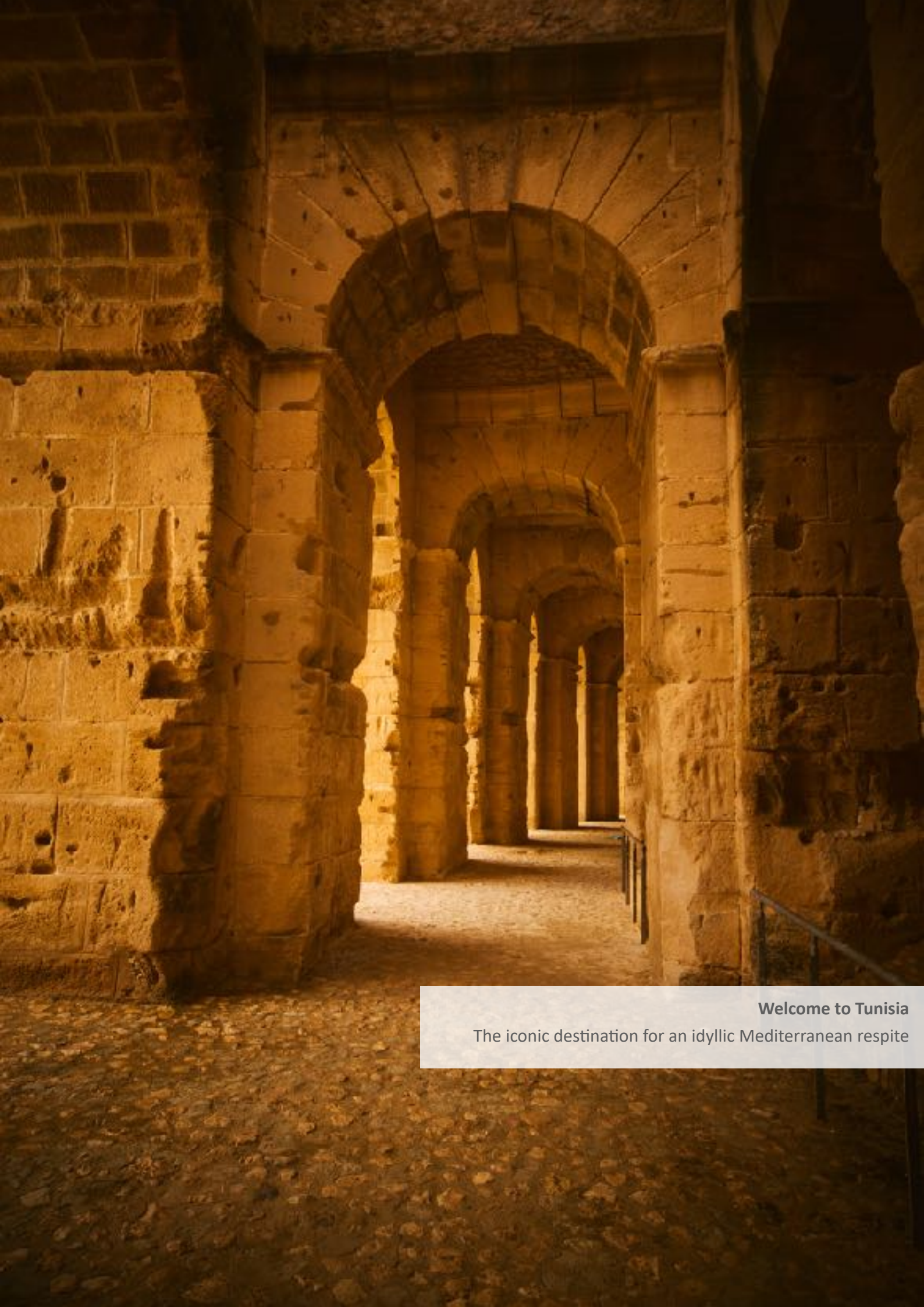


TUNISIA



travel  
hotels  
tours





**Welcome to Tunisia**

The iconic destination for an idyllic Mediterranean respite



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## ***Sanyog Gupta Voyages***

Luxury Destination Management Company

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THIS IS THE TIME  
THIS IS THE PLACE  
**THIS IS TUNISIA**

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# TUNISIA



## 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

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## 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.



