

# CASABLANCA EXPAT

FREE  
2018  
GUIDE



PRACTICAL  
INFORMATION



ADMINISTRATIVE  
DOCUMENTS



CASABLANCA  
EXPAT GUIDE



# CASABLANCA



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## 2018 CASA EXPAT GUIDE

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# STAY INFORMED

## 1- MEETING PLACE

Profile of a dynamic Casablanca, an ideal geographic location, the large-scale projects in the territory, a rapidly-changing city

## 2 - THE EXPAT COMMUNITY

The different host associations and their contact information

## 3 - MAP OF CASABLANCA

Finding your bearings in the different neighborhoods

## 4 - CITY INFO

Websites, social networks and useful applications





# CASV BLANCA

## CASABLANCA MEETING PLACE



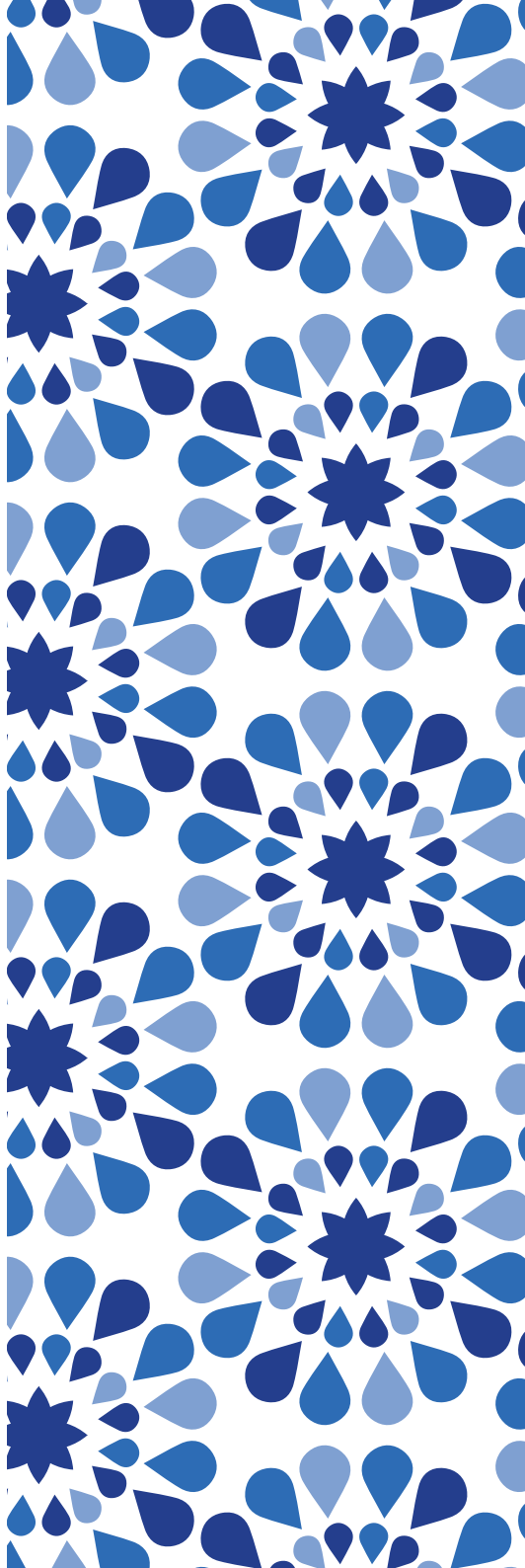
Casablanca inspires artists, attracts investors and welcomes those who want to try out their luck! It offers a plethora of services and hotels, shops and architectural gems. Its port activity, its kilometers of beaches, its international airport... Just a three-hour flight away from Europe is Casablanca, the “white city”.

With a population of more than 3.5 million excluding the conurbation, Casablanca is the county seat of the Casablanca-Settat region, which alone accounts for one third of national GDP. Morocco's economic capital, the leading African financial center and ranked 30th worldwide, Casablanca thinks big in a regional and continental perspective.

A city of many superlatives, the city of 386 km<sup>2</sup> spreads a little more every day. Its sprawling development does not merely change the urban landscape, it also gives new prominence to Morocco as a destination. In terms of large-scale projects, modernity prevails; culture, the environment, and infrastructure are at the forefront. 2018 will mark, among other things, the end of the construction works for the Grand Théâtre of Casablanca, the biggest in Africa, and the rehabilitation of the Arab League Park, a historic garden as well as the green lungs of the city.

Founded in the 7th century B.C., Casablanca is overflowing with several centuries of history. Nonetheless the city as we know it today was built in the 20th century nonetheless. Today, it is the main point of entry into the country. Its attractiveness from an economic, cultural and tourism front is continuously developing: Casablanca is a metropolis that is undergoing many changes, it is a place to do business, study, work and have a good time. The city is also concerned about its environmental impact and the quality of life of its inhabitants.

In one word, Casablanca is a city to experience.



# THE EXPAT COMMUNITY

Settling in a new city may seem challenging. Although the best way for a successful integration is generally immersion in the society, there is no harm in seeking advice – before or after your arrival – from those who are already established here. In Casablanca, you will find several associations that attend to newcomers. For instance, Casa-Accueil, founded in 1993, brings together over 400 member-families today. The U.F.E. (Union des Français de l'Etranger, Union of the French People Living Abroad) of Casablanca has been around since 1927 and brings together French nationals, French-speakers and Francophiles. The association, Français du Monde, French people of the World – Association Démocratique des Français à l'Etranger, (A.D.F.E., Democratic Association of French people Living Abroad), which aims to support and advise French people residing outside of France and those who want to live outside of France, is present in 150 countries and is represented in Casablanca. There are also other networks: the CAFC (Cercle Amical Français de Casablanca, French Amicable Club of Casablanca), a 20-hectare multi-sports club (tennis, swimming, horse-back riding, judo, etc.) counting more than 8,000 members (not to be mistaken for the CAF (Club Alpin Français, French Alpine Club), which is also present in Casablanca, the Amicale des Belges au Maroc (Club of Belgian people in Morocco), founded in 1921, which organizes cultural events, the Cercle des Italiens, Italian Club (Chez Massimo – Circolo Italiani), the HQ of expatriate Italians, the Churchill Club where Casa-Accueil awaits you every Monday, the Goethe Institut if you wish to meet the community of Germany's aficionados, the Cervantès Institute which broadens your horizon to Hispanic cultures. Casablanca is also home to many consulates.

## USEFUL INFO

### Casa-Accueil

+212 (0) 664 12 05 39  
[www.casa-accueil.org](http://www.casa-accueil.org)  
/Casa-Accueil

### U.F.E. – Union des Français de l'Etranger

+212 (0) 522 20 00 20  
[www.ufecasablanca.com](http://www.ufecasablanca.com)  
/Casablanca-Ufe

### Français du Monde-A.D.F.E

+212 (0) 661 45 34 16  
[www.fdm-maroc.org](http://www.fdm-maroc.org)  
/francaisdumonde

### CAFC – Cercle Amical Français de Casablanca

Tél : +212 (0) 522 25 50 05  
[www.cafcasa.com](http://www.cafcasa.com)  
/groups/20108365992/

### CAF – Club Alpin Français de Casablanca

+212 (0) 522 99 01 41  
[www.cafmaroc.ffcam.fr](http://www.cafmaroc.ffcam.fr)  
/ClubAlpinFrancaisDeCasablanca

### Amicale des Belges au Maroc

+212 (0) 663 72 08 80  
[amicaledesbelgesaumaroc@gmail.com](mailto:amicaledesbelgesaumaroc@gmail.com)  
/Amicaledesbelgesaumaroc

### Goethe Institut

+212 (0) 522 20 77 35  
[www.goethe.de/ins/ma/fr/](http://www.goethe.de/ins/ma/fr/)  
/GoetheInstitutCasablanca

### Cervantès Institut

+212 (0) 522 26 73 37  
[www.casablanca.cervantes.es](http://www.casablanca.cervantes.es)  
/InstitutoCervantesCasablanca

### Consulats in Casablanca

<http://www.data.gov.ma>



MOROCCO  
MALL

ANFA  
PLACE

CASA  
ANFA

CIL

TRIANGLE  
D'OR

MAARIF

FACULTY OF LEGAL  
ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL SCIENCE  
AIN CHOCK





# CITY INFO

## A CITY, A STRATEGY

Casablanca is a unique city : since October 2016, it is the first African city to have adopted an appeal strategy baptized WeCasablanca, which now supports Morocco's economic capital through its transformation. The "WeCasablanca" portal strives to promote Casablanca by offering a 360-degree view of the city's many potentialities. You can find a section dedicated to discovery (visits, checklist, program, virtual gallery and immersion), a comprehensive city guide (from shopping to wellbeing centers, as well as cultural activities), a section dedicated to life in the city (administrative procedures, work, etc.) and another related to investments (promising sectors, online services, etc.). Enough to get your bearings in a single click!

[www.wecasablanca.com](http://www.wecasablanca.com)



## SHOPPING AND GOING OUT

Once you're settled, it is now time to head out and explore! Casa Break, the first free mobile application dedicated to shopping and going out in Casablanca, is the best way for visitors to discover the city. Designed by the Casablanca Events & Animation team, it provides extensive information including fun and original ideas, places for going out, shops, as well as practical information, to stay connected with the city's news! This city guide, which is very comprehensive, will guide you through the Street Art tour of the economic capital, will show you where to find the best stores, concept stores, wellbeing centers, fitness clubs, beaches and surf spots, and will keep you updated about the best cultural events as well as restaurants that you must

### Casa Break App

Available on App Store and Google Play



## CASABLANCA AND ITS TRAMWAY

Another application worth bookmarking in your favorites: Casa Tramway, to travel easily by tramway. The mobile interface gives you access to an interactive map of the network, the possibility to view your itinerary, train schedules, and the location of ticket windows. With free WiFi, this transport mode, ideal for you to get around in the city, will allow you to cross through neighborhoods quickly, whilst enjoying an original view of Casablanca. Currently, the tramway serves 48 stations in 2 lines, T1 and T2. The extension of both lines is underway with a commissioning scheduled late 2018.

### Casa Tramway App

Available on App Store and Google Play





## FINDING A PHARMACY

Whatever the time, finding a pharmacy on duty will no longer be a hassle with “Maroc Pharmacie”. Download this app to geolocate open pharmacies and get to them quickly and easily. Casablanca is one of the cities covered by Maroc Pharmacie.

### Maroc Pharmacie App

Available on App Store and Google Play



## CASA MDINTI OR CITIZEN APP

With the Casa Mdinti (“Casa my city”) app, the inhabitants of Casablanca may now contribute to the cleanliness of their city, every day, at any time, directly from their mobile phones. This interactive tool helps you to file a complaint and track its processing in real time, request an intervention, share an idea to improve the services, find out about routes and collection times, obtain practical information as well as environmental advice.

### Casa Mdinti App

Available on App Store and Google Play



## HEALTH, A USEFUL APPLICATION

Yet another useful app in the health field is Sehatuk (“your health”), which is a directory of health centers, laboratories and physicians, as well as pharmacies. Voted best health app in Africa in 2014, it provides information on the medicines available in Morocco, their price and reimbursement.

### Sehatuk App

Available on App Store and Google Play



## LYDEC, A LOCAL SERVICE

In Casablanca and the conurbation, the distribution of drinking water and electricity, collection of wastewater and rainwater, and management of public lighting have been entrusted to Lydec since 1997. To make people’s lives easier, the Lydec application is simple and convenient: in just a few clicks, you can pay your bills 24/7, geolocate the closest branch or point of payment, file a complaint or report an incident, and even stay informed on the projects underway.

### Lydec App

Available on App Store et Google Play



## ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Idarati (“my administration”, also called Public Service) is the mobile app that will guide you through your administrative procedures. It provides practical information on procedures, contact information of public services and recruitment exam notices in the sector.

### Idarati App

Available on App Store and Google Play







STEP  
2

# PREPARE YOUR ARRIVAL

## 1- ENTRY FORMALITIES

Visas, passport, entry conditions

## 2 - MOVING

Preparing to move out, list of the leading international moving companies

## 3- CUSTOMS FORMALITIES



**N.B.**

- In general, the applications, documents, and supporting documents that you submit to the Moroccan authorities must be in Arabic. Any document drafted in another language must be translated into Arabic by a sworn translator.
- Obtain information from the Association of Translators Accredited by the Courts ( Association des Traducteurs Agréés par les Juridictions, ATAJ): [www.atajtraduction.asso.ma](http://www.atajtraduction.asso.ma)



# ENTRY FORMALITIES

Whether you're coming for holidays or for a long-term stay, you must hold a valid passport in order to access the Moroccan territory. Some countries are subject to a visa formality (delivered solely by the Moroccan administration), while other foreign nationals, such as European Union citizens, are exempt from visas. But be careful: the length of stay on a tourist visa is limited to 3 months. To avoid being out of status, you may request an extension of stay to the Directorate General of National Security (Direction Générale de la Sûreté Nationale, DGSN).

## List of countries whose nationals do not require entry visas for Morocco

Algeria	Italy
Germany	Japan
Andorra	Kuwait
Saudi Arabia	Latvia
Argentina	Liechtenstein
Australia	Lithuania
Austria	Luxembourg
Bahrain	Mali
Belgium	Malta
Brazil	Mexico
Bulgaria	Monaco
Canada	Niger
Chili	Norway
Cyprus	New Zealand
Congo (Brazzaville)	Oman
South Korea	Netherlands
Côte d'Ivoire	Peru
Croatia	Poland
Denmark	Philippines
Spain	Portugal
Estonia	Puerto Rico
United Arab Emirates	Qatar
United States of America	Romania
Russian Federation	United Kingdom
Finland	Senegal
France	Singapore
Gabon	Slovakia
Greece	Slovenia
Guinea	Sweden
Hungary	Switzerland
Hong Kong	Czech Republic
KSA	Tunisia
Indonesia	Turkey
Ireland	Venezuela
Iceland	



(Updated on 01/05/2014 Source: [www.consulat.ma](http://www.consulat.ma))

There are four types of entry visas in Morocco:

- **Short-term visas** are issued for short stays (between 1 and 90 days), possibly with multiple entries, and may not be obtained by a foreign national who wishes to migrate;
- **Long-term visas** are visas with multiple entries, valid for 3 months to up to one year. Just like for short-term visas, the length of every stay must be between 1 and 90 days. For a stay that is longer than 3 months, you must apply for a registration card; (refer to Step 3- My arrival, 2- Settling down).
- **Transit visa:** as its name indicates, it allows a foreign national traveling to another country to transit through Morocco. This visa cannot have a validity of more than 72 hours;
- **Visas issued at the border:** exceptionally, a short-term or transit visa may be issued at a border post by the security services.

