

Mediterranean Coast & the Rif

شاطئ البحر المتوسط ومنطقة الريف

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Auberge Dardara Restaurant (p257)
- ➔ Art et Gourmet (p229)
- ➔ Populaire Saveur de Poisson (p230)
- ➔ Blanco Riad (p247)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Dar Nour (p226)
- ➔ Villa Josephine (p228)
- ➔ El Reducto (p246)
- ➔ Casa Hassan (p255)

Why Go?

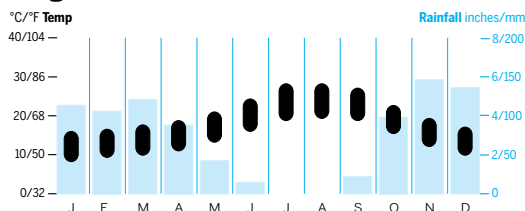
Caught between the crashing waves of the Mediterranean and the rough crags of the Rif Mountains, northern Morocco is one of the most charming parts of the country. Tangier, the faded libertine of a port that links Africa and Europe, has shed its shady past to enjoy a rebirth as fashionable Moroccan riviera. To the east, the coast is dotted with high cliffs and sandy coves; the area booms as a Moroccan holiday destination.

The charming pastel blue medina of Chefchaouen deserves its reputation as a magnet for travellers, while Tetouan boasts the food and architecture of the Spanish protectorate era. Echoes of Spain continue with the medieval fortresses and modernist architectural treasures of the enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla.

Inland, you can get away from everything with treks in the Rif and walking in the little-visited remote Beni-Snassen 'national park'.

When to Go

Tangier



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

Jul Head to Chefchaouen for its annual arts festival.

Sep Mediterranean beaches await, without the crowds.



Mediterranean Coast & the Rif Highlights

- 1 Chefchaouen** (p250)
Getting happily lost in the blue-washed lanes and alleys of one of Morocco's most enchanting medinas.
- 2 Tangier** (p220) Looking beyond this city's gleaming

modern face to find traces of the artists, from Matisse to the Beat poets, who made it home.

- 3 Melilla** (p268) Wandering around the modernist buildings and imposing medieval fortress, before

indulging in tapas for lunch or dinner.

- 4 Tetouan** (p243) Taking in the art and colonial history of this Rifian town's museums and its beautifully restored Spanish architecture.

- 5 Al-Hoceima National Park** (p267) Exploring the remote hills and beaches while looking for birdlife in this overlooked national park.

- 6 Talasemtane National Park**
Park Looking for Barbary apes while trekking amid the forests and Berber villages of the Rif Mountains.