

# TUNISIA



<http://teachmideast.org/country-profiles/tunisia/>

# TUNISIA

## Republic of Tunisia

الجمهورية التونسية (Arabic)  
*al-Jumhūrīyah at-Tūnisīyah*  
*République tunisienne* (French)



Flag



Coat of arms

**Motto:** حرية، كرامة، عدالة، نظام  
"Ḥurrīyah, Karāma, 'Adālah, Nizām"  
"freedom, dignity, justice, and order"<sup>[1]</sup>



Location of Tunisia (dark blue)  
in Africa (light blue)

# TUNISIA

Home of the ancient city of Carthage, Tunisia was once an important player in the Mediterranean, thanks to its location in the centre of North Africa, close to vital shipping routes.



# TUNISIA



**LIFE EXPECTANCY**  
74 (M) 78 (W)



**CAPITAL**  
Tunis



**LARGEST CITY**  
Tunis



**NATIONALITY**  
Tunisian



**RELIGIONS**  
Islam, Judaism,  
Christianity

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## TUNISIA OVERVIEW

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**CURRENCY**  
Tunisian  
Dinar (TND)



**POPULATION**  
11,237,225



**LANGUAGES**  
Tunisian Dialect of Arabic,  
French, Tamazight (Berber)



**AGRICULTURE**  
Olives, Olive Oil, Grain,  
Tomatoes, Citrus, Dates,  
Sugar Beets, Almonds, Beef



**INDUSTRIES**  
Petroleum, Mining, Tourism,  
Textiles, Footwear, Agribusiness,  
Beverages

# TUNISIA

## Tunisian Republic

Capital: Tunis

**Population** 11.5 million

**Area** 164,150 sq km (63,378 sq miles)

**Major languages** Arabic (official), French

**Major religion** Islam


**Life expectancy** 74 years (men), 78 years (women)

**Currency** Tunisian dinar

UN, World Bank



# TUNISIA

<b>TUNISIA</b> 	<b>Capital and largest city</b> Tunis 🌐 36°49'N 10°11'E
<b>Official languages</b> Arabic <sup>[2]</sup>	<b>Spoken languages</b> Tunisian Arabic <sup>[3]</sup> Berber <sup>[4][5][6][7]</sup> French (administrative, commercial and educational)
<b>Ethnic groups</b> Arab-Berber 98%, European 1%, Jewish and other 1% <sup>[8]</sup>	<b>Religion</b> Islam <sup>[9]</sup>
<b>Demonym(s)</b> Tunisian	<b>Government</b> Unitary semi-presidential republic <sup>[10][11]</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• President Kais Saied</li><li>• Prime Minister Youssef Chahed</li></ul>
<b>Legislature</b> Assembly of the Representatives of the People	

# TUNISIA

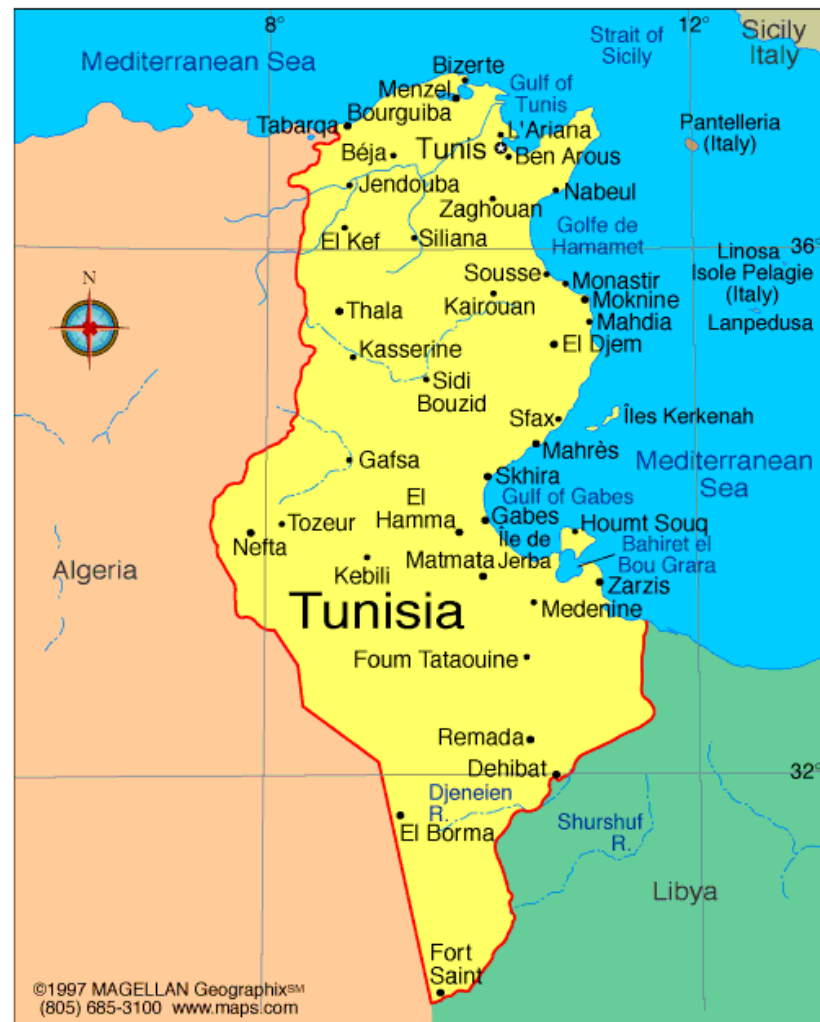
<p><b>Formation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Husainid Dynasty inaugurated</b> 15 July 1705</li> <li>• <b>Independence from France</b> 20 March 1956</li> <li>• <b>Republic declared</b> 25 July 1957</li> <li>• <b>1987 Tunisian coup d'état</b> 7 November 1987</li> <li>• <b>Revolution Day</b> 14 January 2011</li> </ul>	<p><b>GDP (PPP)</b> 2019 estimate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total \$151.566 billion<sup>[13]</sup></li> <li>• Per capita \$12,862<sup>[13]</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Area</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total 163,610 km<sup>2</sup> (63,170 sq mi) (91st)</li> <li>• Water (%) 5.0</li> </ul>	<p><b>GDP (nominal)</b> 2019 estimate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total \$42.277 billion<sup>[13]</sup></li> <li>• Per capita \$3,587<sup>[13]</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Population</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2017 estimate 11,434,994<sup>[12]</sup> (79th)</li> <li>• Density 63/km<sup>2</sup> (163.2/sq mi) (133rd)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Gini (2017)</b> 35.8<sup>[14]</sup> medium</p>
	<p><b>HDI (2018)</b> <span style="color: green;">▲</span> 0.735<sup>[15]</sup> high · 95th</p>
	<p><b>Currency</b> Tunisian dinar (TND)</p>
	<p><b>Time zone</b> UTC+1 (CET)</p>
	<p><b>Driving side</b> right</p>
	<p><b>Calling code</b> +216</p>
	<p><b>ISO 3166 code</b> TN</p>
	<p><b>Internet TLD</b> .tn تونيس.<sup>[16]</sup></p>

# TUNISIA

Tunisia (Official name: The Republic of Tunisia; Arabic pronunciation: *TU-nis*) is located on the northernmost tip of Africa. It borders the Mediterranean Sea and is flanked by Algeria and Libya. It has a total area of 163,610 sq km or 63,170 sq miles, which equates to an area slightly larger than the state of Georgia. Tunisia has a Mediterranean climate and is temperate along the coast, but becomes hotter in the south towards the Sahara Desert. The country is mountainous to the north along the Atlas Mountains, while the rest of the country is low-lying, with plains and lush valleys. Tunisia is especially arable in the Sahel region, along its eastern coast.

