

Travel to Tunisia



Tunisia Practical Tips

It is the smallest Arab Maghreb country and, no doubt, the most charming: its history very rich and its hospitality great. More than any other Mediterranean country, Tunisia has a quite a diverse landscape. From the coastal area to the desert, passing through profound valleys, Tunisia offers incredible geographical richness, and this makes it a country of amazement and interest.

Geography

With a total area of 163,610 km², Tunisia is the smallest Maghreb country. It borders the Mediterranean Sea to the North, Algeria to the West (965 km of common border) and Libya to South-West with 459 km of common border. Its capital, Tunis, lies to the North-Eastern part of the country, in the gulf of Tunis. The Sahara desert covers more than 30% of the country's territory. The rest of the landscape is made up of mountainous regions and fertile plains – home to the Carthaginian civilization, which reached its peak in the 3rd century B.C., before becoming the “breadbasket” of the Roman Empire.

Population

Almost 10 million inhabitants, out of whom 60% live in urban areas. Population density: 57.9 inhabitants/km². Main ethnic group: Arabs (98 %).

Time zone

The time zone of Tunisia is GMT + 1.

Language

Arabic is the official language and French is widely spoken.

Religious denominations

Official religion: Islam (almost 98 % de la population). There is a small Jewish community (Tunis, Djerba...).

Your trip

Administrative procedure

Foreign citizens are allowed to enter in Tunisia only if they have an **internationally valid passport** (passports still valid in the upcoming 6 months). **Transit or entry visas** may also be needed.

The transit visa grants its owner the right to spend 7 days on the Tunisian territory. These visas can be obtained with from **Tunisian diplomatic agents or Consulates of the Republic of Tunisia** abroad. In Tunisia, the visa is delivered at "Border Police" offices.

Entry visas make mention of their validity period. The stay cannot be longer than 3 months. As in the case of transit visas, entry visas can be obtained from **diplomatic agents or Consulates of the Republic of Tunisia** in the traveller's home country.

For the delegates coming from **countries that do not have any diplomatic representation or consulate of the Republic of Tunisia**, a procedure of visa issue at the airport (Tunis or Monastir) is organised with the Tunisian authorities. These delegates have to **send a copy of the first two pages of their passport to the AIST general secretariat** (by e-mail: aist@aist-tresor.com, or by fax: 00 33.1.53.69.04.23).

Good to know before coming to Tunisia

Introducing liqueurs, alcoholic drinks, eau de toilette, perfume, tobacco, etc. is subject to customs regulations valid in the majority of countries (the quotas per person currently in place are: 2 liters of alcoholic drinks + 1 carton of cigarettes). Certain objects can be introduced in a duty free system, provided that the voyager has it on him when leaving the country (duty-free entry for re-export).

Cash return

The remainder in TND can be re-exchanged in other currency on the basis of the exchange receipt for the sums amounting up to TND 1,000. For amounts higher than TND 1,000 a statement shall be made at the customs upon entry in the country and then, showed when leaving the country for re-exchange.

Flights to and from Tunisia

There are several flights from Paris to Tunisia: 5 daily flights to Tunis (2h25), several flights a week to Djerba (2h50), Monastir (2h35), Tozeur (2h50) and Sfax (2h45). All these provided by Tunisair. Air France also operates 4 flights/day from Paris to Tunis (1h50).

Tunis Airport-Carthage – Phone no: 00 216.71.754.000,
Call Center Tunisair – Phone no: 00 216.70.838.111,
Tunisair (Tunis Airport) – Phone no: 00 216.71.754.000 or 00 216.71.848.000,
Tunisair (Tunis - Headquarters) – Phone no: 00 216.70.837.000 or 00 216.70.838.300,
Air France Tunis – Phone no: 00 216.71.137.700.

Main airline companies flying to Tunis: Air Algeria, Air Europa, Air France, Air Malta, Alitalia, British Airways, GB Airways, Corsairfly, Egyptair, Emirates, Jat Airways, Libyan Airways, Lufthansa, Nouvelair, Qatar Airways, Royal Air Maroc, Royal Jordanian, Saudi Arabian Airlines, Syrian Arab Airlines, TUfly, Tuninter, Tunisair, Turkish Airlines.

In order to get to Hammamet: arrive at Monastir (then count 1h30 for transfer) or to Tunis (and then 1h by road).

Airport information

The international Tunis-Carthage airport is situated 9 km away from downtown Tunis. In order to get to the city you need roughly half an hour by bus (bus no. 35, the ticket costs less than 1 dinar) - departures every 30 minutes, or 15 minutes by taxi (it costs 2 up to 4 dinars, depending on the traffic).

Your transfer to the hotel

The Organization committee of the Seminar will ensure your transfer from the airport (Tunis or Monastir) to the hotel (outward and return).

