



SIGNATURE  
Destination SPECIALIST

# TUNISIA - FROM KASBAH TO SAHARA

Historical, Cultural and Saharan Journey Throughout Tunisia

December 18th to 28th, 2008

**Day 0 (Thursday December 18<sup>th</sup>):** Departure from the USA to Tunis Carthage Airport



**Day 1 (Friday December 19<sup>th</sup>):** Arrival in [Tunis/Sidi Bou Said](#)

Personalized welcome by PromoTunisia staff in Tunis Carthage Airport. Check in Hotel Dar Said 4\* in Sidi Bou Said (<http://www.darsaid.com.tn>), a village with immaculate white and blue houses, that has managed to preserve its charm and peacefulness.

In the afternoon, stroll through Sidi Bou's narrow streets bordered by whitewashed houses with blue shutters and doors. Check out the various art galleries, try a bambalouni, light and crispy Tunisian style doughnut with some mint tea in one of the

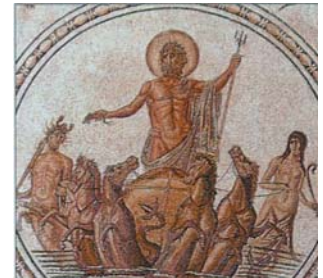
cafes of Sidi Bou Said and enjoy the superb view of the gulf of Tunis from one of Sidi Bou's traditional café.

Dinner at Restaurant Dar Zarrouk (3 fourchettes) in Sidi Bou Said, specialized in Mediterranean specialties.



**Day 2 (Saturday December 20<sup>th</sup>):** [Bardo Museum/Medina of Tunis](#)

The day will start with a visit of the National Museum of the Bardo, one of the best archaeological museums of the Mediterranean world, especially known for its beautiful collection of mosaics, the World's largest, and located in an old palace that belonged to the Beys, the rulers of Tunisia.



Then, tour the Medina, the old city (the largest in North Africa, larger than Fez or Cairo), with its wonderful mosques, palaces and covered market places. Visit ottoman houses that illustrates the way of life and customs of the nineteenth century Tunis. Lunch in a local restaurant in the Medina (restaurant Escheick) featuring Tunisian specialties. After lunch, spend some time in the Medina and its Souks, colorful local markets to discover the exquisite craftsmanship of Tunisia's artisans and discover the traditions and cultural heritage of Tunisia in the various libraries and bookstores.

Dinner and overnight at leisure (a suggestion may be restaurant au Bon Vieux Temps near Dar Said).



### Day 3 (Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup>): [Dougga/Kairouan](#)

In the morning, leave for Dougga, the best-preserved roman city in Africa, listed in 1997 in the UNESCO world heritage list. Visit Dougga, where you will find the most extensive Roman ruins in the country, noted for a 2nd-century-B.C. Punic mausoleum, several temples, a Forum, a marketplace and the Square of the Four Winds.



Leaving Dougga, travel south to Kairouan, the holiest city in Tunisia with its impressive Islamic monuments some dating to 670AD. Check in and dinner at your hotel (La Kasbah 5\* lies at the heart of the holy city of Kairouan (<http://www.goldenyas-min.com/kairouankasbah/en/index.htm>). This hotel, with a luxurious inside and a sober outlook, merges harmoniously into the Arab-Islamic architecture of the city of Kairouan).



### Day 4 (Monday December 22<sup>nd</sup>): [Kairouan/El Djem](#)

After breakfast, visit the sacred city, home to the Great Mosque built in the 9th Century, a great fortified building where many Roman columns were reused to build the prayer hall. Next to impressive water reservoirs built in the 9th century by the Aghlabid dynasty, you will stop at a lovely mosque covered with blue and white tiles. Kairouan also has some of the most beautiful and best quality carpets in the country.



Depart to El Djem, the site of a very impressive Roman amphitheater (which once held more than 30,000 spectators), and a large collection of Roman, Christian and Punic pieces in the lovely small museum.



Lunch at Le Bonheur restaurant in El Djem. Return to Kairouan in the afternoon, walk through the winding street of the old town of Kairouan, taste the traditional local pastry stuffed with dates called makroudh, and learn about the traditional savoir-faire of women making rugs. Walk back to the hotel where we will prepare your dinner with our chef to experience how traditional couscous is prepared in the pure tradition of the Tunisian gastronomy.

### Day 5 (Tuesday December 23<sup>rd</sup>): [Tozeur](#)

After breakfast, 4X4 departure to Tozeur, an oasis town rising from the sands of the Sahara desert. Lunch in route near Gafsa.

Afternoon arrival in Tozeur. Check in Dar Cheraiet 5\* Ottoman Palace (<http://www.darcheraiet.com.tn/>). Visit the Belvedere of Tozeur, with its 300,000 palm trees and over 400 hot and cold springs.

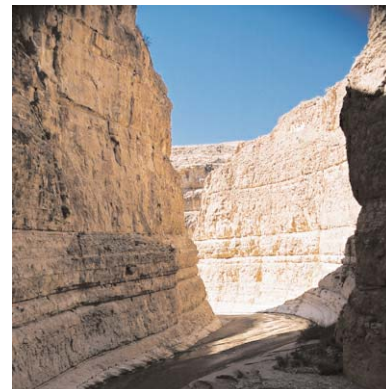


After dinner at the hotel, visit the Dar Cheraiet museum, an architectural jewel born of 1001 nights dreams. The museum, partially outdoor features luxurious decorations and gardens with the most representative scenes of North African life.



