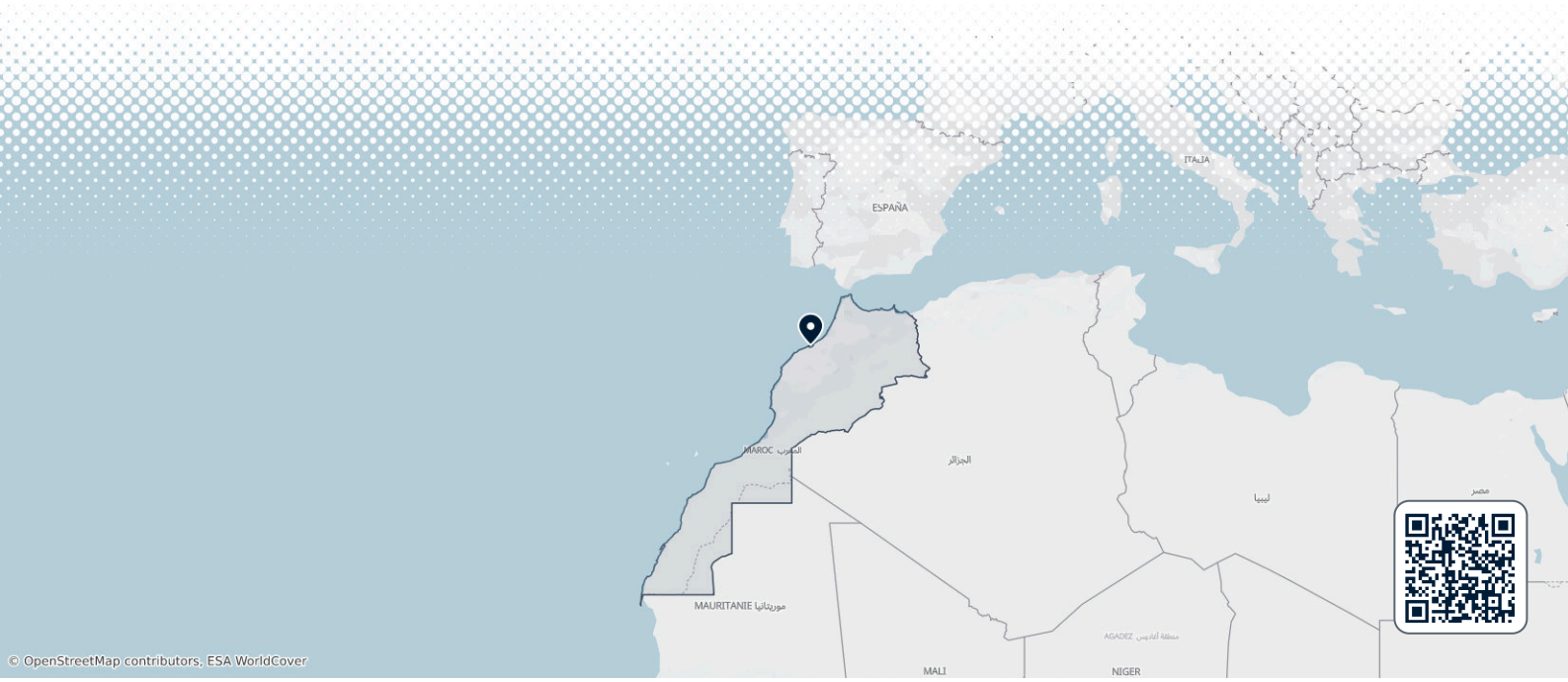


Casablanca

Morocco

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Casablanca is Morocco's largest city and its commercial capital. Many visitors know the name only from the 1942 film, though it was shot entirely in Hollywood and has almost nothing to do with the real place. The actual city is an Atlantic port with wide boulevards, a dense old quarter, and one of the world's largest mosques standing over the ocean. It suits travelers who want a fast-paced, modern introduction to Morocco before heading inland to the older imperial cities.

