

## Destination Guide for Tunisia

### Overview

#### Destination Risk Levels

- Medium Medical Risk for Tunisia
- Medium Travel Risk for Tunisia
- High Travel Risk for Libyan border areas; areas of Jendouba, Kasserine and Kef governorates within 25 miles (40km) of the Algerian border; Mount Chaambi, Mount Mgilla, Mount Salloum and Mount Sammama

#### Libyan border areas: HIGH

Islamist militancy poses a risk to business travellers in areas within 25 miles (40km) of the Libyan border due to a presence of the Libya-based Islamic State (IS) group. The activities of the Islamist extremist al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) group also pose a significant risk within 25 miles of the Algerian border.

#### Libyan border areas; areas of Jendouba, Kasserine and Kef governorates within 25 miles (40km) of the Algerian border; Mount Chaambi, Mount Mgilla, Mount Salloum and Mount Sammama: HIGH

Closed military operation zones have been established in the Mount Chaambi, Mount Mghila, Mount Salloum and Mount Sammama mountain ranges and national parks, where armed militant groups are active and maintain bases. Sporadic attacks on domestic targets such as security force personnel and facilities are likely to continue in the short-to-medium term, while attempts by militants to seize territory cannot be discounted. Associated counter-terrorism operations can also cause disruption.

Militant groups in border areas stage occasional attacks against the security forces and civilians. The AQIM-linked Okba Ibn Nafaa Brigade extremist group is most active in these areas.

#### Standing Travel Advice

- Travel to Tunisia can proceed with standard security precautions.
- Under normal circumstances, avoid all but essential travel to areas of Jendouba, Kasserine and Kef governorates within 25 miles (40km) of the Algerian border due to the risks posed by militant activity. Travel to those areas should only be undertaken in liaison with the local authorities.
- Travel within 25 miles (40km) of the Libyan border should be for essential purposes only due to the risks posed by instability and lawlessness in neighbouring Libya. Those undertaking essential travel to border areas should enquire about local conditions prior to setting out and liaise with local authorities as a precautionary measure, as security support may be required.
- Take sensible security precautions to mitigate the risk of street and petty crime, particularly in areas frequented by tourists.
- Avoid all protests because of the credible risk of violence; do not stop to watch or photograph them. If a crowd or large group of security personnel begins to gather, vacate the area immediately.
- Bouts of political or socio-economic unrest are possible and may occur with little or no warning, particularly in outlying provinces; monitor developments during your stay, using reliable media sources and our website. Be flexible in your travel plans as rapid changes in the situation could result in significant travel disruption or temporary spikes in insecurity, such as episodes of looting and vandalism. Foreign nationals are unlikely to be targeted in any violence but may be required to remain in secure accommodation until the situation has stabilised.
- Opt for accommodation located away from key protest venues.
- Curfews may be imposed at times of heightened tension. Stay abreast of and observe curfew hours, which may be subject to change with little or no notice.
- There is an underlying threat of attacks by Islamist militants in Tunisia. Likely targets include Western embassies, tourism sites, venues where Westerners are known to congregate and government or military personnel and assets. Report any suspicious behaviour or packages to the authorities and follow the security forces' instructions.
- Register with your embassy and all available warden networks.
- Border crossings with Libya and Algeria can close at short notice as a result of unrest or security incidents. Avoid overland travel to Algeria and Libya for security reasons. If it is necessary to undertake cross-border overland travel, plan journeys carefully and enquire about the status of border posts prior to setting out.
- Driving standards are poor, road quality variable and road traffic accidents common; do not self-drive unless familiar with local conditions. Taxis are a suitable means of transport in urban areas.

- If intending to undertake road travel outside urban areas, plan carefully using a private vehicle and trusted local driver; ensure sufficient fuel supplies and support in the event of a vehicle breakdown or security incident.
- First-class intercity coach and train travel is suitable for business travellers; however, minibus travel should be avoided.
- Be aware of and respect Muslim and local cultural sensitivities. Informal clothing is acceptable at coastal tourist resorts, but dress conservatively elsewhere. Female travellers should wear loose-fitting clothing covering the chest, arms and legs.
- Before posting information online, consider how this may be perceived by the authorities and that spreading rumours and fake news online is punishable under Tunisian law.

## Active Alerts (1)

● Advisory | Category

### North Africa: Monitor developments linked to potential fuel shortages, socio-economic impacts from Middle East conflict

26 May 2026 at 15:51

**Location :** Worldwide Travel

**Category :** Infrastructure outage, Transport disruption, Protest/Rally

Monitor developments related to fuel supplies **over the coming weeks** in North Africa due to the impact of the conflict in the Middle East (*see related alerts*). Although fuel restrictions have not yet been imposed, sustained supply chain disruption from the conflict could prompt such measures in the short-to-medium term. Rising fuel costs may also exacerbate socio-economic pressures, increasing the possibility of protests, industrial action and transport disruption. Our travel advice for North Africa remains unchanged. However, continued military activity in the Middle East is likely to have knock-on effects across the region, highlighting the need to stay abreast of associated developments.

#### Advice :

- Our inbound and in-country travel advice for North Africa remains unchanged in relation to the Middle East conflict. Consult our Travel security guides for country-specific information and advice.
- Keep abreast of developments linked to fuel supplies and energy-conservation measures. Monitor official government channels or reach out to your nearest International SOS Assistance Centre for verified updates. Do not act on unverified information. Abide by official directives.
- Check fuel availability and prices with local contacts. Expect queues at fuel stations and refill your vehicle's tank when possible. Ensure you have adequate fuel supply for planned journeys, especially intercity travel.
- Maintain access to reliable means of communication and ensure that critical electronic devices, such as mobile phones and laptops, are always fully charged.
- Protests are liable to erupt at short notice. Liaise with local contacts for information on related developments and protests in your vicinity. Avoid all such gatherings as a precaution and leave an area at the first sign of unrest.
- In case of transport union strikes, pre-book private vehicles and reconfirm travel arrangements.
- Monitor our alerts for updates.

