

# Hidden Trails

Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS

*Equestrian Vacations  
- on & with Hidden Trails*



## About Hidden Trails



Hidden Trails is owned and operated by nature enthusiasts who love horses and adventure activities. We have been involved with riding and other outdoor vacations for over 20 years.

With our partners Voyage du Cheval (France), Pegasus (Germany) as well as Equitour (Switzerland and France) we have collected the best riding destinations all over the world in some hidden places we would like to share with you.

These rides are about galloping on endless beaches, forging rivers, cantering through forests, trotting along age-old trails, gazing at beautiful vistas and encountering foreign cultures. But most of all, these trips are about getting away from the cycle of too much work and never enough free time.

Escape from the rituals, which long ago froze our nights and days into little more than routine and away from the worries of our new tense times. It is so satisfying when we take the plunge of adventure - it's unfortunate that we invent so many reasons to put aside living our dreams of adventure. It is sometimes a tangled web that we weave through life. Some of the threads reveal a work-a-day world of commitments, duties and obligations. Other threads are of a quiet fabric of hope, responsibility and refreshment.

On our adventures you see the real country, its back country and meet the locals. The love for horses has no boundaries but possesses a common language we all speak and understand. The majority of the overseas rides are from inn to inn, some from castle to castle and a few are camping rides.

You will experience new countries and their customs and make new friends. The Hidden Trails trips are the best you can find.

They have been tested by our staff or associates and received our stamp of approval. If you are considering a special riding vacation anywhere in the world, call us first and let our experienced consultants match the perfect trip with your dream.

We will listen to you and give you objective advice to help you choose the best destination and adventure.

Your vacation is the most precious time of the year and we are committed to making it the most memorable time of your life. Wherever you go, have a great time and bring back some peace of mind.

Thank you for your continued support.

### Hidden Trails

Phone: 604-323-1141

Fax: 604-323-1148

Toll Free: 1-888-9-TRAILS

from within the USA or Canada or

E-mail: [info@hiddentrails.com](mailto:info@hiddentrails.com)

Website: [www.hiddentrails.com](http://www.hiddentrails.com)

Address:

659A Moberly Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3 or

4406 Tennyson Road, Wilmington, DE 19802 USA

### Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0- 808 189-0420

Fax: 0-808-280-1860

### Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails



# Oasis of Tafilalet Expedition - Morocco, Northern Africa

Tour Code: PG-MRTL  
15 days / 14 nights ~\$2,200.00  
Dates: March

Trip Rating: ●●●●●●  
Difficulty: ●●●●●●  
Lodging: 🏠

**Tack:** English trekking  
**Horses:** Arab, Berber stallions & mares  
**Pace:** Lots of canters over long distances re...  
Walk, Trot, Canter,

**Airport:** Ouarzazate Airport (OZZ)



## Introduction

Morocco, Morocco

Across the sand dunes of Erfoud to the Oasis of Tafilalet: a riding adventure in mysterious Morocco!

Ride across sand dune over 150 meters high on this exciting expedition into the remote regions of southern Morocco. Enjoy endless gallops over the Moroccan sands, ride under desert palm trees, through oases and lonely valleys of dry river beds. This is a dream come true for those who long for the unique landscape of the desert!

This ride traverses the black mountain passes of Jebel Saghro, which appear inhospitable at first but offer unparalleled views of the desert. You will learn to spot natural springs by the telltale signs of small bursts of green and identify lonely Tamarisk and Acacia trees. On this ride the desert is only broken by a few ancient towns, Merzouga and Rissani, and the titular oasis: the Oasis of Tafilalet. All of these are steeped in significance and history: Merzouga is a tiny village that symbolizes the beginning of the Sahara and Rissani is where the reigning Alawite dynasty was born. Here, Moulay er Rachid started his 1666 war in a bid to conquer Morocco and overthrow the Saadians. The Mausoleum of Moulay Ali Cherif is also here. The Oasis of Tafilalet, for which the whole valley is named, is the largest palm grove in the world with over 800,000 trees. This 'sea of palm trees' is roughly triangular, 12km across and 20km long, and is crossed by the Ziz and the Rheris, two rivers that rarely flow. Their convergence marks a wide plain planted with Acacia trees. In the middle of the desert lush greenery awaits – it is a sight to be seen!

