



TUNISIA

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This is a personal 15 day trip map to Tunisia by Virginia Duran. It is in conjunction to Google maps directions. Oriented towards architecture, it shows what to visit, why, where and when. Prices and other helpful tips about this city. Importance is marked with (*) being (****) the must see. See end for useful links.

| | WHAT | Architect | WHERE | Notes |
|-------|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|
| | Zone 1: Tunis | | | |
| ** | Fort Santiago Chikly | | Chikly island شكلي | Chikly is a small island located in the northern part of Lake of Tunis which houses Fort Santiago Chikly, a former Roman citadel which was reconstructed by the Spanish Governor of Goletta, Luys Peres Varga, between 1546 and 1550. The fort was completely abandoned in 1830 and was left to deteriorate. Chikly was declared a national cultural heritage asset and the fort is being restored as part of the Tunisian-Spanish cooperation involving the National Heritage Institute and the University of Madrid. Excavation and cleaning took place in 1994 followed by archaeological excavations in 1995. These found mosaics dating back to the Roman and Byzantine periods in the 4th and 5th centuries. |
| ** | Palais des Congrès | Olivier-Clément Cacoub | Avenue Mohamed V + ave du Ghana قصر المؤتمرات | The Tunis convention center is a former exhibition center in Tunis. It was built in 1969 by the architect Del Monaco, at the same time as the congress hotel (current Laico Tunis hotel) which was entrusted to the architect Olivier-Clément Cacoub. It was refurbished and enlarged in 1994 by the architects Wassim Ben Mahmoud and Tarek Ben Miled and it's currently used for international political meetings and summits. |
| *** | Majestic Hotel | | Avenue de Paris فندق ماجستيك | Hotel Majestic is a historical hotel on the Avenue de Paris in Tunis, Tunisia. It was built in 1914 and is noted for its Art Nouveau architecture with a white facade and gently curved corners. The hotel is 4 storeys and the first floor has a terrace. It overlooks the Jardin Habib Thameur. |
| ***** | Avenue Habib Bourguiba | | Avenue Habib Bourguiba شارع الحبيب بورقيبة | Tunis's main thoroughfare is the elegant and wide tree-lined avenue Habib Bourguiba, which runs from the TGM train station to the main entrance to the medina. Lined with banks, shops, restaurants and café terraces where Tunisians converge in the late afternoon, it also boasts the grand art nouveau Municipal Theatre and the 19th-century Cathédrale de St Vincent de Paul. A statue of the great medieval Arab (and Tunisian) scholar Ibn Khaldun stands opposite the cathedral, while modern Tunisia is represented by the huge clock tower built to commemorate the presidency of Ben Ali. |
| ***** | Théâtre municipal de Tunis | Jean-Émile Resplandy | 2 Rue de Greece مسرح تونس البلدي | The Théâtre municipal de Tunis was first opened on November 20, 1902 and currently showcases opera, ballet, symphonic concerts and dramas featuring numerous Tunisian, Arabic and international actors. Seating more than 1000 theatre-goers, this eye-catching art nouveau edifice was designed by French architect Jean-Émile Resplandy at the start of the 20th century and would look quite at home on any major Parisian boulevard. The façade represents Phoebus Apollo in his chariot with fiery horses designed by the French sculptor Jean-Baptiste Belloc. |
| ***** | Cathedral of St. Vincent de Paul | | Avenue Habib Bourguiba كاتدرائية القديس فنسنت دي بول | There are some fine examples of colonial architecture in Centre Ville, ranging from the elegant to the exuberant to the bizarre. This custard-coloured 1897 Roman Catholic cathedral sits comfortably in the bizarre camp, melding Gothic, Byzantine and Moorish elements in a messy and gaudy attempt at architectural distinction. The cathedral is dedicated to Saint Vincent de Paul, patron saint of charity. The reinforced concrete towers were completed in 1910 using the Hennebique technique. The number of Roman Catholics in Tunisia fell rapidly following Tunisian independence from France. A modus vivendi reached between the Republic of Tunisia and the Vatican in 1964 resulted in the transfer of selected buildings to the Tunisian state for public use, including the Acropolium of Carthage in Carthage. However, the Cathedral of St. Vincent de Paul remains under the ownership and operation of the Roman Catholic Church in Tunisia. |



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| ** | Municipal Market | Rue d'Allemagne | Tunisian food markets offer a great introduction to local culture, and Tunis' Marché Centrale is particularly atmospheric. The original market building dates from 1891 and the halls behind are later additions. There are three distinct areas: an enormous fish hall where you can watch locally caught fish being theatrically weighed, gutted and scaled; a central hall where mounds of spicy harissa, tubs of plump olives and blocks of pungent cheese are sold; and a rear fruit and vegetable section. One of the best times to visit is in early spring, when white bigardier (bitter orange) and pink pelargonium (geranium) flowers are in season. Tue-Sun (7am-2pm) |
| ***** | Bab El Bhar | Rue de la Kasbah باب البحر | Also called the Porte de France or French Gate, this huge freestanding arch was the medina's eastern gateway until the surrounding walls were demolished by the French to create Pl de la Victoire. It now marks the main entrance into the medina from Centre Ville. Note Rue des Glacières, leading off to the north – its name references the fact that huge blocks of Alpine ice for sale were stored here in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was built in 1848 and is made up of a lowered archway and topped by a crenellated parapet. |
| **** | Place de la Victoire | Rue de la Kasbah ساحة النصر | Place de la Victoire is the entrance to the medina, half traditional, half colonial. The Big white building on the right used to be the British Embassy until 2004. The road leading behind it is one of the most crowded in the whole city, a narrow souq which leads through the heart of the medina. The sculpture (2005), by artist Ivan Theimer, stands beneath the Colonne de la Victoire, a marble obelisk by the same artist. Both works feature grapes as a celebration of Bordelais wine culture. Porte d'Aquitaine, built in 1753 to celebrate the birth of Louis XV's grandson, Duke of Aquitaine, stands tall at the foot of main shopping strip rue Ste-Catherine – Bordeaux's longest pedestrian street that legs it 1.2km north from place de la Victoire to place de la Comédie. |