There are also:

- **Investor visas**, if you are coming to Morocco with the purpose to invest;
- **Business visas**, if you are coming to Morocco in the framework of a public or private procurement, to participate in a trade fair or a show, or if you are invited by an industrial, commercial, or services operator.

In appendix 1, you will find the list of documents required to obtain a tourist, investor, or business visa.

You will find information about work visas in Step 3.

(Source : [www.consulat.ma](http://www.consulat.ma))



## N.B.

- You cannot enter Morocco with a national ID card. You need to present a valid passport.
- Even if you have a visa, the Moroccan authorities may decide, for various reasons, that a given person may not enter the Moroccan territory.
- For travelers coming from the United States or Europe, no proof of vaccination is required. However, people traveling from areas affected by cholera may have to present proof of cholera vaccination.
- If your pets are traveling with you, they must be over 7 months old and microchipped. For every pet, you must have a passport (provided and completed by an authorized veterinarian), the identification card of the electronic chip, a certificate of good health of less than 6 days and an anti-rabies certificate of less than 6 months.
- When you go through border control, make sure that your passport was stamped with your date of entry, to avoid being inadvertently unlawful.

# MOVING

To prepare your move to start a new life under the Casablanca sky, you're better off starting to make arrangements several months in advance. This is something you can do with your family, or entrust the task to professionals. In both cases, you will use the services of an international moving company.

The cost of your move will depend on the mode of transport you choose (air, road, or sea), the volume that will be transported (and the weight, for air transport) and the distance. Here is some advice to help you control your budget and find your moving company...

- International moving costs are expensive, so be wise in choosing the items you wish to ship (household appliances, the bed, etc. are typically items that take up space and that can be bought locally);
- You should have specific departure and destination addresses for your belongings;
- Think about the best suitable time for you in terms of their pickup and delivery (does the carrier have a storage service, if need be, to give you time to arrive?);
- Estimate the volume of goods that plan on shipping (volume calculators are available online) and define your ancillary needs (disassembly of certain furniture items, supply of packing material, help in packing, etc.);
- Make a list of the items you pack: you will need it to complete the "value declaration" with the moving company;
- Find out about the conditions for shipping your belongings (in boxes or containers, by grouped moving or not) and the mode of transport (air transport is the most expensive, but quicker for example);
- Make sure that the moving company handles the customs clearance of your belongings;
- Also look into the type of insurance offered by the mover and by your usual insurer to be able to compare;
- There are other services as well: real time shipment tracking, administrative assistance at arrival in Morocco and at departure, relocation service, etc.;
- Request several estimations before making your decision.

## USEFUL INFO


### Fédération Internationale des déménageurs internationaux

 [www.fidi-france.com](http://www.fidi-france.com)

### La société HMS Transport

 [www.hms-transport.com](http://www.hms-transport.com)

### Euromove

 [www.euromove.ma](http://www.euromove.ma)

### Hontas Déménagement

 [www.emenagements-bailly.com](http://www.emenagements-bailly.com)


### Menna

 [www.menna.fr](http://www.menna.fr)

### P Trans

 [www.transporteur-maroc.com](http://www.transporteur-maroc.com)

### Mister Déménagement

 [www.misterdemenagement.com](http://www.misterdemenagement.com)

### Cocquibus

 [www.cocquibus.be](http://www.cocquibus.be)

### Déménagements Bailly

 [www.demenagements-bailly.com](http://www.demenagements-bailly.com)

### AGS

 [www.ags-demenagement.com](http://www.ags-demenagement.com)

# CUSTOMS FORMALITIES

When you transfer your residence to Morocco, there are no taxes or duties to pay when bringing your belongings to the territory. However, you must justify your approach by presenting several documents, such as an inventory of your shipment and a certificate of change of residence, to the customs administration. The estimation of your goods is not something to be taken lightly, and their import must be done in one shot. For further information on the applicable scheme for personal goods, prohibited imports and the applicable scheme for personal vehicles, visit the website of the Administration of Customs and Indirect Taxes (Administration des Douanes et Impôts Indirects) [www.douane.gov.ma](http://www.douane.gov.ma), as well as that of the Moroccan administration,

[www.service-public.ma](http://www.service-public.ma).

If you would like to bring your vehicle, be careful: for a stay of less than 6 months on Moroccan territory, you must obtain a declaration of Temporary Admission (TA). If your stay in Morocco exceeds 6 months, you must pay customs duties, which will vary depending on the type of vehicle. Don't panic: the [www.douane.gov.ma](http://www.douane.gov.ma) website explains the customs clearance procedures and provides the forms that need to be filled out, a list of clearance offices and even a taxes and duties simulator, taking into account the nature, type, and brand of your vehicle. Clearance of motor cars and two-wheel motorcycles of over 80 cm<sup>3</sup> imported from abroad by individuals residing in Morocco (Moroccan or foreign) must be done at the customs office of entry (at the border).

In appendix 2, you will find a list of the documents you need to provide for the customs clearance of your vehicle.





# YOUR ARRIVAL

## 1- SETTLING DOWN

Residence permit, for adults, spouses, children: what are the procedures you need to follow? What documents are required?

## 2- WORKING

Working conditions: guidelines, what are the required documents?

## 3- STUDYING

School offers, from kindergarden to universities and prestigious schools: study at an internationally recognized school in Casablanca

## 4- FINDING HOUSING

Practical advice: rental or purchase, insurance, neighborhoods within the city and offers outside the city, utilities, telephone and internet

## 5- HEALTHCARE

Healthcare institutions meeting international standards, physicians, pharmacies, social protection, alternative medicine

## 6- OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

Practical advice: what procedures, subsidiaries of international banks established in Morocco, what type of account, tourist allocation, taking out foreign currency, bank cards

# SETTLING DOWN

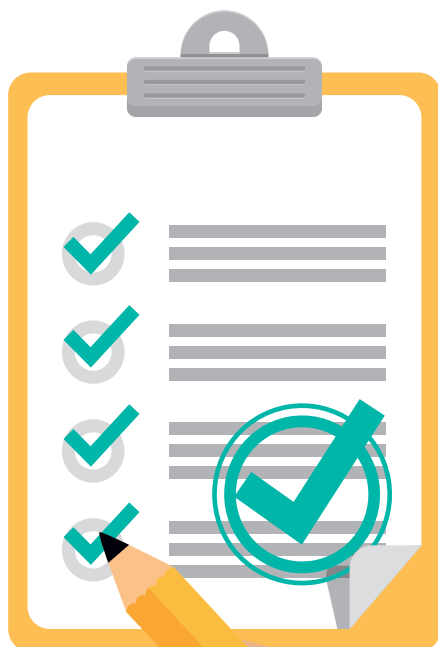
To settle down and work in Morocco, you must apply for a residence permit (or registration card) within 15 days of your arrival, at the national security services or Royal Gendarmerie close to your place of residence.

In appendix 3, you will find the list of documents required to obtain your residence permit.

While waiting for your registration card, the deposit receipt provided by the authorities when you submitted the application will help you to make progress with your other procedures. The card issued after the first application is valid for one year, and is renewable. After 3 years of regular residence, you may apply for a 5-year or even 10-year card.

Your spouse and/or children over the age of 16 must also obtain a registration card.

In appendix 3, you will find the list of documents required to obtain your residence permit, as well as that of your spouse and/or underage children



- Children under the age of 16 years old are not subject to registration. If they are traveling alone, they must carry a certified copy of their parents' residence permit, to present it to border control.
- Cohabitation is not recognized in Morocco: without marital ties, obtaining a residence permit for your partner may prove to be difficult.



# WORKING

To be able to work in Morocco, you must have a foreign employment contract (CTE) along with a work visa granted by the Ministry of Labor and Professional Integration. At the same time as the procedures carried out to obtain your registration card, you must also obtain a work visa. Since June 1st, the CTE visa application must be submitted by the employer via the official "TAECHIR" platform. This web site makes it possible to track the application and its approval; it also provides access to information on procedures related to CTE visa applications, and also makes it possible to obtain the administration's response for formulated visa applications, within a maximum of 10 days. The information and assistance number for the CTE is: +212 (0) 530 10 07 05.


In appendix 4, you will find the list of documents required in order to obtain a first settlement CTE visa.

## USEFUL INFO

**Agence Nationale de l'Emploi et des Compétences du Maroc (ANAPEC)**

 [www.anapec.org](http://www.anapec.org)


**Association de Défense des travailleurs Français et Européens résidant au Maroc (ADFEM)**

 [www.adfem.org](http://www.adfem.org)


**Ministère du Travail et de l'Insertion Professionnelle**

 [www.adfem.org](http://www.adfem.org)

**Adecco Maroc**

 [www.adecco-maroc.com](http://www.adecco-maroc.com)


**Amaljob**

 [www.amaljob.com](http://www.amaljob.com)

**Rekrute, le portail de l'emploi au Maroc**

 [www.rekrute.com](http://www.rekrute.com)

**Manpower Maroc**

 [www.manpower-maroc.com](http://www.manpower-maroc.com)

**Chambre Française de commerce et d'industrie du Maroc**

 [www.cfcim.org](http://www.cfcim.org)

**Chambre allemande de commerce et d'industrie**

 [www.marokko.ahk.de](http://www.marokko.ahk.de)

**Chambre espagnole de commerce**

 [www.camacoescasablanca.com](http://www.camacoescasablanca.com)

**Chambre américaine de commerce**

 [www.amcham.ma](http://www.amcham.ma)

**Chambre de commerce britannique**

 [www.britcham.ma](http://www.britcham.ma)

**Chambre de commerce belgo-luxembourgeoise**

 [www.ccblm.co.ma](http://www.ccblm.co.ma)

**Section commerciale de l'Ambassade de la Corée du Sud**

 [mar.mofa.go.kr](http://mar.mofa.go.kr)

# STUDYING

Depending on the age of your children, you may need to find a kindergarden or preschool, primary school, secondary school, or higher education institution. In Casablanca, there is a wide offering: public education, private education, foreign education, and accredited private institutions. Remain assured, your children may peacefully continue their academic education here.

In Casablanca, there are several foreign mission schools, that is, educational institutions that operate according to the system and curriculum of a foreign country (France, Spain, the United States and Belgium – Wallonia-Brussels Federation), within the framework of a bilateral agreement. Tuition at these institutions is generally more expensive than at private institutions. Hence, there are private institutions that are accredited either by the French ministry of national education and the Agency for French Education Abroad (AEFE, Agence pour l'Enseignement Français à l'Étranger), or by the Office Scolaire Universitaire et International (OSUI).

In the private education system, the opening of a nursery, like for any educational institution, is a regulated, controlled activity. There are many nurseries in Casablanca, and there is a highly diversified offering for preschool, primary and secondary schools. Therefore, to make a decision, there are several criteria you may wish to consider: your neighborhood (of residence or work), your finances, word-of-mouth, affinity with a type of education method (Montessori, American system, etc.).

For higher education: vocational studies (higher technician's license, technical license, university diploma of technology), preparatory classes for prestigious schools, which show good results, academic studies in some twenty private and public universities across the country (LMD

system – except for Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, which follows the Anglo-Saxon model, certificate of equivalence, exchange systems) or higher education schools (engineering, business, management, design, journalism, etc.)... You have a wide choice!

Prestigious international schools complement Casablanca's educational offering, namely Ecole Centrale, Toulouse Business School, Dauphine, the International University of Casablanca (UIC) and EM-Lyon.

With these many options, it is totally possible for you or your children to study what you wish in Casablanca, in the framework of an internationally recognized program.



**NB**

To enroll in an institute of higher education in Morocco, students must first follow some procedures in their country of origin. Visit the website of the Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation, (Agence Marocaine de Coopération Internationale, AMCI): [http:// www.amci.ma/modalites-de-candidature-etde-preinscription/](http://www.amci.ma/modalites-de-candidature-etde-preinscription/) for further information and visit the Moroccan Embassy or one of its consulates for assistance. Some embassies in Morocco have a scholarship service for children's tuition support. Do not hesitate to contact your consular representation in Casablanca for more information.



[www.men.gov.ma](http://www.men.gov.ma)

[www.aefe.fr](http://www.aefe.fr)

[www.efmaroc.org](http://www.efmaroc.org)

[www.ecolebelge.org](http://www.ecolebelge.org)

[www.univh2c.ma](http://www.univh2c.ma)

[www.londonacademy.ma](http://www.londonacademy.ma)

[www.cas.ac.ma](http://www.cas.ac.ma)

[www.gwa.ac.ma](http://www.gwa.ac.ma)

[www.aac.ac.ma](http://www.aac.ac.ma)

[www.centrale-casablanca.ma](http://www.centrale-casablanca.ma)

[www.tbs-education.ma](http://www.tbs-education.ma)

[www.casablanca.em-lyon.com](http://www.casablanca.em-lyon.com)

[www.laformation.ma](http://www.laformation.ma)

[www.casablanca.dauphine.fr](http://www.casablanca.dauphine.fr)

[www.uic.ac.ma](http://www.uic.ac.ma)

# FINDING HOUSING

Things are taking shape: you now need to find a place to live! The rental and sale of real estate property is increasingly structured. There are more and more real estate agencies in the economic landscape; the draft regulation of the real estate broker profession is in the Parliament.

For temporary housing, you may choose to stay at a hotel or an apartment hotel: an internet search will help you refine your choice.

For long-term housing, whether you desire to rent or to buy, the simplest thing is to reach out to a real estate agency. There are several in Casablanca: Century 21, Proprieta, Easyhome, Capital foncier...

Future tenant, bear in mind that landlords in good standing will request a standard lease contract (official model) that you will need to sign and certify at the mouqatâa (administrative annex of the arrondissement – equivalent to a prefecture –, in the neighborhood, where signature authentications and certified true copies of documents are done). Rentals are usually on a month-to-month basis. In practice, even if things tend to change, if you lease a property, the restoration costs of the apartment will likely be at your expense (fresh paint, minor electrical repairs, plumbing, etc.). For more extensive work (bathtub that needs to be replaced for example), negotiate with your landlord. You will find furnished or non-furnished rentals. Most housing units are not equipped with a central heating system. However, there's a wide range of options in the market to address this: heating using a butane gas cylinder, reversible air conditioning system, oil heaters, electric heaters. Acoustic and thermal insulation of residential buildings has only been mandatory

since January 1st, 2017. Lastly, please note that there is no town gas: you need to use a gas cylinder or electricity for your stove.

