



Tunisia--From Carthage to the Festivals of the Sahara Desert

December 17-27, 2010

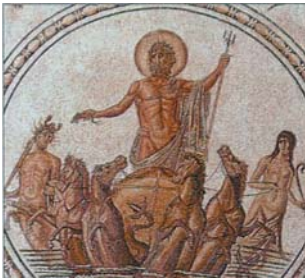
Friday December 17, 2010: Departure from the US

Saturday December 18, 2010: Arrival In Tunis

Personalized welcome by PromoTunisia staff at Tunis Carthage Airport. Transfer and check in Hotel Tunisia Palace 4* in downtown Tunis near the Medina of Tunis, a newly opened luxurious boutique hotel. Afternoon discovery of the European city of Tunis. Dinner at leisure, overnight Tunisia Palace.



Sunday December 19, 2010: Bardo Museum/Utica/Bizerte (B, L, D)



Morning visit to the Bardo museum, considered one of the richest museums in the world. Housed in one of the former Husseinite palaces, it encloses all the treasures of Tunisian history: from pre-historic times to the Punic civilization, the Roman era, Christian's times, Muslim civilization and up to the twentieth century and features the world's largest collection of mosaics. Depart to Utica and Bizerte. Utica was the contender to power with the City of Carthage. Situated at the sea, along the only river that carries water in summer time, Utica collaborated with the Romans in order to weaken its opponent. Bizerte is at one and the same time the most French and the oldest city of Tunisia. Bizerte served as a French base for five years into the

Tunisian independence. It is one rare city that meets the water, It's "defended" from the sea by a double kasbah that is in perfect shape despite the 400 years of age. Tonight, dinner and overnight at Tunisia Palace 4*.



Monday December 20, 2010: Medina of Tunis/Carthage/Sidi Bou Said (B, L)

After breakfast, 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 illustrate the way of life and customs of the nineteenth century Tunis.

After lunch, your archaeological discovery of Tunisia continues with a tour of the Carthage Museum, the Punic city and the Roman Baths of Anthonin. 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.



Discover Sidi Bou Said, a village with immaculate white and blue houses, that has managed to preserve its charm and peacefulness. 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. Self-arranged dinner, overnight Tunisia Palace 4*.

Dinner at leisure-recommended nearby Dar el Jeld, the best restaurant in Tunis <http://www.dareljeld.tourism.tn/site2.htm>. Overnight in Tunisia Palace.



Tuesday December 21, 2010: Testour/Dougga/Kairouan (B, L, D)

Depart from Tunis. Visit the ancient city of Dougga, one of **the best-preserved roman cities in Africa. Listed in 1997 in the UNESCO World Heritage List**, the town of Dougga, built on an elevated site overlooking a fertile plain, was the capital of Punic and Roman states.

Lunch in Thugga. Continue to Kairouan, the holy city of Tunisia with its impressive Islamic monuments some dating to 670AD. Walk at your leisure in the souks, taste the traditional local pastry stuffed with dates called makroudh, and learn about the traditional savoir-faire of women making rugs.

Check in and dinner at your hotel (La Kasbah 5* lies at the heart of the holy city of Kairouan. This hotel, with a luxurious inside and a sober outlook, merges harmoniously into the Arab-Islamic architecture of the city of Kairouan).



Wednesday December 22, 2010: Kairouan/el Djem (B, L, D)

Morning visit to the ninth century great mosque of Oqba ibn Nafi, an important reference point in Islam and Islamic architecture. Continue to el Djem's spectacular amphitheatre that dates from 338 A.D, and is the second largest in the World only to Rome's. Visit the newly opened small museum and the excavations

extending behind the museum where beautiful mosaics have been found. Lunch le Bonheur. Return to Kairouan, free afternoon in the beautiful Medina of Kairouan. Dinner and overnight la Kasbah.



Thursday December 23, 2010: Journey to the Sahara/Tozeur (B, L, D)

After breakfast, continue to Tozeur, an oasis town rising from the sands of the Sahara desert where we will arrive in the afternoon. Visit the Belvedere of Tozeur, with its 300,000 palm trees and over 400 hot and cold springs.

Check in at Ras el Ain 4*. Visit to 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.



Friday December 24, 2010: Mountain Oases (B, L, D)

Depart to Metlaoui. Visit the golden triangle of Mountain oases, Tamerza, Mides and Chebika. Lunch 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. Christmas' dinner celebration at the hotel.

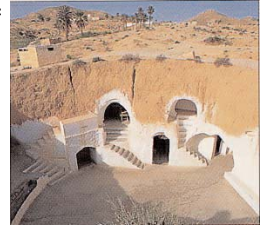
Saturday December 25, 2010: Douz/Matmata/Djerba (B, L)



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, continue to the Berber village of Matmata and its famous troglodytes, homes built underground to protect the Berbers from summer heat and winter cold. One of these fabulous Berber village with its pitted lunar landscapes was the set of the Spielberg's movie Raiders of the Lost Arc and Lucas "Star Wars". Depart of Djerba, land of the Lotus-eaters in Homer's Odyssey. Check in hotel Radisson Blue 5**** or similar. Overnight, dinner at leisure.

Sunday December 26, 2010: Island of Djerba (B)

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.

Self-arranged lunch. Afternoon at leisure. Late afternoon transfer to the airport and fly to Tunis. Check in hotel Tunisia Palace or similar. Farewell dinner in the Medina of Tunis. Overnight.

Monday December 27, 2010: Fly to Europe/US (B)

Transfer to Tunis Carthage international airport

Many testimonies of past travelers have praised Mohamed Halouani, a Tunisia historian and PromoTunisia' Tour Director for the depth of his knowledge on Tunisian history, arts & traditions. Mohamed truly made their experience unique.

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, the Vergilian Society 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.

Price Proposal and Inclusions

TUNISIA

- Hotels stays in Double Room
 - Tunisia Palace 4*--4 nights, Kasbah Kairouan 5*--2 nights, Ras el Ain 4*--2 nights, Radisson 5*--1 night
- All Breakfasts, lunches & dinners as specified in itinerary
- Special Christmas Dinner
- 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...)
 - Museum in Dar Cheraiet
 - Sites in Djerba
 - Red Lizard Train in Mountain Oases (if available)
 - Matmata troglodytes
- Local Airfare
 - One way Djerba-Tunis

TOTAL TUNISIA 10 DAYS and domestic air /person in Double
\$3,050

* **Single Supplement= \$600**