





DATA SHEET

The President of the Republic:
His Excellency Zine El Ábidine Ben Ali.
Type of government: Presidential. Capital: Tunis.
Surface area: 62.6 miles²
808 miles of coastline. Administrative division:
23 district governments divided into 260 commissions.
Climate: Mediterranean. Population: 8.78 million in 1994
(prediction for the year 2000: 9.7 million.)
Official language: Arabic.
Religions: Muslim (98% of the population),
Christian, Jewish.



Tunisia



In all likelihood, only Tunisia succeeds in combining two contradictory feelings in a single vacation spot: a complete change of scenery, a taste for adventure and the pleasant feeling of being in a nearby friendly country.

Traveling in Tunisia is like discovering a part of Africa, but also the Arabic and Islamic world. There is a heritage of many cultural riches left by past civilizations, Carthaginian, Roman, Arabic, western. If it is its wide-open space that attracts you, the pure beauty of the southern oases will fascinate you. From the never-ending beaches with powdery sand to the delectable orchards of Nabeul, from the nearby Djerba peninsula to the salt lakes in the deserts, let yourself go under its spell just once: you will never want the spell to end.

Tunisia also means friendly, warm hospitality. You are not treated as a customer, but as a friend. It is a country that is easy to get to know where hearts and faces alike are brimming with sunshine.

This brochure suggests some trips and destination points. It will also give you other essential information you will need for Tunisia, a country so close. We would like to welcome you in advance!

CLOSE AT HAND AND SPELLBINDING.

Tunisia

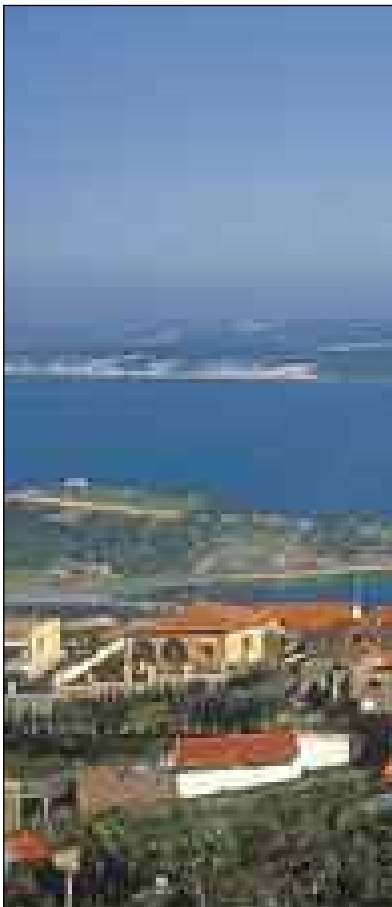
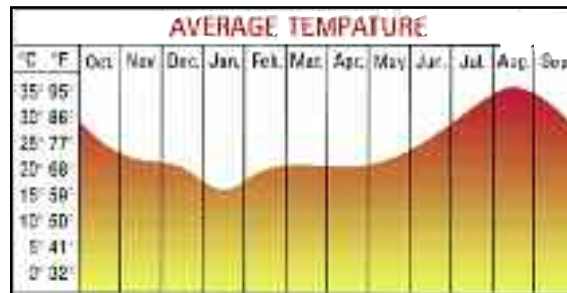
GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Location: Tunisia is located at the northeastern tip of Africa, in the middle of the Mediterranean basin. Bordered by the 30th and the 37th degree northern latitudes, it is bathed in the north and east by the Mediterranean Sea.

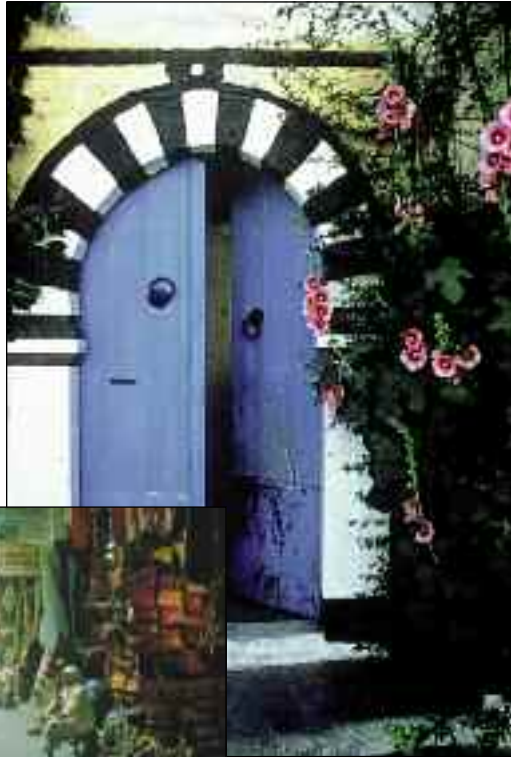
Topography and climate: mountainous and very green in the north, the country becomes increasingly flatter and drier toward the south. Three large areas can be distinguished: the Haut-Tell, which covers the northern area; central Tunisia, a region of high and low steppes ending on the coast by the Sahel. Finally, the south of Tunisia, bordered in the north by the salt lake region. It is a country of wide-open deserts and luxuriant palm groves nestled among rare spots of water.

The highest point in Tunisia, the Jebel Chaambi, is no taller than 5,066 ft. (1544 m) and two thirds of the country are made up of plains.

A mild and temperate climate predominates over each season. The median temperature is 52°F in December and 85° F in July. Spring is as bucolic and lush as one could hope for. Autumn is verdant and rich with fruit. When America is shivering from the cold, come shiver with pleasure when exploring the south or enjoying freshly picked dates. Finally, sea breezes cool the coast in the summer while the sun keeps the water temperature in the sea at just the right temperature.



Tunisia



TUNIS, CARTHAGE, SIDI BOU SAID... AN OLD WORLD THAT IS NEW AGAIN

TUNIS: It's through contact with the residents, listening to them and experiencing their friendship that visitors can imbibe the soul and character of the city. At the heart of this decidedly modern capital are the stalls of the medina, arranged according to the goods sold: booksellers, wool merchants, perfume sellers, etc.

