



Country Intelligence Brief

Tunisia

Overall Risk Rating

3.00 - Moderate

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Ratings Overview

Security

3.00 - Moderate

Civil Unrest	3.50
Crime	3.00
Kidnapping	2.00
Terrorism	3.25
Armed Conflict	3.00
Security Services	4.00

Infrastructure

2.75 - Moderate

Ground Transport	3.00
Cyber	3.00
Maritime	3.25
Air Travel	2.50
Utilities	3.00

Environment

3.00 - Moderate

Man-Made Hazards	3.00
Seismic	3.00
Storm Systems	3.00
Natural Hazards	3.00

Health and Medical

3.00 - Moderate

Disease and Health Threats	2.25
Medical Facilities and Services	3.50
Mental Health	3.50
Food and Water Safety	2.25

Political

3.00 - Moderate

Corruption	3.25
Government Stability	3.25
Rule of Law	3.00
Sanctions	2.00

LGBTQ Security

4.00 - High

LGBTQ Legal Environment	4.00
LGBTQ Enforcement	4.00
LGBTQ Social Environment	4.00

FactBox

Location	Tunisia
Government Type	Presidential republic
Population	12,277,109 (2024)
Languages	Official Language: Arabic. Other languages that are considered official or widely spoken: French, Berber (Tamazight). Languages that should only be used discreetly: None.
International Country Code	+216
Time Zones	UTC+1
Traffic	Drives on the right
Drinking Water	Not safe to drink

Overview

3.00 - Moderate

The Republic of Tunisia is located in North Africa, stretching from Cape Angela at its northernmost point, to the inner Sahara Desert in the south. It borders Algeria to the west and Libya to the east. Tunisia offers a more stable operating environment than many of its neighbors, but potential security risks to travelers remain.

The government had been relatively stable despite transition and democracy-related challenges, until July 2021, when President Kais Saied dismissed the country's prime minister and suspended parliament following nationwide protests. Saied's opponents widely condemned this move as a coup. In mid-2022, the Tunisian government organized a referendum to change the constitution and codify the president's hold over key institutions. While most opposition parties boycotted the referendum, the new constitution was adopted despite a 30.5 percent turnout. Tunisia held its first presidential election under the new constitution in October 2024. Saied was reelected with 91 percent of the votes, despite a turnout of 29 percent, the lowest since the 2011 Revolution. The election was largely boycotted by opposition parties, and marked by repression targeting opposition figures and journalists during the campaign. Of the other two qualifying candidates announced in September 2024, one was sentenced to 12 years in prison days before the vote.

The threat from terrorism has significantly declined in recent years due to increased counterterrorism investment and capabilities. Nonetheless, a state of emergency has been in effect since the terrorist attacks that took place in 2015. While Tunis has periodically been targeted by militant attacks, terrorist operations remain concentrated in the central-western highlands near the Algerian border. The southern border is a designated militarized zone due to cross-border smuggling, terrorist activities and the threat of spillover from Libya. Deteriorating security conditions in Libya has led to a bolstering of defensive measures along the Tunisian military buffer zone and maritime territories.

Lone wolf terror attacks also present a persistent threat in Tunis and other strategic areas. Regional tensions, such as the Israel-Hamas conflict have heightened the risk of lone-wolf attacks, with militant groups such as the Islamic State (IS), having encouraged attacks targeting Israeli, Western, or Jewish interests, including in Tunisia. Counterterrorism and security efforts have been prioritized, particularly in tourist-dense areas. Other potential targets include government and police buildings, transport hubs, embassies, shopping centers, and hotels.

Most crimes committed against travelers include petty theft, such as bag-snatching and pickpocketing. While most incidents remain nonconfrontational, criminals may resort to violence if resisted. Violent crime, including physical assault and murder, are rare but do occur. Unemployment, corruption, and unpopular government reforms are common drivers for civil and labor unrest, particularly in Tunis and economically marginalized areas. Demonstrations can occasionally disrupt travel and turn violent.

Overland road travel presents the most common threat to travelers, particularly those unfamiliar with local road and driving conditions. Tunisia is periodically affected by droughts, flooding, and sandstorms. Medical care is adequate for routine services.

Security

3.00 - Moderate

Civil Unrest is frequent in major urban centers, driven by President Kais Saied's authoritarian policies and socioeconomic grievances. While many gatherings remain peaceful, demonstrations can also see varying degrees of violence, ranging from burning tires and blocking roads to damaging government facilities and attacking security forces.

Petty crime is common in major cities, particularly in tourist-dense area, and presents primarily as petty, economically driven crime such as street theft, pickpocketing, and bag snatching. Violent crime, while rare, remains a possibility.

Militant attacks have occurred periodically in Tunisia, despite the heightened security presence. Security operations against militants often occur in the Jendouba, Kasserine, Sidi Bouzid, and Kef governorates, as well as areas along the Algerian and Libyan borders. The threat of conflict spillover from Libya in southern and southeastern border areas persists. Counterterrorism and security efforts have been prioritized, particularly near tourist areas. Nonetheless, the potential for one-off attacks remains.

Primary targets include police, military, and government assets, though terrorist groups may also target places visited by foreigners and places of worship. Pick-pocketing and bag-snatching are often reported in cities. Violent crime, including assaults, against foreigners is rare. Unemployment, corruption, and unpopular government reforms are drivers of civil and labor unrest. Clashes between the police and protesters can result in injuries and property damage. Smuggling and illegal immigration are also common issues, particularly in the south.

Civil Unrest

3.50

Tunisia is highly susceptible to civil and labor unrest. Protests frequently occur over socioeconomic policies perceived as unfair. Unemployment and housing insecurity are the primary drivers of unrest across the interior and southern governorates of Kasserine, Ben Gardane, Kef, Gafsa, Tataouine, Sidi Bouzid, Medenine, and Tunis.

Exogenous shocks, including the war in Ukraine, have worsened Tunisia's long-standing economic problems by raising food and energy import costs, increasing pressure on public finances and external accounts, and contributing to social unrest. High unemployment rates, inflation, and shortages of basic goods have prompted labor unions, consumers, students, and business owners to organize frequent strikes and protests. While most protests have remained peaceful, associated violence has fueled concerns about Tunisia's long term socio-political stability.

President Saied's government and authoritarian tendencies have also contributed significantly to recent unrest. Since his election, Saied has largely bypassed democratic institutions by ruling through decree, dissolving the Parliament, and dismissing the prime minister. Constitutional changes in 2022, passed despite a 30.5 percent turnout in referendum, have entrenched Saied's control by creating a presidential system and gutting the power of the Parliament and many Tunisian institutions. Continuous crackdowns on civic spaces, including opposition leaders, journalists and civil society organizations characterize Saied's approach to governance. The 2024 elections illustrated this dynamic when Saied won 91 percent of the vote despite a historically low turnout of just 29 percent.

