

## Tunisia Encompassed

**Country(ies):** Tunisia

**Tour type:** Small Group

**Transport:** A/C car/minibus/coach, 4x4

**Group size:** Min: 3 | Max: 12

**Days:** 13 days

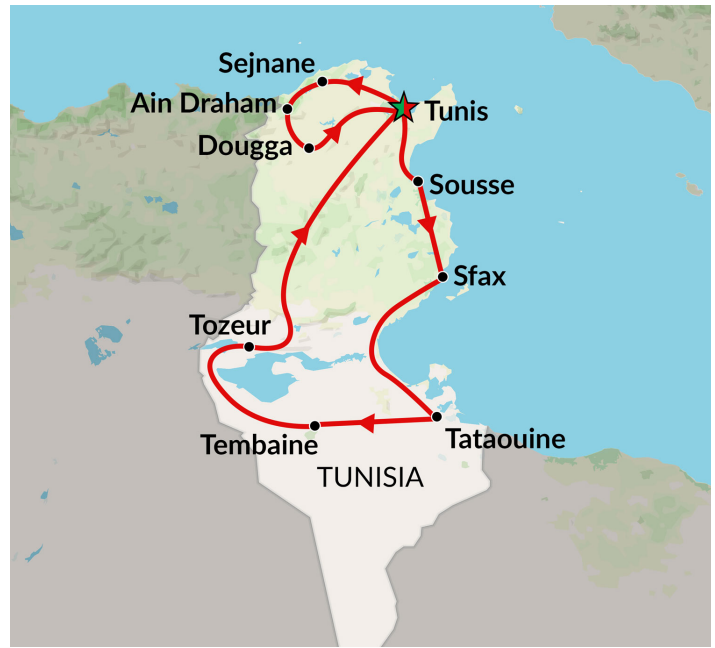
**Start Location:** Tunis, Tunisia

**End Location:** Tunis, Tunisia

**Meals:** Breakfasts - 12, Lunches - 3, Dinners - 7

**Highlights:**

Tunis, Sejnane Pottery, Ain Draham, Tabarka, Dougga, El Kef, Carthage, Sidi Bou Said, Harissa Making, Cooking Class, Hammamet & Sousse Medina, El Jem, Matmata, Off-road 4x4, Desert Camp, Douz, Tozeur, Kairouan



# Itinerary

## Day 1: Arrive in Tunis, transfer to hotel

Upon arrival our staff will meet you at the airport and then transfer you to your hotel for the start of your trip. They will help you settle in, introduce you to the local area, and explain tomorrow's arrangements. The rest of the day is free to begin exploring the local area.

**OVERNIGHT:** Tunis hotel

**MEALS:** None

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 2: Sejnane pottery workshop, Tabarka, and Ain Draham Highlands

Your day begins with a deeply enriching visit to Sejnane, a small town in Northwest Tunisia that is the proud home of a UNESCO-listed intangible cultural heritage: the unique, ancient pottery skills practised exclusively by the local women. Here, you will not simply observe, but actively participate in an intimate Pottery Workshop with the women of Sejnane. This hands-on session offers a rare opportunity to learn their distinctive, millennia-old techniques of hand-shaping clay without a wheel and decorating the pieces with natural earth pigments, a tradition that preserves a significant part of Tunisia's Berber history and cultural identity.

Following this immersion into craft, the journey continues to the picturesque coastal town of Tabarka. Dominated by its maritime heritage and striking red-rock coastline, you will explore the historic Roman Fort (also known as the Genoese Fort), strategically situated on an islet connected to the mainland. From this vantage point, you can enjoy spectacular panoramic views where the dense green of the surrounding forests meets the azure waters of the Mediterranean.

Finally, you will drive toward the highlands to Ain Draham, a renowned mountain retreat nestled in the Kroumirie Mountains. You will visit the refreshing forests of Ain Draham, a sanctuary of cork oak and evergreen trees known for their crisp, cool air, offering a perfect contrast to the coast. The day concludes with a peaceful overnight stay in a local hotel, allowing you to relax amid the tranquility of the mountain landscape.

