



THE ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION

Americans in Alliance with the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland



MUSEUM
TRAVEL
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BY ARRANGEMENTS ABROAD

Tunisia

At the Crossroads
of Civilizations

September 5 - 15, 2027

With Christopher Noey, *Lecturer*



Traveling With *You*

Christopher (Chris) Noey is an art historian, author, and Emmy Award-winning producer of films on art and culture. At The Metropolitan Museum of Art, he created video installations for a wide range of exhibitions and served as series director for the innovative online features *82nd & Fifth* and *The Artist Project*. An expert on Islamic art, Mr. Noey has taught at Williams College and the City College of New York. He previously led a journey through Tunisia in 2024.

British archaeologists and scholars helped uncover much of what we know about Carthage and Roman Africa. From **September 5 to 15, 2027**, join the Royal Oak Foundation and the Museum Travel Alliance (MTA) on a journey through **Tunisia**, one of the Mediterranean's great cultural crossroads. Travel with the guidance of **Christopher Noey**, an expert on Islamic art and Emmy Award-winning filmmaker.

Spend five nights in **Tunis**, venturing to Carthage and inland Roman towns. Then enjoy two nights amid **Kairouan's** Islamic landmarks, followed by two nights in **Hammamet**, our seaside base on the Cap Bon peninsula, to see the world's only intact Punic city. **To reserve your place**, [please register online](#). You may also contact the Museum Travel Alliance at Arrangements Abroad: 212-324-1893 or trips@museumtravelalliance.com. We spoke with Chris about what you'll experience on this program.

What makes Tunisia so rich for a cultural traveler?

Chris Noey: Tunisia gives us Carthage, Roman Africa, early Islamic architecture, and the courtyard houses and artisan traditions of old Tunis. While in the capital, we'll visit Carthage, home to the Punic harbors of Rome's great rival, then we'll see the villas and baths of the Roman colony built after the city's destruction in 146 B.C.

During our time in Hammamet, with its golden beaches, we'll make our way to **Kerkouane**, the only surviving example of a pure Punic city. Tunisia often surprises people with the range and the clarity of its sites, and I'm thrilled to share this jewel of a nation with you.

Which Roman sites stand out to you?

Chris Noey: The region's agricultural wealth funded lavish villas where artisans crafted some of the world's best mosaics; they are unparalleled. An early highlight will be a private morning visit to Tunis's **Bardo National Museum**, known for the world's largest collection of Roman mosaics. Later, we'll see the second-largest collection at the **Sousse Archaeological Museum**. At **Bulla Regia**, we'll find beautiful mosaics preserved *in situ* inside Roman villas, ingeniously built partially underground to escape the desert heat.

I'm also eager for us to experience **Dougga**, the best-preserved Roman small town in North Africa, and **Zaghuan**, with its 82-mile Roman aqueduct that fed Carthage's baths and cisterns. Later, **Uthina** and **Thuburbo Majus** will show us Roman urban engineering, and we'll marvel at the scale of the Amphitheatre of El Jem, North Africa's largest Roman amphitheater.

How does your work in Islamic art inform the journey?

Chris Noey: I'm excited for us to explore Kairouan, one of Sunni Islam's holiest cities, with its stunning **Great Mosque**. Tunis adds another rich chapter: Its medina was one of the first to receive UNESCO recognition. We'll admire its artisan workshops, smell the rich aromas of spices and perfumes, and see the **Zitouna Mosque**, North Africa's second-oldest mosque after Kairouan's.



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Trip Highlights

Admire the world's two largest collections of Roman mosaics, with private access to the **Bardo National Museum** and a guided look at the **Sousse Archaeological Museum**.

Explore ancient **Carthage**, once Rome's great rival, viewing the remains of Punic harbors and the villas and baths of the Roman colony built after 146 B.C.

Walk through **Dougga**, North Africa's best-preserved Roman small town, and descend into the semi-subterranean villas of **Bulla Regia** to view beautifully preserved mosaic floors.

Marvel at millennia-old Roman engineering with a visit to the impressive ruins of **Uthina** and **Thuburbo Majus** and a stroll past ancient aqueducts in **Zaghuan**.

Take a guided tour of **Kairouan**, one of Islam's holiest cities, and view its **Great Mosque of Kairouan** (c. 670 A.D.), one of Islam's earliest and most influential houses of worship.

Step inside the UNESCO-listed **Amphitheatre of El Jem**, the largest amphitheater in North Africa and the third-largest in the Roman world.



Thuburbo Majus



Map of the region

About the Museum Travel Alliance

Celebrating 50 years of cultural travel in 2027, Arrangements Abroad operates exclusive journeys for the Museum Travel Alliance. MTA trips bring together patrons from more than 150 of America's leading museums, offering scholar-led, special-access experiences in destinations across the U.S. and around the world.

Activity Level:
Intermediate



Pace Level:
Moderato



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.

Tunisia

At the Crossroads of Civilizations

September 5 - 15, 2027

Sunday, September 5:

Departure

Depart for Tunis on an overnight flight.

