

ARCHITECTURE TRIP TO MOROCCO:

CASABLANCA-RABAT- KENITRA –CASABLANCA

A trip to Morocco: Casablanca, Rabat, and much more!!

This trip to **Casablanca and Rabat** displays a new side of **Morocco**, the side of a modern and dynamic country that is committed to contemporary architecture.



In Casablanca, the main economic centre of **Morocco**, numerous new neighbourhoods are being built, with projects by international architects such as **Morphosis**, **Didier Lefort**, and **Bofill**, as well as architectural firms based in **Morocco** that manage to combine avant-garde architecture with great sensitivity and intelligence, incorporating certain features of the region's architecture, such as latticework and wood marquetry.

We propose an architectural journey to **Morocco** to discover the contrasts of a land that combines, like no other, bustling cities and deserts where time seems to stand still. A place where your senses will discover new sensations that will leave an indelible mark. **Morocco** is an ideal place to admire **Andalusian architecture** in all its splendour.



In **Rabat** and its neighbouring city of **Salé**, the spectacularity of some unique buildings stands out, such as the **Grand Theatre of Rabat**, designed by the late architect **Zaha Hadid**, or the **Mohammed VI Tower**, the second tallest in **Africa**. In addition to the legacy of **Islamic architecture** in cities like **Casablanca**, one can also appreciate the **French colonial influences and Art Deco** styles that have left their mark on the city, both in its layout and architecture.

The **Ville Nouvelle of Casablanca**, designed by the French architect **Henri Prost**, is a gem of this colonial heritage, and its **Mohammed V Boulevard** is an example of the redevelopment of its old town. **Morocco** is an ideal local destination to discover different architectural

perspectives.

ITINERARY OF THE ARCHITECTURAL TRIP TO MOROCCO:

Day 1- Wednesday, 30/10/2024–CASABLANCA - MAIN VISITS:

- Old Medina
- Rialto cinema
- Boulevard Mohamed V
- United Nations Square
- Casa-Port (AREP + Groupe3 Architectes) train station
- CFC Tower
- Morocco Shopping Centre

Day 2- Thursday, 31/10/2024–CASABLANCA - MAIN VISITS:

- Mahkama du Pacha
- Royal Palace
- Central Market
- Liberty Building
- Notre-Dame de Lourdes Church
- Villa des Arts
- Twin Centre (Ricardo Bofill)
- Casablanca Cathedral
- Mohammed V square

Day 3- Friday, 1/11/2024 -MAIN VISITS:TOURS

- Morning: **TourtoRABAT.**
- Kasbah of the Udayas
- Hassan Tower

- Grand Theatre of Rabat
- Mohammed VI Tower
- Zoo 1 and Zoo 2 Houses (Oualalou + Choi)
- Morocco Telecom Tower
- André Chenier School
- WIFAQ Tennis club and Mohammed VI Football Academy of de Salé.
- Afternoon: **Tour and visit to the new TGV station in Kenitra-Medina.**

Day 4- Saturday 2/11/2024 -CASABLANCA–MAIN VISITS:

- Marina Port
- Hassan II Mosque (1993, Michel Pinseau)
- Hassan II Bridge
- Casanearshore
- La Sqala Cafe
- Anfa's Tours Végétales
- ANFA and "Finance City"

Day 5- Sunday 3/11/2024

- **CASABLANCA:** Free time/city tours.
- End of the trip and return to country of origin.

PROGRAM OF THE ARCHITECTURAL TRIP TO MOROCCO:

Day 1- Wednesday, 30/10/2024

Arrival in **Casablanca**, and lunch on your own.

Meeting at around 3:00 PM in the Hotel lobby with the group and the architect guide to get acquainted and begin the day's visits. Our architect guide will welcome you and provide a brief explanation of the afternoon's itinerary in **Casablanca**.



