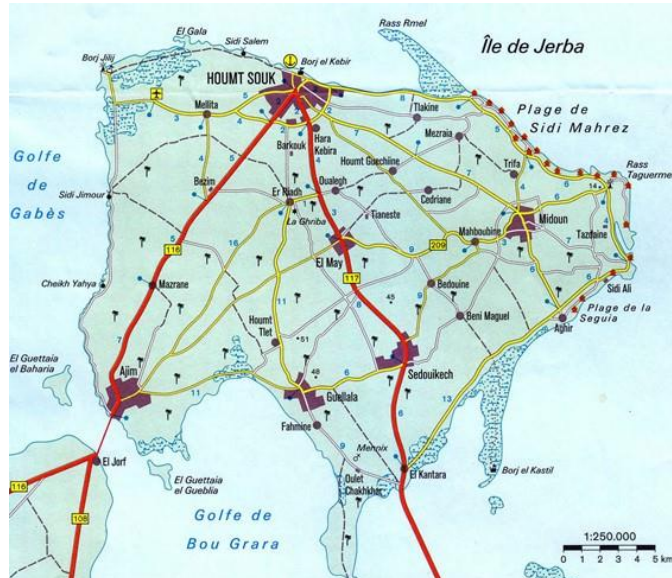


DJERBA

The Island that time forgot.

Off the south east coast of Tunisia, in the Bay of Gabès, is the sleepy island of Djerba. Known by the ancient Greeks as the Isle of Forgetfulness or Isle of the Lotus Eaters Djerba is nowadays a popular holiday destination for Europeans who seek its miles of beautiful, quite, sandy beaches. Djerba is the biggest Island off the coast of North Africa – some 198 square miles – with a total population of approximately 160,000. It is one of the few



remaining places in Tunisia where you will hear the Berber language still being spoken. Djerba is in fact a home to Arabs, Berbers, Jews and Christians. Alongside Arabic and the Berber language, if one listens carefully, one can also hear a Judaeo-Arabic and perfect, Modern Hebrew being spoken - a testament to the quality local education the Jewish community has received from Torah Ve Hinouch school over the past 7 decades.

Judaism is Tunisia's third largest religion with 1500 members, most of whom live on the island of Djerba.



Tunisia, along with Morocco, are the Arab countries thought the most accepting of their Jewish populations. Tunisia is a unitary semi-presidential representative democratic republic. It is considered to be the only fully democratic sovereign state in the Arab world.

In ancient times, Tunisia was primarily inhabited by Berbers. Phoenician immigration began in the 12th century BC; these immigrants founded Carthage. A major mercantile power and a military rival of the Roman Republic, Carthage was defeated by the Romans in 146 BC. The Romans occupied Tunisia for most of the next 800 years, introduced Christianity and

left many architectural legacies.

Its culture is now mixed due to the long established history of outside influence from people – such as Phoenicians, Romans, Vandals, Byzantines, Arabs, Turks, Italians, Spaniards, and the French – who all left their mark on the country.