



ONTARIO  
BAR ASSOCIATION  
A Branch of the  
Canadian Bar Association

L'ASSOCIATION DU  
BARREAU DE L'ONTARIO  
Une division de l'Association  
du Barreau canadien



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# ONTARIO BAR ASSOCIATION FOREIGN CONFERENCE 2010

## TUNISIA: March 6 – 20, 2010



### Message from the Foreign Conference Director



*J. Douglas Grenkie*

The Romance of the Sahara Desert. The shifting sands, the Ksars, the camels leading the way. These are some of the memories you will take with

you to fill your world travel experiences after participating in the Ontario Bar Association Foreign Conference to Tunisia leaving March 6, 2010. On behalf of the Committee I extend an invitation to you to join us.

We have many special events scheduled for this trip. Our Ambassador will greet us in Tunis where we'll also have a tour of the Court and meet with the Tunisian Bar Association and with Law School professors and students. We'll explore the desert by jeep and explore ancient sites in this fascinating country.

I can report to you that the lawyers and judges are very excited about our trip and meetings with them. You will learn a great deal about the practice of law and judging in this country. I recommend that you book early with Worldwide Quest in order to confirm your seat. The flight from Djerba to Tunis must be booked as soon as possible to guarantee same. We look forward to seeing many of you new and old friends on this conference tour.

**J. Douglas Grenkie**  
Foreign Conference Director

**S**tep into the heart of the Mediterranean on this journey to the home of many of the world's earliest legends. See the ruins of Carthage — one of Rome's greatest rivals — and the colossal amphitheatre left behind by the Roman Empire. The holy city of Kairouan has the first mosque in Africa and Djerba is home to one of the oldest Jewish communities in the world. This is a land of incredible diversity and beautiful landscapes.

Our journey begins in cosmopolitan Tunis with its UNESCO listed Casbah, its fabled souk, Ottoman-style mansions and the finest collection of ancient Roman mosaics in the Bardo Museum. We'll marvel at the spectacular ancient Roman Colosseum at El Jem and learn about the one of the most magnificent mosques in North Africa. Further south we'll stroll in delightful oasis towns on the edge of the Sahara and cross the Great Salt Lake. And further south again we'll meet the Berbers, inhabitants of the Grand Erg. We'll relax on the magical island of Djerba, Ulysses' "Land of the Lotus Eaters".

We'll travel by air conditioned coach, by jeep and by camel, enjoy five star accommodations and a Sahara desert camp, dine in the casbah and tour all the sites.

## SIGNATURE MOMENTS:

- Strolling the cobbled streets of Sidi Bou Said
- Getting lost in the medina in Tunis
- Discussing Star Wars in Matmata
- Camping in the desert and riding camels across the sand
- Comparing figs in the oasis of Tozeur
- Bargaining for a carpet in Kairouan
- Looking for sand roses near Chott el Jerid
- Imagining life in Roman times

**TOUR COST (PER PERSON):** \$4,550 CAD

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:** \$525 CAD

Cost includes return economy class international airfare from Toronto.

**OBA MEMBER REGISTRATION FEE  
(includes family members):** \$175 CAD

**OBA NON MEMBER REGISTRATION FEE:** \$250 CAD

## OBA FOREIGN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

J. Douglas Grenkie — Morrisburg  
*Foreign Conference Director*

Thomas Baldwin — Toronto  
*Committee Chair*

Steven Bellissimo — Toronto  
*Treasurer*

Kathy Baker — Toronto

Frank Bennett — Toronto

Roderic Ferguson — Midland

Yolanta Lewis — Hamilton

Justice Mary Jo McLaren — Hamilton

Chuck Spencer — Toronto

Peter Wilson — Toronto

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

### Cheryl Crocker, Ontario Bar Association

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800-668-8900 / 416-869-1047, ext 309, ccrocker@oba.org

www.oba.org/foreignconference

Douglas Grenkie: douglas@ggllaw.ca

The legal program will be available online.

## FOR RESERVATIONS:

### Kerry Tattie, Worldwide Quest

491 King St. E, Toronto, ON M5A 1L9

1-800-387-1483 / 416-633-5666

kerry@worldwidequest.com, www.worldwidequest.com

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## BRIEF ITINERARY:

