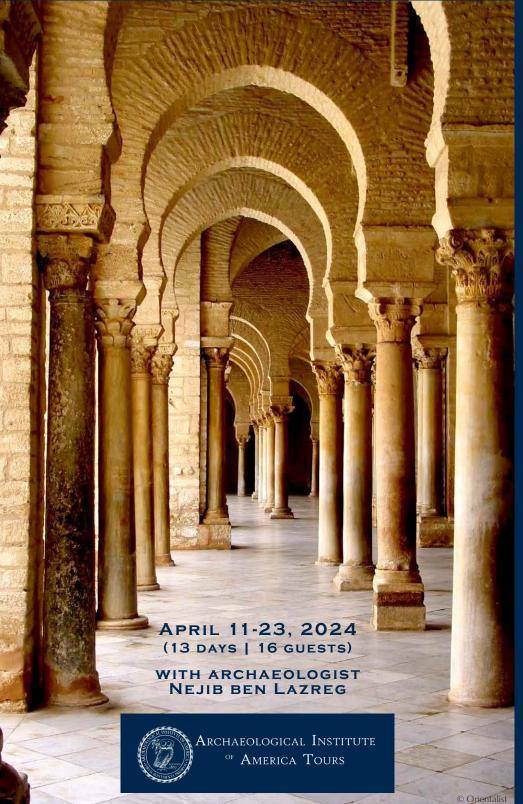


"It is absolutely amazing! Everyone who is interested in archaeology should make the effort to come here." - Joyce, California





TUNISIA PHOENICIANS TO ROMANS, MOSAICS TO MOSQUES



Archaeology-focused tours for the curious to the connoisseur.

Archaeological Institute of America Study Leader & Guide

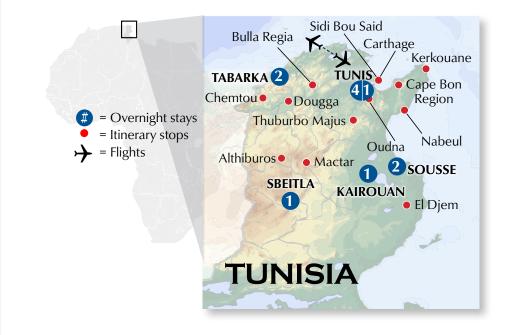


Dr. Nejib ben Lazreg is an archaeologist and researcher with the Institut National du Patrimoine in Tunisia. He is the Curator of the Salakta Archaeological Museum, the Lamta

Museum, and Roman sites in Tunisia's Sahel region (Leptis Minor, Thapsus, and Sullecthum). Nejib's area of specialization is Tunisia's Roman and Early Christian mosaics, though his career has also spanned other topics such as Punic, Roman, and Christian necropolises; and Roman pottery kilns, baths, and houses. He has conducted archaeological surveys in central Tunisia and excavations mainly in the Roman port cities of Leptis Minor, Thapsus, and Sullecthum, but also occasionally in the Kairouan region. Some of his major discoveries in Tunisia include an underground 4th-century Christian chapel and catacombs, and the mosaics of Venus (A.D. 300) and of the birth of Helen and the Dioscuri (A.D. 400), at Leptiminus (Lamta); the 3rd-century A.D. athletes mosaic and 6th-century A.D. mosaic-covered baptistery at Thapsus; and Christian catacombs at Sullecthum. In 2017, Nejib received the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters medal from the French Minister of Culture; and he organized the exhibition called "Shared Holy Places: Coexistence in Europe and the Mediterranean" at Tunis's Bardo Museum, in cooperation with the Museum of Civilization of Europe and the Mediterranean of Marseille (MUCEM). Nejib was the AIA's Kress Lecturer for 2009-10, and he has led this AIA tour of Tunisia five times since 2012, to excellent reviews.

