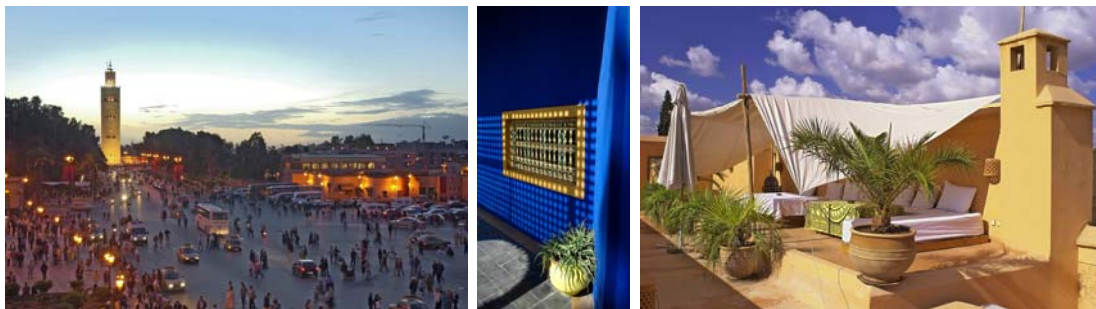




Marrakech

Marrakech, founded over 1000 years ago, is also known as the "red city" and is perhaps the most famous city in Morocco. A combination of the old (the Medina) and the new (Guéliz), Marrakech is an exotic cocktail of sights and sounds.



There are many historical places of interest to see with the most visited being the Koranic School Medersa Ben Youssef, a theological college founded by the Merenid Sultan Abu Hassan in the 14th century, the Koutoubia Mosque built in the 12th century, the 19th century Bahia Palace, the Sadian Tombs and the extraordinary Jemaa el-Fna, the main square in Marrakech. In the evenings the square becomes a venue for alfresco eating and entertainment with troupes of costumed acrobats, storytellers, magicians, dancers, and semi-mystical Gnawa musicians. The souks offer a vast array of merchandise & offer an insight into a way of life unchanged in centuries.



The "new town" Guéliz, built by the French in the 1930's, is a total contrast to the Medina with its broad avenues, modern shops, restaurants and cafés. The most visited site in Guéliz is the "Jardins Majorelle" created by Yves St Laurent. A haven of peace set in an exotic garden.