TUNISIA AND ALGERIA

DETAILED ITINERARY

ANCIENT CASBAHS, DESERT OASES AND ROMAN RUINS ACROSS THE SAHARA

Nov 06/26



Roman ruins of Dougga

Wind-swept landscapes, coastal beaches, immense Roman ruins and desert oases are nestled amongst the vast dunes of the Sahara, making Tunisia and Algeria perfect adventure destinations that offers something magical for every traveler.

Despite its small size, Tunisia is a country that has played a significant role in world history. Less than 100 miles from Italy, Tunisia's strategic location on the southern shore of the Mediterranean has inspired the Phoenicians, Romans, Vandals, Arabs, Ottomans and French to locate here.

The underground dwellings and sun-baked landscapes led movie director George Lucas to film his science fiction epic Star Wars here. Tunisia is home to the ancient Phoenician trading city of Carthage and the best collection of Roman ruins on the continent. Gazing at the desert sands beneath the Mediterranean sun, it is hard to believe that anyone could live here, yet

FACTS & HIGHLIGHTS

• 24 land days • Maximum 16 travelers • Starts in Tunis, finish in Algiers • All meals included • 1 international flight included (Tunis to Algiers) • 1 domestic flight included in Algeria • Visit the National Bardo Museum • Explore ancient medinas and mosques • Discover underground Berber homes • Journey by jeep through the desert to the visit the filming location of Star Wars • Visit the Island of Djerba • Explore the Roman amphitheater at El Jem • Travel by 4x4 jeeps to an overnight desert camp • Discover Ghardaïa and the ancient oasis towns of the M'Zab Valley • Explore the magnificent Roman ruins of Djemila and Timgad. • Experience the spectacular golden dunes and breathtaking sunsets of the Sahara Desert • Marvel at Constantine's spectacular bridges and dramatic gorges.

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICE

Apr 23 - May 16, 2027 - $9495 USD
Feb 27 - Mar 20, 2028 - $9895 USD

Activity Level: 2

Comfort Level: Some long drives.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Comfortable hotels with private bathrooms. One night at a desert camp with comfortable beds and private bathrooms.

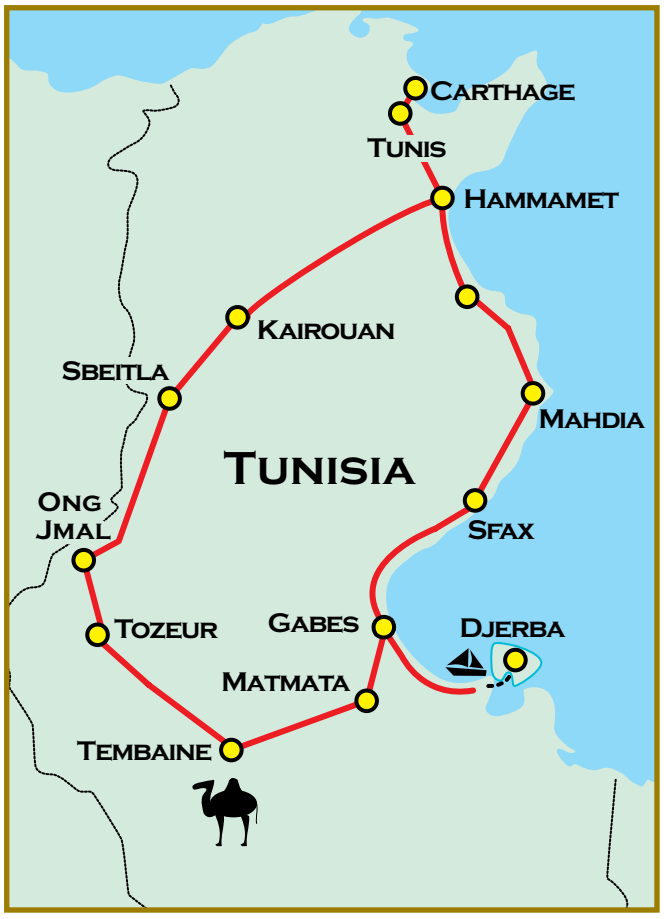
humans have been inhabiting the Tozeur oasis for over 10,000 years. Nowhere else can one fully grasp a sense of the country's lengthy history than at the National Bardo Museum in Tunis, home to some of the most significant artifacts from the Carthaginian, Roman, Christian and Arabic-Islamic eras.

