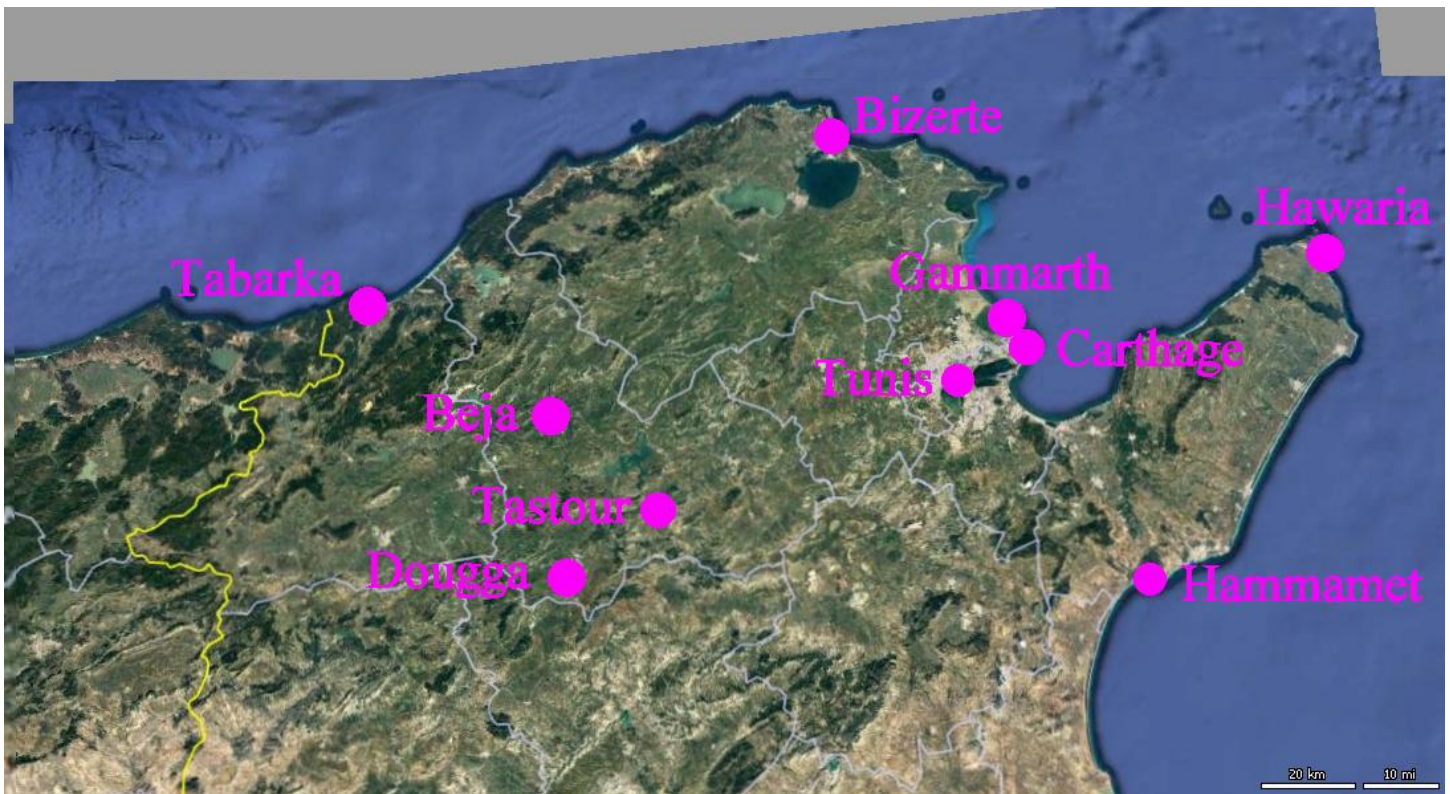


## Weekend Promotions

Compiled by Dr. Ed Holroyd of the Ph.D. team in Monastir (2024).

At the end of each first Friday class I gave the students the usual ten minutes to produce a writing sample by which to assess their use of English for writing. This day the question was: “**How could I spend a weekend so as to better appreciate Tunisia?**”. Most students were eager to promote their suggestions. Their submissions covered a large range of things to do and see. There was also a range in the quality of their writings. A few mentioned only one suggestion, while a different few had a long list of possible activities. Some places were mentioned by many students, so I will order them somewhat by region and popularity. My counts will be in these brackets: {} but I may have some counting errors of omission. For some places and activities that received an excellent (or only) commentary by a student I have quoted their submission (with possible minor editing corrections) and identified the author by name. Site locations are identified on Google Earth satellite imagery as north, central, and south regions.