The medina is a treat for those who like to take strolls and try their hand at local bargaining. Also visit the famous Zitouna Mosque. Observe the different government departments and ministries, formerly gathered around the various palaces, the casbah, the public baths, the schools, etc.

Or take in the ancient world in the Bardo Museum, one of the best archeological museums in the world.

CARTHAGE: "Delenda est Carthago", said the ancients Romans. Carthage, a rival city, would have to be destroyed. So it was done. Stones were scattered, its soil made sterile with salt. Relive the glorious Carthaginian era by traveling through the hot mineral baths of Antonin, the amphitheater, the "tophet" the knoll where the ashes of the city's first born children are buried 18 feet under and on the top of the Byrsa hill, the national museum where, on moonlit evenings, people believe they still see Tanit resplendent in his silver robe guarding over his lost kingdom.



NEARBY AND DIVERSE.

There is also the port of Carthage, where in the summer, an international festival is held in its outdoor amphitheater.

SIDI BOU SAID: Meeting place for artists, a captivating and enchanting village that offers a breathtaking view of the Gulf of Tunis. The blue doors and shutters contrast against the white façades, flecked here and there with lemons, oranges and bougainvillea.

Beyond Sidi Bou Said, there is a harsher climate in La Marsa, where the Beys used to spend the summer. It's a pleasant summer seaside retreat, well-known for its famous "Saf-Saf" café and its small town square dominated by a hafside-era mosque.





TABARKA



TABARKA, BIZERTE, DOUGGA... THE CORAL COAST

TABARKA: An ancient Phoenician port dominated by Fort Génois, on a luxurious coast that makes its living from fishing lobsters, sea-urchins and gigantic shrimp, coral, cork and heather products, etc.

An ideal drop-off point for diving (yachting-club) and playing golf; the beach and the promenades can be glimpsed through the Kroumirie hills. In July and August: The coral Festival, a handicraft products, music and many other aspects of Tunisian culture.

After leaving the coast, in the middle of a cork oak forest, you can discover the resort city of Air Draham ("Spring of Money"), where the invigorating climate and tiled roofs mark a strange contrast with the rest of the country.



Tunisia

BIZERTE •
DOUGGA •



BIZERTE: Many clocks adorn the ramparts of this old seaport, dominated by a Spanish stronghold. The immense square of the Martyrs, all in white marble, recalls to what degree today occasionally resembles yesterday.



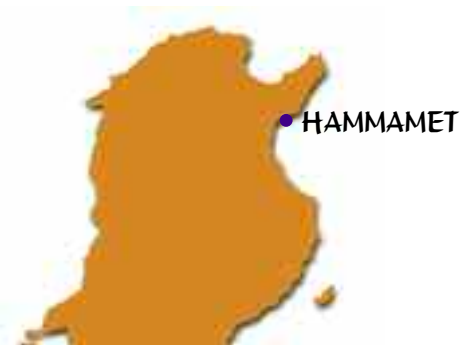
The Moorish houses and the fishmarket are truly not to be missed. Lake Garaet Ichkeul and Mount Jebel Ichkeul (1,675 ft.), a haven for a number of wild birds and animals are classified as a Natural Park.

This old French naval base is also appreciated for its long sandy beaches, its folklore, its theatre, its music and its dances that pulse to their fullest during the festivals.

DOUGGA: The largest range of Roman ruins in Tunisia are found in the superb valley of the Medjerda: Dougga, formerly called Thugga.

Temples, warm springs, the triumphal arch of Severus Alexander and other archeological wonders stretch at 1,970 ft. high. In a strange silence, you will still sense the pulsing of Roman life during the second and third centuries.





ORANGE GROVES AND THE VINEYARDS OF CAP BON

HAMMAMET: Flaubert, Maupassant, Wilde, Churchill, Françoise Sagan, Sophia Loren have succumbed to the charms of its perfumes and colors. Its old fort, with waves crashing against it, watches over the abundant and luxurious hotels that perfectly match orchards and gardens of orange trees, lemon trees, jasmine plants, etc.



During winter and summer alike everything is green. Tunisian architecture with its vaults and turrets is omnipresent and nevertheless no two buildings look alike. The same for interior decoration: discreet, elegant and respectful of tradition down to the latest ventures. Haven of “beauty, sun and melancholy”, noted the writer Michel Tournier.



Tunisia



NABEUL: The administrative capital of Cap Bon, Nabeul, former Neapolis, is a seaside resort in full swing.

It is also a craft center that is famous for its pottery, ceramics, embroidery and ironworking shops.

Other quality craft activities characteristic of Nabeul: rush and grass matt weaving, limestone sculpture at Dar Châabane replicating antique motifs; weaving of wool tapestries; oil mills and blown glass (Must see: the weekly Friday market).





PORT EL KANTAQUI, SOUSSE, MONASTIR, MAHDIA... PEARLS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

PORT EL KANTAQUI: 3 miles north of Sousse, this veritable crown jewel of an integrated and modern Tunisian tourism is unique in its style.

A Premier garden port of the Mediterranean with its marina, its luxurious hotels in Arabic, Turkish and Andalusian motifs, its villas upon a backdrop of thousand-year-old olive trees, its 27-hole golf course, a center for deep sea diving, the village nestles its sparkling white cottages around the immense basin where some three hundred sailboats and yachts bob back and forth.

Everything seems to have been provided for the rest and relaxation of a global clientele.