A short flight takes us to Algeria, where we discover the vibrant capital of Algiers and its UNESCO-listed Casbah, with its whitewashed buildings and winding, climbing streets. En route from Algiers to Constantine, we visit the incredible ancient Roman town of Djemila, with its dramatic location and timeless charm.

Journey through Algeria's remarkable landscapes, exploring the magnificent Roman ruins of Timgad, the historic oasis towns of Bou Saada and Biskra, and the fascinating desert city of El Oued. Discover traditional souks, ancient palm groves, and the unique Ghout irrigation system before venturing into the Sahara Desert, where golden sand dunes stretch towards the horizon and spectacular sunsets create unforgettable memories.

Discover the enchanting Ghardaïa, a captivating Saharan oasis renowned for its distinctive architecture and rich cultural heritage. Set within the UNESCO-listed M'Zab Valley, this remarkable region is home to five historic fortified towns, known as ksour, that reflect centuries of Mozabite traditions. Wander the labyrinthine lanes of Ghardaïa's historic ksar, discover the ingenious ancient palm grove irrigation systems, and admire landmarks such as the Minaret of Ksar Bounoura and the fascinating eco-city of Tafilelt, where traditional architecture and modern sustainable practices come together.

This 24 day in-depth journey into the Sahara regions of Tunisia and Algeria will be an unforgettable journey of a lifetime.







Typical mosaic with a "Roman theme".

DAY 1 ARRIVE IN TUNIS

Upon arrival in Tunis, we will transfer to our hotel which is located in the heart of Tunis, very close to the lively and colorful Medina. We will meet our fellow travel companions and enjoy a welcome dinner.

Overnight in Tunis.

DAY 2 TUNIS, BARDO, CARTHAGE AND SIDI BOU SAÏD

After breakfast we depart for a visit to the Bardo Museum, home to the world's finest collection of Roman mosaics, as well as many works of art from the different periods that mark Tunisia's history. Next, we enjoy a guided visit to the old walled city of Tunis, including the UNESCO listed Medina with its maze of ancient narrow alleyways, housing hundreds of varied and colorful shops. We will enjoy an authentic Tunisian lunch at a charming restaurant the heart of the Medina.

This afternoon we'll visit the ruins of the first South Mediterranean capital, Carthage, to see the Antonin baths and the Carthage museum. The day ends with a visit to the picturesque village of Sidi Bou Saïd which is built on the hillside and overlooking the Bay of Tunis. The blue and white houses are Andalusian in architecture, and dotted with souvenir shops and small art galleries. We'll enjoy dinner at a local restaurant and return to our hotel.

Overnight in Tunis.

DAY 3 TO KAIROUAN, SBEITLA AND TOZEUR

After breakfast we drive to Kairouan, Tunisia's spiritual heart. We begin by visiting the tranquil Aghlabite basins, ancient reservoirs that once supplied water to the city, followed by the Mausoleum of Sidi Sahbi, a revered religious figure known as the "Barber of the Prophet" due to his connection to the Prophet Muhammad. Next, we explore the Great Mosque of Okba, a stunning 9th-century structure famous for its courtyard designed to channel rainwater into underground cisterns.

We continue our journey to the archaeological site of Sbeitla, where we'll discover the ancient city of Sufetula, with its remarkably preserved Roman temples and ruins. We enjoy a relaxing lunch in Sbeitla before traveling onward to Tozeur, passing through Gafsa along the way. Upon arrival in Tozeur, we will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant soaking up the unique desert atmosphere.

Overnight in Tozeur.

