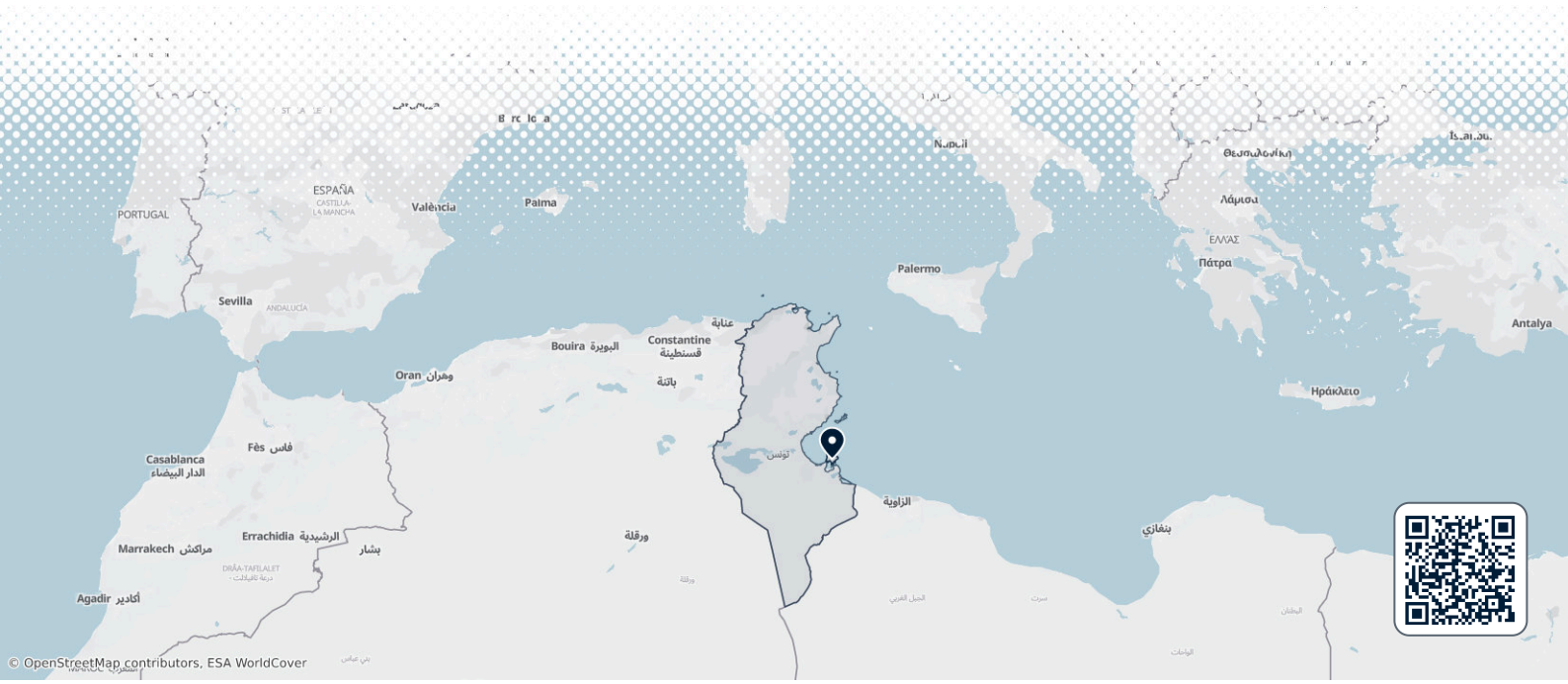


Djerba

Tunisia

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Djerba is a flat island off the south coast of Tunisia, joined to the mainland by a Roman-era causeway and a short ferry. It has long sandy beaches on the north and east coasts, olive and palm groves, and white-washed villages. Many visitors come for a beach holiday. The island is also a good base for a quiet culture trip.

Djerba has its own character. Mosques here are plain, white and fortress-like. The island has an old Jewish community and a strong potter tradition. Daily life moves slowly, and the main town, Houmt Souk, is small and easy to walk. A few days is enough to see the island, and a week suits a beach stay.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are the best seasons. Days are warm, the sea is pleasant and the island is not crowded. Summer is hot and humid, and the beaches are busy. Winter is mild but breezy, with some rain, and the sea is too cold for most swimmers.

The biggest annual event is the pilgrimage to El Ghriba Synagogue, held in spring around the Jewish holiday of Lag BaOmer. Dates change each year, attendance is lower than before 2023, and the event runs under heavy security. Check the current dates and travel advice before you plan around it.