Carthage





HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel and learn with study leader/guide and archaeologist Nejib ben Lazreg and up to 16 guests.
- Visit all seven of Tunisia's cultural UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Explore fabled **Carthage**, including the Antonine Baths and the cisterns.
- Spend three full days in and around **Tunis**, including a visit to the **Bardo** Museum (pending its re-opening), featuring exquisite exhibits of Roman and Byzantine mosaics.
- See the beautiful Cape Bon coast and the Punic site of Kerkouane.
- Marvel at Bulla Regia, a well-preserved site featuring underground Roman villas, a museum, a Temple of Apollo, and a 2nd-century theater.
- Tour **Dougga**, established prior to the Romans, with its 3,500 seat theater; Temples of Saturn, Augustan Piety, and Mercury; and Capitol.
- Discover Kairouan, the fourth holiest city in the Muslim world, founded in A.D. 670, with its carpet, leather, brass, and spice vendors; and its Great Mosque with a three-tiered minaret.
- Visit El Djem, one of Tunisia's most extraordinary sites, with a marvelous, 30,000-seat, ancient amphitheater and a museum that houses lovely mosaics.
- Visit the Roman city of Sbeitla (Sufetula), one of North Africa's bestpreserved Roman cities, including several stunning 2nd-century A.D. temples and mosaic-covered Byzantine baptisteries.
- Wander through Thuburbo Majus, a sprawling site occupied in turn by Berbers, Phoenicians, and Romans. The imperial remains include the Forum, Temple of Mercury, and sunken winter baths.

COVER: (main image) Ancient Roman columns in the Great Mosque at Kairouan, (left from top) Kairouan Mosque Cemetery, mosaic detail (El Djem Museum), AIA travelers at Dougga





"I've traveled to Italy, Sicily, Spain, Greece, and Turkey in order to study classical sites, but nothing prepared me for [Tunisia's] number of sites, their extensiveness, the quality of the mosaics..." - M.C., Iowa

ITINERARY

(B)= Breakfast, (L)= Lunch, (D)= Dinner

Thursday, April 11, 2024: Depart home

Friday, April 12: Arrive Tunis, Tunisia | Welcome dinner Arrive today at Tunis-Carthage International Airport (TUN), where you will be met and transferred to our luxurious beachfront hotel. Enjoy a welcome dinner hosted by AIA study leader Nejib ben Lazreg and your tour manager. *Overnight at*

the 5-star <u>Four Seasons Hotel Tunis</u> for four nights. (D) **Saturday, April 13: Tunis: Bardo Museum | Carthage | Tunis** Begin the day with an introductory lecture. Then visit the world-famous Bardo Museum (pending its re-opening), whose earliest exhibits (Punic) date to the 7th century B.C., and whose most exquisite exhibits (Roman and Byzantine) are mosaics from sites all over Tunisia, many virtually intact. After lunch we explore the vast site of Carthage, founded in 814 B.C. by the Phoenicians and sacked by the Romans in 146 B.C. It was not until the 1st century A.D. that Rome rebuilt the city, and within a few years it expanded and prospered to

the point where it was second only to Rome. Our visit of this UNESCO World Heritage Site will include the tophets (cemeteries of children), Punic ports, Antonine Baths, Byrsa Hill, and cisterns. Return to our hotel and gather for dinner. (B,L,D)

Sunday, April 14: Nabeul Museum | Cape Bon Peninsula: Kelibia, Kerkouane | Tunis

Set out early this morning for the Cape Bon Peninsula, stopping first at Nabeul's small but interesting archaeological museum. Continue north to the coastal town of Kelibia, where we enjoy lunch. The Cape Bon Peninsula is a fertile agricultural region that was developed by the French as the heart of Tunisia's wine industry. After lunch we will enjoy scenic stops and visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kerkouane, one of the most important ancient Punic cities. Return to Tunis, where the balance of the day is at leisure. Restaurant suggestions for dinner will be provided, as there are many enjoyable dining options. (B,L)

Monday, April 15: Oudna | Tunis: Medina walking tour

This morning we drive to Oudna (Roman Uthina), one of Tunisia's more recently excavated sites that is still a work in progress. See the fine amphitheater and nearly a dozen villas with many mosaics, cisterns, and storage areas. After lunch we return to Tunis and take an in-depth walking tour of its medina, the historic heart of the city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, viewing from the outside the architecture of the Zitouna mosque and the nearby Hamouda Pasha and Hussein Day mosques. Return to our hotel, where we gather later for dinner. (B,L,D)

