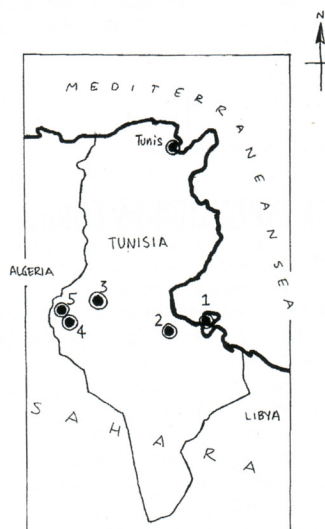


# Return to Tatooine

*If adventure has a name it must be David West Reynolds. Reynolds has all the makings of a modern day Indiana Jones, (minus guns, whips, and Nazi spies). Reynolds, 27, makes his living spanning the globe digging up everything from Pharaohs to dinosaurs while finishing his Ph.D in Archaeology at the University of Michigan. In April 1995 he embarked on a search that only took him 19 years back in time, but was no less interesting than uncovering extinct reptiles and ancient Egyptians; he journeyed to Tatooine. Armed with an understanding of French, Arabic, Berber, and some geographical hints from Star Wars production supervisor Robert Watts, Reynolds set out for the barren desert of Tunisia in North Africa, where filming of the Star Wars Trilogy first began in March 1976. Most importantly, Reynolds was armed with inspiration from his all-time favorite film, the one thing that would help him persevere long enough to find a handful of obscure filming locations miles away from settled humanity. Here is his story.*

The whole quest began when I learned from the back of a Star Wars trading card, all those years ago, that most of the footage of Tatooine in Star Wars was shot in the deserts of the North African country of Tunisia. By 1995, several expeditions to North African countries had given me familiarity with the region, plenty of field experience and some ability in Arabic and Berber, as well as the necessary French. I had tracked down ancient trade routes in the Egyptian desert, uncovered traces of a buried Roman city on the Mediterranean coast and probed on my own the sand-choked ruins of a pyramid far from the tourist routes. It seemed reasonable that I might be able to retrace the steps of a film crew from only twenty years ago. I decided that a journey to Tatooine was within my grasp.

I knew realistically that traces of the sets and props used in the film would probably be long gone, originally built of flimsy materials and in most cases dismantled and removed by the crew after shooting was complete. Even if anything had remained, nineteen years of sun, wind, and scavengers must surely have polished off the last evidence of the distant planet. (So I thought.) But I wanted to find the locations. I wanted to be there, to breathe that air and feel that sand, and see all around me the reality of that movie—from the streets of the spaceport, to the underground homestead, to the spectacular lookout over Mos Eisley—all of it! To step into that movie screen, and enter the realm of the greatest fantasy I had ever seen..



- 1 - MOS EISLEY
- 2 - HOMESTEAD COURTYARD
- 3 - JUNDLAND WASTES
- 4 - HOMESTEAD EXTERIOR
- 5 - DUNE SEA

