



Djerba

Photo: Roberto Facenda



Photo: Martin Snopek



Photo: Philippe HECKEL



Photo: Magharebia

Djerba, the largest island of North Africa, is situated southeast of Tunisia on the Gulf of Gabes, and is ringed by miles of sandy beaches and luxury hotels. With its ideal temperate climate, this is another very popular Tunisian destination. The many resort hotels provide anything you need from lazy bronzing days, to a wide range of intense activities like thalasso or water sports.

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The Mosques

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THE CITY



Photo: Martin Snopek

Djerba is first known for its exceptional beaches, landscape and hotels, as well as its shooting location for the Tatoine's Mos Eisley exterior scenes in the famous Star Wars movie. The main tourist zone is situated on the east side, along Sidi Mahrez and Seguia beaches (around Midoun).

Touring the island is very affordable. Wherever you go, you'll never be more than thirty minutes from your hotel, and you will be surprised how splendid Djerba is in its diversity. The main centre is the city of Houmt Souk, with its beautiful lively markets and souks, and traditional hotels with vault rooms – the "funduqs." Most of the hotels have been built around courtyards and are very atmospheric. The rest of the island is a series of villages and small places, often ignored by tourists, yet authentic and picturesque – such as Guellala which houses a huge pottery and ceramic production centre.

You'll be amazed by the atypical mosques, some are very old and built like fortresses, and the traditional architecture of the "menzels," farms made up of square whitewashed houses.

Enjoy startling Djerba, one of Tunisia's best kept secrets!

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DO & SEE



Photo: Philippe HECKEL

With hundreds of mosques, five hundred thousand olive trees and hundreds years of history influenced by the Roman, Ottoman, Berber and Jewish empires, this oasis at the doors of Sahara has everything to give your stay a real change of scenery!

Houmt Souk - the market area

Djerba's main town houses an amazing fortress (Boor El-Kebir), located down by the sea and built in the 15th century to protect Djerba from Spanish invasion.

A tour in town is also recommended to get a glimpse of Tunisian life – from the fishing port to the lively markets, and the beautiful “funduqs” houses (some are hundred of years old). There is also a special small church and two notable mosques (Mosque of the Turks and Mosque of the Strangers).

Address: Houmt Souk, Djerba

Musée des Arts et Traditions Populaires

This museum features beautiful collections of traditional costumes, Jewish and Muslim jewels. The museum is located in an old Koranic education centre from the 18th century.

Address: Rue Habib Thameur, Djerba

Phone: +216 75 65 05 40

Musée des Traditions Guellala

The picturesque village of Guellala is renowned for its

ceramics and this museum presents the richness of Djerba's traditions. The beautiful location on a hill grants it one of the best views over the island.

Address: Guellala, Djerba

The Ghriba Synagogue

Situated in the village of Er Riadh, the synagogue serves as the focal point of Jews in North Africa. It has been a holy place for 1,400 years.

Address: Er-Riadh, Harah Sghira, Djerba

The Mosques

Among the many mosques in Djerba's villages, two should not be missed: the Turkish Mosque in El May, in the heart of the island, with whitewashed walls, this fortified mosque is simply beautiful. El May's market is also worth a visit.

In Mellita, another village near the airport, their 9th-century Mosque is one of the oldest in the world.

Address: Mellita, Djerba

DINING



Photo: Magharebia

The national dish is rice and curry, traditionally eaten with your fingers. Cutlery is provided for foreigners. The meal consists of six or seven plates of fiery meat, fish and chicken served with heaps of rice accompanied by side dishes of yoghurt and cucumber and vegetable curries. Roadside stalls also dish up snacks like rotis (pancakes) and malu pan (spicy meat or fish rolls).

Delice Resto

The restaurant Delice Resto is well renowned for its high quality haute cuisine. The presentation as well as the service is on target and appealing.

Address: rue Ali Belhauane 14, Djerba
Opening hours: Closed Sundays
Phone: +216 97 90 69 65

Chouchou

Chouchou is a warm and welcoming restaurant well known for its friendly staff, kind owner and fresh food. They've received praise for their couscous.

Address: Avenue de l'environnement, Midoun, Djerba
Phone: +216 25 919 349

Ristorante Haroun

What separates Haroun from other restaurants in Djerba is the location. It is beautifully situated on the water's edge and is a replica of a boat deck. The portions are hearty and you won't leave hungry.

Address: Houmt Souk, Djerba

Phone: +216 75 650 488

More Info: La Marsa fishing port

Restaurant Essofra

Restaurant Essofra offer typical Djerbienne cuisine in a manner that makes you feel like you're eating home cooked meals. The prices are reasonable and the environment characteristic of the island. No alcohol is served here.

Address: rue Taieb Mhiri, Houmt Souk, Djerba
Opening hours: Closed Mondays
Phone: +216 98 281 049

La Cote de Boeuf

This restaurant lies a bit higher up on the price list. They're famous for their steaks and fillets and you get good value for your money.

Address: Route touristique, Djerba
Phone: +216 75 732 068

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Photo: sgustin78

Bars are a relatively new concept, although there are some old favourites patronized by expats and regular visitors. Generally quiet, they erupt into life at the weekend with live music, good value food and a reasonable drinks' list.

The best nightlife revolves around the upscale hotels where you'll find bars, nightclubs and karaoke lounges. Dress is smart casual and entry for hotel guests is free.