#### More Detail :

##### Impact

###### Algeria

On 19 April, officials launched a bidding round for additional oil and gas exploration covering seven sites to boost output and foreign investments. The blocks are located in provinces such as El Bayadh, Illizi, Ouargla and Tougourt.

###### Egypt

As part of fuel rationing measures, officials have postponed several infrastructure development projects and reduced fuel allocation for government vehicles by 30%. The government has also reduced fuel subsidies by 20% in its 2026-27 draft budget. The government announced it does not intend to raise fuel prices before **30 June**, and may consider introducing cash subsidies for fuel costs.

Elsewhere, officials have confirmed that it has sufficient petroleum reserves, though three fuel stations were closed in Aswan governorate over alleged administrative violations.

###### Libya

Long queues and the closure of several fuel stations have been reported in the capital Tripoli in recent days. While no related incidents of unrest have been recorded, heightened security measures will be deployed near fuel stations to ease congestion and guarantee order.

###### Mauritania

Fuel prices have risen by at least 30% since the escalation of the Middle East conflict. In response to price hikes, the government has announced several financial relief measures, including a minimum wage increase and a one-time stimulus payment of 4,500 ouguiya (\$113). A nationwide curfew on vehicle movement between **00.01-05.00** (local times) is also in effect. On 25 May, government officials announced that the curfew would be temporarily eased to **02.00-05.00** (local times) **until 2 June** during the Islamic holiday period of Eid al-Adha.

#### *Morocco*

The government has reportedly raised fuel prices three times since the Middle East conflict commenced, accounting for a 50% increase since late February. Several fuel stations across the country have reportedly faced supply shortages.

National carrier Royal Air Maroc announced a pause in flights between Morocco and Bangui (Central African Republic), Brazzaville (Congo), Douala and Yaounde (both Cameroon), Kinshasa (Congo (DRC)) and Libreville (Gabon). In Europe, flight routes connecting Morocco to Brussels (Belgium), Barcelona, Malaga (both Spain), Bordeaux, Lyon and Marseille (all France) will also be temporarily suspended. The airline attributed the suspensions to rising fuel prices.

#### *Tunisia*

Taxi drivers have expressed concern that rising fuel prices will lead to an increase in transport fares.

#### **Outlook**

The effects of the conflict on fuel markets are likely to be long-lasting across North Africa, though impacts will vary significantly between countries.

In the short term, sustained increases in global oil prices will be the most immediate impact, translating into higher domestic fuel costs. This will result in elevated prices for essential services and goods, such as food staples and transport fares. In countries that rely on fuel for electricity generation, this may also translate into more frequent power outages. Governments may attempt to mitigate increases through subsidies or price controls. However, such measures may place additional pressure on already constrained government finances and resources, especially in import-dependent economies, such as Algeria and Tunisia.

In the medium term, fuel shortages across multiple countries are possible. This may trigger the implementation of fuel rationing or other energy-conservation measures. Associated impacts may include disruption to transport networks and electricity generation, especially in countries reliant on fuel-powered generation.

Meanwhile, elevated living costs, combined with existing structural pressures, such as inflation, unemployment and currency instability, may increase the possibility of demonstrations, strikes and civil unrest. Protests will carry significant potential for unrest, with the security forces liable to use heavy-handed measures to disperse crowds.

Additionally, public concern over potential shortages of fuel and food staples could lead to panic buying. Long queues at fuel stations are likely, along with a heightened risk of altercations or opportunistic violence amid localised tensions. The authorities may respond by increasing security measures at fuel-distribution points and introducing controls to limit purchases.

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## Destination Guide for Tunisia

### Before You Travel

#### Visa Requirements

#### IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

##### British

Passport Required: Yes  
Visa Required: No  
Return Ticket Required: Yes

##### Australian

Passport Required: Yes  
Visa Required: No  
Return Ticket Required: Yes

##### Canadian

Passport Required: Yes  
Visa Required: No  
Return Ticket Required: Yes

##### USA

Passport Required: Yes  
Visa Required: No  
Return Ticket Required: Yes

#### Visa

Not required by nationals referred to in the chart above for stays of up to three months, with the following exceptions:

#### Procedures

The passport must be valid for a minimum period of three months. A two-part registration form is distributed on the aircraft. The top part is kept by immigration officials on arrival. Foreign nationals must submit the bottom half on departure. Immigration control can involve long checks, though business travellers are unlikely to face difficulties. On arrival, people are required to state their address or the name of their hotel, as well as the duration and nature of their visit. Failure to provide proof of accommodation (hotel voucher or notarised invitation) may result in denied entry.

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#### Entry/Exit Requirements

##### Entry/Exit requirements

All foreign nationals must carry a passport valid for three months after the intended return date to enter Tunisia. All business travellers, including European tourists on organised tours, must now carry a valid passport, as entry using only a national ID card is no longer permitted. The import of Tunisian currency is prohibited. Cash brought in equal to or in excess of 5,000 Tunisian dinars is required to be declared. People must declare amounts above 5,000 Tunisian dinars if they wish to export those amounts upon departure. Foreign nationals are restricted from departing Tunisia with amounts equivalent to 30,000 Tunisian dinars or more, even if they were declared upon entry. Up to 3,000 Tunisian dinars may be re-exchanged into foreign currency upon departure from Tunisia with the original exchange receipt. Therefore, it is highly advisable to keep original exchange receipts, including those issued at ATMs.

