



# CONFERENCE 2022

Rabat, Morocco  
24-29 July

## Information Note on The Kingdom of Morocco

[www.iasia-conference2022.org](http://www.iasia-conference2022.org)

"Implementing and Promoting  
Effective Governance Principles  
to Leave No One, No Place Behind"

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**Morocco** (المغرب, *al-Mağrib* in Arabic; ⵍⵎⵖⵔⵉⵔ, *I-Meɣrib* in Tamazight), officially the Kingdom of Morocco since 1957, formerly the Sharifian Empire, is a regionalized unitary State located in North Africa.

Home to hominids as long as 700,000 years ago, inhabited since prehistoric times by Amazigh/Berber people, the Moroccan State was established in the year 789 CE by King Idriss I.

From 1912 to 1956 Morocco had the status of a Franco-Spanish protectorate. It achieved independence in 1956.

Morocco ratified a new constitution in 2011. According to Paragraph #1 of the Preamble (an integral part of the Constitution):  
 “Resolve to build a constitutional democratic State, the Kingdom of Morocco resolutely pursues the process of consolidating and reinforcing the institutions of a modern State founded on principles of participation, pluralism and good governance.”

Morocco is a Democratic, Social, Parliamentary, Constitutional Monarchy. The Kingdom's constitutional regime is founded on a separation of powers that are balanced and collaborative. It is a participative citizens' democracy, which promotes good governance and accountability.

The current sovereign is His majesty King Mohammed VI -May God Assist Him- who succeeded to his Father, the late Hassan II, on July 30, 1999.

The government derives from an elected parliament and, since the adoption of the 2011 constitution, is led by a Head of Government currently Mr. Aziz Akhannouch, of the National Rally of Independents Party (RNI).

Islam is the official religion. Freedom of religion for all is guaranteed by the State.

Arabic remains the official religion. The State ensures protection and development of the Arabic language and strives to promote its use. The Tamazight language, a common heritage of all Moroccans without exception, is also an official language of the State.

Morocco is characterized by mountain ranges and deserts. Along with Spain and France, it is one of the few countries with coasts on both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. According to the 2021 national census, Morocco had about 37,13 million inhabitants distributed across 710,850 km².

The administrative architecture is as follows:

- 12 regions
- 75 prefectures or provinces
- 1503 communes

Morocco's Capital is Rabat, while its largest economic City is Casablanca.

Internationally, Morocco pursues peace, solidarity and cooperation. It is an active member of numerous international and regional organizations, including: the United Nations, the Arab League, the African Union, the Arab Maghreb Union, the Organization for Islamic Cooperation, the Group of 77, the International Organization of Francophonie, and the Union for the Mediterranean, and it is seeking membership of ECOWAS.

**Since 2010 Morocco hosts the African Headquarters of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa).**

## MOROCCO'S CLIMATE AND WEATHER

- Morocco has a Mediterranean climate characterized by hot summers with distinct regional variations. The Atlantic coast is cooled by Northwesterly trade winds and the offshore Canary Current. Interior regions have a hotter dry continental climate. Saharan regions of the south are hot and arid almost all year round, though temperatures can drop precipitously at night during winter months.
- Precipitation occurs mostly in winter (October-January) and spring (March-April) and falls mainly on coastal plains and mountainous areas. Summers are almost entirely dry and hot, though mountain ranges stay cooler.

## TRAVELING TO MOROCCO: GETTING THERE BY AIR

- Morocco's national carrier is Royal Air Maroc (AT) ([www.royalairmaroc.com](http://www.royalairmaroc.com)).
- Morocco is also well served by such global airline companies like Air France, Emirates, Qatar Airways, and Ittihad, etc...

## MAIN AIRPORTS

Morocco has 12 Airports, among which:

- **Rabat-Salé Airport (RBA)** is located in the City of Salé, 11 km northeast of the City of Rabat (25 minutes by expressway). Facilities: Duty-free store, bank and exchange office, restaurant, tourist assistance service and car rental. It is served by city taxis and buses.
- **Casablanca Mohammed V (CMN)** in Nouaceur is 30 km (35 minutes by expressway) south of the city. The airport has duty-free shops, ATMs, currency exchanges, restaurants, tourist information kiosks and car rental agencies. It is served by taxis and commuter rail to central Casablanca, with connecting trains to the country's other rail destinations. Between Casablanca and Rabat, we can use the speedy way, or by car (1,50)minutes).
- **Marrakech - Menara (RAK)** is 8.5 km from the city Marrakech (20 minutes drive). The airport has duty-free store, bank and exchange office, restaurant, bar, tourist assistance service and car rental. It is served by city buses and taxis.
- **Morocco's other international airports include Fez (FEZ) and Tangier (TNG).**
- Airport taxes are included in the price of the airline ticket.

