

TUNISIA



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Luxury Destination Management Company

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Our company owned by a family, but run professionally. We have hierarchical systems which are driven by our core family values. We have come to understand we do not want to be the largest company globally. We have never tried to be the richest or the most influential. I say, we just want to be the bestest in what we do.

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Sanyog Gupta
President - Sales & Marketing

THIS IS THE TIME
THIS IS THE PLACE
THIS IS TUNISIA

TUNISIA

When you picture Tunisia, do you imagine tiny figures crossing an immense sea of sand, or colourful bazaars thronging with people haggling, street performers, music and exotic fragrances? Or do you see beaches and Star Wars?

IT ALL STARTS WITH ASLEMA

There are so many different aspects of Tunisia that will inspire your imagination and fill it – and your camera’s memory – full of unforgettable images.

Travel, by camel, through the serenity of the Great Eastern Erg and you’ll be struck by the immensity and the awesome silence of the desert. You’ll also discover ancient troglodyte dwellings tucked underground away from the burning eye of the sun, and ksour – Arabic for castles – the enigmatic, fortified adobe strongholds of the desert. All part of a landscape that many movie buffs will recognise; films like Stars Wars and Raiders of the Lost Ark were shot here.

History enthusiasts will be similarly charmed. They’re any numerous sites with spectacular Roman and classical ruins, and we suggest a trip to the BARDO museum in Tunis; a collection that will give you a fabulous insight into the extent and sophistication of local Roman residences.

Tunisia is also the place to buy local handicrafts, carpets and Kilims, ceramics and jewellery – as well a great place to catch high energy dance and music, poetry, theatrical and art festivals for which Tunisia is famed.

LUXURY STAYS



Four Seasons, Tunis

This beachfront hotel sits just outside the city on the Gulf of Tunis. From here in the upscale neighborhood of Gammarth, you're in easy reach of the city's central business district and old medina, as well as the ancient ruins of Carthage and picturesque blue-and-white painted town Sidi Bou Said. The hotel exhibits a contemporary take on Arabesque architecture amid gardens looking out to sea. Walkways lined with palms lead you between indoor and outdoor pools, a hammam and spa, two tennis courts and a collection of restaurants and bars focusing on Mediterranean flavors.

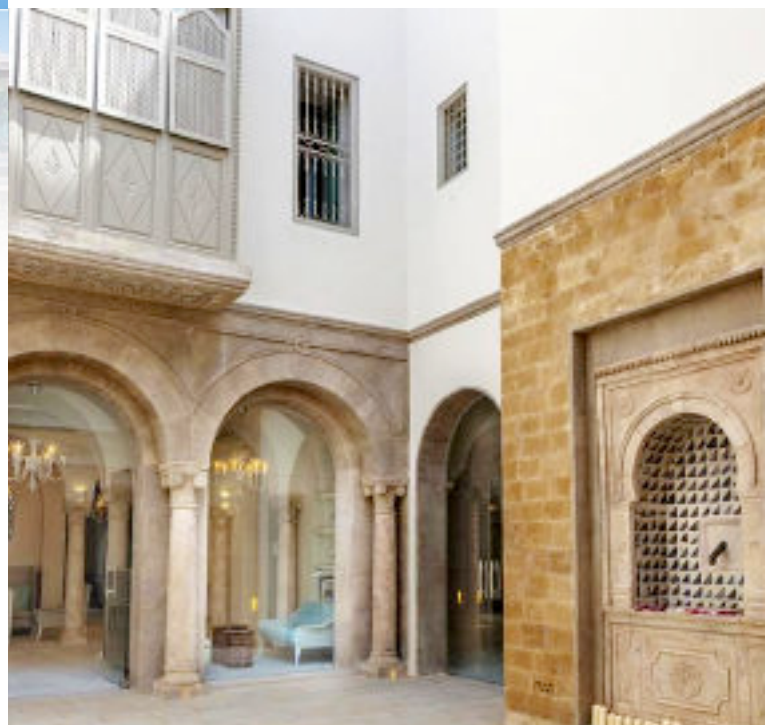


The Residence, Tunis

Also located on the Gulf of Tunis, The Residence Tunis benefits from proximity to the city as well as views over the water from these glistening shores. The hotel combines the country's Arab-Andalusian heritage with modern luxury. Check in to your garden-, sea- or pool-view room, then retreat to the sprawling thalasso spa, which is the first on the continent to partner with ESPA. Tee off at the 18-hole golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones II, then dine between the columns and arches of Mediterranean restaurant L'Olivier and authentic Tunisian dining room El Dar.

Dar El Jeld, Medina

This luxurious boutique hotel and spa lies within the city's Unesco World Heritage medina, fusing its restored architecture with an elegant, modern style. Inner courtyards lead to just 16 suites, a peaceful garden scented with lemon trees and mosaic and marble-decorated hammam and spa. At mealtimes, choose between the traditional Tunisian restaurant Dar El Jed, which is set in a typical medina-style house with candlelit courtyard, or the rooftop restaurant and bar with views across the old town and a menu of international dishes and Tunisian wines.





Movenpick Du Lac, Tunis

Staying at this Mövenpick hotel places you in the picturesque Berges du Lac business district on the banks of Lake Tunis. This means you're within easy reach of the airport, coastal towns and city sights. Just opened last year, the hotel has a contemporary design with plush rooms boasting uninterrupted lake views and a restaurants offering grilled and live-cooked cuisine. The wellness facilities include the hammam and S Per Aqua Spa, as well as relaxation pool.



La Villa Bleue, Gulf of Tunis

Positioned in picturesque Sid Bou Said, this boutique hotel is just outside the city on the Gulf of Tunis, giving you a base that's close enough to the city's sights and an authentic Tunisian experience. The blue villa exhibits the typical architectural style of this Insta-perfect town, with stylish interiors featuring modern furnishings, patterned detail and balconies overlooking the hotel's two pools and the sea. The hotel has a hammam and spa, in addition to its two pools, and a sea-view restaurant serving food inspired by the local terroir.



Sheraton Tunis Hotel

The sprawling Sheraton Tunis Hotel looks out over the city from its vantage point in the financial district. With 285 rooms, it is one of the biggest hotels in Tunis and one that suits travelers who want a wealth of facilities. Spend your time here in the fitness center and state-of-the-art spa and soaking in the indoor and outdoor pools. Restaurants include traditional Tunisian dining spot Walima, Mediterranean restaurant L'Oliveiraie and Azzurro, where Italian fare comes with live music.

Dar Ben Gacem, Medina

Taking over a restored 17th-century house in the medina, Dar Ben Gacem is a boutique hotel with a story to tell. By working with local artisans and small businesses in the medina, the hotel aims to have a positive impact on the community while also preserving Tunisia's cultural heritage. Rooms are beautifully decorated with Tunisian arts and crafts and the kitchen puts out fresh homemade local dishes. The hotel also offers a series of Medina Experiences such as Arabic calligraphy, the hammam ritual and food tours.



Hasdrubal Thalassa, Hammamet

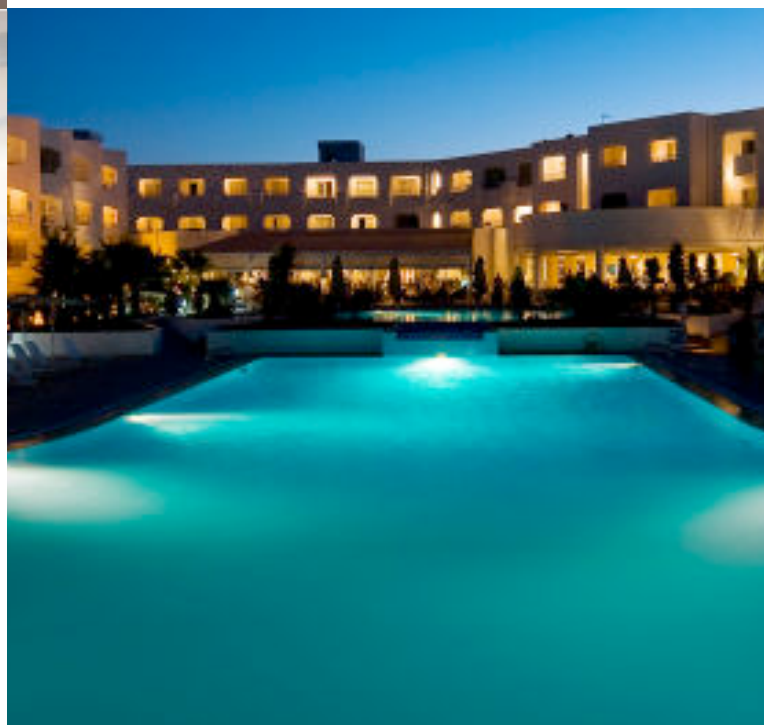
Along a vast sandy beach, Hasdrubal Yasmine Hammamet is a magnificent stopover where you will discover the harmonious contrast between the massive shapes and the intimacy of the various areas, sculpted by the fountains and lighting effects which enliven its architecture, endowed with the attributes of luxury and refinement down to the smallest detail.

The 196 junior suites, 4 Ambassador suites, 10 Luxury suites are spread over 4 floors, including a non-smoking and serviced by 07 lifts.



Royal Thalassa Monastir

Thalassa Monastir is located 81 miles to Carthage International Airport and close to attractions like Stade Mustapha Ben Jannet, Bourghiba Mausoleum, and Stade Olympique. Located by a splendid, large and golden sandy beach, Radisson Blu Resort & Thalasso, Monastir is a high standing hotel. Modern Greek-Roman style, the hotel extends over five hectares of beautiful, lush gardens. Upon arrival, the guests are greatly welcomed and taken care of by professional personnel, who are pleased to direct the guests to one of the 260 rooms, including 22 Suites (three floors), offering both comfort and convenience.





La Badira, Hammamet

Set amidst jasmine and rosemary-scented gardens, La Badira is a 5-star hotel in Hammamet.

Located along the Mediterranean coast of the popular tourist resort, this luxury hotel boasts a stunning private beach and magnificent golf course. The town centre and ancient Medina are within walking distance, whilst Tunis city centre and Tunis Carthage International Airport are both a 45-minute drive.

Anantara Sahara, Tozeur

It takes a lot to surprise us these days, but Anantara opening a hotel in Tunisia qualifies. The brand is best known for island resorts, but this one is fully immersed in the Sahara, within driving distance of the dunes where the original Star Wars was shot.

And while it's been painstakingly tailored to its setting, using local architecture, design, and crafts, it's as attractive and as luxurious as any of the other Anantara resorts.



Dar Hi, Nefta

The ownership team that brought you the Hi Hotel in Nice are at it again, this time in a place that, French influence aside, would seem to have very little in common with the Côte d'Azur.

Fortunately, both for the brand and for fans of eccentric hotels, they brought designer Matali Crasset with them on their Tunisian voyage. The result is an ecologically sensitive, brilliantly hued hotel, which just happens to be on the edge of the Sahara.



The Russelior, Hammamet

The Russelior Hotel & Spa is a 5-star hotel in Hammamet, Tunisia. It is moments from the Marina and the fascinating narrow streets of the Medina with its enticing shops.

Golf fans have easy access to 2 courses nearby, and there is an array of exciting watersports and leisure activities on offer. Enfidha International Airport is 25 minutes away and the hotel provides transfers.



Hasdrubal Prestige, Djerba

"The HASDRUBAL prestige... a hotel that combines the traditions of luxury hotels, refinements of every moment and discretion. "

On the seafront, with a private beach, the hotel HASDRUBAL prestige is located near the Casino de Djerba, and 10 minutes by car from the golf course-27 holes of Djerba, and 18km from the airport Djerba-Zarsis.

Golden Tulip Taj Sultan, Hammamet

Golden Tulip Taj Sultan is located on Yasmine Hammamet beach, 15 minutes from the center of Hammamet. It offers en suite accommodations with 2 swimming pools and a spa and wellness center.

The spacious guest rooms are air conditioned and equipped with satellite TV. Each room has a balcony overlooking the sea or the gardens.





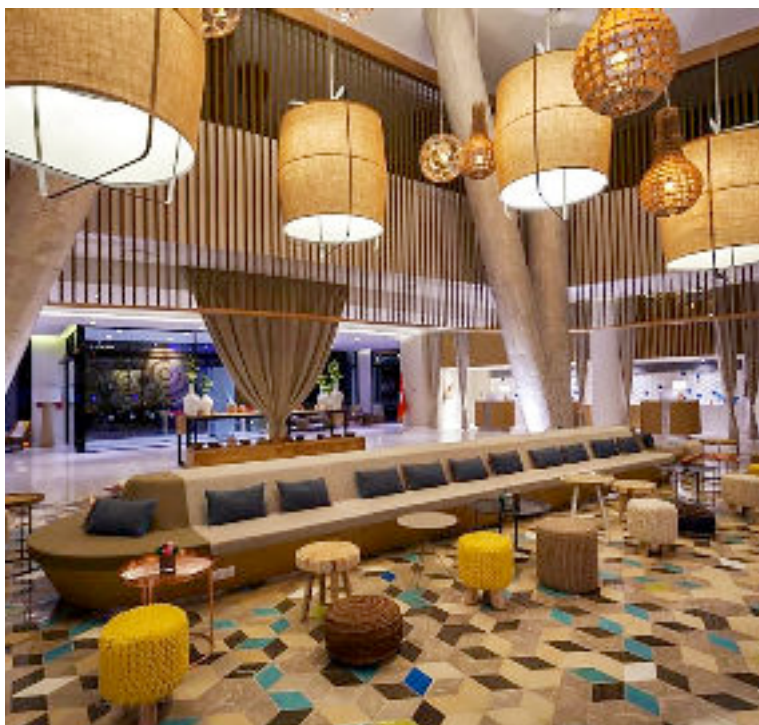
Hotel Iberostar Selection Royal El Mansour, Mahdia

Iberostar Selection Royal El Mansour is located in Mahdia near the beaches of the Mediterranean Sea. It has an outdoor swimming pool, a Thalassotherapy center and 5-star rooms and suites. Guests of the Iberostar Selection Royal El Mansour can enjoy grilled meats and international cuisine in the hotel restaurant and snacks at the poolside bar. There is also a disco and a Tunisian tea room.

La Cigale Tabarka

Located in the Tunisian coastal town of Tabarka, La Cigale Tabarka is just 21 m from the beach. It offers 2 outdoor swimming pools and a terrace overlooking the sea. Rooms at La Cigale Tabarka have air-conditioning, satellite TV and a balcony or terrace. La Cigale Tabarka's restaurant has a buffet service with traditional cuisine. Guests can also enjoy the on-site thalassotherapy center.

La Cigale Tabarka offers direct access to tennis courts and the Tabarka Golf Course. Scuba diving and horse riding facilities are also available at locations nearby.



Sousse Pearl Marriott Resort & Spa

Set in Sousse, 0.9 mi from Las Vegas Beach, Sousse Pearl Marriott Resort & Spa offers accommodations with a restaurant, free private parking, an outdoor swimming pool and a fitness center. Among the various facilities of this property are a bar, a garden and a private beach area.

The accommodations features a 24-hour front desk, room service and currency exchange for guests.

Mövenpick Resort & Marine Spa Sousse

This resort is located in Sousse city center with access to a private beach. It offers salt water outdoor swimming pools, and a well being and fitness center.

Mövenpick Resort & Marine Spa's restaurants and snack bars serve international cuisine, such as Mediterranean, Japanese and grills. The several bars and cafes, such as the pool-side bar and Aga Café, serve a range of beverages. A buffet breakfast is served daily.



The Sindbad, Hammamet

The Hotel Sindbad is located in the beachfront in Hammamet, northern Tunisia. It features a spa center and 4 swimming pools, including a children's pool. The Sindbad offers air-conditioned rooms with a private terrace or balcony and free Wi-Fi access. All rooms also have a mini-bar and a flat-screen TV with satellite channels. The private bathrooms have a bath and shower.

It also offers guests an exclusive discount to the Citrus golf course. Guests are invited to enjoy the Sindbad's spa center which includes a steam room, sauna and hot tub. Beauty and massage treatments are also available.

Borj Dhiafa, Sfax

Located on the road to Soukra, Hotel Borj Dhiafa is a luxurious business hotel that features a swimming pool with a massage corner.

Have a resting stay in a hotel featuring characteristic local architecture. Hotel Borj Dhiafa offers comfortable rooms and suites with an elegant decor. Hotel Borj Dhiafa was designed for business travelers willing to combine work and relaxation. It features a meeting room.

Hotel Borj Dhiafa enjoys a practical location, halfway between the town center and the airport (10 minutes).





Medina Solaria And Thalasso, Hammamet

Medina Solaria And Thalasso offers luxurious, all-inclusive accommodations and a private beach in Hammamet. Its 5-star services include a spa and fitness center and several swimming pools. There is a swimming pool in the garden, which is split in 3 levels and has an integrated hot tub, caves and a slide.

The spa center specializes in water-based treatments and also has a hammam, massage room and sauna.

Ramada Plaza by Wyndham

Tunis

The Ramada is located on the Tunisian coast, near the sandy beaches of the Côte de Carthage. It has an indoor and outdoor pool, a Hammam and fitness center.

All guest rooms at the Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Tunis are air-conditioned and have a private bathroom, balcony, TV and free Wi-Fi. Rooms also have elevator access and guests can access the hotel 24-hours a day.



Radisson Blu Palace Resort & Thalasso, Djerba

This luxury hotel is located directly on the beach in Djerba. It offers fitness and spa facilities, including an outdoor sea-water pool, a hammam and a hot tub. 5 restaurants are available on site.

Free Wi-Fi internet access, satellite TV and bathrobes and slippers are provided in each of the air-conditioned rooms and suites at the The Radisson Blu Palace Resort & Thalasso. All rooms have views of the sea or the landscaped gardens and some have spa baths and balconies.



Iberostar Selection Diar El

Andalus

This Iberostar is located on the Mediterranean coast in Sousse. It overlooks the sandy beaches and offers an indoor and outdoor swimming pool, a Spa and children's pool and playground.

Diar El Andalou provides spacious 5-star guest rooms and suites. They are all air-conditioned and have satellite TV.

Guests can enjoy numerous health and beauty treatments in the Spa and relax in the Sauna or enjoy a game of tennis on one of the hotel's courts.



Tunis Grand Hotel

Tunis Grand Hotel is a luxury hotel located close to Tunis International Airport. It offers free wireless internet access throughout. All rooms and suites at Tunis Grand are comfortable and have a terrace or a balcony. They also have satellite TV and 24-hour room service.

Breakfast is served every morning and guests can try gastronomic cuisine in the hotel's 3 restaurants.

Guests can make use of the spacious swimming pool. Tunis Grand also has a multifunctional conference room and 5 additional meeting rooms.

El Mouradi Mahdia

Located on a beach on the Mediterranean coast, El Mouradi Mahdia offers 5* accommodations 3.1 mi from Mahdia and 25 mi from Monastir. It features 2 outdoor pools and 1 indoor pool, and a large selection of activities.

El Mouradi Mahdia offers a fitness center with a hammam, sauna and hot tubs. Massages are available. There are tennis courts, and you can enjoy sports such as beach volleyball, football, archery and watersports.





TUNISIA ALL YEAR ROUND


AUTUMN

Autumn in Tunisia is all about swimming in the sea and long walks along the beach, boat trips and water sports. It's also a busy time of year for Tunisia's thalasso and spa centres, renowned for the quality and diversity of their treatments. Golfers make the most of the mild temperatures to challenge themselves on one of the country's ten golf courses, from Tabarka in the north to Tozeur in the south. Other sports lovers have made autumn their favourite season, including kitesurfers, who practise their acrobatic skills on the beaches of Kalaat Landlous or Djerba.

Game hunters will find plenty to keep them occupied in the stunning Mediterranean landscapes of the north or the fringes of the oasis in the south. But autumn remains the best season for exploring the Tunisian Sahara. A wonderful world of sand dunes, steep mountains and lush green oases. Explore on the back of a camel, during a walk through the dunes or a ride on a quad bike, motorbike or in a 4x4 to really get to grips with nature, or even from the air in an ultralight for a truly exhilarating experience.

For music lovers, autumn is marked by a number of festivals which are well worth the trip: Musical October for fans of classical music is held at the Acropolium in Carthage, while the festival of traditional Mediterranean music, Musiqât, can be found at the Baron d'Erlanger Palace in Sidi Bou Said. And if you want to get your feet tapping, Les Dunes Electroniques is an annual celebration of electronic music at the location where Star Wars was filmed, right in the heart of the Sahara.

SUMMER



Miles of white sandy beaches, the clear blue sea, every water sport you can think of, hotels and clubs dedicated to holidaymakers, tourist resorts that are as bustling during the day as they are at night, a fantastic mix of restaurants to suit every budget, buzzing medinas, amazing shopping opportunities and warm, welcoming people. These are just some of the reasons why Tunisia has become one of the best-known summer destinations in the Mediterranean. What is less well known is the fact that holidays in Tunisia can also be about getting off the beaten track.

There are also lots of romantic, little known beaches, studded with unusually shaped rocks, or lined with palm trees and golden sand dunes. Charming guesthouses and hotels are springing up all over the place and there's bound to be one to satisfy your search for authenticity. The countryside is studded with converted farmhouses and rural cottages, while the historic towns are filled with beautiful traditional houses with courtyards and colonnades. In the south and the little towns on the coast, you can marvel at the poetry of their stunningly simple architecture.

If you visit Tunisia in the summer, you can also explore the country's cultural richness, with Carthage of course, but also Dougga, Bulla Regia and Makthar in the north, or the Roman amphitheatre of El Djem near Mahdia. And gorgeous museums like the Bardo in Tunis or the one in Sousse are well worth a visit, with their exceptional collections of mosaics. For younger visitors, the Friguia Animal Park near Hammamet is a must, with its cats, giraffes and elephants in a semi-wild environment. Last but by no means least, Tunisia in the summer is all about the nightlife: from nightclubs, open-air clubs to lounge bars with DJs, there are plenty of opportunities to let your hair down.

SPRING

Renowned for its greenery, Tunisia is never more beautiful than in the spring. The profusion of colour and light transforms the country and set off the landscape to perfection. It must have been this vision that had such an effect on the painter, Paul Klee, during his trip to Tunisia in April 1914, and that encouraged him to paint his most luminous pictures. Follow in the footsteps of the painter from Sidi Bou Said to Kairouan.

Or a tour of some archaeological sites, which never look more beautiful than when they are studded with flowers. Nature lovers can get off the beaten track and enjoy a walk through the forests and mountains of the north, or embark on a boat trip around the many islands dotted along the Tunisian coastline. If it's hunting you're into, you can hunt wild boar in several regions, including on the outskirts of the Sahara.

And if you prefer to take things a bit easier, let yourself be pampered in a thalasso centre or a spa to recover from the damage done by winter. If you're in search of some serious relaxation you can choose from one of the country's many resorts for days lounging by the beach and enjoying some delicious food, and nights living it up and letting your hair down. Springtime in Tunisia also marks the start of an impressive programme of festivals, from Jazz in Carthage to the return of DJ nights in nightclubs and lounge bars in several cities.

WINTER

Thanks to its lovely weather and almost year-round sunshine, Tunisia still has plenty to offer in winter. In fact, it's the most popular season for thalasso centres and spas, with visitors from around the world. It's also in winter that Tunisian and European golfers flock to the golf courses, while boats and yachts find refuge in one of the country's many marinas.

For nature lovers, winter is all about long walks and fascinating encounters with birds that have travelled here from the north, for which Tunisia is one of the biggest migration corridors. Indeed, the Gulf of Gabès, with the island of Djerba and the archipelago of Kerkennah are the site of the biggest gathering of migratory waders in the Mediterranean.