Monday, September 6:

Tunis, Tunisia

(R)

Upon arrival, enjoy an arranged transfer to the **Four Seasons Hotel Tunis** in the coastal Gammarth district. Spend the afternoon at leisure before joining a **welcome reception** at the hotel this evening.

Tuesday, September 7:

Tunis / Carthage / Sidi Bou Saïd / Tunis

(B,L,D)

Start the day with an **introductory lecture** by **Chris Noey** that provides historical and cultural context for the journey ahead. Travel to **Carthage**, founded by Phoenician settlers from Tyre around 814 B.C. The Romans later rebuilt the city after they destroyed it in 146 B.C. Visit the **Roman Villas**, where mosaic floors still mark the houses of Carthage's Roman elite.



Carthage



Sidi Bou Saïd

View the **Antonine Baths**, one of the largest Roman bath complexes outside Italy, and see remains of the Punic and Roman harbors, which recall Carthage's long control of Mediterranean trade.

In **Sidi Bou Saïd**, visit **Ennejma Ezzahra Palace**, built between 1912 and 1922 for painter and musicologist Baron Rodolphe d'Erlanger. The palace now houses the Centre of Arab and Mediterranean Music.

After lunch, enjoy free time to walk through Sidi Bou Saïd's blue-and-white streets and browse its local markets.

On the return to Tunis, stop at the **Carthage Commonwealth War Cemetery**, where more than 2,800 Allied servicemen and women who lost their lives during the North African Campaign of World War II are commemorated in a serene garden setting.

Return to the hotel for time to refresh before gathering for a welcome dinner this evening.

Wednesday, September 8:

Tunis

(B,L)

Enjoy a private morning visit to the **Bardo National Museum**, a former palace with one of the world's finest collections of Roman polychrome mosaics.

After lunch at a local restaurant, tour Tunis's **historic medina** and meet local artisans at their workshops. View the exterior of the **Zitouna Mosque**, Tunis's oldest mosque, founded in 734 A.D.

Stop at **Dar Ben Abdallah Palace**, a 1796 residence with a central courtyard, fountain, and garden that reflects Ottoman-era domestic architecture in Tunis.

Return to Tunis for an evening and dinner at leisure.

Thursday, September 9:

Tunis / Dougga / Bulla Regia / Tunis

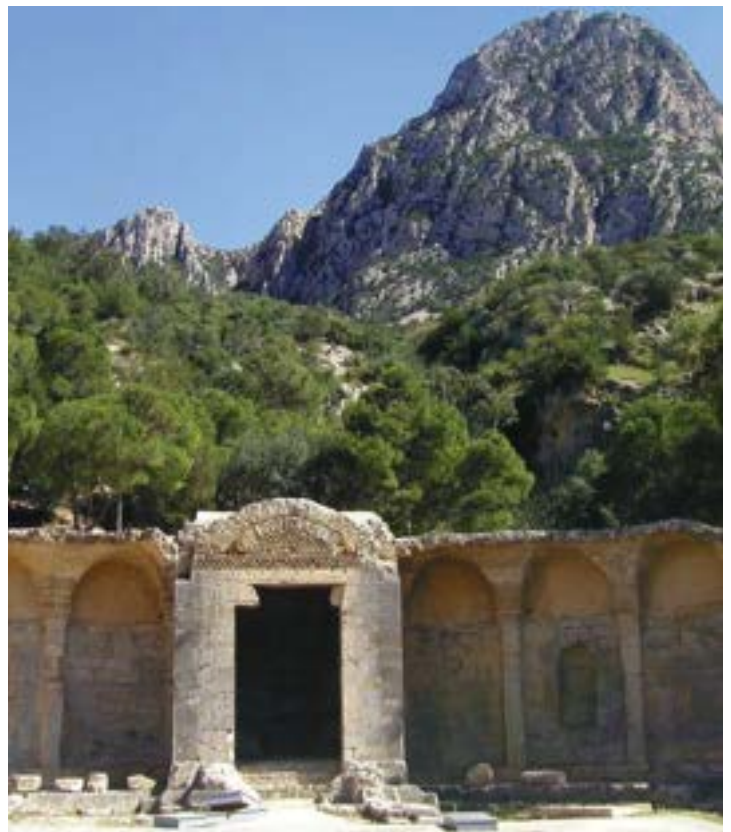
(B,L)

With expert guidance, visit the UNESCO-listed **Dougga**, considered the best-preserved Roman small town in North Africa. Dougga began as a Numidian settlement before Rome took control of the region in 46 B.C. Walk through its public buildings, including the theater, temples, forum, and baths.

After lunch, explore **Bulla Regia**, where Roman families built semi-subterranean villas to escape the North African heat. Descend into the houses and view polychrome mosaic floors that remain *in situ*. Return to Tunis for an evening and dinner at leisure.



Mosaic, Bardo National Museum, Tunis



Temple of Waters, Zaghouan

Friday, September 10:

Tunis / Uthina / Zaghouan / Thuburbo Majus / Tunis (B,L)

Following a **lecture with Chris Noey**, travel to **Uthina**, a Roman colony founded under Emperor Augustus around 27 B.C. Its ruins include large cisterns, an amphitheater, and an acropolis, whose remains show the city's public ambition under Rome.

