

# MEDITERRANEAN

Egypt - Greece - Turkey - Tunisia



2007



Your approved Thompsons agent is:



With us you're just a phone call away from a great holiday.

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# Welcome to the World of Thompsons

## Getting to know Thompsons

This Thompsons brochure has been designed especially for you, our valued client. We have gone the extra mile to ensure that all your travel needs are covered and are confident that after reading the brochure, you'll insist on a Thompsons package for your next holiday.

For your convenience, the full range of Thompsons brochures are available on our website, so why not download them at home and browse at leisure, without pressure. The Thompsons site is a one-stop shop, for great package deals, to a variety of exciting and enticing destinations. Simply log onto [www.thompsons.co.za](http://www.thompsons.co.za) and discover a wealth of affordable travel opportunities for you and your family.

## Your Link to Thompsons

Thompsons Tours has dealings with more than 1 500 travel agencies across South Africa, so you'll have no difficulty booking the holiday you deserve. Just pop into a travel agency near you and request a Thompsons package.

## Price guarantee

Once full payment is received from you, the price paid is guaranteed, irrespective of any subsequent changes in airfare or fluctuations in the exchange rate.

## Trust Thompsons

The Thompsons business philosophy is built on 3 major premises:

- Our staff must experience the product so that they can promote it.
- We go out of our way to describe our products accurately (we tell it like it is).
- Once we have made a commitment, we deliver the goods, no matter what. Therefore, our slogan:

# Trust Thompsons

## Awards Speak Volumes

At Thompsons, we continually strive to provide our clients with holidays of the highest quality. With 29 years experience in the travel industry, we have built a reputation on providing excellent service, specialist knowledge and value for money tailor-made packages. Our efforts have not gone unnoticed as for four consecutive years, Thompsons Tours has been voted Best International Tour Operator and Best African Tour Operator in the Diners Club ASATA Travel Awards.

## Why you should insist on a Thompsons holiday

At Thompsons, we pride ourselves on the quality of our holiday packages. Each offer is put together with great care and includes as much detail as possible to help you limit any additional costs on arrival at your destination - a factor that's especially important when holidaying on a budget. Read on to see why Thompsons Tours is the way to go ...

## Tailor-Made Packages

Thompsons' mission is to make your holiday dreams a reality. We tailor-make each package to your exact specifications: the dates and duration of travel, standard and type of accommodation, airline preference, sightseeing excursions - all as you require. There will of course be occasions where set departures are specified for certain events, products or seasons. In cases such as these, Thompsons' quality products will be combined into one hassle-free package to make your travel planning infinitely easier. In addition, our knowledgeable travel consultants are always on hand to offer expert advice and ensure your travel experience is a memorable one.

## Experienced Ground Operators

When you book with Thompsons, you know you are in good hands. Our carefully selected Ground Operators will be available to you throughout your trip and where transfers, tours and excursions are arranged. You will be issued with contact numbers prior to your trip in the event of an emergency. Our Ground Operators are a very important part of the quality packages offered by Thompsons.

## Hand Picked Hotels

All hotels featured in our brochures have been personally inspected by a Thompsons staff member and given the Thompsons' stamp of approval. This means that wherever you choose to stay, you have our personal guarantee of comfort and service.

## Travel Pack

Prior to departure, your travel documents will be presented to you in a durable Thompsons travel wallet. Each pack contains valuable information, as well as re-usable luggage labels and other surprises, depending on your destination. In the event of an emergency, a Thompsons staff member is contactable by phone, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

## Your Thompsons Package Includes:

- Return flights
- Return airport / hotel transfers if selected
- Accommodation as specified on the quote or advertisement, and as confirmed on your invoice
- All airport taxes, fuel surcharges and levies
- Thompsons travel bag

## Your Thompsons Package Excludes:

- Thompsons Top-Ups, unless specified in the quote or advertisement
- Travel insurance
- Visas
- Direct charges such as tipping & portorage
- Meals not specified in the quote or advertisement
- Car hire delivery or collection charges
- Supplements for various room or board types

# Visit the Mediterranean with Thompsons

## Another Exciting Year Ahead

Romance, culture, history and some of the most breathtaking scenery in the world - this is what you will experience with Thompsons' Mediterranean product range. And this year we are offering you even more than before with brand new products in Egypt and Tunisia. As you already know, no-one knows the Mediterranean quite like Thompsons and with a dedicated Reservations, Marketing and Sales Team countrywide, Thompsons is committed to offering you the best of the Mediterranean service.

All your travel requirements will be taken care of by Thompsons - from flights & accommodation to transfers and sightseeing. From the moment you arrive in the Mediterranean you will receive the royal treatment. You will be met by our dedicated representatives who will be more than happy to fill you in and assist you with everything that you need to know while you are in the Mediterranean.

## Thompsons Value for Money

As one of the largest Tour Operators selling the UK & Ireland, Thompsons Tours enjoys excellent rates and booking conditions with our partner airlines; hotels, transfers, sightseeing tours, excursion and attraction suppliers. This translates into the best possible value for you, our valued customer.

## What to expect

We at Thompsons maintain the highest standards with regular visits to our preferred hotels, by either our own staff or representatives of our ground operators, to inspect the standards and facilities of the hotels. Our preferred hotels are carefully selected and the quality of accommodation in terms of their star grading is high. They are clean and comfortable, offer good food and the service is friendly.

## What to Wear in the Mediterranean

Clothes should be light and loose, made of natural blends. Casual clothing is suitable for most occasions. Shorts, cool dresses, sleeveless tops, sunhats and lots of beachwear are musts for the Greek Islands, Red Sea and coastal areas of Turkey & Tunisia. Make sure that you take a comfortable pair of walking shoes, which are essential for any sightseeing. Ensure that you pack plenty of sunblock, your camera and any medication that you may need.

## Thompsons Top-Up

Want to make your holiday even more memorable? Thompsons Tours offers a variety of package Top-Ups.

From city sightseeing and cultural excursions to dinner cruises and dive excursions, there's something to suit every pocket and every taste whatever your destination.



## The Whole Family is Welcome

Look out for the Family Friendly logo, so you know where you can take the whole family for a fun filled family vacation.



## Dive Spots

A great diving experience awaits you whenever you see the Dive logo. It may mean that you can dive or snorkel straight off the beach or that the resort has a dive centre. (Dive logo)



## Super Spas

Get the royal treatment wherever you see the Spa logo. Relax and let the pampering begin. (Spa Logo)



## It's worth the trip

Flying time to the Mediterranean varies from 8hrs to 11hrs. You are just an overnight flight away from your dream holiday.

## Culture

The Mediterranean is full of ancient wonders and many of these are easily accessible from your hotel. The Culture logo will point you to the properties that are close to these attractions.



## You'll never be bored in the Mediterranean

- Marvel at the genius of the Ancient Egyptians as you gaze on the man-made wonders that are the Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza.
- Soak up history and pay a visit to the treasures of King Tutankhamun at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.
- Take a cruise back in time on a luxurious Nile Cruise and visit the ancient tombs of the ancient pharaohs
- Live a dive safari on board a Livaboard and experience up to 4 dives per day in the Red Sea, one of the top 7 dive spots in the world.
- In Alexandria, discover the lost palace of Cleopatra and Marc Antony under the waters of the Mediterranean Sea. Dive in and also discover wrecks from World War II off the coast of Alexandria.
- Live the lazy life on the Greek Isles; sun drenched beaches, souvlaki in secluded tavernas, breathtaking sunsets and casual strolls along cobbled streets
- Live the myths of the Greek Gods and visit the Acropolis, where the Parthenon, Palace of Athena, stands.
- In Istanbul sail along the Bosphorous River and be perfectly placed between the 2 continents of Europe and Asia.
- Travel through Cappadocia and see the strange Fairy Chimney rock formations.
- The hot salt springs of Pamukkale will delight your senses and relax your body.
- Experience the Sahara Desert and the desert oases in Tunisia

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**CAPITAL CITY:** Cairo  
**LANGUAGE:** Arabic & English  
**CURRENCY:** Egyptian Pound  
**VISA:** SA passport holders require a visa and visa is free of charge. All other passport holders to check with local authorities  
**AIRPORT TAX:** All taxes included in the ticket  
**AREA:** 1,001,450 km<sup>2</sup>  
**TIME DIFFERENCE:** GMT + 2 (Same as SA time), Oct-Apr GMT + 3 (SA time + 1hr) May-Sep  
**HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:** No inoculations are required. Anti-malaria precautions recommended if travelling to the Red Sea

### WHAT THINGS COST

These prices are an average price and may vary according to hotels and seasons. (Rands)

- Bottle of Wine R
- Beer R
- Bottle of Water R
- Coffee / Tea R
- Cold Drinks R
- Toasted Sandwich R
- Pub Lunch R

### BEST TIME TO TRAVEL

Throughout Egypt, days are commonly warm or hot and nights are cool. Egypt has only two seasons: a mild winter from November to April and a hot summer from May to October. In the coastal regions, temperatures range between an average minimum of 14°C in winter and an average maximum of 30°C in summer. The maximum temperatures in Cairo in summer can reach 43°C and 18°C in winter. Egypt is not humid. Rainfall is rare in Egypt and days are usually warm and sunny.



Egypt is probably the world's oldest civilization having emerged from the Nile Valley around 3,100 BC. Egypt is probably one of the oldest vacation spots. Early Greeks, Romans and others went there just for fun, and to see the wonders of some of mankind's earliest triumphs. But Egypt is much more than Pyramids and monuments. It is also Red Sea scuba diving, hot nightspots, luxury hotels and five star restaurants. It is romantic cruises down the Nile on festive riverboats and it is a cultural experience like none you have ever experienced. Egypt is a land bustling with life, sound, visual beauty and excitement.

