ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

*Your passport to adventure*

# Tunisian Encounters

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|---|---|
| COUNTRY(IES) | Tunisia |
| TOUR TYPE | Small Group |
| TRANSPORT | A/C car/minibus/coach, 4x4 |
| GROUP SIZE | Min: 3 \| Max: 12 |
| DURATION | 9 days |
| STARTS | Tunis, Tunisia |
| ENDS | Tunis, Tunisia |
| MEALS | Breakfasts - 8, Lunches - 1, Dinners - 4 |

**TOUR ROUTE MAP** **9 Days**




**ROUTE:** **Tunis** (Start) → **Sfax** → **Tataouine** → **Tembaine** → **Tozeur** → **Tunis** (End)

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Tunis, 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

Begin with arrival at Tunis Airport and a comfortable transfer into the city, followed by free time to settle in and experience Tunis at your own pace. Mediterranean influences and North African heritage shape the city's distinctive atmosphere. Later, meet your tour guide for a welcome briefing, gaining useful context for the culture, places and experiences that lie ahead.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Depart 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 from Tunis Airport to 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.
- **Free Time in 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.
- **Welcome Meeting with Tour Guide in Tunis**
  Meet your tour guide and fellow travellers for a briefing about the days ahead. Go through the itinerary, ask questions, and receive practical information for the tour.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Tunis hotel | None |

## DAY 2 A Day of Culture, Cuisine, and History. Medina, Cooking Class, Carthage, and Sidi Bou Said

Spend the first part of the day in Tunis Medina and take part in a cooking class before travelling to the archaeological sites of Carthage. The visits move from contemporary local food traditions to the remains of ancient civilisations along the coast. Continue to Sidi Bou Said for time among its distinctive white-and-blue streets and Mediterranean setting, then return to Tunis after completing the scheduled visits.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Explore 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.
- **Tunisian Cooking Class in Tunis**
  Join a hands-on cooking class in a traditional Tunisian house after shopping for fresh ingredients. Learn time-honoured techniques and enjoy the meal you have helped prepare for lunch.
- **Drive from Tunis to Carthage**
  Leave central Tunis and drive to the nearby archaeological area of Carthage on the coast. Pass modern suburbs that surround the ancient ruins.
- **Explore 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 from Carthage to Sidi Bou Said**
  Travel from Carthage to the clifftop village of Sidi Bou Said. Follow coastal roads with views over the Gulf of Tunis.
- **Explore 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.

- **Drive from Sidi Bou Said to Tunis**
  Return from Sidi Bou Said to your hotel in Tunis. Arrive back in the city after a full day of history, culture, and coastal scenery.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Tunis hotel | Breakfast,Lunch |

## DAY 3 Harissa making, Hammamet and Sousse Medina & the Amphitheatre of El Jem

Travel south from Tunis to Nabeul and begin with a hands-on harissa experience before continuing to Hammamet's medina. From there, head to Sousse and visit both the medina and archaeological museum, then continue to El Jem to see the vast Roman amphitheatre. The final drive brings you to Sfax, linking several important cultural and historical centres along Tunisia's eastern side.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Tunis to Nabeul**
  Head north from Tunis along the coast toward Nabeul, known as a regional craft centre. Watch the scenery change from city districts to seaside towns and farmland.
- **Harissa in Making Workshop – Nabeul**
  Take part in a harissa-making workshop to learn how Tunisia's famous chilli paste is prepared. Grind spices, work with dried peppers, and discover how this condiment is used in local cooking.
- **Drive from Nabeul to Hammamet**
  Drive a short distance from Nabeul to the resort town of Hammamet on the Gulf. Follow coastal roads lined with beaches and holiday developments.
- **Explore Hammamet Medina**
  Visit the small medina of Hammamet with its walls and sea views. Wander along ramparts and narrow streets scented with jasmine.
- **Drive from Hammamet to Sousse**
  Continue south along the coast from Hammamet to Sousse. Pass seaside resorts and agricultural land before arriving in this historic port city.
- **Explore 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.
- **Explore Archaeological Museum of Sousse**
  Visit the Archaeological Museum of Sousse inside the old kasbah. View one of the finest collections of Roman mosaics in North Africa, depicting myths, daily life, and marine scenes.
- **Drive from Sousse to El Jem**
  Leave Sousse and drive inland toward El Jem. Travel through rural countryside dotted with small villages and olive groves.

