



# SADDLETRAVEL.COM

## Agafay Desert Trail

Maximum weight: 90 kg

Nearest airport: Marrakech

6 days / 5 nights / 6 on horseback

Just a stone's throw from Marrakech, this holiday welcomes you to charming, luxury accommodation! A ride with majestic Arab-Barbs will give you a taste of the magnificent landscapes of the region which begins at the foot of the High Atlas. The colors of this region change gradually depending on the time of year, going from lush green to hay yellow around October. The landscape changes dramatically as you approach the Agafay Desert, the sparse horizon perfect for letting go of the reins.



Horse riding

This tour is suitable for intermediate to advanced riders. Riders should be confident in the saddle, in control at all gaits and have experience riding on open ground. Riders must be in good physical condition, you will be in the saddle for 4 to 5 hours a day.

**The weight limit is 90 kilos.**

### **Guides & Group Size**

You will be accompanied by an English or French speaking Moroccan guide. Plus a support team all experienced in horse riding and passionate about their country!

The maximum group size is 8 riders.

### ***Horses & tacking***

The horses used on this trek are local Berber-Arab horses. This breed was created almost a century ago to produce perfect war horses by crossing fine Arabian thoroughbreds with Barb (Berber) horses. This cross produces horses perfectly adapted to the mountainous and desert environment of the region; they are strong and robust, with the speed of Arabian horses. The horses stand around 150 cm at the withers.

The saddlery used is English style, with high-quality anglasie leather saddles embellished with comfortable suede or sheepskin padding. Leather bridles and saddle bags are provided for participants to carry water and equipment for the day.

### **Accommodation & Meals**

We have carefully selected the most luxurious Kasbahs and desert camps on arrival in the Agafay Desert. You can also take the option of sleeping in a single room, perfect if you're travelling alone and want your own space.

All our choices will allow you to enjoy the famous Moroccan hospitality, each evening you will enjoy delicious cuisine and in the morning a very traditional Moroccan breakfast, Msemen included! A mouth-watering pancake that we'd all like to take home with us!

Allergies and special diets can be catered for if notified in advance.

### ***Day 01: Arrival***

***Terres d'amanar Equestrian Centre - At the foot of Souktana***

Morning transfer from Marrakech airport to the Terres d'Amanar riding centre, presentation of the riding itinerary, saddling up, assessment of each rider's level, and off you go, first through the hamlets of the valley, then over gentle hills onto a track where the first gallops are launched. We will cross a few olive groves. Through the countryside, we finish the day below Souktana, the highest peak in the Kik region.

Overnight in a 5\* guesthouse/Kasbah in Oumnast.

Two nights' accommodation. Approximately 4 hours' riding

### ***Day 2: Anwor Plateau***

This is a beautiful day with plenty of opportunities for walking, and depending on the season, the guide will take you to the most beautiful places. This morning, we cross a small plateau (Anwor), a vast agricultural area where the soil is fertile and cereal crops and livestock are the only resources. In the afternoon, we climb small hills and cross small villages and plateaus to return to our guesthouse. Approximately 4 hours on horseback.

Overnight in a 5\* guesthouse/Kasbah in Oumnast.

Two nights' accommodation. Approximately 4h30 riding time.

### ***Day 3 - Entering the Agafay desert***

We leave our accommodation after a typical Berber breakfast. We cross large desert plateaux and overlook the Oued N'Fiss before crossing it through abundant vegetation. The wadi flows all year round, allowing crops to grow on its banks. Then we cross the wadi and climb towards the Agafay desert! And here we are! The evening light really brings out the best in this desert. We enjoy some lovely walks through the hills before arriving at the superb and charming Inara camp! We take advantage of the last rays of sunshine to take a dip in the pool.

About 4h30 on horseback.

First night at Inara Camp

### ***Day 4- Agafay Desert***

The morning and the first light of day make this place magical. Enjoy a superb breakfast with a view! Your horses await you for a day of discovery in this magnificent setting. Depending on the season, we'll head off into the remote valleys of this famous desert.

Approximately 4 to 5 hours on horseback.

Second night at Inara Camp

***Day 5-Agafay Desert - Lake Lalla Takerkoust.***

We continue to enjoy this superb scenery before getting back in the saddle and heading west. We cross the hills that make up this desert before returning to a more wooded landscape. More and more olive groves and crops. Then the landscape descends towards Lake Takerkoust. Our last guest house is nestled in magnificent 'Atlas pistachio trees'. You can enjoy the swimming pool and terraces for aperitifs and dinner in fine weather.

Approximately 4-5 hours on horseback.

Night in the Kasbah Beldi 5\*.

***Day 6- Lake Lalla Takerkoust --- Souktana***

Breakfast in the first rays of sunshine, and we're back in the saddle for another fine day's riding. We have several options for getting to our meeting point for the return to Marrakech.

Approximately 3h to 3h30 on horseback.

Meals included: morning, picnic lunch.

Transfers to Marrakech airport - Flight for early evening or next day (extra night).

**Price includes:**

- Saddling and equipping the horses.
- Full board, picnic lunch and dinner 1/2 board in accommodation.
- Assistance vehicle for luggage transport.
- Equestrian guide + groom
- Return transfer Marrakech / tour.