A mandatory hotel tax applies upon arrival: eight Tunisian dinars per person per night for three-star hotels and 12 Tunisian dinars per person per night for four- and five-star hotels, capped at ten nights.

Passengers on direct flights to the US and the UK may still experience heightened security measures related to the screening of electronic items.

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## Cultural Tips

### CULTURAL ISSUES AND ETIQUETTE

- During the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, Muslims are not allowed to eat, drink or smoke from dawn to dusk, but hotels and some restaurants and bars cater to visiting foreign nationals.
  - Foreign nationals could face legal penalties if they are perceived to be proselytizing to local people.
  - Do not take photographs of government or military installations and diplomatic missions. Seek permission before taking a photo of a facility or person.
  - There are severe penalties for anyone caught with illegal drugs.
  - Homosexuality is illegal and severe punishments are regularly applied. Societal attitudes towards the LGBTQ+ community are sometimes intolerant but violence is only occasionally directed towards its members.
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## Getting There

### METHOD OF ARRIVAL

#### By air

Tunis-Carthage International Airport ([TUN](#)) is the country's main international airport. Djerba-Zarzis ([DJE](#)), Monastir Habib Bourguiba ([MIR](#)), Sfax-Thyna ([SFA](#)), Tabarka (TBJ), Enfidha-Hammamet ([NBE](#)) and Tozeur-Nefta ([TOE](#)) are other major international airports. Djerba-Zarzis, Enfidha-Hammamet and Monastir Habib Bourguiba airports handle large number of tourist charter flights.

There are no major security risks at any of these airports, which provide a reasonably high level of security to passengers and aircraft. Passengers will have to undergo X-ray screening upon arrival.

Airlines have variable security standards. You may wish to consult the European Commission's [website](#) for a list of airlines banned within the EU and the US Federal Aviation Administration's [website](#) for a database of aviation accidents and statistics.

#### By land

Tunisia can be reached by road from Libya via border crossings in Medenine, Tataouine, Kasserine and Kef governorates. However, the authorities sporadically close the border crossings between the two countries – generally over security concerns – and foreign nationals planning to undertake travel via these frontier crossings should enquire about their status before setting out. Such closures can also result in large queues at alternative border posts, causing travel delays.

There are also several points of entry by road from Algeria, which are served by buses and long-distance louages (shared taxis). However, the crossings are frequently closed and unreliable for business travel.

#### By sea

The Corsican ferry company Corsica Linea ([CL](#)) runs ferry services from France and Italy to Tunis. Tunisian company Compagnie Tunisienne de Navigation ([CTN](#)) has regular ferry services to France, Italy and Malta. Major routes include Marseilles-Tunis and Genoa-Tunis; both journeys take 21-24 hours. A hydrofoil service is available from Sicily between May and September.

### Procedures

The passport must be valid for a minimum period of three months. A two-part registration form is distributed on the aircraft. The top part is kept by immigration officials on arrival. Foreign nationals must submit the bottom half on departure. Immigration control can involve long checks, though business travellers are unlikely to face difficulties. On arrival, people are required to state their address or the name of their hotel, as well as the duration and nature of their visit. Failure to provide proof of accommodation (hotel voucher or notarised invitation) may result in denied entry.

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## Getting Around

## BY AIR

There are regular internal connections between Tunis, Tozeur, Djerba and Sfax. Flights face no specific security problems, but seats may be in short supply. Flights can be delayed or cancelled at short notice. [Tunisair](#) is the flag carrier.

## BY ROAD

Most major car-hire companies, such as [Hertz](#) and [Avis](#), have offices at Tunis airport and cars can be collected on arrival. When hiring a car, foreign nationals should check that the front tyres are not worn out and there is a spare tyre. Motorists should also carry a can of petrol, particularly while travelling in rural areas, as petrol stations can be few and far between. The use of seat belts is mandatory for front row passengers while travelling in and around the cities. An International Driving Permit is mandatory. Traffic drives on the right. Foreign nationals should carry all vehicle documents with them because of frequent road checks, particularly in the south and near the Algerian border.

Foreign nationals should not self-drive as local driving standards are poor. Traffic and road safety rules are frequently violated, and traffic lane markings, signage and signals are often ignored; heavy pedestrian traffic can hinder drivers. Animals on roads, particularly in rural areas, can pose a hazard to drivers. Foreign nationals should avoid travelling after dark outside major urban centres. For safety reasons, it is forbidden to drive through the southern Sahara desert region without obtaining a permit from the authorities as it is a 'closed military zone'. Applications for permits can be submitted to the Tataouine, Kébili and Médenine governorates, depending on the area to be visited. Foreign nationals should take an experienced guide and a suitably equipped car with full provisions.

Clashes between rival groups – most often, between armed smugglers and the security forces – can pose incidental risks as well as result in impromptu closures of border crossings. The Ras Jedir crossing point with Libya is particularly vulnerable in that respect; foreign nationals should ascertain its status before undertaking any cross-border journeys.

## BY TAXI

Yellow taxis are widely available in urban centres, but driving standards are erratic and road safety rules are often violated. Taxis are numbered and metered, though drivers have been known to overcharge foreign nationals. Taxi drivers usually do not speak English. Business travellers who do not speak French should write down their destination or ask hotel staff to explain it to the driver. Private taxi providers are also available. However, the authorities have suspended Bolt and similar ride-sharing apps following allegations of fraud.

## BY TRAIN

Fast, efficient and air-conditioned [SNCF](#) (Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Tunisiens) trains run between most main cities, including between Tunis and Nabeul, Sfax and Gabes. Trains are in poor condition and not recommended for business travellers.

## BY OTHER MEANS

### By bus

Crowded urban and intercity buses are unsuitable for foreign nationals. Air-conditioned coaches link the cities. Shared louages (vans) run on set routes for longer journeys, but are usually unsuitable for business travel; they tend to be uncomfortable and follow erratic timetables.

