

RAIDLIGHT DESERT TROPHY



TRANS SAHARA MARATHON

MARCH 13-21, 2027

**ERG CHEGAGA - IRIKI LAKE - DJEBEL BANI
SAHARA - ZAGORA - MOROCCO**

mx3 NUTRITION 200KM-NON-STOP

4-STAGE TRAIL – 150 km

4-STAGE TREK – 80 km



PROVINCE
OF TATA



PROVINCE
OF ZAGORA

A **desert raid**
for **all levels**,
for an **authentic discovery**
of the **Moroccan Sahara!**



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TRANS SAHARA MARATHON

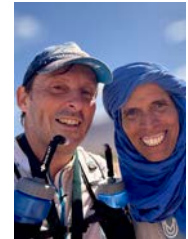


A desert raid for all levels, for an authentic discovery of the Moroccan Sahara!

Jointly organized by Mohamad AHANSAL and Benoit LAVAL — a partnership built on expertise and passion!

Mohamad, five-time winner of the Marathon des Sables, has been organizing the TRANS SAHARA MARATHON for 13 years.

Benoit LAVAL, international trail runner, founder of Raidlight and organizer of ten sports trips per year with TRAIL TO BE ALIVE.



"Our goal is to offer a race that is both demanding and accessible, family-oriented yet professionally organized, while introducing participants to the authentic Moroccan Sahara of Erg Chegaga."



TRAIL TO BE ALIVE

Together with the sports travel agency TRAIL to be ALIVE, we offer an all-inclusive package including flights and transfers, for a worry-free journey.





TRANS SAHARA
MARATHON 

A true desert raid in the sand, 30% of the route renewed!

For this 13th edition, the Trans Sahara Marathon will cross the Djebel Bani near Zagora before reaching the dunes of the Erg Chegaga desert and Iriki National Park — offering a complete range of extraordinary and varied Saharan landscapes.

The Raidlight Desert Trophy – Trans Sahara is an authentic and “family-style” race in the heart of the desert, with several participation formats ranging from ultratrail to trail running or trekking:

- Bags transported by the organization between stages
- 5 nights in bivouac camps in Bedouin tents in the heart of the desert (plus 3 hotel nights)
- Dinners and breakfasts provided at bivouacs, half-board at hotels
- Human-sized event limited to 120 participants



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mx3 200KM-NON-STOP
NUTRITION

STAGE TRAIL – 150 km

STAGE TREK – 80 km

MARCH 13-21, 2027

**ERG CHEGAGA - IRIKI LAKE - DJEBEL BANI
SAHARA - ZAGORA - MOROCCO**

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YOU WILL REMEMBER

- The extraordinary sand dunes of Erg Chegaga and the desert plains of Iriki National Park
- The hospitality of the Moroccan people and the friendly atmosphere of the semi-self-sufficient bivouacs (dinners and breakfasts provided)
- The welcoming and attentive organization jointly managed by the Moroccan team and the French Raidlight team
- The camaraderie between runners and walkers across the different events

mx3 200KM-NON-STOP

GPS Navigation – Maximum 75 Hours



For its 3rd edition, the MX3-200KM-NON-STOP will take you into the solitude of the Sahara Desert, while still allowing you to pass through the bivouacs of the 4-stage race for a shared atmosphere.

With 75 hours available to manage your pace, the time barriers are fairly generous, but this remains a highly challenging event. The concept is to offer a demanding race with the comfort of a dedicated organization, a lighter backpack thanks to drop bags, all within a friendly atmosphere.

COURSE:

- 200 km non-stop, with ranking
- Unmarked route, navigation by GPS
- Maximum 75 hours

In the event of an early withdrawal, flexible organization allows participants to switch to the stages of the 4-STAGE format.