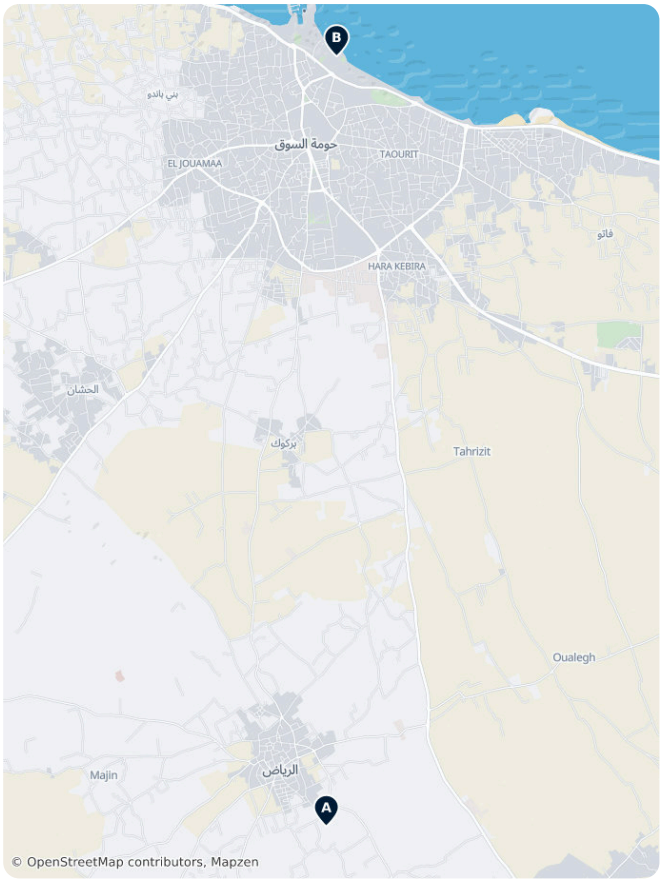
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	● Great Great for cycling	16° / 21° Feels like 12°	10° / 7°	Dry air
February	● Great Great for cycling	17° / 23° Feels like 13°	10° / 7°	Dry air
March	● Great Great for cycling	20° / 28° Feels like 16°	12° / 9°	☀ 20 sunny days · Dry air
April	● Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 30° Feels like 19°	15° / 12°	Dry air
May	● Great Great for the beach	26° / 33°	18° / 15°	☀ 22 sunny days
June	● Great Great for the beach	30° / 37°	21° / 18°	☀ 26 sunny days · Humid air · UV 9 (Very high)
July	● Great Great for the beach	32° / 38°	24° / 21°	☀ 30 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 5 days above 35°
August	● Great Great for the beach	33° / 38°	25° / 23°	☀ 28 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · UV 9 (Very high) · Up to 5 days above 35°
September	● Great Great for the beach	30° / 36°	24° / 21°	☀ 21 sunny days · Muggy, humid air
October	● Great Great for watersports	27° / 33°	21° / 17°	☀ 20 sunny days · Humid air
November	● Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 27° Feels like 19°	16° / 12°	Dry air
December	● Great Great for cycling	18° / 22° Feels like 13°	12° / 9°	Dry air

Best months: February, March, April, May, June, October, November, December

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A El Ghriba Synagogue is one of the oldest synagogues in North Africa and the spiritual centre of Djerba's Jewish community. Inside, blue tiles and carved wood cover the walls. Dress modestly and expect security checks at the entrance.
- B Ghazi Mustapha Fort stands by the harbour in Houmt Souk. The old sea fort is the best-preserved fortress on the island, and its walls give views of the port.
- **Houmt Souk** is the island's main town. Its souk streets sell pottery, textiles and leather. The harbour has fresh fish and small cafes, and the old quarter is a pleasant place to walk.
- **Erriadh** is a village that became an open-air gallery. Since 2014, artists from many countries have painted murals on its white walls. It is close to the synagogue, so the two fit into one outing.
- **Guellala** is the island's pottery village. Workshops make clay jars and tiles in the traditional way. A heritage museum on the hill above explains local life, crafts and customs.
- **Meninx** is the ruined Roman city on the south coast. Only low walls remain, but it shows how important the island was in ancient times.
- **Fadhloun Mosque**, near Mahboubine, shows the island's fortress-like mosque style. White walls, buttresses and small domes are typical. Dozens of similar mosques stand across the island.
- **Taguermess Lighthouse** is on the northeast tip. The area is quiet and has long, empty beaches.



