



Mediterranean Coast & the Rif

شاطيء البحر المتوسط والريف البحري

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Why Go?

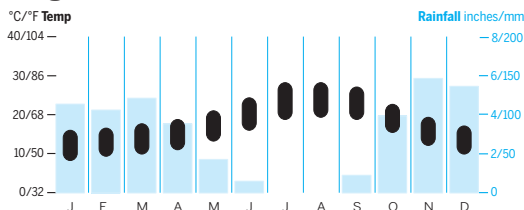
Northern Morocco offers a beautiful coastline, a mountainous hinterland rarely explored by visitors and just one major city. The beguiling gateway to Africa, Tangier has emerged from its shady past to become a tantalising experience. Eastward lies one of the last stretches of undeveloped Mediterranean coast with high cliffs and sandy coves.

Tetouan and Al-Hoceima reflect former Spanish protectorate days in architecture and food. More still can be found in the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla with their medieval fortifications and spectacular architectural treasures. Ranging over the mountains inland are magnificent national parks, from the coastal Al-Hoceima to the remote Beni-Snassen, that beg to be discovered.

Go soon: a highway along the coast nears completion, and resorts are blooming in Martil, M'Diq and Saïdia. Progress has been slowed by the recession, but these developments will change the coastline irrevocably.

When to Go?

Tangier



Best Places to Eat

- » Populaire Saveur de Poisson (p246)
- » Blanco Riad (p262)
- » Auberge Dardara (p272)

Best Places to Stay

- » Dar Nour (p243)
- » Dar Ech-Chaouen (p271)
- » Gîte Tagma (p297)

April

Spring is perfect for trekking in the Rif or exploring national parks.

July

Head to Chefchaouen for the annual arts festival.

September

Mediterranean beaches await, without the crowds.



Mediterranean Coast & the Rif Highlights

- 1 Dream the day away at a pavement cafe beneath the kasbah in Chefchaouen's **Plaza Uta el-Hammam** (p270)
- 2 Browse the treasure-filled shops of **Tangier's medina**
- 3 Marvel at the dragons launching from the roof of a palace in **Ceuta** (p255)
- 4 Wander the streets of **Melilla** (p288) and gaze at the Modernist buildings, before tapas for lunch
- 5 Discover Roman mosaics from Lixus in the Archaeology Museum in **Tetouan** (p261)
- 6 Soak up the sun on the remote beaches of the **National Park of Al-Hoceima** (p281)
- 7 Take in remarkable views as you trek to Berber villages in the **Talasemtane National Park** (p283) in the Rif Mountains
- 8 Enjoy a fish platter at **Club Nautique** (p281) in Al-Hoceima