CASABLANCA ART DECO TOUR: CITY CENTER AND OLD MEDINA

We will start the city tours in the **Old Medina** by visiting the **Central Market** (Marché Central), located in the heart of **Casablanca's** old town. The Central Market is framed by **Boulevard Mohamed V** and **Allal Ben Abdallah** Street. Architect **Pierre Bousquet** (who also designed the Fine Arts building) drew up the plans. The building, with its arcades and covered walkways, was built between 1918 and 1919.

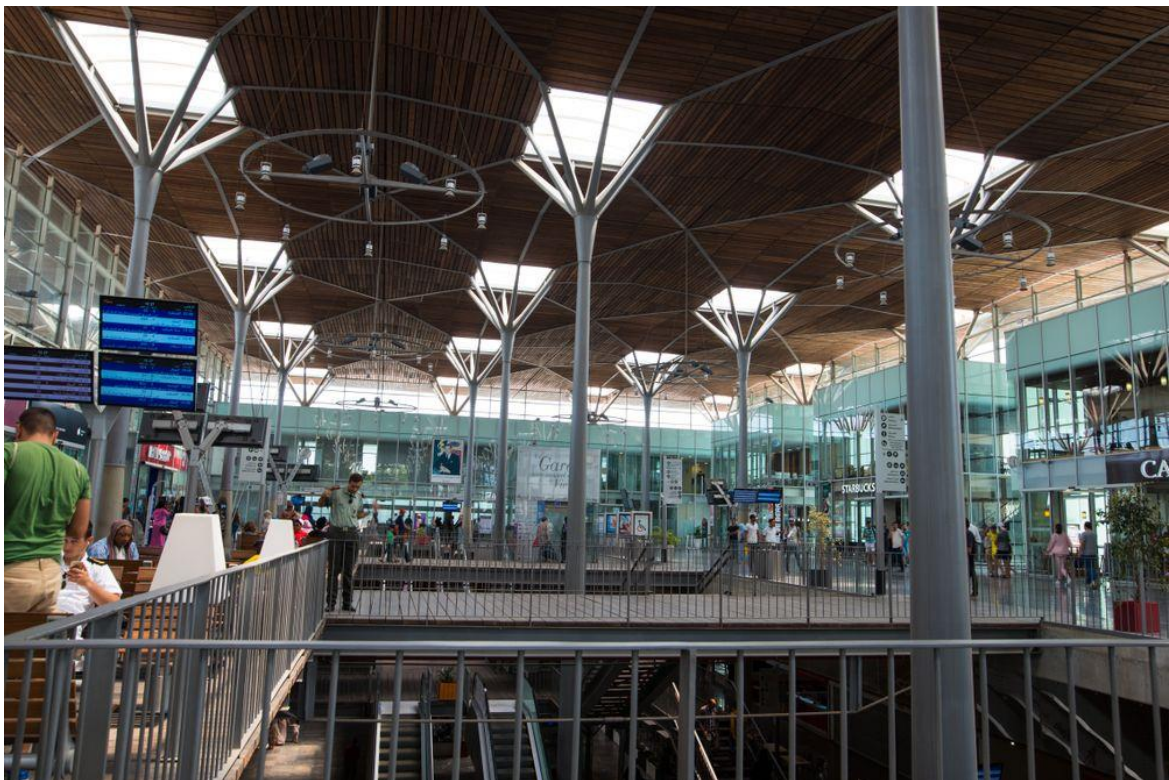
Taking a short walk, we will arrive at the Rialto Cinema (**Pierre Jabin**, 1929), which boasts 1,300 seats, with 400 of

them located in the characteristic mezzanine. Despite numerous renovations over the years, the building's architectural style is still considered pure Art Deco.

Along the early 20th-century city expansion area, we will also see some very interesting examples of Art Deco architecture, characteristic of the city, such as the **Rialto Cinema**, the **Central Market**, or the **Lincoln Hotel**, currently under renovation signed by architects **Oualalou + Choi**.

Very close by is the **Place des Nations Unies**, one of the largest squares in the city. The place features a tram station, a souk, a cinema, several restaurants, luxury hotels, cafes, shops, bars, banks, and many offices. It was built in the 1970s. A tall **clock tower and a metal sculpture shaped like a globe** (Jean-François Zevaco, 1975) are landmarks of the square.