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What to experience

- Take a horse or camel ride along the beach at sunset. Stables near the resort zone offer short rides.
- Watch the potters at work in Guellala, and try shaping a clay pot yourself in a workshop.
- Go kitesurfing or windsurfing. Shallow water and steady wind make the lagoon on the south side a popular place to learn.
- Look for flamingos in the shallow lagoons near Houmt Souk. Numbers are highest in winter and early spring.
- Join a boat trip from the port to the sandbar known as Flamingo Island. The trip also passes the northern shore.
- Browse the market stalls in Houmt Souk, where islanders buy produce and spices.

Day trips

Djerba is a good base for a day out on the mainland. Most trips cross the causeway or the ferry. Distances below are approximate one-way drives.

- **Zarzis**, about 1 hour: a quiet beach town with a fishing port and a market. It suits a relaxed afternoon.
- **Medenine**, about 1.5 hours: a market town with old multi-storey granaries called ksour. These storehouses were used by Berber farmers.
- **Tataouine and the ksour villages**, about 2.5 hours: hilltop villages such as Chenini and Douiret, and the fortified granary of Ksar Ouled Soltane. The landscape is desert hills.
- **Matmata**, about 3 hours: a Berber village where people live in underground pit houses dug into the soft rock. The trip is long, so many visitors join an organised tour.

Stay on main roads. The military zone in the far south and the Libya border area are closed to visitors. Check government advice before you go.

For longer trips into the Sahara, see the related destinations below.

Where to explore

Djerba works well as the start of a wider Tunisian trip.

- Heading north, Kerkennah is another low, quiet island group off the coast of Sfax.
- Heading into the Sahara, Jebil National Park protects the dunes of the deep south. The huge salt lake of Chott el Djerid lies on the road to the oases.

Getting there

- **By air**: Djerba–Zarzis International Airport (DJE) is on the northwest of the island, about 8 km from Houmt Souk. It has many charter and scheduled flights from Europe and from Tunis. Taxis wait outside the terminal, and most resort hotels offer transfers. Agree the fare before you start.
- **By road from the mainland**: The Roman causeway at El Kantara links the southeast of the island to the mainland. Buses and shared taxis (louages) from Zarzis and Medenine use the causeway or the ferry. Buses and louages from Gabes and Tunis usually cross by the ferry.
- **By ferry**: A short car ferry crosses between Jorf on the mainland and Ajim on the island. It is the shortest route if you come from Gabes or Medenine. From Zarzis the causeway is closer.
- **By train**: There is no train on the island. The closest rail line ends at Gabes, and buses and louages continue from there.

Getting around

- **Taxi**: Taxis are the easiest way to move around the island. Meters are not always used, so agree the price first. Many hotels can arrange a driver by the day.
- **Local buses and louages**: Buses and shared taxis link Houmt Souk with the main villages and the beach resort zone. They are cheap but not frequent. Houmt Souk is the main hub.
- **Rental car or scooter**: The island is flat and small, and many visitors rent a car, scooter or quad bike to reach the villages and beaches.
- **On foot and by bike**: Houmt Souk and Erriadh are easy to walk. Cycling is practical because the roads are flat, but the sun is strong in summer. Distances between sights are 10 to 25 km.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

Houmt Souk and Erriadh are easy to walk, but sights across the island are far apart.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The island is flat, but summer heat is strong and distances between sights are long.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Yes, if you want to see villages, beaches and ruins in one day. Roads are flat and signs are in Arabic and French. A taxi is better for short hops from a resort.
- **Parking**: Free street parking is common in the villages. In Houmt Souk, park near the harbour and walk to the souk.
- **Watch for**: Scooters, pedestrians and animals on rural roads. Avoid driving at night outside the towns, as many roads are poorly lit.

Food & drink

Djerba is known for seafood. The catch includes octopus, grouper, sea bream and shrimp, often grilled or cooked in a spicy stew. A local dish is fish couscous. Olive oil, dates and honey are also local products.

For fresh fish, go to the port of Houmt Souk, where small restaurants cook the day's catch. In the old town, small cafes serve mint tea with pine nuts and sweet pastries. Most hotels serve alcohol, and licensed restaurants are found in the main tourist areas.

What to eat & drink

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Brik · Brik à l'oeuf
Thin pastry filled with egg, tuna, capers, and parsley, folded into a triangle and fried.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Makroudh
Diamond-shaped semolina pastry filled with dates and soaked in honey syrup.

DRINKS

Tunisian mint tea
Strong green tea with fresh mint and pine nuts, served throughout the day.

Celtia
Tunisia's most common local beer, widely available in licensed restaurants and bars in tourist areas.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Couscous
Steamed semolina served with lamb, fish, or vegetables and a spiced broth; Tunisia's national dish.

Harissa
Fiery chili paste made with roasted peppers, garlic, and spices, served with almost every meal.