DAY 4 JEEP TRIP TO NEFTA AND ONG JMAL (STAR WARS SET)

Begin your day with a journey to the iconic Star Wars sets in Nefta, where we'll explore the famous Mos Espa and Lars Homestead locations, immortalized in the legendary film series. From there, we venture into the heart of the desert oasis region, trekking through the stunning landscapes of Chebika, Tamaghza, and Mides. Here, lush palm groves and winding streams offer a serene contrast to the surrounding arid terrain, creating a picturesque oasis of tranquility.

After our adventure, we'll indulge in a delightful lunch at a local restaurant, savoring the flavors of traditional Tunisian cuisine.

Later, we return to Tozeur, where we have the option to enjoy a scenic horse-drawn carriage ride (caleche) through the charming oasis of Tozeur. Afterward, relax with some free time at the hotel, preparing for a restful overnight stay. The day concludes with a delectable dinner at a local restaurant, offering the perfect end to a day of discovery.

Overnight in Tozeur.

DAY 5 CHOTT JERID, DOUZ, 4 X 4 JEEPS TO A DESERT CAMP

Begin your day with a departure from Tozeur, embarking on a scenic journey through the striking Chott Jerid, where we'll pause for a photo opportunity amidst the vast expanse of salt flats. Continuing on, we'll make our way to Douz, famously known as the "Gateway to the Sahara," where a delicious lunch awaits at a local restaurant.

Afterward, we head towards Tembaine, where an exciting off-roading adventure will lead us to our overnight Desert Camp. Here, we immerse ourselves in the culinary traditions of the desert, taking part in a hands-on desert bread-making session. As the day winds down, enjoy a delectable dinner at the camp, followed by a magical night spent under the stars, surrounded by the serene desert landscape.

Overnight at a Desert Camp in Tembaine

DAY 6 TROGLODYTE TRAILS: EXPLORING DOUZ, TOUJANE, MATMATA

We begin our day by 4x4 jeep ride enroute to the bustling Souk of Douz, where the vibrant market showcases local traditions and craftsmanship.



We continue our journey to Matmata, famous for its unique troglodyte houses carved into the earth by the Berbers. Our first stop will be a visit to one of these homes, where we'll uncover the secrets of this fascinating architecture. Next, visit the iconic Hotel Sidi Idriss, a famous Star Wars filming location, where the otherworldly, lunar-like landscape will transport you to a galaxy far, far away.

After exploring this memorable site, we continue to Toujane, where we'll take in the stunning landscapes of the Dhahar region. Enjoy a traditional lunch at Ksar Hadada, known for its authentic atmosphere and cuisine. This location also served as a filming spot for Star Wars.

Finally, we continue our journey to Ksar Ouled Debbab, where you'll spend the night in this beautifully preserved ksar, offering a unique and immersive experience.

Overnight in Ksar Ouled Debbab.

DAY 7 ISLAND MYSTERIES: TO DJERBA

This morning, we'll depart for Djerba. Upon arrival, we begin our exploration with a visit to the Guellala Museum, which unveils the island's hidden stories and rich heritage. Afterward, we enjoy a traditional lunch in the lively heart of Djerba, which is renowned for its local flavors and vibrant atmosphere.

In the afternoon, we stroll through the colorful streets of Djerbahood, where striking contemporary street art beautifully blends with the island's cultural and historical essence.

Overnight in Djerba.

DAY 8 DJERBA TO SFAX

This morning we visit the El Ghriba Synagogue in Djerba, a profound experience steeped in history and culture. As the oldest synagogue in North Africa, it showcases stunning architecture with intricate mosaics and beautiful interiors. The synagogue is a pilgrimage site for Jews from around the world, and you can feel the deep spiritual significance in the air. Discover its fascinating history, including stories of resilience and tradition, while enjoying the serene atmosphere.

This visit offers a unique glimpse into the rich tapestry of Djerba's diverse heritage.

Next, we'll depart for Gabes, where we will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, known for its delicious local flavors. Afterwards we'll continue our journey



to Sfax. Upon arrival, we enjoy a brief stroll through the city, discovering its unique charm before heading to our hotel.

Overnight in Sfax.

