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Wallpaper* City Guides present a tightly edited, discreetly packaged list of the best a location has to offer the design-conscious traveller. Here is a precise, informative, insider's checklist of all you need to know about the world's most intoxicating cities.

Whether you are staying for 48 hours or five days, visiting for business or a vacation, we've done the hard work for you, from finding the best restaurants, bars and hotels (including which rooms to request) to the most extraordinary stores and sites, and the most enticing architecture and design. Wallpaper* City Guides enable you to come away from your trip, however brief, with a real taste of the city's landscape and the satisfaction you've seen all that you should.

In short, these guides act as a passport to the best the world has to offer.

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City Guide

MARRAKECH

PHAIDON

ESCAPES

WHERE TO GO IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE TOWN

The happy location of Marrakech, cradled between the mountains and the sea, provides plenty of options for skipping town. Less than an hour away in the foothills of the Atlas, the Ourika Valley is ideal for a day's hiding. Hotels range from modest *douars* (traditional Berber houses) to more deluxe resorts; Kasbah Bab Ouarika (route de l'Ourika, T 06 61 63 42 24) and Kasbah du Toubkal (Imilil, T 05 24 48 56 11) are good choices. Glamp it up at Scarabeo Camp (see page 8) or further south-east at Erg Chigaga Luxury Desert Camp (El Gouera, T 06 54 39 85 20), which is a nine-hour drive from Marrakech. For sea air minus the crowds of Essaouira (see page 10), those in the know travel to El Jadida and Oualidia on the Atlantic coast. Stay at Ujjesis hotel (see page 11) or, if you are in a group, at Lagoon Lodge (R301 km4, www.lagoonlodgeromocco.com), which overlooks Oualidia's beautiful waters from its infinity pool.

In northern Morocco, once bohemian Tangier is undergoing a renaissance. Villas of Morocco (T 05 22 36 12 12) has a range of chic private rentals, or try Hotel Nord-Pinus (11 rue du Riad Sultan, T 06 61 22 81 40) in the kasbah. Fez (opposite) has one of the oldest and best-preserved medinas in the Arab world. It is arguably more captivating than Marrakech's and not as frenetic. From here, take a day trip to the Roman city of Volubilis, north of Meknes. It might be less well known than Pompeii, but it's no less splendid. For full addresses, see Resources.



Fez
A seven-hour train ride from Marrakech, Fez has some of Morocco's most significant buildings, including the 16th-century Karaouine Mosque, and the glorious shrine of Moulay el-Idris II. Even the medina of Bab Boujelal's 10-story clock in time. There are no consular fees imposed, just a meeting stream of the city. Contemporary ventures are now making their mark – Karawan Riad (T 06 25 62 78 78) here, as well as Hotel

Salerni (T 85 25 54 03 32) in the new town, and the chic-changer's place in simple traditional, while the restaurant Bourjelo 7 (Ouvrir, T 06 94 27 38 49), designed by Stephen de Benza, is a stage for rawing chef's on two- to four-night residencies. Head to The Buried Garden at Skat (0511) (T 06 48 29 14 82) for updated food street food, and Palais Fatah's own's rest bar (T 05 25 62 52 56) for a sandowner with a view.

L'Amandier, Ourika Valley

In the foothills of the Atlas, this elegant boutique retreat opened in 2016. British brothers Anwar and Riaz Hariand-Khan worked with architects Nick Gowing and Michael Kopinski on the interiors, which feature plenty of terracotta, marble and stone, embellished by accents of turquoise and gold. There is a series of suites and villas, the latter with a sleek, well-equipped kitchen, private plunge pool (above) and spacious roof terrace with cabanas and panoramic views. L'Amandier is a one-hour trip by car from Marrakech, through olive and citrus groves. Adjust to the change of pace with a sunbather beside the 25m tadelakt-tiled infinity pool. From here, there's a super active vista of lush valleys, red-earth hills and distant peaks. This is a good base from which to head out skiing in season (from December to March).
L'Amandier Plateau, T + 44 207 754 5563,
www.lamandierhotel.com