A soon-to-be homeowner? Once you find the desired property, you must make sure it is available (procedures with the property registry): get assistance (legal department of your consular representation, association of expats, lawyer). For a real estate transaction, you must use the services of a public notary, and it is preferable that a circle of your acquaintances recommend a trustworthy one. An advance payment is made once the sale agreement is signed, followed by an escrow period of a few weeks before the signing of the final sales deed. The modalities for the payment of the outstanding balance for the property vary depending on whether you are buying from an individual or within the framework of a residential building project.

Whether you are a homeowner or a tenant, you must purchase a home insurance (as well as a homeowners' insurance if necessary). All the insurers offer this service. In Casablanca, every neighborhood has its own characteristics, and there is something to everyone's liking: historic neighborhood (Habous, city center), night life neighborhood (Ain Diab), shopping neighborhood (Maârif), residential neighborhood villas (Anfa and Anfa Supérieur, CIL, Oasis, Californie, Polo); luxury apartments (Racine, Gauthier, Palmier). You may also choose to live by the sea (Tamaris Dar Bouazza), in the city's outskirts bordering a forest (Bouskoura) or in a smaller town (Mohammedia, north of Casablanca).

Get a better sense of the neighborhoods in Casablanca and of your options outside the city on the internet: [www.casa-accueil.org](http://www.casa-accueil.org)

Like all the inhabitants of Casablanca and conurbation, Lydec, the utilities company in charge of distributing water and electricity, will soon become a part of your life. Water and power outages are anecdotal. Your lease or your certificate of ownership and a copy of your ID card will allow you to connect to utilities at the office nearest your residence. The set-up is done on web site.

[client.lydec.ma](http://client.lydec.ma)

You will also need a telephone and an internet connection. There are three telecom operators: Maroc Telecom (literal translation of Itissalat Al Maghreb – IAM), Orange and Inwi:

[www.iam.ma/index.aspx](http://www.iam.ma/index.aspx)

[www.orange.ma](http://www.orange.ma)

[www.inwi.ma](http://www.inwi.ma)

In Casablanca, you will benefit from Africa's most developed connectivity network: ADSL, 4G and 4G+, and fiber optic. There are also several internet/TV or internet/TV/mobile packages. Check out the offers, and make your choice!



# HEALTHCARE

Because life is also made of small body ailments and emergencies, this section will help you better approach health issues in your new life in Casablanca.

As there is an inadequate number of public health institutions, many private institutions complement the existing offering. The national legislation naturally provides a legal framework for these activities, and there is no shortage of infrastructure meeting international standards.

In Casablanca, the most renowned organization is the Cheikh Khalifa International University Hospital (HCK), a non-profit general private hospital, that offers all the health services that you may need: conventional medical and surgical specialties, quality services and cutting-edge technology, meeting European standards. It has an emergency department and even a unit dedicated to pain management. There are also many clinics and health centers to meet all your medical needs (multidisciplinary activities, radiology, ophthalmology, pediatrics, psychiatry and psychotherapies, dentistry, plastic and aesthetic surgery, cardiology).

For a consultation, all the specialties are covered by physicians. You may ask an acquaintance or your pharmacist for advice. Your consular representation must surely also have a list of good medical practitioners.

For more information:

[www.santeaumaroc.com](http://www.santeaumaroc.com)

[www.guidedumaroc.com](http://www.guidedumaroc.com)

[www.docteur-contact.com](http://www.docteur-contact.com)

[www.dabadoc.com](http://www.dabadoc.com)

[www.sosmedecinecasablanca.ma](http://www.sosmedecinecasablanca.ma)

[www.sosmedecinurgence.com](http://www.sosmedecinurgence.com)

Morocco has a good network of pharmacies, and Casablanca is no exception. Legal opening hours for pharmacies and dispensaries are from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (Monday to Friday) and from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Saturday). During the month of Ramadan, the hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and they also open 1.5 hours after the breaking of the fast, for 1.5 hours.

To find the pharmacy on duty nearest you, in addition to the Maroc Pharmacie application, you may find information in the national newspaper (Le Matin) or go to the nearest pharmacy where you will find a flyer with the address the pharmacies on duty.



Have you thought of your medical coverage? When residing abroad, you will no longer be covered by the social security scheme of your country. There is a wide choice of private insurance offerings for expatriates, namely in Europe, and private mutual insurance in Morocco. Also inquire if your national social protection system has developed voluntary, paid solutions for expatriate nationals (such as the CFE – Caisse des Français de l'Etranger, Fund of French People Living Abroad).

Lastly, Morocco has set up a National Social Security Fund scheme (CNSS, Caisse Nationale de Sécurité Sociale) and entered into bilateral agreements in terms of social security with many countries (European countries, Tunisia, Canada, etc.). Refer to this official list on [www.cnss.ma](http://www.cnss.ma) and contact your consular representation in Casablanca for further information.

The CNSS manages the compulsory health insurance (AMO, Assurance Maladie Obligatoire) of employees from the private sector. It is mandatory for companies which subject to the social security scheme, and which are not affiliated with any other medical coverage system. The organization in charge of private sector pensions in Morocco is the Moroccan Interprofessional Pension Fund (CIMR – Caisse interprofessionnelle marocaine de retraite). The aforementioned bilateral agreements in terms of social security are likely to provide that the quarters worked in Morocco and declared to the CNSS are factored into the calculation of your pension in your home country. Find out more from your consular representation.

If you use alternative medicine, do not change your habits: many qualified specialists (osteopathy,

chiropractic care, acupuncture, hypnosis, etc.) are established in Casablanca, where these alternatives to the traditional medicine have become increasingly popular over the years.



### N.B.

As an European citizen, you don't need any specific vaccination when you come to Morocco. According to WHO's recommendations, as a precautionary measure, make sure your universal vaccinations and your hepatitis vaccine are up to date. Under certain conditions, stay informed about typhoid and rabies.

### USEFUL INFO

[www.hck-fckm.ma](http://www.hck-fckm.ma)  
[www.telecontact.ma](http://www.telecontact.ma)  
[www.pasteur.fr](http://www.pasteur.fr)  
[www.cromc.ma](http://www.cromc.ma)  
[www.medicament.ma](http://www.medicament.ma)  
[www.pharmacie.ma](http://www.pharmacie.ma)  
[www.socialsecurity.be](http://www.socialsecurity.be)  
[www.docteurclinique.com](http://www.docteurclinique.com)  
[www.cnss.ma](http://www.cnss.ma)  
[www.cimr.ma](http://www.cimr.ma)

# OPENING BANK ACCOUNT

It is convenient to open a bank account in Morocco so as to have access to efficient, modern, and secure payment methods.

The currency used is the Moroccan dirham (MAD). To have an idea about the exchange rate, 11 dirhams is worth approximately 1 euro.

Opening a bank account in Morocco only takes a few minutes, upon the presentation of your passport, registration card (or deposit receipt of the application request) and a proof of address. Nonetheless, choosing the banking network and type of account should be given some thought.

The main national banks are Attijariwafa Bank Group, Banque Populaire (BP), BMCE Bank of Africa (Banque Marocaine du Commerce Extérieur), CAM (Crédit Agricole du Maroc), CFG Bank (Casablanca Finance Group), CIH Bank (Crédit Immobilier et Hôtelier) and Al Barid Bank (the national postal bank). You may also turn to a subsidiary of a foreign banking group: BNCI BNP-Paribas Group (Banque Marocaine pour le Commerce et l'Industrie, subsidiary of BNPParibas Group), CaixaBank (subsidiary of the Spanish CaixaBank Group), Crédit du Maroc (CDM – subsidiary of Crédit Agricole Group) and Société Générale Maroc (subsidiary of Société Générale Group), Arab Bank Maroc (Jordanian Arab Bank Group).

Most of the banks have an extensive network of branches across the Kingdom. The business hours are the same: Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. Choose among the banks according to your needs.





The Moroccan dirham is not a freely convertible currency. The Moroccan banking system provides foreigners with several options:

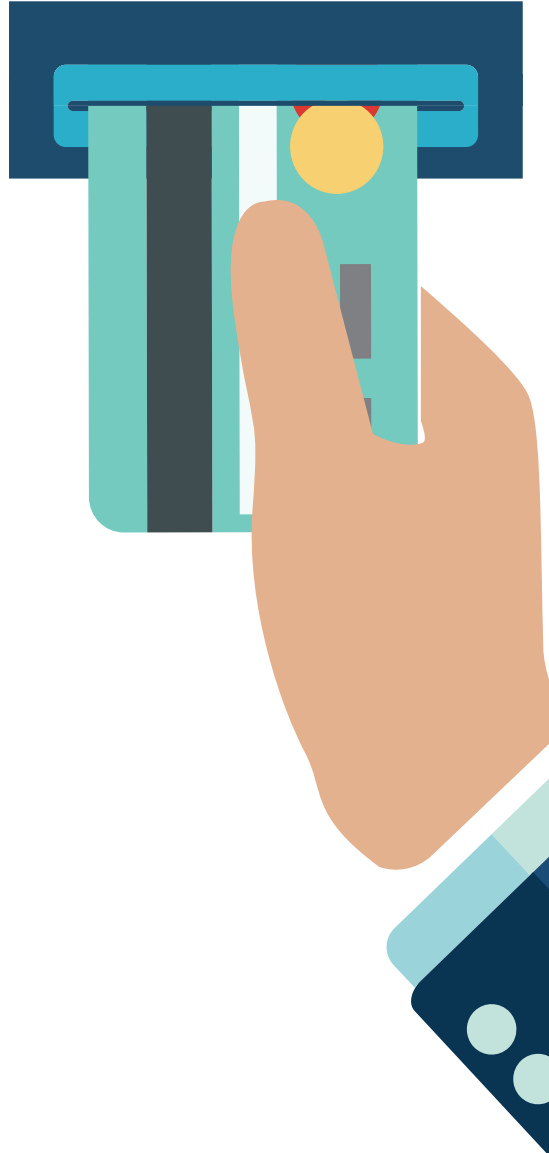
- An account in convertible dirhams: credited exclusively with deposits in currencies coming from abroad, it allows you to use your money in Morocco or abroad, and it is interest-bearing;
- An account in foreign currency: credited exclusively with foreign currency, you may make withdrawals only in foreign currency; it is also interest-bearing;
- A checking account that only uses dirhams and that can be used only on Moroccan territory: this account allows you to have a cheque book and a payment card. If your employer pays your salary in Morocco in dirhams, and if you earn more than 10,000 dirhams, you will have to open this type of account.

Take the time to also find out about the advantages of your tax residence in Morocco and about the conditions for repatriating your salary.

Foreign nationals living in Morocco benefit, just like Moroccans and Moroccans living abroad (MRE - Marocains résidant à l'étranger), from an annual tourist allocation of MAD 20,000 per trip, limited at MAD 40,000 per year, to which you can add MAD 10,000 per trip and per underage child endorsed on the passport of the beneficiary of the allocation.

## USEFUL INFO

[www.banques.ma/banques-au-maroc/](http://www.banques.ma/banques-au-maroc/)  
[www.oc.gov.ma](http://www.oc.gov.ma)





# SETTLING DOWN

## 1- WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

About Morocco: political system and languages, geography, customs and traditions.  
About Casablanca: history, today: modern city, economic capital, pleasant climate, cost of living, many services to individuals

## 2- 2018 CALENDAR

Public holidays, religious holidays, Ramadan

## 3- MOVING AROUND

Modes of transport (tramway, bus, inter-city trains, taxis), driving (car rentals, driver's license, insurance, import of vehicles)

## 4- PUBLIC SERVICES TO FOREIGNERS

Consular registrations, role of the consulate, services of consulates/embassies, list of foreign embassies and consulates

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

## GÉOGRAPHIE

Located in the northwestern tip of Africa, with a population of 34 million (2014 census), the country spreads across an area of 710,850 km<sup>2</sup>, bounded on the north by the Strait of Gibraltar and the Mediterranean Sea, on the west by the Atlantic Ocean, on the south by the border with Mauritania and on the east by that with Algeria. In Particular, Morocco counts the prodigious Atlas mountain range and its Mount Toubkal (4,167 m, highest peak in North Africa), breathtaking rivers and valleys (Ziz, Oum Er-Rbia, etc.), fertile plains (the Gharb, Souss, etc.), 3,500 km of coastline and part of the mythical Sahara Desert. Hence, the Moroccan landscapes are infinitely diverse. Casablanca boasts a Mediterranean climate, tending towards oceanic, which is particularly pleasant. Its location along the Atlantic Ocean blesses it with mild winters, as well as moderately warm summers without precipitations.

## POLITICAL SYSTEM AND LANGUAGES IN MOROCCO

The Kingdom of Morocco is a parliamentary monarchy, based on the rule of law. At its head, the King Mohammed VI from the Alaouite dynasty (one of the oldest in the world) is also the Commander of the Believers, acting as the nation's spiritual leader. Islam is the state religion. The country's motto is "God, the nation, the King". The administrative capital is Rabat, north of Casablanca. The country is divided into 12 administrative regions. The two official languages are classical Arabic and Amazighe (Berber). In the big cities, people speak Darija (Moroccan Arabic dialect), while Berber dialects dominate in the rest of the country: Tarifit in the Rif (north), Tamazight in the Middle Atlas (center), Tachelhit in the High Atlas and the Anti-Atlas (more to the south) and Hassani in the Moroccan Sahara. French and Spanish (especially in the north and south of the Kingdom) are generally spoken. French is also used by the administration.

## CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

Morocco has its own characteristics and practices. Although the Moroccan tradition of hospitality towards foreigners is a reality, this does not mean that we can do whatever we wish. Respect calls for respect.

For your minimal integration, keep your behavior discreet in public spaces, and wear unobtrusive clothing. Morocco is a modern country, you will notice this every day. However, wearing miniskirts and micro-shorts (including for men) are not recommended, even in very hot weather conditions. Instead, wearing pants or Bermuda shorts is preferred. If you choose to go to one of Casablanca's private beaches, don't hesitate to wear your bikini. However, in a public beach, you will be more comfortable wearing a one-piece suit or beachwear.

It is also requested to respect Muslim places of worship and the religious practice of Moroccans. Bear in mind that access to mosques is strictly prohibited for non-Muslims: the only exception is certain tourist sites such as the Hassan II mosque (there are designated visiting hours for tourists).