**Day 1:** Fly from Toronto/Montreal to Tunis

**Day 2:** Arrive in Tunis

**Day 3:** Tunis

**Day 4:** Tunis

**Day 5:** Drive to Kairouan

**Day 6:** Kairouan

**Day 7:** Drive to Tozeur

**Day 8:** Tozeur

**Day 9:** Tozeur

**Day 10:** Drive to Douz

**Day 11:** Drive to Ksar Gislane

**Day 12:** Drive to Djerba

**Day 13:** Djerba

**Day 14:** Fly to Tunis

**Day 15:** Depart Tunis



## TOUR COST INCLUDES:

- Return economy class international airfare from Toronto
- Accommodations on twin share basis in hotels listed or similar
- All internal flights as listed in itinerary
- All internal transportation by deluxe coach
- All meals as specified in itinerary
- Daily bottled water on the coach
- Sightseeing as listed with experienced English-speaking guide
- All baggage handling of one standard bag per person
- Group transfers to/from airports
- Air taxes/fuel surcharge approximate \$250 CAD (*subject to change*)
- Appropriate tips and service charges
- Trip cancellation insurance (*prior to departure for medical reasons only*)

## TOUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Items of a personal nature such as bar expenses, phone calls, laundry, etc.
- Beverages at meals
- Excess baggage
- Additional transport required due to any emergency situation
- Payment by credit card (*except initial deposit payment may be made by credit card*)
- Meals, activities and excursions not specified in itinerary
- Airport arrival and departure transfers if not travelling on group flights

## TUNISIA: March 6 – 20, 2010

### Detailed Itinerary:

#### March 6 (Sat): Depart Toronto

We depart Toronto this evening on the flight to Europe with onward connection to Tunis.

*Overnight – Flight*

*Meals – On board*

#### March 7: Arrive in Tunis

Our journey begins in Tunis, the capital city with an exotic Mediterranean flair. This afternoon we'll have our first taste of the cosmopolitan atmosphere of the city as we tour the historic city centre, admiring the contrast between its Ottoman-style homes and monuments and the wide boulevards recalling continental France. Our welcome dinner this evening is set in a charming restaurant hidden in Tunis's fabled souk.

*Overnight – Tunis*

*Meals – Dinner*

#### March 8: Tunis — Carthage, Sidi Bou Said

This morning we visit the site of Carthage, one of the greatest cities of the ancient world with a population at its peak of half a million. Traces of Punic Carthage remain, but the most substantial archaeological remains are Roman. This afternoon we explore the lovely blue and white village of Sidi Bou Said. We'll have lunch in a favourite restaurant perched on the cliffs overlooking the Bay of Tunis and enjoy a pleasant stroll through its cobbled streets.

*Overnight – Tunis*

*Meals – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

#### March 9: Tunis — Bardo Museum, Great Mosque

This splendid Bardo Museum houses the world's finest collection of floor mosaics, representing Africa's most significant contribution to Ancient Roman art. Our visit this morning will serve as an introduction to the fabulous architecture we'll see during our tour. This afternoon we'll explore the medina of Tunis, the historic centre of the Arabic city, with narrow alleys, ancient buildings, covered markets and beautifully carved doorways. We'll visit the ninth-century Great Mosque and have time to scour the souk for hidden treasures.

*Overnight – Tunis*

*Meals – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

#### March 10: Drive to Kairouan

This morning we begin our drive to Kairouan, Tunisia's holiest city. The city is composed in ochres and beiges, with beautiful mosques decorated with delicate stonework. This is the most renowned carpet weaving centre in Tunisia and the nearby medina is wonderful place to hunt for carpets and other traditional crafts.

*Overnight – Kairouan*

*Meals – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*





### **March 11: Kairouan**

Early in the morning we will visit the ninth century Great Mosque. It is the oldest in North Africa, and its minaret is the oldest in the world. The elaborate decoration of the mosque is testimony to its importance. In the afternoon we'll travel to El Jem to see the magnificent amphitheatre and Roman villa. Built around 200 AD, the amphitheatre at El Jem is second in size only to the Colosseum of Rome and much better preserved.

*Overnight – Kairouan*

*Meals – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



### **March 12: Drive to Tozeur**

Today's drive takes us south to the oasis of Tozeur, once a Roman outpost and a stopping point for the camel caravans.

*Overnight – Tozeur*

*Meals – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



### **March 13: Tozeur**

Tozeur now owes its fame and affluence to the stately palm and its world renowned dates – deglet nour “fingers of light”. The groves of over 200,000 palms are watered by hundreds of natural springs and the Belvedere Park offers a panoramic view. Today we'll explore the beauty of this oasis, its fabulous 14th century medina and botanical gardens.

*Overnight – Tozeur*

*Meals – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



### **March 14: Tozeur — Excursion to Tamerza, Mides, Chebika**

We drive by jeep into the hills of Djebel en Negueb, an offshoot of the Atlas Mountains. We'll visit the dramatically beautiful Berber villages of Tamerza, Mides and Chebika. These three upland oases depend on the numerous small mountain streams that seep into the ground and provide irrigation for palms, fruit trees and vegetables.