**OVERNIGHT:** Ain Draham hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 3: Guided Forest Hike and lunch with a local family

Your day begins with a leisurely breakfast at the hotel in the refreshing mountain air of Ain Draham, preparing you for a day of nature and authentic local culture.

Following breakfast, you will embark on a dedicated hiking tour in the forest of Ain Draham. This is more than a simple walk; you'll enjoy a guided hike led by a local expert who will reveal the region's rich ecological diversity. As you traverse the cool, shaded paths through the dense cork oak and evergreen trees of the Kroumirie Mountains, the guide will share insights into the unique flora and fauna of the area, highlighting the natural beauty and conservation of this distinctive Tunisian environment.

The mid-day offers a truly special and memorable experience: a unique cultural moment that focuses on connection and storytelling. You will share a traditional lunch with a local family within the forest area. This isn't just a meal; it is a warm, authentic culinary experience that allows you to taste traditional regional cuisine while sharing stories and engaging directly with the community. This intimate exchange provides a genuine insight into the local way of life and hospitality.

After a fulfilling day of hiking and cultural immersion, you will return to your accommodation for an overnight stay in Ain Draham, ensuring you can fully relax and appreciate the serene atmosphere of the mountain retreat.

**OVERNIGHT:** Ain Draham hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## **Day 4: Exploring historic Bulla Regia, the Medina of El Kef & bread making experience. Drive to Dougga**

Your day of historical exploration begins with a departure for the renowned archaeological site of Bulla Regia. Accompanied by your guide, you will delve into the region's rich past, discovering remarkable ancient ruins. Bulla Regia is particularly famous for its extraordinary subterranean villas, built below ground level to provide coolness during the hot summer months, offering a unique insight into Roman domestic architecture.

Following your deep dive into antiquity, the journey continues to the historic city of El Kef, where you will visit the atmospheric old Medina. Wandering through its narrow streets provides a window into traditional Tunisian urban life. A highlight of the afternoon is a unique cultural and culinary experience at Dar el Khobz (the House of Bread). Here, you will not only sample but also experience the traditional craft of making and tasting different types of delicious regional breads, connecting you with an essential part of Tunisian daily life and hospitality.

As the afternoon draws to a close, we drive toward the magnificent Roman city of Dougga. This journey positions you perfectly for the next day's explorations. Upon arrival, you will enjoy a relaxed dinner before your overnight stay in a local hotel near Dougga, ready to awaken to another day of discovery.

**OVERNIGHT:** Dougga hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## **Day 5: Visit the Roman Ruins at Dougga. Olive Oil Tasting and Farm to Table Lunch. Return to Tunis**

The day begins with a drive from Tunis to Dougga, a UNESCO World Heritage site and North Africa's best-preserved Roman town. The morning is dedicated to exploring the extensive ruins, including the Capitol, the large Theatre, and the Lybico-Punic Mausoleum, offering direct insight into the site's historical significance.

Next, you will travel to the Domaine Ben Ismail Reserve or a similar estate for a practical, culinary interlude. This includes an organic olive oil tasting, where you will sample local varieties and learn about the pressing process. This is followed by a traditional, simple Tunisian lunch using farm-fresh ingredients.

The afternoon concludes the trip with the return drive back to Tunis.

**OVERNIGHT:** Tunis hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 6: A Day of Culture, Cuisine, and History. Medina, Cooking Class, Carthage, and Sidi Bou Said

Begin your day with a fascinating, guided exploration of the historic Tunis Medina, a UNESCO World Heritage site and a dazzling labyrinth of covered souks, workshops, and centuries-old mosques. Your expert local guide will navigate the atmospheric alleyways, providing insight into the city's rich past as you discover hidden fountains, traditional artisan crafts, and the impressive architecture nestled within the ancient walls.

