



Surf, shop, socialise or just sit back with a hot cup of mint tea. Entrepreneur PRITI PAUL shares the most charming places in the North African kingdom

## CHECK IN

In Marrakech's walled medina quarter, right next to the Royal Palaces, La Sultana offers one of the best places to stay, with beautiful riads that feature African, Occidental and Oriental architecture. A few steps away from UNE-SCO World Heritage Site Djemaa el-Fna is another hotel, Riad Kaiss, once the harem of Morocco's Sultan Moulay Yacoub, with nine rooms and suites opening to courtyard gardens. Or head to the palmeraie (palm-filled oasis) just outside the city, where Le Palais Rhoul has gorgeous villas and tents with sunken baths and private pools. Lasultanamarrakech.com: Riadkaiss. com; Palais-rhoul.com

#### **EAT OUT**

Claude Challe, DJ behind the Buddha Bar clubs and music, has a new spot for you to hit before clubbing: **Djellabar**. Leave behind the crowds for a quiet lunch at hotel **Les Jardins de** 

la Koutoubia. Or catch a fashion show with dinner and people-watch at the stylish d.sens' in Place du Novembre 16. Djellabar.com; Lesjardinsdelakoutoubia.com; Dsensmarrakech.ma

The **Eureka Valley** in the High Atlas Mountains makes for a lovely day out. Clamber up the waterfall, and return down for kebabs and tagines with hot mint tea at the little restaurants.

## **GO SURFING**

Morocco's big secret is **Oualidia**, a blue lagoon with amazing oysters and waves just right for surfing.

# SHOP, SHOP, SHOP

The little boutiques opposite the **Jardin Majorelle** sell everything from organic food and antique furniture to Moroccan mod design. **Le 961** has a great selection of clothes for a night out, and for leather, head to **Galerie Birkemeyer**. Laboutique961.com; Galeriebirkemeyer.com

#### JUST CHILL

People have been gathering at the market square **Djemaa el-Fna** for hundreds of years. Join the locals sipping on a nous-nous (milky Moroccan coffee) and watching the world go by.

# **DON'T MISS**

Plan your trip so you can make it to the **Fes Festival**, June 8-16. A celebration of world music, this year's edition pays tribute to Persian poet Omar Al Khayyam and progresses to blues and gospel tunes. Rajasthani folk artists perform Kabir's poems and Sufi singers from Pakistan take the stage. Stay for Icelandic singer-songwriter Björk, who takes her art-and-music project *Biophilia* to Marrakech this month. *Fesfestival.com* 



The Fes Festival, on this month has been held annually for the last 18 years. This time around, apart from wonderful Sufi musi don't miss Björk's performance.

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Mountains; Djellaba

The Riad

Kaiss hotel

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