



OUTCAN Guide | Life in Algeria

LOCATION

- **Country:** Algeria
- **City:** Algiers
- **Base:** Embassy Posting
- **Mission Acronym:** ALGER

OTHER INFO TO CONSIDER

- **Residency Registration:** Foreigners must register with the local authorities within 15 days of arrival.
- **Visa Requirements:** Canadians need a visa to enter Algeria. For long-term stays, a residence permit is required.
- **Note:** [Canada and Algeria \(international.gc.ca\)](https://international.gc.ca)

POPULATION

- **Size:** Approximately 3.4 million people within the city.
- **Ethnicity:** Predominantly Arab-Berber with smaller communities of Europeans and sub-Saharan Africans.

LANGUAGE(S)

- **Official Language:** Arabic and Berber (Tamazight)
- **Secondary Language:** French is widely spoken and used in business, government, and education.

COST OF LIVING

- **Currency:** Algerian Dinar (DZD)
- **Exchange Rate:** 1 CAD = 100 DZD (July 2024)

QUALITY OF LIFE

- **Climate:** Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters.
 - **Temperature:** Average temperatures range from 10°C (50°F) in January to 30°C (86°F) in August.
 - **Rainy Season:** November to March.
 - **Natural Disasters:** Occasional earthquakes and flooding during the rainy season.

LAWS AND CULTURE

- **Drug Laws:** Strict penalties for possession, use, or trafficking of illegal drugs.
- **Alcohol:** Legal drinking age is 18. Alcohol is available but consumption in public places is limited.
- **Driving:** The legal blood alcohol limit is 0.02%. Strict penalties for drinking and driving.
- **Cultural Influence:** Predominantly Muslim country with significant Christian and Jewish minorities. Respect for religious practices and local customs is important.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

- **Driving:** An international driving permit is recommended. For long-term stays, an Algerian driver's license is required.
- **Crime:** Petty theft and opportunistic crimes are common. Caution is advised, especially in tourist areas.

HOUSING

- **Support:** Embassy posting families are allocated a place based on the local housing committee's recommendation.
- **Availability:** A range of housing options are available, including apartments and houses. Prices vary by location and amenities for those not on an Embassy posting.

EMPLOYMENT

- **Spousal Employment:** Opportunities are limited and subject to work permit regulations. Employment in the local economy may be subject to local taxes and regulations.
- **Op Tempo:** Varies depending on the position. Travel within the region may be required.

HEALTH CARE

- **Access:** High-quality medical care is available, especially in private hospitals. Public hospitals can be crowded and have longer wait times.
- **Language:** French services are available in major hospitals. Translators may be needed for smaller clinics.
- **Dental:** Private dental care is widely available. Upfront payment is required, with reimbursement through health insurance.
- While OUTCAN, families of Canadian Armed Forces members are enrolled in comprehensive medical coverage through the [Public Service Health Care Plan](#), which is administered by [MSH International](#). Families are covered for dental care through the [Public Service Dental Care Plan](#) by [Canada Life](#). Look for places that direct bill to your insurance where possible.

TRANSPORTATION

- **Airport:** Houari Boumediene Airport (ALG) is the main international airport in Algiers.
- **Public Transport:** Public transportation includes buses, trams, and taxis. Private taxis and ride-sharing services are also available.
- **Driving:** An international driving permit is recommended. An Algerian driver's license is required for long-term stays.

RESOURCES AND AMENITIES

- **Military Family Services:** No specific center in Algiers, but remote support is available through Global MFS team: globalmfs-sfmmondiaux@cfmws.com
- **Mental Health Resources:** Comprehensive services are available through the public and private sectors.
 - Family Information Line: FIL-LIF@cfmws.com
 - [CFMWS | Mental Health | CFMWS](#)
 - For additional resources or questions please reach out to your Global MFS Team: globalmfs-sfmmondiaux@cfmws.com
- **Internet:** High-quality internet services are widely available in urban areas.

ACTIVITIES

- **Leisure:** Numerous recreational activities and attractions are available
 - **Beaches:**
 - **Palm Beach:** A popular beach located in the Algiers suburbs, known for its clear waters and family-friendly atmosphere.
 - **Sablettes Beach:** A well-maintained beach with plenty of amenities, suitable for families and water sports enthusiasts.
 - **Cultural and Historical Sites:**
 - **Casbah of Algiers:** A UNESCO World Heritage site featuring narrow streets, traditional houses, and historic mosques.
 - **Basilica of Notre-Dame d'Afrique:** A stunning Catholic Basilica offering panoramic views of the city and the Mediterranean Sea.
 - **Martyrs' Memorial (Maqam Echahid):** An iconic monument dedicated to the Algerian War of Independence.
 - **Museums:**
 - **Bardo National Museum of Prehistory and Ethnography:** Showcasing prehistoric artifacts and ethnographic collections.
 - **National Museum of Fine Arts of Algiers:** Housing a rich collection of Algerian and international art.
 - **Markets:**
 - **Souk El Fellah:** A bustling market in the heart of Algiers, offering a variety of goods, from fresh produce to traditional crafts.
 - **Bab El Oued Market:** Known for its vibrant atmosphere and diverse range of products.
 - **Outdoor Activities:**
 - **Jardin d'Essai du Hamma:** A beautiful botanical garden perfect for leisurely walks and picnics.
 - **Djebbel Chenoua:** A popular spot for hiking and nature walks, offering stunning views of the Mediterranean coast.

- **Tipasa:** A UNESCO World Heritage site featuring Roman ruins and beautiful coastal scenery.

RESTRICTIONS TO CONSIDER

- **Common Law Relationships:** Recognized but may not have the same legal status as in Western countries.
- **Same-Sex Couples:** Same-sex marriage is not recognized. Homosexuality is criminalized in Algeria and actively enforced.
- **Medications:** Prescription medications are regulated. Cannabis and other drugs are illegal.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Canadian Travel Advisories
- <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/algeria>
- CIA World Fact books (One Pager from the US)
<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/algeria/>
- Living Abroad (from Gov.UK)
<https://www.gov.uk/world/living-in-algeria>
- [Canada and Algeria \(international.gc.ca\)](#)

FOR MORE COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO THE RESOURCES BELOW

- Global MFS Team: globalmfs-sfmmondiaux@cfmws.com