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The troubled history of Algiers is manifested in its cityscape, architecture and culture. The capital (and the largest city) of Algeria holds impressive monuments and curious surprises for visitors. French and Islamic influences exist next to each other and make it a place as diverse as its people. Visit richly coloured mosques, discover sights and ruins of days gone by, and taste the spicy and delicious food of northern Africa.

*NOTE:* This Guide has been limited to 20 points of interest per section. For the full guide, please visit <u>ArrivalGuides.com</u>





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# Destination: Algiers Publishing date: 2019-12-10

# THE CITY



Henry\_Marion/Flickr.com (image cropped)

Located in the northern part of Africa, Algeria combines Arab, Berber and French cultures, and offers diverse landscapes: here you can experience and explore everything from desert adventures to urban sightseeing. Just a stone's throw from Europe, the political and cultural capital Algiers gives you an authentic glimpse of the country's struggles and developments throughout history, rooted deeply in the city's architecture and religious buildings. Founded by Berbers as Al-Jaza'ir, Turkish, Spanish and French influences are part of its heritage.

The nickname "Alger La Blanche" is due to the many beautiful whitewashed French houses facing the Mediterranean Sea. Dazzling sights as the UNESCO world heritage Casbah, a stunning and well-preserved 16th century citadel, as well as the mosques and the old town will keep you busy for days. As the majority is of the country is Muslim, customs and holidays follow Islam traditions.

# DO & SEE



Dmitry Pichugin/Shutterstock.com

Apart from museums and cultural sights, it is also the architecture of the city that offers visitors a glimpse into Algiers' history. Have a look at the French influences in architecture and discover great Islamic places of worship. You will find Algiers a diverse place of cultural coexistence and various beliefs.

## Casbah



Casbah is the name of a 16th century citadel in Algiers and also denotes the city's old town. You can wonderfully get lost in its maze of narrow

streets and explore the area as you stroll. In 1992, UNESCO declared this site a world cultural heritage.

Photo: PhR610/Flickr.com (image cropped) Address: Casbah, Algiers

# Notre-Dame d'Afrique Basilica



This fantastic Roman Catholic cathedral, also known as Madame l'Afrique, can't absolutely be missed in Algiers. The stunning building,

completed in the late 19th century, features a

grandiose interior and, since 2012, it is listed between the historical monuments in Algeria.

Photo: Nate Hovee/Shutterstock.com Address: Rue de Zighara, Bologhine, Algiers

### Dar Hassan Pacha



Named after its owner, who was the Minister of Finances at the end of the 18th century, Dar Hassan Pacha is a well-preserved palace, rebuilt

throughout the years. It served as residence for governors and emperors passing Algiers. While Dar Hassan Pacha is closed to the public, it is a popular motive for pictures for its impressive facade and lovely central patio.

Photo: Sofilou/Shutterstock.com Address: Casbah, Algiers

## La Grande Poste d'Alger



When strolling around the city centre it is impossible not to notice this majestic white building and, if you are impressed by its exterior,

you should definitely see the spectacular interior decor. Built in 1910 by the architects Jules Voinot and Marius Toudoire, it once represented the city forum and today certainly is one of the main touristic spots, standing in stark contrast to the surrounding buildings. The Grand Post Office also hosts a museum dedicated to the history of Algerian post and telecommunications.

Photo: Debdoub90/Wikimedia Commons (image cropped) Address: Rue Larbi Ben M'hidi, Algiers

#### Djama'a al-Djedid



Djama'a al-Djedid, which means "the new mosque" in Arabic, is one of the historical mosques in Algiers. Completed in the 17th century, it was built

in the Moorish architectural tradition. This is one of the most important buildings dating back to the Ottoman presence in the city.

Photo: faroukb16/Shutterstock.com Address: Algiers

### **Martyrs' Memorial**



Erected in 1982 close to the Botanical Garden Hamma, "Mémorial du Martyr" commemorates the Algerian war of independence. It

symbolises three palm leaves with a burning flame of eternity beneath, and honours people killed in the war between the 1950s and the 1960s.

