

# Your Guide to Algiers

Algiers, nicknamed El Bahdja, 'the happy one' or 'the white one', is the capital of Algeria and located on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea.

Unsurprisingly, considering its history, there are many very attractive examples of French architecture, one of the most notable of which is La Grand Poste.

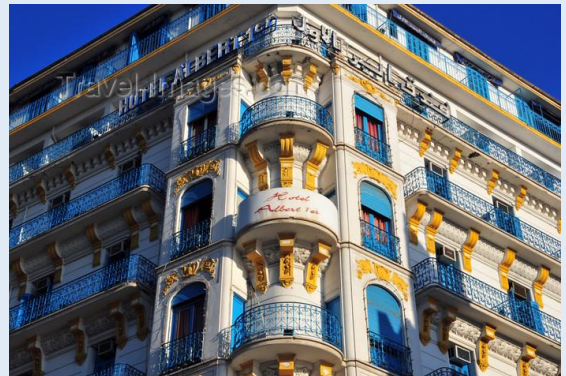


You can mail your letter in the original mailbox with its mosaic surround sharing an experience which has been enjoyed by all since the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century



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French colonial buildings proliferate! See below



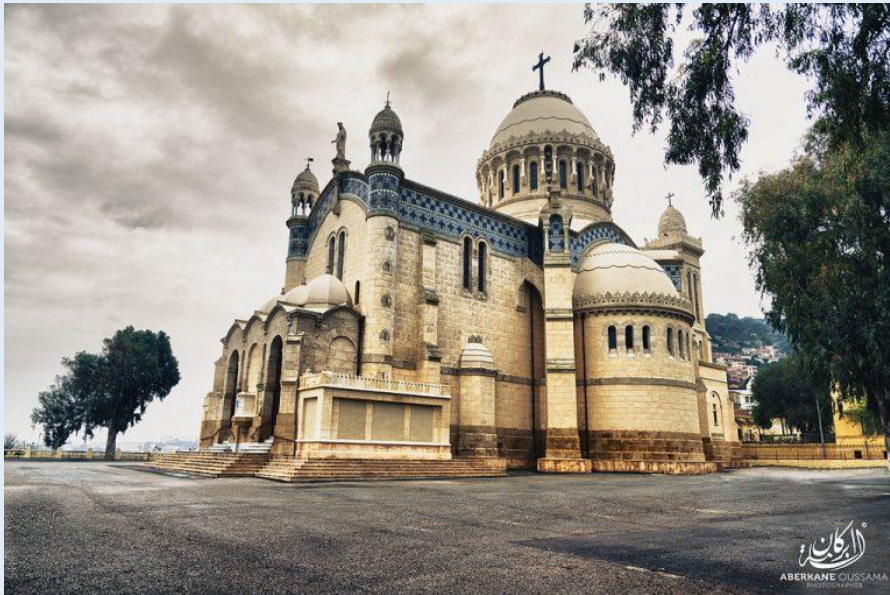
There are several districts, the oldest being that of the Casbah, classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The citadel is bound by Ottoman ramparts built at the end of the 16th century and descends to the sea. The slope is bordered by white houses with flat roofs topped with terraces.

The Casbah includes beautifully decorated and sculpted buildings such as the Great Mosque (11th century), the Sidi Abd al-Rahman Mosque (18th century) and the Dar Aziza Bent al-Bey, a 16th century palace.



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At the bottom of the Casbah, you will find the Palace of the Raïs, also called Bastion 23, which in fact comprises several buildings, including three palaces and six douerates (fishermen's houses). It houses the Museum of Arts and Culture.



On the heights, the Basilica of Our Lady of Africa was built by the French in the 19th century in a Moorish style. Taking the cableway from there, you can enjoy another superb view of the city.

Another religious building is the former cathedral of Saint-Philippe, transformed into a mosque after Independence and renamed Ketchaoua.



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Don't miss the Monument of the Martyrs that commemorates the glorious Algerian revolution and the thirty hectare Jardin d'Essai du Hamma.



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Algiers has many museums including the Museum of Modern Art (MaMa) and a National Museum of Fine Arts with rich European collections.

The best way to visit Algiers is to walk through the neighbourhoods, stop for a coffee, ask for directions, and make warm and friendly encounters at the same time.



Algiers has restaurants offering typical Algerian cuisine, but also, as in all capitals, you will find pizzerias, Thai restaurants and fast food. There is something for everyone. If you want to have a drink, there is everything, from a small shop in the Casbah to the posh bars of Sidi Yahia in the Hydra area. There are also delivery services that deliver meals from nearly all restaurants.

Some good traditional restaurants

<https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Restaurants-g293718-Algiers-Algiers-Province.html>



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To buy groceries and all kinds of everyday needs, there is at least one big open market (Souk) in almost every district in Algiers. There are also supermarkets and smaller grocery shops in all neighbourhoods.



## Malls in Algiers

- Bab Ezzouar Center
- Ben Aknoun Shopping Center
- Ardis
- City Center

Some food delivery apps

Yassir Food

<https://express.yassir.io/>

Djumia Food

<https://food.jumia.dz/restaurants>

## Gelato

There are a range of gelato bars all over Algiers. Gelato is very popular with the Algerians especially during the hot summer months.



