

Use full information about Tunisia

Time

Tunisia is one hour ahead of GMT.

Money

The Tunisian currency unit is the dinar. Tunisian currency cannot be imported or exported. Therefore you cannot buy any Tunisian money before departure. However, many banks are open either at the airports, hotels or towns and the bank rate, fixed once a week, is the same everywhere.

Language

The official language in Tunisia is Arabic, but you will find that almost everybody speaks French. You will find that many people in hotels, shops, bars and restaurants also speak English and that the local traders can also often manage five or six languages. Italian is also spoken in major cities and German in tourist resorts.

Electricity

Mains voltage in Tunisia is 220 volts AC (50 cycles). All sockets take small round two-pin plugs. An adaptor is required for most British electrical appliances; please bring one with you, as they are not widely available in Tunisia.

The use of portable immersion water-heaters is not permitted as they are considered to be a fire hazard.

Food and drink

Tap water in Tunisia is not generally safe to drink and you should drink only mineral or bottled Water. Still or sparkling mineral water is available in bars and restaurants.

Health

We would request that you bring the name, address and telephone number of your GP as insurance companies usually require this if you become unwell.

Flying insects, including mosquitoes, are a feature of this part of the world and you may find it helpful to wear long-sleeved, long-legged clothes and to use mosquito repellents on exposed areas of skin. Those in which DEET is an active ingredient are thought to be the most effective.

Tipping

This should be considered when satisfactory service has been provided, While all basic service charges have been included in your holiday cost, you may wish to leave a small tip (10%) for good service

Getting around

Taxis are cheap in Tunisia and are the usual mode of transport. Make sure that you take the yellow taxis, which are metered cabs and take up to three passengers.

Long-distance taxis, called *louages*, also run between towns. These taxis take five passengers and you must wait until the car is full before departing. This way of travelling provides contact with the local people, and a remarkable insight into the Tunisian Highway Code!

Car hire in Tunisia is recommended. Through rent car agencies

Holidays

There are public holidays in Tunisia on January 1 (New Year's Day) and 18 (Revolution Day), March 20 (Independence Day) and 21 (Youth Day), April 9 (Martyrs' Day), May 1 (Labour Day), July 25 (Republic Day), August 13 (Women's Day) and November 7 (Commemoration/Accession Day) every year.

In some cases, when a national holiday falls on a Saturday or a Sunday, an extra day may be given.

There are also a number of Muslim festivals that are timed according to local sightings of various phases of the moon. During the lunar month of Ramadan that precedes Eid el-Fitr, Muslims fast during the day and feast at night and normal business patterns may be interrupted. Many restaurants are closed during the day and there may be restrictions on smoking and drinking. Some disruption may continue into Eid el-Fitr itself. Eid el-Fitr and Eid el-Idha may last for two days.

Some regions of the country may also celebrate holidays on other dates throughout the year.

Passports and visas

It is a good idea to take a photocopy of the pages of your passport showing your passport number and photograph. Bring this with you on holiday, but keep it in a different place from your passport, so that you will still have it even if your passport is lost or stolen.

Photography and videos

At most museums and archaeological sites there is a fee (usually about 1 Dinar) for use of a camera. Visitors wishing to film or take photographs must purchase a permit on entry, and may be required to show it to a custodian during the visit.

Shopping

The opportunity to purchase local crafts, clothing and gifts is one of the great delights of travelling abroad and buying local not only means you have something authentic to take home, it also means your money goes to the right people. However, it almost goes without saying that travellers need to be vigilant and use their discretion when making purchases. If in doubt, you should consult tour manager for advice.