Labor protests and industrial action occur with some frequency. The Tunisian General Union of Labor (UGTT) is the most prominent trade union and can organize large demonstrations and strikes. Workers can disrupt production in the mining, chemicals, manufacturing, and energy sectors from a few days to a few weeks at a time. Union action can also have severe effects on both air and overland travel. Key flashpoints for environmental protests are industrialized urban areas in governorates, such as Gabes and Gafsa. Residents can block transport routes around the contentious facility. The UGTT has political ambitions, and large-scale strike action remains a pertinent threat to business operations.

Protests tend to occur on weekends and prominent national dates, concentrating in major urban centers such as Tunis, and typically congregating around government buildings or other symbolic locations. Demonstrations can see varying degrees of violence, ranging from burning tires and blocking roads to vandalism and clashes with security forces. Police crackdowns have also occurred, with law enforcement employing anti-riot tactics such as tear gas, arrests and roadblocks to disperse protestors. Cordoning off demonstration locations is also common practice. Though foreigners are unlikely to be targeted by protestors, demonstrations still present a collateral threat.

Tunisia has also become a gateway for migration networks trying to reach Europe, prompting a migrant crisis in coastal cities. Protests opposed to migrants and violence have erupted in port cities such as Sfax. In July 2023, Tunisian security forces detained a large number of Sub-Saharan African nationals, and expelled approximately 2,000 individuals to locations near Tunisia's borders with Libya and Algeria. In May 2024, Tunisian authorities initiated a repressive crackdown on civil society organizations, arresting members of at least 12 NGOs working on migration and refugee rights.

Protests can also occur in response to regional developments, such as the Israel-Palestine conflict. Perceived insults towards Islam may also trigger unrest. Heightened caution should also be maintained if attending a football match due to the threat of conflict between fans and security forces.

Crime
● 3.00

Crime presents a moderate risk, with most reported incidents against travelers involving petty, opportunistic crime such as street theft, pickpocketing, and bag snatching. While most incidents remain non-confrontational, criminals may resort to violence if resisted. High-risk areas for crime include crowded locations such as bars and nightclubs, beach resorts, transport hubs, and markets. Travelers may be targeted due to perceived wealth, unfamiliarity with their surroundings, or other visible markers that draw attention. Notably, reports of thieves on scooters targeting individuals wearing clothing, jewelry or goods perceived as expensive have emerged.

More serious crimes, such as armed robbery, can also occur. Attackers are typically armed with bladed weapons – such as knives or machetes – rather than a firearm. Assaults, vehicle theft, and vehicle break-ins have occurred against foreign travelers, as well as burglaries of expatriate premises, particularly in Tunis. Bars and nightclubs can be frequented by undesirable characters touting sexual services. Overpriced food and beverages are widely reported in tourist areas, and can be accompanied by threatening behavior. Those who refuse to pay over-inflated tabs may face a risk of aggression. Harassment of foreign women, including unwanted physical contact, appears to be increasing. The highest crime areas in the country are in the provinces of Greater Tunis, Sousse, Sfax, Nabeul, and Tataouine.

Weapon trafficking originating from Libya and the Sahel through Tunisia represents a significant security concern, as it supplies militants with small arms that with which to launch attacks. Additionally, Tunisia is increasingly serving as a transit hub for people-smuggling operations facilitating migration to Europe.

Kidnapping
● 2.00

The threat of kidnapping in Tunisia is low for travelers, with locals or migrants most likely to be targeted. Since 2023, there has been a notable increase of kidnappings-for-ransom of migrants, particularly sub-Saharan migrants, from urban areas such as Sfax, Sousse, and greater Tunis. The Kasserine-Sfax corridor has reportedly emerged as a hotspot for such activities. This is primarily due to an expansion of criminal groups and organized networks preying on migrant flows for financial gain. Political kidnappings are also relatively common, victims facing the threat of injury or death during confinement.

Terrorism
● 3.25

Terrorism presents a moderate risk. Tunisia has improved its counter-terrorism capabilities after several major attacks against police, citizens, and foreign nationals in recent years. Though the security situation has stabilized significantly since 2015, authorities regularly report disrupting planned attacks and terrorist cells. In addition, the country's borders remain porous and continue to experience heightened levels of militant activity.

Intensified counter-terrorism efforts since 2015 have reduced the likelihood of mass-casualty terrorist attacks. The Tunisian government then declared a state of emergency following a series of high-profile attacks, including suspected Islamic State (IS) attacks near Sousse and Tunis' s Bardo Museum that killed 60 people, including foreign tourists. Despite the improved security environment, intermittent suicide and lone-wolf attacks by self-radicalized individuals continue to pose a threat. In June 2019, IS claimed responsibility for twin suicide bombings targeting police in Tunis. The French and American Embassies were the victims of similar terror attacks in 2019 and 2020. In May 2023, the El Ghriba Synagogue was the target of a lone wolf terror attack that killed four and injured several others.

Porous borders with Libya remains a concern despite improvements, including the completion of a 200km (125mi) long berm on the border. In July 2025, Tunisia extended its military buffer zone along the Libyan border for an additional year, citing growing security concerns linked to instability in western Libya.

There is a heightened threat from terrorism in the Ghardimaou Mountains in the northeast, where the al-Qaeda affiliate Katiba Uqba ibn Nafi (KUIN) group is known to operate. The remoteness, steep terrain, and lack of infrastructure have hampered counter-terrorism operations in

the area. IS affiliate Jund al-Khilafah-Tunisia (JAK-T) is also active in Tunisia, occasionally conducting small-scale attacks on security personnel, though few major attacks have been recorded since the January and March 2020 improvised explosive device (IED) attacks on Tunisian military vehicles. Nonetheless, minor clashes between security forces and militants occur periodically.

Further shooting and IED attacks remain a possibility, particularly in Kasserine, Kef, Ben Guerdane, Kairouan, Sidi Bouzid, Ariana, Medenine, Sfax, Gafsa, and Tunis. Potential targets for attack include tourist sites, synagogues, government buildings, the police and military, energy infrastructure, and diplomatic missions.

Armed Conflict

● 3.00

Tunisia maintains relatively positive relationships with its neighboring countries, making the possibility of interstate conflict very low. Southern Tunisia remains susceptible to conflict spillover from neighboring Libya, which continues to struggle with militia-driven violence. Security forces continue to conduct operations north of Dhehiba to the south of Ras Ajdir. Defensive security measures have been reinforced both on overland and maritime routes. The border at Ras Ajdir has been closed on multiple occasions due to militia clashes in Libya and trade disputes. A militarized zone is enforced in Tataouine Governorate along the Libyan and Algerian borders.

To the west, fighting occasionally takes place between security forces and militant groups positioned in the Mount Chaambi and Mount Salloum area, near the border with Algeria. Security personnel and civilians continue to be killed and wounded in periodic shootings and improvised explosive device (IED) attacks despite ongoing counter-militancy operations.

