

## T.T.A 8T : DOUGGA & BULLA REGIA

### PROGRAM:

After breakfast departure at 08h00 to Dougga, on the way visit Zaghouan Village. Set in an olive grove, Dougga is likely the most interesting and best preserved Roman site in Tunisia. There is a lot to see including a theatre, temple, public baths, and the Libyco-Punic Mausoleum. Dougga is usually visited in conjunction with Bulla Regia during a one day excursion. A 30~45 minute stop on the way at the Andalusia village of Testour is highly advisable, especially on market day (Friday).

Afternoon continuation to Bulla Regia, this town's name comes from a combination of Bulla (Berber name signifying 'lowlands' or 'valley') and Regia (meaning 'royal' - Numidian kings resided in this city). Its unique Roman houses, equipped with an underground floor to escape the heat of the summer, make it one of the most interesting sites. The main attraction is the nicely preserved mosaics that decorate the floors of the houses (especially Maison D'Amphitrite). Located in the north-west of Tunisia, Bulla Regia lies in the Medjerda Valley surrounded by mountains and can become incredibly hot during summer. Since this building style is unique in the Roman Empire, it is assumed that the Romans likely borrowed the idea from the Berbers. Bulla Regia was located on a main road linking the important harbours of Carthage and Hippo Radius (now called Anabas - in Algeria). Many travellers stopped in along the way.

Given that Bulla Regia was initially Numidian, the oldest elements of the city do not follow the Roman grid system. Quarters built later-on show the characteristic Roman regularity.

Come back to the hotel at 19H00.

### DESCRIPTION:

Dougga One of the biggest and best-preserved of all the Roman sites in Africa. Dougga was a thriving town for several hundred years before the arrival of the Romans in the 2nd century AD, but it was under them that it grew and prospered. There is an impressive theatre with seats for 3.500 people. The road beyond leads to the splendid portico of the Capitoline Temple, which overlooks the Square of the Winds. Downhill from the Capitol are the sprawling ruins of the Baths of Licinius, which have a well-preserved central hall, bathing pools, service tunnels and a hypocaust (under-floor heating) system.