| *** | Tunis Medina | Rue de la Kasbah, Medina تونس المدينة المنورة | This sprawling maze of ancient streets and alleyways is one of the most impressive medieval medinas in North Africa and one of Tunisia's great treasures. It's home to numerous covered souqs selling everything from shoes to shisha pipes, as well as bustling cafes, back streets full of artisans at work and residential areas punctuated by grand, brightly painted doorways. Historic palaces, hammams, mosques and madrassas (schools for study of the Quran) are scattered throughout, many lavishly decorated with tiles, carved stucco and marble columns. The medina, or old quarter, of Tunis was built during the seventh century AD. From the 12th to the 16th centuries, Tunis was considered to be one of the greatest and wealthiest cities of the Islamic world and its medina is testimony to its former grandeur. Today, visitors can step back in time through the maze of narrow, winding streets, and barter for souvenirs with the locals; goods on sale include colourful hand-made carpets, hand-crafted jewellery, copper and brassware, pottery and exotic spices. |
| **** | Hammouda Pacha Mosque | Rue Sidi Ben Arous | Harmoniously designed and richly decorated, this 17th-century mosque reflects the prosperity of that period. Its witch's-hat minaret is octagonal, which is typical of the Turkish Hanefite strand of Islam. Built in 1655, it is the second mosque to be built by the Hanafi rite in Tunis. His seventeenth-century Turkish architecture includes a marble door, a green tiled roof and three courses. Besides its rich ornamentation of Venetian influence (decorations of flowers and polychrome marbles), the Hammouda Pasha Mosque is distinguished by its slender minaret topped by a balcony and covered with a pyramidal structure. It's off-limits to non-Muslims. The Hanafi school permits non-Muslims within its walls outside the prayer times. |
| ***** | Al-Zaytuna Mosque | Rue Jamaa Ezzitouna | The medina grew around Tunis's largest mosque, Al-Zaytuna Mosque (Mosque of the Olive Tree), covering over 5,000 sq m (53,820 sq ft) and the only one open to non-Muslims – although only as far as the central courtyard. One of the oldest mosques in Africa, it was built in AD732, often using stones from nearby Roman Carthage, but it flourished from the 13th century onwards as an important Islamic university. It was totally rebuilt in the 9th century and restored many times over the centuries. Its Almohades-style minaret in the northwest corner is a medina landmark. Mon-Sun (8am-11.30am) for non muslims. |
| * | Youssef Dey Mosque | Souk Trok | This was Tunis' first Ottoman-style mosque (1615), designed by Andalusian architect Ibn Ghalib in a colourful mishmash of styles. At the time it was the 11th mosque to be built in the capital. In the late nineteenth century, it underwent extensive restoration, ordered by Ali Bey. Surrounded by Turkish souqs – El Trouk (tailors), El Berka (slaves) and El Bechamkia (slippers) – it catered to the Turkish traders. Only non-Muslims may enter. Look out for the minaret crowned with a miniature green-tiled pyramid – this was the first, much-copied |



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| | | | octagonal minaret in Tunis, serving as propaganda for the new masters. The mosque contains the tombs of Youssef Dey and his family – another innovative Ottoman custom. The mosque is considered significant as it was the first Ottoman-Turkish mosque to be built in Tunis. |
| *** | Ksar Mosque | Rue du Château مسجد القصر | Ksar Mosque was built in the early 12th century as a royal mosque, probably built during the reign of Ahmed Ibn Kourassane (1100–1128). Around 1598, it was attached to the Hanafi by the Turkish conquerors. Access to the mosque is through a door under a covered walkway that opens into a courtyard elevated above the prayer hall. It is surrounded by a portico with columns and capitals such as Turkish Prayer Hall which is topped by arches supported by ancient columns and capitals. |
| ***** | Kasbah Mosque | Rue du 2 Mars 1934 جامع القصبة | Kasbah Mosque was built in 1230 as a mosque. Kasbah Mosque was once within the Hafsid citadel, which no longer stands. The minaret's lozenge design pays tribute to Moroccan style, purposefully showing the Hafsid's links with the Almohad strand of Islam. It was hugely influential, serving as a model for the Zaytouna Mosque minaret. The call to prayer is quietly signalled by a white flag. Only Muslims may enter. |
| *** | Hôtel de Ville | 2 Rue du 2 Mars 1934 نزل المدينة | This municipal building was planned and built by architects Ismail Ben Fredj and Wassim Ben Mahmoud. City Hall of Tunis represents City Council of 60 members. Being the modern building- it was built in 1998- it symbolizes local traditions. It was built as The Tunis City Hall, the seat of the municipality of Tunis, capital of Tunisia, and thus its mayor. |
| ** | Sadiki College by Of Mallet | Rue Dr Carton المدرسة الصادقية | Sadiki College was built in 1901 as a lycée (high school). The principal frontage, out of stone equipment of ocher yellow color is made up of a central gallery on two levels flanked of two buildings of angle ahead bodies, surmounted cupolas. The central gallery comprises seven Moorish arches being pressed on columns with capitals in kadhel of style hispano-Moorish. The minaret is the architectural element striking, perceived more like symbol of the College. Several personalities of various generations having made their studies in this establishment marked the modern history of Tunisia. |
| *** | Sidi Mahrez Mosque | Rue Sidi Mehrez مسجد سيدي محرز | Sidi Mahrez Mosque was built by Mohamed Bey El Mouradi, son of Mourad Bey II in 1692. It was built around the mausoleum of the patron-saint of Tunis Sidi Mahrez. It is strongly influenced by Ottoman architecture, showing similarities to the Sultan Ahmed II Mosque of Istanbul with a central dome with cupolas occupying the four corners of the square of the prayer hall. Polychrome tiles were imported from Iznik (Turkey) to cover a large part of the wall in the direction of Mecca and the grand pillars that support the central dome. |