Some of the environmental issues the country faces include water pollution, limited natural fresh water resources, deforestation, desertification, and soil erosion. Tunisia has accepted several international agreements on topics such as environmental protection, marine toxic chemical dumping, and the climate change [Kyoto Protocol](#), but lacks the means to implement many of these recommendations. Notably, when the country redrafted its constitution after successfully deposing previous president, **Zine El Abidine Ben Ali**, following Tunisia's successful Arab Uprising movement, it became only the 3rd country to embed climate protection language in its text.

Tunisia is an oil-producing country but growing domestic demands has required increased importation to meet its energy needs. Waste and by-products associated with Tunisia's phosphate industry (used for fertilizers and preservatives) has led to major health and environmental problems in the southern Gulf of Gabes area. Marine life in this region is not sustainable and [cancer rates are higher and other pollution-related health problems \(infertility, miscarriages, pulmonary sicknesses\) are more common](#) than anywhere else in the country. Currently, Tunisia is partnering with the UN Development Program and private parties to harness solar energy for export and domestic use.

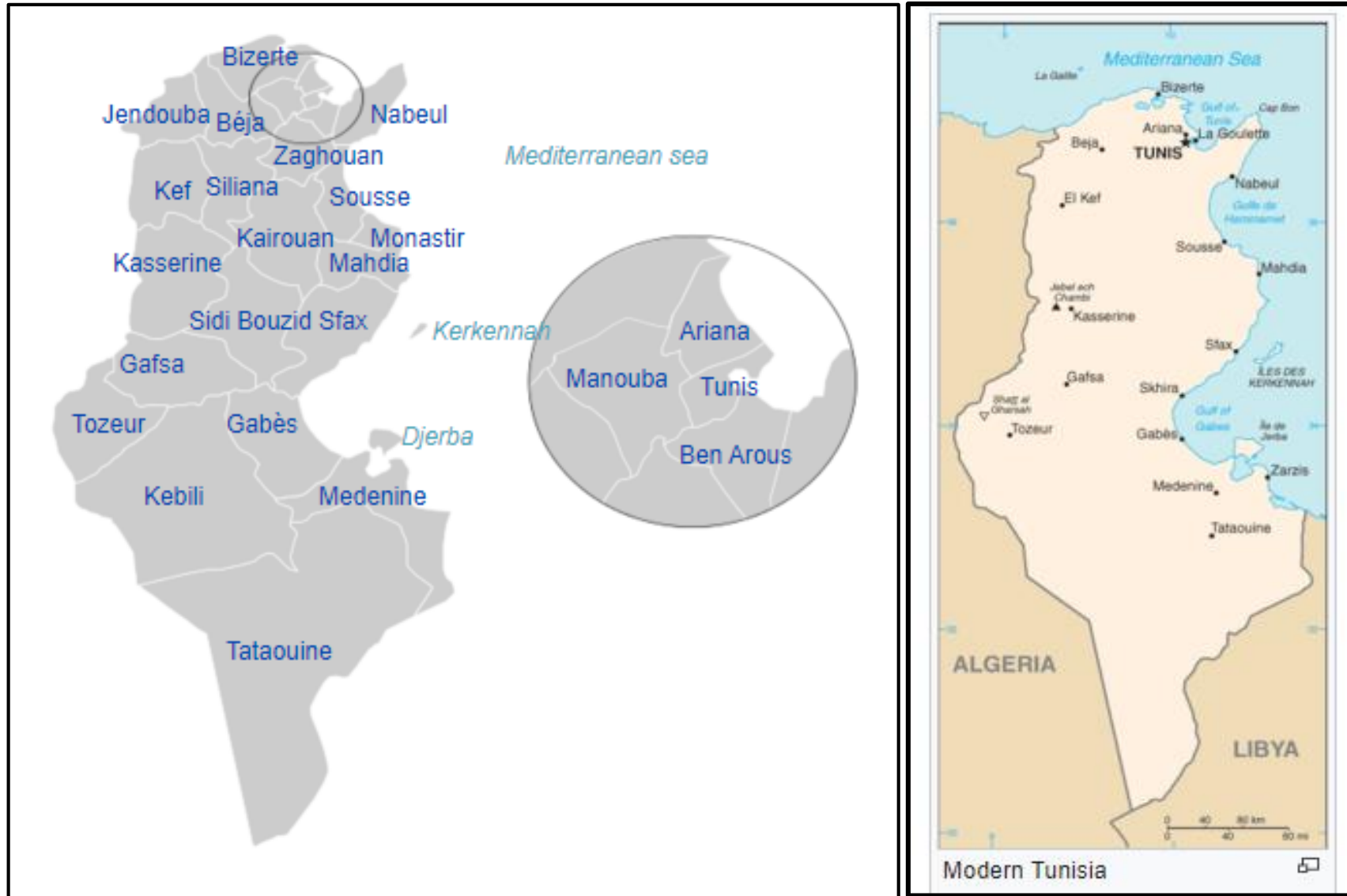




# TUNISIA

Largest cities or towns in Tunisia			
According to the 2014 Census <sup>[167]</sup>			
Rank	Name	Governorate	Pop.
1	Tunis	Tunis	1,066,961
2	Sfax	Sfax	330,440
3	Sousse	Sousse	271,428
4	Ettadhamen-Mnihla	Ariana	196,298
5	Kairouan	Kairouan	186,653
6	Gabès	Gabès	152,921
7	Bizerte	Bizerte	142,966
8	La Soukra	Ariana	129,693
9	Aryanah	Aryanah	114,486
10	Sakiet Eddaïer	Sfax	113,776

# TUNISIA

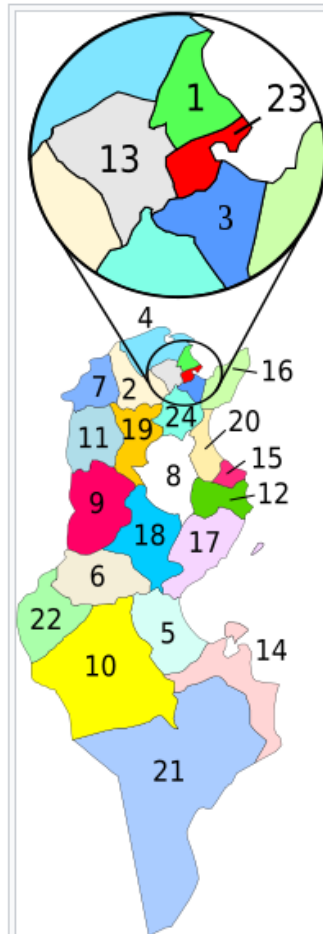


<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tunisia>

# TUNISIA

Tunisia is divided into 24 *governorates* (*wilayat*, sing. *wilayah*):

