

Documentary Cultural Tour

« Mediterranean Memories, History of Christianity in Antique Tunisia »

BE MICE VOYAGES TUNISIA TRAVEL AGENCY CATEGORY "A" MEMBER OF FTAV (TUNISIAN FEDERATION OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM AGENCIES)

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Pedagogic interest of our documentary culturel tour:

- ✓ Documentary tour includes conferences and audio-visual projections
- ✓ Ideal educational program for teachers and students, associations and passionates of Art, History and Archaeology.
- ✓ Visit of the most sumptuous archaeological sites of North Africa
- ✓ Large historical and geographical approach
- ✓ Complies with responsible and sustainable tourism standards.
- ✓ Themed conferences
- ✓ Multi-linguistic Tour Guide specialized in the history and antiquity of Tunisia.
- ✓ Accommodation in guest houses on natural sites, in Medinas and Tunisian countryside.

The program includes:

- ✓ Full board tour 09 nights / 10 daysµ
- ✓ Privatized round trip transfer
- ✓ Accommodation in guest houses and charming hotels (Privatized accommodation for the group members).
- ✓ Privatized lunches
- ✓ Visits of archaeological sites and museums.
- ✓ Conferences presented by authors specialized in the Christian history in Roman Africa
- ✓ Projection of historical and cultural documentaries
- ✓ Assistance of BE MICE VOYAGES during the tour.



COMMITMENT TO COVID19 SANITARY PROTOCOL Clic to see the Sanitary Protocol - Tunisia Tourism

We have adopted with commitment the personalization of our services and performances on all our tours

- As far as accommodation is involved, all our tours are adapted to the Sanitary Protocol in which BE MICE VOYAGES is rigorously committed.
- > Henceforth, the accommodations are carried out in guest houses and charming hotels, most of them are in Tunisian countryside with reduced capacity and exclusive for our groups.
- The lunch are also privatized.
- Our teams are trained to respect this protocol.

Clic to see Kilometric table (Driving time and distance).

- Total kilometers for the whole circuit: 1046 KM
- Average kilometers per day: 104,60 km
- Average driving time per day: 02h07mn

Prived Accomodation in guest houses and charming hotels:

- 1. Clic to see Maison d'Hôtes Dar Ben Gacem Médina de Tunis
- 2. Clic to see Maison d'Hôtes Dar Channoufi El Kef
- 3. Clic to see Hôtel de Charme Thugga
- 4. Clic to see <u>La Kasbah 5***** de Kairouan</u>
- 5. Clic to see <u>Maison d'Hôtes Dar Benti Monastir</u>



DAY 1: Arrival at Tunis Carthage airport, assistance by our tour guide. Transfer and accommodation at the guest house of Tunis Dar Ben Gacem Kahia 15 mn from the airport). In the evening, projection (privatized for the group) of the program and its cultural interests. Presentation of the itinerary and technical details (departure times, distances to be covered, duration of visits etc.)





DAY 2: Carthage (UNESCO)/ The Hill of Byrsa and the Cathedral of St. Louis/ruins of the Domus Karita Church / The Baths of Antonin / Majoroum Basilica of ST. Perpetua and St. Felicity and the Amphitheater / Basilica of Saint-Cyprian / Village of Sidi Bou Said.





After breakfast, departure for the exploration of Carthage (Human heritage - UNESCO). The visits respect an evolutive aspect of the life of the metropolis, a review of the Punic, Roman and Christian history. From 180 AD, the year of the persecution of the Scillian martyrs, Carthage entered into a Christian process that would mark the history of old Christianity.

Visit of the high sites of Christianity in Roman Africa, the arena of the amphitheater of Carthage where a chapel was built in memory of St. Perpetua and St. Felicity who were persecuted in 203 with their companions. The story of the martyrdom of St. Perpetua was written by Perpetua and Saturus. St. Perpetua is the Saint of the city of Vierzon in the Cher. Presentation on the sermons of Saint Augustine about St. Perpetua and St. Felicity in Carthage.