PARTICIPANTS CARRY:

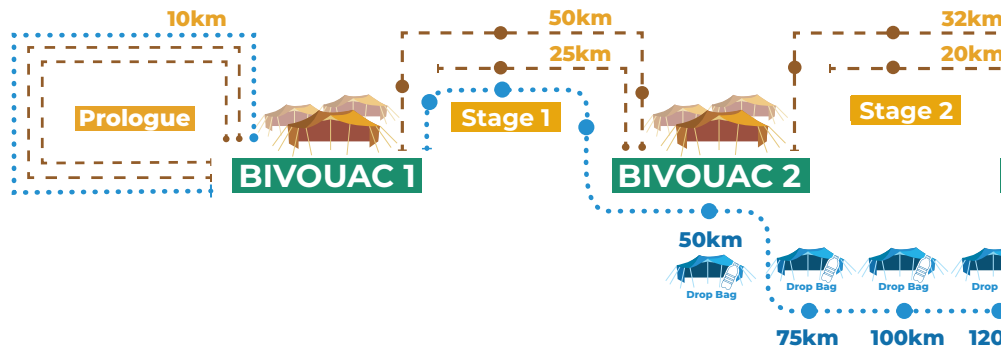
- Their backpack containing mainly a sleeping bag, spare clothing, mandatory safety equipment, and food supplies between drop-bag zones
- Backpack approximately 15 to 25 liters (3 to 6 kg)
- Food self-sufficiency

PROVIDED BY THE ORGANIZATION:

The organization provides water every 20 km. Runners must organize their own food supplies using the drop bags available every 20 to 40 km. Rest tents with hot water for freeze-dried meals will be installed at the drop-bag checkpoints.

4 bivouac zones shared with the 4-stage race Medical service. Hotel nights and meals at the finish near the desert gateway while waiting for the last runners and the stage-race participants

30% of the course



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Two events to choose from — Trail Runners or Walkers — with relatively accessible yet challenging distances, backpacks transported by the organization, and dinners and breakfasts prepared by the staff. A human adventure to discover or rediscover the desert, whether running or walking.

2 ROUTES TO CHOOSE FROM:

• **TRAIL FORMAT** : 150 km including 1 non-timed prologue 4 stages (50 km, 32 km, 36 km, 22 km) Running race, marked course, timed with official rankings.

• **TREK FORMAT** : 80 km including 1 prologue 4 non-timed stages (25 km, 20 km, 25 km, 10 km) Hiking or running allowed, marked routes, non-timed and without rankings.

Flexible organization allows participants to switch from the TRAIL format to the TREK format for one or several stages if necessary.

PARTICIPANTS CARRY :

- Their backpack containing only safety equipment and enough water and food between checkpoints
- Backpack approximately 10 to 20 liters (1 to 3 kg) (The mandatory equipment list will be available in the technical guide.)

PROVIDED BY THE ORGANIZATION :

- Bedouin tents for 5 people
- Water every 10–12 km
- Marked stages
- Medical service
- Dinners and breakfasts
- Cold and hot water at bivouacs
- Transport of one assistance bag between bivouacs (limited to 10 kg)
- Participants leave their suitcase before the first stage and recover it after the race at the hotel

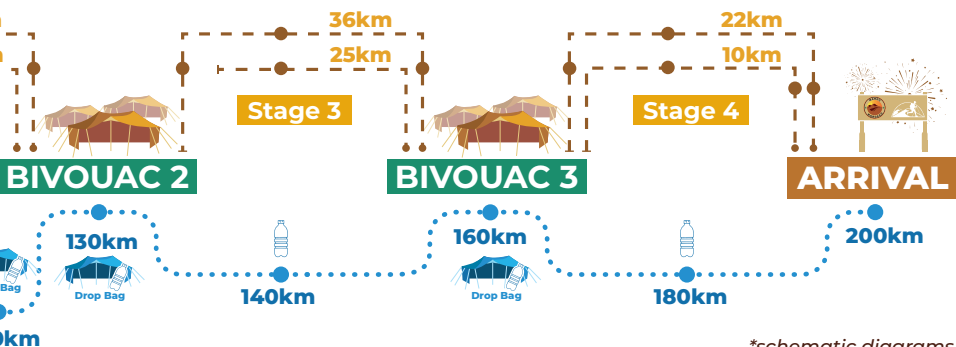
4-STAGE TRAIL

4-STAGE TREK

+ 1 joint 10km prologue



renewed!



