

Tunisia: Kaleidoscope of cultures and landscapes

The Sahara Desert, Mediterranean Sea, Archaeological Sites, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Berber Culture, Arab and European Architecture...and French speaking people!

May 10-24 & September 13-27, 2022

(Follows our Malta Tour & Precedes Algeria Tour)



May 11/Sep 14 Day 1: Arrival in Tunis / Hotel Tunisia Palace (D)

Arrival at Tunis airport, meet your guide and transfer to the hotel.

Depending on the arrival times of the group members, late in the afternoon, we drive 15 minutes to Sidi-Bou-Saïd, the best-preserved Moorish village in Tunisia and a MUST for travellers, photographers and writers.

Perched on a cliff that is overhanging Carthage and the Gulf of Tunis, the quaint town Sidi Bou Said is a veritable gem of Arab-Andalusian architecture. The village delights with narrow winding streets bordered by immaculate whitewashed houses with blue shutters and doors.

We will have a short, guided walking tour and enjoy a traditional dinner in Sidi-Bou-Saïd. (If there are people arriving in the evening, we will move this visit to tomorrow evening).

Return to Tunis for overnight.

May 12/Sep 15 Day 2: Bardo Museum – Medina – Carthage / Hotel Tunisia Palace (B, L)

The day will start with a 20 km drive to visit of the Bardo National Museum, one of the best archaeological museums of the Mediterranean, especially known for its beautiful collection of roman-byzantine mosaics, the World's largest, and located in an old 18th century palace that belonged to the Beys, the Turkish rulers of Tunisia.

Afterwards, we visit the Medina of Tunis (old walled city). You can stroll in the souks selling products of skilled North African craftsman, such as copper, leather, wool, and beautifully woven carpets.

We'll have lunch in the medina.

Continue to Carthage, to visit the Archaeological Museum, the Roman Baths of Anthonine, Byrsa Acropolis, the Punic harbours and the Tophet Necropolis. The tour here will take about 2.5 hours.

Carthage was built on a promontory with sea inlets to the north and the south. The city's location made it master of the Mediterranean's maritime trade. All ships crossing the sea had to pass between Sicily and the coast of Tunisia, where Carthage was built, affording it great power and influence.

The city had massive walls, 37 kilometers (23 mi) in length, longer than the walls of comparable cities. Most of the walls were located on the shore and thus could be less impressive, as Carthaginian control of the sea made attack from that direction difficult. The 4.0 to 4.8 kilometers (2.5 to 3 mi) of wall on the isthmus to the west were truly massive and were never penetrated.

The Antonine Baths were among the largest baths to be built in the Roman world and were the largest such complex in North Africa. The baths were originally built from 145 to 165 AD, mostly during the reign of the Roman Emperor Antoninus Pius. The baths contained a number of rooms and chambers standard to such ancient bath complexes, including the Frigidarium (cold room), Caldarium (hot room) and Tepidarium (hot bath). Although once existed many stories high, the remains that can be seen today are mostly from the lower level. Despite lacking its original grandeur, the fascinating ruins of the Antonine Baths are certainly worth exploring and provide a picturesque location, positioned as they are against the backdrop of the ocean.

Byrsa Acropolis (Punic Buildings): Archaeologists have found that the terraces upon which the Roman forum was built were supported in part by walls of very old houses and they have unearthed a small section of the Punic city. It appears that the buildings had several stories; rooms and courtyards were rather small which indicates that the city was overcrowded. According to tradition, Queen Dido, the founder of Carthage, was allowed by the local king to build her city on the piece of land covered by an oxhide. Dido cut the hide into a continuous string and with that she surrounded the top of a hill overlooking the sea. Probably the account originated from the relatively limited extent of the Punic city.

The city had a huge necropolis or burial ground, religious area, market places, council house, towers and a theater and was divided into four equally sized residential areas with the same layout. Roughly in the middle of the city stood a high citadel called the Byrsa.