Come and experience this unique combination of desert versus abundance, riding on strong Berber stallion and mares and spending the evenings relaxing in comfortable camps and unique Moroccan hotels!

## Accommodation

### Accommodations

This is a wilderness ride, so nights will be a mixture of hotels and camping.

### Description

15-day expedition: 4 nights in hotels and 10 nights camping

7-day trip (only first week of 15-day expedition): 1 night in hotels and 5 nights camping

9-day trip (only second week of 15-day expedition): 2 nights in hotels and 6 nights camping

### Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1 & 14: Hotel in Ouarzazate

Night 2: Camping near Tawirt N'Ghill

Night 3: Camping in Tinejdad

Night 4: Camping in Ksar Touroug

Night 5: Camping in El Jorf

Night 6: Hotel in Rissani

Night 7 & 8: Camping in Hassi la Bied (or Hotel in Hassi la Bied)

Night 9: Camping in Ksar Tinegherass

Night 10: Camping near Mecissi

Night 11: Camping near Alnif

Night 12: Camping in Ait El Farsi

Night 13: Hotel in Tinghir



### Hotel in Ouarzazate

Since 2005, the hotel welcomes guests in a warm and friendly atmosphere. It offers 31 air-conditioned rooms, all fitted with a private bathroom, WIFI access and a balcony. The hotel also has a beautiful outdoor pool and a small garden with palm trees and flowers.







#### *Hotel in Rissani*

This charming hotel displays a traditional Moroccan architecture and offers simply furnished bedrooms that come with air conditioning, mosquito net, a patio and private facilities with free toiletries. Hotel amenities include an outdoor pool, a terrace, and hammam where guests can relax. Free Wi-Fi access is provided at this property.

#### *Hotel in Hassi la Bied*

This authentic guesthouse offers simple rooms, all with private bathrooms with hot water. Free WIFI is available at this property.



#### *Hotel in Tinghir*

Once a former Kasbah, this historic property was turned into a hotel while keeping the original structure and design of the building. The rooms all feature an ensuite bathroom with climate control and Wi-Fi access. It has an outdoor terrace, a floral garden, and an outdoor swimming pool.



#### *Camping*

You will overnight in comfortable dome tents with ground mats. There are rustic portable toilets (no flush) on site and no showers. There will be some rivers along the ride where you can bathe and wash up. Make sure to bring your own sleeping bag!

#### *Room Occupancy*

Single supplement is mandatory if we are unable to find another rider to share.







#### Meals

All meals are included except for lunch on day 14.

You will enjoy a mix of food: some "western food" and some very good local specialties! Some days a car will meet us for lunch and on some days we will have a picnic on the trail - you will take the food with you in your saddle bags.

Drinks in hotels or restaurants and alcoholic drinks on the ride are not included.

#### Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to dietary restrictions if given prior notice.

#### Riding



#### Horses

You will ride small but very surefooted Arabian Berber horses with a great courage and stamina. Mares and stallions go together on the ride. Stallions and mares go well together, but some of the stallions need extra space when two are in the same area. A whip is suggested for the stallions, as they need strict orders. This does not make them difficult to ride, they just require more firm direction and more attention. These horses can get very attached to their riders and are always ready to please.

#### Tack

Mostly English and some military tracking saddles. Some people bring their own gel-cushion or sheep-skin cover to put over the saddle since we ride for long hours.

#### Staff

Driss and Rena have been organizing treks on horseback in Morocco since 1982. Rena, once a schoolteacher in Switzerland, came to Meknes in the year 1984 to realize her dream of living in harmony with horses and nature. In love with Morocco and its inhabitants, she will help you discover another Morocco, away from the beaten track, authentic and enchanting, as your guide on the treks. Driss is a riding instructor who used to work for the National Studfarm of Meknes. He has more than 25 years of experience with horses and he has taught a great many students (a lot of them French) who for the most part have gone on to be high level riders).

