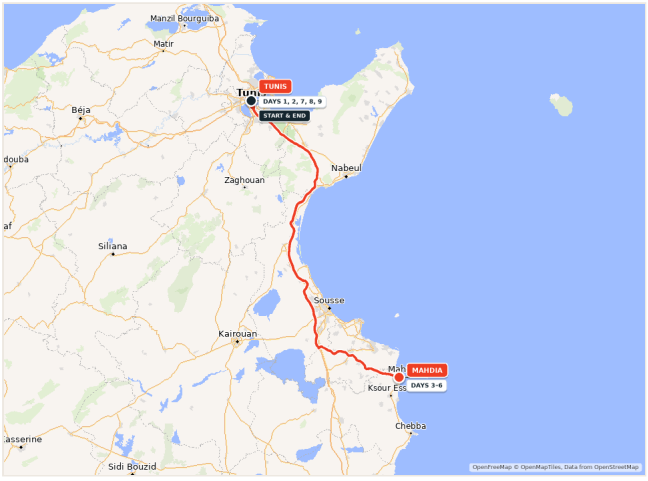
ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

Your passport to adventure

Tunisia Eclipse Adventure 2027 - Deluxe C

COUNTRY(IES)	Tunisia
TOUR TYPE	Small Group
TRANSPORT	A/C minibus/coach
GROUP SIZE	Min: 10 | Max: 30
DURATION	9 days
STARTS	Tunis, Tunisia
ENDS	Tunis, Tunisia
MEALS	Breakfasts - 8, Lunches - 5, Dinners - 4

TOUR ROUTE MAP **9 Days**



ROUTE: Tunis (Start) → **Mahdia** → **Tunis** (End)

HIGHLIGHTS

Hammamet, Sousse, Mahdia, Monastir, 2027 Total Solar Eclipse, El Jem, Kairouan, Uthina, Carthage, Sidi Bou Said, Olive Oil Tasting, Dougga, Testour, Tunis

Itinerary

DAY 1 **Arrive in Tunis, where you'll be welcomed at the airport before transferring to your hotel.**

When you arrive in Tunis, our team will welcome you at the airport and arrange your transfer to the hotel. If your flight gets in early, you can spend some time exploring Tunis' historic medina or strolling along Avenue Habib Bourguiba. Most of the remaining time is spent travelling between the named places, with the surroundings changing along the way.

ACTIVITIES

- **Departure from Tunis Airport**
  Check in at Tunis Airport for your onward or homeward flight. Say goodbye to Tunisia after a tour filled with history, desert scenery, and cultural encounters.
- **Drive Tunis Airport → Tunis City Hotel**
  Travel from Tunis Airport to your hotel in the capital. Get your first glimpse of the city as you drive through its

busy streets and neighbourhoods.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
The Residence	None

DAY 2 Visit the historic coastal towns of Hammamet and Sousse before continuing on to Mahdia

Begin with a relaxed breakfast at the hotel before setting off along the coast to Hammamet. Known for its pristine beaches and laid-back Mediterranean charm, this iconic seaside town offers a wonderful blend of history and relaxation. Explore the whitewashed old town, wandering through quiet, flower-draped alleys, and step onto the ramparts of the 15th-century seaside fortress for magnificent views over the sea. Continue south to Sousse, a lively coastal city featuring an exceptionally preserved, UNESCO World Heritage-listed medina. Discover its imposing stone ramparts, wander through the vibrant souks brimming with local handicrafts, and visit the historic 8th-century Ribat. Climb to the top of its watchtower for sweeping panoramic views across the city skyline and bustling harbour. After taking in the rich history and coastal scenery of both towns, relax on the scenic drive towards the historic port town of Mahdia.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Tunis to Hammamet**
  The journey from Tunis follows the coastline to Hammamet, a town celebrated for its beautiful beaches and relaxed Mediterranean atmosphere.
- **Visit Hammamet Medina**
  Visit the small medina of Hammamet with its walls and sea views. Wander along ramparts and narrow streets scented with jasmine.
- **Drive Hammamet → Sousse**
  Continue south along the coast from Hammamet to Sousse. Pass seaside resorts and agricultural land before arriving in this historic port city.
- **Visit Sousse Medina**
  Explore the UNESCO-listed medina of Sousse, a classic fortified coastal town of early Islam. Walk its ramparts and alleyways lined with homes, shops, and mosques.
- **Drive Sousse to Mahdia**
  A scenic drive carries you south from Sousse to the historic port town of Mahdia on the Mediterranean coast.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Iberostar Selection Royal El Mansour	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 3 Visit the Medina and Borj El Kebir Fortress in Mahdia before visiting the Ribat of Monastir

