



# MOROCCO

**Capital:** Rabat

**Language:** Arabic

**Population:** 32 million

**Time Zone:** EST plus 4 hours

**Currency:** Moroccan dirham (MAD)

**Electricity:** 220V. 50Hz

## Fun Facts



- Morocco gained independence from France in 1956.
- The shrine of Sidi Yahya, situated in the Oujda city of Morocco, is said to be the tomb of “John the Baptist.”

With Morocco's strategic position guarding the entrance to the Mediterranean, "the pillars of Hercules" attracted many ancient civilizations, including the Phoenicians, Romans, and Byzantines before the first Arabian dynasty was established in the lands of the original Berber inhabitants. Later colonized by France and Spain, it achieved independence in 1956. This diverse, historical legacy, as well as its geographic location, has given the country a rich cultural heritage. It is situated on the northern edge of Africa, just a short ferry ride across the Straits of Gibraltar to Europe, and bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea, and neighboring Northern Africa countries. Fascinating Morocco is a melting pot of Arabian, Berber, and African cultures.

Today, its 32 million hospitable people live in the magnificent imperial cities (in Casablanca or in hundreds of rural villages, some fortified, others set in an oasis), and there are still a few nomadic tribes. It is a mainly agricultural society with farmers working the land in the traditional way. Morocco is also a country of exceptional geographical diversity with fertile green valleys and plains separated from the Sahara Desert by the magnificent Atlas Mountains...a photographer's paradise.

The market *souks* proudly display pyramids of spices and fresh produce, ingredients of the varied, healthy, and easily digestible Moroccan cuisine, which is rarely very spicy; it is often accompanied with fresh mint tea and, on special occasions, with dance and music. In the *souks* of the old medina, some of which have barely changed since medieval times, enjoy sharpening up your bargaining skills to seek that beautiful carpet, leatherwork, brass plate, and blue pottery.



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## VISAS AND PASSPORTS

Visas to Morocco are not required for U.S. citizens. If you hold a passport from another country, please check with your local consulate about requirements for travel to Morocco. All passengers traveling internationally are required to have a passport. Please carry proper identification (your passport) on you and do not leave it in your suitcase or hotel room.



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## COUNTRY CODES

The country code for Morocco is 212. When calling to Morocco from overseas, you dial your international access code (011 from the U.S.) followed by the country code, area code, and phone number. Phone numbers in Morocco are nine digits in length. Dialing from the U.S.: 011+212+XX+XXX XXXX.



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## CURRENCY AND BUDGETING

The official currency of Morocco is the Moroccan dirham. U.S. dollars are generally not accepted, but if in exceptional cases they are, change will be given in the local currency (Moroccan dirham).

1 Dirham = 100 Centimes

- Banknote denominations: Dirham - 20, 50, 100, 200
- Coin denominations: Centimes - 5, 10, 20, 50; Dirham - 1, 5, 10

For the most current exchange rates, please go to our Web site at [www.globusfamily.com/currency](http://www.globusfamily.com/currency)

It is illegal to bring more than 1,000 dirham out of the country upon departure. Therefore, only exchange a small amount of money while in Morocco, so you do not have excess upon departure. ATMs can be found near hotels but check that they accept foreign credit cards (Plus or Cirrus) before putting your card in.

Credit cards should be used with caution. If you want to use your credit card, we recommend you keep it in sight at all times and request receipts.

Bargaining is common in Morocco. Though there is no exact rule for how much to offer to start bargaining, 50% less than the amount stated is a good place to start.



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## TO HELP YOU BUDGET:

The following budget guidelines are just approximate values or starting values for meals and are per person. Actual prices will vary widely by restaurant and city within a country but below are some averages as provided by our experienced personnel.

The approximate cost of a soft drink/mineral water/coffee is 5 MAD.



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## TIPPING

We recommend a tip of 10% to wait staff in restaurants. At informal cafes, 1-2 dirham is usually an acceptable tip.

For taxis, round up the fare to the nearest whole dollar.

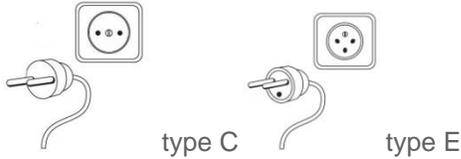
Restroom attendants expect a small gratuity so we recommend you carry small denomination coins with you.

Tip hotel staff 8-17 dirham for room service.



## ELECTRICAL OUTLETS:

Voltage for outlets is 220V. American voltage is generally 110V. Therefore, a converter may be necessary for your travels. Adapters will be necessary to adapt your plug into the outlet but may not convert the voltage, so both devices are necessary. Morocco uses a round, 2-prong plug.



## TEMPERATURES

To help you plan, below are average low and high temperatures for Rabat.

Month	Average High °(F)	Average Low °(F)
January	63	45
February	65	46
March	69	49
April	69	51
May	74	56
June	78	61
July	78	61
August	82	65
September	80	62
October	76	58
November	70	51
December	65	48

To convert to Celsius, subtract 32, then multiply by 5 and then divide by 9.

See examples in the Know Before You Go Europe document.



## FOOD SPECIALTIES

Lamb and chicken, tagine (stews), couscous (semolina cooked with spices, vegetables, nuts, and raisins), savory dishes often enhanced with fresh or preserved fruit (apricots, dates, figs, and lemons), and mint tea.

Avoid iced drinks and eating raw and unwrapped street fare. We recommend drinking bottled mineral water and not tap water.



## A FEW WORDS OF THE LOCAL LANGUAGE

**Good morning:** Sabah el khair, **Good evening:** Masaa el khair, **Thank you:** Shokrun, **Please:** Men fadluck, **Do you speak English?:** Be'tetkalem englizi?, **I don't understand:** Ana mosh fahem, **Please write it down:** Ekteb hali men fadlak, **How much is this?:** Bikam dah?, **1:** Wahed, **2:** Ethné, **3:** Thalàtha, **4:** Arba'a, **5:** Hamsà, **6:** Seta, **7:** Seba'a, **8:** Thamània, **9:** Tesa'a, **10:** Ash'ra, **20:** Eshreen, **30:**

Thalatheen, **40:** Arbae'en, **50:** Hamseen, **60:** Seteen, **70:** Sabèen, **80:** Thamanen, **90:** Tesa'een, **100:** May'a, **150:** May'a u hamseen, **200:** Metein, **Where is...?:** Fain...?, **Telephone:** Telephone, **Bathroom:** Hammam, **Bottled water:** Maya maadaneya, **Tea:** Shaay, **Coffee:** Ahwa.

Last updated 11/1/12