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Tunisia

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RESTRICTION CODES

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- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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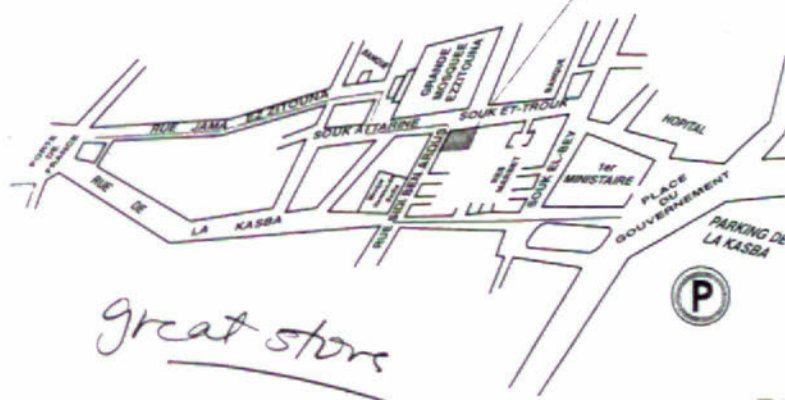
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الدار CD-DAR



TUNIS

(Medina of), Tunisia

Location and site: Situated on the Mediterranean coast of Africa, and between the maritime routes and the caravan routes of the Sahara desert, Tunis opens into the Gulf of Tunis with its outer harbour, known as "la Goulette." Built close to the base of the hills, it is separated from Carthage, its longtime neighbour, by a lagoon.

Foundation: Tunis was re-born in the 7th century, after a period during which its history had been closely linked to that of Carthage since the Punic Wars.

Historic function(s): Trade.

Administrative status: National capital and chief city of the governorate.

HISTORY

During the Arab conquest of Ifriqiyya in the 7th century, Tunis was re-born on the ancient site of Tunes. The destruction of Carthage was a deciding factor in its renewal. It wasn't long before Tunis was equipped with port facilities.

For the brief period during the reign of the Aghlabids, between 894 and 905, Tunis was the capital of Ifriqiyya.

The Fatimid Dynasty and the Zirid Dynasty which followed it ruled over Tunis from 909 until 1057; Mahdia and Kairouan were their respective capitals.

In 1160 the Almohaves (Berber sovereigns inspired by Shi'ism) made Tunis their capital city.

Between 1228 and 1574, Tunis was the capital city of the Hafsids, a Maghrebīan dynasty which emerged from the Almohaves. This period was the peak of the history of Tunis.

When it was taken over by the Ottomans in 1574, Tunis lost its status as capital. It went through a period of commercial prosperity thanks to its merchant communities and piracy (when the latter was enjoying its golden age). In the 17th and 18th centuries, under the Husseinids, it experienced intense architectural activity and attained the appearance that it conserves to this day.

URBAN MORPHOLOGY

Inside its perimeter road, the 270-hectare medina of Tunis is made up of a non-rectilinear network of streets, vaulted passages, alleys and dead-end streets.

The uniform character of its urban fabric is remarkable. The landscape is made up of white houses, and important monuments that borrow from several styles (like the Great Mosque of 732) or adhere to a single style (such as the Turkish-style Sidi Mahrez Mosque of 1675) are integrated into the ensemble.

INSCRIPTION CRITERIA (1979)

Tunis exercised a major influence on the development of architecture and decorative arts in the eastern part of the Maghreb. (II) With its palaces and its houses, its madrassas and its numerous souks, Tunis bears an exceptional testimony to the organisation of space and the daily life of a great Islamic city. (III) The Medina in its entirety is an eminent example of a traditional human settlement which has become vulnerable under the impact of socio-economic and socio-cultural changes. (V)

(See the inscription criteria on the List of the UNESCO World Heritage)

Source :

De Koninck, Hélène, Les villes du patrimoine mondial: capitales du temps, dans Cahiers de géographie du Québec, vol. 35, no 94, avril 1991, pp. 9-87 (ISSN 007-9766)

Note about the author :

Hélène Legendre De Koninck is an historian and a geographer. A graduate from the École des Hautes Études in social studies (Paris), the University of Singapore and Université Laval (Québec City), she is a specialist in the urban phenomenon and Asian art.

— — —
Calendrier du Patrimoine
Heritage Calendar
Calendario del Patrimonio

TUSNAD, ROMANIA - March 19 to 31, 1999

We kindly invite you to the 8th INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE on Theoretical and Practical Issues of Monument Preservation with the topic Vernacular Architectural Heritage organised by The Transylvania Monument Trust Foundation at Tusnad Bai, Romania.

Info:

Theoretical and Practical Issues of Monument Preservation

3400 Cluj-Napoca - Romania

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Tel/Fax: 40-64-136 051/192 474

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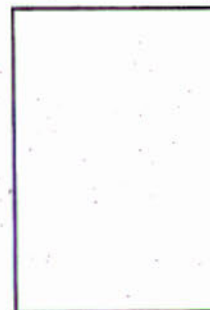
www.ovpm.org:80/ovpm/calend.html



