



Photo: YoTuT



Known as one of the imperial cities, the opulent city of Fes is the oldest city in Morocco. It is split into two areas, Fès-el-Bali (old Fès) and Fès-el-Djedid (new Fès) wich makes the city a mystical fusion of an ancient Islamic past, and the French influenced recent present.

Matteo Martinello



Photo: Matteo Martinello



Photo: martinvarsavsky

New App Out Now



Get this guide and 500 more in ArrivalGuide's new free app





Top 5

The Mellah

The 14th-century Jewish quarter of Fès has currently 160,000 inhabitants living among 9,500 streets. Several sites of Jewish h...

Jewish Cemetery & Habarim Synagogue

This is one of the oldest cemeteries in Morocco. You can see a sea of white tombs and it is easy to spot which are the tombs o...

Ibn Danan Synagogue

Ibn Danan is an intimate synagogue with an interesting ritual bath in the basement. There are no set hours, but if it is not o...

Dar El-Makhzen (Royal Palace)

Dar El-Makhzen is an impressive sight, the opulent bronze doors to the Palace stand 80 feet high. Unfortunately, the palace is...

Dar Batha Museum

Situated in a century old Spanish-Moorish palace, the Dar Batha museum possesses a unique collection of traditional Moroccan a...





THE CITY



Photo: Matteo Martinello

Life in this sand-coloured city can seem provincial at times, but this ancient feel only adds to its charm and sense of otherness. Donkeys still navigate the medina as the main mode of transport for goods. You will see everything from cases of Coca-Cola to mattresses perched expertly and delicately atop the backs of these docile beasts. Fès is known for its handicrafts, particularly its famous blue and white tiles, and is where you will find some of the best shopping in Morocco.

The endless medina, which contains 9,500 streets, sells everything from jewellery to furniture. You will also find crafts, carpets, leather goods and spices, as well as all the necessities for daily life. The medina is not for tourists only – it is very much an integral part of daily life and is where much business is conducted. The decades of French rule in Morocco have left a unique influence that is visible in the infrastructure and cuisine.

Arabic is the main language in Morocco, but French is widely spoken so it is easier to get around than in many other Arabic countries. People in Fès are exceptionally friendly and hospitable, and love to talk to travellers to boast proudly about their city. If you speak with a local for any length of time, be prepared to be invited to his house for tea. This is a genuine and innocent offer, so don't shy away from it - it is a great way to get to know people and to get a feel for life here.

ArrivalGuides goes ArrivalTV!



Get inspired and watch unique destination videos straight from our destination partners

www.youtube.com/Arrivalguides www.dailymotion.com/ArrivalTV





DO & SEE



Photo: martinvarsavsky

The medina is not for tourists only – it is very much an integral part of daily life and is where a lot of business is conducted. The decades of French rule in Morocco have left a unique influence that is visible in the infrastructure and cuisine.

The Mellah

The 14th-century Jewish quarter of Fès has currently 160,000 inhabitants living among 9,500 streets. Several sites of Jewish heritage lie here and are well worth a look. Because of the maze of streets, it is wise to explore the mellah with an official guide.

Address: The Mellah

Jewish Cemetery & Habarim Synagogue

This is one of the oldest cemeteries in Morocco. You can see a sea of white tombs and it is easy to spot which are the tombs of rabbis.

Address: Jewish Cemetary & Habarim Synagogue More Info: Southwest corner of the Mellah.

Ibn Danan Synagogue

Ibn Danan is an intimate synagogue with an interesting ritual bath in the basement. There are no set hours, but if it is not open the gatekeeper will let you in.

Address: Mellah

More Info: Southwest corner of the Mellah, through the Habarim Synagogue.

Dar El-Makhzen (Royal Palace)

Dar El-Makhzen is an impressive sight, the opulent bronze doors to the Palace stand 80 feet high. Unfortunately, the palace is not open to the public, but it is worth just to view the structure from the outside.

