

Tetouan

IN MOROCCO





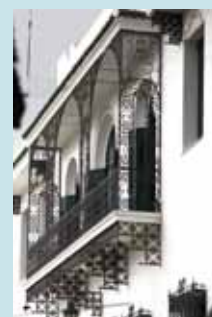
Tetouan



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Editorial



*Spanish-Moorish
Architecture*

Nestled in the Rif mountainside and overlooking the Mediterranean waters, Tetouan, a Spanish-Moorish town, makes the best from mixing cultures and is the guardian of its finest traditions in order to offer a unique setting for tourists looking for well-being and authenticity.

Mysterious, sometimes distant, Tetouan, nicknamed the «white dove» or «the daughter of Granada» by the Arab poets, is a historical place. You won't be able to resist the charm of its beautiful streets and alleys nor the moving remains of the Andalusian and Mediterranean civilization. Here the memories of a rich history are written on every wall and every facade for the passers-by to read. Its round the year mild and temperate climate and beautiful beaches make it a popular tourist destination.

Looking for a sunny place, where to relax? Near Tetouan, the Tamuda Bay beach resort offers the opportunity to do just that combining the softness of the Mediterranean beaches and the sensuousness of the Andalusian lifestyle.

As for nature and adventure fans, the wild and breathtaking landscapes of the Rif Mountains are marvels to be explored.



The City in History



Roman Mosaic of
Tamuda

Tetouan, the beautiful Andalusian

Historically the city is supposed to have been founded during the third century BC, based on the archaeological excavations in the ancient city of Tamuda. Phoenicians and Romans were the first to settle on this land and build a city which was destroyed and rebuilt several times over the invasions. In the fifteenth century the Merinides built the walled city of Tetouan to control the rebellious tribes of the Rif.

When Granada fell in 1492, many Muslims and Jews left southern Spain to escape the Spanish Inquisition and they settled in Tetouan. The city became a host city for the Andalusian civilization from the late fifteenth century.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the city grows due to its status as a Mediterranean port where goods transited to and from the capital, Fez.



Inside a typical residence of the Medina of Tetouan



View of the Square of Feddane and the royal palace



Medina alley

After the War of 1860, the Spanish managed to occupy the town and left only after payment of a compensation in 1862. The Spanish occupation resumed in 1913, Tetouan became the capital of the Spanish Protectorate in northern Morocco and will remain so until the signing of the independence agreement in 1956.

During this period, Tetouan flourished

again economically and artistically. This period was also characterized by a political struggle between the Spanish administration and the nationalists of Tetouan, whose main figure is Abdelkhalek Torres.

The must-visits



A house entrance in the medina

60 km from Tangier, Tetouan is characterized by the architecture of its houses built in the Andalusian style imported from Seville and Granada. With its green and white houses, its crenellated ramparts and shady squares, the Medina of Tetouan is a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1997.

With five kilometers long rampart walls, the medina is accessible through its seven magnificent carved doors Oqla Bab, Bab Saaida (east), Bab Mqabare and Bab Ejyafe (North), Bab Nouader (west), Bab Toute, Bab Remouz (south). The seven gates in the fortifications of the medina are historical testimonials of the city and its successive waves of immigration, the arrival of the Andalusians in the fifteenth century, and then the Moorish invasion in the early seventeenth

century, the transfer of the Mellah district in 1808, and the opening of the walls in the twentieth century in order to connect the new Spanish (Ensanche) district to the Medina.

The medina of Tetouan is the liveliest place in town. Here, the souks are well separated, each trade occupying a specific perimeter. Its large mellah (Jewish quarter) was called Little Jerusalem. The Tarafin Street bordered with jewelers leads to the Hassan II square and to the Royal Palace, a fine example of Spanish-Moorish architecture.

The medina has retained its past dynamic nature, the artisans perpetuate their know-how and the houses are well preserved by the descendants' owners.

These old houses built around a patio reflect the high degree of sophistication



Ethnographic Museum



Rampart Wall of the Medina of Tetouan



Square Moulay El Mehdi

of domestic architecture. Medina has benefited from a rehabilitation program financed by the Junta de Andalucía.

