



### **Moroccan Short Break**

Maximum weight: 90 kg

Nearest airport: Ouarzazate

Flexible 3 to 7 nights



Nestled between the Atlas Mountains and the edge of the Sahara Desert, Skoura is known for its lush palm groves, ancient kasbahs, and wide open spaces—perfect for exploring on horseback. Riders can meander through date palms, olive trees, and fields of pomegranate, with the scent of wild herbs in the air and the dramatic backdrop of distant mountains. Whether you're an experienced equestrian or a curious beginner, horse riding in Skoura immerses you in the rhythm of rural Moroccan life, where time slows down for the few days you spend here.

Participants can walk along winding paths, admire ancient kasbahs, gaze at sparkling rivers, and appreciate the majestic mountains that surround the oasis. The terrain can vary, from flat

surfaces in palm groves to wider spaces allowing for moments of fast galloping. The stables are ideally located for exploring many different trails each day. For intermediate and advanced riders, additional hours in the saddle are possible with trails of 5 hours or more and the option of one or two nights of camping can also be arranged on request for those who want to venture further into the desert.

The riding can be at all paces, if wanted, once everyone is comfortable with their horses. Experienced riders will be separated from novice and beginner riders.

### **Highlights**

- Escape to the beautiful Skoura Oasis
- A flexible riding holiday for all abilities
- Enjoy exhilarating desert canters and gallops
- Ride exceptional Barb-Arab horses
- Immerse yourself in authentic Berber hospitality
- Explore hidden valleys and traditional villages

### **Level and Fitness**

This short break can accommodate all levels of rider, and upon arrival, guests can decide how many hours they wish to spend in the saddle. This is ideal for riders looking to improve, with a riding arena located on site. Lessons are available, alongside trail rides and riders can choose the type and length of riding they do for a truly bespoke experience. This short break is also a great family getaway (the minimum age for riding is 12), with a horse-drawn carriage available, ideal for visiting local kasbahs or venturing into the palm grove. The weight limit is 95 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. Confirmed from 1 to 6 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**

Accommodation is in the onsite guesthouse (pictured) where all rooms are decorated in traditional Berber style and there is a beautiful covered terrace overlooking the stables. There is also an option to stay in a local hotel Dar Lorkam 5 minutes away which has an outdoor swimming pool (only open in the summer) and large terrace.

All meals are freshly prepared and feature a selection of traditional Moroccan dishes, and served in a relaxed, communal style. Breakfast is usually light and often includes fresh khobz (round Moroccan bread), msemen (a flaky flatbread), or baghrir (spongy semolina pancakes).

These are served with olive oil, honey, jam, and sometimes soft cheese. You'll likely have mint tea or strong black coffee alongside.

Lunch is usually the main meal of the day and often centers around a tagine—a slow-cooked stew of meat (like chicken or lamb), vegetables, and spices. A popular option in Skoura might be chicken with preserved lemon and olives, or lamb with prunes and almonds. It's served with bread to scoop up the sauce, and you might also get a simple salad or seasonal fruit to finish. Dinner is lighter and could be something like harira (a hearty soup made with lentils, chickpeas, and tomatoes), vegetable couscous, or grilled meats with sautéed vegetables. It's usually followed by fresh fruit or yogurt. Again, mint tea often makes an appearance to end the day.

## **Itinerary**

### **Day 1**

You'll be met at the airport and transferred to your guesthouse in Skoura (approx. 40 minutes), traveling along the scenic 'Road of a Thousand Kasbahs'. After check-in at the guesthouse, nestled in the heart of the palm grove, there's time to visit the stables—depending on your arrival time. You'll meet the horses, and the team will assess each rider to ensure a good match. If time allows, enjoy a relaxed introductory ride through the palm grove.

### **Day 2**

After breakfast, saddle up for a full day of riding that weaves between wide desert plains and lush palm groves. Midday, take a break with a picnic beneath the shade of date palms, olive and almond trees, and rose bushes. In the afternoon, the trail opens up across a plateau—perfect for a gentle gallop—before returning to base.

### **Day 3**

Meet at the stables after breakfast and ride out across a desert plateau toward the foothills of the Atlas Mountains. You'll reach the Imeder Valley, especially striking in late winter when the almond blossoms are in bloom. Enjoy a shaded picnic before riding on through the traditional village of Ait Said Mansour, known for its old kasbahs and peaceful setting. Approx. 5 hours of riding.

### **Day 4**

Depending on your departure time, there may be a chance for one final ride before saying goodbye to your horse and the team.

#### Price includes

- 3 days trail riding (between 3 and 5 hours per day)
- 3 nights accommodation
- Trail riding horse, tack and saddlebags
- All meals from dinner on arrival day to breakfast on departure day
- Tea, coffee, soft drinks and water
- Airport transfers

#### Price excludes

- Flights
- Alcoholic drinks
- Transfers from/to Marrakech airport

#### Flight and transfer information

**Do NOT book flights until you have received the 'Booking Confirmation Email' from [saddletravel.com](http://saddletravel.com)**

- Arrival airport: Ouarzazate (OZZ)
- Arrival time: Anytime
- Departure time: After breakfast
- Transfer arrangements: Airport transfers to/from Ouarzazate are included. If your flights arrive in Marrakech, please allow for a 5-hour transfer time, which is not included in the price of the tour. Marrakech transfer 8-seater minibus £130 (divided by the number of riders).

#### **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 -5° & 0° (if adding a camping night)
- ☐ Personal washing pack i.e. soap, towel etc (if adding a camping night)
- ☐ Lamp for moving around camp at night (if adding a camping 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

### **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.'

### **Contact details**

+ 44 1497 888 228

trails@saddletravel.com

saddletravel.com

5 Brayford Square,

London,

E1 0SG

NC: 05411320