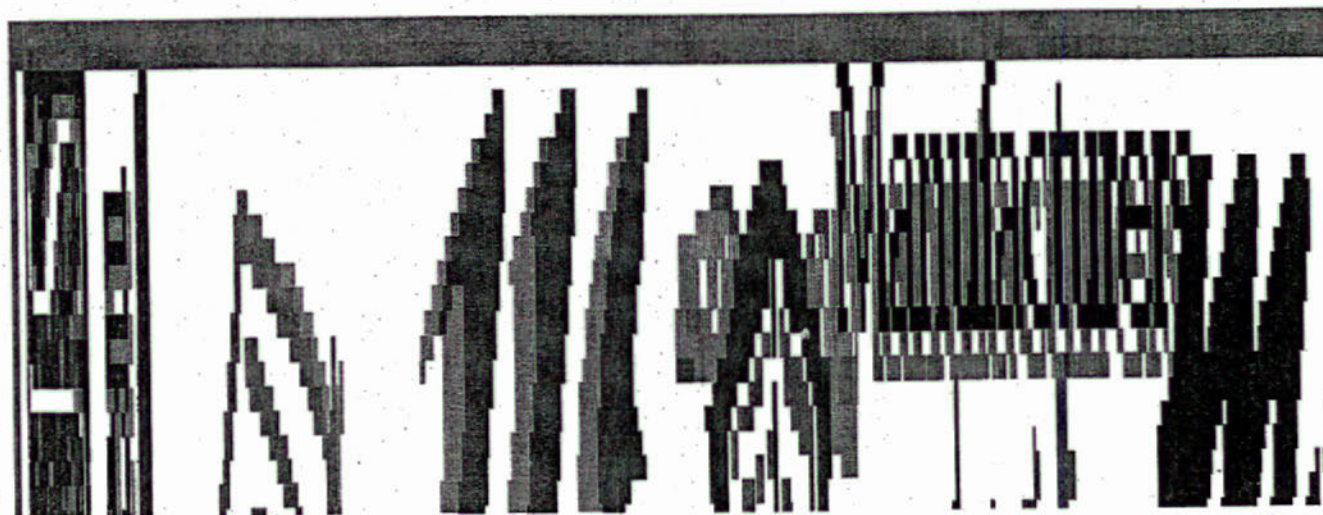
ANTIQUÉ SHOPS And ART GALLERIES (Tunisia)



It is always a great pleasure for foreign visitors to go and dig out a splendid work of art in the innumerable antique shops and stalls dotted all over Tunisia. Amongst the "real" antique dealers is Ayoub, on avenue Bourguiba in Tunis. The others, especially in the souks, are really second hand dealers. Also worth discovering are the Soussi brothers' shops by the El Djem coliseum which, thanks to the quantity and variety of the objects displayed, resemble true Ali Baba caverns.



As for the art galleries, these are mainly found concentrated in Tunis and its outskirts. In Tunis, visitors should first of all go to the Musée d'art moderne in the Belvédère park, then to the following galleries: Gorji ' 31 rue Jugurtha, Mutuelle-ville), Yahia (avenue Mohamed V), Galerie de l'Information 'avenue Habib Bourguiba), Galerie de la Médina (Dar Bouderbala, 11 rue Dar El jeld), L'Air Libre (avenue Ouled Hafouz), and the Maison de la Culture Ibn Rachiq (20, avenue de Paris). Other Art gallery in-Sidi Bou Said, Kalysté (29 bis La Soukra), and Sophonsible in Carthage, and Mille Feuilles on La Marsa beach.



REGIONS of TUNISIA

In order to really appreciate Tunis, the capital of Tunisia, visitors need to imagine it through the eyes of the Saharan and Sahelian peoples who, for centuries, revered 'Green Tunis'.

In their eyes it was the Promised Land: after weeks of crossing the desert, they would suddenly come across the sight of treams and cascading waterfalls watering gardens full of flowers, of orchards bursting with fruit trees, and all this water, so rare and so precious in their arid lands flowing in abundance, to waste even...

Think for a moment of the words nomads from Chad often used to chant: 'Take us to the land of Green Tunis... Even if we have no millet, the waters of Tunis alone will be enough to support us... Green Tunis is a paradise...

In Nigeria it was known as 'Tunis the properous'. The town inspired the same magical aura for other West African peoples who, in their folk tales, evoked this beautiful and rich oasis with its plants and trees so green...

The next big city is Bizerte, which is best known for its resistance against the French stand just after the independence. Bizerte's strategic position on the Sicily strait overlooking the two Mediterranean basins had always an important meaning since the times of Carthaginians and Romans...

The large port town of Soussa is also a major industrial center and an important tourist destination with many hotels and lovely beaches.



major port for exports and imports. Although, it is not the most interesting tourist destination in Tunisia, but most of the exciting tours start from here.

Probably, historically the most important town in the country is Kairouan. It is one of the holiest shirenes in Islam. It is the fifth largest city in Tunisia, with a strong agricultural base and a touristic infrastructure. The traditional carpet-weaving is the most important industry of the town.

The second largest city of Tunisia is Sfax. It is also a



Haouaria, on the tip of Cap Bon to the south-east of Tunis, is a little village that has a passion for birds of prey and the art of falconry. Another town in Cap Bon, Hammamet should be twinned with Saint Tropez in France as they clearly have many things in common... In fact, all Cap Bon peninsula looks like a finger pointing towards Sicily, has many features in common to the southern European coasts of the Mediterranean sea. The islands of Zembra and Zembretta are equally attractive and worth to see...

Naturally, Carthage is the most important historic site to see in Tunisia. It is hard to describe the feelings of visiting this place. You should definitely go and see Carthage, and absorb the immense feelings of being there. It should not be missed...

There are many other fantastic places to see in Tunisia...

FOCUS
MULTIMEDIA



Tunis is the capital and largest city in Tunisia. It is situated 10km inland from the Gulf of Tunis on the shores of a lake linked to the Mediterranean Sea. An ancient city whose history goes back to Punic times, Tunis flourished as part of the Roman Empire, and after the destruction of Carthage in the 7th century it became the second city in Afriqiya, a province of the Arab Empire.

In the 16th century under Ottoman rule, Tunis became the centre of the Barbary Coast, a base for piracy against European ships in the Mediterranean. Today it is a city of contrasts between the ancient Medina and the modern metropolis that holds an interesting mixture of European North African cultures.

The medina is the old quarter of Tunis; a maze of tiny, winding streets which has been designated by UNESCO as part of mankind's cultural heritage. The new city is centred around Ave Habib Bourguiba where architecture ranging from baroque to rococo contrasts with the futuristic creations of more modern architects. Most of the monuments and historical buildings are in the old quarter.

Dar Ben Abdullah Palace is a traditional late 18th-early 19th-century Tunisian mansion which displays its collection of costumes and furniture against a spectacular decor.