Begin the day exploring Mahdia, a charming coastal town celebrated for its rich maritime heritage and relaxed, authentic atmosphere. Wander through the historic medina and bustling traditional fishing port before discovering the grand Borj El Kebir fortress. Perched at the edge of the narrow headland, this imposing 16th-century stronghold provides sweeping panoramic views across the peninsula and out over the Mediterranean Sea. Travel short distance up the coast to Monastir to visit its legendary Ribat. Originally constructed in the 8th century to defend against maritime invasions, this sprawling fortified complex stands as one of North Africa's oldest and most historically significant Islamic monuments. Stroll through its stone passages, courtyards, and watchtowers to absorb the deep history of Tunisia's coastal defences. After taking in the monumental architecture and sea views in Monastir, enjoy the scenic return drive back to Mahdia for the evening.

ACTIVITIES

- **Visit Mahdia Medina**
  The historic medina and traditional fishing port of Mahdia reflect the town rich maritime heritage and relaxed authentic character.
- **Visit Borj El Kebir Fortress Mahdia**
  The grand Borj El Kebir fortress stands at the edge of the narrow headland, its 16th-century walls offering sweeping panoramic views across the peninsula and Mediterranean.
- **Drive Mahdia to Monastir**
  A short coastal drive takes you from Mahdia to Monastir, home to one of North Africa oldest Islamic monuments.
- **Visit Ribat of Monastir**
  The legendary Ribat of Monastir, built in the 8th century to defend against maritime invasions, stands as one of North Africa oldest and most significant Islamic monuments with stone passages, courtyards, and watchtowers to explore.
- **Drive Monastir to Mahdia**
  The scenic coastal road carries you back to Mahdia after taking in the monumental architecture and sea views of Monastir.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Iberostar Selection Royal El Mansour	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 4 Solar Eclipse experience. Visit the Amphitheatre of El Jem

Depart early for a prime viewing location near Chaffar Beach, situated just south of Sfax directly along the path of totality. Here, prepare to experience the awe-inspiring total solar eclipse of August 2, 2027. At approximately 10:11 AM local time, witness an unforgettable 5 minutes and 39 seconds of complete darkness. To ensure total comfort throughout this once-in-a-lifetime astronomical event, the dedicated viewing area features shaded zones, light

refreshments, and clean facilities. Following the eclipse, travel inland to El Jem to explore its legendary Roman amphitheatre. As one of the largest and best-preserved Roman arenas on Earth, this UNESCO World Heritage Site offers a dramatic look into ancient history. Walk through the underground passages and step onto the vast arena floor where gladiators once fought, marvelling at the sheer scale of Rome's architectural power in North Africa. Later, we'll return to Mahdia for the evening.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Mahdia to Chaffar Beach**
  An early departure from Mahdia heads to Chaffar Beach near Sfax for a prime viewing position along the path of totality.
- **Eclipse Viewing – Chaffar Beach**
  Spend the morning at a prepared viewing site on Chaffar Beach to witness the 2027 total solar eclipse. Experience several minutes of totality in a comfortable setting with shade, refreshments and time to enjoy the changing light.
- **Drive Chaffar Beach to El Jem**
  After the eclipse the route turns inland towards El Jem and its legendary Roman amphitheatre.
- **Visit Amphitheatre of El Jem**
  Explore the huge Roman amphitheatre of El Jem, one of the best-preserved colosseums in the world. Walk through its arches and seating areas and imagine the spectacles once held here.
- **Drive El Jem to Mahdia**
  The journey returns to Mahdia for the evening after exploring the Roman amphitheatre.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Iberostar Selection Royal El Mansour	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 5 Free day for relaxation in Mahdia

Enjoy a wonderful, unhurried day discovering Mahdia completely at your own pace. Take the time to wander through the cobbled streets of the charming old town, stopping at local cafés to sip traditional mint tea alongside residents. You can spend the afternoon relaxing on the soft sand along the Mediterranean coast or soaking up the peaceful atmosphere of this historic seaside town. It offers the ideal balance of quiet cultural exploration and coastal relaxation.

ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in Mahdia**
  An unhurried day in Mahdia unfolds at your own pace, whether wandering the cobbled streets of the old town, sipping mint tea at local cafes, or relaxing on the Mediterranean shore.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Iberostar Selection Royal El Mansour	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 6 A visit to spiritual Kairouan and the Roman ruins at Uthina before heading to Tunis

Begin with a visit to the Great Mosque of Kairouan, one of North Africa's most significant Islamic monuments and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Explore its majestic architecture, expansive marble courtyard, and grand prayer hall while learning about its centuries as a major spiritual and cultural center. Afterward, take a guided walk through the UNESCO-listed Medina of Kairouan. This carefully curated route deliberately avoids heavy commercial shopping areas, guiding you through serene, traditional streets and past historic buildings to capture the authentic heart and soul of one of Tunisia's oldest cities. Travel north to the impressive archaeological site of Uthina, an ancient Roman city set within a tranquil landscape. Discover its remarkably preserved remains, including a grand amphitheatre cut into the hillside, the Capitol building, public thermal baths, and detailed residential quarters that showcase daily life during the height of the Roman Empire. Following your exploration of Uthina, relax on the final leg of the drive north toward the capital city of Tunis.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Mahdia to Kairouan**
  Travel inland from Mahdia to Kairouan.
- **Visit Great Mosque of Kairouan**
  Visit the Great Mosque of Kairouan, one of North Africa's oldest and most important Islamic monuments. Admire its vast courtyard, minaret, and many reused ancient columns.
- **Visit Kairouan Medina**
  Wander through the quiet streets of Kairouan's medina, lined with traditional homes and workshops. See pastry shops and craft stalls that keep local traditions alive.
- **Drive Kairouan to Uthina**
  The road heads north from Kairouan to the archaeological site of Uthina, an ancient Roman city set in a tranquil landscape.
- **Visit Archaeological Site of Uthina**
  The remarkably preserved remains of Uthina include a grand amphitheatre cut into the hillside, the Capitol building, public thermal baths, and detailed residential quarters from the height of the Roman Empire.
- **Drive Uthina to Tunis**
  The final drive north from Uthina carries you to the capital city of Tunis for the evening.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
The Residence	Breakfast

DAY 7 Visit Tunis Medina, Ancient Carthage and beautiful Sidi Bou Said

Begin in the heart of the capital with a guided exploration of the Medina of Tunis, a UNESCO World Heritage site dating back to the early Islamic era. Navigate its labyrinth of narrow, covered alleyways and traditional souks,

taking in hidden courtyards, historic palaces, and the majestic Zitouna Mosque, the spiritual anchor of the old city. Next, head to the coast to discover the legendary archaeological site of Carthage, perched on rolling hills overlooking the Gulf of Tunis. Once the legendary seat of the Punic Empire and a major rival to Rome, this expansive open-air museum blends rich Phoenician and Roman heritage. Explore its most iconic ruins, including the vast Antonine Baths, the ancient Punic Ports, the sacred Tophet, and the grand Roman Theatre. Continue along the coast to the cliffside village of Sidi Bou Saïd. Renowned for its striking whitewashed buildings, vibrant blue doors, and cascading bougainvillea, this picturesque enclave offers sweeping views across the Mediterranean Sea. While in Sidi Bou Saïd, visit the exquisite Ennejma Ezzahra Palace. A stunning masterpiece of Arab-Andalusian architecture set within tranquil landscaped gardens, this former home of Baron Rodolphe d'Erlanger now houses the Centre for Arab and Mediterranean Music. Stroll through its ornate rooms to admire a world-class collection of historical musical instruments, rare manuscripts, and intricate architectural craft.

ACTIVITIES

- **Visit Tunis Medina**
  Explore the historic medina of Tunis with a local guide, walking through narrow lanes, souks, and traditional workshops. Visit the central market to see colourful produce, spices, and everyday local life.
- **Drive Tunis → Carthage**
  Leave central Tunis and drive to the nearby archaeological area of Carthage on the coast. Pass modern suburbs that surround the ancient ruins.
- **Visit Carthage Archaeological Sites**
  Discover the ruins of Carthage, including the Antonine Baths and remains of the Punic and Roman city. Walk among columns, foundations, and harbour areas that recall the city's powerful past.
- **Drive Carthage → Sidi Bou Said**
  Travel from Carthage to the clifftop village of Sidi Bou Said. Follow coastal roads with views over the Gulf of Tunis.
- **Visit Sidi Bou Said**
  Stroll through Sidi Bou Said's whitewashed streets with blue doors and window frames. Enjoy sea views, small cafés, and the relaxed feel of this hilltop village.
- **Visit Ennejma Ezzahra Palace Sidi Bou Said**
  The exquisite Ennejma Ezzahra Palace, an Arab-Andalusian masterpiece in tranquil gardens, houses the Centre for Arab and Mediterranean Music with world-class collections of instruments, manuscripts, and architectural craft.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
The Residence	Breakfast

DAY 8

Olive Oil Tasting & Lunch at Domaine Ben Ismail. Visit Roman Dougga and the Arab-Andalusian town of Testour