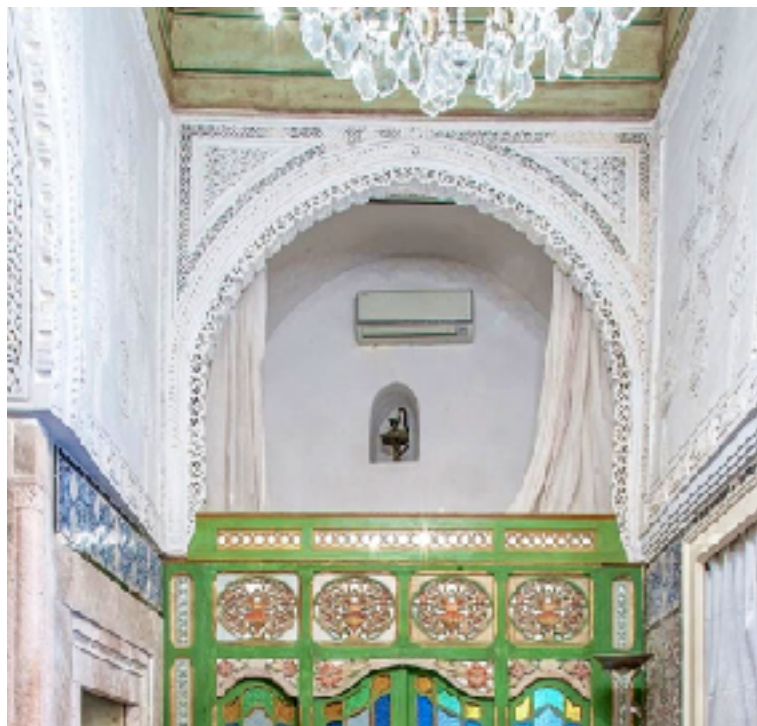
## Sheraton Tunis Hotel

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'Oliveraie 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



## Hasdrubal Thalassa, Hammamet

Along a vast sandy beach, Hasdrubal Yasmine Hamammet 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-

## 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.







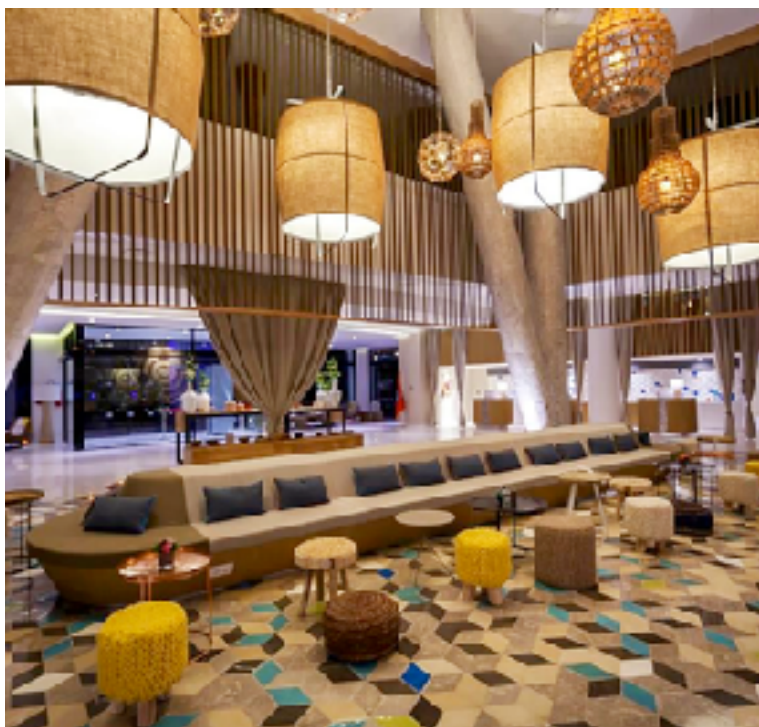
## Hotel Iberostar Selection Royal El Mansour, Mahdia

