



FES (Morocco)

Fez or Fes (Arab. فاس, fr. Fès) is one of the most famous travel destinations in Morocco. It is the fourth largest city in Morocco, after Casablanca, Rabat, and Marrakech, with a population of 946,815 and the capital city of the region Fes Boulemane. Fez is one of the "Imperial Moroccan cities", such as Meknes, Rabat, Casablanca and Marrakesh. The city is divided into two major areas, the old city of Fez called Fez El Bali, meaning the old medina and the walled part, and the second major area of Fez which is Fez El Jdid meaning the new city or the new medina of Fez, the French-created, newest section of the city of Fez. Fez el Bali which is the largest part of the city, and is believed to be the largest contiguous car-free urban area in the world, is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The medina has tiny winding streets of cobble-type bricks, some alleys only just wide enough for a donkey to pass through. The medina covers an area of approximately 4 square kilometres. It has many entrances or gates which are called Babs. The city of Fez is one of the most religious cities in [Morocco](#) where we can see the strong presence of mosques, minarets. It is home to Karaouine one of the oldest Islamic universities in the world. Fez was the capital of Morocco at various times in the past, the last such period ending in 1912, when most of Morocco came under French control and Rabat was chosen to be the capital of the new colony. Fez is an increasingly popular tourist destination and many non-Moroccans are now restoring traditional houses (riads and dars) as second homes in the Fez medina. The city of Fez hosts every year a week long festival of sacred musical traditions from different parts of the world. The festival was founded in 1994 by the Moroccan scholar and philanthropist Faouzi Skali.

Latest initiatives with the Municipality of Florence

- **July 4-9, 2011:** Mission to Fes of the Councillor to International Cooperation Stefania Saccardi and two officers of the Municipality of Florence (International Cooperation Office and EcoEquo Desk). The objectives of the mission were: to strengthen the partnership among the Municipality, the Province of Florence and the national and local institutions of the Region of Fès Boulemane; to monitor the AGR project aimed at the autonomy of the women of the Medina of Fès, supported by the Municipality and the Province of Florence in the framework of the programme ART GOLD Morocco of UNDP (United Nations Development Programme); to carry out planned training courses and sessions addressed to the women involved in the project.

- **June 12-15, 2012:** Welcome to a delegation from Fès (Morocco) and institutional speech by Deputy Mayor Stefania Saccardi and by the Deputy Mayor of the Province of Florence, Sonia Spacchini in the presence of the vice consul of Morocco in Bologna, Said Laalam. The delegation's members: Mme Zhor Cherkani, Conseil régional de Fès Boulemane, M. Lahcen Amameur, ADS (Agence de Développement Social) – partner du projet, M Fettah Bousaltani, ONG UNION Fès – partner du projet, Mme Khadija Malouli, ONG UNION Fès – partner du projet, Mme Najia Belkouch, Bénéficiaire du projet AGR, Mme Lazaar Fatiha, Bénéficiaire du projet AGR, Mme

Rhioui Zineb, Bénéficiaire du projet AGR, Giovanni Saporiti, ART Gold / PNUD Maroc Chef de fil du projet.

Useful Links:

www.fes-city.com

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