

MOROCCAN CULTURAL TIPS

GREETINGS

- Take time to ask, “How are you?” Take the time to learn about their family and who is important to them (i.e. neighbours?), so the next time you meet them, you can ask after their family, relatives, friends and neighbours – people who are important to them. In their culture, there are many ways to say, “How are you.” The more expressions they use to say, “How are you?” the more important you are to them.
 - There are boundaries between men and women. For example, if a woman offers her hand, the man should shake it. Otherwise, the man will respect the woman’s physical distance.
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VISITING

- When visiting, the hostess might greet you in her house clothes or even pyjamas. Bring something with you, whether it is chocolates, flowers, juice, milk, sugar, and/or biscuits for the kids. Of course, they will tell you not to bring anything, but it is always appreciated. Usually, women visit in the home, while men may go out for coffee. Family visits are also common.
 - Take off your shoes when you enter the house, especially if there are carpets/rugs.
 - If there is a party, it could start an hour later than the stated time. The other guests may not start arriving until an hour later than the indicated time.
 - Ask if the event you are invited to is men-only or women-only. This applies to birthdays, showers, and certain aspects of weddings and funerals.
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HOSTING

- Deeper conversations can happen in a one-on-one setting, as people may feel freer to express their thoughts and opinions.
 - The moment the guest arrives, serve water and/or tea. Guests should not need to ask for water.
 - Don’t tell people what time they need to leave.
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FOOD AND DRINK

- Ask what food or drink restrictions they may have.
 - The hostess may serve you but don’t feel the need to finish everything on your plate. Be aware that they may offer to pack food for you to take home.
 - BBQs are popular! Offer to bring food, but if it’s meat, make sure it is halal.
 - When eating in a traditional setting, there may or may not be individual plates. Instead, each person may be offered a spoon for couscous or a piece of bread that is used to scoop up the stew in the middle of the table. Always use your right hand.
 - Often, they will set out an extra cup. This means that guests are welcome.
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CLOTHING

- Wear modest clothing when visiting a home, being mindful of covered shoulders and loose clothing.
 - If you compliment them, they may offer you a picture off their wall. Be mindful of their generosity.
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COMMUNICATION

- People with whom you aren’t especially close might say “maybe” before saying “no.”
 - Relationships are essential. Some women take pride in their household duties, such as cooking and cleaning.
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