North Tunisia

{9} **Carthage ruins.** To better appreciate Tunisia over the weekend, one could immerse oneself in its rich history and diverse landscapes for history enthusiasts, a visit to the ancient ruins of Carthage offers a glimpse into the grandeur of one of the most influential civilizations in the Mediterranean. Wandering through the remnants of this one great city, you can almost hear the echoes of ancient traders and warriors. [Boufrikha Souhir] Afternoon, embark on a journey to Carthage, the ancient city that once rivaled Rome. Explore the remnants of this UNESCO World Heritage Site (Carthage museum, Roman villas). [Haifa Mliki]

{7} **Tunis medina** I started in Tunis, exploring the bustling Medina and its maze of narrow streets and vibrant markets. [Ben Dlala Sirene]

{6} **Carthage Sidi Bou Said village** Sidi Bou Said, nestled on a hilltop overlooking the Mediterranean Sea in Tunisia, captivates visitors with its charm and picturesque beauty. As I wandered through its narrow cobblestone streets lined with whitewashed buildings adorned with vibrant blue doors and windows, the scent of jasmine wafted through the air, blending with the salty breeze from the sea below. Cafes with shaded terraces offered respite, where locals and tourists alike savored mint tea while gazing at the breathtaking views of the

Tunisia coastline. As the sun set, casting a golden hue over the village, I realized that Sidi Bou Said is not just a destination, it's a sanctuary of beauty and tranquility. [Zayneb Mechlia] Sidi Bou Said, a picturesque coastal village in Tunisia, is an ideal Summer destination. This charming town is known for its stunning blue-and-white architecture and breathtaking sea view. You can explore the scenery, relax in traditional cafes, and visit historical landmarks such as the "Dar El Najma El Zahra Palace". The atmosphere is tranquil. You can savour many traditional cuisines like "Banbalouni" and "Fricasse" and "tea of baklawa". [Noura Amamou] One of the most memorable moments was spending time in Sidi Bou Said. [Ben Dlala Sirene]

**{5} Tunis National Bardo Museum** You can start your weekend at the Bardo museum in Tunis, home to an extraordinary collection of Roman mosaics and artifacts. Dive into Tunisia's rich history and marvel at the intricate designs preserved from ancient time. For lunch you can head to a local restaurant in the bustling medina of Tunis. Indulge in traditional Tunisia cuisine such as couscous, brik, or Tajim. [Haifa Mliki] The National Bardo Museum presents spectacular Roman mosaics. [Roua Bouzaiene] The Bardo Museum with its stunning collection of Roman mosaics was a highlight. Tunisia is a destination that promises a truly memorable weekend. [Ben Dlala Sirene]

**{5} Hammamet beach** The beautiful beaches of Hammamet with their deep white sand. [Roua Bouzaiene]

**{4} Bizerte beach, park** I would love to go camping at the beach of "CapSerrat" in Bizerte (North Tunisia) and get a great tan. [Dr. Ben Amer Yasmin] I suggest visiting "Ishkule Reserve" in Bizart. It is a national park.

[Asma Ben Haj Mbarek] You can go to the north to a beautiful city called Bizart, where the mountains meet the sea, a lot of green spaces, birds and things to look after since you are into geology. [Roua Bouzaiene]

**{2} northern mountains** I'm a nature lover, so I enjoyed hiking trips to the mountains in northern Tunisia. The north of the country is known for the beautiful nature, the greenery and the summits' breathtaking views. You can enjoy the snowy weather in the forests of "Ain Drahem" in winter with their unique types of trees. Besides, there are two wonderful nature reserves "Ichkel" and "Feija" with their different kinds of migrating birds. [Ines Werdi]

**{2} Dougga** To better appreciate Tunisia over a weekend, you can begin with a journey to Dougga, where you can marvel at the remarkably preserve Roman ruins. [Limem Ibrahim]

**{1} Tastour** As you like history and nature, I advise you to visit Tasstour which is situated on a plateau in the Qued Me djeida basin in the Northern Tunisia. So you will discover the historical city full of mountains and plateaus. Also some of the mountains containing a cave. You can get off with the help of experienced people there and it lasts hours and a little bit longer. These are some of the activities that you can try it. [Emna Ali]