Key ↕	Governorate ↕	Population (2014) <sup>[1]</sup> ↕	Area (km <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>[2]</sup> ↕	Density ↕	Sub-Region ↕	Region ↕
1	Ariana	576,088	482	1,195.20	North-East	East
2	Béja	303,032	3,740	81.02	North-West	West
3	Ben Arous	631,842	761	830.28	North-East	East
4	Bizerte	568,219	3,750	151.53	North-East	East
5	Gabès	374,300	7,166	52.23	South-East	East
6	Gafsa	337,331	7,807	43.21	South-West	West
7	Jendouba	401,477	3,102	129.43	North-West	West
8	Kairouan	570,559	6,712	85.01	Centre-West	West
9	Kasserine	439,243	8,260	53.18	Centre-West	West
10	Kebili	156,961	22,454	6.99	South-West	West
11	Kef	243,156	4,965	48.97	North-West	West
12	Mahdia	410,812	2,966	138.51	Centre-East	East
13	Manouba	379,518	1,137	333.79	North-East	East
14	Medenine	479,520	9,167	52.31	South-East	East
15	Monastir	548,828	1,019	538.59	Centre-East	East
16	Nabeul	787,920	2,788	282.61	North-East	East
17	Sfax	1,113,496	7,545	126.63	Centre-East	East
18	Sidi Bouzid	429,912	7,405	58.06	Centre-West	West
19	Siliana	223,087	4,642	48.06	North-West	West
20	Sousse	674,971	2,669	252.89	Centre-East	East
21	Tataouine	149,453	38,889	3.84	South-East	East
22	Tozeur	107,912	5,593	22.87	South-West	West
23	Tunis	1,056,247	288	3,052.74	North-East	East
24	Zaghuan	176,945	2,820	63.93	North-East	East



Governorates of Tunisia ↗

## Tunisia



This article is part of a series on the **politics and government of Tunisia**

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# TUNISIA



Tunis on 20 March 1956, the day of the independence.



# TUNISIA

The Supreme Combatant  
President  
**Habib Bourguiba**  
الحبيب بورقيبة



**1st President of Tunisia**

**In office**  
25 July 1957 – 7 November 1987  
Interim to 8 November 1959

**Prime Minister** [Bahi Ladgham](#)  
[Hédi Nouira](#)  
[Mohammed Mzali](#)  
[Rachid Sfar](#)  
[Zine El Abidine Ben Ali](#)

**Preceded by** Office created  
([Muhammad VIII](#) as King of Tunisia)

**Succeeded by** [Zine El Abidine Ben Ali](#)

**2nd Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tunisia**

20th Head of government

**In office**  
11 April 1956 – 25 July 1957

**Monarch** [King Muhammad VIII](#)

**Preceded by** [Tahar Ben Ammar](#)

**Succeeded by** Office abolished

**1st Minister of Foreign Affairs**

**In office**  
15 April 1956 – 29 July 1957

**Monarch** [King Muhammad VIII](#)

**Preceded by** Office created

# TUNISIA

## HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Because of its location on the northernmost point of the African continent on the Mediterranean coast, Tunisia has been considered a great strategic location for centuries. Ancient inscriptions and rock art from the region provide vital information about its first inhabitants, the indigenous Amazigh (Berber) population. The seafaring Phoenicians took hold of the region in the 9<sup>th</sup> century BCE. According to legend, Queen Dido of the Phoenicians established the capital in Carthage in 814 BCE. She is most famous for her romance with Aeneas in Virgil's Aeneid.

As the city of Carthage rose in power, it gained its independence from other Phoenician settlements. Starting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE, Carthage led a series of wars in what is known as the Punic Wars for regional control against the Roman Empire. Hannibal, a military commander of the Carthaginian army, led the particularly bloody Second Punic War from 218 to 201 BCE. This war was marked by Hannibal's incredible crossing of the Alps with 80,000 men and a number of war elephants. Despite this daring offensive, Rome eventually conquered and annexed Carthage.

The region was subsequently conquered by the Vandals in the 5<sup>th</sup> century CE, the Byzantines in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, and finally the Arabs in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries. Several Islamic dynasties successively ruled over Tunisia. It became part of the Ottoman Empire in the 16<sup>th</sup> century until the French seized control of the area in 1881. The number of French colonists increased dramatically during the period of the French protectorate to 144,000 by 1945.

# TUNISIA

In 1957, France granted Tunisia independence and it became a republic. Habib Bourguiba became the first president and led the country for three decades. He enacted many liberal and pro-Western reforms including compulsory and free education for ages 6 through 16, and women's rights such as the right to vote and file for divorce. His historic Jericho Speech in 1965 supported a permanent peace between Israelis and Palestinians based on the recommendations of the United Nations. This speech marked the first time an Arab president spoke in favor of establishing peace with Israel.

On November 7, 1987, Bourguiba was judged to be medically incapable of running the country by Prime Minister Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali and a team of doctors. He had been in poor health since the 1970s, and his mental capacity was put into question after he called for the immediate hanging of several prominent Islamists in the country. He was replaced by Ben Ali, who ruled for twenty-four years.

In December 2010, protests broke out across the country in response to growing unemployment, food inflation, and lack of political freedom. The protests culminated in what has been identified as the Jasmine Revolution. This popular movement escalated on January 4, 2011, after a street vendor, Mohammed Bouazizi, carried out a public self-immolation to protest corrupt government practices. After a month of protests, public pressure drove President Ben Ali into exile to Saudi Arabia on January 14, 2011, leaving his Prime Minister Mohammed Ghannouchi at the head of an interim government. Following continued protests, he was replaced by Fouad Mebazaa, who had previously been serving as president of the Chamber of Deputies.

# TUNISIA

On December 12, 2011, the Constituent Assembly of Tunisia, a body elected to govern the country and draft a new constitution, elected Moncef Marzouki as the interim President of the Tunisian Republic. One day after assuming office, Marzouki appointed Hamadi Jebali of the moderate Islamist Ennahda Movement as prime minister. The new government, addressed some of the concerns of the Jasmine Revolution protests such as the length and terms of office, the authority of the legislature, and separation of powers, but some areas of law and human rights remain unaddressed. In February 2013, the Ennahda government resigned and a temporary caretaker government took control until December 2014, when current president, Beji Caid Essabri of the Nidaa Tounes party, defeated Marzouki.

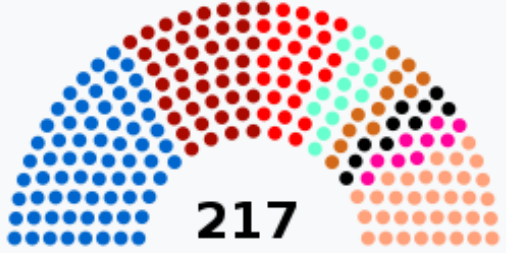
The sudden departure of Ben Ali, and the series of successive interim governments led to a protracted and disorganized transition period that allowed for a breakdown in security and infrastructure in the country. After the revolution, a prevailing drive to purge the country of all remnants of Ben Ali's reign resulted in the dismissal of military and political leaders, as well as state-supported Muslim clerics, that left a vast power and security vacuum. Political prisoners, including political Islamists, were given amnesty, and took advantage of the instability to lay claim to available positions of authority. Thus began the growth of a politically active Salafist movement that has since turned violent; Tunisia has garnered international attention because of a disproportionately high number of Tunisian jihadists engaged in terrorism activity domestically, within regional conflicts in Syria and Libya, and, increasingly, throughout Europe. An estimated 6,000-7,000 Tunisians have left their country to fight with the Islamic State and al-Qaeda affiliates, such as Okba ibn Nafaa Brigade and Ansar Al Sharia. Tunisians have been engaged in prolonged fights on the borders with Algeria and Libya; have assassinated several Tunisian political leaders; and have specifically targeted tourists attractions.