The immersion in local culture continues with a hands-on Tunisian Cooking Class. This authentic culinary experience commences with a guided tour of the bustling Central Market within the Medina. Here, you will join your local chef to hand-select the freshest seasonal produce and ingredients. Following the market visit, you will be welcomed into a traditional Tunisian house where the chef will unveil their secrets during a comprehensive, practical demonstration. You will learn ancestral cooking techniques passed down through generations to prepare a true, delicious Tunisian dish, which you will then savour for lunch.

In the afternoon, we delve into ancient history with a visit to the colossal archaeological sites of Carthage. We will explore the remnants of this legendary Punic and Roman city, including the expansive Antonine Baths of Carthage—the largest Roman public baths built in Africa—and the evocative ruins of the Old Punic Port.

We conclude the day in the picturesque village of Sidi Bou Said. Enjoy a leisurely walk through its famed, charmingly paved streets, admiring the contrast of gleaming white walls and striking bright blue doors and window frames. This coastal jewel offers stunning panoramic views over the Gulf of Tunis before we return to your hotel.

**OVERNIGHT:** Tunis hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 7: Harissa making, Hammamet and Sousse Medina & the Amphitheatre of El Jem

Begin your day with a satisfying breakfast at the hotel before heading north to the coastal town of Nabeul, famed as the craft capital of Tunisia. Upon arrival, you will immerse yourselves in the local culture by joining an interactive Harissa-making workshop. Under the guidance of a local expert, you will learn the secrets behind preparing the national condiment of Tunisia, from selecting and toasting the fiery chilli peppers to pounding the spices by hand, acquiring skills you can take back to your own kitchen.

Following your workshop, we take a short drive to the nearby resort town of Hammamet, where you will visit the charming Old Medina. Here, wander along the ramparts and enjoy the views across the Gulf, exploring the compact, walled town centre known for its fragrant jasmine and picturesque fortifications.

We then continue south to Sousse to explore its captivating, UNESCO World Heritage-listed Medina, a prime example of a fortified coastal town from the first centuries of Islam. After navigating the historic ramparts and narrow, bustling streets, you will visit the Archaeological Museum of Sousse, housed within the Casbah. This museum holds one of the finest collections of Roman mosaics in the world, offering a stunning visual record of ancient life and mythology.

The historical journey culminates with a visit to the magnificent Amphitheatre of El Jem, another UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the best-preserved Roman colosseums in the world, rivalling even Rome's in size. Explore this colossal structure and imagine the ancient spectacles that once took place here. Finally, we proceed to Sfax, where you will check into your accommodation for your overnight stay.

**OVERNIGHT:** Sfax hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:**

## **Day 8: Journey to the Troglodytes and Desert Villages**

After enjoying breakfast at your hotel, we begin the day by heading south, venturing deep into the striking, semi-lunar landscape of the Dahar mountains towards Matmata. This Berber village is globally famous for its remarkable troglodyte houses—underground dwellings carved into the soft sandstone to escape the summer heat. You'll have a chance to enter these fascinating traditional homes to appreciate the ingenious architecture and the way of life preserved beneath the earth.

While in Matmata, we will specifically explore the Hotel Sidi Idriss, a classic example of troglodyte architecture and instantly recognisable as the interior set for the Lars Homestead (Luke Skywalker's childhood home) in the Star Wars films.

We will then pause for a panoramic photo stop at Toujane, a picturesque terraced Berber village nestled high on a ridge, offering breathtaking views across the vast landscape.

The highlight of the afternoon is a meaningful visit to the Women of GDA El Ferch, a remarkable local cooperative. This organisation is entirely led by rural women dedicated to empowerment through sustainable agriculture and the preservation of traditional crafts. You will be welcomed into their authentic setting for a truly hands-on experience: the women will guide you in preparing artisanal sauces and traditional desert snacks, using techniques and ingredients passed down through generations. Crucially, they will share their inspiring personal stories and insights into their work, providing a warm, authentic, and unforgettable cultural exchange.