**Day 6 (Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>):**[Mountain Oases/Ong Jmel](#)  
[\("Star Wars" settings\)](#)

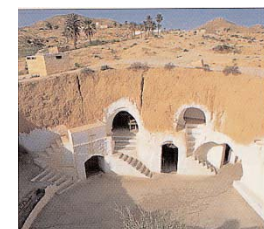
Depart to Metlaoui. Visit the golden triangle of Mountain oases, Tamerza, Mides and Chebika. Lunch under the shade of tents near Tamerza. Explore the Mountain Oases of Mides and Chebika, which are perched in granite mountains above the Sahara and provide scenery for filmmakers in search of Biblical landscapes. On your way back to Tozeur, we will visit the set of George Lucas's Star Wars at Ong Jmel before returning to Tozeur. Dinner in Tozeur.



**Day 7 (Thursday December 25<sup>th</sup>):**[Douz/Matmata](#)

After breakfast, departure to Douz "gateway to the Sahara." Cross the dry salt lake of Chott el Djerid to arrive at this quiet, oasis village which is home to the Festival of the Sahara and features a daily camel market.

After lunch at Sahara Douz, departure for Matmata to visit the famous troglodytes, underground villas used by the Berbers to protect themselves from heat in the summer, and where Indiana Jones and the English Patient were filmed.



Arrival to the Island of Djerba, mythical land of the Lotus-eaters in Homer's Odyssey. Check in, dinner and overnight Sofitel Palm Beach 5\*.



**Day 8 (Friday December 26<sup>th</sup>):**[Djerba](#)

Morning visit of the Island: areas of interest include the Ghriba synagogue, built in the 6th century BC (fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians), one of the holiest Jewish places that hosts annual pilgrimage of Jews from all over the world and holds one of the most ancient Torah's in the world.



Also, Houmt Souk, the island's capital, for a chance to experience local markets, crafts and foods, the museum of arts and popular traditions in Sidi Zitouni and the village of Guellala for its potteries. Lunch at Haroun, fresh catch of the day.

Free afternoon, Dinner and Overnight in Djerba.

**Day 9 (Saturday December 27<sup>th</sup>):**[fly to Tunis from the Island of Djerba/Carthage](#)

Your archaeological discovery of Tunisia continues with a tour of the Carthage Museum, the Punic city and the Roman Baths of Anthonin. Lunch at leisure. Visit the famous Punic Harbors, the Roman Villas and the Theater, all sites excavated in the past fifteen years thanks to an international archaeological campaign led by UNESCO. Dinner and Overnight Africa 5\* in downtown Tunis.

**Day 10 (Sunday December 28<sup>th</sup>):**[Tunis/Europe/US](#)

After breakfast, Depart to the airport.

## Price Proposal and Inclusions

- Minibus Comfort AC/Heat with experienced driver for 6 days in Northern Tunisia
- Toyota 4X4 SUV with experienced driver for 4 days in Southern Tunisia
- Transfers from and to Airports
- English-speaking Tunisian Tour Director (most likely Mohamed Halouani, Said Ben Slimane or Hassen Hammi)
- Baggage handling/service fees, Parking fees/Highway fees, tips (but tips to main guide and driver)
- Hotels stays in double room (includes Breakfast)
  - Dar Said 4\*--2 nights, Africa Tunis 5\*--1 night, Kasbah 5\*--2 nights, Dar Cheraiet 5\*--2 nights
  - Sofitel Palm Beach 5\*---2 nights
- Lunches
  - Tunis Medina, Dougga, Kasbah Buffet, Matmata restaurant, Tamerza Palace, Sahara Douz, Bonheur
- Dinners
  - Dar Zarrouk (3 fourchettes)--Mediterranean and fish specialties,
  - La Kasbah private restaurant, Dar Cheraiet, Sofitel, Africa
- All Entrance fees in sites and monuments
  - Sidi Bou Said sites, All Carthage monuments & sites
  - All Medina monuments in Tunis (including Bardo Museum), All sites in Dougga.
  - All monuments in Kairouan (great mosque, Sidi Sahbi, Aghlabites Bassin...)
  - All sites in Tozeur (including Dar cheraiet museum), Red Lizard train, Troglodytes sites
  - All monuments in El Djem (Coliseum, museums)
  - All monuments in Djerba
- Local Airfares
  - One way air Djerba/Tunis

**TOTAL 10 DAYS LAND+ domestic air/ PERSON in double= \$2,890/person**

**Single Supp= \$560**

### **Mohamed Halouani, quick biography:**

Mohamed Halouani, our tour director, transformed his profound passion for travel and history into a creative and diversified educational career, designing and carrying out multiple archaeological and cultural trips for diverse institutions, such as The Detroit Institute of Art, The Textile Museum, The American Museum of Natural History and many more organizations.

After having received his Bachelor degrees in English and Spanish, Mohamed Halouani completed his European Master's in linguistics and Hispanic studies at the Sorbonne University in Paris. He has extensive knowledge on Islamic and secular architecture and Eastern decorative elements.

Mohamed has access to several specialists and private homes/museums as well as families (All these services are included in pricing above) including the architect in charge of restoring an old ottoman palace in the Medina, a private mosaics museum, a local family of Berbers near Matmata and several other "surprises" that provides a unique cultural and people experience to our travelers.