#### Itinerary







**Sample Itinerary - subject to changes**

**Day 1 (Sunday): Arrival in Ouarzazate**

Arrival in Ouarzazate. Welcome dinner.

*Meals included: Dinner*

*Overnight at Hotel in Ouarzazate*

**Day 2 (Monday): First Ride**

In the morning we travel over Boumalne Dadaes to Tinghir where we meet our horses. Along the way we get our first glimpses of the desert countryside. Driving along the Valley of a Thousand Kasbahs, you pass through many villages, although many of the kasbahs are today ruins. After a picnic in Tinghir we meet our horses and enjoy a three hour ride that brings us to the camp where we spend the night.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight camping near Tawirt N'Ghill*

**Day 3 (Tuesday): Ride to Tinejdad**

Today we follow the dry river valley, on one side seeing the endless grey-blue mountain ranges of the Jebel Saghro, on the other side the High Atlas Mountains which are often covered with snow in the winter months. Wherever we go, we see springs and green shoots peeking up. Beside such a 'garden' we enjoy a picnic lunch in the shade of Tamarisk trees. In the afternoon, we ride over the hill of Shebel Saghro. We stop a salt spring where animals often drink so there might be a chance to see camels or goats of the nomads. We enjoy long canters until we reach the camp.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight camping near Tinejdad*

**Day 4 (Wednesday): Tinejdad to Ksar Touroug**

Today we ride over sandy plains between palm groves. One large spring provides water for the whole oasis of palms. We cross over a empty river valley and will find our picnic place under palm trees. In the afternoon, we follow a dry river course into the mountains. On this plane you can gallop for miles. As the plain meets a river bed we slow our pace and follow the trails through black mountains. Suddenly a tooth-like, black mountain rises before us; at its feet some palms and oleander grow. There is even a small well here, making this an ideal campsite.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight camping near Ksar Touroug*

**Day 5 (Thursday): Ksar Touroug to El Jorf**

We leave the stony plateau and gallop over sandy plains and the impressive desert that seems infinite. Often, we see herds of camels converge on lonely wells. We have lunch in an old abandoned fort which was a former military base. The lone structure is still in good condition with typically shaped windows and ornaments. We continue our ride by passing green gardens. We travel over small sand dunes and through palm trees. Tonight we camp close to a well that provides water for this whole oasis.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight camping near El Jorf*

**Day 6 (Friday): El Jorf to Rissani**

The today's palm gardens belong to the Oasis of Tafilalet. Beside them the desert stretches away and in the distance isolated mountains rise. In some places we find again rows of innumerable, small earth hills that cover a waterway system. Many long gallops bring us to the city of Rissani. In the afternoon we visit this small desert town. There is the Mausoleum of Moulay Ali Cherif, a king of the Alaouiten Dynasty. In the center, there is a small Souk, some cafes and little shops. Three times a week there is a bigger market so we may get lucky!

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at a Hotel in Rissani*

**Day 7 (Saturday): Rissani to Hassi la Bied**

After a good breakfast we leave for a long ride towards the sand dunes of Merzouga. We follow little ways through the palms. Sometimes, we cross villages where many children follow us. A short gallop brings us again to the solitude of the oasis, but it doesn't last long. Soon, we are out of the palm trees and an immense plain opens up in front of us. If the weather is clear, we can already see the rose colored sand dunes from far away. This infinite flat expanse littered with small black stones has no vegetation. Our camp is at the feet of the dunes. There is a spring which brings water for the whole region so many green gardens are just beside the sand dunes. In the afternoon we can walk up the sand dunes and enjoy the beautiful view. These impressive dunes reach up to 150 meters in height. We can stroll through the green gardens or travel to the nearby village for a coffee.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight camping near Hassi la Bied*

*\*\*In case you are doing only the portion of the trip only, you are transferred back to Ouarzazate on that day (hotel night not included).*

**Day 8 (Sunday): Visit of Hassi la Bied (no riding)**

Today is a resting day. We can visit Merzouga by car.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight camping near Hassi la Bied*