| ***** | Saheb Ettabaâ Mosque | Rue du Portier جامع يوسف صاحب الطابع | Saheb Ettabaâ Mosque was built in 1814 as the last great mosque built in Tunis before the establishment of French protectorate in 1881. It is influenced by Italian architecture; columns with fluted shafts, capitals and especially a unique type of veneer marble polychrome. The mosque dominates the imposing Halfaouine district with its many domes and colonnaded galleries Italian marble work . It is part of a monumental complex built at the same time including a bazaar, a hammam, two madrasas, a sabil or public fountain, a funduq and Ettabaâ Saheb's palace (now a public library) as well as his tomb. |
| **** | Bab El Khadra | Rue de Sousse باب الخضراء | Bab El Khadra is one of the gates of the medina of Tunis. The original structure, a simple arch erected in 1320 was destroyed and rebuilt in its current form in 1881 by the French colonisers in order to facilitate commerce. It has a distinctly European style and resembles the gates of a European castle. |
| **** | Tourbet el-Bey | Rue Tourbet el-Bey, Medina شرم بك | This splendid 18th-century Ottoman mausoleum, the largest in Tunis, is where more than 160 Husaynid princes, ministers and their families are buried. The sumptuous interior is decorated with tiles, marble and carved plasterwork. The motif of the eight-pointed star represents the doors of paradise. The mausoleum has been closed for restoration since the early years of the 21st century, but sadly, no progress seems to have been made. The male tombs are topped with strange, anonymous marble renditions of their preferred headgear, be it turban or chechia (traditional felt cap), with the number of tassels showing their importance. |
| * | Dar Ben Abdallah Museum | Impasse Ben Abdallah متحف دار بن عبد الله | Built in 1796, one of the medina's finest former palaces houses the Dar Ben Abdallah Museum, a chance to imagine how the wealthy lived within the medina. It belonged to a high-ranking officer, and had a 19th-century makeover in fashionable Italianate style. Four of the rooms have been used to create scenes of 19th-century bourgeois life, including tea drinking and wedding preparations. There's a café opposite. Théâtre d'Art Ben Abdallah, in the converted stables of the Dar Ben Abdallah Museum, hosts occasional theatre and cinema events. General admission TD2. Mon-Sat (9.30am-4.30pm) |



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| ***** | Bardo National Museum | | Route Nationale 7 الطريق الوطنية 7 | The museum's building was originally a 15th-century Hafsid palace, and it then became one of the largest museums in Africa. It traces the history of Tunisia over several millennia and through many civilizations through a wide variety of archaeological pieces. Being in the former palace, it offers many major works discovered since the beginnings of archaeological research in the country. The main draw at the Tunisia's top museum is its magnificent collection of Roman mosaics. These provide a vibrant and fascinating portrait of ancient North African life. Also here is some equally magnificent Hellenistic and Punic statuary. The original palace buildings now connect with a dramatic contemporary annexe, which has doubled the exhibition space. General admission TND11. Tue-Sun (9.30am-4.30pm) |
| ***** | Belvedere Park | | Avenue Taieb M'Hiri, Tunis بلفيدير بارك | Laid out by the French, this once exclusive park with a lake, a small zoo, an elegant 18th-century pavilion and a café terrace is now a popular place for Tunisians to escape the summer heat and noise of the city. The largest Park, Belvédère Park, was founded in 1892 overlooks Lake Tunis. Joseph Leforcadé architect-landscape designer, gardener in chief of the town of Paris, was approved by the municipal council of the town of Tunis in 1892. The seedlings were provided by the garden of tests of Tunis in 1891. During a whole decade, Belvedere was entirely closed with the public in order to make it possible the vegetation to develop under optimal conditions. Mon-Sun (12pm-12am) |
| *** | Stade Olympique de Radès | Rob Schuurman | Avenue Habib Bourguiba ملعب أولمبيك رادس | Stade de Rades, also known as Stade Olympique de Rades, got built to serve as the flagship venue for the 2001 Mediterranean Games. It's considered to be one of the best stadiums in Africa. It is currently used mostly for football matches and it also has facilities for athletics. The stadium officially opened on 6 July 2001 with the Cup Final between Hammam Sahel (1-0), and subsequently became the home of ES Tunis, who moved to the new ground from Stade El Menzah, though they still regularly play at their old ground. |
| Zone 2: Carthage | | | | |
| *** | Carthage Amphitheatre | | Carthage قرطاج المسرح | The amphitheater of Carthage was a Roman amphitheater built in the first century. It was rebuilt by Julius Caesar and became the capital of the Roman province of Africa. Since the monument has been raided by looters, the stone and metal have been leveled to the ground. This is one of three African amphitheatres, with those of El Jem and Thapsus, to be built on flat ground, without backing of a hill. Today, only the overgrown oval of the stage remains, along with a sinister exposed subterranean passage where victims were once lead to their fate. Mon-Sun (8.30am-4pm) |
| ***** | Acropolis of Carthage | Pougnat | Colline de Byrsa بيرسا هيل | Built in 1890 as an old Roman Catholic cathedral. Situated on the peak of Byrsa Hill and near the ruins of the ancient Punic and then Roman city, the cathedral was built on the ruins of the ancient temple to the punic god of healings Eshmun, that can still be accessed from the basements. The architect of this now deconsecrated 19th-century French-built cathedral employed an unorthodox mix of Moorish, Byzantine and Gothic architectural styles in its design, and the result sits somewhat uncomfortably atop symbolically loaded Byrsa Hill. Since 1993 the cathedral is known as the "Acropolis" and is no longer used for worship but hosts events or concerts of Tunisian music and classical music. Mon-Sun (9am-6pm) |