We will walk along **Félix Houphouët-Boigny** Boulevard until we reach **Casa-Port** train station (**AREP + Groupe3 Architects**, 2015). The project creates a high-speed railway link between **Tangier and Casablanca**. It is located in the city centre, next to the port, the marina, and the **Hassan II Mosque**, and it offers commercial and leisure services to its users.



After visiting the city centre and the exterior of the mosque, we will head to **Café Mood's**, where we will have the **group welcome dinner** (included, beverages not included) while watching the sunset over the sea. Return to the Hotel by your own means.

Day 2- Thursday, 31/10/2024

CASABLANCA TOUR ART DECO: FROM HABOUS TO LA LIBERTÉ

Casablanca, the largest city in **Morocco**, stands out for the incredible variety of architectural designs it houses. Inherited from its French colonial past, its wide boulevards host **Moorish architecture**, a combination of **Moorish style and European Art Deco**. The diversity of its skyline offers something for everyone's taste when visiting the city for leisure or business travel.

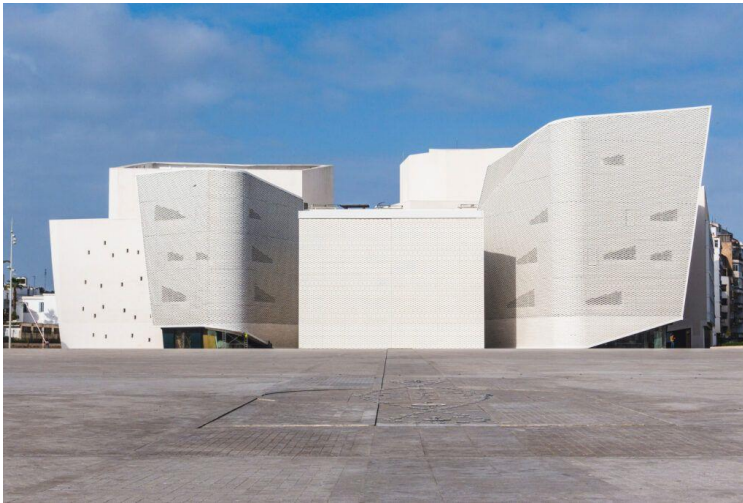
We will start with the **Mahkama du Pacha**, a parliamentary building that not only houses the court of justice but also serves as a reception venue for state occasions. Its construction began in 1948 and was completed in 1952, and the **architectural style** of the building shows strong **Moorish** influences. Nearby, we find the **Royal Palace**, located in the beautiful neighbourhood of Habous. The residence of the King of Morocco and his family cannot be visited from the inside, but you can appreciate the colourful and opulent style of the exterior door, the walls, and the entrance to the palace.



We will move to the **Villa des Arts**, located in a majestic mansion from the 1930s renovated by the architect and president of **Casamémoire, Rachid Andaloussi**. The building now hosts permanent and temporary exhibitions of contemporary art. Very close to the Villa are the two towers of the **Twin Centre (Ricardo Bofill, 1998)**.

Both towers are 115 meters high, with 28 floors each, they are completely identical and house a commercial and office complex. We will continue to see the second church of **Casablanca, the Cathedral of Sacré Coeur**. Built in the 1930s, it was used as a place of Christian worship until the 1950s. Currently abandoned and disused, the facade still presents an impressive appearance. Two towers, crowned by vaulted bell towers, rise on either side of the arch of the main entrance. To conclude, we will head to **Mohammed V Square**.

This square is surrounded by striking public buildings, such as the **Wilaya** and its clock tower, and the **Courts of Justice**,



resplendent with Moorish details, on one side...and the ultra-modern **Great Theater of Casablanca (Christian de Portzamparc)** on the other side. The fountain is such a popular meeting point that when it had to be demolished to build the theatre, it was reconstructed on the other side of the square.