The current government struggles to fight these activities by restricting movement, building barrier walls, and enacting sweeping anti-terror measures. Though Tunisia is widely perceived as the sole Arab Spring success story, the proliferation of violent extremism in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution and the continued economic stagnation and high rates of unemployment bring that claim into doubt.



# TUNISIA

<b>Assembly of the Representatives of the People</b> <i>مجلس نواب الشعب</i> <i>Majlis Nuwwāb esh-Sha‘b</i>	
2nd legislature	
<b>Type</b>	
Type	Unicameral
<b>History</b>	
Preceded by	Constituent Assembly of Tunisia
New session started	November 13, 2019
<b>Leadership</b>	
Speaker	Rached Ghannouchi, Ennahda since 13 November 2019
First Deputy Speaker	Samira Chaouachi, Heart of Tunisia since 13 November 2019
Second Deputy Speaker	Tarek Ftiti, Independent since 14 November 2019

<b>Structure</b>	
Seats	217
	
<b>Political groups</b>	<b>Government parties (126):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ennahda (68)</li><li>• Tahya Tounes (43)</li><li>• Machrouu Tounes (15)</li></ul> <b>Opposition parties (90):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nidaa Tounes (26)</li><li>• Democratic Bloc (12)</li><li>• Motherland's Allegiance (10)</li><li>• Popular Front Bloc (9)</li><li>• Non-inscrits (34)</li></ul> <b>Vacant (1):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vacant (1)</li></ul>
<b>Elections</b>	
Voting system	Party-list proportional representation using multi-member constituency
Last election	6 October 2019

# TUNISIA

<p><b>National Constituent Assembly</b>  المجلس الوطني التأسيسي  <i>al-Majlis al-Waṭanī at-Ta'sīsī</i></p>		<p><b>Structure</b></p>	
<p>Type</p>		<p>Seats 217</p>	
Type	Unicameral parliament		
<p>History</p>		<p>Political groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #003366; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Ennahda (89)</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FF9966; margin-right: 5px;"></span> <i>non-inscrit</i> (53)</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFCC00; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Democratic Bloc (18)</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #669933; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Congress for the Republic (16)</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #CC6633; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Democratic Transition (13)</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #CC0000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Ettakatol (13)</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #6699CC; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Democratic Alliance (12)</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #99CC99; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Wafa Movement (10)</li> </ul>	
Founded	November 22, 2011	<p><b>Elections</b></p>	
Preceded by	Chamber of Deputies	Voting system	Proportional representation in multi-member constituency party-lists
Succeeded by	Assembly of the Representatives of the People	Last election	23 October 2011
<p><b>Leadership</b></p>			
Speaker	Mustapha Ben Jafar, Ettakatol since 22 November 2011		
First Deputy Speaker	Meherzia Labidi Maïza, Ennahda since 22 November 2011		
Second Deputy Speaker	Larbi Ben Salah Abid, CPR since 22 November 2011		

# TUNISIA



Kais Saied  
President since 2019



Youssef Chahed  
Prime Minister since 2016

# TUNISIA

President (incoming): Kais Saied



Retired law professor Kais Saied won a landslide victory over media mogul Nabil Karoui in the October 2019 presidential election run-off.

Mr Saied, who was 61 when elected, campaigned on an anti-corruption platform, and appealed directly to young voters. He takes office on 23 October.

He has faced considerable criticism for his conservative views on homosexuality, women's rights and capital punishment, which was suspended in 1994.

The previous president, Beji Caid Essebsi, died in office in July, after winning the country's first free presidential election in December 2014.

Prime Minister: Youssef Chahed



Youssef Chahed became Tunisia's seventh prime minister in less than six years when he took office in August 2016.

His unity government includes a broad coalition of secular, Islamist and leftist parties, independents and trade union allies.

He has warned of tough economic reforms, including a possible programme of austerity, to satisfy international lenders and boost economic growth and boost job creation.

But as the country's youngest ever prime minister, many of Mr Chahed's critics have questioned whether he has the political clout to overcome the trade union opposition, strikes and party infighting that have dogged past governments.

# TUNISIA

**Circa 1100 BC** - Phoenicians settle the north African coast. The city of Carthage, near the site of present-day Tunis, becomes a naval power.

**146 BC** - Carthage falls to the Romans.

**600s** - Arabs conquer the territory of present-day Tunisia.

**909** - Berbers wrest the region from the Arabs.

**1600s** - Tunisia becomes part of the Turkish Ottoman empire, but has a high degree of autonomy.

**1881** - French troops occupy Tunis. France controls economic and foreign affairs; Tunisia is a French protectorate from 1883.

**1956** - Tunisia becomes independent with Habib Bourguiba as prime minister, monarchy is abolished and Tunisia becomes a republic the following year.

**1987** - 'Palace coup': Prime Minister Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has President Bourguiba declared mentally unfit to rule and takes power himself.

**2011** - Mass protests drive President Ben Ali into exile, inspiring other popular uprisings collectively known as the "Arab Spring".

# TUNISIA

## A chronology of key events:

**circa 1100 BC** - Phoenicians settle the north African coast. The city of Carthage, near the site of present-day Tunis, becomes a naval power.

**146 BC** - Carthage falls to the Romans.

**439 AD** - Vandals invade; Roman buildings and artefacts are destroyed.

**600s** - Arabs conquer the territory of present-day Tunisia.

**909** - Berbers wrest the region from the Arabs.



**Habib Bourguiba, independent Tunisia's first leader**

# TUNISIA

## Ottoman Empire

**1600s** - Tunisia becomes part of the Turkish Ottoman empire, but has a high degree of autonomy.

**1800s** - French and Turkish designs on Tunisia force it to tread a careful path.

**1881** - French troops occupy Tunis. France controls economic and foreign affairs; Tunisia is a French protectorate from 1883.

**1934** - Habib Bourguiba founds the pro-independence Neo-Dustour Party

**1942** - World War II: German troops arrive to resist allied forces in Algeria. Allied forces drive German, Italian troops out in 1943.

# TUNISIA





# TUNISIA

## Independence

**1956** 20 March - Tunisia becomes independent with Bourguiba as prime minister.

**1957** - The monarchy is abolished and Tunisia becomes a republic.

**1961** - Tunisia says French forces must leave their base in Bizerte. Fighting breaks out. France pulls out of Bizerte in 1963, after long-running talks.

**1981** - First multi-party parliamentary elections since independence. President Bourguiba's party wins by a landslide.

**1985** - Israel raids Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) HQ in Tunis; 60 people are killed. The raid is in response to the killing by the PLO of three Israeli tourists in Cyprus.

**1987** - Bloodless palace coup: Prime Minister Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has President Bourguiba declared mentally unfit to rule and takes power himself.

**1989** - Ben Ali wins presidential elections. He goes on to be re-elected four more times, the last time in 2009.

**1999** - First multi-party presidential elections; Ben Ali wins a third term.



President Bourguiba was deposed by Prime Minister Ben Ali in 1987

# TUNISIA

## Synagogue bombed

**2002** April - 19 people - 11 of them German tourists - are killed in a bomb explosion at a synagogue in the resort of Djerba; Al-Qaeda claims responsibility.