*schematic diagrams – not final



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PROGRAM

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2027

- Arrival of participants at Marrakech airport
- Half-day free in Marrakech depending on flight schedules
- Hotel in Marrakech

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2027

- Transfer from Marrakech to Zagora bivouac
- Briefings
- Bivouac 1

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2027

- Technical inspections
- Shared non-timed 10 km prologue
- Bivouac 1

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2027

- STAGE 1: FROM THE DJEBEL TO THE DESERT (50 km Trail – 25 km Trek)
- Start of the MX3-200KM-NON-STOP
- Bivouac 2

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2027

- STAGE 2: THE GREAT DUNES (32 km Trail – 20 km Trek)

- First arrivals of the MX3-200KM-NON-STOP
- Bivouac 2

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2027

- STAGE 3: THE SACRED OASIS (36 km Trail – 25 km Trek)
- Bivouac 3

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2027

- Final arrivals of the MX3-200KM-NON-STOP
- STAGE 4: AHANSAL DUNES (22 km Trail – 10 km Trek)
- Finish meal in the heart of Erg Chegaga
- Transfer to Zagora
- Prize ceremony
- Hotel in Zagora

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2027

- Transfer to Marrakech
- Free afternoon in Marrakech
- Gala dinner
- Hotel in Marrakech

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2027

- Departure from Marrakech airport
- Half-day or full day free in Marrakech depending on flight schedules

SOLIDARITY & ECO-RESPONSIBLE OPERATIONS

· **Solidarity operation for disabled children at the Moulay Sharif Al-Alaoui school in Zagora.** €10 per participant will be donated to the association, along with additional voluntary donations from competitors. A total of €2,000 was donated during the 2026 edition.

· **Eco-responsible operation for the Ahansal palm grove in Zagora:** each participant will be invited to financially contribute to planting a palm tree. 30 palm trees were planted during the 2026 edition.





TEMPERATURES & WEATHER IN ZAGORA, MOROCCO IN MARCH

The Drâa-Tafilalet region of Morocco experiences weather conditions typical of its hot and dry desert climate. Maximum temperatures range between 19°C and 26°C, while minimum temperatures vary from 7°C to 14°C. Rainfall is extremely rare, reflecting the arid nature of the region. Days enjoy abundant sunshine, with an average of around 11 hours of daylight per day.

CULTURE & HOSPITALITY

Hospitality is a central value in Morocco, deeply rooted in culture and Islamic tradition. Mint tea, a symbol of welcome, is offered to guests along with dates or pastries. Shared meals: eating together is a sign of friendliness, often with meals are often shared communally, traditionally eaten with bread. Souks and bargaining: negotiating prices is a tradition in markets, where exchanges are often accompanied by friendly conversation. In short, Morocco captivates visitors as much through its heritage as through the warmth of its people, who make every encounter unique and memorable.

LOCAL CO-ORGANIZATION

This race is co-organized with Mohamad AHANSAL and his agency AE EVENTS, with the support of local government authorities and civil/local partners whom we warmly thank for their support. Mohamad AHANSAL has twice been honored by HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI for his exceptional performances in endurance races, including his five victories and ten second-place finishes at the Marathon des Sables. Mohamad also holds a Guinness World Record title for the fastest desert crossing.