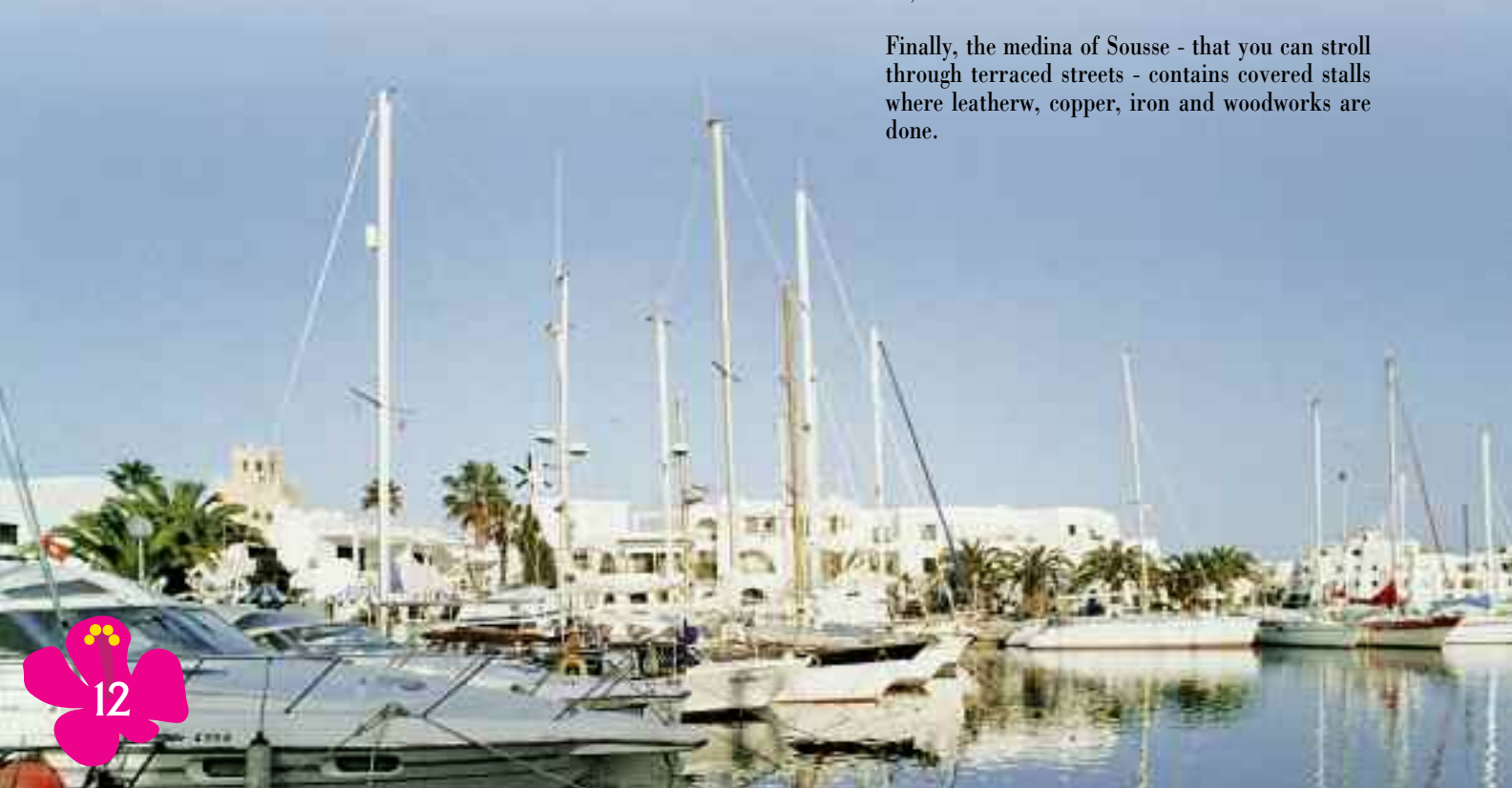


SOUSSE: This “fertile city” is supposedly older than Carthage. The medina, built on the slope of a hill, sets the stage with its white houses facing the port and the sea. A minaret tower, round and modest, a dependency of a Ribat, landmark in this chain of fortified 11th-century monasteries.

On the other side, a double enclosure and a lofty turret point to the “casbah”. Under its shadow, the Sousse Museum traces the history of the 3rd and 4th centuries in mosaics, the most beautiful compositions to be found in Roman Africa!

Sousse still houses Christian catacombs of some 25,000 tombs.

Finally, the medina of Sousse - that you can stroll through terraced streets - contains covered stalls where leatherw, copper, iron and woodworks are done.



Tunisia



MONASTIR: Here, tradition and progress go hand in hand. Monastir takes its place among the great international spas of the Mediterranean, with its architecturally bold conference center that is simultaneously a theatre, meeting place for artists and a hall for international conferences. It lives alongside the Bourguiba mausoleum, with an octagonal minaret with a lamphouse and ribbed turrets, or the Ribat, with its completely military asymmetry, the backdrop of numerous movies allegedly taking place in Antiquity.

The pleasure-boat harbor and the marina, protected by two rocky isles that form the cape of Monastir, provide a welcoming spot for beginners to deep-sea diving. Luxurious hotels border the vast golden beaches of Monastir, an ideal point of departure for the cities of Sfax, El Djem, Kairouan, etc.



MAHDIA: Foremost Tunisian seaport for catching blue fish, this peaceful seaside resort offers you beaches on a hinterland of greenery and tranquility.

In Fatimide capital, marriages take place with the pomp of bygone days. Feast your eyes on the ceremonial jewels and the sumptuous gold-braided robes, exhibited at the museum in the neighboring city of Moknine.





THE ISLANDS OF DJERBA-ZARZIS AND KERKENNAH: SITE OF DREAMS AND RELAXATION

DJERBA-ZARZIS: The gentle “island of date palms”, supposedly discovered by Ulysses, is connected to the continent by an old Roman road. The “miracle” of Djerba: the thousands of visitors that it attracts each year on account of its warm water, its dreamlike beaches and its mythical menzels (those “sugar mounds” formed by little cottages with white turrets) have not changed it.

Many sources explain its luxuriant appearance and its visitors fall under the spell of the old port of Ajim where fishermen still hawk their catches in a picturesque market.

Because of its strategic position, however, the island has been the scene of invasions and bloody battles waged against Byzantium and the kings of Sicily and Spain.

Djerba also features a number of typical mosques, particularly the Ghriba, which is the oldest synagogue. This ancient sanctuary with a history going back twenty-six hundred years has always attracted pilgrims during the month of May and contains one of the oldest thoras in the world. Guellala, in the south of the island, is a village of potters: big jars, beautiful couscous bowls and small items in glazed pottery are crafted by inheritors of an ancestral knowledge.

A new golf course has also opened its greens to Djerba.

Near the coast in the middle of a seaside oasis stands the charming market town of Zarzis, isolated and facing Soleil Levant, with its exotic decoration corroded by salt, burnt by the sun and often ravaged by the winds.

Numerous field trips lead you to the fascinating world of the Sahara: Berber villages, verdant oases, the South Tunisian salt basin.