The Great Mosque Ez-Zitouna, the largest mosque in Tunis was started by the Umayyad rulers in 732 and finished by the Aghlabites in 864. From the beginning it was an important Arab Islamic university which functioned until a few years ago when its facilities were amalgamated with those of the University of Tunis. The mosque is in the centre of the Medina and the souks and old city buildings have expanded and developed around it.

Souk el Attarine specializes in perfumes, but also sells many other local craft items.

Bibliothèque Nationale built in 1813 as barracks by Hammouda Husseinite is now the National Library.

Souk Birka, the gold souk, was built in the 17th century.

Sidi Youssef Mosque, a 17th century Turkish mosque was the first mosque to have an octagonal minaret, which went on to become the architectural fashion for many other Turkish mosques.

Dar Hussein, an Arab house decorated with rich-coloured tiles and plaster lacework features many beautiful Islamic artefacts including valuable Qur'an manuscripts. This building was occupied by the French army during their time in Tunisia; after Independence it became the National Art and Archaeology Institute.

Dar El Haddad is one of the oldest palaces in the Medina.

The Bardo National Museum, also known as The Alaoui National Museum is considered one of the most important in the Maghreb. It is a masterpiece of Spanish-Moorish architecture and exhibits a vast collection of relics from every period of Tunisia's past, including the finest Roman mosaic collection in the world.

Belvedere Park, also the zoo, is an attractive park in the centre of the city.

Beaches are nearby at La Marsa and Gammarth, but Tunis itself has no beaches as it is situated on a lake which, due to a fair amount of pollution, is not recommended for swimming.

Morocco

Fez/Fes/Fas

The most ravishing and mystical of Morocco's imperial cities, Fez was founded in 808 A.D. by the great Moroccan ruler saint Moulay Idris II. When he was about to begin construction he lifted his hands to the heavens and prayed for the city and its inhabitants with the following words:

"Almighty God, make of it a house of knowledge and of legal science, so that in it Your Book may always be read and Your laws always observed. Let its inhabitants hold fast to the Book [the Holy Qur'an] and the Sunna [the practice of the Prophet Muhammad], as long as You shall preserve it."

Fez became the capital and spiritual centre of Morocco and the supplication of its founder was realized for a thousand years thereafter.

The city is situated in a narrow valley against the backdrop of the Middle Atlas and positioned on the old crossroads of caravan routes connecting the Saharan empires like Timbuktu and Takrur with the Atlantic and the Mediterranean shipping lanes. Fez remained a commercial centre for much of its history.

It is still considered Morocco's premier religious city by virtue of its great Islamic traditions. It is the site of Qarawiyyin Mosque (the largest mosque in North Africa) and Qarawiyyin Madrasah, and is also the burial place of Moulay Idris II.

Apart from the European town built after World War II, Fez is divided into two distinct areas: Fez el Jdid (the new) and Fez el Bali (the old).

Textile and flour mills, oil-processing plants, tanneries, soap factories, and a large handicraft industry all can be found within the city of Fez.

Many people have moved from the older imperial city to the modern suburbs but the ancient city is powerfully compelling and it remains one of the world's great architectural treasures.

The Mosque and Tomb of Moulay Idris II

Considered one of the most sacred places in all of Morocco, the tomb of Moulay Idris II is a place of pilgrimage for Muslims from throughout Morocco and beyond. The atmospheric interiors are richly ornamented.

Non-Muslims may not enter or even draw near the entrance.

Qarawiyyin Mosque

One of the largest mosques in Africa, the Qarawiyyin Mosque is also one of the world's most beautiful places of worship.

For over a thousand years great Muslim saints and scholars have congregated in its ornamental courtyard. It remains one of the most majestic monuments of Islam.

General information

Tourist Board
Place de la Resistance
Tel: 62 34 60 / 62 62 97

Tourist Information Office
Place Mohamed V
Tel: 62 47 69

avenue Allal Ben Abdallah, B.P. 431

Main festivals and cultural activities
Carpet Fair
Wood Engraving Fair
Mousseem Moulay Idris II
Pottery Fair
Handicraft Mousseem

Marrakech/Marrakesh

Population: 1,517,000 (1990 est.)

An oasis set upon the fertile Haouz Plain at the foot of the High Atlas Mountains, Marrakech is the fourth of Morocco's Imperial Cities. Founded in 1062 as the capital of the Almoravide dynasty, it continued in the 12 century as capital of the Almohades.

The origins of the city's name have been argued over for centuries. The most current belief is that the name is of Berber derivation referring to "The Sons of Kutch" or "Land of the Sons of Kutch" which may well relate to the Biblical figure Kutch, son of Sham who lived in Upper Egypt, Ethiopia and southern Arabia.

Others believe Marrakech is derived from the Masmooda dialect meaning "Do not linger", a warning to travellers that the area prior to the establishment of the city was notorious for highwaymen.

Regardless of the origins of the word, Marrakech gave its name to the whole country of

Morocco in all its many foreign versions -- Morocco, Maroc, Morokko, Marruecos, etc. All these names come from the Latin "Morroch" which derives from the medieval name for Marrakech.

The Almoravides made Marrakech the capital of an empire that covered most of the Magreb (North West Africa) and extended well into Europe. With the Almoravide conquest of Southern Spain, Marrakech was invested with the exquisite cosmopolitan culture of Andalucia. This cross-fertilization is rare indeed for a remote desert enclave.

Under the Almoravides Marrakech became a bastion of Islamic civilization and an intellectual centre where the most famous scholars and philosophers of the age converged. The power of the Almoravides also made Marrakech into a great commercial centre and wealth flowed into the city, further transforming its architecture. Lavish buildings were constructed and splendid gardens were designed. The ancient ramparts and gates of the city are monuments to the city's medieval pre-eminence.

Almohade armies stormed the gates of Marrakech on 23 March, 1147, conquering the Almoravide capital. The Almohades under Abdal Mou'min continued their conquest of North Africa, extending their empire through Algeria and Tunisia and moving across the Mediterranean to capture Seville, Cordoba and Granada.

