



# Car rental Meknes — gates & Volubilis roads

Meknes is less crowded than Fes and a smart base for Volubilis and Moulay Idriss. تأجير سيارات: convenient for Arabic-speaking guests and regional travellers.



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Wide boulevards and Bab Mansour make orientation easy. Drive to Roman Volubilis early, then return for medina markets. Sultan Moulay Ismail's vast Heri es-Souani granaries and stables were built to hold enough grain and horses to withstand a long siege, and the scale of the vaulted ceilings still comes as a surprise to most first-time visitors.

This guide is prepared for visitors of تأجير سيارات (xn--igbiajdj9abq2uc.com).

## City guide

- Bab Mansour
- Heri es-Souani
- Mausoleum of Moulay Ismail
- Volubilis
- Moulay Idriss Zerhoun

Often combined with Fes stays. Ask for hotel delivery if you arrive by train. Meknes makes a relaxed overnight base if Fes feels too intense — hotel prices are usually lower for a similar standard of comfort. Book via تأجير سيارات to lock your preferred car.

## Highlights



### Bab Mansour

Widely considered the grandest of Morocco's imperial gates, built at the end of the 17th century under Sultan Moulay Ismail as the ceremonial entrance to the royal palace complex. The scale and tilework are worth seeing even briefly if you are only passing through Meknes on the way to Volubilis.

It sits right on Place el-Hedim, an easy and central place to park before continuing into the medina on foot.



### Dar Jamai Museum & Medina

A 19th-century palace just off Place el-Hedim, now a museum of Moroccan crafts, with a quiet interior garden that is a good break from the busier streets outside. The surrounding medina is calmer and less visited than Fes's, which makes it a comfortable introduction to Moroccan old-town markets.

Meknes works well as a single stop combined with Volubilis and Moulay Idriss Zerhoun earlier in the day, since all three are a short drive apart.

## Things to do

### Berber and Jewish Art Gallery

Local art and craft gallery in the medina

## Where to eat

### Restaurant Dar Baraka

Rustic decor, time-honoured Moroccan recipes

### Collier de la Colombe

Local favourite, medina dining

## Riads & places to stay

### Riad Yamcha

All-white modern riad in the medina, large breakfasts

### Riad Lahboul

Panoramic rooftop terraces overlooking the Atlas

## Good to know

### A little history

Founded in the 11th century, Meknes became an imperial capital in the 17th century under Sultan Moulay Ismail, who built its extensive fortifications and palaces. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### Local customs

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



## Emergency information

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

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

- **Hôpital Mohammed V** — Public hospital, open 24h • +212 535 52 11 34

Embassy & consulate phone numbers for Rabat are on the next page. Need a hospital, clinic, translator or other useful address? See our full, growing directory (<https://xn--igbiajdj9abq2uc.com/en/guide/>).

## Embassies & consulates in Rabat

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

|                                 |                   |                          |                   |                              |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Algeria</b>                  | +212 537 76 46 46 | <b>Equatorial Guinea</b> | +212 537 76 94 54 | <b>Nigeria</b>               | +212 537 67 18 57 |
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| <b>Dominican Republic</b>       | +212 537 71 59 05 | <b>Netherlands</b>       | +212 537 21 96 00 | <b>Yemen</b>                 | +212 537 63 12 20 |



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