

TUNISIA AND ALGERIA

DETAILED ITINERARY

ANCIENT CASBAHS, DESERT OASES AND ROMAN RUINS ACROSS THE SAHARA

Aug 20/25

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

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 Algeria's oasis towns • Explore the ancient temples and ruins of Tipaza, Churchill, Djemila and Timgad • Enjoy the Red Oasis town of Timimoun by jeep

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICE

Apr 23 - May 16, 2027 - \$8995 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.

ELDERTREKS



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to believe that anyone could live here, yet 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 city of Algiers, the UNESCO listed casbah with its whitewashed buildings and winding, climbing streets. We visit the vibrant coastal city of Oran. Founded in the 10th century, Oran has been ruled by the Spanish, Turkish, and French, and was once home to a large Jewish community. The cultural influences of these diverse histories are still visible in the city today.

The Red Oasis town of Timimoun serves as the perfect backdrop for further exploration of the regions many oases, cliffs and caves.

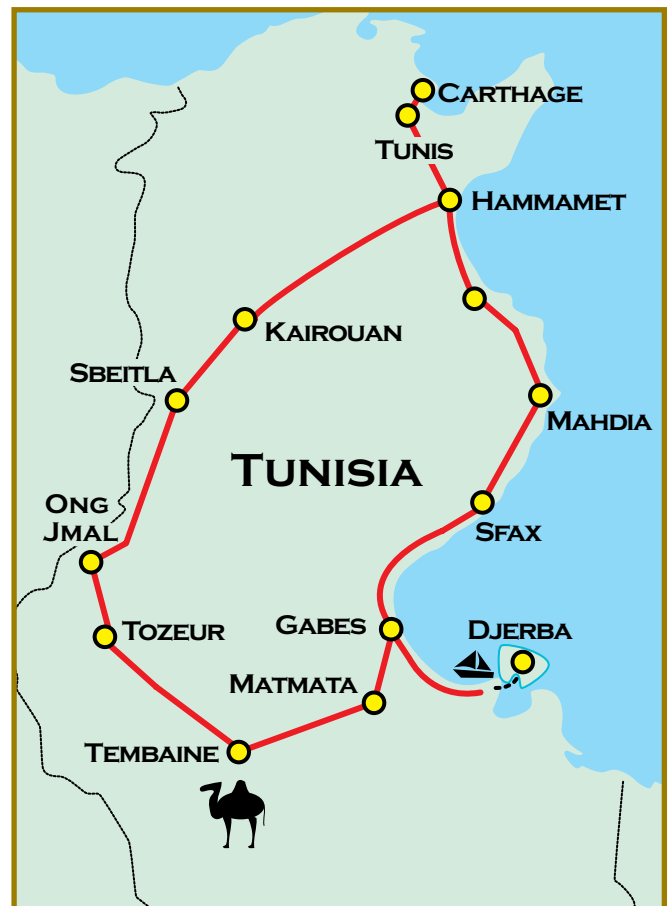
Enroute from Constantine back to Algiers, we visit the incredible ancient Roman town of Djemila, with its dramatic location and timeless charm.

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

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.



Typical mosaic with a
"Roman theme".



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.

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.

Overnight in Algiers.

DAY 13 TO ORAN

Today we have a picturesque 5-hour journey through rolling hills, coastal views, and charming towns to Oran. Upon arrival, we explore the iconic Santa Cruz Fortress, perched high above the city with sweeping views of the Mediterranean. Then, unwind along Oran's lively waterfront, where historic charm meets vibrant street life.

Overnight in Oran.





DAY 14 ORAN SITES

Today we delve into the rich cultural heritage of Oran, Algeria's second-largest city, with a visit to its bustling city center, where modern life meets colonial history. Step back in time with a visit to the Theatre of Oran, an iconic landmark that has hosted countless performances since its opening.

