Tunisia is the northernmost country in Africa. Ras ben Sakka, is the northernmost point on the African continent. It is bordered by Algeria to the west, Libya to the southeast, and the Mediterranean Sea to the north and east. As of 2013, its population is estimated at around 10.89 million. Its name is derived from its capital city, Tunis, which is located on the country's northeast coast.

Politically, Tunisia held its first Presidential Election in November 2014 following the Arab Spring. The country has continually sought good relationships with the West particularly France and the United States whilst also playing an active role in African and Arab affairs.

There is a high threat from terrorism in Tunisia. A terrorist attack took place at Port El Kantaoui near Sousse on 26th June 2015. Thirty eight foreign tourists were killed, including thirty British nationals. Further terrorist attacks are highly likely, particularly in tourist resorts and by individuals unknown to the authorities whose actions may be inspired by terrorist groups via social media.

The United Kingdom Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) advises against ALL TRAVEL to a number of specified regions in Tunisia (see Figure 10). The FCO advises against all but essential travel to the rest of Tunisia.

Tunisia is a popular destination for superyachts particularly at the end of the Mediterranean season.
On 6 September 2015, Tunisian authorities warned of possible car bomb attacks in Tunis. Authorities have stepped up security arrangements in Tunis and roads may be closed at short notice.

On 26 June 2015, 38 foreign tourists were killed in a terrorist attack at a beach resort in the tourist area of Port El Kantaoui, near Sousse, on the coast south of Tunis.

On 18 March 2015, 22 people were killed in a terrorist attack at the Bardo museum in the centre of Tunis.

A State of Emergency was declared immediately after the terrorist attack on the beach in Sousse with the deployment of armed guards at tourist areas.

A number of arrests were made on suspected militants associated with jihadi groups. In the aftermath of the attack on 26th June, security forces conducted over 700 operations that resulted in the arrest of 127 suspects. Operations of this nature are ongoing.

An increased security presence has been established with over 100,000 police, army personnel, National Guard and civil protection officers deployed throughout the country. Around 3,000 security guards are protecting beaches, hotels and archaeological sites.

The Tunisian government has reportedly announced the closure of around 80 ‘unlicensed’ mosques along with a clampdown on any organisation promoting radical Islam.

Figure 02: Yacht marinas along the Tunisian coastline.
Tabarka is approximately ten kilometres away from the Algerian Border. It is a convenient arrival port however large yachts will need to anchor outside because of draft restrictions. A small airport is in operation nearby and there are several luxury hotels and waterfront restaurants. **NOTE: The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade advises ALL TRAVEL within 30 kilometres of the Algerian border.**

Bizerte is one of the major ports in Tunisia. It is a very convenient port of entry with deep water commercial quays which should be pre booked in advance.

Sidi Bou Said is the oldest marina in Tunisia however it is also restricted to the size of yachts that it can handle. It is a convenient arrival port and often large yachts must anchor outside to carry out the arrival or departure formalities. Security at this marina is understood to be lax.

Hammamet (Port Yasmine) is a large, very popular marina visited by yachts of all sizes. The marina is able to cater for yachts as large as 108 metres with water, electricity and internet services. Pontoons are gated and locked, with noticeable security guards allowing access only to those with authorisation. The marina is equipped with CCTV and there is a 24 hour security presence. There is an armed police and coastguard presence who conduct frequent patrols.

El Kantoui is another large holiday complex, designed to look like an Andalucian village. El Kantaoui Marina is a port of entry and a full service marina with security guards and a shore hard, suitable for wintering ashore or afloat, with a small live-aboard community.
Monastir is another tourist dominated town, with Medina and markets catering more for visitors than locals. Monastir Marina is a popular winter live-aboard location. It has limited berths, and yachts may be moved around to accommodate more. Ablutions are limited and pontoon access is latched but not locked. Prices are high due to its popularity.

Figure 08: Aerial view of Monastir yacht marina.

Port & Maritime Security

Naval patrols have reportedly increased in response to the increased terrorist threat and the continued problems with migrants trying to reach Europe by boat. The mission of the Tunisian Navy is primarily to prevent fishermen from other Mediterranean countries from poaching in Tunisian territorial waters. The Navy specialises in patrolling the 1,148 km of coastline against smuggling and people trafficking. These tasks are performed in collaboration with the coastguard element of the National Guard.

