



# Rainbow Educational Tours

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Proposed Itinerary for:

Tunisia  
11 Days / 9 Nights

**DAY 1:** – Today you depart Calgary on your overnight flight to Tunisia with a connection in Toronto.

**DAY 2:**

You arrive at Tunis airport and once immigration and customs formalities are completed a representative from Rainbow Educational Tours will meet you. The group will be transported to their hotel in the heart of Tunis for dinner and overnight.



*The Sahara Desert*

**DAY 3:**

08:30 ~ 10:00 Visit to the medina (Old city)

**Tunis** is characterized by the contrast between the medieval Arab medina and the French-built modern city. The visit starts with a stroll down the tree lined Avenue Habib Bourguiba (the French built downtown). As you pass the Ibn Khaldoun statue the ancient medina looms. You meander through the Echaouachia Souk (Traditional hat “chachia” makers market) and the El Attarine Souk (perfume market) arriving at the Zitouna` mosque (mosque of the Olive Tree). This mosque (rebuilt in the 9<sup>th</sup> century) is as old as the town, and the heart of the medina.



*Tunis Medina*

10:00 Transfer to **Bardo Museum**

The Bardo museum is located in the suburbs of Tunis. Originally a Hafside palace, housing the Tunisian kings, it has been restored throughout centuries to become a superb example of Arab-Moslem 17 and 18<sup>th</sup> century architecture. Its vaulted ceilings, galleries and cupolas make it the perfect setting to house the world's finest collection of Roman and Byzantine mosaics. The **Bardo Museum** is widely considered one of the most impressive museums in Africa.

For groups interested in history and in culture, this is certainly a sight you will not want miss! Just when you think that you have seen the best, the next room reveals something even more wondrous!



We end at **La Goulette** a fishing port with beautiful beaches, about 9 km from Tunis. La Goulette is famous for its fish restaurants and here you have lunch. You will see a massive fortress (Kasbah) built in 1535 by Charles V, in order to house the Hafsid who were ousted from the capital by corsair Barbarossa and Ottomans.

*The ancient city of Carthage*



14:00 Transfer to **Carthage**

Students will tour this area by bicycles.



*Carthage Antonine Bath*

The town of **Carthage** has been declared a national monument. Stand high above modern Tunis on Byrsa Hill, close your eyes and let your imagination transport you to ancient life in the Punic city once the capital of Roman North Africa. Sift through the layers of history built one atop the other - Carthaginian, Roman, Christian... From the Carthage National Museum at the top of the hill to Tophet's sacrificial sanctuary, pass by the Antonine Baths, Punic Ports, temples, dwellings and shrines. Carthage's history reveals itself with each step.

Continue the rally to **Sidi Bou Said** village:

**Sidi Bou Said** is an Andalusian village with white walls and contrasting blue doors. At the famous café of Sidi Bou Said, which overlooks the Tunis Bay & yacht harbour, Students can enjoy a relaxing time for a tea break & some souvenir shopping.



*The Andalusian village of Sidi Bou Said*

Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight

#### DAY 4:

07:30 Breakfast at hotel and depart to Tunis train station.

**Nabeul** is 67 km SE of Tunis and is known as the pottery capital of Tunisia. After a one hour, 20 minute train ride we will visit a pottery factory, watch a demonstration and have an opportunity for making our own.

Continue to Hammamet 15 km from Nabeul.

**Hammamet** is known for its large number of hammams (traditional Moorish public bathhouses) and has grown into one of Tunisia's most popular tourism centres. It has nevertheless retained its charming fine sandy beaches and narrow streets lined with whitewashed houses. Its attractions include a small but well-preserved medina, wide sandy beaches, and many colourful tourist shops.

Hammamet has attracted numerous artists; many of them have built their homes and studios on its warm shores.

Lunch at restaurant in Hammamet

Transfer to **Sousse** (80km from Hammamet, 140 km south of Tunis). Check in at hotel

Visit the **Sousse** Medina and Ribat. Sousse is the third largest city in Tunisia and the largest resort town. The 9<sup>th</sup> century Ribat is one of the chains of fortified monasteries built to defend North Africa from Christian attacks. Its watchtower gives a splendid view over the medina.



Return to hotel for dinner and overnight

#### DAY 5:

07:30 Buffet breakfast at hotel. Transfer to El Jem (60km from Sousse).

As you arrive in **El Jem** the amphitheatre rises in the distance. Built from 230-240 AD it is the main attraction and is one of Tunisia's most visited sites. This monumental amphitheatre, is the largest Roman monument built in Africa, and is second in size only to that of Rome. El Jem amphitheatre's architectural design is an improvement over the larger Coliseum of Rome.



Transfer to Sfax (64km/1h from El Jem) which is the second largest city after TUNIS and the biggest industrial city in the country. In fact, Sfaxiens are famous for their business skills. An attraction is the unspoiled, medina used as a location in the movie the English Patient.

Lunch at Restaurant

Continue to **Gabes** (140km) and visit Gabes's oasis and spice market. Gabes has the world's only seaside oasis. It lies on the Gulf of Gabes and within the oasis there are more than half a million date palms as well as extensive plantations of fruit trees.

