

EXPLORING TUNISIA

ANCIENT SITES, RICH HISTORY & A MODERN DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT

APRIL 24-MAY 4, 2014



Join Tunisian author, journalist and cultural historian Hatem Bourial on a unique tour of the country's vast historical sites and Mediterranean culture, with a particular focus on what has transpired since the country's revolution in January 2011. Come see why many political experts believe that Tunisia will serve as a model for democracy movements in the region.

- Meet political **activists, media, students** and **leaders of Tunisia's vibrant civil society**.
- Visit **Tunis**, the capital city, with its elaborate medina and *ville nouvelle* and discover the picturesque Andalusian town of **Sidi Bou Said**.
- Experience ancient **Carthage** (including the tophets, the port, Antonine's baths and Byrsa Hill) and the **Bardo Museum's** world-class collection of mosaics.
- Tour **Dougga**, known as the city of temples and dating back to the 4th century B.C.
- Explore **El Jem**, with its amphitheater similar to Rome's coliseum.
- See **Kairouan's** Great Mosque, dating from the 7th century and reputed to be the oldest mosque in Africa.
- Experience the **Matmata** region, where crater-like topography is dotted with troglodyte dwellings.
- Relax in the seaside resort of **Jerba** and learn about an ancient Jewish community.
- Throughout, stay in **charming accommodations** and enjoy meals in private homes and top **restaurants**.

Cost: \$4,195 per person, double occupancy; \$650 single room supplement



TRIP DETAILS

DATES:

April 24–May 4, 2014 (11 days)

GROUP SIZE:

Minimum 8, Maximum 25

COST:

\$4,195 per person, double occupancy;
\$650 single room supplement

INCLUDED:

Tour leader, local guides and all guest speakers; activities as specified in the itinerary; transportation throughout; airport transfers on designated group dates and times; accommodations as specified (or similar); meals (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner); wine and beer with welcome and farewell events; bottled water on all coach vehicles; Commonwealth Club rep with 8 or more participants; all gratuities to local guides, driver, and for all included group activities; pre-departure materials.

NOT INCLUDED:

International air to Tunisia; visa and passport fees; meals not specified as included; optional outings and gratuities for those outings; alcoholic beverages beyond welcome and farewell events; travel insurance (recommended, information will be sent upon registration); items of a purely personal nature.

ITINERARY

Thursday, April 24 U.S./Tunis

Depart the U.S. for independent flights to Tunis, Tunisia.

Friday, April 25 Tunis

Transfer to our hotel in the Gammarth area of Tunis, a wonderful setting less than ten minutes from Carthage and the picturesque Andalusian village of Sidi Bou Said. Enjoy a traditional Tunisian meal at our welcome dinner. *Golden Tulip (D)*

Saturday, April 26 Tunis

After a morning orientation and lecture about Tunisia's revolution, we visit Carthage. Founded around 800 B.C. by the Phoenicians, and a flourishing city for centuries, our visit includes the tophefts, Punic ports, Antonine Baths, Byrsa Hill, cisterns, and the Carthage museum, which houses an unparalleled collection of Punic artifacts. Take an early evening walk in Sidi Bou Said, enjoying the winding alleyways and ocean views, before our dinner with local Tunisians.

Golden Tulip (B, L, D)

Sunday, April 27 Tunis/Dougga

Explore the Bardo Museum's world-class collection of Roman and Byzantine mosaics. En route to Dougga, we stop for lunch in the Medjez river valley. Dougga was known as the city of temples and its existence is thought to date back to the 4th century B.C. Visit several sites including the Capitol, and the theater, which today is used for the Dougga Drama festival and accommodates almost 3,500 people. Return in the early evening to Tunis for dinner and overnight.

Golden Tulip (B, L, D)

Monday, April 28 Tunis Environs

Morning lecture about "Women and Islam in Tunisia" followed by a late morning visit to Borj Loisir, an economically challenged section of Tunis, where we meet with the female founder of an NGO focused on empowering women and helping to spawn entrepreneurs in the region. Later in the day, meet with U.S. Embassy staff for a briefing. *Golden Tulip (B, L)*

Tuesday, April 29 Sousse/ Kairouan

Depart Tunis and discover the rich farming regions of central Tunisia, as we enter the Sahel. Arrive in Sousse (Tunisia's third largest city) and meet with students and faculty at the University of Sousse to hear their perspectives on the revolution. Another hour drive brings us to Kairouan where we meet some of the locals in this traditional and small historic town.