Presentation of the ruins of the Church of St. Cyprian "Thascius Caecilius Cyprianus"



Born around 200 and died as a martyr on September 14 under the persecution of Valerian, he was a Berber converted to Christianity, bishop of Carthage and author of "De Lapsis", "On the Unity of the Catholic Church"

Visit of the imposing Cathedral of Saint-Louis, dedicated to Saint-Louis (Louis IX) king of France, died of disease on Tunisian soil on August 25, 1270. Saint patrician of France it is celebrated every year on August 25. The construction of the Cathedral began in 1884. The work was completed by the ceremonial consecration of the cathedral on May 15, 1890. Shortly after its inauguration, the sanctuary, epicenter of the archdiocese of Carthage, was the object of special attention from the Vatican. Therefore, in 1892, Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) conferred on the cathedral the rank of primatial; the Archbishop of Carthage, who was the first to make a visit to the cathedral, gave it the status of a primatial church. The Archbishop of Carthage being endowed with the dignity of Primate of Africa, today the Cathedral is a place of highest level cultural and artistic events.

Visit of the ruine of the ancient church "Domus Caritatis" supposed to be the biggest church of the Christian Carthage where was excavated by Father Louis Delattre in 1881 the famous bas-relief of Notre Dame of Carthage, a masterpiece of the Christian archeology in Tunisia that we will have the opportunity to visit at the Cathedral of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Olive in Tunis.

Private lunch in the area around Carthage.

Afternoon visit to the village of Sidi Bou Saïd. We will visit the palace of "the shining star", the Baron d'Erlanger's Palace, a sumptuous residence of Moorish architecture with one of the most beautiful panoramas on the golf of Carthage. This palace houses a rich traditional furniture, a painting gallery as well as the museum of the Arab and Mediterranean Music.

Return to the Dar Ben Gacem Kahia guest house in the Medina of Tunis. Private dinner

DAY 3: Site of Uthina (National Heritage Archaeological Site) - Site of Thuburbo Majus (National Heritage Archaeological Site)





Morning departure towards Uthina current Oudhna, (30 km in the south of Tunis. 30 mn approximately), Uthina surprises as well by the extent of the site as by the well conserved state of its main monuments. An archaeological set which impresses by its imposing size which made the happiness of Jean Claude Golvin by restituting the site. The city of Uthina knew at the period of diocletian the condemnation of Saint-Gallinius



at the time of the assemblies held in the city of Uthina and previously in the city of Thimida. The calendar of the Church of Carthage celebrates the martyrs of Thimida Regia on May 31, Saint Gallinius on June 11.

Monuments to visit: the Amphitheater / The Laberii house / The Baths / The Capitol. Afternoon direction to the city of Thuburbo-Majus, (40 kilometers from Uthina) an ally of Carthage against Rome during the Punic wars, for which it paid a heavy tribute later on. Municipe in 128, it became colony under the emperor Commode (180-192) it is then called Colonia Julia Aurelia Commoda. It is at this time that the most important monuments of the city were built.

Monument to visit: The Capitol / The Church / The Roman villas / The Palestra of the Petronii / The summer baths.

At the end of the visit, direction to Dougga (85 km from Thuburbo, 120 mn). The itinerary will allow us to discover a large part of the Tunisian countryside. Dinner and accommodation at the Thugga hotel in the middle of the ancient olive groves of Teboursouk near the archaeological site of Thugga.

DAY 4: Archaeological site of Thugga (Human heritage- UNESCO) - The Christian City of Bulla Regia (National Heritage Archaeological Site)



After breakfast departure to the ancient city of Thugga (Human heritage-UNESCO) (10 km from the hotel 10mn). The vastness of the site and its well preserved state qualifies it as the Pompeii of Tunisia. The ancient Thugga testifies of a splendor lived during centuries. The visit will highlight, essentially, the contribution of Numidian Africa to the glory of Roman Africa

Monuments to visit: the Christian Basilica / the Theater / the Capitol / the Temple of Caelestis / the House of Trifolium / the Baths of the Cyclops / the Libyco-Punic Mausoleum.

