

# Tunisia - Ancient Sites & Desert Oases

Tour Code TU

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  
© www.syderimages.com

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 Fly to Tunis

Afternoon departure from London Gatwick with British Airways direct to Tunis. 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 Bardo Museum. Drive Kairouan

Morning visit to the excellent Bardo museum with its unique collection of mosaics from the most famous sites of classical Tunisia. We continue to the holy city of Kairouan and have a tour of the old medina including the Great Mosque. Overnight at the La Kasbah hotel (B,D)

### Day 4 Visit El Djem. Drive to Sfax

The largest in North Africa and reminiscent of the Coliseum of Rome, El Djem's Roman Amphitheatre is one of Tunisia's finest attractions. After a break for lunch we continue to the ancient city of Sfax with its great walled medina. We have a tour through its narrow streets with an atmosphere of time gone-by. Overnight and dinner at the hotel Mercure (B,D)

### Day 5 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)

**Patrick Syder Travel**

Escorted Cultural Tours – Zenobia House, 23 Bowmans Close, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3SR  
Tel/Fax: +44 (0)1903 879737 email: [info@sydertravel.com](mailto:info@sydertravel.com) [www.sydertravel.com](http://www.sydertravel.com)

## Day 6 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 Douz for our stay at the El Mouradi hotel with dinner (B,D)

## Day 7 Visit Douz. Cross Chott El Jarid to Tozeur

The Gateway to the Sahara; the town of Douz is set amidst sand dunes and located on the edge of the Great Eastern Erg. We explore the interesting souk and enjoy a wonderful traditional lunch in a Bedouin style tented restaurant with views across the desert. After the option of a camel ride we cross the vast salt flats of Chott El Jarid before arriving at Tozeur. Two nights at the Ras Al Ain hotel (B,L)

## Day 8 Afternoon 4WD excursion to mountain oases

After a relaxing morning visiting the old medina of Tozeur we board 4WD vehicles in the afternoon and visit the fascinating mountain oases of Chebika and Mides. Before our dinner we visit the excellent Dar Charait museum housed in an old palace (B,D)

## Day 9 Visit Roman Sbeitla, drive to Le Kef

Continuing our journey north we explore the Roman city of Sbeitla with its beautifully restored temples of Jupiter, Juno and Minerva. In the afternoon we drive along dramatic winding roads and scenery to the picturesque town of Le Kef. This little known cliff top town has an interesting medina and charming old centre. Overnight with dinner at the Les Pins hotel (B,D)

## Day 10 Visit Bulla Regia and Dougga

Today we start at Bulla Regia with its unique underground houses and mosaics, including the superb House of the Hunt. We continue to 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 Tunis for our final evening and enjoy a farewell dinner in an exotic old palace set in the heart of the medina. Overnight at the Tunisia Palace hotel (B,D)

## Day 11 Fly London

A leisurely morning before our transfer to the Carthage Tunis airport for our return British Airways flight. We are scheduled to arrive at London Gatwick North Terminal in the early afternoon (B)

**Cost £1295.00** per person in a twin room (excluding international flights) Single supplement £200



Spring colours of Dougga  
© www.syderimages.com

### 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, British Airways international flights are not included in the land tour cost (British Airways international flights start from £170.00 through Flight Centre UK) (Included meals denoted by B Breakfast, L Lunch, D Dinner)*