Photos from top: Dougga, the amphitheater at El Djem, (below) spices at the souk in Tunis



Tuesday, April 16: Dougga | Bulla Regia | Tabarka

Depart Tunis, driving through a fertile land that was part of the granary of Rome, and arrive at Dougga (ancient Thugga), Tunisia's most extensive archaeological site. Covering some 60 acres on a steep slope some 2,000 feet above the plain, Dougga was known as the "city of temples" and today is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the theater, which accommodated almost 3,500 people; the Temple of Saturn, under which was found evidence of a pre-Roman sanctuary dedicated to the Carthaginian god Baal; the Temples of Augustan Piety and Mercury; and the grandest structure—the Capitol that was dedicated to the gods Jupiter, Juno, and Minerva, and to the glory of co-emperors Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus. After lunch we drive to Bulla Regia, an unusual and very well-preserved site that features underground Roman villas; a Temple of Apollo, the oldest extant structure on the site; and a 2nd-century theater. Continue driving to the seaside town of Tabarka, where we check-in to our luxurious hotel and gather



for dinner. Overnight at the 5-star La Cigale Tabarka Hôtel for two nights. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, April 17: Tabarka: AM walking tour, PM at leisure

Enjoy a morning lecture followed by a walking tour in the coastal village of Tabarka. After lunch we return to our hotel, located along a sandy beach, to relax and enjoy its amenities. Dinner is on your own. (B,L)

Thursday, April 18: Chemtou Museum | Althiburos | Sbeitla

This morning we visit the Chemtou Museum, which has exhibits on the quarrying and transportation of marble, a small section of the original Roman road that was used to transport the marble, and more. Once home to ancient North Africa's largest marble quarry, Chemtou was incorporated into Roman Africa in 46 B.C. After lunch in Le Kef, we drive south to the Numidian-Roman city of Althiburos to see a recently discovered tophet, forum, capitol, arch, theater, and ancient houses. We continue on to our hotel in Sbeitla and then gather for dinner. Overnight at the comfortable, 3-star Hotel Suffeitla. (B,L,D)

Friday, April 19: Sbeitla | Mactar | Kairouan

This morning we visit the Roman city of Sbeitla (Sufetula) to see Diocletian's arch, forum, capitol, theater, and Christian churches. After lunch we visit the Roman city of Mactar to see the forum, Trajan's Arch, Caracalla's Baths, churches, and dolmens. Continue driving to Kairouan, where we check-in to our hotel and then gather for dinner. Overnight at the 5-star <u>Hôtel La Kasbah Kairouan</u>. (B,L,D)

Saturday, April 20: Kairouan walking tour | El Djem | Sousse

Kairouan's location along the old caravan routes provided a base for a flourishing crafts industry, which lives on today in its rugs and textiles. This morning we walk through the heart of this UNESCO World Heritage Site's medina, past sellers of carpets, leather goods, brass works, and spices to the Great Mosque, which has been rebuilt several times since its original construction in the 7th century. Then we set out on a drive to El Djem, another UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most extraordinary sites in Tunisia thanks to the marvelous, 3rd-century A.D. amphitheater in the heart of the town. Nearby is the museum of El Djem, which houses some lovely mosaics and the remains of some recently-excavated luxury villas. Continue driving to the seaside city of Sousse, Tunisia's third largest city, where we check-in to our hotel and have dinner. Overnight at the 5-star Mövenpick Resort & Marine Spa for two nights. (B,L,D)

Sunday, April 21: Sousse: AM Sousse Archaeological Museum and walking tour, PM at leisure

Visit the historic heart of Sousse, long a thriving trading center and major port and today a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Inside the 11th-century kasbah we tour the Sousse Archaeological Museum, which houses one of the country's best collections of 2^{nd} - and 3^{rd} -century Roman mosaics. Time permitting, our walking tour through The baptismal font of Saint Vitalis, Sbeitla

"As far as the overall most enjoyable thing about the trip goes, it definitely had to be our guide and wonderful teacher Nejib...his knowledge, speaking ability, teaching experience, good humor, patience, generosity and superb sense of what is important and what is not were crucial to the success of the trip."