The city grew quickly in the early 20th century under French colonial rule, and that era left it with one of the world's largest collections of **Art Deco** architecture. Along with the mosque and the old medina, that architecture is the main reason to spend a day walking its downtown streets.

When to visit

Casablanca has a mild, Atlantic climate for most of the year, cooled by sea breezes even in summer. Winters are mild with more rain; spring and autumn are the driest and most comfortable for walking. Plan around **Jazzablanca**, a jazz festival held each year in early July that brings international and Moroccan acts to venues across the city.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for sightseeing	18° / 22°	9° / 5°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 24°	10° / 6°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 27°	11° / 8°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 28°	13° / 10°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 31°	15° / 11°	☀ 21 sunny days · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
June	Great Great for the beach	27° / 33°	18° / 15°	☀ 23 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
July	Great Great for the beach	29° / 34°	19° / 17°	☀ 26 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
August	Great Great for the beach	30° / 35°	20° / 18°	☀ 25 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
September	Great Great for the beach	28° / 33°	19° / 16°	☀ 22 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds
October	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 31°	17° / 13°	Humid air · Calm winds
November	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 27°	13° / 9°	Dry air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 23°	10° / 7°	Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights



A Hassan II Mosque is Casablanca's defining landmark. Completed in 1993, it stands partly over the Atlantic Ocean, and its minaret is among the tallest in the world at 210 metres.

The B Old Medina of Casablanca is the original walled heart of the city, largely rebuilt after a 1755 earthquake. Its narrow lanes hold small markets and workshops rather than major monuments, which makes it a good place to simply wander.

South of the medina, the **Habous Quarter** was developed by the French starting in the 1930s as an idealized version of a traditional Moroccan district. Its centerpiece is C Mahkama du Pacha, an administrative palace with carved cedar ceilings and mosaic-tiled courtyards, standing beside the gates of the D Palais Royal de Casablanca.

E Mohammed V Square sits at the center of downtown, ringed by some of the city's best F **Art Deco Buildings**, built during the French Protectorate era in the 1920s and 1930s.

G Casablanca Cathedral is a former Catholic church known for its stark white concrete facade, an unusual example of Art Deco applied to religious architecture.

Along the coast, H Ain Diab Beach is the most popular stretch of the Corniche, lined with beach clubs, pools, and restaurants facing the ocean.

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What to experience

- Watch the sunset from **the Corniche**, where the beach clubs around Ain Diab Beach shift from daytime pools to evening drinks.
- Catch a **Raja** or **Wydad** football match if the timing works out — the local derby is known as one of Africa's most passionate football rivalries.
- Browse the wholesale market at **Derb Ghallef**, where locals shop for fabric, electronics, and secondhand goods rather than souvenirs.

Day trips

Casablanca sits close to several worthwhile day trips, from quiet coastal towns to Morocco's capital and its most famous imperial city.

- A Mohammedia — about 20–25 minutes by train or car. A smaller port town with a long sandy beach, a historic kasbah, and a much more relaxed pace than Casablanca.
- B El Jadida — about 1 hour by car or bus. A former Portuguese trading post with a 16th-century fortified old town and an underground cistern whose reflecting pool was used by Orson Welles to film scenes from *Othello*.
- C Rabat — about 1 hour by train. Morocco's capital, with the unfinished Hassan Tower, the Kasbah of the Udayas, and a calmer, greener feel than Casablanca.
- D Marrakesh — about 2.5 hours by train. Morocco's most famous city, worth the longer trip for its medina and souks if your schedule allows a long day, though an overnight stay suits it better.