Cairo, is an amazing city full of life and movement, and it is that way almost 24 hours every day, with the noisy honking of horns, children playing in the streets and merchants selling their wares and services. Here, the Egyptians are most at home in this powerful, modern and ancient city. Just outside the city, you will find the Pyramids and the Sphinx in Giza and the step Pyramids of Memphis and Sakkarra.

Historically, the Nile cruise was really the only way to visit the temples and tombs located along this stretch of the river. Nile cruises visit a wide variety of antiquities along the banks of the river. It is a wonderful experience to sit on a shaded deck of a floating hotel, sipping an iced beverage while watching 5,000 years of culture slowly drift by.

The Red Sea is renowned as one of the world's best diving spots. Each Red Sea resort has a different character and there is something for everyone and to suite every kind of budget.



### Getting There

Egypt Air flies into Cairo and has good connections to all destinations within Egypt

Flying time is 8 & 1/2 hrs to Cairo.

### Traveller's Tip

Make sure that you have plenty of small notes for Baksheesh (tipping). Egyptians expect to be tipped at every opportunity, especially when you are visiting temples, tombs, pyramids or having your picture taken on a camel. EGP5 is the expected amount.

### Cairo Sightseeing

#### Full Day Museum, Pyramids & Sphinx

The Egyptian Museum has the largest collection of Egyptian antiquities anywhere in the world. It features artefacts from the Pharaonic and Greco-Roman periods, including the celebrated mummies of ancient Egypt's Kings and Tutankhamun's treasures. The pyramids of Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinus, were considered by the Greeks, as one of the Seven Wonders of the World. In the face of such immensity, one cannot help but feel the wonder and awe that so many writers and artists have sought to convey over the centuries. The Cheops Pyramid is especially interesting, since its interior burial chambers are open for inspection by the public. Not far from the Pyramids is the Great Sphinx of Giza, which dates from the time of Chephren (2620 BC).  
**SCHEDULE:** Daily at 09h00. **DURATION:** Full day  
**INCLUSIONS:** Return hotel transfers and lunch

#### Half Day Citadel, Mosque & Bazaar

The tour begins with a visit to the Citadel, one of Cairo's most popular tourist attractions. The Citadel is one of the world's greatest monuments to medieval warfare, as well as a highly visible landmark on Cairo's eastern skyline. Facing the Citadel is the Mosque of Sultan Hassan, built between 1356 and 1363 and perhaps the most majestic monument of Arabic architecture in Egypt. The tour also includes a visit to Khan El Khalili, a famous Cairo Bazaar dating back to the late 14th century.  
**SCHEDULE:** Daily. **DURATION:** 3 hours  
**INCLUSIONS:** Return hotel transfers

#### Sound & Light Show at the Pyramids

Enjoy a fabulous sound and light show at the foot of the Pyramids in Giza.  
**SCHEDULE:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday evenings. Departure times vary according to the season. **DURATION:** 45 minutes.  
**INCLUSIONS:** Return hotel transfers

### Nile Dinner Cruise

You are transferred to the Nile Bank to board your cruise along the River Nile. Taking place in the evening, together with live music and a buffet dinner, guests are ensured of a memorable evening. After dinner, a belly dancer performs with a professional Oriental band and singer.  
**SCHEDULE:** Daily at 19h45 or 20h15  
**DURATION:** 2 hours. **INCLUSIONS:** Return hotel transfers, dinner and entertainment.

### Cairo Shopping Excursions

Waiting for details

### Sharm El Sheikh Sightseeing Tran Islands & Ras Mohammed Dive

Please look at these - they are 2 different tours...

### St Catherine's & Dahab

Depart early in the morning to St. Catherine village to visit the famous Monastery of Saint Catherine, which has been in existence in the depths of the Sinai desert since the sixth century. Moses Well can still be seen near the monastery Church. After the visit to the monastery, clients will transfer to St. Catherine village for lunch in the region.  
**SCHEDULE:** Daily. **DURATION:** 10 hours  
**INCLUSIONS:** Return hotel transfers and lunch

### Mount Moses Sunrise Climb (Passports req)

Climb the mountain of Moses. Depart from Sharm El Sheikh late at night (23h00) to St. Catherine Village (around 220km). Climb the Mountain to watch the beautiful Sunrise. The climb takes around 2 hours & a half to 3 hours. Descend after sunrise and arrive in St. Catherine village for a buffet breakfast.  
**SCHEDULE:** Daily. **DURATION:** 8 hours  
**INCLUSIONS:** Return hotel transfers and breakfast

### Quad Biking in the Sinai

Guests are transferred to the motor-center where coordinators will brief you. There, in the awe-inspiring arms of the barren Si-

nai Mountains, guests drive 4x4 bikes on the desert tracks. Includes a stopover at a Bedouin Village to enjoy a rest and some Bedouin tea.  
**SCHEDULE:** Daily. **DURATION:** 2 hours.  
**INCLUSIONS:** Return transfers and tea.

### Glass-Bottomed Boat Excursion

The cruise is an ideal experience for clients that wish to enjoy the wonders of the underwater world without getting wet. The cruise takes 1 hour and visits the best gathering of coloured coral reefs in the Red Sea with the added commentary of the boat's captain.  
**SCHEDULE:** Daily. **DURATION:** 1.5 hours.  
**INCLUSIONS:** Return hotel transfers.

### Alexandria Sightseeing

**Alamein Tour**  
 Approximately 65 miles from Alexandria is the famous battlefield, Alamein, the site of the famous battle between Rommel and Montgomery. Visits to British, German or Italian cemeteries can be included in the tour.  
**SCHEDULE:** Daily at 08h30. **DURATION:** 8 hours.  
**INCLUSIONS:** Return transfers and lunch.

### Greco Roman Museum

The Greco-Roman Museum has a vast collection of antiquities from the Pharaonic, Ptolemaic, Roman and Christian periods. It was first built in 1892, as a small building located on Horreya Road. In 1895 it was transferred to its present site and has gradually been enlarged in later renovation stages. Guests will also visit Pompey's Pillar, which is a column of red Aswan granite standing some 90 feet high, with a circumference of 27 feet. It was erected in honour of the Emperor Diocletian, and is the tallest ancient monument in Alexandria. The Catacombs are an extensive, three level funerary, probably dating from the 2nd century AD and are fascinating to visit.  
**SCHEDULE:** Daily at 09h00. **DURATION:** 3 - 4 hours  
**INCLUSIONS:** Return hotel transfers.

# Thompsons Choice of Hotels in Cairo

**★★★★★ Family Friendly**  
 The Shepherd Hotel is strategically located in the heart of the Garden City district in downtown Cairo, close to the Egyptian Museum and the Opera House and offers elegant and comfortable accommodation overlooking the River Nile. The Shepherd Hotel is a well-known classical hotel, with a historical background that goes back to the year 1841. Guests can head for the shopping arcade in the lobby for a spot of retail therapy or go for a re-style in the hair salon. The hotel's six restaurants, cafes and bars offer guests a variety of food and drinks, whilst drinks and snacks can be taken by guests at any hour in the privacy of their rooms, compliments of round the clock room service. The front desk is open 24-hours a day and knowledgeable staff are on hand to provide tour advice and local information. Those arriving by car can take advantage of valet parking. This hotel features 200 guestrooms, all of which include air conditioning, satellite television and mini bar. Traditional decor includes richly patterned fabrics and dark wood furniture. The hotel offers a swimming pool onsite as well as golf and tennis nearby.



**★★★★★ Ramses Hilton**  
 The Ramses Hilton Hotel is located on the east bank of the River Nile and is one of Cairo's landmarks. It is within walking distance of the Egyptian Museum, government institutes and the city shopping centre. The hotel offers 855 well appointed rooms and suites, all with balconies, air-conditioning, direct dial telephone, mini bar, satellite TV, 24-hour room service and in-room safe. Facilities include 7 restaurants, a coffee shop, casino, cocktail lounge, fitness centre, barber, beautician, outdoor swimming pool, laundry service, shopping centre and jogging track. Take in views of the Nile and the Pyramids from the Ramses Hilton hotel's 38th-floor Windows on the World Restaurant. Relax by the sun-drenched outdoor pool or enjoy coffee and pastries at the Garden Court Café. The hotel boasts a British-style pub, an Indian restaurant, a shopping Galleria and Executive Lounge.



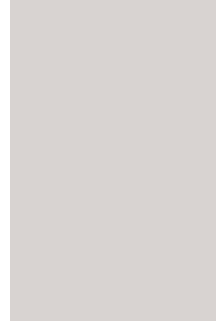
**★★★★★ Sheraton Cairo**  
 Situated on the west bank of the River Nile in unique adjoining towers, the hotel stands proudly tall as one of Cairo's greatest landmarks. The hotel and is within walking distance of shopping centres, the business area and the Cairo Opera House. The Pyramids of Giza are just 20 minutes away. The hotel offers 650 rooms and suites offering magnificent views of the city or the River Nile. Each is air-conditioned, with satellite TV, private bathroom, direct dial telephone, hairdryer, 24-hour room service and 100% Egyptian cotton linen for added comfort. Facilities include 9 restaurants serving international, Mexican, Italian, Indonesian and Egyptian cuisine, 3 bars, a nightclub, casino, heated swimming pool, health club, tennis courts, shops, cinema and ballroom.



