



The Road to Tunisia



2009: Issue 3

In This Issue:

- Personalize your World Congress 2
- Study up on Arabic with the JCI Secretary General 4
- Reminisce with former First Timers 4

Steeped in nearly 3,000 years of history and culture, don't let Tunisia's ancient ruins fool you. While its history is literally set in stone, this modern and bustling country is quickly becoming one of the hottest destinations on the map. And that's got nothing to do with the Sahara.

When thousands of young global citizens head to Tunisia for the 2009 JCI World Congress, there's no doubt they'll be ready to discover all that this up-and-coming destination has to offer. Here are just a few of the endless options.

The alleys and covered passageways of Tunis' seventh-century medina go on for miles and are jam-packed with markets, cafes and mosques. After shopping, head nearby to see the ruins of Carthage. Founded in 814 B.C. by Phoenician traders, Carthage eventually became one of the most important cities of the Roman Empire. Among the remains of this once mighty sea harbor, you'll find the Antonine baths. Once the largest in the Empire, the baths boasted some of the world's first public toilets and an Olympic-sized pool.

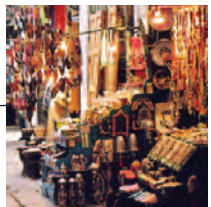
In the African Alps near Jenouba, get a two-for-one sighting at Dougga and Bulla Regia, two well-preserved sites of Roman ruins. After learning how the Romans beat the heat with underground living quarters at Bulla Regia, a drive across the Tebourouk and Kroumarie mountain ranges take you to Dougga, home to the Capitoline Temple and a theater and marketplace dating back 2,000 years.

In El Djem, home to some of the most impressive Roman ruins of Tunisia, the amphitheatre here is nearly as big as the Roman Coliseum and was kept mainly intact until the 17th century. Constructed around 238, the amphitheatre is believed to have held nearly 35,000 spectators during gladiator and chariot events.

The main site for the 2009 JCI World Congress, Hammamet is known for its miles of pristine sandy beaches. After a day in the sun, grab dinner at a beachfront hotel or even go for a midnight swim. Climb up to the ancient fort overlooking the sea, or hit some of the fashionable boutiques surrounding the medina.

As the largest oasis in Tunisia, Tameghza boasts two waterfalls, gorges and an abandoned old town. The main waterfall of Tameghza is about 5 meters high and carries water all through the year. The last waterfall stands a few kilometers out of town and can both be explored deep down in its canyon and enjoyed from a platform directly above it on the hill.

If you're after adventure, head south to the Sahara. A sharp contrast to the bustling souks and city nightlife, experience the shifting desert sands on a camel safari. Travel from dune to oasis on the back of a camel, sleeping beneath the stars.



Libya

Plan your travels for 2010

Get a jump start, and make plans now to attend the 2010 JCI international events.

JCI Conference of the Americas
April 21-24, 2010, Rosario, Argentina

JCI Africa and Middle East Conference
May 12-15, 2010, Abuja, Nigeria

JCI Asia-Pacific Conference
June 3-6, 2010, Singapore

JCI European Conference
June 9-12, 2010, Aarhus, Denmark

JCI World Congress
November 2-7, 2010, Osaka, Japan



The Member: Aline Kummrow, JCI Brazil

"I believe that JCI is full of opportunities. I've had new experiences, challenges and great responsibilities. I understand how much this organization has done for me and how much I can contribute to it. I want to go to the JCI World Congress because I want to know more about the international aspects of JCI. I want to discover new cultures, learn more about this organization and meet new people. I want to experience everything I can... and a little more!"

The Plan: JCI World Congress is the biggest event of the JCI year, and there will be no shortage of events to keep you busy. Check out the keynote speakers and trainings in the morning, and then head over to the Twinning Ceremony to see how friendships formed on common values have developed into formal partnerships between two JCI organizations. When the sun goes down, don't miss the national parties where you can meet tons of new friends, taste new cultures and dance to global beats.



The Member: Annie Haoua Diallo, JCI Burkina Faso

"I have heard that Hammamet is a beautiful city. I would love to visit Tunisia to discover one of the most developed countries in Africa. Its culture and the marvelously diverse population are an inspirational model of development. Contributing to positive change in my community was always my aspiration. JCI is my vehicle to play my part in transforming the world."