In the absence of recent operational experience against other forces it is difficult to offer an evidential analysis of how the Tunisian Navy operates against conventional or asymmetrical forces in different environments. Research suggests the Tunisian Navy numbers approximately 4,800 personnel operating 25 patrol boats and 6 other craft.

Increased levels of port security have allegedly been implemented, particularly in Hammamet with reports of police and coastguard personnel mounting 24 hour patrols. However, it is worth noting that Tunisia is not a signatory to the International Ship & Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.

Related News

Tunisia Reassures Yachters Following Terror Attack: A week after a terrorist attack in Tunisia, local superyacht businesses are reassuring yachters that security has been increased at Tunisian ports despite numerous cancellations. http://www.marinelink.com/news/reassures-following394250.aspx

Tunisia: 11 Suspected Jihadists Arrested: Tunisian intelligence service units have arrested 11 suspected terrorists, all from Tunis. They are accused of belonging to a terror cell specialized in dispatching young Tunisians to 'jihad' territories in Syria in coordination with groups of Tunisian and Algerian smugglers. http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/generalnews/2015/09/09/tunisia-11-suspected-jihadists-arrested_b18e3c34-98c4-4906-8144-ec41befb02a5.html

Tunisia to Close 80 Radical Mosques in Response to Terrorist Attack: The Tunisian government has reportedly announced that it will close down political parties and associations promoting radical
Islam, including a mosque where a gunman who recently killed at least 38 people at a Tunisian beach resort is believed to have been radicalized, reports The Sydney Morning Herald.

Tunisia: Joint Patrols to Secure Big Cities and Sensitive Sites – Defence: Army units are endeavouring to support the interior security forces’ efforts to prevent possible terrorist attacks, spokesman for the Defence Ministry Lieutenant-Colonel Belhassen Oueslati said.
http://allafrica.com/stories/201509081376.html

Terrorist Attacks Devastate Tourism Trade in Tunisia: The personal watercraft roar by the shore, and the water is full of splashing children along the Tunisian Riviera, where despite the deadly attack that killed 38 tourists in June, the beaches are full — for now.

Tunisia Terror Alert – More Attacks Expected: Travellers should stay away from Tunisia as another deadly terror attack is expected, the British government has warned.
http://parsherald.com/tunisia-terror-alert-more-attacks-expected/4997/

Assessment

Since the terrorist attacks near Sousse on 26th June, Tunisia has been on high alert and a government imposed State of Emergency is still in effect. The country’s authorities has visibly augmented its security measures however, the government has faced criticism for failing to heed the lessons learnt from the 18th March terrorist attacks in Tunis and considerable security challenges remain.

The terror attacks in both Tunis and Sousse were carried out by individuals using unsophisticated weaponry who were unknown to the authorities. With a dramatic loss of incoming foreign revenue as a consequence of these attacks, the authorities are desperate to improve the country’s image.

Assurances from the Tunisian authorities guaranteeing the safety of visiting foreigners to the country have been questioned by some elements of the media. Officials from the UK FCO have been working with their Tunisian counterparts in a security advisory capacity and consider the protection measures put in place are still not adequate enough to protect British tourists.

COMMENT: The attacks on foreign tourists have sent shockwaves throughout Tunisia. The country is on high alert and is heavily reliant on the civilian population to immediately report any suspicious activity. The damage inflicted on the country’s economy as a result of the attacks has resulted in a unified effort to rebuild the country’s appeal to foreign visitors

COMMENT ENDS.
Some elements of the country particularly the southern and border areas should be avoided. Visitors are strongly advised to stay away from the Algerian and Libyan borders. If in doubt of their safety, visitors should seek the help and guidance of local security authorities and agents.

Yachts planning to visit Tunisia within the coming weeks should liaise with local authorities and agents to establish a sound understanding of the security measures in place. Port Yasmine in Hammamet specifically caters for superyachts up to 108 metres.

**COMMENT**: Port Yasmine, Hammamet appears to be the main marina that has the capacity to deal with visiting superyachts. Security measures instigated at this marina appear to be considerably superior to those adopted at other marinas. However, they are not ISPS Code compliant

**COMMENT ENDS**.

Yachts tend to visit Tunisia for short periods of time, not usually exceeding 12 hours. This practice is to be encouraged in conjunction with the following minimum guidelines:

- Carry a form of photo ID at all times (eg a copy of your passport) and be prepared to show this to uniformed security officials if asked to do so.