Set off inland to Medjez El Bab for an immersive olive oil tasting experience and traditional lunch at Domaine Ben Ismail. Learn about North Africa’s long-standing olive cultivation traditions and modern extraction processes before taking part in a guided tasting session to sample the estate's award-winning olive oils. Following the tasting, enjoy a delicious lunch cooked with fresh, local ingredients, offering an authentic taste of rural Tunisian gastronomy. Continue the journey to Dougga, widely considered one of the best-preserved Roman cities in North Africa and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Perched high on a hillside overlooking fertile valleys, this magnificent ancient city features extraordinarily intact monuments. Explore the grand Capitol, the remarkably preserved theatre, various temples, and the sprawling forum while taking in panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. On the return leg, stop in the peaceful town of Testour to discover its unique Arab-Andalusian heritage. Founded by Moriscos exiled from Spain in the 17th century, Testour showcases distinctive architectural details, most notably seen at its famous Great Mosque, which features an unusual counter-clockwise clock on its minaret. Stroll through its quiet streets to appreciate this rare cultural fusion before completing the drive back to Tunis.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Tunis to Medjez El Bab**
  Travel inland from Tunis to Medjez El Bab for the next activity.
- **Olive Oil Tasting and Lunch at Domaine Ben Ismail**
  Learn about North Africa's olive-growing traditions and modern extraction at Domaine Ben Ismail, then join a guided tasting followed by lunch prepared with local ingredients.
- **Drive Medjez El Bab to Dougga**
  The road continues from Medjez El Bab to Dougga, one of the best-preserved Roman cities in North Africa and a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- **Visit Archaeological Site of Dougga**
  Discover Dougga, one of North Africa's best-preserved Roman towns and a UNESCO World Heritage site. The morning is given over to its extensive ruins, including the Capitol, the large Theatre and the Libyco-Punic Mausoleum, alongside the temples and paved streets that reveal how a Roman provincial city actually worked.
- **Drive Dougga to Testour**
  The return journey stops at Testour, a peaceful town with unique Arab-Andalusian heritage founded by Moriscos exiled from Spain.
- **Visit Testour**
  Testour was founded by Moriscos exiled from Spain in the 17th century and showcases distinctive architectural details including the famous Great Mosque with its unusual counter-clockwise clock on the minaret.
- **Drive Testour to Tunis**
  The final drive returns to Tunis for the evening.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
The Residence	Breakfast,Lunch

DAY 9 Transfer to Tunis Airport for departure

Your time is free today until we transfer you to the airport for your departure flight. Extensions are available to add onto the end of the tour to spend some time by the sea. If you'd like to experience more of Tunisia, why not consider our Tunisia Eclipse Extension tour, which takes you to the green North of the country, a stark contrast to the desert landscapes of the south.

ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time / Leisure – Tunis**
  Enjoy free time in Tunis to rest after your flight or take a short walk near the hotel. Start getting a feel for the local atmosphere at your own pace.
- **Drive Tunis City Hotel → Tunis Airport**
  Travel from your hotel in Tunis back to the airport in time for departure. Enjoy a final look at the city on the way.
- **Tunis Airport (Departure)**
  Check in at Tunis Airport for your onward or homeward flight. Say goodbye to Tunisia after a tour filled with history, desert scenery, and cultural encounters.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
N/A	Breakfast

INCLUDED

- 8 nights deluxe level accommodation in Tunis & Mahdia
- A day dedicated to witnessing the 2027 solar eclipse in a coastal location close to Sfax
- Soft All Inclusive (whilst in Mahdia - meals, soft drinks, but not alcoholic drinks)
- All transport and transfers
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Services of a local tour guide for all sightseeing tours
- Monument entrance fees
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

EXCLUDED

- International flights
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Eclipse Viewing Glasses (recommended)
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tipping
- Any other items not mentioned above

Notes

Please note that whilst the itinerary and accommodations detailed represent our current plans, the significant popularity of this event may lead local authorities to implement specific controls and arrangements over the eclipse days. The exact arrangements for Eclipse Day will therefore be finalised closer to departure. We have

confirmed allocations at the hotels listed, but owing to the unprecedented demand anticipated for these dates, we may also use some alternative hotels of an equivalent standard should the need arise.

