

## TUNISIA

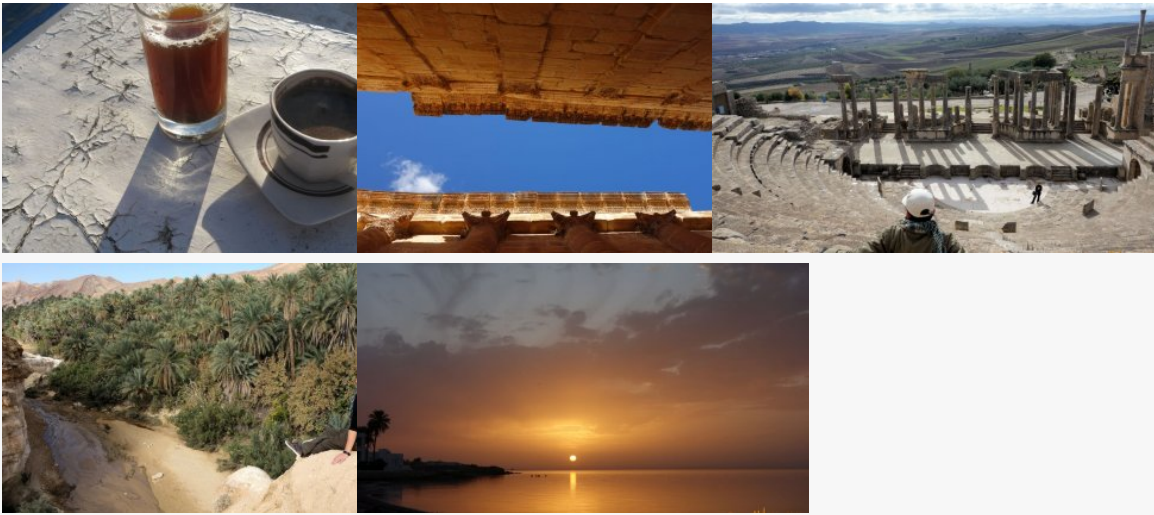
Although many travelers associate Tunisia with its exquisite beaches, the North African country has far more to offer. Its empty deserts, enormous salt lakes and scattered oases tempt those who love varied landscapes. At the same time, Phoenician, Roman, Ottomans and many more have left behind impressive architectural heritage for history buffs to explore. UNESCO has added several of the country's cultural sites to its World Heritage List.



The country is no less exciting in regards to its politics. Triggered by the self-immolation of the vegetable vendor Mohamed Bouazizi, the "Arab Spring" that began in Tunisia in 2011 toppled the local dictator, Ben Ali, and spread its revolutionary momentum throughout the region. However, while Egypt, Libya, Syria, and Yemen descended into chaos, Tunisia managed to transition to a participatory and democratic system, with the right to freedom and democracy anchored in its new constitution of 2014. A unity government followed, which was formed with Islamist and secular forces in 2015.

However, the country still faces plenty of challenges: most foreign fighters for the "Islamic State" come from Tunisia, while in 2015, violent Islamists targeted the country's important tourism sector. While bleak prospects for inhabitants of the Tunisian periphery help to breed extremism, Tunisia is rising to its challenges. The "Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet", formed by its four most powerful workers unions, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015 for helping the country transition to democracy.





## Unsere Highlights

### Civil society

We will get to know people and organizations that witnessed the 2011 “Jasmine Revolution” and are now promoting and encouraging an increase in democratic participation. Our trip features encounters and discussions with locals — journalists, union organizers and cultural activists. We will also address social fault lines between secular and Islamist forces, as well as socio-economic disparities in the country.

### Culture

Tunisia boasts several UNESCO World Cultural Heritage sites. The Medinas of Tunis and Sousse, the al-Ghriba Synagogue on the island of Djerba, and the archeological treasures of Carthage and El-Djem, are some noteworthy examples. Besides that, a nourishing new cultural art scene is developing as well as many grassroots movements in the cultural sector.

### Nature

The small country boasts an impressive variety of nature, from white sandy beaches, forests and mountain ranges, to fresh- and salt-water lakes and oases in the Sahara.

### Political briefings

We will attempt to retrace Tunisia’s turbulent recent history in brief, but in-depth, discussions. How did the fall of Ben Ali come about and what followed? How did upheavals in neighboring countries influence the situation in Tunisia? How strong is Tunisia’s democracy? What are Tunisia’s most pressing political and economic challenges today? These are only a few of the questions we plan to explore.

### Migration

In Tunisia, we encounter the topic of migration in different ways. About one million Tunisians - of a population of 12 million - live abroad, most of them in Europe. Tunisia is also an important transit country and destination for refugees from neighboring countries and Sub-Saharan Africa. We will explore how these migration flows affect the country.

## Useful country-specific information

### Health & vaccination

No special vaccinations are needed for a stay in Tunisia. Medical facilities have a very good standard and advice is easy to get. In order to prevent cases of diarrhea, however, we recommend to avoid drinking tap water.

When it comes to the **Corona virus** (COVID-19), we follow the recommendations made by the [German Federal Foreign Office](#) as well as the local authorities and the German Embassy on site. In case of any change of the health situation, the tour might be subject to according changes we will inform you about as soon as possible.

### Language

The official language in Tunisia is Arabic. Moreover, French is being spoken in many parts of the country. Today, also English will serve you well while travelling.

### Local currency

The official currency in Tunisia is the Tunisian Dinar (TND). It is very easy to exchange money (Euros or US Dollars) anywhere in the country or to withdraw cash with a debit or credit card, as the banks have numerous branches. We recommend to take a part of the money in cash, and take a debit or credit card with you as well. Withdrawal fees might vary according to the regulations of your home bank.

### Security

The issue of security plays a big role in Tunisia.

In planning our tours, we follow the recommendations and statements issued by the German Federal Foreign Office. Our route only leads us through areas deemed safe by the Office. While doing so, we keep close contact with the German Embassy and local authorities on the ground. In case of any change of the security situation, the tour route might be subject to according changes.

## Visa

Visas are provided upon arrival at the airports. It is thus not necessary to apply for a visa at the Tunisian Embassy in Germany. To receive a visa upon arrival, you need a passport with a minimum six months validity at the time of travel. The visa is free of charge.

Visa regulations might change at any time. If so, we will inform you in time before the tour start. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have any Israeli stamps in your passport, and/or do not wish to travel with your German passport.

For general information on our tours please click [here](#)

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