Photo: Henry\_Marion/Flickr.com (image cropped) Address: Chemin Omar Kechkar, Algiers

### Ketchaoua Mosque



Situated in the world heritage site of the Casbah old town, the Ketchaoua Mosque was built in the 17th century in a unique combination

of Moorish and Byzantine styles. The magnificent architecture of this building has made it to become one of the most visited sights in the city.

Photo: faroukb16/Shutterstock.com Address: Casbah, Algiers

## **Botanical Garden Hamma**



Jardin d'Essai du Hamma is the name of the city's botanical garden, which gives you an insight into the beauty of North African nature. It was

established by the French during occupation and today features impressive plants and flowers of the region. Stroll through the green meadows and relax in the shadow of the tall trees.

Photo: TUNESHI ALLAIN/Shutterstock.com Address: Rue Hassiba Ben Bouali, Algiers Phone: +213 21 67 22 92 Internet: www.jardinbotaniqueduhamma.dz Email: info@jardinbotaniqueduhamma.dz More Info: Visiting times: www.jardinbotaniqueduhamma.dz/ visite-du-jardin/horaires-douverture.html

### Palais des Rais



Palais des Rais, also known as Bastion 23, consists of several houses facing the Mediterranean sea. The complex is used as exhibition spot for

events or shows. The main building can be visited and gives an excellent insight into Ottoman architecture in Algiers.

Photo: Mimosa dz/Wikimedia Commons (image cropped) Address: Boulevard Amara Mohamed Rachid, Casbah, Algiers

## **Bardo National Museum**



Located in a building from Ottoman times, the Bardo National Museum of Prehistory and Ethnography holds numerous treasures for

its visitors. Not only the changing exhibitions are very interesting, but also the stunning

architecture and pompous ornaments make this place worth a visit.

Photo: PhR610/Flickr.com (image cropped) Address: 3 Rue Franklin Roosevelt, Algiers Opening hours: 9:00-17:00 Phone: +213 21 61 24 53 Internet: museenationalbardo.business.site More Info: Closed on Fridays

### **Museum of Modern & Contemporary Art**



The National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MaMa) opened its doors in 2007 and aims to preserve the region's

cultural heritage, art and history. It supports locals artists by giving them a platform and invites visitors to take a closer look on contemporary works of art. Not only the exhibitions, but also the building, transformed from a department store to the museum it is today, make this place worth a visit.

Photo: Saber68/Wikimedia Commons (image cropped) Address: 25 Rue Larbi Ben M'hidi, Algiers Phone: +213 21 71 72 52 Internet: www.mama-dz.com Email: contact@mama-dz.com More Info: Opening times & Useful information: www.mama-dz.com/musee/horaire

## **Museum of Antiquities**



Experience art, antiques and the history of the region in the well-organised National Museum of Antiquities. Here you can see ancient

art, various collections of coins or sculptures and learn about Algeria's past. Fun and education is guaranteed at this place. Photo: Tuombre/Shutterstock.com Address: Avenue Franklin Roosevelt, Algiers

## **Museum of Popular Arts & Traditions**



If you're interested in art and history, this is the place for you to be. The National Museum of Traditions and Popular Arts brings old and new

together under one roof. Contemporary works of art as well as ancient local crafts are exhibited in the Ottoman building. The house alone is a landmark in Algiers and should not be missed on a sightseeing itinerary.

Photo: mehdi33300/Shutterstock.com Address: 9 Rue Mohamed Akli Malek, Casbah, Algiers Phone: +213 21 43 99 08

# DINING



margouillat photo/Shutterstock.com

The capital city of Algeria offers international cuisine as well as delicious local specialities. Among the typical ingredients of Algerian foods are fish, lamb, dates and olives seasoned with strong spices, such as coriander or cinnamon. Local dishes come in generous servings and are accompanied by couscous and various sauces. Prices are usually very low and only the high-class restaurants have the potential to break the bank.