The Plan: There's no better place than the JCI World Congress to put your sense of social responsibility into motion. The discussion groups on climate change and the UN Millennium Development Goals will give you a chance to participate in an international dialogue on development and find new ways to transform your community. Then, take a trip to Tunis to discover the bustling capital that thrives alongside the ancient Phoenician ruins of Carthage.



Your Personalized Guide

With hundreds of events and thousands of young leaders gathered from more than 100 countries, your time at JCI World Congress is sure to fill up fast. Read on to find out what these JCI Members want from the experience and take notes on what we recommend to make sure you don't miss a minute of the action at this global forum.

The Member: Sheetaal Gandhi, JCI India

"Being a member of JCI means everything to me. I owe full credit to JCI for what I am today. I am so proud that I received the First Timer's Award at last year's World Congress, and I want to represent my Local Organization, JCI Tiruppur, this year. Also, I am extra excited to take advantage of the training opportunities and meet some top trainers at the 2009 JCI World Congress."

The Plan: Providing development opportunities is an essential part of the JCI Mission, and there's no better time than JCI World Congress to learn from the best JCI Trainers. Sign up early online to attend one of the JCI Official Courses like JCI Presenter, where you can learn the ins and outs of public speaking. And don't forget about the free seminars offered during Congress all day, every day. Take plenty of notes to share with the other members of your Local Organization!



The Member: Andrew Higgs, JCI Australia

"JCI World Congress always presents an awesome opportunity to tap into an international network of dynamic young professionals that are all trying to create positive change the world over. I hope to use these stories of local projects to inspire our local members to make a difference through community action. JCI's unique treasure truly lies in human personality and the cultural diversity of its membership. JCI is creating world leaders who are shaping positive global change, and that's something I want to be part of."

The Plan: JCI World Congress showcases the best of the best, and none is more remarkable than the stories of the JCI Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World (JCI TOYP). Don't miss the JCI TOYP Award Ceremony where we recognize 10 young people under 40 who live the JCI Mission and model social responsibility by excelling in their chosen fields. Their stories of discovery, determination and ingenuity inspire us to be better leaders and strive for a brighter future.



The Member: Valentina Gradoli, JCI Italy

“The JCI World Congress in Tunisia will be my first JCI international event. I hope to learn as much as possible and enjoy myself with old and new friends. I would like to live the experience of attending such a big event that brings people from all over the world with the same interests to one single place. I will definitely attend the First Timers Meetings and the Opening Ceremony and lots of other activities. I don’t want to waste time even if it means having a fixed agenda and no time to sleep. Thanks to JCI, I had the opportunity to improve my self-confidence working on projects that I like and sharing with people my small achievements.”

The Plan: In the First Timer’s Program, you and all other Congress newbies will meet upon your arrival in Tunisia and explore the endless possibilities that wait for you in the upcoming week. Not only an opportunity for young people to meet and to understand other cultures, you will understand the true scale of the JCI movement. At night, take your fellow First Timers to JCI Tunisia Night where you and several hundred of your new friends will perfect your belly-dance moves and test out the local food and drinks.



The Member: Marc-Arnaud Kone, JCI Cote d'Ivoire

“I decided I wanted to be part of those thousands and thousands of people trying to analyze the world as it is, find solutions to our challenges and ultimately transform the world into a better place. By attending trainings, creating projects, meeting people from different backgrounds, working hard and thinking critically about what JCI can bring to the community, we can really bring about the positive change we are talking about.”

The Plan: With thousands of JCI members who seek solutions to the world’s problems gathering at JCI World Congress, this event demonstrates why JCI is one of the globe’s leading networks of active citizens. Don’t miss the Awards Ceremony, where JCI will announce the most innovative JCI projects that produce lasting and impactful results. But before you pack your bags, submit your award entries by Oct. 2 so you can stand up and be recognized.

to JCI World Congress

The Member: Italo Abel Quezado Fernandez, JCI Panama

“I would like to go to Tunisia to represent my country at JCI World Congress. I expect to experience a variety of cultures, share experiences and strengthen the brotherly ties with fellow members. Afterwards, I want to return to Panama with innovative ideas to apply to our local projects.”

The Plan: JCI has a dynamic global community of young citizens, and the best way to witness our diversity and represent your country is at Opening Ceremony. All the National Presidents will gather to greet the world and model their traditional dress. Later, don’t miss the Local Leaders Forum, a meeting especially for members who want to share best practices and exchange ideas from around the world.