Address: Place des Alaouites

Dar Batha Museum

Situated in a century old Spanish-Moorish palace, the Dar Batha museum possesses a unique collection of traditional Moroccan arts and crafts. See crafts made out of wood, iron, plaster and other material.

Address: Place du Batha Phone: +212 55 634 116

Belghazi Museum

Belghazi is a private museum housed in a 17th-century palace, whose collection nearly rivals that of the Dar Batha Museum. Many of the items on display are actually for sale, if your pockets are deep enough!

Address: Bouknadel Phone: +212 37 822 178

Internet: www.museumbelghazi.com

More Info: musiumbelghazi@yahoo.com

Hammam Mernessi

There are many hammams, Arabic spa, throughout Medina. This one is conveniently located and tourist friendly, so foreigners will feel comfortable. Please note that men and women are allowed in at different times.

Address: Talaa Sghira

More Info: At the top of Talaa Seghira, in the heart of old Fez.

Tanneries

The famous tanneries produce some of the finest leather in the world, using century old practices. Find out more about the interesting procedure by visiting the sight.

Address: Place as-Seffarine



Merenid Tombs

The Merenid are ruins of ancient tombs and a 16th-century fortress, these are worth visiting mainly for the dramatic and breathtaking views over Fès.

Address: Borj Nord

More Info: Top of Borj Nord

Nejjarine Museum

Nejjarine Museum is located in a lovely, old, well preserved building. The museum shows the importance of art craft in Moroccan history and provides you with an understanding of the history of the country.

Address: Pl. Nejjarine Phone: +212 55 740 580 Internet: www.nejjarine.co.ma

Bou Inania Medersa

Bou Inania Medersa is a religious, educational building located in Talaa Kebira. The building itself is a real artwork and well worth a visit. Ask for a guide in order to get a better understanding of the medersa and its history.

Address: Talaa Kebira

Attarin Medersa

This medersa might not be as big as some other but it is stunning. The different tiles, shifts in lovely colours and the overall architecture design makes this a place worth visiting.

Address: Boutouil Kairaouine

Jardin Jnan Sbil

If you feel like you need a break from the bustling energy of Fes then this little sanctuary is a perfect get away. The gardens are beautiful with French influence and waterfall.

Address: Avenue Moulay Hassan

Karaouine Mosque

Fes have many beautiful buildings and Karaouine Mosque is defiantly one of them. The University of Al-Karaouine is

located in the mosque, and as the mosque was established in 859, the university is the oldest existing educational institute.

Address: Fes el-Bali

Gates of Fes

At one point or another you will pass through Bab Bou Jeloud - The Blue Gates. It is recommended to get a guide to show you around and explain the history of the gates. In this area you will find many restaurants to go to for lunch or just grab a cooling drink.

Address: Fes el-Bali

DINING



Photo: Roberto Cacho Toca

Fès has a delightful dining scene – plenty of traditional Moroccan cuisine rounded out by chic European, particularly French, inspired eateries. Because of the temperate climate, many restaurants have outdoor gardens or patios, which add an enchanting element to the experience.

La Maison Bleue

La Maison Bleue is a sumptuous restaurant housed in the riad of the same name. An open air courtyard is the perfect setting for an aperitif. Exquisite cuisine, which varies from traditional to contemporary Moroccan fare. This is widely regarded as one of Fès finest restaurants.

Address: Place Batha, 2 Phone: +212 535 63 60 52



Internet: www.maisonbleue.com

More Info: resa@maisonbleue.com

Restaurant Palais Tijani

Palais Tijani has outstanding traditional Moroccan cuisine that melts in your mouth. One of the restaurants in Fès where wine is not served, but management will not object if you discreetly bring your own.

Address: Derb ben Chekroune, 51 - 53

Phone: +212 035 741 128

Restaurant Laanibra

Restaurant Laanibra is a restored 14th-century palace serving as the backdrop for this opulent restaurant. They have excellent food and a great choice if you do not eat meat as they have many options for vegetarians.

