

## **History and Architectural Heritage of Marrakech**

### **Foundation and Evolution**

- **Founded in 1062 by Youssef Ibn Tachfin, Almoravid dynasty**
- **Evolved into an influential cultural crossroads in North Africa and Andalusia**

### **Major Heritage Sites**

- **Medina ramparts: Monumental gates**
- **Koutoubia Mosque: Sober Almohad art**
- **Ben Youssef Madrasa (15th century): Arab-Andalusian architecture**
- **El Bahia Palace: Traditional riad, gardens, and patios**
- **Dar si Saïd Museum: 19th-century mansion**
- **Romantic sites: Menara, Agdal, Arsat moulay Abdeslam, Palm Grove**

### **Key Historical Periods**

- 1. Almoravid Dynasty (11th-12th centuries):**
  - **City foundation**
  - **Cultural and religious development**
  - **Planting of the Palm Grove**
  - **Construction of the first ramparts**
- 2. Almohad Dynasty (12th-13th centuries):**
  - **Conquest in 1147**
  - **Construction of the Koutoubia**
  - **Imperial peak**
- 3. Saadian Dynasty (16th-17th centuries):**
  - **City revival**
  - **Construction of El-Badii Palace**
  - **Building of the Saadian Tombs**

#### **4. Alaouite Dynasty (17th century to present):**

- **Restoration and modernization**
- **Blend of tradition and modernity**

#### **Colonial Heritage**

- **Notable buildings: Jamaa El Fna Post Office, former Bank of Morocco, Grande Église, Colisée cinema**

#### **Contemporary Architecture**

- **Integration of traditional styles, example of the Royal Theater**

#### **Character of the City**

- **Contrasts: Tradition and avant-garde, spirituality and epicureanism**
- **Various influences over 1000 years of history**
- **Legendary hospitality elevated to an art of living**