

- ☐ Name of governorate : Tozeur
- ☐ Population : 97,526 inhabitants (Census of 2004)
- ☐ Area : 5,593 km²
- ☐ Official language : Arabic
- ☐ 2nd Language : French
- ☐ 3rd Language : English
- ☐ Date of creation : May 28th, 1980
- ☐ Contact details : +216.76.460.100
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- ☐ Fax number : Mr. Nouredine Kamoun
- ☐ Governor
- ☐ Delegations : 05 (Tozeur, Nefta, Dégache, Tamerza, and Hazoua)
- ☐ Municipalities : 05 (Tozeur, Nefta, Dégache, Tamerza and El Hamma of Djérid)
- ☐ Rural Councils : 04 (Hazoua, Chebika, El Mahassen - Sabaa Abar, Bouhlel - Dghoumes)
- ☐ geographical specificities : Desert oases and mountains
- ☐ Distance from the capital : 430 kms
- ☐ Geography of the area:
- ☐ The Governorate of Tozeur is located in the south-west of Tunisia between the salt lakes of "Djérid" and "Gharsa".
- ☐ It extends over an area 5,592.9 km² (3.6% of the area of Tunisia and 6.2% of the surface of the area of the South).
- ☐ The governorate is located in south of the Governorate of Gafsa and lies to the east and south by the Governorate of Kébili and west of the Algerian frontiers of Algeria over a distance of 250 kms.
- ☐ The Governorate of Tozeur is composed of 3 zones of various characteristics:
- 1) The zone of Djérid: Located in the middle of the Governorate accounts for 50% of total area.
- 2) The zone of Chotts and the salted lakes: It accounts for 47 % of the total area and contains Chott of Gharsa and part of Chott of Djérid on a area of 2200 km².
- 3) The mountainous area: It accounts for 3% of the area of the Governorate.

- The Governorate of Tozeur is considered as a zone with a Saharan aspect.
- Rainfall reaches approximately 100 mm/year and 20 raining days per year, which accounts for the fact that farming is limited to the irrigated area.

□ Historic insight:

- The area of Djérid knew the first signs of the civilization since the time of the Berbers, as it has been proven engravings on the walls of the caves of the mountains of Tamerza.
- Pr. MADANI, in his book "Carthage through 4 times", emphasized that economic life and cultural advances started since the Punic era (1200 B.C. -146 B.C).
- It is thanks to Phoenicians that the palm trees were introduced into the area of Djérid starting from the Euphrates, Iraq (the Middle East).
- The historians of the epoch mentioned that the area made great cultural breakthroughs, a fact that has been affirmed many Arab scientists.
- In Tozeur or "Touzourous", civilization evolved in parallel with the Saharan trade.
- One noted the multiplication of hotels and stores that provided catering services for trade and pilgrimage caravans. Many mosques were built as well as accommodation services.
- Tozeur knew the conquest of Islam peacefully since the 1st century of the Hegira. Most Arab explorer scientists visited the region, such as the sociologist and the Arab historian *Ibn Khaldoun*. A large number of scientists and thinkers mentioned that this area knew a prosperous cultural and spiritual civilization. One quotes: *Abou Fadhel Nahoui* the famous poet and linguist, *Yahia Chagratsi* writer and poet, *Abou Ali Sounni* founder of the Sunnite ideology and *Ibn Chabbat* poet, engineer and historian. The latter renovated the system of irrigation in Tozeur.

□ Economic activities in the area : Agriculture and tourism

□ the Typical activity : (Agriculture, production of dates and early products and the breeding)

□ most important industrial activities:

- Conditioning and exportation of dates
- Traditional textile workshops
- 1 Unit of plastic flowers

☐ Transport and communication:

- Tozeur-Nefta International Airport
- Railway station - Tozeur
- Bus station - Tozeur
- Telecommunication network

☐ Tourism:

- 41 Hotel units (6000 beds)
- Tourism School (Formation and upgrade...)
- Tourist Centers of animations
- Golf course
- Cultural Museums
- 2 Zoos of the desert

☐ Tourist activities:

- Tourist Restaurants
- Travel agencies
- Rounds on the traditional carts in the oases
- Rounds on the quads
- Visits of the mountainous oases and the sand dunes
- Visit of the old cities
- Visit of the craftshops

☐ the vestiges (ruins):

- The old town of Tozeur (El Houadef)
- the old town of Chebika
- The old town of Mides
- The old town of Tamerza
- The large mosque of Bled El hadher
- Roman ruins of Dégache
- Ben Azzouz house and mosque *Abou Ali Sounni...*

☐ festivals:

- The international festival of the Oases of Tozeur
- National festivals of Tamerza, and Hazoua

☐ objectives of the co-operation:

To strengthen the mutual co-operation in several fields such as:

- Agriculture (biological Cultures, glasshouse cultivations).
- Tourism (Cultural tourism and environmental...)
- Training
- Cultural exchanges and sportsmen

- Safeguard of the heritage
- Sciences and modern technologies
- The promotion of the local initiatives
- Industry (Studies, Exploration of the mining products, promotion of the small and medium-size companies...).