



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours



Tunisia At the Crossroads of Civilizations

October 2 – 12, 2025



Dear National Trust Traveler,

What is the Mediterranean's best-kept secret? The answer is **Tunisia**, a majestic North African landscape of beaches and Saharan vistas. Mighty civilizations—such as the Phoenicians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Ottomans, and French—have coveted its riches for millennia. These ancient cultures have left extraordinary treasures for you to admire, from the finest Roman ruins outside Italy to medieval mosques and fortresses.

Experience this cultural diversity on our nine-night, expert-led adventure from **October 2 to 12, 2025**. When you stroll through Tunisia's jasmine-scented medinas and wander through wave-lapped, cliffside villages, discover why intellectuals and artists such as painters **Paul Klee**, **August Macke**, and **Louis Moilliet** flocked here to capture its essence.

Enjoy five nights in Tunisia's capital, **Tunis**, at the Residence Tunis and four nights at a beachfront hotel in **Monastir**. In Tunis, step back to when ancient Carthage dominated the Mediterranean as a superpower, where Hannibal once commanded forces against Roman forces. Uncover the spoils of Rome's victory, including UNESCO-listed Dougga, North Africa's best-preserved Roman city, and the Amphitheatre of El Jem, which rivals Rome's Colosseum in scale.

On a private tour of Tunis's palatial National Bardo Museum, enjoy **the world's greatest collection of Roman polychrome mosaics**. Experts will also introduce you to underappreciated world history, from Sousse's Phoenician, Roman, and Christian treasures, to underground engineering marvels that supplied water to Tunisia's ancient cities, to the world's only fully preserved Punic city, UNESCO-listed **Kerkouane**.

Encounter **one of Islam's four holiest cities, Kairouan**. During the Middle Ages, Arab rulers affirmed Tunisia as the cultural and intellectual heart of the Islamic world. Go behind the scenes at one of the world's most revered mosques, the seventh-century A.D. Great Mosque of Kairouan, admiring its blend of Roman, Islamic, and Byzantine styles.

Reserve your place on this program today by calling National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785.

We hope that you join us to explore Tunisia, uncovering rich, little-known history along North Africa's Mediterranean coast.

Activity Level:



Pace Level:



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.

Sincerely,

Meg Annacone-Perez
Director, National Trust Tours



The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. For more information, visit the Trust's website at www.savingplaces.org or phone (800) 944-6847 or (202) 588-6000.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

EXPERIENCE one of North Africa's best-kept secrets, **Tunisia**, on an extraordinary, expert-guided journey through its ancient wonders left behind by mighty civilizations

DELIGHT in an expert-guided tour of the world's largest collection of Roman polychrome mosaics at Tunis's **National Bardo Museum**

WALK in the footsteps of Hannibal with experts at **Carthage**, the once-formidable Phoenician imperial settlement razed by Rome, now a sprawling archaeological site near Tunis

TAKE a guided tour of **Kairouan**, one of Islam's holiest cities, and its **Great Mosque of Kairouan** (c. 670 A.D.), one of Islam's earliest and most influential houses of worship

JOIN experts at the **finest Roman ruins outside Italy**, including **Dougga**, North Africa's best-preserved Roman city, and the **Amphitheatre of El Jem**, which rivals Rome's Colosseum in scale

ENJOY inside looks at the Phoenician-Roman port city of **Sousse** and the **Sousse Archaeological Museum**, which holds the world's second-largest Roman mosaic collection

EXPLORE the engineering marvel of **Zaghuan's Temple of Waters**, built in 139 A.D., and its network of subterranean chambers that once supplied water to ancient Carthage

UNCOVER the secrets of **Kerkouane**, the world's only fully preserved Punic city, accompanying experts behind the scenes of **the Mediterranean's earliest known private baths**

JOURNEY back in time with experts at **Monastir's perfectly intact ribat (fortress)**, erected by early Arab conquerors in 796 A.D.