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## Business Women

### BUSINESSWOMEN

The number of businesswomen in the workplace has increased over the past decade. Nevertheless, lone women may encounter unwanted attention from men on the streets and on public beaches. Travelling on suburban trains and buses should be avoided late at night when the use of taxis is preferable for security reasons.

Foreign travellers should follow the cultural customs when travelling for business purposes.

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## Working Week

## WORKING WEEK

- Working week: Monday to Friday
  - Government offices are open until afternoon on Saturdays
  - Office hours: 8.30-12.30 and 14.30-17.30. However, on Friday and Saturday, and during Ramadan and the summer months of July-August (known as Séance Unique), business hours are from 08.00 to 13.00.
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## Language & Money

### LANGUAGE

Tunisian Arabic is the official language, but French is commonly used in major cities and is spoken almost universally. English is not commonly spoken outside areas popular with tourists.

### MONEY

The Tunisian dinar (TD), the local currency, is available only in Tunisia and must be reconverted on departure. ATMs are widely available in all major cities but have been known to malfunction. Credit cards are accepted in major urban and tourist centres. Visa cards are readily accepted for ATM transactions, though Maestro (Switch) is also common. There are many banks in Tunis, but not all of them have ATMs. Most upmarket hotels have bureaux de change, though opening hours may vary. Traveller's cheques are not commonly accepted. People should conduct monetary transactions at authorised banks and retain receipts as these may be required during departure.

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## Tipping

### TIPPING

Tipping is not compulsory; however, hotel and restaurant waiters and taxi drivers may be tipped for good service.

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## Geography & Weather

### CLIMATE

#### Climate overview

- Tunisia has a warm climate all year round.
- Summer (June to late September) temperatures in desert regions are very high.
- Winter is mild and has the highest rainfall.
- Consult the [National Institute of Meteorology](#) website for the latest weather information.

#### Flooding

- Heavy rain and flooding usually occur in winter, though unseasonal floods have also been reported in recent years.
- Major urban centres, including the capital Tunis, are also vulnerable to severe flooding.
- Floods can cause fatalities and damage infrastructure, disrupting road travel and essential services.

#### Droughts

- Tunisia is prone to severe droughts, leading to water shortages.
- To address shortages, the authorities have imposed rationing measures and restrictions on water usage, while increasing the tariff on the supply of drinking water.

#### Dust and sand storms

- Dust and sand storms are common in Tunisia during the spring and summer months.
- Such storms mainly affect southern areas of the country, though central regions may also experience them.
- Low visibility during dust and sand storms can disrupt road travel and may also affect flights.

#### Wildfires

- Wildfires occur frequently during the summer months, with the fire season lasting from late June until August and peaking in July.
- Such fires can affect population centres, leading to evacuation of residents, property damage and road closures.
- In July 2023, large wildfires affected several northern governorates, including Jendouba, where around 2,500 residents of the town of Tabarka were evacuated from their homes.

### Earthquakes

- Earthquakes occasionally strike Tunisia, though they are mostly mild and do not cause any major damage.

## GEOGRAPHY

The northernmost country of the African continent, Tunisia is situated on the Mediterranean coast. It is flanked by Algeria to the west and Libya to the south-east, while the Mediterranean coastline forms its northern and eastern borders. Tunisia is the smallest nation in North Africa.

In the northern part of the country lies the Tunisian Dorsal mountain range, which is an extension of the Saharan Atlas. The semi-arid steppe plateau lies at the centre of the country. The Sahel, a flat westward extension of the coastal plain, extends into Libya. The region is famous for its seasonal salt lakes and olive groves. Further south, the dominant landforms are extensive seasonal salt flats and date palm plantations. The southern extremity of the country gives way to the Sahara desert. The country is administratively divided into 24 governorates: Beja (Bajah), Ben Arous (Bin 'Arus), Bizerte (Banzart), Gabes (Qabis), Gafsa (Qafsah), Jendouba (Jundubah), Kairouan (Al Qayrawan), Kasserine (Al Qasrayn), Kebili (Qibili), Kef (Al Kaf), L'Ariana (Aryanah), Mahdia (Al Mahdiah), Manouba (Manubah), Medenine (Madanin), Monastir (Al Munastir), Nabeul (Nabul), Sfax (Safaqis), Sidi Bouzid (Sidi Bu Zayd), Siliana (Silyanah), Sousse (Susah), Tataouine (Tatawin), Tozeur (Tawzar), Tunis, Zaghuan (Zaghwan). Tunis is the capital; the other major cities are Sfax, Sousse, Sidi Bouzid and Kasserine.

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## International Dialing & Power

### DIALLING CODES

Country Code : 216

IDD Prefix (International Direct Dialling) : 00

### COMMUNICATIONS

Tunisie Télécom is the national service provider. Both the domestic and international systems are reliable. International calls can be made from hotels but tend to be expensive. Ooredoo, Orange Tunisie and Tunisie Telecom provide GSM services. Internet access is widespread including fibre broadband and 4G internet is available from all mobile providers.

#### Information security

Tunisia has one of the most developed telecommunications infrastructures in Africa. The internet penetration rate is rising due to a growth of mobile internet subscriptions.

The most common online criminal acts are identity theft and personal data breaches, notably through phishing.

Cyberterrorism is also a major concern for the authorities due to the spread of social media accounts and websites calling for violence and spreading extremist ideologies.

Although a new data protection law that came into force in March 2018 was in line with the EU General Data Protection Regulation, it faced criticism due to vague and broad provisions which could allow for the violation of user rights to privacy and free speech. The National Authority for Protection of Personal Data (INPDP) is the data protection authority tasked with monitoring information privacy. However, the INPDP suffers from a lack of resources, little independence from the state and its decisions are non-binding.

