



destination UPDATE TUNISIA



Tunisia has remained a little in the background when it came to both incentive and conference travel, but not any more!

Excellent hotels, superb infrastructure, great beaches, ancient history and the wonders of nature in the Sahara Desert make Tunisia one of the major up-and-coming destinations for the future.

Supported by interesting sightseeing to Sidi Bou Said, Carthage, Dougga and Tunis itself, plus excellent restaurants, all within easy transfer times from the hotels, make this an exciting new destination for both incentives and conferences alike. A new airport opened in Enfidha on February 2010.

For pure incentive programmes the 'Sahara Experience' of Southern Tunisia is a must. Stay at the Palm Beach in Tozeur, a real gem just made for incentive groups. For a product launch the new Planet Oasis has state-of-the-art technical facilities.

Then you have such delights as a trip on the Red Lizard Train, a visit to the world's second largest salt lake on the way to the Troglodyte homes that everyone can enter, plus the Star Wars Set out in the sand dunes, the same area which was also the location for the Oscar winning, English Patient. These are just a select few of the experiences on offer.

HOTELS IN HAMMAMET

HOTEL LE ROYAL



Category: 5* Resort Property

Tunis Airport: 50 Minutes

Rooms: 266 + 24 suites + 1 Royal Suite

Restaurants: 5

Conference Facilities: Meeting up to 800 theatre style

Other Facilities: Business Centre, Fitness Centre, 5 Swimming Pools, tennis.

dU's opinion: An excellent property great for groups with excellent service and facilities. The bedrooms have been renovated this year, as they are not up to the high standard of the rest of the hotel. What makes this hotel very flexible and ideal for groups is the 5 swimming pools around the resort and one can section off different areas for a cocktail reception. The Royal also has its own private beach and has an Arabic / modern feel throughout the hotel. All rooms have a safe and iron.

HOTEL KARTHAGO



Category: 5* property

Tunis Airport: 50 Minutes

Rooms: 299 + 11 suites + 4 apartments

Restaurants: 2

Conference Facilities: Meeting up to 500 theatre style

Other Facilities: Business Centre, thalassotherapy Centre, fitness room, ice rink, Swimming Pool, Private beach 150 metres from the hotel.

dU's opinion: This is a fantastic property and is newly built and located near to the new marina facing the sea. The property has been designed in the shape of a ship inside. A very modern contemporary hotel, which has been influenced by its owner who is from Dubai, where every detail has been looked into carefully.

HASDRUBAL THALASSA HOTEL HAMMAMET



Category: 5* Beach Resort Property

Airport: 50 Minutes

Rooms: 210 suites laid out on four floors + 1 presidential villa, classified in the Guinness book as the most spacious suite in the world.

Restaurants: 4 including Dietetic + Pool and Bar

Conference Facilities: 300 in state of the art meeting room

Other Facilities: Major Thalassotherapy Center & Spa, Watersports, Indoor & Outdoor Tennis, Sauna and Turkish Bath, Golf 6km, Billiard Room, private beach

dU's opinion: A pleasant hotel located on the seafront, 15kms from the town of Hammamet, with fantastic Thalassotherapy Centre. The self contained 8 room Presidential Suite, including in and outdoor pools, would make an innovative venue for a small, senior level meeting. Well worth the extra transfer time to Hammamet for the right type of group.

HOTEL SOFITEL



Category: 5* property

Tunis Airport: 50 Minutes

Rooms: 236

Restaurants: 3

Conference Facilities: Meeting up to 550 theatre style

Other Facilities: 3 restaurants serving local specialties and refined cuisine from around the world, 6 bars, 1 beach club, several shops, heated indoor pool & outdoor swimming pool, tennis court, and luxurious spa for ultimate well-being.

dU's opinion: The Sofitel was my favourite of all the hotels in Hammanet and it has a seafront location, between the Medina and beach. The Sofitel Saphir is ideal for Conference & Incentives situated in the heart of Tunisia's current "hot spot" and is close to tourist attractions, golf courses, casinos, convention centre and discotheques.