- **Explore 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 from El Jem to Sfax**
  Continue your journey south from El Jem to Sfax on the coast. Arrive in this busy port city and check into your hotel for the night.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Sfax hotel | Breakfast |

## DAY 4 Journey to the Troglodytes and Desert Villages

Travel from Sfax to Matmata and visit Hotel Sidi Idriss before continuing into the southern mountain landscapes around Toujane. Stop at the GDA El Ferch women’s cooperative and learn more about local craft and community life, then visit the historic granary at Ksar Hadada. The final drive leads to Tataouine after a full day covering architecture, village traditions and several well-known film locations.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Sfax to Matmata**
  Depart Sfax and head inland toward the Dahar mountains and Matmata. The road gradually climbs through more arid, rocky scenery.
- **Explore Hotel Sidi Idriss in Star Wars Troglodyte Site**
  Visit traditional troglodyte homes in Matmata, cut into the soft rock to create cool underground courtyards and rooms. Learn how Berber families adapted this architecture to the harsh climate.
- **Drive from Matmata to Toujane**
  Drive from Matmata to the terraced Berber village of Toujane. Follow mountain roads with wide views over valleys and ridges.
- **Explore Toujane Viewpoint**
  Stop at a viewpoint above Toujane to photograph the stone houses cascading down the hillside. Take in the sweeping panoramas across the Dahar region.
- **Drive from Toujane to GDA El Ferch**
  Travel deeper into rural southern Tunisia from Toujane to the community of El Ferch. Pass scattered farms and open semi-desert landscapes.
- **Explore Women of GDA El Ferch Cooperative**
  Visit the Women of GDA El Ferch, a cooperative focused on sustainable agriculture and traditional crafts. Join hands-on activities such as preparing sauces and snacks while hearing the women's stories.
- **Drive from GDA El Ferch to Ksar Hadada**
  Continue to Ksar Hadada along quiet country roads. Approach the fortified granary complex perched above the plain.

- **Visit Ksar Hadada Granary and Star Wars Location**
  Explore Ksar Hadada, a multi-storey granary once used for storing grain and goods. Learn how its vaulted rooms and courtyards appeared as slave quarters in the Star Wars films.
- **Drive from Ksar Hadada to Tataouine**
  Drive the short distance from Ksar Hadada to Tataouine. Arrive and check into your hotel, ready to explore more of southern Tunisia.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Tataouine hotel | Breakfast,Dinner |

## DAY 5 Exploring the Sahara region, 4x4 experience and bread making. Overnight at a berber desert camp

Leave Tataouine for Douirette and Guermassa, visiting traditional hilltop villages before travelling onwards to Douz. From there, transfer into a 4x4 and head deeper into the desert towards Tembaine. A bread-making demonstration introduces a practical local tradition, followed by time at a Berber camp where the dunes and remote surroundings provide a distinctly different setting from the highland villages.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Tataouine to Douirette**
  Leave Tataouine and follow mountain roads toward the village of Douirette. Enjoy the changing views as the route winds through the rugged Dahar region.
- **Explore Douirette Berber Village**
  Explore the peaceful village of Douirette, known for its hillside setting and traditional architecture. Walk among stone houses and learn about local Berber life.
- **Drive from Douirette to Guermassa**
  Continue driving through the mountains from Douirette to Guermassa. The road climbs and curves, revealing dramatic ridges and open vistas.
- **Explore Guermassa Hilltop Village**
  Visit Guermassa, a striking hilltop Berber village with stone dwellings clinging to the slopes. Take in panoramic views across the surrounding desert and mountain ranges.
- **Drive from Guermassa to Douz**
  Descend from the mountains toward Douz, known as the Gateway to the Sahara. Pass dunes and palm groves as you approach this desert town.
- **Drive from Douz to Tembaine Desert Camp (4x4)**
  Board 4x4 vehicles in Douz for an off-road drive deep into the dunes around Tembaine. Experience the thrill of crossing soft sand and remote desert tracks.
- **Sahara Bread in Making Demonstration – Tembaine**
  Watch a traditional demonstration of desert bread baking in the sands near Tembaine. Learn how dough is prepared and cooked directly in embers beneath the surface.

- **Berber Desert Camp Experience in Tembaine**
  Stay overnight in a Berber desert camp with private tents set among the dunes. Enjoy dinner under the stars and soak up the silence of the Sahara.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Berber desert camp | Breakfast,Dinner |

## DAY 6 Journey from the Sahara to the Oasis City of Tozeur

Travel by 4x4 from Tembaine Desert Camp to Douz and spend time in the town’s souk before continuing towards Chott el Jerid. Stop to experience the huge salt lake and its unusual landscape, then drive to Tozeur. A visit to the medina completes the day among the traditional brick buildings and streets of this important oasis town after the long crossing from the Sahara.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Tembaine Desert Camp to Douz (4x4)**
  Depart the desert camp by 4x4 and retrace off-road tracks back to Douz. Watch the dunes gradually give way to palm groves and town streets.
- **Explore Douz Souk**
  Explore the local souk in Douz, known for desert crafts, spices, and red wool used by Bedouins. Browse stalls and observe daily life in this Saharan market town.
- **Drive from Douz to Chott el Jerid**
  Drive from Douz across the edge of Chott el Jerid, Tunisia's largest salt lake. The flat, shimmering landscape stretches to the horizon on both sides of the road.
- **Explore Chott el Jerid Salt Lake**
  Stop at Chott el Jerid to take photos and look for mirage effects over the salt flats. Appreciate the vast, otherworldly setting created by the sun and sky.
- **Drive from Chott el Jerid to Tozeur**
  Continue from Chott el Jerid to the oasis city of Tozeur. Palm groves and mud-brick districts signal your arrival in this desert town.
- **Explore Tozeur Medina**
  Visit the medina of Tozeur, noted for its patterned brick façades and shaded alleys. Walk through its lanes and admire the distinctive local architecture.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Tozeur hotel | Breakfast,Dinner |