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

### 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







## 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





## 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 Andalous 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.





# 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

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## **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 marcassin**

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 marcassin – 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





## **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

## **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

## **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

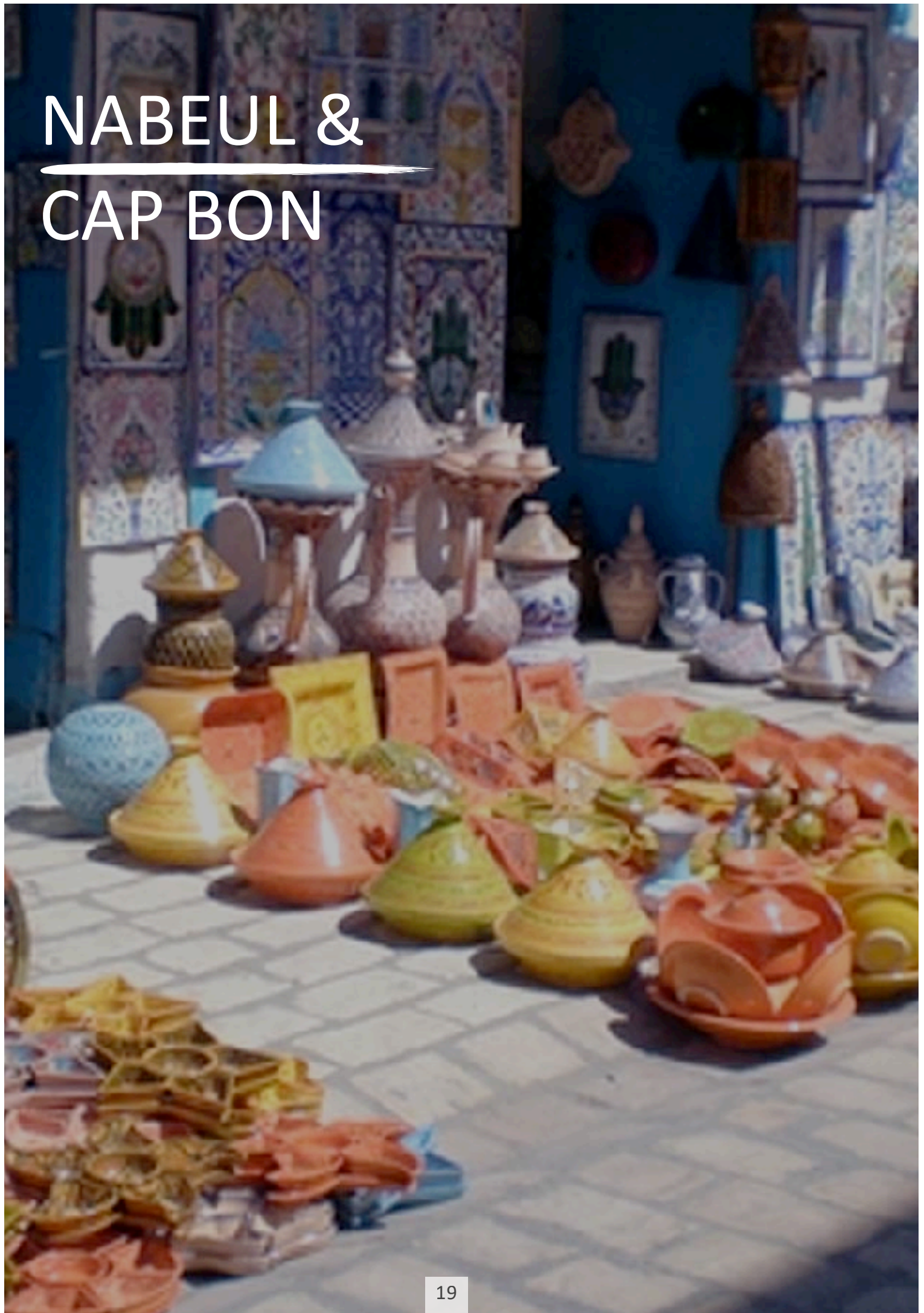
## **Where to sleep?**

### **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





## **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

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## **What to see?**

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### 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?**

