Sukhumi

Sukhumi or **Sokhumi** [3] (Abkhaz : Аҟәа , *Aqwa* ; Georgian : სოხუმი , [sɔxumi] (listen) ; Russian : Сухум(и) , *Sukhum(i)*) is a city on the Black Sea coast. It is the capital of the breakaway Republic of Abkhazia which has controlled it since the 1992-93 war in Abkhazia , although most of the international community considers it legally part of Georgia .

Sukhumi's history can be traced back to the 6th century BC, when it was settled by Greeks, who named it Dioscurias. During this time and the subsequent Roman period, much of the city disappeared under the Black Sea. The city was named Tskhumi when it became part of the Kingdom of Abkhazia . Contested by local princes, it became part of the Ottoman Empire in the 1570s, where it remained until it was conquered by the Russian Empire in 1810. Following a period of conflict during Russian Civil War , it became part of the Soviet Union , where it was regarded as a holiday resort. As the Soviet Union broke up in the early 1990s, the city suffered significant damage during the Georgian–Abkhazian conflict . The present-day population of 60,000 is only half of the population living there towards the end of Soviet rule.

Sukhumi Аҟәа, სოხუმი Akwa, Sokhumi	
City	
Seal	
Location of Sukhumi in Georgia	
Coordinates: 43°00′12″N 41°00′55″E	
Country	Georgia
Partially recognized state	Abkhazia [1]
Settled	6th century BC
City Status	1848
Government	
• Mayor	Adgur Kharazia
Area	
• Total	27 km ^{2} (10 sq mi)
Highest elevation	140 m (460 ft)

Naming

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(May 2017) (Learn how and when to remove this template message)

In Georgian , the city is known as სოხუმი (*Sokhumi*) or აყუ (*Aqu*), [4] in Megrelian as აყუჯიხა (*Aqujikha*), [5] and in Russian as Сухум (*Sukhum*) or Сухуми (*Sukhumi*). The toponym Sokhumi derives from the Georgian word Tskhomi/Tskhumi, meaning *beech* . It is significant, that "dia" in several dialects of the Georgian language and among them in Megrelian means mother and "skuri" means water. [6] In Abkhaz, the city is known as Аҟәа (*Aqwa*) which according to native tradition signifies *water* . [7]

In the ancient Greek sources (Pseudo-Skilak of Kariand- IV c. B. C.) the city is referred to as **Dioscurias** . According to the antique traditions this name originates from the mythical *Dioskouri* , the twin brothers Castor and Pollux , sons of Zeus . It was believed that the town had been established by Castor's and Pollux's coachmen, the Argonauts Telkius and Amphyst. However the names of the town may simply be the Greek comprehension of the old Georgian word combination.

The medieval Georgian sources knew the town as *Tskhumi* (ცხუმი). [8] [9] [10] Later, under the Ottoman control, the town was known in Turkish as *Suhum-Kale* , which can be derived from the earlier Georgian form Tskhumi or can be read to mean "water-sand fortress". [11] [12] Tskhumi in turn is supposed to be derived from the Svan language word for "hot", [13] or the Georgian word for " hornbeam tree".

The ending -i in the above forms represents the Georgian nominative-suffix. The town was initially officially described in Russian as Сухум (*Sukhum*), until 16 August 1936 when this was changed to Сухуми (*Sukhumi*). This remained so until 4 December 1992, when the Supreme Council of Abkhazia restored the original version, that was approved in Russia in autumn 2008, [14] even though Сухуми is also still being used.

In English, the most common form today is *Sukhumi* , although *Sokhumi* is increasing in usage and has been adopted by sources including *Encyclopædia Britannica* , [15] *MSN Encarta* , [16] Esri [17] and Google Maps . [18]

General information

Sukhumi is located on a wide bay of the eastern coast of the Black Sea and serves as a port, rail junction and a holiday resort. It is known for its beaches, sanatoriums, mineral-water spas and semitropical climate. Sukhumi is also an important air link for Abkhazia as the Sukhumi Dranda Airport is located nearby the city. Sukhumi contains a number of small-to-medium size hotels serving chiefly the Russian tourists. Sukhumi botanical garden was established in 1840, one of the oldest botanical gardens in the Caucasus.

