

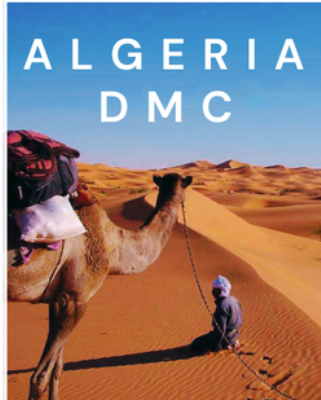


ALGERIA DMC

— YOUR GUIDE IN ALGERIA —

www.algeria-dmc.com

Roman Cities of Algeria & Ghardaïa Oasis Tour



From Natural Wonders to Archaeological Treasures

12 Days / 11 Nights

**IMPORTANT about the visa : No need to go to the Algerian Consulate to obtain your visa. We handle the formalities for you!
You receive your visa by email and pay the visa fees upon arrival in Algeria.**

Day 1 – Wednesday: Algiers



Arrival in Algiers and airport welcome.

Departure towards the city centre with a stop on the heights to admire the Makam Echahid. This monument, erected in the early 1980s in memory of the Algerian fighters who fell for the country's liberation, dominates the city at 92 meters high. It consists of three concrete palms joined together, symbolizing the three revolutions. Continuing towards the hotel, a stop to admire the new Mosque of Algiers from the outside, the second largest mosque in the Muslim world after the one in Saudi Arabia.

Check-in at the hotel, followed by a city tour of Algiers, visiting the famous Grande Poste, the National Theatre, the Wilaya (Algiers Prefecture), the Galeries de France (now converted into a Museum of Modern Art), and the Church of the Sacred Heart, renowned for its striking architecture.

Finally, we will ascend to the heights of Algiers to admire the Basilica of Our Lady of Africa, overlooking the famous Bâb el Oued district.

Day 2 – Thursday: Algiers – The Casbah



Departure to explore the city of Algiers, whose Casbah forms the fortress of the medina. Since 1992, this historic district has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. We will visit the Citadel, seat of power in the 18th century during the Regency of Algiers, and the Maison du Centenaire, designed by French architect Léon Claro (1899–1991), built in the heart of a garden in 1930 to mark the centenary of French colonization.

Then, we will cross the Casbah through a labyrinth of narrow streets, stopping at panoramic terraces to admire the famous Bay of Algiers. During the visit, we will enter some traditional houses to taste tea and local pastries. Next, we will visit the Sidi Ramdane Mosque, the oldest mosque in Algiers, dating back to the time of the medieval Berber dynasties (10th–11th century). Along the way, we will see the Aïn Bir Chebana Fountain, which still supplies water to the Casbah, the Mausoleum of Sidi Abderahmane (17th century), and the Palace of Mustapha Pacha (now the Museum of Arabic Calligraphy), built at the end of the 18th century.

In the afternoon, we will explore the Boulevard du Front de Mer, a 1,500-meter-long seafront promenade inaugurated by Napoleon III in 1865 and originally named Boulevard de l'Impératrice Eugénie, later renamed Boulevard de la République, and today called Boulevard Che Guevara. Designed by architect Frédéric Chassériau, it is lined with arcaded buildings and often compared to Rue de Rivoli in Paris. From here, visitors can enjoy not only a magnificent view of the bay but also the city's most iconic buildings. Further along, we will see the National Theatre (1853) in neo-baroque style, and the lively Bâb El Oued district, which includes neighborhoods such as Guillemain, Trois Horloges, Baceta, Climat de France, and Trioli.

The day concludes with a visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of Africa, consecrated in 1872 in Romanesque-Byzantine style, located on a hill overlooking the city.

Dinner in a local restaurant and overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 3 – Friday: Cherchell – Tipaza – Tomb of the Christian Woman (100 km – 1:30)



After breakfast, departure for Cherchell, the ancient Caesarea, capital of the Roman Mauretania Caesariensis, whose origins date back to the Phoenician era. Visit the archaeological remains and the National Public Museum of Cherchell, which houses a remarkable collection of mosaics, statues, inscriptions, and stelae, among the most important in the Maghreb.

Lunch during the excursion.

In the afternoon, continue to Tipasa, today a UNESCO World Heritage site, which was once a Punic trading post and coastal commercial hub. During the Roman period, the city experienced significant development, as evidenced by the numerous buildings and diverse architectural styles. Between the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, Tipasa underwent an intense Christian phase, with the construction of many churches and basilicas, some still adorned with well-preserved mosaics. After the Vandal invasion of 430, Tipasa gradually lost its importance, and despite its reconquest by the Byzantines in 531, it began to decline from the 6th century onwards.