| ***** | Carthage National Museum | | Colline de Byrsa متحف قرطاج الوطني | Founded in 1875, it is one of the country's most extensive museums. Housed at the turn of the last century on the ground floor of a scolasticate of Catholic religious, adjacent to the Saint-Louis basilica built at the end of the XIXth century on the site of the Carthage acropolis, this museum contains the largest collection of objects from the site of Carthage and covers the Phoenician-Punic, the Roman-African and the Arab-Moslem periods. It was closed for a major renovation in early 2018 and no reopening date is yet available. When works are complete, it is likely that many of the long-term exhibits will be retained. These include two magnificent 4th-century-BC stone-carved sarcophagi depicting an extraordinarily lifelike priest and priestess. |
| **** | Archaeological Site of Carthage | | Route de La Goulette الطريق دي حلق الوادي | Carthage was founded in the 9th century B.C. on the Gulf of Tunis. From the 6th century onwards, it developed into a great trading empire covering much of the Mediterranean and was home to a brilliant civilization. In the course of the long Punic wars, Carthage occupied territories belonging to Rome, which finally destroyed its rival in 146 B.C. A second - Roman - Carthage was then established on the ruins of the first. The vast majority of the ruins at the Carthage Archaeological Park date from Roman-era Carthage rather than the earlier Punic period. The most impressive are the Antonine Baths and Roman Villas. If you have only a few hours, prioritise these two sights and Byrsa Hill, although note that the Carthage Museum atop Byrsa Hill |



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| | | | | closed in early 2018 for a desperately needed renovation, and no reopening date has been announced. While the park's name is wonderfully evocative, the ruins that comprise it are a disappointment to many visitors. Scattered over a large area, they are scant and poorly presented. Mon-Sun (8.30am-5pm) |
| *** | Villa Didon | Philippe Boisselier | Rue Mendes France | This 10-room designer hotel located on Byrsa Hill was given an early noughties refurbishment by French architect Philippe Boisselier, but is looking a tad dated these days. That said, suites are huge and command magnificent views of the Gulf of Tunis from private balconies. There's an on-site spa (treatment packages 140DT to 410DT), the terrace restaurant Le Restô and a chic bar. |
| *** | Baths of Antoninus | | Amilcar, Carthage Présidence حمامات أنطونيوس | The Baths of Antoninus are the vastest set of Roman Thermae built on the African continent and one of three largest built in the Roman Empire. The baths are also the only remaining Thermae of Carthage that dates back to the Roman Empire's era. Begun under Hadrian and finished in the 2nd century AD under Antoninus, it was the largest terme outside Rome, supplied with water by the great Zaghwan aqueduct. Just the foundations remain, but they are awesome in scale. A plan of the baths above the main complex will help you imagine how the complex would have functioned in its heyday. An octagonal caldarium (hot room) was flanked by smaller saunas and led to a small tepidarium (warm room), which allowed access to the huge 22m-by-42m frigidarium (cold room) at the centre with its eight colossal pillars. Beyond this was a wonderful, 17.5m-by-13.5m seaside swimming pool, no trace of which remains. To either side of the frigidarium were palaestras (gymnasiums), where people could indulge in naked wrestling and other frisky sports. Mon-Sun (8.30am-4pm) |
| **** | Odéon Hill ruins | | Route de La Goulette الروماني فيلا | This hill is the site of numerous Roman remains, including those of the theater and the Odeon villas. Although the area is outside the boundaries of the Punic city of Qart Hadasht, destroyed in 146 BC. BC, pre-Roman remains have been found at the site during various excavations. It has been restored to performance readiness, so it was easy to imagine how it looked in Roman times. There are still several rows of the original seating left undisturbed. Winston Churchill spoke here to the Allied troops. |
| Zone 3: Sidi Bou Said | | | | |
| ** | Sidi Bou Said | | Sidi Bou Said سيدي بو سعيد | With its distinctive blue-and-white colour scheme, cobbled streets and jaw-dropping glimpses of azure waters, the cliff-top village of Sidi Bou Said is one of the prettiest spots in Tunisia. Named after a 13th-century Sufi saint, its distinctive architecture is a mix of the Ottoman and the Andalusian, a result of the influx of Spanish Muslims in the 16th century. For the French, the sleepy fishing village was a perfect depiction of the Orientalism romanticised by Europeans in the 19th century, and they committed to ensuring that its character – both real and imagined – was preserved (it was given protected status in 1915). Past residents and visitors include artist Paul Klee, author André Gide, philosopher Michel Foucault, and arty British eccentrics Osbert and Edith Sitwell. It still retains a sense of North African fantasia today, both for visitors and interestingly enough, for Tunisians themselves. Sidi Bou Said has a reputation as a town of artists. Artists who have lived in or visited Sidi Bou Said include Paul Klee, Gustave-Henri Jossot, August Macke and Louis Moillet. |
| Zone 4: Bizerte | | | | |
| * | Bizerte | | Bizerte بنزرت | With its picturesque old port, beautiful beaches, atmospheric corniche and great restaurants, Bizerte is one of the belles of the north. Just an hour away from Tunis, it's easy to reach and makes the perfect base to explore along the northern coastlines, from the Mediterranean beauties of Raf Raf and Cap Serrat, to Ichkeul National Park inland. Bizerte is known as the oldest and most European city in Tunisia. It was founded around 1100 BC by Semitic Phoenicians from Tyre. It is also known as the last town to remain under French control after the rest of the country won its independence from France. |
| Zone 5: Hammamet | | | | |