The city has a number of research institutes, the Abkhazian State University and the Sukhumi Open Institute. From 1945 to 1954 the city's electron physics laboratory was involved in the Soviet program to develop nuclear weapons.

The city is a member of the International Black Sea Club . [19]

History

The Sohum-Kale fort in the early 19th century.

The history of the city began in the mid-6th century BC when an earlier settlement of the second and early first millennia BC, frequented by local Colchian tribes, was replaced by the Milesian Greek colony of **Dioscurias** (Greek : Διοσκουριάς). The city is said to have been so named for the Dioscuri , the twins Castor and Pollux of classical mythology . It became busily engaged in the commerce between Greece and the indigenous tribes, importing wares from many parts of Greece, and exporting local salt and Caucasian timber, linen , and hemp . It was also a prime center of slave trade in Colchis. [20] The city and its surroundings were remarkable for the multitude of languages spoken in its bazaars. [21]

Although the sea made serious inroads upon the territory of Dioscurias, it continued to flourish until its conquest by Mithridates VI Eupator of Pontus in the later 2nd century. Under the Roman emperor Augustus the city assumed the name of **Sebastopolis** [22] (Greek : Σεβαστούπολις). But its prosperity was past, and in the 1st century Pliny the Elder described the place as virtually deserted though the town still

continued to exist during the times of Arrian in the 130s. [23] The remains of towers and walls of Sebastopolis have been found underwater; on land the lowest levels so far reached by archaeologists are of the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. In 542 the Romans evacuated the town and demolished its citadel to prevent it from being captured by Sassanid Iran . In 565, however, the emperor Justinian I restored the fort and Sebastopolis continued to remain one of the Byzantine strongholds in Colchis until being sacked by the Arab conqueror Marwan II in 736.

Lowest elevation	5 m (16 ft)
Population (2011)	
• **Total**	62,914 [2]
Time zone	MSK (UTC+4)
Postal code	384900
Area code(s)	+7 840 22x-xx-xx
Vehicle registration	ABH

Afterwards, the town came to be known as **Tskhumi** . [13] Restored by the kings of Abkhazia from the Arab devastation, it particularly flourished during the Georgian Golden Age in the 12th–13th centuries, when Tskhumi became a center of traffic with the European maritime powers, particularly with the Republic of Genoa . The Genoese established their short-lived trading factory at Tskhumi early in the 14th century.

Colchian Coin of Dioscurias, late 2nd century BC. Obverse: Two pilei surmounted by stars Reverse: Thyrsos , ΔΙΟΣΚΟΥΡΙΑΔΟΣ

The Ottoman navy occupied the town in 1451, but for a short time. Later contested between the princes of Abkhazia and Mingrelia , Tskhumi finally fell to the Turks in the 1570s. The new masters heavily fortified the town and called it **Sohumkale** , with *kale* meaning "fort" but the first part of the name of disputed origin. It may represent Turkish *su* , "water", and *kum* , "sand", but is more likely to be an alteration of its earlier Georgian name. [13] At the request of the pro-Russian Abkhazian prince, the town was stormed by the Russian Marines in 1810 and turned, subsequently, into a major outpost in the North West Caucasus. (See Russian conquest of the Caucasus#Black Sea Coast). Sukhumi was declared the seaport in 1847 and was directly annexed to the Russian Empire after the ruling Shervashidze princely dynasty was ousted by the Russian authorities in 1864. During the Russo-Turkish War, 1877–1878 , the town was temporarily controlled by the Ottoman forces and Abkhaz- Adyghe rebels.

