



# Tunisia

216 / POP 10.67 MILLION

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Dar Slah (p170)
- ➔ Au Bon Vieux Temps (p171)
- ➔ Patisserie Segni (p175)
- ➔ Saffoud Abid (p181)
- ➔ Bougainvillea (p189)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ La Chambre Bleue (p169)
- ➔ Dar Fatma (p171)
- ➔ Dar Gaïa (p189)
- ➔ Dar Nejma (p183)
- ➔ Camping Desert Club (p186)

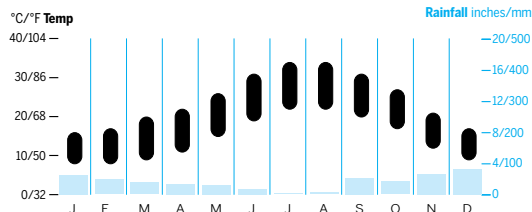
## Why Go?

It's but a slim wedge of North Africa's vast expanse, but Tunisia has enough history, cultural diversity and extremes of landscape to fill a country many times its size. With a sand-fringed, jasmine-scented coast, it's a destination usually equated with Mediterranean sun holidays. But get beyond the beaches and you'll find stunning Roman sites, forested hinterland, Saharan dunes and mountain oases, all of which can be experienced in a few days.

The country's tourist sector has struggled mightily since the historic Jasmine Revolution of 2011. Isolated incidents of instability grab international headlines, but it's essentially business as usual. Tunis, the capital, continues to offer an enthralling mix of tradition and modernity, Islamic serenity and seaside hedonism. Surprisingly, while much of the tourist industry founders, there's a number of new guesthouses and small hotels popping up throughout the country. Now, more than ever, Tunisians will welcome you with open arms.

## When to Go

### Tunis



**Mar–May** Explore Roman ruins and hike the wildflower-strewn countryside.

**Jun–Sep** Balmy beach frolics and music festivals.

**Nov–Jan** The Saharan south's high season.

## Tunisia Highlights

**1** Kick back in gorgeous bougainvillea-clad village **Sidi Bou Said** (p171), with its nonstop views of the intensely blue Gulf of Tunis.

**2** Take in the splendour of Roman Africa, the mysteries of Carthage and the elegance of Islamic decoration all in one museum at Tunis' **Bardo** (p167).

**3** Find desert-island bliss on **Jerba** (p186), with date palms, white-sand beaches, evocative architecture and ancient cultural traditions.

**4** Sip mint tea in the cool of an enchanting palmeraie in **Tozeur** (p182), a bustling southern oasis.

**5** Slow down and experience traditional Tunisian life in **Le Kef** (p173), against a spectacular natural backdrop.