Under Abdal Mou'min Marrakech became an even greater Islamic capital. Abdal Mou'min was a great builder and gave Marrakech its most spectacular landmark, the Minaret Al Kutubiyya with four walls, each face measuring 42ft, rising 226ft to the tip of a lantern turret. Masjid Al Kutubiyya is among the greatest works of North African architecture and is surrounded by beautiful gardens which continue to adorn the city today.

Marrakech went into a period of decline under the Merinids who captured the city in 1269. The Merinid capital was already centred in Fez and Marrakech fell into neglect for two and a half centuries.

The fortunes of Marrakech revived under the Saadian dynasty. The Saadians were tribesmen from the Souss region, who conquered the whole of Southern Morocco in a war against the Portuguese colonialist in Agadir.

When the Saadians gained control of the whole of Morocco their leader, Mohammed Al Mahdi, made Marrakech his capital in 1551 and began to restore the city. During this period Al Bedi palace was built which was considered one of the most spectacular architectural achievements of the century.

Moroccan crafts reached a high watermark during the Saadian period and many splendid palaces were built which bear witness to their exquisite artistry.

Marrakech also became known as a magnet for some of the greatest saints of Islam,

many of whom are buried within the city.

In the 17th Sultan Moulay Ismail assigned Sheikh Al Hassan Al Youssi to choose seven Muslim saints buried in Marrakech to form a spiritual hierarchy for the city. The holy men chosen lived and died in Marrakech between the 12th and 16th centuries. They are Sidi Cadi Ayad, Sidi As-Soheyli, Sidi Yousef Ben Ali, Sidi Bel Abbis, Sidi Ben Sliman Al Jazouli, Sidi Abdal Aziz Tebba and Sidi Al Ghazwani.

Sheikh Al Hassan Al Youssi organized a kind of spiritual tour of their tombs which became known as the Visit of the Seven Men of Marrakech. This practice became a national religious institution, to the point where many Moroccans say "I am going to the Seven Men", meaning that they are travelling to Marrakech even though, except for the annual Moussem of the Seven Saints, the practice has now been largely abandoned.

Marrakech, like Fez, is a genuinely Islamic city in both its genesis and traditions. The modern city was constructed in 1913 during the French occupation of the country and reflects the European influence. But the essence of the city remains the same.

Throughout history the city has never failed to leave an indelible mark upon visitors. Sir Winston Churchill was particularly taken by Marrakech and, in his War Memoirs has left this evocative memorial to the southern Moroccan city:

"Here, surrounded by its extensive palm-groves that have sprung out of the desert, the traveller may rest assured that he will never tire of the majestic view of the snow-covered Atlas mountains. The sun is dazzling and warm, but never unbearably so; the air is sharp and refreshing, yet never unpleasantly cold; the days are perfect, the nights are cool.

"The local inhabitants, dressed in their burnouses of various colours and patterns, are themselves a permanent picture; every countryman is a possible painting, every crowd is a pictorial composition.

"Should anyone be seeking a warm sunny Winter, it is to be found in a truly unique setting here in Morocco."

Marrakech is a rail terminus for other parts of Morocco. Roads link the city with the north and with the Atlantic seaport of Safi.

Local industries relate to desert crops and include tanning and handicrafts. Marrakech is famous for its fine leather-work and desert carpets.

In the surrounding area lead, zinc, copper, molybdenum and graphite are mined.

Places of interest

The Souks

Jemaa El Fnaa Square

Al Bedi Palace

Bahia Palace

Palmeraie (Palm Grove)

Masjid Koutoubia

Aguedal Gardens

General information

Tourist Board

Place Abdelmoumen Ben Ali

Tel: 43 10 88 / 44 88 89

Tourist Information Office

176, boulevard Mohamed V

Tel: 43 20 97 / 43 47 97

Arts and Crafts Centre

avenue Mohamed V

Tel: 42 38 35 / 42 38 36

Main festivals and cultural events

International marathon

Festival of Popular Arts

Dakka Marrakchia Festival

Mousseem of the 7 Saints

Casablanca/Dar Beida

With an estimated population of 3,210,000, Casablanca is the largest city in Morocco. Sixty per cent of all Moroccan companies and almost every bank has headquarters here, making Casablanca the business capital of Morocco and one of the most important commercial centres in North Africa. As such, the city is also the centre for foreign trade and Morocco's main industrial centre where construction materials, furniture and glass products are manufactured.

Located near the capital city of Rabat, Casablanca is also the country's main Atlantic seaport with one of the world's largest man-made harbours featuring the 3,180

metre-long Moulay Youssef Jetty with fishing and fish-canning as the leading industries. The city is the site of Hassan II University, established in 1976.

The origins of Casablanca trace to the medieval town of Anfa set on a small plateau which is now one of the city's suburbs. Anfa became the capital of a Berber principality in the aftermath of the Arab invasions of the 7th and 8th centuries. The Berbers embraced Islam but quickly succumbed to heretical doctrines, setting up their own prophet and a "qur'an" in Berber language.

The principality was known as Berghouata and its tribal inhabitants joined a Kharijite rebellion against the Arab governor of Tangier.

In the 11th century the Almoravids waged holy war against these heretics who were finally defeated by the Almohad Sultan Abdul Mou'min.

The town came under the influence of the Merinids during the 13th century but eventually became independent as the dynasty weakened. It was destroyed by the Portuguese in 1468 in reprisal for piracy. They sent a fleet of 50 vessels and 10,000 soldiers to occupy the town which was sacked and then abandoned. But piracy soon revived and the Portuguese returned in 1515 and destroyed the town once again.

In 1575 the town was rebuilt, fortified and renamed Casa Branca by the Portuguese in an attempt to establish control over the area. However, the Portuguese rulers fell under constant attack by surrounding Muslim tribes and were finally forced to abandon the town following a terrible earthquake in 1755.

Under the reign of Sidi Mohamed ben Abdallah (1757-1790) the town was rebuilt with a mosque, madrasah, hammam and a fort and renamed Dar Al Beida (The White House) which the Spanish eventually translated to Casablanca after trade became well established with merchants from Cadiz and Madrid.

