Tour Code
AG1

ADVENTURESABROAD

ALGERIA

Roman Ruins, Kasbahs & UNESCO Villages

9 days

Created on: 13 Nov, 2026

Day 1 Arrival in Algiers - Gateway to the Maghreb

Today we arrive in Algiers - welcome to Algeria!

The Mediterranean sparkles below as we descend toward Algiers, a city whose very name—Al-Jaza'ir, "the islands"—recalls the rocky islets that once guarded this strategic harbour. Built into the rolling Sahel hills, Algeria's capital stretches ten miles along the sweeping Bay of Algiers, its white buildings cascading down toward azure waters like an amphitheatre facing the sea. Today, elegant French boulevards wind between Socialist-era monuments and the timeless Islamic heart of the hillside Casbah, creating a visual symphony of architectural eras.

We settle into our accommodation, preparing for tomorrow's exploration of this remarkable city where three continents converge.

Overnight in Algiers.

Included Meal(s): Dinner

Day 2 Algiers Touring - Fly to Ghardaia

This morning we step into the labyrinthine Casbah, where centuries-old traditions pulse through narrow alleys lined with whitewashed houses. Built in the 16th century, this UNESCO treasure reveals itself slowly — each turn unveiling hidden courtyards, ornate doorways, and glimpses of daily life unchanged by time. The maze-like streets once confounded invading armies; today they embrace us with their timeless rhythm.

Descending toward the bay, we discover the elegant boulevards created during France's 130-year presence (1830–1962). The 17th-century Ketchaoua Mosque stands as one of the Ottoman period's finest surviving monuments, while the remarkable Palais des Rais — three interconnected palaces guarding the seafront — rewards exploration of its secret chambers and terraces. The bustling Martyrs' Square, the palatial Grand Post Office in its early 20th-century Moorish revival grandeur, and the tranquil Botanical Garden of El Hamma round out a morning rich in architectural contrast.

This afternoon we transfer to the airport for our early evening flight south to Ghardaïa (departing 18:55, arriving 20:25), trading the Mediterranean's blue horizons for the golden edge of the Sahara. The M'Zab Valley awaits — a UNESCO World Heritage landscape where traditional Islamic society has preserved its distinctive character for over a thousand years.

Overnight in Ghardaia.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 3 Ghardaia: M'Zab Valley, El-Atteuf & Bou Noura

We awaken in a different world. The M'Zab Valley, home to the conservative Ibadite Muslim community, preserves social traditions and architectural forms virtually unchanged since the 11th century. Here, five fortified towns — Ghardaia, Melika, Beni Isguen, Bou Noura, and El-Atteuf — represent one of humanity's most successful experiments in sustainable desert living.

The Ibadites, who separated from mainstream Islam nine centuries ago, created these settlements as earthly reflections of spiritual ideals. Every aspect of daily life follows ancient codes: women wear traditional white haik coverings that leave only one eye exposed, while men sport elaborately pleated saroual loubia trousers. These aren't tourist performances — they're living traditions in communities that have maintained their identity despite centuries of outside pressure.

We explore marketplaces where the rhythm of commerce follows patterns established centuries ago. Narrow streets designed to channel cooling breezes past whitewashed walls demonstrate sophisticated understanding of desert architecture. The traditional palm groves, irrigated by ancient foggara (underground channels), transform the valley into an oasis of green abundance — a reminder that human ingenuity has sustained life here in one of Earth's harshest environments for a millennium.

Overnight in Ghardaia.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 4 Fly to Algiers - Church of Notre Dame d'Afrique

Our morning flight carries us from the ancient rhythms of the M'Zab Valley back to Algeria's bustling capital. The aerial perspective provides a dramatic reminder of this country's scale — Saharan oases giving way to Atlas Mountain ranges before the Mediterranean coast resolves into view.

Back in Algiers, we make our way to the majestic Church of Notre Dame d'Afrique, perched dramatically above the Bab El Oued district. Here, colonial architects married European ecclesiastical design with North African sensibilities in a structure that continues to draw pilgrims of all faiths. The panoramic views from this hillside vantage point encompass the entire sweep of the bay — a vista that has inspired poets and painters for generations. The church's inscription above the altar, addressed to "Our Lady of Africa" for "the Christians and the Muslims," captures something essential about the religious complexity of this city.

The remainder of the afternoon is ours to absorb the contrast between the M'Zab's preserved traditionalism and the capital's dynamic modernity — two authentic faces of contemporary Algeria.

Overnight in Algiers.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 5 Through the Atlas to Djemila - Continue to Constantine

Rolling hills dotted with olive groves and wheat fields accompany us eastward as we leave the coastal plains for the dramatic landscapes of the interior. Our destination, Djemila — "beautiful" in Arabic — sits 900 metres above sea level, where Roman engineers once faced the challenge of adapting classical urban planning to mountainous terrain.