Tunisia

KERKENNAH: At the beginning of the Gulf of Gabès, enter the kingdom of Neptune! Rich in flocks of animals, vineyards and palm trees, this completely flat archipelago seems to rise directly out of the sea, celebrated throughout the country by its groups of singers and dancers.

It is also a dream-come-true for water sports enthusiasts and underwater hunting. An adventure not to be missed: “fish jumping”, fishing practiced in shallow waters. The fishermen place nets or “couffins” on the water’s surface, then armed with sticks beat the water in order to scare jumping mullets that leap and fall back into the nets. Men fishing for octopus, sponges and a variety of fish supply Sfax, the second largest city of Tunisia.



KAIROUAN: CHARM IN THE ROUGH

37 miles from Sousse is Kairouan, the holy city! Its great mosque, with a forest of marble columns gathered from neighboring Roman ruins, is a masterpiece of Islamic architecture. Its monuments, witnesses to its past glory, are a delight for tourists: mosques, zaouias, irrigation ponds, ruins of a princely palace in Reeqqada outside the main city.

But the prestige of Kairouan lives on in another area: that of its weavers. Lose yourself in the maze of the souks and ... the rugs! The “mergoum” is made with multi-colored wool, the hues of the “alloucha” are more subtle, and the “zarbia”, mellow, primarily features reddish brown.



KAIROUAN •
KERKENNAH •



Tunisia



TUNISIA OF THE OASES

GABES: This oasis, the only one with salt water, is home to some three hundred thousand date palms. A perfect invitation to oasis life! Plant life develops in three stages: date palms, eager for sun on their tops and water at their feet, fruit trees like pomegranates, plums and apricots do well with sunlight filtered through the palms; on the ground, vegetables, tobacco, aromatic plants (mint) and hays (alfalfa). A complex network of channels (séguías) provides effective irrigation.

Strong point of the oasis: the site of the “Heart of the Oued”, in view of its basin shape which is said to be of Roman origin.

Gabès is best seen in an open carriage or cart, to take in a breath of the Mediterranean before heading back into the desert.

TOZEUR: An oasis that gets shade from its facades clad with unbaked brick mosaics in geometrical patterns. The massive, dense palm grove on the northwest bank of the salt basin, contains one million six hundred thousand palms, of which more than a quarter give the best dates: the “deglet nour” (“fingers of light”). Two hundred springs gush from beneath the surrounding desert, and several of them are therapeutic (Ras el-Ayoun and El-Hamma of Jerid).

A source of national pride is the Dar Cheraït museum, a glowing copy of the Dar Ben Abdallah in Tunis exhibits in its beylical palace the arts and traditions of the country. Also visit the “Paradise”, a zoo featuring African snakes, where tame lions stroll among visitors. Finally, accept the sand rose gathered by the desert caravan drivers.





NEFTA: A corner of Paradise, at the edge of a plateau laid bare and eroded by winds of sand. From afar, the “Pearl of the Djerid” appears to be a carpet left by angels on the sand on a summer’s night. Fertility, however, is unceasingly undermined by assaults from salt, wind and sun. By chance during a beneficial dip in one of the warm-water springs, you might catch a glimpse of some marabouts, scattered beneath the trees.

The terraced city follows the three stages of agriculture: palm groves, orchards and vegetable gardens. The stunning sunset can be seen from the “Corbeille”, a fabulous belvedere at the western edge of the oasis. At night, clusters of stars appear to be within reach.



DOUZ: The most Saharan of south Tunisian oases. This village typically deserted and surrounded with real dunes continues to jealously guard its ancestral habits and customs.

Douz is well-known for its Thursday market, its camel-skin crafts, its Berber jewelry, its raising of the celebrated Saluki and especially for its Sahara festival that every January gathers nomads or semi-nomads of Tunisia. This is an excellent occasion for foreign observers to discover fantasias, traditional marriages, camel fights, and greyhound hunts.

You are at the Port of the Desert where Saharan camel safaris leave to climb the dunes among gazelle paths.

KEBILI AND THE SALT BASINS: Kebili - the administrative center on this oasis archipelago in a sandy ocean provides access to the Djerid Salt Basin, one of the most important salt basins “chotts” in Tunisia by an elevated roadway. This word designates the large salt-encrusted lakes, often located under sea level. To uncork it, or more specifically to open a channel which would enable the sea to spill into the salt basins, is an idea that has haunted more than a few builders.

The file has been reopened since 1984. In the meantime, have fun taking pictures of the mirages on the horizon of Djerid!



Tun

TUNISIA OF THE CAVE DWELLERS AND THE KSOURS

MATMATA: No visitor of Southern Tunisia wants to miss the matmatas, the Berber refugee tribes in this unusual looking region. In these villages built on mountainsides, the local people live like cave dwellers at the bottom of the sweet-smelling caves of chalk, open to the sky and hollowed out by man. Many of these caves, often accessed by means of a simple rope have become restaurants and guest rooms for visitors hankering for picturesque scenes. It was in this lunar landscape that film maker Steven Spielberg shot "Star Wars" and "The Adventures of the Lost Ark".



MEDENINE: An important crossing of roads, formerly trails, Medénine still has some clusters of picturesque “ghorfas”, that look like rudimentary dwellings comprised of a long one-room with an arched ceiling and a single opening, a door of palm wood usually with a strong latch. Ghorfas are built in groups of ten or more forming up to three or four levels. The highest rooms are reached by teetering up a narrow set of steps.

TATAQUINE: The real South, with its ksours and its crested villages. Berber communities, that have now settled down, live in these elevations in houses partially hollowed-out from limestone in the mountain, and partly erected in dry stones gathered nearby. The ksours or desert castles are generally perched on a crag or an easily defendable rocky plateau, and are used for shelters, locations for trade, exchanges and festivities, fortification, etc.



Nowhere do the heavens appear so bright with constellations and pierced by so many shooting stars. But be careful: Saharan nights are freezing!

Excursions in 4 x 4s lead you to the mysteries of the desert. Spellbinding!