## Taj Mahal



International cuisine can be found at each corner in Algiers and, if you're looking for some Indian-Pakistani food, you should come to Taj

Mahal, one of the best restaurants in town. Prepare for spicy curries, hot vegetarian dishes and lots of meat.

Photo: Joshua Resnick/Shutterstock.com Address: 7 Rue Idir Toumi, Ben Aknoun, Algiers Opening hours: 11:00-23:30 (Saturday to Thursday) 14:00-23:30 (Friday) Phone: +213 23 38 49 82 Email: alger.tajmahal@gmail.com

### El Djenina



This restaurant, in activity since 1968, is placed in a former palace and offers you a royal setting for a great dinner. The spacious halls are

heavily decorated and you will enjoy a great offer of traditional dishes and Algerian wines on the menu.

Photo: Daniel Korzeniewski/Shutterstock.com Address: 10 Rue Franklin Roosevelt, Algiers Opening hours: 12:00-14:45 19:00-23:00 Phone: +213 21 61 40 26 Internet: www.eldjenina.com Email: reservation@eldjenina.com More Info: Closed on Fridays

## La Palmeraie Restaurant



For authentic Moroccan cuisine you should drop in La Palmeraie, considered the best Moroccan restaurant in town. Lamb, couscous,

vegetarian dishes and a number of desserts are on the menu and will spice up your day. La Palmeraie has a friendly and warm atmosphere with background music.

Photo: e2dan/Shutterstock.com Address: 313 Coopérative El Moustakbel, Algiers Phone: +213 550 43 16 76

### Le Tyrolien



This grill restaurant is the ideal place for meat lovers. The rustic decor and the smell of fresh steaks on the fire will welcome you when

entering Le Tyrolien, situated in a busy streets (so that it is recommended to book a table). Go for a fine bottle of wine with your dinner and let the friendly staff take care of you.

Photo: Marian Weyo/Shutterstock.com Address: Rue Khaldoun, Algiers Phone: +213 21 73 90 46

### La Salsa



This Spanish restaurant has everything a hungry traveller could wish for. Drop by for spicy salsa, fresh avocado salad and tasty meat dishes. The

helpful staff will fulfil your every wish and help you with the choice of the best wine for your dinner. If you want to drop by for a quick lunch, there's a great offer of salads and cold bites for you.

Photo: stockcreations/Shutterstock.com Address: Bir Mourad Raïs, Algiers Phone: +213 21 60 32 64 Email: lasalsarestaurant@hotmail.fr

#### Havana



Havana Music & Food is one of the coolest places to eat in Algiers. It has a relaxing, vaguely Cuban atmosphere and a stylish decor, and you will not

only have some great food here, but also enjoy amazing live shows: musicians and flamenco dancers perform every weekend and on some Thursdays. The "Havana Nights" are always a lot of fun, but even if you decide to come by just for dinner you most certainly will not regret it.

Photo: Maksim Toome/Shutterstock.com Address: Centre Commercial & de Loisirs de Bab Ezzouar, Algiers

Opening hours: 11:00-23:00 (Saturday to Wednesday) 11:00-1:00 (Thursday) 15:00-1:00 (Friday) Phone: +213 782 36 20 01 Internet: www.havana-dz.com

### **Restaurant Erriane**



Erriane is you place for a quick bite in between a full day of sightseeing. Find your favourite among their great offer of salads, meat-plates and

vegetarian dishes. If you've got some time left, stay for a sweet dessert.

Photo: Naufal MQ/Shutterstock.com Address: 32 Rue Mohamed Belkahla, Vieux Kouba, Algiers Phone: +213 21 68 73 40 Internet: www.erriane.com  $Email: \ contact @restauranterriane.com \\$ 

## L'Honoré Restaurant



This glamorous French restaurant has everything you need for a romantic evening for two. Reserve a table for your candlelight dinner and

choose from a wide selection of fine wines. The vintage setting and high class dishes will delight you and your rendezvous. Don't walk out without trying one of the delicious Italian desserts.

