

Tunisia Update February 2004

We travelled to Tunisia following a deal booked via teletext on what was a non-birding holiday. The cost was excellent - 4 star, half board for a week at £199 per person staying at the recently built Port El Kantaoui resort on the Mediterranean coast. We flew from Birmingham (parking £30 for the week) into Monastir and from there a short coach trip took us to the spectacular Hotel Kenz.

The food was excellent and prices reasonable although the driving and state of the roads left a lot to be desired. We decided therefore not to hire a car and opted for a 2 two day coach trip to the edge of the Sahara. Ultimately it wasn't a bad decision as it produced some life ticks and some quite spectacular scenery.

05.02.04

Port El Kantaoui

Evening

Cloudy, spells of sunshine

Hotel Kanz Gardens

Serin – common

LAUGHING DOVE – COMMON*

SPOTLESS STARLING – 5/6*

Sardinian Warbler – 5

Lesser Grey Shrike – 6

Spanish Sparrow – common

Stonechat – 4

Blackcap – 2

Cormorant – 2

Chiff Chaff

Yellow Legged Gull – common

06.02.04

Port El Kantaoui

Morning

Cloudy

Hotel Kanz Gardens

Much the same as above but in addition:

Hoopoe

Beach near Hotel

2 Cory's Shearwaters

Yellow Legged Gull - many

Little Egret – 2

07.02.04

Port El Kantaoui

Morning

Sunny

Hotel Kanz Gardens

As above but:

Black Redstart – 1

Common Swift – 1

Barbary Falcon – 1

08.02.04

Port El Kantaoui to El Jem on bus

Morning

Cloudy, sunny spells

Kestrel – 1

Long Legged Buzzard – 1

Lanner – 1

El Jem to Mamata

Afternoon

Sunny

Long Legged Buzzard – 1

Greater Flamingo – 50

Serin – many

Crested Lark – many

Calandra Lark – 1

Mamata to Douz

Late afternoon – early evening

Sunny

MOURNING WHEATEAR – 1*

BLACK WHEATEAR – 1*

Raven species – 1

Douz

Evening – on back of camel!
Cold

DESERT WHEATEAR – 1***09.02.04****Degache**

Sunny

HOUSE BUNTING – 2***Chibika**

Very sunny

Mourning Wheatear – 2
House Buntings – 10plus
Black Wheatear – 2

WHITE CROWNED BLACK WHEATEAR – 1*

Kestrel – 1
Calandra Larks – several

Chibika to Jamerla

Very sunny

Black Wheatear – several
Mourning Wheatear – several
White Crowned Black Wheatear – 1

Tamerza

Very sunny

Blue Rock Thrush – 10
Little Swift – 15plus

10.02.04

Port El Kantaoui

Sunny

Near Hotel Kanz

Little Swifts – 2

Beach near hotel

Shag – 1

Med Gull – 1

Gannet – 2

Artic Skua (dark phase) – 1

11.02.04

Port El Kantaoui

Cloudy

Hotel Kanz Gardens

Black Redstart – 2

Coal Tit – 2

Beach near hotel

Audouins Gull – 1

Cormorant – 1