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The Best Stops for Crafts, Culture, Shopping, and Drinks With a View in the Medina of Fez

The Ruined Garden, tucked deep in Morocco's largest medina in the city of Fez, was recently named one of the [World's Best Restaurants](#) by *Travel + Leisure* and *Food & Wine*. Here's what to see and do while you're in the area.

BY LILA BATTIS | AUGUST 20, 2019



PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES

With its labyrinthine passageways crowded with pedestrians and the occasional donkey, the Fez medina, known as [Fes-el-Bali](#), feels like a relic from another time.

The UNESCO World Heritage site is famously difficult to navigate on your own, so it's worth hiring a guide to lead the way, at least while you're getting your bearings on the first day or two. ([Michael Diamond](#) is T+L's A-List Morocco specialist.)



PHOTO: SBASTIEN RABANY/GETTY IMAGES

Don't miss a visit to [Fondouk el-Nejjarine](#), a three-story caravansary (or trader's inn) turned woodworking museum — the architecture alone would be enough to warrant a visit, with a central courtyard where caravans once stopped to rest. Exhibitions featuring elaborately carved dowry chests, doors, and furniture offer a glimpse at the intricacy of Moroccan carpentry over thousands of years. Climb one last set of stairs to the rooftop, where you can relax with a cup of tea and gaze down upon the old city.

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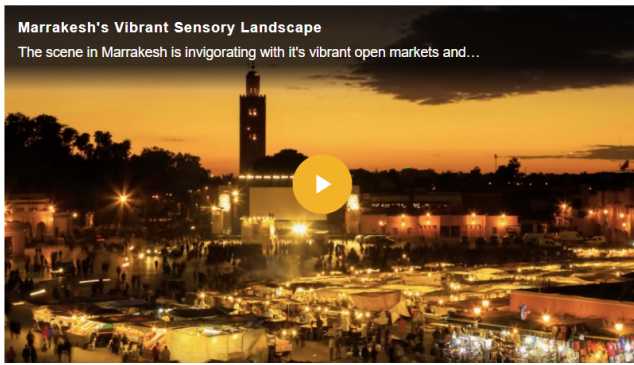
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Near Fez's famous blue gate, the Bab Bou Jeloud, the 14th-century Madrasa Bou Inania offers another glimpse at Moroccan handicrafts. After a recent restoration, the school's zellij tilework, carved stucco, and cedar woodwork appear much as they would have 600 years ago. Across the street, crane your neck a bit and you'll spot Dar al-Magana, the 14th-century clock house, where water clock once kept time using a series of windows, weights, and bowls.



PHOTO: WESTEND61/GETTY IMAGES

Visit [Médin Art](#) for bold prints and modern spins on crafts like babouches and woven goods, then duck through an unassuming entrance to [Le Jardin des Biehn](#). The hushed courtyard, filled with trees and fountains, is an inviting spot for a drink – or just a brief respite from the medina crowds. If you've had enough of [haggling in the souks](#), head to the on-site shop, which stocks top-quality vintage carpets, caftans, and jewelry. Stay at [Riad Fes](#), and be sure to make it back in time to catch the sunset from the rooftop bar, glass of Moroccan *vin gris* in hand.



Read about the [Ruined Garden in Fez and the rest of the World's Best Restaurants here.](#)

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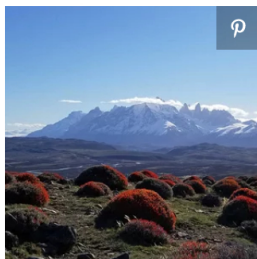
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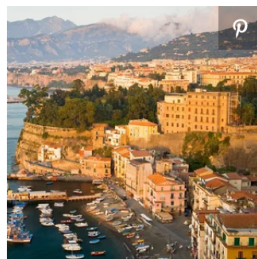
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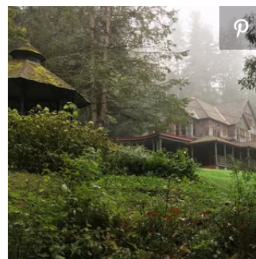
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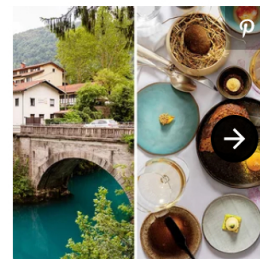
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