Its uniqueness lies in the development in the fifteenth century of a network of pipelines coming from the water springs of the city. In Berber language, «Titaouin» means «Springs». This is where the houses and many fountains get their water from through the Skoundou (Spanish segundo), a network of underground pipelines.

This network provides the houses and buildings, fountains, mosques, and hammams with drinking water, along a spring line coming out at the foot of Jebel Dersa. This network is similar to the one developed by the Romans in Volubilis, and seems to have been adopted by the Andalusians. Even today, some houses keep these water fountains from the past.

The main monuments to visit



Dar Tair

The succession of twentieth century Spanish architecture and the many unique buildings give the city a modern prestigious cachet in particular with the European colonial architecture that combines Baroque and Art Deco influences. Gardens, public areas and broad avenues have been created to enhance the rich urban heritage.

From the Palace Square starts the Mohammed V Avenue where you can admire Dar Tair known for its statue on the top floor. On this avenue, there is the ancient Spanish casino dating from the 20s, and Tetouan's General Library and Archives built

in the 30s. Its large documentary resources have turned it into a reading and research place dedicated to the history of Morocco. This avenue also passes through the Square Moulay El Mehdi where is located the Church of Our Lady of Victory, built in 1919. Square Al Adl, where you will find the courthouse and the cinema Avenida, is a legendary place in the city. As for the Spanish theater built in the 30s, it has been restored. Near Bab Okla. stands the school of traditional arts and crafts «Dar Sana» with its neo-Arabic architecture. It stands as a showcase for the different artistic expressions which have flourished for



Spanish architecture of the twentieth century



The School of Arts and Crafts or Dar Sanaa of Tetouan is one of the architectural jewels of the city.

centuries in Tetouan. The artisans are working on wood painting, embroidery, zellige, copper, leather, stucco or marquetry with the same expertise as their ancestors four centuries ago.

The two highlights of Tetouan remain the Archaeological Museum where lies the ancient history of the city, luxury mosaic works, Roman bronze figurines, coins collections from the Punic period and the Ethnological Museum of Moroccan Arts Tetouan established in 1929.

The latter is a masterpiece of Tetouan. When entering, you can enjoy a garden with a pool in the center and a wall fountain adorned with zellige a design similar to those found in the Andalusian palaces of Granada. Today, this museum present, with a permanent exhibition, traditional costumes and musical instruments, traditions, the habits and customs of the city of Tetouan and its region.



Embroidery from Tetouan

Tetouan, the arts capital of Northern Morocco



Wall Fresco of Carlos Gallegos

Visitors find it Andalusian, Ottoman, European. Tetouan is just all that. From this excitement is born a true art of living that still continues today through its craftsmen and artists. Land of the arts, from music to visual arts, the city is home to artistic movements, which influences go far beyond the region.

Like any other artistic capital, Tetouan had to have its School of Fine Arts, founded in 1947 by Don Mariano Bertucci, Spanish orientalist painter and great fan of Moroccan art. National Institute of Fine Arts since 1993, this school has since 2000 a department for the teaching of comic strip art and hosts every

year since 2004 the International Festival of Comic Strips.

Tetouan stands apart by its numerous festivals, the most important of which are the International Festival of Mediterranean Cinema created in 1985, the International Lute Festival, the International Festival of Comic Strips and the Women's Voices Festival, a tribute to all those who worked tirelessly to take their city into the XXI century, while preserving its authenticity and versatile identity.



Dar Sana



Jbala dance

The region highlights



Zellige of Tetouan

The zellige craftsmanship is one of the most distinctive artistic professions of the city of Tetouan.

It is defined by its shaping technique, colors and surface finishes that give it a special uniqueness and authenticity.

Tetouan is also known for the mastery of its craftsmen in wood painting. The craftsmen who specialize in this type of craft usually work with mineral powder paint. Their work is very varied and very beautiful.

Leather working is a very old craft in this city, as evidence by its tanneries. But

the Tanners' souk is also the textiles and clothes market, «Guersa El Kebira» where all types of multi-colored fabrics, plain or embroidered are sold and where «Jebliates» (Rif's women) dressed in traditional costume sell their «Mendils», red, white and blue striped pieces of cloth.