Militants have also murdered civilians, condemned them as spies, and raided homes to look for food and other supplies. Katiba Uqba ibn Nafi (KUIN), a Tunisian offshoot of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), is known to operate in the country's mountainous northwest. Islamic State (IS) affiliate Jund al-Khilafah-Tunisia (JAK-T) has claimed responsibility for some small-scale attacks and executions.

Security Services

● 4.00

Security forces in Tunisia are generally unreliable. Responsiveness is poor and overall security capabilities are limited. Police in Tunisia typically speak Arabic and French. While French is widely used in business and education, English is less commonly spoken, particularly in rural areas. Though Tunisia has several different security forces, the civil police and paramilitary national guard are likely to be the most relevant for foreign nationals.

Interaction with Travelers

In Tunisia, travelers in need of assistance should contact their diplomatic mission in addition to security forces.

Law Enforcement Reliability

The threat that security forces pose is generally high, particularly in sensitive areas where security levels are heightened. Tunisia's security forces have been criticized for heavy-handed tactics, including rare instances of lethal fire against vehicles deemed suspicious. However, such measures are not typically aimed at foreigners.

Infrastructure

2.75 - Moderate

Aviation safety and security standards may not meet those set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

There are no concerns over overland travel, however, driving at night poses as dangerous.

Access to utilities is good, however, access to clean water in rural areas is a challenge.

Port of Skhira is considered efficient.

Ground Transport

● 3.00

Tunisia's major urban centers are not all connected by high-speed motorway links. There are three main motorways in Tunisia. The A1 Motorway links Tunis, Sousse, and Sfax, the A4 goes north from Tunis up to Bizerte, and the A3 goes from Tunis inland to the city of Beja. Other major roads in Tunisia are usually designated with either a 'P' or 'C' classification and link the main population centers in the country's southern Sahara.

Drivers routinely disregard traffic laws by ignoring signs, signals, and road markings and occasionally driving against oncoming traffic. Roads are shared with bicycles, scooters, motorcycles, and pedestrians, creating additional hazards. Travel in the southern desert areas of Tunisia is challenging, with poorly maintained roads, limited communication services, hot weather, and sand storms. Heavy rain can cause large potholes. The Tunisian National Guard requires persons traveling into the desert areas south of Tataouine to register their travel plans beforehand and obtain a "desert pass" for access.

Police frequently stop cars for inspection, especially rental vehicles. Taxis are generally safe and are available in major towns, although taxi drivers frequently exhibit reckless driving habits. Public buses should generally be avoided due to safety and security issues. Buses are crowded, prone to criminal activity, and drivers often exhibit dangerous driving habits. Rail travel is generally safe, although safety standards tend to be lower than those in Europe and the US.

Local Buses

● Unrated

City buses are available in most urban centers. Intercity bus travel is available between most major cities. City and intercity buses in Tunisia have an average safety record. Petty theft and other criminal activities pose a moderate threat to travelers.

Mass Transit

● Unrated

A metro system is available in Tunis, Tunisia. The system is poorly maintained and may pose security risks. Service hours vary according to route, but trains generally operate 03:00-23:00.

Taxis

● Unrated

Taxis are readily available in Tunisia at official stands outside of airports and train or bus stations, or at organized queues in downtown areas; it is safe to hail a cab on the street. Official taxis are usually yellow. Taxi drivers are generally trustworthy.

Ride-sharing services or vehicles ordered through online apps are available in Tunisia.

Train Travel

● Unrated

Train Safety

Trains in Tunisia have a poor recent safety record. Derailments and rail accidents involving passenger trains occur often. Incidents of petty theft are rare on trains in Tunisia. Rail stations in Tunisia are generally safe.

Reliability and Availability

Tunisia has a medium-sized intercity passenger rail network. Rail travel is available between almost all major cities and many smaller cities and towns. Trains in Tunisia generally run on time.

International Rail Travel

Tunisia has international rail connections with Algeria.

Vehicles and Roads

● Unrated

Road safety conditions and driving habits in Tunisia are generally poor. Traffic in Tunisia drives on the right. Car rentals are available at major airports and urban centers but should be avoided due to dangerous local driving conditions.

International Road Travel

Tunisia has international road connections with Algeria and Libya.

Cyber

● 3.00

Geostrategic Concerns

The cybersecurity environment in Tunisia presents an overall medium level of threat, shaped by the balance between threat activity, institutional capacity, and digital resilience. Tunisia faces moderate exposure to state-linked cyber espionage, with infrequent targeting of government institutions, telecoms, and financial sectors. Broader risks include surveillance, digital disruption, and politically motivated cyber operations, with exposure varying according to political alignment, sector criticality, and infrastructure resilience.

The legal and regulatory environment in Tunisia is evolving, with key measures including the Cybercrime Law (2015), Data Protection Law (Law No. 2004-63), and guidelines issued by the National Agency for Computer Security (ANSI). These laws impose requirements on data protection, breach reporting, and incident response, but their effectiveness is assessed as medium, reflecting selective application and resource constraints. Institutional capacity is provided by ANSI, which ensures partial coordination between government, private sector, and critical infrastructure providers. Overall, domestic digital infrastructure is moderately secure, with protections strongest in financial services and government networks and weakest in SMEs, consumer platforms, and educational institutions.

Cybercrime

Cybercrime in Tunisia is assessed as a medium threat. Common threats include phishing, ransomware, credential theft, online fraud, and business email compromise (BEC) schemes, with small and medium enterprises, government agencies, and critical infrastructure most vulnerable. Tunisia also experiences supply chain compromises, intellectual property theft, and activity from loosely organized cybercriminal groups targeting financial and telecom sectors.

Law enforcement capacity is moderate, with authorities proactive but under-resourced through the National Agency for Computer Security (ANSI) and cybercrime units within the Ministry of Interior. Regulatory enforcement is uneven, and cooperation with international partners is emerging. Systemic resilience depends heavily on institutional resources, public–private coordination, and regional partnerships, while SMEs and consumer platforms remain the most exposed to cyber threats.

Maritime

● 3.25

Tunisia experiences a volatile political context. Its border with Libya increases the risk of disruption caused by migration flows towards Europe. Incidents of illegal boat wreck off the coast of Tunisia have become a pressing concern for the local population and the government. Negotiations with European countries to regulate illegal immigration have been a main issue on President Saied's agenda.

Air Travel

● 2.50

Aviation safety and security standards may not meet those set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Tunisia is not listed in the Federal Aviation Administration's International Aviation Safety Assessment Program (IASA). However, there are no Tunisian airlines on the European Commission's list of airlines banned within the European Union.

Tunisia's principal airport, Tunis-Carthage International Airport (TUN) is 8km (5 miles) northeast of the city. The airport has flights to major destinations throughout Africa, Europe and the Middle East. Facilities include a VIP lounge, ATMs, telephones, 24-hour currency exchange offices, snack bars and restaurants, duty-free shopping, travel agents, first aid and wheelchair accessibility. There are no business facilities at the airport.