Sukhumi botanical garden

Following the Russian Revolution of 1917 , the town and Abkhazia in general were engulfed in the chaos of the Russian Civil War . A short-lived Bolshevik government was suppressed in May 1918 and Sukhumi was incorporated into the Democratic Republic of Georgia as a residence of the autonomous People's Council of Abkhazia and the headquarters of the Georgian governor-general. The Red Army and the local revolutionaries took the city from the Georgian forces on 4 March 1921, and declared Soviet rule. Sukhumi functioned as the capital of the "Union treaty" Abkhaz Soviet Socialist Republic associated with the Georgian SSR from 1921 until 1931, when it became the capital of the Abkhazian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic within the Georgian SSR. By 1989, Sukhumi had 110,000 inhabitants and was one of the most prosperous cities of Georgia. Many holiday dachas for Soviet leaders were situated there.

Beginning with the 1989 riots , Sukhumi was a centre of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict , and the city was severely damaged during the 1992–1993 War . During the war, the city and its environs suffered almost daily air strikes and artillery shelling, with heavy civilian casualties. [24] On 27 September 1993 the battle for Sukhumi was concluded by a full-scale campaign of ethnic cleansing against its majority Georgian population (see Sukhumi Massacre), including members of the pro-Georgian Abkhazian government (Zhiuli Shartava , Raul Eshba and others) and mayor of Sukhumi Guram Gabiskiria . Although the city has been relatively peaceful and partially rebuilt, it is still suffering the after-effects of the war, and it has not regained its earlier ethnic diversity. Its population in 2003 was 43,716, compared to about 120,000 in 1989. [25]

Sukhumi quay

Sukhumi in 1912. Early color photo by Sergei Prokudin-Gorskii

Population

Demographics

Historic population figures for Sukhumi, split out by ethnicity, based on population censuses: [26]

Year	Abkhaz	Armenians	Estonians	Georgians	Greeks	Russians	Turkish	Ukrainians	Total
1897 Census	1.8% (144)	13.5% (1,083)	0.4% (32)	11.9% (951)	14.3% (1,143)	0.0% (1)	2.7% (216)		7,998
1926 Census	3.1% (658)	9.4% (2,023)	0.3% (63)	11.2% (2,425)	10.7% (2,298)	23.7% (5,104)	---	10.4% (2,234)	21,568
1939 Census	5.5% (2,415)	9.8% (4,322)	0.5% (206)	19.9% (8,813)	11.3% (4,990)	41.9% (18,580)	---	4.6% (2,033)	44,299
1959 Census	5.6% (3,647)	10.5% (6,783)	---	31.1% (20,110)	4.9% (3,141)	36.8% (23,819)	---	4.3% (2,756)	64,730
1979 Census	9.9% (10,766)	10.9% (11,823)	---	38.3% (41,507)	6.5% (7,069)	26.4% (28,556)	---	3.4% (3,733)	108,337
1989 Census	12.5% (14,922)	10.3% (12,242)	---	41.5% (49,460)	---	21.6% (25,739)	---	---	119,150
2003 Census	65.3% (24,603)	12.7% (5,565)	0.1% (65)	4.0% (1,761)	1.5% (677)	16.9% (8,902)	---	1.6% (712)	43,716
2011 Census	67.3% (42,603)	9.8% (6,192)	---	2.8% (1,755)	1.0% (645)	14.8% (9,288)	---	---	62,914

Religion

Ancient Sebastopolis was a Latin bishopric, but the diocese ceased to exist with the advent of Orthodoxy.

Titular see

The diocese of **Sebastopolis in Abasgia** (meaning 'in Abchasia ') was nominally restored as a Catholic Latin.