The excursion continues to the majestic Royal Mausoleum of Mauretania, known as the Tomb of the Christian Woman.

It dates back to the Numidian period and, according to many historians, was built by King Juba II and his wife, Queen Cleopatra Selene.

Return to Algiers, dinner at a local restaurant, and overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 4 – Saturday: Algiers – Djemila – Batna (approx. 280 km – 3:00)



Early breakfast and departure towards Djémila. Classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site, Djémila (ancient Cuicul) is located at 900 meters above sea level and represents an exceptional example of Roman urban planning adapted to a mountainous environment. With its forum, temples, basilicas, triumphal arches, and houses, Cuicul is considered one of the most beautiful Roman ruin complexes in the world. Founded by army veterans under Emperor Nerva (late 1st century AD), the city experienced significant development under the reign of the Antonines and the Severans. In late antiquity, it also acquired a Christian quarter, with a basilica and baptistery. Lunch in a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, a walk through the ruins of the ancient city, where visitors can admire, among other sites, the Arch of Caracalla, the Grand Baths of Commodus, the forum, the macellum (market), and the Temple of Venus Genetrix. Before leaving the site, visit the archaeological museum, which houses treasures discovered during excavations, including an extraordinary collection of mosaics with colours still remarkably vivid.

Continue to Batna, check-in at the hotel, and dinner.

Day 5 – Sunday: Timgad – Constantine (180 km – 2 hours) and flight to Ghardaïa



Departure to explore the city of Timgad, founded as a fortified outpost by Emperor Trajan at the edge of the Sahara, in the heart of the Aurès Mountains, to protect the region from Berber attacks. Located on a strategic axis controlling key passages across North Africa, Timgad (Thamugadi in Latin) was later conquered by the Vandals, Moors, Byzantines, and finally the Arabs. Nicknamed the "Pompeii of Africa," it owes this title to its remarkable state of preservation. Alongside Pompeii, it is one of the rare Roman cities that remain almost entirely intact. During the visit, highlights include the imposing Arch of Trajan, the Cardo Maximus and Decumanus, the forum, temples, markets, ancient houses, and libraries, offering insight into daily life in Roman times.

Lunch in a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, continue to Constantine, starting with the National Cirta Museum, founded in 1931. The museum has three departments dedicated to archaeology, ethnography, and fine arts, housing artifacts from the various civilizations that succeeded one another in the region: Numidian, Carthaginian, Greco-Egyptian, Roman, Christian, and Muslim.

Next, visit the Palace of the Bey, built between 1825 and 1835 for Ahmed Bey, who had to leave it in 1837 following the arrival of the French. The tour continues with the Grand Mosque, erected in the 11th century on the site of a church and considered the city's oldest religious building, and the Regional Theatre of Constantine, an elegant structure from the French colonial era. A stroll then leads through the Arab medina, known as "the Rock" for its spectacular location on a limestone plateau. The day ends with a stop at the University Hill, designed by the renowned architect Oscar Niemeyer.

Dinner at a local restaurant, followed by transfer to the airport for the flight Constantine 21:10 – Ghardaïa 22:15.

Arrival, transfer to the hotel, and overnight stay.

Day 6 – Monday: Ghardaïa, Capital of the M’Zab

In the morning, visit Ghardaïa El Atteuf, the oldest of the Ksour. El Atteuf is the first city built in the M’Zab Valley. This authentic town, which houses the Cheikh Sidi Brahim Mosque, inspired Le Corbusier in the design of the Chapel of Ronchamp in Haute-Saône, France, in 1955. Visit the market square, rectangular in shape and about 3,400 m², surrounded by a gallery of arches of various shapes and sizes, with numerous shops.

Lunch in town.

In the afternoon, explore the old town of Ghardaïa, including its mosque, a traditional Mozabite house, the underground mosque Cheikh Ammi Saïd, the holy city with its mosque on the hill, and the old Ksar, surrounded by several cemeteries. Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 7 – Tuesday: Ghardaïa – Béni Izguen



The morning is dedicated to a visit of the Palmeraie gardens and the water distribution system, as the M’Zab is also famous for its hydraulic structures: dams, underground galleries, and wells. Together, they form an ingenious system that once allowed water to be stored and redistributed to irrigate family gardens. This system is world-renowned and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1982. Lunch in town. In the afternoon, continue to Béni Izguen, where visitors can attend the Auction Market, a unique and very ancient market. Here, locals bring items they no longer use, and the sales are regulated by the mosque, with auctioneers appointed by religious authorities. Visitors can observe and even participate in the auctions, enjoying moments of interaction

and exchange with the local population. Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 8 – Wednesday: Ghardaïa – El Goléa (290 km)

Departure towards El Goléa. Visit the palace of the Zenete princess, which overlooks the “city of one hundred thousand palm trees,” and the Church of Saint Joseph, home to the tomb of Charles de Foucauld.

