



LEXATLAS

YOUR GLOBAL LEGAL
COMPASS

Cross-Border Marriage Kit

FRA ↔ MAR

CROSS-BORDER MARIAGE KIT

FRA – MAR

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CROSS-BORDER MARRIAGE KIT

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Overview

CATEGORY	FRANCE	MOROCCO
AUTHORITIES IN CHARGE	Town Hall (Mairie) – civil registrar	Adoul (Islamic notary) + Family Court approval
COSTS	Civil ceremony free; translation & apostille fees apply	Court fees, Adoul fees, translations, authentications (~50–200€)
PROCESSING TIMES	Banns publication: 10 days minimum; full process ~1–2 months	Certificate of capacity + court approval: ~2–3 months
LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS	All documents must be in French; certified translation required	Documents must be in Arabic; certified translations into Arabic needed
APOSTILLE / LEGALISATION	Moroccan docs → Apostille (Courts of Appeal in Morocco) + sworn French translation	French docs → Apostille in France + sworn Arabic translation
IMMIGRATION EFFECT	Moroccan spouse can apply for long-stay visa (VLS-TS) → residence card	French spouse can apply for spousal visa/residence after transcription

KEY INSIGHTS

- **France** → civil marriage at the Town Hall is the only valid form. Banns compulsory.
- **Morocco** → marriage contract established by Adouls, must be approved by the Family Court.
- **Religion** → if a Moroccan woman marries a non-Muslim man, conversion to Islam is legally required.
- **Recognition** → both countries require **transcription** of foreign marriages into their own civil registers for validity.

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Legal Requirements

FRANCE

- **Civil marriage** is the **only legally recognised** form; a **religious ceremony** has no legal effect.
- At least **one spouse must reside or be domiciled** in the commune where the marriage will take place.
- **Banns** must be published at the **Town Hall** for at least **10 days**.

Documents required (for Moroccan citizen):

- **Passport** or Moroccan **National ID card**.
- **Birth certificate** (issued within **6 months**), **apostilled** by Moroccan Court of Appeal + **sworn French translation**.
- **Certificate of célibat** (single status) from Moroccan authorities.
- **Certificate of coutume** issued by the **Moroccan consulate in France**.
- If previously married → **divorce decree** or **death certificate** (apostilled + translated).
- **Witnesses:** 2–4 adults with valid **ID**.
- **Translations:** all Moroccan documents must be translated into French by a **sworn translator (traducteur assermenté)**.
- **Legalisation:** Morocco is a member of the **Hague Apostille Convention (since 2016)** → apostille mandatory for Moroccan documents.

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MOROCCO

- Civil status governed by the Moudawana (Family Code).
- Marriage contract must be drawn up by **two Adouls** (Islamic notaries) and **approved by the Family Court**.
- **Consent** of both spouses + **two Muslim witnesses** is compulsory.
- **Religion requirement:** a non-Muslim man cannot marry a Moroccan Muslim woman unless he converts to **Islam**.

Documents required (for French citizen):

- **Passport**.
- **Full birth certificate** (issued within 3 months, apostilled + sworn Arabic translation).
- **Certificate of nationality** (France).
- **Certificate of célibat / no impediment** (from French mairie).
- **Certificate of coutume and certificate of capacity to marry** (issued by the **French Consulate in Morocco**).
- **Criminal record extract** (casier judiciaire) + **medical certificate** (local).
- **Minimum age:** 18 years for both spouses.
- **Polygamy:** legally possible under Moroccan law (with court authorisation) but **not recognised in France**.
- **Approval:** all mixed marriages must be **approved by the Family Court** after submission of documents.
- The **officiant registers** the marriage with the provincial **Vital Statistics Agency**, which issues the marriage certificate.