Two large, artificial harbors were built within the city, one for harboring the city's massive navy of 220 warships and the other for mercantile trade. A walled tower overlooked both harbors. When the Romans destroyed Carthage they burnt all the facilities of its two harbors, but because eventually they had to rebuild them to house a large mercantile fleet, their location is still clearly identifiable. The military harbor was dug to form an artificial circular island around which the ships were moored. It was protected by high walls so that the merchants could not see what was going on from the nearby commercial harbor.

The commercial harbor was much larger than it appears today. It had a rectangular shape. A narrow passage gave access to the military harbor. When the Romans destroyed Carthage they established their first province on African soil and set the residence of the Roman proconsul at Utica, an allied town at the mouth of the Mejerda River. Over time however the harbor of Utica silted and Carthage became the main port from which grains were shipped to Ostia.

Tophet Tombs: In 1921 the discovery of a large cemetery containing the charred bones of infants near the harbors of Carthage seemed to confirm the Carthaginian practice of sacrificing their first male child. The cemetery was called Tophet with reference to the biblical term which indicated the site where the Canaanites sacrificed children by burning them alive. Today the Carthaginian practice of sacrificing children is questioned.

Return to our hotel (5 min drive). This evening at leisure. Dinner on your own. There are many wonderful cafes near the hotel to choose from.

May 13/Sep 16 Day 3: Tunis -Bizerte & Utica - Tunis / Hotel Tunisia Palace (B, L)

We depart at 8 am for our excursion to Bizerte and Utica (Roman-Carthaginian towns).

We drive about one hour north along the delta of the Medjerda River, very lush and green area, mountains and hills surround the city of Utica, our first stop of the day. Once of capital of North Africa after the Romans conquered the Carthaginians. We will visit the museum, one of the unique sites of Tunisia due to its location and Punic collection. Then we continue to the site, a multi layered area culminating Carthaginian and Roman

vestiges. You will discover the beautifully preserved villa of the cascades and explore the main street, then the Punic necropolis and 2400 year-old tombs. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Punic_War

Afterwards, continue 45 minutes to Bizerte. Lunch at a local restaurant. Afterwards, we visit the old town. Once called Ksiba, the 17th century city is surrounded by a small fishing harbor. We stroll the streets and marvel at the constriction of the ramparts.

Return to Tunis, 1 hr 10 min drive.

May 14/Sep 17 Day 4: Tunis – Dougga - Kairouan (150 km) / Hotel La Kasbah (B, L)

We start with a 1hr 45 min drive southwest to visit the most prestigious Roman site in Tunisia, Dougga (UNESCO). Dougga, also known as Thugga, is a Romano-Berber city in northern Tunisia, included in a 65 hectare archaeological site. UNESCO qualified Dougga as a World Heritage Site in 1997, believing that it represents “the best-preserved Roman small town in North Africa.” Before the Roman annexation of Numida, Thugga, built on an elevated site, was the capital of an important Libyco-Punic state. It flourished under Roman and Byzantine rule, but declined in the Islamic period.

The site is an outstanding example of the birth, development and history of an indigenous city since the second millennium BC. It conserves the complete ruins of an antique city with all its components and provides the best known example of town layout of an indigenous foundation, adapted to town planning on the Roman model.

Continue 1.5 hr to Kairouan, lunch en-route.

May 15/Sep 18 Day 5 Kairouan – El Jem – Kairouan/ Hotel La Kasbah (B, L)

Kairouan, (UNESCO World Heritage Site), was once the Arab capital for all of North Africa and one of Islam’s most sacred cities.

Fourth holiest city of Islam (after Mecca, Medina and Jerusalem), Kairouan is an important religious pilgrimage site and, for history lovers, one of the highlights of Tunisia. This bustling city is jam-packed with some of the country’s best examples of Islamic architecture, from grand mosques and tombs with ornate decoration to the Medina back alleys lined with candy-colored houses.