The second most frequented airport, Habib Bourguiba International Airport (MIR) is located 8km (5 miles) south-west of Monastir. Other airports include Nefta International (TOE) in Tozeur, Tabarka-Ain Draham International Airport (TBJ) in Tabarka, Thyna International (SFA) in Sfax, Ksar International (GAF) in Gafsa, and Zarzis International (DJE) in Djerba. Clashes in Libya may prompt the closure of Tunisia's western airspace without warning.

Utilities

● 3.00

Socio-economic development, combined with policies based on the subsidization of nearly all types of energy, has led to a steady increase in energy demand over the past two decades. Tunisia's electricity network is operating on a substantial deficit and authorities have warned of increased power cuts. The government has been encouraging the development of private projects in the power generation sector. Nevertheless, the Tunisian Company for Electricity and Gas (STEG) still holds the majority share of transmission, distribution and sale of electricity and gas. There is a renewed focus on renewable energy in order to meet the electricity demand, reduce the energy deficit, and reduce imports of fossil fuels and other sources.

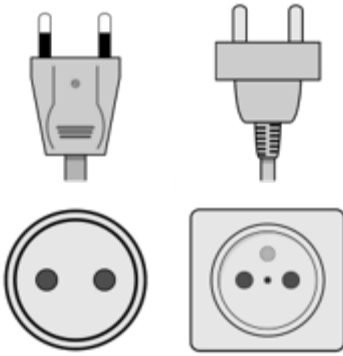
Tunisia has one of the most developed telecommunications networks in North Africa. Nearly 70 percent of the population had access to the Internet in 2022. Tunisia is Africa's sixth-largest mobile market. Coverage is excellent in the northern and central regions of the country, but reception in the desert south is poor to non-existent. Faster data speeds such as 4G tend to be concentrated along the coast with the main population areas.

Electricity

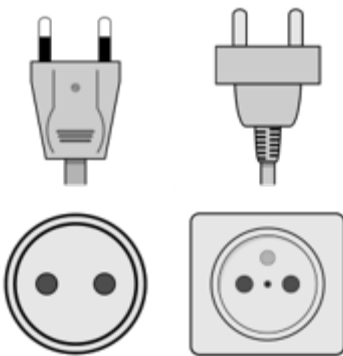
● Unrated

Electricity in Tunisia is supplied at 230 V, 50 Hz. Tunisia uses Type C and E plugs.

Plug Types



Types de prises



Internet and Telecommunications

● Unrated

Internet service in Tunisia is readily available in most private accommodations and internet cafes. Internet activity may be monitored; see Information Security advice sheet.

Environment

3.00 - Moderate

Tunisia has hot and dry summers and mild, rainy winters in northern and central regions. Heavy rain and flooding can result in property damage, fatalities and travel disruption. Storms most severely affect areas across the north, northeast and central areas of the country. Tunisia is not particularly earthquake-prone although low to moderate intensity quakes do occur. Landmines are present in remote border areas.

Man-Made Hazards

● 3.00

The Chaambi Mountain National Park area has been a site of significant security incidents involving improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and landmines, resulting in fatalities and injuries among security personnel and civilians. In recent years, numerous IED incidents have been reported in the Kasserine, Sousse, Kef, and Sidi Bouzid regions. Unexploded ordnance (UXO) may be present at the borders with Libya and Algeria, parts of which have been declared closed military zones due to militia and terrorist activity. The Tunisian Army has planted anti-vehicle mines in four areas along the Tunisian border with Libya (at Ras Jedir, M'guisem, Bir Zar, and M'chiguig) and a fifth area where the borders of Tunisia, Algeria, and Libya meet (at Borj El-Khadhra). In addition, Second World War-era UXO and landmines have also been found in three areas of the country: Mareth, Matmata and Elhamma regions in the south; Kasserine and Faiedh regions in the center; and Cap-Bon in the far north-east.

Seismic

● 3.00

Tunisia's location on the boundary between the Eurasian and African tectonic plates makes the country prone to seismic tremors. Low to moderate seismic activity can occasionally occur in the Monastir region on the central coast of Tunisia. Earthquakes typically range between magnitude four and five and can cause property damage.

Storm Systems

● 3.00

Periodic flooding caused by torrential rain has resulted in the loss of life, the displacement of thousands of Tunisians, and severe economic damage to some parts of the country. Areas across the north, northeast and central areas of the country are the most severely affected. Poorly maintained infrastructure in rural areas, including deteriorated streets and poor drainage systems, compounds the problem. Dust storms and sandstorms originating from the Sahara frequently occur, especially in the south. Severity can range from mild to moderate, affecting road travel due to reduced visibility.

Natural Hazards

● 3.00

Tunisia has three types of climate: the Mediterranean climate in the north, the semi-arid climate in the central regions and a desert climate in the south. The rainy season is between October and May. Annual rainfall ranges from 70 cm (27.5 inches) in the north to 10 cm (4 inches) in the south, although some areas of the Sahara go for years without rain.

Summer temperatures from May until August are very high throughout the country, especially in the south with temperatures reaching 45 C (113 F). Northern and central regions often experience summer temperatures between 29 C (84 F) and 35 C (95 F). In spring and summer, a dry, hot wind called the sirocco blows from the Sahara. Tunisia's climate generates periods of drought that can prove hazardous for traveler health and cause unrest amongst the local population.

The coldest months are between December and February. During this period average temperatures can be around 13 C (55 F) in the northern and central regions and 17 C (64 F) in inland desert areas. It can snow in the Chaambi Mountain National Park area during the winter, as well as other highland regions, which can cause supply shortages and treacherous overland conditions.

Air Quality

● Unrated

Air Quality

Air pollution routinely exceeds recommended thresholds in urban areas. Individuals with asthma or chronic cardiorespiratory conditions should consult with a healthcare provider and carry necessary medications. On days when air quality is particularly poor, affected individuals should take personal precautions to reduce respiratory stress ([map](#)).

Health and Medical

3.00 - Moderate

Medical facilities are generally good in major centers but are usually very limited or unavailable in rural areas. Serious medical cases may require evacuation to a country with more advanced health facilities. Pharmacies are widely available in cities; common medications can be found over the counter. Pharmacies in rural areas may be very basic and some prescription medication may be unavailable. Tap water is not safe to drink.