After a rebellion led by the caid of Dar Al Beida zawiyya, Sultan Moulay Sliman closed the port and diverted all trading with Europe to Rabat.

In 1830 Sultan Moulay Abdal Rahman re-opened Dar Al Beida harbour but business remained sluggish for some time and the city remained small with a population of no more than 600.

Birth of the modern city

It wasn't until the mid-19th century that Casablanca began to grow as a result of regular sea traffic between Europe and Morocco. European textile manufacturers needed new sources of raw materials, and French merchants arrived to negotiate the purchase of Moroccan cereals.

Commercial relations between Casablanca and Europe became stronger with the development of the city's harbour facilities and the establishment of regular maritime services between Morocco and Marseilles. French influence in Morocco increased throughout the remainder of the 19th century.

In 1906 construction began on a modern harbour facility for Casablanca under French supervision, but on 30 July 1907 nine workmen were massacred and the French consulate was besieged. The French government sent in an expeditionary force and occupied the city.

In 1912 General Lyautey was appointed Resident-General and completed the construction of the harbour, making Casablanca the country's economic centre. As a result the city grew into the country's major metropolitan centre until independence in 1956.

Independence caused a temporary decline in Casablanca's fortunes but gradually the city regained its economic position as a powerhouse of North Africa.

Hassan II Mosque

One of the largest and most spectacular mosques in the world, the newly constructed Hassan II Mosque covers 2 hectares of land. It has a prayer hall that can accommodate 25,000 worshippers and a piazza that can accommodate another 80,000. It also has the world's tallest minaret, soaring 200m above the city.

The mosque is a monument to Moroccan craftsmanship, built by 3,300 craftsmen brought from throughout the country. These artisans installed 53,000 sq m of carved wood, 67,000 sq m of plastering and 10,000 sq m of sculpted ornamentation. The mosque also features a retractable roof which can transform the mosque interior into a vast open courtyard.

General information

Tourist Board
55, rue Omar Slaoui
Tel: 27 11 77 / 27 95 33

Tourist Information Office
95, boulevard Mohamed V
Tel: 22 15 24

Rabat and Salé (the imperial cities)

Set more or less in the middle of Morocco's Atlantic coastline on the left bank of the mouth of Bou Regreg River, Rabat is Morocco's political and administrative capital and the official residence of the King. All ministries and embassies are located in Rabat.

Apart from its governmental activities, Rabat is one of the country's main industrial centres where, among other things, textiles, processed food, and building materials are manufactured.

The city contains several of Morocco's major educational institutions, including Mohammed V University, the National Conservatory of Music, Dance, and Dramatic Arts and institutes of agricultural, public administration and applied economics studies.

Rabat is also one of Morocco's many outstanding tourist attractions.

Facing Rabat, directly across the Bou Regreg River on its left bank, lies the town of Salé. Rabat and Salé are sister cities spanned by a bridge across the river which was constructed in 1957. Their combined population of around 2 million (1,761,391 as of 1982) makes Rabat/Salé the second-largest urban centre in Morocco after Casablanca.

Salé is an important port with numerous industries including fish canning, cork processing, ceramics, flour milling and carpet weaving.

Rabat was founded as an Arab army outpost in the 12th century and given the generic name for military encampment, Ribat, which is still in use today.

The origins of Salé are less clear. According to some traditions, Salé was founded by Moulay Idris I at the end of the 8th century. Other traditions have it that the settlement was started by Moulay Idris II at the beginning of the 9th century. However, most historians believe that Salé was most likely first established as a tiny short-lived principality of the Berber Bani Ifrans tribe led by Amir Abou Al Kemal Temin which, within a few years was overrun and destroyed by the Almoravids.

For centuries Rabat and Salé were rival principalities but eventually Rabat began to dominate the area and Salé's power was ultimately eclipsed altogether by its larger neighbour.

Rabat became one of Morocco's four Imperial Cities. In the 12th century the great Almohad conqueror Yacoub Al Mansour made Rabat the symbol of his supremacy.

The city was developed in the 13th century by the Merinids who made it the site of the Chellah necropolis which was built upon the remains of the ancient Roman town of Sala. In the early 17th century it became a centre of anti-European piracy centred at the stronghold of the Kasbah des Oudaias.

Rabat was first made a modern capital in 1912 by Morocco's French overlords and

remained the nation's capital after independence in 1956 and the residence of the royal family.

General information

Tourist Board
22, avenue d'Alger
Tel: 73 06 45 / 73 05 68

Tourist Information Office
rue Patrice Lumumba
Tel: 72 32 72

Main festivals and cultural activities
Handicraft Fair
Wax Festival
Hassan II Golf Trophy

Fun Facts to Know and Tell About Carthage and Sidi Bou Said

The American Ambassador's residence lies in the heart of one of Tunisia's most scenic and historic areas. The residence itself lies on a hill that previously was known as Borg El-Midfa (Tower of the Artillery), apparently because the Turks had an artillery emplacement there to guard the entrance to the Bay of Tunis in Ottoman Times.

The village of **Sidi Bou Said** is on the hill just to the north of the residence. It was founded in the 13th century by a Sufi teacher and is one of the most picturesque villages in all Tunisia. A British banker and philanthropist, Baron D'Erlanger, settled here in the early part of this century and succeeded in persuading the local authorities to enact a permanent building code to preserve the village's characteristic white walls, blue shutters, elaborate doors and ornate "ganaria" (upper floor carved wooden galleries that hang over many of the cobbled streets). The Baron's house is now open to the public as a museum and includes a renowned collection of musical instruments.

Another beautiful site within walking distance of the residence is the **American Cemetery** maintained by the American Battlefield Monuments Commission. 2,841 soldiers American soldiers who died during the North Africa campaign of World War II are buried here in these elegant and tranquil surroundings. Among them are 56 American Jews whose graves are marked with Stars of David.

