

PRESENTATION OF ALGERIA

Algeria (or El Djezaïr) is located in the north of the African continent bordered by the Mediterranean Sea and is part of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMG). Its surface area is 2,381,741 km².

Algeria is the largest country in Africa, Arab world and Mediterranean Basin, and the tenth largest country in the world. It has 1,622 km of Mediterranean coastline. Algeria shares more than 6,385 km land borders with several countries. It has common borders with seven neighbouring countries, namely:

- Tunisia in the North-East.
- Libya in the East.
- Niger and Mali in the South.
- Mauritania and Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR.) in the South-West.
- and Morocco in the West.

Algeria is divided into 58 provinces (wilayas) which are decentralized regional authorities of the State. They shall have legal personality and financial autonomy. They are also decentralised administrative districts of the State with two bodies:

- People's Provincial Assembly (APW), a deliberative body.
- The prefect (Wali), executive and representative body of the Government.

Each province (wilaya) covers a specific number of municipalities. The Daïra (subdivision) is an administrative extension of the province. Thus, the 58 provinces include 1,541 municipalities and 535 Daïras.

People's Provincial Assembly (APW), which is the deliberative body, decides by deliberation matters within its competence and on any matter of interest to the province.

The Prefect (Wali), appointed by the President of the Republic, is a representative of the State and representative of the province. He ensures the enforcement of laws and regulations and ensures the implementation of decisions of the People's Provincial Assembly (APW).

Each municipality has its own deliberative body, the People's Municipal Assembly (APC), which elects its own president, who serves as mayor.

Algeria's urbanization rate is around 60% and is permanently growing. Algeria has more than thirty-seven urban areas with more than 100,000 inhabitants, almost all concentrated in the north of the country. The densely populated city is the capital Algiers, a megalopolis of more than six million inhabitants, making it the first town in the Maghreb.

Algeria has a privileged geographical position and a considerable area. It is composed of different landscapes, mountains areas, Mediterranean scenery, vast semi-arid highlands, and lunar desert areas.

In the north of Algeria, a Mediterranean climate dominates, with hot and humid summers and mild winters. The more you go to the south, the more the climate becomes semi-arid to arid with higher temperatures, especially in the Sahara where the range of temperatures are considerable.

- **Population:** 44,700,000 inhabitants (January 2019 estimate, source ONS, note n°890).
- **Density:** 18,40 inhabitant /km².
- **Capital:** Algiers.
- **Languages:** Arabic and Tamazight.
- **Religion:** Sunni Islam.
- **Currency:** Algerian dinar.
- **Regime:** People's Democratic Republic of Algeria is a constitutional representative democracy which relies on a multiparty semi-presidential system.
- **President of the Republic:** Mr. Abdelmadjid TEBBOUNE.
- **Demographics:** almost half the population is under 20 years old.

WORKING DAYS:

- **Working days :** Sunday to Thursday inclusive.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

- **Legal holidays:** New Year's Day (1st of January), Labour Day (1st of May), Independence Day (5th of July), National Day (1st of November).
- **Religious holidays :** Eid El Fitr, Eid El Adha, Awal Muharem, Achoura, Mawlid Ennabaoui (lunar calendar).

UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- Kalâa of Béni Hammad (1980).
- Djémila (1982).
- Tassili n'Ajjer (1982).
- Timgad (1982).
- Tipasa (1982).
- M'Zab Valley (1982).
- Casbah of Algiers (1992).

COATS OF ARMS OF THE REPUBLIC AND THE NATIONAL FLAG

The coats of arms of People's Democratic Republic of Algeria are in the form of a circumference with the following inscription on the outside in Arabic: People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the following symbols inside:



- In the top, the sun rising on a mountain.
- In the centre, a symmetrical goldsmith's hand around the middle finger, the three middle fingers joined, the two fingers of the ends finished in beak of dove bearing an olive branch.
- In the bottom, the crescent and the star.
- On the right, the ballot box topped with three different ears and oak leaves.
- On the left, an olive branch with fruit, overlaid with a palm tree and topped with roofs and factory chimneys and oil drilling rigs.



The flag of People's Democratic Republic of Algeria consists of a green and white rectangle with a red star and a red crescent.

Sources:

National Office of Statistics (ONS)
Departments of Foreign Affaires Ministry
Ministry of Interior, local authorities, and town planning