We will head to the **Central Market**, this market is framed by **Boulevard Mohamed V** and **Allal Ben Abdallah Street**.



Architect **Pierre Bousquet** (who also designed the Fine Arts building) designed the market. The building, with its arcades and covered walkways, was constructed between 1918 and 1919. Lunch on your own at the **Central Market**.

In the afternoon, we will visit the **Liberty Building** area in **Casablanca**.

During this guided tour with an architect, you'll get to see some of the highlights that make **Casablanca** an incredible must-visit destination. We'll go from **Habbous** to **Liberty**, passing by some of the city's most significant landmarks.

With a short walk, we'll reach the **Liberty Building (Léonard Morandi, 1951)**. It represents the first building of this height in North Africa (78 m) and is located on the heights of **Mar Sultan**. Next, we'll

see the church of **Notre Dame de Lourdes**, a Catholic parish built in 1954 by **Achille Dangleterre** and engineer **Gaston Zimmer**. It's a beautiful example of **European modernist architecture**, with colourful stained glass windows contrasting with the pale walls. We'll conclude the visits with an interior tour and a reception at the **Liberty Building** (included).

Return to the Hotel in **Casablanca** and dinner by your own means.

Day 3- Friday, 1/11/2024

Morning: We will take a private bus from **Casablanca** to **Rabat**.

Journeys to RABAT and Kenitra.

Rabat, the capital of **Morocco**, is situated on the banks of the Bouregreg River and the Atlantic Ocean. It's known for its monuments that speak of its Islamic and French colonial heritage, including the **Kasbah of the Udayas**. This royal fortress from the Berber era is surrounded by formal French-designed gardens and overlooks the ocean. The city's iconic **Hassan Tower**, a 12th-century minaret, stands atop the ruins of a mosque.

Once in Rabat, we will have an exterior tour of the **Great Theater of Rabat**, a spectacular project by **Zaha Hadid** in **Salé**. Next, an exterior visit to the **Mohammed VI Tower** by **Rafael de la Hoz** and **Hakim Benjelloun**, completed in 2023, currently the second tallest skyscraper in Africa, after the Iconic Tower of Cairo, which is nearly 400 meters high.



Visit to the new urban development's near the old zoo.

Among them, the **Maisons du Zoo 1** and **Maisons du Zoo 2 (Oualalou + Choi)** and the **Maroc Telecom Tower**, from architects **Jean Paul Viguier** and **Omar Kobbité**. Visit to **André**

Chenierschool, to the **WIFAQ tennis school** and the **Football Academy Mohammed VI in Salé**, designed by **G3A**.

Lunch at **Rabat's** seashore, in a restaurant near the **Kasbah des Oudayas** or in **NKOA** (included).

In the afternoon, we will travel by private bus from **Rabat** to visit the new **Kenitra TGV** station, designed by architects **Omar Kobbité (OKA)** and **Silvio d'Ascia**, a project awarded the **UNESCO World Architecture and Design Prize** in the transportation buildings category. We will conduct an exterior and interior tour of approximately 2 hours of the **Kenitra-Medina Station**.



The **Kenitra-Medina** train station is an essential transportation hub in **Morocco**, serving as the departure point for trains to **Rabat**, **Casablanca**, and **Marrakech**. Despite being located on the outskirts of the city, it is very well connected. The facilities of the **Kenitra-Medina** train station are spacious and bright, designed by architects **Omar Kobbité Architectes** and **Silvio d'Ascia Architecture**.

The station was conceived as a jewel that frames the renewed identity of traditional Moroccan architecture in an urban context, thanks to its façade, a reinterpretation of a Moucharabieh. Combining the socio-economic and technological progress brought about by the arrival of the **TGV Al Boraq**, the station is a symbol of the integration of this city and **Morocco** with the modern world.

Return to the hotel in **Casablanca** on our private bus. Dinner on your own means.