Tetouanese embroidery is certainly one of the most original in Morocco. Its success is due to its multiple origins, with both local and Ottoman and Arabic-Andalusian influences.

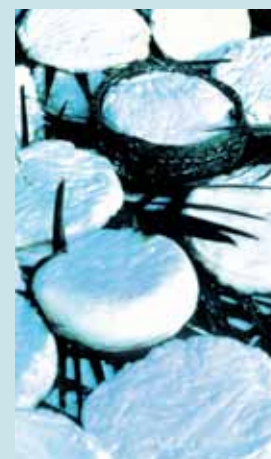
As for culinary art, Tetouan is a combination of many influences (Rif, Andalusian, Jewish...), and



The textiles and clothes market «Guersa El Kébira»



Riad Al Ouchak



The Jben is a specialty of the north, wrapped in palm leaves and sold by women in the souks

is reputed to be one of the best in Morocco. Tetouanese dishes, including sweet and sour, chicken with caramelized raisins for example, are pure delight. Other typical recipes: the chicken and eggs pastilla without almonds, the tahliya, the gazelle horns, the ktayefs, and of course the Jben, a creamy white cheese wrapped in palm leaves and prepared in women's co-operatives.

Located below the old medina, Riad Al Ouchak covers about five acres. Created in 1929, the garden, a perfect replica of the famous gardens of the Palace Alhambra in Granada, has been extensively restored and now offers

Its colorful flower beds, its stately trees and numerous ponds and fountains. The garden is part of the city's heritage and most people are used to gathering there in the late afternoon seeking quiet moments of relaxation.

Tamuda Bay

From Tetouan's Garden of the Hesperides to the beaches of Tamuda Bay

Less than five miles away from the center of Tetouan, bordering the Oued Martil lies the archaeological site of Tamuda, concealing Roman remains. Homer regarded the land of Jebala as a country of legend. This region is believed to be the place where were located the famous gardens of the Hesperides. It is even said that Hercules came there to «steal the golden apples.»

Tetouan and its heavenly beaches

The Spanish-Moorish character of the Tetouan area is illustrated by the beaches, where several ceramic wall covered houses are found along the coastline. Renowned for its idyllic beaches of golden sand, relaxing, well being and easy living are the rule.



Archaeological Site Tamuda



Tamouda Bay

Tamuda Bay is characterized by its hilly landscape, covered with green forests, overlooking translucent blue waters. This new beach resort, located on the M'diq-Fnideq coastline, covers an area of a hundred acres with a hotel infrastructure designed to provide luxury and relaxation. It includes an eighteen hole golf course, a lakeside town, the Smir Laguna, where you can watch many species of migratory birds. There is also a water park that delights the young and old, shops, restaurants, lively pubs especially during the summer, and two marinas Kabila and Smir.

Tamuda Bay also offers spas centers where everything is done to ensure your stay will be relaxing all



Tamouda Bay Beach



Paseo Marítimo

along .Fitness is also on the menu with a sauna and steam room, customized treatments, first grade equipments, professional staff, pool and private beach, everything is designed for your well-being.

Mdiq is a popular beach resort, where life goes on at a leisurely pace. Seaside, pedestrian streets, wide beach walk on the seafront, everything has been renovated for the visitors' delight. At the entrance

to the city at the bottom of a road on the right, you can access to an authentic and endearing fishing port. The place is very popular on summer evenings, as people gather to have grilled sardines, accompanied by mint tea. M'Diq is renowned for its quality restaurants where you can enjoy many fish and seafood specialties for a very affordable price.

Tamuda Bay



Marina

Fishing ports and marinas

Perched on the top the hill, Cabo Negro is an ideal destination for a relaxing holiday along the Mediterranean. Pretty whitewashed buildings, colorful gardens, the resort attracts tourists in particular with its sandy beaches and horseback riding. The Royal Golf Club, designed in the truest British tradition, is one of the finest golfing heritage of Morocco with an eighteen-hole course nestled in a forest of Mediterranean trees.

Martil is known for its fishing port formerly a pirate lair. Located near Tetouan, Martil with its blue and white whitewashed

houses is a very pleasant beach resort. Many restaurants and cafes border the cornice where families enjoy walking.

