

Moving to Tunisia: Your Relocation Guide



By Appointment To
Her Majesty The Queen
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

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Memb No: A001



FS 23942



198656



TELEPHONE:	Country code (216) + Area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT +1hr (during winter) UK DST (April to October)
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	230v 50 Hz
INOCULATIONS / VACCINATIONS:	Typhoid, Polio, Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Malaria (Chloroquine Resistance)
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, 14, Mar 20, Apr 9, May 1, Jul 25-27 Aug 13, Sept 1-3, 22, Oct 15, Dec 1
OFFICE HOURS:	08.30-13.00 and 15.00-17.45 Monday – Friday (winter) 08.30-13.00 Monday – Saturday (summer)
BANK HOURS:	Mon-Fri 0800-1600 (winter); Mon-Fri 0730-1300 (summer).
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	190 – Medical Service (Samu) 197 – Police
BRITISH EMBASSY IN TUNISIA:	Rue du Lac Windermere Les Berges du Lac Tunis 1053 Tel: (216) 71 108 700 Fax: (216) 71 108 789 / 779 www.britishembassy.gov.uk/tunisia
TUNISIAN NATIONAL TOURISM OFFICE:	1 Ave Mohamed V 1001 Tunis Tel: (216) 71 341 077 Fax: (216) 71 350 997 Email: ontt@Email.ati.tn
TUNISIAN EMBASSY IN LONDON:	29 Princes Gate London SW7 1QG Tel: 0207 584 8117 Fax: 0207 225 2884 Web: http://tunisia.embassyhomepage.com/

Customs

To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household and personal effects into Tunisia. However, it is advisable to check with the authorities that documentation is in order, prior to despatch.

Household Goods and Personal Effects

Documents required:

- Original Passport
- Original Bill of Lading (OBL) / Express Release / Air Waybill (AWB)
- Detailed inventory of all appliances (not valued)
- Original Residence Permit (duly approved by the Ministry of Interior)
- Original Work Permit (duly approved by the Ministry of Employment)
- Original ID card, if applicable (for returning citizens, both spouses for married status).
- Letter of Accreditation (Diplomats)
- Packing list in French (Diplomats)
- Diplomatic Franchise / Exemption (Diplomats)
- Authorisations issued by the Ministry of Tourism, allowing the customer to have a secondary residence (secondary residences)
- Proof of purchase by the appropriate government office (secondary residences)
- Sales Contract of secondary residence (second residences)

An advance copy of the Original Bill of Lading must be sent to the destination agent with the name matching the Passport exactly.

For foreigners employed in Tunisia, all items previously imported must be exported upon departure.

All shipments are subject to an inspection at the point of entry (POE), except diplomatic shipments.

The shipper must be present for Customs clearance, except Diplomats.

For foreigners entering Tunisia via employment contract, the original Work Permit is required for Customs clearance; if not available, additional port storage and container demurrage charges will be charged.

If the property owner is unable to provide a Residence Permit at clearance, a temporary importation of their personal effects may be applied for one year by means of establishing a Bank Deposit. The deposit will be cancelled within the allowed period of time upon presentation of required Residence Permit / Work Permit (foreigners on employment contracts with duty-free entry).

The shipper should be present in Tunisia at least 2–3 weeks

prior to the shipment's arrival to be accredited by the Tunisian Government and present the Diplomatic Franchise / Exemption, which must be approved by both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Customs Administration. It takes approximately one month to be duly approved by both agencies (Diplomats).

The Packing List should be faxed to the destination agent in advance of importation with a copy of the OBL in order to avoid delays (Diplomats).

Valuable articles should be declared upon arrival to ensure re-export.

Baggage is cleared at the first airport of entry in Tunisia.

Exempt: passengers in transit at Tunis (TUN) to a destination outside of Tunisia, holding onward tickets.