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Marrying in France (with a Moroccan citizen)

DOCUMENTS

- **Valid passports/IDs** for both spouses.
- **Proof of residence** in France (utility bill, rental contract, attestation).
 - **Birth certificates:**
 - French spouse → extract issued within **3 months**.
 - Moroccan spouse → birth certificate issued within **6 months**, **apostilled** in Morocco + **sworn French translation**.
- **Certificate of célibat** (single status) issued by Moroccan authorities.
- **Certificate of coutume** delivered by the Moroccan consulate in France.
- **Divorce decree** or **death certificate** if previously married (apostilled + translated).
- **2–4 witnesses** with valid **ID**.
- **All Moroccan documents** must be **apostilled** and **translated into French** by a **sworn translator**.

STEPS & TIMELINE

1. **Collect all documents** (French & Moroccan).
2. Obtain **apostilles** in Morocco + arrange **sworn translations** in France.
3. **File submission** at the **Town Hall (mairie)** of residence.
4. Possible **pre-marriage interview (audition)** with interpreter if needed.
5. **Publication of banns** at the mairie for **10 days**.
6. **Civil ceremony** at the Town Hall with **2–4 witnesses**.
7. **French marriage certificate** and **livret de famille** issued.
8. If the Moroccan spouse will reside in France → apply for a **long-stay visa (VLS-TS)**, then later request the **Vie Privée et Familiale (VPF) residence card**.

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Marrying in Morocco (with a French citizen)

DOCUMENTS

- **Valid passports/IDs.**
- **Full birth certificate** for both spouses (apostilled + **sworn Arabic translation** for the French spouse).
- **Certificate of nationality** (French spouse).
- **Certificate of célibat / no impediment** issued by French mairie.
- **Certificate of coutume** and **certificate of capacity to marry** (delivered by the French Consulate in Morocco).
- **Criminal record extract** (casier judiciaire) + **medical certificate**.
- **Two Muslim witnesses.**
- If French spouse is non-Muslim man marrying a Moroccan Muslim woman → **conversion to Islam is mandatory**.

STEPS & TIMELINE

1. **Prepare documents** in France → apostille + sworn translations.
2. **Submit file** to the **French Consulate** in Morocco to obtain the **certificate of capacity to marry**.
3. **Marriage contract** drawn up by **two Adouls** (Islamic notaries).
4. **Approval** of the contract by the **Family Court (Tribunal de Première Instance)**.
5. **Marriage certificate** issued by the Moroccan court.
6. **Transcription** of the Moroccan marriage certificate at the **French Consulate** or the **SCEC in Nantes**.
7. Delivery of the **French livret de famille**.
8. If the French spouse will reside in Morocco → apply for a **spousal residence permit** after marriage transcription.

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Recognition in the other country

French marriage recognized in Morocco

REQUIREMENT	HOW TO PROVIDE	WHERE	TIMING	NOTES
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE	Obtain an official French marriage certificate (certified copy or extract)	From the mairie where marriage took place	Immediately after ceremony	Must be a recent certified copy for administrative use in Morocco
APOSTILLE	Apostille of the French marriage certificate	French Court of Appeal	2–4 weeks	Apostille mandatory for Moroccan use
TRANSLATION	Translate certificate into Arabic	Sworn translator recognised in Morocco	Few days	Must be attached to the original + apostille
REGISTRATION IN MOROCCO	Submit the file (apostilled + translated certificate)	Moroccan consulate or local court	Few weeks	Recognition may be refused if contrary to Moroccan law (religion, etc.)

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Moroccan marriage recognized in France

REQUIREMENT	HOW TO PROVIDE	WHERE	TIMING	NOTES
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE	Obtain official Moroccan marriage certificate approved by Family Court	Moroccan Family Court / Tribunal	After ceremony	Request long-form certificate including parents' names for French use
APOSTILLE	Apostille of Moroccan marriage certificate	Moroccan Court of Appeal	1–2 weeks	Apostille mandatory for French use
TRANSLATION	Sworn French translation of Moroccan certificate	Court-sworn translator in France	Few days	Only sworn translators in France are accepted
TRANSCRIPTION IN FRANCE	Submit certificate (apostilled + translated) for transcription	French Consulate in Morocco or SCEC Nantes	1–3 months	Transcription creates French civil record + issuance of livret de famille

