



Tunisia

At the Crossroads of Civilizations

with Tarek El-Ariss, the James Wright Professor and Chair of Middle Eastern Studies

February 14 – 24, 2025

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

TRAVEL with Professor **Tarek El-Ariss** on an exclusive, nine-night program that unearths Tunisia's astonishing wonders.

DELIGHT in special inside looks at Roman and Islamic archaeological wonders and bustling *souks*, as well as exclusive culinary experiences.

GO behind the scenes of Carthage's hidden archaeological treasures, starting with a private visit to the Carthage National Museum and its collection of marble carvings, ancient sarcophagi, exquisite masks, and more.

EXPLORE the opulent world of the ancient Roman elite at Carthage's remarkably well-preserved Roman villas and the largest Roman baths outside of Italy.

ENJOY an expert-guided look at Tunis's palatial Bardo Museum and its world-famous collection of ancient Roman polychrome mosaics.

JOIN experts at UNESCO-listed Dougga, North Africa's best-preserved Roman city, uncovering its seventeen centuries of history.

JOURNEY to Zaghouan and the Temple of Waters, where expert guides will showcase this marvel of ancient Roman engineering and water conservation.

SAVOR the Mediterranean charm of Monastir, with a guided look at North Africa's oldest Islamic fortress.

ADMIRE the Amphitheatre of El Jem, a UNESCO World Heritage Site which rivals Rome's Colosseum.

EXPERIENCE a guided look at Kairouan, one of Sunni Islam's holiest cities, and its UNESCO-listed Great Mosque.

MARVEL at the ingenious, ninth-century Aghlabid Basins, hydraulic structures built to supply Kairouan with water.



Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends of Dartmouth,

What is the Mediterranean's best-kept secret? The answer is Tunisia, a majestic North African landscape coveted by empires for millennia. Step back in time to when ancient Carthage dominated the Mediterranean as a superpower. Across the sea, Rome eyed Carthage enviously, later seizing its territory and building the finest Roman temples outside Italy here. Later, in the Middle Ages, Arabs made Tunisia the jewel of the Islamic world.

In February 2025, experience this diverse heritage for yourself on our nine-night program. Amid Tunisia's sunny beaches and Saharan vistas, gain in-depth knowledge about underappreciated parts of world history. When you witness Tunisia's medinas, Roman and Islamic ruins, and seaside villages, you'll understand why the country has attracted artists, writers, and intellectuals for centuries.

On expert-guided excursions, go behind the scenes at several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, from Carthage's Phoenician ruins and Roman villas adorned with mosaics; to Dougga, North Africa's best-preserved Roman city. Feel the spiritual legacy of Kairouan, one of Islam's holiest cities, with an inside look at its legendary seventh-century mosque.

Imagine the ancient gladiatorial spectacles inside the 35,000-seat Amphitheatre of El Jem, which rivals Rome's Colosseum in scale and preservation. Ancient feats of engineering will inspire you, including the Temple of Waters in Zaghouan, whose underground chambers supplied water to Carthage.

You'll connect with Tunisia's modern hospitality with accommodations at the elegant Four Seasons in Tunis and a beachfront hotel in Monastir. Travel with the guidance of **Tarek El-Ariss**, the James Wright Professor and Chair of Middle Eastern Studies, whose expertise on Arabic culture, literature, and art will enrich your experience.

To reserve your place on this exclusive cultural adventure, please contact our tour operator Arrangements Abroad at 800-221-1944 or trips@arrangementsabroad.com. We hope you join this exciting program, during which amazing history will come vividly alive for you.

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Tarek El-Ariss is the James Wright Professor and Chair of Middle Eastern Studies at Dartmouth College. He works across disciplines and languages to examine notions of the subject, community, and modernity. His research interests

include Arabic literature, culture, and the arts. He is the author of *Trials of Arab Modernity: Literary Affects and the New Political* and *Leaks, Hacks, and Scandals: Arab Culture in the Digital Age*, and editor of the MLA anthology, *The Arab Renaissance: A Bilingual Anthology of the Nahda*. In 2021, he earned a Guggenheim Fellowship to complete his new book, *Water on Fire: A Memoir of War*, now available from Other Press.

Regards from Hanover,

Robin Albing TU'81
Executive Director, Lifelong Learning and
Advancement Special Projects

Alicia V. Wright
Assistant Director, Lifelong Learning

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Activity Level:



Pace Level:



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Ports will reveal the maritime legacy of Carthage, once a great commercial power. The original ports were filled in after Carthage's destruction in 146 B.C., and the Romans repurposed the area in the second century A.D. for their merchant fleet. Later, transfer back to Tunis and gather for a welcome dinner this evening. B,L,D

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17: TUNIS / DOUGGA / BULLA REGIA

Set forth for an immersive exploration of two historical sites that will transport you to Roman Africa. First, join an expert guide at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Dougga, perhaps North Africa's best-preserved Roman city. Originally settled by the Numidians, an Amazigh tribe that lived in the region, Dougga was conquered by the Romans in 46 B.C. Admire its remarkable public buildings, including a 3,500-seat theater, temples, and more. While it thrived under Roman governance, its prosperity waned during the Byzantine and Islamic periods. The 185-acre site provides a comprehensive view of a city's evolution over 17 centuries.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14: DEPARTURE

Depart for Tunis on an overnight flight.

