

Morocco

Morocco,^[d] officially the **Kingdom of Morocco**,^[e] is a country in the Maghreb region of North Africa. It overlooks the Mediterranean Sea to the north and the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and has land borders with Algeria to the east, and the disputed territory of Western Sahara to the south. Morocco also claims the Spanish exclaves of Ceuta, Melilla and Peñón de Vélez de la Gomera, and several small Spanish-controlled islands off its coast.^[17] It has a population of roughly 37 million, the official and predominant religion is Islam, and the official languages are Arabic and Berber; French and the Moroccan dialect of Arabic are also widely spoken. Moroccan identity and culture is a mix of Arab, Berber, African and European cultures. Its capital is Rabat, while its largest city is Casablanca.^[18]

The region constituting Morocco has been inhabited since the Paleolithic era over 300,000 years ago. The Idrisid dynasty was established by Idris I in 788 and was subsequently ruled by a series of other independent dynasties, reaching its zenith as a regional power in the 11th and 12th centuries, under the Almoravid and Almohad dynasties, when it controlled most of the Iberian Peninsula and the Maghreb.^[19] Centuries of Arab migration to the Maghreb since the 7th century shifted the demographic scope of the region. In the 15th and 16th centuries, Morocco faced external threats to its sovereignty, with Portugal seizing some territory and the Ottoman Empire encroaching from the east. The Marinid and Saadi dynasties otherwise resisted foreign domination, and Morocco was the only North African nation to escape Ottoman dominion. The 'Alawi dynasty, which rules the country to this day, seized power in 1631, and over the next two centuries expanded diplomatic and commercial relations with the Western world. Morocco's strategic location near the mouth of the Mediterranean drew renewed

Kingdom of Morocco

(Arabic) المملكة المغربية

al-Mamlakah al-Maghribiyah

ⵜⴰⵎⴰⵣⵉⵖⵜ ⵜⴰⵏⴰⵢⴻⵔⵜ (Tamazight)

Tageldit n Lmeyrib



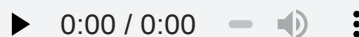
Flag



Coat of arms

Motto: اَللّٰهُ، اَلْوَطَنُ، اَلْمَلِكُ
"Allāh, al-Waṭan, al-Malik"
"God, Country, King"^[1]

Anthem: النشيد الوطني
"an-Našīd al-Waṭanīy"
"Cherifian Anthem"



Location of Morocco in northwest Africa
 Dark green: Undisputed territory of Morocco
 Lighter green: Western Sahara, a territory claimed
 and occupied mostly by Morocco
 as its Southern Provinces^[a]

Capital Rabat
34°02'N 6°51'W

Largest city	<u>Casablanca</u> 33°32'N 7°35'W
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European interest; in 1912, France and Spain divided the country into respective protectorates, reserving an international zone in Tangier. Following intermittent riots and revolts against colonial rule, in 1956, Morocco regained its independence and reunified.

Since independence, Morocco has remained relatively stable. It has the fifth-largest economy in Africa and wields significant influence in both Africa and the Arab world; it is considered a middle power in global affairs and holds membership in the Arab League, the Arab Maghreb Union, the Union for the Mediterranean, and the African Union.^[20] Morocco is a unitary semi-constitutional monarchy with an elected parliament. The executive branch is led by the King of Morocco and the prime minister, while legislative power is vested in the two chambers of parliament: the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors. Judicial power rests with the Constitutional Court, which may review the validity of laws, elections, and referendums.^[21] The king holds vast executive and legislative powers, especially over the military, foreign policy and religious affairs; he can issue decrees called *dahirs*, which have the force of law, and can also dissolve the parliament after consulting the prime minister and the president of the constitutional court.

Morocco claims ownership of the non-self-governing territory of Western Sahara, which it has designated its Southern Provinces. In 1975, after Spain agreed to decolonise the territory and cede its control to Morocco and Mauritania, a guerrilla war broke out between those powers and some of the local inhabitants. In 1979, Mauritania relinquished its claim to the area, but the war continued to rage. In 1991, a ceasefire agreement was reached, but the issue of sovereignty remained