Keirouan's Medina (old town) is the most atmospheric and best preserved in Tunisia, the tightly packed alleyways giving a taste of the Arab empires. Unlike the prettified old towns of Hammamet and Djerba, the old town here is completely untouched by modern times. The Medina is surrounded by a 3.5 km long circuit of brick walls reinforced by numerous towers built by the Husseinites in the early 18th century. Inside the walls, lanes ramble in a maze of directions. The best way to explore is simply to chuck the map and wander. The narrow streets lined with colorful, paint-peeling houses are attractions themselves. You could spend hours here just soaking up the old town's beautiful architecture.

Visit the Great Mosque, Sidi Oqba, built in the 9th century and located in the northeast corner of the medina.. This is the oldest and most important Islamic building in North Africa and was originally built by Oqba ibn Nafi, the Arab commander who founded Kairouan in AD 672. Many of Tunisia's other major mosques, including the Great Mosque of Sousse, took their inspiration from Kairouan's Great Mosque architecture. Many Roman columns were reused to build the prayer hall. The mosque covers a mammoth area 135 m long by 80 m wide with a vast inner courtyard surrounded on three sides by double-aisled colonnades of antique columns. Non-Muslims are not allowed to enter the prayer hall but the doors are often kept open so you can have a peek inside.

Next, visit the Barber's Mosque (also called the Zaouia of Sidi Sahab). The complex includes a mausoleum, a mosque and madrassa (Islamic school of learning), and was built between 1629 and 1692 over the tomb of one of Muhammad's (the prophet of Islam) companions who died in AD 685. According to legend Sidi Sahab always carried a few hairs from Muhammad's beard out of reverence for the Prophet, hence the mosque's name.

The complex is notable for its magnificent tile decoration, much of which dates only from the 19th century and superb Andalusian décor. You enter through a forecourt, on the left of which are the imam's lodgings, guest-rooms and ablution fountains. Opposite the entrance is the minaret. The forecourt also gives access to the madrassa, laid out round a small courtyard, the prayer hall beyond it and (by way of a passage adjoining the minaret) another colonnaded courtyard, off which opens the tomb of Sidi Sahab (not open to the public).

Time permitting, we will stop to see the outside of the Three Doors Mosque (visitors are not allowed inside). One of the oldest buildings in Kairouan, the Mosque of the Three Doors (Mosquée des Trois Portes or Djemaa Tleta Bibane) was founded in AD 866 by an Andalusian scholar. Its most notable feature is the facade with three doorways, from which it takes its name. There are two friezes of Kufic inscriptions, the lower of which dates to 1440. The minaret also dates from this year.

We then visit the impressive Aghlabid Basins (pools), built in the 9th century by the Aghlabid dynasty, that supplied water for the Aghlabid palace, which once sat on the site of Kairouan's present-day cemetery. The water was brought by aqueduct from Djebel Cherichera, 36 km away. The smaller basin was a settling tank from which the water flowed to the larger one that had a capacity of 50,000 cu m. In the centre of the larger pool is the base of a pavilion where the Aghlabid rulers used to relax. The pools were restored in 1969 and another pool has been discovered just to the west.

Next, we stop at the lovely Zaouia of Sidi Abed el Ghariani. This ornate tomb, dedicated to a holy man who lived in Kairouan during the 14th century, is notable for its fine wood, stucco ceiling and sumptuously decorated inner courtyard. The tile work decorating the walls here is breathtakingly beautiful and has been extremely well preserved. Anyone interested in traditional Arabic decoration and artistry will enjoy a visit here.

Lunch in route. Afterwards, we return to Imperial Rome with our next stop, approx one hour's drive away, at El Jem (Thysdrus) to view the splendid amphitheatre which could hold 30,000 people. Though smaller than the Coliseum in Rome, it is in a better state of preservation. We also visit the archaeological museum and the Villa Africa, one of a kind representing the roman art.

Kairouan also has some of the most beautiful and best quality carpets in the country.

Return to the hotel. Dinner on your own (pay direct).

May 16/Sep 19 Day 6: Kairouan – Sbeitla (Sufetula) – Tozeur (300 km) / Hotel Magic Ksar Rouge (B,L)

Today, we will drive westward 1.5 hours to reach the old byzantine city of Sufetula, visit the archaeological site with its old Roman Forum, the Episcopal complex and the theatre.