**★★★★★ Nile Hilton**  
 Centrally located on the banks of the River Nile, next door to the Egyptian Museum and forty minutes drive from the airport, Cairo attractions include the Sphinx and Pyramids at Giza which are about 12 kilometres away. Well appointed guestrooms and impeccable service is something you can count on at Hilton. Watch the lights come up over Cairo as you dine at the riverfront Nile Hilton hotel's Rotisserie Belvedere.



**★★★★★ Deluxe Conrad Hotel**  
 The Conrad Cairo is located in the heart of Cairo and stands impressively above the River Nile, affording spectacular views of the river from most of the hotel's guest rooms and suites. The hotel is a combination of luxury and tranquility, offering excellent service and 617 elegantly designed rooms and suites. All rooms feature a private terrace, overlooking the River Nile, bathroom with bath and shower, satellite TV, data communication facilities, electronic locks and mini bar. Facilities include a restaurant offering Italian, international and seafood specialities, bar/lounge, barber, beautician, heated swimming pool, fitness centre, helipad, casino, executive lounge, shops, and laundry and valet services. There is also a fully equipped business centre, babysitting service and concierge.



**★★★★★ Deluxe Mena House Oberoi**  
 This palatial hotel in the shadow of the Great Pyramids in Cairo has enchanted guests since 1863. Located in forty acres of jasmine scented gardens, Mena House Oberoi has played host to kings and emperors, heads of state and celebrities. Mena House Oberoi has 523 rooms and suites in the Palace and Garden wings as well as Cabana style rooms by the swimming pool. Its royal history is reflected in luxurious interiors that are embellished with exquisite antiques, handcrafted furniture and rich textiles. All suites and many of the Palace and Garden Rooms have a view over the Pyramids. All guest accommodation at Mena House Oberoi is air-conditioned with private bathrooms. Rooms and suites are lavishly appointed with traditionally inspired furnishings and rich carpets. Many rooms have private balconies. Guests in the suites enjoy the privilege of private butler services and 24hr in-room dining. A variety of international as well as Egyptian cuisine is on offer at the excellent restaurants and bars in the hotel. The hotel offers a swimming pool, fitness centre, golf course as well as horse riding and camel riding.

# Alexandria Hotels & Dive Excursions

## Underwater City of Cleopatra

One day diving on the underwater city of Cleopatra (2 dives).

## World War II Wreck Dive

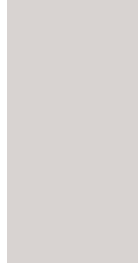
Waiting for info on each excursion

## Ancient Greece & Napoleon Wreck

Waiting for info on each excursion

## Pharos Island - Old Lighthouse

Waiting for info on each excursion



## ★★★★★ PARADISE INN MAIMOURA - ALEXANDRIA

Situated in Alexandria, next to the splendid Al Moumazzah Garden, at El Maamoura, a private district area, built on the longest beach strip in east Alexandria with private pathways for jogging. One location offers it all - quality, comfort, leisure & convenience, right on the beach, outdoor & indoor pools, gardens, health club, sauna & jacuzzi.

## ★★★★★ HELNAN PALESTINE HOTEL - ALEXANDRIA

A five star deluxe hotel with a unique location on the Mediterranean Sea. The bay is surrounded by the magnificence of nature, 350 acres of gardens and golden sandy beaches. The hotel faces one of the historical landmarks in Alexandria the "Montaza Royal Palace" that was once the site of the late Egyptian Royal Family. This hotel offers 230 spacious suites and rooms, luxuriously furnished and tastefully decorated. Whichever of the rooms you decide to choose for your stay, you will be assured of the ultimate comfort, tranquility, convenience and service. All rooms have central air-conditioning, international direct dial telephone, internet access, TV/Satellite, compliments tray, mini-bar, 24-hour room service, hairdryer, in room safety deposit box, balcony.





## Presidential Nile Cruise

112 ★★★★★



**OUR OPINION:**  
Mowana Safari lodge offers the best of both worlds to all travellers. Guests

**ACCOMMODATION & FACILITIES:**  
All rooms are river facing with air-conditioning, mini bar, hairdryer, tea/

## Ti-Yi Nile Cruise

112 ★★★★★



**OUR OPINION:**  
Mowana Safari lodge offers the best of both worlds to all travellers. Guests

**ACCOMMODATION & FACILITIES:**  
All rooms are river facing with air-conditioning, mini bar, hairdryer, tea/

## Sonesta Nile Cruises

112 ★★★★★ Deluxe



**OUR OPINION:**  
Mowana Safari lodge offers the best of both worlds to all travellers. Guests

**ACCOMMODATION & FACILITIES:**  
All rooms are river facing with air-conditioning, mini bar, hairdryer, tea/

### 3 night itinerary

**DAY 1: Aswan:** A.M: Arrival at Aswan airport, meet & greet. Embarkation before lunch. P.M: At leisure. Overnight in Aswan.  
**DAY 2: Aswan / Kom Ombo / Edfu :** A.M. Visit of the High Dam and the Temple of Philae. Sail to Kom Ombo. P.M. Visit the Temple shared by the two Gods Sobek and Haroeris. Sail to Edfu and overnight.  
**DAY 3: Edfu / Esna / Luxor:** A.M. Visit the Temple of Horus in Edfu. Sail to Esna. Cross the Lock. P.M. Sail to Luxor and overnight.

### 4 night itinerary

**DAY 1: Aswan:** A.M: Arrival at Aswan airport, meet & greet. Embarkation before lunch. P.M: At leisure. Overnight in Aswan.  
**DAY 2: Aswan / Kom Ombo / Edfu :** A.M. Visit of the High Dam and the Temple of Philae. Sail to Kom Ombo. P.M. Visit the Temple shared by the two Gods Sobek and Haroeris. Sail to Edfu and overnight.  
**DAY 3: Edfu / Esna / Luxor:** A.M. Visit the Temple of Horus in Edfu. Sail to Esna. Cross the Lock. P.M. Sail to Luxor and overnight.  
**DAY 4: Luxor:** A.M. Disembarkation after breakfast. Cross to the West Bank. Necropolis of Thebes, Valley of the Kings, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut and the Colossi of Memnon. Visit the Luxor & Karnak Temples. Transfer to Luxor airport, meet & greet by representative, flight to Cairo.

### Abu Simbel Excursion

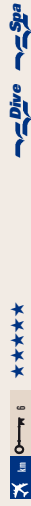
Fly from Aswan to Abu Simbel to see the most spectacular and the best preserved of all the ancient temples - Abu Simbel. The temples of Abu Simbel were built by the great pharaoh, Ramses II. When the Aswan High Dam's project threatened to submerge the temples, an international salvage action under the auspices of Unesco conceived the audacious plan of moving the temple to a higher level. As a result, the buildings themselves as well as part of the surrounding rocks were hewn into blocks of 30 tons each and built up again in and around a concrete skeleton framework. The larger temple celebrates the Pharaoh himself, while the smaller one honours his wife, Queen Nefertari.

**SCHEDULE:** Daily. **DURATION:** 3 hours  
**INCLUSIONS:** Flights, transfers and sightseeing

*Please note that times may vary depending on the cruise and sailing days. All Thompsons cruise packages include transfers, accommodation, all meals and sightseeing.*

All Nile cruises include the following: Accommodation, all meals and sightseeing  
All Nile cruises exclude: Drinks and tipping

## Marriott Sharm Beach Resort



LOCATION: Sharm El Sheikh Marriott Beach Resort is located on the Sinai Peninsula along the shore of the Red Sea, with its own private beach and close to the world renowned scuba diving spots.

ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES: The hotel rooms are spacious and are comfortably furnished with modern furniture. Room facilities include air-conditioning, alarm clock, electrical adapters, individual climate control, in-room safe, satellite TV, mini bar and hairdryer.

The Marriott Beach Resort offers complimentary coffee and newspapers in the lobby or complimentary delivery of newspapers to the room. Guests are able to make travel arrangements at the airline reservations and car rental desks or treat themselves in the beauty shop or barber.

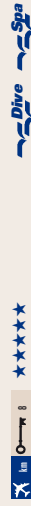
The hotel offers 3 restaurants and bars for a variety of cuisine and beverages for any occasion.

For the active guest there is a host of activities to choose from including scuba diving, snorkeling, tennis, horse back riding and swimming. There is also a fitness centre on premise.

072 996 4423  
084 588 5367



## Hyatt Regency Sharm



LOCATION: Poised on the edge of an 'aqua oasis', the 35-hectare Hyatt Regency Sharm El Sheikh Resort Hotel is embraced by the spectacular land and seascapes of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, adjacent to Na'ama Bay and just ten minutes' drive from Sharm El Sheikh Airport.

ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES: Rooms enjoys a spectacular view of the Red Sea while southern Mediterranean decor complements a spacious room featuring the softest Egyptian cotton linens, a generous work area with high-speed internet access, and marble bath with soaking tub, walk-in shower and deluxe bath accessories enriched with Dead Sea minerals. Other facilities include mini bar, hairdryer, multi-line telephone, ceiling fan, in-room safe, individual air-conditioning control and the morning newspaper.

The hotel offer 24-hour room service and 24 hour concierge desk to meet guests' needs.

Meals can be enjoyed at Café Fresco or Cascades Pool Bar and Restaurant which offer a variety of meals.

Sharm El Sheikh has activities including water sports on the Red Sea, Eco-tourist trips and an 18-hole golf course. Within the hotel, the Water Sports Centre, Club Olympus, Oasis Kids Club and The Souk ensure non-stop activity for our guests.

### King Snefro Live-aboard

Welcome on board King Snefro's fleet of Red Sea live-aboards. Catering to both, groups and individuals, King Snefro offers a choice of four different live-aboards that cruise all of the best Red Sea dive sites. On King Snefro you will be guaranteed exceptional comfort and individual service.

