Desert & Djerba island *4 days*

4 Days Sahara and Djerba island Tour

Overview : The 4 days private tour from Tunis to Djerba through Tozeur's oasis & Chebika Falls is ideal for a couple or solo, including the visit of Kairouan, the world heritage Islamic city and El Jem Unesco site, crossing the prehistoric vast salty of chott el-Jerid and Tameghza oasis and falls then spend a night in Sahara of Douz, last night into Djerba island.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS :

- ✓ Spend all nights at 4-star hotels.
- ✓ Visit Chebika and Tameghza oasis, and enjoy its picturesque Waterfalls.
- ✓ Cross the mammoth salt-pan of chott-Jerid and admire the most surreal scenery attractions in Tunisia.
- ✓ Trek by Quad in Djerba, explore its incredibly turquoise waters and watch the color-changing sunset on the beach.
- ✓ Visit both the legendary world heritage site of El-Jem and the holy world heritage city of Kairouan.
- ✓ Visit the military museum of the Mareth line 1943.
- ✓ Visit the Jewish Synagogue of Ghriba, and enjoy the coexistence into the island.
- ✓ Admire the sight of the large hills throw the Sahara desert.

Included :

- ✓ Entrance fees to monuments;
- ✓ 1 bottle of mineral water (1.5 liter) per person ;
- ✓ Transport by air-conditioned private car;

Extra :

- ✓ Tips & Personal expenses ;
- ✓ Quad excursion in Djerba
- ✓ Lunch;
- ✓ Professional guide.

Starting point : Your hotel in Tunis or Hammamet or Sousse.

Departure times: between 8 and 8:30 a.m. **Duration :** 4 Days.

Itinerary :

Day -1- : Tunis → Kairouan → Tozeur :

Medina of Kairouan : Founded in 670, Kairouan flourished under the Aghlabid dynasty in the 9th century. Despite the transfer of the political capital to Tunis in the 12th century, Kairouan remained the Maghreb's principal holy city. Its rich architectural heritage includes the Great Mosque, with its marble and porphyry columns, and the 9th-century Mosque of the Three Gates has allowed the city to inscribed in the world heritage list UNESCO. We will spend there 2 hours walking around Kairouan's old Medina, admiring The great mosque, Zawiya of Sidi Sahâb and The three-door mosque. The tour into Kairouan will be finished by tasting traditional Tunisian lunch into a Tourist Restaurant. ***Duration: 3 hours. Admission Ticket Included.***

The Great Mosque of Kairouan : It is undoubtedly the oldest Islamic religious building erected in the Muslim West. It was in 670, during the first campaign for the annexation of Ifriqiya to the nascent Muslim Empire. After having chosen, at the edge of the mountainous foothills of the north of the country, the location of the "cantonment" - al qayrawân - in which he installed his troops in the wake of a first victorious offensive, General Okba Ibn Nafaa hastened to erect there a seat for the government of the Ifriqiya province and oratory in mud bricks which, in the ninth century, after several rearrangements and with a few details, will appear as we know today at the Great Mosque. A singular monument, that this Great Mosque of Kairouan, whose perfect harmony perfectly hides an architectural "syncretism" unique in its kind. The materials which were used for its construction all come, indeed, from ancient sites belonging to various times before the Islamic conquest, while the general appearance of the building, in particular, the minaret, reflects a distant oriental influence. The whole forms an original whole, with sober features but not devoid of elegance. As for interior decoration, we must speak of exuberance: a real explosion of geometric and floral patterns carved in fine marble that decorates the facade of the mihrâb, the niche that indicates the direction of Mecca, or engraved in the panels of precious woods that make up the minbar, pulpit for preaching. ***Duration: 30 minutes. Admission Ticket Included.***

Accommodation: One night with dinner and breakfast at a 4-star hotel in Tozeur.

Meals: Dinner & Breakfast.

