

MOROCCO - ESSAOUIRA COASTAL TRAIL

ITINERARY

Day 1

Your first and last night is in Marrakesh and transfers from Marrakesh airport are included. These transfers are shared and so you may have to wait for others arriving at a slightly later time.

Collection can also be arranged from a number of riads in Marrakesh for an additional charge.

Overnight Le Caspien Hotel, Marrakesh. Meet your fellow riders over dinner and discuss the trail ahead.

(NB sometimes Nassim Hotel is used in Marrakesh. If there is a change in the hotel this will be notified to you prior to your departure.)

Le Caspien Hotel has a pool and is a short drive from the Medina.



One of the bedrooms at Le Caspien Hotel

Day 2

After breakfast you will be met by your guide in the hotel lobby at 08:00.

Transfer to Imsouane (about a 5 hour drive) and arrive in time for lunch.

Please note that the following proposed itinerary may change depending on local conditions at the time. Sometimes the ride runs in reserve and starts in Essaouira and travels south. It is possible that camping nights might be replaced by staying with a local family.

This afternoon you start riding with a short two hour trail to test the horses and level of each rider. The start of the trail will take you across a forest of thujas (a type of juniper tree).

The terrain is variable - sometimes rocky, sometimes wide earthy tracks, sometimes sand, but you progress at all times through forest. Eventually you arrive at the Sidi Kaouki beach where you have your first canter across the sands.



Overnight Sisi Kaouki. Camping.

On the camping nights you stay in two person dome tents with a porch area for baggage. Normally everyone helps with the setting up of the tents.



There is a large mess tent for eating and relaxing in the evenings. There is also a separate shower tent and you are provided with a large bucket of hot water for showering.



The tents and backup crew are moved each day by the support vehicle.

On some nights tented accommodation might be replaced with staying in small guesthouses or private homes.

Day 3

You alternate between beach and forest on beautiful little paths and tracks and pass through sand dunes.

In the afternoon you climb again into the Argan forest (a Moroccan timber tree with an oil-bearing seed) to set up camp on the Iftane cliff overlooking the ocean.



Overnight Iftane. Overnight camp near a fishing village.

Day 4

You progress through the Argan forests, passing numerous typical villages. You ride past sacred rivers and forest glades until you arrive at the beach of Tafedna.



Overnight Tafedna. Camping.

Day 5

Today is a long ride high up on the cliff with the ocean on the horizon. Eventually you descend towards the beach and the village of Timzguida.



Overnight Timzguida. Camping.

Day 6

This morning is your final ride.



After lunch you are transferred by minibus to Essaouira (about 30 minutes).

The afternoon is free for time at the beach or to discover the interesting medina.

Overnight Riad Maison du Sud. Maison du Sud is situated in the heart of the medina, a short walk from the beach. Rooms are arranged around the two courtyards and there are great views from the roof terrace.



One of the bedrooms at Riad Maison du Sud

Day 7

Today you rest from riding and have a free morning in Essaouira to enjoy the beach or to have a wander around through the town.

After lunch you transfer to Marrakesh.

Overnight Le Caspien Hotel, Marrakesh.

