

# Algeria – Roman Algeria

Tour Code AG

## Departing 21 September 2009, 3 May 2010

Algeria has recently emerged as a safe destination to travel, especially the fertile East with its friendly peoples and enormously rich variety of archaeological and historical sites. Combined with stunning mountainous scenery and fine colonial architecture this is reason enough to warrant a comprehensive visit, particularly now before tourism takes hold. With a number of listed UNESCO World Heritage sites and some of the finest Roman remains in North Africa, this detailed 11 day tour is designed to allow for adequate time to fully appreciate Algeria's capital and Eastern region



Local visitors at the Roman city of Djemila  
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## ITINERARY

### Day 1 Fly to Algiers. In Algiers – Monday 21 September/3 May

Morning departure from London Heathrow on British Airways direct to Algiers. Lunchtime arrival and transfer to our hotel for two nights. We spend the afternoon with an orientation bus tour of Algiers' fine colonial and imposing monumental architecture including Notre Dame Cathedral the Monument des Martyrs. Welcome dinner at a traditional restaurant (D)

### Day 2 Visit Tipasa and Cherchell – Tuesday 22 September/4 May

We drive west of the capital to the UNESCO listed Roman site of Tipasa, beautifully located on the shores of the Mediterranean below Mount Chenoua, an extinct volcano which rises dramatically from the sea. We also journey to the historic city of Cherchell with its famous museum, which houses an unrivalled display of statues, mosaics and busts. On our drive back to the capital we pause at the vast and impressive pyramid-like Tomb of the Christian located in the hills behind Tipasa (B,D)

### Day 3 In Algiers. Evening flight to Annaba – Wednesday 23 September/5 May

We spend the day visiting Algiers' main sites of interest including the Bardo Museum and nearby Museum of Antiquities, and the UNESCO listed Casbah. We fly to Annaba in the evening and transfer to our overnight hotel (B,D)

### Day 4 Visit Annaba. Drive via Guelma to Souk Ahras – Thursday 24 September/6 May

We visit ancient Hippo (Annaba) this morning including the ruins of Hippo Regius and the modern Basilica of locally born St Augustine. We continue to Guelma to view its restored outstanding Roman Theatre before arriving at our overnight stop in Souk Ahras (B,D)

### Day 5 Visit Madaure and Khemissa. Drive to Constantine – Friday 25 September/7 May

Our first visit of the day is to the remains at Madaure, one of the oldest Roman colonies in Africa and a place of learning where St Augustine studied. We continue to Khemissa, once an important Numidian city, wonderfully situated and with a beautiful 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD theatre.

**Patrick Syder Travel**

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Our destination is Constantine, capital city of Eastern Algeria and unquestionably its most beautiful, dramatically situated on the Rhumel Gorge, where we spend two nights. (B,D)

**Day 6 In Constantine. Visit Tiddis – Saturday 26 September/8 May**

Today we have an excursion to nearby Roman Tiddis and then return to Constantine for a tour of 'the city of bridges', which are suspended over the spectacular gorge. We include visits to the excellent museum and the city's other ancient and modern architectural wonders such as the Roman aqueduct, the Palace of the Bey and the Great Mosque (B,D)

**Day 7 Visit Timgad and Lambesis. Drive to Batna – Sunday 27 September/9 May**

The fabulous and incredibly preserved Roman city of Timgad founded in 100AD by Emperor Trajan is one of Algeria's major highlights. We spend the day at the site with a guided tour and time to wander at leisure. We continue to the modern city of Batna for two nights, stopping to visit the ruined legionary fortress and amphitheatre at nearby Lambesis (B, D)

**Day 8 Visit oasis town of Biskra – Monday 28 September/10 May**

A wonderfully scenic drive through the Aures Mountains and the Balconies of Ghoufi, Algeria's own Grand Canyon, brings us to the oasis town of Biskra known as the 'gate of the desert'. We stop for lunch before a short drive to Sidi Oqba, named after the man who brought Islam to Algeria in the 7<sup>th</sup> century and where we can see his tomb and the town's mosque and koranic school. We return to Batna via the dramatic El Kantara Gorge and Roman bridge (B,D)

**Day 9 Visit Zana and Djemila. Drive to Setif – Tuesday 29 September/11 May**

We pause at the ruined triumphal arch and forum of Zana, littered with inscriptions and perfectly set at the base of Jebel Mestaoua before continuing to Djemila, the most outstanding of Algeria's Roman antiquities. A remarkable setting and extensive ruins, Djemila, meaning 'beautiful', lives up to its name in every way as much for its location as its remarkably preserved architectural features. We spend the afternoon in the site with a guided tour and time to wander at leisure. Overnight in the nearby town of Setif (B,D)

**Day 10 Fly to London via Algiers – Wednesday 30 September/12 May**

Short drive to Setif airport this morning for the flight to Algiers with Air Algerie to connect with our early afternoon departure to London with British Airways arriving at Heathrow Terminal 5 (B)

**Cost £1795.00** per person in a twin room (excluding international flight)

Single supplement charge £300.00



**Price includes –**

- ▶ Tour accompanied from London by Patrick Syder
- ▶ Algerian guide for the duration of the tour
- ▶ Two domestic flights with Air Algerie
- ▶ All transportation by a/c bus
- ▶ Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees
- ▶ Best available accommodation outside Algiers.
- ▶ Local four star centrally based hotel in Algiers
- ▶ All dinners in hotel or local restaurants
- ▶ Airport transfers
- ▶ Bottled water daily
- ▶ Porter, hotel and restaurant staff gratuities

Not included – travel insurance, visa fees, departure taxes, lunches, drinks, guide and driver gratuities, British Airways international return flight (cost £265.00 with Polani Travel ATOL 5311)

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