Getting there

- **By air**: **Mohammed V International Airport (CMN)** is Casablanca's main gateway and Morocco's busiest airport, about 30 km southeast of downtown. A direct train runs to Casa-Voyageurs and Casa-Port stations in roughly 35–45 minutes; taxis take about the same time in normal traffic and cost more, but run at fixed rates from the official taxi desk.
- **By train**: Casablanca is Morocco's rail hub. **Casa-Voyageurs** is the main long-distance station, with frequent ONCF connections to Marrakesh, Fez, and Rabat, plus the Al Boraq high-speed line north to Tangier. **Casa-Port**, closer to downtown and the medina, mainly handles regional and airport trains.
- **By bus**: CTM and Supratours run long-distance coaches from Casablanca's main bus terminals to cities across Morocco, useful for routes with limited rail service.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: The Casablanca tram network covers the city center and several outer districts, with buses filling in the rest. Buy a rechargeable card at station kiosks before boarding — Casablanca Tramway.
- **Taxi**: Red "petit taxis" cover trips within the city and use a meter — insist on it. Grand taxis and ride-hailing apps cover longer or shared routes.
- **On foot**: Downtown, the Old Medina, and the Habous Quarter are each walkable on their own, but the city is spread out — getting between downtown and the Corniche means a taxi, bus, or tram.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

Downtown, the Old Medina, and the Habous Quarter are each walkable on their own, but the city is spread out — reaching the Corniche or Hassan II Mosque from downtown means a taxi, bus, or tram.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Casablanca has little cycling infrastructure and heavy traffic; it is not a practical way to get around for most visitors.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city itself — traffic is heavy and downtown parking is limited. A car is most useful for day trips to Mohammedia, El Jadida, or Rabat.
- **Parking**: Guarded street parking, marked by an attendant in a vest, is common downtown; pay them directly, a few dirhams per hour. Hotels and malls such as Morocco Mall have gated car parks.
- **Restrictions**: None specific to tourists — no congestion charge or low-emission zone in the city center.

Food & drink

Casablanca's food scene runs from simple stalls to formal dining, reflecting its role as Morocco's business capital. Grilled sardines and other fresh seafood, sold along the port and the Corniche, are a local specialty worth seeking out.

For something with history attached, Rick's Cafe recreates the fictional bar from the 1942 film in a restored 1930s mansion, with live piano most evenings. Otherwise, the streets around the Habous Quarter cluster with good, casual Moroccan restaurants.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Khobz
Round, dense flatbread served with nearly every meal.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Msemen
A folded, pan-fried flatbread, often served with honey or cheese.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Chebakia
Sesame cookies shaped into flowers, fried, and soaked in honey.

DRINKS

Mint tea · Atay
Green tea brewed strong with fresh mint and sugar, served throughout the day.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Tagine
Slow-cooked stew of meat or vegetables in a conical clay pot, often with olives, preserved lemon, or dried fruit.

Couscous
Steamed semolina served with vegetables and meat, traditionally eaten on Fridays.

Harira
A hearty tomato and lentil soup, especially popular for breaking the fast during Ramadan.

Pastilla
A sweet-savory pie of pigeon or chicken, almonds, and cinnamon wrapped in thin pastry.

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Safety & health

Casablanca is generally safe for tourists, and violent crime against visitors is rare. Watch for pickpocketing in crowded spots like the medina and around the train stations, and agree on a taxi fare or insist on the meter before you get in. Tap water is best avoided; stick to bottled or filtered water, as in the rest of Morocco.

History

Casablanca's name comes from Spanish and Portuguese traders, who called the fishing village "white house" for its whitewashed buildings; Portuguese forces destroyed the original settlement in 1468 and rebuilt it in the early 16th century. Much of today's Old Medina of Casablanca instead dates from a later rebuilding effort after a 1755 earthquake, ordered by the Moroccan Sultan *Mohammed ben Abdallah*.

The city as it looks today is mostly a 20th-century creation. When France made Casablanca its economic hub under the colonial Protectorate (1912–1956), planners laid out wide boulevards and let a generation of French and Moroccan architects build in the Art Deco and Mauresque styles, visible today around Mohammed V Square. That architectural legacy is now on Morocco's UNESCO World Heritage tentative list.