## TRAVELLING AROUND MOROCCO...

### By plane

- With Casablanca Mohammed V Airport as hub, Royal Air Maroc (AT) ([www.royalairmaroc.com](http://www.royalairmaroc.com)) maintains regular routes between the 12 major Moroccan cities that have airports. These include Rabat-Salé, Agadir, Dakhla, Fez, Marrakech, Ouarzazate, Oujda and Tangier.

### By train

- Morocco's railways are run by the Moroccan National Railways Office (ONCF) ([www.oncf.ma](http://www.oncf.ma)), which maintains regular service with comfortable air-conditioned trains. Ticket prices are very affordable.
- Centered on the Atlantic Seaboard (Casablanca-Rabat), the rail network services Oujda in the east, Tangiers in the north, and Marrakech in the south.

### By road

- Morocco's road network consists of all-weather national roads reinforced by an expressway system that connects all main cities, reaching as far as Tangiers, Oujda and Agadir.
- **Inter-city bus service:** main cities are served by a variety of both public and privately operated bus companies. The two main companies are CTM (tel: (+212) 522-75-36-77 ; <http://www.ctm.co.ma/>), which covers the entire country, and Supratours (tel: (+212) 537-68-62-97 ; [www.supratourstravel.com](http://www.supratourstravel.com)), which services regions beyond the rail network.
- **Taxis:** there are two types of taxi service: small taxis (petits taxis) with meters are licensed to operate within city limits. They can be hailed individually or shared with other riders; large taxis (grands taxis), usually Mercedes Benz roadsters or Renault Dacia-Lodgys, are used for suburban runs and inter-city transportation. Most often shared, routes have fixed prices per rider. Large taxis can also be rented for particular runs, but the price must be agreed beforehand, as they do not run-on meters.
- **Car rentals:** Both international and Moroccan car rental companies have agencies in major cities. Renting a car can be quite expensive and the minimum legal age to do so is 21.

### Driving in Morocco:

- Cars drive on the right side of roads.
- Seatbelts are obligatory for all passengers.
- The speed limit is usually set at 60 km/hour within urban areas, 100 km/hour on national roads, and 120 km/hour on expressways.
- No amount of alcohol is allowable in the bloodstream of a driver.

### Carrying ID:

- Technically, individuals must always have a valid personal identification document on them. Practically, photocopies of the identification pages of a passport are good enough, provided that the original is kept in the same city (in a hotel room for example). When traveling between cities, travelers should always have a valid identification document on them.

### WHERE TO STAY

Moroccan hotels are very affordable, offer good value for money, and are usually easy to find and reserve rooms in. Some major tourist destinations (Marrakech and certain beach resorts) may experience very low vacancy rates during high season. Other times of the year there are always lots of options, from variously starred hotels to family-run B&Bs, to Morocco's famed riads (traditional houses in historic neighborhoods).

**For IASIA 2022 Conference**, we have selected a list of Hotels with affordable rates through this Link:

<https://iasia-conference2022.jcitours.com/>

## WHAT TO EAT AND DRINK

Morocco's distinctive cuisine, which combines savory and sweet, is internationally renowned. It is the culmination of centuries of culinary development, making it rich and varied.

Dishes not to be missed include: couscous (meat, chicken and/or steamed vegetables served on durum wheat semolina ), tajines (Dutch-oven stews), harira (soup), pastilla (meat or seafood pastry), mechoui (roast lamb), various sweet and savory salads, and almond and orange-blossom scented sweets, not to mention regional and local specialties.

Morocco's national beverages are:

- Green mint tea served sweet
- Coffee

## HEALTH CARE

Morocco is well equipped with hospitals, clinics and pharmacies. There are major university research hospitals, civilian and military hospitals, emergency services, private clinics, pharmacies, and labs for medical tests in every city.

Public hospitals offer emergency services for free or for a token fee.



## SHOPPING

Morocco is famed for its crafts, executed with ancestral know-how by master craftsmen. Traditional crafts include weaving (carpets), tailoring (men's and women's jellabas), copperware, pottery & ceramics (dishes & flatware), leatherwork (slippers, jackets, handbags, book covers), jewelry (silver, gold, amber, coral), and medicinal and aromatic herbs. These handcrafted goods are produced by master artisans (*maalems*) using age-old techniques they learnt from previous masters and which they pass down to apprentices, the master artisans of tomorrow. While designs may be entirely traditional, they can also be surprisingly contemporary. Moroccan crafts are best purchased in its Souqs, dense clusters of shops organized by trade. There are also government-run handicraft centers in every large city. Morocco is now also dotted with modern shopping malls and supermarket chains.