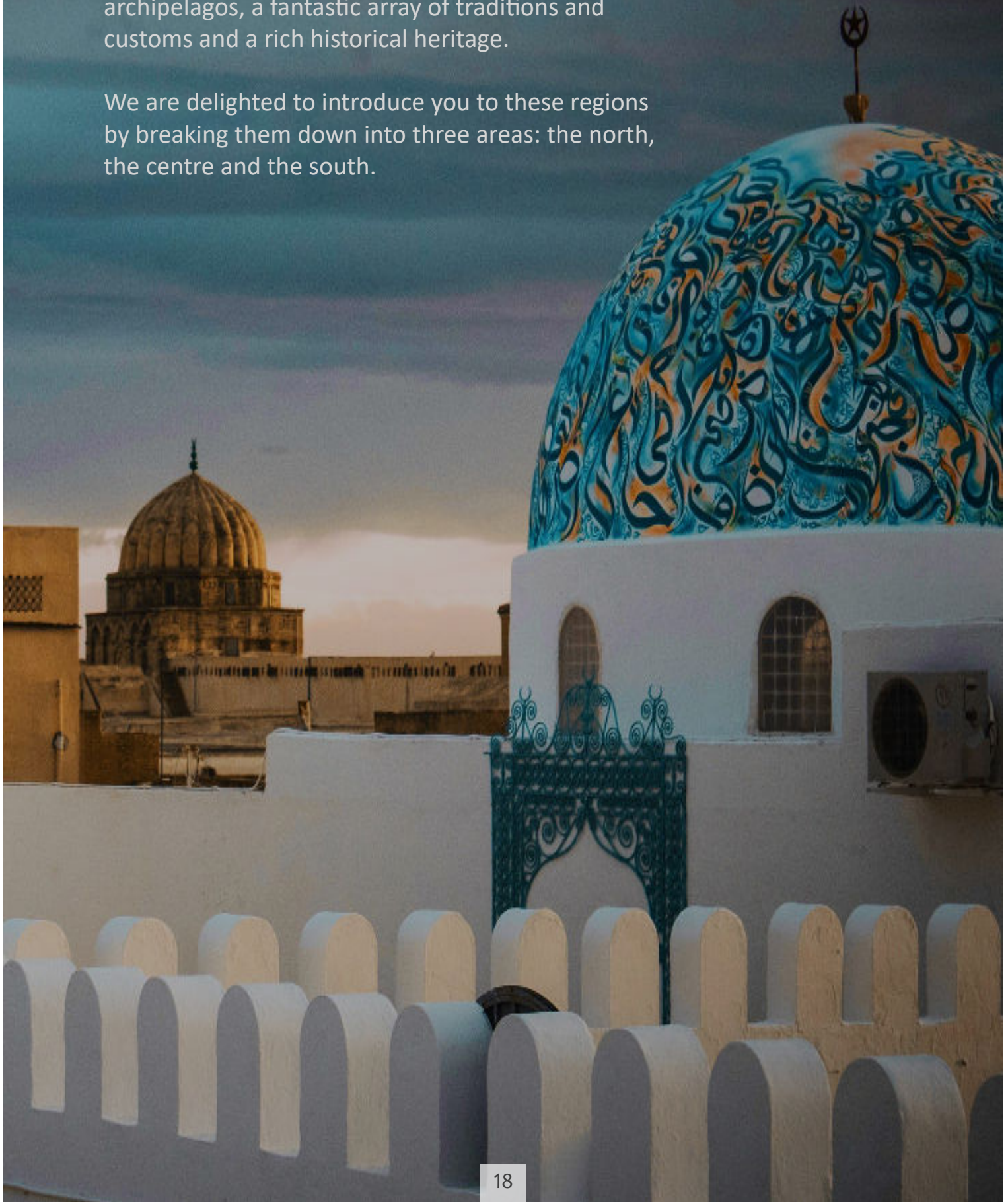
Winter in Tunisia is also the perfect opportunity to browse the medinas (the ones in Tunis, Kairouan and Sousse are UNESCO world heritage sites), visit museums such as the Bardo in Tunis, which boasts the largest collection of mosaics in the world, or set off on an excursion to one of the country's fantastic archaeological sites (including Dougga, Carthage and the Roman amphitheatre at El Djem). And while the hotels, camps and farmhouses of southern Tunisia continue to welcome holidaymakers, the Tunisian Sahara is also becoming a popular destination for adventure racing and motorbike, 4x4 and quad bike adventures.

EXPLORE TUNISIA



There's so much to see and do in each region of Tunisia: a wide variety of landscapes, a coastline spanning 1,250km, studded with islands and archipelagos, a fantastic array of traditions and customs and a rich historical heritage.

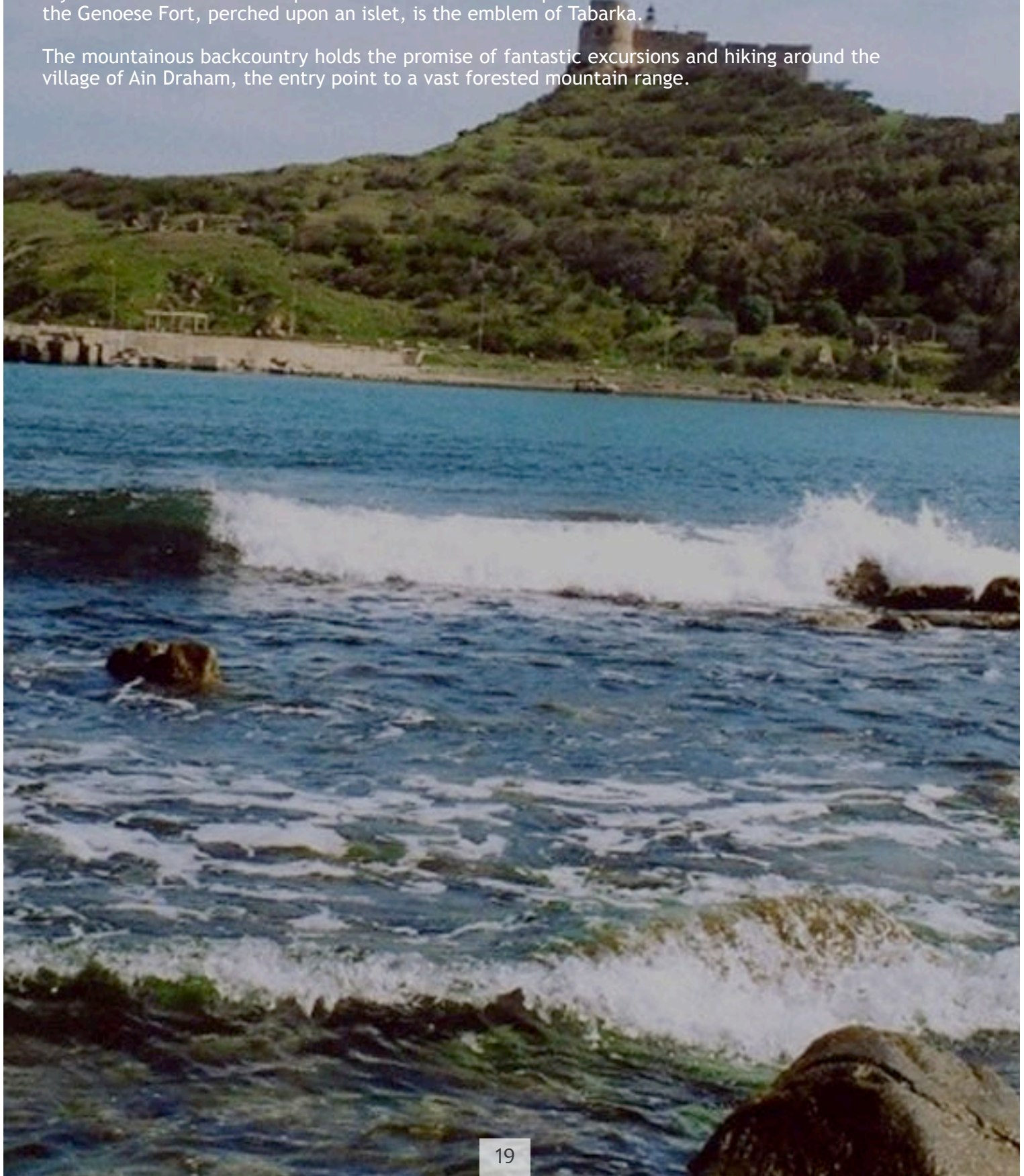
We are delighted to introduce you to these regions by breaking them down into three areas: the north, the centre and the south.



TABARKA

Visitors choose Tabarka for its exceptional location, between the sea and the mountains. The beaches of golden sand are framed by rocky spurs and forests of pine and cork oak. The crystalline waters hide the precious red coral in its depths. The characteristic silhouette of the Genoese Fort, perched upon an islet, is the emblem of Tabarka.

The mountainous backcountry holds the promise of fantastic excursions and hiking around the village of Ain Draham, the entry point to a vast forested mountain range.



What to see?

Forest and wild coast

The centre of Tabarka, built at the start of the French Protectorate, has an air that feels a little old fashioned. Have a refreshing drink in the Cafe des Andalous, a Moorish cafe in the heart of the town, then stroll along the charming marina where fishing boats rub shoulders with yachts. Not far from here are the jewellers, who make marvelous creations in coral pearls, the pride of the town. The artisans also make beautiful objects out of cork, harvested in the region, and in carved wood.

Find a high point of the town to enjoy a sublime view of the bay. The sunset sets the Needles on fire, tall rock formations eroded by the sea. Further inland the landscape becomes mountainous and covered with a thick layer of forest. Here you can find the village of Ain Draham, unusual in Tunisia with its red-roofed houses terraced along the hillside. Awaiting you along the mountain roads are pastoral scenery and charming lakes deep in the forest.

What to do?

Diving or hiking “Ne bronzer pas idiot” - “Don’t be a stupid sunbather” was the first motto of the Music Festival of Tabarka. And it’s true that this small destination offers much more than just its beaches and hotel entertainment. Tabarka has a long tradition of scuba diving and incredible dive sites. Popular amongst boaters, it offers numerous possibilities for sea outings towards neighbouring coves or towards the island of La Galite. Added to this is a remarkable golf course, thalasso spa centres (in Tabarka) and hot springs (close to Ain Draham).

In summer, Tabarka is livened up with several events dedicated to jazz and world music. The Northwest of Tunisia, with its thick forest and well-preserved nature, is an ideal location for hiking, nature observation and hunting. Two world class archaeological sites can also found in the area: Chemtou (marble extraction, Numidian civilisation) and Bulla Regia (underground Roman houses).

What to eat?

Lobster or marccassin

During your stay in Tabarka, don’t miss tasting lobster in one of the portside restaurants who will also spoil you with fish and seafood. During your stay, the hotels of the seaside resort will serve you an international cuisine in good standing. You can also dine in an old hotel in the town centre, while contemplating the superb view of the coast. In Ain Draham, a choice destination for wild boar hunting, you can try a delicious stew of marccassin - young boar.

Where to sleep?

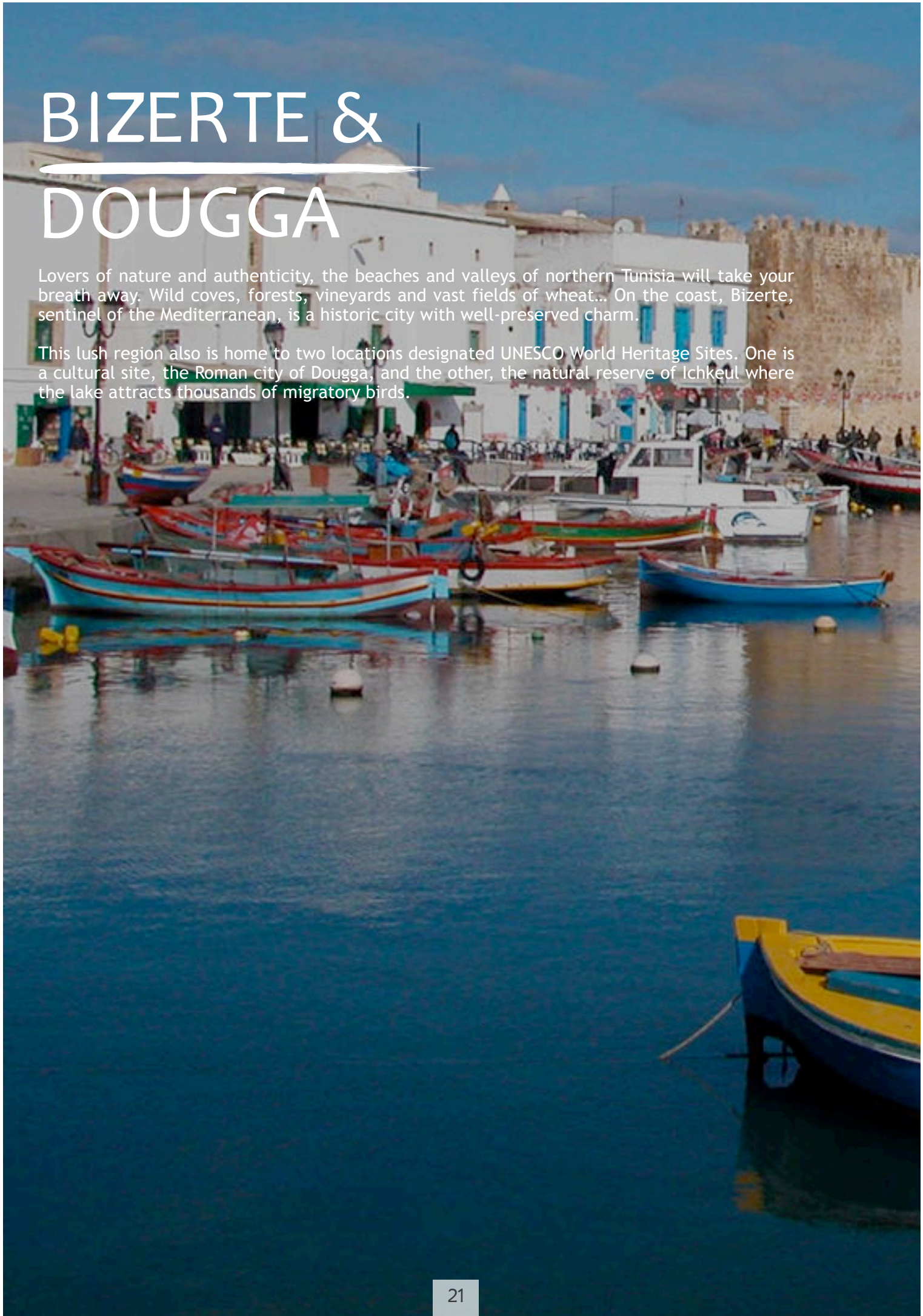
On the beach or in the forest

Seaside resort of a manageable size, Tabarka has a dozen or so resort hotels on the beach. You could also choose hotel accommodation at the edge of the forest or a small boutique hotel in the town centre. Around Ain Draham, you can find a number of comfortable hotels: hunting lodges with rustic decor, luxury establishments in the wilderness, or big hot spring hotel surrounded by forest.

BIZERTE & DOUGGA

Lovers of nature and authenticity, the beaches and valleys of northern Tunisia will take your breath away. Wild coves, forests, vineyards and vast fields of wheat... On the coast, Bizerte, sentinel of the Mediterranean, is a historic city with well-preserved charm.

This lush region also is home to two locations designated UNESCO World Heritage Sites. One is a cultural site, the Roman city of Dougga, and the other, the natural reserve of Ichkeul where the lake attracts thousands of migratory birds.



What to see?

Medina and landscapes

The old harbour is the heart of Bizerte, a body of water framed by white houses and centuries old walls where fishing boats glide silently by. A place full of charm and rich in history. On the quays, enjoy the atmosphere by taking a seat on a cafe terrace. Then delve into the silent Kasbah ringed with stone walls. Explore along the narrow streets of the medina, visit the souks, admire the 17th century Turkish fountain as you walk past. Climb up to the Spanish Fort which dominates the city, to enjoy the view across the harbour.

Take a stroll through the city centre, which still keeps its look of an old colonial city with its wide avenues. Relax by the new marina or the commercial harbour bustling with activity. Around the town, you will no doubt have your breath taken away by the lush green landscape of hills, fields of wheat and orchards: this region is one of the most fertile in Tunisia.

What to do?

Swimming or archaeology

While not as popular a destination as Hammamet or Sousse, Bizerte has a number of beautiful hotels to best take advantage of the sea and summer sunshine. It's also a favourite destination for pleasure sailing and scuba diving. To either side, the coast is made up of magnificent beaches, barely frequented by tourists: cap Serrat, Raf-Raf, Ghar el-Melh...

In the natural reserve of Ichkeul, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it's possible to walk along the lake banks and explore the mountain via marked trails. Lovers of history can discover Tunisia's Andalusian heritage in Testour, the beautiful Ottoman fortresses of Ghar el-Melh, the Fort of Bizerte, the archaeological site in Utica and especially that of Dougga, one of the most spectacular of the Roman world.

What to eat?

Fish and seafood

Cosied up around its old port, Bizerte is a grand destination to taste quality seafood. As a starter or main course, feast on cuttlefish, squid, shrimp... Your fish may be served grilled and accompanied by fried vegetables, or cooked in the oven with cumin and saffron. The northern valleys are a rich agricultural land where cereals, livestock and olive groves rub shoulders. In the region, a speciality during the festivals is t'bikh, a kind of simmered wheat soup with lamb meat, perfumed with spices and orange peel.

You will also taste a delicious delicately perfumed couscous with grouper. Couscous is an old Berber dish made from semolina cooked with steam, usually garnished with lamb and vegetables; however in the coastal towns, it is often happily prepared with fish. You will find the best restaurants to dine at close to the beachside hotels, the old harbour and the marina.

Where to sleep?

Hotel, ecological farm or seaside bungalow

While Bizerte has a typical hotel zone for seaside vacations, the region also offers some more original accommodations. For example, a guesthouse in an ecological farm in the countryside, bungalows by a deserted beach, a luxurious villa with a sea view, or an ancient house in the old city.

NABEUL & CAP BON

A promontory pointed towards Sicily, the Cap Bon region is a vast garden where orange and lemon trees put out their flowers in the middle of winter. Its beaches of fine sand are among the most beautiful in Tunisia.

The principal town of Cap Bon, Nabeul is famous for its pottery, its rush mats and its flower essences. The fishing port of Kelibia, the thermal springs of Korbous, the falconers of El Haouaria are just a few of the curiosities found in the region.



What to see?

Souks and panoramas

In Nabeul, stroll through the souk surrounded by arcades and boutiques. In the Artisanal Village, experienced artisans will astound you with their ingenuity; ironwork, rush mats, embroidered clothing, engraved copper... In the pottery stores, choose a beautiful vase in multicoloured ceramic, the local speciality. The covered market will make your mouth water with its collection of spices, fruits, vegetables and fish: Cap Bon is a major agricultural region. If fortresses fascinate you, visit Kelibia to see its medieval fort, the largest in Tunisia. Drink a mint tea in the nearby Moorish cafe which overlooks the sea, then stroll along the fishing harbour. In El Haouaria, at the extreme tip of Cap Bon, take a deep breath of fresh air and wild nature, and visit the mysterious caves dug by the Romans to extract stone for construction. Or visit Korbous, a spa town with quaint charm, surrounded by beaches and rocky coves.

What to do?

Beaches or Ecotourism

From Nabeul to Korba, the fine sandy beaches and beautiful hotels promise the holiday of your dreams. Bask under the parasols or take advantage of the sporting and recreational activities: jetski, parasailing, pirate ship cruise... Indulge yourself in a spa treatment, play golf in Hammamet, practice scuba diving in Kelibia or Hammamet. All along the coast, the marvelous seascapes enchant sailors (rings available in the port of Kelibia). Cap Bon, with its hills, its orchards and its forests, attracts hikers, while hunters go there to hunt wild boar. It's also a great place to observe the birds who gather in the coastal lagoons and close to the Strait of Sicily. If you love history, discover the exceptional archaeological site at Kerkouane, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Carthaginian houses).

Additionally, admire the 12th century Fort of Kelibia, the mosaics in the museum of Nabeul and the Roman roads of El Haouaria.

What to eat?

Chilis and seafood

Renowned for its art of living and its agricultural products, Cap Bon is undoubtedly a region where you eat well. You will find many restaurants in downtown Nabeul and near major hotels. Do not miss to taste harissa, a preparation of crushed and seasoned peppers (1), appreciated as an aperitif with a little bread and olive oil: a high flavor condiment! The peppers, peppers and tomatoes from the Cap Bon orchards are also used to prepare the mechouia salad: grilled and crushed, they are eaten fresh with a drizzle of olive oil.

Dotted with fishing ports, the coast provides tasty fish that you can serve as a garnish with couscous (2) or simply grilled and accompanied by tastira - a mixture of vegetables and fried and chopped eggs.

Where to sleep?

Clubs, boutique hotels and rural guesthouses

All along their superb sandy beaches, Nabeul, Kelibia and Korba offer a wide choice of coastal hotels and holiday clubs. From the simple to the luxurious, all season long they put a wide range of activities at your disposal. To keep your distance from the major tourist locations, choose a small hotel in the town or a guesthouse. Cap Bon has many: medina houses, seafront residences, farms and cabins in the countryside.

HAMMAMET



Hectic resort in summer, well known for its beaches and its party atmosphere, Hammamet is also a small city with an authentic charm. Turquoise waters, the scent of jasmine, white houses and stone walls gilded by the centuries... its medina fringed by fine sand is particularly poetic.

Nearby, the new resort town of Yasmine Hammamet offers a more contemporary setting, while the forests and lemon groves are a real pleasure for nature lovers.

What to see?

Medina or marina

Wander through the medina with its timeless charm, with its narrow streets and its houses washed in blue lime. At the corner of the outer wall, the Hispano-Turkish fort (16th century) offers a marvellous view over the bay. Take a break at the famous cafe Sidi Bouhadid: the dome of the patron saint of sailors keeps watch over the shore, it will welcome you in with a mint tea or a refreshing drink.

Admire the gardens of jasmine and the beautiful villas such as Dar Sebastian (see p. 35) In the new resort of Yasmine Hammamet, to the south of the city, stroll along the marina and the wide avenues, take a break in a beach club or in “Medina Mediterranea”, a theme park with crenelated walls and souks like an old arab city. Feel like nature and authenticity? Head off to explore the contrast of the backcountry with a visit to the Andalusian town of Zaghuan and the hilltop village of Takrouna.

What to do?

Golf or clubbing

King of beaches and watersports, Hammamet is a holiday destination par excellence. Dance to the DJ nights in the city’s famous clubs, try your hand at paintball or ice skating... In summer, find your favourite stars at the International Festival of Hammamet in the open-air theatre. Or take advantage of the casino and dinner-shows in Yasmine Hammamet. Practice your swing in the hills on the two golf courses, Citrus and Yasmine Valley (45 and 18 holes).

Take a rejuvenating break in a spa or thalassotherapy centre. With family, visit the theme park Carthage Land, or the wildlife/safari park Friguia Park (30 km). Sailors, rent a boat in the marina to explore the shores of Cap Bon. Nature lovers, Mount Zaghuan is waiting for you, to go hiking or observe birds of prey. And if you’re a history enthusiast, discover the spectacular Roman ruins of Thuburbo Majus and Oudhna.

What to eat?

Ojja or carpaccio

A cosmopolitan coastal resort, Hammamet offers visitors a wide choice of restaurants, especially around the old town and the International Cultural Centre. As a couple or as a group of friends, spend unforgettable moments in a medina rooftop restaurant, around a Mediterranean cuisine suffused with warmth. Share a meal of freshly caught fish on a shaded patio on a balmy summer evening. Choose instead a more chic and contemporary setting on the marina at Yasmine Hammamet. Or go for an authentic Italian restaurant and gorge yourself on a creamy risotto and indulgent desserts - many Italians live in Hammamet, and Sicily is only 200 km away... You can also nibble on some typically Tunisian snacks.

Where to sleep?

