

Your Guide to Algiers

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

Given its history, there are many very attractive examples of French architecture, one of the most notable being La Grand Poste.

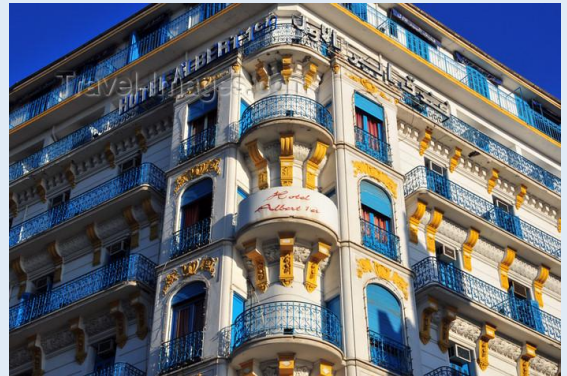


You can mail your letter in the original mailbox with its mosaic surround, sharing an experience which has been enjoyed by all since the turn of the 20th century

French colonial buildings proliferate! See below



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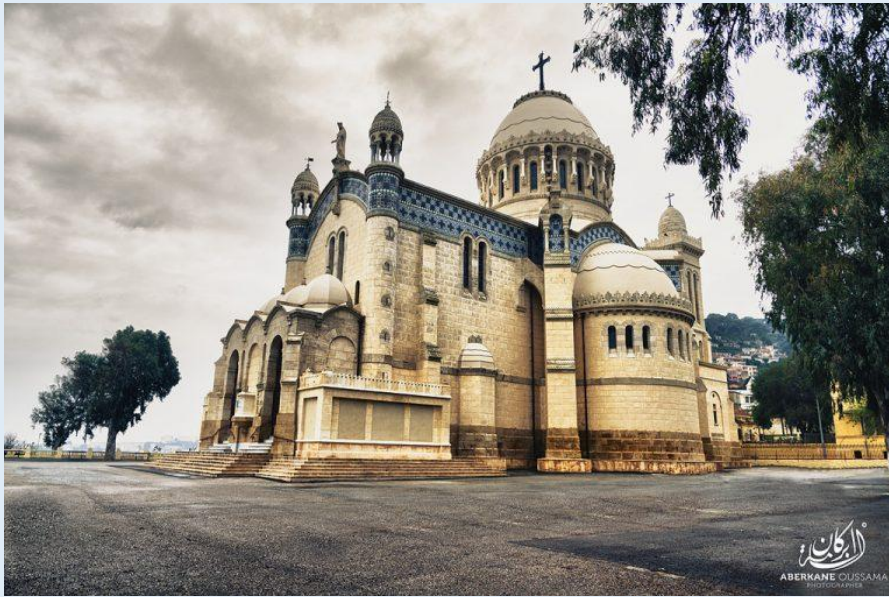
Algeria boasts 7 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. One of which is the Casbah, located in the capital, Algiers. The citadel is bound by Ottoman ramparts built at the end of the 16th century and descends to the sea. The slope is bordered by white flat-roofed houses, topped with terraces.

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.

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.

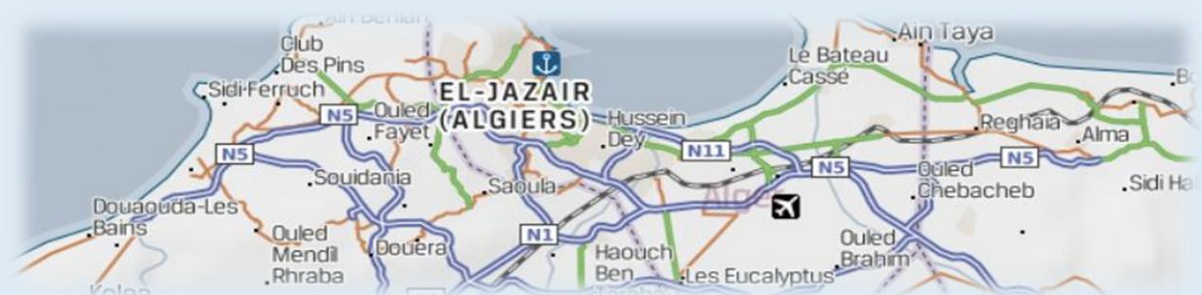


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On the heights, overlooking Algiers is the Basilica of Our Lady of Africa. It was built by the French in the 19th century in a Moorish style. Taking the cableway from there, you can enjoy another superb view of the city.

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.



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. You are sure to be greeted with a friendly smile and guided on how best to reach your destination.



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Algiers has restaurants offering typical Algerian cuisine but, as in all capital cities, 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>

To buy fruit, vegetables, meat 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 on practically every corner in all neighbourhoods.



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Malls in Algiers

- Bab Ezzouar Centre
- Ben Aknoun Shopping Centre

- Ardis
- City Centre
- Garden City Mall

Some food delivery apps

Yassir Food

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

Djumia Food

<https://foodandtravel.com/travel/48hours/algiers>

Gelato

There is 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. Yassir is one example. It is easy to find most locations because businesses and services use 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 or restaurant serving alcohol. Purchasing alcohol for home consumption is fine.

Not eating or smoking in public during Ramadan is appreciated by those fasting. Lunch is still served in the school canteen during Ramadan.

Swimming

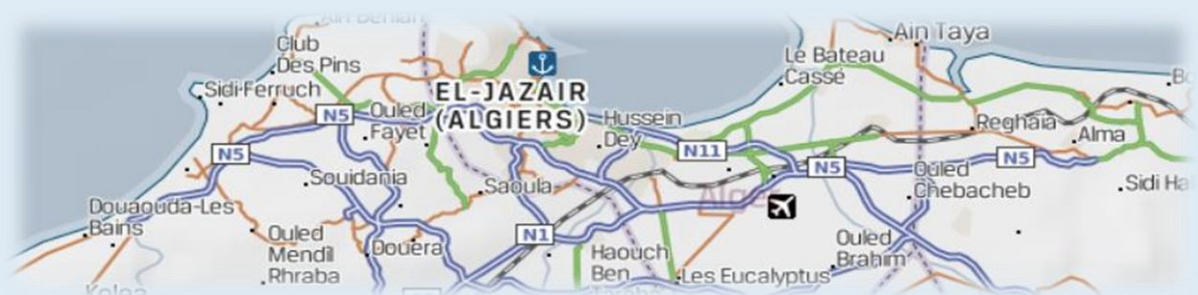


And for children



Roman remains:

Algeria is the African country with the most Roman sites. They are among the best-preserved in the world. Visiting the following four is thoroughly recommended although there are many more besides. Tipaza, on the coast to the west of Algiers and a little further on, Cherchell. Inland, there are the sites of Djemila to the north-east of Sétif, and the city of Thamugadi in Timgad, Batna. To the south-west of Setif, lies the archaeological site of Kalâa des Beni Hammad. It is not Roman but at over 1000m above sea level, it is worth a detour (UNESCO classified).



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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 where University of Islamic Sciences courses are held. Constantine is

nicknamed the 'city of suspension bridges' especially because of 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 the Fort of Santa Cruz, acres of vineyards and a spectacular coastline. The area is well equipped to welcome tourists with multiple seaside resorts such as those of Madagh and Bouzedjar. You can also go to Mostaganem 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 Honaïne.



What you should bring with you:

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



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In Algiers you will find many ways to spend your free time:

- 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: Instituto Italiano di Cultura Algeri.
- Spanish: L'Instituto 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.

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. Both the school building and the staff accommodation provided by the school have reservoirs to provide continuity of water supply.

Q: What is the internet coverage like?

A: It 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.

