



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours



Tunisia
At the Crossroads of
Civilizations

October 1 - 11, 2027

Tunisia

At the Crossroads of Civilizations

What is the Mediterranean's best-kept secret? The answer is Tunisia, a majestic North African landscape of beaches and Saharan vistas. On this behind-the-scenes journey, experience firsthand why this tiny land was coveted by legendary civilizations—Phoenician, Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Ottoman, and French. These cultures have left extraordinary treasures for you to admire.

Join experts for inside looks at the finest Roman ruins outside Italy and medieval mosques and fortresses that made Tunisia the intellectual and spiritual center of the Islamic world. In the capital, Tunis, step back to when ancient Carthage dominated the Mediterranean as a superpower, where Hannibal once commanded troops 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.

Encounter one of Islam's four holiest cities, Kairouan. Go behind the scenes at one of the world's most historically significant mosques, the seventh-century Great Mosque, admiring how it blends Roman, Islamic, and Byzantine styles.



Carthage (top) and map of the region (above)

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- 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 Zaghouan'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.



Medina, Tunis

DAY 1: DEPARTURE

Depart for Tunis on an overnight flight.

DAY 2: TUNIS, TUNISIA

Arrive this morning and transfer to the **Four Seasons Hotel Tunis** (or similar). Guests opting for the suggested flights will be met at the airport and transported to the hotel. Spend the afternoon at leisure and join a welcome reception at the hotel this evening. R

DAY 3: TUNIS / CARTHAGE / UTHINA / TUNIS

Gather for an early departure from Tunis and venture to **Uthina**, a Roman colony during Emperor Augustus' reign (31 B.C.–14 A.D.). Its ruins cover a vast area, including a fortress, cisterns, an aqueduct, a triumphal arch, a theater, and an exceptionally well-preserved acropolis. Lunch is at a local restaurant.

En route back to Tunis, your expert guide will accompany you to **Carthage's richly mosaicked Roman villas**. The second-century **Antonine Baths**, built during the reign of Roman Emperor Antoninus Pius, are the largest Roman baths outside of Italy.

A guided visit to the **ancient Punic Ports** will introduce the maritime legacy of Carthage, once a great commercial power. Later, transfer back to Tunis and gather for a welcome dinner this evening. B,L,D

DAY 4: TUNIS / DOUGGA / BULLA REGIA / TUNIS

First, join an expert guide at the UNESCO-recognized **Dougga**, North Africa's best-preserved Roman city. Originally settled by the Numidians, an Amazigh tribe, Dougga was conquered by the Romans in 46 B.C. Admire its remarkable public buildings, including a 3,500-seat theater, temples, and more.

After lunch, explore **Bulla Regia**, known for its unique semi-subterranean housing from the Hadrianic era that protected residents from the sun's heat. The site also features well-preserved Roman polychrome mosaic floors, which conservators maintain *in situ*. Return to Tunis for dinner at a local restaurant. B,L,D

DAY 5: TUNIS / ZAGHOUAN / THUBURBO MAJUS / TUNIS

Enjoy a private morning visit to the **Bardo National Museum**, the palatial home to a collection of Roman polychrome mosaics gathered from archaeological sites across Tunisia, including El Jem, Dougga, and Sousse.

Continue to **Zaghouan**, known for its natural springs and ancient Roman aqueduct. Take an inside look at the **Temple of Waters**, constructed in 139 A.D. around a spring, incorporating a network of subterranean chambers and conduits to supply water to Carthage.

After a lunch of local Tunisian cuisine, proceed to **Thuburbo Majus**. Originally a Punic town, it was transformed into a Roman veteran colony by Augustus in 27 B.C. Explore its well-preserved Roman ruins, including a decorated tetrastyle temple, forum, basilica, and theater. Dinner is at leisure back in Tunis. B,L

DAY 6: TUNIS / SOUSSE / KAIROUAN

After a morning lecture, venture along the Mediterranean coastline to the beachfront city of Sousse, originally the Phoenician settlement of Hadrumetum. Wander through **Sousse's** UNESCO-recognized medina dating to the Aghlabid period (800–909 A.D.). Navigate narrow, winding streets lined with whitewashed houses and markets.

Then, join an expert guide at the **Sousse Archaeological Museum**, which holds the world's second-largest mosaic collection. View artifacts highlighting Sousse's blend of Phoenician, Roman, and Christian cultures. Transfer to the hotel in Kairouan, where you will enjoy dinner at leisure. B,L

DAY 7: KAIROUAN

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



Ancient mosaics and Latin inscriptions, Sousse Archaeological Museum



Great Mosque of Kairouan

With an expert guide, enjoy an early visit to the **Great Mosque of Kairouan**, built in 703, one of the oldest and most important Islamic places of worship. This early example of a hypostyle mosque incorporates pre-Islamic, Eastern Islamic, Roman, and Byzantine influences.

After a traditional Tunisian lunch, stroll through **Kairouan's medina**. Marvel at the engineering of the **Aghlabid Basins**, ninth-century reservoirs that collected rainwater for the city. The largest spans 410 feet in length, 118 feet in width, and holds nearly 2.3 million gallons. Return to the hotel for dinner. B,L,D

DAY 8: KAIROUAN / EL JEM / TUNIS

Travel to **El Jem**, where you'll have a guided inside look at the UNESCO-listed **Amphitheatre of El Jem**, a Roman structure built around 238 A.D. Comparable to Rome's Colosseum, this massive arena once accommodated 35,000 spectators.

After lunch, visit the **El Jem Museum**, known for its mosaics, sculptures, pottery, and jewelry. A standout is the **African House**, a restored Roman villa featuring original mosaics. The group will stop for dinner en route back to Tunis and check in at the Four Seasons (*or similar*). B,L,D

DAY 9: TUNIS / KERKOUANE / KELIBIA / TUNIS

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.

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**. Gather for lunch by the sea, followed by a visit to the **Kelibia Fort**, a 16th-century Ottoman fortress offering breathtaking views of the Mediterranean.

Upon return to Tunis, savor an afternoon wine tasting at **Domaine Neferis**, one of Tunisia's finest wineries. Enjoy the remainder of your day at leisure. B,L

DAY 10: TUNIS / SIDI BOU SAÏD

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, enjoy a group lunch, then explore the medina and its markets at your own pace.

Share a celebratory farewell dinner in **Sidi Bou Saïd**, a cliffside village outside Tunis beloved for its enchanting whitewashed homes with blue doors. In this charming locale, 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,D

DAY 11: TUNIS / RETURN

This morning, transfer to the Tunis airport for your flight home. B



Zitouna Mosque

PLEASE NOTE: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Four Seasons Hotel Tunis (or similar)

This contemporary Mediterranean retreat provides a serene beachfront getaway. Unwind in the rejuvenating spa and pools, with more than 3,000 years of ancient civilization just steps away. Enjoy 24-hour in-room dining and complimentary Wi-Fi.



Four Seasons Hotel Tunis (top); Azur Restaurant, Four Seasons Hotel Tunis (above)

Hotel La Kasbah Kairouan (or similar)

The best available hotel in Tunisia's holiest city, this property was built on the site of an ancient kasbah. Its traditional Arab-Islamic architecture features beautifully preserved courtyards, intricate tilework, and arched passageways that reflect the city's rich heritage.



Hotel La Kasbah Kairouan (top); Lobby, Hotel La Kasbah Kairouan (above)



Dar Ben Abdallah Palace, Tunis

PROGRAM RATE

\$TBD per person, double rate

\$TBD single rate

RATES INCLUDE

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

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES International airfare; passport/visa fees; 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.