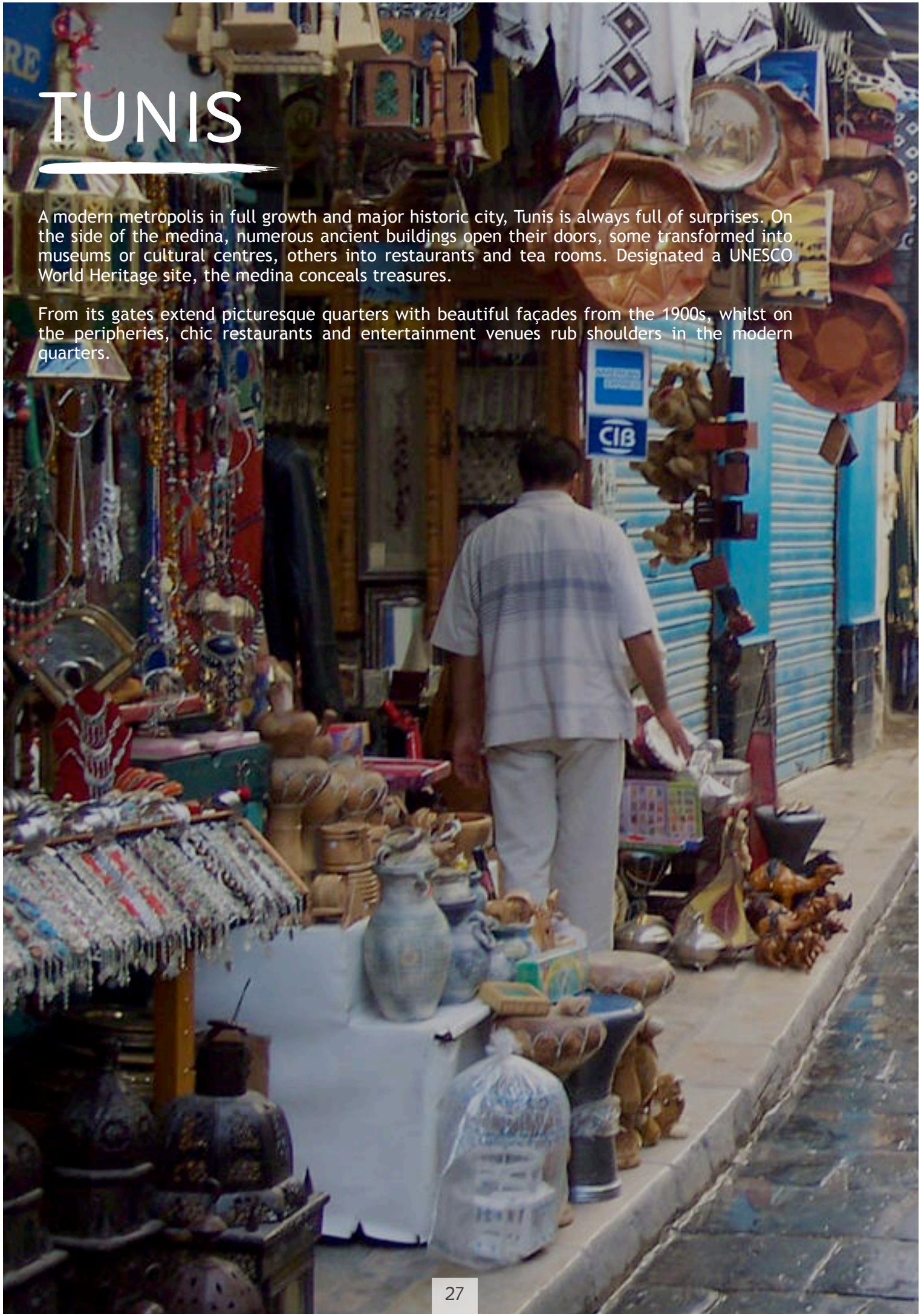
Big beach hotels, traditional guesthouses

Palaces, holiday clubs or traditional hotels, all sorts can be found in Hammamet. Around the city, numerous seaside hotels with a typically Tunisian charm fringe the beaches. For unforgettable family holidays, they offer vast parks cultivated with flowers, terraces shaded by arbours, swimming pools and activities for all ages. More recently constructed, the hotels of Yasmine Hammamet compete via originality, with their Arabian nights atmosphere and contemporary architecture. Other options: a guesthouse in the medina of Hammamet, or a comfortable rural guesthouse in Zaghuan.

TUNIS

A modern metropolis in full growth and major historic city, Tunis is always full of surprises. On the side of the medina, numerous ancient buildings open their doors, some transformed into museums or cultural centres, others into restaurants and tea rooms. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, the medina conceals treasures.

From its gates extend picturesque quarters with beautiful façades from the 1900s, whilst on the peripheries, chic restaurants and entertainment venues rub shoulders in the modern quarters.



What to see?

Medina and Art Deco buildings

The ancient quarter of Tunis, the medina, is exceptionally well preserved. The souks, covered with arches let in a dim light, teeming and bustling and overflowing with all sorts of merchandise: fabrics of a thousand colours, perfumes or precious jewels. The contrast with the peaceful neighbouring alleys is striking. White walls and blue ironwork, vaulted passageways, domes with green tiles, yellow doors framed with delicate patterns in carved stone... Knowing how to meander is important to fully appreciate the diversity of the medina.

On the modern side, the neighbourhoods surrounding Bourguiba avenue have their own special charm. At the foot of the buildings in the Art Nouveau or Art Deco style, a lively crowd squeezes into popular cafes, fashion boutiques, tramways and the rows of palm and fig trees. Visit the Central Market overflowing with groceries. Drink a soda on a terrace admiring the carved façade of the Municipal Theatre, inaugurated in 1902, and the statue of Ibn Khaldoun, the great thinker born in Tunis in the 14th century.

What to do?

Culture or trendy parties

In the medina of Tunis, you can visit remarkable monuments, see a photography exhibition in the Kheireddine Palace, hear a concert of Arab-Andalusian music in a former madrasah or attend the biennial contemporary art event Dream City. In the city centre, visit the cathedral in the Byzantine-Moorish style, always full of activity. Hear a classical music concert in the Municipal Theatre, built in 1902, or take a stroll in Belvedere park. Play a round of golf (two courses very close to Tunis) or take advantage of the proximity of Carthage Land theme park.

For a trendy evening, pay a visit to the fashionable modern quarter, Berges du Lac, or to La Goulette, once a favourite place to stay for the Jews of Tunis. The sea is not far from the city centre: you will find beaches and numerous activities at Borj Cedria and Ezzahra, 20 km away. History buffs, visit the archaeological site of Oudhna (25 km away).

What to eat?

Kaftaji or seafood lasagna

In the souks of the medina, you will find delicious snacks for when you are peckish: the famous golden and crispy 'brik a l'œuf', the small fricassé sandwich, a plate of kaftaji (summer vegetables with egg, crushed and fried) or a bowl of lablabi (spicy chickpea soup). When taking a seat in a former palace or fondouk (caravansary) converted into a restaurant, you will taste the best of Tunisian gastronomy: couscous with grouper, quince and rosebuds; the stuffed vegetable dish fondouk el ghalla; marqa h'loua the sweet and savoury lamb stew simmered with prunes and almonds... For dessert, try the pistachio cream bouza or the pastries perfumed with rosewater.

Where to sleep?

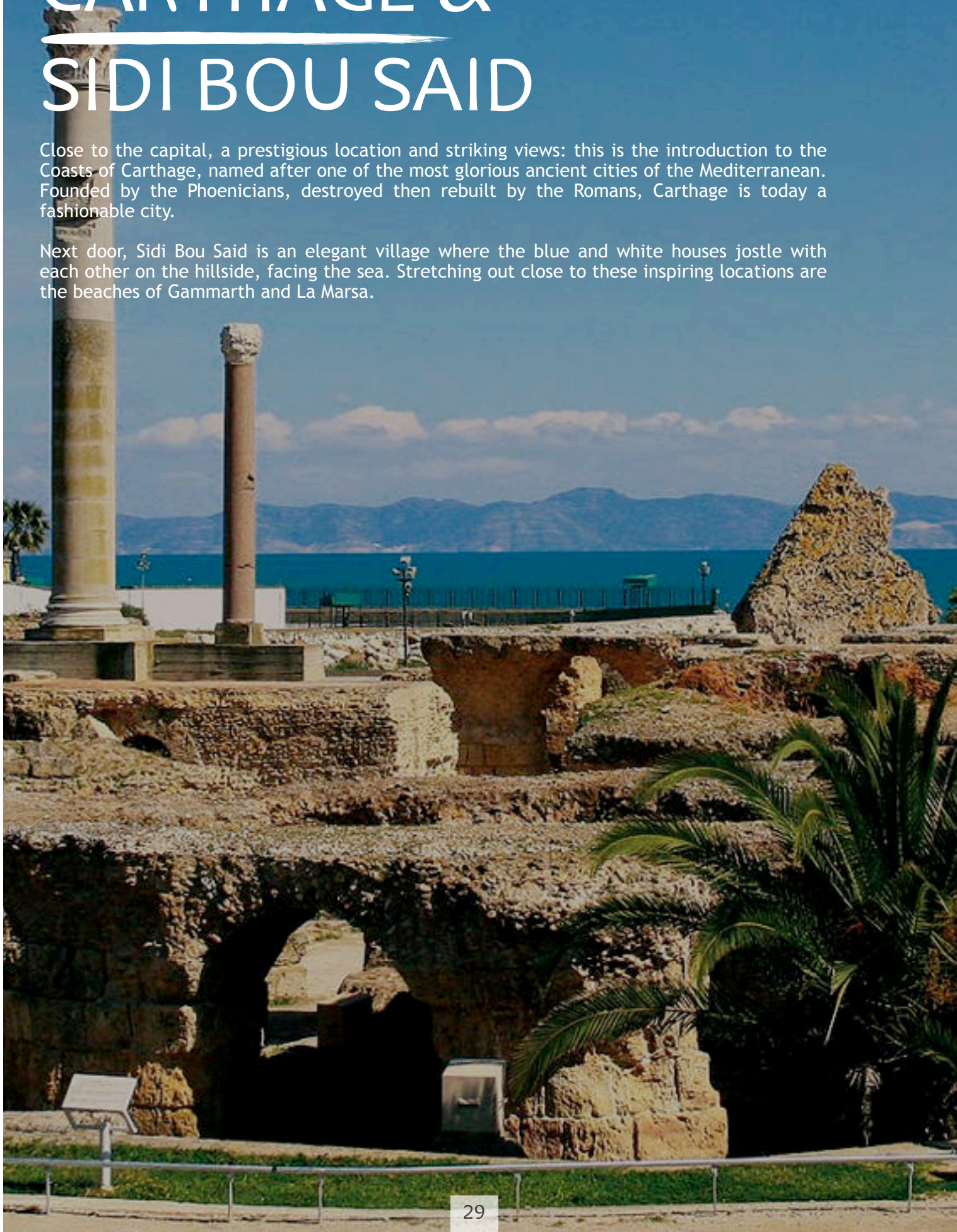
International business hotel or medina guesthouse

In the city centre, in the new quarters or the heart of the medina, there is a wide range of choice. You could stay in a business hotel or an international palace. For a more romantic stay, choose a hotel in the 1920s style. By choosing a guesthouse in the medina, you will enter into the intimate atmosphere of the historic quarters of Tunisia: traditional cuisine, great restaurants and historical heritage. If you would like to enjoy the coast, you can find seaside hotels in Ezzahra and Borj Cedria, to the south of Tunis.

CARTHAGE & SIDI BOU SAID

Close to the capital, a prestigious location and striking views: this is the introduction to the Coasts of Carthage, named after one of the most glorious ancient cities of the Mediterranean. Founded by the Phoenicians, destroyed then rebuilt by the Romans, Carthage is today a fashionable city.

Next door, Sidi Bou Said is an elegant village where the blue and white houses jostle with each other on the hillside, facing the sea. Stretching out close to these inspiring locations are the beaches of Gammarth and La Marsa.



What to see?

History and poetry

Carthage is built on what is certainly one of the most beautiful sites of the Mediterranean. Even today, visitors are fascinated by the bay with its turquoise reflections, the white houses surrounded by cypress trees, and the distant silhouette of Mount Boukornine standing out against the mist. Discover fragments of history by accident in the streets of modern Carthage: the remains of the basilica of Saint Cyprien overlooking the sea, the Carthaginian houses of the Magon quarter, the Punic ports where a striking serenity reigns.

Then climb the narrow paved streets of the famous neighbouring village, Sidi Bou Said, between blue mashrabiya latticework, pink bougainvillea and wrought iron filigree. Contemplate the stunning seascape from the Sidi Chabaane cafe, the lighthouse or the old cemetery. Several artists have chosen to live in this inspiring village. Close by, La Marsa and its seafront, Gammarth and its long beaches both attract the locals of Tunis searching for a place to relax.

What to do?

Culture and nightlife

The site of Carthage is designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is worth a long visit. The accumulation of ruins across a vast zone allows the ancient city to come alive in the imagination: water reservoirs with a capacity of 60 million litres, gigantic Roman baths, an elegant way of life. In the archaeological museum, visitors can discover the art and religious rituals of Punic Carthage. Today, Carthage and its neighbours have remained centres of culture with numerous art galleries. Shows and concerts are held in the Acropolis (former cathedral), in the medieval palace Abdelliya, in the home of the Baron d'Erlanger.

The region is also dedicated to entertainment: seaside hotels, water sports, thalasso spa centres, two golf courses, a marina in Sidi Bou Said. There is a rich nightlife there: restaurants, lounges, nightclubs, jazz festivals (Jazz à Carthage) and classical music festivals (Octobre Musical). In summer, the historic theatre hosts international shows for the International Festival of Carthage.

What to eat?

Refined gastronomy

Former choice holiday destination for the Tunisian bourgeois and the Bey's family, the Coasts of Carthage are of the most well-reputed regions of Tunisia for gastronomy. The authentic culinary traditions of the capital still take pride of place. Taste for example, the kabkabou, fish stewed with olives and preserved lemon. To start, try the Tunisian tajine - a thick omelette with vegetables and cheese, similar to the Spanish tortilla - and the mechouia salad - grilled and crushed tomatoes and peppers. In Sidi Bou Said, Carthage or La Marsa, the choice of restaurants is wide. You can taste traditional Tunisian recipes in a palatial Ottoman setting,

Where to sleep?

Palaces and guesthouses

The beaches of Gammarth are fringed with large seaside hotels across all categories, from the simple hotel-club to palaces inspired by Moorish architecture. Other accommodation possibilities, less typical, are on offer. If you have been seduced by the village of Sidi Bou Said, you can stay there in a boutique hotel or a guesthouse. If you are looking for superior comfort and a more modern setting, choose a luxurious residence in the forest of Gammarth, a boutique hotel in Carthage or on the seafront of La Marsa.

EL KEF

Leave behind Tunis and the beaches of the coast and discover a little known side of Tunisia: the Atlas Mountains and the plains of the “hauts plateaux”. In these contrasting landscapes of the west of Tunisia you’ll find Le Kef, a charming little town with a tumultuous past.

Natural beauty is not the only thing this region has to offer: the town has held on to countless memories of its vibrant history, including its Ottoman fortress.

What to see?

Mountains and Medina

The imposing Atlas Mountains boast stunning panoramas, including, for example, the Ottoman fort in El Kef. You can also enjoy fabulous views of the mountains of the Jugurtha Tableland. Take a stroll through the old town of El Kef, which is nestled into the cliff face overlooking stunning valleys. One of its attractions is the plethora of different monuments and relics from all eras and all religions.

You'll be able to see cisterns and Roman baths, an ancient church dedicated to St Peter, an 18th century Jewish synagogue that is also honoured by the town's Muslims, and three neighbouring cemeteries: Muslim, Jewish and Christian. But El Kef's most iconic monument is the Sidi Bou Makhlof Mausoleum, with its ribbed white domes and its octagonal minaret decorated with emerald green ceramics.

What to do?

Culture and walking

Enjoy a walk along mountain paths, in the forest or on the banks of a lake. Explore villages on your way, marvel at the work of craftsmen who weave esparto and craftswomen who create rugs and throws. Discover caves, megaliths, the remains of Roman towns and thermal springs. In the Saddine nature reserve near El Kef, you can see some amazing animal species like porcupines and golden eagles.

In the old town of El Kef, you can visit the museum of art and popular traditions, housed in a magnificent 18th century religious building; you can find out everything there is to know about equestrian traditions, jewellery from the northwest or life in a Bedouin tent. You can also explore the Ottoman Kasbah (fortress) that marked the border with Algeria: it is made up of two forts, one housing Turkish Janissaries, the other for auxiliary troops.

What to eat?

Barley and couscous with dates

Discover the original cuisine of the western regions and the ingredients produced by this generous land. In El Kef, you can enjoy a really unusual sweet and savoury couscous called berzguen: washed down with milk and served with lamb flavoured with rosemary from the mountains, dried fruit and dates, it is a traditional dish for festive occasions.

Another local dish is malthouth: ground barley prepared in the same way as couscous. Try some rustic barley bread or an age-old recipe like zrir, a sesame and hazelnut cream.

Where to sleep?

In the countryside or the Medina

The region's main town, El Kef, offers a range of small hotels and guesthouses in the medina. You can also stay near the town in a comfortable converted farmhouse.

SBEITLA

Sbeitla is a small town in the central west region of Tunisia, 250km from Tunis. It is known for its remarkable Roman site and its Capitol, made up of not one but three temples, dedicated to Minerva, Jupiter and Juno, the gods who protected Rome.



What to see?

Archaeological sites in the West

The western regions were incredibly prosperous in ancient times, and boast a wealth of treasures for amateur archaeologists. The site of Makthar, one of the largest in Tunisia, is home to some spectacular remains, like the Arch of Trajan, the Large Baths and the elegant colonnade of the School Juvenum. In Haïdra, you can see the remains of one of the largest Byzantine fortresses in North Africa, as well as a number of Christian churches.

Indeed, the western regions boast extensive traces of ancient Christianity. In Sbeitla, the huge Basilica of Vitalis has a stunning basin for baptisms covered in mosaics. In the countryside, the El Gousset archways are all that remain of a large church, 33 metres long, reminding us that Tunisia was once a key stronghold for Christians in the West.

Where to sleep?

Accommodation

A few hotels in Kasserine and near the archaeological site at Sbeitla.

SOUSSE & PORT EL KANTAOUI

Long beaches, old stones, high palm trees. Sousse is a city ripe with seductions where entertainment and exoticism coexist harmoniously. As a major modern city, it's one of Tunisia's most lively coastal resorts. As a historic city, it has conserved a magnificent medina and exceptional monuments from the Middle Ages.

Just a few minutes away, a tourist town with Andalusian charm has been built especially for holiday-goers, around a marina: the integrated resort of Port El Kantaoui.

What to see?

Sea and history

Listed by UNESCO as an example of World Heritage, the Sousse medina ascends in layers along the hillside, facing the sea. It's a pleasure to explore the alleyways with an atmosphere of a time long past, haggling in the souks. Dominated by the tall silhouette of the Khalef Tower, the old town has kept its medieval stone walls and numerous monuments that bear witness to its past as a stronghold: the Ribat, small fort and religious retreat, the fortress-like Great Mosque, the imposing Kasbah.

Third biggest city in Tunisia, Sousse has a lively town centre with numerous places to shop and entertainment venues, and a superb seafront promenade. A few minutes away, explore the docks of the marina in Port El Kantaoui. Breathe in the air of the surrounding countryside: around the city can be found fields, villages and especially the vast olive groves that have given the region its wealth since ancient times.

What to do?

Clubbing or culture

White sand, swimming pools, water sports and activities... the high number of hotels in Sousse respond to every holidaymaker's desire. Beautiful spas and thalassotherapy centres will take care of your well-being in winter as in summer. Well-known nightclubs, three casinos, a wide choice of lounges and restaurants make Sousse an animated place to stay. Port El Kantaoui, equipped with a scuba diving centre, is a popular stop for boaters. In the medina, a number of exceptional monuments are worth a visit. Some offer a panoramic view across the city.

The archaeological museum of the Kasbah, completely modernised, exhibits Roman mosaics of great beauty, while the Museum of Folk Arts and Traditions shows the everyday life of the inhabitants and artisans of Sousse in the form of a wax museum. Around Sousse, don't miss visiting three other historic cities: Monastir, Kairouan and Mahdia.

What to eat?

Sousse is at the heart of a major olive growing region. In addition, olive oil is present in countless local recipes: salads, stewed dishes and pastries. A coastal town, Sousse will delight you with flavourful fish, squid and octopus dishes. If you prefer a more typical lamb dish, try the borghol sahli, dehulled and steamed wheat, accompanied by meat and vegetables.

Finish with a mint tea accompanied by a maqroudh from Kairouan or another type of pastry. But in Sousse, an eclectic and open large city, you can also find excellent places to eat sushi, tapas or Italian specialities. A variety of restaurants await you in the tourist complex, in the city's palaces, or on the quays of Port El Kantaoui with a view of the sailing boats.

Where to sleep?

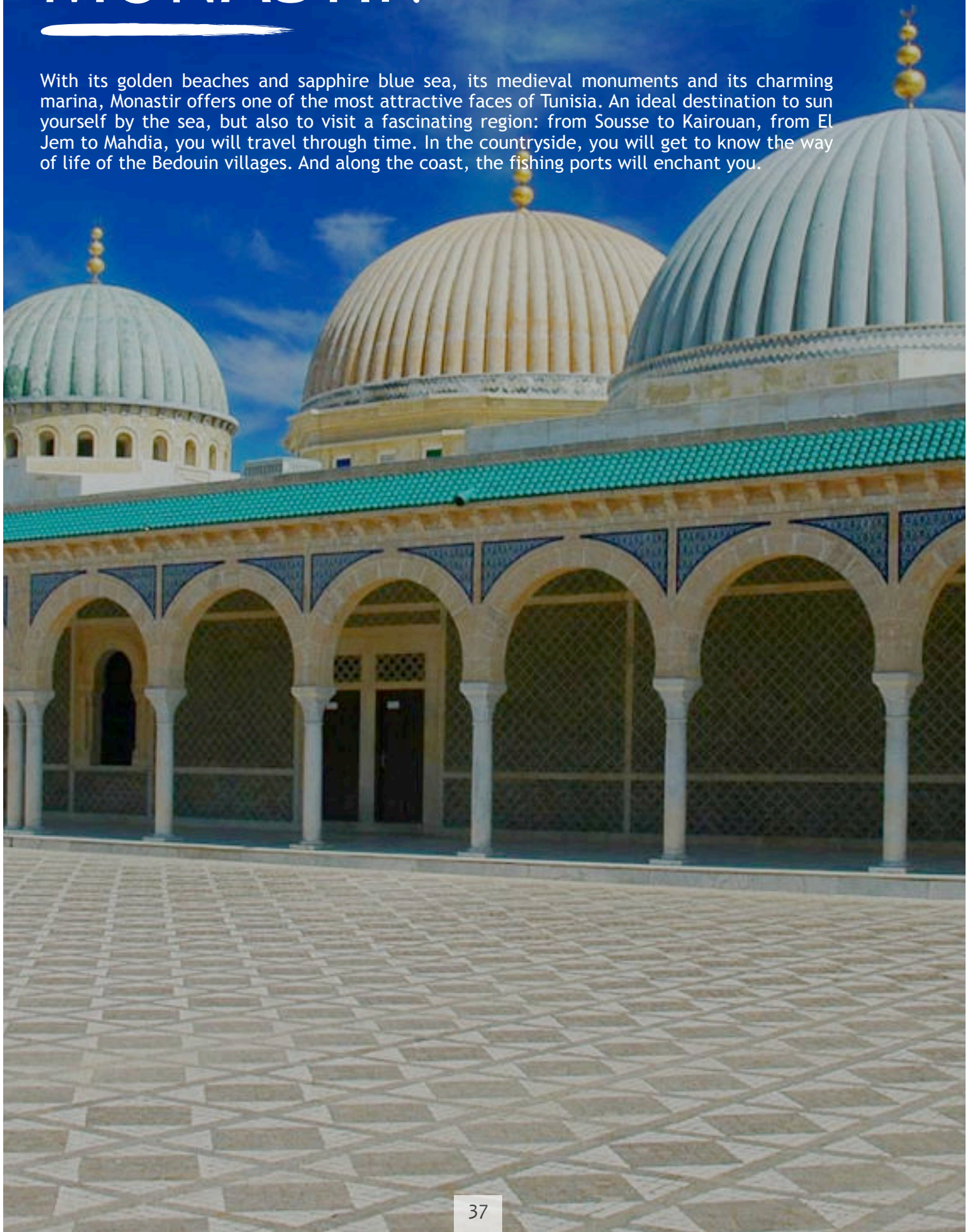
Holiday club or aparthotel

From Sousse to Port El Kantaoui, the immense seafront is dotted with big coastal hotels for a holiday of your dreams. From palace to club, they offer all the activities and services that you may desire.