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TOURISM

Marrakech (free program)

As soon as you arrive in Marrakech, you will be immersed in the unique atmosphere of the Red City. The air is filled with the scents of spices, orange blossom, and tanned leather, while the bustle of the narrow streets invites exploration. Your first stop may lead you to the Bahia Palace, wandering through its majestic corridors while admiring colorful mosaics and finely carved ceilings. Every corner tells a story, and you can imagine the lives of the viziers who once lived there. After visiting the Saadian Tombs, where silence contrasts with the city's liveliness, you can head toward the Koutoubia Mosque, the emblem of Marrakech. Its minaret overlooks the medina and serves as a landmark before venturing into the must-see souk.

There, you will be swept away by the vibrant energy of the merchants: Berber carpets, hypnotically patterned pottery, sparkling lanterns... impossible not to be tempted by a souvenir! The Majorelle Garden, the legendary Jemaa el-Fna square, a glass of mint tea in hand, and a flavorful tagine filled with spices — your half-day in Marrakech will be a true immersion into a world where time seems to stand still.



The raid will start at Camp Ahansal in Zagora, and the final finish line will be at Camp Ahansal at the foot of the beautiful dunes of Erg Chegaga. Mohamad AHANSAL and his team will be delighted to welcome you all year round to this authentic camp for tailor-made adventures and to share their culture through trail running, hiking, camel treks, and other desert experiences.





INFORMATION

Medical

Each participant must provide a specific medical certificate in the organization's required format.

For the 200KM-NON-STOP, an ECG taken less than 30 days before the race will be required.

No vaccinations are mandatory.

The Raidlight Desert Trophy – Trans Sahara Marathon organization provides maximum safety through a medical service and runner monitoring system, ensuring everyone stays on course and receives rapid assistance if necessary.

The medical team will consist of a doctor and nurses. The team has been carefully selected and will remain present throughout the race to provide medical assistance.

Medical staff will be positioned at checkpoints and at the finish line. They will ensure that any participant suffering from physical or mental exhaustion is returned to base camp for treatment and rest or, if necessary, transferred by ambulance to a government hospital.

The medical team is authorized to disqualify any participant deemed physically unfit to continue the race or requiring vital medical care.

Race Rules

The full race regulations are available in the appendix. These rules and the decisions of the Raidlight Desert Trophy – Trans Sahara Marathon organization will prevail during participation in the event.

Mandatory Equipment

> Complete list in the regulations

FOOD

200 km competitors are self-sufficient and will recover their planned food supplies in the various drop bags. For the 4-stage participants, dinners and breakfasts are provided by the organization. Each competitor must plan their own lunch meals (hot water supplied by the organization).

EQUIPMENT

- Backpack
- Sleeping bag
- Sand gaiters
- Snakebite suction pump
- Metal knife
- Signaling mirror
- Salt tablets or equivalent
- Whistle
- Survival blanket
- Headlamp with spare batteries
- First-aid kit



BUDGET

Included in the Price

- Round-trip flights
- Supervision by TRAIL to be ALIVE and AE EVENTS
- Participation in the RAIDLIGHT DESERT TROPHY / TRANS SAHARA MARATHON
- Accommodation in double hotel rooms (and shared bivouac tents)
- All dinners and breakfasts (except for the self-sufficient 200 km race)
- All group transfers

Not Included

- Lunches
- Drinks during meals not specifically included
- Optional activities or visits
- Cancellation/repatriation insurance
- Excess baggage fees at airports
- Mandatory equipment and self-sufficient food supplies
- Individual transfers linked to special situations (delayed arrival/departure, withdrawal from the race, requested hotel return, etc.)

Visa

Participants must hold a passport valid for at least 6 months after the return date.
No visa fees required.

Flight Schedules

From Paris CDG :

- Departure 13/03 at 9:45 AM — arrival 1:05 PM
- Return 21/03 at 2:10 PM — arrival 5:30 PM

Limited number of seats available for each city. Flight schedules subject to change.