Deposit Note:

Please note that due to stricter cancellation and deposit rules imposed by accommodations over this travel period, our standard deposit policy will not apply to this tour, please find the deposit rules applicable to this tour below:

Initial non-refundable deposit at point of booking - GB£800 / US$1100 per person (or equivalent in your currency - you will be advised on the required deposit in your selected currency during the online booking process)

Interim non-refundable deposit at 31 Dec 2026 - GB£1000 / US$1350 per person

Balance due by 31 Mar 2027 (non-refundable after payment)

Tour Options

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements , full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

Extra night in Tunis - pre-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra night to the start of your tour in Tunisia, staying in the same hotel in Tunis as the main tour itself (subject to availability at the time of booking). Your airport arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing a twin/double room on a bed and breakfast basis.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

Extra night in Tunis - post-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra night to the end of your tour in Tunisia, staying in the same hotel in Tunis as the main tour itself (subject to availability at the time of booking). Your airport departure transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing a twin/double room on a bed and breakfast basis.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

Enfidha Airport Transfer Supplement (Return) *Min numbers: 1*

Your tour price includes the cost of a return airport transfer from/to Tunis Airport. Many European countries offer low-cost flights To Enfidha Airport, this option covers the additional cost of a transfer from/to Enfidha Airport.

Important Notes

1 Dates & Prices

This tour has been arranged to coincide with the 2027 total solar eclipse, therefore we only have 1 departure scheduled on this itinerary. The tour is guaranteed to run with a minimum of 10 travellers and a maximum of 30. Departure dates and prices are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet available on request.

2 Accommodation

The accommodation on this tour is based on deluxe level hotels, with the specific hotels being subject to change. The Residence Tunis is an example of the kind of luxury accommodation you can expect on this tour, with other properties normally used on this tour mentioned within the accommodation section.

Accommodation is based on twin, triple or double en-suite rooms/cabins with air conditioning. All couples will be given a private double room.

Please check the Single Room Supplement option for details on room sharing options and charges for solo travellers on this tour.

3 Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You may make a deposit or full payment online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer (full payments are due 8 weeks before departure). We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer, or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please contact us if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

4 Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and are committed to providing our customers with financial protection to provide peace of mind and to allow you to book with confidence.
We have therefore partnered with Trust My Travel Ltd., which provides financial protection services to over 2000 partners around the world. Funds paid to us by our customers are protected via an Insurance policy held by Trust My Travel. Each traveller and the description of services sold is declared against Trust My Travel’s insurance policy

directly against our financial failure. In the event of our insolvency, you will be refunded for any unfulfilled products and/or repatriation to the UK (where applicable). Please see our website or booking conditions for more information.

5 Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.
The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudge: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.
- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Encounters Travel shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

6 Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.
www.facebook.com/encounterstravel

https://x.com/encounterstravl (yes, without the 'e')

7 Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event).

Considering travel insurance for your trip? World Nomads Travel Insurance offers coverage for more than 150 adventure activities as well as emergency medical, lost luggage, trip cancellation and more.

If your tour includes car hire, or if you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

If you are taking expensive camera gear or other electronic equipment with you then please check the coverage and the fine print of your policy to ensure that you have sufficient cover.

IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.

Covid-19

Before purchasing any travel insurance, please check the coverage provided for situations related to Covid-19, and for the rules about government travel advice. Your normal policy may not be suitable.

8 Before you travel

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current official government travel advice for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's 'Travel Aware' campaign which provides further useful and invaluable information.

travel aware
gov.uk/travelaware

9

Reduce Plastic Waste with Water-to-Go Filter bottles

Traveling responsibly means minimizing plastic waste, but staying hydrated on the go is essential. At Encounters Travel we are committed to reducing single-use plastics, which is why we've partnered with Water-to-Go. Their portable filtration system removes over 99.9% of contaminants from any non-saltwater source, turning even questionable water sources into safe drinking water.

Given that tap water is un-safe to drink in many of the countries in which we operate, we recommend purchasing a Water-to-Go bottle prior to departure. This will help you avoid the use of single use plastic bottles and keep you hydrated on the go.

Save big! Get a huge 25% off your Water-to-Go bottle and other Water-to-Go products (such as filters, lids, and carriers). Use code **ENCOUNTERS25** at checkout (valid in the UK, USA and Canada).

How Water-to-Go Technology works:

- Their reusable, BPA free water bottles contain their own unique 3-in-1 filtration technology effectively providing clean safe drinking water from any non-salt water source around the world.
- Three different (1 traditional and 2 nano) technologies are combined in one filter cartridge to remove up to 99.9999% of microbiological contaminants in water.

The three technologies used in a Water-to-Go filter are:

- Mechanical filtration – A tiny pore size, so small contaminants can’t fit through.
- Electrical – A positive charge reduces the pore size even further and attracts contaminants like a magnet, trapping them inside the filter.
- Activated Carbon – Unlike most carbon based filters, instead of using adhesives to glue the carbon particles together, (which vastly reduces the carbon’s efficiency) it is contained within the membrane, helping to reduce contaminants whilst eliminating bad tastes and odours. Try filtering water from your tap at home and taste the difference!