Marina Smir, luxurious ultra modern marina in the heart of a privileged location facing the Mediterranean hosts the largest yachts and offers over 450 berths. Near the Marina Smir resort are other popular resorts such as Kabila, Ksar Rimal, Restinga...



Cabo Negro Golf



Fishing Port in M'diq



Between rest and activities

The Tetouan coast offers many activities combining rest and discovery. These beaches will spoil all those seeking peace and quiet. There you can admire the natural beauty of the Mediterranean, far from the bustle of the city and the hectic pace of the large beach resorts.

For the more active, you can choose from jet skiing, water skiing, windsurfing, banana boats, big game or traditional fishing, sea kayaking, surfing or sailing. For those seeking adventure, the

Strait is a true paradise for scuba diving among the diverse fauna and flora (coral, sea fan, sponges, groupers, barracudas, Jack Crevalles, sunfish, rays, moray eels ...) .Two diving stations located in Marina Smir will help you make your holiday unforgettable. Quail, woodcock, teal, grouse, partridges, pheasants ... abound in season and will delight hunters. Nature lovers and hikers will be spoiled with the beautiful landscapes of the Moroccan Rif.

The Region

On the roads to the Rif

If Tetouan is sure to delight art and culture fans, its hinterland is also appealing with different charms: The Rif is the kingdom of wilderness, mountains, wadis, canyons, forests. Breathe, this is paradise for nature lovers.

From Oued Laou to Martil through Asilah, the coastline offers scenic landscapes where the Rif dips into the Mediterranean. The beautiful and wild nature in the back country is the green lung of the Tetouanese region.

Chefchaouen, the blue city

You cannot visit Tetouan without going to Chefchaouen. Its name means in Rif Berber language «horns» because of the mountain peaks which dominate and surround the city. Chefchaouen hosted the Muslim refugees following the fall of Granada. With some

twenty mosques and sanctuaries, the city of Chefchaouen is imbued with an atmosphere of deep serenity. The new inhabitants built their houses blue and white with small doors leading onto Andalusian style patios. The city charm also comes from its alleys where you will not hesitate to get lost but where you will always find your way back. It is nice to walk in the cobbled streets, to dream while resting in one of the varied little squares shaded by fig trees and drinking mint tea. Nearby stands the Kasbah built in the seventeenth century by Moulay Ismail to defend the city from invaders. The Kasbah conceals pleasant and peaceful Andalusian gardens and a small museum where you can admire the pottery craft of the Rif, regional costumes and musical instruments, wooden chests for wedding days.



Woman of Chefchaouen



Chefchaouen



Alley in the medina of Chefchaouen



The Kasbah of Chefchaouen

Chefchaouen, Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

The city of Chefchaouen was listed in the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2010. It is its unchanged nutritional model, «Mediterranean Diet», which earned the city this inscription (olive oil, cereals, fruits and vegetables, fresh or dried, a small proportion of fish, dairy products and meat, and many condiments and spices). The source of Ras El Ma, which comes down from the mountain offers a refreshing sight. At the foot of the city two collective wash houses are still used by residents to wash their clothes. The collective granaries Akrar El Kelaa are also a historic must visit site.

The Region



Magot monkey in Morocco

Chefchaouen THC

The region of Chefchaouen in Morocco is a pioneer for the preservation of the environment and sustainable and responsible development. The «Tourist Host Country» helped develop the rural areas of the region through routes leading to places where you can meet people and discover their way of life away from the known itineraries circuits.

Talassemtane National Park Talassemtane

Talassemtane National Park offers a landscape of rare quality where rock formation, forests, vast

views and deep gorges combine closely. The park hosts over 1,380 plant species, including many endemic plants such as the Moroccan fir and the black pine tree, the last representatives of a unique ecosystem and today endangered species. The park is a unique refuge for over thirty-five species of mammals, including the famous magot monkey, living in the many caves scattered in the mountains, a wildlife rich with over a hundred listed species some as emblematic as the golden eagle or the buzzard.



Talassemtane National Park



Akchour



God's Bridge in Akchour

God's Bridge in Akchour

An impressive natural geological arched formation, carved in the red rock, god's bridge overlooks the crystal clear waters of the Oued Farda. You can also visit the waterfalls of Cherafat, a place where the quiet atmosphere interferes with the melodies composed by the waterfalls.

trekking, hiking, climbing, caving, hunting, fishing, canyoning.