- If you have to go ashore, let someone know where you’re going, travel in pairs and ensure you have communications with your yacht.

- Tunisia is an Islamic country, respect local traditions, customs, laws and religions at all times and be aware of your actions to ensure that they don’t offend.

- Avoid taking any photographs near sensitive political or military sites.

- Yachts are encouraged to establish a continued visible, alert security presence with rigid access control procedures. Ensure all visitors details are confirmed prior to them boarding.

- All visitors to the yacht should have their ID checked and photographed, be signed in and out and escorted. Lock all access points and do not leave any visitor unattended.

- You should keep up to date with developments, avoid all protests and places where large crowds gather and follow instructions given by the security authorities and your agent.

- Remain extra vigilant during the hours of darkness.
- Seek external expert security advice.

### Tunisia Overall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise normal safety precautions</th>
<th>Exercise a high degree of caution</th>
<th>Reconsider your need to travel</th>
<th>Do not travel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southern Tunisia (areas south of and including the towns of Nefta, Douz, Medenine and Zarzis)</td>
<td>Exercise normal safety precautions</td>
<td>Exercise a high degree of caution</td>
<td>Reconsider your need to travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within 30 kms of the border with Algeria</td>
<td>Exercise normal safety precautions</td>
<td>Exercise a high degree of caution</td>
<td>Reconsider your need to travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Chaambi National Park</td>
<td>Exercise normal safety precautions</td>
<td>Exercise a high degree of caution</td>
<td>Reconsider your need to travel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Useful Resources

- **British Embassy Tunis**
  - British Embassy Tunis, main contact
  - British Embassy
  - Rue du Lac Windermere
  - Les Berges du Lac
  - Tunis
  - 1053 Tunisia
  - Email: BritishEmbassyTunis@fco.gov.uk
  - Telephone: +216 71 108 700
  - Fax Management: +216 71 108 749
  - Fax Consular: +216 71 108 779
  - Fax Commercial: +216 71 108 749
  - Office hours: Monday to Thursday, 8.00am to 4.30pm (local time), Friday 8.00am to 1.00pm (local time)

- **Embassy of the United States of America**
  - Les Berges du Lac
  - 1053 TUNIS
  - Tunisia
  - Main switchboard: +216 71 107 000
  - Fax: +216 71 963 263

- **French Embassy**
  - 2 Place de l'Indépendance
  - 1000 Tunis
  - Tunisia
  - Telephone (+216) 31.315.111
  - FAX (+216) 31.315.19

- **Canadian Embassy**
  - Rue de la Feuille d'Eralbe
  - Les Berges du Lac II
  - P.O. Box 48
  - 1053, Berges du Lac
  - Tunis, Tunisia
  - Fax: (216) 70-010-393
  - Email: tunis-cs@international.gc.ca
  - Telephone: (216) 70-010-200 or 71-268-080
  - Hours of Operation (Open to the public):
    - Monday to Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
    - Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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### About Intrepid Risk Management

Intrepid Risk Management is an internationally renowned British risk consultancy company specialising in a comprehensive range of specialised security solutions to corporate and high net worth clients.

Dedicated to protecting individuals, their families and their assets, our expertise lies in the identification and mitigation of risk, enabling our clients to operate and conduct their business confidently with added peace of mind.

With a company ethos built on trust, integrity and high professional standards, our uncompromising attention to detail and strong values reinforces Intrepid Risk Management’s reputation at the forefront of global risk management.

A report of possible activity or lack of activity gives no guarantee of actual events and may not be sufficient in itself to warrant the declaration of force majeure. Clients are strongly recommended to seek the advice of the appropriate Embassy, Consul or National representative in a region prior to arrival. Intrepid Risk Management shall not be liable for any actions, losses, damages, claims, liabilities, costs, expenses or injuries in any way arising out of or relating to indirect, incidental, punitive or exemplary damages, costs, expenses or losses (including without limitation, lost profits and opportunity costs). The provision of this paragraph shall apply regardless of the form of action, damage, claim, liability, cost, expense or loss whether in contract, statute, tort or otherwise.