After driving about 10 km southwest of Kairouan, we stop in Raqqada, the second royal city of the 9th century, after Kairouan. We visit the interesting Raqqada National Museum of Islamic Art set in a beautiful park. The museum is housed in a presidential palace built in 1970. The exhibits include finds from Kairouan, the Aghlabid residences at Raqqada and Al Abbasiya, and other towns in the region. A special highlight introduces the excavations 6 km away at Sabra Mansourya (a circular palace built by Caliph El Mansour in the middle of the 10th century). In the entrance hall are a model of the Sidi Oqba Mosque and a reproduction of its mihrab. In other rooms are old prints with views of local towns, coins of the various dynasties (Aghlabids, Fatimids, Zirids), old Koranic inscriptions (including one on a gazelle skin dyed blue), a variety of pottery and funerary stelae with inscriptions. The exhibits are labeled only in Arabic, but it is well worth a visit.

Continue to Sufetula. Sufetula was a town of some 5,000 inhabitants in the interior of the country and, even though the Romans founded towns in the oasis of southern Tunisia, it was almost at the border of the Empire. Yet its temples were accurately decorated with mouldings and capitals, which indicates a wide circulation of treatises on architecture and engineering. The main baths of Sufetula were located a short distance from the Forum. Archaeologists have identified a twin set of halls, which has led them to believe that a section of the baths was utilized in winter and the other one in summer. Inscriptions making reference to restorations indicate that the baths, which were built in the early 3rd century, were in use during the Byzantine period, possibly until 647 when Sufetula was plundered by Arab raiders.

The theatre of Sufetula was built at the edge of a ravine created by the small river to the east of the town. What we see today is largely a modern reconstruction.

From here, it is a three-hour drive (lunch stop en-route) through the Chott Al Djerid area marvelling at the desert until we reach the oasis of Tozeur. Check in the hotel.

May 17/Sep 20 Day 7: Tozeur / Hotel Magic Ksar Rouge (B,L)

Tozeur is a charming city in the South West of Tunisia based around a large Oasis famous for its Palm trees and production of dates, which are exported around the world. The city is a good place to glimpse the Sahara from and take in traditional Tunisian culture including a wide range of architectural styles.

Tozeur was historically an important stopping point for caravans crossing the Sahara, a place to rest and refuel before heading deeper into the dessert. It was also used as an important Roman outpost and has since been ruled by a variety of tribes including the Berbers for much of its history, who have perhaps the most influence on the city's historic architecture.

This morning we enjoy a leisurely visit of Ouled el-Hadef, Tozeur's beautiful 14th century Medina. Tozeur's delightful old quarter was built in the 14th century AD to house the El-Hadef clan, which had grown rich on the proceeds of the caravan trade. The area is a maze of narrow, covered alleys and small squares. It's famous for its amazing traditional brickwork, which uses protruding bricks to create intricate geometric patterns in relief. The style is found only here and in nearby Nefta. Like the medinas further north in Tunisia, wandering through the Ouled el-Hadef is a journey of discovery best made by getting lost. The most well-preserved sections are east of the museum, including the house of the former governor (Dar Bey). Although outside the boundaries of the old town, the brick minarets of the Mosque of Sidi Mouldi and Mosque el-Ferdous (ave Habib Bourguiba) are very attractive.

We pass through the old quarter of Bled el-Hader, thought to be the site of ancient Thuzuros. Further on is the village of Abbes where the tomb of marabout (holy man) Sidi Bou Lifa stands in the shade of an enormous jubube (Chinese date) tree. There are lots of paths leading off into the palmeraie along the irrigation canals. It's delightfully cool among all the vegetation.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Afterwards, we shall explore the Paleraie on foot. Tozeur's Palmeraie is the second-largest in the country with at least 200,000 palm trees (locals claim twice that number) spread over an area of more than 10 sq km. It's a classic example of tiered oasis agriculture. The system is watered by more than 200 springs that produce almost 60 million litres of water a day, distributed around the various holdings under a complex system devised by the mathematician Ibn Chabbat in the 13th century AD.