Major Health Threats

- **Hepatitis A:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Hepatitis A does not always cause symptoms. If they occur, symptoms appear two to six weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice. Intermediate risk in Tunisia.
- **Hepatitis B:** Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids and effectively prevented with vaccination. An unexpected medical or dental emergency may place the unvaccinated traveler at risk. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings are conducted using sterile equipment. Symptoms include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice. Intermediate risk in Tunisia.
- **Hepatitis E:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Symptoms appear two to eight weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, joint pain, and jaundice.
- **HIV/AIDS:** Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings are conducted using sterile equipment. Within two to four weeks of HIV infection, many people, but not all, experience influenza-like illness, including fever, swollen glands, sore throat, rash, fatigue, muscle and joint pains, and headache. These symptoms, also called acute retroviral syndrome (ARS), can last from days to weeks. Without treatment, the infection can lead to AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).
- **Leishmaniasis:** Transmitted through the bites of sandflies. Risk is greatest from dusk to dawn. Cutaneous leishmaniasis is the most common form of *Leishmania* infection, causing skin sores that are usually painless. Visceral leishmaniasis is the second most common; typical symptoms include high fever, substantial weight loss, swelling of the spleen and liver, and anemia. If left untreated, this form of leishmaniasis is nearly 100 percent fatal within two years.
- **Leptospirosis:** Transmitted through exposure or ingestion of water contaminated with the urine of infected animals. Flooding poses an additional risk of contracting leptospirosis. Initial symptoms of leptospirosis typically develop two days to four weeks after exposure. Such symptoms include headache, fever, muscle aches, chills, diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. Those who may be at high risk can take an antibiotic prophylaxis.
- **Rabies:** Transmitted through the saliva of infected wild or domesticated mammals, usually by a bite or scratch. Do not approach unfamiliar animals. Wild and domestic animals pose a threat.
- **Rift Valley Fever:** Transmitted through the bite of a mosquito, contact with infected animals, or ingesting contaminated livestock products, primarily unpasteurized milk. Most cases are asymptomatic or mild, causing influenza-like illness two to six days after exposure. However, a small percentage of people develop severe disease, including hemorrhagic fever, encephalitis, ocular diseases, coma, seizures, and death.
- **Schistosomiasis:** Transmitted via small parasite larvae through exposure to contaminated freshwater bodies. Symptoms include an itchy rash, fever, muscle soreness, and cough. Without treatment, schistosomiasis can persist for years, causing abdominal pain, blood in the urine, problems passing urine, blood in the stool, and an enlarged liver.
- **Traveler's Diarrhea:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. This is the most common illness in travelers. People who become ill by an infectious agent that causes traveler's diarrhea most often experience nausea, vomiting, fever, bloody stools, and/or the urge to constantly pass stools despite an empty gastrointestinal tract. High risk in Tunisia.
- **Tuberculosis:** Transmitted through respiratory droplets released by coughing or sneezing. Individuals planning an extended stay should consider obtaining a PPD skin test to reference against future suspected infections. Symptoms commonly include chest pain, a

bad cough lasting three weeks or longer, and coughing up blood and/or sputum. Some people also experience chills, weight loss, fever, weakness, night sweats, and loss of appetite. Low risk in Tunisia.

- **Typhoid Fever:** Transmitted by contaminated milk, water, and food. Raw fish and shellfish from contaminated waters are likely to be infected. Symptoms of typhoid fever usually include fever, abdominal pain or discomfort, chills and body aches, weakness, and loss of appetite.
- **West Nile Virus:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, mostly between dusk and dawn. Bite prevention is essential. West Nile virus symptoms include fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, and rash. Most people experience no symptoms.

Health Requirements

● Unrated

Yellow Fever: Vaccination Not Required

There are no recommendations or requirements for yellow fever vaccination in Tunisia. There is no risk of yellow fever.

HIV Testing

HIV testing may be required for tourist, work, and/or residence permits. Contact the local embassy for more information.

Health Recommendations

● Unrated

Recommended Immunizations for Travel to Tunisia

Travelers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. You should visit a healthcare professional at least four to six weeks before the trip. Routine vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and the annual flu vaccine. Travelers should consider obtaining COVID-19 vaccination where available, even if the destination country does not require it.

- **Hepatitis A:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Two doses, administered at least six months apart, are required for long-lasting protection. It is recommended that all susceptible people traveling for any purpose, frequency, or duration to countries with high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity be vaccinated or receive immune globulin before departure. A booster is recommended for partially vaccinated travelers.
- **Hepatitis B:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Widely used formulations require three doses administered over the course of six to 18 months, depending on the recipient's age and vaccination history. Booster doses after a complete series are usually not required to maintain immunity. If exposed before finalizing the full series, individuals may receive a special booster within 24 hours for short-term protection.
- **Rabies:** Unless contraindicated, the WHO and CDC recommend vaccination for individuals who will be performing occupational or recreational activities that increase the risk for exposure to potentially rabid animals, such as animal handlers, field biologists, cavers, missionaries, veterinarians, and some laboratory workers. It is also recommended for travelers who might have difficulty getting prompt access to safe post-exposure prophylaxis. Tunisia has reported rabies in domestic animals, thus most travelers are at risk. Bats are likely to carry bat rabies.

- **Typhoid Fever:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated, especially those staying with friends or relatives in endemic areas or visiting smaller cities or rural areas. Widely used formulations require between two and four doses, depending on the formulation and the recipient's vaccination history. Depending on the formulation, booster vaccination is required every two or five years. The last dose should be taken at least one week before travel.

Medical Facilities and Services

 3.50

Tunisia has a mixture of public and private health infrastructure providing care for the whole population. Medical care is adequate in major cities but limited in rural areas. Public hospitals are overcrowded and underequipped, and specialized care or treatments may not be available. Adequate medical care is available in Tunis; however, many public facilities do not meet Western standards, and specialized trauma and intensive care units may not be available. All medical fees, dentist bills, and hospitalizations in private clinics may require a deposit or full payment upfront. Some clinics may accept private insurance coverage if they have a guarantee of payment from the insurance provider. Response times for ambulance services may be slow and may not be available outside major urban areas. Private ambulance services offer a more reliable service. Serious medical cases may require evacuation to a country with a more advanced healthcare system, such as France, Spain, or Italy.

Medications and Pharmacy

 Unrated

Pharmacies across Tunisia are more accessible in major cities and populated areas compared to rural regions. Supply of essential medicines needed by travelers is limited. Prior to travelling confirm the status of your "over the counter" medicines with accredited foreign government offices of Tunisia in your country. Always carry your prescription medication in its original packaging, along with your doctor's prescription and any other relevant documentation.

Mental Health

 3.50

Mental health services are extremely limited and most likely unavailable. Management of all conditions is poor.

Food and Water Safety

 2.25

Drinking water may be unsafe in Tunisia, especially in rural areas. Use only bottled, boiled, or otherwise purified water for drinking and cooking. Do not use ice cubes made from unpurified water sources. Eat only thoroughly cooked food served hot, or fruits and vegetables that you have cleaned and peeled; avoid salads. Consume only pasteurized milk and dairy products, or use powdered or canned milk and cured cheeses. Avoid street vendors and unregulated food establishments.