Day 4 –Saturday, 2/11/2024



In the morning, we will walk through the "**Marina Port**" neighbourhood, a business centre with contemporary buildings by the sea, just a ten-minute bus ride from the city centre and the **Hassan II Mosque**.

We will continue our tour by seeing the **Hassan II Bridge** and the **Hassan II Mosque (Michel Pinseau, 1993)**, one of the largest mosques in the world, with a minaret measuring 210 meters.

It took over seven years and up to 10,000 artisans to complete this intricate masterpiece.

The mosque was built using materials from across the country: marble from **Agadir**, cedar from the **Middle Atlas**, and granite from **Tafraoute**. The historical architecture of the mosque draws inspiration from Moorish designs. After the marina, we will head to the city centre to enter the **Hassan II Mosque**.



Next, we will visit the new neighbourhood of **Casaneashore**, which combines offices, facilities, and residential construction, to learn about the new developments taking place in the area, such as the residential blocks designed by **G3A**, the headquarters of **PwC**, the **Ibis hotel (G3A)**, and the **Casaneashore park**.

Our next stop will be **Café La Sqala** where we will have lunch (group meal included), a famous restaurant that still retains the cannons of the old defensive post and houses the **beautiful Andalusian garden of the fortress** inside, full of life thanks to the exotic plants and mint-flavoured flowerbeds.

In the afternoon, we will visit the modern neighbourhoods of **Anfa** and the **Finance City**. We will explore the **Anfa** district, located to the south of Casablanca, to see recent projects such as the **Tours Végétales** residential complex and the **GSR school complex** (external visit), and designed by **G3A Architects**.

Later, we will have an exterior visit to the new district of **Casablanca's Financial City**.



The visits include the **CFC building by Oualalou + Choi**, the **CFC skyscraper** designed by the California-based studio **Morphosis**, and the works of the **BCP Tower (G3A)** and the headquarters of **CIMR**, among others. Upon returning to the hotel, you will be able to see the **Casablanca Twin Center**, two twin skyscrapers designed by architect **Ricardo Bofill**.

End of the tour and return to the Hotel in **Casablanca**.

Farewell dinner (included) at **Rick's Café** (or similar), famous restaurant inspired by the renowned 1942 Michael Curtis movie.



Day 5- Sunday, 3/11/2024

Free time to explore **Casablanca**, the largest city in **Morocco**, on your own.

End of the trip and return to your home country.

NOTE:

**The itinerary will be finalized when the trip is definitely confirmed.*

***Variations may occur in the travel program or selected visits for reasons beyond the company's will.*

Contact us at info@artchitectours.com for more information.

HOTEL: JM Suites Hotel Eco-Friendly Casablanca 4*



Booking conditions

Registration: payment of **600€** deposit per person

Deadline to register for the trip:
September 15th 2024

2nd and final payment: October 1st 2024

Price of the trip according to the number of people

- Price for a **group of 16 pax 1.150€**
- Price for a **group of 12 pax 1.380€**

Cancellation Conditions

Cancellation more than 60 days before departure.....30% of the price
 Between 59 and 45 days before departure.....60% of the price
 Between 44 and 30 days before departure.....90% of the price
 Less than 30 days before departure.....100% of the Price

Included

- 4 night accommodation in a double room with breakfast at the specified 4* hotel (or similar).
- Welcome and farewell dinners.
- Meals as specified in the program.
- Transportation by private bus according to the itinerary.
- Entrance fees to specified interior visits as outlined in the program.
- Specialized architecture guide to accompany the group throughout the trip.
- Preparation of itinerary and architectural visits by a local architect-guide.
- Excursion to Rabat and Kenitra by private bus.

Not included

- Meals/dinners not included (as per travel program).
- Flights from your country of origin to Casablanca.
- Optional activities are not included.
- Optional: Cancellation insurance €85.
- Optional: SIM card + €65.
- Optional: Airport transfers to/from the hotel.
- Optional: Single room supplement €260.
- Travel insurance (please inquire about rates).
- Everything not specified in the "Included" list.

Discover Moroccan Architecture with **artchitectours!**