**{1} Tabarka** I chose Toberkq where I did underwater diving and discovered the beauty of corals. [Dems Iobna]

**{1} Beja** Beja is a town located in the northwest of Tunisia, about 2100 kilometers from the capital of Tunis. Known for its rich history and cultural heritage, Beja offers a unique blend of Roman ruins and traditional Tunisian architecture. The town of Beja itself is marked by its Roman past, visible through the ruins of the ancient city of {V}aye. Here you can find remnants to temples, baths, and fortifications that testify to the region's significance during the Roman era. [Nawres Abbassi]

{1} Gammarth, NW of Carthage

{1} La Marsa, NE of Carthage

**{1} Hawaria** Hawaria a serene Mediterranean coastal town, delights with its golden sand beaches and authentic ambiance. [Abd Raouf]



Central Tunisia

**{9} El Djem Roman coliseum.** El Djem’s amphitheater, built in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century stands as one of the most impressive Roman ruins still standing. Remarkable for its massive size and well-preserved architecture, it boasted a diameter of 168 meters and could accommodate to 37,000 spectators, making it one of the largest Roman amphitheaters of its time. Its enduring stone construction has withstood centuries, despite the passage of time and earthquakes, serving as a fascinating testament to Roman engineering powers and remaining a major tourist attraction in Tunisia, admired worldwide for its architectural beauty and captivating history. [Hajer Gassauma] If you’re a fan of historical monuments, you’d enjoy visiting the ancient Coliseum in Eljem (a small city located in the governature of Mahdia) and you’ll be certainly amazed by the local shops around it. Moreover, there will be held an International Symphonic Musical Festival in the coming days. [Dr. Ben Amer Yasmin] The Amphitheatre of El Jem, the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest Roman Amphitheatre in the world. It’s not that far from Monastir. [Roua Bouzaiene]

**Monastir: {7} Monastir Ribat, {7} Monastir beaches, waterfront, {4} Monastir medina, {4} Monastir Bourguiba Mausoleum, museum, {2} Monastir salt flats, flamingos**

Spending a weekend in Monastir Tunisia can be enriching experience filled with its mix of historical sites, beautiful beaches and vibrant culture. Here’s a suggested itinerary: *Day 1 = Historical and Cultural exploration. Morning* = 1) Ribat of Monastir (a historic fortress that offers stunning views of the city and the sea). It’s one of the best preserved Ribats in North Africa. 2) Bourguiba Mausoleum = the founder and first president of Tunisia. *Afternoon* = 3) Monastir Marina = you can enjoy the sight of yachts and boats, have lunch at one of the many waterfront restaurants. 4) Monastir Medina = visit traditional shops and experience the local culture. *Evening* = 5) Beach Time = relax on one of Monastir’s beautiful beaches. 6) Dinner by the Sea = Enjoy fresh seafood and traditional Tunisia dishes while watching the sunset. *Day 2: Morning: Nature and leisure* 1) Falaise Park. 2) Skanes Beach. *Afternoon:* 3) Golf at Flamingo course. 4) Local Market = you can buy fresh produce, spices and local crafts. *Evening:* 5) Monastir Corniche = It’s a great place. 6) Dinner at a local restaurant. Try traditional dishes like couscous, brik or a variety of grilled meats and vegetables. This itinerary will help you appreciate Monastir’s rich history, beautiful beaches, and vibrant culture. [Dr. Olfa Maalej - “Doctor’s orders”] Distinct tourist areas in Monastir such as, the Ribat of Monastir, an Islamic defensive structure, located in Monastir, Tunisia. It is the oldest Ribat built by Arab conquerors during the Muslim

conquest of the Maghreb. It is also the most important monument in the city of Monastir. [Oumayma Saad] Monastir combines historical charm with modern attractions. Monastir is known by her beach. If you like to relax, the beach is perfect for swimming and sunbathing. There's also Ribat of Monastir. It's an iconic monastery and one of the oldest in North Africa. It offers a beautiful view of the city. Besides, there's Habib Bourguiba Museum located in the former presidential palace. The palace offers insight into the life of the previous president. [Fatma Besbes] Monastir is a charming coastal city in Tunisia. It effortlessly blends historical grandeur with modern allure. Located on the eastern Mediterranean coast, Monastir is renowned for its stunning beaches, ancient architecture, and vibrant cultural scene. As you enter Monastir, the sight of the Ribat, a fortified monastery, immediately captures your attention. This impressive structure, with its high stone walls and sturdy towers. Monastir's medina is a lively hub of activity. [Hadir Abdellaoui] You can visit the salt lake near to the airport. There are Flamingos. It's a nice very beautiful bird. [Ahmed Lamiri]