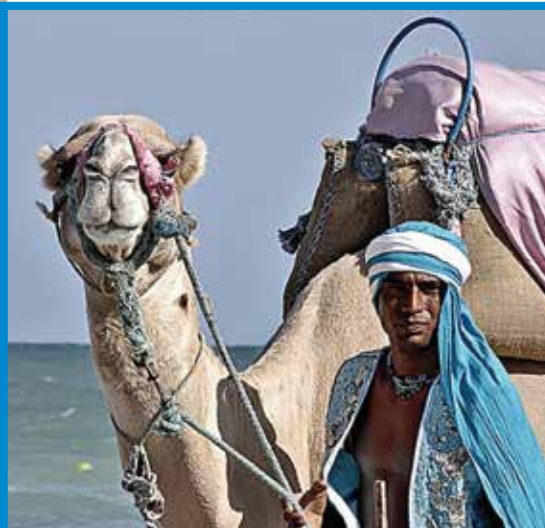
La Kasbah (B, L, D)

Wednesday, April 30

Kairouan/El Jem/Sfax

Kairouan's location along the old caravan routes provided a base for a flourishing crafts industry, which lives on today in its rugs and textiles. Discover the *medina*, and wander past sellers of carpets, leather goods, brass works, and spices, on our way to Kairouan's Great Mosque. Dating from the 7th century, it is reputed to be the oldest mosque in Africa and able to accommodate 200,000 people. Continue to El Jem, noted for its amphitheater, similar to the coliseum of Rome. Explore the amphitheater and the impressive mosaic collection at the museum. We depart for Sfax, the country's second largest city and the only remaining fully walled city in Tunisia.

Les Oliviers Palace (B, L, D)



MALTA POST-TRIP EXTENSION MAY 4-7

Thursday, May 1 Matmata/Jerba

This morning, drive south towards the *ksour* region and a visit to the area of Matmata. With its crater-like topography dotted with troglodyte dwellings, it provided one of the film locations for the movie, *Star Wars*. Explore some of these dwellings and have a lunch in a troglodyte home. Continue to the coast and take a ferry to the island of Jerba, where we enjoy our seaside resort.

Radisson Blu (B, L, D)

Friday, May 2 Jerba

Visit El Ghriba synagogue, located amidst one of the island's two historically Jewish communities, and continues to live in harmony with the island's larger Arab-Muslim community. Afternoon at leisure to explore Houmt Souk, Jerba's main market town, where the Mediterranean atmosphere of cafes, restaurants and shopping underscore the island's serenity.

Radisson Blu (B, D)

Saturday, May 3 Tunis

Fly back to Tunis and transfer to our hotel in the heart of the city. Take a walking tour of the *medina*, as well as the nearby streets of "*ville nouvelle*", the adjacent quarters of Tunis that were developed during the French period. See the Zitouna Mosque, dating from the 7th century. Our farewell dinner tonight is in the kasbah.

The Palace Golden Yasmin (B, D)

Sunday, May 4 Tunis/U.S.

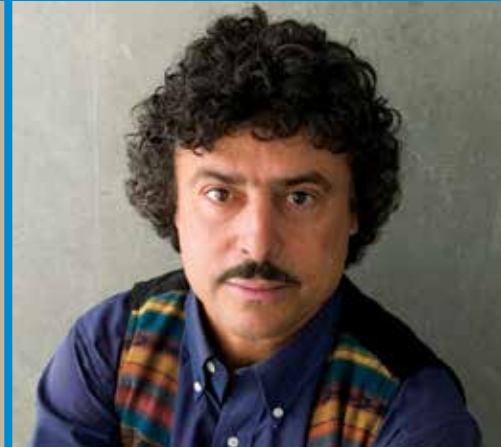
Transfer to the Tunis airport for flights home, or continue to Malta. (B)

Explore Malta on this 3-night/4-day extension staying at the boutique Victoria Hotel in Sliema, a town with a wonderful Mediterranean atmosphere. Visit prehistoric M'dina, including the Roman Villa and St. Paul's Catacombs; see the Hypogeum of Paola and the Pre-Megalithic Temples of Malta; experience Valetta, Malta's capital and home to the Barraca Gardens, St. John's Cathedral and the Grand Master's Palace; and visit the island of Gozo including the temples of Ggantija. Complete details available on request, and provided with trip confirmation.