Political

 3.00 - Moderate

Constitutionally, Tunisia is a parliamentary republic with a semi-presidential representative democratic system. The country's political stability hinges on perceived representation, progress on economic rehabilitation, infrastructure development, and tackling terrorism. In July 2021, President Kais Saied dismissed the country's prime minister, suspended Parliament, and stripped lawmakers of legislative immunity following nationwide demonstrations. The emergency powers have allowed Saied to rule without a prime minister or Parliament until September 2021, when he appointed Najla Bouden Romdhane as the country's first female prime minister. In August 2023, she was replaced by Ahmed Hachani. Saied cited Article 80 of the Constitution – which grants the president emergency powers in the event of an "imminent threat" – as justification for his actions. His opponents have called the move a coup.

In July 2022, through a referendum where only 30.5 percent of the population voted, Saied changed the constitution and created a presidential system, further consolidating his control. These constitutional changes reduced the power of the Parliament and many Tunisian institutions, angering most opposition parties. Saied has also increased his crackdown on opposition leaders, journalists, and civil society activists. On Oct. 6, 2024, Tunisia held its first presidential election under the new constitution. Saied was reelected with 91 percent of the votes, despite a turnout of 29 percent, the lowest since the 2011 Revolution. The election was widely boycotted by opposition parties, and marked by unrest targeting opposition figures and journalists during the campaign, with one of the two other qualifying candidates announced in September 2024, one was sentenced to 12 years in prison days before the vote.

The political elite faces frequent accusations of failing to address economic vulnerabilities and perceived social inequality, triggering an increase in civil unrest. Tunisia's high unemployment rates, inflation and shortages of basic goods have prompted labor unions, consumers, students, and business owners to frequently mobilize to denounce socioeconomic hardships.

Other key institutions remain neglected, notably the failure to formalize the constitutional court's establishment and the broad use of military courts in counterterrorism legislation. The latter is justified through the ongoing state of emergency, imposed since 2015. While law enforcement remains generally effective, it faces credible allegations of corruption and exploiting emergency powers to justify extrajudicial practices.

Corruption

● 3.25

Corruption is a prominent risk to Tunisia's political stability and economic viability. Corruption and favoritism are pervasive to public administration, the practice of *wasta* (the use of connections) entrenches nepotism and cronyism in most sectors.

Bribes within tax and land administrations constitute a problem for businesses operating in Tunisia. Transparent public procurement systems are in place but not implemented in a systematic or transparent way. While authorities do investigate some corruption cases, critics argue the system lacks significant change. Tax evasion, doctored entry exam results for public sector jobs, and bribes to speed up slow bureaucratic processes are common practice.

Government Stability

● 3.25

Tunisia has a history of political instability. The country has had several governments since the Arab Spring in 2011. Following the revolution, until 2019, the Ennahda party was Tunisia's largest party and widely considered kingmaker in coalition governments. Traditionally perceived as an Islamist party, it underwent an ideological shift towards a more moderate outlook in recent years, to appeal to the electorate. In the 2019 elections, Ennahda received the highest number of votes but lost seats overall, and did not secure the 109-seat majority needed to form a government.

President Saied, who operates without a political party, won the presidential election in October 2019 in part due to support provided by Ennahda. Shortly thereafter, Saied's subsequent moves to consolidate power – suspending the country's Parliament, and depriving parliamentarians of immunity from prosecution – prompted tensions with Ennahda. The measures allowed Saied to rule by decree, form a new government, and make policy decisions unilaterally, leading to the systematic repression of the party's leaders and freedom of assembly. Since 2022, several Ennahda party leaders have been arrested and arbitrarily detained, and the party headquarters were forced shut. This included the arrest of Rached Ghannouchi in 2023, the Ennahda President and key political figure of post-revolution Tunisia, jailed since on national security charges.

Tunisia has struggled to tackle economic stagnation, unemployment, corruption, and terrorism. Slow growth and a wage bill that doubled since the revolution hinders the government's ability to address grievances concerning housing, jobs, and public services. Opposition groups have

resisted attempts to reform pensions and introduce more taxes to shore up state finances. The gap between the political ruling class and the rest continues to widen. Austerity measures imposed by the government based on International Monetary Fund (IMF) recommendations have been triggers for widespread unrest.

The risk of instability is likely to rise unless the government can improve the economy and fight corruption which involves prominent business figures and senior public servants. Cutting the public sector wage bill and banking sector reform is likely to face opposition from organized labor and the civil service. Further strikes by local union branches are likely, particularly in the public sector.

Rule of Law

 3.00

Through its democratization process, Tunisia had made progress in reforming the rule of law. The constitution protects key civil, political, economic, and social rights, though President Kais Saied's governance has eroded many of those protections. Tunisia is a Muslim-majority state with Islam as the official religion. Same-sex relationships are criminalized, and sexual relations outside marriage are also punishable by law. Possession, use, and trafficking of controlled drugs are serious criminal offenses and may result in prison sentences and heavy fines. Religious proselytizing is restricted under Tunisia's public-order and religious-freedom framework.

Tunisian security forces lack transparency and government oversight. The police are well-trained and professional, despite concerns of corruption and human rights abuse. Many police commanders have been trained in the global north. Officers, who are more likely to speak English, are generally responsive to travelers in need of assistance. Police officers may stop drivers for inspection at any time with little justification. Drivers should cooperate, and carry a form of ID at all times. Rental vehicles, which have blue license plates, are frequently stopped.

The Antiterrorism Brigade (BAT or "Black Tigers"), an elite unit under the Interior Ministry's National Police, is responsible for high-risk counterterrorism operations.

Same-sex relationships are prohibited under Tunisian law, and authorities have the legal authority to detain and question individuals regarding their sexual activities and orientation based on appearance or formal allegations. Accusations of invasive conduct and sexual assault have been directed at security forces by detained LGBTQ individuals. Transgender individuals also face discrimination and can be charged with violating Article 226 of the Tunisian Penal Code, which outlaws what is considered "public indecency".

Sanctions

 2.00

Financial sanctions on individuals formerly linked to Ben Ali's government have been imposed since 2011. These sanctions have been updated and enacted over time. In 2019, Tunisia was removed from the EU's "grey" list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions.

Legal

Unrated

Visitors to Tunisia are subject to local laws, which may differ, either in part or in whole, from those of their home country. Those deemed to be in violation, even unknowingly, may be fined, detained, imprisoned, temporarily or permanently expelled, or tried in absentia depending on the nature of the offense. Narcotics laws impose a mandatory minimum sentence of a year in prison, even for small quantities of illegal substances. Home-country consular officers are typically informed of a detention and permitted to provide support services to their detained citizens. When no treaty is in force, notification and access depend on whether the two countries have direct or indirect diplomatic relations. Consular officers cannot interfere with local judicial proceedings, nor provide legal advice or representation at trial, and are unable to pay legal fees or fines with government funds. The status of dual nationals will be determined by local officials, with all attendant ramifications for access and support.