There are various government bodies responsible for cybersecurity oversight. The National Agency for Computer Security (ANSI), which is part of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies, is the main agency controlling information systems and ensuring the implementation of a general security strategy. It also conducts periodic audits of the systems. ANSI also hosts TunCERT, the emergency response team responsible for monitoring and supervising responses to cyberattacks. TunCERT also offers [advice](#) on how to prevent such attacks on vulnerable or sensitive infrastructure.

#### Advice

- Minimise the number of devices you bring into the country and avoid carrying sensitive data with you.
- Ensure anti-virus software is up-to-date prior to travel and conduct a thorough check of all devices post-trip
- Exercise caution when connecting to insecure Wi-Fi networks, such as in hotels, airports and train stations.
- Use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to protect communications and secure data. Always familiarise yourself with the legal status of any VPN or application in your destination country prior to travel.
- Use the 'forget network' setting upon your return if you connected to any public Wi-Fi networks while travelling.
- Obtain profile-specific advice taking into account your industry and position in the company.

## ELECTRICITY



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### Calendar

#### Holidays & Security Dates

##### 2026

**25 Jul** Republic Day

**13 Aug** Women's Day

**03 Sep** Celebration of 3 September 1934

Celebrates founding of Neo-Destour Party

**15 Oct** Evacuation Day

**07 Nov** Commemoration Day/New Era Day

**17 Dec** Revolution And Youth Day

##### 2027

**01 Jan** New Year's Day

In many countries, if this holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, a public holiday is declared for the following Monday.

**13 Jan** Berber New Year (Yennayer)

Usually celebrated on 13 January in Libya and Morocco.

**20 Mar** Independence Day

Celebrates Tunisian independence from France.

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## Destination Guide for Tunisia

### Medical Overview

#### Medical Care

Variable

#### Standard of Health Care

Good-quality medical care is available in private facilities (clinics), especially in Tunis and other cities on the east coast. Away from the Mediterranean coast, the desert areas of Tunisia have underdeveloped medical care. The private healthcare system is preferred, except in cases of major trauma, when public hospitals provide the first line of care. There may be significant variation in quality of care between hospitals and travellers may benefit from support in selecting the most appropriate facility.

Most doctors are trained in Tunisia, with some taking additional specialist training in France. All doctors speak French and Arabic, and some doctors also speak German, Italian or English. Nursing care is not as developed as in European or other high-income countries. It may be recommended to avoid complex or planned medical treatment in Tunisia, and serious medical conditions may benefit from evacuation to Europe to upgrade the level of care available.

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### Emergency Response

#### Emergency Response

The public ambulance system can be used; patients will be admitted to public hospitals. Alternatively, the private hospitals (clinics) offer efficient ambulance services; call the clinic directly. These services offer trained staff and the ambulances have some medical equipment and oxygen. The Service d'Aide Médicale Urgente (SAMU) network covers 50% of the Tunisian territory and 75% of the population.

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### Medical Contact

Emergency Numbers, hospital and clinic contact information

#### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance : 190

Fire service : 198

Police : 197

#### Hospitals & Clinics

##### Clinique Internationale Med Hannibal

2 Les Berges du Lac Cite les Pins

21629902030, 21636031300, 21671137400

Reception.central@cliniquehannibal.com, Aymen.Hannachi@cliniquehannibal.com

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### Vaccinations

Routine and additional

## Hepatitis A

Recommended for all travellers and international assignees, especially groups at higher risk including:

- long-term and frequent visitors.
- adventurous travellers who travel to more remote locations or stay in areas with poor sanitation.
- gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (see [US CDC](#)).
- people who use illicit drugs.
- those with liver disease.

## Hepatitis B

Recommended for most travellers and international assignees, especially:

- For long-term or frequent visitors, and health-care workers.
- For adventurous travellers who travel to more remote locations.
- If possibility of new sexual partner, needle sharing, acupuncture, dental work, body piercing or tattooing during visit.

Many travel health professionals recommend hepatitis B vaccination for all travellers, regardless of destination.

## Measles

- Recommended for all travellers and international assignees.
- All travellers should be up to date with their measles vaccination (schedule differs by country). Vaccination for adults is available as MMR (measles, mumps and rubella), two doses given at least four weeks apart are required.

Some individuals [cannot be vaccinated](#) due to certain health conditions.

## Rabies

Consider for certain travellers, especially:

- For international assignees and long-term visitors.
- For children who tend to play with animals and may not admit to being bitten or scratched.
- If you are travelling to a location where quality medical care may not be available immediately after being bitten/scratched by an animal.  
(Unvaccinated people need immunoglobulin within 24 hours of an animal injury, and this medication is scarce in some countries. If you are pre-vaccinated, you do not need this immunoglobulin after an injury.)
- If contact with dogs, monkeys or other potentially rabies-carrying animals is likely.  
Jogging increases your risk of dog bite.

## Typhoid fever

Recommended for adventurous and long-term travellers, especially those who will:

- Visit friends and relatives.
- Eat from local vendors or restaurants.
- Be exposed to conditions of poor sanitation.
- Visit smaller cities or rural areas.

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## Routine Vaccinations

### COVID-19

All travellers should ensure they are up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations. Recommendations vary between countries.

### Influenza

**Annual vaccination is recommended. Vaccination is especially important for people at higher risk of severe disease, including::**

- Young children
- Pregnant individuals
- People 65 years and older
- People with underlying health conditions

## Measles-Mumps-Rubella

Vaccinations against measles, mumps, and rubella are routine in childhood, and are usually available as a combined vaccine "MMR".

Everyone should be immune to these diseases before travel.

