

# Jasmine of Tunisia 9 Days

## Highlights:

- ★ Immerse in the unique Tunisian cultural with influences from the Phoenicians, Romans, Vandals, Byzantines, Crusaders, Ottomans and Arabs
- ★ Unlock the historical grandeur of ancient Carthage Empire in the archaeological site of Tunis
- ★ Include a home visit to learn the traditional lifestyle and underground dwellings of the Berbers in Matmata
- ★ Explore the luxuriant date palm forests in a chain of oases in the Sahara Desert
- ★ Visit the second largest ancient Roman style amphitheater in El Djem
- ★ Take a glimpse of the azure Mediterranean in the Blue and White Sidi Bou Said
- ★ Small group of no more than 24 passengers
- ★ Visit 6 UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Sites 

## Included:


1. Hand-picked 4/5-star hotel accommodations
2. Sightseeing admission fees as listed on the agenda
3. Food as specified on the itinerary
4. Special cultural programs as specified in the schedule
5. Professional English speaking local tour expert
6. All tax and fuel surcharge

## Excluded:

1. Travel insurance
2. Any personal expenses
3. Tour extensions and optional programs
4. Gratuity for tour guides and drivers
5. Single supplement fee





*des Champs Elysées*". Drive to **Dougga** (68mi/110km), a typical Maghreb city from Numidian-Berber, Greek, Roman and Punic period of time with remains of temples, theaters, bathhouses and mausoleum. Considered as "the best preserved Roman small town in North Africa", Dougga was awarded UNESCO  status in 1997. Continue to the coastal city of Hammamet (100mi/160km) famous for majestic beaches and various water sports that attract many Europeans every year.

### Day 1: Depart for Tunisia

Breakfast: N/A | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Onboard the international flight to Tunis.

### Day 2: Tunis Arrival

Breakfast: N/A | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Upon arrival, meet & greet and transfer to the hotel for a relaxing evening.

### Day 3: Tunis - Dougga - Hammamet

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: Yes


- After breakfast in the hotel, follow our guide to visit the **Bardo National Museum**, the second biggest one in North Africa just after Cairo Museum of Egypt featuring the largest collections of Roman mosaics of the whole world. Used to be the site of Beylical Palace, the museum also houses ancient sculptures and rare artifacts from many excavation sites in the country. Take a stroll in the UNESCO  listed **Medina** full of historic palaces, mosques, madrassas and alleyways, souqs, cafes, workshops. Head to the **Bab El Bhar**, also known as the **Porte De France**, connecting the ancient town with the **Avenue Habib Bourguiba**-Tunisia version of "Avenue

#### **Optional Tour: Hammamet by night with dinner**

- Come and enjoy the vibrant Arabian night accompanied by singing, dancing and delicious dinner. The local performers and choreographers will offer you a cultural experience like traveling through time and space to the magical world inspired by the 1001 nights tales. You will be entertained by African folklore groups of belly dancers, tribal singers and Berber drummers who come together to deliver this spectacular extravaganza which is a real moment of evasion for you to enrich your entire journey.
- Overnight in Hammamet.

### Day 4: Hammamet - Kairouan - Tozeur

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: Yes

- Morning bus ride to Kairouan (68mi/110km) and roam with our guide to visit this UNESCO  former capital. Nicknamed "City with 300 mosques", Kairouan has a large number of ancient religious monuments which make the city to be the fourth most important holy city in the Arabic world. Step in the **Great Mosque de Kairouan**, one of the oldest and biggest mosques in North Africa, and marvel at this worshipping place which is almost 1400





years old. Being the prototype for all the minarets of the western Islamic countries, the 35-meter high minaret is the tallest building in the city and it is also the oldest one still standing in the world. Next is **Sidi Sahbe Tomb**, a lavishly tiled 17-century complex consisting of a mosque, madrasa and mausoleum. Head to the 1100-year-old **Aghlabid Pools** built for the city of water supply. Today, only two of the fifteen reservoirs are left from ancient times. Continue driving to Tozeur (180mi/290km).

- Overnight in Tozeur

### Day 5: Tozeur

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: Yes

- Today is free for you to relax or you may join us for an optional day trip with lunch.

