

Jews of Tunisia: a Brief History (1/2)

586 BCE	Jews arrive in Djerba from Jerusalem captured by Nabuchodonosor?
146 BCE	Carthage is destroyed, Gamart necropolis shows significant Jewish community
70 CE	Second temple is destroyed, some Cohanim settle in Djerba?
2nd century CE	First historical evidence of Jewish presence in Tunisia
3rd-4th century CE	Naro synagogue in Roman province of Ifriqiya
647-697 CE	Arab conquest of North Africa, Oqba ibn-Nafi founds Kairouan.
10th-11th century	Kairouan center of Mediterranean Jewish life
1057	Sack of Kairouan
Mid-12th century	Tunisian coastal cities are ruled by Normans



William Turner, *Dido Building Carthage* aka *The Rise of the Carthaginian Empire*
The Athenaeum through Wikipedia
(<http://www.the-athenaeum.org/art/detail.php?ID=20906>)



Mosque of Uqba, or the Great Mosque of Kairouan

(Wikipedia, Marek Szarejko) (https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kairouan#/media/Fichier:Great_Mosque_of_Kairouan_Panorama_-_Grande_Mosqu%C3%A9_de_Kairouan_Panorama.jpg)

Jews of Tunisia: a Brief History (2/2)



Frans Hogenberg, *l'attaque de La Goulette*



Edouard Detaille, *Prise de Sfax (1881)*

12th-13th century	Tunisia ruled by Almohads, Jews are forced to convert or die
1236	Eastern Berberia declares independence from Almohad empire, start of Hafsid dynasty
1534	Charles Quint conquers Tunis, Spain props up the Hafsid dynasty
1574	Ottoman conquest of Tunis
1705	Husayn ben Ali new Bey of Tunis
1710	Separation between the two Jewish communities, the indigenous <i>twansa</i> and the Livornese <i>grana</i>
1857	<i>Pacte fondamental</i> , granting equality to all the Bey's subjects
1864	Medjba insurrection. Large numbers of Jews from coastal cities flee to Malta for 6 months.
1881	Beginning of French Protectorate in Tunisia
1956	Tunisia declares independence from France

Basic Genealogical Tools in France

Useful for Tunisian Jews who emigrated to France after Tunisian independence (roughly half, the other half went to Israël)

French death records 1970-present

- Index published monthly online here <https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/4190491> and can be queried for instance here: <https://deces.matchid.io/search>
- Once date and city (« *commune* ») of death are known, ask for actual death record:
 - For any city, try <https://www.service-public.fr/compte/activer-un-espace-particulier?lienDemarche=https://psl.service-public.fr/mademarche/EtatCivil/demarche?action=DECES>
 - Or directly on city's web site (« demande d'acte de décès »), e.g. for Paris <https://etatcivil.paris.fr/deces/>

Paris BMD records: <http://archives.paris.fr/r/124/etat-civil-de-paris/>

- Birth records 1860-1919, marriage records 1860-1944, death records 1860-1986
- Indexes (annual or decennial) births 1860-1932, marriages 1860-1974, deaths 1860-1986

Province BMD records

- Accessible on web sites of each « Archives Départementales », see map here: <https://www.rfgenealogie.com/s-informer/infos/archives/la-carte-des-archives-departementales-et-communales-en-ligne>

Key sources for the genealogy of Tunisian Jews

Tool	Records	Period	Where to find it
French & Tunisian BMD records	~22,600	1788-1913	Accessible on microfilm at French Diplomatic Archives (La Courneuve) Full database (BECANE) available to CGJ members (www.genealoj.org)
Protected subjects of the French Consulate in Tunis	~10-12,000 individuals	1830-1913	Accessible in paper form at French Diplomatic Archives (Nantes) Book published in 2015: <i>Les protégés israélites du consulat de France à Tunis</i>
Ketubot registers of the Portuguese community of Tunis	~2,000	1788-1881	See online index for 1,264 ketubot: http://bob.cassuto.free.fr/index.html Third book published in 2015: <i>La communauté juive portugaise de Tunis – registres matrimoniaux 1812-1844 et 1872-1881</i>
Ketubot registers of the « Twansa » community	~34,000	1899-1957	Ask secretariat of Chief Rabbi of Tunisia. 20 € processing fee. Includes names of fathers only.
Jewish cemeteries in Tunis (Borgel), Sousse, Sfax, Kairouan, Gabès, Zarzis	~7,500	1850-2013	Database (BIKETTE) available to CGJ (www.genealoj.org) and AICJT members
French naturalization records	~6,800	1850-1956	French National Archives: https://www.siv.archives-nationales.culture.gouv.fr/siv/cms/content/helpGuide.action?uuid=cb55f7f0-03d1-430c-86e8-3418c003c30e
French consular correspondance with local Jews	~1,200	1761-1887	Accessible in paper form at French Diplomatic Archives (Nantes) Full database (REGIE) available to CGJ members (www.genealoj.org/regie)
French consular passports	~4,000	1804-1886	Accessible in paper form at French Diplomatic Archives (Nantes) Full database (REGIE) available to CGJ members (www.genealoj.org/regie)
French National Library	Lots	19th-20th c.	www.gallica.fr , in particular <i>Dépêche Tunisienne</i> newspaper, <i>Dictionnaire illustré</i> (Paul Lambert), <i>Revue algérienne / tunisienne législation jurisprudence</i>