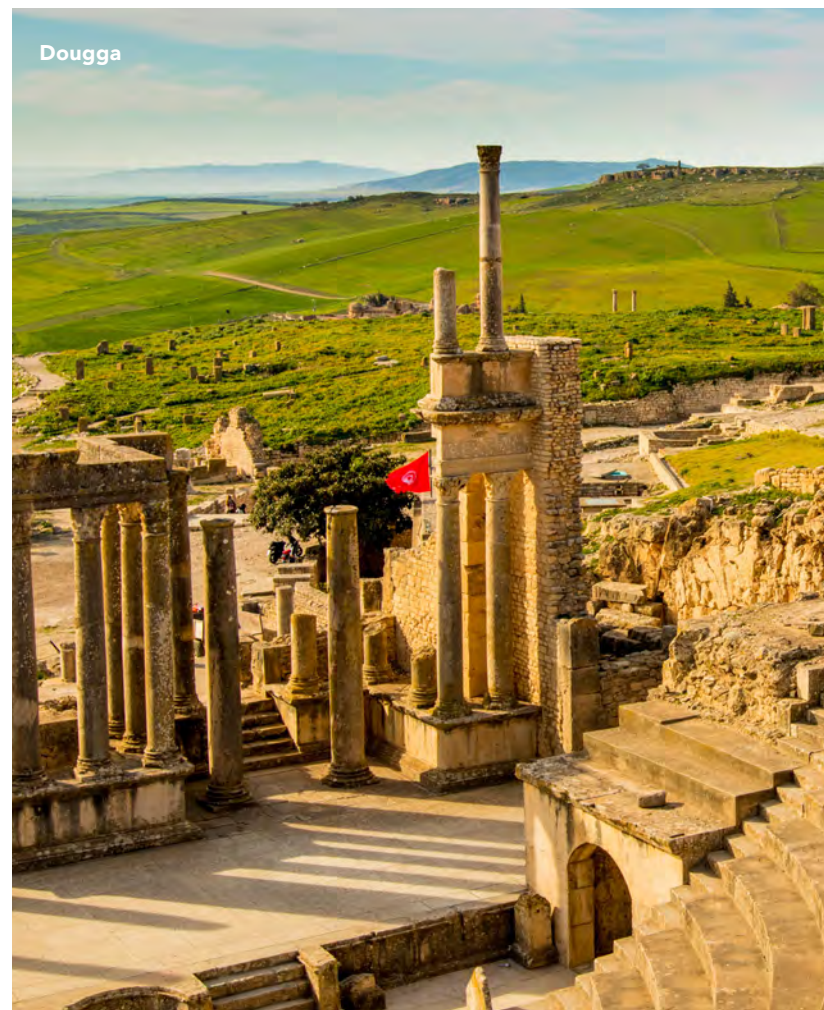
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15: TUNIS, TUNISIA

Arrive this morning and transfer to the hotel. Guests opting for the suggested flights will be met at the airport and take the group transfer to the hotel. Spend the afternoon at leisure and join **Professor Tarek El-Ariss** for a welcome reception at the hotel this evening. R

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16: TUNIS / CARTHAGE

Begin with a private morning visit to the Carthage National Museum (*pending re-opening*). Founded in 1875, the museum is known for its extensive collection of artifacts from the Punic, Roman, and Byzantine eras of Carthage, including marble carvings, a marble sarcophagus from the third century B.C., and masks. Ascend Byrsa Hill, the site of the UNESCO-listed ancient city of Carthage, founded by the Phoenicians in the ninth century B.C. Stand atop the hill for stunning views of the Mediterranean Sea and Tunis and a glimpse of ancient ruins.

