



## EVENT : THE FESTIVAL OF VOLUBILIS

This major event is the "Volubilis International Festival of Traditional World Music" held in the summer at the Prefecture of Meknes, on the initiative of the Ministry of Culture and Communication. This event is intended as a space to celebrate the different expressions of cultural and artistic heritage, to enhance authentic traditional music and to highlight historical sites and monuments.

## ACCESS TO VOLUBILIS

From Meknes, which is 26 kilometers far from Volubilis, take the national road N ° 13 towards Tangier; at the 8th kilometers point turn right, towards Moulay Driss Zerhoun, which is located 3 km from the archaeological site.



## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Transport:** to reach Volubilis site from Meknes, various means of transport are available. You can take a bus from Meknes Lahdim station, or a taxi just in front of the french institute at Hamriya.

### Accommodation :

HOTEL	Volubilis-Inn	05 35 54 44 05/07
LODGES	Ain Hjel	06 78 64 05 66
	A l'ombre des oliviers	05 35 54 45 23
	Bakora	06 65 36 48 44
	Caracalla	06 79 24 79 21
	Rouide	06 64 20 85 19
	Walila (Ferme d'hôtes)	06 62 52 81 05
GUEST HOUSES	El Menzeh	06 67 15 28 24
	Dar Al Andaloussia	05 35 54 47 49
	Dar Diafa Slimani	06 20 63 29 59
	Dar Inès	05 35 54 49 07
	Dar Zerhoune	05 35 54 43 71
	El Kassaba	06 77 99 16 16
Hannaoui	05 35 54 41 06	
La Colombe Blanche	05 35 54 43 54	

**Restaurants :** « la Corbeille Fleurie » is a café restaurat available on the site (sandwichs, tagines,...). Various restorations are available also at Moulay Driss.

**Guided visits :** Specialised officially approved guides by the ministry of tourism are available at the entrance of the site.

**Time :** the site is open every day, from 8.30 AM to sunset.

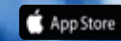
**Visits fees :** 70 MAD for adults and 30 MAD for children under 12.

### On line links :

- [www.volubilis.ma](http://www.volubilis.ma) : Conservation of the archaeological site of Volubilis.
- [www.idpc.ma](http://www.idpc.ma) : Inventory and Documentation of the Cultural Heritage of Morocco.
- [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org) : World Heritage List.

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**FREE**



## VOLUBILIS

### Fascinating Archeological Site from Ancient Morocco



## VOLUBILIS : PRESTIGIOUS HERITAGE VALUE

Volubilis is an exceptionally well-preserved example of a colonial town on the edge of the Roman Empire.

Presenting a high level of authenticity due to its isolation for nearly a thousand years, Volubilis was among the richest sites of that era in North Africa, as shows the archaeological remains, the witness of glorious times of several civilizations that lived there, from prehistory to the islamic period.

Indeed, the archeological treatment of the remains found on the area of Volubilis, gives an ample idea about the various periods the city went into, starting from the Mauritanian period, where the city was part of an independent kingdom; the Roman period when it was a metropolis of the Roman province of Mauretania tingitane; a dark period historically known as the "dark ages" with the end of the Christian era; and finally an Islamic period characterized by the establishment of the Idrissid dynasty.

The site has delivered considerable artistic documentation that includes mosaics, marble and bronze statues and hundreds of inscriptions, representing the work of the creative spirit of the men who have occupied the site through ages.

The archaeological site of Volubilis is full of history, events, ideas, beliefs and artistic works of universal significance; it is also an outstanding concrete illustration of a home of different forms of immigration, cultural traditions and vanished cultures.