For more independence, you can stay in an aparthotel on the marina in Port El Kantaoui. And if you are looking for more charm and privacy, some small hotels and guesthouses open their doors in the medina or next to the beautiful surrounding beaches.

MONASTIR

With its golden beaches and sapphire blue sea, its medieval monuments and its charming marina, Monastir offers one of the most attractive faces of Tunisia. An ideal destination to sun yourself by the sea, but also to visit a fascinating region: from Sousse to Kairouan, from El Jem to Mahdia, you will travel through time. In the countryside, you will get to know the way of life of the Bedouin villages. And along the coast, the fishing ports will enchant you.



What to see?

Ribat and fishing harbour

Explore the beautiful walk along the seafront: the marina, the esplanade of the Ribat, the cemetery dominated by the narrow minarets and the mausoleum of Bourguiba. Climb the 90 steep steps to the watchtower of the Ribat for a panoramic view of the city and surrounding beaches to take your breath away. Admire the old golden stones of its towers, its battlements and of the neighbouring mosque. Then delve into the cobbled streets of the medina.

Comb through the souks where the stalls are full of perfumed spices and beautiful crafts: leather bags, blankets, woven baskets... Pay a visit to the lively quays and the fishing harbour. Next, let yourself be seduced by Monastir's surroundings. The city is surrounded by farming villages and orchards, while the coastal road follows a string of charming coves and beaches.

What to do?

Relaxation or heritage

With its beaches, its palm trees and its turquoise sea, Monastir is one of the most popular holiday destinations in Tunisia. Suntan or catamaran, jetski or spa, karting track... there is no shortage of activities. Its also a golfing destination: it has one course by the sea and one on a hillside. The marina and diving centre await those who love the sea. History buffs can pore over the Ribat's beautiful museum of Islamic art. Around Monastir, they can also find the archaeological site of Lemta and the great historic cities: Sousse, Mahdia and Kairouan.

Not to be missed is one of Tunisia's most fabulous monuments, the great Roman amphitheatre of El Jem. And if you enjoy the traditional arts, you will be blown away by Tunisian wedding garb, made of silk and embroidered with gold, exhibited in the museum of folk art and traditions.

What to eat?

Fish and seafood

Monastir offers an abundance of fresh produce which is prepared in a variety of ways. You may get the chance to taste a local speciality, couscous with little charkaw fish: seasoned with salt and pepper, they are steamed with the couscous, then garnish the dish with bell peppers and squash. In Monastir, all the produce from the sea is showcased, such as grilled seabass and seabream, fried or stewed octopus or squid.

The region is famous for its vegetable crops: enjoy the springtime stew marqet khodra, lamb simmered with broad beans and seasonal vegetables. In the medina, close to the beaches and on the docks of the marina, you will find all manner of restaurants to cater to your every gastronomical taste.

Where to sleep?

Beachside hotel club, or marina apartment

All along the fine sandy beaches of Skanes, the hotels are abundant. The available choice goes from typical hotel stay to all inclusive vacation. Sports, entertainment, international cuisine... these establishments are perfect for summer holidays as a family or for long stays in the winter sun. In Monastir's medina, a stone's throw from the town centre, you have the option of an aparthotel: this choice allows you the independence of staying in a private apartment combined with the services of a hotel establishment.

KAIROUAN

Away from the coast, in a landscape of steppes, Kairouan is a fascinating city still anchored in a distant past. One of Islam's holy cities, it was the first capital of the Maghreb. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, it conceals several marvels: the medina, the venerable Great Mosque, the Aghlabid Basins, the stunning mausoleum of Sidi Saheb decorated with ceramic tiles.

And of course it is impossible to forget the numerous workshops where the most famous knotted pile carpets in Tunisia are made.



What to see?

Souks and domes

Delve into the medina through a monumental gate, between the displays of the little merchants of the souks. Explore the alleyways fringed by white façades and pale blue doors; and feel the timeless atmosphere. Climb the crenelated walls that surround the old town, and discover a constellation of white domes across the city. Stroll through the souks where the stalls compete with each other to display the most beautiful carpets, the pride of the city. During your stroll, step into the small building topped with a dome which protects a well they call Barrouta, extremely old and revered in local beliefs.

Inside an antique system of wheels and buckets, powered by the circular motion of a camel, draws the water. Leave the old town and visit the Aghlabid Basins: in the 19th century, these vast reservoirs of water were part of an immense hydraulic system, exceptional at the time.

What to do?

Mosques and museums

Visit the Great Mosque: non-Muslims are allowed to enter the courtyard and to observe the prayer hall, a majestic forest of arches and ancient columns. Visitors can also climb the minaret, inspired by the lighthouse of Alexandria. You will be in awe of the power and simplicity of this 9th century architecture. There could not be more contrast between that and the other great monument of Kairouan: the graceful Zaouïa Sidi Saheb or “Mosque of the Barber” where the large patios are decorated with brightly coloured tiles.

Outside of the city, don't miss the great museum of Raqqada: there you can see ceramics with metallic reflections, gold coins and pages of the Koran dating back to the first centuries in the city's history. Other activities are possible in the region: hiking, caving and hunting in the mountain areas, or watching the crowds of birds gather on the saltwater lakes.

What to eat?

Lamb or maqroudh

In the medina, take a seat in a small restaurant to taste simple and great value cuisine. Some well-reputed restaurants will serve you, according to your tastes, a generous helping of couscous or sought after international cuisine. You can also order Tunisian sheep-meat specialities such as mosli allouche, oven roasted lamb. But Kairouan's famous speciality is the little diamond shaped sweet known as maqroudh. In it is found the timeless ingredients of Berber cuisine: semolina, olive oil and honey, to which dates from the oases of the South are added.

Where to sleep?

Classic hotel or boutique accommodation

A number of hotels can be found in Kairouan, among them a luxury hotel with a swimming pool inside a restored ancient building, the kasbah (fortress) of the city. Unless you prefer a guesthouse inside the medina.

MAHDIA



Mahdia is small city which keeps its original traditions, where the women cover themselves with gold jewelry and the houses are decorated with embroidered hangings. Its monumental gateway calls back to its glorious past: it was the first capital of the great Fatimid dynasty, who would go on to reign in Egypt and Syria.

Its medina stretches out along a narrow peninsula, surrounded by deep blue waters; its sumptuous beaches delight the tourists. A charming city with many faces.

What to see?

Medina and fishing harbour

Visit the medina with its timeless charm. You enter through a dark doorway - the “Skifa Kahla”, topped by an imposing tower: it was once the entrance to a true forbidden citadel, strictly reserved for the court of the Fatimid Caliph. Today it is a souk, where they sell magnificent wedding garb embroidered with golden sequins. The narrow streets still keep an air of a certain nobility with their beautiful green doors framed with carved stone. Take a break under the fig trees in Cairo square.

On either side, the sea is just a stone’s throw away: the medina stretches the length of a long peninsula. Go down to the charming marine cemetery, where the simple white tombs slope gently towards the sea. At their feet, a few boats glide across the surface of a pool cut into the rock: an ancient Punic port. Leaving the medina, you can stroll along the fishing harbour, one of the largest in Tunisia.

What to do?

History or scuba diving

Bask on the luxurious beaches of golden sand, some of the most beautiful in Tunisia, and take advantage of the activities on offer from your hotel. Go scuba diving in the azure depths, relax in a thalasso spa. In the medina, delve into a weaver’s workshop or into a beautiful historic house where the rooms are draped in coloured hangings. Visit the Great Fatimid Mosque: founded in 916, devoid of minaret, it astonishes visitors with its simplicity and majestic entranceway.

Visit the Turkish fortress Borj el-Kebir, where the privateer Dragut masterminded important battles with the Spanish in the fight for control of Tunisia. In the local museum, you can admire Roman mosaics, gold coins from the Byzantine era and the superb traditional garb of Mahdia’s brides. Nearby, don’t forget to visit Monastir, another historic city, and the great El Jem Roman amphitheatre, the “Coliseum of Africa”.

What to eat?

Octopus and olive oil

In Mahdia, a major fishing port, the local gastronomy naturally places fish in high regard, whether served with couscous, or baked in the oven with spices and slices of lemon. For a light meal, choose a refreshing octopus salad, seasoned with lemon and a splash of olive oil, or a spicy chakchouka - a stew of peppers, tomatoes and potatoes garnished with an egg. For dessert, taste an indulgent speciality: the “Mahdia brick”, a triangle of flaky pastry stuffed with almonds. Depending on how you feel, you could lunch facing the port, where certain restaurants are particularly well-reputed, or choose a light meal in a medina cafe above the waves.

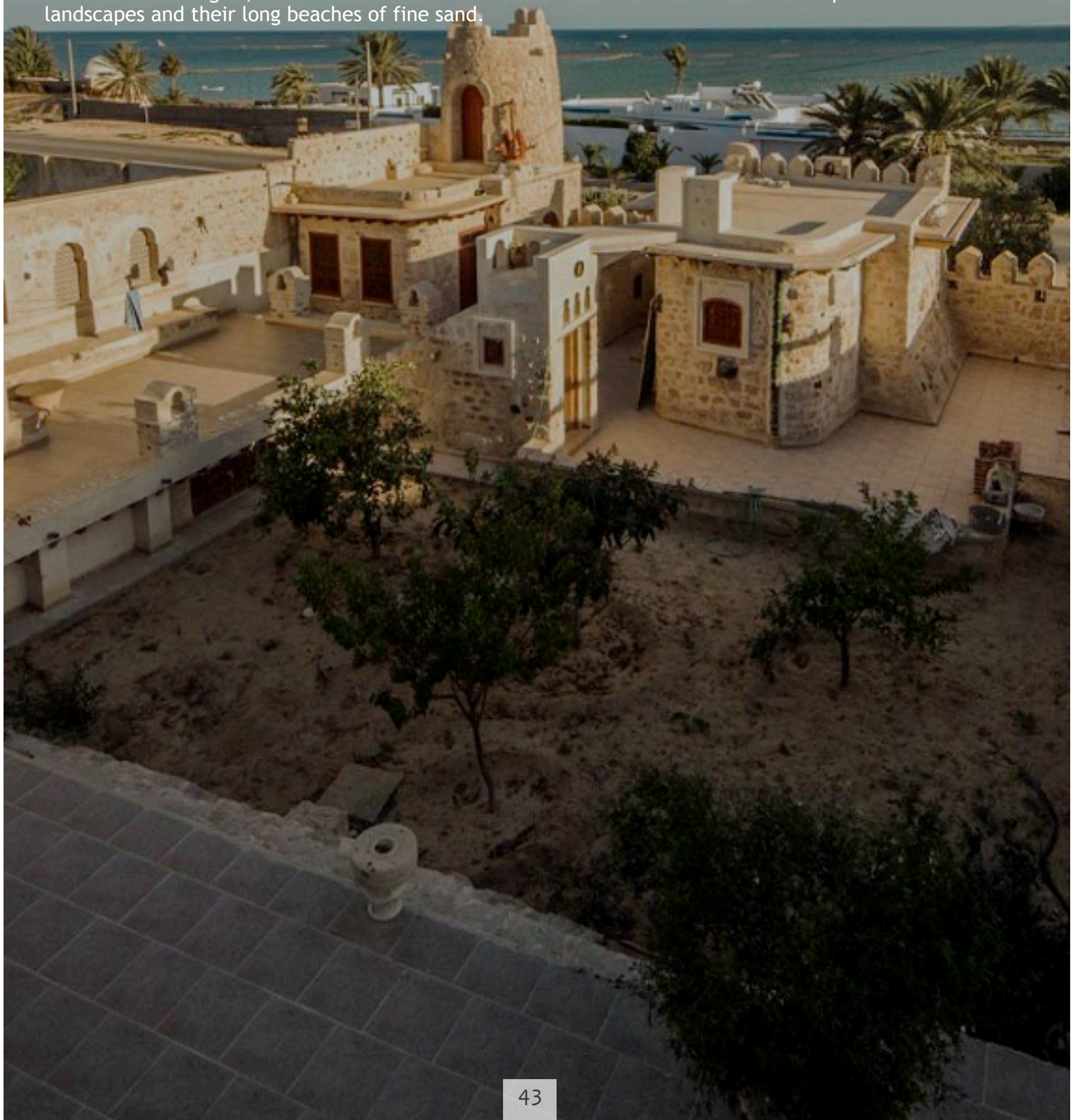
Where to sleep?

Clubs, palaces or guesthouses

The magnificent golden beaches that stretch out from the city’s boundaries simply can’t be ignored. Mahdia now has a large number of coastal hotels each more superb than the last, from luxurious palaces to all inclusive holiday clubs. Other options include smaller hotels in the city, or a guesthouse on a deserted beach, just a few kilometres from Mahdia.

SFAX & KERKENNAH

A major commercial port, an old city surrounded by walls the colour of parchment, stalls echoing with the sound of artisans at work, and a cuisine built around olives, almonds and seafood... Sfax presents an original face of Tunisia, at a distance from the typical tourist itineraries. Facing it, the islands of Kerkennah offer the charm of their well-preserved landscapes and their long beaches of fine sand.



What to see?

Minarets and deserted beaches

Entirely surrounded by crenelated walls, the medina of Sfax is initially striking. Enter through one of its doorways and be plunged into another era, pulled along by the crowd of shoppers making their purchases among the little stalls. Here is a carpenter making spinning tops out of wood; there, a display of large rounded bread loaves with golden crusts. Pay a visit to the picturesque fish market: the locals of Sfax are crazy about seafood. Pause in front of the curious minaret of Sidi Amar Kammoun, with a medieval charm, then in front of that of the Great Mosque, decorated by a rich filigree of sculpted stonework.

Leaving the old neighbourhoods, admire the buildings dating from the time of the French Protectorate: towers in the style of minarets, arched windows and ceramic tiles in the Neo-Moorish style. In Kerkennah, see the shallow-bottomed boats glide silently over the water. Contemplate the serene landscapes enveloped by sand, the sway of the palm trees and the glow of the sun setting over the sea.

What to do?

Culture or bird-watching

In the medina of Sfax, visit the ancient Kasbah, today a museum dedicated to historical architecture, and the palace of Dar Jallouli, a sober and majestic dwelling from the 17th century. With its carved stone friezes and its panels of blue ceramic, Dar Jallouli is also a museum of folk art and traditions, and exhibits beautiful objects that once were part of the life of wealthy families: wardrobes, feminine headgear, beauty instruments, paintings under glass... Take a trip to visit the Coliseum of El Jem and the medina of Mahdia. In Kerkennah, take advantage of the sandy beaches and clear shallow waters surrounding the archipelago.

A mask and a snorkel are enough to observe a rich subaquatic universe: crustaceans, underwater plants, the fish which are concentrated around the fixed weirs. Observe the crowds of birds: the region is one of the principal wintering grounds for migratory birds in the Mediterranean.

What to eat?

Squid and fine pastry

The gastronomy of Sfax and Kerkennah is built upon seafood. You can taste, for example, stuffed squid, couscous with cuttlefish or fish cooked "Sfaxian style" (in a sauce). A typical dish of Sfax is fish accompanied by charmoula: an onion marmalade perfumed with raisins and cinnamon, simmered on a low flame for several hours. Taste the sweet and fruity olive oil: the Sfax region alone produces 40% of the olive oil in Tunisia. If there is any one area where Sfax sets the tone for the entire country, it is pastry. It's certainly the best place to try the delicate texture of kaak warqa, the flaky samsa or the mlabess subtly perfumed with rosewater and orange peel. None of this is surprising as in the region can be found one of the principal ingredients of Tunisian confectionary: almonds, with close to five million almond trees.

Where to sleep?

Bungalow or business hotel In Kerkennah, choose a bungalow in a beachside hotel. In Sfax, a large business hotel or luxury hotel in the Neo-Moorish style. Whether in town, in the countryside or on the beach, you can also choose a smaller hotel, a bed and breakfast, a rural guesthouse or a youth hostel.

DJERBA & ZARZIS

Both Mediterranean and Saharan at once, the island of Djerba has been a source of fascination since the time of Homer. Ulysses tasted the “lotus” there, a delicious fruit which takes away all desire to leave, and today each visitor feels spellbound by its exceptional atmosphere; an atmosphere which it shares with Zarzis, its neighbour on the mainland.

But Djerba is also an island of holiday clubs, activities in the fresh air, a unique heritage to discover... and excursions into the majestic setting of the Sahara.



What to see?

Potters or street art

Djerba is made for strolling through, its gentle landscapes are in such complete harmony with the white and rounded traditional architecture: old wells, little mosques hidden in the countryside, large rural properties known as menzels... Visit the Djerba Explore park to experience the life of a rural property, perfectly reconstructed. You will also find there a crocodile farm: watch a feeding and get better acquainted with these impressive reptiles. In Houmt-Souk, take a break by the fishing harbour, visit the fondouk (caravansary) areas and the covered market where fish are sold to the highest bidder.

Don't miss the village of Erriadh to visit one of the most ancient synagogues in the world, the Ghriba, and the living museum of street art, Djerbahood - an astonishing backdrop of traditional architecture appropriated by graffiti artists from around the world. In the village of Guellala, pay a visit to the potters who make large jars reminiscent of the ancient era, follow them down to an underground clay store and try your hand at working the potter's wheel.

What to do?

Museums or kitesurf

Beautiful hotel-holiday clubs, white sand beaches... Djerba is a choice destination for a seaside holiday. The regular winds throughout the year and the temperate climate make it an ideal location to learn to kitesurf or go sailing. There is no shortage of activities: scuba diving, parasailing, sea cruises, golf courses, casinos and nightclubs. Observe the huge gatherings of migratory birds in the lagoons. Get to know Djerba's heritage: in Houmt-Souk you will find the Borj Ghazi Mustapha, a 14th century fortress where the Turkish privateer Dragut fought the Spaniards.

The Museum of Traditional Heritage of Djerba explains local jewellery, pottery, traditions... Djerba Explore Park possesses a superb collection of ancient artifacts from Tunisia and the Middle-East. Djerba is also an excellent choice for thalassotherapy and hydrotherapy treatments. On the mainland, set off to discover old Berber villages, underground dwellings, the Ksour and Saharan oases.

What to eat?

Octopus and Djerbian rice

Freshly caught fish and octopus have pride of place in Djerbian gastronomy. The most fun way to try: buy your own sea bream in the Houmt-Souk marketplace and eat it there and then, garnished with salad, in one of the tiny neighbouring restaurants where the sign proclaims: "Bring your fish, I'll grill it"! Taste another delicious Djerbian speciality: steamed rice with meat, liver, parsley, spinach and herbs. All around the hotels can be found numerous restaurants offering pizza, seafood and Tunisian cuisine; it is also possible to eat Italian or Asian food in some of the hotels. For a successful evening, dine by the port with music and traditional dancing, enjoy quality meat grilled on a wood fire in a cosy atmosphere, or savour a couscous in a former fondouk in Houmt-Souk.

Where to sleep?

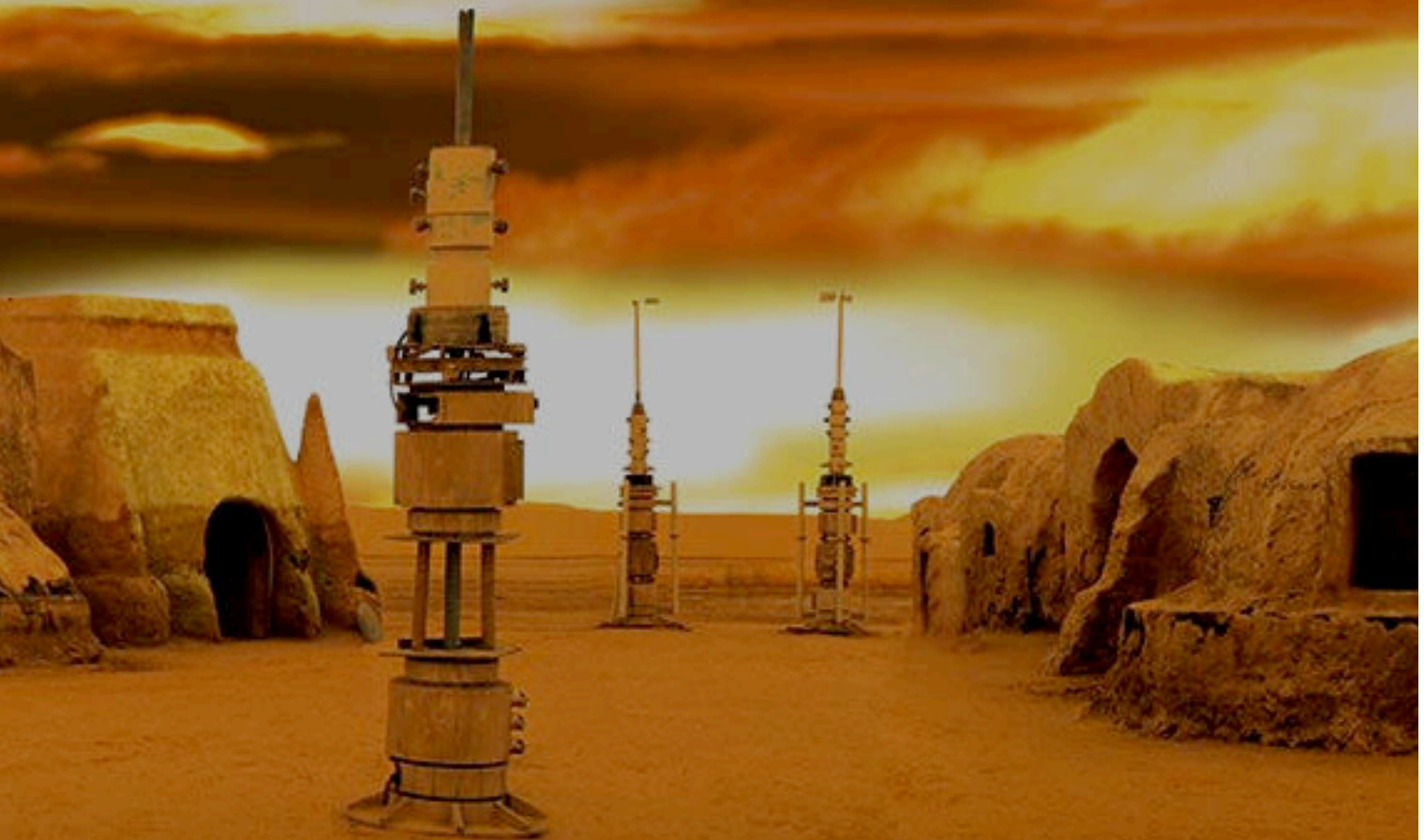
Guesthouses and holiday clubs

Djerba is the holiday club island par excellence, and they are particularly numerous here. They propose a host of activities in a friendly atmosphere. Nevertheless, all types of accommodation coexist in Djerba, from large luxurious hotels to guesthouses in the countryside. Revamped traditional house, former fondouk converted into a boutique hotel, residence in the style of a village... everyone can choose the atmosphere they most prefer.

TOZEUR

Towns arising from the desert and pressed against vast palm groves, Tozeur and Nefta surprise, fascinate and immerse visitors in a surreal landscape. The burning light of the Sahara pours into narrow streets of the old quarters, between the high façades and golden coloured bricks.

In Tozeur, palaces, theme parks and museums have flourished around the old town. In Nefta, countless domes indicate the tombs of saints, overlooking the oasis which nestles in a basin called the Basket. The dunes of the Sahara are just a few kilometres away.



What to see?

Chotts, palm trees and old quarters

The old quarters of Tozeur and Nefta have a very particular air to them. Follow the narrow streets and covered passageways which are astonishingly fresh and cool under the Saharan sun. Admire the façades in bricks the colour of sand and their stunning decorations in relief (see p. 79). Then pay a visit to the giant oases, veritable palm tree forests whose shade is used to cultivate fruit trees. On foot or by carriage, appreciate the out of the ordinary atmosphere of the palm groves. The surroundings will surprise you with the variety of desert landscapes: chains of mountains, arid plateaus, giant dunes, salt lakes glittering in the sun.

