

Tunisia eases lockdown as zero cases registered in five days

Sursa: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1675056/middle-east>

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- For the fifth consecutive day no new cases were registered in the North African country which has declared 1,032 cases of coronavirus
- Tunisia started easing strict confinement measures last week

TUNIS: Retail shops and supermarkets reopened Friday in Tunisia after the government announced zero coronavirus cases for the fifth consecutive day.

In a statement published overnight, the health ministry also said that 217 patients still carry the COVID-17 virus, three of whom are being treated in hospital.

But for the fifth consecutive day no new cases were registered in the North African country which has declared 1,032 cases of coronavirus, including 45 deaths, since March 2.

With infections slowing, retail stores, open-air markets and supermarkets have reopened, but authorities are urging citizens to stay vigilant and respect hygiene measures.

On Wednesday, President Kais Saied shortened an overnight curfew that has been in place since March 22.

Tunisia started easing strict confinement measures last week.

Tunisia's Tourism Ministry Ready to Reboot 2020 Season

May 26th, 2020

SURSA: https://www.argophilia.com/news/tunisias-tourism-ministry-ready-to-reboot-2020-season/226079/?fbclid=IwAR1_o_JzATw2iXRWpLsBCEzBBnZF_MfGQCYF3p6zN8pDolvf0wFpqRfx13E

Tunisia is one of the world's most interesting and mysterious tourism destinations, but the **coronavirus pandemic** has nearly wiped out business there. Streets usually filled with travelers from all over the world, now look like scenes from an apocalyptic movie because international flights are still not running despite the country's good COVID-19 record. The country's tourism ministry has announced support for businesses, but so far no overall plan has been set.

In **Tunis**, a seaside city normally crawling with curious visitors, shop owners stay closed or only open for an hour or so each day. There's just not enough business, shopkeepers say. Most have already written off 2020 as a hopeless cause. Officials still hold out hope the season can be reclaimed.

The country has registered only 45 deaths from the **COVID-19**, and for the past few days there have not even been any new infections recorded. Tunisia is actually one of the most successful **Mediterranean** destinations at flattening the pandemic curve, but you cannot tell this by the [visitor landscape](#).

Tunisia's tourism ministry says the loss to the sector is in the neighborhood of \$2 billion US, and that more than 400,000 jobs are at risk. Since March, the pandemic has ground the country's tourism sector to a complete halt. Once thriving seaside resorts look abandoned, and the hoteliers are at a loss as to how they will remain afloat.

The Minister of Tourism and Handicrafts Mohamed Ali Toumi was quoted recently at the “From Berlin to Tunis: Tourism after COVID-19” webinar as saying:

“We must provide support measures for the benefit of the tourism sector which is among the sectors most affected by the crisis. For that purpose, a small cabinet meeting will be devoted to the examination of the necessary support measures over the next 48 hours”.

There is cause for hope, however. The tourism ministry is preparing protocols for facilities that reopen, with some planning to do so from June. According to the news from **Tunis**, regulators are about to roll out measures expected to restore trust and safety for travelers and locals alike. Hotels and resorts will offer fixed menus instead of the popular all-inclusive buffets travelers have grown accustomed to.

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