**2002** May - President Ben Ali wins a referendum on constitutional changes, paving the way for his fourth term.

**2002** September - Jailed leader of Communist Workers' Party, Hamma Hammami, is freed on health grounds. He had been accused of being in an illegal organisation and of inciting rebellion.

**2004** October - President Ben Ali wins a fourth term with 94% of the vote.

**2005** July - Parliament introduces an upper house - the Chamber of Councillors - which is dominated by the ruling party.

# TUNISIA

**2005** November - Tunisia hosts a UN conference on the global information society. Authorities deny that police have harassed journalists and other delegates.

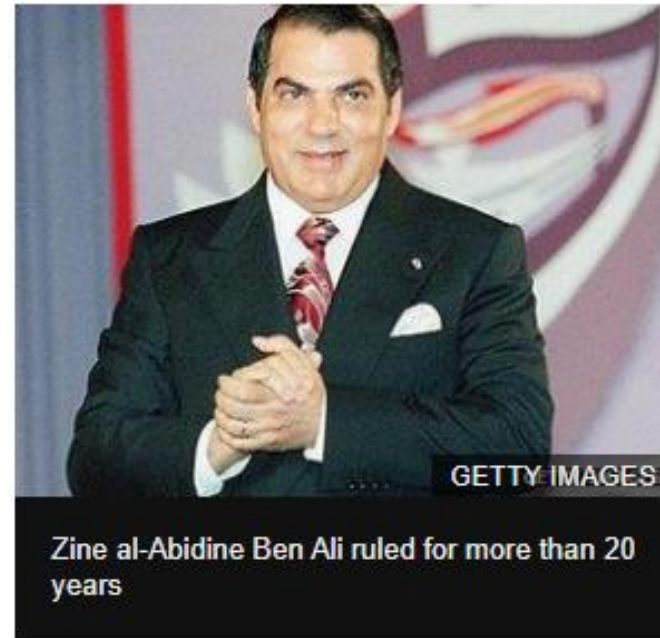
**2006** - October - Authorities launch a campaign against the Islamic headscarves worn by some women.

Tunisia moves to close its embassy in Qatar in protest at alleged bias by the Qatar-based al-Jazeera TV channel.

The channel broadcast remarks by veteran Tunisian dissident Moncef Marzouki in which he called for peaceful resistance to the Tunisian government.

**2006** December - The Progressive Democratic Party (PDP), the main opposition party, elects a woman as leader - a first for Tunisia. She is May Eljeribi.

**2007** January - Islamist militants and security forces clash in Tunis. Twelve people are killed. Interior Minister Rafik Belhadj Kacem says the Salafist militants had come from Algeria.



# TUNISIA

**2009** February - French court sentences German convert to Islam to 18 years over attack on Djerba synagogue in 2002. Walid Nouar, brother of suicide bomber, got 12 years for his part in al-Qaeda attack.

**2009** July - Police charge nine men, including two air-force officers, with plotting to kill US servicemen during joint military exercises.

## Arab Spring

**2010** December - Protests break out over unemployment and political restrictions, and spread nationwide.

**2011** January - President Ben Ali goes into exile amid continuing protests.

**2011** February - Prime Minister Ghannouchi resigns, responding to demands by demonstrators calling for a clean break with the past.


**2011** May - Curfew imposed amid fresh street protests.

**2011** October - Parliamentary elections. Ennahda Islamist party wins, but falls short of an outright majority.



Tunisians overthrew the Ben Ali regime in the first popular revolution of the Arab Spring

# TUNISIA

<b>Tunisian Revolution</b> الثورة التونسية Part of the Arab Spring	
	
Anti-government demonstrations during the Tunisian revolution	
<b>Date</b>	18 December 2010 – 14 January 2011 (3 weeks and 6 days)
<b>Location</b>	Tunisia
<b>Caused by</b>	Government corruption Social inequalities Unemployment Political repression
<b>Methods</b>	Civil resistance Demonstrations General strikes Self-immolations Spontaneous uprisings
<b>Resulted in</b>	Overthrow of the Ben Ali government Resignation of Prime Minister Ghannouchi <sup>[1]</sup> Dissolution of the political police <sup>[2]</sup> Dissolution of the ruling party <sup>[3]</sup> Release of political prisoners <sup>[4]</sup> Elections of a Constituent Assembly <sup>[5]</sup> Subsequent protests against the interim Islamist-led constituent assembly. Government agrees to resign and engages in dialogue discussing the country's new transition. <sup>[6]</sup>

# TUNISIA

**2012 June** - The government imposes an overnight curfew in eight areas following riots by Islamists against an art exhibition. One man died after being shot in the head.

**2012 August** - Thousands protest in Tunis against moves by Islamist-led government to reduce women's rights. Draft constitution refers to women as "complementary to men", whereas 1956 constitution granted women full equality with men.

**2013 February** - Prime Minister Jebali resigns after Ennahda party rejects his proposals to form a government of technocrats after the killing of an opposition anti-Islamist leader. Ennahda rejects opposition allegations that it was behind the killing of Chokri Belaid, whose death prompted violent protests.

# TUNISIA

**2013** May - At least one person is killed in clashes between police and Salafi Islamists of the Ansar al-Sharia group in the Tunis suburb of Ettadhamen, where it was holding a meeting. Police also clashed with protesters in the city of Kairouan, where the government had banned an earlier Ansar al-Sharia meeting on security grounds.

**2013** July - Assassination of opposition politician Mohamed Brahmi prompts mass demonstrations, a general strike and calls for the government to resign.

**2013** December - After months of wrangling, Ennahda and mainly secular opposition agree on appointment of Mehdi Jomaa as head of interim government.

**2014** January - Parliament passes the country's first constitution since President Ben Ali was ousted in 2011.

Prime minister-designate Mehdi Jomaa forms cabinet of independents and technocrats, to govern until new elections.

# TUNISIA

**2014** February - The government says the suspected assassin of opposition politician Chokri Belaid has been killed in an anti-terrorist operation.

**2014** March - President Marzouki lifts state of emergency imposed in 2011 during ouster of Zine el Abidine Ben Ali.

**2014** October - Nidaa Tounes, which unites secularists, trade unionists, liberals and some players from the Ben Ali era, wins largest bloc of seats in parliamentary election, overtaking the Islamist Ennahda.

**2014** December - Nidaa Tounes candidate Beji Caid Essebsi becomes president after decisively beating outgoing president Moncef Marzouki in run-off elections.

**2015** March - Islamic State extremist group claims responsibility for an attack by three gunmen on the Bardo Museum in Tunis, in which 21 people, mainly foreign tourists, were killed.



# TUNISIA

**2015** June - Islamic State gunman kills 38 people, mainly tourists, on beach at resort of Sousse, in Tunisia's worst terror attack. Government announces closure of extremist mosques.

**2015** October - National Dialogue Quartet receives Nobel Peace Prize for helping transition to democracy. Made up of General Labour Union, Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts, Human Rights League, and Order of Lawyers.

**2017** May - Demonstrations against proposed economic reconciliation law that would grant amnesty to businessmen and civil servants accused of corruption under former regime.

**2017** April - Morocco and Algeria become embroiled in a diplomatic row over a group of Syrian refugees stranded on their common border.

**2017** May-June - Protesters close oil pipeline valves as part of demonstrations demanding job creation and development in poorer inland areas.