A network of rural houses managed by the local people, hiking trails, guides familiar with the natural environment and the local traditions: everything is in place to facilitate your stay.

Ecotourism and excursions

The area around Chefchaouen offers a range of activities such as

The Region

From the authentic Mediterranean landscape of the Oued Laou to the Lau Bokkoya high lands

Going down to the coast, on the road to Oued Laou, along the barren mountains and spectacular gorges, the beautifully rugged landscape evens out towards the Oued Laou river mouth where beaches and hidden coves alternate.

Oued Laou is a small village on the road to Targha where you can stop and enjoy the hospitality of the locals. Early in the morning the farmers bring their fresh products (figs, cheese, eggs) on the water banks near the boats. Fish lovers will find a wide range of species. Targha, located East of Oued Laou, stretches at the foot of two large rocky peaks on one of which hung the remains of a

fortress dating from the fifteenth century. The small fishing port of El Jebha, nestled in the shade of a white mountain, is a must-visit.

Farther Northeast, Cala Iris is a wonderful place by the sea with sandy and pebble beaches. A few kilometers away is the Torres beach. The hinterland of Cala Iris is perfect for pleasant walks through beautiful cedars and pines forests.

Al Hoceima.

Its name comes from al Khozama (lavender), a plant growing widely in the central Rif Mountains. Thanks to its geographical situation, Al Hoceima enjoys a pleasant



Oued Laou Pottery



Oued Laou Beach



The crystal clear water of the Al Hoceima coast



Dolphin in the Mediterranean

climate, where the mountain and the sea live together harmoniously. The area is home to a multitude of bays, coves and beaches with large stretches of calm, clear waters, perfect for various water sports and leisure beach resorts.

Besides the beach, it is recommended to tour the various cooperatives in the region known for the diversity of their local products such as medicinal and aromatic plants, honey, traditional pottery and basketry products.

Al Hoceima National Park

Al Hoceima National Park covers a land area with the Bokkoyas Hi-

ghlands, towering cliffs and an area located at sea

The water is unique by its extraordinary clarity hosting a remarkable sea life. The simultaneous presence on the park of three species of dolphins: Common dolphin, Blue and White dolphin and bottlenose dolphin, is a remarkable fact in the Mediterranean. The park offers a particular ornithological interest: 69 species of birds, with specifically one of the world's largest concentrations of osprey. It is also the home to rare species like the monk seal and the Audouin's Gull.

Information and useful addresses

Useful information

Entry formalities

A valid passport for a stay of less than 90 days is required. An identity card may suffice, depending on country of origin, if the trip is organised by a travel agency for a group of over 8 people. A visa is required for some nationalities – enquire at a Moroccan consulate or diplomatic representation in your country. No specific vaccinations are required for entry into the Kingdom of Morocco. If you are bringing your pet along with you, however, you will need to be able to produce an anti-rabies certificate less than 6 months old.

Changing money

Moroccan currency is the dirham, made up of 100 centimes. Foreign currency must be exchanged at banks or other accredited establishments.

Time zone

Morocco is in the Greenwich time zone, and time is G.M.T.

Emergency phone numbers

Police 19
Fire Brigade 150
Directory enquiries 160
Road safety services 177

Useful addresses and contacts

Regional Tourist Office:

30, Av Mohamed V, BP62 TETOUAN
Tel : 05 39 96 19 15
Fax: 05 39 96 19 14

Regional Tourism Council: Tangier–Tetouan

Rue des Amoureux – Parc Books Tanger
Tél : 05 39 94 93 95
Fax: 05 39 94 95 39
crttangertetouan@yahoo.fr

Sania R'mel Tetouan Airport

Call centre: 080 1000 224

Golf: Cabo Negro Royal Golf

Tel: 05 39 97 81 41
www.golfdumaroc.com

Weather forecast: www.meteoma.net

Office des Changes (Currency regulation authority): www.oc.gov.ma

Events calendar:

March: Mediterranean International Film Festival
July: The Voice of Women Festival

For further information: www.visitmorocco.com





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WWW.VISITMOROCCO.COM