Emergency Contacts

● Unrated

Emergency Contacts

Ambulance 190**Fire** 198**Police** 197

Embassies and Consulates

● Unrated

US Embassy

Address Les Berges du Lac, Tunis, Tunisia, 1053**Fax** (216) 71 107 090**Email** tuniswebsitecontact@state.gov**Web Site** <https://tn.usembassy.gov/>

Canadian Embassy

Address Lot 24, rue de la Feuille d'Erable, Cite des Pins, Tunis, Tunisia**Fax** (216) 70 010 393**Email** tunis@international.gc.ca**Web Site** <https://www.international.gc.ca/country-pays/tunisia-tunisie/tunis.aspx?lang=eng>

German Embassy

Address Impasse du Lac Windermère 1, B.P. 222, Les Berges du Lac, 1053 Tunis, Tunisia**Fax** (216) 71 143 299**Email** info@tunisia.diplo.de**Web Site** <https://tunis.diplo.de/>

French Embassy

Address 2, place de l'Indépendance, Tunis, Tunisia**Fax** (216) 31 315 001**Email** <https://tunis.consulfrance.org/Contact-409>**Web Site** <https://tn.ambafrance.org/>

EU Delegation

Address Rue du Lac Biwa Street, B.P. 150 - 1053 Les Berges du Lac - Tunis, Tunisia**Fax** (216) 71 960 302**Email** delegation-tunisia@eeas.europa.eu**Web Site** https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/tunisia_en?s=126

British Embassy

Address Rue du Lac Windermere, Les Berges du Lac, Tunis, 1053, Tunisia

Fax (216) 71 108 700

Email BritishEmbassyTunis@fcdo.gov.uk

Web Site <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-tunis>

Entry/Exit

Unrated

Travelers can obtain specific information about visas and other entry-exit requirements at <https://entry-exit.crisis24horizon.com>.

Pre-Departure

Unrated

Travelers should undertake a pre-travel security brief on the associated threats and operating environment and are recommended to have undertaken annual travel security training.

Travelers should have adequate travel insurance in place to enable rapid medical treatment or emergency extraction from the country and should review contingency options, business continuity and crisis management plans. Travelers should identify possible sources of medical support in the country, such as the availability of a hotel-provided doctor for minor ailments.

Travelers should conduct research into the current political situation in the country. If the travel dates coincide with planned elections, anniversaries or significant dates, additional measures may need to be taken.

Travelers should provide friends and family with a copy of their itinerary, make a copy of important travel and identification documents, and if applicable, obtain their visa prior to arrival. Travelers should also have information on their meeting host, accommodation, relevant embassies and trusted local contacts easily accessible.

On Arrival

Unrated

Travelers should have a meet and greet procedure in place and minimize the time spent in the common areas of the airport. Travelers should proceed through arrivals in a timely manner, and depart as soon as practicably possible.

Travelers should carry a copy of their travel documents at all times.

When departing, passengers traveling to the UK will not be allowed to take phones, laptops and tablets and peripheral devices above a certain size into the cabin of the aircraft. Passengers with these devices should check with their airlines for more details on transporting these items.

In Transit

Unrated

Travelers should avoid using street taxis but should utilize low-profile hotel booked taxis or locally vetted transport providers which have emergency equipment appropriate to the local geography and climatic conditions. Fuel levels in the vehicles should be at least half-full. Travel routes should avoid isolated areas and potential choke points where practical. Travelers should establish the formal identification of the driver before commencing any trip.

Travelers should travel with minimal non-essential valuable items, any valuables should not be displayed publicly.

At Your Hotel

Unrated

Travelers should stay at a reputable hotel with good standards of international-level security and should avoid hotels that have scheduled high-profile conferences during the stay. Hotels should be located in areas that have not previously witnessed significant unrest and are not marred by ethnic or political tensions. Ideally, hotels should be away from chokepoints and not surrounded by other high-profile targets (such as foreign embassies and other hotels or restaurants are known to attract large numbers of Westerners).

On arrival at the hotel, travelers should ensure the driver stays on site until their check-in has been confirmed.

In the Street

● Unrated

Travelers should avoid leaving the hotel, or secure accommodation, alone after dark.

Travelers should be aware of national culture and behavioral expectations. Same-sex relationships are illegal, and transgression may result in harsh penalties.

Travelers should maintain a low profile, not become involved in local political issues and avoid discussing politically sensitive topics in public.

Travelers should avoid sensitive areas, and during periods of heightened tension, symbolic places such police stations, government buildings, and locations of previous unrest. Travelers should avoid any demonstrations, protests and rallies, which may attract security forces and present a dynamic and volatile environment.

Travelers should avoid overt displays of wealth, dress discreetly and appropriately to the environment, not display money, jewelry or valuables and maintain a low profile.

Travelers should be aware of their location and surroundings, avoiding high-crime areas and of walking through dimly lit streets after dark.

Travelers should know routes and carry a map if necessary, but keep it concealed.

Travelers should settle small bills with cash but keep a spare credit card available. Travelers should use only small denominations of the local currency, and keep large amounts of cash and cards in a separate place on their person. The contents of wallets and purses should be reduced, particularly cards which may denote affiliations, memberships or accounts. Do not use credit or debit cards unless absolutely necessary and then only at respected, well-known retail and service establishments.

Travelers should ensure that their mobile phone is carried with sufficient battery life and programmed with appropriate emergency numbers.

Travelers should also carry an ID card or passport and emergency medical information.

In crowded situations, travelers should be aware of jostling as this may be used as a ploy by pickpockets. Travelers should also be aware of people loitering, and attackers who may first pass their victim to attack from behind.

Travelers should ignore verbal 'bait' from passers-by, not get into an argument and avoid eye contact with strangers.

Homosexual activity is illegal in Tunisia and local authorities have the power to detain and question people about their sexual activities and orientation, based on their appearance or formal accusations. Transgender people also face discrimination and can be charged with violating Article 226 of the Tunisian Penal Code which outlaws 'outrages against public decency'. Many men have been arrested for being in same-sex relationships and subjected to biological testing. Despite this practice being criticized by high profile politicians in 2017 it still takes place in some cities. Members of the LGBT+ community may also experience abuse and violence following public displays of affection.

Despite these challenges an LGBT+ community exists and Tunisia has an officially recognized LGBT+ rights organization called 'Association Shams'. It is also home to the Arab world's only dedicated LGBT+ radio station 'Shams Rad Radio'.

Culture

Unrated

Standard Hours of Operation

Business: Monday-Friday, generally 08:00-18:00

Government: Monday-Thursday, 08:00-17:00; half-days Friday and Saturday

Banking: Monday-Thursday, 08:00-11:00 and 14:00-16:15; Friday, 08:00-11:00 and 13:00-16:15. Monday-Friday, 07:30-11:00 in the summer

Business attire is generally formal. Men should not wear shorts in public; long pants and long-sleeved shirts are considered appropriate for casual wear. Business suits and ties are worn for business meetings and formal social occasions. Women should not wear sleeveless shirts or blouses. Attire should be conservative; mid-length (or longer), loose-fitting skirts or dresses (well below the knee) with long sleeves and high necklines.

