

# The Muslim West | Mosques: A Place for Prayer

## The courtyard

The courtyard outside the prayer room is an open, porticoed space that is accessed directly from the street. Believers ready themselves for prayer by purifying their bodies by means of ritual ablutions, just as they purify their souls with prayer. Like the prayer room, the courtyard is also used as a meeting place by the community.



**Name:**  
Almoravid Koubba

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 6th century / AD 12th century Almoravid

**Details:**  
Marrakesh, Morocco

**Justification:**  
Ablutions are performed either at a font in the courtyard of the mosque or, less commonly, in the baths or koubba (qubba) provided at some mosques in an adjoining area along with the latrines.



**Name:**  
Qarawiyyin Mosque

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 3rd–4th centuries / AD 9th–10th centuries Idrisid

**Details:**  
Fez (Old Town), Morocco

**Justification:**  
Courtyard of the Qarawiyyin Mosque, Fez, Morocco.



**Name:**  
Ablutions font

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 6th century / AD 12th century Almohad

**Details:**  
National Museum of Archaeology  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Justification:**  
Ablutions are performed either at a font in the courtyard of the mosque or, less commonly, in the baths or koubba (qubba) provided at some mosques in an adjoining area along with the latrines