Cross the immense Chott el-Jerid, ancient interior sea almost entirely dried out, covered with a thick crust of blindingly white salt. Follow the road to the oases of the mountains - Chebika, Tamerza, Mides - and explore the canyons, the waterfalls and the palm groves nestled into the rock. Further north lies the oasis of Gafsa, a town known for its Roman stone basins and brightly coloured drapes.

What to do?

Star Wars and land sailing

Clean air, the beauty of the palm grove, the immensity of the landscapes... the region lends itself to escapism and contemplation. But there is more than one way to enjoy the desert. If you are sporty, go quad biking in the dunes of Onk Jmel, land sailing on the Chott el-Jerid, trekking along the trails in the Atlas, or even play golf in an impressive setting of rock formations and palm trees. Whether as a family or with friends, visit the theme park Chak Wak where dinosaurs and religious history mix. Try a tree top adventure course in the palm trees in the Sahara Lounge park. Relive Star Wars on the original set of Mos Espa.

Watch the date harvest (in November) and become unbeatable in your knowledge of the universe of the palm tree in the educational complex Eden Palm. Cross impressive canyons aboard a small historical train, the Red Lizard. Admire the costumes and precious artifacts brought to life at the Dar Chraiet museum, or objects from everyday life in the museum of folk art and traditions.

What to eat?

Lamb and dates

Tozeur is the date capital: discover the different varieties of this emblematic southern fruit, from the sweet and red allig to the translucent and creamy deglet nour. Try rfiss, the date dumplings seasoned with just a hint of salted butter. Taste the chakhchoukha of Jerid, lamb cooked in sauce accompanied by a traditional semolina bread called mtabga. Feast yourself on barkoukech, a sort of couscous with large grains garnished with meat and small dried fish. More unusual, give camel steak a try. In Tozeur, the avenue which lies alongside the palm grove is a meeting point for gourmets with several restaurants offering a choice between the regional cuisine of Jerid, Italian food and international dishes. You can also choose to dine the hotels of the area.

Where to sleep?

Saharan palace, ancient dwelling or oasis lodge

Capital of Saharan tourism, Tozeur has several beautiful high class hotels to which Nefta adds a few more. Views across the palm grove, traditional brick decor, swimming pool, spa and occasionally entertainment worthy of a holiday club... everything is designed to give you the most privileged and enjoyable stay in these two magical towns. There are several other accommodation options: bed and breakfast, guesthouses in the medina, or villa of your dreams in the heart of the palm grove.

DOUZ

Covered by a fine white mantle reminiscent of a snow-covered landscape, the Douz region offers one of the gentlest ways to approach the desert. Cordons of dunes and graceful bouquets of palm trees fringe the roads the sand slowly reclaims. The golden vastness of the desert is here, at hand, while the palm groves offer delectable shady places to stop in the forests of date palms. In the heart of the region, a vast salty expanse with shimmering reflections: the Chott El-Jerid.



What to see?

Dunes and oases

The desert sands start a stone's throw from the hotels of Douz. A guided tour, on foot or on camelback, to watch the sun set behind the dunes will transport you for a few minutes to an enchanted universe. On the other side, the Chott El-Jerid extends far out of sight, with its salt crystals and its shimmering surface where strange mirages form: this former internal sea, mostly dried out, is crossed by a paved road. Between these two great deserts - desert of sand and desert of salt - lie the sandy villages of Sabria, Nouil, El Faouar, and their small oases.

Further south, Ksar Ghilane marks the boundary between the sandy desert and stony desert; an ideal stop for hikers with its palm grove, its thermal springs and paths shaded by tamarind trees swarming with birds. Next, a wide track leads to the oil city of El Borma between the majestic, rose-tinted dunes of the Great Eastern Sand Sea.

What to do?

Trekking or 4x4

To really experience the emotions of the desert, take a short camel ride with local guides, eat a meal in a tent and spend a night camping in the splendour of the dunes, under a sky illuminated with stars. To live out a true Saharan adventure, set out on a motorised desert raid, or hiking on foot in the majestic landscape. The great Saharan open spaces are also well suited to extreme sports. The sandy areas make a tantalising challenge for quad bikes, 4x4 or motorbikes.

The vast expanses such as the Chott El-Jerid allow for land sailing and speed sailing. Dune skiing offers heady sensations, and ultralight flying is one of the best ways to appreciate the beauty of the Tunisian Sahara. Lovers of fauna and flora, observe the thousands of pink flamingos on the Chott El-Jerid in winter, or visit Jebil National Park to catch a glimpse of gazelles and addax antelope. History buffs can see the ruins of a Roman fort close to Ksar Ghilane.

What to eat?

Couscous and desert bread

Taste the everyday food of the Berber nomads: marfoussa date paste, tchiche the barley soup. Watch how the famous desert bread is prepared, cooked in hot sand under a bed of ashes and embers. Drink the red tea with tiny sips, very strong and very sweet. And for special occasions, couscous with mutton.

Where to sleep?

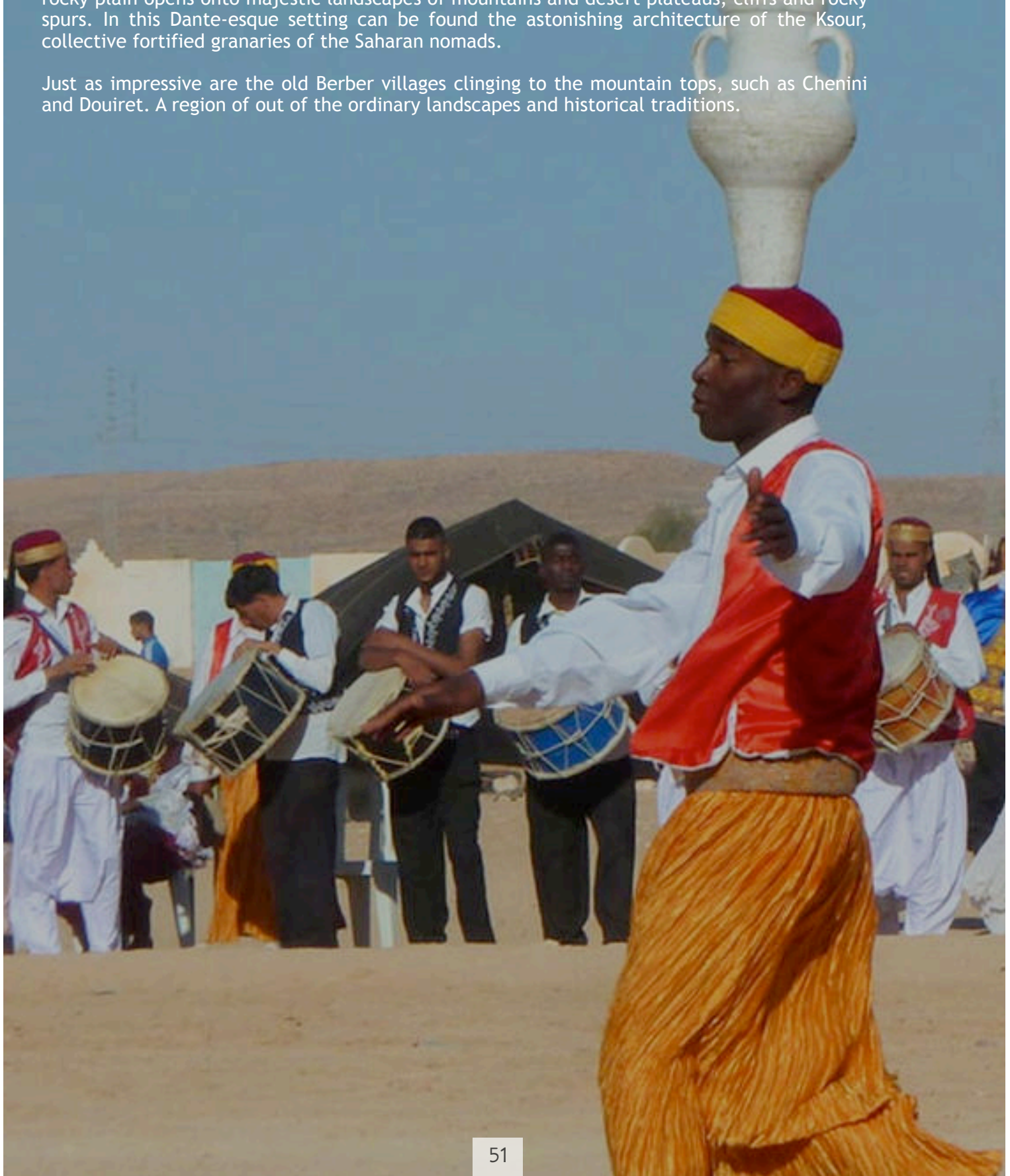
Hotel or encampment

Douz offers a wide range of accommodation and beautiful hotels with views of the sand dunes. Saharan encampments are numerous, from the simplest to the most comfortable: Ksar Ghilane, Zaafrane, Bir Soltane... A luxury encampment can be found at the foot of Tembaine mountain, isolated in a grandiose setting deep in the sandy desert.

TATAOUINE

Around Tataouine and Medenine, the desert appears in all its implacable ruggedness. A vast rocky plain opens onto majestic landscapes of mountains and desert plateaus, cliffs and rocky spurs. In this Dante-esque setting can be found the astonishing architecture of the Ksour, collective fortified granaries of the Saharan nomads.

Just as impressive are the old Berber villages clinging to the mountain tops, such as Chenini and Douiret. A region of out of the ordinary landscapes and historical traditions.



What to see?

Ghorfas and hilltop villages

Visit the Ksour by climbing the ladders and stairs that once allowed people to hoist their harvests into the storage chambers, the ghorfas. The hilltop villages also had their ghorfas, attics built into the peaks of mountains, as if they were citadels, today in ruins. Below the troglodyte dwellings, dug into the rocky walls, descend in terraces. In these villages - Chenini, Douiret -, the Berber language is still in use today. In Chenini, they will show you giant tombs and tell you the legend of the Seven Sleepers: this ancient Mediterranean myth found one of its avatars here.

In Douiret, delve into a subterranean mosque. For lovers of geography and prehistory, cave paintings from the Neolithic era can be seen close to Ghomrassen, and a Permian marine outcrop (250 million years old), unique in Africa in Jebel Tebaga close to Medenine.

What to do?

Trekking and dinosaurs

Take a hike on foot to visit the Ksour, all different, in the villages of the ridge. Visit the Museum of the History of the Earth, in Tataouine: here you can see dinosaur fossils and meteorites found in the area. Watch how they weave flij, long bands which, once assembled, make up the nomad tents. Pay a visit to the weekly market where herders and farmers meet.

Attend the Festival of the Ksour: there you can see a reconstruction of the harvesting and storing ceremonies, hear traditional music and songs of the Southeast (in March). If you are passionate about fauna and flora, explore the natural reserve of Sidi Toui, characteristic of the region. Take an excursion westwards to reach the frontier between the desert of sand and desert of stones: the oasis of Ksar Ghilane.

What to eat?

Semolina bread or couscous

The food of the village inhabitants is very simple. Taste the semolina bread kesra dipped in virgin olive oils pressed from the village olives, figs or pomegranates freshly picked from the jessour, honey with the strong fragrance of rosemary and thyme from the mountains. And of course, couscous with mouthwatering lamb or mutton. For international cuisine, dine in the area's hotels.

Where to sleep?

Hotel or underground dwelling

Several simple hotels can be found in Tataouine and Medenine. The region is particularly marked out by its unusual accommodations: comfortable hotels camouflaged in a desert landscape, or guesthouse built into an underground dwelling.



GABES & MATMATA

Gabes is the only coastal oasis in the Mediterranean, surrounded by fine sand beaches. Its vast palm grove is truly enchanting, and its old city is distinguished by its authentic atmosphere. But Gabes is above all the entrance to the Sahara; the start of a journey between ridges and arid hills, Bedouin tents and old Berber villages. Here you'll find still-living traditions and an ancestral way of life, such as the stunning underground village of mount Matmata.

What to see?

Oases and old villages

Take a carriage ride through the oasis of Gabes, which palm trees numbering in the hundreds of thousands. In the shade of the tall trees grow several types of fruit tree: at the beginning of summer, admire the pomegranate trees whose flowers will give way in the autumn to fruits bursting with sweet juice. Explore the windy alleyways and covered passages of the Old Menzel neighbourhood. In the colourful market of Jara, buy spices and powdered henna, the plant used for dye and medicinal purposes grown in the oasis.

Gabes also has beautiful beaches where herons and pink flamingos frolic in multitudes. In the backcountry, old Berber villages clinging to the hillside are camouflaged in the rocky landscape. Hidden in this region are some of the most astonishing sites in Tunisia: Matmata, where the ground is pierced with countless craters dug into the soft rock. In reality these are the interior courtyards of the 'troglodyte' dwellings: the inhabitants live in underground chambers, sheltered from the baking heat.

What to do?

Bird-watching or Berber culture

The Saharan tourism adventure starts in Gabes. Its museum of art and folk traditions will introduce you to the multiple costumes, weavings, carpets and jewellery typical of the region. In the surrounding villages, you will get to know the troglodyte dwellings and the agricultural methods used in arid locations. You will see women create magnificent fabrics on rudimentary looms. You will be introduced to the Berber culture: the little museum in Tamezret will tell you of the symbols, the traditions and the history of the Berber queen Kahena.

The region, full of valleys, is well suited to hiking. Fans of the Star Wars saga should be aware that certain scenes were shot in Matmata. Those who are passionate about the history of the Second World War should know that the museum in Mareth preserves the memory of the line of fortifications built by the French, then occupied by the marshal Rommel. Amateur birdwatchers, the Gulf of Gabes is one of the largest wintering grounds for waterbirds in the Mediterranean.

What to eat?

Fish and pomegranates

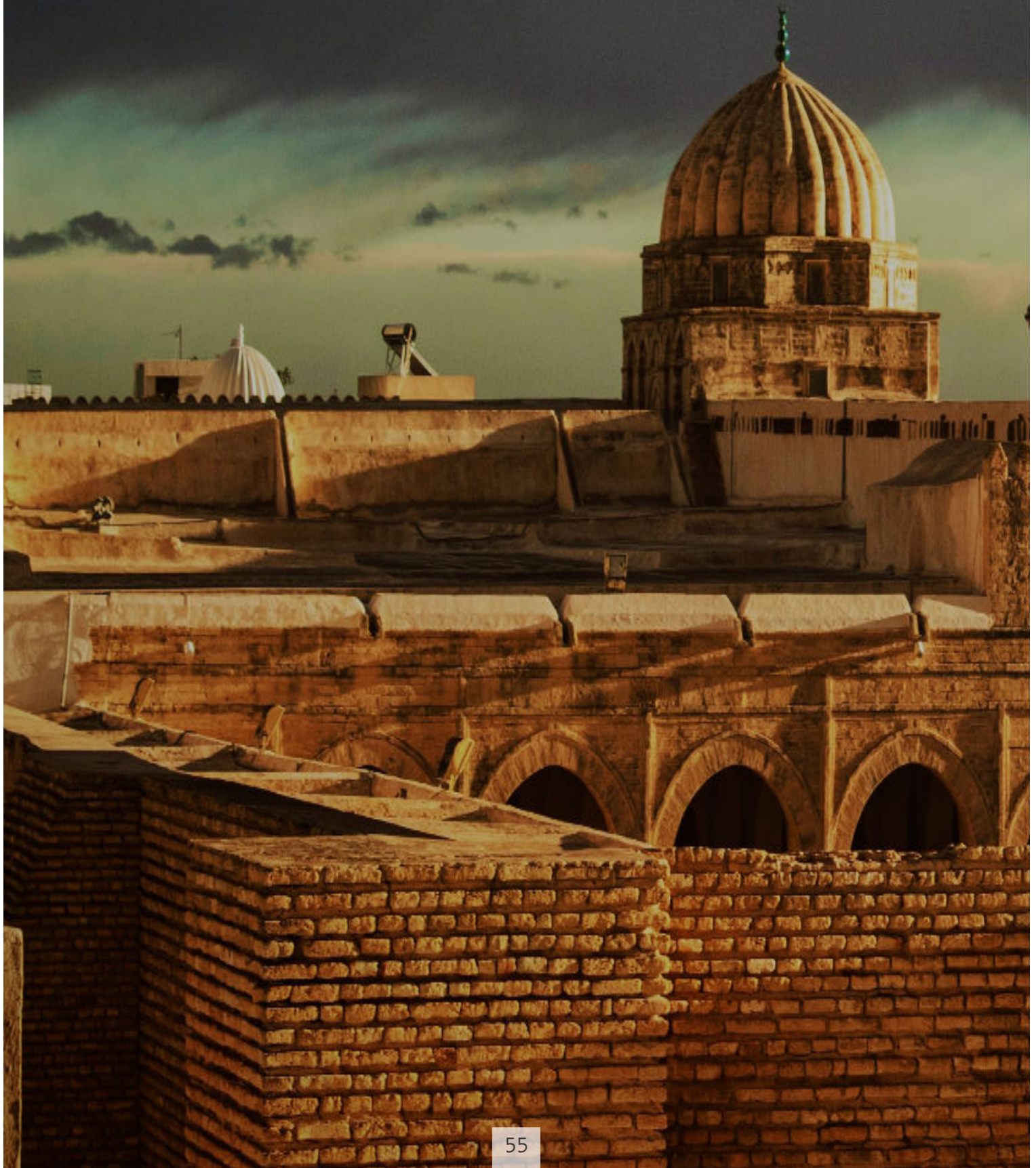
A major coastal city, Gabes will offer you fish and seafood prepared in all sorts of ways: grilled red mullet, stuffed squid, dogfish stewed with salted vegetables, or the little ouzef fish in a bell pepper salad. The lamb of the nomadic herders also has a treasured place in southern cuisine. Try it roasted or in couscous. If you stay in Gabes over autumn, take advantage of the season to try the oasis pomegranates. Restaurants aimed at tourists are rare in the Gabes region, but hotels can have their own restaurants. Otherwise, go for the little local restaurants that serve a simple fare typical to the region, although generally no alcohol.


Where to sleep?

Saharan hotel or cave dwelling

While not a major tourist destination, Gabes nevertheless has a few hotels not devoid of charm. In the region, you can find truly original forms of accommodation to fully experience the emotions of the desert: hotels in the Saharan style, guesthouses in Tamezret, lodging in a cave dwelling in Matmata.

EXPERIENCE TUNISIA





Tunisia is a captivating destination unlike any other. One that will surprise and delight you in so many memorable ways.

And with a variety of hotels from all inclusive resorts to luxury and boutique hotels, it's also one of the best value destinations on the Mediterranean with something for everyone

Sun-seekers will relish the warm weather and some of the best beaches on the Mediterranean. Those who prefer their holidays action-packed will be able to try every watersport under the sun along the 800 miles of coastline, or stay inland for desert thrills such as quad biking and sand boarding. And for those into history, Tunisia is home to some of the world's finest Roman ruins, as well as eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The bustling souks and medinas are the perfect place to go for unique, handmade crafts and you'll never be too far from a café or restaurant offering delicious food, chilled wine and refreshing local lemon juice. There are also world-class golf courses, luxurious spas specialising in Thalassotherapy and when night falls, Tunisia's thriving bar and club scene means you can dance the night away.



GOLFING

If you're looking for golf inspiration, your search is over. With some of the best beaches and resorts in the Mediterranean, year round sun and lush emerald green golf courses, a golf getaway or leisure trip in Tunisia is an incredible experience that has to be ticked off every golfer's score card.

Whatever your handicap, you'll enjoy exotic new challenges while you admire the stunning rolling links with their magnificent views of the sparkling blue Mediterranean sea. You can relax in the clubhouse bar, swapping tips with other players over a well deserved drink, and in the well-equipped pro shops you can hire any gear you need, plus with friendly caddies who know the courses like the backs of their hands, you'll be set for a great golfing experience.

These superbly landscaped links are only a short drive from a tempting choice of both luxury and all inclusive resorts, although at the hotels with golf courses you can almost step straight onto the green. All with the added bonus of golf-friendly concierges who'll arrange all your tee-off times and transfers.

SPA & WELLNESS

A luxury resort and spa holiday in Tunisia takes you beyond simply sunshine, pampering and familiar beauty fixes. As soon as you stroll through the shady and fragrant palm fringed gardens of your luxury hotel, you'll feel yourself start to unwind, in anticipation of the blissful treatments which will soon soothe your mind, body and soul.

And this wonderful feeling of wellness touches you in so many ways. From the attentive service and gourmet cuisine complemented by chilled glasses of local wine, to the stunning beach views from your balcony and every comfort your heart desires.

In the tranquil spas, the latest beauty treatments make you feel like a celebrity or a Roman Emperor enjoying the healing energy of seawater. Known as Thalassotherapy and first appreciated by the ancient Romans, this technique of using seawater for its therapeutic benefits has been refined at over 60 luxury spas dedicated to your wellbeing.



STAR WARS

The force is strong in Tunisia. Standing in the actual Boonta Eve pod-racing arena, you'll almost hear the crowd roar as Anakin Skywalker's pod racer speeds over the finishing line! As you take a selfie outside Luke Skywalker's house on the planet of Tatooine, is that distant sand cloud Luke's landspeeder or approaching Imperial Stormtroopers?

In genuine movie locations from Star Wars and Raiders of the Lost Ark to Monty Python's Life of Brian, you'll discover that as well as being the perfect location for a sun and beach holiday, Tunisia is one giant film set.

Although Star Wars was set in a galaxy far, far away, many exotic scenes were filmed a mere three hours flight from the UK. In Matmata, the Hotel Sidi Driss was used for interior scenes, so you can sleep in Luke Skywalker's underground home or take a seat in the Lars family dining room. Just leave some time to feel the force of a chilled glass of Tunisian wine or local beer in the Star Wars themed hotel bar.



WATER SPORTS

From the secluded beaches of the picturesque northern coast, to lively family resorts, all inclusive hotels and peaceful palm-fringed sands, Tunisia is the ultimate playground for thrill seekers and watersport lovers.

With over 800 miles of beautiful sandy beaches, the warm shallows of the Mediterranean sea, plus an amazing coral reef, you're never far from fun in the sun. With so many family vacation ideas from kid's club activities to catamaran sailing and scuba diving, plus water-skiing, jet skiing, canoeing and paddle boarding, you're sure to find a watersport to suit everyone's passion or energy level!

The holiday hotspots of La Marsa and the sandy cove of Gammarth offer lots of family friendly watersports. Just down the coast, all inclusive resorts like Hammamet and Nabeul and the beautiful Cap Bon peninsula will also tempt you in to the sparkling water. Around the Isle of Djerba the azure blue sea is dotted with the colourful sails of speeding wind and kite surfers.



SCUBA DIVING

It's easy to understand why you'd want to spend weeks on Tunisia's beautiful beaches, with glorious weather and 800 miles of beautiful coastline to enjoy. But if you can drag yourself off the sun lounger, there's a whole other side to the country to explore, and it's not far away. Just take a few steps into the Mediterranean Sea and enjoy seeing Tunisia's fascinating marine life up close on a scuba diving holiday: going under the sea is one of the best things to do in Tunisia.

Its clear waters, colourful coral reefs and varied sea life make for memorable dives. There's no need to be an expert diver, either: you can grab a snorkel for an initial glimpse of the underwater world and then sign up for a course at one of the country's many dive centres, which cater for all levels, from beginners to experts.

There are a number of excellent diving spots in Tunisia, but the top spot has to go to the coastal town of Tabarka. There's an unspoiled coral reef resplendent with diverse marine life close to the shore, and diving companies offering tours for all levels of divers.

ADVENTURE

Tunisia has been welcoming people of all ages for thousands of years.

Not far away from arguably the best beaches in the Mediterranean, it's easy to step back in time and follow in the footsteps of Hannibal, countless Roman legions and Phoenician traders.

With no fewer than eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Tunisia's colourful past is never far away. So, you can enjoy the best of both worlds – relaxing days in your all inclusive resort, or luxury or boutique hotel, overlooking the stunning Mediterranean, plus exciting trips to some of the world's finest historical sites.

