

# EXPLORING TUNISIA

ANCIENT SITES, RICH HISTORY & A MODERN DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT

OCTOBER 21-NOVEMBER 1, 2015



Join author, journalist, and cultural historian Hatem Bourial on a unique tour of Tunisia'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.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 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 dates 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.

"I came away from the experience with a much better understanding of Tunisia and the entire Arab world. The tour surpassed my expectations."

– Susan Milstein, 2014 *Exploring Tunisia*



## TRIP DETAILS

### DATES:

October 21–November 1, 2015 (12 days)

### GROUP SIZE:

Minimum 11, Maximum 25

### COST:

\$4,695 per person, double occupancy;  
\$875 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 11 or more participants; gratuities to trip leader and driver; 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

**Wednesday, October 21** U.S./Tunis  
Depart the U.S. for independent flights to Tunis, Tunisia.

**Thursday, October 22** 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. *Movenpick Hotel (D)*

**Friday, October 23** Tunis  
Enjoy a morning orientation and lecture about Tunisia's revolution. Then visit 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. This afternoon explore the Bardo Museum's world-class collection of Roman and Byzantine mosaics.  
*Movenpick Hotel (B, L, D)*

**Saturday, October 24** Tunis  
Morning lecture about "Women and Islam in Tunisia." Visit Carthage, founded around 800 B.C. by the Phoenicians, and a flourishing city for centuries. Our visit includes Antonine Baths, Byrsa Hill, cisterns, and the Carthage museum, which houses an unparalleled collection of Punic artifacts. In the afternoon take a walking tour of the Tunis medina, including the Zitoona Mosque, dating from the 7th century.  
*Movenpick Hotel (B, L)*

**Sunday, October 25** Tunis/Dougga  
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. *Movenpick Hotel (B, L, D)*

**Monday, October 26**  
Tunis/Kairouan/Sousse  
Meet with U.S.Embassy staff for a briefing, then depart for Kairouan, located along the old caravan routes. 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. Meet with some of the locals in this traditional and small historic town. Continue to Sousse for the night.  
*Movenpick Resort (B, L, D)*

**Tuesday, October 27** Sousse  
Explore Sousse, Tunisia's third largest city, and meet with students and faculty from the University of Sousse to hear their perspectives on the revolution. Visit the ribat, the historic heart of Sousse, followed by free time and dinner on your own.  
*Movenpick Resort (B, L)*

**Wednesday, October 28** El Jem/Sfax  
Drive to El Jem which is 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 1-4**

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 pre-historic 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 (air from Tunis to Malta included)

**Thursday, October 29** 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 on to the island of Jerba, where we enjoy our seaside resort *Radisson Blu* (B, L, D)

**Friday, October 30** Jerba  
Visit 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, October 31** Jerba/Tunis  
Fly back to Tunis and transfer to our hotel in the heart of the city. Independent exploration of the medina, as well as the nearby streets of "ville nouvelle", the adjacent quarters of Tunis that were developed during the French period. Our farewell dinner tonight is in the kasbah. *Mouradi L'Africa Hotel* (B, D)

**Sunday, November 1** Jerba/Tunis  
Transfer to the Tunis airport for flights home.

### 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.

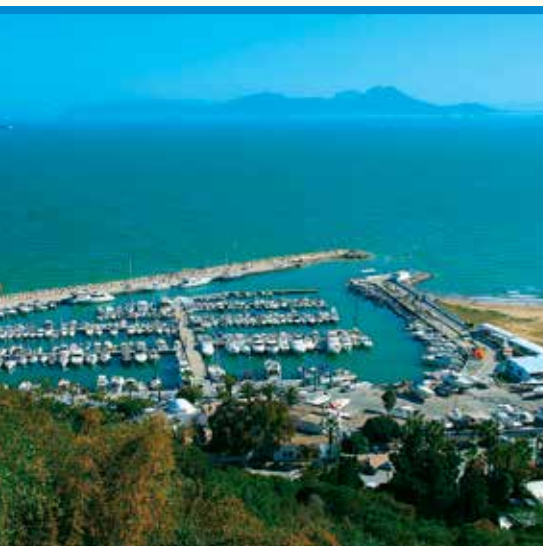
### TOUR HOST, JERRY SORKIN

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 currently also the Director of George Washington University's International Institute of Tourism Studies for Tunisia.



"Our guide was brilliant. His knowledge about Tunisia from the Phoenicians through the present was encyclopedic. However the best part was his ability to bridge to the locals, and enable a sharing across cultures. An exceptional experience!"

– Edie Heilman, 2014 *Exploring Tunisia*



## RESERVATION FORM October 21–November 1, 2015

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).

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**

**555 Post St.**

**San Francisco, CA 94102**

**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.