

essaouira, morocco

On the coast of Morocco, some 180kms west of Marrakech, the Atlas Mountains meet the Atlantic coastline and the sun scorched foothills give way to perfect beaches of fine white sand. On this coastline is the fortress port of Essaouira, approximately 3 hours from Agadir Airport and 2½ hours from Marrakech. The genuine friendliness of local people, the thriving fishing harbour and the colourful bustling souks make it a wonderful place to stay. For those looking for a taste of Arabic culture mixed with Berber traditions, warm sunshine, a hint of mystery and the seductive softness of life, Essaouira is the place!

Fact File

Best Time: March to mid September.

Launch: Sandy beach.

Wind Direction: Cross-shore from the right. Sometimes from left (autumn & winter).

Wind Type: North East Trade in summer F5-7, Frontal and cyclonic winds in winter.

Shorebreak: Normally slight all season.

Water Conditions: Exposed to Atlantic conditions with protected areas.

Suitability: All levels.



Air°C	18	19	19	21	23	24	25	26	24	20	19	18
Water°C	16	16	16	17	17	18	18	19	18	17	16	16

CLUB MISTRAL /SKYRIDERS

New, larger centre in centre of Essaouira bay. Nearby Ocean Vagabond restaurant with use of loungers.

Kit Range: 2009/10 approx 70 Mistral/Fanatic Boards & 3120rigs. Sail sizes: 3.0-8.0m²

Board Hire 1 wk £179 2 wks £299

Instruction: All levels. Starter, Progress, Advanced, Unlimited Premium, Kids, groups & private. Surfing tuition all year.

Kiting area: Long, curving 4km sandy bay. Rental: North approx 20 boards & 35 kites. Sizes: 4.0 – 16.0m².

Kite Hire: 1 wk £199 2 wks £319

Instruction: 3 step system, all levels, tricks, private. Combi rental/ instruction & multisport packages available. Wave spot excursion available. Multisports Joker voucher available all year except July, Aug & Sept. Storage.

Other Sports: Surfing – rental, instruction & supervision. Horse riding, golf, tennis, volleyball, mountain biking, kayaking.

Excursions: Shopping in the Medina, trips to Marrakech (also twin centre stays available), Agadir and Safi. Quad & biking tours, camel riding & island tours.



The Spot & Sailing Conditions

Essaouira is situated on a 4km long sandy bay. It is a perfect all year round spot with an entire range of conditions for windsurfing, kitesurfing and surfing. The northern part of the bay, closest to the port, offers slalom blasting and pure speed. The slightly descending, sandy bottom and a shallow water area near the shore enable a comfortable launch. This is also a good location for wave novices. On the other side of the bay the sea is whipped into perfect waves of 1 to 2 meters high. Other wave spots like Moulay and Sidi Kaouki (20 min drive) will challenge the most experienced with waves up to 3 meters.



Villa Maroc



Location: Built into the ramparts of the Medina, nearby the harbour. Breathtaking views over the bay below and craggy ruins of an old, part buried Portugese fort.

Accommodation: A combination of 4 houses each with its own Riad (open air courtyard). This unique hotel combines elegance and luxury to provide 17 individually styled rooms and 2 suites with excellent facilities.

Facilities: Peaceful and atmospheric, open air terrace for breakfast. Evenings can be a mixture of exploring the culinary delights of the local restaurants and dining in to experience the marvelous cuisine available in Villa Maroc. Intimate dinners are served in small inter-connecting, independent lounges and niches. Own Hamman & Oriental Spa with extensive range of relaxation & beauty treatments. Cuisine workshop, special occasion and relaxation packages can be booked in advance.

Windsurfing/Kitesurfing: Club Mistral/Skyriders centre is 20 minutes walk along the seafont.

Ocean Vagabond



Location: Set in tranquil, residential neighbourhood. Approximately 100m from the beach and 400m to the Medina.

Accommodation: A good quality, boutique style guesthouse. The 14 rooms are individually furnished and very tastefully decorated. All rooms have a private bath/WC, flat screen TV, phone, safe deposit box and mini bar. Some rooms have balconies and offer sea views. Family accommodation available.



Facilities: The house features a restaurant, African bar, library and swimming pool. On the other side of the garden you find the oriental wellness center offering different massages and traditional baths. Cedar & Iroko wood furnishings and marble bathrooms give the guest rooms a unique appearance. WiFi is available.

Windsurfing/Kitesurfing: 10 minutes walk to the Club Mistral/Skyriders Centre. 1km to the Fanatic The Boarders Centre.