Lablabi
Hearty chickpea soup with bread, cumin, garlic, and a soft-poached egg, popular as a breakfast or late-night meal.

Mechouia
Grilled and mashed pepper, tomato, and garlic salad, dressed with olive oil and often topped with tuna and egg.

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Safety & health

Djerba is a popular destination and most visits are trouble-free. Petty theft happens in tourist areas, so keep valuables out of sight on beaches and in crowded souks. Some shop owners and street sellers are persistent. A polite no is usually enough. Agree prices for taxis, horse rides and boat trips before you start.

In 2023 a gunman killed several people at El Ghriba synagogue. Governments warn that terrorist attacks are possible in Tunisia, especially at religious sites and tourist areas. Security around the synagogue and during the pilgrimage is heavy, with checkpoints and bag checks. Check your government's current travel advice before you go.

Tap water is not recommended for drinking, so buy bottled water. The summer sun is strong, so use sunscreen and drink plenty of water.

History

Djerba has been inhabited since ancient times. Greek legend says it was the Land of the Lotus-Eaters, where the hero Odysseus stopped on his journey home. The Phoenicians and then the Romans used the island for trade. Roman Meninx was its main city, and the Roman causeway at El Kantara linked it to the mainland.

After the Arab conquest, many islanders followed the Ibadi branch of Islam. The island's mosques are small, plain and built like fortresses. A Jewish community has lived here for centuries, and its heart is the village of Erriadh and El Ghriba Synagogue.

Later rulers built forts to protect the coast from pirates. Ghazi Mustapha Fort in Houmt Souk is one of them. Under Spanish and Ottoman rule the island was a prize in the struggle for control of the Mediterranean.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Tunisia at a glance:

CURRENCY
TND د.ت

EMERGENCY
193

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Arabic

TAP WATER
Use caution

Djerba Island Essentials

Djerba Island features a blend of religious and cinematic history. The 14th-century Fadhloun Mosque and the ancient El Ghriba Synagogue represent the island's diverse spiritual heritage. In Ajim, specific structures served as filming locations for the original Star Wars trilogy, including the Mos Eisley cantina. The island's natural landscape includes the flamingo sanctuary at Ras Rmel and the 15th-century ruins of Borj El Kastil. Traditional crafts are showcased through the pottery of Guellala and the Mediterranean's largest crocodile farm.





A El Ghriba Synagogue

The El Ghriba Synagogue, also known as the Djerba Synagogue, is an ancient Orthodox Jewish congregation and synagogue, located in the...

El Griba, Tunisia (33.81394, 10.85940)



B Djerba Explore Park

Tourist entertainment complex and the largest crocodile farm in the Mediterranean. It also features local art and culture.

Route touristique de Midoun,BP 353,4116 Midoun,Tunisia (33.81978, 11.04615)

djerbaexplore.com/eng/index.htm, + 216 75 745 277

C Musée du patrimoine traditionnel de Djerba

Located in Houmt Souk, this museum displays traditional Djerban costumes, jewelry, and wedding artifacts. It is housed within an 18th-century former prayer hall and madrasa.

Avenue Habib Thameur, 4180 Houmt Souk, TN (33.87992, 10.86243)

djerbamuseum.tn

D Guellala Museum

This museum traces the rich history of pottery-making in this village that dates back to the Roman times. Modern, eye-catching museum.

RL942, Guellala, Tunisia (33.72853, 10.85936)

+216 75 76 11 17

E Fadhloun Mosque

You will definitely notice this 14th century mosque for its peculiar design and radiating white walls.

Avenue Farhat Hached, Djerba Midoun, Tunisia (33.81029, 10.99067)

patrimoinedetunisie.com.tn/eng/monuments/mosq_fadh...

F Star Wars Set - Cantina exterior

No fan of Star Wars series should miss out this building which served as a filming spot for the canteen.

أجيم (33.72408, 10.75006)

G Ras Rmel

A popular spot for watching the pink flamingos in their natural habitat. See these rare birds and enjoy the unspoilt nature.

Tunisia (33.87270, 10.94925)

H Ajim Mosque

This peculiar structure is actually a local mosque but it served as exterior shot of Anchorhead in Star Wars series.

(Unnamed Road), Tunisia (33.80751, 10.75023)

+216 76 46 03 10

I Borj El Kastil

A 15th-century fortress built by Alfonso V of Aragon. These coastal ruins stand on the site of a former Roman fortification near the peninsula of Ras Terbella.

Tunisia (33.68351, 10.97389)

J Temple romain

Archaeological remains of a Roman temple located within the ancient city of Meninx. This site was once a major Mediterranean center for the production of murex purple dye.

Tunisia (33.69931, 10.91502)

DATA SOURCES

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