Casablanca gave its name to the famous 1942 film, though the movie itself was shot entirely in Hollywood and none of its scenes were filmed here.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Morocco at a glance:

CURRENCY
MAD DH

ELECTRICITY



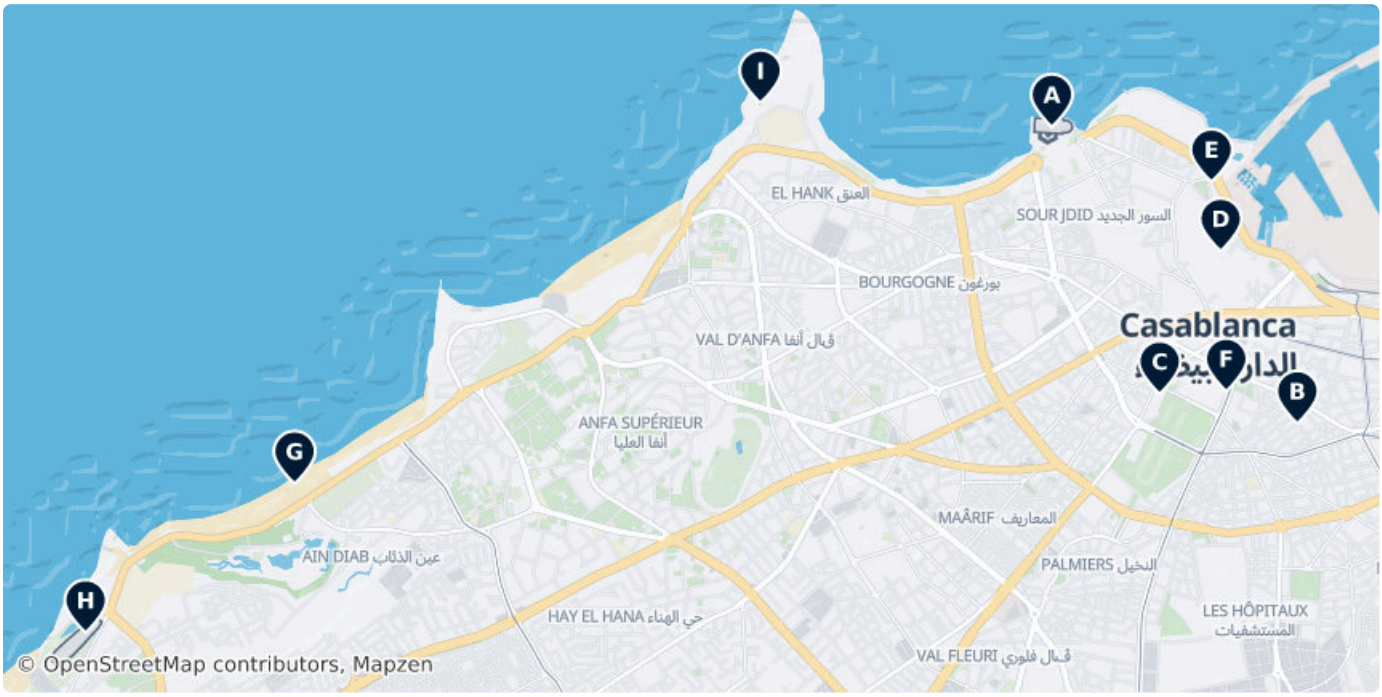
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LANGUAGES
Arabic

TAP WATER
Use caution

Casablanca Essentials

Casablanca blends French colonial urban planning with traditional Moroccan heritage. The city's landscape is dominated by the Hassan II Mosque, featuring a 210-meter minaret overlooking the Atlantic. Architectural highlights include the Mauresque-Art Deco buildings of the city center and the deconsecrated Sacré-Cœur Cathedral. From the 19th-century alleys of the Old Medina to the cinematic recreation of Rick's Cafe and the modern expanse of the Morocco Mall, these sites represent the city's transition from a historic port to a commercial metropolis.