The result, dating from the 1st century CE, astounds with its ingenuity. Unlike the flat, grid-pattern Roman cities of the plains, Djemila flows with the contours of the landscape. We walk streets where toga-clad citizens once strolled, past a remarkably preserved forum where merchants haggled over goods from across the empire. The site's temples, basilicas, and triumphal arches demonstrate how Rome adapted its architectural vocabulary to diverse environments — each column capital and decorative element telling stories of cultural fusion.

In the Djemila Museum, extraordinary mosaics and sculptures reveal daily life in this mountain outpost. Intricate floor designs depicting hunting scenes, mythological figures, and geometric patterns showcase the wealth and sophistication of Roman North Africa. These aren't mere decorative elements — they're windows into a society where African, Mediterranean, and Roman influences created something entirely new.

As afternoon shadows lengthen across ancient stones, we continue our journey eastward to Constantine, the dramatic "City of Bridges," where we'll rest before exploring another Roman masterpiece tomorrow.

Overnight in Constantine.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 6 Timgad: Trajan's Perfect City & Royal Mysteries

Morning finds us journeying through the foothills of the Aurès Atlas Mountains toward Timgad, Emperor Trajan's bold experiment in urban planning. Founded in 100 CE as a military colony for retired legionnaires, Thamugadi was designed for 15,000 inhabitants — yet prosperity soon burst these boundaries, creating a fascinating study in organic versus planned development.

Standing at Timgad's western gate, we witness Roman city planning at its most ambitious. The original settlement follows a perfect grid, its

straight streets intersecting at precise right angles like a textbook illustration. But look beyond the planned core, and we see how success created its own challenges: the expanding city spilled organically beyond its geometric boundaries, creating irregular neighbourhoods that speak to human nature's resistance to rigid order. We walk the Cardo Maximus past the magnificent Arch of Trajan, through markets where North African grain once fed the empire; the theatre, with its soaring stage backdrop, echoes still with centuries of performance under the African sun.

Our afternoon brings us to the mysterious royal Mausoleum Immedghassen — a circular stone monument predating Roman conquest. Built for a Numidian king whose identity remains lost to time, this tomb stands 18 metres high on 60 engaged columns, a reminder that Rome built upon foundations laid by earlier civilizations.

We return to Constantine for the night, the dramatic gorge city waiting to reveal its own stories tomorrow.

Overnight in Constantine.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 7 Constantine City Tour - Drive to Algiers

Built astride a spectacular gorge carved by the Rhumel River, Constantine appears to defy gravity itself. Known to Romans as Cirta, it became Constantine the Great's namesake in the 4th century, but its story stretches back over two millennia to Numidian kings who recognized this natural fortress's strategic perfection.

The gorge — 120 metres deep in places — creates a natural moat around three sides of the city. Ottoman, French, and modern engineers have spanned this chasm with increasingly ambitious bridges, each generation adding its own architectural signature to this vertical cityscape. From these swaying vantage points we peer down into the gorge where traditional tanneries still operate as they have for centuries, their colourful leather goods drying in the North African sun.

The Constantine Museum reveals artifacts spanning millennia, while the Kasbah district preserves the intimate scale of Ottoman residential architecture. At the Palace of Ahmed Bey, we encounter 19th-century attempts to blend European palatial grandeur with Islamic decorative traditions, before the Emir Abdelkader Mosque — one of the world's largest — offers a final meditation on how contemporary Algeria honours both heritage and innovation.

This afternoon we begin our drive back toward the capital, the landscapes shifting from mountain drama to coastal plain as Algiers draws near.

Overnight in Algiers.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 8 From Algiers: Tipaza & Cherchell

The Mediterranean coast west of Algiers reveals layers of North African history. At Tipaza, Phoenician merchants first established trading posts over 2,000 years ago; what began as a commercial outpost evolved under Roman rule into one of Christianity's most important North African centres. Walking among ruins that cascade toward the sea, we witness how early Christians adapted Roman architectural forms to serve their revolutionary faith. The site's most poignant story emerges from the Vandal conquest of 430 CE, when most inhabitants fled to Spain rather than accept Arian Christianity — a tale of devotion that has lingered in local memory ever since.

After sampling Tipaza's renowned seafood, we continue to Cherchell, ancient Caesarea. This former capital of Mauretanian and Numidian kingdoms reveals how local rulers adopted Roman imperial symbols while maintaining African cultural traditions. The archaeological museum's treasures — mosaics, sculptures, and architectural fragments — illustrate the sophisticated fusion culture that flourished on this coast.

Our final stop presents a puzzle: the pyramid-like Tomb of the Christians, its pre-Roman origins challenging assumptions about North African civilization. Built for unknown Numidian royalty, this monument reminds us that sophisticated kingdoms flourished here long before Roman legions arrived. It makes for a fitting final contemplation — three thousand years of human ambition compressed into a single afternoon on the Algerian coast.

We return to Algiers for our last evening together.

Overnight in Algiers.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 9 Departure

Departure from Algiers.

BON VOYAGE!

Included Meal(s): Breakfast