Our journey concludes with a visit to Ksar Hadada, a striking fortified granary (ksar) that served as another iconic filming location for the Star Wars saga, providing the backdrop for the slave quarters of Mos Espa. Following this cinematic stop, we proceed to Tataouine, where you will check into your accommodation for your overnight stay, perfectly positioned to continue your exploration of Southern Tunisia tomorrow.

**OVERNIGHT:** Tataouine hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## **Day 9: Exploring the Sahara region, 4x4 experience and bread making. Overnight at a berber desert camp**

We start the day with a stunning drive along scenic mountain roads, traversing the dramatic Dahar region to reach Douirette. This peaceful, historic Berber village is known for its quiet charm and unique traditional architecture, which clings to the steep hillside.

Our journey continues to the magnificent Berber village of Guermassa. Perched dramatically on a rugged hilltop, Guermassa is considered one of Southern Tunisia's most picturesque settlements. You will have time to explore its ancient stone houses and enjoy breathtaking, panoramic views of the surrounding desert and mountain ranges.

Next, we head toward the edge of the great Erg Oriental, arriving in Douz, famously known as the "Gateway to the Sahara."

From Douz, the true desert adventure begins. We embark on an exhilarating 4x4 off-road journey deep into the sweeping dunes to reach Tembaine. Experience the thrill of travelling across the ever-changing desert

landscape, plunging into the golden sands of the Grand Erg Oriental.

As the sun begins to set over the vast dunes, we pause for an authentic Sahara Bread-Making Demonstration. You will witness the traditional preparation of Mellah, or desert bread, mixed and baked directly in the sand using age-old techniques passed down through generations—a truly iconic nomadic experience.

Finally, we arrive at our Desert Camp. You will enjoy a delicious dinner under the stars before retiring to your tent, which combines comfort with an authentic desert experience, featuring a private bathroom for a restful overnight stay deep within the silence of the Sahara.

**OVERNIGHT:** Berber desert camp

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 10: Journey from the Sahara to the Oasis City of Tozeur

After a deep desert experience, we begin the day with an exhilarating 4x4 off-roading journey out of the dunes, following ancient tracks as we head back towards civilisation in Douz.

Upon arriving in Douz, we will take time to explore its famous souk, a vibrant and authentic local market known especially for its traditional desert crafts, spices, and the characteristic red wool that Bedouins use for their blankets and clothes. This is a perfect opportunity to experience the atmosphere of a traditional Saharan town.

Our journey then takes us across the striking salt lake of Chott el Jerid. We'll pause for memorable photos at this otherworldly location, where the vast, shimmering salt flats create stunning visual illusions and mirages, especially when the light is just right.

From there, we drive to the oasis city of Tozeur. Upon arrival, we will check into our hotel and then proceed to visit the historic Medina of Tozeur. The architecture here is unique, featuring intricate patterns made from local, sun-dried bricks that distinguish it from other Medinas in Tunisia. You'll wander through its shaded alleyways and admire the distinctive craftsmanship.

Finally, you will enjoy dinner before settling in for your overnight stay at the hotel in Tozeur, preparing for the next day's exploration of the region's vast palm groves and canyons.

**OVERNIGHT:** Tozeur hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 11: Star Wars filming locations and desert oases

Following breakfast, we embark on a journey into the cinematic sands of the desert, heading to Ong Jemel. This iconic site, whose name translates to "Camel's Neck," is instantly recognisable as a famous filming location from the Star Wars saga. We will explore this evocative site, offering stunning desert vistas and a fascinating connection to cinematic history, allowing for excellent photo opportunities in the vast, open landscape.

The adventure then turns toward the Atlas foothills as we explore the region's breathtaking mountain oases. Our first stop is Chebika, known for its lush palm groves and dramatic cliffs. Next, we visit the refreshing waterfalls of Tamerza, the largest mountain oasis in Tunisia, offering a spectacular contrast to the arid desert with its natural springs and cascading water.

Finally, we delve into the awe-inspiring canyon and oasis of Mides. You will enjoy a guided walk through the breathtakingly narrow Mides canyon, providing stunning geological views. Afterwards, take a moment to appreciate the panoramic views of the picturesque oasis nestled deep within the gorge.