DAY 9 SFAX TO MAHDIA, EL JEM AMPHITHEATER

We start our day by visiting El Djem, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, famous for its grand amphitheater. Here, we'll explore the underground tunnels where gladiators, animals, and slaves once prepared for their dramatic performances in the arena. After exploring the ruins, we take part in a local mosaic workshop, where you'll learn about the intricate art form that has shaped Tunisia's cultural heritage.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant in El Djem before heading to Sousse. In the afternoon, wander through the charming Medina of Sousse, soaking in the vibrant atmosphere and rich history of this coastal town. We continue on to Hammamet where we end the day with a delicious dinner and overnight, enjoying the flavors of the region.

Overnight in Hammamet.

DAY 10 DEPART TUNIS, FLY TO ALGERIA

After breakfast, we check out and drive to Tunis, where we will have an afternoon flight to Algeria. Upon arrival at Algiers International Airport we will clear customs and immigration, collect our bags and meet our Algerian national guide before transferring to our hotel.

Overnight in Algiers.

DAY 11 SITES OF ALGIERS

Today we will explore Algiers, beginning with the UNESCO listed casbah with its whitewashed buildings and winding, climbing streets. Other stops include the museums of Fine Arts and Khedouj el Amia - formerly a palace built in 1570, and the clifftop basilica of Notre-Dame d'Afrique built in 1872. We'll walk from the iconic Martyrs' Square along the seafront to the majestic La Grande Poste D'Alger.

Tonight we'll enjoy an authentic dinner at a local restaurant in the city center.

Overnight in Algiers.

DAY 12 TIPAZA AND CHERCHELL CITY TOUR

Today we begin our exploration of Algeria with a visit to some of the best archeological sites and museums in the country. We will visit the amazing Roman ruins at Tipaza, located at the foot of the Chenoua Mountains overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Due to its history, Tipaza is today a fascinating mix of Phoenician, Roman, early Christian and Byzantine ruins. We will also visit the Royal Mausoleum of Mauretania, built in the 3rd





century BC, before our return drive to Algiers. We end the day with a visit to the Royal Tomb of Cleopatra Selene, a fascinating monument steeped in legend and history.

Overnight in Algiers.

DAY 13 RUINS OF DJEMILA (UNESCO) TO SÉTIF

Today we enjoy a scenic drive to the magnificent Roman ruins of Djemila, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the best-preserved Roman cities in North Africa. We explore this remarkable archaeological site, with its impressive temples, theaters, and ancient streets, offering a fascinating glimpse into life during the Roman Empire.

We continue to Sétif, where we visit the National Museum, renowned for its exceptional collection of Roman mosaics and archaeological treasures that reflect the region's rich history.

Overnight in Setif.

DAY 14 TO CONSTANTINE

Today we travel to Constantine, famously known as the "City of Bridges," dramatically perched above the deep gorges of the Rhumel River. We explore this fascinating city, renowned for its spectacular suspension bridges that connect different parts of the city and offer breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape.

We also visit the magnificent Palace of Ahmed Bey, a beautiful example of Ottoman architecture, before wandering through the historic old quarter, with its narrow streets, traditional markets, and rich cultural heritage.

Overnight in Constantine.

DAY 15 TOMB OF MEDGHASSEN, TIMGAD (UNESCO) TO BATNA

Today we journey south through the scenic landscapes of northeastern Algeria, stopping to visit the ancient Numidian tomb of Medghassen, an impressive royal mausoleum dating back to the 3rd century BC.



Cleopatra's tomb, Tipaza

We continue to the remarkable Roman city of Timgad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the finest examples of Roman urban planning in North Africa. Founded by Emperor Trajan in AD 100, this remarkably preserved archaeological site features grand arches, temples, a theater, and an extensive network of ancient streets, offering a fascinating glimpse into life during the Roman Empire. We continue on to Batna for our overnight.

Overnight in Batna.

DAY 16 OASIS CITY OF BOU SAADA

Today we enjoy a scenic drive to Bou Saada, a historic oasis town nestled at the edge of the Sahara Desert, known for its traditional architecture, palm groves, and rich artistic heritage.