| *** | Hammamet | | Hammamet الحمامات | Stretched out across Cap Bon's southeastern coast like a lazy sunbather, laid-back Hammamet ('the baths' in Arabic) is Tunisia's original resort town. Early planning constraints dictated that hotels should not overreach the height of a tree, meaning that Hammamet's buildings sprawl horizontally. The relaxing charms of this town woo all who come to sunbath on the white sand, or stroll in the restored |



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| | | | old town souks. It's a no-stress kind of place that sums up the pleasures of Tunisia in one pretty package. |
| ***** | Medina | Medina المدينة المنورة | The Hafsid Ottomans built the sandcastle Medina, with 2m-thick walls, on the site of a 9th-century Aghlabid structure. It was built between 1463 and 1474, and up to 1881 the medina was Hammamet – a fortified village of 300 inhabitants. The three gates were closed at night and for Friday prayer. Now, souvenir shops envelope the weblike old souqs, but the southern residential district is particularly well preserved. |
| ***** | Kasbah of Hammamet | Hammamet قصة الحمامات | Hammamet's 13th century Kasbah (fort) isn't as well preserved or impressive as the Kasbah of Sousse, but it is still worth visiting. There is an interesting museum inside which explains Hammamet's colourful pirate lair history and later Spanish occupation. Climb up to the ramparts for magnificent views across the Medina and picturesque fishing harbour. Mon-Sun (8am-5.30pm) |
| ***** | International Culture Centre | ave des Nations Unies المركز الثقافي الدولي | Hammamet's International Culture Centre is the ultimate party house. It's a mansion designed and built by Romanian millionaire George Sebastian from 1920 to 1932. Frank Lloyd Wright said it was one of the most beautiful places he knew: the appreciative architect was just one of Sebastian's many illustrious, bohemian guests. It has a central colonnaded swimming pool, a huge black marble dining table and a baptistry font-style four-seater bath surrounded by mirrors. Nazi Erwin Rommel used the house as an Axis headquarters during WWII, and after the war British prime minister Winston Churchill stayed here to write his memoirs. Tickets are sold at the tourist office and at the door. The cultural centre is 3km northwest of the town centre – a taxi will set you back around TD1 or so. General admission TD3. Feb-Sept (8am-6pm), Oct-Jan (8am-5pm) |
| ** | Pupput | route Touristique بوبوت | The Roman site of Pupput is 6.5km southwest of the Hammamet town centre. Nowadays wedged between Hammamet's hotels and nightclubs, this was once a staging post on the Roman road from Carthage to Hadrumetum (Sousse). The name suggests that it occupies the site of an earlier Punic settlement. The Byzantine and Roman remains are scant, but of interest if you're a history buff. The 5th-century House of Figured Peristyle retains a couple of columns and some mosaic flooring, but most memorable are the bleached-out Byzantine tomb mosaics displayed on a wall. General admission TD2. Sep-Mar (9am-5pm), April-Sep (8am-7pm) |
| ** | Medina Mediterranea Gate | Abdelwahab Be Ayed Medina Mediterranea المدينة المنورة مديتيرانيا | Inspired by old Medina in Hammamet, it was officially opened in 2002. The walls are more than a kilometer long, and their height ranges from 8 to 20 meters. |
| Zone 6: Djerba | | | |
| ***** | Djerba | Djerba جربة | If you're looking for the picture-perfect beach escape, then the island of Djerba checks all the right boxes. The main island town of Houmt Souk has an old town district that's a muddle of whitewashed houses. It is an attraction in itself, with plenty of shopping opportunities for those who want to get off the beach. But it's those sandy strips of shoreline out of town that are the island's most popular highlight. Pristine and trimmed by date palms, the beaches are relaxing, get-away-from-it-all settings where summer daydreams are made. |
| **** | Fort Ghazi Mustapha | Fort, Houmt Souk, Djerba Island, Tunisia قلعة غازي مصطفى | The old fort of Ghazi Mustapha is a great site to see for those traveling to Djerba. It offers stunning views and can be visited for a cheap fee. The one concern is that the signs are only in French and Arabic, yet if you're comfortable with that it will be an interesting and educational experience, complete with a beautiful view and a sea breeze blowing. Sat-Thu (8am-6.30pm) Summer, (9am-5.30pm) winter. |
| *** | Musée d'Art et de Traditions populaires | Rue Habib thameur, Houmt-Souk متحف للفنون والتقاليد الشعبية | In the mausoleum of Sidi Zitouni, near Houmt-Souk, the Museum of Art and popular tradition is housed in a former zaou'ia (place of teaching the Koran) of the 18th century. Located just outside the city, near the beach, it offers a whole range of objects and costumes of Djerba and offers a vision of the past of the island, its culture and crafts. This museum features beautiful collections of traditional costumes as well as Jewish and Muslim jewels. This museum allows visitors to understand the traditions of the island and learn about the two main communities of Djerba: the Muslim community and the Jewish community. Sat-Thu (9am-12pm/3-7pm) Summer, (9am-4.30pm) Winter |
| *** | Mosque of the Turks | Djerba مسجد الأتراك | The Mosque of the Turks, also known as Jemaa ettrouk, is a Tunisian historical mosque with whitewashed walls. It was built during the 16th century following the orders of caïd Ghazi Mustapha Bey. The monument is small in size in comparison to other mosques. It has a sober architecture with white walls and a unique minaret. It has a big courtyard and large cistern to collect rainwater. El May's market is |



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| | | | also worth a visit. In Mellifa, another village near the airport, their 9th-century Mosque is one of the oldest in the world. |
| **** | Musee du Patrimoine Traditionnel Djerbien | Houmt Souk 4180 متحف التراث التقليدي | The Djerba Traditional Heritage Museum its raison d'être and lends itself to this informative and sensitizing role. Visiting the museum is an invitation to discover Djerba. Its charm is the implicit result of a glorious past and a socio-cultural richness which dissolved throughout the centuries and the generations within ingenious knowhow and savoir vivre that gave the island a strong identity. Mon-Fri (8am-4pm) |
