



Essaouira Beach Trail

Maximum weight: 90 kg

Nearest airport: Marrakech

8 days / 7 nights / 6 on horseback



Highlights

- Enjoy exhilarating canters along endless stretches of Morocco's wild Atlantic beaches
- Ride through a diverse landscape of sand dunes, coastal cliffs, argan forests, and traditional Berber villages
- Discover the beauty and endurance of well-trained Barb-Arab horses, perfectly suited to long-distance riding
- Experience authentic Moroccan culture
- Explore the UNESCO-listed medina of Essaouira
- Combine adventure, stunning coastal scenery, and Moroccan hospitality on an unforgettable horseback journey

Journey from the golden beaches of Agadir to the seaside town of Essaouira, enjoying long exhilarating gallops along the surf. Away from the ocean, your trail leads inland through ancient Argan forests, rocky plateaus and hidden valleys of remote Berber villages. This ride is perfect for adventurous riders seeking a genuine escape into Morocco's wild landscapes. It's not a luxury holiday, accommodation is in basic guesthouses and local riads, but the hospitality is second to none and the riding is fantastic.

The Essaouira Coastal Trail offers varied and rewarding riding across Morocco's Atlantic landscapes. Long stretches of open beach invite fast canters, while quiet inland tracks lead through Argan and Juniper forests, rocky hillsides, and remote Berber villages. The changing terrain keeps each day interesting - from sandy dunes to coastal cliffs and shady woodland paths - offering a genuine sense of adventure and space to really ride. The speed of the ride depends on the terrain, on some occasions there have been water pockets on the beaches which has meant the gallops are restricted.

You'll be paired with a sure-footed Barb or Arab stallion, forward-going yet well-mannered, perfectly suited to the region's diverse terrain. Riders are expected to help with grooming and tacking up, giving you time to build a real partnership with your horse over the week. Please note that the day-by-day itinerary below is sometimes ridden in reverse.

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 several 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 its 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

You will spend your first and last night at Les Trois Palmiers in Marrakech (or a similar hotel). You will also stay one night at Riad Maison du Sud (or a similar property) in Essaouira.

Hotel Les Trois Palmiers – Marrakesh

Located in the lively Gueliz neighbourhood, this comfortable city hotel offers rooms with balconies or terraces, a garden, and a pool for relaxing. The restaurant serves both Moroccan and international cuisine, and the Medina's Old Town is just a short walk away.

Riad Maison du Sud – Essaouira

A beautifully restored 18th-century riad just 300 metres from the beach, featuring bright patios and rooms decorated in traditional Moroccan style with local art and warm colours.

Four nights are spent in small guesthouses, run by local families and full of character. Rooms are shared (twin, double or triple), and bathrooms may be shared too. We recommend bringing a lightweight sleeping bag for extra comfort, as traditional bedding can feel a little coarse after a day in the saddle. Though simple, these stays offer a rare opportunity to experience genuine Moroccan hospitality and everyday life in the countryside — a true highlight of the journey.

All meals are included and feature traditional Moroccan dishes. Lunches are typically light - fresh salads and flatbread - while dinners include hot and cold salads followed by tagine, couscous or flatbread. Drinking water is provided, but please bring a metal water bottle (no plastic). Other drinks can be purchased locally.

Alcohol is not usually available along the trail or in smaller riads. You may wish to bring your own from home or buy from duty-free, as local options are limited and expensive.

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrival in Marrakech

Arrive in Marrakech and transfer to your hotel, usually Hotel Les Trois Palmiers (or similar). Meet your fellow riders over dinner and get ready for the adventure ahead.

Day 2

Journey to Imsouane & first ride

After breakfast, travel about five hours to Immesouna for lunch. Meet the horses and be matched with your mount before setting off on a gentle two-hour introductory ride through Argan forests, rocky hillsides and small Berber villages.

Approx. 2 hours in the saddle

Day 3

Imsouane to Tafedna

Tack up for a full day's ride through Argan forests, along beaches and across Berber farmland. Pass friendly locals and herdsmen before reaching Tafedna Beach, where you can wade into the surf with your horse before dinner and overnight near the fishing village.

Approx. 6 hours in the saddle.

Day 4

Tafedna to Iftane

Ride north towards Iftane, following dramatic cliffs and dunes overlooking the Atlantic. Enjoy a picnic lunch with ocean views, then continue along the beaches before arriving at your next overnight stop. End the day with mint tea, dates and stories shared with your riding companions.

Approx. 5–6 hours in the saddle.

Day 5

Iftane to Sidi Kaouki

Follow the clifftops before stopping for a picnic beneath an Argan tree. In the afternoon, cross sand dunes to reach Sidi Kaouki Beach, just in time for a thrilling final gallop along the shore.

Approx. 5–6 hours in the saddle.

Day 6

Sidi Kaouki to Essaouira

Enjoy a final morning ride through Thuyas forests and small villages towards Ghazoua. After lunch, say goodbye to your horse and transfer to Essaouira to explore the medina or relax by the sea. Overnight at Riad Maison du Sud.

Approx. 4–5 hours in the saddle.

Day 7

Essaouira to Marrakesh

Spend the morning wandering Essaouira's colourful markets before returning to Marrakesh for your final night at Hotel Les Trois Palmiers (or similar).

Non-riding day.

Day 8

Departure depending on your flight time, enjoy a final stroll through Marrakesh's souks before your airport transfer and journey home.

Flight and transfer information

Do NOT book flights until you have received the 'Booking Confirmation Email' from saddletravel.com

- Arrival airport: Marrakech (RAK)
- Arrival time: Morning or afternoon on day 1
- Departure time: After midday - we recommend getting an evening flight if you can so that you have time to explore the city on your final day.
- Transfer arrangements: Included in the price of the trail.

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
- ☐ Sleeping bag for temperatures between 0° & 5°
- ☐ Personal washing pack i.e. soap, towel etc
- ☐ Lamp for moving around camp at night
- ☐ 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

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.'

Contact details

+ 44 1497 888 228

trails@saddletravel.com

saddletravel.com

5 Brayford Square,

London,

E1 0SG

NC: 05411320

