



Dunes of Merzouga

Maximum weight: 90 kg

Nearest airport: Ouarzazate

8 days / 7 nights / 6 on horseback



This trail takes you deep into the Moroccan Sahara, combining fast, open riding with the timeless atmosphere of the desert. Over the course of a week, you'll cross sweeping dunes, rocky plateaus, and hidden oases, following routes once travelled by nomads and caravans. Each day brings a mix of long canters across sandy valleys, peaceful stretches under vast skies, and evenings spent in traditional guesthouses. Riding well-trained and resilient Barb-Arab horses, you'll experience both the thrill of the open desert and the unique rhythm of life shaped by this extraordinary landscape.

Horse riding

Riders must be confident and secure at all three gaits—walk, trot, and canter—and comfortable

riding in open country. Previous experience with long hours in the saddle is essential, as the program includes six to seven hours of riding per day, often at a lively pace with extended canters. A good level of physical fitness is needed to manage the demands of the desert terrain, where conditions can be hot and dry. Riders should be adaptable, ready to embrace both the physical challenge and the spirit of adventure that comes with travelling on horseback through such a wild and remote landscape. Therefore this trail is suitable for intermediate to advanced riders in good physical condition. The weight limit is 90 kilos.

Guides & Group Size

You will be guided by a Moroccan local from the Sport Travel team whose local knowledge is second to none. All guides speak Arabic, French and English fluently and are friendly and enthusiastic horsemen and women, keen to show visitors rural Morocco at it's best. An experienced and passionate equestrian support team will meet the group for meals and at overnight stops. The maximum group size is 8 riders.



Horses & tack

Morocco may well win the prize for the most stunning-looking horses! Known as Barb-Arabs, this breed was created almost a century ago to produce the perfect war horses by crossing fine Purebred Arabians and Barb (Berber) horses. This crossbreeding provides horses perfectly

adapted to the mountainous and desert environment of the region, they are strong and robust, with the speed and beauty of Arabian horses. The horses stand at approx. 15hh and almost every possible colour is represented. All the horses used on the trail are owned by your hosts and are well cared for and loved. They live a happy lifestyle in a large herd when not on the trail.ended in a large herd.

Accommodation & Meals

Throughout the trail, you will stay in desert inns, showers are available every night, ensuring a welcome refresh after long hours in the saddle. A single room supplement is possible with prior notice. The names of the hotels below are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

Day 1: Hotel in Ouarzazate – Comfortable city hotel with double rooms. Dinner and overnight stay after airport transfer.

Day 2: Les Jardins de Tafraout – A welcoming desert inn with shared rooms, offering simple comfort after your first ride.

Day 3: Riad Nomad – Traditional-style inn in the heart of the desert, with shared rooms and warm hospitality.

Day 4: Ouzina Rimal – Guesthouse at the foot of the Ouzina dunes, with a spectacular desert setting

Day 5: Itrane Sahara – Authentic Saharan inn near the village of Jdaid

Day 6: Nomad Palace Hotel – A comfortable guesthouse just outside the famous Erg Chebbi dunes, with views of the sand sea

Day 7: 3★ Hotel in Ouarzazate – Return to your city hotel for a final night, including dinner in a local restaurant.

This trail includes all meals from lunch on your arrival day to lunch on your departure day. You can expect traditional Moroccan cuisine, breakfast is served at your accommodation each morning and is usually a selection of bread, preserves, cakes, fresh fruit, eggs, tea, coffee and juice. Make sure to sample msemen, a delicious crepe served in this region. Dinners will be typical and traditional Moroccan fare featuring plenty of vegetables, chicken, beef, and lamb in the form of tagine, soups, stews and couscous. Lunch is usually lighter, with fresh salad, pasta, rice or couscous and a selection of seasonal and delicious fruits. Allergies and special diets can be accommodated if communicated in advance. One of the loveliest features of riding in this part of the world is the delicious sweet mint tea served throughout the day, incredibly refreshing and worth getting used to as English-style tea with milk is not widely available here!



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 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
- ☐ Sun cream and lip balm
- ☐ Sunglasses and hat
- ☐ Portable battery / Power bank
- ☐ Adapter
- ☐ Copy of your travel insurance
- ☐ Micropur or Hydroclonazone tablets
- ☐ Mosquito repellent

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.

Health

We recommend packing Micropur or Hydroclonazone tablets to disinfect water as well as an anti-mosquito cream and spray. Please consult with your GP at least 8 weeks before your trip to discuss any travel vaccinations or health precautions they may recommend

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. Tipping your guide is at your discretion, and will be greatly appreciated by the team. We suggest €40 for 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.'

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