Cost: \$1,875 per person, double occupancy; \$200 single supplement (one-way air from Tunis to Malta included)

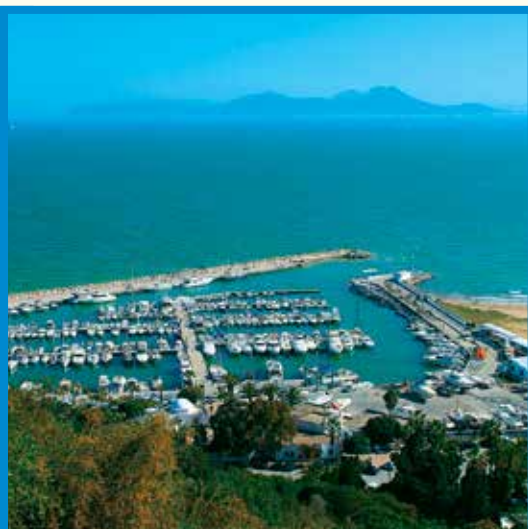
TRIP LEADER, JOURNALIST HATEM BOURIAL

The author of nine books, a weekly column for *Tunis-Hebdo* (a Tunisia-French weekly) and editor of many independent news magazines, Hatem Bourial is a frequent commentator on Tunisia's radio and television. A well-known figure in Tunisia's world of culture and the press, he will provide insightful analysis of Tunisia's culture, history, politics and literature.



TOUR HOST, JERRY SORKIN

Hosting portions of this tour is Jerry Sorkin, a Middle East/North African specialist who resides much of the year in Tunisia and has been awarded *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine's "Top Travel Specialist" five years in a row for his work in Tunisia. He is also currently the Director of George Washington University's International Institute of Tourism Studies for Tunisia.



RESERVATION FORM April 24–May 4, 2014

NAME 1 _____

NAME 2 _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

SINGLE TRAVELERS ONLY:

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate: I plan to share accommodations with _____

OR I wish to have single accommodations. OR I'd like to know about possible roommates. I am a smoker / nonsmoker. (circle one)

PAYMENT:

Here is my deposit of \$ _____ (\$500 per person) for _____ place(s). I/we would like the Malta post-trip extension.

Enclosed is my check (make payable to *Commonwealth Club*). OR Charge my deposit to my Visa MasterCard AMEX

CARD# _____ EXPIRES _____ SECURITY CODE _____

AUTHORIZED CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Please note that final payment must be made by check.

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for this program and agree to them.

SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR DEPOSIT TO:

Commonwealth Club Travel

595 Market St., 2nd floor

San Francisco, CA 94105

You may also fax the form to 415.597.6729

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

The Commonwealth Club (CWC) has contracted TunisUSA to organize this tour.

Reservations: A \$500 per person deposit, along with a completed and signed Reservation Form, will reserve a place for participants on this program. The balance of the trip is due 90 days prior to departure and *must be paid by check*.

Cancellation and Refund Policy: Notification of cancellation must be received in writing. At the time we receive your written cancellation, the following penalties will apply:

- 91 days or more prior to departure: \$350 per person
- 90-60 days to departure: 50% fare
- 59-1 days prior to departure: 100% fare

Tour can also be cancelled due to low enrollment. Neither CWC nor TunisUSA accepts liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets purchased in conjunction with the tour.

Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance: We strongly advise that all travelers purchase trip cancellation and interruption insurance as coverage against a covered unforeseen emergency that may force you to cancel or leave trip while it is in progress. A brochure describing coverage

will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation.

Medical Information: Participation in this program requires that you be in good health. It is essential that persons with any medical problems and related dietary restrictions make them known to us well before departure.

Itinerary Changes & Trip Delay: We reserve the right to change a program's dates, staff, itineraries, or accommodations as conditions warrant. If a trip must be delayed, or the itinerary changed, due to bad weather, road conditions, transportation delays, airline schedules, government intervention, sickness or other contingency for which CWC or TunisUSA or its agents cannot make provision, the cost of delays or changes is not included.

Limitations of Liability: CWC and TunisUSA its Owners, Agents, and Employees act only as the agent for any transportation carrier, hotel, ground operator, or other suppliers of services connected with this program ("other providers"), and the other providers are solely responsible and liable for providing their respective services. CWC and TunisUSA shall not be held liable for (A) any damage to, or loss of, property or injury to, or death of, persons occasioned directly or indirectly by

an act or omission of any other provider, including but not limited to any defect in any aircraft, or vehicle operated or provided by such other provider, and (B) any loss or damage due to delay, cancellation, or disruption in any manner caused by the laws, regulations, acts or failures to act, demands, orders, or interpositions of any government or any subdivision or agent thereof, or by acts of God, strikes, fire, flood, war, rebellion, terrorism, insurrection, sickness, quarantine, epidemics, theft, or any other cause(s) beyond their control. The participant waives any claim against CWC/ TunisUSA for any such loss, damage, injury, or death. By registering for the trip, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants. CWC/ TunisUSA shall not be liable for any air carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket to or from the departure city. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the traveler. Reasonable changes in the itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well-being of the passengers.