



saddletravel.com
trail riding worldwide

Atlantic Coast Ride

Weight limit: 90kg / 14 stone

Nearest airport: Essaouira

8 days / 7 nights / 6 days riding

Follow the Moroccan coastline and ride across the sands of the deserted beaches while enjoying the fresh Atlantic breeze. Climb on the rocky cliffs and admire the views over the blue ocean, ride on the sandy dunes and follow the windy paths that take you through local fishing villages. Taste the delicious Moroccan cooking and spend your evenings sitting around a campfire at the traditional bivouac camp.



The Riding

This trail is suitable for intermediate and experienced riders. The riders should be comfortable and confident in all three paces and have previous experience in riding out in the open. Good riding fitness is required as you'll be spending 5-6 hours in the saddle each day.



Guides & group sizes

The ride is accompanied by two local guides while out on trail. Omar and his team are knowledgeable, friendly & calm, with a lifetime experience of riding, training horses and looking after customers.

The maximum group size is 10 riders.

Horses & Tack

The horses used on this trail are local Berber-Arabians. The breed was created as the perfect warhorse nearly a 1000 years ago by crossing refined Arabians and Barb (Berber) bloodlines. It is the ideal breed in the hot desert environment being tough and robust with the speed of an Arab. The horses stand at approx. 15hh.

The tack used is English style, all leather high quality Italian saddles with super comfy suede and sheepskin saddle pads. Leather bridles and customer saddlebags for water and sun cream! The support vehicle and team meet the ride and set up lunch each day.

Accommodation & Dining

The first and last night of the trail is spent in a hotel in Essaouira. While out on trail the accommodation will be in bivouac camps, sleeping in collective tents of 6 to 7 people (bring your own sleeping bag). There is also the option of having your own small dome tent. Perfect if you are travelling as an individual and want your own space.

Spend evenings by sitting around a campfire and enjoy traditional Moroccan meals.

Allergies and special dietary requirements can be catered for with advance notice.



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival

Arrive at Essaouira airport ready for your transfer. Settle into your hotel in Essaouira and get to know your fellow riders and guides over dinner and discuss the upcoming week on horseback.

Days 2-6: Riding

During these five days the trail ride takes you through the forests of eucalyptus and mimosas and on the beautiful deserted beaches along the coast towards the south. Ride along the narrow paths of the shoreline, through small Berber villages, across sand dunes and past waterfalls. Climb steeply up to the coastal cliffs and cross old fishing villages. Your journey will take you past springs as you ride towards the hinterland to meet isolated

villages and plateaus with scattered argan trees. Follow the winding paths and tracks with fields with argan and olive trees on your left, and the ocean with its blue waves on your right. The Atlantic Coast trail follows a succession of deserted beaches and cliffs, as well as, paths through the barren and rocky ground in the hinterland. Every evening you will experience the life of the Berber nomads in your bivouac, and enjoy the Moroccan meal prepared by a chef before having a good night's sleep in the Berber tent.

Day 7: Riding

Enjoy half a day's ride in the morning followed by an afternoon discovering the Souiri coast and the city of Essaouira. There is a possibility to do shopping in the Medina of Essaouira or treat yourself for a relaxing massage or Hammam, a Turkish bath.

Day 8: Departure

Time to bid farewell to your riding companions and get transferred back to Essaouira airport.



Flights & Airport transfers

Just a 10-minute transfer from Essaouira International Airport to the stables!
If travelling from the UK there are excellent value direct flights London Stanstead – Essaouira.

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

The price includes

- 6 full days of trail riding
- 2 nights hotel accommodation
- 5 nights camping
- Trail riding horse, tack and saddlebags
- All breakfasts
- All lunches on trail
- All evening meals
- Airport transfers
- All arrangements for duration of holiday

Not Included

- Flights
- Tips



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What to bring

We recommend wearing your riding boots when travelling and carrying one set of riding clothing and your riding hat in your hand luggage, so should your luggage not make it to the destination you'll still be able to ride.

There is a limited amount of space available in the support vehicle so please pack light and use a soft duffel bag style bag rather than a hard suitcase.