Appointments are best scheduled Monday through Friday between 08:00 and 18:00, except during Ramadan. Arriving on time to meetings or social engagements is a common practice. Informal or personal discussions are common. Scheduled meetings will typically run longer than expected. Alcohol taken during lunch or dinner meetings is considered inappropriate.

English or French is commonly used for business purposes. Attempts by visitors to use phrases in the native language are well received, but are not expected. Business cards are widely used. Always use Mr./Ms. or a local honorific/title until the host indicates that using first names is appropriate. Addressing the host according to their official title is seen as a sign of respect. When beginning the meeting, men shake hands with other men, but may refrain from physical contact with women. Women shake hands with other women, but may refrain from physical contact with men.

Gestures

● Unrated

Business cards are widely used and can be presented in any manner.

When beginning the meeting, shake hands with everyone in the room, when shaking a women's hand, men should wait for the woman to extend her hand. When departing, shake hands again with everyone at the meeting.

Use direct communication and phrasing when speaking with people from Tunisia. It is common to make direct eye contact when speaking to someone at a business meeting. Address everyone at the business meeting by their title and last name.

Avoid using the following gestures or habits, as they are deemed offensive or insulting:

- Touching someone of the opposite sex who is religious.

Religions

● Unrated

Muslim (official; Sunni) 99.1%, other (includes Christian, Jewish, Shia Muslim, and Baha'i) 1%

Ethnicities

● Unrated

Arab 98%, European 1%, Jewish and other 1%

Significant Dates

● Unrated

2026 Significant Dates

Jan. 1 New Year's Day

March 20 Independence Day

March 20	Eid Al-Fitr* (End of Ramadan)
April 9	Martyrs' Day
May 1	Labor Day
May 27	Eid Al-Adha* (Feast of the Sacrifice)
June 17	Muharram* (Islamic New Year)
July 25	Republic Day
Aug. 13	Women's Day
Aug. 25-26	Mawlid Al-Nabi* (Prophet's Birthday)
Oct. 15	Evacuation Day
Dec. 17	Revolution Day

Financial

Unrated

Financial systems can differ considerably by jurisdiction. Acceptance of cash, debit, and credit cards also varies across the country. Some locations may only accept cash due to the absence of card-processing machines. Banks or legal money changers typically offer the official exchange rates. While the import and export of both local and foreign currency are authorized, sums should not exceed the amount declared upon arrival.

Currency

Unrated

Currency Name/Code

The official currency of Tunisia is the Tunisian dinar (TND). One TND equals 0,30 euros.

Currency Convertibility

Banks or legal money changers may not offer the best exchange rates in Tunisia. Informal market exchanges are technically illegal. For buying TND, US dollars and EUR are the most readily acceptable currency. Tunisia does not allow foreigners to exit with local currency.

Credit Card

Unrated

Major credit cards are accepted in shops, restaurants, and hotels.

Taxes and Tipping

Unrated

It is customary to tip hotel personnel. Wait staff in restaurants appreciate a 5-10-percent tip, particularly if there is no service charge on the bill.

Bank and ATM

Unrated

ATM Availability

ATMs are widely available. Always choose a machine located in a secure area, preferably within hotels or other populated, well-lit locations.

Bank Availability

Banking hours are generally Monday to Friday 08:00-17:00.

LGBTQ Security

4.00 - High

The security environment in Tunisia is high and worsening. Recent reporting shows a marked increase in arbitrary arrests, ill-treatment, and targeted raids against real or perceived LGBTQ individuals, particularly gay men and transgender women, in major coastal cities such as Tunis, Sousse, Hammamet, and El Kef. Authorities and non-state actors have used entrapment via social media and dating applications, online doxxing, and harassment campaigns to identify targets, heightening exposure for travelers who use such platforms while in country. In detention, LGBTQ detainees are at risk of violence from both guards and other inmates, with local observers describing a “double punishment” in prison conditions. For business travelers and expatriates, the main security risks involve being caught up in morality-based policing, harassment around nightlife areas, or being targeted after media or social-media exposure that suggests an LGBTQ identity or allyship. Overall, enforcement practices create significant exposure even for visitors who believe they are acting discreetly and within private spaces.

LGBTQ Legal Environment

4.00

The legal environment in Tunisia poses a high threat and remains restrictive. Article 230 of the 1913 Penal Code explicitly criminalizes so-called “sodomy” between men and women and provides for up to three years’ imprisonment, while public-morality provisions in Articles 226 and 226 bis are frequently used to police perceived “indecent” or non-conforming gender expression. There is no comprehensive anti-discrimination framework covering sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex characteristics, and Tunisia does not recognize same-sex unions or provide a clear pathway for legal gender recognition; a 2023 court decision rejected a transgender man’s request to amend his documents, characterizing his identity as a mental illness. Earlier reform proposals to decriminalize same-sex sexual acts and protect LGBTQ rights have stalled in parliament, and recent constitutional changes have raised broader concerns about future rights protections. US and UN reporting indicates that police routinely search phones without warrants, extort detainees under threat of outing, and that victims who attempt to report abuse risk counter-charges under the same provisions used to criminalize same-sex intimacy.

LGBTQ Enforcement

4.00

The legal enforcement environment in Tunisia is high and worsening. Human Dignity Trust and Amnesty International report that between September 2024 and January 2025 at least 84 people, mainly gay men and transgender women, were arrested and prosecuted under Article 230 and morality provisions, often following an online hate campaign and a justice ministry directive urging action against content deemed “contrary to public morals.” Local NGO Damj has documented continuing arrests through mid-2025 and notes that courts have imposed custodial sentences of up to four and a half years in some cases, as well as repeated use of forced anal examinations despite a 2017 medical-council guidance against the practice.

LGBTQ Social Environment

4.00

The social environment in Tunisia poses a high threat and is broadly hostile, with pockets of cautious activism. Surveys and civil-society research indicate that many LGBTQ individuals experience repeated public insults, threats, and denial of services, and that a substantial share have suffered physical assault or death threats linked to their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Human Rights Watch and the UN Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity describe a pattern of online harassment, doxxing, and smear campaigns, including by accounts linked to security forces, alongside community-level violence and rejection. Religious and conservative narratives framing LGBTQ rights as a Western imposition remain influential, and public displays of affection or non-conforming gender expression can draw harassment or violence, especially outside central Tunis and tourist enclaves. At the same time, local organizations such as Damj and Shams continue to operate, provide legal and psychosocial support, and advocate for decriminalization, offering limited but important support networks for LGBTQ residents and visitors.

Active Alerts

No Alerts

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