Every year, the month of Ramadan corresponds to a fasting period observed by most Moroccans. Fasting begins at sunrise and ends at sunset. It is recommended to refrain from eating and drinking in public areas: in the big cities, many restaurants are open, and the law authorizes non-Muslims to purchase and consume alcohol during this month. The breaking of the fast (the ftour) is an important moment of the day and for family gatherings. Since several years, restaurants and fast food joints offer ftour menus and buffets for all budgets.

Alcohol consumption in public is prohibited (except at restaurants and bars that have a license to serve it). Likewise, it is preferable to avoid speaking about politics or religion in public areas.

## HISTORY OF CASABLANCA

Traces of human activity in the city date from 700,000 years back in the past. Originally, Casablanca was called Anfa (name of a neighborhood presently in the city and present Berber name of Casablanca), and was founded by the Phoenicians, Romans or Berbers, depending on whether you read the chronicles of Luis del Marmol Carvajal, Léon l'Africain or Ezzayani. With its fishing port and agricultural hinterland, Anfa was a prosperous town. Destroyed by the Portuguese, Anfa then became a republic of privateers in the 15th century and became the Portuguese Casa Blanca until the terrible earthquake that shook Lisbon in 1755. Sultan Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah (Mohammed III) then undertook its reconstruction and it's finally became Dar Al Bayda (literally "white house" in Arabic) that radiated at the end of the 18th century. Half a century later, the port became an important player in the wool trade in the Mediterranean, and Casablanca became a market town, as the textile industry and advances in navigation developed.

Under the protectorate in the early 20th century, it was between 1912 and 1917 that the big, modern port of Casablanca was built. Casablanca was the strategic point of landing for the Americans during World War II. In 1943, it hosted the Anfa Conference, held at the eponymous hotel, in order to prepare the Allied strategy in the aftermath of this global conflict.

## CASABLANCA TODAY

Casablanca is reflective of Morocco, overflowing with its secular history and resolutely turned to the future. Today, it is undoubtedly the Kingdom's most modern city, as well as its economic capital. A cosmopolitan city, it also boasts a very pleasant, mild Atlantic climate. The cost of living is relatively lower than in Europe, and you may enjoy access to many services for an affordable cost (cleaning lady, cook, guardian if you live in a villa, driver, nanny if you have children, etc.).

## THE CASABLANCA-SETTAT REGION

Casablanca is the county seat of Casablanca-Settat, the most densely populated region in Morocco (7 million inhabitants, representing 20% of the national population), which increasingly accounts for 32% of Morocco's GDP. The region is the country's leading economic center; it is attractive and diversified. It represents 60% of the country's industry, 47% of exports, 40% of national trade, and 57% of investments. The region is a reference in terms of transport infrastructure, with 51% of passenger traffic, 40% of air traffic, and 30% of road network.



# CALENDRIER

The Gregorian calendar is used for every day purposes (administration, banks, schools), but some religious dates follow the Hegira calendar (Muslim calendar, which starts with Prophet Mohamed's departure from Mecca to the Medina). The Hegira calendar is composed of 12 lunar months. It is therefore not set (from one year to the next, a month may consist in 29 or 30 days), and there is a variation of 10 to 12 days compared with the Gregorian solar calendar. According to the Hegira calendar, the current year is 1439. There is also an agrarian, Berber calendar, used in North Africa since Antiquity: welcome to year 2967!

For 2018, the time adjustment for summer (to GMT +1) will take place on the last weekend of March, on the night of the 24th to the 25th. The time adjustment for the winter (to GMT) will take place on the last weekend of October, on the night of the 28th to the 29th, at 3 a.m. Since a few years now, with Ramadan occurring during the summer, Morocco switches to the winter time for a month, and then it adjusts back to the summer time. You will therefore change the time four times during the year.

In Morocco, the public holidays correspond to religious and national holidays. In principle, the religious holidays are 2 days long, whereas the national public holidays are only celebrated on that same day.

The religious holidays are based on the Hegira calendar. Consequently, some dates can move by a day, until the lunar crescent, which marks the start of every month, is seen by the naked eye. For example, the Hegira New Year is expected to fall on September 12th, 2018, but it might actually fall on the 13th.

## 2018 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

**New Year's Day**  
January 1st, 2018

**Independence Manifesto**  
January 11th, 2018

**Labor Day**  
May 1st, 2018

**Aïd El Fitr**  
June 15th, 2018 (to be confirmed)

**Feast of the throne**  
July 30th, 2018

**Oued-Eddahab Allegiance Day**  
August 14th, 2018

**Revolution of the King and the People:**  
August 20th, 2018

**Youth Day**  
August 21st, 2018

**Aïd El Adha**  
August 22st, 2018 (to be confirmed)

**Islamic New Year**  
September 12th, 2018 (to be confirmed)

**Green March**  
November 6th, 2018

**Independence Day**  
November 18th, 2018

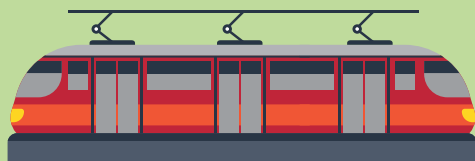
**Aïd El Mawlid**  
November 20th, 2018 (to be confirmed)



# MOVING AROUND

## THE TRAMWAY

You'll see this as soon as you arrive: traffic in Casablanca is very dense. But like everywhere, there are different means of transport. For the city center, the tramway is part of the solution. With your Casa Tramway app, you are well equipped. The ticket costs MAD 6, valid for 2 trips (+ MAD 2 for a card that can be recharged 9 times or + MAD 15 for a rechargeable card valid for 5 years). Transport passes are also available.



## TAXIS

Casablanca is also the city of small red taxis known as “petits taxis”. They are everywhere and they can take you anywhere in Casablanca. Outside the city, only the big taxi (grand taxi) are authorized to transport passengers. In the city, you can get around faster than by bus, at a reasonable cost. Always ask for the price before hopping into the taxi, or ask the driver to use the meter.



## CAR

To get around more freely, renting a car is an option. It is also a good way to get your whereabouts in a new city. In Casablanca, you will find international and local car rental companies. Prices start at MAD 300 per day. The internet is the best way to compare prices. Make sure the offer includes insurance.

Never drive without your license and an ID card (passport or registration card).

And be careful: your foreign driver's license authorizes you to drive in Morocco for only one year starting from your entry into Morocco. After this, you must either request the Moroccan authorities to exchange your foreign license for a Moroccan one (if you are a national of a country with which Morocco has signed agreements, currently in force, in terms of recognition of driver's licenses), or obtain a Moroccan license. Also note that if you are over 65 years old, you will have to undergo a medical examination every two years, and keep the receipt of this visit with your license.



In appendix 5, you will find the list of countries whose nationals may request an exchange of their foreign driver's license, as well as the list of required documents.



It is recommended to purchase a new (or used) vehicle when you settle in Morocco: customs duties are high and in Casablanca, you can find all the big carmakers and many points of sale for used cars.

If you so wish to share your new life with your old vehicle, you will need to get customs clearance (refer to STEP 2: PREPARING YOUR ARRIVAL, 3- Customs formalities).

You will notice that the Kingdom has a well-developed road and motorway network. Outside of the urban perimeter, the roads are in good condition and driving is pleasant. Road signs are in Arabic and French, we drive on the right-hand side of the road, and the Moroccan traffic regulations are similar to the European ones.



**N.B.**

At this stage, the insurance issue arises. A vehicle liability insurance is compulsory. For full information, visit the website of the Moroccan Federation of Insurance and Reinsurance Companies, Fédération Marocaine des Sociétés d'Assurances et de Réassurance – FMSAR [www.fmsar.org.ma](http://www.fmsar.org.ma).

In the event of an accident, you should immediately contact your insurance (make sure you have your insurer's emergency number on hand). Vehicles must not be moved until the arrival of a law enforcement officer or your insurer's agent.

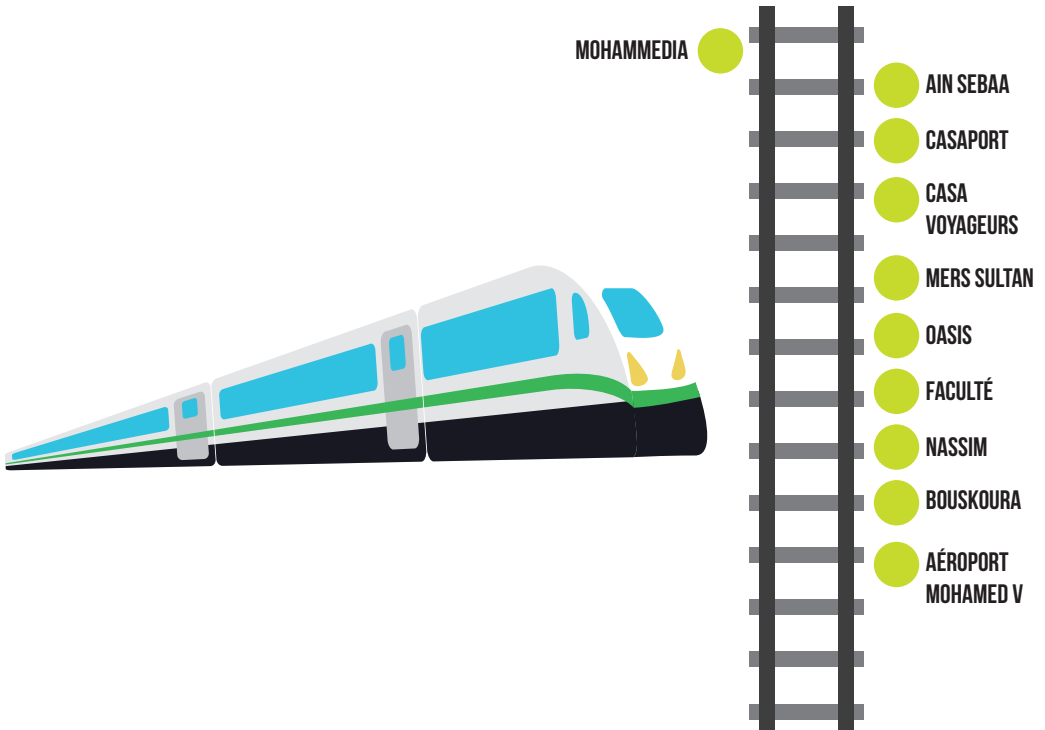
## BUS

Another urban public transportation option is the bus: the cheapest way to get around (MAD 4 / digital ticket if you have the Moov card (free of charge under certain conditions), MAD 5 if you buy a ticket on the bus), it is also the most widely used mode of transport. A common bus-tram ticket project is currently underway.



## TRAIN

Al Bidaoui ("from Casablanca") is the inter-urban train network that serves 7 stations in Casablanca and its suburbs from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. on a line connecting Aïn Sebaâ to Bouskoura. With a MAD 10 ticket, this mode of transport is affordable and offers greater comfort. To come from the international airport to the city or the other way around, the most practical mode of transport is the train. The commuter train that you can catch at the airport in the underground level of Terminal 1 will lead you to the Aïn Sebaâ, Casa Port, Casa Voyageurs or Oasis stations and the other way around. The ticket price is a few dozen dirhams. Another way to get to the airport is a grand taxi (only taxi authorized to carry passengers outside the city) for a fee of MAD 300.



# FOREIGN PUBLIC SERVICES

As soon as your registration card is issued, remember to register with the consulate of your country of origin. You will receive a consular registration card.

The consulate is an extension of your country of origin in your host country, with the consent of the latter. There, you can vote, renew your national identification card and your passport, and possibly benefit from notarial services. Embassies are systematically established in Rabat, the capital city, whereas consulates are generally located in one or several big cities (including Casablanca).

Not all countries have a consulate: some countries have a consular department within their Embassy in Rabat, others benefit from the consular assistance of a friendly country. Check if your country is listed among the foreign embassies and consulates accredited in Morocco:

[www.diplomatie.ma](http://www.diplomatie.ma)

[www.data.gov.ma](http://www.data.gov.ma)







# DISCOVER CASABLANCA

## 1- ARCHITECTURE AND HERITAGE

20th century Architectural laboratory

## 2- EMBLEMATIC NEIGHBORHOODS

Neighborhoods, detailed maps: Old Medina, City Center, Racine and the Golden Triangle, Casa-Anfa, Aïn Diab and the Corniche, Maarif, Habous, CIL, Hay Mohammadi

## 3- CASABLANCA BEACHES

From Mohammedia to Dar Bouazza, you will find private and public beaches.

## 4- CULTURE

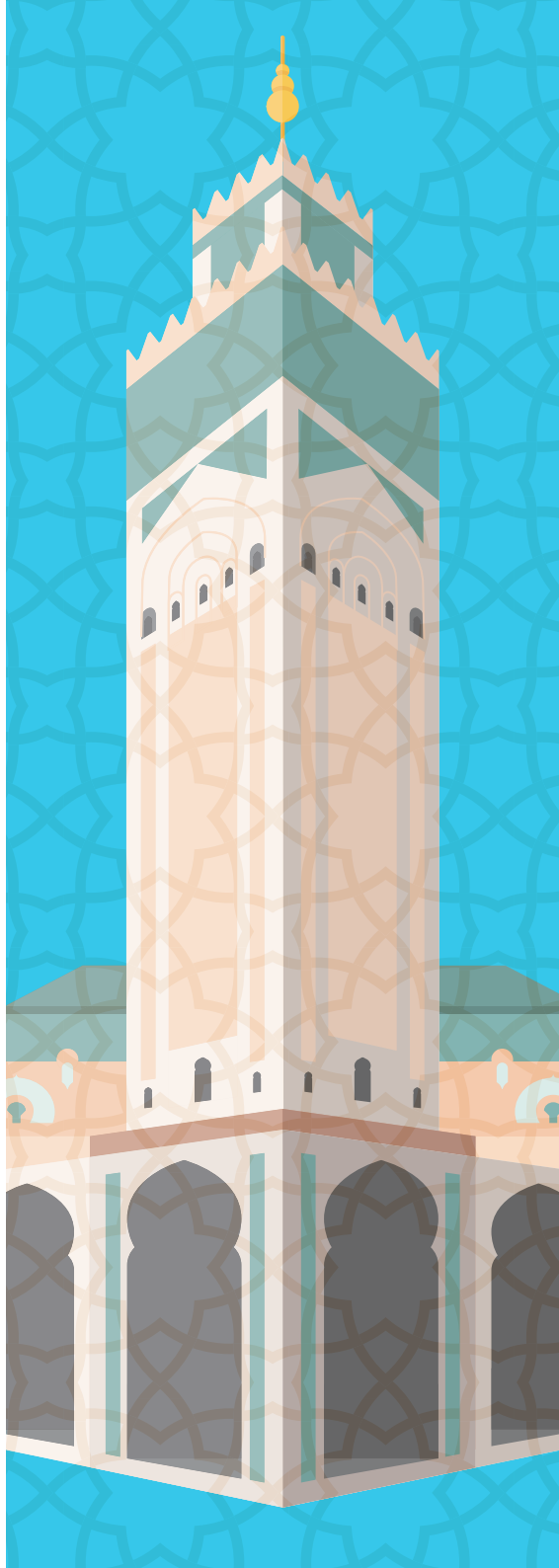
The various events (Jazzablanca, Casa Festival, L'Boulevard, Shopping Festival), museums, cultural sites (theaters, cinemas, foreign cultural centers, art galleries), the Grand Theater of Casablanca: CasArts