Operating from Sharm El Sheikh King Snefro has offered diving cruises since 1986. By 2007 they will have a fleet of 8 boats, ranging in size and standard. King Snefro has 20 years experience in dive tourism in the Northern Red Sea, good knowledge of the area and experienced dive staff. All of this combined ensures that Thompsons guests are in good hands and are guaranteed a great dive experience.

All Red Sea Safaris include:

- Accommodation with either shared or ensuite facilities
- All meals
- Soft drinks, water, tea and coffee
- Up to 4 dives per day
- Use of oxygen and weights/belts

All Red Sea Safaris exclude:

- Dive equipment
- Alcoholic drinks
- Medical Insurance

### 3 Day Ras Mohamed and Tiran

**Day 1:** Transfer to Travco Harbor and embarkation. Welcome on board, cabin arrangement and boat-briefing. Permission work with port authority and, after getting the go-ahead, check dive and equipment check at Temple. Next to dive is Jackfish Alley where you can enter easily into small caves. The third dive will be already at the Alternatives, a chain of seven pinnacles with numerous sand patches and resident leopard sharks. Night Diving is very popular here.

**Day 2:** Sail to the wreck of the Thistlegorm, the most famous of the Red Sea wrecks. There is so much to explore so the plan is a minimum of two dives. The first one is a complete overview and the second a penetrating one. For the third dive your boat will sail to Small Passage where two channels cut the reef system of Sha'ab Mahmoud and connect the sheltered lagoon to the open sea. A night dive inside the lagoon is optional.

**Day 3:** First dive of the day will take you to the historical wreck of the Dunraven which sank in April 1876. An old wooden wreck with plenty of room for passing through thousands of glassfish that live here in the shade of the wreck. Next to dive Shark and Yolanda Reef, the southernmost tip of the Sinai Peninsula with an endless wall unique in the Red Sea. Sailing back towards Sharm for your third dive at Ras Zatar, Ras Ghaziani or may be Ras Um Sid, it will be your choice. Return to Travco Harbor and disembarkation.

You need to be a certified diver and a min. of 30 dives or advanced level certification is recommended for some dives. The itinerary is an example so if you have a special wish for a certain place in this area just let your dive guide know. Some dive sites might be not accessible due to weather condition, the last decision is with the captain – safety is always first!

### 4 Day Ras Mohamed, Thistlegorm and Tiran

**Day 1:** Transfer to Travco Harbor and embarkation. Welcome on board, cabin arrangement and boat-briefing. Permission work with port authority and, after getting the go-ahead, check dive and equipment check at Temple. Next to dive is Jackfish Alley where you can enter easily into small caves. The third dive will be already at the Alternatives, a chain of seven pinnacles with numerous sand patches and resident leopard sharks. Night Diving is very popular here.

**Day 2:** Early in the morning the boat will sail to the wreck of the Thistlegorm, the most famous of the Red Sea wrecks may be even worldwide. There is so much to explore so the plan is a minimum of two dives. The first one is a complete overview and the second a penetrating one. For the third dive your boat will sail to Small Passage where two channels cut the reef system of Sha'ab Mahmoud connecting a sheltered lagoon to the open sea. A night dive inside the lagoon is optional.

**Day 3:** First dive of the day will take you to the historical wreck of the Dunraven which sank in April 1876. An old wooden wreck with plenty of room for passing through thousands of glassfish that live here in the shade of the wreck. Next to dive Shark and Yolanda Reef, the southernmost tip of the Sinai Peninsula with an endless wall unique in the Red Sea. Back north to the Gulf of Aqaba and Tiran to do your third dive at Gordon Reef, which gently slopes to the south and form a large plateau. If weather permits stay over-night at Gordon Reef. Usual winds are strong so the boat will stay in the more sheltered, South Lagoon where a night dive is optional.

**Day 4:** Your first dive will take you to Jackson Reef the most northern one in the Strait of Tiran. After breakfast get ready to visit Thomas Reef or Woodhouse Reef, which both are perfect for a drift dive along their sheltered eastern sides. After lunch you will leave the reefs of Tiran towards Sharm for your third dive at Ras Nasrani, Ras Ghaziani or may be Ras Um Sid. It will be your choice. Return to Travco Harbor and disembarkation.

You need to be a certified diver and a min. of 30 dives or advanced level certification is recommended for some dives. The itinerary is an example so if you have a special wish for a certain place in this area just let your dive guide know. Some dive sites might be not accessible due to weather condition, the last decision is with the captain – safety is always first!

### 7 Day Northern Route Classic

**Day 1:** Transfer to Travco Harbour and embarkation. Welcome on board, cabin arrangement and boat briefing. Check dive equipment and check-dive at either Temple or Ras Kaly before sunset. The rest of the itinerary will then be planned between the captain and the guests. Dinner and overnight on the boat.

**Day 2-6:** The safari will cover the area from Strait of Tiran, Ras Mohamed National Park to the Gulf of Suez,

**LOCATION:** ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc

**CAPITAL CITY:** Athens

**LANGUAGE:** Greek & English

**CURRENCY:** Euro

**VISA:** SA passport holders require a Schengen Visa. All other passport holders to check with local authorities

**AREA:** 131,940 km<sup>2</sup>

**TIME DIFFERENCE:** GMT + 2 (Same as SA time) Nov-Mar  
GMT + 3 (SA time + 1hr) Apr-Oct

**HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:** No inoculations are required.

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**WHAT THINGS COST**

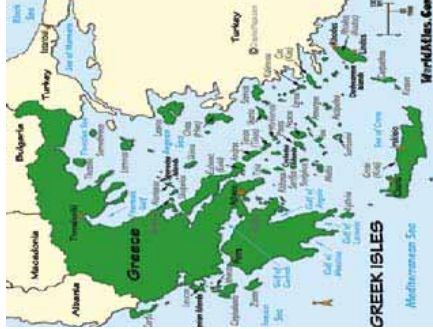
*These prices are an average price and may vary according to hotels and seasons. (Rands)*

Bottle of Wine	R
Beer	R
Bottle of Water	R
Coffee / Tea	R
Cold Drinks	R
Toasted Sandwich	R
Pub Lunch	R

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**BEST TIME TO TRAVEL**

Conditions are perfect between Easter and mid-June - beaches and ancient sites are relatively uncrowded, accommodation is cheaper and easier to find than in the high season. Conditions are ideal from the end of August until mid-October, as the season winds down. Winter is not a viable period to visit outside the major cities and mainland as most of the tourist infrastructure on the islands goes into hibernation from the middle of October till the beginning of April.



In Greece, you are standing at a crossroads of cultures, colours and civilisations, you feel the strength of history and the warmth of being in the southernmost part of Europe.

A country that despite being rich in history has a population that moves towards the future. A country that although statistically small, is huge in its diversity. A landscape that has given us thousands of postcard images but remains incredibly vibrant and impossible to capture.

Greece is a country of beautiful contradictions, a constant journey in time, from the present to the past and back again. Walk through the olive groves, through ancient sites. Move to clusters of sparsely inhabited islands. Roam from the beaches to rocky mountains and explore breathtaking scenery. In Greece the fusion of images becomes more than imagery and turns into reality.

Athens is an affable city enlivened by outdoor cafes, pedestrian streets, parks, gardens and urban eccentrics. Almost every house and apartment has a balcony bulging with geraniums, and many of the city's streets and squares are fringed with orange trees.

All of the hotels in Athens boast either rooftop restaurants, pools or bars so that guests may have uninterrupted views of their beloved Acropolis, dominating the centre of this amazing city. At the base of the Acropolis, The Plaka still retains its ancient charm with cobble streets and bustling tavernas. Greek shop owners sit outside their shops, sipping coffee and playing chess, just willing away the time.

**Getting There**

Olympic Airlines flies into Athens and has good connections to all destinations within Greece. Flying time is 9hrs to Athens.

**Traveller's Tip**

It is perfectly safe to snack on foods outside of the hotels. The Yiro and Souvlaki bars are easy to find, offer scrumptious snacks and are cheap - about EUR2 for a Yiro or Souvlaki.

**Athens**

**Half Day Athens Sightseeing Tour**  
Enjoy a tour of Athens, combining many of the cities principal modern and classical sights. Drive by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in front of the Parliament House on Constitution Square, the Panathenian Stadium (site of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896). See vistas of the Presidential Palace (ex Royal Palace), government buildings and elegant homes. In contrast, we visit the Roman Temple of Olympian Zeus and the Acropolis with its many monuments atop its rocky base. We also visit the Acropolis Museum.

**SCHEDULE:** Daily at 09h00. **DURATION:** 4 hours.  
**INCLUSIONS:** Return hotel transfers and entrance to Acropolis.

**Athens by Night**

Depart your hotel at 20h30 for an evening drive through Athens, ending at a typical restaurant for a live show of Greek folk dances and bouzouki music.

**SCHEDULE:** Daily at 20h30. **DURATION:** 3 hours.  
**INCLUSIONS:** Return hotel transfers, dinner and entertainment (drinks for your own account)

**One Day 3 Island Cruise**

Transfer by motorcoach to Flisvos Marina and embark on the cruise ship. At 08h30 sail for the island of Hydra. In Hydra you are at leisure to stroll, shop or swim. In the early afternoon sail for the island of Aegina, passing through the narrow strait separating the Peloponnese coast from the island of Poros. Lunch is served after sailing. Short visit of Poros. Upon arrival in Aegina you can either join the excursion to the Temple of Aphaia or walk around the main town. Finally, embark for the sail back to Flisvos Marina. Arrive at the marina at 19h15 (in

winter arrive at 18h00), and transfer to Athens.