Photo: Lestertair/Shutterstock.com Address: 36 Chemin Sidi Yahia, Hydra, Algiers Opening hours: 7:00-24:00 (Saturday to Thursday) 16:00-24:00 (Friday) Phone: +213 550 40 80 40 Internet: www.resto-lhonore.com Email: contact@resto-lhonore.com

# CAFES



Morocko/Shutterstock.com

The city offers you a great variety of cafes with beautiful ocean views and spacious terraces. Refresh yourself with a fruity drink or just relax and take a break from the sightseeing with a hot beverage.

### California Cafe



The ideal place for a long break at every time of the day, California Cafe adds some American chic to the Algiers. Come here for wonderful glazed

donuts, strong coffee and rich meals. You will also find a wide choice of coffee beverages, frappes, juices and smoothies, along with burgers and other amazing brunch food.

Photo: July Prokopiv/Shutterstock.com Address: La Forêt du Paradou, Hydra, Algiers Phone: +213 550 50 66 66

## Fit Coffee



If you want to taste one of the best coffees in town, head to Fit Coffee, a really nice venue with a laid back atmosphere. Founded in 1904 in

Belgium, the company has recently expanded as far as Algiers, and the coffee shop has rapidly become very popular. Its friendly staff will be happy to serve you amazing coffee, tea, smoothies and baked pastries.

Photo: PondPond/Shutterstock.com Address: 56 Rue Larbi Ben M'hidi, Algiers Opening hours: 7:00-20:00 (Saturday to Wednesday) 7:00-21:00 (Thursday) 10:00-21:00 (Friday) Phone: +213 661 48 35 36 Internet: www.fitcoffeeshop.com

## Milk Bar



The Milk Bar, a symbol of the Algerian liberation war, is located right on the square Emir Abdelkader and is a historical place for a

# Destination: Algiers Publishing date: 2019-12-10

coffee with a great view from the lovely terrace. Both regular clients and tourists love its modern, relaxing atmosphere, as well as the tea, juices and traditional pastries served there.

Photo: prakij yimsri/Shutterstock.com Address: 2 Rue Larbi Ben M'hidi, Algiers Phone: +213 661 51 05 42

## **Coffee Box**



Inspired by popular American coffee chains, Coffee Box offers you a selection of coffees (both hot and cold) and frappes, along with

delicious chocolate donuts and attractive cupcakes. If you don't have much time, it is possible to order a beverage to take away in small or big cup.

Photo: Ramon L. Farinos/Shutterstock.com Address: 7 Rue Abou Nouas, Hydra, Algiers Phone: +213 554 68 80 84 Email: coffeeboxtakeaway@gmail.com

## **Coffee Inn**



The display of great cakes and pies will lure you into this street cafe. The modern interior and the relaxed atmosphere make it an ideal spot to linger

for a while and watch people pass by. Bring a friend, lean back and enjoy a lovely day, or order a coffee to take away if you prefer to enjoy your beverage while visiting the city.

Photo: I love coffee/Shutterstock.com Address: 28 Logements Sidi Yahia, Algiers Phone: +213 541 39 96 59

# **BARS & NIGHTLIFE**



Dan Sloan/Flickr.com (image cropped)

While Algiers is a city of quiet and calm nights, most of the major hotels feature great nightclubs and bars to enjoy. Also some cafes are open until late and you can meet new people while barhopping from one place to the next. Visiting a Muslim country, women should be aware of the local dress code: covered shoulders and upper arms are highly recommended.

### **Diamond Lounge**



Great food, an amazing rooftop lounge and shisha await you at the Diamond Lounge Rooftop, a really cool spot to hang out. Enjoy the sunset and a

gorgeous view over the city on the Diamond's terrace, all the while tucking into a great burger.

Photo: Quietword/Shutterstock.com Address: 19 Rue Mohamed Chabane, El Biar, Algiers Phone: +213 561 68 66 67

### White Dream



This is a great venue with a relaxing atmosphere. In addition to the great cocktails at affordable prices, White Dream offers excellent Moroccan specialities, good music, happy hour (every day from 11:00 to 18:00), and a beautiful terrace.