## 5- MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Focus on the marina, the zoo, the Bouskoura-Merchich forest, the Sidi Abderrahmane archeological park and the Arab League Park


## 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURAL LABORATORY

An ancient site of human activity, a Medina rebuilt in the 18th century under the impetus of the Sultan Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah, a modern city built in the 20th century, Casablanca has continuously renewed itself over the centuries. Listed on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List, the city, which has been an urban architectural lab since the 1920s, is considered to be the capital of modern architecture. Its first master plans were designed by Henri Post in 1915, then renewed by Michel Ecochard at the end of the 1940s. Many forward-looking European architects came along to put their creativity and ingenuity to the test, blending their western influences (Art Nouveau and Art Déco) with zellige and other traditional Moroccan decorative elements. A prime example of this new Moorish style is the renowned Excelsior Hotel, where one can enjoy a coffee break at the United Nations Square: that is where Saint-Exupéry used to stay between two flights. You may also wish to add to your stamps collection at the Central Post Office, located on Avenue Mohammed V, whose façade is simply breathtaking. You will love the round and subtle geometry of the “boat”-style architecture: these are the modern buildings that gave the city an American feel back in the 1920s. This includes the Liberté building or even the Tit Mellil air terminal. The panorama of the city center is also punctuated with cubist volumes with subtle and elegant façades and a functionalist style. The Medina that was rebuilt in the 18th century is located in the north of the city by the coast, a stone’s throw away from the Hassan II Mosque, that is an absolute must see! It should not however be mistaken for the Habous neighborhood, the new Medina built further down south in the city in the 20th century as part of the new city. These two Medinas are definitely worth a visit. Casablanca is therefore a rich city with a diversified heritage.



# NEIGHBORHOODS

Casablanca's city center is located on the coast, north of the city, and deploys its neighborhoods towards the east (Belvédère, Gironde, Hay Mohammadi, Aïn Sebaâ), the west (Bourgogne, Racine, Racine Extension, Anfa, Anfa Supérieur, Val d'Anfa and Aïn Diab) and the south (Gauthier, Alsace-Lorraine, Maârif and Maârif Extension, Palmiers, Hôpitaux, Habous, Socrate, Val Fleuri, CIL, Derb Ghallef, Tantonville, Franceville, Oasis and Polo).

- 
- A stylized map of Casablanca neighborhoods. A thick, dark blue line with a dashed white border forms a large 'L' shape, representing a major road or coastline. An orange location pin is placed on the top horizontal segment of this line. To the right of the line, there are several grey rectangular shapes representing buildings, some with green circular accents. In the top right corner, there is a green triangular area with several green circles. In the bottom right corner, there is a blue wavy shape representing water. The background is white.
- OLD MEDINA
  - CITY CENTER
  - RACINE / TRIANGLE D'OR
  - ANFA
  - CASA-ANFA
  - AÏN DIAB
  - MAÂRIF
  - HABOUS
  - CIL
  - HAY MOHAMMADI

## AÏN DIAB AND THE CORNICHE

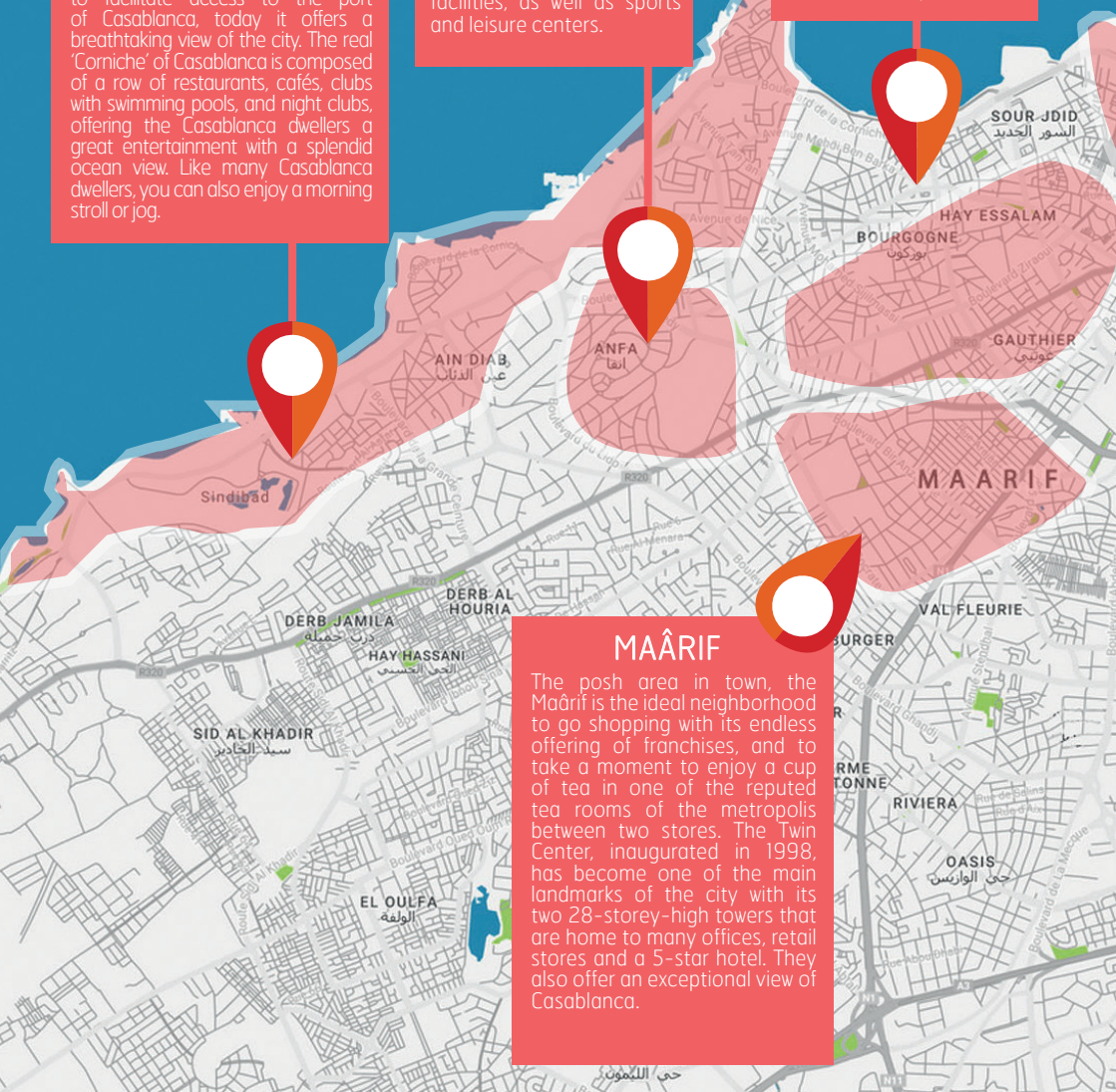
Located on the coast, the Aïn Diab neighborhood ("the spring of wolves") spreads all the way from the Hassan II Mosque, the largest in Morocco, to the Morocco Mall, the leading retailtainment mall in Africa, passing through the AnfaPlace Shopping Center and the Corniche and Atlantic Ocean Boulevard, bordering a line of fine sand beaches. The El Hank lighthouse is the first place to visit in this neighborhood: built in 1920 to facilitate access to the port of Casablanca, today it offers a breathtaking view of the city. The real 'Corniche' of Casablanca is composed of a row of restaurants, cafés, clubs with swimming pools, and night clubs, offering the Casablanca dwellers a great entertainment with a splendid ocean view. Like many Casablanca dwellers, you can also enjoy a morning stroll or jog.

## CASA-ANFA

Casa-Anfa is a new neighborhood which includes the old airport of Anfa. It is a new urban center with an area of 360 hectares, and will start welcoming its inhabitants in 2018. Its guiding principles are quality and green spaces. Ideally located in the heart of the city, in the medium term, it will be home to Casa Finance City (CFC), residential areas, hotels, education facilities, healthcare and cultural facilities, as well as sports and leisure centers.

## ANFA

Anfa is the hill that dominates the city of Casablanca. Since 1940, it has become the neighborhood of the wealthy families who came to settle in Casablanca. It is also a name associated to contemporary history since it was there that in 1943, the Allied conference, which namely welcomed Roosevelt and Churchill, was held. A very selective residential neighborhood, Anfa is covered with lush gardens, majestic villas and wide and flowery avenues.



## MAÂRIF

The posh area in town, the Maârif is the ideal neighborhood to go shopping with its endless offering of franchises, and to take a moment to enjoy a cup of tea in one of the reputed tea rooms of the metropolis between two stores. The Twin Center, inaugurated in 1998, has become one of the main landmarks of the city with its two 28-storey-high towers that are home to many offices, retail stores and a 5-star hotel. They also offer an exceptional view of Casablanca.



## OLD MEDINA

One can access the Medina by going through “Bab Marrakech”, where the ramparts of the old fortress town are easily recognizable. The Old Medina is the historic basin from which Casablanca was developed. Don't miss out on discovering the city's history by going on a city bike ride!

## HAY MOHAMMADI

This working-class neighborhood of Casablanca was home to the legendary slums of the Carrières Centrales (originally established on the site of an old quarry). Since 1920, it has been welcoming workers coming to Casablanca from all over the country. In the 1940s, the slums changed locations but kept the same name. A unique cohabitation experience with people originating from different tribes and regions of Morocco, the Carrières Centrales continued to develop in a spirit of openness and as a true melting pot. It is one of the reasons why this neighborhood has ever since kept up its cultural, artistic, political and social effervescence. Its community centers have awakened quite a few talents within the neighborhood population and have greatly contributed to the emergence of living legends in the cultural and athletic fields. Many famous artists are from Hay Mohammadi, such as Nass El Ghiwane, the emblematic musical band baptized the “Rolling Stones” of Morocco.

## HABOUS

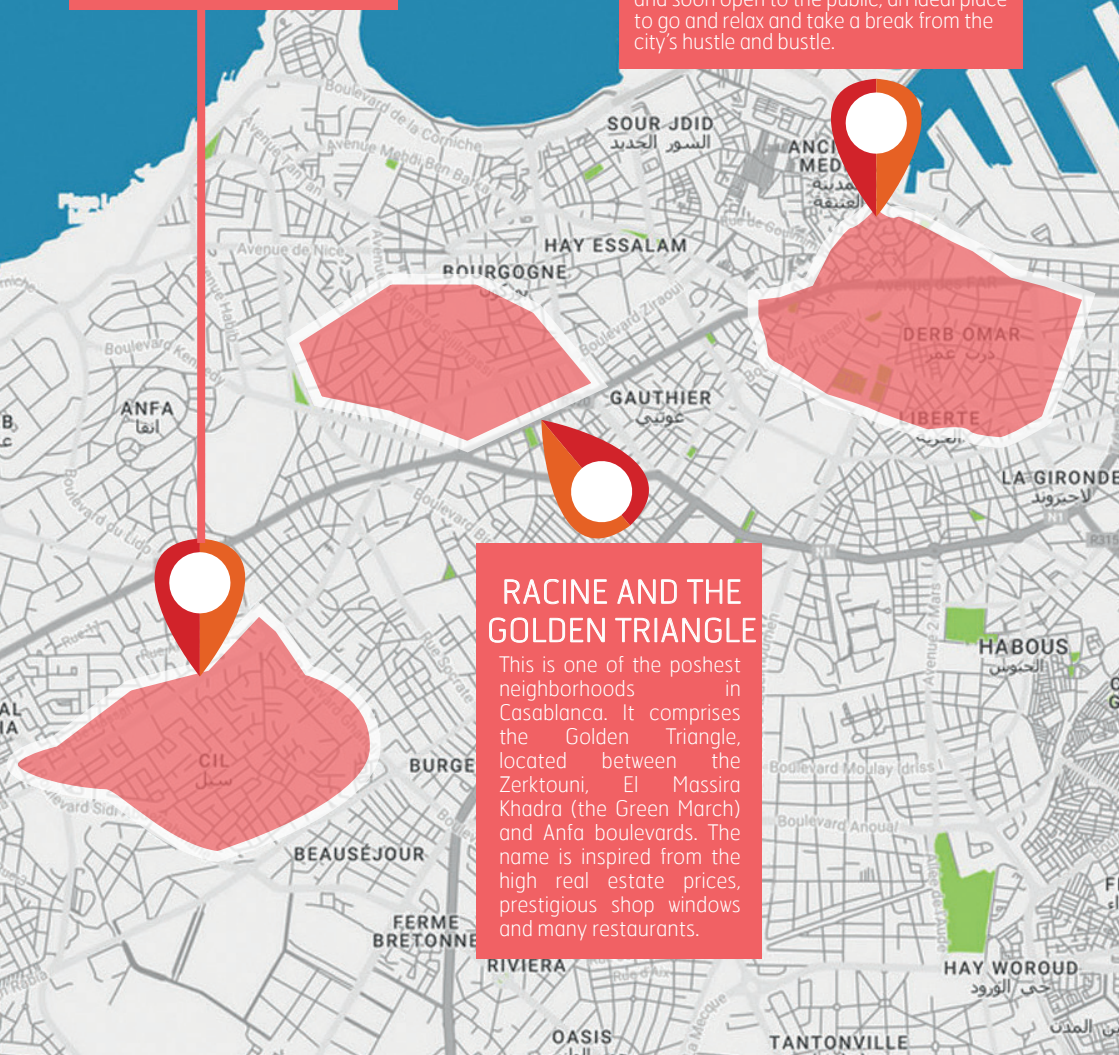
The Habous neighborhood stands out with its architecture that is in keeping with the standards of a traditional Medina, and also incorporates modern urbanism, its arcades, its brightly-colored crafts stalls. It is the ideal place to buy fabric, carpets and traditional clothing. There is also the street that is home to book specialists: publishers, book stores and secondhand book sellers. A stone's throw away from the Royal Palace of Casablanca, the neighborhood is also home to the Mohammadi Mosque and the Mahkama of the Pacha (former religious court of Casablanca) designed in an Arab-Andalusian style.