**2019** October - Retired law professor Kais Saied wins presidential election on an anti-corruption platform.

# TUNISIA

## PEOPLE & LANGUAGE

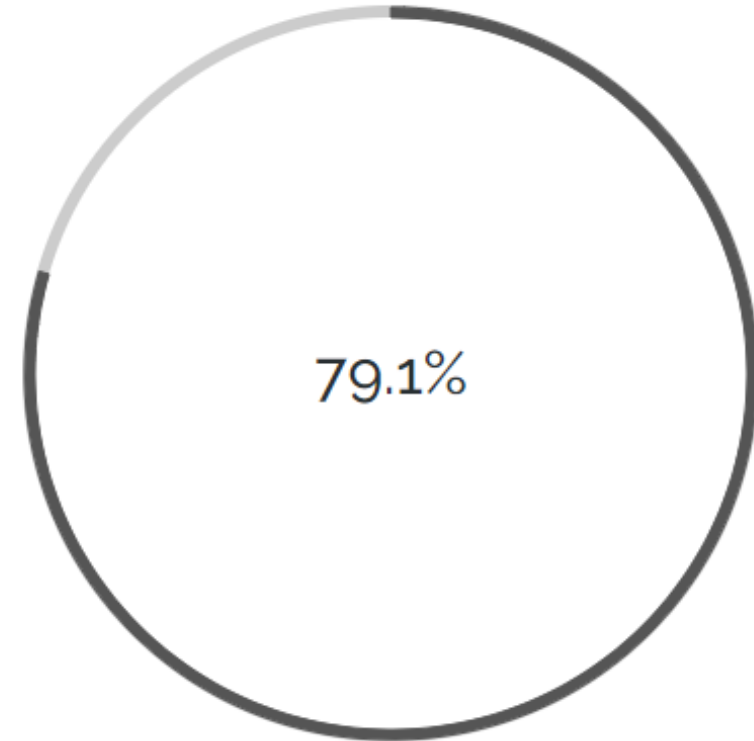


The population of Tunisia is nearly 11 million, with an average life expectancy of 76 years. Most of the population is of Tamazight (Berber) or Arab descent (98%) and speaks Arabic, although there is a small Jewish and European community as well at about 1% of the population each. French is commonly used in major cities and in business settings. According to the CIA Fact Book, 67% of the population lives in urban areas, growing at a rate of 1.7% per year.

# TUNISIA

Education in Tunisia has been a high priority of the federal government and is compulsory for children between the ages of 6 and 16. The Tunisian education system is based on the French system which involves three cycles: primary, secondary, and higher education. Primary education lasts for nine years and is the only compulsory period of education for students. Students who elect to go to secondary education continue for four years, and students either prepare to enter college or the workforce. There are many free public universities for students to attend including the Ecole Polytechnique de Tunisie, the International University of Tunis, and the Université des Sciences de Tunis. These are all located in the capital of Tunis. There are 198 institutions of higher education and research in the country.

Health conditions have steadily improved and state owned health facilities and hospitals provide free services to all Tunisian citizens and residents. As of 2010, Tunisia maintains roughly 1.2 physicians per 1,000 people, about half the rate experienced by the United States and Europe (about 2.5 per 1,000 people). The government has supported family planning by opening facilities throughout the country to provide contraception services and by favoring fewer children and older marriage age in Social Security policies. This has led to a decrease in fertility rates to about seventeen births for every 1,000 people (right around the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile).



