



# Car rental Marrakech — medina, Palmeraie & RAK airport

Marrakech is vibrant; a car helps for Atlas day trips and quieter riads outside the walls. Location de Voitures: often chosen by French-speaking travellers.



Photo: Petar Milošević / Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 4.0)

Inside the medina, walking is often easier than driving. Keep the car for the Palmeraie, Ourika Valley, Agafay or coastal runs toward Essaouira. Beyond the medina walls, the Palmeraie and the roads toward the High Atlas open up a completely different, much quieter side of the region that most day-trippers on foot never see.

This guide is prepared for visitors of Location de Voitures (locationdevoitures.casa).

## City guide

- Jemaa el-Fna at dusk
- Majorelle / YSL gardens
- Ourika or Agafay day trip
- Bahia Palace and the Saadian Tombs
- Essaouira weekend

Hotel delivery avoids medina parking stress. Menara Airport (RAK) pickup is free. Fuel up before heading into the mountains — stations thin out quickly once you leave the city. Book via Location de Voitures to lock your preferred car.

## Highlights



### Jemaa el-Fnaa

Marrakech's main square and the heart of the old city — food stalls, storytellers, musicians and henna artists fill it every evening, and it looks completely different by day and by night. It is worth visiting at both times if you have a full day in the city.

The square sits at the edge of the medina, so it is best reached on foot from a nearby parking area rather than driven into directly — the surrounding lanes are pedestrian and often too narrow for cars.



### Koutoubia Mosque

Marrakech's tallest and most recognisable landmark, its minaret visible from most of the city and used historically as a model for other Moroccan and Andalusian towers. The gardens around the mosque are a pleasant, shaded place to pause between the square and the newer parts of the city.

Like most active mosques in Morocco, the interior is not open to non-Muslim visitors, but the exterior and gardens are freely accessible at any time.

## Things to do

### Les Bains de Marrakech

Traditional hammam near Bab Doukkala — steam, black soap, massage

### Agafay desert overnight

Stone desert 30 min from the city — sunset, dinner & a night under the stars in a Berber camp

## Where to eat

### Nomad

Modern Moroccan, candlelit rooftop over the Rahba Lakdima spice square

### Le Jardin

Moroccan & European in a green zellige courtyard garden

## Riads & places to stay

### Riad Zoraida

19th-century boutique riad by Bahia Palace, 5 min from Jemaa el-Fna

### La Claire Fontaine

Terrace with High Atlas views, fountain patio

## Good to know

### A little history

Founded around 1070 by the Almoravid dynasty, Marrakech is one of Morocco's four historic imperial cities. Its walled medina, centred on Jemaa el-Fnaa, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### Local customs

- Dress modestly, especially at religious sites and in more traditional neighbourhoods.
- Ask before photographing people directly, especially women.
- Hagglng is expected in souks and markets; fixed-price shops and restaurants are not negotiable.
- A tip of around 10% is customary at restaurants; small tips for guides and porters are appreciated.
- Friday is the main day of prayer — some businesses close or reduce hours around midday.
- During Ramadan, avoid eating, drinking or smoking in public during daylight hours out of respect.
- Alcohol is available at licensed hotels, bars and some restaurants, but not sold everywhere — public intoxication is frowned upon.
- Driving is on the right; seatbelts are mandatory, and traffic already in a roundabout generally has priority.



## Emergency information

- **Police: 19** (from any phone)
- **Gendarmerie Royale (rural areas / highways): 177**
- **Fire & ambulance (Protection Civile): 15**
- **Highway emergency (Autoroutes du Maroc): 5050**

For anything involving the rental car itself — breakdown, accident, or any question at all — call or WhatsApp us directly first; we're reachable and can usually help faster than a general hotline. Keep your embassy or consulate's contact details with you separately; Moroccan emergency operators may not speak English.

- **Yasmine Clinic** — Private clinic · +212 524 43 96 94
- **Avicenna Clinic** — Private clinic · +212 524 44 66 73

Embassy & consulate phone numbers for Rabat are on the next page. Need a hospital, clinic, translator or other useful address? See our full, growing directory (<https://locationdevoitures.casa/en/guide/>).

## Embassies & consulates in Rabat

Phone numbers only, most missions are based in Rabat. Numbers can change — if unreachable, ask your hotel or local police for help.

|                                 |                   |                          |                   |                              |                   |
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