South of the residence (going toward Tunis) is the ancient city of **Carthage**. Legend has it that the Phoenician princess Elissa (known to Virgil as Dido) fled from Tyre and established a settlement here in 814 B.C. The Carthaginians expanded their reach to the point where they came into conflict with the Greeks. To counter the power of the Greeks, Carthage entered into an alliance with the Romans. Once the alliance succeeded in defeating the Greeks in Sicily, however, Carthage and Rome became rivals. The Punic Wars (264-146 B.C.) led to the defeat of Carthage. It was during the Second Punic War that the Carthaginian General Hannibal crossed the Alps with 12,000 horsemen and 37 elephants and laid siege to Rome itself before being defeated. After being destroyed by the Romans in 140 B.C., Carthage was rebuilt in the first century AD. It flourished under the Romans becoming the second largest city in the Roman empire with a population of 300,000 people. The city retained its predominance under Byzantine rule as the leading city in Christian Africa but was destroyed during the Arab Conquest in the late 7th century.

Carthage still boasts numerous monuments and sites from Roman times that are worth visiting. You should start your tour at the Carthage Museum on the top of Byrsa Hill. The hill was the center of Punic and Roman Carthage and offers a splendid panoramic view in all directions. The Museum provides a good overview with photographs and reconstructed models of ancient Carthage. We also recommend stops at the Roman amphitheater (site of a wonderful music festival of popular Arab and other singers each summer), the Baths of Antoninus (near the Presidential Palace - guards in the grounds of the Baths take a dim view of photos taken in the direction of the Palace!), and the Punic Ports.

U.S.-Tunisian Relations

The United States and Tunisia celebrated 200 years of friendship in 1997. In 1797, the Bey of Tunis signed a Treaty of Friendship with the U.S. under which the Bey agreed to protect U.S. shipping from corsairs based in but discouraged by Tunisia. William Eaton of Woodstock, Connecticut became the first U.S. Consul in Tunisia that same year and inaugurated the first American Consulate in Tunis on January 20, 1800. In 1865, the Bey of Tunis sent a special envoy to congratulate President Andrew Johnson for the end of the American Civil War. During his visit, the envoy presented to the President a magnificent portrait of the Bey which has graced the office of the State Department's Director of North African Affairs for decades.

U.S. military forces led by then-General Eisenhower played a crucial role in Operation Torch, the allied operation begun in November 1942 that succeeded in evicting Rommel from Tunisia in May 1943 and ended the German-Italian occupation of North Africa. 2,841 American military personnel who lost their lives during the North Africa campaign are buried on the beautiful grounds of the American Cemetery in Carthage established in 1960. As a tribute to the U.S., Tunisia's first President, Habib Bourguiba, donated a magnificent mosaic that today hangs in the Visitors' Center of the American Cemetery.

The United States also was an early supporter of Tunisia's quest for independence. Following the Allied landings in North Africa, the Germans liberated Bourguiba from prison. Soon thereafter, Tunisia's future President established contact with President Franklin Roosevelt through the efforts of the U.S. Consul General in Tunis, Hooker Doolittle, an early and enthusiastic advocate of Tunisian independence. In 1956, the United States was the first country to recognize Tunisia's independence. Shortly after Tunisia's independence, Lewis Jones, who previously had served as Consul General in Tunis from 1952-3, returned to serve as the first U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia.

Tunisian-American relations flourished after Tunisia's independence. 200,000 Tunisians lined the streets of Tunis to welcome Vice President Richard Nixon during his visit to mark Tunisia's first anniversary in 1957. He was followed in 1959 by President Eisenhower who exchanged wartime memories with President Bourguiba. In 1961, President Bourguiba was the first foreign head of state to be received at the White House by newly elected President John Kennedy. The visit of Vice President Humphrey to Tunis in 1968 was followed by that of Vice President George Bush in 1983. President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali first visited President Ronald Reagan at the White House in 1989, and returned for a State visit in 1990.

Economic Cooperation

To help Tunisia expand its economic base and improve the quality of life of its people, the United States began an extensive program of assistance to Tunisia in 1957. Administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the program continued for more than 35 years during which time the U.S. provided \$1.4 billion in grants, low-interest loans, technical assistance and sales and/or grants of agricultural commodities to Tunisia. Among the many landmarks that USAID helped construct are the Tunis/Carthage Airport inaugurated in 1972, the buildings for the faculties of law, political science and economics at the University of Tunis, and innumerable dams, irrigation projects, rural clinics and family planning centers.

Tunisia, a country with few natural resources, decided soon after independence to develop its human resources. The U.S. played an important role to support this goal by sponsoring the higher education of more than 750 of Tunisia's brightest students in American universities from 1981 to 1994. The U.S. also helped found the Institut Regional des Sciences Informatiques et

Telecommunications (IRSIT) and the Tunisian-American Chamber of Commerce to further enhance technical and commercial cooperation between the U.S. and Tunisia.

The United States Peace Corps also maintained an active program in Tunisia for almost 35 years. Beginning in 1963, an average of 25 Americans from all walks of life arrived each year to perform volunteer work all over Tunisia in such fields as English teaching, agriculture and irrigation extension services, housing, and working with the handicapped. The program not only contributed to Tunisia's development but created a cadre of friends for Tunisia in the U.S. many of whom still participate in activities of groups such as the U.S.-Tunisian Friendship Association.

As Tunisia seeks to become a North African economic "tiger", many American companies have invested in Tunisia to enhance the Tunisian-American partnership and take advantage of the promising economic opportunities that Tunisia's economic reform program has afforded. Nabisco is exporting baking and other products to the Gulf countries from Tunisia; Sarah Lee is exporting clothing to the European market; Citibank in 1996 won the "Best Foreign Bank in Tunisia" award for the third year running; Exxon, Mobil, RJ Reynolds Tobacco, Atlantic Richfield, IBM and many other American companies also have operations in Tunisia.

Military Cooperation

The United States and Tunisia began mutually beneficial military cooperation after Tunisia's independence. Since then, the United States has sponsored the visits and training of more than 3,000 Tunisian military personnel in the U.S. Most of Tunisia's military leadership received training under this program. In addition, most of Tunisia's major weapons systems are American. The U.S. also has transferred to Tunisia C-130 aircraft, numerous utility and rescue helicopters, and 2 oceanographic research vessels. The U.S. military also conducts an extensive program of joint training exercises with its Tunisian counterparts and Tunis is a popular liberty port for the ships of the U.S. Sixth Fleet which visit frequently.