## CIL

Another sought-after neighborhood of Casablanca, CIL (for "Centre Immobilier Longchamp", named after the developer who built it) was renamed Hay Essalam, but the three initials continue to impose themselves in the daily jargon of Casablanca dwellers. Renowned for its pleasant neighborhood life (many restaurants, supermarkets, schools, banks) and its community of expatriates, CIL has witnessed a soar in its real estate prices and many companies have been setting up their offices there.

## CITY CENTER

Two areas to point out in the heart of the City Center, the Prince Moulay Abdellah passageway, a pedestrian street with an Art Deco architecture, and Derb Omar, a shopping district with more than 2,000 stores and a crowd of shoppers. Browse around and discover the city center! Further down south, the Mohammed V Square and its administrative district will give you an overview of Casablanca's Neo-Moorish architecture dating back to the last century, through the buildings of the Wilaya of the Region of Casablanca-Settat, the Palace of Justice, the Central Post Office, and the Central Bank of Morocco. A longer walk will lead you to the Arab League Park, open since 1918. It is the largest green space in Casablanca, recently renovated and soon open to the public, an ideal place to go and relax and take a break from the city's hustle and bustle.



## RACINE AND THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

This is one of the poshest neighborhoods in Casablanca. It comprises the Golden Triangle, located between the Zerketouni, El Massira Khadra (the Green March) and Anfa boulevards. The name is inspired from the high real estate prices, prestigious shop windows and many restaurants.



# BEACHES IN CASABLANCA

Casablanca is a coastal city that is bordered by beaches that run all along its shore. From Mohammedia to Sidi Rahal, one can choose to sunbathe from the north to the south at: Sablettes beach, Mannesmann beach, Miramar beach, the little Zenata beach, Ain Sebaâ beach, Pepsi beach, Lalla Meryem beach, the Corniche beaches, Ain Diab beach, Madame Choual beach, and Tamaris beach (Dar Bouazza).

You can choose between the public beaches and private clubs that offers full amenities.



Upstream of the urban project AnfaPlace and its shopping mall, you can find the Lalla Meryem beach and enjoy an iodine-filled break.

At the far south of the Lalla Meryem beach is the Corniche, a developed area offering visitors, in addition to a breathtaking ocean view, a plethora of entertainment, cafés, restaurants and clubs

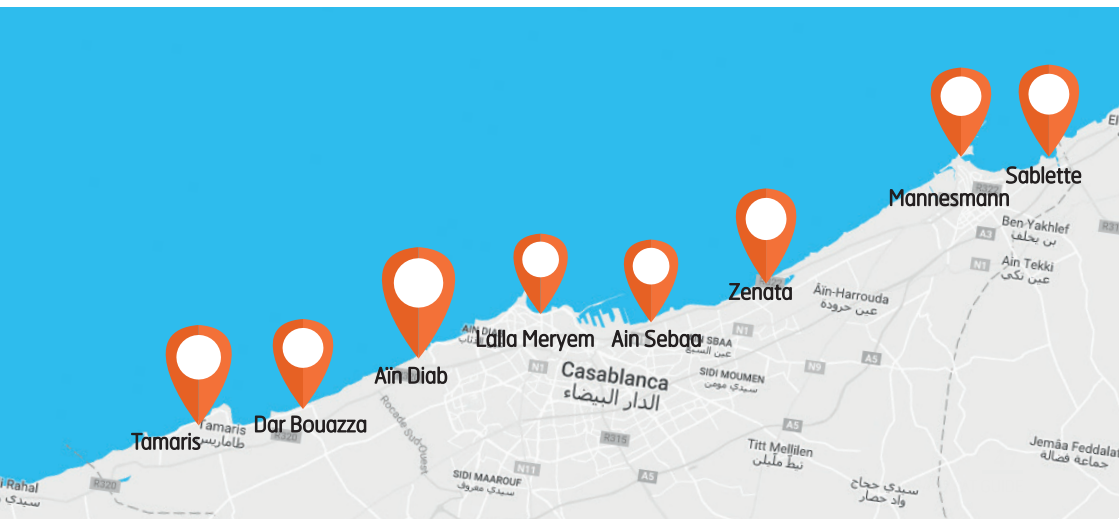
with their private beaches. An ideal place to go for a swim or a jog, the beach will brighten your weekends or breaks at the end of the day. Because in Casablanca, you can enjoy the beach every day!

Right after the Corniche you will run into Ain Diab beach. Do you enjoy surfing? Well this is the place to be if you wish to indulge your passion. Several surf schools have set their shops over there. Also, for several years now, Gate 13 has been offering many other activities.

The Madame Choual beach behind the Morocco Mall is ready to welcome you! It is bordered with facilities offering WiFi and even a spa and swimming pool. Go on over and enjoy!

Further down the path, a few kilometers further, past Tamaris, that is Dar Bouazza begins. A chic ocean front suburb that is populated with young professionals and families that offers a wide array of amenities to fulfill all your needs: restaurants, hip pubs, clubs with private beaches, surf school, horseback riding, jet-skiing, hotels, etc... The choice is yours!

Another seaside pleasure in Dar Bouazza is to await the return of the fishermen and buy their catch of fresh fish and have it prepared in one of the many restaurants of the village.



# CULTURE

## GUIDED TOUR OF THE HASSAN II MOSQUE

Living in Morocco gives you the opportunity to discover the Islamic culture. Casablanca has the privilege of being home to the grand Hassan II Mosque. Its 210-meter high minaret is the highest in the world. Designed by the architect Michel Pinseau, it overlooks the ocean in the north of the city and can accommodate up to 25,000 worshippers. A must-see monument in your journey through Casablanca, the site also comprises a Quran school and a museum. Even if the entry to Muslim places of worship is generally forbidden to non-Muslims, the Hassan II Mosque has allocated specific hours to sightseeing tours. So find out about the visiting hours!

## THE ABDERRAHMAN SLAOUI FOUNDATION MUSEUM

The foundation's museum, established in a 1940s villa in the historical center of the city, was inaugurated in 2012. There you can see unique collections (ancient jewelry, illuminations, chests, showcase of curiosities) and especially the famous collection of orientalist posters owned by the foundation. The museum also curates temporary exhibits and organizes events outside the museum.

## THE MOROCCAN JEWISH MUSEUM

Created by the foundation for Jewish-Moroccan Cultural Heritage, officially recognized to be of public utility, it is the only museum in the Arab world dedicated to the Jewish culture. From Jewish-Moroccan crafts to sacred art elements, the museum offers a tour of the daily life and history of Jews in Morocco. It should be noted that the Moroccan constitution acknowledges the plural cultural identity of the country, namely the Hebrew contribution.



## THE VILLA DES ARTS OF CASABLANCA

The Villa des Arts of Casablanca is at the intersection of the Roudani and Zerktouni boulevards in an Art Deco villa erected in 1934: one can contemplate the permanent collections and temporary exhibition of Moroccan and foreign contemporary artists, as well as sign up for art initiation workshops...

## CULTURAL CENTERS

Casablanca is full of places to go and take a cultural break: the Cervantès Institute (Spanish cultural center), the Goethe Institute (German cultural center), the French Institute of Casablanca (French cultural center) and its 121 Theater, Dar America.

## ART GALLERIES

The white city is full of prestigious galleries celebrating paintings, sculptures, photographs... For great artistic getaways, go visit one of them! You can choose from: Cultures Interfaces, l'Atelier 21, Loft and Art Gallery, Bassma Art Gallery, Galerie Nadar, Galerie Shart, Galerie 38, Galerie Venise Cadre, Villa Delaporte, So Art Gallery, Galerie H, Espace Art Actuaa.

## CINEMAS AND THEATRES

The main cinemas in the city are the Megarama complex on the Corniche and the IMAX Cinema at the Morocco Mall, the Lynx Cinema in the Mers Sultan neighborhood, the splendid ABC Cinema on the Mohammed V boulevard (that namely shows live broadcasts of ballets of the national opera of Paris), the Ritz Cinema located by the United Nations Square, the Rif Cinema on the FAR Avenue (shows the "Ballet at the cinema" with a broadcast of the Bolshoi ballets and "The theater at the cinema" with a live broadcast of the Comédie-Française).

For its magic, we recommend that you visit the Rialto cinema theater, an architectural gem built in 1930 on the same street as the Ritz Cinema.

Casablanca also has great theaters: the Mohammed VI National Theater in the Belvédère neighborhood, the FOL theater (Fédération des Œuvres Laïques - Federation of Secular Productions) in the Gauthier neighborhood, the Sidi Belyout cultural complex, as well as the Studio des Arts Vivants and its Galerie 38 (performing arts auditorium, exhibition hall and multidisciplinary teaching center: singing, dance, etc...).

CasArts, the grand theater of Casablanca, will be one of the greatest cultural centers in Africa. It is located on the Mohammed V Square and its construction will be completed at the end of 2018. Of an international caliber, this multidisciplinary space shall be dedicated to performance arts (drama, dance, music, etc...), the promotion of art and Moroccan artists, and the organization of residencies for artists from around the world.

## FESTIVALS

Casablanca is also the city of festivals: the international theater festival of Casablanca, Jazzablanca at the Anfa Hippodrome, Casa Festival (concerts, performing arts, street art, dance and screening of films), Shop'in Casablanca, The Casablanca Shopping Festival, L'Boulevard (contemporary music and urban culture festival), etc...



## CASA FESTIVAL

An event that no one should miss! The objective of the Casa Festival that is organized in July is to reveal and illustrate the cultural wealth of Casablanca across the entire territory. This event showcases the positioning of the city as a cultural melting-pot. During the ten-day festivities, various national and international artists perform on the different stages: dance, screenings, performance art for children, street will art...for the people of Casablanca who will get to enjoy the shows in the different neighborhoods of the metropolis.



### Wecasablanca

[www.wecasablanca.com/city-guide/culture/événements](http://www.wecasablanca.com/city-guide/culture/événements)

### Conseil Régional du Tourisme de Casablanca

[www.visitcasablanca.ma](http://www.visitcasablanca.ma)

### Institut Cervantès

[www.casablanca.cervantes.es](http://www.casablanca.cervantes.es)

### Goethe Institut

[www.goethe.de](http://www.goethe.de)

### Institut français de Casablanca

[www.if-maroc.org/casablanca/](http://www.if-maroc.org/casablanca/)

### Musée du Judaïsme

[www.casajewishmuseum.com](http://www.casajewishmuseum.com)

### Villa des arts

[www.fondationona.ma](http://www.fondationona.ma)

### Casa Festival

[www.wecasablanca.com/festival](http://www.wecasablanca.com/festival)

# LARGE-SCALE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Casablanca is a city that is undergoing a complete transformation, its urban development plan provides for large-scale projects that aim to improve the daily lives of the inhabitants of Casablanca: upgrading the public road system, set-up of urban one-stop-shop, restructuring of the peri-urban neighborhoods, etc... To keep you up to date, in this guide we have selected a few pilot projects led by SDL Casa Aménagement, which will be of interest to you. For further information, visit the website [www.casa-amenagement.ma](http://www.casa-amenagement.ma).

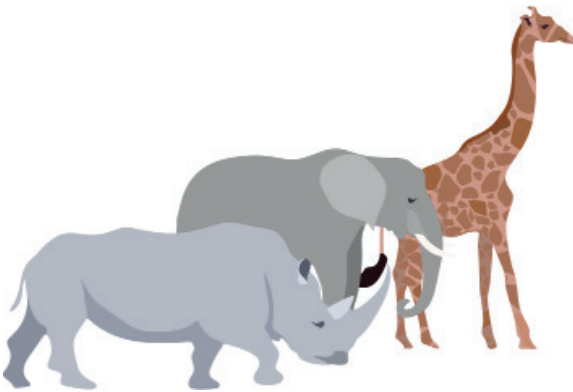
## THE MARINA

The Marina is the flagship project of Casablanca: the metropolis built a marina which includes a yacht harbor, nine office building towers, a shopping mall, hotels and luxury residences. Located in the heart of the city, a stone's throw away from the Hassan II Mosque, 47 hectares are fully equipped to re-energize the area.



## THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE AIN SEBAA ZOO

Spread over 10 hectares, the redevelopment of the zoo provides for a zoo and scenic tour, an educational farm, wooded areas for picnics and relaxation, as well as a playground, restaurants and kiosks. A tribute is paid to the lion, given the name of the neighborhood (Ain Sebba means the "lion's spring").



## THE BOUSKOURA-MERCHICH FOREST

You need some fresh air? You will love the eucalyptus forest of Bouskoura-Merchich, which extends over 3,000 hectares in a peri-urban area in Casablanca. It is the ideal location for families to come and relax, and for athletes to come play sports. The city is currently developing its forest estate to improve its recreational and scenic layout plans. The project therefore includes an eco-lodge, a "sensorial path" and other activities combining the love for nature and knowledge of the forest ecosystem.

