

TUNISIA – HAMMAMET 10. NOVEMBER – 2. DECEMBER 2023

When it started to get colder, we wanted to keep the warmer temperatures a little longer, so we found a three-week charter trip to Tunisia. It was [Elite Travel](#) that had that trip on the programme.

Departure 11.11 and return 01.12 with [Air France](#). Stopover both ways at [Paris CDG](#). It was a short time from arrival in Paris to departure on to Tunis. It's long distances and we're not very good at walking that fast so far, so we ordered wheelchairs for the trip. Elite said that this meant assistance at all three airports.

When we booked the trip, the departure was to be in the afternoon, but a few days before departure we received word from Elite that Air France had canceled the departure from Paris to Tunis on the 11th, and that they were working on finding new departures.

Last version was:

departure from Gardermoen at 06.20 with arrival Paris CDG at 09.05

transfer to [Orly Airport](#)

further departure from Orly at 14.20 with arrival in Tunis at 16.45.

Due to this change, we booked accommodation at the [Radisson Blu Gardermoen](#) from the 10th to the 11th.

We didn't want to take the chance of getting to a snow-covered car when we returned from Tunisia, so we ordered parking inside Gardermoen Parking based on the original plan, but as we wanted to extend the parking to a day before, it wasn't possible because then it was full. Then we had to cancel the order.

We decided to park in the [P10](#) car park at the airport, even though it was quite a bit more expensive.



I ate lamb shank.

We traveled early in the afternoon to the hotel at Gardermoen so that we could have dinner there. They don't have a huge selection on the menu, but the food they have is pretty good.



Anne Berit ate halibut.

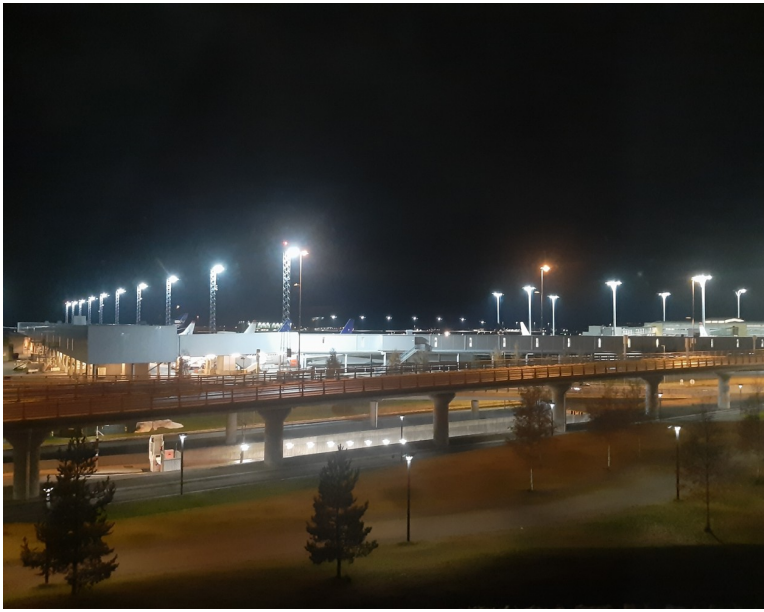


Finally we had ice cream and Sambuca.

After we had eaten, we received a message from Elite again about a change in flight times. The flight from Orly was to leave much later. We called Elite to ask how to get from CDG to Orly. They didn't know that yet, but they were working on it.

We thought this sounded so cumbersome and uncertain that we started looking at other possibilities. We decided to fly with Lufthansa with a stopover in Frankfurt. Departure from Gardermoen was slightly later than with Air France. We called Elite and told them that we were joining the trip further, but that we were taking another flight Oslo - Tunis.

It was fine and they asked how we were traveling then. We told them that.



View from the room towards the airport.

CAN YOU BE...

TEMPTATIONS

Polly Peanuts	65 NOK	Pringles Original	39 NOK
Polly Chilli Nuts	65 NOK	Pringles Pepper	39 NOK

MINIBAR

Red Wine 25 cl	230 NOK	Froosh Smoothie juice..	59 NOK
White Wine 25 cl	230 NOK	Carlsber 0,33 L	115 NOK
Still Water 0,4 L	67 NOK	Ringnes "Beat" 0,33 L .	115 NOK
Sparkling Water 0,4 L ..	67 NOK	Kvikkl Lunsj	49 NOK
Coca-Cola 0,33 L	67 NOK	Snickers	45 NOK
Coca-Cola Zero 0,33 L .	67 NOK	Stratos	45 NOK
Fanta 0,33 L	67 NOK	Twix	45 NOK
Red Bull 0,25 L	75 NOK		

Expensive items in the mini bar in the room.