We visit the Étienne Dinet Museum, dedicated to the renowned French painter who made Bou Saâda his home and captured the beauty of Algerian life in his artwork. We also explore a local handicraft center, where skilled artisans preserve traditional crafts, including weaving, pottery, and jewelry making, offering a glimpse into the region's cultural traditions.

Overnight in Bou Saada.

DAY 17 TO BISKRA - GATEWAY TO THE SAHARA

Today we continue our journey to Biskra, a picturesque oasis city known as the "Gateway to the Sahara." Surrounded by vast desert landscapes and lush palm groves, Biskra has long been an important trading center and a crossroads of cultures. Along the way, we enjoy the changing scenery as the rugged mountains give way to the sweeping landscapes of the Sahara. Upon arrival, we explore this historic oasis town, known for its traditional markets, beautiful date palms, and distinctive desert atmosphere.

Overnight in Biskra.



DAY 18 SIDI OKBA TO EL OUED

Today we visit the historic mausoleum of Sidi Okba, an important Islamic pilgrimage site and the resting place of the renowned 7th-century Arab commander Uqba ibn Nafi. We then continue our journey across the vast desert landscapes of the Sahara, passing through traditional villages and sweeping stretches of sand dunes.

Our destination is El Oued, known as the "City of a Thousand Domes" for its distinctive traditional architecture. Located on the edge of the Grand Erg Oriental, this fascinating desert town is surrounded by golden dunes and offers a glimpse into the unique culture and traditions of the Algerian Sahara.

Overnight in El Oued.

DAY 19 EL OUED - FULL DAY SAHARA EXPLORATION

Today we explore the fascinating sights and traditions of El Oued, beginning with a visit to the bustling traditional souk, where local merchants sell colorful textiles, spices, and handicrafts, offering a glimpse into daily life in this desert community.

We also visit the remarkable Ghout palm groves, a unique agricultural system where date palms are cultivated in deep depressions in the sand, allowing their roots to reach underground water sources. Later, we venture into the surrounding Sahara Desert to experience its spectacular golden dunes and enjoy a memorable sunset over the vast desert landscape.

Overnight in El Oued.

DAY 20 SAHARA DESERT TO OUARGLA

Today we continue our overland journey through the vast landscapes of the Sahara Desert to Ouargla, one of Algeria's historic oasis cities. Along the way, we pass through sweeping desert plains, golden sand dunes, and remote settlements, experiencing the stark beauty and tranquility of the Sahara.

Upon arrival in Ouargla, we discover a city with a rich history as an important trading center along ancient trans-Saharan caravan routes. Surrounded by extensive date palm groves, Ouargla offers a fascinating blend of traditional Saharan culture and modern desert life.

Overnight in Ouargla.

DAY 21 M'ZAB VALLEY (UNESCO) TO GHARDAIA

Today we continue our journey across the vast Sahara Desert towards the remarkable M'Zab Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its unique architecture and rich cultural heritage. Along the way, we travel through dramatic desert landscapes, passing remote settlements and traditional oases.

Located in the heart of the Sahara, the M'Zab Valley is home to five ancient fortified towns, known as ksour, established by the Ibadi Berber community nearly a thousand years ago. With their distinctive architecture and carefully planned settlements, these historic towns offer a fascinating glimpse into centuries-old traditions and a way of life uniquely adapted to the desert environment.

Overnight in Ghardaïa.

DAY 22 GHARDAIA - MINARET OF KSAR BOUNOURA, NEW KSAR OF TAFILELT

Today we explore the fascinating M'Zab Valley, beginning with a guided walking tour of the historic fortified town (ksar) of Ghardaïa. We wander through its narrow winding streets, traditional markets, and distinctive architecture, gaining insight into the customs and traditions of the local Mozabite

community.

We also discover the region's ingenious ancient irrigation systems, which have sustained the valley's palm groves for centuries in this arid desert environment. Later, we visit Tafilelt, an impressive eco-city built using traditional architectural techniques combined with modern sustainable practices, demonstrating how the region continues to adapt to its challenging desert surroundings.

Overnight in Ghardaïa.

