**Tour program ( 3)**

**Pearls of Tunisia 8 D.7N**

**Day 01 : Arrival into Tunisia**

 Arrival to Tunis airport, welcome and assistance. Transfer to the hotel in Tunis capital. Check in at a resort hotel. Dinner & Check in at a hotel.

**Day 02 : Tunis – Carthage - Sousse or Monastir**

After breakfast, visit of the world-famous Bardo Museum in Tunis, which has the finest collections of Roman mosaics in the world. There are also some interesting Early Christian mosaics which introduce the manner in which Christian art developed.

Next, we go for a short orientation tour by foot of the old Medina. Tunis is made up of two enclaves, the old town or Medina and the new town, built by the French as their administrative headquarters, a role it continues to fulfill today for modern Tunisia. The Medina was founded by the first Arab conquerors and it is full of monuments from both the Arab and Turkish periods, not least the Great Mosque built by the Aghlabid dynasty in the eighth century AD.

Free time and continuation to the site of ancient Carthage. Founded by Phoenician traders from the Levant as a trading depot en route to south-west Europe, it eventually became an independent and powerful entity in its own right.

This aroused Rome’s long-term enmity and there followed the famous Punic Wars which eventually saw Carthage’s total destruction. Subsequently re-founded by the Romans we will look over what remains of both cities. This will include the Byrsa Hill where Carthage was founded, c. 814 BC according to Roman sources; a site featuring the characteristic Tophet Graves of the Carthaginians; and the Archaeological Park centered on the Antonine Baths. We’ll visit as well the Second World War American cemetery in Carthage.

Nearby is the very handsome coastal town of Sidi Bou Said, much loved by painters, where we will have a short walking tour.

Departure to the coastal town of Sousse. Dinner & Check in at a hotel.

**Day 03 : Sousse – Kairouan - Gafsa – Tozeur**

Gafsa – Tozeur

After breakfast departure to Kairouan, a purely Arab city filled with outstanding examples of the finest Islamic architecture in Tunisia: the Great Mosque of OKBA, the oldest place of worship in North Africa, and the mausoleum of Sidi Sahabi, a companion and a disciple of the Prophet Mohamed. We will see the impressive pools, built in the 9th century to collect and store winter rainwater. Then into the Medina old town, the ancient market place encircled by 11th-century walls. Then a walking guided tour through workshops bakeries magnificent houses and religious monument Stop in Kairouan and panoramic visit to Islam Holy City. Continuation to Gafsa, Free time and departure to Tozeur.

On our arrival in Tozeur, it soon becomes quite clear that the main attraction of this desert city is its vast oasis. This oasis covers about ten square kilometers which has been planted with some 400,000 palms and is fed by 100 springs. We check in at the hotel in Tozeur.

We’ll have some time to relax then do some exploration of this very interesting and unique town. We will take a horse-drawn carriage into the oasis. We will learn about the date harvest and have the opportunity to sample some local dates or date wine “Legmi”, the medieval town with its distinctive desert architecture & decorative brickwork. Return to the hotel, Overnight at hotel. Dinner & Check in at a hotel

 **Day 04 : Tozeur – Chebika – Tamerza - Douz**

After breakfast, we will drive to the Mountain Oases of Chebika, Tamerza and Mides. Located amidst the rugged outcrop of the Atlas Mountains, not far from the Algerian frontier, these date back to Roman times, when they were military outposts to control the caravan trade. In Chebika, we take a walk to see the Berber village, waterfalls and the spring of the water, we continue to the picturesque village of Tamerza, with its spectacular sightseeing made famous in the film, The English Patient.

Return to Tozeur and drive across the Chott el Jerid, the Great Salt Lake, the barrier between the Sahara and fertile North. If we are lucky, we may see some mirages on the horizon. Arrival to the town of Douz called also the “Gateway of the Sahara”. Check in at the hotel and free afternoon. Here you have the opportunity optional to have a camel ride passing through deserted landscape and picturesque sand dunes, Ultra- light airplane or motor glider, Car cross or buggy trip in the Sahara.

Dinner & Check in at a hotel.

**Day 05: Douz – Matmata – Mahres -El Jem – Mahdia**

After breakfast, departure to Matmata of Star Wars notoriety, but more importantly, center of the most extensive number of traditional troglodyte pit homes in the region. The Berber people built these simple underground dwellings to escape the extremes of weather and any unwelcome invaders, to get a feel for troglodyte living. We will visit one of these dwelling caves, then visit the hotel Sidi Driss, where scenes from the Lars homestead in Star Wars were filmed. Then drive El Jem to visit the largest and most spectacular Roman Amphitheatre in North Africa. Continue to the coastal town of Mahdia. Dinner & Check in at a hotel.

**Day 06: Mahdia – Sousse – Port El Kantaoui – Hammamet**

After breakfast, panoramic tour of the sea side of the fishing town of Mahdia. Drive to the coastal town of Sousse, Founded in the 9th century B.C, Sousse is the third city in Tunisia after Tunis and Sfax. Visit of the old Medina -a UNESCO World Heritage site. Continue the short distance to Port El Kantaoui, visit of the Marina and free time for lunch.

Drive to the coastal town of Hammamet. Check in at a resort hotel. Rest of the day at leisure for shopping or to relax in the resort hotel. Dinner & Check in at a hotel.

**Day 07: Hammamet – Kelibia – Haouaria – Kerkouane – Hammamet**

After breakfast ,exploration day of the Cap Bon peninsular. In fact the region where life is based on farming, fishing and tourism, is known for being one of the richest parts of Tunisia.

The purpose is to see as many different aspects as possible by going to Kelibia: a typical fishing port since the Carthaginian era and the proof is the castle overlooking both the coast and the inland.

The other place is Kerkouane: a unique site, the only one that Romans did not use after destroying the city.

Everything remained the same and it became today the only site where the Carthaginian architecture, mosaics, private homes and market place can be seen.

On the same day and on the way back to the resort of Hammamet a stop at Nabeul, the Roman Neapolis, is a must as it’s the capital of the Cap Bon peninsular and the capital of the pottery work brought by the Ottomans since the 16th century.

Back to the hotel in Hammamet. Dinner & Check in at a hotel.

**Day 08 : Hammamet – Tunis - Depart Tunis**

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning free at leisure. Check-out from hotel before 12:00 (noon). transfer to the airport for onward or return destination

\*Touring and sites are subject to traffic and timing. Also, note that some sites are subject to seasons and weather conditions.

**Package Price on TWIN Sharing Basis  at 4\* hotels 🡪 start from US$ 1255 per person**

### Inclusion

* 07 nights accommodation as per the program.
* Daily breakfast & dinet at the hotels.
* Entrance fees.
* Local Slovenian/ English / French / German / Italian / Spanish / Chinese speaking guide.
* All transfers, sightseeing, excursions by private AC vehicle with driver.
* All taxes.

### Exclusion

* Flight
* Personal Expenses.
* Camera / Video Camera Fees.
* Optional activities like camel ride in Douz, quad bike
* Medical Aid.
* Tips.
* Travel Insurance
* Visa If any