*Overnight – Tozeur*

*Meals – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **March 15: Drive to Douz**

Today we drive across the Chott el Jerid, famously features in the film “The English Patient”. A chott is a salt lake that stays dry throughout the hot season. A thousand years ago, it was part of the Mediterranean Sea. The surface of the chott is made of a layer of salt crystals, which causes mirages

to dance across it when the weather is very hot. Later in the afternoon we will experience the desert on camel-back!

*Overnight – Douz*

*Meals – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **March 16: Drive to Ksar Ghilane**

Today we venture further into the desert. We'll visit Matmata, with its troglodyte dwellings famously featured in the Star Wars films and the remote tribal villages of Douiret and Chenini. We'll spend the night in a tented camp in the midst of a desert oasis.

*Overnight – Pan Sea Desert Camp or similar*

*Meals – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### March 17: Drive to Djerba

This morning we will drive to the island of Djerba, known to Ulysses as the “Land of the Lotus Eaters”. In Homer’s Odyssey, Ulysses almost lost his men when the beautiful maidens of the island fed them the lotus flower. The men were so pleasantly intoxicated by the lotus that Ulysses found it almost impossible to make them return to their ships.

**Overnight** – Djerba

**Meals** – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



### March 18: Djerba

An island of ten thousand palm trees rising from the sea like a mirage, Djerba offers a delightful combination of scenery and history. We’ll explore the island this today, visiting the synagogue, Hara Sghira, Guellala and Houmt Souk.

**Overnight** – Djerba

**Meals** – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



### March 19: Fly to Tunis

Today we will fly to Tunis. We will have the rest of the day at leisure before our farewell dinner.

**Overnight** – Tunis

**Meals** – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### March 20 (Sat): Depart Tunis

Today we will be transferred to the airport for our flight home or to carry on with your selected extension.

**Meals** – Breakfast

#### Flight Arrangements from Toronto: *(Itinerary subject to change.)*

##### Toronto to Tunis

AF 351	March 6	Depart Toronto: 19:15	Arrive Paris: 08:35
AF 2584	March 7	Depart Paris: 12:35	Arrive Tunis: 15:05

##### Tunis to Toronto

AF1685	March 20	Depart Tunis: 09:05	Arrive Paris: 11:40
AF 356	March 20	Depart Paris: 14:00	Arrive Toronto: 17:25

#### Flight Arrangements from Montreal: *(Itinerary subject to change.)*

##### Montreal to Tunis

Royal Air Maroc 207	March 6	Depart Montreal: 19:15	Arrive Casablanca: 07:05
Royal Air Maroc 570	March 7	Depart Casablanca: 07:55	Arrive Tunis: 11:25

##### Tunis to Montreal

Royal Air Maroc 571	March 20	Depart Tunis: 12:15	Arrive Casablanca: 14:00
Royal Air Maroc 206	March 20	Depart Casablanca: 14:50	Arrive Montreal: 18:45

**PLEASE CONTACT WORLDWIDE QUEST FOR DETAILS ON THESE EXTENSIONS:**



**MOROCCO: Casablanca, Rabat, Fes**

Morocco brims over with contrast, colour and mystery. It has a timeless quality that no longer exists in the modern world, a sense that the past with all its glory and savagery still lives on.

We'll explore the Imperial cities of Casablanca, Rabat, Meknes, and Fes with time to visit the cultural and historic sites, shop in the souks and sample fine cuisine.



*Casablanca*



*Spice market*



*Tent camp in the desert*



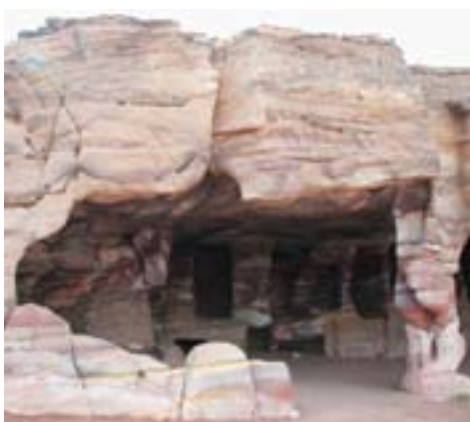
**JORDAN: Amman, Petra and the Dead Sea**

Jordan is a country brimming with Biblical and historic sites. Petra, the “rose red city half as old as time” was lost to the world for centuries and is now perhaps the most impressive archeological site in the Middle East, rivaling the temples and pyramids of Egypt in grandeur.

On this trip, we'll spend time at the Dead Sea, visit the incredible archaeological site of Petra and explore Wadi Rum to visit with Bedouin tribesmen whose ancestors made up the army of Lawrence of Arabia.



*Petra*



*Caves near Petra*



*Wadi Rum*

*Photo Credits: Lewie Gonsalves, Morocco Tourist Board, Jordan Tourist Board*