DAY 23 ALGIERS

This morning, we transfer to Ghardaïa Airport for our flight to Algiers, returning to Algeria's vibrant capital. Upon arrival, we enjoy some leisurely sightseeing and free time for last-minute shopping or exploring the city at our own pace.

This evening, we gather for a special Farewell Dinner, reflecting on the remarkable sights, experiences, and memories of our journey through Tunisia and Algeria.

Overnight in Algiers.

DAY 24 DEPART ALGIERS

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your departing flights.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. HOW BIG ARE THE GROUPS?

Each group is limited to 16 participants. Small groups are an important ingredient in adventure travel. Small groups allow for more interaction and more personalized service throughout the itinerary.

2. WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE?

All accommodations throughout; all meals, starting with dinner on day 1 and finishing with breakfast on departure day (i.e. the last day of the ElderTreks tour); bottled drinking water throughout the trip; all internal transportation and visas; airport transfers on day 1 and departure day (i.e. the last day of the ElderTreks tour); all day trips and entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary; tips for hotels (porterage), national guide, restaurants and spot guides; services of a trip leader.

3. WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE?

International flights, tips to ElderTreks tour leader, bus driver, alcoholic drinks, and travel insurance.

4. ARE THESE "EDUCATIONAL" TOURS?

Yes, in the broadest sense of the word, "educational". We visit cultural centers and historic sites and have talks and discussions on many aspects of history, culture and nature. But this is only a portion of the educational experience. We believe that it is equally educational to meet local people on a non-commercial basis, visit their homes and even try to learn a few words in the native language. Sometimes the most "educational" moments are spent sipping a cold drink in a street market and trying out some newly learned Arabic or French phrases.

5. HOW DO WE TRAVEL DURING THE TOUR?

All local transportation is included in the land price of the trip. We use an air-conditioned coach for road travel. We also travel by plane, 4-wheel-drive vehicles, camel and by boat.

6. WHAT ARE OUR ACCOMMODATIONS LIKE?

We always stay in good accommodations that have been chosen on the basis of location, atmosphere and local charm.

7. WHAT ABOUT THE WEATHER?

Our trips run in February and the weather can be cooler at this time of year.

Daytime temperatures are around 52°F-63°F (11°C-17°C), although the further south you go, the higher the temperatures are. Rain in the north averages about 2 inches a month at the times we visit but there are places in southern Tunisia that haven't seen rain for years.

8. WHEN IS PAYMENT DUE?

A non-refundable deposit of $500 (plus insurance if you require it) is due at time of booking and will reserve your place on the tour. Payment of the full land cost is due 120 days before departure. Cancellation charges are applicable and are outlined in the "Terms and Conditions" section of our brochure.

9. IS MEDICAL INSURANCE REQUIRED?

Insurance coverage is not included in the cost of your trip. Please note that medical insurance is not required for this adventure but is recommended. ElderTreks offers comprehensive travel insurance and we are happy to provide you with a quote if you call our office. If you are purchasing insurance elsewhere, please ensure you provide the details to ElderTreks as soon as possible.

Please note those travelers with pre-existing medical conditions must take out travel insurance at the time of deposit

10. WHAT SHOULD I TAKE ON THE TOUR?

There is a detailed "What to Take" list in our Trip Kit, which we will send to you after receiving your booking deposit for the trip.

11. WHAT MEALS ARE INCLUDED?

All meals during the itinerary are included, starting with dinner on day 1 and finishing with breakfast on departure day. We eat a variety of local foods prepared in a wide range of settings. In many cases, we simply order a number of dishes and share, allowing you to sample new foods and decide what you enjoy best.

12. CAN YOU ARRANGE MY FLIGHTS?

We would be happy to take care of your air arrangements. ElderTreks offers personalized flight itineraries — not group flights. Stop over en route, come in a few days early, or extend your stay. Call us for a customized itinerary.

13. WHAT IF I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION?

If you have any further questions about the trip, please do not hesitate to contact our office for additional information. A Trip Kit containing further details on the destination will be sent to you once you have booked on the tour.


















Constantine


Tiemen


Sbeitla