**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**