

# Tunisia – Winter Sun Birding

## Naturetrek Tour Itinerary

### Outline Itinerary

<b>Day 1</b>	Fly Djerba
<b>Day 2</b>	Oued Dekouk Nature Reserve, overnight Zammour
<b>Day 3</b>	Guermessa & Ksar Ghilane Oasis
<b>Day 4</b>	Djerba
<b>Day 5</b>	Djerba; inbound flights

### Departs

November – February

### Focus

Birds and other wildlife

### Grading

B.

### Dates and Prices

See website (tour code TUN02)

### Highlights

- Cream-coloured Courser, Bar-tailed Lark, Thick-billed Lark, Desert Warbler and a plethora more
- Scimitar-horned Oryx, Dorcas Gazelle and Barbary Sheep, plus a chance for African Golden Wolf, Rüppell's Fox and other mammals
- Led by an expert local guide
- Direct flight from London Luton (plus Manchester for some departures) to Tunisia's south-east



Desert Warbler, Trumpeter Finches, Djerba



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## Introduction

Just a 3-hour flight from London and we arrive on the Tunisian island of Djerba, with some of the best winter weather in all of the Mediterranean. Winter temperatures are mild but with plenty of sunshine and lots of blue skies.

While close to Europe (the flight time is the same as to Seville or the Algarve) and having echoes of its French colonial past, it is culturally distinct and offers stunning landscapes, fascinating Roman, Carthaginian and medieval archaeology, and not least wonderful wildlife, in a safe and friendly setting.

Perhaps most appealing of all, though, is its relatively small size. It is ideal for a short break, allowing access to the great sand dunes of the Sahara as well as to the country's wetlands, woodlands and savannahs. Indeed, for the naturalist, it is refreshing to find that these diverse habitats are so well protected by a system of national parks and reserves. These protect Tunisia's 2,200 plant species (many of which are globally rare or endangered), 358 bird species, 75 different mammals and 50 species of reptiles. Tunisia is also home to some flagship 'rewilding' projects of extirpated (but native) large mammals.

In the wonderful south of Tunisia, we will enjoy meeting hospitable and friendly people with their traditional and laid-back way of life, stunning scenery and a number of special Western Palearctic species.



Ksar Ghilane

## Itinerary

*NB. Please note that the itinerary below offers our planned programme of excursions. However, adverse weather & other local considerations can necessitate some re-ordering of the programme during the course of the tour, though this will always be done to maximise best use of the time and weather conditions available.*

### Day 1

### Fly to Djerba

Today we fly direct to Djerba from London Luton (Manchester option available for some departures). We'll arrive in Djerba in the evening, when we will make our way to the hotel for dinner before the exciting itinerary ahead.

### Day 2

### Oued Dekouk Nature Reserve & Zammour

After an early breakfast, we will visit Oued Dekouk Nature Reserve for such desert birds as Greater Hoopoe Lark, Cream-coloured Courser, Temminck's Lark, Bar-tailed Lark, Thick-billed Lark, Desert Warbler, House Bunting and Brown-necked Raven. We will also look for mammals such as Scimitar-horned Oryx, Dorcas Gazelle, Barbary Sheep, African Golden Wolf, Rüppell's Fox and others.

After a picnic lunch, we will drive to Zammour via Douiret and Chenini, where we will make stops for mountain and desert species such as White-crowned Wheatear, Trumpeter Finch, Black Wheatear, Thick-Billed Lark, Desert Lark and Bar-tailed Lark.



Scimitar-horned Oryx

After arriving at our hotel in Zammour, where we'll spend two nights, there will be the chance for an exciting nocturnal excursion after dinner.

### Day 3

### Guermessa & Ksar Ghilane Oasis

After breakfast we'll visit Guermessa, where we have another chance to fill in any gaps in finding Greater Hoopoe Lark, Cream-coloured Courser, Temminck's Lark, Bar-tailed Lark, Desert Lark, Thick-billed Lark, Desert Warbler, Sahara Bunting, Brown-necked Raven, Tristram's Warbler, Marmora's Warbler, and Houbara Bustard. We'll also visit Ksar Ghilane Oasis before looping back to Zammour where we will hope for a clear night to take full advantage of the wonderful night sky here.

### Day 4

### Djerba via Mareth and Boughrara

After breakfast, we'll travel back to Djerba via Mareth and Boughrara. Our route is planned to follow the coastal areas in the Gulf of Gabes and onwards to Djerba. These tidal areas are very good spots



to observe a large number of wintering birds including waders, flamingoes, spoonbills, egrets, grebes, cranes, gulls and terns.

## Day 5

## Djerba

After breakfast, we will enjoy a day trip around the coastal areas of Djerba. Again, these tidal coasts are very good spots to observe large flocks of wintering waterbirds: waders, flamingoes, spoonbills, egrets and herons, grebes, cranes, gulls and terns.



Caspian Tern

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## Tour Grading & Focus

This is a grade B holiday, constituting a traditional birdwatching tour. The tour is enjoyed at a very gentle pace, and over relatively short distances, as we search for the birds of Tunisia's deserts, wetlands and estuaries. Please be aware that the terrain will often be sand or uneven, rocky substrates and therefore, unfortunately, the holiday is not suitable for those with reduced mobility.

## Weather, Clothing & Equipment

The weather will be mild and pleasant with, we hope, plenty of sunshine. A strong waterproof torch is essential for those joining nocturnal excursions and amongst the options available, a powerful head-torch will be most useful, as this keeps your hands free for balancing.

## What's Included

All meals and accommodation are included in the cost of this holiday, except for any meals required during travel, starting with dinner on Day 1 and ending with lunch on Day 5. Accommodation is in comfortable hotels (generally the best authentic hotels available), with en suite facilities throughout.

## Extending Your Holiday

The flight schedules lend themselves well to either 3-day or 7-day extensions and we would be pleased to assist with the arrangements for these.

## How to book your place

In order to book your place on this holiday, please give us a call on 01962 733051 with a credit or debit card, book online at [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk), or alternatively complete and post the booking form at the back of our main Naturetrek brochure, together with a deposit of 20% of the holiday cost plus any room supplements if required. If you do not have a copy of the brochure, please call us on 01962 733051 or request one via our website. Please stipulate any special requirements at the time of booking.

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Hotel in Zammour