Several kilometers southeast of the statue of Ibn Chabbat is the incongruous Chak Wak Park, an enormous testament to the vision of one passionate and wealthy man. The former mayor of Tozeur and the driving force behind the Dar Charait Museum, has created what amounts to a three-dimensional liberal education on evolution, history and religion. Surrounded by high walls reminiscent of the King Kong films, inside is a circuit that takes you from dinosaur-sized replicas of dinosaurs to a replica of Noah's Ark with models of animals lining up two by two while a sound system pipes in rain effects. Even the Biblical parting of the red sea is represented here with walls of papier-mâché ocean. Other exhibits are truly worthwhile including an excellent history of Hannibal and the Carthaginian wars in English, Italian, Spanish, French, Arabic and German and a building given over to the symbols and icons of the world's major religions.

We return to our hotel. Rest of the afternoon/evening at your leisure.

May 18/Sep 21 Day 8: Tozeur - Tamerza - Chebika - Mides – Tozeur / Hotel Magic Ksar Rouge (B,L)

This morning we board the 4WD vehicle and depart to the golden triangle of mountain oasis, Tamerza, Mides and Chebika. We shall explore the mountains with an exciting ride on the "Red Lizard Train."

Built by the French at the end of the 19th century, the original purpose of the narrow gauge line was to transport the rich phosphate deposits, discovered in 1896 by amateur palaeontologist and French army veterinary surgeon, Philippe Thomas, from Metaloui westwards to Redeyef. The Red Lizard itself was for many years used by the Bey of Tunis, to travel between Tunis and his summer palace at Hammam Lif, but in 1995 was refitted by the national railway company and set to work, which it still does today, transporting tourists in style.

Taking an enjoyable hour and a half, the return journey along the gorge takes you through some of Tunisia's most wonderful rock formations. As the track follows the path carved out by the Oued Seldja, the riverbed, which is dry most of the time, still has enough moisture to allow small pockets of lush greenery which serve to heighten the drama of the rocky landscape and make your adventure all the more remarkable.

Afterwards, we drive through the oasis of Mides, Tamerza and Chebika, which are perched in Granite Mountains above the Sahara and provide scenery for filmmakers in search of Biblical landscapes. These oases used to be Roman outposts 2000 years ago, where some Roman garrisons were stationed.

Lunch and then return drive to Tozeur.

This evening, visit the Dar Cheraït Museum, an ethnographical museum that features luxurious decorations with the most representative scenes of North-African life. The museum is part of the impressive Dar Charaït complex. The building in which the museum is housed is an extravagant reproduction of an old palace and contains collections of pottery, jewelry, costumes and other antiques, as well as an art gallery. Scattered throughout the rooms off the main courtyard is a series of replicas of scenes from Tunisian life, past and present. The whole complex is tastefully lit at night.

Dinner at a local restaurant.

May 19/Sep 22 Day 9: Tozeur - Douz - Matmata (250 km) / Hotel Diar El Barbar (B,L)

After breakfast, we depart to Douz "gateway to the Sahara." Cross the dry salt lake of Chott el Djerid to reach the quiet, oasis village. We will visit the oasis and market place. Lunch in town.

This afternoon we drive to Matmata and see the famous troglodytes, underground villas used by the Berbers to protect themselves from heat in the summer, and where Indiana Jones and the English Patient were filmed. Check in to hotel, dinner on your own.

May 20/Sep 23 Day 10: Matmata - Chenini - Douiret - Ksar Ouled Soltane - Tataouine - Djerba Island (300 km) / Dar Gaïa (B,L)

We begin our journey southeast towards the Dahar Mountains (110 km/2.5 hrs) to visit the Berber hamlets of Chenini and Douiret where we can explore the Berber granaries and the valleys.

We'll drive 45 km to Ksar Ouled Soltane and visit the 15th century granary (the slave quarters in George Lucas' Star Wars films).

Continue to Tataouine for a lunch stop, one of the several areas where the Allied forces have challenged Rommel's troops in WW II North-African campaign.