We were leaving so early the next morning that we hadn't ordered breakfast. We went directly to the check-in desk in the departure hall. While we were queuing there, we were very surprised, because there were several people in the queue who had Elite badges. It turned out that Elite had booked everyone on the same flight as us. We suspected that it from us they had got this idea. If we had known this in advance, we would have avoided paying extra for our own tickets.



Before we took off, we had to de-ice the wings.



I am waiting.



Then we were in the air.



We bought breakfast on the plane.

In Frankfurt it was a long way to walk from one gate to the other. We had to both go down and up stairs and we eventually were in a hurry. We had to get an employee at the airport to show us the way. Our group was the last to board. We should have had wheelchair assistance here too, because we found it very tiring.



We needed white wine after this.



We received chocolates with the Lufthansa emblem.



Then we arrived at [Tunis-Carthage International Airport](#). It is the main airport in Tunisia. It opened in 1938 and today has a capacity of 500,000 passengers a year. In comparison, Gardermoen has a capacity of 32 million travelers annually.



From the airport we were taken by bus to Hammamet. The trip took a little over an hour.

Litt om Tunisia og Hammamet.



Location of Tunisia



Flag



Coat of arms

[Tunisia](#), officially the Tunisian Republic, is an Arab state and Africa's northernmost country. It has just over 11 million inhabitants. The southern areas of Tunisia (about forty percent) are part of the Sahara desert. In the north and northeast, the country has a 1,300 kilometer long coastline towards the Mediterranean. Large parts of the area that are not deserts are very fertile soil. The capital is [Tunis](#) and is located on the coast in the northeast. It has approx. 2.7 million inhabitants.

Today, Tunisia is known for being a progressive Islamic society.



[Hammamet](#) was Tunisia's first tourist destination. It is a popular destination for holidaymakers, due to the beaches and opportunities for water sports in the Gulf of Hammamet.

The city is particularly famous for the flower [jasmine](#).



We were going to stay at [Hotel Bel Azur](#). This is a picture from the hotel's website.



Elite Travel show that the rooms look like this. It says in the description that it has a terrace with two chairs and a small table. The room we got had a French balcony that was half a meter wide and placed half a meter up. We complained to the guide and she promised that we would get a new room on Monday.



Here we have moved into a new apartment with a terrace on the ground floor. I'm testing the terrace.



We hadn't been there long before we found out that the room was full of ants.

We complained at the reception. When they saw this, we were moved to a new room on the same floor, but here there was no furniture. The guy who opened the room for us was not in a good mood, so he said we could take what we needed from another room that he opened. When he had gone we couldn't open the door to the terrace, so we had to pick him up again. It turned out that the door was crooked and when the lock was closed it took a lot of force to open it again. We weren't too happy with the room, but then we were tired of moving around, so we settled on staying in that room for the rest of the time.



One of the shortcomings was plaster that had loosened from the wall in some places.





This is on the last terrace we had. We thought it was OK.



The first days were the warmest. Then we sat for a while in the shade outside the bar and solved crosswords/sudoku while we had a couple of beers.



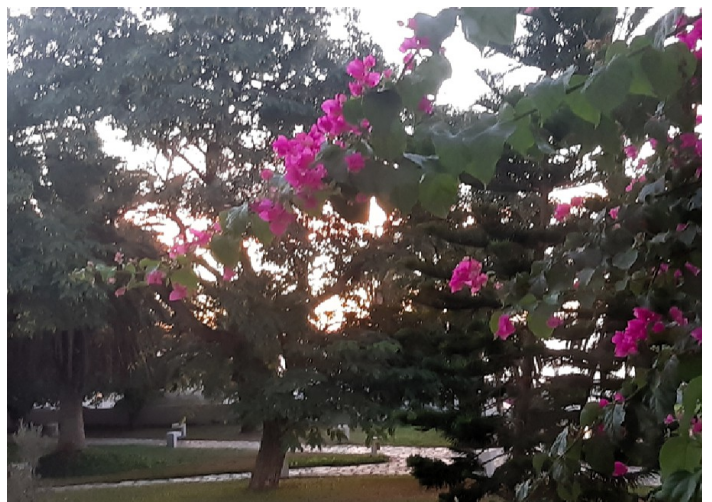
Quite a few tables and chairs were set out in the area outside the bar.



A cocktail.