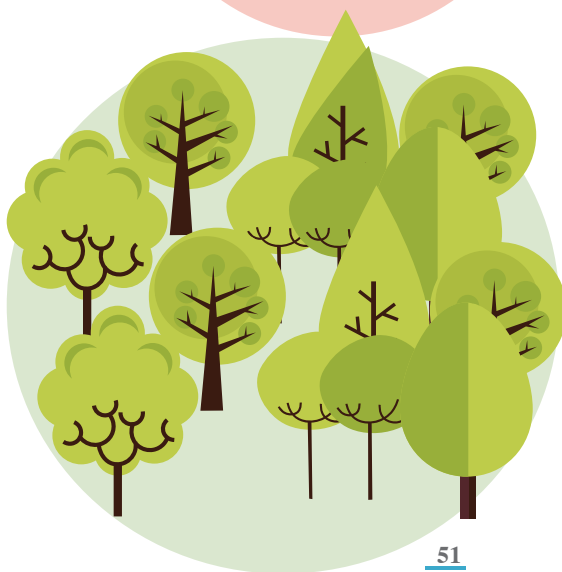
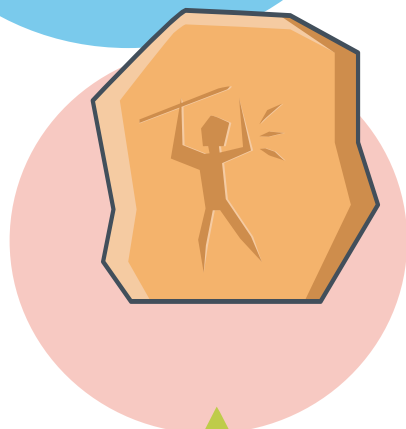
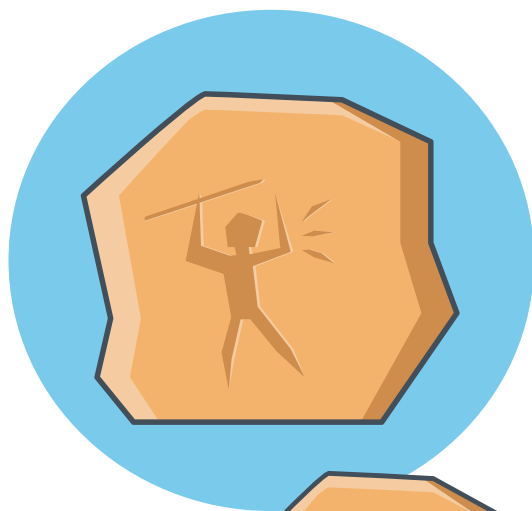


## THE SIDI ABDERRAHMANE ARCHEOLOGICAL PARK

Because leisure is also synonymous of culture, Casablanca wishes to showcase its archeological findings in the Sidi Abderrahmane Archeological Park project, named after its location, where just a skip away from the Morocco Mall, human remnants dating back to 200,000 years ago were found in the 1950s ("the man from Sidi Abderrahmane"). This integrated cultural project comprises a research and excavations component, educational trails, initiation workshops (archeological excavations, size of prehistoric tools, etc...), an exhibition room and a multimedia room.

## THE REHABILITATION OF THE ARAB LEAGUE PARK

At the heart of the City Center, the largest green space of the city got a new look to welcome you: the end of the rehabilitation works of this historic garden in Casablanca (plantations, basic infrastructures, playgrounds and restaurants) is scheduled for 2018. Therefore you will soon be able to enjoy the alleyways for a pleasant stroll, a refreshing pause or an educational activity.







STEP  
6

# I AM FROM CASABLANCA

## 1- GROCERIES

Supermarkets, markets, local products, delicatessen stores, organic products stores, organic farms

## 2- GOING OUT

Restaurants, tea rooms, clubs, lounges and night clubs

## 3- SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Disciplines, offering, public facilities

## 4- AMUSEMENT PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS

Activities for all ages

## 5- SHOPPING

Casablanca, the ideal shopping destination for all budgets and styles

## 6- BEAUTY SALONS

Hammams, spas, beauty institutes and other cosmetic procedures

## 7- GETAWAYS

Day trip: Mohammedia, Rabat, El Jadida;  
Weekend trip: Marrakech, Essaouira, Agadir,  
Tangier, Dakhla...



# GOING OUT

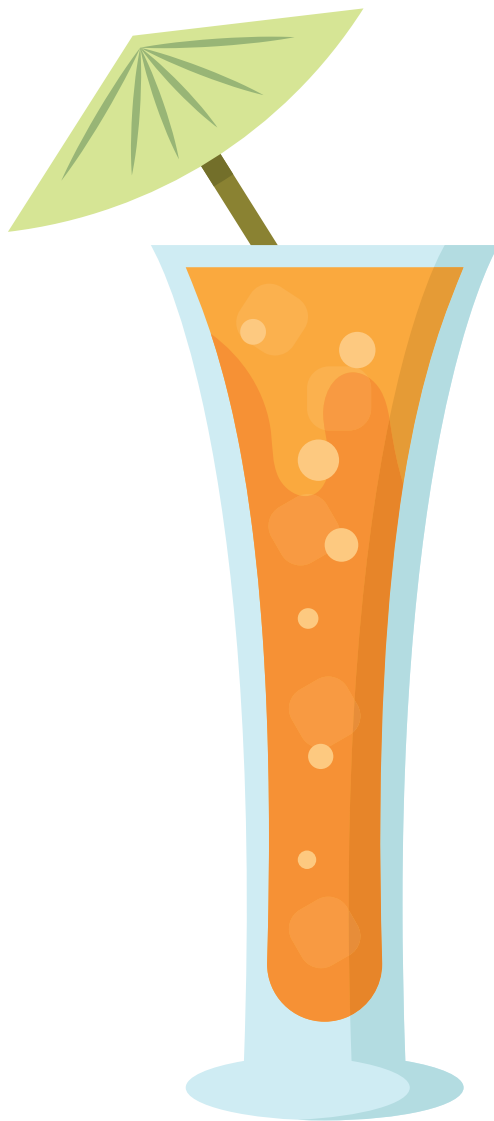
There is an endless choice of places to go out in Casablanca! Moroccan or international restaurants, specialty restaurants, tea rooms, lounges, clubs, all you have to do is choose.

Moving to Casablanca is an opportunity to discover Moroccan cuisine and its wide variety of flavors and recipes. You will savor the countless tajines (meat or fish and vegetable ragout with vegetables or with vegetables alone, prepared and served in a single dish of the same name: start with the classic chicken and preserved lemons tajine or the unforgettable lamb and dried prunes tajine), pigeons or fish and seafood pastillas, or “bestella” as Moroccans pronounce it, the delicious 7-vegetables couscous, widely consumed and served everywhere on Fridays (and no, Moroccan couscous is not prepared with merguez sausage; however it is served with a cup of buttermilk, or “lben” as Moroccans say and a bowl of “tfaya”, raisins and caramelized onions that will enchant your palate). There are many Moroccan restaurants available for every budgets.

For breakfast, lunch or an afternoon snack, the mahlaba (dairy shop) is a little neighborhood store where you can stop by for affordable dairy products, fresh fruit juices, hot beverages, sandwiches, all sorts of crepes and pancakes (mlawi, rghaif, harcha) available in sweet and savory versions. Treat yourself to a juice at the famous Jus de Bordeaux (Bourgogne neighborhood, there is no other juice like it!)

To enjoy international cuisine: French, Chinese, Thai, Japanese, Lebanese, Brazilian, vegetarian, burger restaurants, etc... are plentiful. Make your choice using the Casa Break app that lists a great number of restaurants in Casablanca.

If you like going to cafés, ice cream shops and tea houses, Casablanca is the place for you: there are hundreds here. From the small neighborhood café to the boutique tea house



in posh neighborhoods, there is something for everyone. For a break in the city center, stop by the Café Impérial, at the entrance of the Habous neighborhood, check the Bennis bakery, renowned for their delicious sweets and pastries.

At night, clubs and lounges welcome the people of Casablanca: yet again you will have an endless choice. From rooftop bars to terrace lounges or jazz clubs, you'll find the right spot that suits your groove. Keep in mind that clubs close at 11 p.m. or midnight.

A multitude of nightclubs await the night owls! The Corniche is home to renowned clubs that feature a dimmed and sultry atmosphere to clubs with loud music and flashing disco lights, so go out to discover the Casablanca nightlife!

### **Tips**

A decent tip would be to leave the waiter the equivalent of 10% of your check. If you are very satisfied with the service, by all means leave a more generous tip.

### **Ramadan**

During Ramadan the “ftour” (literally means breakfast, as in breaking of the fast) starts out by a having a bowl of “harira”, a thick flour-based soup made of tomatoes, lentils, chickpeas, onions and meat (with a few variations), accompanied with milk, dates and traditional honey-dipped pastries. The table will also be adorned with salads, breads with cheeses and other delicacies, as well as fruit juices. However in the evening, a larger meal is served even if in the big cities, there is a growing tendency to serve a single balanced meal to break the fast.



## SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Whether you are a sports fanatic or an amateur, life in Casablanca will be to your liking. Almost all disciplines and all types of options are available: ball and racket sports, water sports, swimming, athletics, gymnastics, golf, horseback riding, dance, yoga, climbing, cycling, combat sports and martial arts, and speed walking at the beach.

In a multi-sports complex or a family club, whether it is a small neighborhood fitness club or a big swanky gym, in public or private facilities, word-of-mouth or visits will help you make your choice.

The city offers you the Mohammed V sports complex in the Maârif neighborhood, as well as the Bourgogne sports center (in the eponymous neighborhood) and three public swimming pools. The nautical club in the Mohammed V complex even offers initiation to scuba diving classes, highly appreciated by seabed aficionados.

For golfers, do note that the Casablanca and Mohammedia golf courses meet the highest international standards. The Casablanca-Settat region offers no less than 10 golf courses to fulfill the needs of golfers of all levels and also offers a great variety of courses.

Sports activities in Casablanca are also practiced in public spaces. To go for a jog, the Corniche, the Ilesco garden or the Bouskoura forest offer many trails. Soccer games are played all day long in the beaches of Casablanca. Open-air yoga classes are also offered at many gyms. Water sports fans can go to the surf clubs or the nautical base in Mohammedia, which offers sailing classes for people of all ages.



**Ministry for Youth and Sports**  
[www.mjs.gov.ma](http://www.mjs.gov.ma)

**website of sports clubs in morocco**  
[www.clubs.ma](http://www.clubs.ma)

**Casablanca International Marathon**  
[www.wecasablanca.com/marathon](http://www.wecasablanca.com/marathon)

**Application CasaMarathon**  
[www.wecasablanca.com/casamarathon/app](http://www.wecasablanca.com/casamarathon/app)



## CASABLANCA INTERNATIONAL MARATHON

Solidarity, perseverance, surpassing oneself and endurance... These are the values of the Casablanca International Marathon. Since 2008, the city of Casablanca has marked its name on the international marathon agenda. Held at the end of October, the event blends sports to the discovery of the urban wealth of the white city. The Casablanca International Marathon offers a transgenerational sports program and different sporting trails including: a marathon, a semi-marathon, and a 10 km race.

# AMUSEMENT PARKS PLAYGROUNDS

Looking for strong emotions and fun? Distract yourself at one of the numerous amusement parks in Casablanca.

## Sindibad Park

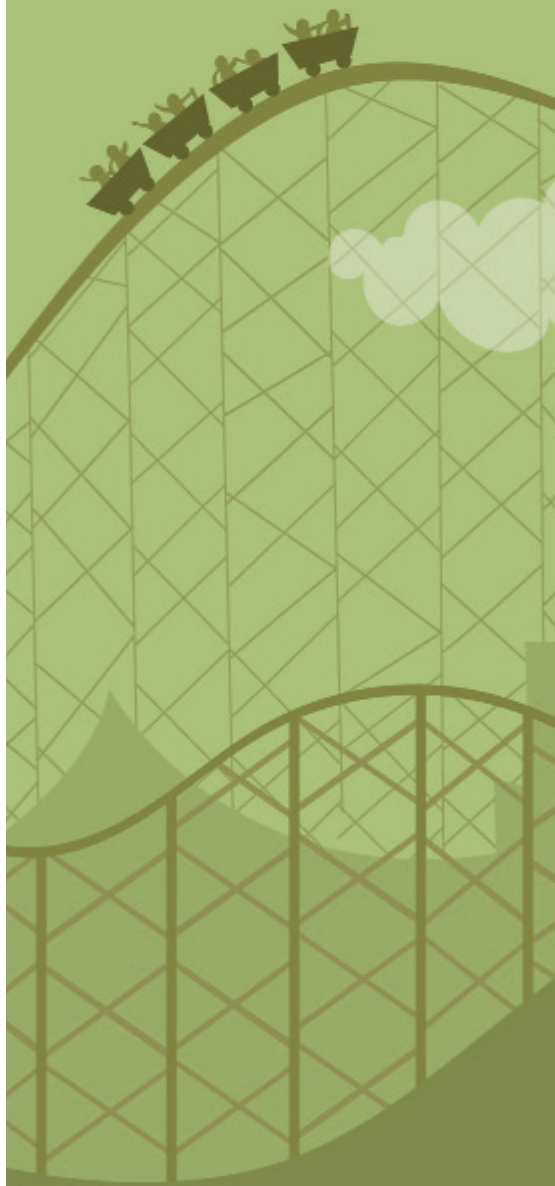
For children and adults, the Sindibad Park in Ain Diab, upgraded and reopened in 2015, revisiting the theme of the seven marvelous journeys of the sailor Sindbad, the hero from the Sheherazade fairy tale: attractions and rides, animal park, restaurants (sandwiches, salads and desserts) and souvenir shop.

## Tamaris Aquapark

The 7.5-hectare Tamaris Aquapark in Dar Bouazza is open every day from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The village includes a wave pool, water rides, an indoor game room, and restaurants. And you can even play bowling over there!

## Adventureland

Adventureland is an indoor theme park in the Morocco Mall. Leisure and family entertainment is offered in the 5,000-m<sup>2</sup> park which includes a skating rink, a climbing wall, a 3-level games area, learning activities, birthday rooms, restaurants and a musical train.



## VGK

For karting fans, the VGK village located in the middle of nature, between Casablanca and Rabat, welcomes you from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the winter and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the summer. Spreading over its 9 hectares, in addition to karting, VGK also offers paintball, soccer, mini-quad, tennis, acrobatische and playgrounds for the younger patrons.

## The Tamaris Paintball Club

Here is another fun address for paintball! The club also offers other activities which include four-wheelers, horseback riding, giant football, and everybody gets to play games. Every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., make a reservation and come on over to enjoy nature and the many others activities the complex has to offer.

## Le Barry Club

The Le Barry Club in Dar Bouazza is open to children and adults from Tuesday to Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Around the facilities dedicated to horseback riding, the club has developed an educational farm, playgrounds, a soccer field and a swimming pool. You can also have lunch at the club's small restaurant.

## Royal Aviation Club of Casablanca

You feel like going for a "first flight" or getting your license to become a private pilot? The Royal Aviation Club of Casablanca has been since 1950 safely serving aeronautics fans.

## Tit Mellil Aviation Club

Another aviation club in the region of Casablanca is the Tit Mellil Aviation Club, which offers leisure aviation activities and a flying school.



### USEFUL INFO

[www.parcindibad.ma](http://www.parcindibad.ma)  
[www.tamaris-aquaparc.com](http://www.tamaris-aquaparc.com)  
[www.adventurelandmaroc.com](http://www.adventurelandmaroc.com)  
[www.vgk.ma](http://www.vgk.ma)  
[www.paintballmorocco.centerblog.net](http://www.paintballmorocco.centerblog.net)  
[www.clublebarry.e-monsite.com](http://www.clublebarry.e-monsite.com)  
[www.acrc.ma](http://www.acrc.ma)  
[www.titmellilaviation.ma](http://www.titmellilaviation.ma)

# SHOPPING

Casablanca is the ideal destination to go shopping whatever your style may be!

