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Therefore, the value of human communication lies in mutual understanding, the search for dialogue between representatives of different ethnic groups and cultures.

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MY TUNISIA

Tunisia is situated on the Mediterranean coast of North Africa, midway between the Atlantic Ocean and the Nile Delta, with an area of 164,000 square kilometers It is bordered by Algeria on the west and southwest and Libya on the south east. An abrupt southward turn of the Mediterranean coast in northern Tunisia gives the country two distinctive Mediterranean coasts, It has a lengthy Mediterranean coast and is very open to Mediterranean influences. Tunisians are a maritime people and have always maintained extensive contacts by sea with other Mediterranean countries. The main cities are all on the coast, and contemporary development, including tourism, is also concentrated on the coast. Tunisia’s accessible Mediterranean Sea coastline and strategic location have attracted

conquerors and visitors through the ages, and its ready access to the Sahara has brought its people into contact with inhabitants of the African interior. According to Greek legend, Dido, a princess of Tyre, was the first outsider to settle among the native tribes of what is now Tunisia when she founded the city of Carthage in the 9th century BCE. Carthage nonetheless grew into one of the great cities and preeminent powers of antiquity, and its colonies and entrepôts were scattered throughout the western Mediterranean region. Carthage fought a series of wars with its rival, Rome. Tunisia was called Ifriqiyyah in the early centuries of the Islamic period. That name, in turn, comes from the Roman word for Africa and the name also given by the Romans to their first African colony following the Punic Wars against the Carthaginians in 264–146 BCE. Rome prevailed in the mid-2nd century BCE, razed Carthage, and ruled the region for the following 500 years. In the 7th century Arab conquerors converted the native Berber (Amazigh) population of North Africa to Islam. The area was ruled by a succession of Islamic dynasties and empires until coming under French colonial rule in the late 19th century. After achieving independence in 1956, Tunisia pursued a progressive social agenda and sought to modernize its economy to be an independent country ‘the Republic of Tunisia’

Tunisia’s culture is highly diverse, in part because of long periods of Ottoman and then French rule but also because populations of Jews and Christians have lived among a Muslim majority for centuries. Similarly, the capital, Tunis, blends ancient Arab souks and mosques and modern-style office buildings into one of the most handsome and lively cities in the region. Other cities include Sfax, Sousse, and Gabes on the fertile coast and Kairouan and El-Kef in the arid interior.

The population of Tunisia is essentially Arab Berber. However, throughout the centuries Tunisia has received various waves of immigration that have included Phoenicians, sub-Saharan Africans, Jews, Romans, Vandals, and Arabs; Muslim refugees from Sicily settled in Al-Saḥil after their homeland was captured by the Normans in 1091. The most notable immigration was that of the

Spanish Moors (Muslims), which began after the fall of Sevilla (Seville), Spain, as a result of the Reconquista in 1248 and which turned into a veritable exodus in the early 17th century. As a result, some 200,000 Spanish Muslims settled in the area of Tunis, in the Majardah valley, and on the Sharik Peninsula in the north, bringing with them their urban culture and more advanced agricultural and irrigation techniques. Finally, from the 16th to the 19th century, the Ottomans brought their own blend of Asian and European traditions. This great ethnic diversity is still seen in the variety of Tunisian family names.

Arabic is the official language, and most natives speak a dialect (Derja) of Tunisian Arabic. Modern Standard Arabic is taught in schools. The cultural Arabization of the country was largely completed by the end of the 12th century, and currently only a tiny fraction of the population – most of them in the south – still speak one of the Berber languages. French, introduced during the protectorate (1881 – 1956), came into wider use only after independence, because of the spread of education. It continues to play an important role in the press, education, and government. To a lesser extent, English and Italian also serve as *lingua francas*. Virtually the entire population is Muslim, and Islam, in its Maliki Sunni form, is the state religion. Christian and Jewish minorities have declined substantially in number since independence, Official openness to religious diversity permits both communities to practice their faiths.

Dotted with the ruins of ancient civilizations, Tunisia is an important location for the study of world archaeology and architecture. Among the most significant of its numerous historic sites are Al-Zaytunah Mosque in Tunis, which dates to the 8th century CE, the slightly older Great Mosque of ‘Uqbah ibn Naafii’ in Kairouan, is the first mosque in the first Muslim town in the West., and the remains of the ancient city of Carthage, The Amphitheatre of El Jem, built in 238 AD and the second biggest amphitheater in the Roman Empire. The Bardo National Museum is one of the largest institutions of its kind in the Mediterranean opened on May 7, 1888, and offers one of the finest and largest collections of mosaics of ancient Rome. The alley of sidi Bou Said, The Medina of Tunis,

Founded in 698 around the original core of the Zitouna Mosque, contains some 700 monuments, including palaces, mosques, mausoleums, schools and fountains dating from the Almohad and the Hafsid periods. On the north part in Bizerte there is the Fort of Ghar el Melh one of the first naval bases of the Ottoman empire and almost in every city, specially the coastal ones, there were small cities built believed to be like forts to protect the cities from invasions back then.

