

TUNISIA - History, Arts & Traditions & the Sahara desert

10-Day Itinerary (October 19th to 29th, 2005)--Also Oct 18th to 28th, 2006

Day 0 (Wednesday October 19th): Departure from the USA to Tunis Carthage Airport

Day 1 (Thursday October 20th): 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.

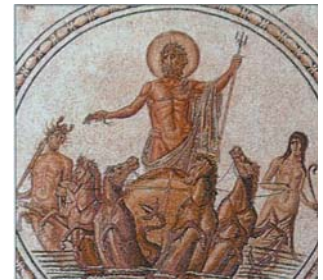
Dinner at Restaurant Dar Zarrouk (3 fourchettes) in Sidi Bou Said, specialized in Mediterranean specialties.



In the evening, taste some Tunisian 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.

Day 2 (Friday October 21st): [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, with its wonderful mosques, palaces and covered market places. Visit the house of arts and traditions Dar Ben Abdallah that illustrates the way of life and customs of the nineteenth century Tunis. We can organize an encounter with an architect in charge of the restoration of the old monuments at Dar Lasram. Lunch in a local restaurant in the Medina featuring Tunisian specialties (subject to availability during Ramadhan). 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.

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Dinner at Restaurant "Au Bon Vieux Temps" (2 fourchettes) in Sidi Bou Said, fish and Tunisian specialties. After dinner, enjoy the special atmosphere of Ramadhan in the streets of Sidi Bou.

Day 3 (Saturday October 22nd): [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.goldenyasmin.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 (Sunday October 23rd): [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.



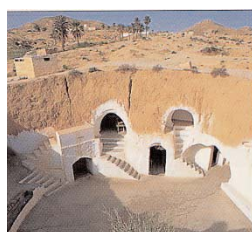
Depart to El Djem, the site of a very impressive Roman amphitheater (which once held more than 30,000 spectators). We will have access to a large collection of Roman, Christian and Punic pieces in a lovely small private museum.



Lunch in route. Return to Kairouan in the afternoon, walk through the winding street of the old town of Kairouan. After dinner, taste the traditional local pastry stuffed with dates called makroudh, and learn about the traditional savoir-faire of women making rugs when walking in the souks. Overnight in La Kasbah.

Day 5 (Monday October 24th): [Matmata/Island of Djerba](#)

Early departure to Matmata and its famous troglodytes, houses built underground to protect the Berbers from intense heat in the summer. Berber villages are among the most exciting places to explore in Tunisia. 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 to the Island of Djerba, land of the Lotus-eaters in Homer's Odyssey.

Check in Ulysse Palace 5* Djerba. Houmt Souk is nearby, the island's capital, for a chance to experience local markets, crafts and foods, the museum of arts and popular traditions in Sidi Zitouni. The following day, we have the option to head to the desert in the morning (Ksar Ghilane tents) or quickly visit Djerba. Visit the Island of Djerba: areas of interest include the Ghriba synagogue, built in the 6th century BC one of the holiest Jewish places that hosts annual pilgrimage of Jews from all over the world and holds an ancient Torah.



Day 6 (Tuesday October 25th): [Ksar Ghilane](#)

4X4 Departure for Ksar Ghilane, an exotic oasis famous for its dunes and hot water spring. Check in 4* tents Pansea (<http://www.pansea.com/ksar.html>) developed in harmony with the surrounding environment and local traditions.

Enjoy the immensity of the Sahara desert at Ksar Ghilane. The



Grand Erg Oriental near Ksar Ghilane truly offers vast spaces for exploring and the emotion of tasting the nomad life. Enjoy amazing camel and horse rides to the deserted fort of Ksar Ghilane and into the Sahara desert with specialized local guide.



At the end of the day, dinner around the pool (dinner under tents in the middle of the Sahara if 4 people participating) featuring the "agneau a la gargoulette", por-

tions of shoulder meat that are rubbed with a sauce of olive oil, salt, and baked underground in claypots.

Day 7 (Wednesday October 26th): [Douz/Tozeur](#)

After breakfast, departure to Douz "gateway to the Sahara." This quiet, oasis village is home to the Festival of the Sahara and features a daily camel market.

After lunch at Sahara Douz, cross the dry salt lake of Chott el Djerid and continue to Tozeur, an oasis town rising from the sands of the Sahara desert. 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 8 (Thursday October 27th): [Tozeur/Carthage/Special Ramadhan Musical Event](#)

After breakfast, fly to Tunis. Your archaeological discovery of Tunisia continues with a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Carthage, its museum, the Punic city and the Roman Baths of Anthonin. After lunch at Phoenix Carthage, 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. We will also visit the U.S. Military Cemetery and learn more about the WWII U.S. North African campaign.



Dinner at Restaurant Africa 5*. Special evening in the Medina where we will attend a show of traditional Tunisian music.

Day 9 (Friday October 28th):[Tunis:](#)

Free day in Tunis, Carthage or Sidi Bou Said

Suggestions will be provided by your Tour Director and it includes returning to the charming village of Sidi Bou Said to visit the Baron d'Erlanger Mansion, a lovely 19th-century residence turned into a museum or strolling in the Medina's souks or markets.

Dine in high style at a converted Ottoman palace in the medina, Dar el Jeld (<http://www.dareljeld.tourism.tn/site2.htm>).



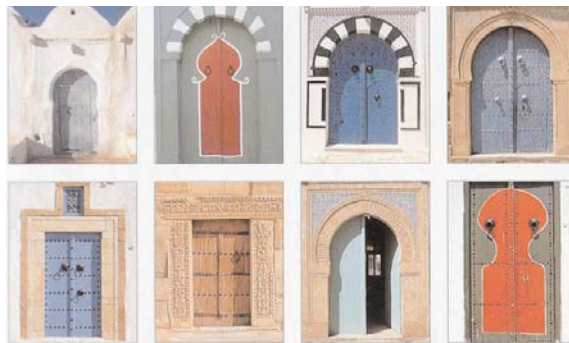
Dinner will include a selection of mouth-watering delicacies, accompanied by harp player and authentic Moorish music.

Overnight Africa Hotel 5* near the Medina.



Day 10 (Saturday October 29th):[Tunis/Europe/US](#)

Leave Tunis to Europe and fly to the US the same day.



Price Proposal and Inclusions

- Minibus Mercedes 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 Historian and PromoTunisia Tour Director Mohamed Halouani (includes encounter with architect, access to private museums and homes, couscous cooking, Berber family immersion) OR PromoTunisia “classical” english-speaking guide.
- 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
 - Pansea Camp Tents 4*-- 2 nights OR Ulysse Palace Djerba 5*---2 nights
- Lunches
 - Tunis Medina, Dougga, Kasbah Buffet, Matmata restaurant, Tamerza Palace, Sahara Douz, Africa, Bonheur
- Dinners
 - Dar Zarrouk (3 fourchettes)--Mediterranean and fish specialties,
 - Au Bon Vieux Temps (2 fourchettes)
 - Dar el Jeld (3 fourchettes)-Tunisian specialties,
 - La Kasbah private restaurant, Dar Cheraiet, Pansea
- 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 (if applicable)
- Local Airfares
 - One way air Tozeur/Tunis

TOTAL 10 DAYS LAND+ domestic air/ PERSON in double= \$2,550/person*

Single Supp= \$430

***Based on 4 participants. There is an additional fee of \$100/person (based on 6) to have Mr. M. Halouani be your guide for the entire trip. Per testimonies of past travelers, Mohamed made their experience truly 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 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.