**SCHEDULE:** Daily at 07h45. **DURATION:** 11 hours.  
**INCLUSIONS:** Return hotel transfers, cruise and lunch (excursions for your own account).

**Full Day Delphi**

Drive through the fertile plain of Boeotia, past the towns of Thebes - connected with the tragedy of King Oedipus - Levidia and Arachova, famous for its colourful rugs and carpets. Arrive at Delphi, the centre of the ancient world - the "Omphalos" (Navel) of the Earth - whose prestige extended far beyond the boundaries of the Hellenic world. On the slopes of Mount Parnassus, in a landscape of unparalleled beauty and majesty, lie the ruins of the Sanctuary of Apollo Pythios. Visit the treasury of the Athenians, the temple of Apollo and the museum containing such masterpieces of ancient Greek sculpture as the bronze Charioteer and the famous athlete, Aghias. After lunch in the modern village of Delphi, return to Athens by the same route.

**SCHEDULE:** Daily in summer at 08h15  
**DURATION:** 10 hours  
**INCLUSIONS:** Transport, lunch and entrance fees (drinks for your own account)

**Classical Greece 3 Night Tour**

The most outstanding classical sites are visited on this tour, reminding the visitor of the glory that it was Greece.

Day 1: Short stop at Corinth Canal. Drive to Epidaurus and visit the archaeological site and the Theatre, famous for its remarkable acoustics and then onto Nauplia for a short stop. Drive to Mycenae where you visit the archaeological site and then depart for Olympia through the central Peloponnese area passing the cities of Megalopolis and Tripolis. Dinner and overnight in Olympia.

Day 2: In the morning visit the archaeological site and the museum of Olympia. Drive via Patras to Rion across the channel to Antirion



# Thompsons Choice of Hotels in Athens

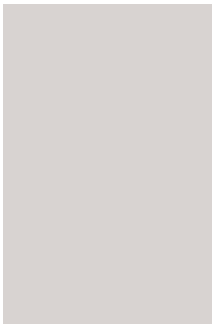
★★★ Kaningos 21

Kaningos 21 Hotel, is situated in the commercial centre of Athens at Kaningos Square, and is within walking distance of the business, cultural and shopping districts. The Hotel provides 71 rooms and 1 suite. All rooms are air-conditioned with sound proof windows and equipped with, bathtub/shower, w.c, hairdryer, mini bar, cable and satellite TV, direct dial telephone, fast access to internet, in-room safe and music. The hotel also has a coffee shop, bar and roof garden restaurant.



★★★ Hotel Stanley

The Stanley Hotel is located 700 meters from the city centre of Athens, 1.5km from the Constitution Square and is a 45-minute drive from the Airport. The hotel offers 395 guest rooms, which are equipped with air-conditioning, satellite television, hairdryer, telephone and has soundproof glass. The hotel features 2 restaurants: The main restaurant overlooks Karaiskaki Square and serves American buffet breakfasts and Greek cuisine at lunch and dinner, while Virtus situated on the rooftop, is a beautiful contemporary piano restaurant. The hotel's facilities include a swimming pool, room service, parking and laundry facilities.



★★★ Delphi Art Hotel

Delphi Art hotel is situated in the heart of Athens, opposite the National Theatre and the Church of St. Constantine. Delphi art hotel consists of 36 rooms and 4 suites. The high curved ceiling, wooden floors and windows in combination with modern furniture and decoration details, offer a cozy comfortable atmosphere to our guests. All rooms and suites are equipped with the latest facilities: direct dial telephone, ISDN lines, internet access, satellite TV, music, air-conditioning, in-room safe, mini bar, private bathroom (shower or bathtub and some with jacuzzi) with hairdryer and vanity mirror with lighting. Smoking/ non smoking rooms are available.



★★★★ Titania

The Titania Hotel is an urban oasis nestled in the historic and commercial centre of Athens between Syntagma and Omonia, the city's major squares. All of the Titania Hotel's 385 recently refurbished rooms are distinguished by supreme comfort, high aesthetics and maximum functionality, from standard guestrooms to deluxe suites. Tastefully decorated and equipped with every modern convenience, all rooms feature air-conditioning, high-speed interactive multimedia service, ISDN lines, PC outlets, fax and modem ports, satellite and cable television, mini bar, and private in-room vaults. Bathrooms in standard rooms are equipped with luxury amenities, while the spacious bathrooms in the executive suites include Jacuzzis. With its legendary hospitality, the completely renovated Titania Hotel features a majestic lobby with an exquisite white marble floor, inlaid with mosaics and the award-winning rooftop Olive Garden Restaurant replete with olive grove. The hotel has a stunning panorama of the city and a breathtaking view of the Acropolis.



★★★★ Plaka Hotel

The Plaka Hotel is ideally located in the heart of Athens, just five minutes walk from Syntagma Square. The Acropolis, museums, Parliament, shopping area of Plaka, and the Cathedral are all within walking distance of the hotel. This hotel is very popular due to the high standard of the renovated rooms, most equipped with wooden floors. The rooms have specially designed furniture, air conditioning, mini fridge, safe, satellite TV, pay TV, hairdryer, telephone, double glazed windows, electronic key-card and fire safety system. The minimalist decoration, the friendliness of the staff and the cleanliness of the hotel all promise an unforgettable stay in Athens.

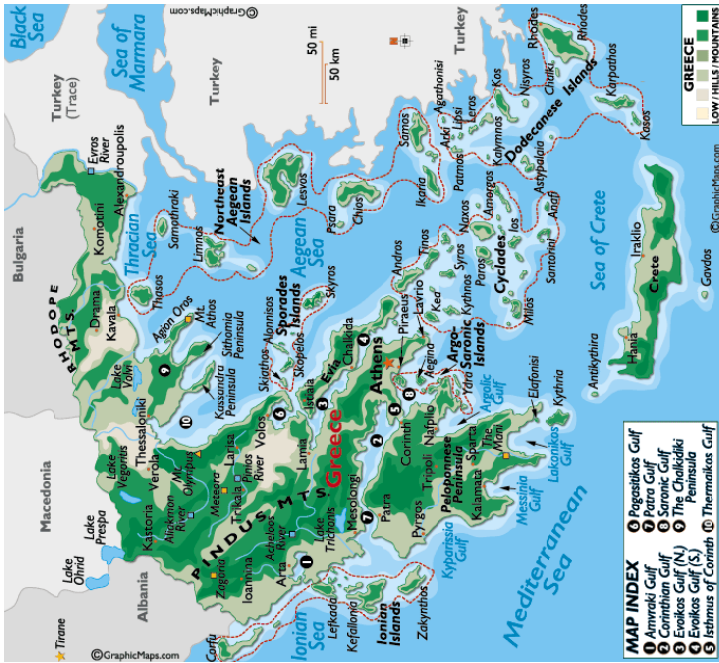


★★★★★ Electra Palace Hotel

The Electra Palace Hotel has a unique location in the heart of the old town area of Plaka. The rooms are all well appointed with air-conditioning, central heating, mini bar, electronic safe, direct dial telephone, satellite TV and a hairdryer. The hotels décor is classic with wooden flooring and furniture in keeping with the classic design of the hotel. Guests can enjoy their meals at Motivo on the lobby level or relax with friends for drinks at Ducktail. The health club and spa is the ideal retreat where guests can enjoy a swim or jacuzzi, keep fit in the gym or relax in the steam room or sauna. For the ultimate relaxation enjoy a treatment by one of the professional staff at the spa.



# Greek Isles



and how to get between the islands. On the map above you will see that the islands are divided into 5 main areas: Ionian Islands, Cycladic Islands, Dodecanese Islands, Northeast Aegean Islands and Sporadic Islands. **Thompsons recommends the following islands for your consideration: The Cycladic Islands of Mykonos, Santorini, Paros & Naxos, Rhodes in the Dodecanese and Skiathos in the Sporadic Islands.**

**Fab Ferries**

The most popular ferry routes are between the Cycladic Islands of Mykonos, Paros, Naxos and Santorini. Island hop in style on any number of ferries offered in the Greek Isles.

The ferries operating between the islands are able to accommodate between 1 400 and 1 800 passengers. They are all equipped with stabilisers and are fully air-conditioned. Facilities on board the ferry include coffee lounge, bar, a la carte restaurant, self-service restaurant, conference lounge, children's playground, giftshop, telephones and internet access. Log onto [www.gtp.gr](http://www.gtp.gr) to see the different ferry schedules.

Thompsons Tours will arrange all ferry bookings for you and the tickets will be issued to you in Greece. *Ferry schedules are subject to change without prior notice due to adverse weather conditions.*

If you choose the **Cycladic Islands**, it is a great idea to incorporate 2 or more islands into your itinerary and island-hop by ferry from island to island. We would recommend that you stay for a minimum of 5-7 nights in the Cycladic Islands. This way, you will experience much of what the Greek Isles have to offer. Remember that no island is the same and even if you wish to visit 3 islands, each experience on each island will be unique.

If you choose Rhodes or Skiathos, we would recommend that you either experience these islands as destinations on their own or island hop to other islands within the same group. Even though we have not mentioned many of the other islands, you will gladly assist with any request that you may have. There are benefits to staying on one island for your entire vacation and we

**To Hop or not to Hop**

Did you know that there are more than 6 000 Greek Islands lying in the Aegean and Ionian Seas? Did you also know that only about 227 of these are inhabited? Azure waters, sun-kissed beaches, whitewashed buildings, windmills on a mountainside, cobble streets, shady tavernas and a slow, lazy way of life; if this is your idea of a dream holiday, then the Greek Isles await you.

