



*Real Travelers - Real Info*

## **LivingAdventure's Custom Travel Guide**

## Rabat

### Things to Do Tips

#### Hassan tower

**Source:** Rabat Things to Do by JLBG; May 13, 2004

**Description:** Hassan mosque was begun to build at the 12th century by Yacoub El Mansour sultan. It was never finished and partly destroyed in 1755 by the same earthquake that destroyed Lisbon, Portugal. The tower is 44 m but should have been 80 m. The columns are what remains of the mosque.

#### Andalucian Gardens

**Source:** Rabat Things to Do by amsterdam\_vallon; Oct 20, 2003

**Description:** The Andalucian Gardens are not as old as they might give the impression of being they belong to the 20th century and were laid out by the French colonial authorities. But despite that historical background, they do have a distinct non-French feeling today, especially with the dominance of Moroccans here. The gardens have another attraction, the Museum of Moroccan Arts. While the indoor exhibition is laid out like most Moroccan museums, there are some nice arrangements with colourful and traditional antique doors in the walls near the entrance to the gardens.

#### Casbah of the Oudaya

**Source:** Rabat Things to Do by matcrazy1; Jul 28, 2005

**Description:** Rue des Consuls lead me to Casbah of the Oudaya (Kasbah des Oudaias) located in the best for its old defensive function place of Rabat: at the highest city point, on a cliff, at the mouth of Oued Bou Regreg river to the Atlantic Ocean. The kasbah covers relatively small area and is surrounded by impressive walls which look the best at sunset. But I liked especially: - Kasbah gardens; - museum Oudaya (National Museum of Moroccan Art - impressive collection of local jewelry, koranic manuscripts, musical instrument and royal carpets; - views from the kasbah over twin city of Sale across the river, the Atlantic Ocean and Rabat. WHAT IS KASBAH? The kasbah is a unique kind of medina or Islamic city surrounded by defensive walls. Its function was to give a place to live for a local leader/ruler or dynasty and to defend city. That's why kasbah was often placed on a top of a hill or near the entrance of harbours. Each old city of North Africa has its own kasbah.

**Directions:** In the northernmost and the highest point of Rabat, at the mouth of Oued Bou Regreg river to the Atlantic Ocean.

#### Royal Mosque

**Source:** Rabat Things to Do by amsterdam\_vallon; Oct 20, 2003

**Description:** Right across from the Royal Palace, the King's own mosque stands. Neither old nor terribly big, it still offers a fine example of Islamic architecture. Its placement gives it an added quality between it and the Royal Palace there is nothing but the wide square.

#### Kasbah des Oudaïas

**Source:** Rabat Things to Do by amsterdam\_vallon; Oct 20, 2003

**Description:** The Kasbah des Oudaïa is a beautiful and quiet spot in the every increasingly busy Rabat. The standard of the streets and the houses is far above what you would expect to find in most other old cities in Morocco. Everything evolves around white houses with blue painted parapets. It definitely has the air of just having been painted. There are very few people walking through the streets, so chances are that you will have it all more or less to yourself.

## The oldest mosque

**Source:** Rabat Things to Do by matcrazy1; Jul 28, 2005

**Description:** The Kasbah of the Oudaya is the oldest part of Islamic Rabat. I entered the kasbah through Bab Oudaya and walked the only main street called Rue de Jamma. On the way I passed by this minaret on the left. I got to know that this mosque is the oldest in Rabat - built in 12th century and renovated in 18th century. Being a non-muslim, I was not allowed to visit it inside.

**Directions:** Enter Kasbah of the Oudaya through Bab Oudaya and walk the main street called Rue de Jamma - the minaret on the left approx. 150 - 200 m ahead.

## Oudaïa gate

**Source:** Rabat Things to Do by amsterdam\_vallon; Oct 20, 2003

**Description:** The Oudaïa gate dates back to the Almohad period, and was erected in the same period as the Hassan tower (around 1200). It is believed that the purpose of this gate, was ceremonial. Its style is one of great simplicity and effective contrasts. The gate expands through three levels, before the circular shape is broken, and the squareness of the gate takes control. It is generally believed that that shapes of this, and other, gates is there to take control over your eyes and your total experience, but there is little of symbolical value to find here. This gate was more than just a huge door, it also has served in the function of official building. It has been both a courthouse and staterooms.