Carthage

Tunisia

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Then, delve into the maritime heritage of Carthage with a visit to the ancient **Punic Ports**, repurposed by the Romans in the second century A.D. after the city's destruction in 146 B.C. Conclude your day with a transfer back to Tunis and a welcome dinner to celebrate your first evening. B,L,D

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5: TUNIS / DOUGGA / BULLA REGIA

Step back in time to Roman Africa today. At the edge of the Téboursouk Mountains, arrive at the UNESCO-recognized ancient city of **Dougga**, one of North Africa's most stunningly well-preserved Roman sites. While this site was originally settled by the Numidians, a local Amazigh tribe, Rome conquered Dougga in 46 B.C.

Take a guided look at Dougga's remarkable Roman public buildings dating mainly from the second and third centuries A.D., including a 3,500-seat theater, temples, the **Baths of the Cyclops**, and the magnificent **Capitole**, with its soaring Corinthian columns.

You may opt to return to Tunis or continue to the former Roman city of **Bulla Regia**. Discover its baths, temple, palace, and the ruins of its semi-subterranean housing from the Hadrianic era, built to protect residents from the sun's heat. The well-preserved Roman polychrome mosaic floors are a highlight, maintained *in situ* for you to admire in their original context. After our return to Tunis, gather for dinner this evening. B,L,D

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6: TUNIS / UTHINA / ZAGHOUAN / THUBURBO MAJUS

Depart early from Tunis to explore **Uthina**, one of North Africa's oldest Roman cities. A colony during Emperor Augustus's reign (31 B.C.– 14 A.D.), its ruins cover an extensive area, including a fortress, cisterns, an aqueduct, a triumphal arch, a theater, and an exceptionally well-preserved acropolis.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2: DEPARTURE

Depart for Tunis on an overnight flight.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3: TUNIS, TUNISIA

Upon arrival in the Tunisian capital this morning, transfer to the hotel. Guests opting for the suggested flights will be met at the airport and join the group transfer to the hotel. After an afternoon at leisure, gather for a welcome reception at the hotel this evening. R

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4: TUNIS / CARTHAGE

Start your day ascending **Byrsa Hill**, the fortified heart of ancient **Carthage** founded by Phoenicians in 814 B.C. From this strategic 200-foot promontory, take in panoramic views spanning the azure Mediterranean and the Tunis skyline. Explore the hill's multi-layered ruins revealing the city's Punic, Roman, and Byzantine occupations, from the foundations of Carthage's main citadel to the remains of North Africa's second-largest Roman forum.

After enjoying lunch at a local restaurant, join your knowledgeable guide for a tour of Carthage's **Roman villas**, featuring exquisite mosaics that reflect the luxurious lifestyle of the Roman elite. Visit the impressive **Antonine Baths**, constructed in the second century A.D. during Emperor Antoninus Pius's reign, recognized as the largest Roman baths outside Italy.





Next, travel to **Zaghouan**, renowned for its natural springs and ancient Roman aqueduct. Visit the remarkable **Temple of Waters**, built in 139 A.D. around a spring, featuring a complex network of subterranean chambers and conduits that supplied water to Carthage.

After savoring a lunch of local Tunisian cuisine, continue to **Thuburbo Majus**, originally a Punic town, later claimed as a Roman veteran colony by Augustus in 27 B.C. Surrounded by wheat fields and olive groves, the Roman remains include a colonnaded forum, the Temple of Mercury, and summer and winter baths. This evening, arrive in Monastir, where you will check into your hotel and enjoy dinner at leisure. B,L

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7: SOUSSE / MONASTIR

Along the exquisite Mediterranean coastline, venture to the beachfront city of **Sousse**, originally the Phoenician settlement of Hadrumetum. Wander through **Sousse's UNESCO-recognized medina** dating back to the Aghlabid period (800–909 A.D.), navigating the narrow, winding streets lined with whitewashed houses and lively markets.

Stop at the **Great Mosque of Sousse**, a prime example of Aghlabid architecture from 851 A.D. Then join an expert guide at the **Sousse Archaeological Museum**, which holds the world's second-largest mosaic collection after Tunis's Bardo Museum. Peruse other artifacts highlighting Sousse's fusion of classical cultures—Phoenician, Roman, and Christian.

After a delicious lunch featuring local Tunisian cuisine, discover the seaside town of **Monastir**, an important Phoenician and Roman port settlement. Visit the well-preserved 796 A.D. **Ribat of Monastir**, the oldest fortress built by the Arab conquerors of the Maghreb.