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Special cases & red flags

- **Religion requirement** → A **non-Muslim man cannot marry** a Moroccan Muslim woman unless he **converts to Islam**.
- **Polygamy** → Possible in Morocco with **Family Court authorisation**, but **not recognised in France** (the marriage will be considered invalid under French law).
- **Validity of documents** → Moroccan **birth certificates** are only valid for **6 months**. Expired documents will be refused.
- **Transcription delays** → A Moroccan marriage must be **transcribed in France** (via the French Consulate or SCEC Nantes). This may take **1–3 months** before the French **livret de famille** is issued.
- **Marriage fraud suspicion** → Franco-Moroccan marriages are often subject to **strict checks** by both French and Moroccan authorities to prevent **sham marriages**.
- **Apostille requirement** → Since **2016**, Morocco is part of the **Hague Apostille Convention**. All Moroccan documents must be apostilled before being valid in France.
- **Translations** → France requires **sworn French translators** (*traducteurs assermentés*), while Morocco requires **sworn Arabic translators**. Using uncertified translators leads to rejection.
- **Divorce recognition** → A **Moroccan divorce** must be **recognised in France** before a new marriage can be registered. Similarly, a French divorce must be properly certified and translated for Moroccan use.
- **Immigration effects** → Residence permits and visas depend on the **proper transcription** of the marriage into French civil records. Without transcription, no French residence rights are granted.

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Checklists

FRANCE

1. Contact the **mairie** to obtain the **exact list of required documents** and book a date.
2. Collect **passports/IDs** for both spouses.
3. Obtain a recent **French birth certificate** (≤ 3 months).
4. For the Moroccan spouse:
 - a. **Birth certificate** (≤ 6 months), **apostilled** in Morocco.
 - b. **Certificate of célibat** (single status).
 - c. **Certificate of coutume** from the Moroccan consulate in France.
5. Arrange **sworn French translations** for all Moroccan documents.
6. Provide **proof of residence** in the commune (utility bill, lease, etc.).
7. If previously married: **divorce decree** or **death certificate** (apostilled + translated).
8. Submit the full **marriage file** at the mairie.
9. Attend the **pre-marriage interview (audition)** if requested.
10. Ensure **publication of banns** at the mairie for at least **10 days**.
11. Hold the **civil ceremony** at the Town Hall with **2–4 witnesses**.
12. Obtain the **French marriage certificate** and **livret de famille**.
13. If the Moroccan spouse will reside in France → apply for a **long-stay visa (VLS-TS)** and then for the **VPF residence card**.

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MOROCCO

1. Choose the **Adouls** and **Family Court** where the marriage will be celebrated.
2. Collect **passports/IDs** for both spouses.
3. Obtain **full birth certificates** (French spouse must provide apostilled version + sworn Arabic translation).
4. French spouse: request **certificate of nationality**.
5. Provide **certificate of célibat / no impediment** from the French mairie.
6. Obtain **certificate of coutume + certificate of capacity to marry** from the French consulate in Morocco.
7. Prepare **criminal record extract** (casier judiciaire) and **medical certificate**.
8. If French husband is non-Muslim marrying a Moroccan Muslim woman → **conversion to Islam** required.
9. Submit the file to the **French Consulate** for validation of capacity to marry.
10. Marriage contract drawn up by **two Adouls**.
11. Contract approved by the **Family Court**.
12. Obtain the official **Moroccan marriage certificate**.
13. Apply for **apostille** (Court of Appeal in Morocco).
14. Arrange a **sworn French translation** of the Moroccan marriage certificate.
15. Submit the file for **transcription** at the **French Consulate** or the **SCEC in Nantes**.
16. Obtain the **French livret de famille**.
17. If the French spouse will reside in Morocco → apply for a **spousal residence permit**.

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Templates

This section provides **official resources and sample documents** commonly required :

Use the hyperlinks below to access the official template or instruction page.



1. France – Statutory Declaration / Attestation of Single Status

Often requested by French mairies when marrying a Moroccan citizen.

