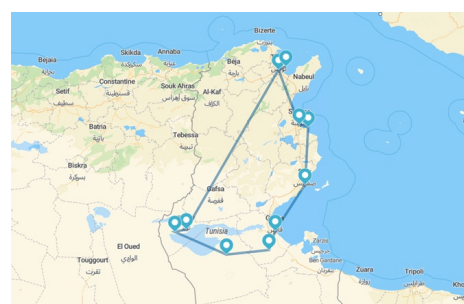




Tunisia, 9 Days · Tailor-made by car

Route through Oases, Sea and Dunes

Tunisia is a fusion of history, adventure and spectacular landscapes. This tour will take you from its fascinating capital to the enigmatic south dominated by the desert. Discover its endless beaches lapped by the Mediterranean and its stunning sunsets between the dunes of the Sahara. Delve into the winding lanes of its medinas, the mysterious oases, and the archaeological ruins left behind by Romans, Phoenicians and Carthaginians. Experience a road trip packed with adventures and once-in-a-lifetime experiences!



Departure date: Departures from June 2026 till May 2027

From: Cork, Shannon, Dublin

NATURE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Travel details

DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - TUNIS

Flight departure from the city of origin to the capital city of Tunisia, where East and West merge, as does the history and culture of the Arab world with ancient Mediterranean civilisations.

Arrival and rental car pick-up.

The rest of the day is at leisure for you to start exploring this charismatic city, an authentic melting pot of cultures where Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines and Turks have left their mark. The city of Tunis is the financial and administrative capital, as well as the gateway to a fascinating country. A city where tradition is fused with modernity and where the various cultures that have settled in Tunisian territory over the centuries converge. Modern neighbourhoods with sweeping avenues and the colonial-style centre contrast with the medina of maze-like streets and bustling souks.

Overnight stay in Tunis.

● DAY 2 · TUNIS - ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF CARTHAGE - SIDI BOU SAID - TUNIS

A brand new day at your own pace to continue discovering the secrets hidden in the capital of Tunisia and its surroundings. Our recommendations? Stroll through its bustling medina and let yourself get lost in its tortuous streets impregnated with the smell of spices and flowers. Admire the Great Mosque, known as the Mosque of Olive, with its tile-covered minaret. Don't forget to visit the Bardo National Museum, the most important archaeological museum in the Maghreb thanks to its collection of Roman mosaics, vestiges of the Punic civilisation and Arab crafts. Carthage is located just a few kilometres from the capital. Here you can see historical remains such as the old Punic ports, the Tophet (an ancient burial ground believed to have been used for ritual sacrifice), the baths of Antoninus and the Roman cisterns. You can round off today's tour in the beautiful fishing village of Sidi Bou Said, which overlooks the sea from a steep cliff. (Note: Sidi Bou Said is located half an hour's drive from the capital on the N9 and just a few minutes from the Archaeological Site of Carthage). It will instantly seduce you with its cobblestone streets and whitewashed facades that contrast with the blue doors and windows. Wandering through its cool streets is like entering a dreamlike universe full of romantic gardens and jasmine-scented courtyards. It's considered a holy site by Muslims and was the preferred place of ministers and high-level officials, who built their palaces there. Not to be missed!

Return journey and overnight stay in Tunis.

● DAY 3 · TUNIS - SBEITLA (ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF SUFETULA) - TOZEUR

Today we'll bid farewell to the capital to head south towards Tozeur. This is the most demanding drive in the whole trip, so we recommend setting out early in the morning. Although the route passes close to Kairouan, due to the distance from your destination we recommend leaving it for another day. On the way, and if you have time, you can drive over to Sbeitla. Here you can visit the archaeological site of ancient Sufetula, where Roman, Byzantine and Muslim civilisations come together. It's one of the best-preserved sites in Tunisia. You'll find it in the heart of the high plateaus in the middle of a steppe-like landscape. Make sure you see the majestic Triumphal Arch of the Tetrarchy, dating from the times of Emperor Diocletian; the Forum, with the three arches built during the time of Antoninus Pius; the hot springs; and the temples dedicated to the gods Jupiter, Juno and Minerva... An epic journey back in time! It's also home to Byzantine Christian basilicas and the churches of Bellator, Vitalis, Servus, Saints Gervasius and Protasius, and Tryphon. (Note: The ruins of Sufetula, to the west of the current Sbeitla, are one of the most important historical sites in the whole of Tunisia. During Roman and Byzantine times, it housed the Christian buildings that you can still see at the site today. The city was later plundered by the Arabs. Its forum is one of the best preserved in the world. The theatre, recently restored, is used today for concerts). Leave Sbeitla behind and head towards Tozeur, about three hours away from the site. Arrival in Tozeur late in the afternoon. This town stands on an oasis on the edge of an immense palm grove. It's a small place with winding streets and a flourishing local crafts scene. Admire the architecture of the Ouled-el-Hadef neighbourhood, where the houses are made from ochre-coloured bricks (from a mixture of sand and clay) and ornately decorated with geometric Berber motifs. The oasis spreads over more than a thousand hectares and is watered by two hundred springs.