Address: 61 Ain Lkhail Phone: +212 035 741 009

Le Kasbah

Le Kasbah is a friendly three-story restaurant. It has a rooftop patio with spectacular views of the medina. Enjoy the view a long with delicious food.

Address: Bab Boujloud Phone: +212 35 741 533

Chez Vittorio

Chez Vittorio is a cosy restaurant serving classical rustic Italian cuisine. It provides a welcome change from tagines. If you eat here the pizzas are to recommend.

Address: 21 Rue Brahim Roudani Phone: +212 535 624 730 More Info: afilal.s@menara.ma

Riad Andalib

This restaurant is located a hotel. They serve excellent Moroccan cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The Moroccan salads are lovely here; great service and they serve both beer and wine.

Address: 54 Ben Mohamed Alaoui

Phone: +212 5 35 764 563 Internet: www.riadandalib.ma

L'Amandier Palais Faraj

L'Amandier is another restaurant located in a hotel. It has an amazing view over Medina and on the menu traditional Moroccan cuisine is offered. Both the staff and the atmosphere make this an excellent place for a lovely evening dinner.

Address: Bab Ziat

Phone: +212 53 563 5356 Internet: www.palaisfaraj.com

Restaurant Numero 7

Restaurant Numero 7 has a simple philosophy with food: finding the best local ingredients from the market and serve pan-Mediterranean Moroccan cuisine. If this philosophy sounds interesting you will find this modern restaurant on 7 Zkak Rouah.

Address: 7 Zkak Rouah Phone: +212 67 944 2522

Internet: www.restaurantnumero7.com

Dar Roumana

Dar Roumana has a lovely atmosphere to it, luxurious rooms and beautiful décor. The goat cheese here is great, followed by a perfectly cooked fillet and ending with a sweet crème brûlée, making this a perfect dinner.

Address: 30 Derb el-Amer Phone: +212 535 741 637 Internet: www.darroumana.com

Palais Amani

Palais Amani offers a mix of African, French,
Mediterranean and Contemporary cuisine. Not only is the
menu great but you can come here for breakfast, lunch
and dinner as well.

Address: 12 derb el Miter Phone: +212 53 563 3209 Internet: www.palaisamani.com



Restaurant Pizzeria L'Italien

Restaurant Pizzeria L'Italien is a nice little break from the Moroccan cuisine. The design, setting and overall atmosphere of the restaurant is warm and welcoming making it a sweet little dinner place.

Address: Avenue Omar Ibn Khattab Phone: +212 53 594 3384

MB

MB is a hip restaurant with outstanding food and delicious martinis. Upstairs you are allowed to smoke and can relax the whole evening with a nice glass of wine.

Address: Rue Ahmed Chaouki, 12 Phone: +212 535 622 727 Internet: www.fesrestaurant.com

Restaurant Sekaya

Restaurant Sekaya might not be easy to find, but when you do it is worth the search. Not only have you worked up an appetite but you arrive to an amazing view and lovely Moroccan food.

Address: Zekake lehjar, 87 Phone: +212 6 6446 6408

Elixir

Elixir will invite you one of the best meals you will have in Fes. As it is a popular Moroccan restaurant, it is recommended that you book your table in time in this lovely court yard.

Address: Derb el Kateb, 3 Phone: +212 535 637 583

Sandwiches Big Mac

No matter how much one loves Moroccan, French or Arabic cuisine you can still get cravings for a sandwich. If and when you do, this is the place to go to. There is a seating area in the restaurant.

Address: Talaa Seghira, 3

CAFES



Photo: Liv Unni Sødem

Many of the cafés are delightfully French-inspired, with a delectable array of sweets and pastries. Some streets in Fès are very short, thus the buildings are not assigned numbers, so the name of the street only is given.

Café Safae

Café Safae is a more traditional café serving excellent coffee. But if you crave pastries, you can easily purchase them a few doors away.

