

# Tourism in Tunisia



Tunisia is a North African country bordering the Mediterranean Sea and Sahara Desert.

## Key facts

In 2013, tourism brought 6.2 million people to Tunisia.  
The North African NEE had a GNI per capita of US\$4,230 in 2014.  
Since 1960, life expectancy in Tunisia has risen from 42 to 75 showing social development.

## Why do people visit?

**Climate** - Hot summers, mild winters. Reaching highs of 40°C in Sousse.

**Links with Europe** - Close to Europe making it easily accessible. French is widely spoken in the country

**History and Culture** – Seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Including; the city of Carthage.

**Physical landscape** – ranging from Mediterranean beaches, Dorsal mountains and Sahara Desert.

**Cheap package Holidays** – Linked with Thomas Cook, the industry created 370,000 jobs.

## How has tourism affected the development gap?

- One of the wealthiest countries in Africa
- Income quadrupled in the 1970s thanks to tourism.
- Higher incomes lead to higher life expectancy due to better diets and healthcare.
- The government invest 4% of their GDP in healthcare.
- Literacy rates have increased to 79% in 1995.
- Schooling is now compulsory for girls.



## Is tourism sustainable for Tunisia?

**Pollution to the environment** – Beaches are becoming polluted with untreated sewage from hotels due to high levels of tourists.

**'Leakage' of profits** – Companies such as Thomas Cook keep a large percentage of the income made from tourism. Limits how much profit goes back into developing the country.

**Terrorism** – in 2015 two attacks were aimed at tourists. One in Tunis and the other in Sousse. European governments have said that it is no longer safe for tourists.