The good quality of the reception of the delegates depends on the information given about their trip (full details of the flight plan). In case of change in your flight plan you are kindly invited to inform the AIST general secretariat (by e-mail: aist@aist-tresor.com – or by fax: 00 33.1.69.04.23) and the Organisation committee in Tunisia: Mrs. Emna GUEDDICHE (e-mail: g_emna_fr@yahoo.fr - Phone: 00 216.97.466.411).

Your stay in Tunisia

Location of the seminar

The seminar will take place at the hotel «**The Russelior**».

The hotel location:

The Russelior

BP 76 Yasmine Hammamet 8040

Phone: 00 216.72.245.000 - Fax: 00 216.72.245.345

Website: www.therusselior.com

Contact: M. Anis BEN CHEIKH, Sales manager

E-mail: anis.bencheikh@therusselior.com

The hotel is fitted with a cash point (near the reception) and offers currency exchange services (at the reception).

All convertible currencies can be exchanged at the hotel.

The following credit cards are accepted for payment:

Visa, Eurocard-Mastercard and American Express.

Financial details

AIST will book the room for all the participants' stay in Hammamet according to the registration form that has to be filled on-line.

Reminder: AIST will refund accommodation costs only for members who have paid their subscription, in the limit of one person per country for three nights (from Wednesday November 14th 2012 to Friday November 16th 2012).

The following prices that have been negotiated by the AIST will be available during the stay of the delegates, including the period before and after the seminar:

- Twin room (breakfast and visitors' tax included): 190 Tunisian Dinar (circa 93,5 €).

Health

No need for any special vaccination when travelling in Tunisia.

A doctor will be available at any moment during the seminar (M.D. MAMI – Phone: 98 308 534). He could also be reached through the hotel reception.

Medical emergencies in Hammamet (Hammamet clinic): 72 266 000.

Drugstore : 72 261 111.

Travelling in Tunisia

In Tunis and its suburbs: taxis and buses are numerous. You can also take the metro or the train to go from the capital to its northern or southern suburbs.

- Shared taxis: 9 people (between cities). They are pretty cheap.
- Car rentals: Renting a car in Tunisia costs TND 100 per day with unlimited mileage. It is recommendable to take insurance. 1 l of petrol costs around TND 1.100. Check the car condition before departure. Car rental companies are numerous; you can find them even in small towns.
- Plane: Domestic flights are offered by Sevenair from Tunis to Tabarka, Monastir, Djerba, Tozeur and Sfax.
- Train: The main tourist cities are served by the Tunisian railway system SNCFT (Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Tunisiens). The network counts more than 2,000 km of railroad track. It is worthwhile taking the train between Tunis and Gabès (five-hour journey). A trip in the 2nd class will certainly have some local colour.
- Bus: There is a bus network in each city. It is the cheapest and the most practical means of transport.

Money

Exchange rate: 1 euro = 1,790 Tunisian dinars (TND).

The following international credit cards are accepted for payment: Visa, American Express, Eurocard-Mastercard.

The Tunisian banking system is also characterized by an excellent coverage in the country.

Practical information

- Opening hours of the ONTT (Tunisian National Tourist Office) in Tunisia: 8:15-13:00 and 14:30-17:00 (Friday and Saturday from 8:30 to 13:30).

- Banks opening hours: 8:00-12:00 and 13:00-17:00.

- Weekly non-working days: Saturday and Sunday for companies and banks. Administrations are closed on Friday and Saturday afternoon, and on Sunday.

- Electricity: the energy voltage in Tunisia is 220V. The electric receptacles and sockets are in European standards.

Phone

The international dialing code to call Tunisia is: 00 216.

Climate and seasons

Tunisia is a perfect destination because of its nice weather all year round. Winter is mild, a little bit cool on the coastal area (15°C at Tunis and 18°C at Djerba, in January).

During summer time, in the South-West and in the Central part of the country, it is pretty hot: the temperature can easily get to 40 °C. Best time of the year to visit Tunisia is in spring starting with mid April (16°C in Tunis and 18°C in Djerba) and in autumn starting with September (25°C in Tunis and 30°C in Djerba).

Water temperature varies between 10 to 15°C in winter and gets to 23°C in summer.

The region of Tozeur is particularly pleasant in winter and spring since the temperature does not fall under 16°C minimum.

The climate of Hammamet is mild, Mediterranean and sunny (in fact, it is a microclimate). It is altered intensely by the softening effects of the sea, which reduces the contrast between the annual range of temperature (winter average 12°C, summer average 26°C and annual average 19°C).

The rainy season starts in autumn and lasts until spring and rainfall average is 400 mm per year.

Average temperatures in Hammamet in (°C)

Jan	Feb.	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	12	15	16	20	23	26	28	26	22	17	13