Literacy Rate

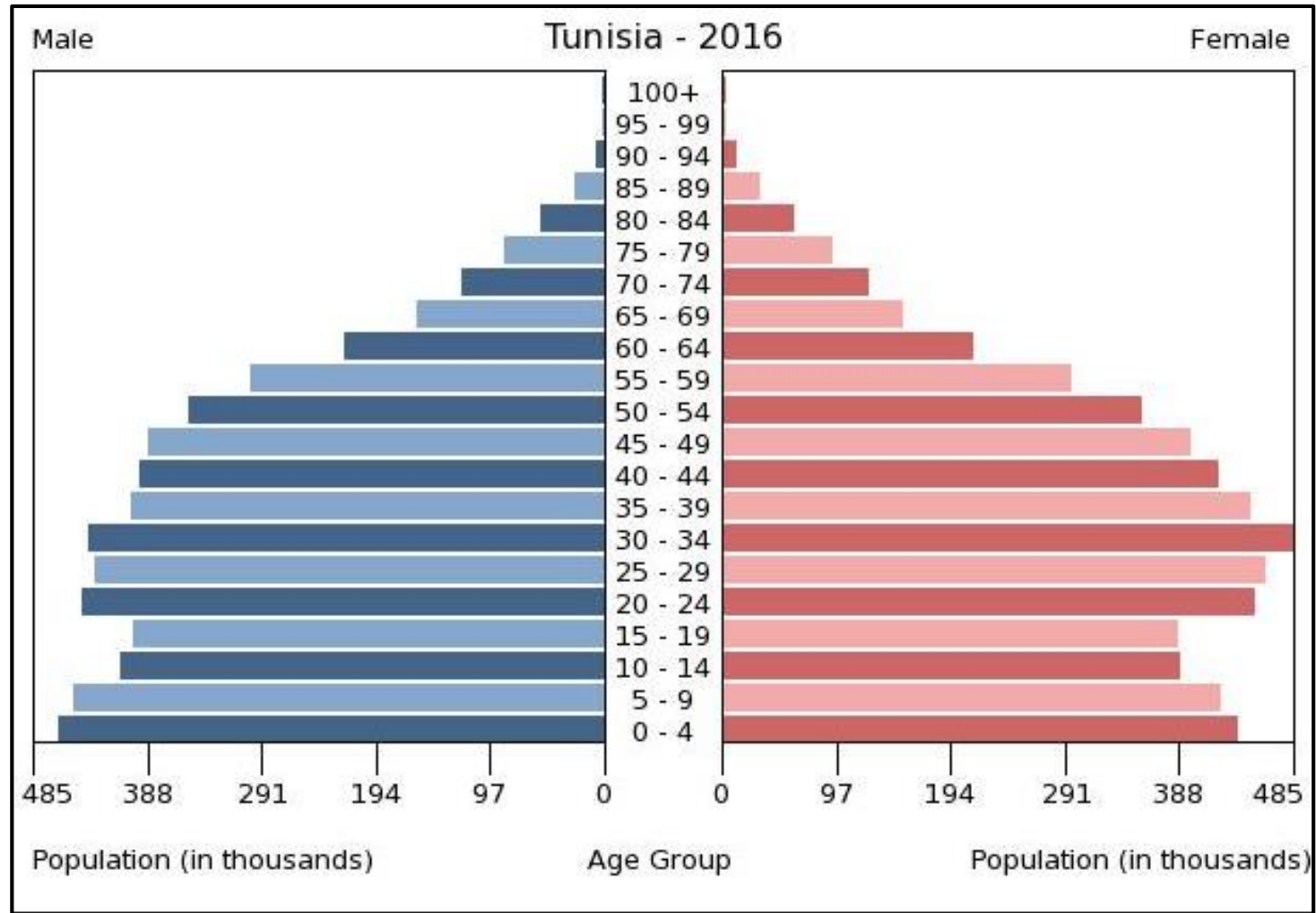
# TUNISIA

## RELIGION

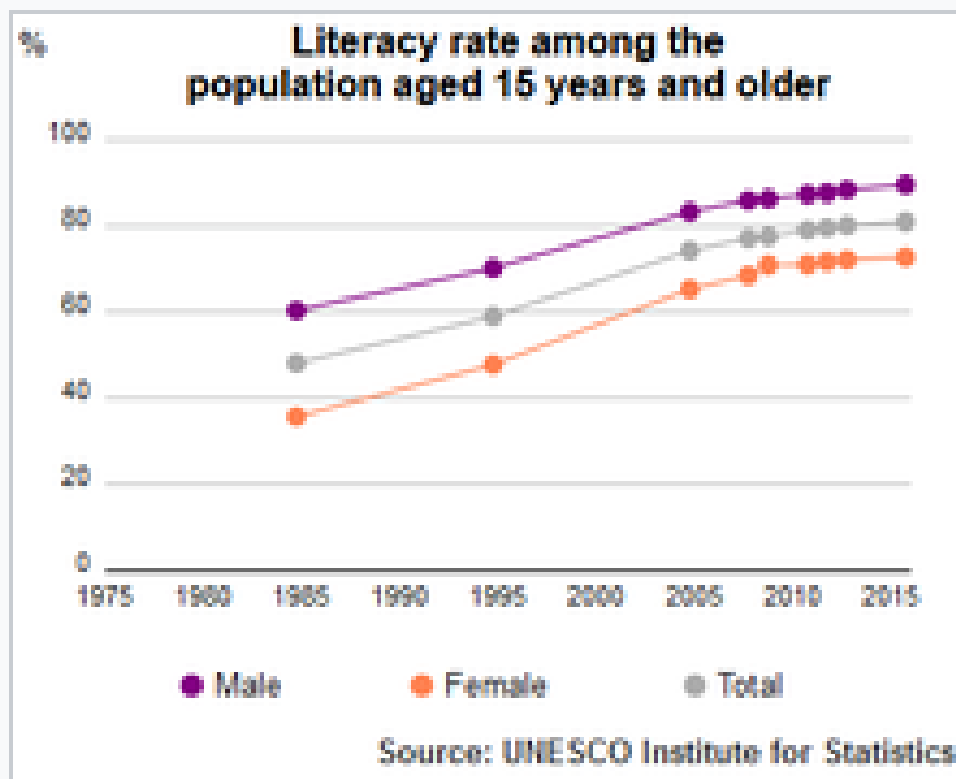
98% of Tunisia's population practices Sunni Islam. The remaining 2% is comprised of a mix of Christians, Jews, and other religions. Tunisia has a secular government and provides guarantees for the free practice of religion in the constitution. As mentioned above, however, there has been an increase in violent Islamist activity in the country, and Tunisians have engaged in radical terrorist movements beyond its borders as well. One third of the Jewish population, or about 700 people, live in Tunis while the remaining 1,000 reside in Djerba, an island off the eastern coast of Tunisia.



# TUNISIA

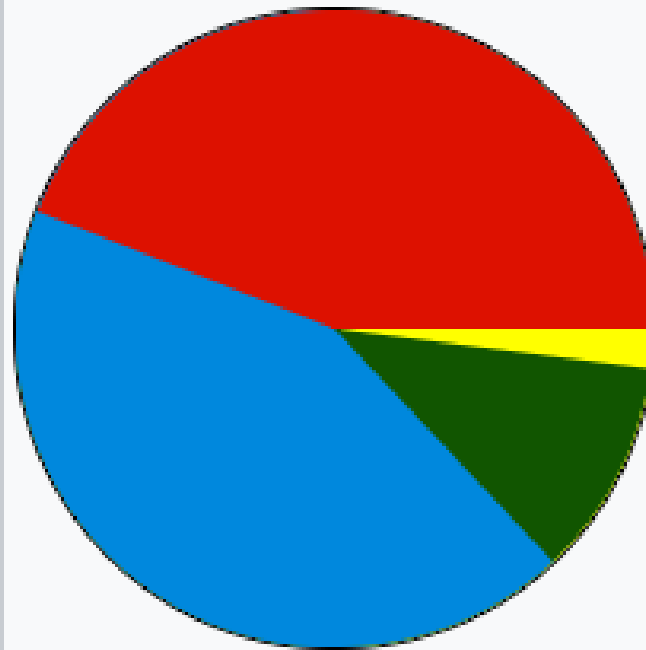


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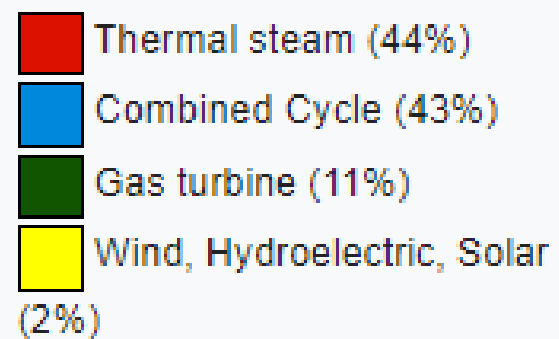


Literacy rate of Tunisia population, plus 15, 1985–2015 by UNESCO Institute of Statistics

# TUNISIA



Sources of electricity production  
in Tunisia<sup>[136]</sup>



# TUNISIA

## CULTURE

In spite of its small size, Tunisia is a historically diverse country. It was conquered by the Phoenicians, Romans, and Arabs and is home to an array of ethnic groups and religions, all of which have left their mark on its unique culture.

### Art



Tunisia has a rich artistic culture and hosts at least fifty festivals every year. The country is known for many of its craft products such as pottery, carpets, and jewelry, and is especially famous for mosaics of varying colors and shapes. These are often carved out of stone or marble and feature depictions of Roman and Islamic times. The Bardo Museum, located in Tunis, holds one of the largest collections of mosaics from the Greek, Roman, and Islamic periods.

The Jasmine Revolution, which sparked the later Arab Spring movement and led to the resignation of Tunisian president Ben Ali, has begun to influence contemporary Tunisian art. Carthage Contemporary, a program located in the Carthage National Antiquities Museum, has recently launched a series titled "Chkoun Ahna" meaning "about us". Curator Khadija Hamdi describes the exhibit as one which looks to understand Tunisian history through modern art.

<http://teachmideast.org/country-profiles/tunisia/>



# TUNISIA

## Sites

Tunisia is home to some of the most impressive Punic and Roman sites. The amphitheater in El Jem is the third largest amphitheater in the Roman world (after the Coliseum in Rome and the amphitheater in Capua). Dougga, in northern Tunisia, is considered one of the most well preserved Roman towns in North Africa. You can also visit the old city of Carthage, destroyed and later rebuilt by the Romans in 146 BC following the Third Punic War.

The Great Mosque of Kairouan, also known as the Mosque of Uqba, is one of the oldest mosques in North Africa. It was built in several stages during the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries during the Aghlabid period and served as the prototype for other North African mosques. The Aghlabids were a dynasty of emirs in North Africa who swore allegiance to the Abbasid Caliphs in Baghdad. They served as a critical trading point on the Mediterranean between Africa and Europe.

Many movies have been filmed in Tunisia including parts of George Lucas' *Star Wars* movies. Many of the sets can still be seen today including the site of Tataouine and the home of Luke Skywalker. The country has also hosted locations for films such as Roman Polanski's *Pirates*, the action film *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, and Monty Python's *The Life of Brian*.