After lunch at a local eatery, accompany your expert guide to Carthage's well-preserved, richly mosaicked Roman villas, a window into the opulent lifestyle of the ancient Roman elite. The second-century-A.D. Antonine baths, built during the reign of Roman Emperor Antoninus Pius, are the largest Roman baths outside of Italy and among the most spectacular. A guided visit to the ancient Punic





Great Mosque of Sousse

Next, explore Bulla Regia, known for its unique semi-subterranean housing from the Hadrianic era. These underground houses protected residents from the sun's heat, with living quarters on the upper floors and storage below. The site also features well-preserved Roman polychrome mosaic floors, which conservators maintain *in situ* for visitors to admire in their original context. This evening, join us for dinner at a local eatery. B,L,D

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18: TUNIS / UTHINA / ZAGHOUAN / THUBURBO MAJUS

Gather for an early departure from Tunis and venture to Uthina, a Roman colony during Emperor Augustus' reign (31 B.C.– 14 A.D.). Its ruins cover a vast area, including a fortress, cisterns, an aqueduct, a triumphal arch, a theater, and an exceptionally well-preserved acropolis. Continue to Zaghouan, known for its natural springs and ancient Roman aqueduct. Take an inside look at the awe-inspiring Temple of Waters, constructed in 139 A.D. around a spring, incorporating a network of subterranean chambers and conduits to supply water to Carthage.

Enjoy a lunch of local Tunisian cuisine before proceeding to Thuburbo Majus. Originally a Punic town, Thuburbo Majus was transformed into a Roman veteran colony by Augustus in 27 B.C., boasting a strategic location along trade routes. Surrounded by wheat fields and olive groves, explore this ancient city's well-preserved Roman ruins, including a decorated tetrastyle temple, a forum, a basilica, and a theater. This evening, have some time to enjoy the hotel's amenities and dinner at leisure. B,L

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19: TUNIS / SOUSSE / MONASTIR

Start your day with a presentation by Professor El-Ariss, followed by a visit to the historic beachfront city of Sousse, with its exquisite Mediterranean coastline. Immerse yourself in the lively ambiance of Sousse's medieval medina, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which originated during the Aghlabid period (800–909 A.D.) as a commercial and military port within

a coastal defense system to ward off piracy and maritime threats. Accompany an expert to navigate its labyrinth of narrow, winding streets lined with whitewashed houses and busy markets. A highlight will be the Great Mosque of Sousse, a prominent example of Aghlabid architecture from the early Islamic era, commissioned in 851 A.D.

Indulge in a delectable lunch featuring local Tunisian flavors. Continuing your journey, delve into the coastal allure of Monastir, home to the ruins of the ancient city of Ruspina, originally a Punic-Roman settlement. Discover the Ribat of Monastir, North Africa's oldest Islamic fortress, built in the eighth century A.D. The imposing fortress includes horseshoe arches, prayer rooms with medieval artifacts, and a spiral staircase leading to a watchtower offering panoramic views of the Gulf and the city of Monastir.

Then head to the Mausoleum of Habib Bourguiba, the monumental resting place of Tunisia's first president, Habib Bourguiba (1903–2000). Built in 1963, long before Bourguiba's death, the mausoleum features a modern Arab-Muslim style with a central square area with a gold dome, flanked by two sections topped with green cupolas and twin 75-foot-high minarets.

Conclude the day with a local dinner at Monastir before checking into your hotel. B,L,D

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20: MONASTIR / SBEITLA / KAIROUAN

Uncover the mysteries of Sbeitla, celebrated for its exceptionally well-preserved Roman ruins, especially its forum temples. Stop to see the ornate, Corinthian-style Triumphal Arch of the Tetrarchy, a grand structure marking the entrance to the ancient city. Nearby, behold the immense Gate of Antoninus, the entry to the Roman forum reinforced by Byzantine fortifications in the sixth century A.D. See remains of the Basilica of Saints Gervasius, Protasius, and Tryphon, a sixth-century church.



Sbeitla

Great Mosque, Kairouan



Later this morning, transfer to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kairouan, one of the oldest Arab-Islamic cities in the Maghreb (founded in 670 A.D.) and a vital historical center of learning, arts, politics, religion, and science. Join an expert for a look at the iconic Great Mosque of Kairouan, built in 703 A.D. One of the Islamic world's oldest and most significant houses of worship, the Great Mosque's architecture is an early example of a hypostyle mosque, incorporating pre-Islamic, Eastern Islamic, Roman, and Byzantine influences.

Wander through Kairouan's enchanting medina, with its buzzing markets, stopping for a traditional Tunisian lunch. Then discover the ingenuity of the Aghlabid Basins, which are water reservoirs and hydraulic works constructed during the ninth century A.D. to supply water to the city. Comprising two connected cisterns fed by a 36-mile aqueduct from the Djebel Zaghouan mountain range, these basins collected and stored rainwater. The largest basin is 410 feet long, 118 feet wide, and holds nearly 2.3 million gallons of water. Then marvel at the nine elaborate city gates, six leading to the Great Mosque courtyard, two to the prayer hall, and one for city access. B,L,D

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21: MONASTIR / EL JEM / MAHDIA

This morning, discover the town of El Jem, home of the UNESCO-listed Amphitheatre of El Jem, a Roman masterpiece. Constructed around 238 A.D., this colossal amphitheater, which rivals Rome's Colosseum, seats 35,000 spectators and once hosted gladiatorial battles and chariot races.