> - William and Michele, **Massachusetts**





Both the Bardo and El Djem Museums are superb, with extensive collections of mosaics and sculptures. Above, left, is the El Djem Museum and below, left, is one of the Bardo Museum's numerous exquisite mosaics ("rugs in stone"). Above, right, is the theater at Bulla Regia.

town will include (from the outside) the Great Mosque, originally constructed in A.D. 850; the 9th-century ribat (fortification and religious building); and the souk, which is dominated by woolworkers. After lunch, the balance of the day is at leisure to enjoy our hotel's amenities and/or explore independently the nearby city center. Dining suggestions will be provided. (B,L)

Monday, April 22: Thuburbo Majus | Sidi Bou Said | Tunis | Farewell dinner From Sousse we travel inland to the vast, sprawling site of Thuburbo Majus, one of Tunisia's best-preserved sites. It was occupied in turn by the Berbers, Phoenicians, and Romans. Its imperial remains are typical of a Roman city and include the towering, 2nd-century A.D. capitol and forum. Continue on to the charming cliff-top village of Sidi Bou Said, one of the prettiest spots in Tunisia, where we enjoy lunch. We will then stroll through this village's maze of cobbled lanes and alleys, admiring colorful houses, boutique shops, and stunning views of the Gulf of Tunis' azure waters. The village has attracted generations of European artists and writers, and is often called a "living museum." Continue on to Tunis and check-in to our luxurious hotel, conveniently located near the airport. This evening, we gather for a farewell dinner at one of Tunis' finest restaurants. *Overnight at the 5-star <u>Sheraton Tunis Hotel</u>. (B,L,D)*

Tuesday, April 23: Fly home

Transfer this morning to Tunis-Carthage International Airport (TUN) for flights homeward. (B)



THE AIA & AIA TOURS

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. The AIA seeks to educate people of all ages about the significance of archaeological discovery. For more than a century the AIA has been dedicated to the encouragement and support of archaeological research and publication, and to the protection of the world's archaeological resources and cultural heritage. By traveling on an AIA Tour you directly support the AIA while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA's network of scholars and worldwide contacts.



AIA study leader Nejib ben Lazreg and AIA travelers at Bulla Regia



Accommodations





TUNIS: Four nights at the 5-star Four Seasons Hotel Tunis



SBEITLA: One night at the 3-star Hotel Suffeitla



SOUSSE: Two nights at the 5-star <u>Mövenpick Resort & Marine Spa</u>



TABARKA: Two nights at the



KAIROUAN: One night at the 5-star <u>Hôtel La Kasbah</u>



TUNIS: One night at the 5-star Sheraton Tunis Hotel

WHAT TO EXPECT

MODERATE: Must be able to walk one to three miles per day on mostly flat, but often uneven, terrain.

All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions, to enjoy traveling as part of a group, and to be ready to experience cultural differences. You must be in good physical condition to participate, and be able to make long walks unassisted over uneven terrain and up and down steps that may be steep and/or without handrails. Walking some of Tunisia's expansive sites requires being fit, and some site visits can easily last two hours. Participants who are not able to walk or stand unassisted for extended periods are kindly advised not to join this tour. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand and discuss whether or not this program is appropriate for you. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Sponsors/Operator, local staff, and host country laws. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply.

Tunisia has warm weather almost year-round, and autumn and spring are the most comfortable times to travel. Expect a true Mediterranean climate, with temperatures ranging from the mid-50s to the low 70s F, with the evenings cooler than the days. Accommodations have been selected to offer the ultimate experience of true Tunisian culture, ambiance, and hospitality. It is important to keep in mind that star ratings for Tunisian facilities are decided by the Ministry of Tourism in Tunisia and may not meet the standards expected by most North American travelers. Sightseeing busses and/or mini vans are air-conditioned and are the most modern and comfortable. Tunisian cuisine combines African, Arabic, and European elements. We have selected restaurants that will give you a taste of the excellence and complexity of local dishes. Also, all hotels offer a variety of Continental and local options. Complete predeparture details will be sent to participants.