Private lunch at Thugga. In the early afternoon continuation to Bulla Regia (65 km from Dougga 1h20 mn). Great Tunisian archaeological curiosity. Indeed, to devote the regional importance of the city of Bulla Regia Augustus grants him the title of "Oppidium Liberum". The emperor Hadrian (117-138 AD) promoted the city to the rank of honorary colony: Colonia Aelia Hadriana Augusta Bulla Regia. Saint Augustine is very present in the history of the city by his famous preaching. From his texts we know that he visited the city several times. Indeed the city of Bulla Regia was on the road that



connected Hippo to Carthage. The site offers us an exceptional archaeological material of which notably the underground houses and their polychrome mosaics of pictorial style

Monuments to visit: The Underground Houses / the Housing Quarters / the Ruins of the Christian Basilica / the Episcopal Complex excavated by P. Qoniam in 1952-1954 and studied by N. Dubal at the end of 1960, / the Great Basilica / the Small Church, the "Domus Dei" in the insula of fishing / the Baths / the Theater

At the end of the day direction towards El Kef. (At 65 km 1h10 mn) privatized dinner and accommodation at the guest house Dar Channoufi in the heart of the cereal plain in the olive groves of El Kef.

DAY 5: The City of El Kef (Sicca Veneria) National Historical Heritage - St. Peter's Basilica - the Fortress - The Mactaris Site - Archaeological Site National Heritage.





After the breakfast departure for the discovery of El Kef the ancient Sicca Veneria in the heart of the Tunisian granary, rich as well by its material as immaterial heritage. Visit of its massive fortress at 627m of altitude to contemplate a panorama on the cereal plain of El Kef, one of the most fertile of Tunisia. Discovery of the vestiges of the basilica of Saint Peter. As a reminder, the arrival of Christianity has made the ancient Sicca an important bishopric mentioned since 256 a.p J-C. It had as martyr, the bishop Castus (255). Presentation on the history of the city.

Monuments to visit : The Medina of El Kef / The fortress (Borj) / The Basilica of St. Peter / Stop on the Zaouïa Sidi bou-Makhlouf

At the end of the visit, direction to Makthar (1h10 mn 68 km) privatized lunch at the arrival then visit of the archaeological site of the ancient Maktaris. Although of Libyan origin, it is to the Roman period that are attached the essential of its monuments considered among the richest and most beautiful of Tunisia. Indeed, under the reign of Marcus Aurelius, the city became a colony and its inhabitants were granted Roman citizenship. Makthar was represented by a by a bishop at the council of 256 AD which took place in Carthage; at the council of 411 AD most cities were represented by two bishops, one Catholic and one Donatist, Makthar had only one representative, a bishop named Comparator of the schismatic church.

Monuments to visit: the Forum / the Arch of Trajan / the Basilicas and Churches of the City / the Baths / The Schola des Juvenes



At the end of the visit, direction to the city of Kairouan (105 km 1h40mn). Private dinner and accommodation in one of the most beautiful charming hotels in Tunisia, the Kasbah 5***** of Kairouan, located in the old fortress itself and historical heritage of the Medina of Kairouan.

Day 6: The Medina of Kairouan (Human Héritage - UNESCO), the Great Mosque, the Mausoleums - Visit the Roman-Byzantine archaeological site of Sufeitula.





Departure for the discovery of Kairouan (Human Heritage- UNESCO), the holy muslem city of Africa and the first Arab city of the Maghreb. The visit explains the rise of Muslim art in North Africa (Monuments to visit: The Great Mosque/ The Medina and its ramparts/ The Aghlabid Basins/ The Mausoleums of the city)

Continuation towards Sufeitula (National Heritage) (106 km 1h35 mn) on a road going from the low to the high steppes, at the foothills of the Tunisian Dorsal and in the heart of Central Tunisia. On arrival to Sufeitula, lunch privatized next to the archaeological site. After lunch, discovery of the ancient city with all its components, presentation on the history of the city and on the exceptionally rich Christian architecture in Sufeitula (Monuments to visit: , Forum / The Tripartite Capitol / The Great Public Baths / Vitalis Church / Servus Church and the Episcopal complex) At the end of the visit, return to Kairouan (106 km 1h35 mn), private dinner and accommodation for the second night at the charming hotel La Kasbah 5***** of Kairouan.

Day 7: The Coliseum of El Djem, the Archaeological Museum, Africa House - Monastir, the Ribat and the Museum of Islamic Arts - the Mausoleum of Habib Bourguiba and the Medina.