There are outbreaks of measles in many locations.

If you are unsure of your immunity, consult your doctor well in advance of travel.

See routine childhood vaccination schedules: [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), [USA](#), [UK](#)

## Polio

Vaccination against polio is routine in childhood in many countries. See routine childhood vaccination schedules for [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), the [USA](#), and the [UK](#).

All adults should ensure they are immune to the disease before they travel abroad. If unsure of your immunity, consult your health professional. You may need a *primary vaccination* or a *booster*. Booster recommendations vary by country.

## Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis

Vaccinations against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis are routine in childhood.

See routine childhood vaccination schedules: [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), [USA](#), [UK](#)

All adults should ensure they are immune to these diseases before they travel abroad. If unsure of your immunity, consult your health professional. You may need a *primary vaccination* or *booster*. Booster recommendations vary by country.

## Varicella

Varicella (chickenpox) vaccinations are included in the routine childhood immunization schedule of some countries. See routine childhood vaccination schedules: [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), [USA](#), [UK](#)

All adults should ensure they are immune to varicella before they travel abroad. If unsure of your immunity, consult your health professional.

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## Health Threats

Known health threats for this country

### Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease commonly present in animals. While these animals often show no sign of disease, they can excrete the bacteria in their urine and other bodily fluids (except saliva), which contaminates water and soil in the environment. Humans become infected primarily through contact with that contaminated water and soil.

Infection can be treated with antibiotic medications. Severe disease can cause liver, kidney, heart and respiratory problems as well as meningitis (inflammation of the membrane around the brain and spinal cord). If left untreated, leptospirosis can be fatal.

The best way to prevent leptospirosis is to consider water safety when swimming, bathing, boating or wading. Avoid water that might be contaminated with animal urine. If unsure whether the water is contaminated and contact is unavoidable, wear protective clothing such as thigh-high waterproof boots and cover all wounds with waterproof dressings. Wash thoroughly after potential exposure.

Cases of leptospirosis are reported sporadically in Tunisia. Risk is generally higher following heavy rainfall or flooding, which is most common in the rainy season (November to March). Leptospirosis is often found in cattle in the country.

### Rabies

Rabies is a viral disease that is almost always fatal but is preventable with correct post-exposure treatment. People are infected through the bite, scratch, or lick to broken skin by an infected animal. Any mammal, including dogs, cats, bats, monkeys, foxes, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, jackals, seals and other marine mammals can carry the virus. Globally, most human infections occur through dog bites.

**It is imperative to seek treatment promptly after a potential exposure** (bite, scratch, lick to broken skin). Treatment is highly effective in preventing rabies, but is not readily available in some locations.

Following an animal / bat bite or scratch or lick (on broken skin) :

- The wound should be immediately cleaned, with soap and water for at least 15 minutes. Apply an antiseptic such as povidone-iodine if available.

- Medical advice should be obtained promptly to **assess the need for preventive treatment, even if previously vaccinated. This is life-saving.**
- Treatment is with post-exposure vaccination (a series of injections required). Rabies immunoglobulin (RIG) is also required if not previously vaccinated, and is injected into and around the wounds. Note that bat bites are very small, and sometimes are not obvious. Some health authorities advise that rabies post-exposure treatment should be given if a bat was in the room while a person was asleep even if there is no obvious bat bite or scratch.

**Prevention is through avoiding contact with animals, and vaccination.**

**Pre-exposure vaccination** is often recommended for visitors to destinations where rabies is common, especially if rabies treatment and quality medical care are not readily available. Pre-exposure vaccination is also important for children, since they may not tell adults they have been bitten/scratched.

**Post-exposure vaccination** must be given soon after a bite or scratch, or lick to broken skin, **even if pre-exposure vaccination has been completed.** Fewer doses are required if pre-exposure vaccination has been completed. Rabies immunoglobulin (RIG) is also required if not previously vaccinated.

Rabies is found in bats, wild animals, and domestic animals, including cats and dogs, in Tunisia. Rabies vaccine and quality rabies immunoglobulin (HRIG) are usually available. The risk to travellers is high, and pre-exposure vaccination is recommended for specific travellers and assignees.

### Leishmaniasis

Leishmaniasis is a disease caused by a parasite that can infect humans, dogs, rodents and other small animals. It is transmitted by sandflies that bite mainly between dusk and dawn and can occur in both rural and urban environments. Sandflies breed quickly in unsanitary conditions, and the spread of the disease is exacerbated by war, chronic food shortages and urbanisation activities like deforestation and building of dams and irrigation systems, changes in temperature, heavy rainfall and population movement. The disease can manifest in one of the three forms, cutaneous (is the most common form and causes skin ulcers), mucocutaneous (is a rare form which affects the inner parts of the nose and mouth) or visceral (which is the more severe form and can lead to death). There is no vaccine or drug to prevent leishmaniasis.

#### Prevention

The only way to avoid leishmaniasis is to prevent sandfly bites.

- Minimise outdoor activities from dusk to dawn- this is when sand flies are most active.
- Use protective clothing and insect repellent.
- Consider using an insecticide-treated bed net with *fine mesh* if there are sandflies in your living quarters. The standard bed nets used to prevent malaria are not effective, as sandflies are about one-third the size of mosquitoes and can fly through the malaria nets.
- Note that sandflies are small and do not make noise while flying. This makes it difficult to determine whether they are in your environment. Their bites cause mild symptoms and might not be noticed.

Risk is present year-round and is highest in the rural parts of northern, central and southeastern areas.

### West Nile Virus

Primarily a disease of birds, West Nile virus (WNV) can infect humans. The most common route for a human infection is via mosquitoes. The mosquito feeds on an infected bird or other animal, then bites a human and introduces the virus into their body.

