



THE TOUR OF THE RAMPARTS

The historical part of Meknes is surrounded by about 40 kilometers of tremendous ramparts made up of three enclosures, built under the reign of Moulay Ismail between the 17th and 18th centuries to push back the invaders outside the city. The first rampart was intended to stop the riders, the second aimed to prevent the hostile infantry from entering the city and the third used to stop definitely, those who had managed to pass the first two obstacles.

There are three types of ramparts: those of the imperial city, the old city and the secondary or peripheral walls. They are rammed and distinguished by their defensive voluminous characters and constitute the military fortification of the Ismaili city. The height of these walls varies between 7 and 15 meters and their thickness varies between 1.50 and 3 meters.

The Tour of the Ramparts can be done either by car or carriage. It allows to circumvent the medina from the north, offering a panoramic view of the old neighborhood, and allows you to appreciate the architectural richness and the buildings that still defy time ...

Starting basically from the splendid panorama of Belle Vue (near the Transatlantique Hotel), a circuit of about six kilometers, you can join El Meriniyine street, which overhangs to Oued Boufekrane, and from there, follow the ramparts to the north... up to Berdaine gate.

A CITY OF WONDERFUL GATES

This imposing bulwarks was pierced with towers, bastions and nearly 20 monumental gates, named Bab in Arabic. The doors you can admire on the Tour of the Ramparts are indicated on the map. Here is a selection of the most amazing gates:

Bab Mansour



Built by Sultan Moulay Ismail between 1672 and 1675, then completed by his son Moulay Abdallah in 1731. Distinguished as an architectural jewel, this gate is the symbol of the city of Meknes. It is also considered among the most beautiful gates in the world. Sultan Moulay Ismail began the construction of the Kasbah by creating this door to cross the ramparts of the fortified city. It is the elementary constituent of the oldest part of the Ismaili Kasbah. Designed according to the traditional pattern of Moroccan doors, Bab Mansour reaches a total height of about 16 meters. Bab Mansour Hall now houses an art gallery.

Bab Berdaine



Built in the 17th century by Moulay Ismail, this magnificent gate takes its name from the packsaddle manufacturers that already populated the place. In the opening scenery, stands out the minaret of the mosque Berdaine, built by Mohammed III, then restored by Moulay Ismail.

It is the supreme northern gate of the medina of Meknes. The exterior facade of this door belongs to the same category of monumental doors as Bab Dar Lakbira and Bab el Khemis. It stands at the top of a hill, with its majestic and slender look, between the majestic two towers.

Bab Berdaine, was to hold in the 18th century an important role in the economy of Meknes, focusing on all types of exchanges, commercial as well as diplomatic, with the North, thus the interaction with foreigners. It is noted that Moulay Ismail endowed this entry of the medina with a gate, worthy of royal quarters.

Bab El Khemis , named "the Happy Gate"



Bab El Khemis (Thursday), one of the most beautiful Ismaili gates that does not belong directly to the Kasbah of Meknes, dates by its inscription back to 1687 (1098 H).

Monumental brick door, bounded by two square adobe towers, was originally the western gate of "Madinat Arryad Al Anbari" (city of the garden of amber), built under the reign of Moulay Ismail in favor of the army of the Oudayas, and high personalities of the court.

Engraved inscriptions on his pediment indicated: *"I am the door open to all people whether they are from the West or the East. I am the happy door similar by my glory to the full moon in the sky. I was built by Moulay Ismail, fortune and prosperity are written on my forehead, I am surrounded by happiness"*.

Bab Dar Lakbira



This gate built in 1678 (1090 H), under the reign of Moulay Ismail, is the main monumental entrance to Dar Lakbira quarter, which extends over an area of 320 meters long and 420 meters wide.

It is also one of the most harmoniously done and ancient gates of the Ismaili Kasbah. About 12 meters high, this gate is built entirely of earthen brick embedded in a traditional mortar made of earth and lime.

Dar Lakbira was the first house that Moulay Ismail built in Meknes, after his accession to the throne, in 1672, after clearing the south eastern part of the medina and founding Lahdim square.

IMPERIAL CITY & MEDINA MAP



Strolling over meknes in carriage

Take the time to stroll in a carriage to discover, at your own rythm, the historic city of Meknes. Initially, starting usually from Lalla Aouda and Lahdim squares , this walk will show you the most beautiful neighborhood, avenues and streets of the city. The carriages make it possible to travel easily to the main tourist sites of the city. The time of the walk depends on the client, and the cost of the ride is fixed according to the circuit chosen, the quantity of sites to visit and the number of persons to carry (4 to 5 people maximum).



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Gates (Bab) on the route of the Tour

- | | |
|------------------------|----|
| 1- Bab Tizimi Sghira | B3 |
| 2- Bab Berdaine | B2 |
| 3- Bab Talt Fhoul | A1 |
| 4- Bab el Khemis | D1 |
| 5- Bab Bni Mhammed | F3 |
| 6- Bab Mrah | G4 |
| 7- Bab Naoura | F5 |
| 8- Bab Raiss | E3 |
| 9- Bab Dar Lakhbira | D3 |
| 10- Bab Moulay Ismail | E3 |
| 11- Bab Filala | D3 |
| 12- Bab Lalla Aouda | D3 |
| 13- Bab Mansour | D3 |
| 14- Bab Jamaâ El nouar | D3 |

Monuments

Museums and Mausoleums

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1 - Cheikh El Kamel Mausoleum | B2 |
| 2 - Borj Belkari Museum | E2 |
| 3 - Heri Souani (Granaries & stables) | H4 |
| 4 - Sahrij Souani (Agdal Basin) | G4 |
| 5 - Royal palace | F4 |
| 6 - My Ismail Mausoleum | D3 |
| 7 - Habs Qara & Pavilion of ambassadors | E3 |
| 8 - Meknes Museum | D3 |
| 9 - Lahdim square | D3 |
| 10 - Dar Jamai Museum | D2 |

Several monuments benefit from the framework agreement relating to the rehabilitation and enhancement of the Medina of Meknes

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