Transfer to **Zaghouan**, home to natural springs and a Roman aqueduct built to supply water for Carthage. The aqueduct once ran about 82 miles from the mountain springs to the coast, carrying water to Carthage's baths, fountains, and cisterns.

After a lunch of local Tunisian cuisine, visit **Thuburbo Majus**, a Punic settlement that Augustus made a Roman veteran colony in 27 B.C. Walk through the remains of its forum, Capitolium, basilica, theater, and temples. Upon return to Tunis, dinner this evening is at leisure.

Saturday, September 11:

Tunis / Sousse / Kairouan

(B,L,D)

Travel along the Mediterranean coast to **Sousse**, founded as Hadrumetum, a Phoenician port. At the **Sousse Archaeological Museum**, join an expert guide to view the world's second-largest collection of mosaics, surpassed only by the Bardo.



Great Mosque of Kairouan

After lunch, walk through the UNESCO-listed **Medina of Sousse**, whose Aghlabid walls, *ribat*, and Great Mosque date to the ninth century A.D. With your expert guide, follow narrow streets past whitewashed houses and market stalls.

Transfer to the **Hôtel La Kasbah** in **Kairouan** and enjoy a group dinner in a private residence.

Sunday September 12:

Kairouan

(B,L)

Spend the day in **Kairouan**, founded in 670 A.D. and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city became a major center of Islamic learning, trade, and medicine in medieval North Africa.

Stand before the **Great Mosque of Kairouan**, the oldest Islamic place of worship in North Africa. Later, tour Kairouan's historic quarters and cultural landmarks before returning to the hotel. Dinner this evening is at leisure.

Monday, September 13:

Kairouan / El Jem / Hammamet

(B,L,D)

At **El Jem**, take a guided inside look at the UNESCO-listed **Amphitheatre of El Jem**, built around 238 A.D., the third-largest amphitheater in the Roman world.

Next, visit the **El Jem Archaeological Museum** to see Roman mosaics, sculpture, pottery, and jewelry. At the **African House**, walk through a reconstructed Roman villa with well-preserved original mosaics.

After lunch, drive toward **Hammamet**. Stop en route at **Domaine Neferis**, one of Tunisia's finest wineries, for a wine tasting and dinner before continuing to **La Badira**, your hotel for the next two nights.

Tuesday, September 14:

Hammamet / Kerkouane / Kelibia / Hammamet (B,L,D)

Visit **Kerkouane**, the only surviving example of a pure Phoenicio-Punic city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site on Tunisia's northeastern coast.

With an expert guide, traverse the ancient streets and defensive walls laid out over 2,600 years ago. Admire the remarkably well-preserved ruins, including the Mediterranean region's earliest known private baths.

After lunch by the sea, visit **Kelibia Fort**, a coastal stronghold expanded by the Ottomans and Spanish in the 16th century. Enjoy views across the Mediterranean from its 492-foot promontory.

Return to the hotel to refresh before gathering for a **festive farewell dinner**.

Wednesday, September 15:

Hammamet / Tunis / Return

(B)

Depart early this morning for Tunis-Carthage International Airport and your flight home.

DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the Museum Travel Alliance. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at <https://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms-conditions/>.

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Kelibia Fort

Accommodations

Four Seasons Hotel Tunis

In the coastal Gammarth district on the Gulf of Tunis, enjoy a resort base within reach of Tunis, Carthage, and Sidi Bou Saïd. Rooms and suites look toward the sea or gardens, and the property includes dining venues, a spa, wellness facilities, and an outdoor pool.



Four Seasons Hotel Tunis

La Badira, Hammamet

Along the coast in Hammamet, stay in La Badira's suites, which include Mediterranean-inspired design and views toward the sea. Guests can use the hotel's spa, dining venues, pools, and beach.



La Badira, Hammamet

Hôtel La Kasbah, Kairouan

The hotel was handpicked as the best available option in Kairouan and for its proximity to the medina and major sites. Enjoy its locally inspired design, courtyard, comfortable rooms, and a rooftop terrace overlooking the old city.



Hôtel La Kasbah, Kairouan

Program Rate
\$10,999 per person, double rate
\$11,999 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 and beer at all included lunches and dinners
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for participants on arrival and departure days
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE: International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than those noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for participants on arrival and departure days; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



Ancient mosaics and Latin inscriptions, Sousse Archaeological Museum



Medina, Tunis



Roman Theater, Dougga

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RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, [please click here](#) to register online through a secure form. You may also call Museum Travel Alliance at 212-324-1893 or 855-533-0033; email trips@museumtravelalliance.com; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$2,000 per person (of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Museum Travel Alliance, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

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

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (mobile)

(home)

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

I wish to share a room with

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☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

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Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date



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Front cover: Bardo National Museum, Tunis.
Back cover: Roman mosaic, El Jem Archaeological Museum (top),
and Amphitheatre of El Jem (bottom)
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Tunisia

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