



visit *Drâa*
Tafilalet

THE NATURE
GUIDE

THE NATURE *GUIDE*

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Drâa Tafilalet

A Paradise for Hikers and Adventurers

This vast region of 88,836 km² gathers landscapes that are as different as they are captivating. This guidebook is an attempt to bring together some of the most famous and less known. From the Ayachi mountain range in the Eastern Middle Atlas and its valley of Ait Ayach to the palm groves of Tafilalet and Drâa through the Dadès and Todgha gorges not forgetting the semi-desert massif of Saghro in the Anti-Atlas or the deserts of Merzouga and M'hamid El Ghizlane...are only examples of what this region can offer to hikers and adventurers of all kinds. To detect the treasures of Drâa Tafilalet, it is necessary to take some time to discover it step by step.





The Ayachi Mountain Range Contrasts With The 4 Oasis Provinces

Arriving from Marrakech by the Tichka pass (2260m), visitors can admire magnificent landscapes with typical villages. Ouarzazate is a beautiful entry into the area with its oases of Skoura and Fint where the ancestral way of life of the Berbers is revealed. After Ouarzazate, the province of Tinghir in the east offers, in turn, visits and surprising hikes in its palm grove, and in the sumptuous Todgha gorges bordered by the river. By taking the road to the Dadès gorges and beyond, one can make beautiful discoveries before arriving in the valley of roses at Kelaat M'gouna. Through the high gorges of Todgha, it is possible to reach the beautiful mountain village of Imilchil and its legendary lakes Isli and Tislit, in the province of Midelt. In this mountainous province covered with snow in winter, we can find Mount Ayachi (3747m).




The Majestic Desert in all its Splendor

Further south, we find the lush palm groves of Grand Tafilalet with a rich and ancient history. The coveted desert of Merzouga and its majestic golden sand dunes are just a few kilometers away. Finally, in the province of Zagora, the same landscapes seem to take over. Bordered by the long river of Drâa, the palm grove extends over 220 km. From M'Hamid El Ghizlane, the last oasis village of Drâa, lies the desert of Mhamid and its superb Erg Chegaga (sand dunes). Let's discover together the different facets of the majestic nature of Drâa Tafilalet.






Tour of The Palm Groves and Valleys of Drâa Tafilalet

Drâa Tafilalet lies in an oasis desert area that abounds in palm groves and lush valleys. From the palm groves of Tafilalet on the bank of the Ziz and Ghris valleys to those of Drâa through the oases of Tinghir irrigated by the Oued Toudgha, the vastness of these territories and their cultural and spiritual heritage are worth the detour. Here are the main oases of the region to visit.



Ouarzazate

Useful information

	Site open for free
	2 hours
	17.8 °C
	All types of vehicles
	Ouarzazate - 45502

The Oasis of Skoura

This palm grove is famous for its position along one of the mythical roads of the thousand Kasbahs going from Ouarzazate to Erfoud via Tinghir. Located 40 km east of Ouarzazate on the N10, this oasis with an area of 25 km² where date palms and fruit trees, almond trees, olive trees and pomegranate trees are grown... is the first point of entry to the road that leads to Kelaat M'Gouna, the Dadès and Toudgha gorges. It is fed by the Oued Skoura and formerly used the irrigation system of the Khetaras. Some Kasbahs also adorn the landscape such as the Kasbah Amridil, built in the 17th century. Still preserved, it has been transformed into a museum with a part dedicated to housing. We also find other vestiges such as ruins of Kasbahs, local crafts, Muslim and Jewish places of worship, cemeteries ...



Errachidia

Useful information



Site open for free



A day



20.1 °C



A 4X4 is preferable



Extends from Errachidia to the desert of Merzouga

The Palm Grove of Ziz

It constitutes with the oasis of Ghريس, the great palm grove of Tafilalet. This one is famous for being the biggest palm grove of the world : it would count approximately 80.000 palm trees. Although it depends on the underground waters of the river, the Ziz palm grove produces the best varieties of dates in Morocco. Erfoud has been chosen as the Moroccan capital of dates. Once a sea, the city is also the world's largest open-air fossil museum where a dedicated craft industry is thriving. In a more recent historical era, the ruins of Sijilmassa in the Tafilalet are the last remnants of a thriving caravan trade crossroads between the 8th and 18th centuries. In Rissani, the cradle of the Alaouite dynasty, the Moulay Ali Chérif mausoleum and the Ksar Abouam where the grandfather of the Alaouites resided are must-sees. The Ksar Akbar as well as the Ksar of Oulad Abdelhalim are architectural jewels to visit during your stay.