Continue to the salt lake of the oasis and enjoy lunch in a local guesthouse.

In the afternoon, discover the migratory bird refuge, where for centuries pink flamingos and storks have stopped over in this wetland in the heart of the desert. The day ends with the contemplation of the sunset, while enjoying tea prepared over a wood fire.

Arrival and check-in at Hotel Bousten, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 9 – Thursday: El Goléa – Timimoun (380 km)



Departure towards Timimoun, crossing the Erg Occidental, which will enchant you with its vast stretches of golden dunes. Stop at the Oasis of M’ghiden before continuing on to Timimoun.

Arrival around 12:30 p.m. and traditional lunch in a local guesthouse.

In the afternoon, enjoy a 4x4 excursion among the dunes, where you can collect desert roses and even climb the sand dunes. The day ends atop the dunes, watching the famous sunset while sipping tea prepared over a wood fire.

Return for dinner and overnight stay at Djenane Ahyd.

Day 10 – Friday: Timimoun

Departure for one of the most beautiful sites in the Gourara region, with a visit to the cave, cliffs, and ksour of Ighzer. Continue with the discovery of the Oasis of Ouled Saïd and its famous foggara, an ancient irrigation system dating back several centuries. Picnic lunch among the palm groves of the oasis.

In the afternoon, visit Kalil and its traditional pottery workshops, then transfer to Aghlad to admire the ksour built from black clay, dating back to the 11th century. Proceed to Tala, a historic resting village for ancient scholars, known for its Seguias — fresh water springs hidden beneath the dunes.

Dinner and overnight stay in a local guesthouse.

Day 11 – Saturday: Flight Timimoun – Algiers

After breakfast, take a walk through the palm groves of Timimoun. Enjoy the refreshing atmosphere of these oases (true havens of peace in the heart of the desert) and meet the local people. Visit the foggara (traditional underground irrigation system) and the old town, famous for its ochre-colored architecture. Stop at the ancient mosque and the souk located in the heart of the medina, where local products and traditional crafts will delight visitors.

Lunch in a local guesthouse.

In the afternoon, visit the House of Handicrafts to discover the region's traditional trades. Don't miss the city's most distinctive natural phenomenon; the encroachment of desert sand, which slowly covers the streets and gives Timimoun its unique charm. Transfer to the airport for flight Timimoun 15:00 – Algiers 17:20. Arrival in Algiers and transfer to the hotel. Dinner in town.

Day 12 – Sunday: Museums, Jardin d'Essai, and Return Flight

Visit the Museum of Antiquities, located in the Parc de la Liberté on the heights of Algiers. The museum houses a vast collection of artifacts discovered during excavations carried out across the country since the early 20th century. Visitors can admire numerous mosaics, Greco-Roman sculptures, bronzes, and steles, as well as rooms dedicated to Muslim, Islamic, and Near Eastern art. Continue to the National Bardo Museum, housed in an 18th-century historical mansion, whose collections are devoted to prehistory and ethnology. The visit concludes at the National Museum of Fine Arts, open to the public since the 1930s. The museum preserves over 8,000 works, including paintings by great Dutch and French masters such as Brueghel, Renoir, Monet, Matisse, Delacroix, Van Goyen, Gauguin, and Pissarro.

Lunch at a restaurant in the Jardin d'Essai, located at the foot of the Museum of Fine Arts. Created in 1832, the garden features the French Garden on its western side and the English Garden on its southeastern side, as well as several stone sculptures by Émile Gaudissard.

Transfer to the airport for the return flight.



What's included in this tour:

- 03 nights at the 4* Ralf hotel in Algiers
- 01 night at the 4* Messaoudi hotel in Batna
- **Sunday Flight from Constantine 21:10 to Ghardaïa 22:15**
- 03 nights at the 4* Belvedere 4* hotel in Ghardaïa
- 01 night at the 3* El Boustene hotel in El Goléa
- 02 nights at the 3 Djenane Ahid/ 3* Gourara hotel in Timimoun
- **Saturday Flight from Timimoun 15:00 to Algiers 17:20**
- 01 night at the 4* Lamaraz hotel in Algiers
- Comfortable coach + driver
- English-speaking guide for 10 days
- Logistic assistant for 10 days
- Guided visits included at all sites and museums
- Full board (dinners outside hotels)
- **Sunday Departure from Algiers**

What's not included in this tour:

- International flights
- Multi-risk cancellation and repatriation insurance
- Drinks, extras, and personal expenses
- Visa fees: **€185**, payable in cash upon arrival
- Optional gratuities
- Single supplement: ask for the program



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