A Hassan II Mosque

The Hassan II Mosque is a mosque in Casablanca, Morocco. It is the second largest functioning mosque in Africa and is the 14th largest in...

Boulevard Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah, Casablanca, Morocco (33.60846, -7.63252)

fmh2.ma/fr/



B Art Deco Buildings

Walk the streets south of the Lalla Yacout avenue and marvel at the Art Deco-influenced blend of French colonial style and Mauresque...

Boulevard 11 Janvier, Casablanca 20000, Morocco (33.58965, -7.61382)



C Casablanca Cathedral

Casablanca Cathedral, or Church of the Sacred Heart, is a former Roman Catholic church located in Casablanca, Morocco.

Boulevard Rachidi, Casablanca 20000, Morocco (33.59153, -7.62431)



D Old Medina of Casablanca

A 19th-century walled district featuring traditional markets, narrow alleys, and the historic Bab Marrakech gateway. This area reflects the city's pre-colonial growth and remains a central hub for local commerce and street food.

(Unnamed Road), Casablanca 20000, Morocco (33.60058, -7.61966)



E Rick's Café Casablanca

A restaurant and bar housed in a restored 1930s riad, designed to recreate the atmosphere of the gin joint from the 1942 film Casablanca. It features architectural details like curved arches, balconies, and a resident pianist.

Boulevard Sour Jdid 20004 شارع السور الجديد, Casablanca, Morocco (33.60497, -7.62036)

Mo–Su 12:00–15:00, 18:30–01:00

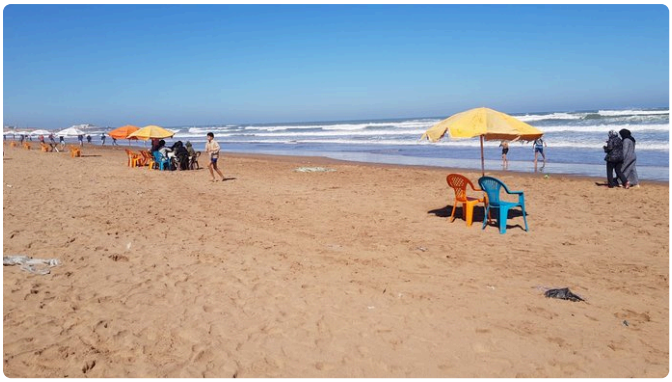
rickscafe.ma, +212522274207



F Muhammad V Square

The city’s administrative center, surrounded by 1920s buildings showcasing Mauresque architecture. Notable structures include the Palace of Justice, the French Consulate, and the main Post Office, all centered around a large musical fountain.

Avenue Hassan II, Casablanca 20000, Morocco (33.59170, -7.61924)



G Ain Diab Beach

This beach situated right at the Corniche gets its attention by right. Well-equipped, clean beach awarded with Blue Flag.

(Unnamed Road), 20000, Morocco (33.58583, -7.69021)



H Morocco Mall

Morocco Mall is the largest shopping mall in Africa with 590000m² of floor space in Casablanca, Morocco.

Boulevard de Biarritz شارع بياريتز (33.57639, -7.70613)



I El Hank Lighthouse

A 51-meter-high lighthouse completed in 1916. It stands on the El Hank headland, guiding ships into the port with a beam visible for 30 nautical miles. Visitors can climb its 256 steps for views of the Atlantic coast.

Rue Tête El Hank, Anfa 20000, Morocco (33.60997, -7.65472)

Hidden Art Gems

Casablanca's contemporary art scene is concentrated in its central galleries and cultural institutions. This selection features prominent spaces like L'Atelier 21 and Loft Art Gallery, which focus on modern Moroccan and African artists. The list includes Galerie Nadar, one of the city's oldest art venues, and the Museum of Moroccan Judaism. Located in the Oasis neighborhood, the museum is the only institution in the Arab world dedicated to Jewish-Moroccan history, displaying religious artifacts, traditional dress, and historical documents.



