	Sweden	+212 537 63 32 10
Chad	+212 537 63 21 02	Japan	+212 537 63 17 82	Switzerland	+212 537 26 80 30
Chile	+212 537 63 60 65	Jordan	+212 537 75 11 25	Thailand	+212 537 63 46 03
China	+212 537 75 40 56	Kuwait	+212 537 63 11 11	Tunisia	+212 537 73 05 76
Colombia	+212 537 75 17 68	Latvia	+212 662 77 29 70	Turkey	+212 537 66 15 22
Comoros	+212 537 70 85 24	Lebanon	+212 537 65 69 49	Ukraine	+212 537 65 78 40
Croatia	+212 537 63 88 24	Liberia	+212 537 63 84 26	United Arab Emirates	+212 537 70 20 35
Czech Republic	+212 537 75 54 20	Libya	+212 537 63 18 71	United Kingdom	+212 537 63 33 33
Côte d'Ivoire	+212 537 65 56 37	Malaysia	+212 537 65 83 24	United States	+212 537 63 72 00
DR Congo	+212 537 26 22 80	Mali	+212 537 75 91 21	Vanuatu	+212 537 20 23 73
Denmark	+212 537 66 50 20	Mauritania	+212 537 65 66 78	Venezuela	+212 537 65 03 15
Djibouti	+212 537 75 49 00	Mexico	+212 537 63 19 69	Vietnam	+212 537 65 92 10
Dominican Republic	+212 537 71 59 05	Netherlands	+212 537 21 96 00	Yemen	+212 537 63 12 20



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