

Ancient and Modern Morocco

Morocco is one African nation that is enthusiastically embracing the Twenty-First Century and working hard on building infrastructure in order to attract tourists to a land otherwise known for agriculture. Morocco is a large country strategically situated in the northwest corner of North Africa. It is endowed with hundreds of miles of seacoast, punctuated by miles of sandy beaches that are ideal for tourism, on both the Mediterranean Sea to the north and the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

Ancient Morocco is visible not only at the heart of its modern cities but also just hours away from crowded cities like Casablanca and Agadir are historic walled cities where life moves at an ancient pace. Within these cities craftsmen still manufacture their wares by hand in small shops segregated by trade. With narrow winding streets and alleys, tourists walk on the ancient cobblestones. Instead of being completely taken back to an earlier time, the prevalence of mobile phones and .com signs even in the remote towns shows the influence of the modern world in Morocco.

In fact, the government is proactive in improving the country's infrastructure. The first segment of 4-lane divided highway in the country was completed in June of 2010. Along the highway in Agadir, construction cranes dot the landscape, building hotels, apartments and condos for tourists. Modern Morocco attracts millions of European tourists who are just a couple hours away by plane.

In February, 2011 it was announced that Morocco would host the Confederation of African Football (CAF) 2015 African Nations Cup. Of course, the term football in Africa and Europe means the game of soccer. Similar to the American National Football League (NFL), Morocco has been promoting soccer teams by building new high-class sports stadiums in major Moroccan cities including Agadir, Marrakech and Tangier.

Morocco's new highway, tourism and telecommunications infrastructure play an important role in its ability to develop modern international sports events.