Address: Talaa Seghira Phone: +212 55 235 285

Pâtisserie Kortoba

Pâtisserie Kortouba is a sumptuous display of sweet treats to tempt a variety of palates. They offer both French and Moroccan sweets.

Address: Derb Boutouil

Café Renaissance

Fresh juices are a staple of Moroccan daily life and when in Fès, make sure not to miss it – particularly tasty at this café.

Address: Off Boulevard Mohammed V Phone: +212 55 653 003

Café Pâtisserie New Peacock

Café Pâtisserie New Peacock is a newly redesigned café. It is stylish, relaxed and airy with numerous tempting sweets.



Address: 29 Avenue Mohammed es-Slaoui

Phone: +212 55 911 87

Cafe Clock

Cafe Clock offers food for any time during the day. Come here and try their camel burger and finish with a delicious dessert.

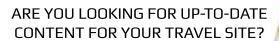
Address: 7 Derb Magana Phone: +212 35 637 855

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Photo: martinvarsavsky

Since Islam, the main religion in Morocco, prohibits the consumption of alcohol, bars can be difficult to find. Unaccompanied women do not often frequent bars but here are a few good options where men and women will both feel comfortable. Hotels in the new part of town are also a good option if you fancy a drink. Because of the religious dictates of Islam, nightlife is a bit scarce. The new part of town is where you will find most of the existing discos and nightlife. Many of the upscale modern hotels also have clubs.





arrivalguides.biz/distribution

ola.zetterlof@arrivalguides.com

Pub Cala Iris

Pub Cala Iris is a 2 floor English style pub in the ville nouvelle. The bar upstairs is more upscale and slightly more expensive.

Address: 26 Avenue Hassan II Phone: +212 535 741 077

Hôtel Les Mérinides

Hôtel Les Mérinides is a sophisticated option with a chic clientele. Here you will find the best view that goes a long with your delicious cocktail.

Address: Route de Tour de Fès Phone: +212 535 645 226 Internet: www.lesmerinides.com

Hôtel Menzeh Zalagh

Hôtel Menzeh Zalagh has an upscale, trendy bar popular with the fashionable youths of Fès. Sit back and relax in their cosy bar.

Address: 10 Rue Mohammed Diouri Phone: +212 535 625 531 Internet: www.zalagh-palace.ma

Sofitel Palais Jamaï

Hotel Sofitel has a luxurious bar with creative cocktails and sumptuous appetizers. Stunning views of the medina from the outdoor patio.

Address: Bab Guissa Phone: +212 535 634 331 Internet: www.sofitel.com

Hôtel Sofia

Hôtel Sofia is a hotel with an English pub and a busy dance club for several night-time options. Come, have a look and enjoy a drink.

Address: 3 Rue Arabi Saoudite Phone: +212 29 530 110 Internet: www.sofitel.com



SHOPPING



Photo: martinvarsavsky

Fès is a wonderland of shopping, with the endless stalls in the medina. Here are a few shops of particular note. It is always expected that you will bargain over prices in the markets, but in most shops bargaining is also widely practiced. Most shopkeepers give discounts if you buy more than one item, and give a greater discount with each additional item purchased.

Le Tresor Berbere

Le Tresor Berbere is a beautiful shop filled with traditional Berber jewellery, housewares and handicrafts. Here it is easy to find many things to take home.

Address: 66 Bis, Zkak Lahjar Phone: +212 535 740 153

Association des Femmes de Fès

The Association des Femmes de Fès is a particularly impressive store full of beautiful handmade table cloths, pillow coverings and bedspreads. It is owned and run by women, which is unusual in Morocco. The association employs and donates money to underprivileged and abused women.

Address: Derb El Miter, 18

Nour Driss

Nour Driss is close to the henna souk, specializing in perfumed oils, spices and traditional skin care products. Darlbn Khaldoun is one of Fès best carpet showrooms, where you can also watch the artisans at work. You can

specify the size and design of a rug for a made to order purchase.

Address: 15 Moulay Driss

Ensemble Artisanal

Ensemble Artisanal is an exceptional place for traditional ceramics and pottery where you can see the craftspeople design and make the pieces. This is definitely worth a visit.

