

# Horses, Dunes & Nomads, Morocco

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## Itinerary

Ride the most beautiful part of the Moroccan desert, far off the beaten track with many opportunities to gallop in the open space.

Spend the evenings in comfortable inns or in Saharan camps with shower possible every night.

### Day 1

Arrive at Ouarzazate. If you fly to Marrakesh you must arrive before 14:00 to allow for the four hour transfer (extra cost) to Ouarzazate. If you can only get an evening flight to Marrakesh then you need to arrive the previous day.

Meet at Ouarzazate and be transferred to the hotel.

On the Horses, Dunes & Nomads Trail ride you ride in one of the most beautiful parts of the Moroccan desert. And yet, here, far from anywhere, there are comfortable riads and guesthouses welcoming travellers.

The trail starts almost 500kms east of Ouarzazate. In this remote area the water gets very scarce, the heat burns stronger, nights are cooler, the sky gets purer and the moonlight gets whiter and brighter. The immense space of the desert will fill up your eyes and your heart. Here comes adventure!



Dinner and accommodation in a hotel in Ouarzazate.

The following is the proposed itinerary but please note that changes are possible due to weather and local conditions. On occasions the itinerary may run in reverse or you may be in the saddle for longer durations than stated below.

### Day 2

At 07:00 you meet in the hotel lobby. Set off by 4WD to drive south east along the Draa Valley in the direction of Zagora until you reach Tansikht.

Then you drive eastwards along the Djbel Sagho (Mount Sagho) and pass through Nkob and Tazzarine. Enjoy a picnic en-route after 420kms (c. 6 hours' drive) then your driver turns off the tarred road and you head towards Mcissi for about 60kms on a track.

At last, you meet the horses and the team and, after a riding assessment, the horses will be allocated to everyone.



Finally, you set off riding to the desert of dunes and sandy riverbeds.

Overnight in a riad (approx. 2 ½ hours riding)

### Day 3

You ride across Tafraoute Village and reach Ahbouche Ktkouyte plateau (Tafraoute Lake). This is good terrain for some faster canters.



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For more information contact in the saddle. Tel: 01299 272 997 Fax: 01299 272 935, Email: [rides@inthesaddle.com](mailto:rides@inthesaddle.com), Internet: [www.inthesaddle.com](http://www.inthesaddle.com)

You are in the foothills of Tattihate, between Djbel Mohre to the right and Djbel Zireg to the left. Here you have a chance to admire the breathtaking landscapes of the Sahara desert with its endless dunes and majestic cliffs in the background.

Later you reach a desert riad located in Mharech Valley.

Overnight in a cottage (approx. 4 to 6 hours riding)

Day 4

Set off riding south further into the desert and feel your horse's hooves really start to sink in the sand. Ride through a small pass overhanging the valley of Wad Ghriss.



Continue riding through this impressive landscape of dry and austere mountains, sand dunes and occasional small oasis.

Overnight in a riad (approx. 4 to 5 hours riding)

Day 5

Today you ride along the splendid Ouzina sand hills. The ride will take you from dunes to plateau and from sand to rocky mountain.



This Saharan day will end in the village of Taghaoucht-n-Jdaid, a place of water.

Overnight in a riad. (approx. 4 to 5 hours riding)

Day 6

Today the landscape changes and is dotted with tamarisk (small salt cedar trees). The trail takes you to the foot of the highest dunes in Morocco called the Chebbi Erg.



Overnight in a riad (approx. 5 hours riding)

Day 7

You spend the last morning riding through the Chebbi Erg. Then you say your goodbyes to the team and the horses and get back into the 4WD to drive in the direction of Erfoud, Boumalne Dades, across the 1,000 Kasbah Valley until you reach Ouarzazate. (c. 5 – 5.5 hours).

Check-in at the hotel and have the rest of the afternoon at leisure.

Dinner in a restaurant in Ouarzazate and overnight in the hotel (approx. 2 hours riding)

Day 8

After breakfast transfer to Ouarzazate airport for your return flight.

If departing from Marrakesh your flight should depart after 16:00 (to allow for the four hour transfer).

## Accommodation

During the ride you stay in comfortable riads or lodges, some with pools.



Rooms are limited in these small riads and it is possible that you might be in a triple room.

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