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A Look At What Tunisia Offers Tourists

Tunisia, the northeastern most country in Africa for the past 3000 years, is a colorful and exciting holiday destination. It is a land of spice, flowers, ancient history, and modern hospitality. You will arrive at first class airports, eat in intriguing restaurants and stay at picture perfect hotels.

Tunisia has a mild and scenic coastline and a perfect climate. The Mediterranean makes up its northern, and part of its eastern border. Libya is also to the east and south, and Algeria is to the west. In the over 3000 years of its existence, this country has seen many civilizations pass through and leave their marks: the Phoenicians, Romans, Vandals, Byzantines, Turks, Spanish and French. Today's Tunisian culture is a mosaic of all of these cultures that have gone before.

The finest collection of mosaics in the world is housed at the tremendous National Museum of Bardo near Tunis. This museum was built as a 13th century palace and then expanded in the 17th and 18th centuries. It is a fine example of Arab and Muslim architecture and décor. Besides its mosaics collection, the National Museum at Bardo is known for its galleries, vaulted ceilings and cupolas. The Carthage Museum houses a fine collection of Punic and Roman artifacts including everyday items. Don't pass the lovely jewelry display by or the distinctive Punic masks made of colored glass paste. The main ruins of Punic Carthage are also in this area. Suffice to say that the area surrounding the Carthage Museum is ripe with historical significance and is a history buff's dream.

The Dar Ben Abdallah Museum of Traditional Arts and Customs, in Tunis, can be found on the ground floor of the 18th century Dar Ben Abdallah Palace. It is in the medina, the center of old Tunis. This museum is famed for its displays of traditional Tunisian arts as well as its exhibits of the customs of the city of Tunis. Most museums in Tunisia are closed on Mondays. There are many Tunisian festivals that could be the highlight of any holiday in Tunisia. Every village, no matter how small, has at least one festival and visitors are always welcome. The Saharian Festival is for those who are mesmerized by the vast Sahara. It takes place in Douz, considered to be the gateway to the Sahara. It is held during the second week in November. If you are a devotee of world class music, don't miss the International Music Festival at the El Jem Coliseum from mid-July to mid-August. What could be lovelier than listening to world famous orchestras and artists on a warm Tunisian evening under the stars in a Roman coliseum?

The most important component of Tunisian family cuisine is its breads! Country breads, found in smaller villages, are usually unleavened and baked in domed, clay ovens called tabounas. Bread is a staple at every Tunisian meal and everywhere in Tunisia has its own special breads. Lamb is the Tunisians' meat of choice. Due to its long coastline, there is also a plethora of seafood and olive oil, salads and all sorts of herbs and spices including cumin, coriander, garlic, parsley, and dried peppers enhance the flavor of Tunisian food. Tunisians love hot and spicy food but often serve their signature spicy condiment, Harissa, as a side dish for tourists who aren't up to the hot food. Don't pass up dessert. Turkish Baklava, a confection made of layers of crispy pastry, ground nuts and cinnamon and soaked in honey syrup is too good to miss.

Tunisia is a world-class destination for your world-class holiday!

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