Restricted Items

- Live animals – health certificate required along with complete and valid inoculations. Contact nearest embassy to obtain permission
- Endangered species and any products or parts thereof as outlined by CITES maybe be brought in only with CITES permission
- Medication
- Local currency - Tunisian Dinar (TND) – cash import available only with permission. Contact the nearest embassy
- Foreign Currency declarable when exceeding the below amounts: *Foreigners - the equivalent of TND 5,000.
*Residents - the equivalent of TND 25,000
- Hunting weapons permissible only with authorisation obtainable from Ministry of Interior. Contact nearest embassy for more information
- Plants (a Phytosanitary Certificate is required)
- Appliances, electronics and computers with (one of each item is allowed; make, model and serial number must be included on the detailed inventory)
- New items (dutiable)
- Phones and fax machines (a permit might be required)
- Perfume (reasonable quantity)
- Satellite receivers, faxes, walkie-talkies and telephones (subject to possible temporary hold by Customs these items are allowed entry only with authorization from the appropriate authorities)
- 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 100 cigarillos or 500g of tobacco. There are no information on age restrictions
- 1L of spirits (over 25% volume of alcohol) or 2L of lighter alcohol beverages (up to 25% volume of alcohol)

The same restrictions on spirits and alcohol apply for diplomats. Diplomats should check their allowance with their Embassy prior to shipping.

Prohibited Items

- Narcotics
- Pornographic documents
- Counterfeit items
- Cultural artefacts and other objects of cultural importance
- Henna
- Palm tree and any products thereof
- Explosive material
- Illegal drugs
- Weapons, ammunition and explosives

Pets

Documents Required

- Certificate of health from veterinary authorities in the country of departure stating that no contagious diseases of animals occurred at place of origin for 6 weeks before shipment
- Cats and dogs: in addition to above, a rabies vaccination certificate issued between 1 and 6 months prior to arrival is required
- Vaccination record

Prohibited: the breeds boerboel, pitbull, rottweiler and tosa; and falcons.

Animals subject to examination upon arrival.

Motor Vehicles

Documents Required:

- Owner's Passport
- Original Bill of Lading
- Original Registration / Insurance certificates (in shipper's name)

The shipper must be present for Customs clearance.

Vehicles are subject to inspection; report must show the engine number and type of vehicle.

The vehicle details must be stamped on the importer's Passport.

Customer may temporarily drive the vehicle for a period of three months during clearance.

General Information on the Tunisian Republic

Background

Rivalry between French and Italian interests in Tunisia culminated in a French invasion in 1881 and the creation of a protectorate. Agitation for independence in the decades following World War I was finally successful in convincing the French to recognise Tunisia as an independent state in 1956. The country's first president, Habib BOURGUIBA, established a strict one-party state. He dominated the

country for 31 years, repressing Islamic fundamentalism and establishing rights for women unmatched by any other Arab nation. In November 1987, Bourguiba was removed from office and replaced by Zine el Abidine BEN ALI in a bloodless coup. Street protests that began in Tunis in December 2010 over high unemployment, corruption, widespread poverty, and high food prices escalated in January 2011, culminating in rioting that led to hundreds of deaths. On 14 January 2011, the same day BEN ALI dismissed the government, he fled the country, and by late January 2011, a "national unity government" was formed. Elections for the new Constituent Assembly were held in late October 2011, and in December, it elected human rights activist Moncef MARZOUKI as interim president. The Assembly began drafting a new constitution in February 2012 and, after several iterations and a months-long political crisis that stalled the transition, ratified the document in January 2014. Parliamentary and presidential elections for a permanent government were held at the end of 2014. Beji CAID ESSEBSI was elected as the first president under the country's new constitution. In 2016, the new unity government continued to seek to balance political cohesion with economic and social pressures.

Geography

Tunisia is on the Mediterranean coast of North Africa. The north is mountainous with valleys and coastal plains, which is where most people live. Oil and phosphates are the main resources, the main crops being olives and citrus fruit. Tourism is important with around five million visitors per year. Most trade is done with EU countries; Tunisia has an agreement with the EU to create a free trade zone.

With its strategic location in the centre of the Mediterranean coast, Malta and Tunisia are discussing the commercial exploitation of the continental shelf between their countries, particularly for oil exploration.

Environmental Issues

Toxic and hazardous waste disposal is ineffective and poses health risks. There is water pollution from raw sewage and limited natural fresh water resources, in addition to deforestation, overgrazing, soil erosion and desertification.