Zagora

Useful information



Site open for free



One day



20.4 °C




A 4X4 is preferable



Extends from Agdz to the village of M'hamid El Ghizlane






The Drâa Valley

Considered as one of the most beautiful regions of Morocco, the vast region of Drâa following the famous river of the same name for 220 km, lies in the province of Zagora. This valley starts from Agdz to the village of M'hamid El Ghizlane, gateway to the desert. It comprises six oases that produce different varieties of dates. The oases and palm groves stretch like a string of trees along the river. Under the palm trees grow fruit trees and other lower crops in plots surrounded by low walls, crossed by irrigation channels. 19 km from Zagora on the road to M'hamid lies the Zaouia Naciria of Tamegroute with its mausoleum and its library containing rare manuscripts as well as its green pottery village. The Ouled Driss oasis near M'hamid is, a vast labyrinth of plants and greenery suitable for hiking. You can discover its adobe Ksar and its houses as well as a small museum in the central square of the village dedicated to the Berber culture.



Tinghir

Useful information

-  Site open for free
-  Half a day
-  20.1 °C
-  A 4X4 is preferable
-  Tinghir - 45800

The Palm Grove of Tinghir

The palm grove of Tinghir extends all its magnificence on 30 km going from the gorges of Todgha to Ferkla between Tinghir and Tinjdad. It is irrigated by pipes fed by the river Toudgha and by ground water. Palm trees, fruit trees such as almonds, apples, pomegranates, pears and figs lie there. Mint, corn and luzern are cultivated under the trees... The palm grove is pleasant to visit on foot. The nearby town of Tinghir also offers some interesting sights such as a visit to the women's market, the Ksar Ait Lhaj Ali and its Mellah, the blowers' cooperative (one of the last in Morocco) and the Ikellan mosque. From Tinghir, it is possible to visit several natural sites. The Todgha Gorge, 14 km from the city, attracts climbing enthusiasts who prefer it for its solid rock and its already marked climbing routes. In the province of Tinghir, a pilot project of sustainable development has been conducted and is considered a model for the renewal of the oasis of Toudgha (located 14 km from the city of Tinghir). This is the new oasis of Afanour.



Midelt

Useful information



Site open for free



3H



19 °C



By car or on foot



Midelt - 54350

The Valley of Tizi N'ou

Nestled against the northern flank of the Ayachi massif in the peak named Said or hadi, the beautiful valley of Tizi N'ou is located about sixty kilometers southwest of the city of Midelt. Tizi N'ou takes its name from that of the Tizi pass, that of a wild Azou asparagus of which one still finds some specimens on the mountainous ridge which dominates the valley on the northern side. Known as Timelghout, this ridge offers a magnificent hiking route, it allows hikers to dominate the villages and fields of the valley as well as the beautiful lake of the Tamalout dam to discover sublime landscapes and an impressive wilderness. This ridge offers a breathtaking view of the high snowy massif, on the fields that we see from afar arranged like the patterns of a carpet, the site is definitely wonderful.

The Best Excursions to Try in The Region





Visit to Ait Ben Haddou and Ouarzazate



Just before Ouarzazate, the gateway to the desert, enjoy the exceptional Kasbah of Ait-Ben-Haddou. This ancient city is not only a UNESCO World Heritage Site, but also a film location often used in Hollywood movies.

Lunch with a panoramic view of the modern part of Ait-Ben-Haddou, continuation to Ouarzazate and visit of the Kasbah Taourirte and the cinema museum.



Oasis Fint



**Hiking
level**
Easy

The day begins at the Kasbah Taourit where we admire the narrow pedestrian streets. Then, visit of the museum of the cinema and the Atlas film studios where you can see sets and anecdotes of great films shot in the Hollywood of Morocco.

Departure to the old Kasbah Tifoultout which belonged to the Pasha of Thami El Glaoui. Continue the journey to the Fint Oasis for a traditional lunch with a local family and then explore the peaceful oasis.



● Merzouga



Hiking
level
Medium

Unexpected natural landscapes in this desert are formed a few kilometers from Merzouga, the lake Dayet Srijj long dried up welcoming as soon as pink flamingos and a great biodiversity of migratory birds.

Camel ride with the guides upon arrival at the dunes of Merzouga. Installation at the site of Bivouac for a night contemplating a starry sky.



● *Arfoud-Rissani-Merzouga*



Hiking
level
Easy

Departure from Errachidia to Merzouga passing by the blue source of Meski, the beautiful valley of Ziz, the marble workshop and fossils of Erfoud, famous Kasbah of Oulad el Abd Halim in Rissani and lunch Medfouna in Merzouga.

Upon arrival at the village of Merzouga, we are in the dunes for a climb on foot of the sand dunes or a quad ride.



