



Mediterranean Coast & the Rif

شاطئ البحر المتوسط و منطقة الريف

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Dar Nour (p229)
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Why Go?

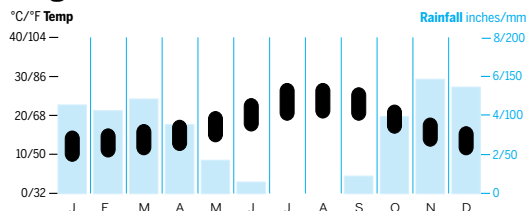
Northern Morocco offers a beautiful coastline, a mountainous hinterland rarely explored by visitors and just one major city. The beguiling gateway to Africa, Tangier has emerged from its shady past to become a tantalising experience. Eastward lies one of the last stretches of undeveloped Mediterranean 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: the coastal highway is complete, and resorts are blooming in Martil, M'Diq and Saïdia, and these developments are changing the coastline irrevocably.

When to Go

Tangier



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

Jul Head to Chefchaouen for the annual arts festival.

Sep 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** (p253)
- 2 Browse Tangier's myriad art galleries and stop for coffee at the **Petit Socco** (p223), haunt of the Beat poets
- 3 Marvel at the dragons launching from the roof of a palace in **Ceuta** (p242)
- 4 Wander the streets of **Melilla** (p270) and gaze at the Modernist buildings, before tapas for lunch
- 5 Discover Roman mosaics from Lixus in Tetouan's **Archaeology Museum** (p247)
- 6 Soak up the sun on the remote beaches of **Al-Hoceima National Park** (p265)
- 7 Take in remarkable views as you trek to Berber villages in the **Talassemtane National Park** (p266) in the Rif Mountains