**Price doesn't include:**

- Flights
- Gratuities
- - Meals not mentioned in the programme
- - Drinks and mineral water in accommodation.
- - Single supplement
- - Optional extras

- - Nights in Marrakech before and after the tour. -



### **International Flights & Airport Transfers**

**Do not book flights or train tickets until you have received the booking confirmation email from Saddle Travel.**

**Arrive on the morning of the first day and plan an evening flight on the last day.**

**The journey from Marrakech International Airport to your hosts' stables takes only 45mins/1 hour.**

### **What to bring:**

**We recommend that you wear your riding boots or booties for the journey and take a set of riding clothes and your helmet or bomb in your hand luggage, so that you can participate in the excursion and ride even if your luggage should not arrive at your destination in time.**

**Space is limited in the vehicle carrying your belongings on the trek, so please travel light and use a large backpack or soft travel bag rather than a hard case.**

**Please use the checklist as a guide, taking into account the season in which you ride.**

- ☐ **Your own riding hat or helmet, adjusted to your size**
- ☐ **Comfortable riding trousers**
- ☐ **Non-slip riding or trekking boots**
- ☐ **Chaps**
- ☐ **Riding gloves**
- ☐ **Long-sleeved T-shirts to protect you from the sun**
- ☐ **Warm clothing such as a fleece or woollen jumper**
- ☐ **Clothes for your mornings and evenings in luxury accommodation**
- ☐ **Waterproof jacket - it rarely rains, but it's best to be prepared**
- ☐ **Bandana or scarf to protect you from the sun and dust**
- ☐ **Comfortable clothes for the evening**
- ☐ **Light footwear for when you're not riding**
- ☐ **Swimming costume and light towel**
- ☐ **Sun cream and lip balm**
- ☐ **Sunglasses and hat**
- ☐ **Portable battery / Power bank**
- ☐ **Adapter**
- ☐ **Copy of your travel insurance**
- ☐ **Personal medical treatment**



## Climate

The climate in Morocco is hot all year round, with very little rain. From December to February, winter temperatures are around 20°C during the day and drop below 10°C at night. March to May and October to November are generally very pleasant, with temperatures between 20 and 30°C during the day and over 10°C at night. This tour is not available in June/July/August due to extreme heat.

If you decide to visit the mountainous part of the route between November and March, don't be surprised to see a light layer of snow or ice!



**For worry-free holidays abroad visit :**

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/morocco>

Consult your GP at least 8 weeks before you leave so that he or she can advise you and, if necessary, carry out any vaccinations appropriate to your age and state of health.

### **Travel documents**

A valid passport covering the entire planned stay is required for a stay in Morocco.

Passports are compulsory, including for groups on organised tourist trips.

Entry to Morocco is no longer possible on presentation of the national identity card alone.

For more information, visit

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/morocco>

For all other nationalities, please contact your embassy to check the conditions and procedures for entering the country.

It is your sole responsibility to be in possession of the travel documents you need to enjoy your holiday.

### **Currency and tips**

The local currency in Morocco is the Moroccan dirham. Your holiday is all-inclusive, so we recommend you don't bring too much money with you. At the end of your stay you will have some free time in Essaouira, where you can enjoy and shop. Bring enough cash to buy souvenirs and be prepared to haggle!

Tipping your guide is at your discretion, and will be greatly appreciated by the team.

### **Rider's declaration**

'I declare that I am an experienced rider, able to mount and dismount without assistance. I have a good seat and am confident and in control at all gaits (including collected trot, balanced canter and fast canter), and am physically fit to ride. I do not suffer from any disability or illness that could affect my safety or the safety of others.'



### **Booking conditions**

**You book with the operator of this excursion, whose booking conditions are set out below:**

NB: The trek can be done in either direction. The excursion is confirmed with a minimum of 2 riders taking part.

- For those arriving before the start date of the excursion, the meeting point is at the airport, at the time of arrival of the last arrivals.
- For those staying longer after the end of the trek, the transfer included in the price is that which takes the participants to the airport.
- The price per person is all-inclusive: return transfers between the airport and the starting point of the trek, all meals, accommodation, hire of horses equipped for the trek, equestrian guides, transport to and from Marrakech.

Any request outside this defined programme is considered as an extra request and will cost extra. Do not hesitate to ask us for more information.

Insurance: Sport Travel is insured for its equestrian treks, however it is compulsory for each participant to take out personal and specific travel insurance covering treks on horseback. We recommend that you take out insurance to cover out-of-country medical expenses and trip cancellations so that you can be reimbursed in the event that you are unable to participate in the tour at the last minute.

Terms and conditions of sale:

- Any person who has to interrupt their stay for a valid and compelling reason (force majeure or other) will be transferred as quickly as possible to the nearest town, at their own expense. The stay will not be reimbursed unless the participant has taken out personal travel insurance (in this case, please request reimbursement from your insurance company).
- The operator reserves the right to modify certain stages or sections of the trek if weather conditions so require, or if any other external and unforeseeable cause or factor so requires.



### **Cancellation policies and conditions [Saddletravel.co.uk](https://www.saddletravel.co.uk)**

#### **Payment and cancellation policy**

Your holiday is confirmed with a 20% non-refundable deposit.

The full amount is due 56 days before the departure date.

If you cancel your booking less than 56 days before the departure date of your holiday, [Saddletravel.co.uk](https://www.saddletravel.co.uk) is entitled to request payment of the full amount, less a refund to the client as follows:

Cancellation 42 days or more before departure: 50% refund possible.

Cancellation 30 days or more before departure: 30% refund possible.

Cancellation less than 30 days before departure: no refund, full amount due.

#### **Insurance**

All [Saddletravel.co.uk](https://www.saddletravel.co.uk) customers are required to take out travel insurance to cover horse riding and holiday cancellation. Proof of insurance will be required during the booking process.

**Contact details**

+ 44 1497 888 228 Calls, Messages & WhatsApp

trails@saddletravel.com

saddletravel.co.uk

The Coach House

Clyro Court

Clyro

Hereford

HR3 5LE

Wales

NC: 05411320

<https://saddletravel.com>



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