**{4} Sousse medina and beach** I like the beach so close. The city of "Sousse" which we call "Diamond" of Tunisia. [Dems Iobna]

**{3} Kairouan** I suggest you spend a weekend in Kairouan, Tunisia's fourth holiest city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, all over you can delve into its rich history, culture, and religious significance. Here's a suggested itinerary to help you appreciate Kairouan. Start your exploration with a visit to the great Mosque, one of the oldest and most important Islamic monuments in North Africa. Admire its impressive architecture, including the massive prayer hall and the iconic minaret. Take time to understand its historical and religious significance. Wander through the narrow streets of Kairouan's medina, which is less crowded than Tunis'. Pay a visit to the Mausoleum of Sidi Sahabi; also known as the Mosque of the Barber, which houses the tomb of Abu Zama al-Beladin. Explore Bin Barouta an ancient water reservoir that also serves as a popular spot for locals and visitors alike. Visit the Kairouan Museums and culture sites and enjoy Tunisian cuisine at local restaurants and cafes. [Chayma Hamdi]

**{1} Kuriat Island** Kuriat Island is also very interesting to visit. You will have the chance to swim, to eat fish and discover this preserved nature area. [Dr. Cyrine]

**{1} Kesra** Kesra: a beautifully unique and original berber village: Kesra, the highest village in Tunisia, has a myriad of joys to offer. Located in northwest Tunisia, Kesra is at a height equal to 1100 meters above sea level. Do you feel the need to clear your mind and escape to an exceptional place? It is the perfect village to answer your wish. Wildy Ness he al guides you through this city famous for its megalithic monuments. Its waterfall and its stairs carved in the rock. An extraordinary place awaits you, for an original day with unique people. [Askri Maher]

**{1} Sbeitla** Sbeitla is a small town in west-central Tunisia, known for its well-preserved Roman (). The town was an important entry point for the Muslim conquest of north Africa. The main attraction in Sbeitla is the Roman forum which contains three temples dedicated to Jupiter. The town also has an archaeological museum with mosaics. Culturally, Sbeitla hosts an annual spring festival with live music and performances. Overall, Sbeitla is a small but historically significant town in Central Tunisia known for its remarkably well preserved Roman (). [Gorbali Rihab]

**{1} Kerkennah islands** Kerkennah, a cluster of pristine islands offers a tranquil escape with fishing villages and peaceful beaches. [Abd Raouf]



South Tunisia

**{9} Djerba island and beaches** Djerba, an island off the coast of Tunisia in North Africa, is a destination steeped in history and charm. Known for its beautiful beaches with soft white sand and clear turquoise waters, Djerba attracts visitors seeking relaxation and natural beauty. The island's Mediterranean climate ensures warm temperatures and sunny days for most of the year, making it a perfect getaway spot. Beyond its beaches, Djerba is rich in cultural heritage, boasting ancient Roman ruins, traditional Berber villages, and the famous El Ghriba synagogue, one of the oldest synagogues in the world. The island is also renowned for its handicraft, including pottery and carpet weaving, which are vibrant reflections of its cultural identity. With a blend of history, natural beauty and cultural richness, Djerba offers a unique and memorable experience for travelers seeking both relaxation and exploration. [Sonya Rebei] Also don't forget to visit Djerba Island "the Dream island". [Imen Zguir] "Djerba" it receives a million visitors every Summer. [Noura Bouabidi] "Jerbahood" is an open-air museum. Artists from all over the world painted the walls of the houses. [Roua Bouzaiene]

**{5} Touzeur desert and dates** So you enjoyed the edge of the desert in Tozeur a southern town in Tunisia. It is very nice and beautiful town. [Nabil Mabrouki] Touzeur, an enchanting oasis in the heart of desert, captivates with lush palm groves and bustling markets. [Abd Raouf]

**{3} Tatouine Star Wars site** You can visit south Tunisia if you like desert actually a very famous movie was shot in Nafta. [Jebri Dorsaf]

**{1} Mahres Roman ruins** Recently they found an old city in Mahres. [Abir Elloumi]

**{1} Gafsa phosphate mine** Also you can see the phosphate mines in "Gafra". [Mariem Brahim]