Overnight stay in Tozeur.

DAY 4 · TOZEUR - NEFTA - CHOTT EL DJERID - DOUZ

Tozeur is located on the border between the steppe and the desert, next to a huge oasis with an extensive palm grove. Their ochre-coloured houses are beautifully decorated with geometric motifs. Venture into the Ouled-el-Hadef neighbourhood, kept intact since the fourteenth century, and climb to the viewpoint from where you can marvel at the spectacular surroundings of the town. Another option is to visit the Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions that showcases various aspects of social and domestic life in southern Tunisia. Tozeur is also a starting point for numerous excursions into the desert, the mountains and even legendary film locations from "Star Wars" or "The English Patient". The experience of a lifetime! About twenty kilometres from Tozeur is Nefta, the gateway to the desert, a holy city of the Jerid region and the second religious hub of Tunisia after Kairouan. Nicknamed the "Princess of the Desert", Nefta boasts some twenty mosques. Walk around the charming oasis of La Corbeille, north of the town, where lush gardens and fountains abound. The tomb of Sidi Bou Ali, much revered in Tunisia, is located in one of the verdant gardens of the oasis. And the dates from Nefta are famous for their incomparable flavour. Around the town are three oases that are well worth a visit: Chebika, Tamerza and Mides. And if you want to take a souvenir home with you, make sure you pop to the market of desert roses grown by the nomadic M'razig tribe! In the vicinity is the Chott el Djerid, a large salt lake. A road crosses through this white desert, where you'll find souvenir stands, cafes and water wells on both sides. It's not difficult to witness mirages here. After crossing the Chott el Djerid, you'll arrive in Douz, the final destination of today's route. Known as the Gateway to the Sahara, Douz is surrounded by impressive dunes such as that of Offra. This is an ideal place for a camel ride. Visit the Sahara Museum to learn more about the desert. Every week, an animal souk is set up next to the main market square.

Overnight stay in Douz.

DAY 5 · DOUZ - MATMATA - GABES - SFAQ

Douz is known as "The Gateway to the Sahara". It's home to the huge dune of Offra, from where you can set off on a camel ride and witness a spectacular sunrise. Amazing experiences! (Note: Today is one of the most taxing stretches in terms of kilometres. Depending on your preferences and the time available, you can choose between the destinations suggested below). Leave Douz towards Matmata, a Berber city with a surprising lunar landscape due to the 'cavemen houses' carved into the ground. These homes built in the soft rock have served as the backdrop for the famous "Star Wars" saga. Under the surface of Matmata is an authentic underworld of rooms and tunnels that make up a truly unique place. After the visit, your trip will change course. Head northeast up to Gabes, an industrial city with Mediterranean vibes that gives its name to the eponymous gulf, a true paradise for birds that migrate from Europe. Gabes is a huge oasis by the sea and its famed palm grove stretches over six kilometres. In the ever-vibrant neighbourhood known as Jara, you can buy crafts and spices, and visit the recently built Grand Mosque. Fancy some historical details? This town was occupied by the Germans during World War II and later bombed by the Allies. The oldest monument is the Sidi Boulbaba Mosque, which is just around the corner from the Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions. The route then continues northwards along the coast up to Sfax, the second city of Tunisia in terms of population. It has a large fishing port from where boats set sail to the nearby Kerkennah Islands. Visit its medina surrounded by a battlement-lined wall built in the ninth century. In its souks you'll find products made by nomads, while its Archaeological Museum contains Early Christian antiquities.

Overnight stay in Sfax.