 [Access the Attestation sur l'honneur template \(Service-Public\)](#)

2. Morocco – Certificate of Coutume & Certificate of Célibat

Issued by the Moroccan consulate in France; certifies the Moroccan law applicable to marriage and the single status of the spouse.

 consulat.ma/coutume
 consulat.ma/celibat

3. Morocco – Apostille Application

Required to validate Moroccan documents (birth certificates, marriage certificates) for use in France.

 hcch.net/maroc

4. France/Morocco – Sworn Translator Directories

To find official translators for French or Arabic sworn translations.

 service-public.fr/traducteurs

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Official Sources

TOPIC	NOTES	AUTHORITY / URL
MOROCCAN CONSULATE – CERTIFICATE OF COUTUME	Official page explaining how Moroccan nationals obtain a certificate of coutume for marriage in France.	consulat.ma/coutume
MOROCCAN CONSULATE – CERTIFICATE OF CÉLIBAT	Information on obtaining the single-status certificate required for marriage.	consulat.ma/celibat
HCCH – APOSTILLE (MOROCCO)	Hague Apostille Convention – Morocco: list of competent authorities for apostilles.	hcch.net/maroc
SERVICE-PUBLIC FRANCE – SWORN TRANSLATORS	Official directory to find certified translators (<i>traducteurs assermentés</i>).	service-public.fr/traducteurs
CONSULATE OF FRANCE IN MOROCCO – MARRIAGE PROCEDURES	French consulate page on how a French citizen can marry in Morocco.	ma.consulfrance.org/mariage

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Glossary & Notes

TERM	DEFINITION / NOTES
APOSTILLE	International certification under the 1961 Hague Convention , required for Moroccan documents used in France.
CERTIFICATE OF COUTUME	Document from the Moroccan consulate confirming the Moroccan legal rules on marriage. Requested by French mairies.
CERTIFICATE OF CÉLIBAT	Certificate proving that a Moroccan citizen is single . Must be apostilled and translated for France.
TRANSCRIPTION	Registration of a foreign marriage into French civil records (via consulate or SCEC Nantes) to obtain the livret de famille .
ADOUL	Islamic notary in Morocco who drafts marriage contracts. Requires Family Court approval .
BANNS	Public notice of marriage published at the mairie in France for 10 days before the wedding.
LIVRET DE FAMILLE	Official French family record book issued after transcription. Needed for visas, residence permits, and child registration.
CONVERSION REQUIREMENT	A non-Muslim man must convert to Islam to marry a Moroccan Muslim woman under Moroccan law.
APOSTILLE	International certification under the 1961 Hague Convention , required for Moroccan documents used in France.

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Annexes

ANNEX	TITLE	FILE
MARRIAGE IN MOROCCO – FRENCH CONSULATES	Official guidance for French citizens marrying in Morocco (CCAM, banns, steps).	ma.consulfrance.org/mariage
CCAM CHECKLIST (PDF)	Required documents list for the Certificat de Capacité à Mariage .	ma.consulfrance.org/ccam-checklist.pdf
APOSTILLE – MOROCCO (HCCH)	Official HCCH page listing Moroccan competent authorities for apostilles.	hcch.net/maroc
TRANSCRIPTION OF A FOREIGN MARRIAGE (FRANCE)	Service-Public guidance to register a Moroccan marriage in French civil records.	service-public.fr/mariage-etranger

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Legal Disclaimer & Thank You

This Cross-Border Marriage Kit has been carefully researched and compiled to provide practical guidance for international couples.

However, it does **not constitute legal advice**.

- Laws and procedures may change at any time.
- Requirements may vary depending on the specific **State** or **French municipality** involved.
- Always verify your situation directly with the **competent civil authorities**, embassies, or consulates before submitting documents.
- LexAtlas cannot be held liable for any administrative delays, changes in law, or outcomes arising from the use of this guide.

For complex or exceptional cases (previous marriages, immigration complications, name changes, adoption, or nationality issues), we strongly recommend consulting a qualified attorney or notary.

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