

## **\*\*12. Local Currency and Costs\*\***

### **\*\*Currency Exchange:\*\***

The official currency of Morocco is the **\*\*Moroccan Dirham (MAD)\*\***. The symbol for dirhams is "د.م." and the ISO currency code is **\*\*MAD\*\***. Banknotes are available in denominations of 20, 50, 100, and 200 dirhams, and coins in 1, 2, 5, and 10 dirhams, as well as smaller centime coins.

### **\*\*Where to Exchange Money:\*\***

- **\*\*Airports\*\***: Currency exchange counters are available at the **\*\*Rabat-Salé Airport\*\*** and other international airports in Morocco.
- **\*\*Banks\*\***: Major banks in Rabat, such as **\*\*Attijariwafa Bank\*\***, **\*\*BMCE Bank\*\***, and **\*\*Banque Populaire\*\***, offer currency exchange services.
- **\*\*Currency Exchange Offices\*\***: These can be found in popular tourist areas such as the **\*\*Medina\*\*** and major shopping districts.
- **\*\*ATMs\*\***: You can also withdraw dirhams directly from ATMs using an international credit or debit card. Be aware of possible fees from your bank.

The exchange rate fluctuates, but as a rough estimate, **\*\*1 USD\*\*** is typically equivalent to about **\*\*10 MAD\*\***, and **\*\*1 EUR\*\*** is around **\*\*11 MAD\*\***. It is recommended to check the current exchange rate before your trip.

### **\*\*Cost of Living in Rabat:\*\***

Rabat is relatively affordable compared to many other global cities, though costs can vary depending on where and how you spend your money. Here is a general breakdown of typical costs in Rabat to help you budget your trip:

#### **1. \*\*Meals:\*\***

- **\*\*Street Food\*\***: Meals such as a sandwich or kebab from local vendors can cost between **\*\*10-30 MAD\*\***.
- **\*\*Local Restaurants\*\***: A typical meal in a casual Moroccan restaurant may range from **\*\*40-80 MAD\*\***.
- **\*\*Mid-range Restaurants\*\***: A three-course meal at a mid-range restaurant will cost about **\*\*150-250 MAD\*\*** per person.
- **\*\*High-end Restaurants\*\***: Dining in a fine restaurant can cost around **\*\*300-600 MAD\*\*** or more per person.

## 2. **Transportation:**

- **Taxi:** A short trip within the city center by **petit taxi** (small taxi) will typically cost between **10-30 MAD**. Make sure the driver uses the meter, or agree on a price beforehand.
- **Bus:** The bus fare within Rabat is very affordable, usually around **4-5 MAD** per trip.
- **Tram:** Rabat's modern tram system charges about **6 MAD** per trip, making it an efficient way to travel around the city.
- **Rental Cars:** If you prefer to rent a car, prices start at around **200-400 MAD** per day, depending on the vehicle and rental company.

## 3. **Accommodations:**

- **Budget Hotels/Hostels:** Basic accommodations can cost between **150-300 MAD** per night.
- **Mid-range Hotels:** A comfortable mid-range hotel room typically costs between **400-800 MAD** per night.
- **Luxury Hotels and Riads:** High-end hotels or traditional Moroccan **riads** (guesthouses) may cost anywhere from **1000-3000 MAD** per night.

## **Additional Costs:**

- **Water:** A bottle of water (1.5 liters) costs around **5-8 MAD** in local stores.
- **Coffee/Tea:** A cup of coffee or Moroccan mint tea at a café generally costs **10-20 MAD**.
- **Attractions:** Entrance fees to major tourist sites such as **Hassan Tower**, **Chellah**, and **Oudaias Kasbah** usually range from **10-70 MAD**.

## **Tipping:**

Tipping is customary in Morocco. For restaurant service, it's common to leave around **10-15%** of the bill as a tip. For taxis, rounding up the fare is appreciated.

By understanding these general costs, visitors can plan a budget-friendly trip to Rabat and make the most of their visit without overspending.