Next, make a special visit to the grand, golden-domed **Mausoleum of Habib Bourguiba**, the final resting place of native son Bourguiba (1903–2000), modern Tunisia's first president who led the country to independence. Gaze up at its twin 75-foot minarets. Enjoy dinner before returning to your hotel. B,L,D

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8: MONASTIR / SBEITLA / KAIROUAN

Travel to the well-preserved Roman ruins of **Sbeitla**, which emerged under Roman emperor Vespasian as a fort along this desert frontier. See its Roman forum alongside a Christian basilica and Byzantine cathedral, testifying to the diverse faiths that once nourished Sbeitla.

Later in the morning, go behind the scenes in one of Islam's holiest cities. **Kairouan**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the Maghreb's oldest Arab-Islamic cities, was founded in 670 A.D., emerging as a pivotal medieval center of trade, scholarship, and medicine.

With an expert guide, explore the iconic **Great Mosque of Kairouan**, built in 703 A.D., making it one of the oldest and most important Islamic places of worship. This early example of a hypostyle mosque (*supported by columns*) incorporates pre-Islamic, Eastern Islamic, Roman, and Byzantine influences. Afterwards, stroll through **Kairouan's captivating medina**, stopping at its markets, and enjoy a traditional Tunisian lunch.

Then marvel at the engineering prowess of the **Aghlabid Basins**, ninth-century A.D. water reservoirs that collected and stored rainwater for the city. These basins were fed by a 36-mile aqueduct from the mountains. The largest basin spans 410 feet in length, 118 feet in width, and holds nearly 2.3 million gallons of water. Finally, explore the nine intricate city gates before returning to the hotel and gathering for dinner. B,L,D

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9: MONASTIR / EL JEM / MAHDIA

Begin your day in **El Jem**, where you'll have a guided inside look at the UNESCO-listed **Amphitheatre of El Jem**, a monumental Roman structure built around 238 A.D. Comparable to Rome's Colosseum, this massive amphitheater once accommodated 35,000 spectators for gladiatorial contests and chariot races.

After enjoying a lunch of local Tunisian cuisine, visit the **El Jem Museum**, renowned for its extensive collection of Roman mosaics, sculptures, pottery, and jewelry. A standout exhibit is the **African House**, a meticulously restored Roman villa featuring its original mosaics.



Great Mosque of Kairouan

Next, journey to **Mahdia**, a city with deep Phoenician and Roman roots that became the Fatimid dynasty's capital in 912 A.D. Throughout its history, Mahdia has been claimed by Sicilian Normans, Spaniards, and Ottomans. With expert guides, explore significant landmarks such as the **Great Fatimid Mosque**, Tunisia's oldest mosque, and **Skifa el Kahla**, an elaborate Fatimid-era gateway once part of the city's defenses.

Visit **Borj el Kebir**, a 16th-century Ottoman fortress, where you can stroll along its historic walls. Finally, meander through the narrow streets of **Mahdia's Old Town**, surrounded by original walls and characterized by traditional Tunisian architecture and a welcoming atmosphere. B,L,D

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10: MONASTIR / HAMMAMET / KERKOUANE / TUNIS

This morning, depart Monastir for Tunis. Stop in **Hammamet**, a jasmine-scented coastal town that originated as the first century A.D. Roman colony of Pupput. At the **Pupput archaeological site**, examine well-preserved mosaic floors and thermal baths alongside visible remains of aqueducts and villa foundations from the second-century settlement, showcasing North Africa's earliest confirmed urban development.

Wander through **Hammamet's 15th-century medina** and its labyrinthine streets lined with indigo-trimmed white buildings. Don't miss the opportunity to scale the ramparts of the **13th-century Kasbah fortress**, scanning Mediterranean horizons once eyed by Arab conquerors who renamed the town "Hammamet" (derived from the Arabic word *hammam*) for its abundant Roman-era spas.

Next, journey to the world's only fully preserved Punic city, UNESCO-listed **Kerkouane**, on Tunisia's northeastern coast. Founded by the Phoenicians around 650 B.C., Kerkouane was abandoned during the First Punic War in 250 B.C. and left untouched by subsequent civilizations.

Hammamet



National Bardo Museum, Tunis

With an expert guide, traverse Kerkouane's streets and defensive walls laid out over 2,600 years ago, examining remarkably well-preserved ruins unearthed since the city's rediscovery in 1952, including **the Mediterranean region's earliest known private baths**.