Address: Avenue Allah ben Abdullah Phone: +212 535 622 704

Kissariat

This market offers many things from small little shops around. Stroll around and find unique little treats, do not forget to bargain!

Address: Talaa Kebira The Medina Opening hours: 9 am-12 am & 3 pm-8 pm, closed Fri after 12 pm

ACCOMMODATIONS



Photo: FrenchSelfCatering.com

Some hotels give prices in dirham and some quote prices in Euros. Most hotels are happy to take either currency, and will do the conversion based on the going rate on that day. Some streets in Fès are very short, thus the buildings are not assigned numbers, so only the name of the street is given.

Riad Fès

Riad Fès is an elegant, sumptuous riad, complete with the modern amenities of a rooftop hot tub, fitness centre and on site hammam. Many of the rooms have private



terraces.

Address: Derb ibn Slimane, 5 Phone: +212 535 947 610 Internet: www.riadfes.com

La Maison Bleue

This is an oasis of opulent luxury, centrally located near the Dar Batha Museum. The attached restaurant is considered one of the best in the country.

Address: Place Batha, 2 Phone: +212 535 636 052 Internet: www.maisonbleue.com

Riad Lune Et Soleil

This is a small, stunning riad just inside the medina, so it is very easily accessible. The personable German owners, Pauline & Jurgen Moller, speak every language imaginable between them, so guests from all over the world will feel at home.

Address: Derb Skallia, 3 Phone: +212 535 634 523 Internet: www.luneetsoleil.com

Hôtel Menzeh Zalagh

Hôtel Menzeh Zalagh is a luxury hotel at a mid-range price. Located in the new area of Fès, it offers a prime location with a traditional Moroccan décor. It also offers a very popular nightclub.

Address: 10 Rue Mohammed Diouri Phone: +212 35 93 22 34 Internet: www.zalagh-palace.ma

Hotel Splendid

Hotel Splendid is a lovely clean hotel in the new part of town, with a bar and a swimming pool. The staff is friendly and helpful and you have access to internet in the lobby.

Address: 9 Rue Abdelkrim El Khattabi Phone: +212 535 622 148

More Info: Avenue Mohammed es Slaoui

Palais Faraj Suites & Spa

Palais Faraj Suites & Spa is located in, what used to be, an Arab-Moorish palace. This luxurious hotel has a spa, outdoor pool, hammam, free WiFi and to top it all off, the most amazing view over Medina.

Address: Bab Ziat

Phone: +212 535 635 356 Internet: www.palaisfaraj.com

Barceló Fes Medina

Barceló Fes Medina describes themselves as "a haven of peace in the heart of the Medina" and it is just what it is. The modern rooms are design in a stylish and chic decor and the hotel, of course, offers a spa and an amazing hammam.

Address: Avenue Hassan II Phone: +212 53 594 8800 Internet: www.barcelo.com

Les Mérinides

Les Mérinides has one of the best locations as it is situated on the hills of Fes, providing a lovely view over the city. One of the best things are that if you feel lazy and do not want to go out for dinner the hotel has three restaurants to choose from.

Address: Borj Nord
Phone: +212 53 564 5226
Internet: www.lesmerinides.com

Dar Bensouda

This lovely hotel is housed in an old palace and still holds traditional decor in a fusion with modern design. They have a terrace with a view over the mountains and offer beauty treatments and massage.

Address: N°14 Zkak El Bghel

Riad La Maison Verte

Each room in this riad has its own, personal decor with a private bathroom. Breakfast is included and you can enjoy it on the cosy patio. Riad La Maison Verte is located 30



min from the airport.

Address: Derb Cheikh Gzira, 5

Diamant Vert

At Diamant Vert you can spend your nights in bungalows with your own little kitchenette and terrace. The hotel offers breakfast, lunch and dinner with a menu of international and Moroccan choices.

