

**A HALF-DAY TRIP
TO THE RUINS OF CARTHAGE
AND TO SIDI BOU SAÏD**

Monday



RUINS OF CARTHAGE:

With its enviable location on an arrowhead -shaped peninsula centrally located between east and west, the city of **Carthage** was an important city in Roman times that became a major center of early Christianity. Ruins of the once-great city can be seen not far from Tunis, in modern-day [Tunisia](#).

Not a sacred site in itself (and with few surviving temples), ancient Carthage is of religious interest as a great pagan city, an early center of Christianity, and the home of Tertullian and St. Cyprian.

Today, it is mainly Roman sites (theatres, temples, villas and baths), which can be seen in Carthage. Among the highlights are the ruins of the Romana **amphitheatre** and the thermal **Antonine Baths**, which were once the largest baths built by the Romans.

You can get a great **view** of Carthage by climbing the nearby **Byrsa Hill**, on which you'll also find the **Carthage Museum** (tel. 1/34 10 77). The museum displays mosaics, sculptures and artifacts from the period before Carthage was destroyed by Rome in 146 BC.

Departure from the hotel at 9.00am



SIDI BOU SAID:

SIDI BOU SAID is one of the most famous places in Tunisia. The view you have to the bay is spectacular. It is about 20 km from Tunis and very easy to reach by taxi. One of the unique features of Sidi Bou Said is its white-washed buildings, paired with intense blue accents on doors, scrolled ironwork, and other architectural accents.

**A HALF-DAY TRIP
TO THE BARDO NATIONAL MUSEUM
AND OLD MEDINA OF TUNISIA
Tuesday**



BARDO NATIONAL MUSEUM

This is the oldest and the most important of Tunisian museums. Over a century ago, it was established in the premises of a Beylical palace, for the most part built in the mid XIXth century, and which has retained all the features of a princely residence. It underwent several refurbishments to adapt to the expanding collections and to the ever-increasing flows of visitors, but today it is undergoing a huge restructuring plan to improve its visibility and legibility.

Thousands of objects originating from excavations carried out all over the country during the XIXth and XXth centuries are on display. These are divided into departments between fifty or so rooms and galleries, illustrating the various stages of Tunisia's history, from prehistory to the middle of the last century, which in chronological order are prehistory, the Punic-Libyc period, the Roman and early Christian periods, with the Vandal and Byzantine eras, and finally, the Islamic period running to contemporary times.

Thanks to its collection of mosaics, the Bardo museum has gained an international reputation for the richest, the most varied and the most refined collection. Amongst the finest pieces it holds are the representation of Virgil surrounded by muses, or the pavement of Dionysos giving Ikarios the gift of the vine, or another celebrating the triumph of Neptune, to mention only a few of the key exhibits. But these are not the museum's only assets.

Departure from the hotel at 9.00am



OLD MEDINA OF TUNISIA

Founded in 698 around the original core of the **Zitouna** Mosque, the Medina of Tunis developed its urban fabric throughout the Middle Ages. The main axis was between the mosque and the center of government to the west in the **kasbah**. To the east this same main road extended to the **Bab el Bhar**. Expansions to the north and south divided the main Medina into two suburbs north (**Bab Souika**) and south (**Bab El Jazira**).

Before the **Almohad Caliphate**, other cities such as **Mahdia** and **Kairouan** had served as capitals. Under Almohad rule, Tunis became the capital of **Ifriqiya**, and under the **Hafsid** period it developed into a religious, intellectual and economic center. It was during the **Hafsid** period that the Medina as we now know it took on its essential form.[It gradually acquired a number of buildings and monuments combining the styles of **Ifriqiya**, Andalusian and Oriental influences, but also borrowing some columns and capitals of Roman and Byzantine monuments.

ONE DAY TRIP
TO THE KAIROUN AND SOUSSE
Wednesday



KAIROUAN – SOUSSE

Departure from the hotel at 8.30am

Departure for Kairouan

Visit the ninth century great mosque of Oqba Ibn Nafi, an important reference point in Islam & Islamic architecture. Kairouan is the fourth holiest site in the Muslim religion (after Mecca, Medina and Jerusalem). It is said that 7 pilgrimages to Kairouan equates one pilgrimage to Mecca. (Visit of ponds of Aghlabites, mosque Sidi sahib, mosque Okba ibn Naffa, Souks and Bir barouta) and Lunch.

Departure to Sousse

After the lunch, the continuation towards Sousse Third largest city in Tunisia, and capital of Sahel. Sousse is one of seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Tunisia. Visit the ramparts, the Ribat dating from the 13th century. Continue to the archaeological museum of Sousse where beautiful mosaics from ancient Hasdrumete were found. Visit the old Town of Sousse and port El Kantaoui (the first port of the Mediterranean Sea) his Marina can receive 340 boats. Return to Hammamet.