Day -2- : Chebika & Tamaghza falls → Chott ElJerid → Sahara Douz :

Chebika : Chebika is close to the town of Tamerza, in the Djerid region of southwest Tunisia. It lies just a couple of miles from the border with Algeria. It is a small mountain oasis town surrounded by a dry and arid desert region, just north of the salt lakes or Chotts. Chebika is usually reached first, en route to Tamerza. These oasis towns are dramatic with its rugged rocks and steep-sided ravines. Chebika lies at the foot of the mountains of the Djebel el Negueb and is so exposed to the sun that is known as Qasr el-Shams, which means Castle of the Sun. It was once a Roman outpost, called 'Ad Speculum' and was a mountain refuge of the Berber people. Despite its remote desert location, Chebika still receives plenty of tourists to see the impressive collection of rock formations, waterfalls, and steep narrow gorge. The scenery is quite impressive with many jagged pink-colored rock formations. The palm trees in the ravine thrive where their roots have found a water source. A footpath leads down to an amazing pool of azure water with an attractive waterfall that cascades down to a small stream. The gorge was originally formed by a source of water that carved these amazing natural formations and created a natural mountain oasis. ***Duration: 1 hour. Admission Ticket Included.***

Tamerza : Tamerza is 14 kilometers north of Chebika, near the border with Algeria, it was an ancient Roman and episcopal defensive position in the Byzantine era. Like Chebika, the primitive village was abandoned after devastating rains (there are still its ruins) in 1969, its inhabitants settled in a new location (New Tamerza) located a little west. Tamerza is a balcony suspended above the Sahara Desert and the largest mountain oasis in Tunisia. The main tourist attraction is 2 kilometers before reaching the village, the road descends through a landscape of red mountains and rocky ridges between gorges and deep ravines: it is the Tamerza canyon. The landscape changes color as the day progresses. A path filled with souvenir stalls leads us to the "big waterfall" whose waters come from the Khanga river. It is great merit to find a waterfall in the desert and in this inhospitable landscape ... Over there, some scenes from the film "The English Patient" as well as biblical films were filmed. ***Duration: 1 hour. Admission Ticket Included.***

Chott ElJerid : One of the most surreal scenery attractions in Tunisia, the Chott el Djerid is a long day trip from Djerba but worth it for anyone who wants to visit this bizarre natural formation. This mammoth salt-pan stretches for kilometers, it surfaces an unearthly shimmering bluish-white crust of salt. In some places, the salt has crystallized into bizarrely shaped pinnacles or clusters of multi-colored deposits. Springtime visitors are particularly in luck and should be able to spot the flamingos that breed here, building their nests and raising their young before flying off again by July. ***Duration: 3 hours. Admission Ticket Included.***

Accommodation: One night with dinner and breakfast at a 4-star hotel in Douz.

Meals: Dinner & Breakfast.

Day -3- : Douiret → Matmata → Djerba island :

Toujane : Occupying a cave-like room on the top of a mountain Escale de Toujane, represents an excellent vantage point that will give you an insight into the geography of the region. This little souvenir shop and cafe overlooks a hilly desert traversed by dry river beds and a small picturesque village. Admire the sight of the large hills. ***Duration: 45 minutes. Admission Ticket Included.***

Matmata : t looks like a lunar landscape: bare hills and gaping craters where, from a distance, life seems absent… but which, in reality, are inhabited by the people of the Matmata mountains. These Berber people have taken up residence underground, in rooms dug in the soft rock. An old tradition that offers a haven of freshness during summer heat waves. Around Matmata, other Berber villages are built on the hillside, and some rooms are carved into the soft rock. The villagers cultivate small gardens there thanks to the runoff of rainwater. Their home port is Gabès, an oasis by the sea. ***Duration: 40 minutes. Admission Ticket Included.***

Guellala museum : The museum of Guellala is truly local and is rich in Djerba history, it shows how the island's industries and crafts are worked on and the extremely interesting ceremonies regarding marriage in Djerba, this museum will definitely give a traveler some insight into the strange island of Djerba. ***Duration: 1 hour. Admission Ticket Included.***

ElGhriba Synagoque : The Synagogue is Djerba's most prominent reminder of the island's vibrant Jewish community, which has now disappeared. Although not particularly impressive from the outside and not that old either (the synagogue was built in the 1920s), this site has a history that goes back much further. One local story says that a holy stone (perhaps a meteorite) fell to earth here denoting the site's religious importance. The interior of the synagogue has fine paneling and contains important and valuable old Torah scrolls. Every year, 33 days after Easter, La Ghriba is the scene of the Maghreb's (North Africa's) most important Jewish pilgrimage. ***Duration: 30 minutes. Admission Ticket Included.***

Accommodation: One night with dinner and breakfast at a 4-star hotel in Djerba.