From the spectacular remains of Carthage and the abandoned Punic city of Kerkouane overlooking the azure Mediterranean, to the captivating streets and winding alleys of the walled medinas of Tunis and Sfax. There is so much to discover, you'll want to come back for more!



FAMILY HOLIDAYS

Precious memories are created on family holidays, so the destination you pick for your special trip away has to work for everyone, from toddlers to grandparents. Tunisia has all the ingredients to keep the whole family entertained, from wild waterparks and memorable kids' clubs for children, to elegant golf courses and relaxing spas for the older generation.

Tunisia is a wonderful place to bring a family, whether young or old. All inclusive family resorts ensure that all members of the family feel cared for and looked after. If you feel like a day out, kids' clubs staffed by friendly professionals reassure parents that their young ones are being well looked after, while close access to beaches, cultural sights and shops means it's always easy to pop back and check on the little ones.

Many Tunisia holiday resorts have luxurious facilities within the hotel grounds, meaning that parents and grandparents can enjoy the spa, golf course or pool while the children play nearby at the kids' club.



CULINARY

Experiencing a new world of food and drink.

One of the best parts of visiting a new country is experiencing a new world of food and drink, and this is especially true in Tunisia. The result of centuries of different culinary influences, from Roman and Turkish to French and Italian, Tunisian national food packs a tasty punch with a mix of spices and flavours.

Whether you want to try delicious local delicacies, eat spicy dishes with Mediterranean influences or opt for the comfort foods of home, you'll find everything you need.

Plus, while the meat and seafood dishes are excellent, there's plenty for vegetarians and vegans too, so whatever your dietary requirements, you're guaranteed to enjoy feast after feast. Your money will go far here, meaning you can try everything on offer: there's no excuse not to get starters, main courses, desserts, and maybe a few side dishes too.



FAMILY ADVENTURE

If you're looking to mix pulse-racing adventures with a relaxing sun and beach holiday, Tunisia delivers both. From feeling the wind in your hair and waves splashing on your face to the thrill of desert sand swirling around your ankles, Tunisia is an unforgettable high for the whole family.

It starts on the beach. Right next to your all inclusive resort, luxury or boutique hotel there's a watersport for everyone! From kid's club activities to sailing, water-skiing, jet skiing, canoeing and deep sea fishing. Below the waves, wrecks and reefs teeming with colourful sea life create a scuba diving heaven To surround yourself with the natural beauty of Tunisia, go for a hike! From forested hills sprinkled with pretty wildflowers to rugged desert canyons, mountain trails and protected National Parks, your wellness levels will hit new heights.

Or you can really get back to nature on a camel or horse-riding trek, taking in the amazing views of the rolling dunes and lush oases of the Sahara desert. And for the ultimate 'get away from it all' experience, nothing tops a night under the stars camping in a luxurious tent.

SHOPPING

Leave a lot of space in your luggage, because you're definitely going to be coming back from Tunisia with a suitcase full of treats. The country is a great shopping destination, where you can explore atmospheric markets, medinas and souks to pick up one-off souvenirs, from rugs and fragrances to ceramics and silver jewels.

Shopping is one of the most enjoyable things to do in Tunisia. Wandering through the souks is a cultural experience in itself, in which the colours, materials and smells overwhelm the senses.

The historic Medina of Tunis, in particular, is unmissable and is one of the main Tunisia tourist attractions: wander through the ancient, UNESCO-protected quarter's web of alleyways to haggle for your purchases and enjoy a shisha and mint tea glasses.

You'll find that different areas of the country specialise in different crafts, but a good place to start is Denden village in Manouba, Tunis.



KIDS ACTIVITIES

Family holidays are where we create lasting memories for life, so if you're looking for an exciting destination full of child friendly activities, entertainment and fun, look no further than Tunisia. The country is an ideal spot for child friendly holidays: there are so many active adventures and cultural activities to enjoy, as well as high standard all inclusive family resorts to base yourself in.

Creating lasting memories: Holiday fun for kids
Family holidays are where we create lasting memories for life, so if you're looking for an exciting destination full of child friendly activities, entertainment and fun, look no further than Tunisia. The country is an ideal spot for child friendly holidays: there are so many active adventures and cultural activities to enjoy, as well as high standard all inclusive family resorts to base yourself in. Tunisia's warm waters, sunny skies and 800 miles of coastline also means watersports are an extremely popular family friendly activity. If you're staying by the beach, your kids will soon be begging you for some time in the sea.



LUXURIOUS STYLE

With sunshine, luxury spas, unspoiled beaches, refined restaurants and elegant hotels, Tunisia is an amazing Mediterranean destination. Visitors can expect all the right ingredients for a luxurious escape from the everyday, with flawless service, luxurious facilities such as spas, pools and golf courses, and hotels catering to every taste, from sprawling luxury all inclusive resorts to quirky boutique hotels perfect for honeymooners.

The good news is that wherever you choose to make your base in Tunisia, there will be more than one luxury brand to choose from. Whether you opt to stay in the iconic village of Sidi Bou Said, the picturesque island of Djerba or a popular holiday resort like Hammamet or Monastir, there are some gorgeous five star hotels to choose from, many with manicured gardens, enormous pools and nearby golf and spa facilities.



BASK IN SUN

All about the weather in sunny Tunisia

One of Tunisia's biggest draws is its gorgeous climate. Thanks to its Mediterranean position, Tunisia offers reliably hot, dry summer months, mild winters and a plethora of activities to enjoy no matter what time of year you visit.

While many travellers take advantage of the constant summer sun and book beach holidays during the warmest months of June to mid-September, the shoulder seasons and winter months are just as enjoyable. The weather will also vary depending on whether you're visiting the north or south of Tunisia.

Here, we take a look at what the different seasons and regions offer, what you can expect from the weather at various times of the year and what the best time to visit Tunisia is.

NIGHTLIFE

It's time to enjoy Tunisia's exciting nightlife

So you've spent the day enjoying all that Tunisia has to offer, from visiting UNESCO World Heritage Sites and sunbathing at the beach to seeing the Star Wars film set and shopping at bustling souks. But once the sun has gone down, what are your plans? It's time to dive headfirst into Tunisia's exciting nightlife.

Discover the must-see sites

While bars and nightclubs are popular in Tunisia, some of the most popular spots once the evening falls are cafes. Local cafes, which buzz with locals and tourists alike once the evening falls, are a great place to experience authentic Tunisia nightlife, with crowds gathering to smoke shisha, play backgammon and have a drink, whether a traditional mint tea with pine nuts or a cold beer. Alcohol is widely available throughout Tunisia, especially in holiday resorts, so whether you want to try a Tunisian wine or enjoy sampling creative cocktails, you'll be able to find your favourite drinks easily.



SUN & BEACH

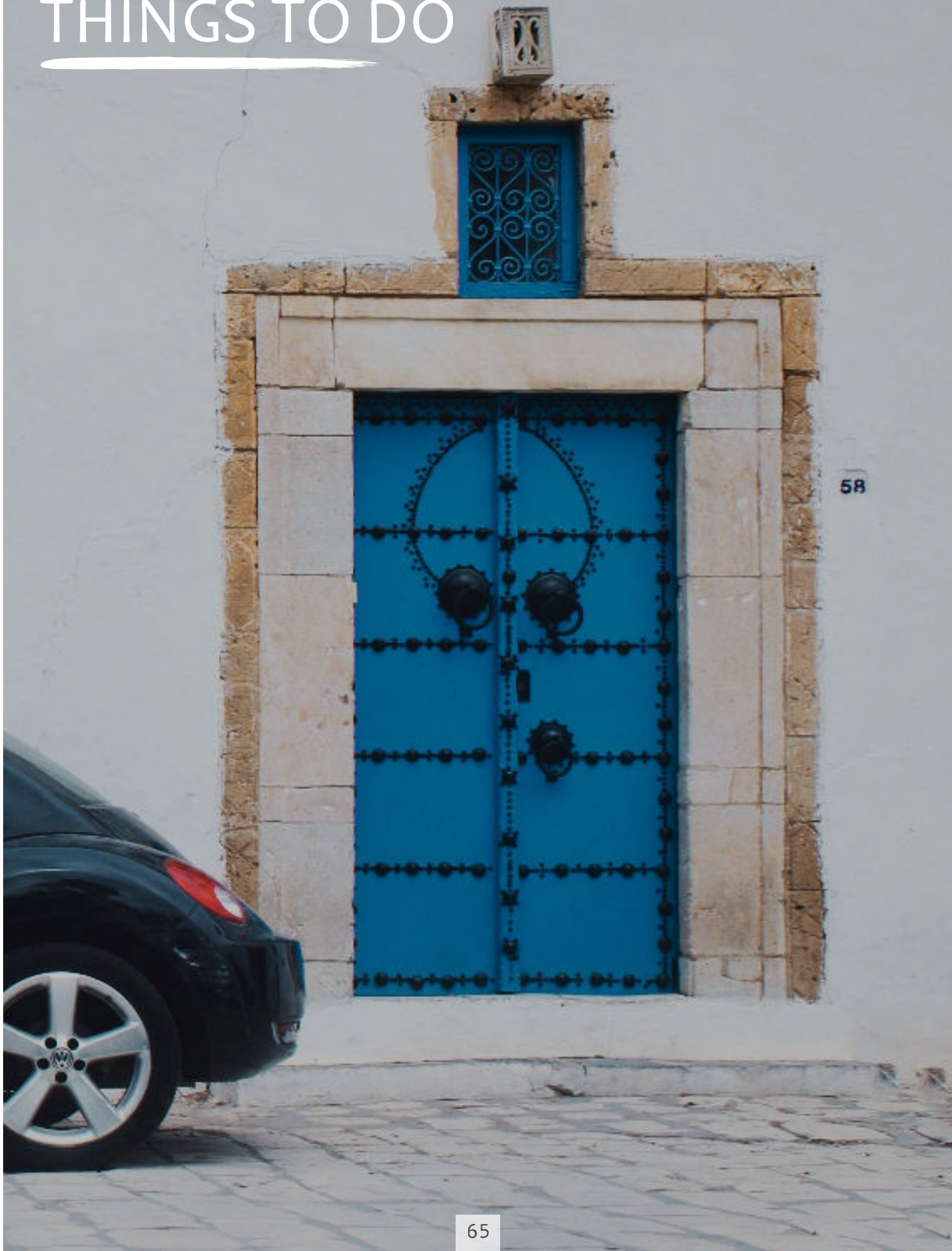


It's time to soak up the sun on Tunisia's endless coastline

If you're dreaming of long, glorious summer days, postcard-pretty beaches and warm dips in the Mediterranean Sea, look no further than Tunisia. With 800 miles of beautiful coastline and a variety of sunbathing spots to discover, from family-friendly resorts to secluded beaches, you'll love the variety that Tunisia has to offer. While relaxing on the beach is considered one of the best things to do in Tunisia, visiting the coast is about so much more than sunbathing: there's plenty to do, from scuba diving and watersports to exploring pretty coastal towns and nearby cultural attractions.

Some of the best beach holiday destinations are found in Cap Bon, in northeastern Tunisia. Here, you'll find holiday hotspots such as Hammamet, Tunisia's biggest resort, Nabeul, the ceramics centre of Tunisia, which also boasts a gorgeous beach, and Kelibia, which is an off the beaten track choice that is blessed with the pretty El Mansourah beach. Base yourself in Hammamet, which is full of luxurious hotels and resorts and from which you can easily explore the rest of Cap Bon's stunning beaches. It's also a great choice if you want to try watersports: here, you can try everything from scuba diving to jet skiing.

THINGS TO DO



Visit the Holy City of Kairouan

According to history Kairouan was founded back in 670 and it's a great reflection of the influence of Islam within maghreb and it is considered as the forth holiest city in the entire region.

It is crowded with several remarkable Islamic architectures including the great mosque that was built in the 9th century that has beautiful columns and magnificent minarets. Back in the 19th century this city was the center of Islamic scholars and it had become a very powerful trading center during the leadership of Aghlabid.

During your visit you will get an opportunity to check out all the various secret landmarks, visit the Medina where you will see winding pathways that are lined with colorful houses.



Ride in hot air balloon over the sand dunes

Enjoy the warm fresh blowing air as you soar above the beautiful landscapes of the sand dune.

A hot air balloon Safari is one of the best ways to appreciate the unique landscape found in Tunisia, and these balloon rides are normally conducted in Tunis, Sousse and Hammamet and even organized within the Sahara.

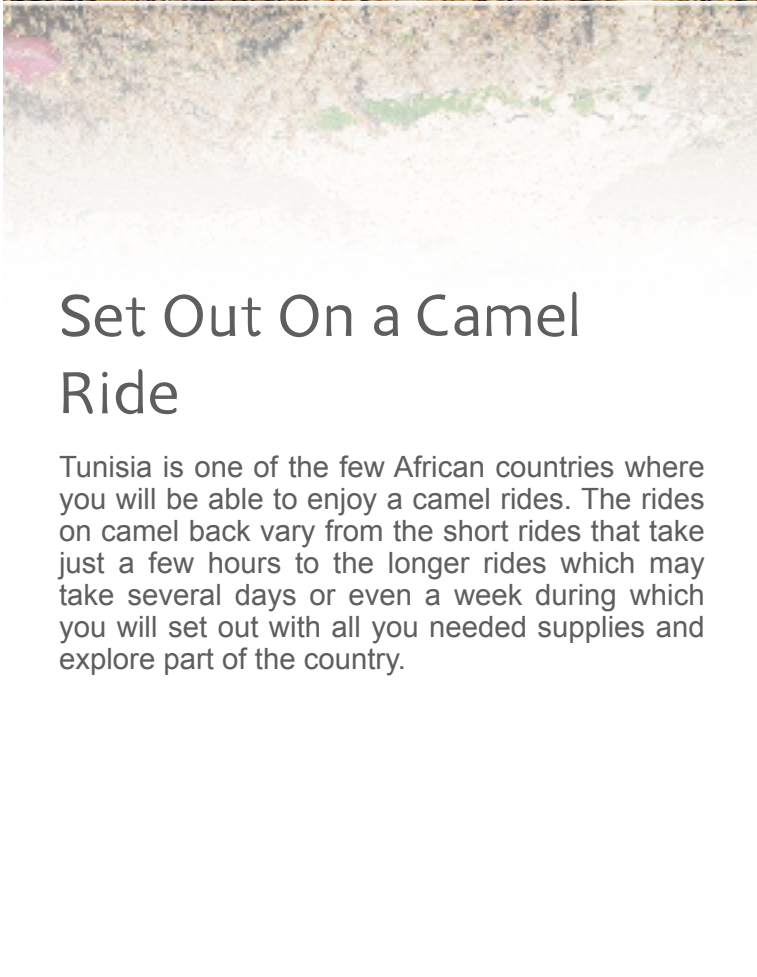


Visit the ruins of Dougga

The ruins of Dougga are listed as a UNESCO world heritage site and are among some of the well-preserved long ago ruins across northern Africa.

This site is assumed according to history to have been established back in the 6th century despite the fact that majority of the monuments current surviving were constructed during the Roman era.

The site is seated on the hilltop with many of its temples and monument buildings standing high above the surrounding, a position that gives it the intuition of being one of the most striking tourist attractions in Tunisia



Set Out On a Camel Ride

Tunisia is one of the few African countries where you will be able to enjoy a camel rides. The rides on camel back vary from the short rides that take just a few hours to the longer rides which may take several days or even a week during which you will set out with all you needed supplies and explore part of the country.



Visit El-Jem

El-Jem is found within Mahdia governorate and it is home to a number of the most remarkable remains belonging to the Romans on the African continent.

This UNESCO world heritage site was constructed in the third century with a huge amphitheater like structural design that has a capacity of sitting up to 35,000 people towering above the entire surrounding.

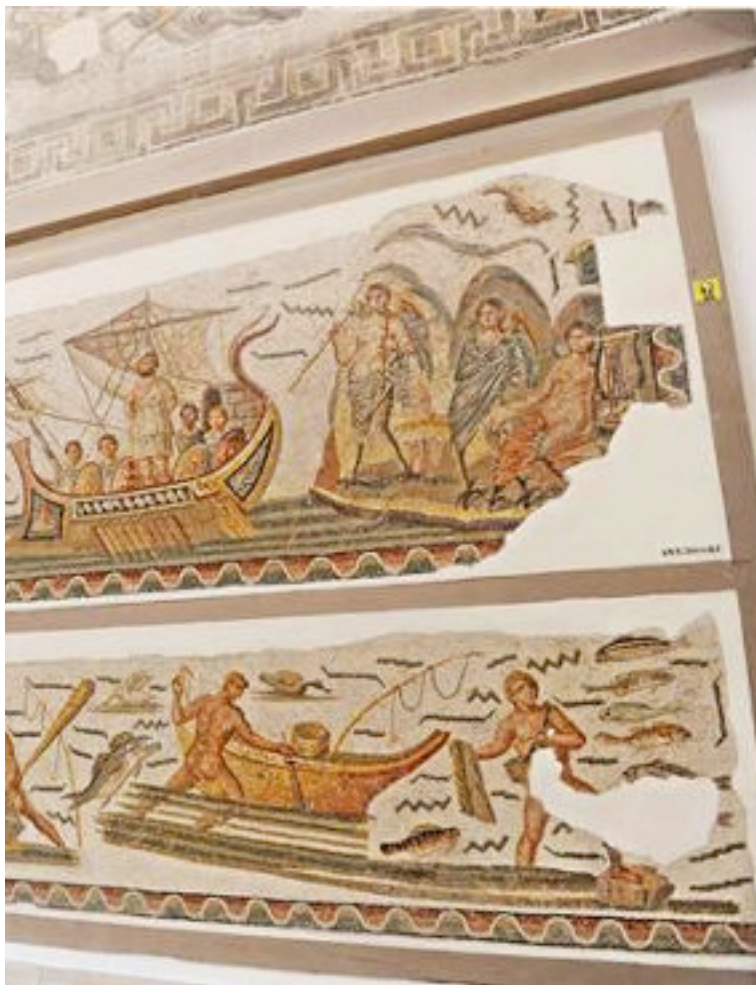
A large number of visitors that have been to this site considered the El-Jem to be the most important historical highlight in the country and in fact is the largest amphitheater across northern Africa. The El-Jem is the perfect evidence of the mighty power of the Roman rule in Tunisia



Explore the Underwater World on a Diving Adventure

For those of you who aren't interested in exploring the arid desert land, Tunisia also offers amazing adventures for divers.

All you need is your diving gear, and then headed out to sea; the diving adventures will give you an opportunity to explore the beautiful coral system well hidden underwater and the various wildlife species and the old shipwrecks



Visit Bardo museum

This is among the most significant museums found in Tunisia and unfortunately in 2015 in the month of March it was a target by a vicious tourist attack on the country.

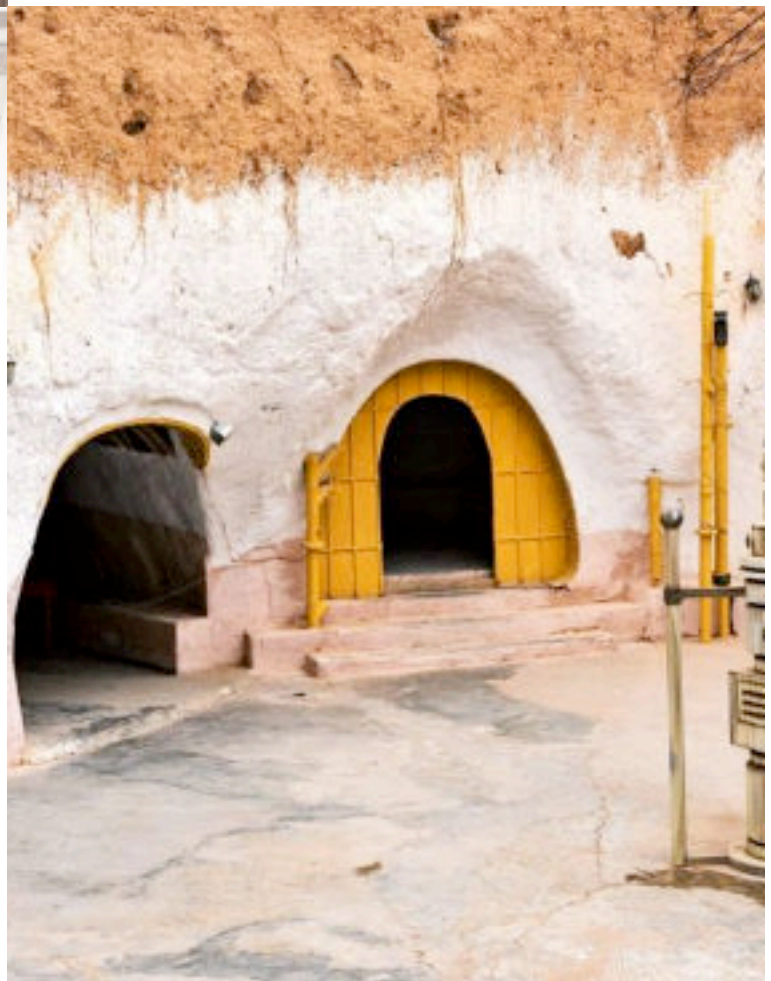
Fortunately it was re-opened just a couple of days after and to date visitors will get an opportunity to see the unique collection of artifacts, mosaics and so much more.

The museum is situated in the outskirts of Le Bardo and was first opened in on 7th May 1888. It is a jewel of the unique heritage of Tunisia.

Explore the Matmata caves

The Matmata caves are among the few settlements found in the Sahara desert and the structures in this desert village were all created through digging huge pits in the ground and curved different rooms to form their homes. The different pits are connected by passageways that look like trenches and the Berber speaking people are the main occupants of this place.

According to a population census conducted in 2004 it was estimated that about 2115 people live in these caves. This very old site is elegant and beautiful in its own way and often visited with several hours of exploration. The Matmata caves which were dug more than 1,000 years ago became prominent when they featured in the first Star Wars movie and today they receive very large numbers of visitors daily. Hotel Sidi Driss is the major attraction here and holidaymakers who would wish to spend an overnight here, arrangements can be made.



Visit the ruins of Bulla Regia

The ancient town of Bulla Regia was formerly home to the Romans, Berber and Punic. Today this archaeological site houses some of the major Roman sites found in Tunisia making it a remarkable site to observe ruins.

The Romans used a very unique style of architecture that involved building underground housing to enable them escape from the extreme heat. With time this unique style of architecture saved the city from being eroded and today tourists will get an opportunity to explore the various houses including the Roman villas which today stand in ruins.



Enjoy a ride on the red lizard train

This historic train that previously belonged to the Bey of Tunis is currently being used by holidaymakers in the country.

The forty (40) minutes ride begins from Metlaoui through the breathtaking Selja Gorges to Redeyef.

This train which was constructed by the French colonists during the 1800s offers tourists an opportunity to gaze out of the train's windows and marvel at the various rock formations and beautiful landscape as it runs across the countryside.



Go Snorkeling In Tabarka

One of the best places for snorkeling as well as diving adventures in Tunisia is Tabarka. This laid-back seaside resort is home to several old fashioned architecture and a much-loved stop over for many holidaymakers in the country.

Snorkelers will surely enjoy the underwater world found on the Galite islands where they will marvel at the beautiful reefs and underwater wildlife.

The more adventurous Holidaymakers who may not find the thrill from hot air ballooning or camel riding are recommended to go windsurfing.

The amazing coastline of Tunisia offers tourists an opportunity to enjoy the powerful waves of the ocean and have the wind blow through their hair.

