

Atlantic Coast

شاطئ الأطلسي

Includes →

Casablanca (Dar el-Baïda)	155
Rabat	172
Salé	184
Larache	189
Asilah	193
El Jadida	197
Oualidia	201
Safi	203
Essaouira	206

Best Places to Eat

- La Table by Madada (p214)
- Beachside Shellfish (p205)
- Pâtisserie Bennis Habous (p164)
- Restaurant Brasserie La Bavaroise (p164)

Best Places to Sleep

- Villa Bea (p189)
- Jack's Apartments & Suites (p211)
- La Sultana (p202)
- Riad Meftaha (p178)
- L'Alcazar (p178)

Why Go?

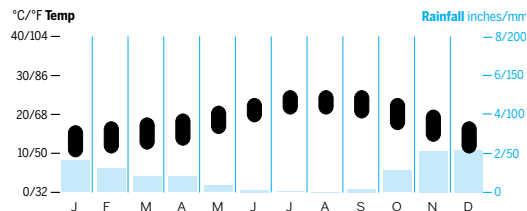
This windswept coast is home to Morocco's cultured capital, Rabat, and its economic hub, Casablanca. The refined Mauresque architecture and liberal attitudes on display in both cities are a far cry from the medieval medinas and conservative lifestyles of inland cities such as Fez and Marrakesh.

There's more to see than these big cities, though. Vast swathes of golden sand, small fishing villages, historic ports built by the Portuguese and fortified towns with vibrant medinas are scattered along the ocean's edge. Outside the towns, farmland rolls gently down to the sea and wetland reserves showcase rich migratory birdlife in autumn and spring.

The region is bookended by Asilah and Essaouira, famed for their medinas and surrounding beaches. There's art to view, delicious seafood to eat and an extraordinarily rich history, from the Phoenicians to the protectorates, that is begging to be explored. Don't miss it.

When to Go

Casablanca



Mar–May Observe huge flocks of migrating birds on lagoons along the coast.

Jun Join world-music devotees at Essaouira's world-famous Gnaoua festival.

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

ATLANTIC
OCEAN



Atlantic Coast Highlights

- 1 Essaouira** (p206)
Wandering through the oceanside medina and watching traditional wooden boats being constructed in the bustling port.
- 2 Rabat** (p172) Exploring the historic walled medina and evocative kasbah.
- 3 Oualidia** (p201) Feasting on freshly shucked oysters next to a tranquil lagoon.
- 4 Casablanca** (p155)
Admiring this cosmopolitan city's treasure trove of Mauresque, art nouveau and art deco architecture.
- 5 Merja Zerga National Park** (p188) Spotting rare migrating birds from a boat on the marshy wetlands.