DAY 6 · SFAQ - EL JEM - MONASTIR

Then it's time to head away from the coast over to El Jem, located about an hour's drive away, whose life revolves around an impressive amphitheatre, the third largest in the Roman world after that of Rome and Capua, and which could accommodate up to thirty thousand spectators. Simply incredible! Construction started in the second century and never came to an end. On the way out of the city is the Archaeological Museum that showcases magnificent local mosaics. Then on to Monastir, also an hour's drive away. The city, founded by the Carthaginians, became a military and religious fortress where the Arabs built the first ever ribat. Nowadays, it's a vibrant and attractive tourist resort. It boasts beautiful sweeping beaches and its streets and walls have recently been restored to their former glory.

Overnight stay in Monastir.

DAY 7 · MONASTIR - SOUSSE (OPTIONAL EXCURSION TO KAIROUAN)

Monastir was founded by the Carthaginians in the tenth century and has undergone a major transformation due to tourism. It's the birthplace of President Habib Bourguiba, who was the first leader of the Tunisian republic and greatly contributed to its progress. You can visit the mausoleum erected in his honour, which is flanked by two minarets twenty-five metres high. The kasbah is home to the ribat, an ancient fortress that was inhabited by warrior monks. Then take the coast road for half an hour in the direction of Sousse, where you'll be spending the night. Perched on the coast, it's a major financial hub and one of the most important tourist resorts in Tunisia thanks to its beaches, landmarks and attractions such as the Dar Essid Museum, the Archaeological Museum, the ribat and the medina, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. If you have time, today you can take an optional trip to Kairouan, the spiritual capital of Tunisia and the holiest city in the Maghreb. If you prefer to see Kairouan at a more leisurely pace, we recommend spending an extra night in Monastir or Sousse. Kairouan is famous for being the city of three hundred mosques. A long wall from the eleventh century surrounds its medina. Founded in 671 AD, it has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. It's surrounded by a steppe-like landscape and still retains the appearance of a military camp, recalling its historical beginnings. Its winding streets make up one of the most attractive medinas in the whole of Tunisia, home also to the Mosque of the Three Doors. The pulpit of the Great Mosque, the mihrab, is the oldest in the entire Arab world. Its souks are always full of life and one of the most popular is the carpet souk. The carpets have made this city famous and there's even a museum where they're exhibited. Its Great Mosque is the oldest temple in the western Muslim world, with its four hundred columns and its imposing thirty-five-metre minaret from where the muezzin calls for prayer. The Barber's Mausoleum owes its name to the burial site of one of Muhammad's companions, Abou Djama el Balaoui, who always carried around three hairs of the prophet as a sign of veneration. It's the most visited mausoleum in Tunisia.

Overnight stay in Sousse.

DAY 8 · SOUSSE - TUNIS

After this intense journey full of experiences and adventures, today you can soak up the lively atmosphere of the tourist resort of Sousse and stroll along its promenade, "La Corniche". Kick-start the day by savouring an orange-flavoured Turkish coffee! Sousse is the capital of the Sahel, named after the coastline between Sousse and Sfax, and is the third-largest city in Tunisia. It's a lively trading place, an important financial hub and a busy port city. Its ninth-century Great Mosque has recently been restored to give the appearance of a fortress. Next door is the ribat, from where worshippers are called to prayer. In the souks of Sousse you'll find all kinds of traditional crafts. Make sure you visit its Archaeological Museum, where maritime-themed Roman mosaics are exhibited. You can then explore the catacombs, excavated between the second and fourth centuries, with more than two hundred galleries. To round the day off, head for the city of Tunis. Savour some delicious local cuisine at one of its trendy restaurants. (Note: Before planning the day, bear in mind that both cities are separated by three hundred and fifteen kilometres).

Overnight stay in Tunis.

DAY 9 · TUNIS - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Tunisia.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Tunisia.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Tozeur.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Tozeur.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Douz.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Douz.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Sfax.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Sfax.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Monastir.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Monastir.

✓ Stay in selected hotel in Sousse.

✓ Selected meal plan in Sousse.

✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

✗ Accommodation taxes in Tunisia direct payment in facility.

✗ Departure taxes in Tunisia.

✗ Possible toll charges.

✗ Insolvency protection.

Destinations Visited

Tunisia



Sidi Bou Said



Tozeur



Nefta



Douz



MatmatatAlQadimal



Gabes



Sfax



Monastir



Sousse



Important remarks

- Tunisia is a Muslim country and the month of Ramadan is of major significance to its residents. During

Ramadan, entertainment and alcohol will be restricted in most of the country. The sale of alcohol will be restricted in many places, although some establishments will offer alcohol for sale to tourists. During this period, local businesses may also have shorter opening hours.

- Triple rooms in Africa are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.