Photo: VDB Photos/Shutterstock.com Address: 214 Résidence Bois des Cars, Dely Brahim, Algiers Email: whitedreamdz@yahoo.com

### Cosmopolitain



This exclusive restaurant-nightclub features DJs and themed party nights on a regular basis. You'll encounter a friendly staff, a lovely

decor and never-empty dancefloor. It is one of the coolest places in town to grab something to eat, wash it all down with an excellent Mojito and dance away.

Photo: gresei/Shutterstock.com Address: Bois des Arcades, El Madania, Algiers Phone: +213 550 03 03 03 Email: cosmopolitainalgerie@gmail.com

## Pacha Club



This is your address for party, dancing and having fun. Bring your friends or meet some new inside: in any case, you will never find this place empty and

you will want to come back for more excitement.

Photo: ARENA Creative/Shutterstock.com Address: 24 Avenue Souidani Boudjemaa, Algiers

# SHOPPING



Seleznev Oleg/Shutterstock.com

Dive into the colourful fabrics and wonderful garments of Algerian culture. Traditional clothes are woven with great dexterity and make an ideal souvenir from the region. Also carpets and jewels are popular and can be found on every second corner in the city centre. For local woodwork and art work, you should try to drop into one of the galleries: you might even catch an artist at work and ask him questions about local craft. Keep in mind that stores might stay closed on Fridays, as it is common in many Islamic countries.

## **Didouche Mourad**



The main shopping road in Algiers features numerous craft stores and art galleries. Many small or big shops can be found along this

French-style street, which also provides a great offer of special souvenirs.

Photo: Philip Lange/Shutterstock.com Address: Didouche Mourad, Algiers

### **Bab Ezzouar Shopping Mall**



No matter what you need or want, you'll find it here. This mall invites you for a long day of shopping and offers various restaurants and

cafes to choose from for a refreshing break. Get a whole new look or buy a small souvenir on the go.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com Address: Bab Ezzouar, Algiers Phone: + 213 770 14 33 57 Internet: www.babezzouar-dz.com Email: stand.information@babezzouar-dz.com

### Seen Art



Seen Art Gallery is considered to host one of the best art collection in Algiers. It specialises in contemporary art, design and art objects, and

houses the exhibitions of many Algerian artists. Come by to admire and, perhaps, take home a unique souvenir.

Photo: Iakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com Address: 156 Lotissement El Bina, Dely Brahim, Algiers Phone: +213 540 45 09 45 Email: seenartgallery@gmail.com

## **City Center Shopping Mall**



The City Center shopping mall offers you a great choice of fashion boutiques, restaurants, cafes and ice cream shops. It also hosts a

number of events, such as live concerts and children's animation. It's absolutely a good alternative to sightseeing, especially for when the weather is not particularly nice.

Photo: Wayne0216/Shutterstock.com Address: Centre Commercial City Center, Bab Ezzouar, Algiers Internet: www.citycenter-dz.com

# **TOURIST INFORMATION**



mehdi33300/Shutterstock.com

#### Passport/Visa



Whether visiting Algeria for tourism or business, you will most likely need a visa (with the exception of nationals of Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,

Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Democratic Republic Sahraoui, Seychelles, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen).

Although it is normally quite easy to obtain a visa, it is recommended to start your application in advance, in order to avoid possible issues. In order to get a visa, you will be asked to provide some documentation such as your flight itinerary (dates, flight numbers), the places you plan to visit (not always, but especially if you visit the south of Algeria), as well as the hotel confirmation. A valid passport (at least 6 months following your stay in Algeria) is also required to enter the country. For any other information, we recommend you contact the Algerian Embassy/Consulate in your country.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

## **Algiers Houari Boumediene Airport**



Located 20 km from the city centre, Aéroport d'Alger Houari Boumediene is Algiers main airport. There is a number of taxis and

buses (considerably cheaper than taxis) that take you to the city centre in about 20 minutes. TaxiAlger (www.taxialger.com / www.facebook.com/taxialgertransferaeroport) is the main taxi company with journeys from and to the airport.