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### 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?**

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### 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?**

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### 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





## **What to see?**

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### 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?**

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### 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?**

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### 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?**

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### 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



## **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 Acropolium (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 (October 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

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## **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 Makhlouf 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



## **What to see?**

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### 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?**

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### Accommodation

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





# SOUSSE & 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

## **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



## **What to see?**

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### 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?**

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### Relaxation or heritage

With its beaches, its palm trees and its turquoise sea, Monastir is one of the most popular holiday destinations in Tunisia. Sunbath or catamaran, jetski or spa, karting track... there is no shortage of activities. It's 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?**

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### 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?**

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### 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



### **What to see?**

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#### **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 Barroua, 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?**

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#### **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?**

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#### **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?**

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#### **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



### **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.

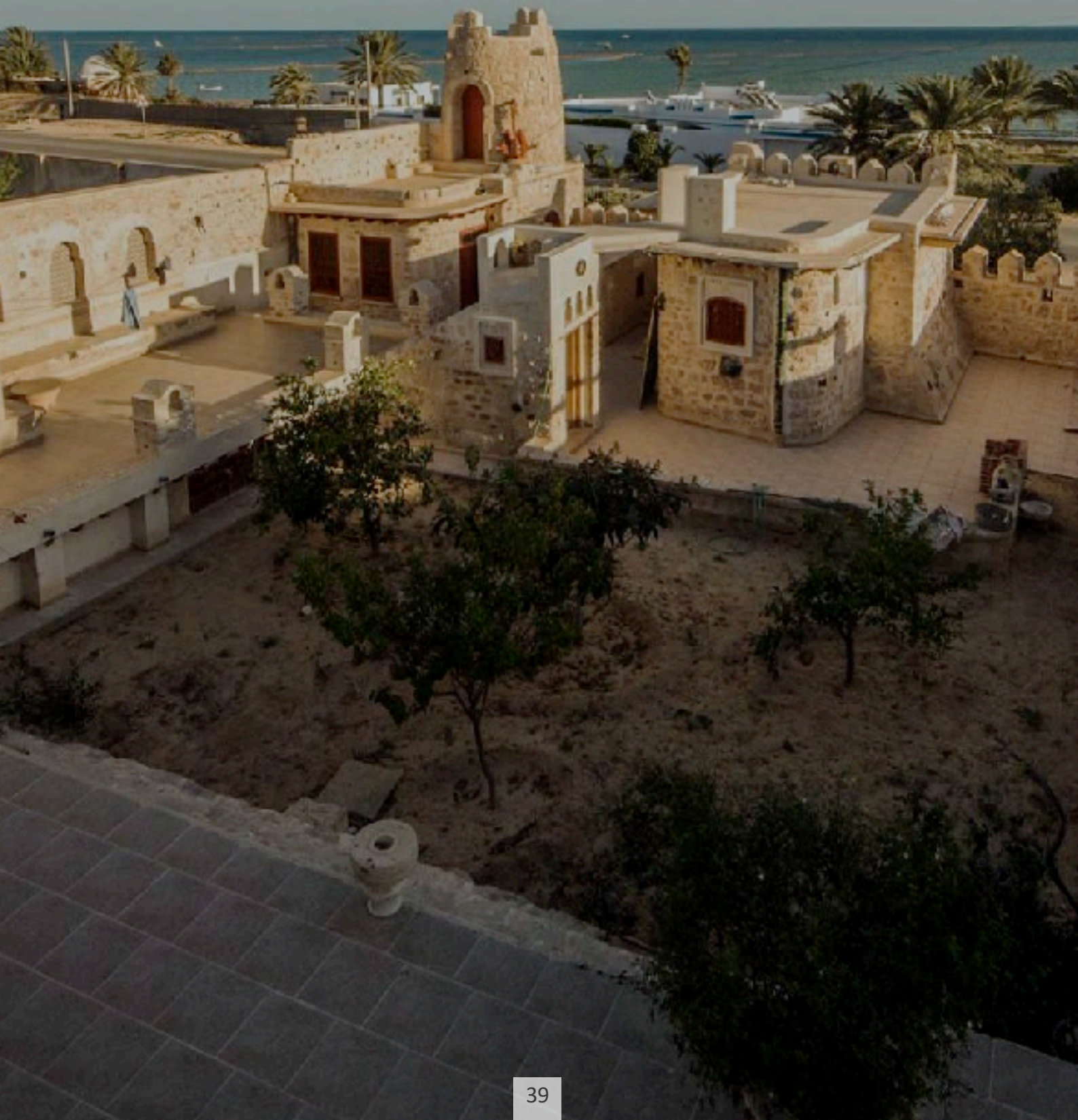
### **Where to sleep?**

#### **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



## **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

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## **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



## **What to see?**

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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?**

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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?**

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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?**

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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

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## **What to see?**

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### 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?**

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### 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?**

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### 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?**

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### 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

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### **What to see?**

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#### 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?**

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#### 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?**

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#### 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?**

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#### 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



## **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**

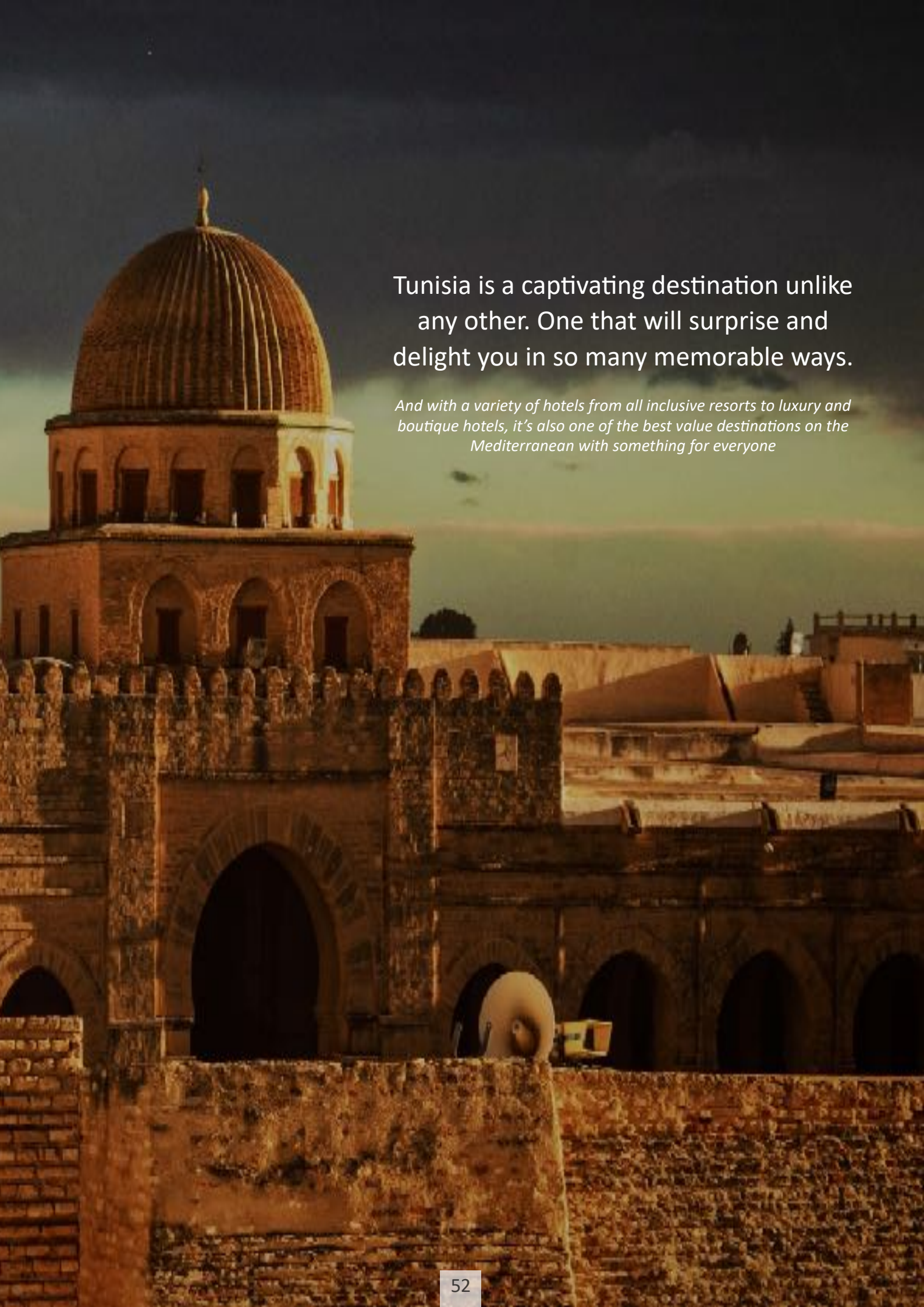
While not a major tourist destination, Gabes nevertheless has a few hotels not devoid of charm. In the region, you can find truly original forms of accommodation to fully experience the emotions of the desert: hotels in the Saharan style, guesthouses in Tamezret, lodging in a cave dwelling in Matmata.