DAY 7

## Star Wars filming locations and desert oases

Leave Tozeur and begin at Ong Jemel, where sculpted desert rock formations create a stark landscape before the journey continues into the Atlas foothills. Explore the mountain oases of Chebika, Tamerza and Mides, where springs, palms and canyon scenery interrupt the surrounding arid terrain. Later, return to Tozeur and enjoy free time to rest or explore independently after the day's circuit through desert and mountain environments.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Tozeur to Ong Jemel**
  Leave Tozeur and drive into the desert toward Ong Jemel. Travel through stony plains and sand fields used as film locations.
- **Explore Ong Jemel Star Wars Site**
  Explore Ong Jemel, a rock formation and desert area famous as a Star Wars filming site. Enjoy wide views of the surrounding dunes and plateaus.
- **Drive from Ong Jemel to Chebika**
  Drive from the desert back toward the mountains and the oasis of Chebika. Climb into the Atlas foothills with views over palm-filled valleys.
- **Explore Chebika Mountain Oasis**
  Visit Chebika, where a spring-fed stream runs beneath cliffs and palm trees. Walk short paths to viewpoints and enjoy the cool shade of the oasis.
- **Drive from Chebika to Tamerza**
  Continue along the mountain road from Chebika to Tamerza. The route follows canyons and rocky slopes above broad valleys.
- **Visit Tamerza Waterfalls and Oasis**
  See the waterfalls at Tamerza, the largest mountain oasis in Tunisia. Take time to enjoy the contrast between green vegetation and surrounding desert rocks.
- **Drive from Tamerza to Mides**
  Drive from Tamerza to the village and canyon of Mides near the Algerian border. The road skirts deep gorges and hillside terraces.
- **Visit Mides Canyon and Oasis**
  Walk along the edge or floor of Mides Canyon, taking in dramatic rock strata and narrow passages. Look down on the small oasis settlement nestled in the valley below.
- **Drive from Mides to Tozeur**
  Return from the mountain oases to Tozeur. Arrive back in town after a full day of desert and canyon exploration.
- **Free Time in Tozeur**
  Enjoy free time in Tozeur to relax by the hotel pool or stroll through town. You may revisit the medina or find a café to unwind before dinner.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Tozeur hotel | Breakfast,Dinner |

## DAY 8 Exploring Sbeitla and Kairouan. Return to Tunis

Travel from Tozeur to Sbeitla and explore the Roman archaeological site before continuing to Kairouan for visits to the Great Mosque and medina. The day moves between two very different periods of Tunisian history, from ancient Sufetula to one of North Africa’s major Islamic centres. Once the sightseeing is complete, continue by road to Tunis and finish the long overland journey in the capital.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Tozeur to Sbeitla**
  Depart Tozeur and drive north toward Sbeitla through changing desert and farmland landscapes. Arrive at one of Tunisia's best-preserved Roman sites.
- **Explore Archaeological Site of Sbeitla (Sufetula)**
  Explore the ruins of Sbeitla, including its triple temple complex, forum, baths, and arch. Learn how this provincial city once functioned within the Roman Empire.
- **Drive from Sbeitla to Kairouan**
  Continue from Sbeitla to the holy city of Kairouan. Travel through the interior of Tunisia toward this important religious centre.
- **Explore 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.
- **Explore 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 from Kairouan to Tunis**
  Drive from Kairouan back to Tunis, completing your circuit through central Tunisia. Arrive in the capital and check into your hotel for the final night.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Tunis hotel | Breakfast |

## DAY 9 Free time in Tunis, hotel to airport transfer included

Spend the first part of the day at leisure in Tunis, with no organised activities before your flight. Use the available time according to your interests and departure schedule, then travel from the hotel to the airport. Once at Tunis Airport, the supported arrangements conclude and you can proceed independently with your onward journey after completing your travels in Tunisia.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in 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 from Tunis City Hotel to 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.
- **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.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| N/A | Breakfast |

## INCLUDED

- 8 nights comfortable accommodation (7 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
- Harissa Making Workshop
- Tunisian Cooking Class
- Sahara Desert Experience

## EXCLUDED

- International flights
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- 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

# 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 - 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.

## Important Notes

### 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.

### 2 Dates & Prices

We run regular small-group departures on this tour starting on most Saturdays from October until May. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of 2 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.

### 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).

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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

https://x.com/encounterstravl (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.

travel aware
gov.uk/travelaware

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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).

**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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.