● Zagora



Hiking
level
Easy

Morning departure for Tazarine passing by Taghbalt to visit its famous stone Ksar. Then, visit of the site of the rupestrial engravings Ait Ouazik. Continuation to Agdz for a hike where we will be introduced to the ways and traditions of the inhabitants.

Return to Zagora through Tissergat and its museum of arts and traditions of Draa.



● *M'hamid and its Beautiful Desert*



Hiking
level
Easy

Departure to M'hamid through Tamegrout to visit the Zaouia Naciria. Continuation by the road of Foug Takat and visit of the big Oasis of El Ktaoua and its Ksours.

Arrival at M'hamid, visit of the music school Joudour Sahara and walk through the last oasis of the Draa then departure on camelback to reach the site of the bivouac and watch the sunset over the dunes and the preparations for the meal.



● *Valley of The Roses*



**Hiking
level**
Easy

In the Valley of the Roses located in the heart of the High Atlas, a hike suitable for all through the colorful finery of the valley of roses, fig trees and forests of oleanders.

It is also an opportunity to admire the Dades Valley in an arid landscape, Berber villages along the river, magnificent kasbahs and terraced gardens.



● *Massif of Saghro*



Hiking
level
Medium

Starting from the Dades gorges to dig colossal gorges that can reach 500 m in height over 60 km. Continuation to Tagdilt; the valley of birds south of Boumalne Dades.

The walk continues to the village of Taoudilte where a stop is planned. The walk resumes to Mount Tazazert; the summit of Saghro (2283 m).



● *From Lake Tislit to Lake Isli*



**Hiking
level**
Medium

Starting from Imilchil, a nice trekking route at 2200m altitude in the heart of the Eastern High Atlas between two beautiful lakes Tislit and Isli.

The legend says that the Isli lake represents the tears of a young Amazigh girl who fell in love with a young man and that the tribes refuse to unite, and the Tislir lake, the tears of the young man.



In The Valley Tizi N'Zou Imtchimin and The Barrage of Tamaloute



**Hiking
level**
Medium

This three-hour hike allows you to discover the mountainous ridge that dominates the northern side of the villages and fields of the valley as well as the Tamaloute dam lake.

This dam is located about sixty kilometers southwest of the city of Midelt. It irrigates the valley Tizi N'Zou Imtchimin.

Useful Information

To help travelers enjoy their stay, below is some useful information about the region's facilities and infrastructure.

Climate

The region is characterized by a dry Saharan climate, very hot in the summer and pleasant in the winter during the day, cooling off at night. It is preferable to visit Ouarzazate, Zagora, Errachidia or Tinghir from late autumn to early spring.

Local Time

Morocco is located on a single time zone GMT + 1. During the month of Ramadan, Morocco switches to GMT. The Drâa Tafilalet region is no exception to the rule.

Spoken Languages

In the Drâa Tafilalet region, the population speaks Berber and Arabic. Signs are in French and Arabic, sometimes in Tifinagh. Guides, hotel and guesthouse staff speak French, English and other languages due to the region's touristic vocation.

Air Transport

The Drâa Tafilalet region has two international airports; Ouarzazate and Moulay Ali Chérif in Errachidia and a national airport; in Zagora. These airports are connected to Casablanca by frequent flights. Especially since new terminals have been put into service in 2019 in Errachidia and Ouarzazate. A new generation of transport services has been offered to travelers. In addition, a new terminal was born at the airport of Zagora now equipped with modern technology.

Shuttle from The Airport To The City Center

From the airport, it is easy to find different types of transportation on the way out, whether it is cabs or tourist land transportation.

Tourist Land Transportation

The region has an extensive network of land-based tourist transporters offering a variety of options ranging from 4x4 all-terrain vehicles to 60-person buses. The CTM (Compagnie du Transport au Maroc) offers routes connecting the region's cities. Ouarzazate is connected to Zagora, Errachidia and Tinghir and Errachidia to Midelt and Errachidia to Zagora via Ouarzazate... Comfort is assured, speed is controlled, but you will have to plan for a long trip with stops in the cities.

Travel Agencies

For visitors looking for adapted trips, there are plenty of travel agencies in the region. Several programs are offered, and customized trips can also be made. The travel agent takes care of all the details: advice, hosting and accompaniment, reservations, travel and transportation...

Emergencies

Police **Tél 19**
Firemen **Tél 15**
Roadside assistance **Tél 177**
Phone inquiries **Tél 160**





جهة درعة تافيلالت
+DRAA TAFILALT +JERGHAT
Région Drâa - Tafilalet



Conseil Régional
du Tourisme de Drâa - Tafilalet



moroccan national tourism office



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