The Member: Karen Majola, JCI Zimbabwe

“After attending my first meeting, I was challenged and inspired by the members of my Local Organization because they spoke with such confidence. In terms of my personal development, JCI helps me through hands-on training. I personally learn better by doing, and I get to meet people who impact my life positively.”

The Plan: While JCI World Congress offers a menu of trainings every day, that’s just the beginning. Public speaking is a critical skill of the leader who can motivate people toward positive change, so don’t miss the finals of the JCI World Public Speaking Championship where you can see the four finalists from the JCI Area Conferences. Then, find three friends and sign up to participate in the JCI World Debating Championship. You’ll test your teamwork and critical thinking against other teams from around the world.





Kodama's Essential Words and Phrases

Before he starts packing his bags, it's back to basics for Secretary General Kodama as he must learn a brand-new language and dialect for the 2009 World Congress in Tunisia. So before you hit the road, take a cue from the SG and study up on these basic Tunisian Arabic phrases.

A Native Tongue

Once you've learned the basics, keep in mind that Tunisian cuisine requires a language all its own. Read up on these native dishes, and you'll be speaking and eating like a local in no time.

Tajines – An egg-based, oven-baked cake with chopped meats, cheese, grilled peppers and parsley

Cous cous – Traditionally served with lamb, this all-occasion semolina dish generally includes lightly cooked carrots, turnips, chickpeas and cabbages.

Koucha bil aallouch – Lamb shoulder and potatoes

Mesfouth – Dried dates, raisins and sweetened semolina make up this desert. Enjoy it with a glass of cold milk.

Kaftagi – Meatballs spiced with tomatoes and fried peppers

Chakchouka – A layered casserole-type dish with slices of tomatoes, peppers and eggs

Ojja – Scrambled eggs with garlic, tomatoes and merguez sausage or brains

Melthouth – A typical Tunisian dish made of grilled barley and meat or fish

Hi/Hello Aslama/Ahla

See you, bye Bislama

Good morning Sbah elkheer

Good night Tasbah ala khir

Yes Na'am

No La

Please Min Fadlek

Thank you Shokran

Don't mention it Ma ghir mziya

Excuse me Samahni

What's your name? Shismik?

My name is _____. Ismi _____.

Nice to meet you. Ma'arafa Taeiba.

How are you? Shniya ahwalek?

I'm fine, and you? Labes. Winti?

Do you speak English? Titkallam angleez?

I don't speak Arabic. Ma nitkallamsh arbi.

I don't understand! Ma fhemtesh!

Can you translate this for me?

Shnouwa ma'ana hadha?

I'd like to exchange money.

Nhib nsarraf el flous.

I'd like to eat Tunisian food.

Nhib nakul akl tunsi.

It tastes good.

Bnin barsha.

Do you want something to drink?

Tushrub haja?

Can you come for a coffee tonight?

This tushrub kahwa ellila?

Would you like to join us?

This tji ma'ana?

We'd like to have a look at the market.

Nhibbou nimshiwo li'souk.

How much is that?

Kaddesh hadha?

Cheap / Too expensive!

Rkhees / Ghali barsha!

Which one do you want?

Shnuwa thib?



1986 JCI President Moncef Barouni at his first JCI World Congress in Gothenburg Sweden in 1979



1982 JCI President Barry Kennedy at the 1982 JCI World Congress in Seoul, Korea



Susanna Thonnigs of JCI Brazil at her first JCI World Congress in Barcelona, Spain in 2001



First Timers from JCI Japan at the 2007 JCI World Congress in Antalya, Turkey

A Look Back: My First World Congress

For over 60 years, members have traveled across the globe to come together at one exciting location for this highly anticipated event. Glimpse back at some of their experiences as First Timers at a JCI World Congress.



First Timer HGF. Sethuraam K. from JCI India with new friends at the 2008 JCI World Congress in New Delhi, India



First Timer Rania Haddad from JCI Lebanon at the 2005 JCI World Congress in Vienna, Austria

Be Better™

Do you have a story to share about your experience at a JCI International Event? E-mail story and photos to identity@jci.cc for consideration for upcoming newsletter issues. Not all submissions will be included.

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