MEDENINE •
TATAQUINE •



Tun

A HOSPITABLE COUNTRY CLOSE TO YOUR LEISURE

A RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE

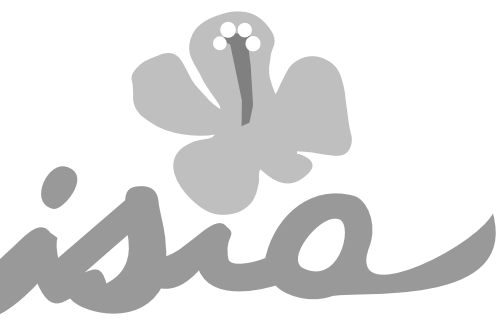
Never has an African country been the prey of so much envy. Most Tunisian cities are ancient Phoenician trading posts, with Greek or Roman history or else of Arabic medinas. Amphitheaters, hot springs, odeons and coliseums testify to the splendor of an emperor, of a civilization. But beyond the triumph of Antiquity, Arabic architects knew how to show off the genius of their art: the great mosque of Kairouan is a magnificent example of this.

Utica is supposedly the oldest trading post, dating from 1100 BC and later became a Roman city. The hot springs can be recognized by the mosaic floor.

The city of Dougga still stands proudly on its hill. The forum with its Carthaginian mausoleum extends around the temple built in honor of Jupiter, Juno and Minerva. Further on are its baths, its brothel and its 3500-seat theatre, that reopens every summer.

As for the El Djem Coliseum, it is every bit as great as the one in Rome. It could seat 35,000 spectators. The mosaics of the palace are dedicated to Dionysus or Bacchus.





RY THAT IS RE ACTIVITIES

COTE COEUR

The men are stone cutters, the women weave farachias these brightly colored cloths and filijs, long strips that, when sewn together, are used to made Bedouin tents.

In Tunisia, centuries old customs can be gleaned from the smallest gesture. The coppersmith who lovingly puts the finishing touches on his pans; the potter, whose amphora will hold only the coolest of water; the weaver meticulously tying the knots in raw wool that make up the carpet, guaranteed by the "quality authenticity" label.

Each tribe has its own patterns and colors: the Douirets have their burgundy reds, black is predominantly used among the Guermassas, the Matmatas and Tataouines lean towards a particular blue.



Can you resist the sand rose , rock crystal, Berber jewels? On a trip to Nabeul, admire the magic of the craftsman shaping his tiles decorated with green and yellow motifs on a background of red clay. Or another who before your eyes transforms leather into sandals, handbags, belts, djebbas or finely embroidered vests. Finally, who doesn't appreciate the beautiful bird cages of Sidi Bou Saïd?



Tunisia

GOLF COURSES

Superb courses mark the entire Tunisian coast. Balmy Mediterranean weather, hospitality, and a diverse tourist infrastructure have induced Tunisia to increase its greens and fairways.

TABARKA Golf Course

Tabarka Golf Course - 8110 Tabarka

Tel: (78)671.028 - 671.031 - Fax: (78)671.026.

The Tabarka Golf Course, created on a superb 272-acre wooded setting, offers golfers all levels of play.

- a championship 18-hole course, 21,000 ft. (Par 72);
- a 9-hole golf school, a practice course, putting green and driving range.

THE FLAMINGO GOLF COURSE

Address: Route de Ouardanine - BP 168 - 5000 Monsatir Tel: (73)500.283/284 - Fax: (73)500.285. From its cliffs furrowed by the wadis, the course is nestled in craggy hills, around ponds in valleys under the perpetually blue sky of the Mediterranean. The course is definitely technical, where it is necessary to alternate strength and precision to maneuver through its numerous traps.

(18 HOLES) 6,714 yards, PAR 72 -3 school holes.

