

# ATLAS -ATLANTIC SELF GUIDED GRAVEL TOURS



## THE ATLAS-ATLANTIC GRAVEL ODYSSEY

**9 Days | 550km | 4,250m Vertical Gain | Marrakech to Essaouira**

**Presented by Argan Sports**

### THE JOURNEY

Escape the ordinary and dive into the soul of the Maghreb. This is a journey for the self-reliant explorer—a sensory expedition through shifting landscapes. From the stone deserts of the Agafay to the 2,100m peaks of the High Atlas and the salt-spray of the Atlantic, you will witness the raw beauty of Morocco from the saddle. Total elevation gain for the expedition is approximately **4,250 meters**, balanced by long, rhythmic descents and stunning coastal plateaus.

### THE DAILY ODYSSEY

#### **D1: Marrakech to the Pines (Marrakech to Ourgaine)**

Your adventure begins directly from our shop in the heart of Marrakech. You will depart for the Agafay Desert's stony plateaus, covering **65km** and climbing **850m** over roughly **6 hours**. With a **50% gravel** ratio, this stage serves as a perfect introduction to the Moroccan "piste" as the air cools and the scent of wild pine takes over. Upon arrival, you will find yourself at a stone-and-timber **Mountain Sanctuary** tucked into a quiet valley. A traditional Moroccan dinner will be waiting for you, and a hearty mountain breakfast will be served the next morning before you begin your ascent.



#### **D2 : The Roof of North Africa (Ourigane to Tizi N Test)**

Today you conquer the legendary Tizi n'Test pass, a steady **450m** climb over **75km**. This **6-hour** stage features a **40% gravel** mix, weaving between the winding mountain road and secret tracks that pass the haunting 12th-century Tinmel Mosque. Your day ends at a **High-Altitude Summit Outpost** perched at

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2,100m. You can watch the sunset turn the Saharan valleys purple over a mountain tagine and enjoy a sunrise breakfast on the balcony before facing the big descent.

## D3: The Gravity-Fed Descent (Tizi n Test to Aoulouz)

Lean into a massive 40km "gravity-fed" run. This **65km** day involves only **200m** of climbing and is roughly **20% gravel**, allowing for nearly **5 hours** of pure flow. You'll watch the ecosystem shift from alpine juniper to prehistoric Argan trees as you drop into the golden warmth of the Souss Valley. You will settle into a **Riverside Retreat** nestled among the trees, where a fresh, local dinner awaits by the water's edge and a quiet breakfast fuels your ride across the valley floor



## D4: The Argan & The Oasis (Aoulouz to Taroudant)

Navigate ancient irrigation tracks and hidden mud-brick villages through the heart of the Souss Valley. This is a fast, rolling **80km** stage with **300m** of climbing and **30% gravel**, taking approximately **7 hours**. You will dodge the main roads to enter the medieval walled city of Taroudant through its massive gates. Your home for the night is a **Historic Riad** hidden behind the city walls, featuring lush orange groves. Dinner is served in the garden courtyard, and breakfast is served under the palms before you head toward the coast.

## D5: Toward the Turquoise (Taroudant to Taghazout)

The landscape shifts today from ochre earth to deep blue. This **75km** stage with **450m** of gain takes roughly **6 hours** with a **25% gravel** ratio. You will navigate sandy tracks and riverbeds passing traditional Berber farms, finally catching your first scent of the Atlantic salt air. You will arrive at a **Boutique Surf Loft** with panoramic ocean views. Enjoy a fresh coastal dinner as you listen to the waves, followed by an ocean-view breakfast to start your coastal leg.



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## D6: The Coastal Ridge (Taghazoute to Imsoune)

Prepare for the "Fisherman's Rollercoaster." This punchy **60km** day features **1,100m** of vertical gain and a **40% gravel** ratio, requiring about **7 hours** of focused riding. You will stay high on the ridge tracks where the cliffs drop vertically into the surf, eventually finishing in the legendary surf bay of Imsouane. You'll stay at a **Clifftop Lodge** overlooking Africa's longest wave, where a communal dinner is followed by a sunrise breakfast overlooking the bay.