Dinner and **overnight at a troglodyte style hotel.**

#### DAY 6:

07:30 Buffet breakfast at hotel. Transfer to Matmata (45 km)

**Matmata** is the setting for Star Wars, both the classic film and the most recent. Approaching Matmata it is easy to overlook the buzzing life just underneath the surface of the earth. This is where the **troglodyte dwellings** are located – either sunk into the soft rock of the hillside or in pit-style construction into the ground. Take a tour of these fabulously interesting yet aesthetically simple homes.



Lunch at restaurant

Transfer to Douz (94km).

The small town of **Douz**, lies at the northeastern edge of the Great Eastern Erg and is considered the gateway to the **SAHARA!**



*Tents at the Sahara Desert Camp*

Meet with the camels' caravan for an exiting 1-2 hours camel ride over the Sahara's sand dunes to the campsite. You will have time to relax before dinner and then retire for the night under the Sahara desert sky.



### DAY 7:

07:30 Breakfast at the campsite

Return to the Douz by camel and continue to Tozeur (128km) by coach via chott el Jerid (a thousand square kilometre salty lake that looks on a sunny day, like an infinite polished marble floor. Midway across Chott El Jerid, Students will make a stop to take photos of mirages).

**Tozeur** is one of the most popular traveler's places in the south region. It is an interesting old town with a great setting overlooking an enormous number of palm trees.

First, we visit the old town "Ouled el-Hadef", the delightful old quarter built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century AD to house the El- Hadef clan. The area is a maze of narrow, covered alleys and small squares. It is famous for its traditional brickwork, which uses protruding bricks to create an intricate relief pattern. The style is found only here and in nearby Nefta.

Then we continue to **Dar Cherait museum**. Students will enrich their knowledge of Tunisia while wandering through the museum. The fascinating Dar Cherait museum is housed in a restored mansion and has an extensive collection of pottery, antiques. As well one finds rooms set up as replicas of scenes from traditional Tunisian life - past and present. These rooms are richly decorated to show the bedroom of the last bey, a palace scene, a typical kitchen, and a Bedouin tent.

*Dar Cherait Museum*



Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

### Day 8:

*Lezard Rouge*

Embark on an excursion to the Canyon of Selja by the **Lezard Rouge**. Le Lizard Rouge is an old Beyical train that leaves Metlaoui and travels across the flat rocky desert, up through the Selja Gorge and on to the phosphate mining areas in the mountains. Continue to Mountainous Oases. The beautiful old **Berber villages of Tamerza, Mides and**



**Chebika** lie close to the Algerian border in the rugged Jebel en-Negeb ranges. The three have existed since Numidian times and were part of the Limes Tripolitanus defensive line developed by the Romans to keep out marauding Saharan Tribes. The villages were abandoned, after the region was hit by torrential rain in 1969 and are now “Ghost Villages” and fascinating to visit.

Return to Tozeur for dinner and a folklore show then overnight at the Hotel.

**DAY 9:**

Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer to **Sbeitla**, famous for its remarkably well preserved Roman-Byzantine ruins. The city was established at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD on the site of an early Numidian settlement.

The surrounding countryside proved ideal for olive growing. Sbeitla (ancient name was Sufetula) quickly developed into a wealthy town. You will see the magnificent Temple in the beautiful countryside, built when Sufetula was at the height of its prosperity in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

*Students having fun in the sand dunes at Chott El Jerid*



Lunch at the Restaurant. Transfer to Kairouan (107km).

Dinner and overnight at the Kairouan 5\* Hotel.

**DAY 10:**

07:30 Buffet breakfast at hotel.

Sightseeing of the important historical city of **Kairouan**.

Kairouan was founded by **Oqba Ibn Nafi** thirteen centuries ago as the **first Islamic city** in the Maghreb. It boasts one of the Moslem world’s most prestigious monuments- The **Great Mosque of Sidi Okba**. Built of plain bricks, marble and cedar wood, it features beautiful gilded ceramic work; an art practiced by 9<sup>th</sup> century Kairouan artisans. We also visit the 9<sup>th</sup> century Aghlabid **Basins** which were one of the greatest waterworks of the Middle Ages. One of the best views of the basins is seen from the top of the Tourist Information building.

Transfer to TUNIS, Free at leisure

Dinner and overnight at the Hotel.

*The Great Mosque of Sidi Okba*



**DAY 11:**

Transfer to airport to board your homebound flight back to Canada.

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### Included in the Cost of the Tour:

- Airfare Calgary/Tunis/Calgary via scheduled airlines such as Air Canada, Lufthansa, Air France or Alitalia
- All transfers
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
- 8 nights in 3 & 4 & 5 Star hotels in twin rooms.
- 1 night in Desert Camp
- Services of the RAINBOW Educational consultant before departure including materials for the students
- Current Airport Taxes
- Camel Riding in Douz
- Excursion in 4 Wheel Drives
- Excursion by Lezard Rouge (Tourist train)
- Rental fee for the bicycles
- Comprehensive Insurance: Excess Medical, Trip Cancellation, and Baggage
- Gratuities for tour managers, guides, coach drivers and in restaurants.
- Folklore Dinner show at Tozeur

### Not included in the cost of the tour:

- Expenses of a personal nature
- Passport
- Visa Fees (if necessary)
- Beverages with meals
- Optional tours, excursions and activities
- Single supplements for any single hotel room accommodation required
- **Fuel surcharges if applied by the airlines**
- **Any additional taxes imposed by any authority before departure.**