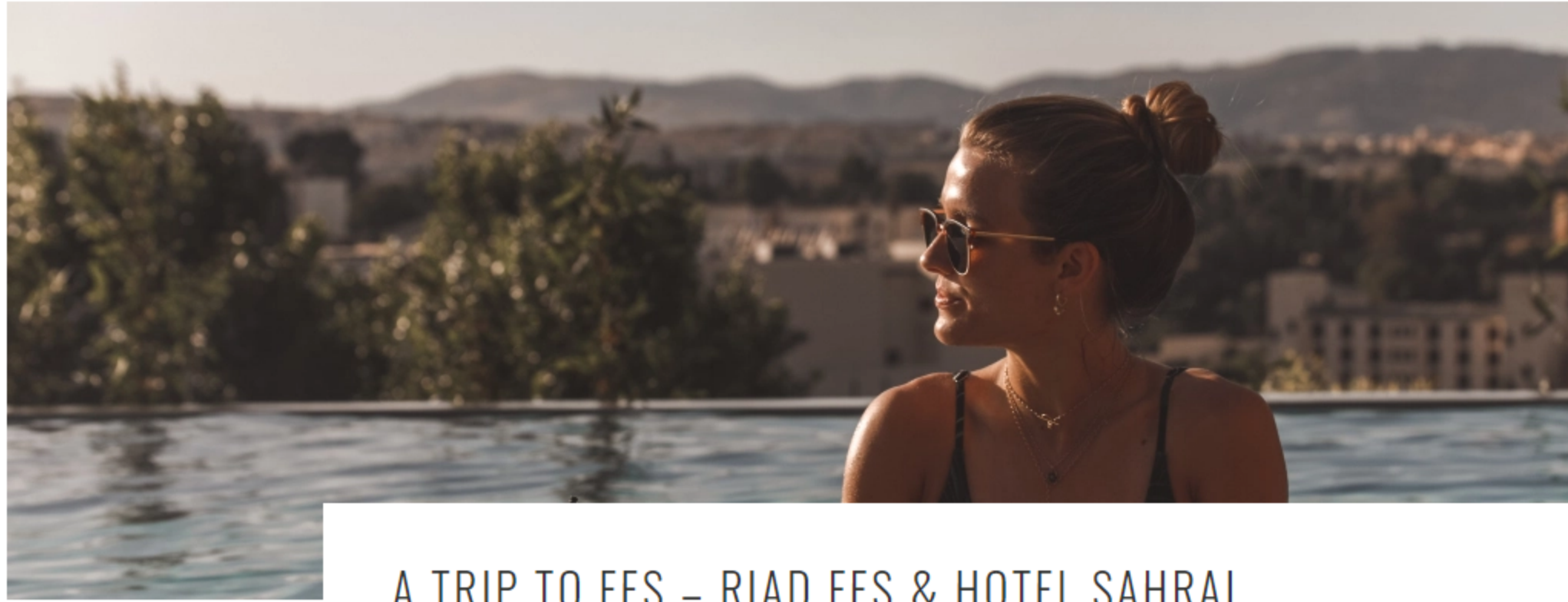


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A TRIP TO FES – RIAD FES & HOTEL SAHRAI

June 5, 2019

Recently I was lucky enough to be taken on a press trip to Fes, Morocco's second largest city, to review two sister hotels in the area. Having been to Marrakech twice, I was excited to visit somewhere new in Morocco and with its rich and interesting history, Fes seemed like the perfect choice!

Some background: Fes was founded in the 8th Century and for a while was one of the largest cities in the world. Now, with a population of 1.2 million, Fes is known for its medina, probably the largest pedestrianised site in the world, and its university, the [University of Al Quaraouiyine](#) which was founded in 859 and the oldest continuously functioning university in the world.

This trip was gifted but as always all views are my own! We flew directly from Gatwick with Air Arabia. All images by the incredibly talented Tamsin Hurrell. Follow her on Instagram!



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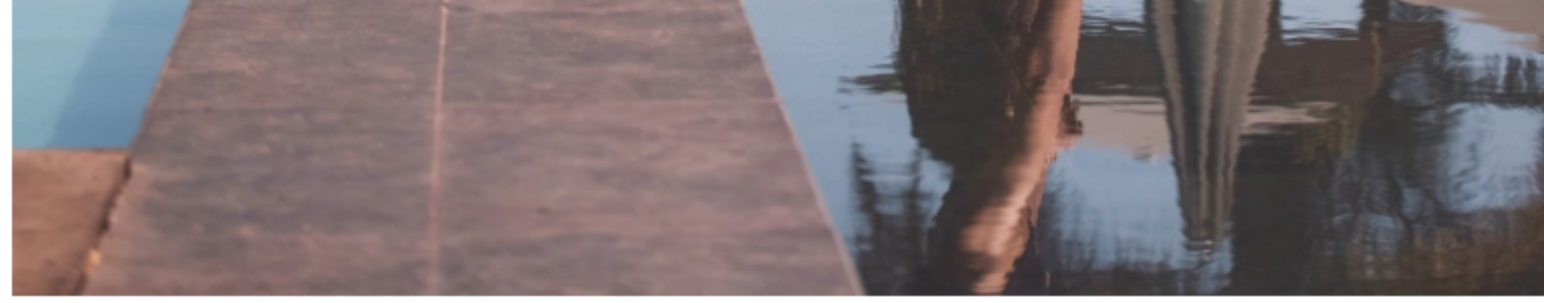
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Riad Fes

We arrived late in the evening to Fes airport, and after a short drive arrived at our first hotel, **Riad Fes**. Despite being late, after a short walk down a dark alleyway, we found ourselves in the most spectacular courtyard. We later discovered that the Riad had previously been someone's home, and the original architecture had been painstakingly removed, cleaned and replaced, each tile by hand!