From Lyon :

- Departure 13/03 at 11:05 AM — arrival 1:20 PM
- Return 21/03 at 7:25 PM — arrival 10:35 PM

Inscriptions
www.raidlight.com/rdt

Registration Fees

Fee without flights : **1 690€**

Fee including flights : **2 090€**

Additional €100 surcharge from 01/09/2026 onward

Single room option* : + 200€

Assistance insurance (repatriation) : **46€**

Multi-risk insurance

(cancellation, assistance & repatriation) : **176€**

(voir détail assurances sur le site internet)

Payment :

Initial deposit payable upon registration : **510€**

Payment possible in 4 installments at no extra cost

> Credit card, cheque, bank transfer, holiday vouchers accepted

CO2 Compensation :

An optional carbon offset of 0.81 tons of CO2 (equivalent to the flights for this trip) through the NGO GOOD PLANET is available for €23.

Autres infos :

Dans la limite des places disponibles

***: A single room is available for hotel stays, but nights spent camping will be in shared tents.**

Prices are subject to the availability of flights at the price: (registration fee – registration fee excluding flights) on the date of booking. Price revision terms and conditions in accordance with clause 3.2 of our general terms and conditions of sale.

PARTNERS



TRAIL TO BE ALIVE

TRAIL to be ALIVE organizes stage trail races and hiking adventures abroad in extraordinary landscapes. Combining culture and conviviality, these sports trips have been organized since 1995 (formerly under the name Nature Extrême Développement – NED), operating as a travel agency offering all-inclusive trips in complete safety.



www.trailtobealive.com



RAIDLIGHT®

Raidlight has specialized in trail-running equipment for 25 years.

Founded by Benoit LAVAL and based in Saint-Pierre-de-Chartreuse, Raidlight develops and designs products combining performance, lightness, and strong environmental commitments: two-thirds of its products are made from recycled materials.

The French trail-running brand stands out through innovation and Made in France production, with part of its product lines manufactured in its workshop in the Chartreuse region. Raidlight will equip you from head to toe for all your trail races and hikes.

As a partner of TRAIL TO BE ALIVE (both companies are chaired by Benoit LAVAL and share the same premises), Raidlight offers you a 25% discount on its website. The discount code will be sent to you immediately after registration.



www.raidlight.com



MX3 Nutrition offers a complete sports nutrition range.

This French company has been producing freeze-dried meals, bars, and gels for sports performance for more than 20 years in collaboration with dietitians.

As a partner of TRAIL TO BE ALIVE, you will enjoy MX3 Nutrition products at our refreshment stations, as well as specific desert packs available on www.raidlight.com.



www.mx3.fr



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Photos from the RAIDLIGHT DESERT TROPHY & TRANS SAHARA MARATHON 2026.



PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION



A truly immersive experience, combining our passion for sport with the chance to explore the local area. I can't wait for the ne. Eric

An unforgettable adventure in the Moroccan Sahara. Christian

A proper desert race with real dunes. Guy

It was a sporting and personal adventure, timeless in nature, which helped me get to know myself better. Marie

A format that allows some to explore the desert, whilst offering a competitive element for those who wish it. Mathias

A race on a human scale, with a friendly atmosphere and stunning scenery, all at a reasonable price. Cyril

Magical, breathtaking scenery, very well organised. Fatna

200km, feet in the sand and head in the clouds – an incredible experience. Martine

A superb event and very well organised. Nicolas



**TRANS SAHARA
MARATHON**

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**TRAVEL AGENCY
TRAIL to be ALIVE**

SAS TRAIL TO BE ALIVE
with a share capital of €50,000 – Registered in the
Grenoble Trade and Companies Register (38) under
number 401 713 169
65 Rue de Perquelin, 38 380 Saint-Pierre-de-
Chartreuse

Atout France registration IM 073100049
Financial guarantee: GROUPAMA No. 4000 717 619/0
Civil and Professional Liability Insurance:
HISCOX - Policy No. RCP0222709



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