Water-to-Go filter bottles deliver safe, healthy water worldwide

- Water-to-Go filters remove bacteria, viruses, waterborne disease, protozoa, heavy metals such as lead as well as harmful chemicals.
- Their filters remove Chlorine and Fluoride from tap water.
- The filter will eliminate harmful contaminants from the water but allow beneficial minerals such as sodium and magnesium to pass through leaving you with the healthiest water possible.

- Water-to-Go filters have been independently tested against internationally recognised standards by industry specialists including The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), BCS Laboratories (USA), Bangalore Test House (India) and IMI (China).

Use Water-to-Go products and you'll be healthier, wealthier and helping to make the world a better place!

- Depending on filter size, each Water-to-Go filter is able to replace 260 or 400 single-use plastic water bottles!
- They ensure you have access to safe water anywhere in the world without ever having to buy environmentally damaging bottled water.
- Their water bottles deliver safe, clean drinking water at just 5p per litre.
- The filter membrane is biodegradable and the shrouds are recyclable.
- The water bottles are used and approved by everyone from backpackers to commuters, gym users to expecting mums. Perfect for everyday, outdoor and travel.

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10 Private & Tailor-made Tours

While our group departures offer a fantastic way to explore with like-minded travellers, we understand that some guests prefer a more exclusive experience. Most of our group tours can be booked on a private basis, allowing you to enjoy the same expert-led routes with your own dedicated party. The primary advantage of choosing a private arrangement is the flexibility it provides; we can easily customise the itinerary to include your preferred style of accommodation or adjust the pace to suit your needs. Private tours can be run on the same start days as our group tours, or on other dates. However, some activities within our trips are restricted to particular days of the week - we will advise you on anything like this that we need to work around. Pricing will be based on the number of travellers in your party, and any customisations you may like to make.

For those seeking something truly unique, our specialist sales team is available to collaborate with you on a completely tailor-made tour, designed from the ground up to match your specific interests, accommodation level and requirements.

To request a quotation for a private or tailor-made tour, please contact us.

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11 Transport

Our trips feature a mix of different transport options. We want you to feel like you're really experiencing the country you're travelling through, but at the same time we want you to finish journeys refreshed enough to enjoy the next stage of the tour. The terrain and public transport options in Tunisia mean that we use private AC minibuses or coaches throughout this tour, subject to the final size of the group. On tours visiting the desert regions of Tunisia, we will use 4X4's.

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12 Transfers

Our Tunisia tours include a 24-hour airport meet & assist service in Tunis airport, your arrival and departure airport-hotel transfers and all other transfers. Our representative will meet you after your have passed through immigration, collected your luggage and exited the arrivals hall in the open air. Transfers are possible from Enfidha Airport at an additional cost, please speak to our sales team. Your airport transfers are only included on the first and last day of the set tour itinerary, plus on any additional days if you book your hotel room with us. If you make your own arrangements for additional accommodation at either the beginning or the end of the tour then you will need to arrange your own airport transfers on these days.

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13 Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

We are committed to being a small group operator, as we feel this gives everyone in the group the best chance to get to know their fellow travellers and to hear and make the most of their guide. There's no point in us providing great guides if you've got to peer over 30-40 shoulders to see them! So, we won't ever put you in a 50-seater coach with 49 other people and just one guide. Instead, we set our Tunisia small-group departures to have a maximum of 12travellers.

Specialist escorted tours (such as our Eclipse departures) and workshops may have different group sizes - please download the Tour Notes for details.

In Tunisia we provide fully trained, local English-speaking guides to run your tour and escort you during all of the sightseeing.

Guiding in other languages may also available on private departures (eg. German, Italian, Spanish) - please contact us for details and quotations.

At Encounters Travel we only use local Tunisian guides and reps. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing.

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14 International Flights

We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people with varying travel plans, we don't include your international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to suggest flights to go with the tour. Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we'll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from.

Your airport arrival & departure transfers are included on the first and last days of the tour. All our Tunisia tours start and finish in Tunis and are served by Tunis Carthage airport (TUN).
Many European airlines operate low-cost flights to Enfidha Airport, we therefore offer the option of booking airport transfers from/to Enfidha Airport - please check the options section for details.

We do also sometimes advertise flight inclusive packages from selected airports. Where these are shown on our website, prices are correct at the time of quoting, but are subject to continued availability of the fare used. Prices will be reconfirmed at the time of booking, and we will also provide the flight times and airline details before tickets are issued.