It has had the following incumbents, but is now vacant:

- Celestino Annibale Cattaneo, Capuchin Franciscans (O.F.M. Cap.) (1936.03.03 – 1946.02.15)

- Henri-Édouard Dutoit (1949.04.23 – 1953.04.17)
- Aluigi Cossio (1955.08.12 – 1956.01.03)
- Giuseppe Paupini (1956.02.02 – 1969.04.28), later cardinal

Main sights

Sukhumi houses a number of historical monuments, notably the Besleti Bridge built during the reign of queen Tamar of Georgia in the 12th century. It also retains visible vestiges of the defunct monuments, including the Roman walls, the medieval Castle of Bagrat , several towers of the Great Abkhazian Wall constructed by the early modern Mingrelian and Abkhazian princes amid their territorial disputes; the 14th-century Genoese fort and the 18th-century Ottoman fortress. The 11th century Kamani Church (12 kilometres (7 miles) from Sukhumi) is erected, according to tradition, over the tomb of Saint John Chrysostom . Some 22 km (14 mi) from Sukhumi lies New Athos with the ruins of the medieval city of Anacopia. The Neo-Byzantine New Athos Monastery was constructed here in the 1880s on behest of Tsar Alexander III of Russia .

Medieval bridge over the Besletka river known as the Queen Tamar Bridge.

Northward in the mountains is the Voronya Cave , the deepest in the world, with a depth of 2,140 meters. [27]

Climate

Sukhumi has a humid subtropical climate (Köppen *Cfa*), that is almost cool enough in summer to be an oceanic climate .

Climate data for Sukhumi													
Month	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Year**
Average high °C (°F)	8 (46)	9 (48)	12 (54)	16 (61)	19 (66)	23 (73)	25 (77)	26 (79)	23 (73)	19 (66)	15 (59)	11 (52)	17.2 (62.8)
Average low °C (°F)	2 (36)	2 (36)	5 (41)	8 (46)	12 (54)	17 (63)	19 (66)	19 (66)	15 (59)	11 (52)	7 (45)	3 (37)	10 (50.1)
Average precipitation mm (inches)	137 (5.39)	113 (4.45)	135 (5.31)	123 (4.84)	115 (4.53)	127 (5)	100 (3.94)	123 (4.84)	127 (5)	121 (4.76)	133 (5.24)	152 (5.98)	1,506 (59.28)
Average rainy days	17	15	16	15	12	11	10	10	10	12	16	16	160
Source # 1: Weatherbase [28]													
Source # 2: Georgia Travel Climate Information [29]													

Administration

On 2 February 2000, President Ardzinba dismissed temporary Mayor Leonid Osia and appointed Leonid Lolua in his stead. [30] Lolua was reappointed on 10 May 2001 following the March 2001 local elections. [31]

On 5 November 2004, in the heated aftermath of the 2004 presidential election , president Vladislav Ardzinba appointed head of the Gulripsh district assembly Adgur Kharazia as acting mayor. During his first speech he called upon the two leading candidates, Sergei Bagapsh and Raul Khadjimba , to both withdraw. [32]

On 16 February 2005, after his election as President, Bagapsh replaced Kharazia with Astamur Adleiba , who had been Minister for Youth, Sports, Resorts and Tourism until December 2004. [33] In the 11 February 2007 local elections, Adleiba successfully defended his seat in the Sukhumi city assembly and was thereupon reappointed mayor by Bagapsh on 20 March. [34]

In April 2007, while President Bagapsh was in Moscow for medical treatment, the results of an investigation into corruption within the Sukhumi city administration were made public. The investigation found that large sums had been embezzled and upon his return, on 2 May, Bagapsh fired Adleiba along with his deputy Boris Achba , the head of the Sukhumi's finance department Konstantin Tuzhba and the head of the housing department David Jinjolia . [35] On 4 June Adleiba paid back to the municipal budget 200,000 rubels. [36] and on 23 July, he resigned from the Sukhumi city council, citing health reasons and the need to travel abroad for medical treatment. [37]

On 15 May 2007, president Bagapsh released Alias Labakhua as First Deputy Chairman of the State Customs Committee and appointed him acting Mayor of Sukhumi, a post temporarily fulfilled by former Vice-Mayor Anzor Kortua . On 27 May Labakhua appointed Vadim Cherkezia as Deputy Chief of staff. [38] On 2 September, Labakhua won the by-election in constituency No. 21, which had become necessary after Adleiba relinquished his seat. Adleiba was the only candidate and voter turnout was 34%, higher than the 25% required. [39] Since Adleiba was now a member of the city assembly, president Bagapsh could permanently appoint him Mayor of Sukhumi on 18 September. [40]