After breakfast, we will head for El Djem (UNESCO) (70 km away, 1h10 mn), the ancient Thysdrus. Visit of the largest Roman monument in Africa: the Colosseum, a monument that emerges like a miracle in the middle of olive groves, in a surprising state of conservation. Its visit allows us to understand the spectacular success of Romanization in Africa. Continuation towards the archaeological museum, concurrent of the Bardo moseum in antique mosaics where masterpieces decorate the walls and cover the ground. Continuation towards the district of Roman dwellings where is located the Africa House, a rich Roman residence built with stones and mosaics of the time, surprising didactic realization.

Monuments to visit: The Amphitheater / The Archaeological Museum / The Roman house Quarter / The Africa House

Lunch privatized in El Djem then continuation towards Monastir (70 km 1h10 mn). Visit of the Ribat of Monastir, the noble fortress built on the seaside, once a monk soldier's brood, the monument of defensive vocation was dedicated to the supervision of the coastline. The Ribat hosts the rich museum of medieval arts of the Muslim Ifriqiya. Visit the Mausoleum of Habib Bourguiba, first president of the first Tunisian republic, emancipator of women and founder of the new Tunisia.

Monument to visit: The Ribat of Monastir / The Museum of Medieval Arts / The Mausoleum Habib Bourguiba / The Medina of Monastir

At the end of the visit, installation at the guest house of Monastir Dar Benti in the Medina of Monastir. Private dinner and accommodation.

Day 8: Medina of Sousse (UNESCO) - Kasba of Sousse/ The Archaeological Museum of Sousse / The Catacombs.



After breakfast, departure for the discovery of Sousse (Human héritage - UNESCO) (21 km - 27mn) and its historical attractions. Discovery of the Medina classified as a World Heritage Site, the visit will reveal the hidden treasures of the city, the program includes the visit of the archaeological museum located in the Kasbah and housing antiquities from the Punic, Roman and Byzantine periods as well as pieces of Christian archaeology (including the famous mosaic of the Calendar a masterpiece),. After the museum, visit the catacombs of the Holy Pastor in Sousse (If open to the public) Discovered in 1888, these catacombs are a valuable link with the Tunisian Christian Antiquity, they are



spread out in 240 galleries that group 15,000 graves over five kilometers.

Monument to visit: The Medina of Sousse (Human Heritage- UNESCO) / The Kasba / The Archaeological Museum / The Catacombs (if open to the public).

Private Junch in Sousse After Junch departure to Tunis and installation at the Dar Ben

Private lunch in Sousse. After lunch, departure to Tunis and installation at the Dar Ben Gacem Kahia guest house.

DAY 9: Bardo Museum and the Medina of Tunis, the Saint-Vincent de Paul and Sainte-Olive Cathedral and its Christian Museum





Departure to Tunis through the vineyards of southern peninsula of Cap-Bon, a French-Italian protectoral heritage. Arrival in Tunis and visit of the world renowned Bardo Museum, housed in a royal palace, universally considered as the largest reserve of ancient mosaics. Its collection includes mosaics from the first century before the Christian to the end of the Byzantine period, including Christian mosaics. The museum also houses a department of early Christian antiquity including the famous Baptistery of Kelibia

Monument to visit: The Bardo Museum and its collection of antiquities, Punic, Roman and paleochristian.

Private lunch in a sumptuous residence in the heart of the Medina of Tunis.

Afternoon discovering the Medina of Tunis (Human heritage - UNESCO) and the San Vicente de Paula and Santa Olive Cathedrals, stop on the most important monuments of the city such as the Kasbah and its royal palaces including the government palace. Pass through the covered souks which have never lost their charm and their perfume. Stop at the Great Mosque of Zitouna, formerly a theological university from which the Ulema (scholars) of the Maghrebian Middle Ages came out until the Independence.

Monuments to visit: The Medina of Tunis / The Kasba / The Mosque of Zitouna / The Cathedral of Saint-Vinent de Paule and Sainte-Olive

At the end of the day, accommodation at the guest house in Tunis. Closing dinner of the program animated by the group and commented by our guide.