- Your own well-fitted hard hat
- Comfortable jodhpurs or riding trousers
- Riding / hiking boots with good grip
- Chaps
- Riding gloves
- Long sleeved T-shirts to protect against the sun
- Warm layers such as fleece or woollen jumper
- Waterproof coat – it rarely rains but you can never be too careful
- Buff / bandana to protect against the sun and dust
- Comfortable clothes for the evening
- Light weight shoes for after riding
- Swimming costume and light weight towel
- Sun cream & lip balm
- Sunglasses & sunhat
- A good sleeping bag – nights can be cold
- Headtorch
- Power bank
- Plug adapter
- Copy of your travel insurance
- Personal medication



Climate

The weather in Morocco is warm all year round with very little rainfall. Winter temperature from December to February are generally at 20°C during the day and dropping below 10°C during the night. March - May and October – November are usually very pleasant with daytime temperatures at 20-23°C and above 10°C at night. The summer from June to September is the hottest time when you'll experience temperatures of 25°C and above during the day and 15°C and above at night.

While riding on the coast, the Atlantic breeze usually keeps the temperature from rising too high while the inland can get hotter.



Health

For health and vaccine recommendations, please consult your healthcare provider at least 8 weeks before your trip.

Country specific information can also be found at National Travel Health Network and Centre website: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>.

Travel documents

For entry requirements to Morocco for UK citizens, please visit the Foreign Travel Advice website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/morocco/entry-requirements>.

For any other nationalities, please contact your local embassy to check entry requirements.

Having the correct travel documents is entirely your responsibility.

Currency & tipping

The local currency in Morocco is the Moroccan dirham. Your holiday is fully inclusive so we recommend not to bring too much cash with you. At the end of your holiday you will have time to look around Essaouira where the shopping is great. Bring cash for any souvenirs you may wish to buy and get ready to haggle!

Tipping your guide and the local team is much appreciated but at your discretion.



Riding declaration

“I am an experienced rider and able to mount & dismount unaided. I have a firm seat and I’m confident and in control at all paces over rough terrain (including rising trot, light seat canters and gallops) and have a good level of current riding fitness. I do not suffer from any illness or disability that could prejudice my safety or that of others.”

Booking conditions

You are booking with the riding holiday operator, these are their booking conditions:

NOTE: The trail can be done in one direction or in the other.

-The rides will be confirmed with 3 riders.

-For those who arrive before the date of the trail, the meeting point is the airport at arrival time of the last members.

-Those who stay longer after trekking, the transport included in the cost is that one who brings the participants to the airport.

-Price per person all inclusive: transfers round trip between the airport and the starting point of the trail through common transport for the participants in relation to the times of arrival and departure of all participants, all meals, accommodation in collective Berber tents or, on request, in igloo tents, hire of horses, trekking guides, the material for the horses.

Any request that falls outside the program is to be considered "extras" and then to add to the cost of the trek, check at the direction the eventual costs.

Not included: flights to and from Morocco, private mandatory insurance, personal expenses during the trek, the sleeping bag.

During the trek: Your accommodation will be in collective tents during the trek for 6-7 people, or if you wish, in igloo tents for 2 people (to be mentioned at time of booking on the registration form). Meals will be prepared by our chef who will make you discover the delights of Moroccan cuisine. The camps are equipped with shower. (In some sections according to the availability of water may not be guaranteed a shower every day, bring the wet wipes). The driver will carry your luggage in the car that will follow you along the way, so it is essential not to bring unnecessary things and do not use rigid suitcase, but flexible bags.

Insurance: The Ranch de Diabat is insured for its trail riding, none the less it is obligatory that you are in possession of a specific travel insurance that includes trekking on horseback as non-competitive activity. We recommend that you take out a policy, which covers medical expenses while traveling and travel cancellation, so that you can be reimbursed in case you cannot participate in the trip at the last moment.

Terms of sale:

-All persons that for a valid reason (due to force majeure or other), must stop their stay, will be transported as quickly as possible towards the closest city at their own expense. The stay will not be refunded except in the case of personal insurance (practice with your insurance)

-If weather conditions require it, or because of unexpected factors, our organization, in the interest of the participants, reserves the right to change some of the stages of the path or some roads.



Cancellation policy

Payment & Cancellation Terms

saddletravel.com

Holidays are confirmed with 20% non-refundable deposit.

The full balance is due 56 days before start date.

If you cancel your booking less than 56 days before the start date of your trail we are entitled to receive full payment, less refunds as follows:

42 days or more before booking date - 50%

30 days or more - 30%

less than 30 days - nil

Insurance

All saddletravel.com customers are required to take out appropriate travel insurance that covers horse riding and holiday cancellation. Proof of insurance details will be required during booking process.



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