#### **Optional Tour: Full day excursion to Oases and Star Wars Film Sets with lunch**

- Let us start with a horse carriage ride to tour the old **Medina**. Afterwards, get ready to venture into a chain of oases on the edge of the Sahara Desert. **Chebika** (30mi/50km) which means “*Place of the sun*” in Arabic language is a well-known oasis where “*The English Patient*” was shot. **Tamerza** (25mi/40km) is the largest mountain oasis famous for the steep gorge and spring water falls. **Mides** (12mi/20km) is the smallest and yet the most impressive oasis amidst the dry and arid desert area. The water has carved its way through the high cliffs, leaving fascinating shapes and colors. Proceed towards **Ong Jmal** (25mi/40km) by 4X4 cruisers which was named after a rock formation shaped as camel's neck. Visit the filming locations of “*Star Wars*” before heading back to the hotel for a restful evening.
- Overnight in Tozeur.



### Day 6: Tozeur - Chott el Jerid - Douz-Ksar Ghilane - Matmata

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: Yes

- Bid farewell to Tozeur and move ahead to **Douz** (75mi/120km), the “*gateway to the Sahara*”. Make a stop enroute at **Chott el Jerid** to take a picture of the 3rd biggest salt pan in the whole world. Mirages are often seen here in the summertime. Used to be a key station along the trans-Saharan trade routes, Douz is now a hub for international tourists to enjoy the desert landscape, rock formations and camel ride (optional). Continue to the vigorous and lush **Ksar Ghilane** (50mi/80km) noted for hot springs, date palm trees and red sand dunes. Arrive in Matmata (60mi/95km) and check in the hotel.
- Overnight in Matmata.

### Day 7: Matmata - El Djem - Sousse

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: Yes

- Start the day by visiting the traditional **Troglodyte** which is a type of underground cave for the Berber residents. In order to avoid the intense summer heat and direct sunlight, the locals have lived in this artificial pit structure for hundreds of years. Next, sit back, relax and enjoy the scenery on the bus to El Djem (175mi/280km). Upon arrival, go straight to the UNESCO  site of the **Amphitheatre of El Djem**, the second largest of its kind just next to the one in Rome. It is one of the best preserved Roman stone ruins around the world built in 238 AD which can hold up to 35000 people. Modeled on the Coliseum of Rome but built on the flat ground, the Amphitheatre of El Djem bears outstanding witness to the prosperity of the city at the time of the Roman Empire in Africa. Keep going to Sousse (44mi/70km), the third largest city in the country and shop till drop at the old **Medina** well protected by UNESCO . Wander around at **Port El Kantaoui** and learn why Sousse is nicknamed “*The Garden Harbor of the Mediterranean Sea*”. Check in the hotel for a relaxing evening or you might want to discover the dynamic nightlife by the well-known Karawan Beach.
- Overnight in Sousse.





### Day 8: Sousse - Carthage - Sidi Bou Said - Tunis

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: Yes

- After breakfast in the hotel, you are on the road again to the 3000 years old **Ancient City Site of Carthage** (100mi/160km). Founded by the Phoenicians, Carthage was once the second most powerful and affluent metropolis by the Mediterranean Sea just after Rome during the Roman period. After the Punic Wars, the Romans came and later on the Vandals, Byzantines, Crusaders, Ottomans and Arabs have occupied the territory one after another and have left their cultural and economic influences in Carthage, making it one of the most brilliant centers of Afro-Roman civilization. This UNESCO  awarded site comprises the acropolis of Byrsa, the Punic ports, the necropolises, amphitheater, residences, basilica, Antonine baths and Malaga cisterns which all showcase the old glory of this ancient Punic colony. After a short bus ride, you will be arriving at an amazing Andalusian village-**Sidi Bou Said** which is so-called one of the three world-renowned Blue and White Romantic towns. Overlooking the Mediterranean on a promontory, this charming "*Tunisian Santorini*" is never short of picturesque scenes of cobbled alleyways, breathtaking ocean views, Arabic shisha and African music cafes.

- Overnight in Tunis.

### Day 9: Depart for USA/Canada

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- After breakfast, check out from your hotel and transfer to the airport for your flight home (transfer is not included if you booked the land only package).



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