Deciding to go to the Greek Isles is just the first step. You need to still decide what island, how many islands, how long to stay

Thompsons can book the following Greek Isles for you:  
Corfu, Crete, Hydra, Ios, Kos, Patmos, Poros, Samos & Spetses



#### \*\*\* 4K Hotel - Mykonos

Located in Mykonos town. Well-organized and with a good reputation, the 4 small hotels surround the swimming pool and restaurant; many rooms with panoramic, sea or countryside views. All 156 rooms are designed to a high and modern standard and are fully equipped with double bed or twin beds, bathroom with bath or shower, satellite TV, mini fridge, direct dial phone, individual A/C, hairdryer and safe. Relax and unwind at the jacuzzi, work towards a healthier you at the gym or play a match on the tennis courts.



#### \*\*\* Pestassos Town Hotel - Mykonos

Built on the town's most privileged spot, Pestassos town is close to the shopping area, restaurants, bars and discos. Pestassos town has 18 tastefully furnished rooms, most of them overlooking the town and the city of Mykonos. All rooms are equipped with individually controlled air-conditioning, colour TV with international channels, music, bathroom, private terrace/balcony, hairdryer, direct dial telephone, closet, non-smoking rooms available. Daily, a free round trip to Pestassos Beach Resort & Spa, where one can enjoy cocktail drinks, a meal in the pool restaurant and use of the resort's recreational facilities (free of charge). These include a fitness room, sauna bath, jacuzzi, outdoor seawater swimming pool, scuba diving, horseback riding and massage.



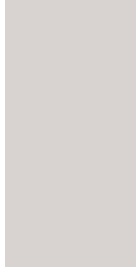
#### \*\*\* Pestassos Beach Hotel - Mykonos

Exceptionally situated on the most famous beach of Mykonos, this hotel combines traditional Cycladic architecture with truly Mykonian hospitality, resulting in an 'A' Class hotel. There are 82 spacious rooms equipped with air-conditioning, TV with international channels, 24hr movie channel, refrigerator, dining table, bathroom with bathtub, private terrace/balcony with sea view, hairdryer, mini bar, DD telephone, closet, handicap rooms available, non-smoking rooms available. Hotel facilities include a sea water swimming pool, pool bar, Odyssey Restaurant, Aegean Charm Pool Restaurant, lobby bar, TV Room and internet station.



#### \*\*\* Meina Hotel - Santorini

Hotel Meina is built in traditional Cycladic architecture, and is located in Fira, the capital of the island. Each room has a private bathroom with shower, air-conditioning, direct dial telephone, in-room safe, colour TV, mini-bar, hairdryer and a private verandah with a panoramic view. The hotel features a swimming pool, bar, air-conditioned TV lounge, information office, internet access and travel and tours arrangements.



#### \*\*\* Nomikos Villas - Santorini

The Nomikos Villas are situated in Firostefani, Santorini, a small distance from Fira, the capital of Santorini Island. Each room can find many taverns, restaurants and stores. Each room is fitted with air-conditioners, direct dial telephone, safe deposit box, hairdryer, satellite TV, refrigerator and kitchenette. Other facilities include a swimming pool, a pool bar, outdoor jacuzzi, room service, daily maid service, porters and in-house laundry.



#### \*\*\* Deluxe Bellonias Villas - Santorini

Bellonias Villas is located on the beautiful black volcanic beach of Kamari, 7km from Fira, the capital of Santorini Island. The Villas beautifully combine the traditional Cycladic architecture with modern commodities. All villas have private balcony or terrace, bath or shower, air-conditioning (heat-cold), fully equipped kitchenette, refrigerator, satellite TV, in-room safe, DD telephone, 3 channel music, hairdryer. The hotel offers guests an outdoor swimming pool and outdoor jacuzzi, towel, umbrellas and sun beds free by the pool, room service, 24 hrs reception, post service, daily maid service, laundry and iron service, private parking area, rent a car/motorbike, tours & excursions organization, and 24 hrs free internet access. There is also a wellness and fitness centre, pool bar, restaurant and a private beach.



#### \*\*\* Aegeon Hotel - Paros

Hotel Aegeon is located in Parikia, 11 km from Naoussa and 14 km from the Airport. The hotel has 48 rooms and 5 suites, all with telephone, music, hairdryer, air condition, TV and balcony or terrace. Facilities include a swimming pool, breakfast room, snack bar, TV lounge and safety boxes.



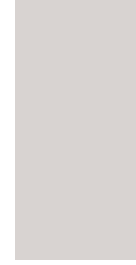
#### \*\*\* Yria Hotel - Paros

Located in Parosporos, 150 m from the main beach, 2.5 km from Paroikia and the Port and 10 km from the Airport. The hotel has 80 rooms and suites, all with direct dial phone, music, satellite TV, mini bar, air-conditioning, hairdryer and balcony or terrace. Facilities include a swimming pool, children's pool, TV lounge, tennis court, restaurant, breakfast area, restaurant, lobby bar, poolside snack bar, open-air jacuzzi, gym, conference centre, children's playground, gift shop, internet facilities, laundry service and parking.



#### \*\*\* Cactus Hotel - Rhodes

The Hotel Cactus is situated in the centre of Rhodes City, opposite the aquarium, overlooking the western and the eastern beach. The new Casino is neighbours Hotel Cactus. The Mandraki Harbour, the Trade Centre, the famous Medieval City and the marina are within walking distance of the hotel. The hotel has 177 rooms recently renovated, most of them with a view of the sea. All are equipped with bathroom, direct-dial telephone, radio, satellite TV, fridge, hairdryer, air-conditioning and electromagnetic key doors. The hotel has a breakfast room, bar, swimming pool with snack bar, TV room and conference room.



#### \*\*\* Ibisus Hotel - Rhodes

The Ibisus hotel is situated on the most cosmopolitan sandy & pebble beach of the city of Rhodes, and just a few minutes walk from the town centre. The hotel has 207 tastefully furnished guestrooms and fabulous suites created with emphasis on comfort and style. All guestrooms feature air-conditioning or heating, private bath or shower, satellite TV, radio, direct dial telephone and double glazed windows to help ensure a quiet stay. The restaurant serves hearty American buffet breakfasts and a variety of international menus for lunch and dinner. The bar, with its popular terrace, is an intimate relaxing place to meet for afternoon tea or cocktails.



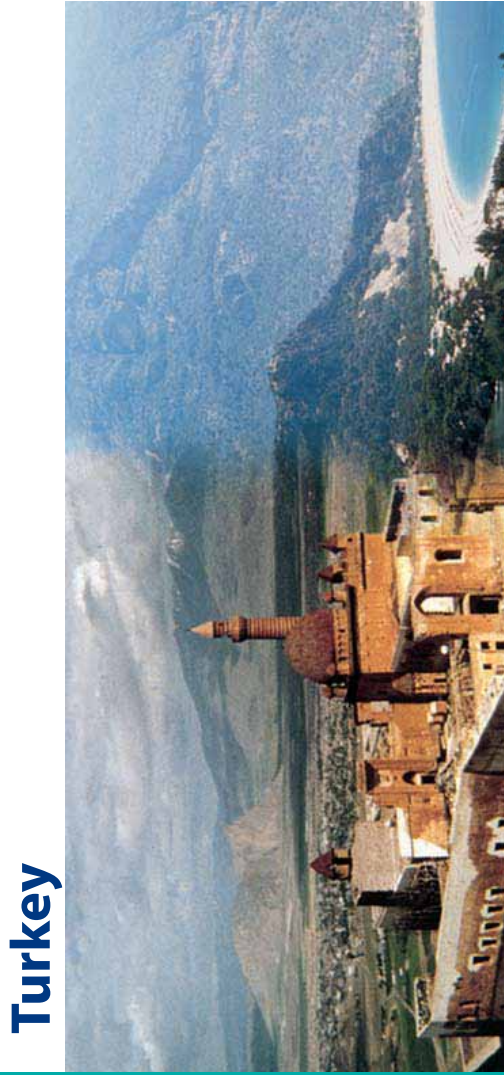
#### \*\*\* Plaza Hotel - Skiathos

The Plaza Hotel is built among picturesque pine forests and olive groves, just a 100m from Kaniapisa Beach. The hospitable atmosphere, the excellent location close to the superb bay of Kaniapisa, the range of facilities and the easy access to Skiathos town, make the Plaza Hotel a perfect holiday choice for everyone. There are 80 very well decorated and comfortable rooms all with en-suite bathroom and shower, mini bar, hairdryer, telephone, music and large balcony with view, TV, air-conditioning on request (payable locally). The hotel offer facilities including a breakfast room, pool bar and cafeteria, restaurant, outdoor swimming pool with children's play-area, small gym room and sauna and internet access. The Taverna serves Greek and international food and the Snack Bar is open all day.



#### \*\*\* Deluxe Aikyon Hotel - Skiathos

The Aikyon Hotel is surrounded by 18,000 square metres of gardens and palm trees and is ideally located 80 m from the "Blue Flag" awarded beautiful beach in Vrahati, Corinth (on the Corinthian Bay). The hotel has 121 rooms and includes different types of accommodation ranging from standard rooms to apartments. All types of rooms offer heating and air-conditioning, hairdryer, mini bar, in-room safe, direct dial phone, satellite TV and balcony. Large verandas in apartments, marionettes and superior rooms. The hotel also provides accommodation for physically disabled people. The hotel facilities include lounge with fireplace, sitting room, restaurant, bar, pool bar, beach bar, swimming pool, billiards, table tennis and table soccer, room service and internet corner. For outdoor leisure guests can enjoy tennis-volleyball court, mini soccer court, sun beds and umbrellas on the beach free for hotel guests.