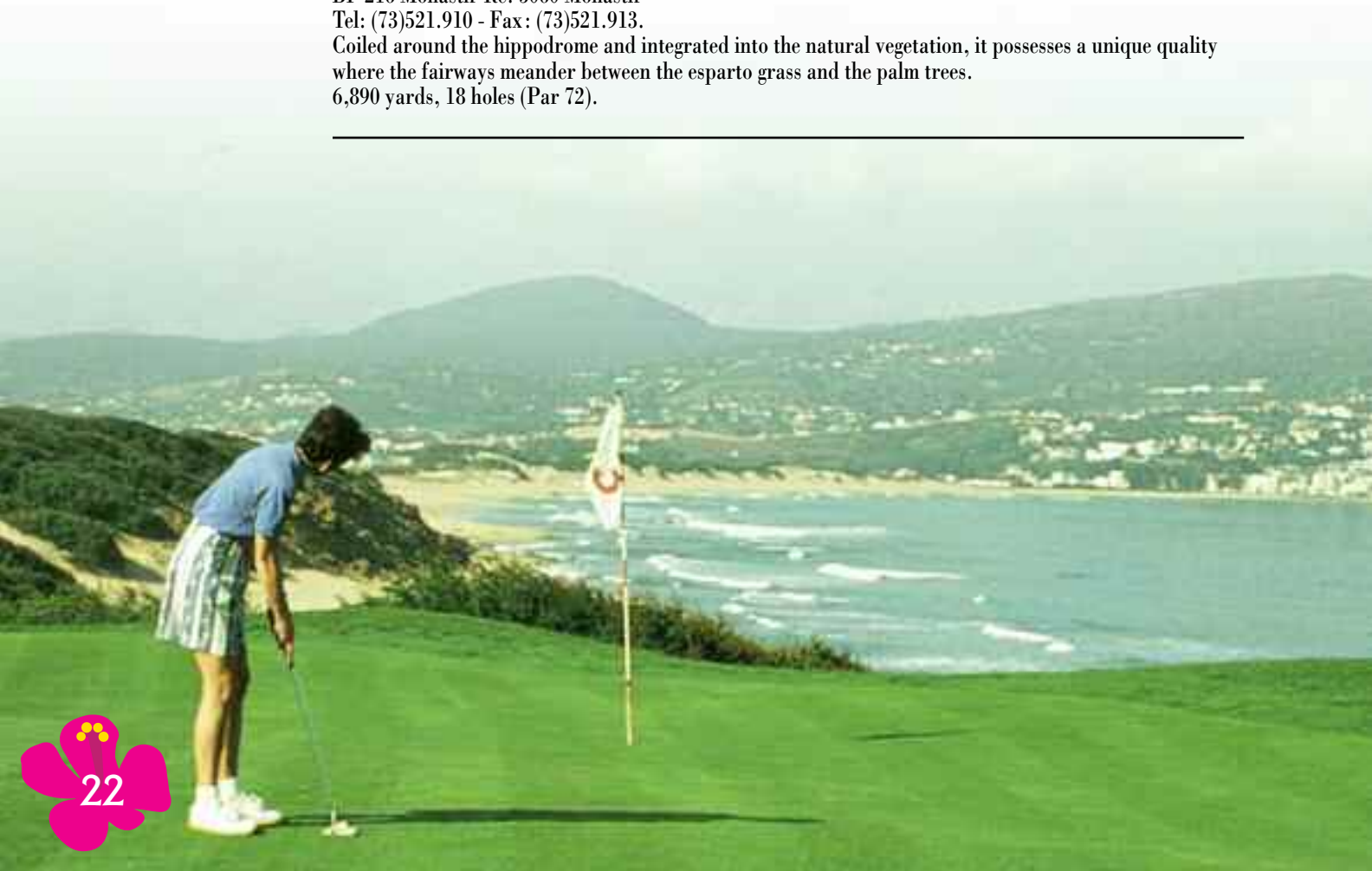
THE PALM LINKS MONASTIR GOLF COURSE

BP 216 Monastir Re. 5060 Monastir

Tel: (73)521.910 - Fax: (73)521.913.

Coiled around the hippodrome and integrated into the natural vegetation, it possesses a unique quality where the fairways meander between the esparto grass and the palm trees.

6,890 yards, 18 holes (Par 72).





THE CITRUS HAMMAMET GOLF COURSE

BP 132 - 8050 Hammamet. Tel.: (72)226.500 - Fax: (72)226.400. Designed around six lakes on 302 acres with olive trees and woods, this golf course contains:

- 2 18-hole championship courses:
 - “The forest course”, 6,835 yards (Par 72)
 - “The Olive Tree Course”, 6,800 yards (Par 72). “The Orange Grove Course“. (Par 29)
 - a double practice starts from 492 yards. The Citrus Hammamet Golf Course was designed by Ronald Fream in Tunisia.
-

JASMINE GOLF COURSE HAMMAMET

Tel: (72)227.665/001 - Fax: (72)226.722 - Telex: 24638.

It occupies a 150-acre site, slightly valed, overlooking the Gulf of Hammamet. 18 holes.

THE EL KANTAOUI GOLF COURSE

Address: Northern Sousse Tel: (73)348.756 - Fax: (73)348.755. Its course designed by Ronald Fream, was conceived for all levels of golfers as well as for organizing international competitions and tournaments. It’s a top-level course, but also offers 200 practice spots with 6 putting greens. 18-hole championship course “PAR 72“. Golf with graduated levels of skill:

The design of the El Kantaoui Golf Course is entirely original. It is one of the few courses to have been designed for both men and women. 27 holes -10,470 yards. PAR 108.

CARTHAGE GOLF COURSE

Address: Choutrana, 2 - 2036 La Soukra Tel: (73)765.919 - Fax: (73)765.915. A premier golf course constructed in Tunisia in a 69-acre park. Though it is a private club, it admits visiting golfers by the day. (18 HOLES).

THE DJERBA GOLF COURSE

Zone Touristique 4116 Midoun Tel: (75)650.016 - Fax: (75)650.581.

Designed by the English architect Martin Hawtree, this 27-hole golf links intelligently combines an 18-hole course over 6,900 yards PAR 73 and a 9-hole course over 2,192 yards PAR 31. Studded with majestic palm, date and locust trees, this golf course will overwhelm you with pleasure. For your relaxing moments, its club house offers you a bar, restaurant, private lounge, a reception room and a pro golf shop.

TABARKA

SIDI BOU SAID
LA GOULETTE

YASMINE HAMMAMET

PORT EL KANTAOUI

MONASTIR

Tun

COUNTRY FOR WATER SPORTS

Tunisia, well-deserving of its nickname “paradise on earth”, offers swimmers some 746 miles of fine sandy beaches always awash with sun and edged with an impeccable hotel infrastructure that has maintained its own exclusive character. Palm trees and bougainvillea encircle the spacious pools and paths lead down to the beaches through sweetly-scented jasmine bushes.

Tunisia, it is also a paradise for all kinds of water sports: water skiing, windsurfing, swimming in the Mediterranean sea or in a hotel’s pool, diving, etc.

But there are also a number of tennis courts, beautifully tended golf courses and gymnastic rooms. Unless you prefer to fish or hunt. Or else watch a great race of Arabian horses.

And if you dream of exotism, why not saddle up on a dromedary and venture out on the immense Tunisian Sahara?

SPRING THERAPY IN TUNISIA

Tunisia is lucky to have numerous hot springs, known since Roman and Carthaginian times unparalleled in Africa.



Useful addresses: Office of Hot Springs:
8, rue de Sénégal 1002 TUNIS
Tel.: (71)288.150/287.470
Fax: 793.866.
Telex: 13.772 TN

PARTY WITH US!

MUSIC AND FOLKDANCING

During the summer, music and folk traditions are the order of the day throughout a host of festivals:

- **TESTOUR:** Malouf and traditional music
July. (malouf is the Arabic version of Andalusian music introduced here during the 15th century)
- **CARTHAGE** (the Antonine baths):
Miscellaneous culture. July — August:
- **HAMMAMET** (international festival):
Theatre - Culture. July — August:
- **TABARKA:** Miscellaneous Culture.
July - August
- **BIZERTE:** Arts and Traditions
July - August
- **DOUGGA** (international festival):
Miscellaneous culture.
July - August
- **SOUSSE:** Miscellaneous Culture.
July - August
- **SFAX:** Miscellaneous Culture.
July - August
- **EL DJEM:** Musical concerts
July - August
- **MONASTIR:** Miscellaneous Culture.
July - August
- **CRAFTS:** Craft fairs
July - August
- **MAHRES:** Arts
July - August
- **DJERBA:** Film
August
- **CARTHAGE:** Cinema
October
- **DOUZ** (the festival of the desert or the Berber tribes): Festivals, Traditions & Culture
End of December
- **KSOURS:** Festivals, Traditions & Culture
April