# 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*





## 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

## 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

## 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





## 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

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# THINGS TO DO

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# 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



## 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

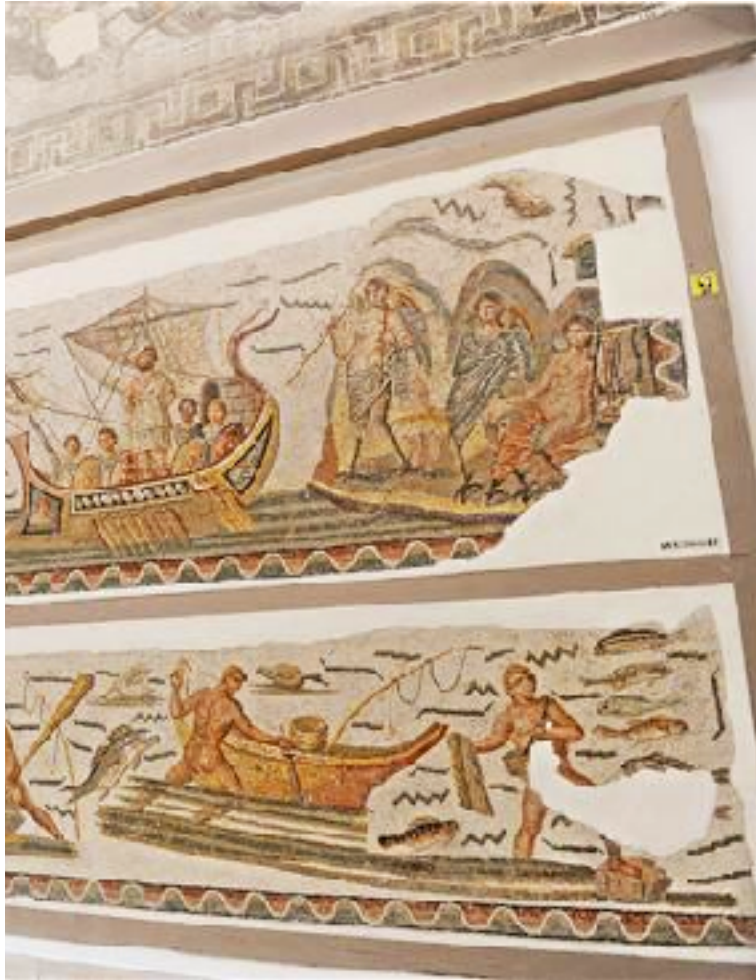


## Explore the Underwater World on a Diving Adventure

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





## 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 where 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 matamata 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-Sāhil 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.











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you Travel?







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