Address: Route d'ain Chkaf Phone: +212 5 35 608 367 / 69 Internet: www.diamantvert.ma

Ryad Mabrouka

Ryad Mabrouka luxurious guest homes give you a feeling of authentic, traditional and modern Morocco. They have a roof top where you can enjoy your breakfast and the lovely view of Medina.

Address: Rue Talaa Kebira Phone: +212 535 636 345 Internet: www.ryadmabrouka.com

Villa Agapanthe

Villa Agapanthe is located a 15 minutes' drive from the airport where their guests can enjoy a beautiful garden surrounding and an outdoor pool. The hotel offer free WiFi in the rooms and the restaurant serves traditional Moroccan cuisine.

Address: Route de Séfrou Domaine Ben Abdela Phone: +212 53 5615 279

Le Jardin Des Biehn

Le Jardin Des Biehn is the perfect summer home while you are visiting Fes. The garden is filled with roses, jasmine and bergamot flowers bringing a wonderful sent to the facility. There is a roof terrace where breakfast, lunch and dinner is served.

Address: Akbat Sbaa, 13 Phone: +212 664 647 679 Internet: www.jardindesbiehn.com

Hôtel Wassim

Hôtel Wassim is located in the centre of the new town. This four star hotel offer their guest an international restaurant and a nightclub. Catch the sun on either their panoramic terrace or, if you prefer, their solarium.

Address: Avenue Hassan II Rue Du Liban Phone: +212 52 884 0421

Internet: www.hotelwassim.com

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



Photo: Délirante bestiole [la poésie des goupils]

Airport

Fès-Saïss airport is located 15 km south of the city centre and is modern and easy to navigate. Taxis are inexpensive and are the best way to get to and from the airport to the city centre.

Address: BP A11

Phone: +212 35 624 800 Internet: www.onda.ma More Info: info@onda.org.ma

Public transport

The train station is in the ville nouvelle. There are daily trains to all the main destinations in Morocco. The trains are very comfortable and almost live up to European standards. First class seats often sell out so it is best to buy your ticket in advance. You may reserve tickets on the website or purchase them in person at the local station. The main bus station is situated outside of Bab el-Mahrouk and has services to other destinations in Morocco with



daily departures.

Internet: www.oncf.ma

Taxi

There are two types of taxis in Fès: the red petit taxi and the white grand taxi. The petit taxis all have meters, and a ride anywhere in the city but by law can only carry 3 people. There are several petit taxi ranks around the city. The grand taxis are often hired for day trips and are more difficult to come by. You may arrange one through your hotel if you desire a day trip out of Fès.

Post

The Main Post Office is located at the corner of Ave Hassan II & Blvd Mohammad V. It opens at 8 am Monday to Saturday.

Address: Ave Hassan II & Blvd Mohammad V

Hospitals

Hôpital Ghassani is one of the city's biggest hospitals. Doctors here speak several foreign languages.

Address: Dhar Mehraz District Phone: +212 55 622 777

Pharmacy

This pharmacy is staffed by both a doctor and a pharmacist. Stays open 24 hours.

Address: Boulevard Moulay Youssef Phone: +212 55 623 493

Telephone

Country Code: +212 Area Code: 055

More Info: Some newer phone numbers use 035.

Electricity

220V / 50Hz, note that some older buildings may still use 110V.

Population

1 Million

Currency

Dirham, 1 Dh = 100 centimes

Opening hours

Many businesses close between 12 - 3 pm, but are otherwise open from 9 am - 6 pm.