## EXCHANGE RATES

- The currency in use in Morocco is called the dirham (expressed as either MAD or Dh).
- Bills come in denominations of 20, 50, 100 and 200 Dh. Coins have a value of 1, 2, 5 and 10 Dh as well as 5, 10, 20 and 50 centimes (100 centimes to the dirham).
- While the value of the MAD fluctuates somewhat over time, it is currently valued at:
  - **1,00 EUROS = 10,61 MAD**
  - **1,00 \$US = 9,85 MAD**
- The Euro and the US dollar are the preferred foreign currency of Morocco
- Dirhams can be easily withdrawn from ATMs, most of which accept international credit and debit cards. ATMs can be found in every Moroccan town, great or small.
- Banks can also sell dirhams. Banks are open Mondays to Fridays 8:15 AM to 3:45 PM.
- Dirhams can only be legally purchased by an official currency exchange provider. Exchanging currencies in the street is illegal.
- Moroccan dirhams can only be purchased in Morocco and should be exchanged back for foreign currency before leaving the country.
- There are no commission fees when buying dirhams. Travelers get a receipt of the exchange which they should show when they want to exchange the dirhams back into foreign currency upon leaving the

- country.
- Major hotels, restaurants and stores accept international credit cards.

## ENTRY CONDITIONS TO MOROCCO & VISAS

### Types of visas granted

The competent authorities of Morocco issue four types of entry visa to Morocco: Short validity visa, Long validity visa, Transit visa, Visa issued at the border. For more information, please consult the following link: <https://www.consulat.ma/fr/types-de-visas-octroyes>

#### - Ordinary visas

The different types of ordinary visas: Tourism, Work, Business, Investor, Seminars, Conferences, Student, Trainee, Researcher, Family reunification, Journalist... For more information, please consult the following link: <https://www.consulat.ma/fr/visas-ordinaries>

#### - Official visas

The different types of official visas: Accreditation Visa, Diplomatic Visa, Service Visa.

- Accreditation visa: <https://www.consulat.ma/fr/visa-daccreditation>
- Diplomatic visa: <https://www.consulat.ma/fr/visa-diplomatique>
- Service visa: <https://www.consulat.ma/fr/visa-de-service>

### List of countries whose nationals are exempt from the entry visa to Morocco

For more information, please consult the following link:

<https://www.consulat.ma/fr/liste-des-pays-dont-les-ressortissants-sont-dispenses-du-visa-dentree-au-maroc>

**For the guests and participants in the IASIA 2022 Conference** from countries where Morocco does not have accredited Embassies or Consulates, they are requested to send urgently a copy of their passport valid for at least six (6) months to the ALGA of UCLG Africa Staff, with their date of birth and their City of residence: [fchabi@uclga.org](mailto:fchabi@uclga.org) ; [pdabire@uclga.org](mailto:pdabire@uclga.org) ; [kabalo@uclga.org](mailto:kabalo@uclga.org)

## MEASURES IMPOSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Since May 2022, the entry on the Moroccan national territory is conditioned by:

- An obligation to present a complete "Vaccine Pass", meaning having received two doses of vaccine less than 6 months ago or having received a third dose (booster shot);
- Or a negative result of a PCR test performed less than 48 hours before boarding;
- A requirement to present a " Sanitary Form ", distributed in the airplanes, duly filled in.

## ELECTRICAL CIRCUITRY

In Morocco, electrical circuits are 220 V and standard frequency is 50Hz. The country uses standard European sockets and plugs (Type C and E).



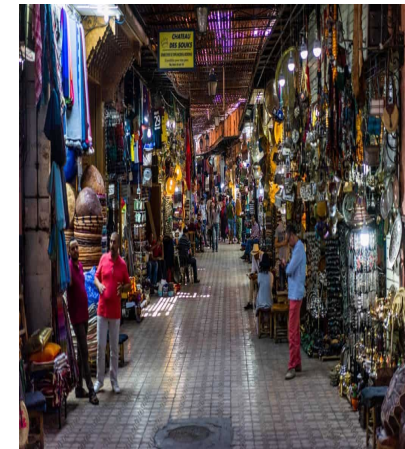
## TELEPHONE ET INTERNET

- The international telephone country code for Morocco is: 212.
- Morocco has state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure that conforms to international standards. Internet is accessible from nearly anywhere in the country.
- SIM cards are easily purchased, including in airports.