There are a lot of trees and bushes around the hotel. Some pictures.





Large pool.



Many sunbeds.



Nice beach.



It is possible to sit in the shade by the beach.



There is a restaurant by the beach as well, but it was not open when we were there.



Apartments by the beach.



Cactus



Stor Bougainvilleae utenfor hovedinngangen.



This is from the restaurant. There was an incredible amount of noise here. All the sound of chattering and clinking of plates was reflected from all the walls and windows. We didn't like it there. We also suspect that Anne Berit had stomach problems after probably eating chicken thighs that were not cooked well enough. She had a bad stomach ache for over a week and had to see a doctor.



This is one of the food counters. Hot food nearest, salads and cheese further away and cakes furthest away. Otherwise there was a bread counter, fruit counter, dessert counter etc. There was a large selection, but we quickly got tired of the same food every day.



Here there is a separate station where eggs and omelets are fried during breakfast. The guy here was always in good mood.

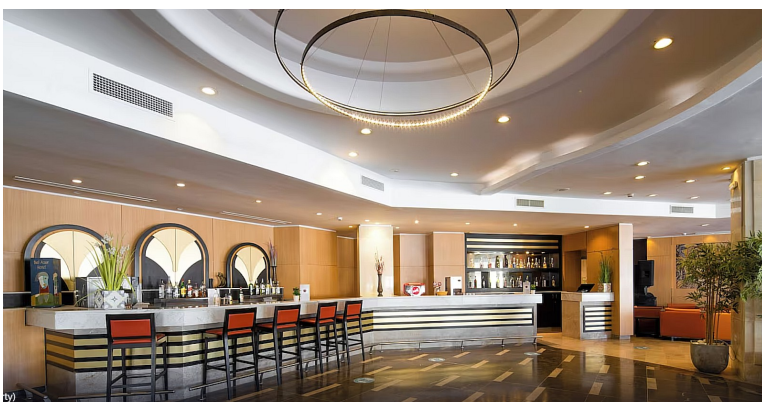
Beyond this was a station where crepes were produced.



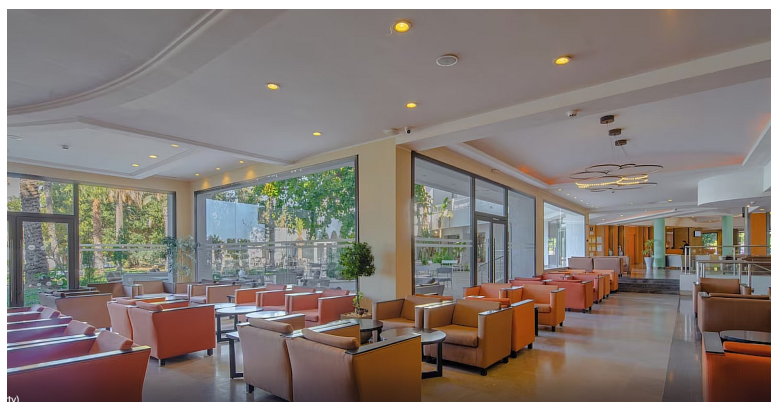
This is the restaurant without guests.



The reception.



The bar



The bar



Outside the restaurant there was a tree with a bird house.



There were also a couple of olive trees being harvested when we were there.



On the road from the hotel up towards the main road there is a date palm with fruit on it. They were not ripe yet.



After the first week, we had become quite tired of the food and the noise in the restaurant at the hotel. We eventually went up the street outside the hotel more and more often to eat at the restaurant that was there. The restaurant is called Black&White. Here they had OK food and you could buy a glass of wine with the food. In the hotel restaurant we had to buy a whole bottle for NOK 280. Here, a full bottle was only half the price.

In Tunisia, those who work in service industries such as restaurants earn very poorly. Much of their salary is therefore based on tips. A 10% percentage tip is common.

One day we miscalculated and probably gave a little less than 10%. Then the waiter demonstrated by counting the money 3 times before leaving.

The last time we were there he got a lot more than 10%. Then he smiled widely and quickly disappeared to count the profits.



The first time, Anne Berit had Tunisian soup as a starter. It was quite good.



In addition, she had ordered couscous, but when she was about to start on it she was already quite full. I helped her a little.



