



Algeria

POP 37.4 MILLION

Includes →

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Best Places for History

- ▶ Algier's Casbah (p47)
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Best Places to Stay

- ▶ Residence des Deux Tours (p50)
- ▶ Hotel Ksar Massine (p51)
- ▶ Royal Hotel (p49)

Why Go?

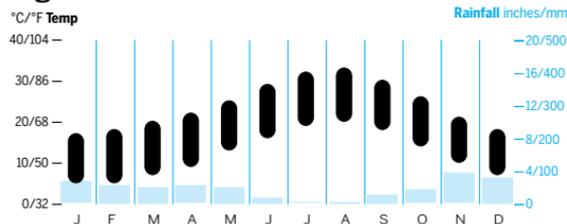
Africa's largest country lies just a short hop from Europe and, with tourists still a novelty, offers attractions as unpeopled as they are varied. The capital, Algiers, is one of the Maghreb's most urbane and charismatic cities, with a heady, nostalgic mix of colonial and modernist architecture, and a traditional medina at its vertiginous heart. Across the north are stunning coastlines, lush rural hinterland and a number of well-preserved Roman cities.

Algeria's trump card is, though, its extraordinary Saharan region. Whether it's a glimpse of the sand seas that surround Timimoun, or a plunge headlong into the far south from Tamanrasset, these are the desert landscapes of dream and legend.

Perhaps best of all, Algerians welcome visitors with warmth and a genuine curiosity. For accessible adventure and a complex, enthralling cultural odyssey, head for Algeria now.

When to Go

Algiers



Nov–Apr Less fierce temperatures = high season in the Sahara (the autumn date harvest a bonus).

Mar–Jul The north literally blooms in spring; warm, dry days for exploring sprawling Roman sites.

Aug Oran's annual Raï festival and Ramadan.

ALGIERS

📍 021 / POP 5 MILLION

Algiers (Al-Jazaïr) never fails to make an impression. This is a city of rare beauty and of thrilling, disorientating, and sometimes brutal, contrast. The country's turbulent history is writ large in the city's richly textured architecture: wide French-built boulevards and elegant apartments and villas, Socialista-era monuments and public buildings, and an enduring Islamic heart secreted in the steep,

hillside Casbah. Labyrinthine streets spill down to the big blue of the Bay of Algiers, sea and sky and green ravines glimpsed at every step. Though people often spend just enough time in Algiers to organise an onward journey, it's a fascinating place well worth at least a couple of days' exploration.

👁️ Sights

Much of the enjoyment to be had in Algiers comes from clambering up its steep streets, strolling in the parks and taking in



Algeria Highlights

- 1 Experience 'la Blanche', the country's fascinating capital, **Algiers** (p45), where modern, traditional and colonial Algeria meet.
- 2 Strike out into the dunes of the Grand Erg Occidental

- 3 Watch the sun set beyond a sea of mountains and sleep under the stars in **Assekrem** (p51).

- 4 Bargain for a boldly patterned carpet in the main square of **Ghardaïa** (p50), peek at a pristine medieval town then swimming in the shade of date palms.