Upon arrival in Tunis this evening, return to the Residence Tunis for check-in and enjoy its amenities and restaurants at leisure. B,L

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11: TUNIS / SIDI BOU SAÏD

Revel in a guided morning visit to the opulent **National Bardo Museum**, renowned for hosting the world's greatest collection of Roman polychrome mosaics. These masterpieces were collected from significant archaeological sites across Tunisia, including El Jem, Dougga, and Sousse, and date from the second to the seventh century A.D.

During a special tour through **Tunis's historic medina**, meet local artisans and explore historic sites such as the **Zitouna Mosque**, the city's oldest mosque, founded in 734 A.D. featuring columns sourced from Roman Carthage, and the **Dar Ben Abdallah Palace**, a stunning 1796 creation featuring a beautiful courtyard, fountain, and garden. Afterwards, relax with afternoon tea and explore the medina and its markets at your own pace.

Gather for a celebratory farewell dinner in **Sidi Bou Saïd**, a cliffside village outside Tunis beloved for its enchanting whitewashed homes with blue doors. Enjoy a convivial meal in this charming locale where artists Paul Klee, August Macke, and Louis Moilliet made their famous journey in 1914, drawn by tales of an arty European enclave on the Tunisian coast. B,L,T,D

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12: TUNIS / RETURN

Depart the hotel early this morning and transfer to the Tunis airport for your flight home. B

DISCLAIMER: *The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of National Trust Tours and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.*

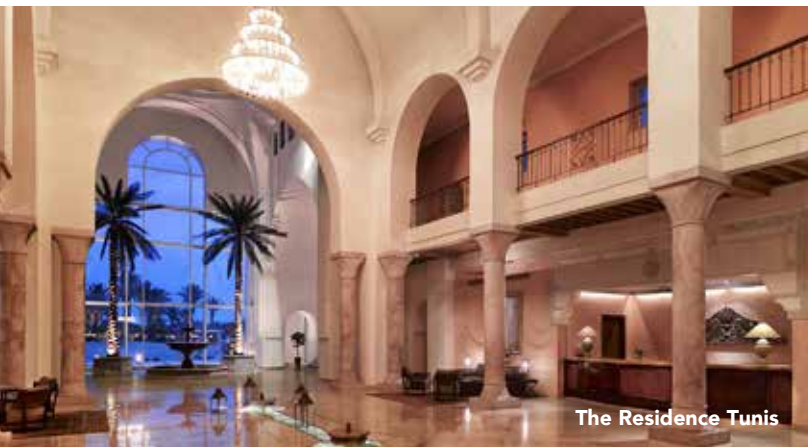
ACCOMMODATIONS

THE RESIDENCE TUNIS

Enjoy this conveniently located elegant Tunisian retreat with rooms featuring Mediterranean or lush garden views. The hotel features diverse dining options, including local Tunisian cuisine at El Dar and Mediterranean dishes at L'Olivier. Renowned for its Thalasso Spa, the hotel provides extensive wellness treatments, a hammam, and a seawater pool. Guests can also enjoy golf, tennis, water sports, and access to a private beach.

HILTON SKANES MONASTIR BEACH RESORT

This beachfront haven provides panoramic Mediterranean views and stylish guest rooms and suites adorned with modern amenities. Refresh yourself in its multiple swimming pools, well-equipped fitness center, and spa facilities.



RESERVATION INFORMATION

To secure your cabin, please call National Trust Tours at **888-484-8785**.

A deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) is required.



Pool, Hilton Skanes Monastir Beach Resort

PROGRAM RATE

\$7,599 per person, double rate

\$8,299 single rate

RATE INCLUDES

- Nine nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, T=Tea, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine, beer, and signature cocktails at welcome and farewell dinners
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portorage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE International airfare; passport; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

INSURANCE National Trust Tours strongly suggests the purchase of travel insurance. For more information on policy options, visit <https://my.travelinsure.com/nationaltrust/plan/> or call 1-800-937-1387.



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Front cover: Medina, Tunis
Back cover: Mausoleum of Habib Bourgiba, Monastir (top) and
Amphitheatre of El Jem (bottom).
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