



### **In the footsteps of Queen Dido, Ulysses, Sir Winston Churchill and even Luke Skywalker!**

The first thing we want to say is that we've just returned from our first trip to Tunisia, we're enchanted and we're determined to go back!

We succumbed to one of long trips that Canadian tour operators have begun offering in recent years. Tunisia is not a country that you go to for a one-week vacation. But since you can have four or five weeks there for the price of a one- or two-week all-inclusive package in the Caribbean, why not go? We suspect these bargains won't last long!

#### **The country**

Located in the middle of the Mediterranean Basin, Tunisia is well known for its pleasant

year-round climate and seaside resorts (the summers are very hot and the winters are mild with an average temperature of 15oC). When we visited in February, the temperature averaged 20oC. And we set about discovering a small country that offers many treasures and a cultural richness we had hardly suspected.

### Small but varied

The Cap Bon peninsula, in the north of the country, offers rolling green fields, olive and citrus groves and vineyards; as you travel southward towards the border with Algeria, the vegetation becomes scarce and eventually yields to a majestic desert.

Tunisia's culture has been forged by its 3,000 years of heritage and bears the traces of many cultures:

We'd like to share with you some of our best and most fascinating discoveries, which elicited the occas

In the north, there's the **Kerkouane**, where excavations have revealed an entire city as it w

You won't want to miss **Carthage**, the ancient Phoenician city founded by Queen Dido, w

**Tunis**, the capital of the country, has all the attractions of a modern city. The city is la

The small village of **Sidi Bou Saïd** is a prime tourist attraction, with its many souvenir sho

Heading south toward **El Djem** we visited a Roman amphitheatre from the second cen

### The desert and its oases

**Gabès**, a seaside oasis, and **the island of Djerba**. You'll want to stroll around **Matma**

**Douz** , **Tozeur** and the crossing of **Chott E**

**Metlaoui** , the location for scenes from *The English Patient*, is a fine example of a mount

### **A Muslim country but...**

Islam is Tunisia's main and official religion, but the country is known for its tolerance and openness to c

Tunisia is a safe country that coexists peacefully with its neighbours, and it shows. The country's gover

Women can walk about safely without being harassed. Of course, people will say hello and offer to sho

The country has created a "tourist police." A police officer who encounters a Tunisian man w

### **Crafts**

The country is known for its many crafts. Tunis and Nabeul are recognized for their pottery and Kairoua

And, above all, say yes at least once to the vendors who offer small bouquets of jasmine at the corner

### **Cuisine**

You'll eat well in Tunisia, even though there isn't much variety. Tunisian cuisine is essentially b

You'll save on wine and beer, which are available but not offered automatically. Don't forget you're in a

### **Celebrations and festivals**

Various celebrations and festivals take place around the country but, in our opinion, one of the most app

### **Getting around**

You can of course rent a car, but we recommend taking public transit (train and bus), which is efficient a

Automated banking machines are easy to find, even in small towns, and they accept debit cards and cre

### **Getting there**

Several tour operators, including Tour Solazur, Sultana Tours, Exotic Tours, Rêvateurs, Jolivac and mor

Christiane Theberge



Hammamet Beach



Kerkouane, Punic city



Sidi Bou Saïd



El Djem Coliseum



Star Wars set



Matmata



Hammamet Market