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

- 01/01 New Year's
- 03/20 Independence Day
- 03/21 Youth Day
- 04/09 Martyr Memorial Day
- 05/01 Labor Day
- 07/25 Festival of the Republic
- 08/13 National Women's Day
- 11/07 Anniversary of November 7, 1987



Tunisia

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS (moveable feasts)

- Little Aïd (end of Ramadan)
2 days
- Big Aïd (anniversary of the pilgrimage to Mecca)
2 days
- Ras El Am Hejri (Islamic New Year)
1 day
- Moulded (birth of the Prophet Mohammed)
1 day



FARMING FESTIVALS

- The Beginning of Spring: Citrus fruit festival (Menzel-Bouzelfa)
- Beginning of May: Orange festival (Nabeul)
- Summer: coral “gathering” (Tabarka)
- Autumn: harvest of dates and the palm festival (Tozeur)
- End of November: Olive festival (Sfax)
- February 22: Lamb festival (farms in the South)

WEEKLY MARKETS

Veritable feasts for the senses, they are generally held in public spaces in certain Tunisian cities. They put on display regional products: crafts, farm products, second-hand clothes, etc.

- Monday: Ain Draham, Chebba, Houmt Souk, Kairouan, Maharès, Mareth, Maktar, Tataouine;
- Tuesday: Béja, El Hajeb, Ghardimaou, Haffouz, Kasserine, Ksar Hellel, Krib, Menzel Témime, Souk-Essebt;
- Wednesday: Jendouba, Moknine, Sbeïtla, Sers, Nefta;
- Thursday: Bou Salem, Douz, Gafsa, Menzel, Bouzelfa, Siliana, Téboursoyk;
- Friday: Jebeniana, Jemmal, Ksour Essaf, Midoun, Mateur, Mahdia, Nabeul, Oueslatia, Sfax, Thala, Testour, Tabarka, Zaghouan, Zarzis;
- Saturday: Ben Gardane, El Alia, El Fahs, Thibar;
- Sunday: El Djem, Enfidha, Fernana, Hammam-Lif, Ksar Hellal, Sousse.

EATING TUNISIAN STYLE

Don't worry: Tunisian hotels provide the very best international cuisine.

But why not let yourself be tempted by Tunisian cuisine different from one region to another?

Taste the "chorba" soup with vegetables and lamb. Don't miss out on a "brik" a crêpe stuffed with egg and tuna. A chicken omelet is called a "tajine" or else "ojja" if served with merguez. Lamb's neck, baked in an earthenware pot that is ceremoniously shattered right in front of you. "Chakchouka", a Tunisian hotchpotch and of course, couscous, served with lamb, chicken, fish or even sweetened, with dates and raisins.



Not many weeks go by without méchoui on the beach or in a tent.

Do you prefer fish? An endless variety of fresh fish, preferably served with tomatoes and green peppers. And to bring out the taste in these exquisite dishes, delicate spices: harissa, saffron, coriander, anise, cinnamon, etc.

Don't forget the desert: baklava, acida, makhroud, kaacs (semolina cakes, perfumed with orange flowers, almonds, pistachios, dates or honey).

Everything with a splash of mild wine: old Thibar, Mornag, Koudiat; or a Boukha, a type of gin with a base of figs.

Nothing more refreshing than a robust mint tea, and if you are in the South, palm milk, drunk fresh from the tree.



Tunisia

USEFUL INFORMATION

HOW DO YOU GET TO TUNISIA?

- By plane**
Regular flights leaving USA and Canada to Tunisia with stopovers in all the European airports or in Morocco. The possibility of a three-way flight: from a European country to Tunisia, and leaving Tunisia for another European country.
- By boat**
There is a regular sea link between Tunisia and Europe (Italy - France). The proximity of the Tunisian coast might induce you take a short and pleasant trip across the Mediterranean, leaving Marseilles and Genoa. All shipping companies are represented in Europe.

TRAVELING IN TUNISIA

- Car rental**
International driver's license
Special provisions for visiting Saharan regions: ask your travel agent.
Reservations: ask your travel agent
- Taxis**
Yellow in color, they have a number on the roof and are provided with meters. At night, rates go up 50% and there is a single rate from airports.
- Rentals**
This concerns group taxis, per person and with a fixed itinerary. They travel throughout the country, from Tunis, at Bab Alioua towards Cap Bon, the Center and the South and at Bab Saadoun toward the North and West.
- Buses**
There are 3 types of buses:
 - Within large metropolitan areas, buses serve the suburbs and act as connections with the metro in Tunis.
 - A large metropolitan network of air-conditioned buses serves all of Tunisia from bus stations in Tunis at Bab Alioua toward the Center and the South and at Bab Saadoun toward the North and the West.
 - Between regional capitals: there is a third network that serves each region and the regions amongst themselves.
- Metro**
In Tunis, the metro is a modern tramway that travels on its own track.
From downtown, it goes to Den den in the west, to Ariana in the north to Ben Arous in the south. It also services the SNCFT and TGM train stations and the two highway stations. At the TGM station, an electric train connects the coasts of Carthage and Goulette to Marsa via Carthage and Sidi Bou Said.
- Trains**
From the Tunis train station (Place Barcelone), the railway network covers the main tourist areas in the country. The suburban railway network of the SNCFT includes the lines of Tunis-Hammam-Lif, Bordj Cédria and Sousse-Monastir-Mahdia.
- Airplanes**
The Tuninter company provides the following domestic airline connections: Tunis-Djerba, Tunis-Tozeur-Nefta, Tunis-Sfax-Thyna, Tunis-Gafsa, Tunis-Palermo, Tunis-Malta and Tunis-Tripoli.
- 6 international airports**
Tunis-Carthage, Skanès-Monastir, Djerba-Zarzis, Tozeur-Nefta, Sfax-Thyna and Tabarka-Novembre.
- Boats**
Access by car-ferry to the Tunis la Goulette port from Marseilles in France or Genoa in Italy for a trip lasting around 23 hours.
- By car**
Tunisia has an excellent network of highways and a tollroad connecting Tunis with Hammamet and Sousse, with bilingual French/Arabic signs. There are many service stations and unleaded gas is available. The international highway code is in effect, i.e., the speed limit on roads is 55 mph; in cities 25 mph and 65 mph on the highway.