Official languages	<u>Arabic</u> · <u>Tamazight</u>
Spoken languages	<u>Moroccan Arabic</u> <u>Hassaniya Arabic</u> <u>Berber languages</u>
Foreign languages	<u>French</u> ^[b] · <u>English</u> · <u>Spanish</u> ^[4]
Ethnic groups (2012) ^[5]	67% <u>Arabs</u> 31% <u>Berbers</u> 2% <u>Sahrawis</u>
Religion (2020) ^{[2][6]}	99.6% <u>Islam (official)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 99.23% <u>Sunni</u> 0.45% <u>Shia</u> 0.3% <u>Others</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.13% <u>Agnostics</u> 0.10% <u>Bahá'ís</u> 0.09% <u>Christians</u> 0.01% <u>Jews</u>
Demonym(s)	<u>Moroccan</u>
Government	<u>Unitary parliamentary semi-constitutional monarchy</u> ^[7]
• <u>King</u> • <u>Prime Minister</u>	<u>Mohammed VI</u> <u>Aziz Akhannouch</u>
Legislature	<u>Parliament</u>
• <u>Upper house</u> • <u>Lower house</u>	<u>House of Councillors</u> <u>House of Representatives</u>
Establishment	
• <u>Idrisid dynasty</u> • <u>'Alawi dynasty</u> (current dynasty) • <u>Protectorate established</u> • <u>Independence</u>	788 1631 30 March 1912 7 April 1956
Area	
• <u>Total</u> • <u>Water (%)</u>	446,550 km ² (172,410 sq mi) ^[c] (57th) 0.056 (250 km ²)
Population	
• 2022 estimate • 2014 census • <u>Density</u>	37,984,655 ^[9] (38th) 33,848,242 ^[10] 79.0/km ² (204.6/sq mi)
GDP (PPP)	2023 estimate
• <u>Total</u> • <u>Per capita</u>	▲ \$385.337 billion ^[11] (56th) ▲ \$10,408 ^[11] (120th)
GDP (nominal)	2023 estimate
• <u>Total</u>	▲ \$147.343 billion ^[11] (61st)

unresolved. Today, Morocco occupies two-thirds of the territory, and efforts to resolve the dispute have thus far failed to break the political deadlock.

Etymology and name

The English *Morocco* is an anglicisation of the Spanish name for the country, *Marruecos*, derived from the name of the city of *Marrakesh*, which was the capital of the Almoravid dynasty, the Almohad Caliphate, and the Saadian dynasty.^[22] During the Almoravid dynasty, the city of Marrakesh was established under the name of *Tāmurākuš*, derived from the city's ancient Berber name of *amūr n Yakuš* (lit. 'land/country of God').^[23] In English, the first vowel has been changed, likely influenced by the word "Moor".^[24]

<div><div></div><div>• Per capita</div></div>	<div><div>▲ \$3,979^[11]</div><div>(124th)</div></div>
<div><div></div><div>Gini (2015)</div></div>	<div><div>40.3^[12]</div><div>medium</div></div>
<div><div></div><div>HDI (2022)</div></div>	<div><div>▲ 0.698^[13]</div><div>medium (120th)</div></div>
<div><div></div><div>Currency</div></div>	<div>Moroccan dirham (MAD)</div>
<div><div></div><div>Time zone</div></div>	<div>UTC+1^[14]</div> <div>UTC+0 (during Ramadan)^[15]</div>
<div><div></div><div>Driving side</div></div>	<div>right</div>
<div><div></div><div>Calling code</div></div>	<div>+212</div>
<div><div></div><div>ISO 3166 code</div></div>	<div>MA</div>
<div><div></div><div>Internet TLD</div></div>	<div>.ma</div> <div>.المغرب</div>

Historically, the territory has been part of what Muslim geographers referred to as *al-Maghrib al-Aqṣā* (المغرب الأقصى, 'the Farthest West [of the Islamic world]' designating roughly the area from Tiaret to the Atlantic) in contrast with neighbouring regions of *al-Maghrib al-Awsaṭ* (المغرب الأوسط, 'the Middle West': Tripoli to Béjaïa) and *al-Maghrib al-Adnā* (المغرب الأدنى, 'the Nearest West': Alexandria to Tripoli).^[25]

Morocco's modern Arabic name is *al-Maghrib* (المغرب, transl. the land of the sunset; the west), with the Kingdom's official Arabic name being *al-Mamlakah al-Maghribīyah* (المملكة المغربية; transl. the kingdom of sunset/the west).^{[26][27][28]} In Turkish, Morocco is known as *Fas*, a name derived from its medieval capital of *Fes* which is derived from the Arabic word *Fa's* (فأس; transl. pickaxe), as the city's founder *Idris I ibn Abd Allah* reputedly used a silver and gold pickaxe to trace the outlines of the city.^{[29][30]} In other parts of the Islamic world, for example in Egyptian and Middle Eastern Arabic literature before the mid-20th century, Morocco was commonly referred to as *Murrakush* (مراكش).^[31] The term is still used to refer to Morocco today in several Indo-Iranian languages, including Persian, Urdu, and Punjabi.^[32]

Morocco has also been referred to politically by a variety of terms denoting the Sharifi heritage of the Alawi dynasty, such as *al-Mamlakah ash-Sharīfah* (المملكة الشريفة), *al-Iyālah ash-Sharīfah* (الإيالة الشريفة) and *al-Imbarāṭūriyyah ash-Sharīfah* (الإمبراطورية الشريفة), rendered in French as *l'Empire chérifien* and in English as the 'Sharifian Empire'.^{[33][34]}

History

Prehistory and antiquity

The area of present-day Morocco has been inhabited since at least Paleolithic times, beginning sometime between 190,000 and 90,000 BC.^[35] A recent publication has suggested that there is evidence for even earlier human habitation of the area: *Homo sapiens* fossils that had been discovered in the late 2000s near