Vast shopping centers are home to great international brands. At the edge of the Corniche, inaugurated in 2011, you will find the Morocco Mall, the first retailtainment mall in Africa spreading across 250,000 m2 and overlooking the ocean. It offers more than 600 brands for all budgets (H&M to Dior), entertainment, a huge food court, a giant aquarium and a musical fountain. In the 1st and 2nd floors of the mall, the Miraj zone brings together prestigious brands and tailor-made services. The Morocco Mall also proposes a "souk" area that features Moroccan know-how represented through four authentic worlds: the Marrakchi souk, the Fassi souk, the Berber souk and the Gold souk. The top floor is dedicated to food, with 62 restaurants, snack bars, cafés and tea rooms.

Another shopping temple under the Casablanca skies is the Anfa Place Shopping Center, located in the north of Ain Diab. Open since 2013, with 90 clothing, fashion accessories, cosmetics brands for women, men and children, the site also offers a food area, a daycare, a supermarket and direct access to the beach with its own surf club and surf shop.

Maârif is the neighborhood where you can find anything and everything! Between the Twin Center and its shopping center, its concept stores and modern international and Moroccan franchises on the famous Massira El Khadra Boulevard, and the small stores where you can browse away for good deals, not to mention the bazaars where you can come across some great finds on your way to the Maârif mosque.

You will come across luxury paradise in the Golden Triangle, which offers a trendy shopping offering in the most prestigious boutiques in town (Yves Saint Laurent, Furla, Bulgari, Chopard, etc.), selective concept-stores (TO Concept Store, La Fabrique, Wobo Concept Store, Jungle Concept Store) and international brands (Maje, Belair, Sud Express, Petit bateau, Jacadi, etc.).



For traditional clothing or Moroccan crafts, the Habous neighborhood is the best place to go. For your athletic equipment, the Décathlon brand has opened a big store in Ain Sebaa. Also, there are many surf shops open around the city (Rip Curl, Casablanca Surf Shop, etc.).

To help you find the store you are looking for, check out the Casa Shopping Guide online: [www.wecasablanca.com/casablanca-shoppingguide-2018](http://www.wecasablanca.com/casablanca-shoppingguide-2018).



## SHOPPING FESTIVAL

Casablanca is now imposing itself as a full-fledged shopping destination with stores and brands meeting everyone's needs and desires, going from international franchises to local concept stores to young designer workshops. The economic capital hosts the very first shopping festival in Morocco! Up and coming designers, passionate craftsmen, famous brands and small avant-garde boutiques: all are mobilized during this period to offer the people of Casablanca and the visitors an unforgettable experience.

[www.wecasablanca.com/shopping](http://www.wecasablanca.com/shopping)



# BEAUTY SALONS

After having to run all around the city, it is now time to pamper yourself! Hammam, spa, beauty institute and other cosmetic procedures, Casablanca has it all!

Morocco is the country of hammams, and Casablanca offers you a wide array of them. You can enjoy a traditional Hammam for an affordable price at the Gauthier Turkish Bath or the Ziani Hammam in Benjdia. To pamper yourself a little more, you can also go to the Pacha Hammam on the Ghandi Boulevard for MAD 200. The Topkapi Hammam is a notch higher with several offerings. In the Racine neighborhood, there is the L'Entrecop'IN, which is the place to go if you want to go for a Hammam followed by a quick snack or meal, since they have a "fast food" joint in the ground floor that is open to all, and the upper level is exclusively reserved for the pampering of women.

Please note that spas at major hotels (So Spa by Sofitel Casablanca, the Spa at the Four Seasons, etc.), the international brands (Carita) and modern beauty institutes generally offer a hammam service (Institut Sawadi, L'Atelier de Coiffure, Lucie Saint-

Clair, Dessange, Maison d'Asa, 5 Mondes, etc.).

Saunas and massages are also offered in most hotels and beauty centers in Casablanca, as well as all the classic cosmetic treatments: hair removal, body and facial treatments, hair treatments, hair salons, etc.

So don't wait a second longer to treat yourself to a well-deserved moment of relaxation!

## USEFUL INFO

[www.wecasablanca.com](http://www.wecasablanca.com)  
[www.madeinmedina.com](http://www.madeinmedina.com)  
[www.plurielle.ma](http://www.plurielle.ma)  
[www.madamemaroc.ma](http://www.madamemaroc.ma)



# GETAWAYS

Morocco is a splendid country with many cities to discover through a day trip or a long weekend getaway.

## For a day of relaxation

Go snoop around Mohammedia, the close by “human” scale city, famous for its many little fish restaurants. An urgent must see! You will also enjoy its pleasant golf course, the VGK, the Asana store for some quality crafts shopping and the Kasbah that is home to a nice market and popular restaurants.

Whether you drive and take the motorway or the train, in just an hour you will arrive to Rabat, the administrative capital of the Kingdom. The slower pace of this city is conducive to visiting museums that are keeping up with international standards (the MMVI – museum of modern and contemporary art), the History and Civilizations Museum that was recently renovated, the Bank Al Maghrib Museum, and many art galleries. At the southeast of the ramparts you can admire the antique Chellah site, the majestic Merinides necropolis with its Roman origins overlooking the Bouregreg river. To the north of the city center, at the mouth of the river is the Kasbah des Oudayas, a small town in the city and home to a splendid garden that you will have to walk through to take a look at the first Alaouite royal residences (beautifully restored to accommodate the national jewelry museum), then go have a cup of mint tea in the famous Café Maure.

In the opposite direction of Rabat, an hour south of Casablanca is El Jadida (“the new one”). You will love just being able to relax and walk around the lively markets in the city: fruits and vegetables, fish, crafts, spices... Take your time in El Jadida. And visit the old Portuguese fortress town called Mazagan, listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 2004. The Portuguese town, built in 1514, is part of the oldest elements of the site. It is an underground vaulted room with an incredible architecture which effect is strengthened by a thin layer of water that permanently covers the ground and shows a reflection of the ceiling.

## For a weekend or a little longer

So let's head to Assilah, Tangier or Tetouan in the north region of Morocco; further to the east, you can visit Fes, Meknes and Ifrane; and Marrakech, Essaouira and Agadir or Dakhla further down in the south. Inland, you can visit Taroudant, Ouarzazate, Zagora or the Ziz Valley. These are all great destinations to discover the thousand of landscapes of Morocco.

The Moroccan road network that is perpetually being developed is properly maintained and is among the best in Africa. It includes almost 1,800 km of motorways and more than 40,000 km of paved roads.

If you prefer traveling by bus to enjoy the beautiful landscapes, the CTM (Moroccan Transport Company) offers a premium service with its comfortable vehicles servicing the main cities of the Kingdom for reasonable prices.

The rail network is also very well developed, connecting the entire country through the ONCF network (Moroccan National Railways Office).

Casablanca has an international airport, the Mohammad V Airport (Nouaceur), meeting the highest international standards. Departing from Casablanca, you can also travel to the following national destinations: Al Hoceima, Tangier, Marrakech, Agadir or Dakhla.

### USEFUL INFO

[www.adm.co.ma](http://www.adm.co.ma)  
[www.mtpnet.gov.ma](http://www.mtpnet.gov.ma)  
[www.ctm.ma](http://www.ctm.ma)  
[www.oncf.ma](http://www.oncf.ma)  
[www.onda.ma](http://www.onda.ma)  
[www.royalairmaroc.com](http://www.royalairmaroc.com)

## APPENDIX 1 ENTRY VISAS

Documents to provide when applying for an entry visa

- Visa entry application
- 2 recent color ID-photos with a white background (4x3 cm) clearly showing facial features
- National Identification Card or residence card or any other valid equivalent document
- Valid passport or travel document (validity of more than 90 days and more than the length of stay)
- Photocopy of the pages of the passport indicating your identity and the validity period
- Round trip travel ticket with a confirmed reservation
- One of the following supporting documents :
  - hotel reservation
  - presentation of a voucher
  - notarized statement of financial responsibility in the case of a family visit, with a guarantee of financial responsibility over medical costs and possible repatriation
- Request from an accredited travel agency or recommendation from the Ministry of Tourism or delegation from the Moroccan National Tourist Office

Documents to provide when applying for an investor visa

- Visa entry application
- 2 recent color ID-photos with a white background (4x3 cm) clearly showing facial features
- National Identification Card or residence card or any other valid equivalent document
- Valid passport or travel document (validity of more than 90 days and more than the length of stay)
- Photocopy of the pages of the passport indicating your identity and the validity period
- Recommendation of the Directorate of Foreign Investments or a professional federation or another competent supervisory authority or Regional Investment Centers (CRI) or from a Moroccan partner or foreign investor established in Morocco

Documents to provide when applying for a business visa

- Visa entry application
- 2 recent color ID-photos with a white background (4x3 cm) clearly showing facial features
- National Identification Card or residence card or any other valid equivalent document
- Valid passport or travel document (validity of more than 90 days and more than the length of stay)
- Photocopy of the pages of the passport indicating your identity and the validity period
- One of the following supporting documents:
  - Recommendation of the supervising ministry in the case of public procurement contracts
  - Written recommendation of professional chambers in the case of private contracts
  - invitation addressed to the visa applicant in the case of the participation in an exhibit or trade show from the organizing company
  - Written invitation from an industrial, commercial or services operator

## APPENDIX 2 — DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR THE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE OF YOUR VEHICLE

- Registration card of the vehicle “Carte grise” (original + photocopy)
- ID (national identification card or residence card)
- Original invoice for automobiles purchased in the last 3 months or less
- Duly notarized proxy by the competent authorities abroad and issued by the owner of the vehicle if the import is handled by a third party.

## ANNEXE 3 - RESIDENCE PERMIT DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN YOUR RESIDENCE PERMIT

- Copies of the pages of your passport that contain your identity ; -Stamp of the border police with your date of entry in Morocco; - Your entry visa to Morocco, if applicable;
- 2 copies of the completed application
- 6 ID-photos
- Proof of permanent residence of the applicant in Morocco (lease, title certificate, other)
- criminal record
- Medical certificate
- Proof of livelihood
- Proof of the nature of the activity being undertaken, if applicable

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A RESIDENCE CARD FOR YOUR SPOUSE AND/OR YOUR UNDERAGE CHILDREN OF 16 YEARS AND OVER

- Copies of the pages of the passport of the interested party: -His/her identity; -Stamp of the border police with the date of entry in Morocco; - His/her entry visa to Morocco, if applicable;
- 2 copies of the completed application
- 6 ID-photos
- criminal record
- Medical certificate
- Copy of the residence card of the spouse or parent that is already a residence card holder
- proof of the marital or filial link

## APPENDIX 4 – DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A FIRST SETTLEMENT VISA

- 2 copies of the completed CTE visa application
- 5 completed CTE copies, signed and notarized by both parties and with a stamp from the company specifying its contact information
- Certified copy of your diplomas and/or work certificates issued by your former employers
- Copy of the pages of your passport (currently valid) with your identity
- Stamp of the border police with your date of entry in Morocco and your visa if applicable
- Original copy of the certificate of activity issued by the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills (ANAPEC), certifying the absence of national candidates to hold the position that is offered to you
- Copy of the documents relating to the legal form of the company (provided by the employer)
- Delegated authority for signature by the principals in case the contracts are signed by agents



### IMPORTANT

The categories that are exempted from the ANAPEC statement of activity are:

- foreigners born in Morocco, residing continuously for at least 6 months;
- Spouses of nationals;
- Owners, shareholders, proxy holders and/or company administrators;
- Seconded officers for a limited period, to foreign companies that are awarded public tenders or subsidiaries of parent companies;
- Delegates or representatives in the framework of cooperation for a period equal to or less than 6 months;
- Athletic coaches and athletes;
- Political refugees and stateless persons;
- Citizens of countries with whom Morocco has entered into a settlement agreement (Algeria, Tunisia and Senegal);
- Employees who work for companies with a Casablanca Finance City (CFC) status;
- Young French professionals who come to work in Morocco in the framework of the French-Moroccan agreement of May 24, 2001 relating to the exchange of young professionals;
- Migrant employees who have benefited from the exceptional regularization operation in 2014.

The list of supporting documents required for each of these situations is available on the website of the Ministry of Labor and Professional Inclusion ([www.emploi.gov.ma](http://www.emploi.gov.ma)).

## APPENDIX 5 – DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR A REQUEST FOR THE EXCHANGE OF A FOREIGN DRIVER'S LICENSE

- Completed application form for the request for the exchange of a foreign driver's license
- Certified copy of the valid registration certificate (or deposit slip of the request issued less than 3 months ago)
- Receipt of payment of the stamp duties and payment of the service
- 2 recent color ID-photos facing forward, 45 x 35 mm, on a white background
- Valid foreign driver's license (along with its sworn translation into Arabic or French if your driver's license is in another language)



### IMPORTANT

If you are a citizen of one of these countries, you can request the exchange of your driver's license for a Moroccan driver's license :

- South Korea
- France
- Japan
- Poland
- Romania
- Hungary
- Bahrain
- Belgium
- Benin
- Egypt
- Spain
- Italy
- Jordan
- Oman
- Countries of the Arab Maghreb Union
- Portugal
- Switzerland
- Syria



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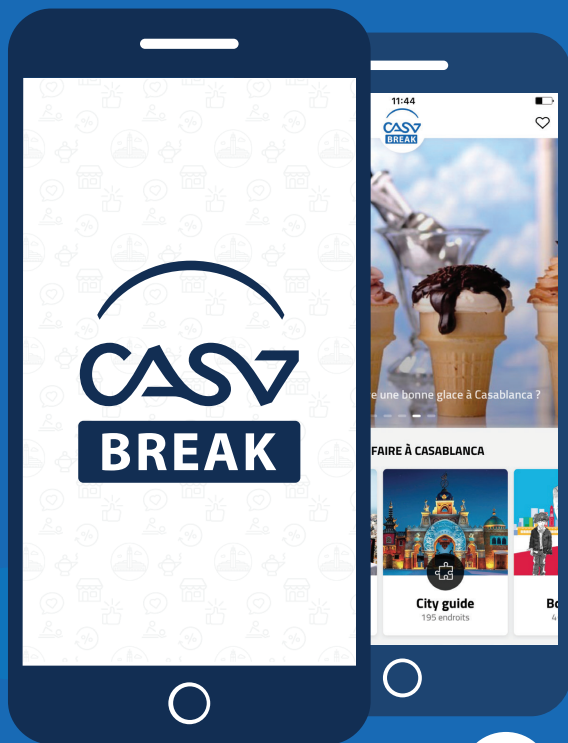
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