Although Tunisians generally use French or English in the scientific disciplines, they remain genuinely attached to Arabic in the literary sphere—in poetry, the novel, and the short story. Historical figures of philosophy and literature, such as the 11th-century litterateurs Ibrahim al-Husri, Hasan ibn Rashiq, and Muhammad ibn Sharaf al-Qayrawani and the 14th-century polymath Ibn Khaldun, are still revered. Modern Tunisian literature grew from a cultural renaissance in the early 20th century. Social essayist Tahar Haddad, satirist Ali Douagi, poet Aboul Kacem Chabbi, and others have paved the way for a new realist trend in Tunisian literature by combining modern European styles with contemporary Tunisian themes. Increasingly, Tunisian writers, including women, are gaining international prominence.

Tunisia is a country that perfectly combines tradition and modernity. The Tunisian personality is characterized by tolerance, hospitality, an unwavering joy of life and a strong determination to succeed.

In general, though Tunisians consider themselves to be more liberal and tolerant than their neighbours – most urban women, for example, dress in Western clothes and do not veil themselves, and (though it is considered inappropriate by some Tunisian Muslims) they still maintain a strong Islamic identity.

Women's clothing are varied throughout the country, but tend to be highly refined. Weaving and embroidery vary from one region to another specially for the jebba (a wide coat covering the whole body, which differs depending on the quality of its fabric, its colors and its trimmings). The jebba is considered a ceremonial garment.

Basic materials of Tunisian handicrafts are copper, wool, ceramics, jewelry, and leather. Chrome-plated copper and bronze are used in various wares including pestles, candelabras and saber's handles. Tunisian carpets are known to be of high quality craftsmanship. Various types of high pile carpets are produced, including the Berber gatifia carpet, the mergoum Tunisia is also known for its many craft products and many of the regions of Tunisia have different specialities and trades. Tunisian pottery is mainly influenced by Guellala.

Traditional Tunisian cuisine reflects local agriculture. It stresses wheat, in the form of bread or couscous, olives and olive oil, meat (above all, mutton), fruit, and vegetables. Couscous (semolina wheat prepared with a stew of meat and vegetables) is the national dish, other dishes like chakchouka, brik, fricassee, lablebi, slade mechwia and the Tunisian traditional dessertes and sweets are unique for the country.

Education system is well established specially at the era of Hbib Bourgiba after the independence where it become free and compulsory from age of 6-16 years The first educational institution of modern Tunisia was the Sadiki College, founded in 1875 followed by the Khaldounia School in 1896.

The Tunisian healthcare system is one of the most developed in Africa, with a level of quality equivalent to that of many European countries. However, there are large disparities between rural and urban areas and between public and private sectors.

Funny facts about Tunisia:

- Tunisia Is A Women's Rights Champion In The Maghreb Region;
- In Matmata, Tunisia, People Live Underground;
- The Medina Of Tunis Has Over 700 Historic Monuments;
- Jasmine is the national flower of Tunisia;
- Khamisa is a palm-shaped amulet popular in Tunisia and more generally in the Maghreb and commonly used in jewelry and wall hangings;

- The sign of Tanit is an anthropomorph symbol present on many archaeological remains of the Punic Civilization;
- Tunisia has served as the sand-covered backdrop to scenes in several "Star Wars" films in Tatoonine;
- Kebili has evidence of stone age settlers;
- Cape Angela is the northernmost part of Tunisia and of all of Africa;
- Sidi Bou Said' houses only use the white and blue paint;
- In Kerkennah islands you can own a land in the sea where they use the traditional ecological technics of fishing the Morsia with the use traps called Drina;
- Tunisia have many caves (grotto) where you can enjoy an amazing adventure of speleology.

I can keep writing pages and pages about Tunisia but is better that you check it by yourself because of many interesting things that it can offers so you can read more or better visit the country to enjoy one of the greatest experiences wether you are into history, landscapes, different activities, exploring a diversity of traditions, food, music. A lot to experience and don't forget to grap a souvenir.

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CULTURAL PRACTICES IN THE AKAN KINGDOM

The culture of the Akans in Ghana varies from various aspects like drumming and dancing, celebration of festivals, rites of passage and other developmental projects to boost and strengthen the Kingdom of the Akans. The Akan clan is predominantly made up of the Asantes and this article seeks to look at the culture in selected aspects. Asantes occupy the southern part of Ghana, West Africa precisely in the Ashanti Region.