Internet

www.visitmorocco.com

Newspapers

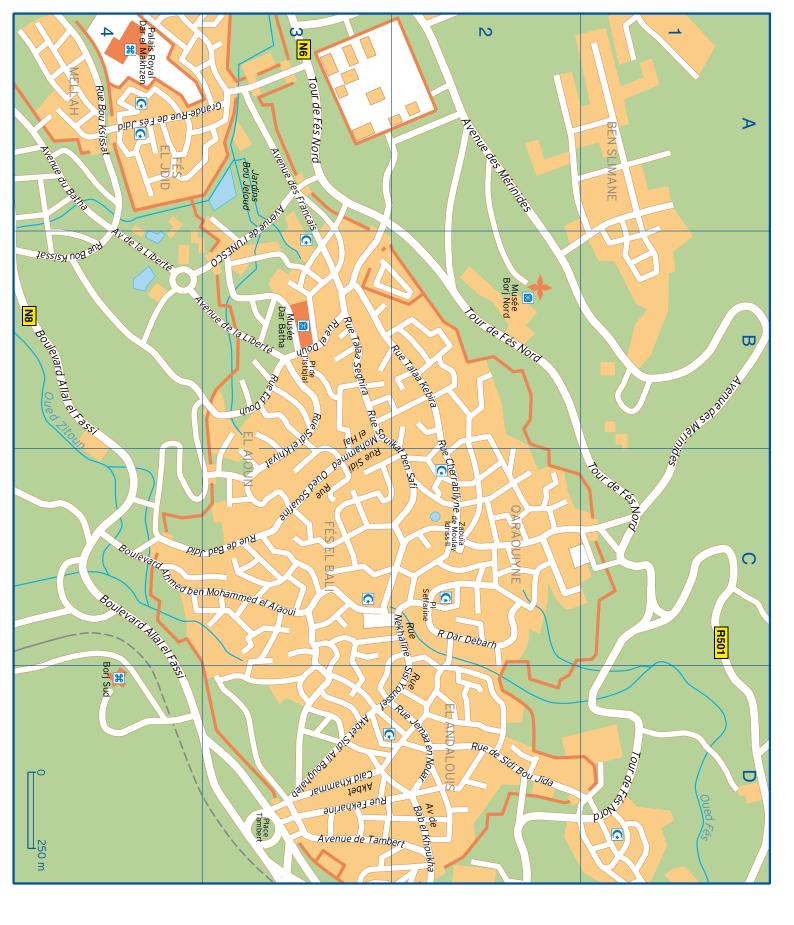
L'Opinion, National (Fr) Libération (Fr) Al-Bayane (Es) International Herald Tribune (En)

Emergency numbers

62 48 00

Tourist information

Syndicat d'Initiative Place Mohammed V. Mon - thurs 8.30 am - 12 pm & 2.30 - 6.30 pm, Friday 8.30 am - 11.30 am & 3 - 6.30 pm, Saturday 8.30 am - 12 pm. +212 535 624 760





Akbet Caid Khammar	D3	Place de l'Istiqlal	В3	Rue Jemaa en Nouar	D2
Akbet Sidi Ali Boughaleb	D3	Place Seffarine	C2	Rue Nekhaline	C2
Avenue de Bab el Khoukha	D2	Place Tambert	D3	Rue Oued Souafine	C3
Avenue de l'UNESCO	A3 B3	Rue Bou Ksissat	A4 B4	Rue Sidi el Khiyat	B3 C3
Avenue de la Liberté	B3 B4	Rue Cherrabliyne	B2 C2	Rue Sidi Mohammed el Haj	B3 C3
Avenue de Tambert	D2 D3	Rue Dar Debarh	C2	Rue Sisi Youssef	C2 D3
Avenue des Francais	A3 B3	Rue de Bad Jdid	C3 C4	Rue Souikat ben Safi	B3 C2
Avenue des Mérinides	A2 B1 C1	Rue de Sidi Bou Jida	D2	Rue Talaa Kebira	B2 B3
Avenue du Batha	A4	Rue Ed Douh	B3	Rue Talaa Seghira	В3
Boulevard Ahmed ben Mohammed el Alaoui	C3 C4	Rue el Douh	B3	Tour de Fés Nord	A3 B2 C1 D1
Boulevard Allal el Fassi	B4 C4 D4	Rue Fekharine	D3	Zaouïa de Moulay Idriss II	C2
Grande-Rue de Fés Jdid	A3 A4				