

In the Desert of the Heart: A Journey Through Morocco

Introduction

In the Desert of the Heart: A Journey Through Morocco is a journey through the heart of Morocco, a land of contrasts and beauty. From the bustling souks of Marrakech to the vast expanse of the Sahara desert, Morocco offers a unique and unforgettable experience.

This book is a collection of essays and vignettes that explore the many facets of Morocco. We'll visit the imperial cities of Fez, Meknes, Rabat, and Marrakech, and explore the vibrant culture and history of Morocco. We'll also venture into the Sahara desert, and experience the beauty and mystery of this unforgiving landscape.

Along the way, we'll meet the people of Morocco, and learn about their lives and traditions. We'll also sample the delicious cuisine of Morocco, and enjoy the warm hospitality of the Moroccan people.

Whether you're planning a trip to Morocco, or simply want to learn more about this fascinating country, *In the Desert of the Heart: A Journey Through Morocco* is the perfect introduction to the Land of the Setting Sun.

Morocco is a country of contrasts. It is a land of ancient traditions and modern innovations. It is a land of deserts and mountains, of cities and villages. It is a land of rich culture and warm hospitality.

In *In the Desert of the Heart: A Journey Through Morocco*, we will explore the many facets of Morocco. We will visit the bustling souks of Marrakech, and the ancient ruins of Volubilis. We will trek through the Atlas Mountains, and relax on the beaches of Essaouira. We will meet the people of Morocco, and learn about their lives and traditions.

We will also explore the history of Morocco, from its Berber origins to its present-day status as a modern nation. We will learn about the role of Morocco in the Arab world, and its relationship with the West.

In the Desert of the Heart: A Journey Through Morocco is a journey through the heart of Morocco. It is a book that will inform, inspire, and entertain. It is a book that will make you want to visit Morocco, and experience its unique beauty and culture for yourself.

Book Description

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In the Desert of the Heart: A Journey Through Morocco is a must-read for anyone interested in Morocco, travel, or simply the human experience. It is a book that will stay with you long after you've finished reading it.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

Chapter 10: The Heart of the Desert

The ancient city of Sijilmassa

Sijilmassa was once a thriving city in the heart of the Sahara desert. Founded in the 8th century, it was a major trading hub on the trans-Saharan trade routes. Sijilmassa was also a center of Islamic learning and culture.

The city reached its peak in the 11th and 12th centuries, when it was ruled by the Almoravid dynasty. During this time, Sijilmassa was home to a population of over 100,000 people. The city was surrounded by a massive wall, and it had a large mosque, a palace, and several libraries.

Sijilmassa's prosperity was based on its control of the trans-Saharan trade routes. The city was a major trading center for gold, salt, and slaves. Sijilmassa was also a center for the production of textiles, leather goods, and pottery.

In the 13th century, Sijilmassa was conquered by the Marinid dynasty. The city declined in importance after this time, as the trans-Saharan trade routes shifted to other cities. Sijilmassa was eventually abandoned in the 16th century.

Today, Sijilmassa is a ruined city. The only remaining structures from its glorious past are the city walls and the mosque. Sijilmassa is a popular tourist destination, and it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Sijilmassa is a reminder of the once-great civilizations that flourished in the Sahara desert. The city's ruins are a testament to the power and wealth of the trans-Saharan trade routes. Sijilmassa is also a reminder of the fragility of human civilization. The city was once a thriving metropolis, but it was eventually abandoned to the sands of time.

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