AL HAMBRA - MARITIM



Category: 5* property

Airport: 50 Minutes

Rooms: 184 including 15 Junior Suites

Restaurants: 3 + beach bar

Conference Facilities: Meeting up to 180 theatre style

Other Facilities: Thalassotherapy Centre, swimming pool, private beach

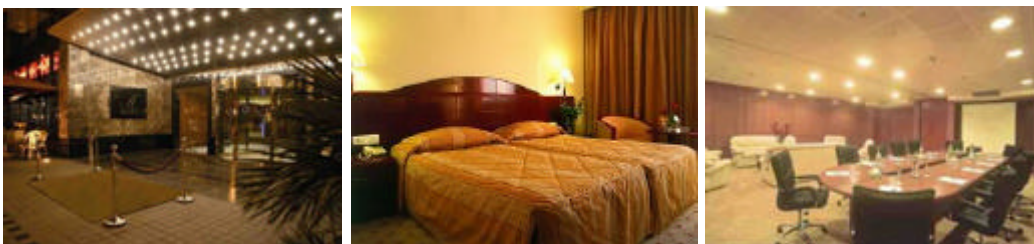
dU's opinion:

The elegant Alhambra hotel opened its doors in 2004 and the design of the hotel was inspired by the famous Alhambra Palace in Granada. It is located in the resort area "Yasmine Hammamet" (Hammamet Sud); it has its own beach 200 metres from the hotel. It has a homely feel and would be ideal for both conference & incentive groups.

HOTELS IN TUNIS

Tunis is the centre totally designed more for conferences rather than incentives, as you have much more beautiful areas around Tunisia.

HOTEL AFRICA



Category: 5* property

Airport: 10 minutes

Rooms: 189 this includes 22 Suites & 1 luxurious

Restaurants: 4

Conference Facilities: 14 meeting rooms accommodating up to 350 people, a business centre, high performance audiovisual equipments and an experienced team of technicians

Other Facilities: Two restaurants, a bar/lounge, and a coffee shop/café. 24 hour room service.

dU's opinion: This hotel in our opinion would be used mainly for conferences, but location-wise this hotel is ideal, as it is located near to the old Medina.

GOLDEN TULIP HOTEL TUNIS



Category: 5* Resort Property

Airport: 15 Minutes

Rooms: 244 + 21 suites

Restaurants: 4 (1 summer only) 3 (1 summer only)

Conference Facilities: Meeting up to 400

Other Facilities: Health Spa, Fitness Centre, Bowling Alley, Golf 8 km

dU's opinion: An exceptional property, especially for a conference. No direct beach access, but two separate pool areas can be used for exclusive events. It has excellent service and facilities.

TOZEUR

SOFITEL PALM BEACH HOTEL TOZEUR



Category: 5* Property

Airport: 15 minutes

Rooms: 182+7 suites

Restaurants: 3 International, Gourmet and Barbecue

Conference Facilities: 100 in meeting room & 700 in the Kaydal Tent

Other Facilities: Golf (Opening this April) an excellent catering service for all type of events

dU's opinion: An exciting destination for an unforgettable incentive programme. Fly direct from Tunis to Tozeur, Enjoy 4x4 Desert Safaris, Sand Surfing, Quad Bikes, Camel racing and even Ballooning; the list of activities is almost endless. Best used in conjunction with either the Palm Beach or the 5* Dar Chrait Hotels. The new Planet Oasis is a superb state-of-the-art technical facility set in a Palm Grove. Ideal for a large farewell dinner, a product launch or just for cocktails and the 30 minute, Son et Lumière Show Spectacular.

TAMERZA PALACE & SPA



Category: 4* property

Airport: 70 kms

Rooms: 109 Rooms

Restaurants: 2 restaurants. There is a restaurant at the hotel with capacity of around 150 Pax and the second one called as "La Terrasse de Latlas" approximately with the same capacity.

Conference Facilities: N/A

dU's opinion: A little gem located right in the heart of the desert, this beautiful property is more like a relaxing retreat, away from the 'hustle and bustle' overlooking the quaint village of Tamerza. In addition, with wonderful views of the Atlas range, this hotel would be perfect for a relaxing incentive, especially with its Spa, and balconies and terraces where you can remain uninterrupted.

SUGGESTED RESTAURANT

Next Door



The Next Door restaurant is great for groups of up to 70 pax. Situated 20 minutes from the town centre you can hire this restaurant exclusively for your groups. The restaurant specializes in Tunisian specialties. Adjoining is the Havana Club where all the locals come to dance the night away till dawn and if hired exclusively you can hire a band for live music.

WHAT TO DO – WHAT TO SEE

Hammanet

During the very ancient times, Hammamet was a lost village with its orchards on the calm seaside. Despite the three millennia of history of Tunisia, the city has not faced major disturbances and even became famous owing to a very rich Roman. Nowadays, HAMMAMET is one of the most famous seaside resorts in Tunisia and one of the best of the Mediterranean Sea.

The Old Medina

Arguably one of Tunisia's finest locations, this is a real pleasure to visit and allows a true, authentic representation of the 'old' Tunisia, but without so much of the hassle that the area may have become known for in the past, especially for women.