**Coach tours:**

**Historic Turkey Istanbul & Ephesus - 4 nights**  
 Year Round Daily departures  
 Your Turkish package includes:

- 2 nights in Istanbul
- 2 nights in Izmir
- Full day Tour of Istanbul with lunch
- Full day Tour of Ephesus with lunch
- All transfers including flights Istanbul/Izmir/Istanbul
- Breakfast daily

**Istanbul**  
**Byzantine Visions**  
 Visit Hippodrome Square, St. Sophia Museum, Blue Mosque, Grand Bazaar. The Gallery Section of St. Sophia is not included.  
**SCHEDULE: Daily at 08h30. DURATION: Half Day.**  
**INCLUSIONS: Return hotel transfers**

**Ottoman Visions**  
 Visit Suleymaniye Mosque and Topkapi Palace (Main and Treasury sections), Topkapi Palace, built between 1475 and 1478 by Mehmet II, Fatih, the conqueror of Istanbul, served as the residence of the sultan and administrative seat of the Ottoman Empire for 400 years. Suleymaniye Mosque, built by famous architect Sinan at 1557 for Sultan Suleyman, known as Suleyman The Magnificent. His Tomb is located in the courtyard.  
**SCHEDULE: Daily at 13h30. DURATION: Half Day**  
**INCLUSIONS: Return hotel transfers.**

**Bosphorous by Boat**  
 Begin the trip with a visit to the Spice Bazaar with its mystical smells of various spices. See shops selling fruits, vegetables, flowers, caviar and dry fish etc. Then board your boat for the trip along the Bosphorous River, the waterway separating the two continents, Asia and Europe. There will be opportunities to take photographs of marble palaces and ancient wooden villas of Ottoman architecture, besides modern residences and luxurious apartments.  
**SCHEDULE: Daily at 08h30 or 13h30. DURATION: Half Day. INCLUSIONS: Return hotel transfers.**

**Classical Turkey**  
**Istanbul, Cappadocia & Izmir - 7 Nights**  
 Year Round Daily departures  
 Your Turkish package includes:

- 3 nights in Istanbul
- 2 nights in Izmir
- Full day Tour of Istanbul with lunch
- ½ day tour of Ankara with lunch
- Full day Tour of the area around Cappadocia with lunch
- ½ day tour around Cappadocia with lunch
- Full day Tour of Ephesus with lunch
- All transfers including coach transport & flights Istanbul/Ankara/Izmir/Istanbul
- Breakfast daily & 2 dinners

**Ephesus from Istanbul**  
 Early flight to Izmir and departure for Ephesus, the Roman Capital of Asia. Visit the ancient city of Ephesus, the House of Virgin Mary, the Museum at Selcuk and the Basilica of St. John. Lunch included during the tour. At the end of the tour, transfer to airport for flight to Istanbul.  
**SCHEDULE: Daily in the early morning.**  
**DURATION: Full day. INCLUSIONS: Transfers, flights, sightseeing and lunch.**

Visit www.thompsonson.co.za or your nearest ASATA travel agent and insist on a Thompsons holiday.



**LOCATION:** ccccccccccccccccccccccccccc  
**CAPITAL CITY:** Ankara  
**LANGUAGE:** Turkish  
**CURRENCY:** Turkish Lira  
**VISA:** SA passport holders require a visa. All other passport holders to check with local authorities  
**AREA:** 780,500 km<sup>2</sup>  
**TIME DIFFERENCE**  
 GMT + 2 (Same as SA time) Nov-Mar  
 GMT + 3 (SA time + 1hr) Apr-Oct  
**HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:**  
 No inoculations are required

**WHAT THINGS COST**  
*These prices are an average price and may vary according to hotels and seasons. (Rands)*

Bottle of Wine	R
Beer	R
Bottle of Water	R
Coffee / Tea	R
Cold Drinks	R
Toasted Sandwich	R
Pub Lunch	R

**BEST TIME TO TRAVEL**  
 Turkey has a typical Mediterranean climate with mild winters and hotel summers. Winters tend to be rainy all over the country and very cold in the central regions.  
 Turkey is a year-round destination and the very best time to visit would be between April and October. Although prices tend to drop between November and March.

**Getting There**  
 Olympic Airlines flies into Istanbul via Athens  
 Emirates flies into Istanbul via Dubai  
 Egypt Air flies into Istanbul via Cairo

**Traveller's Tip**  
 When you finish your drink in a bar, don't place your empty glass on the counter. It will immediately be refilled and the tab will be presented to you at the end of the evening. Quite a nice shock!



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**Ephesus from Istanbul**  
 Early flight to Izmir and departure for Ephesus, the Roman Capital of Asia. Visit the ancient city of Ephesus, the House of Virgin Mary, the Museum at Selcuk and the Basilica of St. John. Lunch included during the tour. At the end of the tour, transfer to airport for flight to Istanbul.  
**SCHEDULE: Daily in the early morning.**  
**DURATION: Full day. INCLUSIONS: Transfers, flights, sightseeing and lunch.**

**Classical Turkey**  
**Istanbul, Cappadocia & Izmir - 7 Nights**  
 Year Round Daily departures  
 Your Turkish package includes:

- 3 nights in Istanbul
- 2 nights in Izmir
- Full day Tour of Istanbul with lunch
- ½ day tour of Ankara with lunch
- Full day Tour of the area around Cappadocia with lunch
- ½ day tour around Cappadocia with lunch
- Full day Tour of Ephesus with lunch
- All transfers including coach transport & flights Istanbul/Ankara/Izmir/Istanbul
- Breakfast daily & 2 dinners

# Thompsons Choice of Hotels in Istanbul

## Best Western Senator Hotel

📍 102 ★★★★★

**LOCATION:** Situated in the old city center of Istanbul, the hotel has easy access to the main historical and cultural beauties like Topkapı Palace, Blue Mosque, St. Sophia, the Underground system, Egyptian Bazaar and Grand Bazaar.

**ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES:** Guests will find modern and warm decor in all rooms and suites, designed with comfort in mind. All feature remote controlled colour television, telephone and individual air-conditioners and heaters. We offer standard rooms, deluxe rooms, family suites and executive suites, with non-smoking rooms and rooms for disabled travellers. The hotel offers an à la carte restaurant, lobby bar and cocktail lounge. There is a hairdresser/beauty shop on premises for the guests' convenience.

## Madison Hotel

📍 100 ★★★★★

**LOCATION:** Centrally located, this property is close to the lively Taksim Square, the business and shopping district of the city. The hotel is also near to many historical and attractive sites, such as the Topkapı Palace and Saint Sophia.

**ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES:** All rooms have a direct dial telephone, satellite TV, air-conditioning, mini-bar, in-room safe, hairdryer and 24-hour room service. Guests can dine at the in-house restaurant that serves delicious Turkish and international cuisine. After a tiring day, you can sip your favourite drink at the cosy bar. The hotel also provides a well-appointed meeting room. During leisure time you can workout in the gymnasium, take a bracing dip in the swimming pool, unwind at the sauna or rejuvenate your senses at the spa.

## Best Western President Hotel

📍 204 ★★★★★

**LOCATION:** The President Hotel, located at the heart of old Istanbul.

**ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES:** All rooms have central air-conditioning, satellite/cable TV in 6 languages, direct-dial phone, hairdryer, wireless internet, mini-bar, radio, writing desk, and 24 hour room service. The hotel has a choice of 4 restaurants and a bar for guests to enjoy. The recreation and health club is open daily offering guests a chance to relax in the sauna, steam room or jacuzzi, or get a massage or sip a cocktail at the pool bar.

## The Marmara Istanbul

📍 307 ★★★★★

**LOCATION:** In the heart of Taksim and within walking distance of the nightlife of Beyo, the historic Dolmabahçe Palace, The Bosphorus and magnificent shopping experience or districts such as Taksim and Nişantaşı.

**ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES:** All rooms feature a wide range of conveniences and thoughtful amenities from cable television and direct-dial telephone to a hairdryer and in-room safe. There are 387 luxury rooms including 2 Club Floors, 16 Junior Suites, 2 Executive Suites and 2 Presidential Suites many offering panoramic views of Istanbul and the Bosphorus. The Marmara Istanbul's restaurants and bars offer a variety of dining options from menus serving classic Turkish and Ottoman cuisine to modern interpretations of international standards. The Cafe Marmara is an Istanbul institution.

# The Turkish Coast

## Classy Combination - Kos and Bodrum

Bodrum is just a short hop from the Greek island of Kos and the 2 can be combined to create a memorable holiday. This is how you can do it: Fly to Athens and then onto Kos - Spend 4 nights in Kos - Catch a ferry to Bodrum - Spend 3 nights in Bodrum - Catch a ferry back to Kos and fly back to Athens

## Kos Hotel - Bodrum

📍 74 ★★★

**LOCATION:** This hotel is located in a quieter part of Bodrum only 300m from the Marina and about 1.5km from the Castle.

**ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES:** Hotel Kos has two complexes with a total of 74 rooms. These large rooms, some with balconies, are equipped with a dual heater/air-conditioning unit, direct dial telephone, shower and hairdryer. The hotel has two swimming pools with a safe children's section, table tennis and a TV room. The hotel offers facilities and services such as safety deposit boxes at reception, laundry service, fax, car rental, car park and a conference room. The hotel has a main restaurant, pool bar and snack bar available for guests to enjoy their meals.