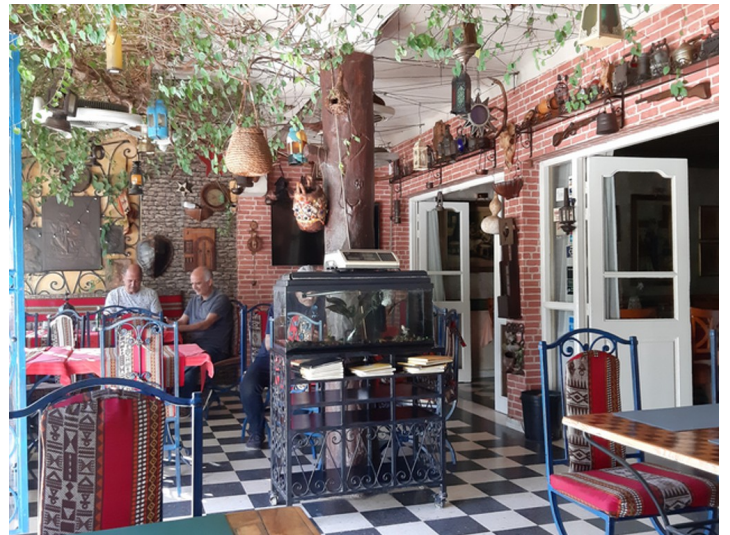
I had fried prawns as a starter. They were also good.



Then I had a filet.



This guy ate at the same time as us.



Some pictures from the interior.





There was also fish on the menu. Here the skin has been removed.



This cat showed up every time we ate here.



This is the last time we ate here. Anne Berit received a flower from the waiter.



An evening picture from the terrace,



Fin Bougainvillae ved terrassen.



We had neighbors who had a dog.



More garden pictures.



Christmas decorations at the reception.



Last day at the hotel. The luggage is loaded into the bus.



Some photos along the way to the airport.



We are approaching a toll booth.



Through the station.



We are on the right track towards Tunis.



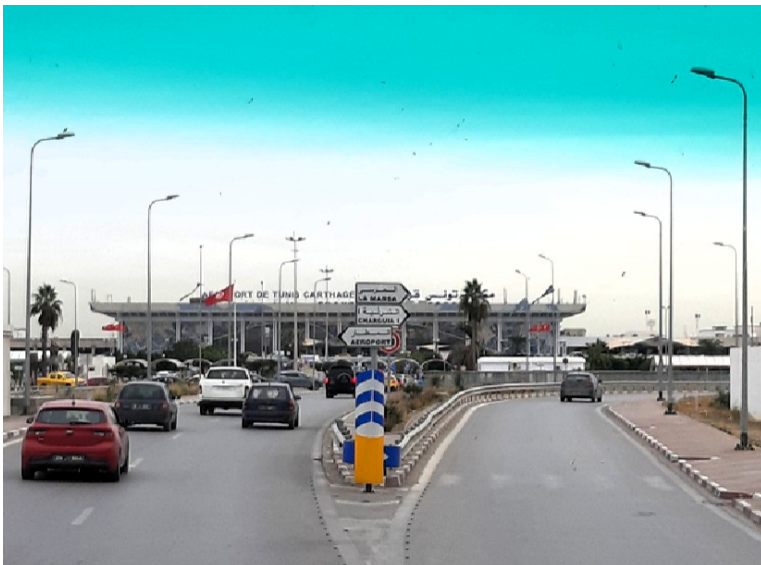
Our driver.



Here we see the Mediterranean again. It was quite hazy here.



Towards the airport.



Then we are at the airport.



Many cars in line,



Here we can get off the bus.



Here we have made it through the check-in and security check. Here I have a 'travel beer'.



The beer was bought in this kiosk.



Then we are at the gate waiting to board the plane.



Our guide is also waiting.



The guide in the plane.

The flight (Air France) left Tunis Airport at 16:30 and was in Paris (Charles de Gaulle) at 19:10.

Here we had wheelchair assistance. We were happy about that because we had to take a bus and it was a long stretch inside the terminal. We barely got on the plane before they closed boarding.

From here the plane left at 20:50 and was at Gardermoen at 23:15.

At Gardermoen we bought duty-free goods. It had been a while since we had shopped tax-free on income, so we didn't think about the fact that the allowances had been halved. We had to leave items in the checkout.

When we went to collect the luggage, it turned out that it had not arrived on the plane from Paris. We checked into the hotel (Radisson Blu) and reported the luggage missing to Air France via the Internet. We fumbled with it for a long time before the message was registered.

The next day we had breakfast before checking out, I went to collect the car while Anne Berit waited at reception.



Waiting pictures.



We look towards the railway station.



It was winter when we drove home.

We had our luggage delivered home on Tuesday.