| ** | L'île aux flamants roses | L'île aux flamants roses جزيرة القراصنة | Famous for its Pirate boats and the flamingos is an adventure essential to Djerba. Several departures are available daily from the tourist port of Marina Houmet Souk. It is advisable to book in advance although you can still find a few places available on site. The price and quality of service vary depending on the boat. In general it is possible to book this tour at the hotel for €25-35. |
| *** | Lighthouse Taguermess | Djerba Midoun المنارة | One of the prominent landmarks of the island, Phare de Taguermess (Lighthouse) is perched on a sandy beach offering photo opportunities. Surrounded by palm trees, the white conical tower with red stripes was built in 1895 and rises to a height of about 50 m (160 ft). Its flashing white light is visible from a distance of 44 nautical kilometers (24 mi). Please note that due to an army base located at the foot of the lighthouse, you may not be allowed to visit the interior. |
| ***** | Djerbahood | Hara Sghira Er Riadh رياض ايه الحارة | The island of Djerba - known as 'Island of Dreams' - has invited 150 international artists to take part in the street art project "Djerbahood", curated by Tunisian-French artist Mehdi Ben Cheikh. In July and August 2014, artists from about 30 nations travelled to Erriadh to create murals. One of the oldest villages in Tunisia, it has become host to one of the biggest meetings of the modern street art scene. |
| **** | El Ghriba Synagogue | Er-Riadh (Hara Sghira) كنيس الغريبة | El Ghriba Synagogue is situated in the Jewish village of Hara Seghira (currently known as Er-Riadh), several kilometres southwest of Houmt Souk, the main town of Djerba. The synagogue is the oldest in Tunisia, and besides being the center of the island's Jewish life is also a site of pilgrimage, whose status approaches that of the Holy Land. Don't miss the holiday of Lag BaOmer. On the outside, the current synagogue is a modest building, whereas the interior is richly decorated. In contrast to the other synagogues of Djerba, El Ghriba consists of two covered halls. Following several structural extensions the first of the two halls was built through the roofing of a formerly open courtyard in order to increase the capacity for the number of visitors. At the entrance, there are two columns dividing the room into three areas. This hall is connected to the main hall by three vaults. |
| ***** | Star Wars- Toshi Station | 33.831411,10.74 7936 | Sidi Jemour is a temple, located some miles north of Ben's house. It was seen in the movie as Toshi Station in Anchorhead, in a shot where the landspeeder rushes into Anchorhead on its way to Mos Eisley. Don't miss Mosquée Sidi Jmour just behind it. |
| ***** | Star Wars- Obi-Wan Kenobi's House | 33.740833,10.734951 | This little house is actually used by fishermen as a storage. In Episode IV it can be seen as the house of Obi-Wan Kenobi. |
| *** | Guellala Museum | Guellala 4155 قلالة | This museum is truly local and is rich in Djerba history, it shows how the islands industries and crafts are worked on and the extremely interesting ceremonies regarding marriage in Djerba, this museum will definitely give a traveler some insight into the strange island of Djerba. This whitewashed complex sits in a commanding position at the top of a hill 2km east of Guellala on the road to Cedouikech. Inside, a well-intentioned but extremely dated collection of life-size dioramas uses mannequins to illustrate Djerban customs and folklore. The rather kitschy reproductions of 'scenes from Djerban life' range from lifelike circumcision scenes to unusual Sufi ceremonies. There's also an impressive exhibit about traditional Tunisian wedding costumes. The outdoor exhibit featuring a tethered camel is unfortunate. General admission 10DT. Mon-Sun (8am-9pm) |
| ***** | Sidi Yati Mosque | Guellala مسجد سيدي | Out of town, along the shore, are a couple of interesting mosques and a few bits of ... 1.5km east along the coast, the tenth-century Mosque of Sidi Yati stands disused and crumbling by the shore. |
| *** | Archaeological site Meninx | Chausée Romaine موقع أثري السحاة | Meninx was formerly the capital of the island of Djerba in Roman times. Its archaeological site leaves a trace of the past and will keep some memories of this city, former capital of the island, founded by the Phoenicians around the tenth century. Prosperous and important city at the time due to its geographical location which gave it a commercial crossroads place between continents, and its archaeological site reflects this. Nearby you'll find the ruins of El Kantara (means bridge): the road 6km built by the Romans to link the mainland Djerba, which was replaced by a road in 1951. Free admission. |



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| *** | Lalla Hadria Museum | Route touristique de Midoun BP 353 متحف للا | This museum is dedicated to the marvels of Islamic art. Impressive collection of mosaics, ornamentally decorated artefacts and items of daily use. The visitor will learn a lot about the history of art from the arab world. There is a variety of jewelry, paintings, old furniture, and carpets inside the museum. General admission DT15. June-Sept Mon-Sun (9am-2pm), Oct-May (9am-6pm) |
| Zone 7: Jendouba | | | |
| **** | Bulla Regia | Bulla Regia بولا ريجيا | Tunisia has no shortage of Roman ruins, but Bulla Regia near Tabarka is the country's most interesting and intriguing site. Here, the Roman inhabitants coped with the harsh summer climate by ingeniously building their villas underground, which has left the city houses incredibly well preserved today. For history lovers this is a unique opportunity to walk through actual Roman houses, with their walls still intact. It's a glimpse of the residential life of the ancient world that you often don't see. |
| Zone 8: Dougga | | | |
