

# Morocco

**Continent:** Africa

**Languages Spoken:** Arabic, Berber (Amazigh), French

**Population:** 37,000,000

**Currency:** Moroccan Dirham (MAD)

**Area:** 710,850

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Hassan II Mosque', 'writeup': 'Located in Casablanca, it is one of the largest mosques in the world, known for its stunning architecture and oceanfront location.'}
- {'name': 'Medina of Fez', 'writeup': 'A UNESCO World Heritage site, this ancient walled city is famous for its narrow alleys, traditional markets, and historic buildings.'}
- {'name': 'Ait Benhaddou', 'writeup': 'A fortified village (ksar) along the former caravan route between the Sahara and Marrakech, known for its earthen clay architecture.'}
- {'name': 'Jemaa el-Fnaa', 'writeup': 'A vibrant square in Marrakech famous for its street performers, food stalls, and traditional Moroccan culture.'}
- {'name': 'Atlas Mountains', 'writeup': 'A mountain range offering diverse landscapes, traditional Berber villages, and opportunities for trekking and skiing.'}

## Head of State / Government:

King Mohammed VI

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Mawazine Festival', 'writeup': 'An annual music festival in Rabat showcasing international and Moroccan artists, promoting cultural exchange.'}
- {'name': 'Fes Festival of World Sacred Music', 'writeup': 'Celebrates spiritual music from various cultures, held in the historic city of Fez.'}
- {'name': 'Imilchil Marriage Festival', 'writeup': 'A traditional Berber festival in the Atlas Mountains where local tribes gather for matchmaking and celebrations.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Moroccan cuisine is known for its rich flavors and use of spices such as cumin, saffron, and cinnamon. Signature dishes include tagine, couscous, and pastilla, often combining sweet and savory elements.

## Brief History:

Morocco has a rich history influenced by indigenous Berber, Arab, and European cultures. It was a French and Spanish protectorate until gaining independence in 1956. The country has a constitutional monarchy and has played a significant role in regional politics.

## Important People:

- King Mohammed VI - Current monarch and political leader
- Ibn Battuta - Famous medieval Moroccan explorer

- Fatima al-Fihri - Founder of the world's oldest university, University of Al Quaraouiyine
- Tahar Ben Jelloun - Renowned Moroccan-French writer

**Current Conflicts:**

Ongoing territorial dispute over Western Sahara between Morocco and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).

**Youtube Links:**

- Morocco Travel Guide - Top Things to Do & See
- A Day in Marrakech, Morocco - Travel Vlog
- History of Morocco - From Ancient to Modern Times
- Moroccan Cuisine - Traditional Dishes Explained
- Exploring the Atlas Mountains - Morocco Adventure