Meals: Dinner & Breakfast.

Day -4- : **Military museum of Mareth line → Amphitheater and museum of ElJem UNESCO → Tunis or Sousse :**
Military museum of Mareth Line : The Mareth Line was a series of fortifications built by the French to protect their protectorate of Tunisia from an Italian invasion from Libya. During World War II Rommel refortified the Mareth Line during his retreat from Egypt after his defeat at El Alamein. The Mareth Line was eventually outflanked and Rommel had to continue his retreat. The museum has detailed plans for the battle and some artifacts. Outside there are artillery pieces, bunkers and old trenches. ***Duration: 20 minutes. Admission Ticket Included.***
Amphitheatre of ElJem : It is the Roman monument of North Africa, by far the most imposing, its round and massive silhouette rises in a flat and desert plain which lets it see at very long distance, and this, all the more easily as The locality that developed around the building avoided high-rise constructions. It is also one of the best-preserved works of its kind, despite the many vicissitudes it has gone through over time, in particular, the severe bombardment with a cannonball that it suffered at the end of the 17th century for To dislodge a rebel tribe which had entrenched there, which caused a great breach in the side of the building. Almost elliptical in shape, the monument is 149 m long by 124 m wide and 36m high. The stands, now disappeared and partially reconstituted, could accommodate up to 30,000 spectators, which ranks this building in 7th position after those of Rome, Capua, Milan, Autun, Verona, and Carthage. The arena, 65m long in its main axis, is crossed in the basement by two large galleries through which actors, wild animals, and machines arrived which could be confined in two series of eight underground cells. Long reduced to the role of the historic monument only, the Coliseum of El Jem has been used for almost two decades as a cultural space hosting, in summer, the El Jem symphonic music festival and other artistic events. ***Duration: 40 minutes. Admission Ticket Included.***
Archaeological museum of ElJem : Specialists recommend visiting this museum before those of the other remains of the ancient city of Thysdrus - today, El Jem -. It is that this space collects many architectural elements that went into the decoration of the sumptuous residences and public buildings Thysdritains, in particular, the dazzling pavements of mosaics, undoubtedly among the most beautiful of Roman Antiquity. The museum was set up on the site of a Roman villa whose spatial organization it restores: a central courtyard surrounded by a peristyle - covered courtyard - which gives access to the rooms. There are exhibited objects - sculptures, mosaic paintings, ceramics, etc. - from excavation campaigns carried out in Thysdrus as well as in the vicinity of the city. Recently, this space has been enriched by a new wing which illustrates very eloquently the richness and diversity of the crafts of the Roman era. The museum gives direct access to an "archaeological park" including the remains of the villa known as the peacock and Sollertiana, a superb patrician house that retains many of its mosaic pavements in situ. In the same area, life-size reconstruction was carried out of "the house of Africa", a sumptuous aristocratic residence built around the years 170 AD. J.C. accidentally discovered in the 1990s and which derives its name from two mosaic paintings featuring, in their central medallion, one the goddess Africa, the other the province of Africa, the only known representations of the African continent. ***Duration: 1 hour. Admission Ticket Included.***
Accommodation: Not included. **Meals:** Breakfast.

Additional Info:

- ✓ Wheelchair accessible ;
- ✓ Stroller accessible ;
- ✓ Infants must sit on laps ;
- ✓ Service animals allowed ;
- ✓ Not recommended for travelers with back problems ;
- ✓ This is a private tour/activity. Only your group will participate ;
- ✓ Most travelers can participate.

Rates : per person : **from 855 €**