| *** | Dougga | Rte du Kef, GP5 Teboursouk دوجا | Dougga or Thugga is an ancient Roman city in northern Tunisia, included in a 65 hectare archaeological site. Amongst the most famous monuments at the site are a Libyco-Punic Mausoleum, the capitol, the theatre, and the temples of Saturn and of Juno Caelestis. The site, which lies in the middle of the countryside, has been protected from the encroachment of modern urbanization. Dougga's size, its well-preserved monuments and its rich Numidian-Berber, Punic, ancient Roman and Byzantine history make it exceptional. Dougga's history is best known from the time of the Roman conquest, even though numerous pre-Roman monuments, including a necropolis, a mausoleum, and several temples have been discovered during archaeological digs. These monuments are an indication of the site's importance before the arrival of the Romans. |
| Zone 9: El Jem | | | |
| ***** | Amphitheatre of El Jem | El Jem, Tunisia الجم المدرج | The walls of the mighty Roman amphitheatre of El Djem dwarf the surrounding modern town. This incredibly well preserved Roman relic is one of the best examples of amphitheatre architecture left standing in the world, reminding of Rome's once grand grip across North Africa. You can still walk the corridors under the arena, just like the gladiators did. Or, climb up to the top seating tiers and sit staring across the arena imagining the battles that took place below. |
| Zone 10: Kairouan | | | |
| **** | Great Mosque of Kairouan | Rue De La Kasbah شارع دي لا القسبة | The Great Mosque of Kairouan was built in 670 as one of the most important mosques in Tunisia. This vast space contains a hypostyle prayer hall, a huge marble-paved courtyard and a massive square minaret. At the foundation of Kairouan in 670, the Arab general and conqueror Uqba Ibn Nafi (himself the founder of the city) chose the site of his mosque in the center of the city, near the headquarters of the governor. Around 690, shortly after its construction, the mosque was destroyed during the occupation of Kairouan by the Berbers, originally conducted by Kusaila. It was rebuilt by the Ghassanid general Hasan ibn al-Nu'man in 703. |
| Zone 11: Sousse | | | |
| ** | Sousse Archaeological Museum | Rue Abou Kacem Echabi شارع قاسم شابي أبو | One of the best collections of mosaics in the country is housed in the rooms around the kasbah's two main courtyards. The highlight is the room on the northern side of the entrance courtyard with exceptional exhibits, including the Triumph of Bacchus, which depicts the Roman god of wine riding in a chariot at the head of a parade of satyrs, as well as many superb fishing scenes. Other rooms contain a collection of funerary objects from a Punic grave beneath the museum and a resident artist demonstrating the patient and painstaking artistry of mosaic-making. Note that there is no entrance from inside the medina walls. General admission TD9, camera TD1. Mon-Sun (9am-7pm) |
| ***** | Medina of Sousse | Sousse سوسة | Overlooked by the mighty Ribat and Kasbah, Sousse's Medina just begs to be explored. This lovely old town district is a shopping paradise with a tempting selection of ceramics, leather-work and metalwork on display. Away from the souk streets, quiet and rambling back alleys are a charming place to dive in and sample local life. |
| **** | Ribat of Sousse | Sousse سوسة | Ribat of Sousse is one of the finest and best conserved buildings of the series of "fortress-monasteries" that dotted the North African coastline to serve both as defences against assailants come from |



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| | | | overseas and as a place for spiritual retreats. The Sousse Ribat was built at the end of the VIIIth century. Its architectural style is broadly inspired by the style of the Byzantines who preceded the Arab conquerors on African soil. In fact, building materials reclaimed from Antiquity were extensively used in the construction of the monument. |
| ***** | Great Grand Mosque | Rue Othmane Osmane شارع عثمان عثمان | The Great Mosque is a typically austere Aghlabid affair. It was built, according to a Kufic (early Arabic) inscription in the courtyard, in the year AD 851 by a freed slave called Mudam, on the instructions of the Aghlabid ruler Abul Abbas. Mudam adapted an earlier kasbah (fort), which explains the mosque's turrets and crenulated wall, as well as its unusual location; the great mosque is usually sited in the centre of a medina. The mosque is also unusual in that it has no minaret; its proximity to the ribat (fortified Islamic monastery) meant that the latter's tower could be used to call the faithful to prayer. The structure underwent 17th-century modifications and 20th-century restoration. Non-Muslims aren't allowed beyond the courtyard but from there you can see the grand barrel-vaulted prayer hall. Sat-Thu (8am-2.30pm) Fri (8am-12.30pm) |
| *** | Musée Dar Essid | Hamid el Ghazali متحف دار الصبيد | This small, private museum is also not to be missed. In a quiet part of the medina, it occupies a beautiful old home, furnished in the style of a well-to-do 19th-century Sousse official and his family. The dimensions of the elaborately decorated, arched door are the first indication of the owner's status. It opens into a small anteroom for meeting strangers, and then into a tiled courtyard surrounded by the family rooms. A plaque in the courtyard reveals that the house was built in AD 928, making it one of the oldest in the medina. General admission TD2, camera TD1. Mon-Sun (10am-7pm) |
| Zone 12: Monastir | | | |
| * | Bourghiba Mausoleum | Route de la Falaise بورقيبة ضريح | The Bourghiba family mausoleum is one of the main attractions of Monastir. It was built in 1963 and later expanded. The former Tunisian president and his family rest here. This huge and beautiful marble building with a gold dome has two 20 metre tall minarets flanking its sides. But the most striking is the wide promenade that leads to the mausoleum, which is lined with Tunisian flags. Do not miss it. |
| | Monastir Ribat | Monastir المنستير | Monastir is a city on the central coast of Tunisia. Monastir was founded on the ruins of the Punic-Roman city of Ruspina. The city features a well preserved Ribat that was used to scan the sea for hostile ships as a defence against the attacks of the Byzantine fleet. Several ulema came to stay in the Ribat of this peaceful city for contemplation. The Ribat was also one of the filming locations for both Jesus of Nazareth and Monty Python's Life Of Brian. |