Flight inclusive prices are based on the cheapest Economy ticket class available which is generally non-refundable and non-changeable unless the flight is cancelled for reasons such as Covid-19, in which case the airlines are more flexible. More flexible ticket options, as well as Premium Economy and Business Class tickets are available on request for an additional supplement. Any changes made to flight inclusive bookings will be subject to the airline rules on your ticket.

Flight CO2 Emissions:

Traveling by air is an amazing way to explore the world, but flights also contribute to carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that impact the environment. By considering the airline's CO2 emissions when you choose your flight, you can help minimize your travel footprint.

When selecting your international flights and airline, we do therefore recommend that you try and also take into account the flight CO2 emissions. Some airlines and flight search websites (eg. Google Flights, Skyscanner) do publish this information, so you can compare between your flight options and make an informed decision. Thankfully, many airlines are working towards sustainability efforts, and choosing a greener option allows you to contribute to positive change while still enjoying your incredible adventure.

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15 Entrance Fees

The tour price includes entrance fees to all the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. You will need to cover the cost of entrance to any other extra sites that you may wish to visit.

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16 Tipping

Tipping and haggling are common practices in Tunisia and other countries in the region. Service staff often earn low wages, and tips are a necessary addition to their income. If you are visiting from a country where this is not the case, the following guidelines should prove helpful.

On our Small Group Tours we suggest you budget around USD 5-10 per person per day to cover tour guide tips, depending on your personal budget and satisfaction with the service provided. On private/tailor-made tours, we recommend budgeting a bit more.

Throughout your trip, you may also have a local guide in addition to your main guide, we suggest budgeting around USD 5 per person per day. For drivers we suggest a tip of around USD 3-5 per person per day. For hotel porters USD 1-2 and for public rest-rooms, we suggest keeping small Euro or USD notes available. If your tour features a 4X4 jeep ride, we suggest budgeting a tip of around USD 4-5 per person.

In local markets and basic restaurants, you can leave any loose change. For more expensive restaurants, we suggest tipping 5% to 10% of the bill.

Haggling:

Haggling is a traditional practice, so do not pay too much attention to the initial prices whilst shopping in markets. Instead, decide on a value for the item in your mind and then negotiate towards it without rushing, as Tunisians never rush their bargaining. Do not be afraid to simply walk away if the price is not right. However, if you do mention a price, you should be prepared to pay it to avoid causing offence.

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17 What to take

Luggage: Small or medium-sized suitcases, rucksacks, or fabric holdalls are all suitable to bring with you to Tunisia. You should also have a small daypack or bag for daily excursions. Your main luggage will often be left at the hotel during your sightseeing trips; you will not need to carry it far, and hotel porters are almost always available to assist.

Luggage Limits: There is no luggage limit for this tour. However, most airlines restrict you to between 20kg and 25kg for your checked luggage and between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage. Please check with your airline before travelling to the airport.

Clothing: Tunisia's climate varies by region and season. The north has a warm, Mediterranean climate, while the south is much hotter and drier, particularly in desert areas. Temperatures can drop significantly at night, especially in the desert and mountains and during December and January. Rain falls primarily from November to March in coastal regions. Depending on the time of year you are visiting, you should pack for both hot and cooler conditions. To show respect for local culture and people, please ensure your clothes are loose-fitting and not revealing, as modesty is highly valued in Tunisia. Shorts (not hot pants) and T-shirts are acceptable at tourist sites, but shoulders should remain covered. In town and city centres, and when visiting mosques, legs and arms should be covered.

Other Items: If your tour includes a desert camp, all bedding is provided. However, as sand has a habit of getting everywhere, we recommend bringing a light sleeping sheet or sleeping bag liner for comfort all year round. We also recommend a light sleeping bag during the winter months (November to February), when it can get very cold in the desert. We also suggest you bring a sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, a basic first aid kit, toiletries, a money belt, a small torch, and a camera with a charger.

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18 Money

The local currency in Tunisia is the Dinar. We recommend you bring some cash in a hard currency (US Dollars, Euros, or GB Pounds) and a reliable ATM card. Most major currencies can be converted at banks, but it is not advisable to carry too much cash. Euros and US Dollars are generally more widely accepted than GB Pounds. Traveller's cheques are not easily exchanged.

It can be difficult outside of major cities like Tunis or Sousse to find an ATM that accepts foreign cards. Always check for the symbol on the machine that matches your card before inserting it, to avoid your card being retained. In some smaller towns, there may not be any ATMs that take foreign cards, so ensure you have enough cash to last until you reach the next major city. BCM appears to be the most reliable bank for accepting foreign cards at their ATMs.