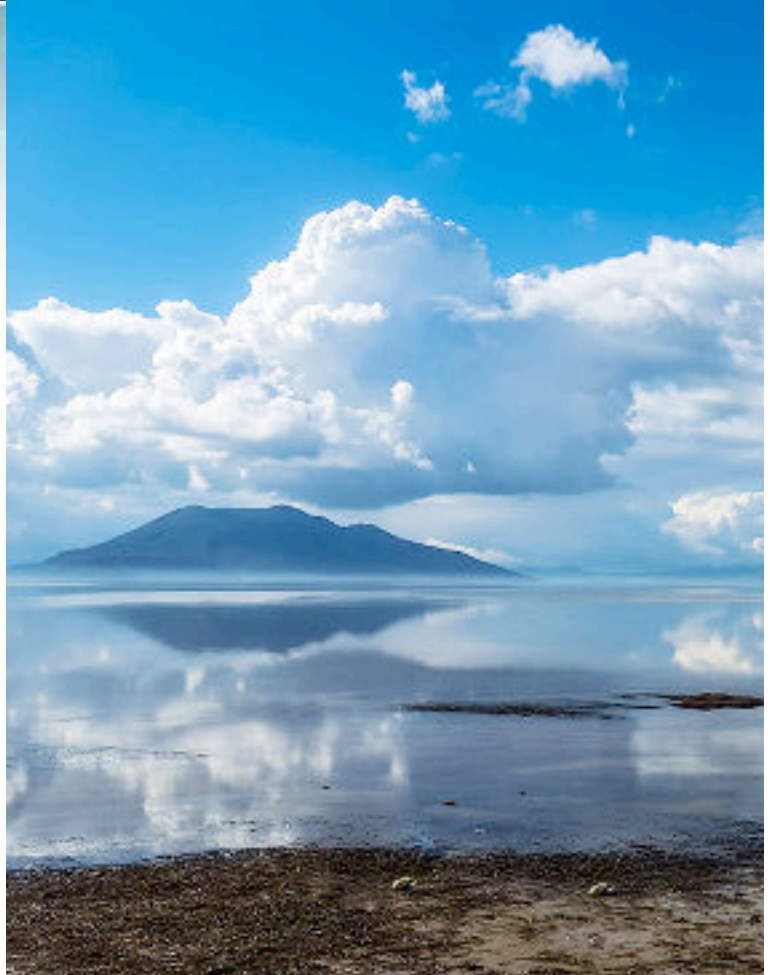
This is one of the most fascinating water adventures you can enjoy in Tunisia.



Relax on Lake Ichkeul

For lovers of Nature and bird watching Lake Ichkeul is the best recommended place to visit when in Tunisia.

You will enjoy views of different bird species especially the migrant species that come in from December to March in thousands such as the strokes, flamingos and egrets.

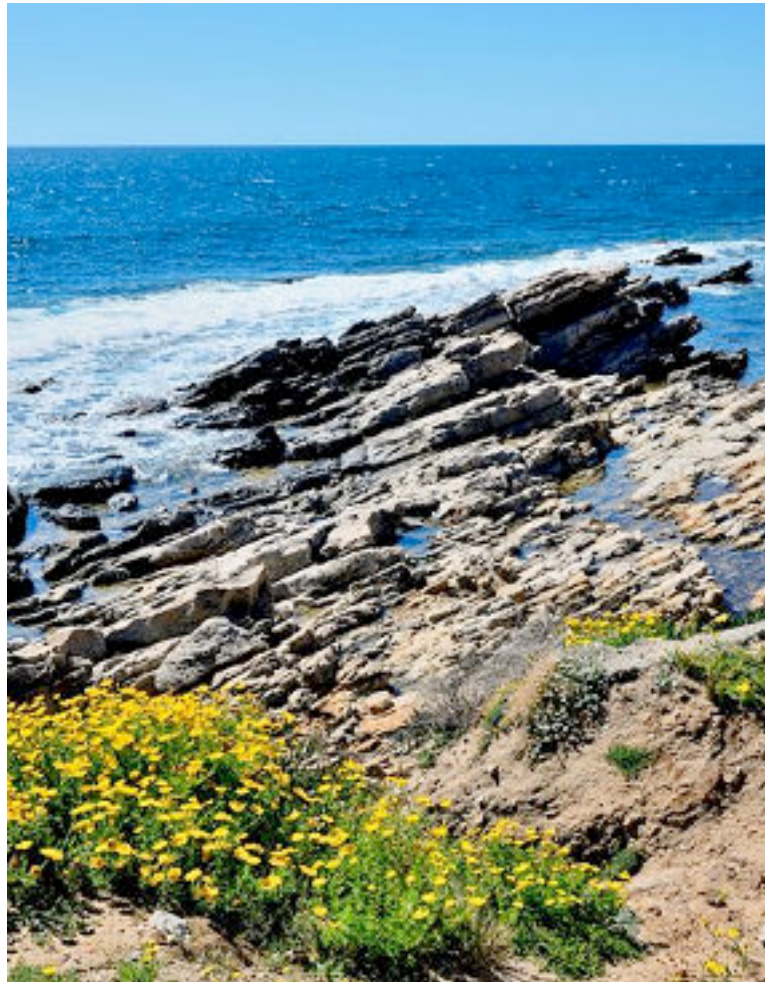


Visit Cap Bon Peninsula

Cap Bon Peninsula is a place in Tunisia where you will find everything to do on your holiday in Tunisia.

There are very beautiful resorts with good amenities and great services especially in Nabuel where people interested in exploring the sea and soaking in the African sun.

A visit to Kelibia's Fort will give you an opportunity to learn about the local culture and going to Ghar el-Khabir will enable you to see the very old Roman quarry.



Explore Tunis the Capital

The capital Tunis has over the past centuries been influenced by early colonialists that include French, Arabic and Ottoman.

This city offers you an opportunity to see both the ancient and new Tunisia. Within its medina are good shades in which old local men normally sit and play backgammon while puff on shisha. The modern town which has avenues constructed in the French style has a number of fine restaurants and cafes where you can see a number of locals and international guests.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Welcome to Tunisia

Tunisia is a beautiful country found in northern Africa and it is bordered by the arid Sahara desert as well as the Mediterranean Sea. This country is among the destinations you can think about when it comes to where to have a holiday in Africa.

It is home to a number of Islamic architecture and remarkable Roman ruins, in addition to a variety of lavish properties where you can surely enjoy your stay. The food is exquisite and the local people are very hospitable.

The People

Ethnic groups The population of Tunisia is essentially Arab Berber. However, throughout the centuries Tunisia has received various waves of immigration that have included Phoenicians, sub-Saharan Africans, Jews, Romans, Vandals, and Arabs; Muslim refugees from Sicily settled in Al-Sāḥil after their homeland was captured by the Normans in 1091.

Languages

Arabic is the official language, and most natives speak a dialect of Tunisian Arabic. Modern Standard Arabic is taught in schools. The cultural Arabization of the country was largely completed by the end of the 12th century, and currently only a tiny fraction of the population—most of them in the south—still speak one of the Berber languages.

French, introduced during the protectorate (1881–1956), came into wider use only after independence, because of the spread of education. It continues to play an important role in the press, education, and government. To a lesser extent, English and Italian also serve as *lingua francas*.

Cultural Life

Tunisians are an independent-minded people who take pride in the rich admixture of native and foreign influences that make up their national character. Their Arab-Muslim country was deeply imbued with French culture during the 75 years of the protectorate, which ended in 1956.

In general, though Tunisians consider themselves to be more liberal and tolerant than their neighbours—most urban women, for example, dress in Western clothes and do not veil themselves, and (though it is considered inappropriate by some Tunisian Muslims) locally made wines and spirits are consumed—they still maintain a strong Islamic identity.

Religion

Virtually the entire population is Muslim, and Islam, in its Mālikī Sunni form, is the state religion. Christian and Jewish minorities have declined substantially in number since independence; non-Muslims numbered more than 300,000 in 1956 but have since been reduced to only tens of thousands. Official openness to religious diversity permits both communities to practice their faiths.





Sojourn in Tunisia

Duration: 06 Nights / 07 Days

Places: Tunis | Dougga | Nabeul | Tunis

Highlights: Sojourn in Tunisia is a privately guided and chauffeured short break which allows you to explore some of Tunisia's cultural and historical highlights at a relaxed-paced.

From: US \$ 1499 pp

Day 01 - 03: Tunis - The Capital

Land at Tunis International Airport under your own arrangements (we recommend flights offered by British Airways from London Gatwick or Tunisair from London Heathrow). On arrival, you will be met by a Corinthian Travel representative and transferred to your hotel.

Tunis, Bardo, Carthage

Begin your Tunis sightseeing by exploring the modern French-era part of the city before moving on to the thronging souqs and grand monuments inside its walled medina for an immersion into North Africa. After lunch in a beautiful old mansion, visit the famed Bardo Museum where a world-class collection of brilliantly-executed Roman mosaics and sculpture is on display. End the day with a visit to the ruins of ancient Carthage.

Sidi Bou Said

A day at leisure to explore Sidi Bou Said at your own pace. Perched high above the cliffs overlooking the sea and is considered to be amongst the most attractive villages in Tunisia. Alternatively, there is the option to drive inland to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Dougga, and explore what are some of the finest Roman ruins in North Africa (supplement applies).

Day 04 - 06: El Djem, Takrouna, Hammamet, Nabeul

Begin your day with a visit to the magnificent Roman amphitheatre at El Djem – a structure that is in a better state of preservation than the Colosseum in Rome. Next, visit the abandoned hilltop Berber village of Takrouna before continuing to the beautiful historic medina of Hammamet located on the Cap Bon peninsula. Sightseeing complete, journey to the town of Nabeul, your base for the next three nights.

At leisure on the Cap Bon peninsula. Optional excursions are available. Possibilities include a visit to Kerkouane, a wonderfully preserved archaeological site which dates back to Punic (Carthaginian) times, and the coastal town of Kelibia, or a local winery, where you will take a tour and sample the wines.

Day 07: Depart Tunis

Departure transfer to onward destination.

Stays*****

Tunis	La Villa Bleue
Nabeul	Dar Sabri

Includes

- 06 Nights as per the program.
- Daily Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.
- Entrance fees.
- Local Guides.
- All transfers, sightseeing and excursions.
- Private vehicle with driver.
- All taxes.

Excludes

- Tips.
- Travel Insurance.
- Visa (If any).



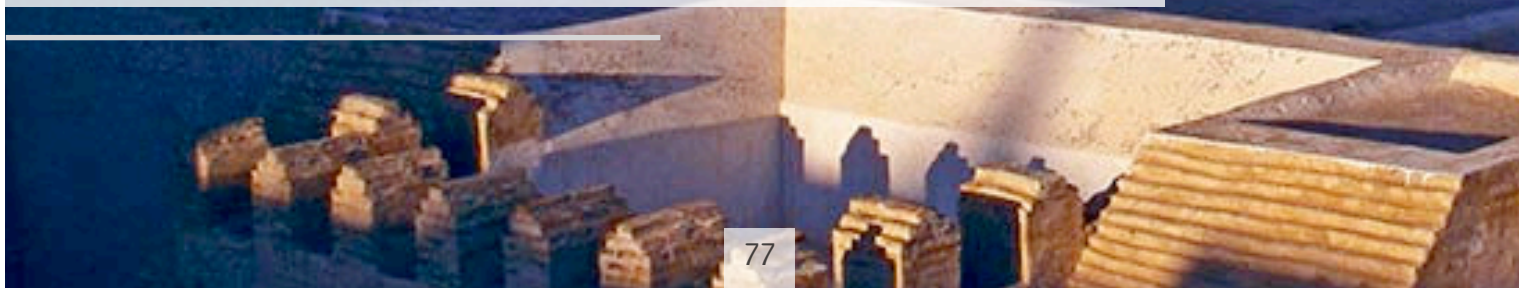
Carthage & Roman Africa

Duration: 07 Nights / 08 Days

Places: Tunis | Kairouan | Hammamet | Tunis

Highlights: Home to the legendary Hannibal and capital of one of the ancient world's greatest empires, Carthage once vied with Rome for control of the Mediterranean.

From: US \$ 1999 pp



Day 01 - 03: Yangon (Rangoon)

Land at Tunis International Airport under your own arrangements (We recommend the flights offered by Tunisair from London). On arrival you will be met by a Corinthian Travel representative and transferred to your hotel.

Bardo - Tunis - Carthage

Start the day at Tunis' famed Bardo Museum where a world class collection of brilliantly executed Roman mosaics and sculpture is on display. Next, move onto the thronging souqs and grand monuments inside Tunis's walled medina for an immersion into North Africa. After lunch in a beautiful old mansion, visit the ruins of ancient Carthage.

Bulla Regia - Dougga

Some of the greatest treasures of the Roman world lie inland from Tunis in what was the ancient province (and former kingdom) of Numidia. First visit Bulla Regia, once capital of the 2nd century Numidian king Micipsa, and see the well-preserved Roman underground villas. Then continue to the nearby UNESCO World Heritage Site of Dougga, and explore what are arguably the finest Roman ruins in Tunisia.

Day 04 - 05: Thuburbo Majus, Zaghouan, Arrive Kairouan

Today, visit Thuburbo Majus - a fine example of a provincial Roman African city, and the Temple of the Waters at Zaghouan. Next, continue to Kairouan; a city revered as the fourth holiest city in the Muslim world. This afternoon there will be a walking tour of Kairouan's historic souqs and Medina.

Kairouan - Maktar

Visit Kairouan's fortress-like Great Mosque of Obka with its distinctive square minaret, then

drive into the mountains to see the spectacularly located Roman ruins at Maktar (ancient Mactaris).

Day 06 - 07: El Djem, Sousse, arrive Hammamet

Drive to El Djem to see the magnificent Roman amphitheatre – a structure that is in a better state of preservation than the Colosseum in Rome. Next, see the fine mosaics in El Djem's museum then continue to the coastal city of Sousse- a UNESCO World Heritage town noted for its impressive walled medina. This afternoon explore Sousse, then drive up to coast to Hammamet.

Day 08: Depart Tunis

Departure transfer to onward destination.

Stays*****

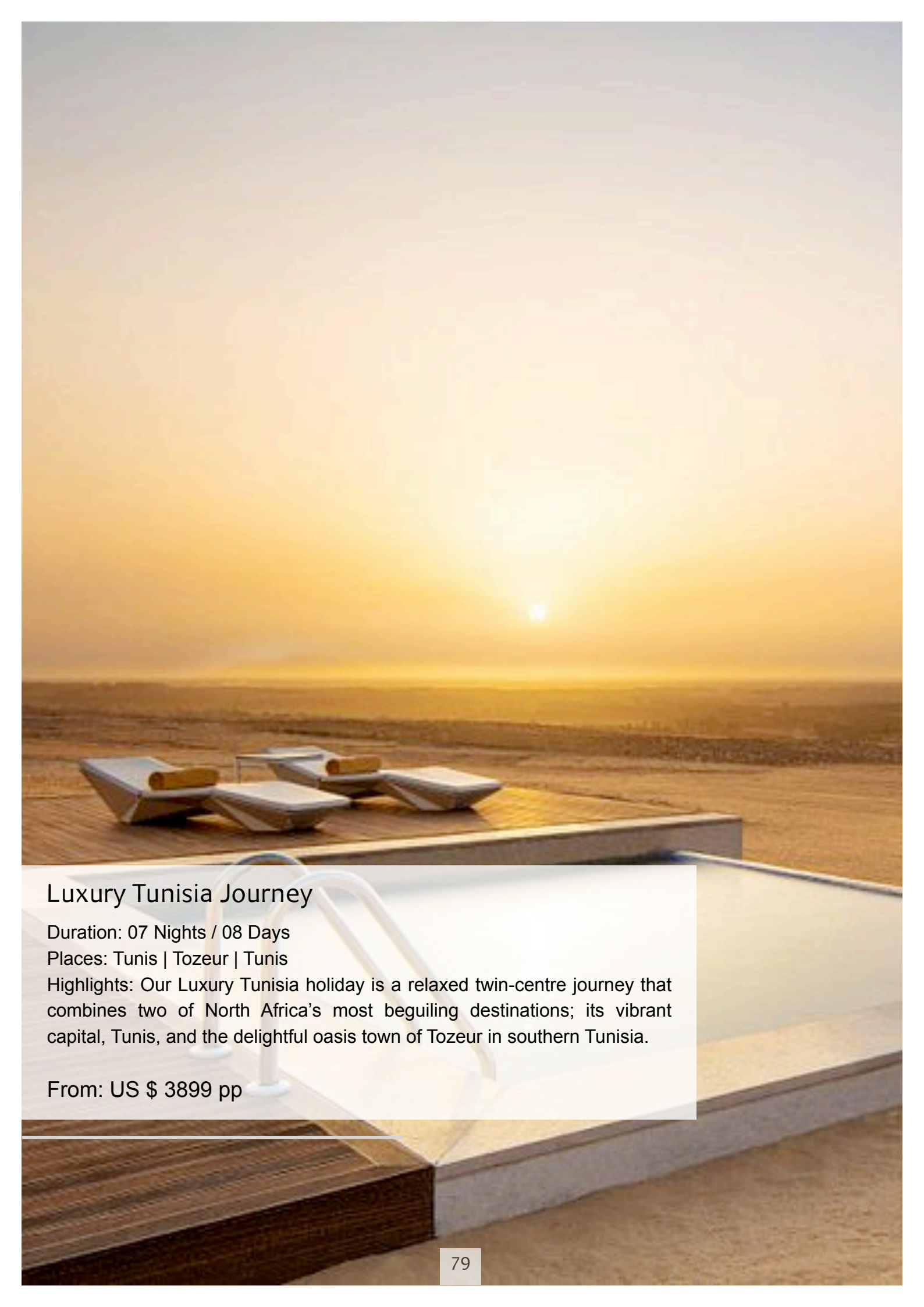
Tunis	La Villa Bleue
Kairouan	La Kasbah
Hammamet	La Badira

Includes

- 07 Nights as per the program.
- Daily Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.
- Entrance fees.
- Local Guides.
- All transfers, sightseeing and excursions.
- Private vehicle with driver.
- All taxes.

Excludes

- Tips.
- Travel Insurance.
- Visa (If any).



Luxury Tunisia Journey

Duration: 07 Nights / 08 Days

Places: Tunis | Tozeur | Tunis

Highlights: Our Luxury Tunisia holiday is a relaxed twin-centre journey that combines two of North Africa's most beguiling destinations; its vibrant capital, Tunis, and the delightful oasis town of Tozeur in southern Tunisia.

From: US \$ 3899 pp

Day 01 - 03: Tunis - The Capital

Land at Tunis International Airport under your own arrangements (we recommend the flights offered by Tunisair from London). On arrival you will be met by a Corinthian Travel representative and transferred to your hotel.

Bardo - Tunis - Carthage

Start the day at Tunis' famed Bardo Museum where a world-class collection of brilliantly-executed Roman mosaics and sculpture is on display. Next, move onto the thronging souqs and grand monuments inside Tunis's walled medina for an immersion into North Africa. After lunch in a beautiful old mansion, visit the ruins of ancient Carthage.

Dougga and Sidi Bou Said

Drive inland to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Dougga, and explore what are some of the finest Roman ruins in North Africa. This afternoon visit Sidi Bou Said, perched high on a hill overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, and one of the most picturesque villages in Tunisia.

Day 04 - 06: Tozeur

The day is at leisure until your afternoon flight to Tozeur.

Tozeur and Chott el Djerid

Tozeur was once one of the great desert gateways to Sub-Saharan Africa and retains a unique charm. Start today with an interesting walk through the narrow alleyways of Tozeur's old Ouled Hadeff quarter. Next, explore the town's expansive oasis, which is best seen on a relaxing horse and cart ride. Later in the afternoon, discover the vast expanse of the Chott el Djerid salt pans, the largest of its kind in the Sahara Desert.

Nefta and Ong Jemel

In the morning discover nearby Nefta, another

oasis town that is situated on the western edge of the Chott el Djerid and an important centre for Sufism in Tunisia. At the heart of the town is the Corbeille (basket), a fertile and sunken palm oasis that is best appreciated from the main road above it. Later journey north across the desert sands to watch sunset over the dunes. En route pass Ong Jemel (an enormous rock resembling a camel), fossilised dunes, and a virtually intact film set used in two of the Star Wars movies.

Day 07: Tunis

Day to relax and free time for shopping in Tunis.

Day 08: Depart Tunis

Departure transfer to onward destination.

Stays*****

Tunis	Four Seasons Tunis
Tozeur	Anantara Tozeur Resort
Tunis	Four Seasons Tunis

Includes

- 07 Nights as per the program.
- Daily Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.
- Internal Flights.
- Entrance fees.
- Local Guides.
- All transfers, sightseeing and excursions.
- Private vehicle with driver.
- All taxes.

Excludes

- Tips.
- Travel Insurance.
- Visa (If any).



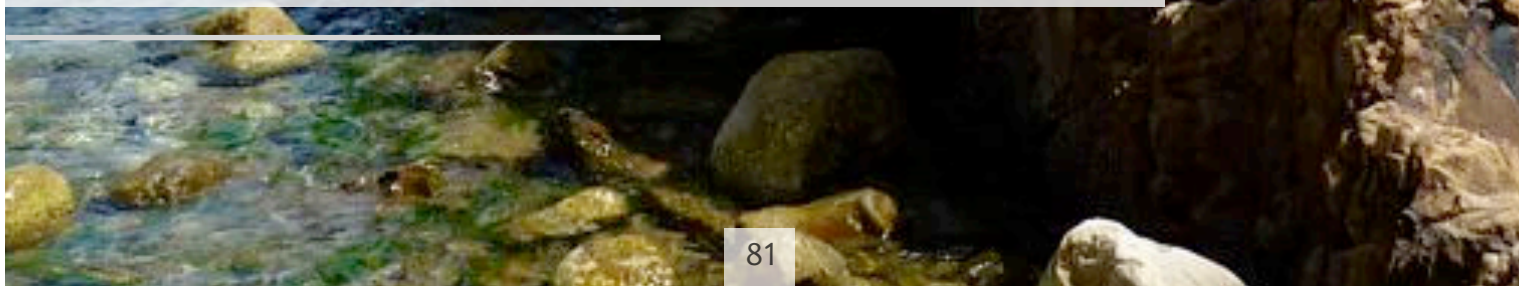
Grand Tour of Tunisia

Duration: 14 Nights / 15 Days

Places: Tunis | Tabarka | El Kef | Kairouan | Sfax | Matmata | Grand Erg Oriental | Tozeur | Tunis

Highlights: Once the heartland of the mighty Carthaginian Empire, breadbasket of ancient Rome, and coveted base of the infamous Barbary pirates, modern Tunisia offers the visitor a magnificently rich palimpsest of history that is rarely matched elsewhere.

From: US \$ 9870 pp



Day 01: Tunis

Arrive Tunis Airport. Meet and private transfer to your hotel.

Day 02: Tunis

Visit Carthage and Sidi Bou Said.

Day 03: Tabarka

Utica, Bizerte, Ichkeul National Park, Sejnane, arrive Tabarka.

Day 04: El Kef

Bulla Regia, Dougga, arrive El Kef.

Day 05: Kairouan

El Kef sightseeing. Drive to Kairouan via Maktar.

Day 06: Kairouan Sightseeing**Day 07: Sfax**

Drive to Sfax via Sousse, El Jem and Mahdia.

Day 08: Matmata

Drive to Tamezret via Gabes and Matmata.

Day 09: Matmata

Excursion to Medenine, Ksar Ouled Soltane, Tataouine, Douiret, Chenini, Guermassa and Ksar Hadada.

Day 10: Grand Erg Oriental

Drive to the Grand Erg Oriental in the Sahara.

Day 11: Tozeur

Drive to Tozeur via the Chott el Djerid.

Day 12: Tozeur

Tozeur and Ong Jemel.

Day 13 - 14: Tunis

Fly to Tunis.

Visit Tunis medina and The Bardo Museum.

Day 15: Depart Tunis

Departure transfer to onward destination.