| **** | Great Mosque Monastir | Monastir المنستير | This place of prayer breaks with the traditional principle of Islamic town planning whereby the Great Mosque is in the centre of the medina, for it is in an outlying location near the coast, close to the ribāt. The Great Mosque's architecture is marked by soberness. Its outer façades are in ashlar and are decorated with niches, the gallery's arches and small corner columns. Like many Tunisian mosques, the Great Mosque underwent many extensions over the centuries. |
| Zone 13: Rest of Star Wars locations | | | |
| ***** | Chott el Djerid | Chott el Djerid شط الجريد | The moonscape of the Chott el Djerid is a storybook panorama brought to life, filled with shimmering mirages on the horizon and jigsaw puzzle pieces of blindingly white cracked land. This sprawling salt-pan near Tozeur is a desolate moonscape that wows with its stark and brutal beauty. A sightseeing visit proves that nature produces much weirder landscapes than you could ever imagine. |
| | Junfand Wastes | Bouhlef Sdada | 23km North-East of Tozeur you can find Sidi Bouhel, better known as the Junfand Wastes in the movies. This canyon was used in 1976 for no less than 9 shots. Lucasfilm named it "Star Wars Canyon". Also the canyon was used in Raiders of the Lost Ark and in The English Patient. In front of the canyon entrance, you'll see the Sandcrawler parking lot. The inside is a narrow gorge walled by two hundred foot high cliffs and a wide, flat wadi that runs from Jebel Krefene down to the chott. In the gorge Luke was being attacked by Tusken Raiders, and met Obi-Wan Kenobi for the first time. Just outside the mouth of the gorge Imperial Stormtroopers attacked and massacred the Jawas who sold the droids on to Uncle Owen. |
| | Sith infiltrator landing site | Chott Chthhatt Sghat | About 6km East of the Mos Espa set lies Oung Jmel, better known as the camel head rock. This was the site where Darth Maul arrived on Tatooine and released the Sith Probes to search for Queen Amidala's |



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| | | | ship. The same location was used for Maul flying over the cliffs after having found Anakin and Qui-Gon. |
| | Mos Espa | Nafta | This set was built from nothing in the middle of the desert, and still stands. This is not a typical studio tour. Most Tunisians haven't even seen the Star Wars movies, but they recognize that there's more value in just leaving the props alone and keep them in good state, than removing them. You can see the whole town: the gates of Mos Espa; the Pod-racing arena; the gallery and the Mos Espa streets with Watto's shop, the market and Sebulba's Café. Get there early in the morning and you could have the place to yourself. A few hundred meters away from the set you'll find the Yardangs: protruding bits of sandstone that look like shark fins peeping out of the desert. The Jedi duel between Qui-Gonn and Darth Maul in Episode I was shot here. |
| | Lars (Skywalker) Homestead Exterior | | Luke's home is located 35km out of Tozeur at Chott El Jerid. Chott El Jerid is part of the vast dry salt lake flats that cover 5,000 sq km on the West side of central/southern Tunisia near Algeria. The little igloo is standing here in the middle of nowhere. Because the Lars Homestead interior scenes were shot somewhere else, the crew had to dig some craters next to it, to make you believe there's actually an underground structure in the movie. The igloo was taken apart after the shooting of the first trilogy but was rebuilt for Attack of the Clones and Revenge of the Sith. Some memorable scenes were shot here, including Shmi Skywalker's funeral in Attack of the Clones, and the final shot of Revenge of the Sith. It's a good idea to visit this location near the evening. When the sun sets in the middle of the desert and with the little igloo as the only structure nearby, you'll get a spectacular view. |
| | Lars (Skywalker) Homestead Interior | Matmata | In Matmata you can actually sleep in Luke's home. The Hotel Sidi Driss served as the interior of the Lars homestead and is at a different location than the igloo exterior of Luke Skywalker's home. Aunt Beru's kitchen is still there, but except for some fiberglass and wooden frames, and the fresco on the dining room ceiling, you won't find any props. Even so, it is easy to get excited when sitting in the very same dining room that the Lars family used. The hotel also has a well stocked bar with lots of Star Wars memorabilia and a Star wars inspired menu. |
| | Matmata Houses | Matmata | Traditionally homes are made by digging a large pit, about 7m (23ft) deep and 10m (33ft) wide, and then around the sides of the pit tunnelling in a few meters before cutting caves. The homes are grouped around a central courtyard and connected to other courtyards with more rooms forming an underground maze. You can read more about these cave homes here. |
| | Anakin Skywalker's Home | Medenine | Medenine is the major town in southeastern Tunisia. The main attraction in Medenine is Ksar Medenine, an ancient Berber fortified granary. North of Ksar Medenine is the granary that acted as the slave quarters in Episode I. It was used as the exterior the Anakin Skywalker's home in many shots. |
| | Tataouine - Ksar ouled soltane | Tatouine | Tataouine, located in the south of Medenine. The planet Tatooine got its name from this town, and that's about the town's only contribution to the movie. Most of the scenes were shot in the hills and villages surrounding the town. A little further south is located Ksar Ouled Soltane a beautiful ghorfa (grain storage facility) that was used to as a background for some of the Slave Quarters shots in Episode I. |
| | Grand Erg Oriental Dessert | Grand Erg Oriental Dessert العرق الشرقي الكبير الحلوى | The Grand Erg Oriental is a large erg or "field of sand dunes" in the Sahara Desert. The Grand Erg Oriental is accessible overland by an Algerian road, which goes south from Constantine. It passes through the Aurès mountains, then salt lakes by the city of Biskra. |



- ULR map: <https://goo.gl/Uzf1ZN>
- Metro map: <https://goo.gl/GaUqZz>
- Note: Directions are given in order of neighborhoods following this diagram.

1. Tunis
2. Carthage
3. Sidi Bou Said
4. Bizerte
5. Hammamet
6. Djerba
7. Jendouba
8. Dougga
9. El Jem
10. Kairouan
11. Sousse
12. Monastir
13. Rest of Star Wars locations