Then onward 135km/2 hrs to the Causeway to visit the village of Guellala, known for its spectacular pottery. The village is located on the causeway leading to the continent. Visit the Guellala Museum, which is located in an architectural masterpiece and filled with ancient artifacts to enable you to soak up some of the history of this exquisite island.

Continue one more hour to Djerba Island. Check in to our hotel.

May 21/Sep 24 Day 11: Djerba / Dar Gaïa (B)

Depart after breakfast on our guided tour of Djerba Island.

First, we shall visit the El Ghriba Synagogue (also known as Djerba Synagogue), located in the formerly Jewish village of Harah Sghira (currently known as Er-Riadh), several km southwest of Houmt Souk, the capital of Djerba.

The synagogue was built in the 6th century BC (fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians), and is one of the holiest Jewish places in Tunisia. It is the most venerated of the 20 synagogues that used to function in the three Jewish villages on Djerba at the height of the Jewish community in the early 1950s. El Ghriba is the destination of an annual pilgrimage of Jews from all over the world for the holiday Lag BaOmer, which is celebrated 33 days after the beginning of the celebration of Passover. The synagogue houses Sefer Torah, one of the most ancient Torahs in the world.

Next, we visit the Heritage Museum- two thousand square meters of objects and artifacts including exhibitions on island folklore, jewelry and costumes. And the Museum Lella Hadhria, a private museum sheltering the best collection of Islamic Art in North-Africa.

The day culminates with an opportunity for an independent stroll in Houmt Souk, the island's capital, for a chance to experience local crafts and food. Houmt Souk is the main center of the island and is also home to the Folk Museum and the magnificent Old Town. It's here where you will find a wide selection of cafes and restaurants where you can taste some of the delicious local cuisine.

Enjoy lunch on your own, an opportunity to interact with residents if you so desire.

Late afternoon, return to your hotel and the remainder of the day at leisure.

May 22/Sep 25 Day 12: Djerba - Sfax – Mahdia (340 km)/ hotel Mahdia Palace (B, L)

Depart at 7:30 am and board a ferry for a 15 minute ride, then a 60 km/approx 1 hour drive to Sfax where we visit the Dar Jallouli Museum. This is a delightful 18th century patrician house in the heart of the medina. The house was bequeathed by one of the great families of the Sfaxian bourgeoisie and is in pure classical Tunisian style behind a modest façade. The four rooms are laid out around a courtyard portraying reconstructed scenes from daily life.

We continue to Mahdia, once the Capital of the Fatimid dynasty, and check into our hotel.

May 23/Sep 26 Day 13: Mahdia - Monastir - Sousse – Hammamet (180 km) / hotel Iberostar Averroes (B)

In the morning, visit the Medina of Mahdia with its old narrow streets, Cairo Square, the old Fatimid mosque and the cemetery, then drive approximately 1.5 hours to Monastir, once a Phoenician settlement.

In Monastir, visit the Ribat, best preserved Arab fortress. The Ribat is both an historical monument and somewhat of a movie-star having been in a number of movies the most famous being the Life of Brian and Jesus of Nazareth. Harthama ben Ayan in 796 was the key architect and envisioned like the Ribat in Sousse to built the facility as part of the coastal defences that would protect the Islamic empire from the heathens to the North. Unlike Sousse however the building was significantly added to over time and became much larger than the original structure. In the 11th century the Kasbah was built as where additions in each century after culminating in its extensive renovations in the 1960's no doubt in keeping with its place as the main attraction of Monastir which was the then home town of the President. Each renovation added more space and the original structure of 1300 was extended to form a complex of over 2200m.

Under the Aglabids, the Ribat was a religious centre, a place of pilgrimage and an influential Islamic educational center. The Ribat was called into action a few times in the 15th Century with part of it destroyed in 1550 by the Spanish navy. At its most dangerous, the Ribat was home to over 30 cannons and was a fortress of some renown.

Around the Ribat you will find the old mosque of Monastir as well as a religious madrasa though these are now dwarfed by the 1960's Habib Bourguiba mosque which was needed to cater to the town's increasing population.