## D7: Wild Cliffs & Secret Coves (Imsoune to Sidi Kaouki)

This is the "Hero Gravel" stage. Ride the Fisherman's Piste for **85km**, staying within sight of crashing waves for miles. With **700m** of climbing and a **7.5-hour** duration, this **30% gravel** route takes you past lonely lighthouses and wind-sculpted forests where goats famously climb the trees. Your stay tonight is an **Eco-Lodge** steps from the sand. A traditional tagine dinner is served under the stars, with a beachfront breakfast to start your final victory lap.

## D8: The Victory Lap (Sidi Kaouki – Essaouira – Transfer by van to AXS shop in Marrakech)

A celebratory finale awaits as you navigate the Diabat Dunes and ruined palaces on a short **45km** run with **200m** of gain. This is the highest gravel density of the trip at **60% gravel**, taking about **4.0 hours** and including a fresh harbor lunch. After your private return transfer, your final night is spent at our **Private Boutique Riad** in the Marrakech Medina.

## D9: Depart (Marrakech and Marrakech Airport)

We will host a grand farewell dinner to celebrate your journey, followed by a final breakfast

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## THE ARGAN SPORTS SYSTEM

**The Self-Supported Spirit:** You carry your essentials on the bike for total freedom of movement. We provide professional gravel bikes and optional rear racks with waterproof panniers (+€50). Please bring your own bidons (water bottles) for the journey.

**Digital Concierge:** You are never alone. Access our dedicated **WhatsApp Concierge** throughout the trip for local tips, navigation help, or technical support.

**Logistics & Recovery:** Your tour includes a **private return transfer for you and your bikes** from Essaouira back to Marrakech on Saturday evening.

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## FLIGHTS & COORDINATION

- **Arrival (Saturday D1):** Aim to land at **RAK** before **10:30 AM** for a private transfer to our shop and a midday tour start.
- **Departure (Sunday D9):** Any flight on Sunday. Includes transfer from our Riad to the airport.
- **Coordination:** Please **communicate your flight numbers and times with us via WhatsApp** to synchronize your private airport pickups.

## INVESTMENT

- **Shared Room:** €1,695 per person | **Single Room:** €1,895 per person
- **Sunday Add-on (+€54):** *Magical Marrakech City Tour by Bike.*

## IS THIS EXPEDITION FOR YOU?

### The Rider Profile

The Atlas-Atlantic Odyssey is designed for the **Self-Reliant Adventure Cyclist**. You don't need to be a professional racer, but you should possess a spirit of independence and a solid foundation of cycling fitness. This tour is for those who find joy in the "bikepacking" ethos—navigating through vast landscapes and managing their own rhythm.

### Fitness & Endurance



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You should be comfortable spending **5 to 7 hours** in the saddle for several consecutive days. While we have carefully balanced the itinerary to ensure every "Normal" effort is rewarded with an "Easy" recovery stretch, the cumulative effect of the Moroccan sun and the varied terrain requires a healthy base of endurance. If you regularly enjoy long weekend rides on mixed surfaces, you have the fitness required for this journey.

## Technical Skills

Moroccan "pistes" are as diverse as the culture. You will encounter everything from smooth, hard-packed earth and rolling irrigation tracks to loose, rocky mountain descents and sandy coastal trails. You do not need elite bike skills, but you should feel confident handling a gravel bike on loose surfaces and navigating via a GPS head unit (RideWithGPS).

## The Self-Supported Mindset

This is an authentic adventure where you carry your own essentials on the bike. This tour is designed for the rider who values **freedom over a follow-the-leader format**. You are the pilot of your own journey, though you ride with the peace of mind that our **Digital Concierge** and local network are always standing by.

## THE ARGAN SPORTS GUARANTEE

We provide the map, the machine, and the sanctuary; you provide the legs and the curiosity. This expedition is the perfect intersection of physical accomplishment and cultural immersion—challenging enough to feel like a true achievement, but accessible enough to remain a high-end vacation.