INTERNATIONAL-CLASS AIRPORTS

- The international airport of Tunis-Carthage
BP 60 Tunis- Carthage 23500
Tel.: (71)757.000 - 754.000
Fax: (71)753.327
 - The international airport of Monastir
Tel.: (73)460.300
Fax: (73)467.980
 - The international airport of Djerba-Zarzis-Djerba-Mellita
Tel.: (75)650.233
Fax: (75)650.585
 - The airport of Sfax El Maou
VP 156 - 3018 Sfax
Tel.: (74)278.000
Fax: (74)278.359
 - The airport of Tozeur-Nefta
Tel.: (76)453.525
Fax: (76)452.909
 - The airport of Tabarka
Tel.: (78)454.204
Fax: (78)640.133
 - The airport of Gafsa
Tel.: (76)270.560
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DOCUMENTS

- In order to enter Tunisia, you must have a valid passport
 - In order to drive:
A valid international driver's license.
 - Vaccinations: no vaccination is necessary
 - Pets: Pets are admitted only upon presentation of a certificate showing that the Animal was vaccinated for rabies at least one month before and less than six months prior to date of entry.
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MONEY

- Currency: The Dinar (1.3\$cad), divided into 1,000 millimes. The import and export of dinars is forbidden.
 - Foreign currency: travelers' checks, credit cards, etc. are accepted without restrictions. Currencies can be exchanged into dinars in banks, money exchanges at ports, airports or hotels at the exchange rate established by the Central Bank of Tunisia.
 - Banking hours:
 - During the winter, from Monday through Thursday: 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. - 5 p.m., Friday: 8 a.m.- 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.
 - During the summer, from Monday through Friday: 8 a.m. - 12 noon.
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HELPFUL INFORMATION

- Schedules
Public buildings are closed on Saturdays and Sundays, museums are closed on Mondays. Most of the souks are closed on Fridays and Sunday afternoons. Mid-day rests are rather long, but stores are generally open until 7 p.m.
- Time difference
There is a 6-hour time difference between the U.S.A. or Canada and Tunisia in the winter and a 5-hour difference in the summer.
- Language
French is the country's second official language and is spoken by nearly all Tunisians. English and German are also spoken in tourist spots.
- Telephones
Telephone prefix: 216
Telex prefix: 0409

Tunisia



USEFUL ADDRESSES

• CANADA:

- Tunisian National Tourism Office
1253 Avenue McGill College
Montréal, QC H3B 2Y5
Tel: (514) 397-1182 - 397-0403 - 397-1331
Fax: (514) 397-1647
E-mail: tunisinfo@qc.aira.com

- The Tunisian Embassy
515 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1S 3P8
Tel: (613) 237-0330
Fax: (613) 237-7939

- The Consulate of Tunisia
511 Place d'Armes, suite 501
Montréal, Québec
H2Y 2W7
Tel: (514) 844-6909
Fax: (514) 844-5895
E-mail: hannibal@info.internet.net

- Economic Representation
of Tunisia in Montreal
1253 avenue McGill College, suite 430
Montréal, Québec
H3B 2Y5
Tel: (514) 395-9522
Fax: (514) 395-9523
E-mail: retun@qc.aira.com

• USA:

- Tunisian National Tourism Office
1515 Massachusetts Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: (202) 466-2546
Fax: (202) 466-2553
E-mail: tourism@tunis1.tunisiaaccess.com

- Tunisian Embassy
1515 Massachusetts Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
Tel.: (202) 862-1850
Fax: (202) 862-1858

- Tunisian Mission to United Nations
31 Beeckman Place
New York, NY 10022
Tel: (212) 751-7503
Fax: (212) 751-0569

• TUNISIA:

- Tunisian National Tourism Office
1, Avenue Mohamed V – 1000 Tunis
Tunisie
Tel: (011-216-71)341.077
Fax: (011-216-71)350.997
E-mail: info@tourismtunisia.com
Web site: www.tourismtunisia.com
Trade Site: www.discovertunisia.tn

- US Embassy in Tunisia
144 Avenue de la Liberté
1002 Tunis Belvédère
Tel.: (71) 782-566
Fax: (71) 789-719

- Canadian Embassy in Tunisia
3, rue du Sénégal, Tunis-Belvédère
Tel.: 71.10.40.00
Fax.: 71.79.23.71
Email : tunis2dfait-maeci.gc.ca

• REGIONAL TOURIST OFFICES:

- Tunis
31 rue Asdrubal
1002 Tunis
Tel: 216 71 840 622
Fax: 216 71 842 492

- Bizerte
1, rue de Constantinople
7000 Bizerte
Tel: 216 72 432 897
Fax: 216 72 438 600

- Tabarka
Boulevard du 7 Novembre
8110 Tabarka
Tel: 216 78 673 555
Fax: 216 78 673 496

- Nabeul
Ave Taieb M'hiri
8000 Nabeul
Tél: 216 72 286 737
Fax: 216 72 223 358

- Sousse
1, Ave Habib Bourguiba
4000 Sousse
Tel: 216 73 225 157
Fax: 216 73 224 219

- Monastir
Skanes
5000 Monastir
Tel: 216 73 520 894
Fax: 216 73 521 219

- Djerba
Houmt Souk
4180 Djerba
Tel: 216 75 650 016
Fax: 216 75 650 581

- Tozeur
Ave Abou Kacem Chebbi
220 Tozeur
Tel: 216 76 454 503
Fax: 216 76 452 051

- Mahdia
Tel/Fax: 216 73 681 098

- Sbeitla
Tel: 216 77 746 506 or 746 507
Fax: 216 77 746 541

- Tunisair
Boulevard du 7 Novembre 1987
1001 Tunis
Tunisie
Tel.: (011-216-71) 700.100
Fax: (011-216-71) 700.008

- Tuninter Boulevard du 7 Novembre 1987
Imm, Maghrébia - Tour B
2035 Tunis-Carthage
Tunisie
Tel.: (011-216-71) 701-717
Fax: (011-216-71) 712.193

