



# MEKNES

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## Tourist guide

**Meknes** is a city in northern **Morocco**. A historical city, it is home to an estimated **536,322** people.

The city experiences a **continental climate**. Summers get very hot, especially from July-August, with temperatures dropping at night. Due to the heat, most sites are closed at noon and reopen only after 2 pm.

The town was established when a Berber tribe called the **Miknasa** settled around an 8th century fortress. The city enjoyed a golden age as the **imperial capital of the Moulay Ismail Sultanate**.

Today Meknes is a commercial centre for agricultural products, fine embroidery and carpets. The local population is mainly of Berber origin.

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Marja-Kristina Akinsha

## Attractions and more

Meknes is an imperial city. The splendour of the city begins with its entrance, the grandiose **Bab Mansour**, the palace gates.

On the inside of these gates is the Medina (**Place Hedim**). It is a labyrinth of narrow streets, underpasses and gates. **The Souk** here has a large variety of handicrafts on display. A must buy are the popular Moroccan shoes, *bilgha*.

Outside the gates is the **Mausoleum of Moulay Idriss**. With tiled courtyards and fountains, the tomb is one of the most beautiful monuments in Morocco.

The ancient granaries and vaults of **Heri es-Souani** still maintain some of their lost magnificence, as does the **Agdal Basin**, an artificial basin built near the palace. Visit the **Dar Jamai Museum** and enjoy its elaborate collection of Moroccan art and craft.

The **Ville Nouvelle**, or new quarters has dozens of restaurants and cafes and pubs lining the main road, **Rue Antsirape**.

The **Hamadish and Isawiyya Brotherhood** considers Meknes to be sacred and hold celebrations here. The most important of these occurs in the month of **Mulud** in honor of **Shaykh al-Kamil**.