Medina Mediterranea



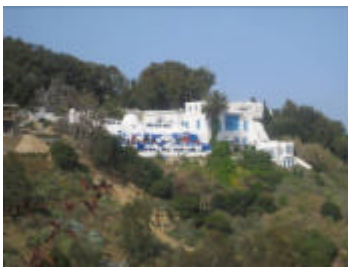
This multi-purpose venue, based in Hammamet recreates the traditional, old medina and comprises of the following: a Convention and Expo Centre, a theme park (which would be perfect for teambuilding events, combined with a conference), museums, restaurants, shops, entertainment areas and even an on-site hotel - Residence Diar Lemdina.

The Convention and Expo Centre can accommodate up to 5000 delegates for conferences, seminars and congresses etc. The Centre's outside area can cater for up to 3000 for a banquet or themed / gala dinner, with set-up in Berber Tents.

The Acropoliom of Carthage

Constructed in 1884 within the building of the former St. Louis Cathedral. It was restored in 1995; this stunning building stands at the top of the Byrsa Hill. The monument is of Byzantine Moorish style and is decorated with marble columns and stained glass. It occupies an area of 1800 square metres, perfect for group tours and exhibitions, which are often hosted here. However, despite its size and as no alcohol may be consumed here, this would most probably pose a problem for group functions (i.e. a drinks reception).

Sidi bou Said



Of the saint man, Sidi Bou Saïd is a village located on a cliff dominating Carthage and the gulf of Tunis, at the seaside. It was constructed around the marabou, where Sidi Bou Saïd is buried. The very white houses, with very special architecture are boarding the tortuous alleys. The nostalgic religious atmosphere in this village gives the visitor the impression that he/she is in a place where time has stopped.

The Village of Sidi Bou Said: This stunningly blue and white village, which is not far from Tunis, is more akin to one of the Greek Islands. 'Cafe de Delices' offers one of the best cliff-top views in Sidi Bou Said and although rather pricey and despite no alcohol being served anywhere in Sidi Bou Said, the magnificent views more than make up for this.

Maison Baron D'erlanger in Sidi Bou Said: Exploring this Arabic -style, magnificent Palace (constructed in 1922 by Baron Rodolphe d'Erlanger and his wife) is a real treat. The rooms contain Arab-Andalusian furniture and the garden offers stunning views of the bay. Currently, the palace is home to the Arab and Mediterranean Music Centre, which holds many concerts and beautiful exhibits, thus making it a fantastic venue for groups or private functions.

The Red Lizard Train



This Train explores the canyons of 'Les Gorges de Selja' and provides an almost 'Wild West' expedition, with its old fashioned coaches, furniture and music. The train line follows an old mining track to a working phosphate mine; this makes the experience ideal for groups embarking on a fun, teambuilding experience.

The train does stop about half-way into the journey to allow people to take photographs and it is well worth noting that for groups, some sort of fake 'hold-up' can be organised by the DMC as an exciting surprise, with rogues arriving on horseback alongside the carriages!

It is possible to take the train just 1 way and get off (after about 1 ½ hours) and continue the journey by other means, or stay on the train the whole time and return back to Meltaoui (about 40 kms from Tozeur).

It is advisable to take coins and / or sweets with you, which you can throw to the local children as you pass them on the train. It is truly breathtaking to see the energy these children have as they catch up with the train!

Jeep Safari



This is the perfect way to transport small groups and have plenty of fun at the same time; and this could encompass a visit to the following impressive sites:

- ? The Waterfalls of Tamerza and the Old village of the Three Marabouts:
- ? The Mountain Oasis of Chebika
- ? The Troglodyte Villages

Ong Jmal Desert Site and Matmata: These areas are particularly famed for the location in which Star Wars and even the English Patient were filmed. Ong Jemel (otherwise know as the rock of the camel) was used in the 'Phantom Menace' and in Mamata 'A New Hope', (Episode 4) was shot in 1976.

Many remains of the old site are still here, although nowadays the locals who inhabit the site do try to sell jewels, exchange money or offer camel rides! This site is still speculator, if not a little run-down, but is still well worth a visit. As previously mentioned a jeep visit is compulsory, especially to discover the big dune from the fourth episode.

GOLF IN TUNISIA

There are five fantastic golf courses in Tunisia:

Golf Citrus (45 holes)- www.golfcitrus.com

Golf Yasmine (18 holes) - www.golfyasmine.com

Golf Tabarka (18 holes) - www.tabarkagolf.com

Golf Residence (18 holes) - www.theresidence.com

Kantaoui Golf Club (18 holes) - www.portelkantaoui.com.tn/golf

You can also play golf in Golf oasis Tozeur, Golf Djerba...

FLIGHTS

We sampled the services of Tunisair and other airlines flying to Tunisia, including British Airways and Charter flights from numerous UK Airports.

CONCLUSION

I promise you an amazing, successful incentive or conference where both you and your clients will experience quality that represents some of the best service and value for money within 2½ hours flying time of London.