

# Tunisia October 2022

## (Pilgrimage Mahdia/Tunisia)

We have the pleasure to communicate you our best offer for group in **Oct. 2022** 13 days / 12 nights, basis half board.

### Program:

#### 1. Day, Tunis (ca. 40 km)

Arrival in Tunis airport at 09: 25', welcome, transfer to Hotel Mouradi Gammarth  
– Installation – relax –



The afternoon is for the extensive archaeological digs of **Carthage** and its harbour Salambo. Then discover the archaeological museum, the area of the baths, the recently uncovered Punic sacrificial temple, and the main theatre and near by "upper class" villas.

Visit of the village of **Sidi Bou Said**, a village set in a wonderful site on a hill-top overlooking the sea.

Dinner and overnight at 5\* Hotel Mouradi Gammarth / Tunis.



#### 2. Day, Tunis / Bizerte / Tabarka (ca. 210 km)



In the morning visit of the **Tunis Medina** (old city).

Drive to **Bizerte**. Stop in the city –

Continue to **Tabarka** via Sejnane –

Dinner and overnight at 4\* Hotel Mehari in Tabarka.

#### 3. Day, Tabarka – Bulla Regia – Thugga – Kairouan ( ca. 300 km)

Buffet breakfast, departure to **Bulla Regia**, the only archaeological site in the Roman world with underground villas featuring floor mosaics that are excellent both in terms of quality and preservation. It also features Temples to Jupiter, Minerva and Juno.



Then continue to **Dougga**, listed 1997 World Heritage Sites. *Before the Roman annexation of Numidia, the town of Thugga, built on an important site overlooking a fertile plain, was the capital of an important Punic state. It flourished under Roman and Byzantine rule, but decline during the Islamic period. The ruins visible today bear impressive witness to the resources of a small Roman town on the edges of the Empire.* Dougga the 1st archeological site of the country, we'll visit the remains of the best preserved roman city to exquisite underground villas.

Drive on to Kairouan located in the centre of Tunisia.

Dinner and overnight at 5\* Hotel La Kasbah in Kairouan.

#### 4. Day, Kairouan / Sbeitla / Tozeur (ca. 330 km)

After breakfast visit **Kairouan** which is enclosed within a Buttressed wall and developed around the medina with its souks and carpets stalls. There is a Number of Mosques and the best known of these is Djema Sidi Okba or the Great Mosque part of which dated back to the 9 th century . Visit of the Zaouia of Sidi Saheb or Barber Mosque, is the burial place of one of



the companions of the prophet. This mosque is adorned with an elegant minaret.



Continue to **Sbeitla**, the last African stronghold of the Byzantine Empire, rated second in Tunisia's archeological sites, there, remain extensive ruins of considerable size, such as triumphal arch, three nobly-proportioned temples, probably dedicated to three gods Jupiter- Juno and Minerva. There are also several large Christian Basilicas, of them with mosaics, and ancient aqueduct. Then departure to Gafsa.

Continue to **Tozeur** the most important Oasis in the Djerid, has earned a reputation for the lush beauty of its oasis in which thrive a forest of date palms and great number of orchards irrigated by numerous cool springs. The houses in certain districts date back to the 14th century and are remarkable for the style of the facades executed in solid brick laid in quincunx patterns. Visit of Tozeur.

Dinner and overnight at 4\* Hotel Ras El-Ain in Tozeur.

### 5. Day, Tozeur / Mountain's Oasis / Chott El-Djerid / Douz (ca. 250 km)

Upon breakfast departure in **4X4** towards the mountain's oasis – visit **Chebika & Tamerza**. Then continue to **Oung Jemel** where you will visit the backdrops of the movie "Star Wars".



Back to **Tozeur** and there you have the possibility of horse-drawn carriage in the palm grove of the oasis (Optional).

Then you will cross the immense salt lake **Chott El Jerid**, an immense dried salt lake where you'll see mirages

Continue to **Douz** the 'gateway to the Sahara'. Here there is the option of a camel ride into the desert.

Dinner and overnight at 4\* Hotel Sahara Douz.

### 6. Day, Douz / Matmata / Médenine / Zarzis (ca. 220km)

The day starts with a drive to **Matmata** with its lunar landscape and homes built into the earth. You will have a chance to visit a troglodyte dwelling.



Then departure to **Médenine** to discover the "Ksours" (plural of Ksar), a fortified grain granary to store food and valuables. Continue to Zarzis.

Dinner and overnight at the 4 stars hotel Vincci Safira Palms.

### 7. Day, Zarzis / Island Tour / Ghriba (ca. 90 km)

Buffet breakfast, then you start making your way to Djerba island via the roman causeway.

Tour of the island (visiting Guellala, Hara Kbira, Houmt Souk ...).



Today, we experience the intoxication of the *Island of the Lotus Eaters*, which made Ulysses'

men forget their homes. During our tour of the island we see the bustling market where women wear their white and red wraps topped by their straw hats; we admire the tiny white mosques so appreciated by the painter Paul Klee and the architect Le Corbusier,

we visit the old Jewish quarter and at least the **Ghriba Synagogue** holding one of the oldest Torahs in the world.

Dinner and overnight at the 4 stars hotel Helios Beach / Djerba.

## 8. Day, Djerba / Gabès / Sfax / El-Djem / Mahdia (ca. 320 km)

Today you leave the island by Ferry.



From Djerba you will travel to the oasis of **Gabès** where you will visit the Markt of spices.

And then you continue north via Sfax to the “Roman Coliseum of **El-Djem**”. Visit El Djem Amphitheater, larger than Rome's Coliseum.

Continue to Mahdia. Dinner and overnight at the 4 stars hotel Mahdia Palace.

## 9. Day, Mahdia



In the morning, tour of the small Medina of Mahdia, the capital of Fatimids: the great Mosque (founded 921 by Ubaydallah El Mahdi).

Fatimid Port, Sekifa el kahla (the black passage) the monumental gate way to the old town.

The afternoon: relaxing around the swimming pool and the beach. Dinner and overnight at the 4 stars hotel Mahdia Palace

## 10. Day, Mahdia / Monastir / Sousse / Port El-Kantaoui (ca. 80 km)

After breakfast we drive 40km to Monastir the birthplace of the Leader Habib Bourguiba (1903-2006) buried in Bourguiba Mausoleum at the north end of the cemetery. A huge square building with a huge golden cupola flanked by two splendid matching minarets. Monastir's forums monument is the Ribat (8<sup>th</sup> century) (fortress) which featured also in the 13<sup>th</sup> episode serial “Jesus of Nazareth and Raides of t he last aArk”. The view is wonderful.



After the visit we continue to Sousse (20km) third great city in Tunisia we visit the Ribat and its ancient medina.

Dinner and overnight at 4\* Hotel Marhaba Palace in Port El-Kantaoui.

## 11. Day, Port El-Kantaoui / Hammamet (ca. 60 km)



After breakfast, sightseeing in El Kantaoui Marina, then we continue to Hammamet to explore the marina of the Mediterranean with its typically Tunisian architecture. Then departure to Hammamet.

Accommodation (2 nights) in 4\* Hotel Vincci Nozha Beach in Hammamet

## 12. Day, Hammamet

After the highlights of the last few days, enjoy some rest, relax in your seaside hotel and take a stroll along the extensive sandy beach pleasant Mediterranean climate.

## 13. Day, Hammamet / Bardo Museum / Airport Tunis (ca. 70 km)

Departure to the **Bardo Museum** (if it is open) the roman section comprises the most interesting collection of its kind to be found on the African Continent. Finally Transfer to Tunis airport.

Assistance to embarkation – End of our Services