**Day 9 (Monday): Hassi la Bied to Tinghras**

In the morning we leave the camp by the sand dunes. If there has been a big rain we find a lake near Merzouga. Many birds flock to this lake when the water is in; sometimes we even spot pink flamingos. Around the lake a few green stalks grow and camel herds come there to eat the grass. Soon, we gallop over a big black plane – it seems to be endless when in front of us the black plain joins the blue sky. Later, we cross an empty river valley that we follow as white sandy plains replace a black and stony ground. In the evening, we find the hill of Tinghras, famous for its use in Hollywood desert scenes. Our camp will be just under this beautiful mountain.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight camping near Ksar Tinegherass*

**Day 10 (Tuesday): Tinghras to Mecissi**

Today is a long riding day so we leave early in the morning. Small sand dunes cross our path before we reach another plain and begin to gallop once again. From time to time, a little village shows up, but before long, there are no people anywhere and we follow lonely valleys. The mountains are covered with red sand and the black stone shines through the golden sand. One lonely valley follows the other. Finally we find a well in the middle of the desert. The horses are very thirsty after this long day. We rest and rehydrate before crossing another big valley to find our camp next to a well.







*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*  
*Overnight camping near Mecissi*

#### **Day 11 (Wednesday): Mecissi to Alnif**

Plentiful of gallops bring us through Acacia trees this morning. We then follow a river valley along which many villages are based. The water is pumped out of wells and many green fields grow along the valley. We enjoy a picnic in a lonely spot under palm trees. We spend the afternoon following the same river valley and more villages and people cross our path. However, camp is still isolated tonight as we sleep outside a palm oasis.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*  
*Overnight camping near Alnif*

#### **Day 12 (Thursday): Alnif to Ait El Farsi**

This morning, we cross over a mountain range. In these mountains, people have found fossils over 500 million years old. Often, we encounter herds of sheep and goats. In between the brown and yellow mountains, there is one very black mountain. We will stop for lunch in a small Oasis village. The children are often curious about the horses.

In the afternoon, we follow a canyon, crossing the mountains on small mule tracks. There is a beautiful view over the Jebel Saghro mountain range.

We set up camp in the following plain.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*  
*Overnight camping near Ait El Farsi*

#### **Day 13 (Friday): Ait El Farso to Tinghrir**

Today is our last riding day. We ride along the Jebel Saghro, a black colored mountain range. On the other side are yellow and brown desert mountains. We have a chance to gallop over fine stones on the ground. From time to time, we find a little well where the horses can drink. The nomads always leave a rope and a bucket by each well so anyone who comes can reach the water. In a little palm oasis we stop for lunch. Some last gallops bring us to the camp near Tinghrir. We leave the horses and the crew and drive to the hotel in Tinghrir. If there is enough time we have the possibility of visiting the Gorge of Tinghrir. Dinner and overnight in a hotel.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*  
*Overnight at a Hotel in Tinghrir*

#### **Day 14 (Saturday): Sightseeing on the way to Ouarzazate**

Today we drive back to Ouarzazate. On the way we will visit the gorge of Boulmane Dadés. On the way through the gorges you will see plenty of greenery, mostly figs and almond trees, interspersed with an array of kasbahs and ksours. In some places, you can see very bizarre rock formations. In the afternoon we arrive in Ouarzazate with enough time to visit the souks.

*Meals included: Breakfast & Dinner*  
*Overnight at a Hotel in Ouarzazate*

#### **Day 15 (Sunday): Departure**

A fond farewell before departure.

*Meals included: Breakfast*

*Note: It is possible to ride for only the first (SU-SU) or only the second half (SA-SU) of the trip with us.*



### **Other Info**

**Meeting:** Ouarzazate

**Airport:** Ouarzazate Airport (OZZ)

**Transfer:** Ouarzazate

**Distance:** 5 km / 3 miles

Pick-up is available from Ouarzazate Airport (OZZ) after 12:00pm on Day 1 for 15- and 8-day trip. Check-out on the last day is at 12:00pm. Drop-off transfers are not included on the last day of the trip.