Photo: Juan Garces Address: Dar El Beida, Algiers Internet: www.aeroport-d-alger-houari-boumediene.com

## **Best Time to Visit**



The balmy climate and the proximity to France, Spain, Morocco and other North African countries make Algiers an ideal travel destination

throughout the whole year. In fact, thanks to its position by the sea, the climate is typically Mediterranean: summers can be very hot (although not quite as hot as in the southern part of Algeria, the desert regions), with temperatures borderline unbearable. Spring is probably the best season to travel to the city (especially in April and May), with the weather perfect for visiting the ancient sights, but, if you also plan to travel to the southern part and go on a desert safari, October and November can still be good choices. Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

# **Public Transport**



Public transport in Algeria is not very efficient, but it's making improvements. The main mean of transport in the city is the metro line:

even though there is only one line of about 9 km, it takes you to the most important sights of the city. Also, another cheap way to move around is by hailing taxi. ETUSA (Entreprise de Transport Urbain et Suburbain d'Alger) is the main Algerian transport company and provides several bus lines.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair Address: Avenue Ahmed Ghermoul, Algiers Phone: +213 21 65 57 58 Internet: www.etusa.dz Email: a.communication@etusa.dz

## Taxi



Finding a taxi is easy in Algiers, but note that you have to negotiate the price before stepping into a cab, as Algerian taxis usually do not have a

taximeter. Lotus Taxi is one of the main taxi companies in the city and offers a 24/24 service.

Photo: ArrivalGuides Address: 9 Rue Hamidou Souiki El Abiar, Algiers Internet: www.taxilotus.com

# Destination: Algiers Publishing date: 2019-12-10

## **Post Office**



Algérie Poste is the main company to run the postal service in the country. Its main bureau is situated in the Algiers city centre, and several smaller

offices are scattered around the city (here you find their locations: www.poste.dz/customer/bpc? wilaya=ALGER+CENTRE). The Grande Poste is the historical city post office, but that one is definitely more visited by tourists interested in seeing the building's architecture and museum.

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Quartier des Affaires, Bab Ezzouar, Algiers Phone: +213 23 92 32 00 Internet: www.poste.dz Email: clientalgerieposte@poste.dz

## Pharmacy



Pharmacies can be found throughout the city, just look out for the green logo. Opening hours differ depending on location but most

chemist's have a night service. Here you find some addresses in the city centre:

Pharmacie Belguidoum +213 21 63 87 72 91 Boulevard Colonel Krim Belkacem, Algiers

Pharmacie Mimouna +213 21 64 69 90 115 Rue Didouche Mourad, Algiers

Pharmacie Benaboura Samir +213 21 74 66 55 19 Rue Abane Ramdane, Algiers Pharmacy Belle Fontaine +213 23 30 03 79 Rue Ouahrani Abdelkader, Algiers

Pharmacie Henni +213 23 51 41 87 98 Rue Mohamed Belouizdad, Algiers

Pharmacie Sidi-Boumedienne +213 21 74 91 73 1 Rue Larbi Ben M'hidi, Algiers

Photo: Gemma Garner

# Telephone

Country Code: 213 Area Code: 21



Photo: Jardson Almeida

# Electricity

Voltage: 230 V, 50 Hz



Photo: Stirling Tschan

**Population** 3,415,811

**Currency** Algerian Dinar, 1 DZD/AD = 100 centimes

**Newspapers** Echorouk El Khabar Liberté El Moudjahid

**Emergency numbers** 1548: Police 1055: Gendarme (rural police) 14: Fire, Ambulance

#### **Tourist information**

Office National du Tourisme 2 Rue Ismail Kerrar, Boulevard Che Guevara, Algiers +213 21 43 80 60 www.ont.dz www.facebook.com/ONT.dz