Enjoy lunch on your own in the medina. Afterwards, we drive 30 minutes to Sousse to explore the Medina and its monuments. Late in the day, drive 1.5 hours to Hammamet and check into our hotel.

May 24/Sep 27 Day 14: Hammamet - Nabeul – Tunis (80 km)/ Hotel Tunisa Palace (B, D)

Hammamet is a pleasant beach town located in the south east of the northern Peninsula of Cap Bon.

In the morning, visit the old Medina of Hammamet and its fort, then drive 20 minutes to Nabeul, to visit the archaeological museum.

We continue 1 hour Tunis. Transfer to our hotel. The rest of the day at leisure. You may like to return to the souk for shopping and lunch or relax at the hotel.

Tonight, we enjoy a traditional dinner in the Medina for our farewell.

May 25/Sep 28 Day 15: Depart (B) Transfer to the airport.

Pending availability & based on min 6 people- guide: Mr. Mohamed Halouani is a Tunisian native who transformed his profound passion for travel and history into a creative and diversified educational career, designing and carrying out multiple archaeological and cultural trips for institutions, such as The Detroit Institute of Art, the Textile Museum, the American Museum of Natural History, Cross Cultural Adventurers and many more organizations. After having received his degrees in English and Spanish, Mr. Halouani completed his European Master's in linguistics and Hispanic studies at the Sorbonne University in Paris. He has extensive knowledge on Islamic architecture and Eastern decorative elements as well as Roman archaeology and history. A skilled multilingual interpreter, Mohamed has served as the head tour guide in Tunisia. He now resides in Paris and leads only certain select small groups to the three countries in North Africa that boast the highest concentration of Roman Ruins: Libya, Tunisia and Algeria.



2021 Price: \$3450 per person, based on a minimum six people. Single room Supplement: \$565.

2022 Price TBA

Discount: \$200 if booked with our Malta or Algeria tour.

Extra night in Tunis: \$ TBD per person twin share; \$TBD single room

Airport arrival or departure transfer if not on tour dates: \$42 per car

Includes:

Accommodations with daily breakfast:

Tunis: Tunisia Palace 4* <http://tunisiapalace.com-tunisia.com/>

Centrally located steps from Bab el Bahr and Cathedral of St. Vincent de Paul. Ac, wifi, fitness facilities, sauna, Satellite TV. The website comes up in French and you have the option on the top nav bar to translate to English.

Kairouan: Hotel La Kasbah 5* <https://www.goldenyasmin.com/fr/la-kasbah/>

In the heart of Kairouan, this luxurious hotel's Arab Islamic design blends harmoniously into the city's architecture. The property has been recently renovated keeping ancient areas such as the beautiful Turkish café.

Tozeur: Magic Ksar Rouge 4* <https://www.ksar-rouge.tn/en/presentation.php>

An Andalusian style hotel overlooking the palm groves and the salted lake in Tozeur.

Matmata: Hotel Diar El Barbar 4* <http://www.diarelbarbar.com/hotel.htm>

Djerba Island: Dar Gaïa <http://dargaia.tingitingi.net/>

One of the nicest houses in Tunisia, suite rooms in a garden setting.

Mahdia: hotel Mahdia Palace 5* <https://www.hotelpalace.com.tn/fr/hotels/mahdia-palace>

A beautiful property with full facilities including a thalasso spa, excellent restaurant.

Hammamet: hotel Alhambra Thalasso 5* <http://www.alhambra-thalasso.com/>

A modern hotel with full facilities. All rooms have sitting area and balcony or terrace.

Meals as indicated: 10 lunches, 2 Dinners

Airport transfers on the tour arrival and departure dates

ac transport (8 seat mini-van for group of 4-5 people); 12 seats for group of 6-7; 16 seats for 8-9 people and 25 seats for 10-12 people; everyone has a window)

Accompanying guide

Entrance fees

Camera fees at the sites

Water during the drives

Does Not Include: international flight, visa fee, tips to driver and guide, Tips to hotel and airport porters, beverages during meals, any expenses of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls, alcoholic or soft drinks.