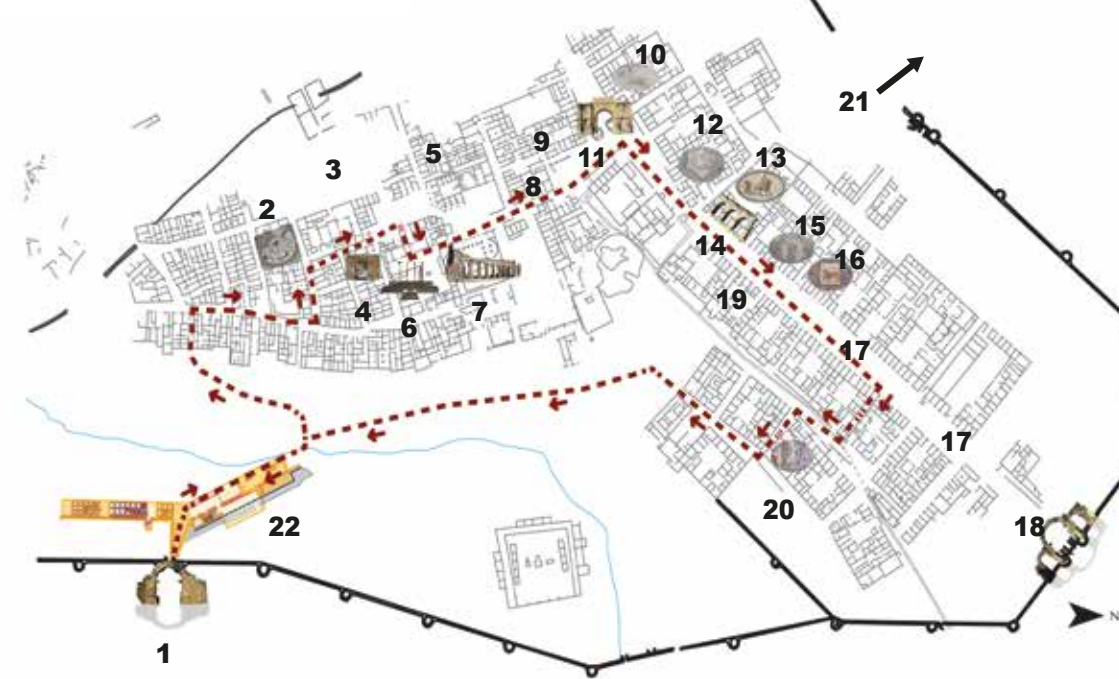
Edition: PRECOON







## Tour itinerary



- 1- South East Gate
- 2- House of Orpheus
- 3- Gallien Baths
- 4- Oil mills
- 5- Mules, bread oven, mixers
- 6- The Capitol
- 7- The Basilica
- 8- Desultor House
- 9- The Dog House
- 10- The House of Ephebe
- 11- The Arc de Triomphe
- 12- House with Columns
- 13- The Knight's House
- 14- The House of Hercules
- 15- House of Dionysus
- 16- The House of the Fauves
- 17- The Documanus Maximus
- 18- The Tangier Gate
- 19- House with Nereids
- 20- House of Venus
- 21- Idrisside baths
- 22- Center of interpretation (Museum)

At the end of the 8th century, Idriss I, descendant of Ali (son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad) fleeing the Abbasid persecutions, took refuge in Walila (the arabic ancient name of Volubilis) where the Auraba tribe, welcomed and proclaimed him, leader of the believers.

The city becomes the starting point of islamization of the country, and the cradle of the Idrissid dynasty. The city was to become later, for a brief period, the capital of Idriss I, buried not far away, at Moulay Driss Zerhoun. It was abandoned as a capital, after the foundation of Fez in 808 AD.



## EXCEPTIONAL UNIVERSAL VALUE

On December 6th, 1997, the World Heritage Committee, meeting at its 21st session held in Naples, Italy, approved the inscription of the Archaeological Site of Volubilis on the Unesco World Heritage List. This ranking recognizes the exceptional universal value of Volubilis and raises it to the position of a protected area for the benefit of humanity.

## INTERPRETIVE CENTER (MUSEUM)

An Interpretive Center of Volubilis is at your disposal, in order to perfect and deepen your visit to the archaeological site. As a true introductory space being located between the main entrance and the ruins of the site, it is the first visitor center of an archaeological site in Morocco. Covering an area of more than 1,300 square meters, the center exhibits archaeological works from the site and original archival documents. The objective is to highlight and enhance the archaeological site of Volubilis, including its civilization, history, economy, urbanism, territory, archaeological property and the cultures and beliefs of its population.



## VISIT OF THE SITE

The remains of the site extend over four distinct urban districts :

**The southern district :** it consists of several housing units including the House of Orpheus, one of the most beautiful and sumptuous houses of Volubilis.

**The monumental district :** constituted of three squares and was formerly the heart of the city:

- The forum, public and administrative place, occupies an area of 1,300 square meters.
- The basilica, seat of justice, rises on the eastern side.
- The Capitol, official temple dedicated to the Capitoline Triad : Jupiter, Juno and Minerva.
- The Triumphal Arch stands at the northwest end of this place. The Arch, partly restored, is built in honor of the Emperor Caracalla.

**The northeastern district :** lies between the Triumphal Arch and the Tangier Gate. There are beautiful mansions such as the House of Ephebe, the House with the works of Hercules, the House with columns; or the House with the procession of Venus, which shelter many mosaics, rich in teachings.

**The western district:** this district is separated from the previous ones by an enclosure which was built in the 5th century. Excavations have uncovered Roman houses, as well as a Spa of Islamic times (Hamman).

## VOLUBILIS IN HISTORY

The site seems to have been frequented since the Neolithic era, it was probably home to a hamlet of farmer-pastors testified by debris of patterned pottery and many lithic elements. The first core of the city dates from the 2nd century BC, which foundation goes to a Moorish community already imbued with Punic cultural influences.

Under the reign of Juba II, marked by peace and security, Volubilis will experience an important architectural and urban development following its economic prosperity.

After the annexation of the Kingdom of Mauretania to the Roman Empire in 42 AD following the assassination of King Ptolemy by Emperor Caligula, Volubilis was elevated to the rank of Municipium, and was endowed by a significant urban extension, starting from the second half of the 1st century AD.

Under the reign of Emperor Marcus Aurelius, an urban enclosure surrounding an area of 40 hectares was built. Under this dynasty, the monumental district (capitol, basilica and forum) was resized and reshaped and the triumphal arch was erected to pay tribute to the emperor, for granting Roman citizenship to free volubilitians, and having given unpaid tax assessments to all citizens.

In 285 AD, the Roman administration and army evacuated the city. The Volubilitans retreat to the west, and set up a new enclosure separating the ancient city from the newly built city.

Historical inscriptions dating between 599 and 655 AD, founded in a paleochristian necropolis near the Triumphal Arch, are witnesses of the Christianization of the local population.