## Rue des Consuls - iron ceiling

**Source:** Rabat Things to Do by matcrazy1; Jul 27, 2005

**Description:** I turned left (northwards) almost at the end of Rue Souika to Rue des Consuls which lead me to Kasba des Ouida. The street was named after headquarters of consuls placed there since 1912. The street is full of suques wich sell jewelry, leather, slippers, copper pots etc. But I wasn't interesting in any shopping. Instead, the iron ceiling high above part of the street attracted me the most. I have never seen something like this in Morocco before and never more later as well. Well, some streets in other Moroccan cities were covered by wooden, bamboo but never iron roof.

**Directions:** Go eastwards the main street of the medina (Rue Souika), pass by the Grand Mosque (on the right) and a bit futher you will cross Rue des Consuls.

## Gardens of the kasbah

**Source:** Rabat Things to Do by matcrazy1; Jul 28, 2005

**Description:** I visited gardens of the Kasbah of the Oudaya in late afternoon and it was nice, relaxing and first of all silent place which offered a lot of shadow - a must in hot days. Hmm... the gardens maybe crowded that time and there are too few benches there. Generally it's nothing fancy. The gardens are relatively small, the plants grow a bit chaotic, fountains are out of use and there are very few plants in bloom at the end of September when I visited Rabat. My best memory was a small, kiddy and hungry cat I fed with sandwiches made for me by Urszula :-).

**Directions:** In western part of the Kasbah of the Oudaya, just behind the wall.

## Tomb of Mohammed V

**Source:** Rabat Things to Do by matcrazy1; Jul 28, 2005

**Description:** I went upstairs and entered a gallery of the Mausoleum of Mohammed V completed in 1971. The entrance is free. I was only warned to be dressed properly. Well, my sandals, shorts above knee and T-shirt were accepted by guards. The simple sarcophagus made of onyx is put down in the middle of the ground floor covered by black marble. It contains remnants of King of Morocco Mohammed V who died in 1961. He was Sultan, then King of Morocco who successfully negotiated with France for the independence of Morocco in 1956. His son Hassan II was the next king and ruled till death in 1999. Now, his son Mohammed VI rules. Well, a main street in each Moroccan town or city is called either Mohammed V or Hassan II.

**Directions:** In the eastern side of Rabat, opposite to the bridge over Oued Bou Regreg leading to Sale.

## Great Islamic architecture

**Source:** Rabat Things to Do by matcrazy1; Jul 28, 2005

**Description:** There are a few impressive white buildings in Islamic style which form the mausoleum of Mohammed V. The most eastern one is the tallest and it's really the mausoleum. I paid attention to typical islamic decorations and its pyramid roof covered by dark green (royal green) tiles. This white building is well seen and easy to recognize from the Kasbah of the Oudaya. Warning for photographers: the front facade directed to the north is always in a deep shadow which makes large contrast with lighted by the sun side wall.

**Directions:** At the southern part of a large square where Tower of Hassan stands

## Explore the Kasbah des Oudaias

**Source:** Rabat Things to Do by brewjohnson; Aug 24, 2002

**Description:** This Kasbah, which used to be a palace in days gone by, sits on a hill overlooking the entrance to the harbour and the Atlantic Ocean. Wandering through and around the Kasbah gives you a great appreciation of every day Moroccan life and Moroccan architecture. It would be possible to spend hours exploring the winding passageways, and when you get hot from your exploring, you can walk down to the beach and take a dip in the ocean.

## Flower Market

**Source:** Rabat Things to Do by grets; May 8, 2005

**Description:** It is worth strolling through Rabat's colourful flower market, if only for the inquisite aroma alone. The market is nicely arranged and a real pleasure to walk through.

## Museum of Moroccan Arts

**Source:** Rabat Things to Do by realde14; Aug 12, 2003

**Description:** The Museum of Moroccan Arts is in the Kasbah and exhibits traditional dress and jewellery from the different regions of Morocco.. It is located in a 17th century royal palace.

**Directions:** In the Kasbah

## Chella

**Source:** Rabat Things to Do by grets; May 8, 2005

**Description:** This walled area for the Phoenician port of Sala for some 1500 years, and the remains are still very impressive to this day. In the 13th century, the inhabitants moved across the river.

**Your Notes:**