Most people who get WNV develop no symptoms. Of the 20 percent who do get ill, most develop mild symptoms 3-14 days after being bitten: fever, head and body ache, nausea and vomiting. Sometimes the lymph nodes swell or a rash appears on the trunk.

In fewer than one percent of all human cases, the person develops a serious, possibly fatal, infection. Symptoms may include high fever, headache, stiff neck, disorientation, muscle weakness, tremors and paralysis. The brain and membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord may get inflamed, which can cause coma and death. Patients who recover from a serious WNV infection may suffer permanent brain damage.

There is no specific treatment for the disease, or vaccine to protect against it. To avoid infection, prevent mosquito bites in areas where the virus circulates. Wear long sleeves and long pants, and use insect repellents.

Sporadic outbreaks of West Nile Virus have been occurring in Tunisia since 1997. In 2012 there was a large outbreak across the country which led to 12 fatalities.

### Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A is a viral disease that causes liver inflammation. The virus is present in the faeces of an infected person. It spreads through contaminated food and water and is common in areas with poor sanitation. Person-to-person spread also occurs, when the virus is inadvertently transferred into the mouth, including during sexual activity. People at higher risk of infection include men who have sex with men, illicit drug users and people with liver disease.

Not everyone gets symptoms. If symptoms do occur, they begin two to four weeks or more after infection and can last for weeks or months. Symptoms include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting, abdominal pain/discomfort,

jaundice (yellow colour of the skin and eyes), dark urine, clay-coloured stool, joint pain and itching. Many infected people suffer only a mild illness. Most cases recover fully after four or more weeks. However, for some, the disease can be severe, and occasionally is fatal. There is no specific treatment and cases are managed through supportive therapy. Prevention is through vaccination, attention to hygiene, and access to safe food and water.

### Travellers diarrhoea

Travellers' diarrhoea is the most common travel-related illness. It usually occurs within the first week away from home. It is spread through contaminated food and water.

Prevention is through choosing safe food and water, and paying attention to hygiene. Select food that is thoroughly cooked while fresh and served hot. Avoid undercooked or raw meat, fish or shellfish. Avoid salad and raw vegetables unless you can wash them with clean (treated) water and you peel them yourself.

Unless you are certain that the tap water is drinkable - choose bottled water and beverages, avoid ice.

### Typhoid fever

Typhoid fever is a serious infection caused by *Salmonella typhi* bacteria. People are infected through ingesting contaminated food or water. Choosing safe food and water and vaccination reduces the risk of developing the disease.

Symptoms usually begin one to three weeks after exposure. Although typhoid fever is often called a diarrhoeal disease, some patients do not have diarrhoea. Persistent, high fever is typical. Other early symptoms are flu-like: body aches and pains, weakness, loss of appetite and a continuous dull headache. A rash with pink spots may appear on the chest and abdomen of some patients. In severe cases, perforation of the bowel can cause severe bleeding or infection in the abdomen, which can be fatal.

Typhoid is treated with antibiotics. However there is a growing problem of antibiotic resistance. "Extensively drug-resistant" (XDR) typhoid is present in some locations and does not respond to many of the antibiotics which are usually used against typhoid, making preventive measures even more important. Vaccination is recommended for people travelling to locations where typhoid is consistently present.

### HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and STIs

HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C are spread by contact with bodily fluids (especially blood and semen).

- unprotected sex,
- needle sharing during IV drug use, or
- unsafe blood or medical/dental instruments.

Genital herpes (HSV), genital warts (HPV), gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis and most other sexually transmitted diseases are spread by genital contact.

Prevention:

- In many countries, hepatitis B is now a routine childhood immunisation and need not be repeated. All non-immune travellers should consider vaccination.
- Always use new condoms (preferably brought from your home country).
- IV drug users should not share needles.
- Avoid having tattoos or piercings done.
- In healthcare settings, make sure that needles and syringes are sterile and not shared between patients.
- Call International SOS or your corporate medical department if you are hospitalised.
- Be aware of your risk when assisting anyone with an injury. Protect yourself from contact with bodily fluids.
- Seek medical attention within 24 hours if you accidentally come into contact with someone else's bodily fluids.

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### Food & Water

Drink bottled water. Care with food.

### Food Risk

Food is generally considered to be safe in Tunisia. To reduce your risk, it may be wise to avoid food from street vendors, salads, pre-peeled fruit and shellfish. Fruit that you wash and peel yourself should be safe.

### Water and Beverages

Tap water is safe to drink in major cities and resorts only. If drinking bottled water or carbonated beverages, ensure that the seal is intact.