While in Tunisia, you will need sufficient funds to cover meals not included in the itinerary, drinks, snacks, souvenirs, tips, and personal expenses such as laundry. These should generally all be paid for in Tunisian Dinars. It is difficult to suggest a specific amount for personal spending as this can vary greatly, but as a guideline, we would suggest allowing USD 15-25 per person per day as a minimum. Allow more if you plan on doing a lot of shopping or purchasing many alcoholic drinks.

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19 Voltage

Sockets in Tunisia are two-round-pronged and 220 volts (Type C/E). Universal adapters are available in most airport shops if you do not have one already. Standard European adapters will work, though they may feel a little loose in the sockets. All hotel rooms have electrical sockets where you can recharge cameras, phones, and other devices. Hair dryers are usually available on request from the hotel reception if they are not already in your room. If you have US appliances (110 volts), you will need a voltage converter as

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20 Health and Vaccinations

You should ensure you are fully insured for medical emergencies including emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to the country you are visiting and where you are travelling from. We recommend you contact your GP/medical practitioner or a travel clinic for current information on vaccinations needed for your destination. You should ensure that you are up to date with vaccines and boosters recommended for your normal life at home, including for example, vaccines required for occupational risk of exposure, lifestyle risks and underlying medical conditions. In addition, additional courses or boosters normally recommended for the countries in this region are:

South Africa: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.
Namibia: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from an infected area.
Botswana: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted or travelled through an infected area.
Zimbabwe: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.
Zambia: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.
Malawi: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.
Tanzania: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.
Kenya: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from an infected area.
Uganda: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid, Yellow Fever. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from an infected area.
Sudan: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid, Yellow Fever. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area. A certificate may also be required for those departing Sudan.
Morocco: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria not normally present. Yellow Fever certificate not required.
Tunisia: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria not normally present. Yellow Fever

certificate not required.

The above information can change at short notice. For up to date health information & vaccination requirements we recommend that you contact your medical practitioner or a travel clinic.

Malaria: Vaccinations are not available against Malaria, which is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes that can be very serious and sometimes fatal. You should avoid mosquito bites by covering up bare skin with clothing such as long sleeves and long trousers and applying insect repellents to exposed skin. When necessary, sleep under a mosquito net. Mosquitoes are most active during and after sunset. You should consult with your GP/medical practitioner/travel clinic about the most appropriate malaria prophylactic medication to take for the regions you are visiting.

Yellow Fever: This disease is spread by infected mosquitoes that bite during the day. A Yellow Fever Certificate of vacinnation is often required as a condition of entry depending on which country you are arriving from, or that you have travelled or transitted through recently (including connecting flights with stopovers of over 12 hours). You can view this US CDC information about where the virus is present and follow the links to further information detailing which countries need you to have a Yellow Fever vaccination as part of their entry requirements. Please ensure you have this certificate organised in advance and with you and to hand during the trip.

Please inform us of any pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or asthma and any prescription medicine you may be taking. We also need to know about any food allergies or physical disabilities that you may have.
If you are travelling on an Overland tour or your trip includes wildlife safaris then please bear in mind that you may be travelling on bumpy roads and/or rough ground for several hours at a time. This can be very uncomfortable or painful if you have a bad back, and make such conditions worse. Please contact us if you have any concerns.

Health Declaration: As many of our Africa tours travel through very remote regions, where medical facilities are limited, we are asking all of our travellers 65 years and over who are joining one of our Africa Overland Adventures to complete the attached medical questionnaire. The information provided to Encounters Travel and our local operational partners will be held to the strictest confidence and will be used only to the extent to provide necessary emergency medical care and/or evaluate physical health and fitness for travel.

We will request this from you approximately 30 days before your trip starts, so that your GP can sign your form based on your current health conditions. Please don't submit this several months in advance, as it is important for us to know you are fit for travel just before the trip departs.

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21 Time

The time in Tunisia is the same as GMT (plus 0 hours). Daylight saving adjustments are generally applied between the end of March and the end of October, making the time GBP plus 1 hour. During this period, the time may revert back to GMT during Ramadan. Exact dates vary from year to year, and sometimes the changes may be scrapped altogether.

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22 Passports and Visas

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring a passport that is almost full or almost expired. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and

requirements are subject to change by the local authorities. We recommend that you contact your closest Tunisian consulate or embassy for the most current information for your nationality.

Currently, many nationalities (including USA, Canada, UK, European, Australian, New Zealand) do not need to obtain a visa to enter Tunisia, as long as your stay is for less than 90 days. Other nationalities should check with their local consulate.