## Morocco's Main Cities that deserved to be visited during your visit to Morocco

### Rabat

Not only is Rabat the national capital with every modern urban amenity, but it is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site containing a wealth of historic monuments dating back thousands of years. Among these are the Chellah archaeological site (ancient and medieval), the Tour Hassan and the Mausoleum of Mohammed V, and the Qasba (citadel) of the Ouadaïas on the Bouregreg Estuary. Its fortified medina (old city) harbors the famous Rue des Consules, with its antique dealers and numerous crafts shops, as well as many charming riads. Among the city's museums are the Archaeological Museum and the Mohammed VI Museum of Modern Art (MMVI). Its palm tree-lined central avenues are clean and well maintained, as is its beach. The city has excellent public transportation systems, including commuter trains, trams, busses, and taxis. In 2022, the City of Rabat celebrates a double Status: The African Capital of Culture by UCLG Africa and the Moroccan Authorities, and the Capital of Culture in the Islamic World, by ICESCO and the Moroccan Authorities.





## Marrakech

Located at the foot of the High Atlas Mountains, the Imperial City of Marrakech, capital to several imperial dynasties, is charged with history, cultural goods and heritage. Marrakech is an open-air museum; its ancient medina is one of the largest nearly intact medieval cities anywhere. Among its monuments are the 13<sup>th</sup>-century Koutoubia Mosque with its famous minaret, the ruins of the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Badi Palace, and Djemma El-Fna square, emblematic hub of the city's social life day and night. Marrakech is famous for its range of museums, its crowded souqs and bazars, and for its charming riads (courtyard houses transformed into boutique B&Bs).



## Essaouira

The “windy city” of Essaouira is famous for its surfing scene. A major Atlantic port in the age of sail ships, Essaouira is now the perfect place “chill” away from bustle of big cities. Already in the 1960s it was a “happening” place where the likes of Jimmy Hendricks hung out. Today, Essaouira is known for the weeklong Gnawa Festival of World Music, which attracts about 300,000 spectators annually. The spectacular beach attracts wind surfers the year round. Other visitors come to Essaouira for its visual arts scene, or else to wander the streets and squares of this beautifully planned 18th-century port.



## Safi

Safi is a city in Morocco, located on the Atlantic coast. It takes advantage of its position as a crossroads between the major poles of Morocco: Casablanca, Agadir and Marrakech. Its port is one of the most important in the country.

Since the 1960s, the city has also been home to an important industrial complex for the transformation of phosphate. It recorded a population of 308,508 in the 2014 Moroccan census. Its privileged geographical and natural setting, offering vast plains made up of agricultural soil, bordered by superb beaches of fine sand and a subsoil rich in mineral resources (phosphate, gypsum and barite) and a maritime frontage on the Atlantic Ocean over 150 km.





## Casablanca

Casablanca is the country's economic capital and its most important business and financial center. It hosts the head offices of Morocco's largest corporations. Young Moroccans and foreigners alike flock to Casablanca to seek their fortunes, as it has dynamic creative industries. The number of prestigious new real-estate developments rising across the city is astounding. Casablanca's infrastructure is continuously being expanded and upgraded. Yet, despite the unrelenting growth, Casablanca retains a rich cultural and architectural heritage.



## Tangier

Only 18 km from the Spanish coast, Tangier has long been the gateway to Africa for Europeans and other travelers. Declared an "International" city in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, numerous American artists (Truman Capote, Paul Bowles, Tennessee Williams) called Tangier home in the 1940s and 50s. The city on the strait contains heritage sites and monuments, particularly in the historic Medina and Qasba neighborhoods. Among these historic sites are the American Legation (the oldest federally-owned property outside of the USA), now a museum. Recently, a wealth of new infrastructure projects have been built in the city, the most important of which is the Tanger-Med container port, now among the largest shipping hubs in the world.



The American legation



## Ifrane

Perched at 1665 m. altitude, Ifrane (pop.73.782 according to the 2014 census) is a healthy mountain resort that attracts visitors all year long. In Tamazight, ifran means "caves", which are a distinctive feature of the karstic Middle Atlas Mountains. The town was created by the authorities of the French Protectorate in 1928 to serve as a Hill Station, providing cool relief from the summer heat for French settler families. Designed as a Garden City with an abundance of leafy parks, the city is reputed for its cleanliness. Ifrane has long been a preferred high-altitude venue for sports and athletic training. It even boasts a ski hill, the Michelifen. Due to the presence of Al Akhawayn University (AUI), a prestigious English-language American-style Liberal Arts university, it is now developing into a College Town.

