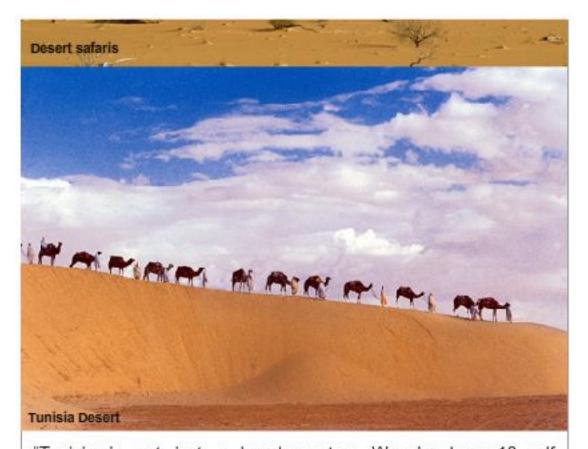
Historic Tunisia Offers Much More Than Beaches

By Ian Stalker

The Canadian director of the Tunisian National Tourist Office is inviting those vacationers who are traditionally drawn to his homeland by its long Mediterranean beaches to step back from the coast for at least part of their journeys.

Neji Gouider is quick to agree that Tunisian beaches – and the resorts that have sprung up along them – are a huge plus for his country's tourist trade but adds they are only one side to the North African country.





tourism. beaches Tunisia is the important destination in the world for thalassotherapy. We have around 37 thalassotherapy

"Tunisia is not just a beach centers. We also have 10 golf destination," he insists. "We offer courses. And people should visit many products, such as culture, (the Tunis-area community of) thalassotherapy spas, golf, Sidi Bou Said. All the buildings desert safaris, medical tourism and homes are white and blue and ecological tourism. And and visitors will see orange and don't forget our gastronomic lemon trees and bougainvillea 1.300 kilometers of everywhere. It's very pretty. and the Sahara. There is a famous cafe where second most everybody drinks mint tea and enjoys a beautiful view of the Mediterranean Sea. Every tourist should visit Sidi Bou Said."

lead to tourists has the development of more than 825 hotels throughout Tunisia, most of them four and five stars. Each tourist zone has numerous hotels staffed by people who speak Arabic, French, English filmed in the Tunisian Sahara. and other European languages. That good hotel infrastructure extends into Tunisian the Sahara, with Gouider saying at

Years of catering to foreign least part of a Tunisian vacation should include time spent in part of the world's greatest expanse of desert. "It's exotic," he says of the Sahara. "It's another world, with camels and endless sand dunes. Part of Stars Wars was You feel another type sensation when you visit the desert. I suggest that all who visit Tunisia visit the Sahara."





Tunisia has also made inroads in worked in France. the medical tourism 150,000 attracting around people each year for different treatments. Most of them are European, drawn by the likes of cardio-vascular treatments. orthopedic and aesthetic liposuction, treatments. and dental surgery. Tunisia has more than 80 private clinics with 2,500 beds and sophisticated medical equipment, Gouider reports. The doctors are Tunisians who have

market, "Tunisia is about 3,000 years of history, from the north to the south," he reports. "There are so many historical sites. Each city has history and each city has museums. There is Carthage, Sidi Bou Said and Roman ruins. We have excellent Roman ruins that tourists can visit. And Jerba is the island Homer says in the Odyssey where Ulysses landed to look for the lotus," he points out.