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Le Cyclone

Le Cyclone is located inside the Hotel Green Palm. Here you will surely have a great dancing with DJ playing the latest hits.

Address: Hotel Green Palm, Djerba

Phone: +216 2026 2020

Internet: www.greenpalmdjerba.com

More Info: Hotel Green Palm

SHOPPING



Photo: Roberto Facenda

Souk means market in Arabic, and you should definitely visit one of them in Houmt Souk, which is the island's capital.

There are two different markets to choose from, one designed for tourists and the other for local people. It is recommended to try to visit the second one. Everything between heaven and earth is sold here. Goods from screws to raw meat are common sights.

The market is one of the few places where you see the

female population. It is only men that are visible at the cafés and around the smaller villages.

The villages have local craftsmen, these include pottery and ceramics, carpets, baskets and leather goods to name but a few. The richness of olive wood is shown to good effect in the carved bowls, kitchen utensils and even in jewellery items.

ACCOMMODATION



Photo: sgustin78

Touring Djerba is an opportunity to meet its inhabitants, the Kharijites (the third sect in Islam), known for their hospitality towards other communities. There are still some Christians as well, and also one thousand Jews living there, whose main synagogue in Hara Sghira is the oldest and most famous in the world!

Vincci Djerba Resort

Vincci Djerba is a 4-star resort with the advantage of being a bit on the edge of the tourist zone. They offer sauna, hammam and a massage centre to clear your mind of worries.

Address: Zone Touristique Sidi Bakour, Djerba

Phone: +216 75 730 400

Internet: www.vinccihoteles.com

Hotel Telemaque Beach & Spa

Situated southeast of Djerba on one of the island's longest beaches, the Hotel Telemaque Beach & Spa lies only 12 km from Houmt-Souk, 6 km from Midoun and 20 km from the airport. The hotel features all modern amenities.

Address: Plage Sidi Mahrez, Houmt Souk, Djerba

Phone: +216 758 736

Hotel & Restaurant Arischa

If you look for the authenticity of the Berber traditions in an ancestral residence, then Arischa hotel is your place. It is a beautiful boutique hotel with a lot of character.

Address: 4180 Houmet Esouk, Djerba

Phone: +216 75 650 384

Internet: www.hotelarischa.com

Email: hotel.arischa@gnet.tn

Hotel Flamingo Beach

This 3-star hotel is located on the beach of Sidi Mahrez, with an inviting and relaxing atmosphere and a patio made for relaxation.

Address: Plage Sidi Mahrez, Djerba

Phone: +216 75 758 218

Internet: www.flamingobeach-hotel.com

Dar Bibine

Dar Bibine is a guest house / Bed & Breakfast with a traditional Djerbian architecture mixed with a fresh and white minimalist design. The staff is very warm and welcoming.

Address: rue Abdel Wahab 7, Erriadh, Djerba

Phone: +216 94 712 482

Internet: www.darbibine.com

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



Photo: Henning Leweke

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Djerba-Zarzis International Airport

Djerba-Zarzis International Airport is located near Mellita, just 8 kilometres from Houmt Souk. Taxis are the most efficient and fastest way to get in town.

Address: Djerba-Zarzis International Airport

Phone: +216 75 650 233

Internet: www.oaca.nat.tn

Public Transport

The best way to get anywhere in Djerba is by taxi. They are cheap and readily available in all main beach resorts, everywhere and at all times of the day or night.

Once you find a taxi driver you like, ask for his phone number and he will be happy to come pick you up and give you a ride. If you're a group, another good option is to use shared taxis, which go to a fixed destination. They leave only when they're full. If you need a booking back to

the airport, it's also good to ask your hotel.

If you have time, an original way to explore Djerba is by bicycle or small motorbike. Ask your hotel for more details about rentals.

Address: Gare Routière, Houmt Souk, Djerba

Ferry

For those who arrive by car, the ferry between Jorf and Ajim (southwest of the island) runs every hour from 4 a.m. to midnight and every two hours from midnight to 4 a.m. (free for pedestrians).

Address: Port d'Ajim, Djerba

Post

Bureau de Poste Houmt Souk

Address: Av. Habib Bourguiba, Djerba
Phone: +216 75 65 33 31

Pharmacy

Benghorbal Abdel Karim

Address: Av. Bourguiba, Djerba
Phone: +216 75 65 00 59

Health Care

Hôpital Sadok MKADEM

Address: Houmt Souk, Djerba
Phone: +216 75 650 146

Telephone

Country Code: +216
Area Code: 75

Electricity

220 Volts, 50 Hertz.

Population

139,000

Currency

TND (Tunisian Dinar)

Opening hours

In general public services, banks, museums and shops are open from 8.00 to 12.00 noon and from 14.00 to 17.00. During the summer the afternoon hours can be from 15.00 to 18.00. Some banks open non-stop from 8.00 to 16.15, Monday to Friday. Museums close on Monday and Bank Holidays. Shops close on Sunday and Bank Holidays.

Newspapers

Le Renouveau
Le Quotidien
Essahafa

Emergency numbers

Police: 197
Fire Brigade: 197
Ambulance: +216 75 650 018 / 190

Tourist information

Commissariat Régional au tourisme
Bd de l'environnement
Houmt Souk
+216 75 650 544/016

