

TUNISIA ODYSSEY: EDEN TO OASIS

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(subject to change)

Program: Small group, self-contained, bicycle and train tour. Visit with and gain a better understanding the lifestyles and economic survival of the diverse cultures of the people of southern Tunisia's tropical, desert & Mediterranean zones.

Cycling Conditions: 700 km, 440 miles, paved roads, generally flat or rolling, a couple of long hills.

Weather conditions: Highs in the 70's & 80's F (20's C), lows in the 40's F, good chance of some wind and rain.

Pre-tour	Tue Nov 1	TUNIS. Arrive, check-in to the hotel and explore the heart of the city.
DAY 01	WedNov 2	Tunis - HOUMT SOUK (early morning (5:45 am) train). Arrive and explore the souk. Program options: Begins with an afternoon walk of the village and tour cultural museum. Accommodations: foundouk Dinner: Tunisian cuisine
DAY 02	Thu	HOUMT SOUK (40-70km, 25-43mi). Cycling tour of Djerba Island; visiting cultural points of interest. Program options: fishing port, Africa's oldest synagogue, mosques, villages, farms, market. Accommodations: foundouk Dinner: Tunisian cuisine
DAY 03	Fri	Houmt Souk- MEDENINE (80km, 50mi). Traditional society carrying on its normal way-of-life. Program options: handicrafts, agriculture life, Gikti, Medenine ghorfas Accommodations: pension (very basic, share facilities) Dinner: Tunisian cuisine
DAY 04	Sat	Medenine-TATAOUINE (70km, 43mi) Enter hillier country, dotted with ksours and ghorfas. Program options: terraced agriculture, fortified hillside villages (Ksours and Ghorfas), Star Wars location. Accommodations: hotel Dinner: hotel
DAY 05	Sun	TATAOUINE (65km, 41mi). The way life seems to be frozen as we cycle into the limestone hills, several optional route lead to rock hewn mosque and other attractions. Program options: 400 yr old Ksar Chinini, adaptive architecture of south Tunisian Berber culture Accommodations: hotel Dinner: Tunisian cuisine
DAY 06	Mon	Tataouine-Gabes (by van, 127k)-MATMATA (45km, 28mi). Arid mountainous terrain creates dramatic views. Program options: We enter the troglodyte area, with their adaptive architecture and lifestyle. Accommodations: subterranean (rustic, shared facilities) Dinner: Tunisian cuisine
DAY 07	Tue	Matmata-DOUZ (105km, 65mi). Descend from the mountains to a vast desert and enchanting oasis. Program options: Bedouin culture and tents, rent-a-camel ride (camel-lot), sunset on the oasis. Accommodations: pension Dinner: Tunisian cuisine
DAY 08	Wed	Douz-QIBILI (30km, 18mi). From our oasis we tour the sand dunes of the Sahara. Program options: excursion to a necklace of oases and sand dunes. Accommodations: hotel Dinner: Tunisian cuisine
DAY 09	Thu	Qibili-TOZEUR (100km, 62mi). Cross the crystalline surface salt lake, Chott Jerid. Program options: Chott Jerid, desert rose, explore date palm oasis. Accommodations: hotel Dinner: Tunisian cuisine
DAY 10	Fri	TOZEUR Program options: explore, old medina, architecture, weaving, mass tourism. Accommodations: hotel Dinner: Tunisian cuisine
DAY 11	Sat	Tozeur to Hammamet (by bus or train) to NABUEL (25km, 15mi) A radical change from the arid south to the more verdant north. Program options: oasis, wheat and olive agriculture, tourism enclaves, the Mediterranean. Accommodations: hotel Dinner: Tunisian cuisine
DAY 12	Sun	Nabuel-EL HAOUARIA (100km, 62mi) Beautiful farm land on the south side of Cape Bon. Program options: crafts and wholesale produce markets, Spanish castle, Kerkouane ruins, falcons. Accommodations: pension Dinner: Tunisian cuisine
DAY 13	Mon	El Haouaria-SOLIMAN (90km, 56mi). We switch to the rugged scenic north coast of Cape Bon. Program options: Wind-powered generators, Ain El Atrous, Aquae Carpitanae Accommodations: hotel Dinner: Tunisian cuisine
DAY 14	Tue	Soliman-TUNIS (35km, 22mi). Head back into the capital and complete the journey. Program options: shop for carpets, crafts and other souvenirs Accommodations: hotel Dinner: Tunisian cuisine
DAY 15	WedNov 16	Tunis. End of Program.

Note: Airline schedules from Tunis often don't allow same-day connections to western North America. Also, you might want to give yourself a couple extra days in Tunis to see some of the many attractions there that are not included in the tour: Medina, Bardo, Carthage, Sidi Bou Said, Utica, Zaghuan Aqueduct, etc.