Later we visit the Museum of Ahmed Zabana, where we can gain insight into Algeria's revolutionary past through fascinating exhibits and artifacts. We will also visit the Fort of Santa Cruz, a historic fortress built in the 16th century by the Spanish. Perched on a hilltop, the fort offers breathtaking panoramic views of the city of Oran and the Mediterranean Sea, making it one of the most iconic landmarks in the area.

Overnight in Oran.

DAY 15 FLIGHT FROM ORAN TO TIMIMOUNE

We begin the day with an early morning flight to Timimoun, often called the Red Oasis for its striking red-mud architecture. Nestled in the heart of the Sahara, this enchanting town is renowned for its dramatic desert landscapes and a rich cultural tapestry blending Saharan and Sudanese influences. In the

evening, we'll witness a breathtaking sunset over the desert dunes—a truly unforgettable experience.

Overnight in Timimoun.

DAY 16 TIMIMOUN

Today, we set out in 4x4 vehicles to explore the remarkable landscapes surrounding Timimoun. Our journey begins with a visit to the Ighzer Plateau, where dramatic cliffs, ancient caves, and a historic fort offer a glimpse into the region's rich past. We then continue through a breathtaking landscape of palm groves, sand dunes, and traditional ksour (fortified villages). Along the way, we discover the ingenious foggaras—an ancient underground irrigation system that still sustains life in this arid environment.

Overnight in Timimoun.

DAY 17 DRIVE TO GHARDAIA

Today, we travel from Timimoun to Ghardaia, home to the Mozabite people (their culture is listed under UNESCO), journeying through the heart of the Sahara. Along the way, we stop in El Golea to visit the historic Saint Joseph Church and

Cleopatra's tomb, Tipaza



explore the town's ancient citadel, rich in desert heritage. We continue our journey and arrive in Ghardaïa by evening.

Overnight in Ghardaia.

DAY 18 SITES OF GHARDAIA, M'ZAB VALLEY

Our continued exploration of this scenic town will include the traditional market of Beni Isguen, as well as the complex irrigation and well-water systems to support the date and olive oil industries. There are actually five towns in the Ghardaia oasis and we will visit some of the Ksars (fortified North African villages or towns). In the afternoon return to our hotel and dinner.

Overnight in Ghardaia.

DAY 19 TO BOUSSAADA

We continue our journey from Ghardaïa to Boussaada, a charming town known for its rich cultural heritage. Upon arrival, we visit the Nasr Eddine Dinet Museum, dedicated to the celebrated French-Algerian artist whose vivid paintings beautifully depict the landscapes, people, and traditions of North Africa.

Overnight in Boussada.

DAY 20 BISKRA

We depart from Boussaada and head toward Biskra, making a memorable stop at El Kantara, known as the "Gateway to the Sahara." This natural limestone bridge and scenic oasis mark the entrance to the vast desert beyond, offering stunning views and a chance to stretch your legs before continuing the journey.

Overnight in Biskra.

DAY 21 TIMGAD (UNESCO) TO BATNA

We depart from Biskra and journey to Batna, stopping to explore the stunning Balconies of El Ghoufi—a spectacular series of natural terraces carved into the cliffs, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding canyon. Next, we visit the Roman ruins of Timgad, a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its remarkably well-preserved ancient city layout, impressive arches, and historic monuments. This visit offers a fascinating glimpse into the grandeur of Roman North Africa.

Overnight in Batna.

DAY 22 CONSTANTINE

We depart from Batna and travel to the captivating city of Constantine. Upon arrival, we explore its iconic suspension bridges that span dramatic gorges, offering stunning views of the city's unique landscape. We visit the elegant Palace of the Bey, a symbol of Constantine's rich history and architecture, followed by a visit to the beautiful Emir Abdelkader Mosque, renowned for its intricate design and cultural significance.

Overnight in Constantine.

DAY 23 CONSTANTINE TO ALGIERS

We depart from Constantine and travel to Algiers, stopping to explore the ancient Roman site of Djemila along the way. Once in Algiers, we enjoy some free time to discover the city at our own pace before coming together for a memorable farewell evening.

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 (portage), 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