## Destination Guide for Tunisia

### Security Overview

#### Personal Security

#### STANDING TRAVEL ADVICE

- Travel to Tunisia can proceed with standard security precautions.
- Under normal circumstances, avoid all but essential travel to areas of Jendouba, Kasserine and Kef governorates within 25 miles (40km) of the Algerian border due to the risks posed by militant activity. Travel to those areas should only be undertaken in liaison with the local authorities.
- Travel within 25 miles (40km) of the Libyan border should be for essential purposes only due to the risks posed by instability and lawlessness in neighbouring Libya. Those undertaking essential travel to border areas should enquire about local conditions prior to setting out and liaise with local authorities as a precautionary measure, as security support may be required.
- Take sensible security precautions to mitigate the risk of street and petty crime, particularly in areas frequented by tourists.
- Avoid all protests because of the credible risk of violence; do not stop to watch or photograph them. If a crowd or large group of security personnel begins to gather, vacate the area immediately.
- Bouts of political or socio-economic unrest are possible and may occur with little or no warning, particularly in outlying provinces; monitor developments during your stay, using reliable media sources and our website. Be flexible in your travel plans as rapid changes in the situation could result in significant travel disruption or temporary spikes in insecurity, such as episodes of looting and vandalism. Foreign nationals are unlikely to be targeted in any violence but may be required to remain in secure accommodation until the situation has stabilised.
- Opt for accommodation located away from key protest venues.
- Curfews may be imposed at times of heightened tension. Stay abreast of and observe curfew hours, which may be subject to change with little or no notice.
- There is an underlying threat of attacks by Islamist militants in Tunisia. Likely targets include Western embassies, tourism sites, venues where Westerners are known to congregate and government or military personnel and assets. Report any suspicious behaviour or packages to the authorities and follow the security forces' instructions.
- Register with your embassy and all available warden networks.
- Border crossings with Libya and Algeria can close at short notice as a result of unrest or security incidents. Avoid overland travel to Algeria and Libya for security reasons. If it is necessary to undertake cross-border overland travel, plan journeys carefully and enquire about the status of border posts prior to setting out.
- Driving standards are poor, road quality variable and road traffic accidents common; do not self-drive unless familiar with local conditions. Taxis are a suitable means of transport in urban areas.
- If intending to undertake road travel outside urban areas, plan carefully using a private vehicle and trusted local driver; ensure sufficient fuel supplies and support in the event of a vehicle breakdown or security incident.
- First-class intercity coach and train travel is suitable for business travellers; however, minibus travel should be avoided.
- Be aware of and respect Muslim and local cultural sensitivities. Informal clothing is acceptable at coastal tourist resorts, but dress conservatively elsewhere. Female travellers should wear loose-fitting clothing covering the chest, arms and legs.
- Before posting information online, consider how this may be perceived by the authorities and that spreading rumours and fake news online is punishable under Tunisian law.

#### Crime

Limited to hot spots

#### CRIME

Although crime rates remain low, they have increased, with high youth unemployment and a severe economic crisis contributing to them.

Opportunistic crime poses the main risk to foreign nationals in the form of theft, pickpocketing, mugging, burglaries and scams. Violent crime is rare, but there are occasional car break-ins, especially during the summer months. Foreign nationals will attract the attention of beggars and tourist touts on the streets, but they are rarely threatening and unlikely to have criminal intentions. Business travellers should be aware of drink-spiking incidents, especially in tourist and nightlife areas. There is a large security force presence on the streets that helps in keeping rates of crime in check.

## Terrorism

Moderate indirect risk to foreign nationals

### TERRORISM

There is a heightened risk of terrorism in Tunisia, particularly homegrown lone-wolf style attacks. Possible targets include crowded areas, government and military installations, transport hubs, businesses with Western interests, and areas popular with foreign nationals and tourists.

Religious extremism was long marginal in Tunisia. However, extremist Salafists have become more vocal in their denunciation of secularism and the country's pro-Western orientation since the 2011 ouster of former president Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, who kept Islamist activity under control. Areas most vulnerable to such extremism include those affected by under-development and unemployment, including peripheral neighbourhoods of the capital Tunis and Sousse (Sousse governorate) and interior governorates.

#### *Border regions*

Tunisia's proximity to Algeria, a major base for al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) – and to Libya where the Islamic State (IS) organisation has established a presence – make the country an attractive target for Islamist militant attack. A state of emergency is currently in place, having been extended several times since 2015. The authorities have carried out a number of anti-terrorism operations, established closed military zones and built a 125-mile (200km) barrier along the porous Libyan border. However, sporadic attacks on domestic targets such as security forces personnel and facilities are possible in areas bordering Libya. Further attacks can lead to the temporary closure of border crossings, such as Ras Jedir and Dehiba.

#### *Coastal regions*

High-profile attacks took place in 2015 at the Bardo museum in Tunis and a beach resort in Port el Kantaoui (Sousse governorate), killing 57 foreign nationals; IS claimed responsibility for both incidents. Since 2018, there have been low-level suicide bombings in Tunis. In October 2018, a suicide bomber targeted police officers along the central Avenue Habib Bourguiba, injuring nine people. In June 2019, two suicide bombings in quick succession killed a police officer and injured eight other people. In March 2020, two suicide bombers detonated their devices near the US embassy, killing one person and injuring five others. The latest incident occurred in May 2023, when a gun attack at a Jewish pilgrimage site on Djerba island killed five people and injured others.

## Kidnapping

### KIDNAPPING

The risk of kidnapping in Tunisia is low. No kidnappings have been recently recorded in the country. Nevertheless, people travelling near the Libyan or Algerian borders should remain vigilant due to the strong presence of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in Algeria and the credible risk of spillage into the shared borders with Tunisia.

## Social Unrest

### SOCIAL UNREST

Demonstrations prompted by political and social grievances are frequent. Such protests in the capital Tunis focus on key government buildings on [Avenue Habib Bourguiba](#), near the [Ministry of Interior](#) and in the vicinity of [Place du Bardo](#). Economic difficulties and discontent with the pace of political reforms can prompt outbreaks of protests in Tunis and interior governorates. These can involve vandalism and arson attacks on official buildings and clashes with the security forces. Reports of food and water outages can also prompt spontaneous bouts of unrest. The authorities also occasionally impose temporary curfews.

Gatherings may be held on the anniversary of the so-called 'Jasmine Revolution' on 14 January to celebrate the 2011 transition to democracy. Such protests often remain peaceful. However, in times of heightened political tensions, they present a credible risk of localised disturbances and may be forcibly dispersed by the authorities.

Sit-ins and strikes at or near production sites can hamper access to these facilities. Such incidents are particularly frequent in Tunis, Gafsa, Sfax and Tataouine governorates. The public services and transport sectors are prone to strikes due to a longstanding dispute between the government and unions on reform of the public sector. Associated work action can cause airport and road disruption.