A Art Gallery

Contemporary art space in the Triangle d'Or district focusing on Moroccan and African artists across painting, photography, and sculpture.

Rue Al Kaissi 13 زنقة القيسي (33.59230, -7.64382)

loftartgallery.net, +212 5 22 94 47 65

B galerie shart

Contemporary gallery dedicated to promoting emerging Moroccan talent, featuring rotating exhibitions of painting and photography.

(33.58713, -7.63685)

galerie-shart.ma, +212 (0)5 22 39 49 80

C L'Atelier 21

A gallery specializing in modern and contemporary Moroccan art, showcasing works from both established figures and promising new artists.

Rue Abou Al Mahassine Royani ,42 زنقة أبو المحاسن الروياني 20100 (33.58611, -7.64326)

atelier21.ma, +212 5 22 98 17 85

D Galerie Nadar

Founded in 1975, this gallery is one of the city's long-standing art institutions, specializing in works by Moroccan masters and modern painters.

Rue Al Manaziz 5, Casablanca (33.58594, -7.63341)

+212 5 22 23 69 00

E Moroccan Jewish Museum

Situated in a former orphanage, this museum preserves Jewish-Moroccan heritage through collections of traditional jewelry, religious objects, and historical textiles.

Rue du Chasseur Jules Gros 81 (33.55226, -7.63898)

Mo–Th	10:00–17:00
Fr	10:00–15:00
Su	11:00–16:00

jewishmuseumcasa.com, +212 5 22 99 49 40

Beaches and Gardens

Casablanca's Atlantic coastline and urban landscape offer diverse recreational spaces. This selection spans from the famous Corniche beaches like Aïn Diab and Madame Choual to inland retreats like the recently renovated Parc d'Aïn-Sebaâ. The list includes the modern Hassan II Maritime Esplanade, providing architectural views, and localized green spaces such as the quarry-turned-park, Carrière Schneider, and the Andalusian-style Jardin Ibn El Awam. These sites highlight the city's balance between coastal activity and peaceful public gardens.



A Plage Aïn Diab ⵄⵉⵏ ⵏ ⵛⵉⴰⴱ شاطئ عين الذئاب

Wide sandy beach along Casablanca's Corniche, popular for surfing and seaside dining.

20000, Morocco (33.58546, -7.69192)

B Plage Lalla Meryem شاطئ لالة مريم

Sandy beach located adjacent to the Anfa Place shopping center and the coastal promenade.

Anfa 20000, Morocco (33.59999, -7.66639)

C Hassan II Maritime Esplanade

Paved seaside walkway surrounding the Hassan II Mosque, offering views of the Atlantic Ocean and the mosque's minaret.

(33.60534, -7.64366)

D Jardin Ibn El Awam Al Andaloussi

Landscaped garden in the Aïn Sebaâ district featuring traditional Moroccan greenery and walking paths.

(Unnamed Road), Sidi Moumen 20000, Morocco
(33.57403, -7.51923)

facebook.com/RMPermaUrbaine

E Plage Madame Choual ⵕⵣⵜⵕⵔ ⵏ ⵛⵍⵍⵓⵛ ⵛⵍⵍⵓⵏ شاطئ السيدة شوال

Sandy beach situated at the southern end of the Corniche near the Sindibad park area.

20000, Morocco (33.56858, -7.72056)

F Parc d'Aïn-Sebaâ

Extensive urban park in eastern Casablanca, recently renovated to house a zoo and multiple recreational areas.

(33.59898, -7.52832)

G Parc de la Carriere Schneider hdyqt alkaryan alshnydr

Public park built within a former stone quarry, featuring tiered landscaping and pedestrian walkways in the Maârif district.

(Unnamed Road), Hay-Hassani 20000, Morocco
(33.55276, -7.67125)

H Espace Mohamed Zenbiba fda mhmd znbybt

Local public garden and green space situated in the Roches Noires neighborhood.

(Unnamed Road), Sidi Othmane 20000, Morocco
(33.56088, -7.56386)

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