After a local Tunisian lunch, visit the El Jem Museum, which houses a world-class collection of Roman mosaics, sculptures, pottery, and jewelry. A highlight is the African House, a beautifully restored Roman villa adorned with its original mosaics.

Continue to Mahdia, which boasts Phoenician and Roman roots. Mahdia became the capital of the Fatimid dynasty in 912 A.D., with Sicilian Normans, Spaniards, and Ottomans later claiming the city. Expert guides will introduce you to sites including the Great Fatimid Mosque, Tunisia's oldest, and Skifa el Kahla, a sumptuous, Fatimid-era gateway once part of the city's ancient defenses. Visit Borj el Kebir, a 16th-century Ottoman fortress, where you can walk along the historic walls. Wander the narrow streets of the Old Town, encased by its original walls and known for its traditional Tunisian architecture and inviting atmosphere. B,L,D



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22: MONASTIR / HAMMAMET / KERKOUANE / TUNIS

Leave Monastir in the morning and head to Hammamet, a coastal town famous for its sandy beaches and scattered remains of Carthaginian and Roman settlements. Explore the Roman archaeological site of Pupput, an ancient city notable for its mosaic floors and thermal baths. Step inside Hammamet's 15th-century medina, encircled by historic walls and dotted with whitewashed buildings, and climb the 13th-century Kasbah fortress for breathtaking sea views.

After exploring Hammamet, journey to the ancient Punic city of Kerkouane, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Abandoned circa 250 B.C. during the First Punic War, Kerkouane was left untouched by the Romans. With your expert guide, stroll through its well-preserved ruins offering a unique window into Phoenician-Punic civilization. Observe its defensive walls, residential areas, and the unique structure of its ancient port—the only such example in the Mediterranean.

This evening, return to the Four Seasons for dinner at one of the hotel's extraordinary eateries. B,L,D



Mosaic, Bardo Museum, Tunis



Sidi Bou Saïd

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23: KAIROUAN / TUNIS

Travel back to Tunis for a morning visit to the palatial Bardo Museum. Enjoy a guided exploration of its exceptional collection of Roman polychrome mosaics, dating primarily from the second to the seventh century A.D. These mosaics were gathered from various archaeological sites across Tunisia, including El Jem, Dougga, and Sousse.

Delight in a special tour of the medina's diverse offerings, meet local artisans at work, and enjoy stops at historic landmarks like the Zitouna Mosque, Tunis's oldest mosque, originally founded in 734 A.D. and constructed with 200 columns acquired from Roman Carthage; and Dar Ben Abdallah Palace, built in 1796 by a Tunisian noble and still one of Tunis's loveliest structures, featuring a beautiful courtyard, a fountain, and a garden. Stop for afternoon tea and free time to explore the medina and its markets at your own pace. This evening, gather for a festive farewell dinner in Sidi Bou Saïd, a picturesque suburb of Tunis.

B,L,D



Zitouna Mosque, Tunis

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24: TUNIS / RETURN

Depart the hotel early this morning and transfer to the Tunis airport for your flight home.

B

PROGRAM RATE

\$8,499 per person, double rate

\$9,999 single rate

RATE INCLUDES

- Nine nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine, beer, and signature cocktails at welcome and farewell dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES International airfare; passport; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically

DISCLAIMER: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Dartmouth Alumni Travel and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at <http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms>.

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ACCOMMODATIONS

Four Seasons Hotel, Tunis



FOUR SEASONS HOTEL TUNIS

In the heart of Tunisia's lively capital, this contemporary Mediterranean retreat provides a serene beachfront getaway, with well-appointed guest rooms. Unwind in the rejuvenating spa and pools, with more than 3,000 years of ancient civilization just a stone's throw away. Enjoy 24-hour in-room dining and complimentary Wi-Fi.

HILTON SKANES MONASTIR BEACH RESORT

This beachfront haven provides panoramic views of the Mediterranean Sea. Its elegant guest rooms and suites are adorned with modern amenities. Refresh yourself in its multiple swimming pools, well-equipped fitness center, and spa facilities.

Hilton Skanes Monastir Beach Resort



Carpets in the medina, Tunis

DARTMOUTH ALUMNI TRAVEL TUNISIA: AT THE CROSSROADS OF CIVILIZATIONS FEBRUARY 14 – 24, 2025 RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, fax: 212-344-7493; email: trips@arrangementsabroad.com; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print. Dartmouth Affiliation

Dartmouth Affiliation

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

E-mail

Fax

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Room Preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds ☐ Single

I wish to share a room with _____

FORM OF PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to Arrangements Abroad)

☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date