The Great Mosque at Kairouan, founded in A.D. 670



Tour Prices per person (11 nights)

Double Occupancy (12-16 participants)\$7,795 Double Occupancy (8-11 participants)\$8,195 *Single Supplement (limited availability)......\$2,895

*Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required. With fewer than 8 participants a small group surcharge may be added.

PRICES INCLUDE:

- Study Leader/Guide Nejib ben Lazreg, and services of a professional tour manager throughout
- Eleven nights' accommodations, in ideally located, deluxe or finestavailable hotels
- **Most meals:** breakfast daily, 10 lunches and 8 dinners including welcome and farewell dinners. All meals include mineral water and coffee or Tunisian tea; wine will be served at all included dinners
- Arrival and departure airport transfers
- All sightseeing, excursions, and entrance fees to sites included in the itinerary
- Surface transportation by **deluxe**, **air-conditioned minivan or motor coach**, including bottled water
- **Gratuities** to tour manager, drivers, porters, hotel staff, and restaurant staff for included meals
- Baggage handling
- Parking fares, highway tolls, and local taxes
- **Complete pre-departure information**, including a suggested reading/media guide and packing suggestions

FLIGHTS & TRANSFERS

Airfare to/from Tunis-Carthage International Airport (TUN) is not included in the tour price. Complimentary transfers from/to the airport in Tunis, Tunisia, are provided, and may be individual or group depending on flights booked. Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights from/to home. If you are considering booking your flights before this time, please contact our office first. Your flight itinerary must be provided to our office prior to departure. *We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.*

A view of Dougga, Tunisia's most extensive site, covering 60 acres

Prices Do Not Include: Airfare to and from Tunis; passport and visa fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; meals or beverages other than those indicated; personal tips; items of a personal nature, such as medical expenses, laundry, taxi, telephone, and fax charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour; any items not listed as included.

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to "EOS AIA-Tunisia4/24." Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be by check, ACH transfer, or wire transfer only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. By submitting your deposit you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure or elsewhere published.

Participant Cancellation Fees: All requests by participants for cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Cancellations received at least 180 days prior to departure (October 14, 2023) are fully refunded. Cancellations received 179 days through 90 days prior to departure (January 12, 2024) are refunded less a cancellation fee of \$250 per person. Cancellations received 89 days through 61 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received 60 days or less prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour cost. For this and other reasons, participants are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. Information will be provided with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.

Note: Prices are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of publication and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, and the price of fuel, services, and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices.

Prices, itinerary, accommodations, and leader are subject to change. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to participants who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions will be provided upon confirmation or upon receipt and can be viewed online at <u>www.aiatours.org.</u>

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PHOENICIANS TO ROMANS, MOSAICS TO MOSQUES April 11-23, 2024 (13 days | 16 guests) with archaeologist Nejib ben Lazreg "Dr. ben Lazreg was the perfect scholar to provide the information and the perfect man to coordinate all aspects of the tour...His presence was the highlight of the tour."

- Rosemary, Washington D.C.

April 11-23, 2024 (13 days | 16 guests) with archaeologist Nejib ben Lazreg



PHOENICIANS TO ROMANS, MOSAICS TO MOSQUES



Archaeological Institute of America Tours To fill out an online reservation form, click here. Or, print and mail or fax this form to the address below.

- RESERVATION FORM



Archaeological Institute ^{of} America Tours

Tunisia: Phoenicians to Romans, Mosaics to Mosques April 11-23, 2024 (13 days | 16 guests) with archaeologist Nejib ben Lazreg

To hold your reservation for seven days while this form and your deposit are in the mail, please contact us at 800-748-6262 or aia@studytours.org.

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