**Tack:** English trekking

**Horses:** Arab, Berber stallions & mares

**Pace:** Lots of canters over long distances required, up to 8 hours and up to 50 km. Riders must have at least 5 years experience

Walk | Trot | Canter |

**Level:** 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 (3.5 to 5 out of 5) Strong Intermediate

**Weight:** 190 lbs / 85 kg

**Riders:** Min 4 riders

Max 9 riders

Rates and Dates 2024 - PG-MRTL

Rates include: Accommodations, Most meals, 11 riding days & Pick-up from Ouarzazate airport for 15-day trip

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	15 day expedition	€2000	\$2200
	Small group supplement (3 pax only), pp	€400	\$440
	Single supplement	€200	\$220
B 2024	7 day trip (only first week of 15-day expedition)	€1135	\$1250
	Single supplement	€110	\$120
C 2024	9 day trip (only second week of 15-day expedition)	€1270	\$1400
	Single supplement	€135	\$150

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 1.1 and subject to currency fluctuation

Transfer Option

Description

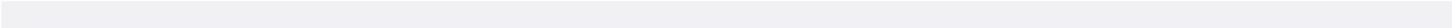
2024	Pick-up from Ouarzazate airport included for 15-day trip only. Individual return.	
2024	Taxi from hotel in Ouarzazate to Ouarzazate Airport ~ approximate rates	€15 \$15

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	03/03/2024 - 03/17/2024	15d / 14n	15 day expedition
B 2024	03/03/2024 - 03/09/2024	7d / 6n	7 day trip (only first week of 15-day expedition)
C 2024	03/09/2024 - 03/17/2024	9d / 8n	9 day trip (only second week of 15-day expedition)

Min/Max: 4/9

Rates do not include: Drop-off transfers, Pick-up transfers for weeklong trips, Entrance fees and sightseeings (1-2 Euros per place), Alcoholic beverages, Drinks in hotels, Lunches, Day 14 & Gratuities for porters (~5-10 Dirham) and grooms (~140 Euros for two weeks / ~50 Euros for one week)





# Reservation Form

Tour : \_\_\_\_\_ Code #: \_\_\_\_\_ from: \_\_\_\_\_ to : \_\_\_\_\_

The Travelers (Last Name, First Name)	Male Female	Single room / or tent	Birth Date MM/DD/YY	Height	Weight	Special diets	Beginner	Novice	Intermediate	Strong Intern.	Advanced	ride English	ride Western	mostly arena	mostly hacking
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Special Diets: \_\_\_\_\_

Your fitness level: Excellent ☐ Moderate ☐ Poor ☐ How long have you been riding? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you ride? \_\_\_\_\_ Have you been on other riding tours? No ☐ Yes ☐ last trip when? \_\_\_\_\_

If Hidden Trails offers a transfer from the local airport/station: I would like the transfer to be included: YES ☐ NO ☐

In an emergency, name and phone number of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Attention: Please, if there is more than one participant, all have to sign the reservation form - make copies if needed

With my signature I confirm my reservation of the listed program(s) under the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions. I'm aware, and I made all participants aware of the risk involved with these outdoor adventure activities. All participants have read and agree with the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions and the Hidden Trails Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement in this brochure or as listed on the Internet.

I (we) will sign and forward the Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement at least 10 weeks before trip starting date.

Last Name and First Name (The Traveler) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (wk) \_\_\_\_\_ (hm) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (mandatory) 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Please, charge a 25% deposit (minimum \$ 350 per person) now and full payment 10 weeks before the travel date to my credit card.

For payments by VISA ☐ or Mastercard ☐ (no debit cards)

Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digit Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp.Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address for Credit Card (if different than mailing address):  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a check for the deposit ☐

Additional Signatures:

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Travel Cancellation Insurance** Credit Card required

Sign me (us) up ☐ initial \_\_\_\_\_

No, we will provide our own ☐ initial \_\_\_\_\_

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## Hidden Trails

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