Cultural Cooperation

Cultural exchanges also have reinforced U.S. Tunisian friendship and cooperation. Under such programs as the International Visitor Program (begun in Tunisia in 1959), the Young African Leaders Program (begun in 1968), and the Fulbright Scholar Programs (begun in 1980), the U.S. has sponsored working visits, lectureships and other visits to the U.S. for more than 800 Tunisians in a wide range of fields. The Fulbright Program also has sponsored annual lectureships and research fellowships for American scholars in Tunisia since 1963. The private sector is playing an increasingly important role in fostering cultural contacts as witnessed by the phenomenally successful concert given by Michael Jackson in October 1996.

**Projet de Programme de visite
de l'équipe des Précurseurs
Vendredi 19/02/1999 Samedi 20/02/1999**

VENDREDI 19 FÉVRIER

12H15 : - Arrivée à l'Aéroport International de Tunis-Carthage

13H00 : - ~~Réunion avec le protocole présidentiel~~

- Visite des Sites archéologiques de Carthage :

Musée de Carthage

Villas Romaines

Thermes d'Antonin

Ports Punique

- Visite de la Municipalité de Tunis *speech site*

- Visite de l'Espace "13 Août" de la Femme *UNF (Nat'l Union of Tunisian Women)'s space - possible roundtable site*

- Visite des Souks de la Médina

- Visite de la Mosquée "La Zitouna"

- Visite au Palais des Congrès Avenue Mohamed V

- Visite de l'Hôtel Abou Nawas Tunis

- Visite du Planning Familial de l'Ariana *(linked to Kairouan site)*

- Visite du CREDIF *(its organization)*

- Visite de la Maison du Baron d'Erlanger

- Visite du Village de Sidi Bou Saïd

*medina
sites*

SAMEDI 20 FÉVRIER

- Visite d'un projet FSN, à Sidi Achour à Mornaguia (27 logements)

- Départ pour Dougga

- Visite des Sites Archéologiques de Dougga

- Visite projets : Santé, planning familial ou micro-entreprise à Dougga

- Départ pour Kairouan

- Visite du Centre International de formation du planning familial à Kairouan

- Visite de la Grande Mosquée

- Visite des projet (FSN, UNFT) à Kairouan

- Départ pour EL Djem

- Visite du Colisée

- Retour à Monastir

- Départ de Monastir pour Marrakech, Maroc

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. schedule	Tunisia Schedule [partial] (1 page)	02/19/1999	b(7)(C), b(7)(E), b(7)(F), b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Lissa Muscatine
OA/Box Number: 20081

FOLDER TITLE:

Tunisia

2015-0275-S
rc2013

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

SCHEDULE

Friday, February 19

0700 **WHEELS UP** Luxor Egypt
Flight time: 3 hours, 40 minutes

[1000 **EMBASSY TEAM DEPARTS FOR AIRPORT]**

1100 **WHEELS DOWN** Tunis, Tunisia

Met at Airport by:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

• **Person to be identified**

Embassy/State

- Joseph Stafford, Deputy Chief of Mission
- Mary T. Curtin, Control Officer
- Vickie Lawrence, FMO, Admin Control Officer
- Joan Polaschik, Political Officer
- Kevin Bauer, RSO
- Charles Cole, Press Officer
- Arbia Drira, Personnel
- Mahmoud Skhiri, FMO
- Yolande Mechraoui, Medical Unit

Secret Service Paris

- [REDACTED] [001]
- [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)c, (b)(7)e, (b)(7)f

DAO

- Commander Pat Moore
- Sgt. John Kribbs

GSO -Expediter

- Farouk Klifi

GSO - Motorpool

***Provide drivers names.

Vehicles

**GSO Motorpool to provide vehicle license plate numbers to DAO

2 vans for pre-advance teams

1 car for medical pre-advance/

1 luggage van

1 car for Admin control

***Does RSO need separate car

***DAO vehicles for crew

1110 **ARRIVAL/DEPLANE**

- Expediter to take all passports. Will be returned by Vickie Lawrence when she rejoins group.
- Admin control to take all luggage to hotel La Residence, check team in .
 - Purchase water for team.
 - Breakfast will be available at 6:15 am Saturday.
 - Arrange for box lunches for all those who will go on day trip Saturday.
 - Pre-advance team to have tags on all luggage.
- Provide welcome kits to arriving team.
- B&F to provide currency exchange. (20 envelopes of \$50)

1130 **DEPART Airport en route Carthage**
(Drive time 15 minutes)

[Medical Pre-advance schedule:

1130	<i>Depart Airport</i>
1140	<i>Meet Dr. Christopher ANGSTEAD</i>
1145	<i>Arr. Clinic La Marsa. Meet Medical Director Dr. Back Hamba</i>
1200	<i>Dep. La Marsa</i>
1245	<i>Arr. Clinic El Manar. Meet Administrator Mr Ababou</i>
1400	<i>Dep. Clinic</i>
1430	<i>Arr. Polyclinic Taoufik. Meet Medical Director Dr. Ben Miled & Administrator Mr. Raouine.</i>
1430	<i>Dep. Clinic</i>
1500	<i>Arr. Cardiovascular clinic. Meet Medical Director Dr. Saloua Trabelsi</i>
1800	<i>Ret. to Hotel La Residence</i>

Secret Service: Separate schedule?

Aircrew: Separate schedule as per DAO]

1145 **ARRIVE Presidential Palace, Carthage**
Call on Government of Tunisia Protocol Officials

1215 **DEPART Presidential Palace**

1215-1330 **SITE SURVEY** Carthage archaeological sites.

--brief tour of National Museum in Carthage, atop Byrsa Hill, legendary site of the original Phoenician settlement.
--Antonine Baths
--American Fulbright scholars have played an important role in developing the museum's collection.

