# Skateboarder overcomes theft to continue 1,500-mile Brighton to Tangier mental health fundraiser



A remarkable journey has unfolded as Sam Allison, a 21-year-old skateboarder from East Sussex, embarks on a 1,500-mile adventure from Brighton to Tangier, Morocco, to raise funds for mental health awareness through the Ben Raemers Foundation. This foundation, established in memory of the professional skateboarder Ben Raemers, aims to combat the stigma surrounding mental health issues within the skate community, an endeavour Sam feels particularly passionate about given his own struggles with mental health.

However, this inspiring quest faced an unexpected hurdle when all of Allison's possessions, including his passport, were stolen while he was camping in France. Feeling "defeated" at first, he resolved not to let this setback define his journey. Instead, he quickly made plans to secure an emergency travel document and replace essential items, demonstrating resilience that deeply resonates with his mission to raise awareness about mental health. “It is what it is. Life happens,” he reflected in a video shared on social media, revealing a blend of disappointment and determination.

The journey itself is no small feat. Allison has committed to skating approximately 48.2 kilometres daily over 55 days, with his best friend Lucas Perrin accompanying him on a bicycle for parts of the route. This companionship aims to bolster morale and ensure he stays hydrated through regions noted for their challenging terrains. Starting from Brighton, Allison aims to navigate through the heart of France, passed Chartres and onward to Bordeaux, and eventually through Spain to reach North Africa.

Raising more than £3,700 through a crowdfunding page, Allison seeks to bring attention to the challenges many skateboarding enthusiasts face regarding mental health. Expressing gratitude towards the Ben Raemers Foundation, he noted, “They are also giving accessibility to skaters within the industry to focus on improving mental health and easier access to services for mental health, which is truly incredible.” This issue resonates deeply within the skate community, where personal stories of mental health struggles often go untold.

Additionally, the skateboarding scene in Morocco has been blossoming, with initiatives to develop local skate parks and promote skating as a healthy outlet. Locations like Taghazout have become popular spots not just for international tourists but also for local youths, facilitating a dynamic environment for self-expression and community building. Allison's journey, reminiscent of these burgeoning skate cultures, is likely to inspire many as it shines a spotlight on both the thrill of adventure and the seriousness of mental health discussions in the sport.

As he continues his journey toward Tangier, Sam Allison embodies a blend of adventure, activism, and personal growth, demonstrating how one can transform adversity into a platform for change. His determination reflects a broader narrative within the skating community—a movement toward openness and dialogue around mental health—a message that is becoming increasingly vital in today's society.

If you or someone you know is struggling, mental health support can be accessed through various hotlines, including the Samaritans in the UK and the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in the USA, ensuring no one has to face their challenges alone.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/skateboard-brighton-morocco-sam-allison-charity-theft-b2760639.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/skateboard-brighton-morocco-sam-allison-charity-theft-b2760639.html), [[4]](https://www.nbcrightnow.com/national/man-skateboarding-1-500-miles-from-uk-to-africa/article_b9e7c449-ae0a-56b7-8fe3-6df784886f24.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/skateboard-brighton-morocco-sam-allison-charity-theft-b2760639.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/skateboard-brighton-morocco-sam-allison-charity-theft-b2760639.html), [[3]](https://www.yabiladi.com/articles/details/165339/british-skater-s-journey-from-brighton.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.nbcrightnow.com/national/man-skateboarding-1-500-miles-from-uk-to-africa/article_b9e7c449-ae0a-56b7-8fe3-6df784886f24.html), [[5]](https://www.newsminimalist.com/articles/man-skateboards-from-brighton-to-morocco-for-charity-22b3b759)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.confuzine.com/confusion-videos-archive/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/skateboard-brighton-morocco-sam-allison-charity-theft-b2760639.html), [[5]](https://www.newsminimalist.com/articles/man-skateboards-from-brighton-to-morocco-for-charity-22b3b759)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/skateboard-brighton-morocco-sam-allison-charity-theft-b2760639.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/skateboard-brighton-morocco-sam-allison-charity-theft-b2760639.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/skateboard-brighton-morocco-sam-allison-charity-theft-b2760639.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/skateboard-brighton-morocco-sam-allison-charity-theft-b2760639.html> - Sam Allison, a 21-year-old from East Sussex, embarked on a 1,500-mile skateboarding journey from Brighton to Tangier, Morocco, to raise funds for the Ben Raemers Foundation, a mental health charity. During his trip, all his possessions, including his passport, were stolen while camping in France. Despite the setback, Allison continued his journey after obtaining an emergency travel document and replacing essential items. He aims to raise awareness about mental health within the skateboarding community.
3. <https://www.yabiladi.com/articles/details/165339/british-skater-s-journey-from-brighton.html> - Sam Allison, a 21-year-old British national, embarked on an extraordinary journey to skateboard 2,414 kilometers from Brighton, England, to Tangier, Morocco. His goal is to raise funds for the Ben Raemers Foundation, which supports mental health within the skateboarding community. Allison plans to skate roughly 48.2 kilometers a day for 55 days, carrying all his essentials in a large backpack. His friend Lucas Perrin will accompany him by bicycle for parts of the journey, helping to keep his spirits up and ensure he stays hydrated. ([yabiladi.com](https://www.yabiladi.com/articles/details/165339/british-skater-s-journey-from-brighton.html?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.nbcrightnow.com/national/man-skateboarding-1-500-miles-from-uk-to-africa/article_b9e7c449-ae0a-56b7-8fe3-6df784886f24.html> - Sam Allison, 21, is skateboarding from his home in Brighton to Tangier to raise money for mental health charity the Ben Raemers Foundation. He decided to take on the challenge after struggling with his own mental health issues, which he says skateboarding 'saved' him from. Allison, who saved up funds from his job at UberEats to tackle the trip, estimates it will take him between 50 and 60 days, meaning he has to travel around 30 miles each day. While en route, he also has to carry a 'huge' backpack filled with a tent, sleeping bag, all of his clothes, and even a massage gun. Allison is currently in Chartres, a French town just outside Paris, and is heading to Bordeaux, where he's due to meet up with some friends. From there, he'll skate down through Spain and towards Gibraltar, before crossing the Strait of Gibraltar via ferry to get to Morocco. ([nbcrightnow.com](https://www.nbcrightnow.com/national/man-skateboarding-1-500-miles-from-uk-to-africa/article_b9e7c449-ae0a-56b7-8fe3-6df784886f24.html?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.newsminimalist.com/articles/man-skateboards-from-brighton-to-morocco-for-charity-22b3b759> - A 21-year-old man plans to skateboard from Brighton, England, to Tangier, Morocco, to raise money for mental health awareness. Sam Allison will begin his 55-day journey on Wednesday, aiming to support the Ben Raemers Foundation. He hopes to combat the stigma surrounding mental health within the skateboarding community. Allison, who has skated since childhood, will camp along the way, navigating through France and Spain before reaching Africa. He encourages others to pursue their goals. ([newsminimalist.com](https://www.newsminimalist.com/articles/man-skateboards-from-brighton-to-morocco-for-charity-22b3b759?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.confuzine.com/confusion-videos-archive/> - Confusion Magazine offers an archive of skateboarding videos, including features like the 'Morocco Loco' series, which showcases local skaters in Morocco. The series highlights the vibrant skateboarding scene in Morocco, featuring local talent and the development of skate parks, such as the one in Taghazout. The park has become a favorite spot for young Moroccans to camp and skate daily. ([confuzine.com](https://www.confuzine.com/confusion-videos-archive/?utm_source=openai))