Stays*****

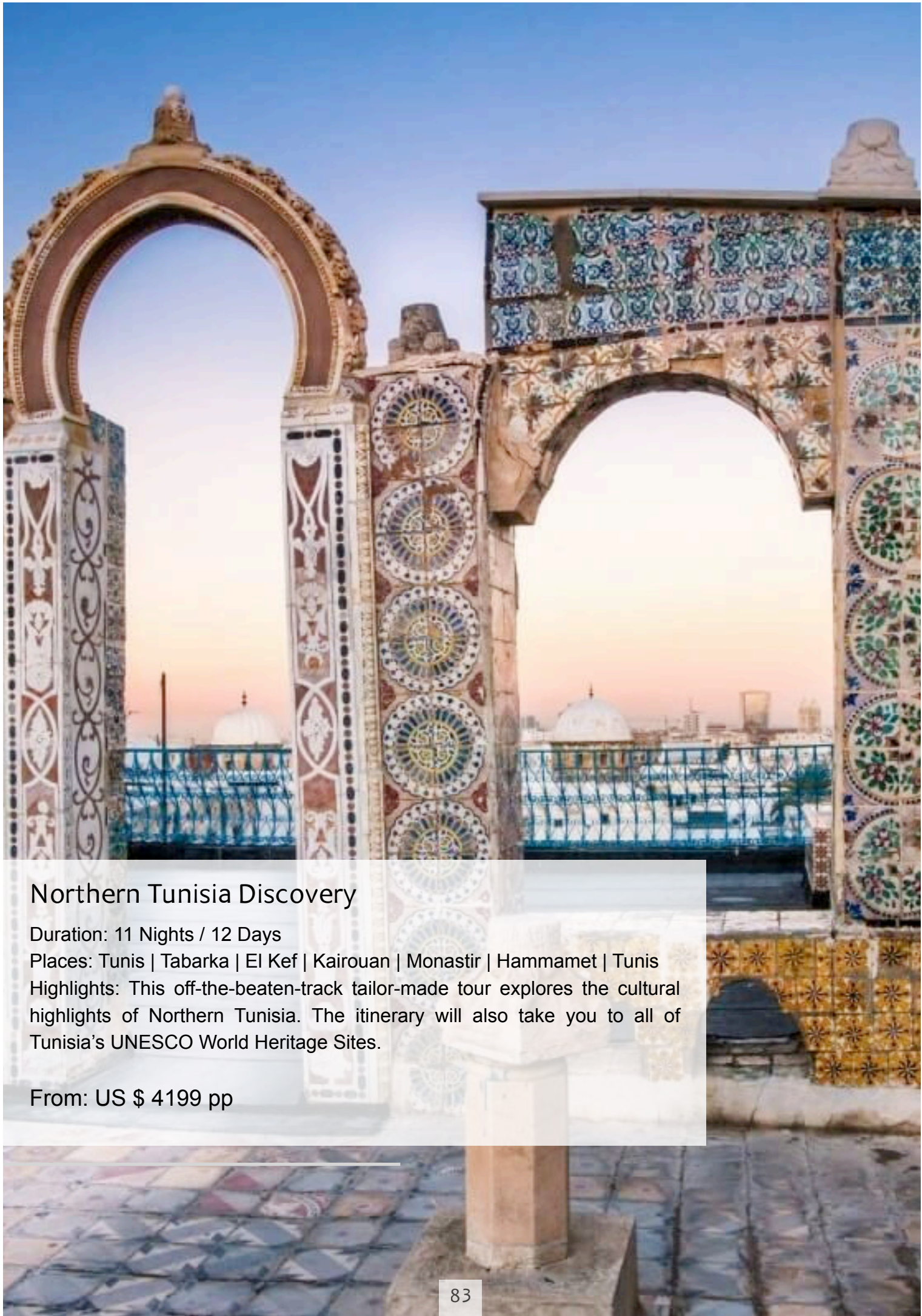
Tunis	The Residence
Tabarka	La Cigale
El Kef	Dar Boumakhlouf
Kairouan	La Kasbah
Sfax	Borj Dhiafa
Matmata	L'Auberge de Tamezret
GE Oriental	Grand Erg Oriental
Tozeur	Anantara Tozeur
Tunis	Four Seasons Tunis

Includes

- 14 Nights as per the program.
- Daily Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.
- Entrance fees.
- Local Guides.
- Internal Flights.
- All transfers, sightseeing and excursions.
- Private vehicle with driver.
- All taxes.

Excludes

- Tips.
- Travel Insurance.
- Visa (If any).



Northern Tunisia Discovery

Duration: 11 Nights / 12 Days

Places: Tunis | Tabarka | El Kef | Kairouan | Monastir | Hammamet | Tunis

Highlights: This off-the-beaten-track tailor-made tour explores the cultural highlights of Northern Tunisia. The itinerary will also take you to all of Tunisia's UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

From: US \$ 4199 pp

Day 01 - 03: Tunis

Arrive Tunis and transfer to the hotel.

Begin your Tunis sightseeing with a visit to the ruins of ancient Carthage. After lunch in an atmospheric restaurant specialising in Tunisian and Mediterranean cuisine, explore Sidi Bou Said, which is perched high above the cliffs overlooking the sea and is considered to be amongst the most attractive villages in Tunisia.

Explore the modern French-era part of Tunis before moving onto the thronging souqs and grand monuments inside the city's walled medina for an immersion into North Africa. After lunch in a beautiful old mansion, visit the famed Bardo Museum where a world-class collection of brilliantly-executed Roman mosaics and sculpture is on display.

Day 04: Tabarka

Leaving Tunis today, first stop at the ancient Phoenician and Carthaginian ruins of Utica before exploring Africa's northernmost city, Bizerte. After a picnic-style lunch inside Ichkeul National Park, where the lake and wetlands are a renowned stopping off point for thousands of migrating birds, next visit the pottery-making village of Sejnane before driving to your accommodation in Tabarka.

Day 05 - 06: El Kef

Some of the greatest treasures of the Roman world lie inland from Tunis in what was the ancient province (and former kingdom) of Numidia. First visit Bulla Regia, once capital of the 2nd century Numidian king Micipsa, and see the well-preserved Roman underground villas. Then continue to the nearby UNESCO World Heritage Site of Dougga, and explore what are arguably the finest Roman ruins in Tunisia. Later drive to dramatically-located El Kef.

Day 07: Kairouan

Maktar, arrive Kairouan. Sightseeing of Kairouan.

Day 08 - 09: Monastir

Sousse, arrive Monastir.

Excursion to El Djem and Mahdia.

Day 10 - 11: Hammamet

Cap Bon, Nabeul, Kelibia, Kerkouane, Neferis winery, arrive Hammamet.

Day 12: Depart Tunis

Departure transfer to onward destination.

Stays*****

Tunis	La Villa Bleue
Tabarka	La Cigale Tabarka
El Kef	Dar Boumakhlouf
Kairouan	La Kasbah
Monastir	La Yadira

Includes

- 11 Nights as per the program.
- Daily Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.
- Internal Flights.
- Entrance fees.
- Local Guides.
- All transfers, sightseeing and excursions.
- Private vehicle with driver.
- All taxes.

Excludes

- Tips.
- Travel Insurance.
- Visa (If any).



Tunisia: Oasis & Sahara

Duration: 09 Nights / 10 Days

Places: Tunis | Djerba Island | Tamezret, Matmata | Sahara | Tozeur | Tunis

Highlights: Oases and Sahara is a private tour of Southern Tunisia showcasing a land noted for its dramatic desert-scapes, wide expanses of glistening salt pans, astonishing Berber architecture, Eden-like oases, and rippling dunes of the Sahara.

From: US \$ 3999 pp

Day 01 - 02: Tunis - The Capital

Arrive and transfer to the hotel.

Begin your Tunis sightseeing by exploring the modern French-era part of the city before moving on to the thronging souqs and grand monuments inside its walled medina for an immersion into North Africa. After lunch in a beautiful old mansion, visit the famed Bardo Museum where a world-class collection of brilliantly-executed Roman mosaics and sculpture is on display. Explore Sidi Bou Said, which is perched high above the cliffs overlooking the sea and is considered to be amongst the most attractive villages in Tunisia.

Day 03: Djerba Island

Begin your afternoon sightseeing with a visit to El Ghriba synagogue followed by a walking tour of Djerba's lively capital, Houmt Souk. Return to Erriadh for an orientation walk around the village. In 2014, Erriadh has a unique makeover thanks to a 2014 street art initiative known as Djerbahood, when a large percentage of the whitewashed walls have been adorned with imaginative murals and other forms of eye-catching street art.

Day 04 - 05: Tamezret, Matmata

Drive to Tamezret via the Tataouine region. Visit Medenine, Ksar Ouled Soltane, Tataouine, Douiret, Chenini, Guermassa and Ksar Hadada before continuing to Matmata and the nearby hamlet of Tamezret.

Visit Tamezret, Matmata and surrounding villages.

Day 06: Sahara

Drive via Taoujout and Zeraoua to the Grand Erg Oriental. Overnight camp in the Sahara Desert.

Day 07 - 08: Tozeur

Drive across the Chott el Djerid, to Tozeur. Tozeur and Ong Jemel.

Day 09: Tunis

Transfer to Tozeur Airport for your return flight to Tunis International Airport. Day free to relax and shopping.

Day 10: Depart Tunis

Departure transfer to onward destination.

Stays*****

Tunis	Four Seasons
Djerba	Aureum Palace
Tamezret	L'Auberge de Tamezret
Sahara	Grand Erg Oriental
Tozeur	Anantara Tozeur
Tunis	Four Seasons

Includes

- 09 Nights as per the program.
- Daily Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.
- Internal Flights.
- Entrance fees.
- Local Guides.
- All transfers, sightseeing and excursions.
- Private vehicle with driver.
- All taxes.

Excludes

- Tips.
- Travel Insurance.
- Visa (If any).





Frequently Asked Questions

What currency should I bring and do I need to tip?

The currency is the Tunisian dinar. It's easy to find an ATM from which to draw money out, or you can exchange your cash for the local currency at your hotel or at a bank, bureau de change or post office. Tipping-wise, it's generally expected to add around 10% in restaurants, and to tip drivers and guides too. At restaurants, leave the tip in cash rather than adding it to your card to make sure your waiter gets it.

How do I get around?

For a sense of adventure and freedom, you can rent a car in Tunisia. Driving is on the right-hand side of the road, and you can rent a vehicle both at your arrival airport or at local car hire offices. The roads are of a good quality and the International Highway Code applies.

However, if you'd rather not drive, there are plenty of other options. To get around locally, using taxis is often the easiest way: bear in mind that you might be charged extra if you have luggage or you're travelling at night. Look for official yellow taxis and ask your driver to use the meter.

To go further afield, you can take one of the country's efficient trains or domestic flights.

What adaptor should I bring?

In Tunisia, Type C and E plugs are used, so you'll need the same type of adaptor you'd use in most European countries, such as France or Spain.

What language should I speak?

Many Tunisian locals speak good English, and staff at your hotel will speak a range of languages, though if you speak any French, this can be a great help.

Can I bring medicines into Tunisia?

You can bring medicines into Tunisia, but if you have any drugs containing morphine, bring a medical prescription from your doctor with it. All other drugs are banned in Tunisia, and if you flout this rule, you could be imprisoned for up to year and slapped with a heavy fine.

Travel Solo to Tunisia?

Traveling alone in Tunisia can certainly be an experience of a lifetime. As we focus on custom private tours, each tour includes a private vehicle, professional driver, and a knowledgeable licensed guide. If you are traveling solo, you will need to assume all hotel, driver, and guide expenses on your own. While this can increase your individual costs, we have served solo travelers in Tunisia with much success. We'd love the opportunity to provide you an amazing experience here in Tunisia.

Traveling with Children?

Tunisia is a great place for children. There are many enjoyable activities for children of all ages. Our own children love all that there is to do. Some examples include beaches, museums, camel treks, and quad rides to name a few. Our tours are customizable and we'd love to help you plan your family's visit.

Customize your own tour?

Custom tour itineraries are not new to us. As all tours with us are private, we are able to make modifications to any tour. We are happy to work with you to put together an itinerary that fits your travel style and desires.

Tour Guides?

A professionally licensed guide is required for all of our tours in Tunisia. Our French, English-speaking guides are knowledgeable and friendly and are waiting to show you the best of Tunisia!

Visa Information?

Tunisia Tours advises you to check with the Tunisian Embassy in your passport country regarding visa requirements. According to our latest research, Canadian, US, & UK passport holders do not need a tourist visa prior to arrival in country.

Australian passport holders may need to obtain a tourist visa from the Tunisian Embassy prior to visiting. As a general rule, passports should be valid 6-months beyond the anticipated date of departure from Tunisia and have at least one blank page for entry and departure stamps.

Travel Insurance?

Travel insurance is the responsibility of the traveller. We do not include travel insurance in our private tours. However, we highly encourage you to purchase travel insurance from a company that specializes in this product to protect your investment in your dream vacation.

Arrival in Tunisia?

Once your tour is booked with us, we will communicate with you about your arrival in country. In most cases, a private vehicle with an English-speaking driver will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your first night's hotel.

Tunisian Food?

Food in Tunisia is delicious! However, we understand that serious food allergies exist. Tunisia Tours cannot guarantee you an allergen-free visit but we are happy to discuss your allergies and offer suggestions that may help you avoid any severe allergens.

Visit to Mosques?

As a general rule, non-Muslims are not allowed in mosques in Tunisia with a few extraordinary exceptions. While all mosques prohibit non-Muslims from accessing the prayer halls, the Zitouna Mosque in the Tunis medina allows visitors to view the courtyard (though entrance is still not permitted). Also, the Mosque of Uqba in Kairouan permits tourists during open visiting hours. Visitors to mosques should dress in modest clothing and respect the rules and guidelines of the mosques.

The Tunisian people?

Tunisia's population is concentrated in the north, particularly around Tunis and Sousse. The people themselves are a mixture of Berber and Arab, but through the centuries the Berbers have been thoroughly assimilated into the dominant Arab culture.

The Berber language (which still flourishes in Algeria and Morocco) has almost died out, though traces of their former way of life survive in the ksour villages of the south. Today the main distinction is between rural and urban communities: 65 percent of the population live in towns.

Is alcohol sold in Tunisia?

Tunisia is mainly a Muslim country and according to the Islamic law, alcohol consumption is forbidden. However a number of supermarkets especially within the large cities sell alcohol in addition to the few upscale restaurants that serve alcohol. On Friday which is the holy day in Islam, most of these facilities do not sell alcohol.

What vaccines do I need when going to Tunisia?

The MMR vaccine (for Measles, mumps and rubella), tetanus, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, typhoid and the Rabies (especially if you will be in contact with animals during your stay) are recommended for all travelers visiting Tunisia.

No proof of the yellow fever vaccine is need in Tunisia. Malaria is not prevalent however; you are advised to use insect repellent and wear long sleeved clothes in the evenings to protect against insect bites.

Is it safe to drink tap water in Tunisia?

Although tap water in Tunisia is considered to be safe for consumption since it has been chlorinated especially within the urban parts of the country, you should keep in mind that this water has caused mild abdominal upsets to a number of foreign visitors into the country. For that reason, you are highly recommended to only consume bottled water which can easily be obtained.

What is the official currency used in Tunisia?

The Tunisian Dinar (TND / DT) is the official currency used in Tunisia and this is in banknotes of denominations of TND 5, 10, 20, 30 and 50; as well as coins in denominations of TND 10, 5, 1 and 500, 50, 20, 10 and 5 millimes.

Are credit and Debit cards used in Tunisia?

Yes debit and credit cards on the Visa network are generally accepted for payments in majority of the travel agencies, car hire companies, and tourist-related stores as well as at luxury and mid-range hotels. MasterCard is also accepted although there may be a few challenges especially when it comes to authorization. On the other hand, Diners Club and American express are accepted in a few places.





Tips - On the go

Keep Change Handy

You'll pay in the Tunisian dinar while in the country, of course. Though credit cards are accepted in many places, especially in the larger towns and cities, keep a bit of cash handy for markets, small shops, and when visiting smaller towns or villages.

Mind the Local Laws & Customs

Particularly in the bigger cities and the most frequented tourist destinations and beaches, the dress code is pretty relaxed. However, do remember it is still an Islamic country, and be respectful to not offend. Modesty is important in smaller towns and mosques, for example.

Unfortunately, homosexuality is still a crime, and crimes can be met with crazy retribution. If you are a member of the LGBT community, please be extremely careful. Actually, all sex outside of marriage is a criminal offense, though I guess as long as you don't try to do so outside of your hotel room, you should be safe.

Though it's a Muslim country, alcohol is available at certain restaurants, shops, and hotel bars. They even have their own local beer, called Celtia, a pale lager.

Be Wary of the Sun

The sun can be quite powerful in Tunisia, as you might imagine. Bring along a powerful (SPF 30 or higher) sunscreen lotion, or buy one at the local grocery store. Since you may be sweating a lot, be sure to arm yourself with a sun protection lotion that is also anti-sweat, so it doesn't run off as soon as you apply it.

Tunisia accommodation

Tunisian accommodation runs the whole gamut from swanky 5-star resorts to campsites and grotty, shared rooms. Hotels are either classified (meaning they've been inspected by the government, given a star rating and include breakfast) or non-classified.

Solo female travellers should choose budget accommodation very carefully – if all the clientele are men, think again. Campsites tend to be basic. If you're just after a week by the pool, tourist resort hotels are good value if you book them in advance as part of a package.

Take the Right Photos

Tunisia is a gorgeous country, and you're going to want to whip out your DSLR or smartphone at every chance you get. However, there are also things you are prohibited from photographing, including military establishments, political buildings, and perhaps some demonstrations (though you shouldn't be in photographing distance from a protest to begin with!).

Also, no drones! Unless you have a license to operate a drone in Tunisia, you can't. If the airport powers that be find a drone in your suitcase when you enter the country, they will take it from you. One good thing is that they say they'll hold it for you until you leave, but, well, good luck with that.

What else should I bring?

Public restrooms in Tunisia do not always have toilet paper or soap. I recommend carrying tissues, baby wipes and hand sanitizer wherever you go. Basic medications for kids and adults, like pain relievers and antihistamines, are readily available at most pharmacies without a prescription and are inexpensive.

However, you will have to ask the pharmacist for them, and they will be labeled in French.

What if I'm traveling with a baby or small child?

Baby products like diapers, wipes and baby food are available at grocery stores. Pharmacies often carry bottles, pacifiers and baby formula, but if you're particular about the brand, bring it from home.

If you're choosing between a child-carrier or stroller, we would recommend for the carrier. Tunisian streets and sidewalks are not particularly stroller-friendly.

What else do I need to know?

The most important thing to know about traveling in Tunisia with kids is this: Tunisians love kids. They see kids as gifts from Allah, to be protected and doted on. And they find foreign kids, particularly the blonde-haired, blue-eyed variety, especially adorable.

They will probably pat them on the head and offer them treats, and they may try to kiss them on the cheek or ask them for kisses. It's a completely normal part of Tunisian culture, but it might take some getting used to.

That being said, if accepting this kind of attention from strangers is uncomfortable for you or your kids, there are polite ways to refuse it.

You can simply say, "Lay, aye-shick," meaning no, thank you. Some parents teach their kids to respond to requests for kisses with handshakes. After all, who can refuse a handshake from a five year old?

How to reach Tunisia?

The answer on how to reach Tunisia might sound easy, but guess what, flying to Tunisia is not your only option. If you enjoy overland traveling, you can also reach Tunisia by a ferry from Italy, what is perfect for everyone traveling by a car, motorbike or RV.

By airplane

If you are based in Europe you can either fly with a regular airline to Tunis or a charter flight to more holidays oriented towns like Hammamet, Djerba etc.

By ferry

The most convenient route to reach Tunisia and its Tunis port is embarking on a ferry in Italy. There are two ports, perfect for that – Civitavecchia and Genova. The price varies greatly from the season, the port and a ferry company.

Safety

Many people were a bit concerned when we told them, we are traveling overland to Tunisia. Sure, there were problems and some terrorist attacks as well, but they were also in Europe, USA, Asia...

The reality is that Tunisia is now great for traveling and we felt very safe there. We just avoided the mountains near the Algerian boarder, due to some terroristic cells found there, but everything else was peaceful and smooth. We encountered few police / army controls when we were driving along the Algerian boarder, but we passed them without any difficulties.

People in Tunisia were very friendly, but comparing them to some other Arab countries like Morocco and Egypt, not pushy at all. Walking around local markets and medinas was a pleasure and not stressful at all.

Best time to visit

Most people travel to Tunisia from September until May, as summers are extremely hot. Summer months are still good if you will be there for holidays and based in a hotel / resort, but otherwise it is way too hot to be visiting the desert and some other sights.

If you are visiting Tunisia because of traveling, the best time is autumn, as the sea is still warm enough for swimming, the day temperatures are around 30°C and you will have no winds in the desert. You can travel to Tunisia also for New Year or winter months, when the daily temperatures are around 20°C, what is still nice for exploration.

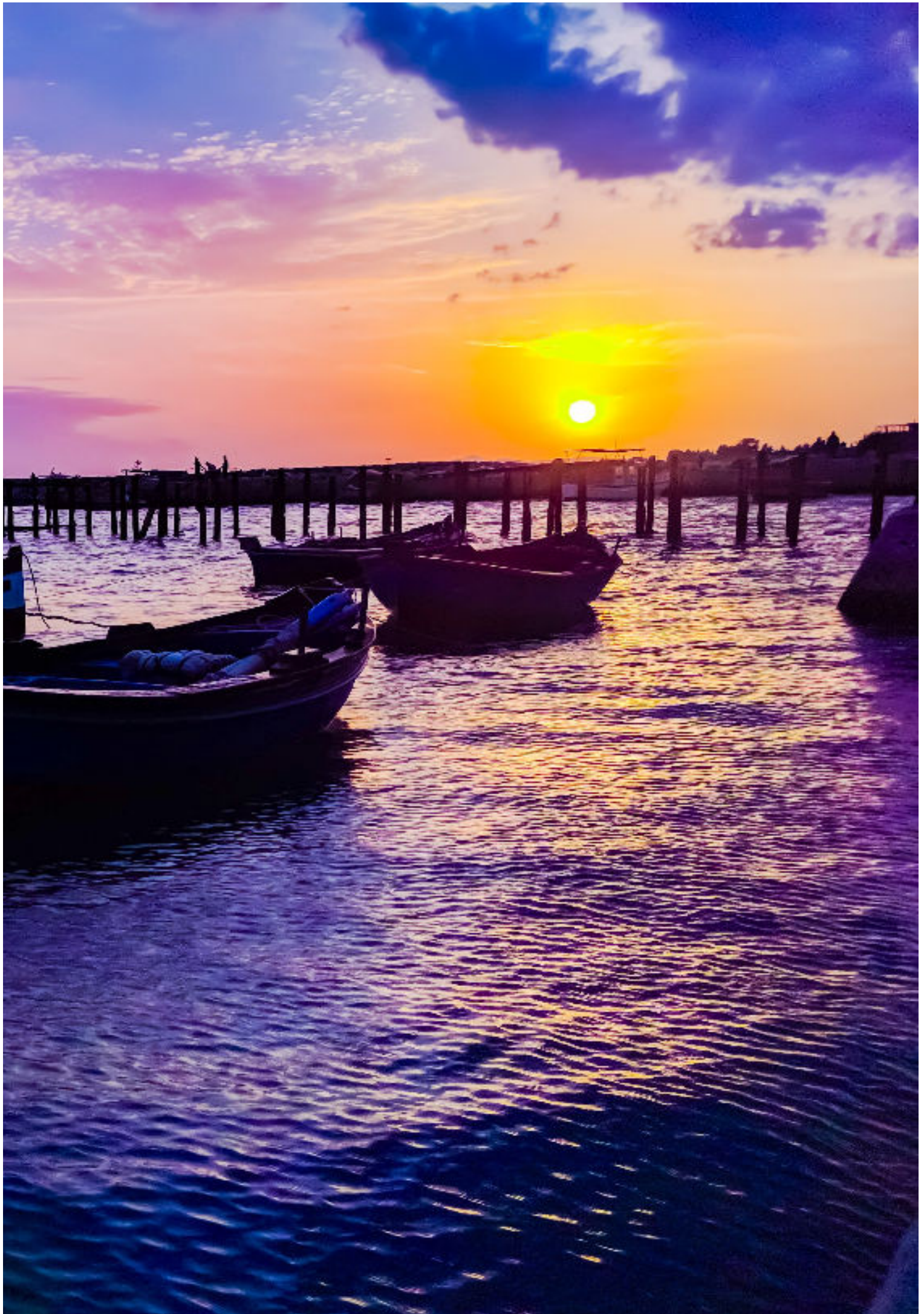
Best tourist attractions and things to do

People who visit Tunisia for holidays, have no idea how rich this country is with all its tourist attractions.

Tunisia tourist attractions are so diverse and there are so many, one would need a month for exploration of them all.

When will
you Travel?







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