

Tunisia & Libya – Roman Africa

(Carthage to Leptis Magna)

Tour Code TL

Departing 1 May 2009

In Tunisia, we discover a fascinating history reflecting the contrasting influences of the Mediterranean and the Sahara, and a diverse occupation through the ages from the Phoenicians to the French, where a rich historical legacy has survived. Classical highlights include the superb Roman sites of Dougga and El Djem, plus the remarkable mosaics of the famous Bardo museum. The Islamic site of Kairouan, ancient medinas of Sfax and Tunis and fascinating Berber villages of the Sahara make this a wonderful journey of contrasting architecture, culture and peoples. We continue into Libya and concentrate on the spectacular cities of classical antiquity that cover the western Mediterranean coast as well as the contrasting Berber culture to the south. The highlight of the tour is Leptis Magna and we allow a full day to fully appreciate this vast and incredibly well preserved ancient wonder. We also journey into the interior to visit the Berber settlements and distinctive troglodyte architecture in the Jebel Nafusa and to the desert town of Ghadames with its fascinating mud-brick architecture and recent UNESCO world heritage status. In Tripoli we visit the collection of antiquities in the excellent Jamahiriya Museum and explore its fascinating old Medina



The Roman Forum at Dougga
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Day 1 Fly to Tunis – Friday 1 May

Early afternoon flight departure from London Gatwick with British Airways direct to Tunis. Transfer to the Diplomat hotel, centrally located close to the city's old medina, for two nights (D)

Day 2 In Tunis – Saturday 2 May

We start at the ruins of ancient Carthage, founded by the Phoenicians in 814 BC that became one of the most important cities in the Roman Empire before a visit to the excellent Bardo museum with its unique collection of mosaics from the most famous sites of classical Tunisia. In the late afternoon we visit the picturesque village of Sid Bou Said featuring dazzling white house, blue shutters and studded doors and enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant overlooking the Mediterranean (B,D)

Day 3 Visit Carthage. Drive Kairouan – Sunday 3 May

We spend the morning at the magnificent Roman city of Dougga, with its wonderful selection of temples and spectacular hilltop location. We continue to the holy city of Kairouan and have a tour of the old medina including the Great Mosque. Overnight at the La Kasbah hotel (B,D)

Day 4 Visit El Djem. Drive to Sfax – Monday 4 May

The largest in North Africa and reminiscent of the Coliseum of Rome, El Djem's Roman Amphitheatre is one of Tunisia's finest attractions. After a break for lunch we continue to the ancient city of Sfax with its great walled medina. We have a tour through its narrow streets with an atmosphere of time gone-by. Overnight and dinner at the hotel Mercure (B,D)

Day 5 Drive to Tataouine via Matmata. Visit Ksour region – Tuesday 5 May

We journey south to the area of Matmata famous for its fascinating troglodyte houses or underground cave dwellings, carved into the soft sandstone. We continue to Tataouine and visit the unique Ksour

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(fortified villages) of southern Tunisia and learn about the Berber people who live there. We include Ouled Soltane, the most picturesque and best-preserved Ksar. Overnight at the Sanghoo hotel (B,D)

Day 6 Drive to Tripoli, Libya via Sabratha – Wednesday 6 May

We drive to the border with Libya before meeting our Libyan escort and driver team. We spend the afternoon at Sabratha, famous for its largely intact and stunning Roman theatre, before continuing to our hotel in the capital, Tripoli. Two nights at the three star Yosser hotel. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

Day 7 Visit Leptis Magna – Thursday 7 May

A full day at one of the most spectacular ruined cities in the world, Leptis Magna. Wandering alone through these spectacularly well-preserved ruins on such a grand scale is one of the major highlights of the tour. We return to Tripoli in the late afternoon and enjoy a fish dinner at a local restaurant (B,L,D)

Day 8 Visit Jebel Nafusa. Drive to Yefren – Friday 8 May

Today we explore the Jebel Nafusa area starting at the fortified granary of Qasr Al Haj . We continue to Tarmessa, an ancient Berber settlement dramatically set perched on a cliff top. We visit one of the famous Berber built underground houses at Ruhaibat and enjoy a home-cooked Berber lunch. We continue south to Yefren and overnight at the Yefren hotel (B,L,D)

Day 9 Drive to Ghadames – Saturday 9 May

This morning we visit the well preserved fortified grain stores at Kabaw. Our destination is the oasis town of Ghadames where we spend two nights at the Dar Ghadames hotel (B,L,D)

Day 10 In Ghadames – Sunday 10 May

We have a full day visiting this World Heritage site celebrated for its inventive mudbrick architecture and atmospheric medina. We have lunch in a traditionally decorated Ghadames house (B,L,D)

Day 11 Drive to Tripoli – Monday 11 May

A long but interesting return drive north brings us to Nalut, spectacularly situated clinging to a steep escarpment with stunning views across the plains. Here we can visit another exceptional Berber granary but quite unique in its design. We continue to Tripoli for a two night stay at the Yosser hotel. Dinner in a local restaurant (B,L,D)

Day 12 In Tripoli – Tuesday 12 May

This morning we have a tour of some of Tripoli's historic sites - the Arch of Aurelius, the magnificent Gurgi mosque and the fascinating Ottoman house of the Qaramanli family. The afternoon is left free to wandering through Tripoli's bustling souq and old medina at one's own pace. We have a farewell dinner at a smart fish restaurant (B,L,D)

Day 13 In Tripoli. Fly London – Wednesday 13 May

A morning at leisure to return to the old medina before we transfer to the airport for our afternoon return flight with British Airways direct to London Heathrow Terminal 5 arriving in the evening (B)

Cost £1695.00 per person in a twin room (excluding international flights) Single supplement charge £250



Price includes:

- ▶ Tour accompanied from London by Patrick Syder
- ▶ Led by specialist Tunisian and Libyan guides
- ▶ All transportation in private a/c buses
- ▶ Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees
- ▶ Comfortable local four star hotels in Tunisia on half board
- ▶ Best available private hotels in Libya on full board
- ▶ Traditional restaurant dinners in Tunis and Tripoli
- ▶ All departure and government taxes
- ▶ All airport transfers
- ▶ Porter, hotel and restaurant staff gratuities
- ▶ Bottled water daily

Not included – visa fees, travel insurance, lunches in Tunisia, drinks, guide and driver gratuities, British Airways international flights (cost from £300.00 with Polani Travel ATOL 5311)