## Classy Combination - Marmaris and Rhodes

Marmaris is just a short hop from the Greek island of Rhodes and the 2 can be combined to experience the best of both cultures. This is how you can do it: Fly to Athens and then onto Rhodes - Spend 4 nights on Rhodes (see Rhodes Hotels on page 19) - Catch a ferry to Marmaris - Spend 3 nights in Marmaris - Catch a ferry back to Rhodes and fly back to Athens.

## Anemon Hotel - Marmaris

📍 91 ★★★★★

**LOCATION:** Hotel Anemon is situated on the main boulevard in the city centre of Marmaris.

**ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES:** The hotel has 91 rooms including 8 suits. Each room has a balcony, telephone, air-conditioning, satellite TV system, minibar, hair-dryer, Wireless Internet. Some of the hotel facilities are include indoor and outdoor restaurant, swimming pool with children's section, Turkish bath, sauna, fitness center, doctor, pool bar, snack bar, table tennis, TV room, internet cafe, hairdresser, children swimming pool, children playground, laundry service, safe box at the room.

## Remember:

If you combine Greece and Turkey, you will need 2 visas; 1 Schengen visa for Greece and a Turkish visa. Thompsons can also assist with the coastal resorts of Kusadasi and Antalya.

## Karia Princess Hotel - Bodrum

📍 60 ★★★★★

**LOCATION:** Hotel Karia Princess is located in Bodrum, a vibrant Aegean resort town in the south western corner of Turkey.

**ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES:** All sixty rooms and suites with their own private balconies are spacious, tastefully furnished and decorated including marble-clad bathrooms. Amenities include air-conditioning/heating, DD telephone, mini bar, and satellite TV. All bathrooms are fitted with modern European equipment, including bathtub, bidet and large sinks and built-in hairdryers. The Sera Restaurant serves a selection of Turkish and international fare. Breakfasts and Dinners are served as buffets while lunches are generally served à la carte. The hotel offers a beautiful pool, tennis courts and a fitness centre. Guests can relax in the Turkish baths, sauna, and steam room or enjoy a treatment and massage.

## Kaya Maris - Marmaris

📍 0 ★★★★★

**LOCATION:** The ACCOMMODATION & FACILITIES: AI

text too long - pls edit - thx



**LOCATION:**  
Tunis

**CAPITAL CITY:**  
Tunis

**LANGUAGE:**  
French and Arabic

**CURRENCY:**  
Tunisian Dinar

**VISA:**

SA passport holders require a visa. All other passport holders to check with local authorities

**AREA:**

163 610 km<sup>2</sup>

**TIME DIFFERENCE:**

GMT + 1 (1hr behind SA time)

**HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:**

No inoculations are required

## WHAT THINGS COST

These prices are an average price and may vary according to hotels and seasons. (Euro)

Bottle of Wine	€15.00
Beer	€4.00
Bottle of Water	€1.50
Coffee/Tea	€3.00
Cold Drinks	€2.50
Toasted Sandwich	€4.50
Pub Lunch	€8.00

## BEST TIME TO TRAVEL

Spring, February to May, is the best time to travel to Tunisia. The weather is great and hotels are less crowded than the hot summer months of June, July and August. Winter, December to February, is not recommended, as this period tends to be windy and rainy. The autumn months of September to November are also good months to travel although it may be windy on the Sahara.



This hospitable land of colours and contrasts, spices and scents invites you to enjoy its natural beauty, ancient cities, lively festivals and warm friendliness of its people. Welcoming visitors to its shores has long been an honoured Tunisian tradition and an impressive infrastructure of modern hotels, restaurants, international airports, tourism offices and information centres has been developed to add to our guests comfort and pleasure.

In this land of the familiar and the exotic one can watch the sunrise over the Sahara, enjoy a gourmet meal at a seaside resort and top off the evening with a midnight swim in the pool of a modern comfortable hotel.

Whether you prefer a long walk along miles of sparkling beaches, wind surfing the cool Mediterranean breezes, exploring ancient sites and legendary cities a game of golf or just a long lazy day relaxing on the warm golden sands, Tunisia has it all.



## Getting There

Air France flies into Tunis via Paris  
Qatar Airways flies into Tunis via Doha  
Emirates flies into Tunis via Dubai  
Egypt Air flies into Tunis via Cairo

## Traveller's Tip

Price some of the goods in Tunis before you head for the Medinas and souks. In the markets you will have to bargain and don't want to be 'ripped off'.

## 10 Night Tour - Tunisia; Yesterday & Today

Your Tunisian package includes:

- 2 nights in the following places: Tunis, Tozeur & Djerba
- 1 night in each of the following places: Le Kef, Tataouine, Sfax & Sousse
- All transfers including coach & 4x4 transport

All meals, mineral water and soda  
**Day 1:** Arrival and transfer. Overnight in Tunis  
**Day 2:** Visit of Dougga to discover one of the most beautiful archaeological sites of Tunisia. After lunch, we will depart to Bulla Regia, the old residence of the Numidian kings which had been gradually integrated in the empire. Overnight in Le Kef

**Day 3:** Sightseeing in the city, round the Cathedral, at the foot of Kasbah. Travel to Tozeur via Gafsa. In the evening we will attend a choreographic show of lights and sounds and the water ballet "La Baraka" in the Planet Oasis Planet Centre. Overnight in Tozeur

**Day 4:** We will leave in 4x4 convoys to Metlaoui railway station where we will catch the old train of the Bey "the Red Lizard" to go through the mineral field of Gafsa (phosphates) and the wonderful gorges of Selja. Carry onto Mides, a mountain oasis, where we will have lunch. Visit the mountain oasis of Chebika & Tamerza. Depart to Nafta where we will ride a barouche to go round the palm groves. Overnight in Tozeur

**Day 5:** Tour of the Museum of traditional arts "Dar Chraïet", and then we will leave towards Kebili and Douz, the country of Mirazigs (camel farmers). Cross Chott Djerid, the salt lake, and arrive in Douz. A walk round the sand dunes is imperative, whether on camelback or in cartole. After lunch, we will leave towards Matmata to go round the troglodyte village where houses are dug in the clay as if they were lunar craters where "Star Wars" was made in March 1976. Overnight in Tataouine  
**Day 6:** After breakfast, we will go round the area

**Day 2:** We will set out to the large dunes of Ong Jmel where the "Star Wars" settings are still standing. Then we will continue towards Nafta. Afterwards, we will take the road to Chott Djerid, a huge salted lake stretching over an area of 5,000km. Continue to Douz for lunch and then onto Ksar Ghilene, where you will overnight in a tented camp. Overnight in Ksar Ghilene.

**Day 3:** Travel through Ksours, where inhabitants have dug their troglodyte homes into the mountainside. After lunch travel through Berber country towards Matmata. Enroute discover lunar scenery strewn with deep craters where troglodyte houses are dug in the clay. It is in this surrealist landscape that the movie "Star Wars", was first made in March 1976. Visit a troglodyte house. Overnight in Matmata

**Day 4:** Travel to Gabès and visit the typical spice market of Jara before we carry on towards Sfax, the second biggest town of Tunisia, where we will discover the Medina. After lunch, we will travel by bus to Kerkennah Islands, through the port of Sfax. Overnight on Kerkennah islands

**Day 5:** Sightseeing round Kerkennah island, which consists of two main islands. You will have the opportunity to take a sailing trip, which is charged 10 Dinars per person. After lunch, you will have the whole afternoon at leisure. Overnight on Kerkennah islands

**Day 6:** Travel back to the continent in Sfax then onto El JEM to visit the Roman amphitheatre before arriving in Sousse. Overnight in Sousse

**Day 7:** Day at leisure in Sousse. Overnight in Sousse  
 Day 8: End of the tour  
**6 Night Tour - A Ramble in the Berber's Country**  
 Your Tunisian package includes:  
 • 2 nights in each of the following places:

to discover the Berber villages and visit some of the areas where the movie "Star Wars" was made. After lunch we will depart, through the Roman roadway, towards the island of Djerba. Overnight in Djerba

**Day 7:** After breakfast, we will go round the island to discover the oldest olive grove in the Mediterranean. We will visit the capital Houtm Souk with its bazaars, the pottery centre of Guellala and the Ghriba Synagogue, an important Jewish place of pilgrimage. Overnight in Djerba

**Day 8:** Set out to the continent by ferry towards Gabès, stopping by the market of Jara. After lunch, we will carry on towards Sfax, where you will have time at leisure to go round the Medina. Overnight in Sfax

**Day 9:** Visit El Jem to see the Roman Coliseum. Carry on to Kairouan where we will go round the Big Mosque, the Barber's Mausoleum and the Aghlabides' Basins. Overnight in Sousse  
**Day 10:** Depart towards Hammamet & Nabeul where we will visit a pottery shop before we carry on to Kelibia to stop by the fishing port. Visit Kerkouane, a small city destroyed and abandoned since 225 BC, during the First Punic War. Overnight in Tunis  
 End of Tour

## 7 Night Tour - The South of Contrasts

Your Tunisian package includes:

- 2 nights in each of the following places: Kerkennah Islands & Sousse
- 1 night in each of the following places: Tozeur, Ghilene & Matmata
- All transfers including coach/microbus and 4x4 transport
- All meals and mineral water

**Day 1:** Depart from Sousse towards Kairouan to go round the Big Mosque, the Aghlabides' Basins and the Barber's Mausoleum. We will have lunch in Tozeur before we set out, through the mineral fields of Gafsa, to Tamerza and Chébika where we will visit the mountain oases. Overnight in Tozeur

