

# MOROCCO - HORSES, DUNES & NOMADS

## ITINERARY

### Day 1

Your first and last night is in Ouarzazate and transfers from Ouarzazate airport are included (there may be a small extra charge if arriving/departing in the very early hours).

We can also arrange transfers (extra charge) from Marrakesh airport to Ouarzazate (about four hours by car). For the possibility of a shared transfer your flight should arrive into Marrakesh before 15:30 since the shared road transfer departs at the latest 16:30 (the shared road transfer can be earlier if everyone has already arrived).

Collection can also be arranged from Koutoubia Car Park (J2F4+J27, Marrakesh) if you are staying in Marrakesh before the start of the ride.

Flights on departure day should depart from Marrakesh after 16:00 to allow for the transfer back from Ouarzazate.

Overnight Karam Palace Hotel. Sometimes the sister-hotel Karam Resort is used in Ouarzazate, which is 300 metres from Karam Palace Hotel.

Just a 10 minute drive from Ouarzazate Airport, this hotel has an outdoor swimming pool and garden.

All of the en suite rooms have air-conditioning, with Wi-Fi in the public areas.



Double room

## Day 2

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

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



You will be riding in the most beautiful part of the Moroccan desert, far off the beaten track with many opportunities to gallop in the open space. 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 a shorter or longer time than stated below.

Meet the horses and the team. After a riding assessment, the horses will be allocated to everyone.

You set off riding to the desert of dunes and sandy riverbeds.

Approximately 2.5 hours riding.

Overnight Hamada KemKem. This is a small riad with 11 rooms and pleasant garden. There is guest Wi-Fi in public areas.

Breakfast and dinner are served in the restaurant.



The outside of Hamada KemKem

### **Day 3**

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

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.

Approximately 4 to 6 hours riding.



Overnight Hotel Riad Nomad. This riad is located in the heart of Sahara Desert, on the beautiful oasis of Mharech.



Typical triple room at Nomad Riad

## 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 Wadi Ghriss.

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

Approximately 4 to 6 hours riding.



Overnight Riad Belvedere. Every room at Riad Belvedere has a kettle, private bathroom and hair dryer and free WiFi.

The restaurant is open for dinner, lunch and brunch and serves African cuisine.



Typical room at Riad Belvedere

## 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-Jdaïd, a place of water.

Approximately 4 to 5 hours riding.



Overnight Itrane Sahara. In each of the 11 rooms, there is free WiFi. Bathrooms have showers with rainfall showerheads. Enjoy the views from the terrace or the garden.



The outside of Itrane Sahara

## 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.

Approximately 5 hours riding.



Overnight Nomad Palace Hotel. The Nomad Palace Hotel is located at the foot of the Merzouga Dunes, at the Erg Chebbi. An oasis of peace and comfort in the middle of the desert.

All rooms are spacious and comfortable, with full bathroom and shower.



The pool at Nomad Palace Hotel

## **Day 7**

You spend the last morning riding through the Chebbi Erg.

Then you say your goodbyes to the team and the horses.

Approximately 2 hours riding.

Return by 4WD in the direction of Erfoud, Boumalne Dades, across the Kasbah Valley until you reach Ouarzazate. (approx. 5 to 5.5 hours drive).

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

Dinner in a restaurant in Ouarzazate.

Overnight Karam Palace Hotel.

## **Day 8**

You will be transferred to Ouarzazate airport.