

Tunisia - Ancient Sites & Desert Oases

Tour Code TU

7 – 17 May 2019

Few visitors to Tunisia venture beyond the commercial Mediterranean coast. This comprehensive journey discovers the ancient part of the African Maghreb. With a fascinating culture reflecting the contrasting influences of the Mediterranean and the Sahara, and a diverse occupation through the ages from the Phoenicians to the French, a rich historical legacy has survived. We also venture south to discover a simpler Saharan lifestyle that has changed little over the centuries. Classical highlights include the superb Roman sites of Dougga and El Djem, plus the remarkable mosaics of the famous Bardo museum. The Islamic site of Kairouan, ancient medinas of Sfax and Tunis and fascinating Berber villages of the Sahara make this a wonderful journey of contrasting architecture, culture and peoples.



Decorative blue door, Sidi Bou Said
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ITINERARY

Day 1 Fly to Tunis

Morning departure from London Gatwick with Tunis Air. Transfer to the Tunisia Palace hotel, perfectly located close to the city's old medina, for two nights. Dinner at the hotel (D)

Day 2 In Tunis

We start at the ruins of ancient Carthage, founded by the Phoenicians in 814 BC that became one of the most important cities in the Roman Empire. In the afternoon we visit the picturesque village of Sid Bou Said featuring dazzling white house, blue shutters and studded doors and enjoy a welcome dinner in a renovated Ottoman residence in the old medina (B,D)

Day 3 Visit Dougga and Bulla Regia

Today we start at Dougga, another highlight of this tour, Tunisia's largest and most stunning archaeological site. Our visit includes the well-preserved Roman theatre, the beautiful Capitol and the Baths of Licinius. We continue to Bulla Regia with its unique underground houses and mosaics, including the superb House of the Hunt. We drive to El Kef, set on a hilltop and characterised by cobbled streets and blue-shuttered buildings. Dinner and overnight in hotel Les Pins (B,D)

Day 4 Visit Roman Sbeitla. Drive to Tozeur

We journey south to explore the Roman city of Sbeitla with its beautifully restored temples of Jupiter, Juno and Minerva. Drive via Gafsa to Tozeur. Two nights at the El Mouradi Tozeur hotel. Dinner in the hotel (B,D)

Day 5 Visit Tozeur medina. 4WD to Chebika and Mides

After a relaxing morning visiting the old medina of Tozeur we board 4WD vehicles in the

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afternoon and visit the fascinating mountain oases of Chebika and Mides. Evening visit to Eden Palm with dinner (B,D)

Day 6 Cross Chott El Jarid to Douz.

We cross the vast salt flats of Chott El Jarid before arriving at the Gateway to the Sahara; Douz set amidst sand dunes and located on the edge of the Great Eastern Erg. We explore the interesting souk and enjoy a traditional lunch in a Bedouin style tented restaurant with views across the desert with the option of a camel ride!. Overnight at the Sahara Douz hotel (B,D)

Day 7 Drive to Tatouine via Matmata

This morning we journey south to Matmata to explore some of the fascinating troglodyte houses; famous underground cave dwellings carved into the soft sandstone. We continue to Tatouine for our overnight stop at the Sanghoo hotel. Dinner at the hotel (B,D)

Day 8 Visit Ksour region

Today we visit the unique Ksour (fortified villages) of southern Tunisia and learn about the Berber people who live there. We include Chenini, dramatically set on a hilltop and Ouled Soltane, the most picturesque and best-preserved Ksar. We continue to Sfax for our stay at the Sanghoo Syphax hotel with dinner (B,D)

Day 9 Visit Sfax and El Djem

We start the day in the historic walled medina of Sfax, its' narrow streets have an atmosphere of time gone-by before we continue our journey north to El Djem. The largest in North Africa and reminiscent of the Coliseum of Rome, its Amphitheatre is one of Tunisia's finest attractions. We continue to the holy city of Kairouan. Dinner and overnight at the Kasbah hotel (B,D)

Day 10 Visit Kairouan. Drive to Tunis

We visit the holy city of Kairouan and have a tour of the old medina including the Great Mosque Afternoon drive to Tunis. A farewell dinner has been arranged in a smart Sidi Bou Said restaurant overlooking the Mediterranean. Overnight in hotel Tunisia Palace (B,D)

Day 11 Fly London

Transfer to the airport for the early morning departure with Tunis Air to Gatwick (B)

Cost £1595.00 per person in a twin room (excluding international flights) Single supplement £NIL



Price includes:

- ▶ Tour accompanied from London by Patrick Syder FRGS
- ▶ Led by a specialist Tunisian guide
- ▶ All transportation in comfortable a/c bus
- ▶ Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees
- ▶ Comfortable local four star hotels on half board
- ▶ Traditional restaurant dinners in Tunis
- ▶ 4WD mountain excursion
- ▶ All airport transfers
- ▶ Porter, hotel and restaurant staff gratuities
- ▶ Bottled water daily

PLEASE NOTE – personal travel insurance, applicable visa fees, alcoholic drinks, guide and driver gratuities, international flight

(Included meals denoted by B Breakfast, L Lunch, D Dinner)