- [1330 **LUNCH**--Mary Curtin to call Embassy and arrange time/place to have sandwiches delivered for box lunches on board bus.]
- 1330 **DEPART Carthage en route Medina**
Drive time 30 minutes
- 1400- **SITE SURVEY** Tunis Medina/Zeituna Mosque/Microenterprises
1500 [***Jamil Halfaoui and Julie Adams to wait at drop off point and lead tour*]
 --Add: **Tunis Mayoralty, Possible speech site.**
 --Cultural Sites (Zeituna mosque; others; need brief description)
 --Possible Visit to women's microenterprises within the Medina
 --Dar Lasram--Centre pour la Sauvegarde de la Medina
- 1500 **DEPART** Tunis Medina
(Meet bus at Port de France)
- 1505 **SITE SURVEY Palais des Congres, possible conference site.**
- 1515 **SITE SURVEY** of Abu Nawas Hotel
 **Vickie Lawrence to provide briefing on Hotel.
- 1530 **DEPART EN ROUTE** National Office of Family and Population, Sud-Sud Training Center, 42, Rue de Madrid (Drive time 15 minutes)
- 1545- **SITE SURVEY**
1615 National Office of Family and Population;
 Sud-Sud Training Center
 Contact: M. Fethi Ben Massaoud, Director of Sud-Sud Program
 And Dr. Nabiah Gueddana, Director of National Office of Family Planning.

 --USAID instrumental in building training facility
 --Sud-Sud Training program provides family planning training to health care workers from Sub-Saharan African Countries.
 --Funded by UN Population Program
- 1615 **DEPART EN ROUTE ENDA** Microenterprise program
 Cite Ettadhamen (Drive time 20 minutes)
- 1635- **SITE SURVEY OF ENDA** Microenterprise program

- 1700 Cite Ettadhamen
 ENDA Inter-Arabe (actual visit will be to ENDA's Urban Development Center, Espace 21),
 Directors: Mme Essma Ben Hmida and Mr. Michael Cracknell
 10, rue El Aacha, Cite Ettadhamen
 Tel. 555-241
- ENDA is independent NGO, based in Senegal
 --provides training, microcredit lending on site
 --possibly HRC will engage in a round-table discussion on women's issues.
- 1700 **DEPART ENDA** to visit microenterprise funded by ENDA TBD
 Drive time 10 minutes.
- 1710- **SITE SURVEY** of microenterprise funded by ENDA.
 1730
- 1730 **DEPART** en route CREDIF, Avenue du Roi Abdelaziz Al Saoud, El Manar II, Possible speech/conference site. (drive time 30 minutes)
- 1800- **SITE SURVEY** of Centre de Recherches, d'Etudes, de Documentation et
 1830 d'Information sur la Femme (CREDIF), Active research center; conducts numerous conferences on women's issues; good conference facility; capacity 170.
 President: Dr. Zakia Amara Bouaziz; Avenue du Roi Abdelaziz Al Saoud, El Manar II
 Tel. 885-322, Fax 882-893
- 1830 **DEPART** en route Hotel La Residence
 (Drive time 20 minutes)
- 1850- **WALKING TOUR** Sidi Bou Said
 1910
- 1930- **SITE SURVEY** Hotel La Residence
 1945
- RON La Residence Hotel, Gammarth**
 **Vehicles return to Embassy.

*Done
628-1742*

Saturday, February 20, 1999

- 0550 Vickie Lawrence, Arbia Drira, Mahmoud Skhiri depart Embassy for Hotel in luggage truck/vehicle.
- 0600 Mary Curtin, Jamil Halfaoui, Joan Polaschik depart Embassy for Hotel La Residence.]

- 0630 **BAGGAGE CALL AND CHECK-OUT**
- Bags outside door at 0630.
 - Hotel control officer to manage luggage collection and bill for room and taxes; individuals to pay personal expenses.
 - Hotel to provide box lunches for pre-advance team; drivers; embassy personnel; MFA personnel making day trip.
- 0700 **DEPART** Hotel La Residence Gammarth, Tunisia via Embassy vans en route
Dougga, Tunisia
(Drive Time: 2 hours)
- 0900- **SITE SURVEY** of Dougga archaeological sites
0930 Dougga
- one of the largest and best preserved Roman archaeological sites in North Africa;
--includes theater, Temple of Saturn, Square of the Winds, capitol building
- 0930 **DEPART** Archaeological sites via vans en route to health/family planning or
micro-enterprise project sites. (Drive time: 20 min. max)
- 0950 **SITE SURVEY OF PROJECT SITES**
1030 Dougga
- rural development program
--receives public/private funding
--possibly tour mobile health clinic and/or school
- 1030 **DEPART** Dougga, Tunisia via vans en route Kairouan, Tunisia
(Drive time 3 hours)
- 1330 **ARRIVE** Kairouan, Tunisia
- 1345 **SITE SURVEY** of International Training Center for Family Planning
1415 Kairouan
- Associated with family planning training center in Ariana (see above)
--provides practical training for health care workers from sub-Saharan African countries.
- 1415 **DEPART** for Kairouan Mosque
(Drive time 15 minutes)
- 1430- **SITE SURVEY** of Kairouan Mosque
1445 Kairouan

--Considered by North Africans to be Fourth Holiest City in Islam.

1445- **SITE SURVEY TBD**
1530 Survey of project sites (FNS, UNFT, or other)

1530 **DEPART** Kairouan en route El Jem
(Drive time: 1 hour and 30 minutes)

1700- **SITE SURVEY** El Jem Coliseum
1715
--largest standing Roman Coliseum in North Africa
--built between 230 and 238 AD
--part of the UN's World Heritage list

1715 **DEPART** El Jem via vans en route Monastir
(Drive time: 1 hour)

- Debrief in vehicle en route.
- Team leader to telephone Ambassador en route to debrief.

1815 **ARRIVE** Monastir

- Expediter to return all passports.
- B&F to provide currency reconversion.
-

1815 **WHEELS UP** Monastir, Tunisia
EN ROUTE Marrakech, Morocco

Vehicles return to Tunis.

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