Our room was beautiful and overlooked the pool (a rare feature for hotels within or surrounding the medina). When the hotel had been bought, the surrounding houses were purchased too, making the hotel significantly larger (and maze-like!) than a traditional riad. If you ever visit Riad Fes you will be blown away by the architecture – I know I was!



Breakfast buffet

After a good night's sleep and a hearty buffet breakfast, we headed into the medina for a 3h tour of the sights. The first thing I noticed was the number of chickens for sale on every corner – meat eating in Morocco is very much a matter of pointing at the one you want to eat and then taking it home with you. Being vegan this was quite tough to watch, but I also noted that the chickens all seemed in much better shape than any commercially raised chicken I've seen in the UK. The reality of eating meat may be tough to witness for some, but the same thing happens here in the UK, only under much more intensive (and often cruel) production methods, out of sight.



Walking round the medina was incredible – having visited Marrakech's medina multiple times, I was blown away by the size of Fes. One of our first rules was 'if you get lost, stay where you are. If you move, you will only get more lost'. Needless to say, I stuck to the group closely! Within the medina are thousands of stalls, run by locals selling all sorts of products, much the same as

Marrakech. However, each city has its speciality – a key product to trade between cities (and now around the world). In Fes, it is the tanneries, producing leather that is now exported across the world.



The tanneries operate in much the same way as they did when they were first built in the early centuries. Stone wells contain liquids designed to strip hides of fur and flesh, before being softened in ammonia (which I am told is bird poo!) and dyed. They're visually appealing for sure, although perhaps not for everyone.



You are offered mint to smell as you head up to the tanneries

Following our tour of the medina, including the oldest continually running university in the world, we headed back to the Riad to be transported to our second hotel, [Hotel Sahrai](#). Both hotels are owned by the same group, but they couldn't have been more different! Where Riad Fes is traditional and cosy, Hotel Sahrai is expansive and modern. Situated on a hillside outside the medina, the views are also amazing, looking out onto the huge city of Fes.



We were lucky enough to be able to try their Namaste yoga package, providing yoga sessions morning and evening for hotel guests – the best way to wake up and warm up into the day! I'm not an avid yoga fan but when it's on the roof terrace of a gorgeous hotel in the early Moroccan sun I can make exceptions!

Here are some pics from around the gorgeous hotel – you can see why I loved it so much 😊

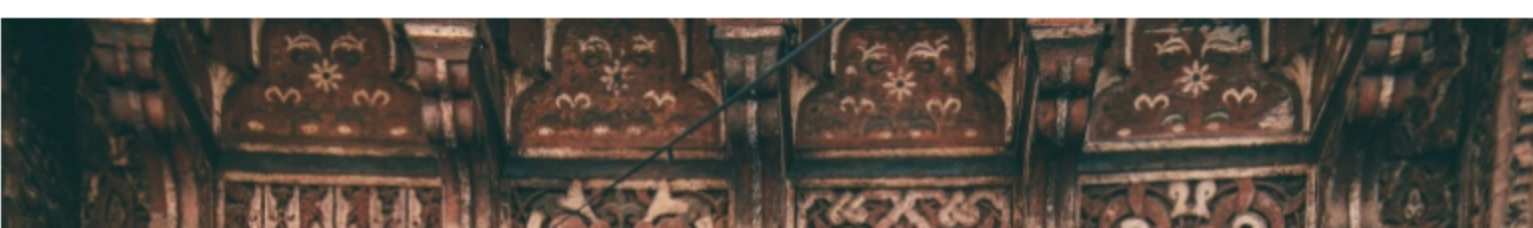


The pool overlooks the medina





Enjoying the second, smaller pool with Tamsin

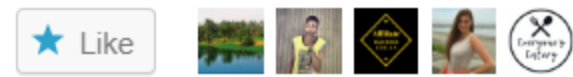
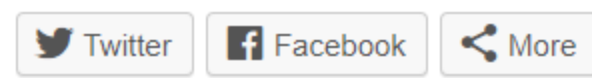






Have you ever visited Fes? Comment below or head over to my [Instagram!](#)

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MARTHA June 5, 2019 at 9:06 pm

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Flora, YOU LOOK AMAZING!!

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FOOD FITNESS FLORA June 5, 2019 at 9:29 pm

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Thank you so much lovely!!

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- ABOUT THIS PAGE -

I've been meaning to design and open a blog for about a year now, but between holidays, work, university and just general living, I've found a million excuses not to. However, it has come to the time where I just can't put everything on my instagram, and I want a more permanent home for my recipes, home workouts and thoughts, so here is the blog. Enjoy!