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## Transport and travel in Algiers

Your first step in Algiers will be at Houari Boumediene airport which is 20 km west to Algiers centre. Algiers is connected by several transportation networks. Buses as well as taxis are frequently used. There is a metro line that goes from the centre of the city to the eastern coast and also a tramway line. There are also drivers' services that can be ordered through phone apps for immediate pickups. It is easy to find most locations, businesses and services using the global positioning system (GPS). The main railway station in Algiers, Agha, serves lines that will take you to many parts of the country; Bejaïa, Constantine, Annaba, Oran and Tlemcen.

## Some Prices:

Bus : between 20 and 70 DA (In Algiers)

Metro : 50 DA for a single journey

Tramway : 40 DA

## Communication services:

Internet: 4G Internet prices range from 1,000DA up to 4,000DA and it is basically the same for phone subscriptions.

In Algeria, there are 3 mobile telephone operators; Mobilis, Djezzy and Ooredoo.

Algeria allows most apps and internet services that are available across the globe and there are very few restrictions on internet navigation.

## Hospitals :

All hospitals are within a 10 km drive from the centre of Algiers and can be found on GPS:

Hopital Mustapha Bacha, City centre  
Hopital Ben Aknoun, west of Algiers  
Hopital Birtraria, Elbiar , City centre  
Hopital Beni Messous, west of Algiers.



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## Culture & Society Dos and Don'ts :

Algerian society is a tolerant and inclusive one. However, you should not drink alcohol in public unless it is in a bar/hotel. Purchasing alcohol for home consumption is fine.

It is better not to eat in public during Ramadan.

It is standard to greet by shaking hands or kissing cheeks – Obviously COVID has changed this practice though things are slowly recovering.

Dogs are seen as unclean by many.

## Swimming



## And for children



## Roman remains:

Algeria is the African country with the most Roman sites which are among the best-preserved in the world. Four are a must to visit: Tipaza by the sea, west of Algiers, and a little further on, Cherchell. Inland, there are the sites of Djemila to the north-east of Sétif, and finally the city of Thamugadi in Timgad, Batna. Southwest of Setif, the archaeological site of Kalâa des Beni Hammad is not Roman but is worth the detour, at 1.000m altitude (classified UNESCO).



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## Constantine:



In the east of the country, Constantine is nestled on the cliffs of the Rummel gorge. This cultural and historical city is popular with students. The Abdelkader Great Mosque is the place where the courses of the University of Islamic Sciences are held.

Constantine is nicknamed the city of suspension bridges especially for its impressive Sidi M' Cid and Sidi Rached bridges.

## Oran:



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This radiant port city is the second largest in the country. Oran boasts a port, the Fort of Santa Cruz, many vineyards and a spectacular coastline. Moreover, the coast of Oran is very well equipped to welcome tourists with multiple seaside resorts such as those of Madagh and Bouzedjar. You can also go to Mostaganem from where Charles de Gaulle pronounced for the last time "Vive l'Algérie française" (Long live French Algeria).

## Tlemcen:

This town is located south of Oran close to the Moroccan border. The city is famous for being the capital of Arab-Andalusian music. Its mosques and old town are very pleasant to visit. A stay here allows you to see the surrounding villages of Mansourah, Nédroma and its mosque, and the waterside villages of Ghazaouet and Honaine.



## What you should bring with you:

- Your medication.
- Your favourite toiletries.
- Type C plug adapter (you can buy them in Algiers for 50 DA).



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- Sports Halls
- Swimming pools
- Climbing
- Escape rooms
- Cinemas (French and English)
- Paintball
- Parks and gardens
- Karting
- Laser games
- Night clubs
- Bowling
- Malls
- Aquapark
- Museums
- Beaches

## Events:

- FIBDA : Festival international de la bande dessinée d'Alger
- SILA : Salon international du livre d'Alger

## Useful numbers :

- **Firefighters: 14 or 1021**
- **National Gendarmerie: 1055**
- **Child abuse: 3033**
- **SAMU: 16 or 3016**
- **Medical assistance: 115**
- **Police: 17 or 1548**
- **SEAAL (Water) : 15 94**
- **Sonelgaz (gas and electricity) : 3303**



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## FAQ :

Q : Is Algiers family-friendly?

A: Yes. Family life is a central part of Algerian society.

Q: Are there clubs where adults/children can swim?

A: Yes. They are reasonably priced in comparison to the UK.

Q: Where can we learn languages?

A:

- French: Institut Français d'Alger.
- Italian: Istituto Italiano di Cultura Algeri.
- Spanish: L'Institut Cervantes d'Alger.

Q: Can my children go cycling/join sports clubs?

A: Yes. There are generally several sports clubs in each commune of Algiers but there are no dedicated cycle paths.

Q: Are there nice parks for families to go to?

A:

- Jardin d'essai.
- Baïnem.
- Bouchaoui.
- 5 juillet (Olympic complex).

Q: Can I buy everything easily, nappies, toiletries, food?

A: Yes, but if you like a particular brand ask the staff first and they will find out for you.

Q: Is it politically stable? Safe?

A: Yes, it is safe. There is a peaceful protest movement called the "Hirak" though it has not been very active since Covid.

Q: Are the people tolerant of other religions?

A: Yes, but there are certain rules to respect (go to Culture & Society Dos and Don'ts).

Q: Are there often power cuts?

A: Rarely.

Q: Are there often cuts in the water supply?



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A: In many parts of Algiers, water is not available at certain times of day. The accommodation provided by the school has reservoirs to provide continuity of water supply.

Q: What is the internet coverage like?

A: Depends on the region, in Algiers there is fairly good coverage. There can be service interruptions. The school has its own dedicated optical fibre connection to the main Algeria Telecom network.

