



Atlantic Coast

شاطئ الأطلسي

Includes ➔

Casablanca (Dar el-Baïda)	155
Rabat	173
Salé	187
Moulay Bouselham	190
Larache	192
Lixus	194
Assilah	195
El-Jadida	200
Azemmour	203
Oualidia	204
Safi	205
Essaouira	208

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Outdoor fish grills (p214)
- ➔ Restaurant du Port de Pêche (p166)
- ➔ Le Petit Beur – Dar Tajine (p182)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Dar el-Manar (p202)
- ➔ La Sultana (p204)
- ➔ Riad Oudaya (p181)

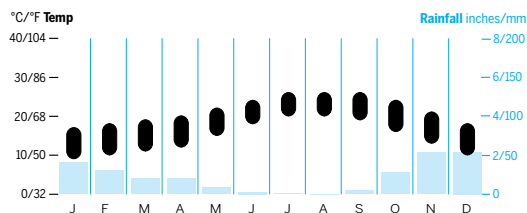
Why Go?

The Atlantic coast is one of Morocco's most prosperous regions. The French called it 'Maroc utile' (useful Morocco), and it's home to both the nation's capital Rabat and the economic hub of Casablanca. These cities' Mauresque architecture, excellent restaurants, stylish cafes and liberal attitudes are a far cry from traditional Morocco.

It's more than just these great modern cities though. Miles of glorious sands, peppered with small fishing villages, historic ports and fortified towns, weave along the blustery coastline. Outside the towns, farmland rolls gently down to the sea and wetland reserves showcase rich birdlife.

The region is bookended by Assilah and Essaouira, fishing ports both, with whitewashed medinas. There's art and plenty of seafood, and a history written across the landscape – from the times of the Phoenicians and Romans, to the Portuguese, Spanish and French – begging to be explored.

When to Go Casablanca



May–Jun Rabat's world-music Mawazine fest in May, Essaouira's Gnaoua Festival in June.

Sep Hit the beaches after the Moroccan tourists leave, while the weather's still good.

Dec–Mar Huge flocks of bird species descend on wetlands and lagoons.



Atlantic Coast Highlights

- 1 Sip tea at the Andalusian Gardens in the **Kasbah Les Oudaïas** (p177) in Rabat
- 2 Swim in the warm waters of the **Oualidia lagoon** (p204), before gorging on local oysters for lunch
- 3 Take the shiny new tram to Casablanca's smart pavement **cafes** (p168)
- 4 Eat **freshly grilled seafood** (p214) in the salty breeze of the Essaouira harbour
- 5 Birdwatch on the lagoon at **Moulay Bouselham** (p191)
- 6 Gaze at the murals in Assilah's **medina** (p195)
- 7 Marvel at the water cistern in El-Jadida's **Cité Portugaise** (p200)
- 8 Imagine yourself as a Roman at the ancient site of **Lixus** (p194)
- 9 Look up in Casablanca at the glorious **Mauresque buildings** (p164)