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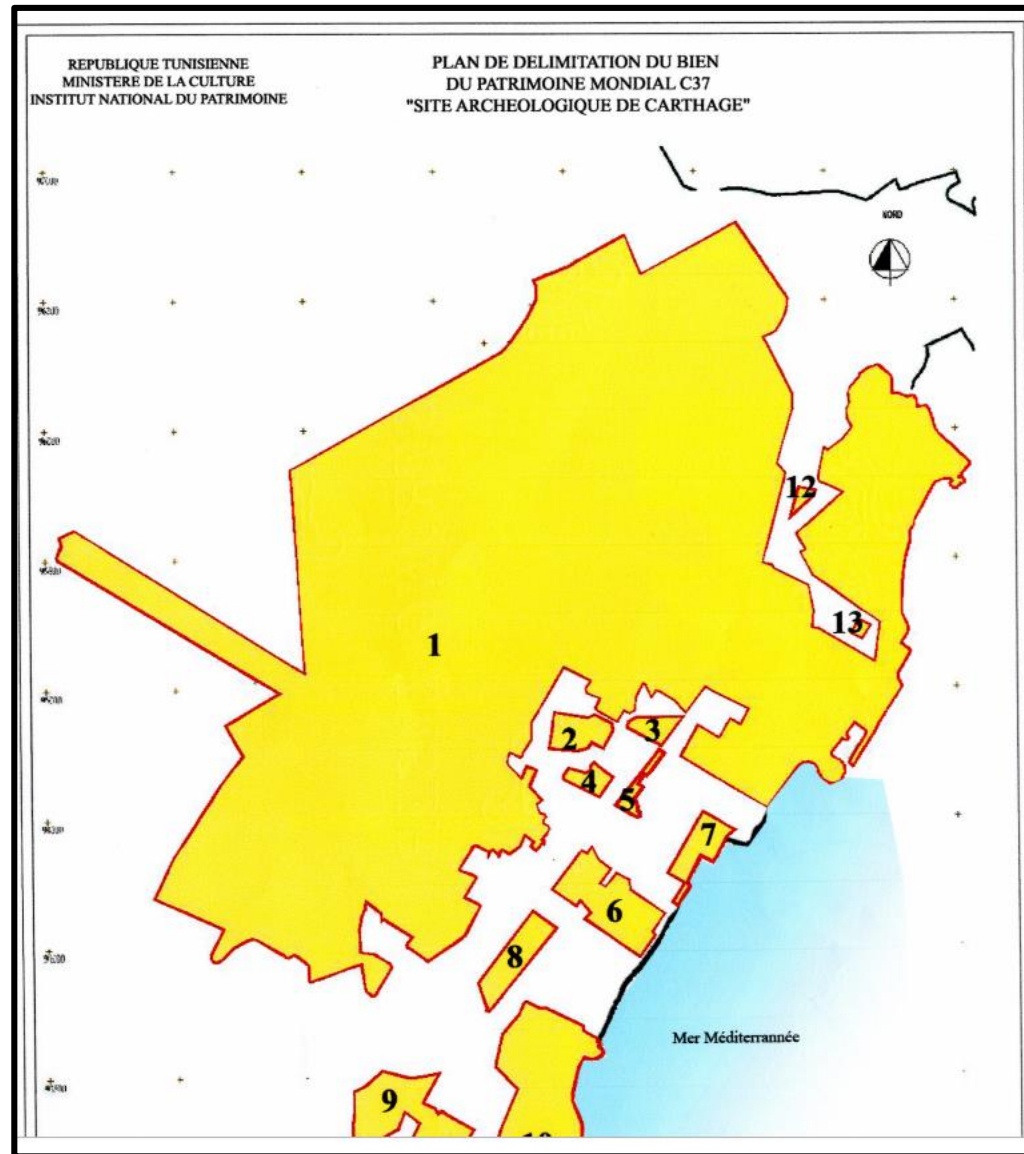


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# TUNISIA



# TUNISIA

## Music

Tunisia is best known for ma'louf, a kind of Andalusian music imported by Arabs and Jews during the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Al-Andalus, the Arabic term for a medieval Muslim territory and cultural domain that occupied most of what are today Spain and Portugal, left a lasting influence on the area's culture. The style of music is played by small musical ensembles consisting of violins, lutes (ouds), and zithers, a type of string instrument common in Southern Europe. Ma'louf was highly influenced by Ottoman culture, having adopted Turkish-style compositions and musical structures during the time of the Ottoman Empire. African and native Amazigh (Berber) influences have further altered the sound of ma'louf, making the genre quite distinct from its provenance. Today, it is mostly played at weddings and public celebrations of religious holidays.

Recently, Tunisian underground music has found an audience among younger Tunisians. Since most contemporary Tunisian mainstream music includes only a few different musical styles, predominantly ma'louf, underground music has come to include any artist or band that sings or composes in a different genre. Most heavy metal, dark, and Gothic bands in Tunisia sing in English. In contrast, most Tunisian rappers perform in Tunisian (the local Arabic dialect). The Tunisian rap scene is very productive with artists such as DJ Costa, Arab Clan, Warda Crew, Slim Larnaout, and Kamel Zmen. Electronic music is also on the rise in Tunisia. Due to suppression of cultural expression by various conservative forces, these musical styles often discuss themes of defiance against the government. Underground music was often played during the Jasmine Revolution for this reason.

# TUNISIA



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tunisia>

# SADIKI COLLEGE IN TUNIS



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tunisia>

## Hafsid rulers [ edit ]

- [Abu Muhammad Abd al-Wahid ibn Abi Hafs](#) (1207–1221)
- [Abu Muhammad Abd Allah ibn Abd al-Wahid](#) (1226–1228)
- [Abu Zakariya Yahya](#) (1228–1249)
- [Muhammad I al-Mustansir](#) (1249–1277)
- [Yahya II al-Watiq](#) (1277–1279)
- [Ibrahim I](#) (1279–1283)
- [Abd al-Aziz I](#) (1283)
- [Ibn Abi Umara](#) (1283–1284)
- [Abu Hafs Umar I](#) (1284–1295)
- [Muhammad I](#) (1295–1309)
- [Abu Bakr I](#) (1309)
- [Aba al-Baqa Khalid an-Nasir](#) (1309–1311)
- [Aba Yahya Zakariya al-Lihyani](#) (1311–1317)
- [Muhammad II](#) (1317–1318)
- [Abu Bakr II](#) (1318–1346)
- [Abu Hafs Umar II](#) (1346–1349)
- [Ahmad I](#) (1349)
- [Ibrahim II](#) (1350–1369)
- [Abu al-Baqa Khalid](#) (1369–1371)
- [Ahmad II](#) (1371–1394)
- [Abd al-Aziz II](#) (1394–1434)
- [Muhammad III](#) (1434–1436)
- [Abu 'Amr 'Uthman](#) (1436–1488)
- [Abu Zakariya Yahya II](#) (1488–1489)
- [Abd al-Mu'min \(Hafsid\)](#) (1489–1490)
- [Abu Yahya Zakariya](#) (1490–1494)
- [Muhammad IV](#) (1494–1526)
- [Muhammad V](#) (1526–1543)
- [Ahmad III](#) (1543–1569)
- [Ottoman conquest](#) (1569–1573)
- [Muhammad VI](#) (1573–1574)



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