In the late afternoon, we drive back to Tozeur, returning you to your accommodation. The afternoon is then yours to enjoy at leisure. You may choose to relax by the hotel pool, or explore the charming town at your own pace—perhaps revisiting the unique brickwork of the Medina or seeking out a local café.

**OVERNIGHT:** Tozeur hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 12: Exploring Sbeitla and Kairouan. Return to Tunis

Following breakfast at your hotel, we begin our day with a timely 7:30 am departure as we head north to Sbeitla (ancient Sufetula), home to one of Tunisia's most pristine and architecturally complete Roman archaeological sites.

We dedicate the morning to exploring the magnificent Archaeological Site of Sbeitla. Here, you will wander through a remarkably preserved historical complex, distinguished by its three monumental temples dedicated to Jupiter, Juno, and Minerva. Your visit will encompass the ancient Roman forum, the beautifully preserved baths, and the triumphal arch, providing a powerful insight into Roman provincial life in North Africa.

Next, we continue to the holy city of Kairouan, the spiritual heart of Tunisia and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Upon arrival, our first stop is the revered Great Mosque of Kairouan (Mosque of Uqba). You will discover one of the oldest and most important Islamic monuments in North Africa, admiring its grand courtyard, impressive minaret, and the ancient columns repurposed from Roman and Byzantine sites.

Afterwards, we will explore the Old Medina of Kairouan. Your guide will lead you through the historic, quiet alleys, where you can admire the traditional architecture and the local makroudh pastry shops. The Medina remains a treasure trove of traditional crafts and offers a peaceful atmosphere distinct from the bustling souks of Tunis.

Finally, we begin our drive back to the capital, Tunis, where you will check into your hotel for your overnight stay, concluding your journey through Tunisia's rich history and diverse landscapes.

**OVERNIGHT:** Tunis hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 13: Free time in Tunis, hotel to airport transfer included

Your time is free in Tunis today until we pick you up from your hotel and transfer you to the airport for your departure. If you'd like to extend your time in Tunisia, please speak to our sales team who will be able to assist with beach extensions.

**OVERNIGHT:** N/A

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:**

**Included:**

- 12 nights comfortable accommodation (11 nights in hotels, 1 night at a desert camp)

- 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
- Sejnane Pottery workshop
- Harissa Making, Olive Oil Tasting, Family Meal & Bread Making
- Tunisian Cooking Class
- Sahara Desert Experience

**Excluded:**

- International flights
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tipping
- Hotel gala dinners
- Any other items not mentioned above

# Options

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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.

## Single Room Supplement (TNSGEN)

Min numbers: 1

The tour price is based on 2 people sharing twin/double rooms. This option books a single room in all the accommodation throughout the tour. If you are a single traveller and would be happy to share a room, let us know and we will see if we can pair you up with another single traveller of the same sex. If a room share is not available when you book then we will add the single room supplement to your booking and it will be payable with your balance payment unless we have arranged a room share for you by then. If a room share is arranged after you have paid the supplement then we will refund it to you. Room shares are arranged in order of booking.

**Note:** Single supplement prices may vary seasonally.

## Extra Night in Tunis - post-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the end of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport departure transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

**Note:** Single room and peak season supplements apply.

## Extra Night in Tunis - pre-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

**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.

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## 1. Accommodation

The accommodation on this tour is based on 3 to 4-star hotels (some officially rated 5-star), with the specific hotels being subject to change.

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.

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## 2. Dates & Prices

We run regular small-group departures on this tour starting on most Saturdays throughout the year. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of 3 travellers and a maximum of 12. Departure dates and prices are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet available on request.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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).

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## 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](http://www.facebook.com/encounterstravel)

<https://x.com/encounterstravel> (yes, without the 'e')

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## 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.**

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## 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.



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## 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).

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**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 you 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 vaccination 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.

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**Note:** Please [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.

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