Climate

The north is temperate with mild rainy winters and hot dry summers. The semi arid south merges into the Sahara desert.

Population

Estimated at around 10,276,000.

Currency

Tunisian Dinar (TND).

TND1 = 1,000 Millimes.

Notes: 5, 10, 20, 30 Dinars

Coins: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 Millimes

Prices are often written in Millimes rather than Dinars e.g. 49,500 indicates 49 Dinars and 500 Millimes.

Economy

Tunisia's diverse, market-oriented economy has long been cited as a success story in Africa and the Middle East, but it faces an array of challenges following the 2011 Arab Spring revolution. Following an ill-fated experiment with socialist economic policies in the 1960s, Tunisia embarked on a successful strategy focused on bolstering exports, foreign investment, and tourism, all of which have become central to the country's economy. Key exports now include textiles and apparel, food products, petroleum products, chemicals, and phosphates, with about 80% of exports bound for Tunisia's main economic partner, the EU.

Tunisia's liberal strategy, coupled with investments in education and infrastructure, fueled decades of 4-5% annual GDP growth and improving living standards. Former President Zine el Abidine BEN ALI (1987-2011) continued these policies, but as his reign wore on cronyism and corruption stymied economic performance, and unemployment rose among the country's growing ranks of university graduates. These grievances contributed to the January 2011 overthrow of BEN ALI, sending Tunisia's economy into a tailspin as tourism and investment declined sharply.

Since its establishment in late 2014, Tunisia's new government has faced challenges reassuring businesses and investors, bringing budget and current account deficits under control, shoring up the country's financial system, lowering high unemployment, and reducing economic disparities between the more developed coastal region and the impoverished interior. In 2015, successive terrorist attacks against the tourism sector and worker strikes in the phosphate sector, which combined account for nearly 15% of GDP, slowed growth to less than 1% of GDP.

Religion

Islam is the state religion, 99% of the population are Muslim, the majority being Sunni Muslims.

The largest Christian community is Roman Catholic, and there are also very small Protestant, Greek Orthodox and Jewish minorities.

Education

Schooling is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 16 and consists of primary and secondary education with many children going on to higher education (University).

International schools taking boys and girls from 4 to 18 years are fee paying.

American Cooperative School of Tunis
Cite Taeib M'hiri BP 150
2045 Laouina, Tunisia
Tel: (216) 71 760 905
Fax: (216) 71 761 412

Website: <https://it02900001.schoolwires.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=38>

Language

The local Arabic dialect is spoken by all Tunisians. French is widely spoken and it is the main language used for business. Pupils are now taught English from the age of 11, which has made English increase in prominence particularly amongst the younger generation.

Health

Although medical care in Tunisia is available, it is not particularly sophisticated and only a small number of hospital workers will be able to speak English. In areas outside the main cities the ambulance service will not always be able to respond immediately and if you require any specialised treatment you may need to return to your home country.

Many medicines are available over the counter at pharmacies throughout the country. Make sure you take a clear copy of your prescription with you, along with packaging showing the generic name of the product.

Although tap water is perfectly safe to drink, bottled water is very cheap. You may prefer to drink bottled water until your body becomes accustomed to the local water. Due to the heat in summer it is advisable to always drink lots of non alcoholic liquids to avoid dehydration. Sunglasses, a hat and sunscreen should be worn so you do not get sunburn or sunstroke.

Eating Out

Gourmets will discover a range of spicy and aromatic fare on the menu, such as grilled red mullet with cumin, traditional mloukhia (thick beef stew) or slow baked shoulder of lamb flavoured with cayenne and turmeric.

Helpful Tips

Tunisians are tolerant and outgoing but when visiting places of worship respect local customs by covering arms and legs. Also remember that most museums close on a Monday but those on archaeological sites stay open all week. To avoid hassle from pseudo-guides when shopping or sightseeing hire an official guide from the tourist office.

Shopping

Haggling and a sense of humour in the Souks are customary when seeking out your object of desire. In the old city of 'Medina' you will find beautiful works of art and traditional crafts from colourful carpets and clothing to antiques and unusual pottery.

Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.