Following the May 2014 Revolution and the election of Raul Khajimba as President, he on 22 October dismissed Labakhua and again appointed (as acting Mayor) Adgur Kharazia , who at that point was Vice Speaker of the People's Assembly . [41] Kharazia won the 4 April 2015 by-election to the City Council in constituency no. 3 unopposed, [42] and was confirmed as mayor by Khajimba on 4 May. [43]

List of Mayors

#	Name	From		Until		President	Comments
Chairmen of the (executive committee of the) City Soviet:							
	Vladimir Mikanba	1975	[44]	1985	[44]		
	D. Gubaz	<=1989		>=1989			
	Nodar Khashba	1991	[44]				First time
	Guram Gabiskiria	1992		27 September 1993			
Heads of the City Administration:							
	Nodar Khashba	1993	[44]	26 November 1994			Second time
		26 November 1994		1995	[44]	Vladislav Ardzinba	
	Garri Aiba	1995		2000			
	Leonid Osia			2 February 2000	[30]		Acting Mayor
	Leonid Lolua	2 February 2000	[30]	5 November 2004	[32]		
	Adgur Kharazia	5 November 2004	[32]	16 February 2005	[33]		Acting Mayor, first time
	Astamur Adleiba	16 February 2005	[33]	2 May 2007	[35]	Sergei Bagapsh	
	Anzor Kortua	May 2007		15 May 2007			Acting Mayor
	Alias Labakhua	15 May 2007		29 May 2011			
		29 May 2011		1 June 2014		Alexander Ankvab	
		1 June 2014		22 October 2014		*Valeri Bganba*	
	Adgur Kharazia	22 October 2014		Present		Raul Khajimba	Second time

Transport

Railway station

The city is served by several trolleybus and bus routes. Sukhumi is connected to other Abkhazian towns by bus routes.

There is a railway station in Sukhumi, that has a daily train to Moscow via Sochi .

Babushara Airport now handles only local flights due to the disputed status of Abkhazia.

International relations

See also: List of twin towns and sister cities in Georgia

Twin towns — Sister cities

Sukhumi is twinned with the following cities:

- Ufa , Russia
- Krasnodar , Russia
- Tiraspol , Transnistria
- Cherkessk , Russia
- Podolsk , Russia [45]
- Volgograd , Russia
- Grozny , Russia
- Stepanakert , Nagorno-Karabakh Republic
- Arkhangelsk , Russia [46]
- Nizhny Novgorod , Russia
- Sant'Antioco , Italy [47] [48]
- Side , Turkey [49]

See also

- Sukhumi District
- List of twin towns and sister cities in Georgia

References

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Sources and external links

- GigaCatholic for the titular see, linking to incumbent biographies
- UNOMIG photo gallery of Sukhumi
- News from FM Radio Abkhazia

Administrative divisions of Abkhazia	
Districts	Gagra · Gali · Gudauta · Gulripshi · Ochamchira · Sukhumi · Tkvarcheli
Cities	Sukhumi
Towns	Gagra · Gali · Gudauta · New Athos · Ochamchire · Pitsunda · Tkvarcheli
Other settlements	Adzyubzha · Agubedia · Avadhara · Baslakhu · Bedia · Bzipi · Chkhalta · Chuburkhindji · Gulripshi · Guma · Leselidze · Ilori · Kvemo Barghebi · Labra · Lykhny · Myussera · Pskhu · Psou · Gantiadi · Merkheuli · Mokvi
See also: Administrative divisions of Georgia	

Cities, towns and townlets in Georgia	
Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia	**Sokhumi** · Akhali Atoni · Gagra · Gali · Gudauta · Ochamchire · Tkvarcheli · *Bichvinta* · *Gantiadi* · *Gulripshi* · *Leselidze* · *Miusera*
Autonomous Republic of Adjara	**Batumi** · Kobuleti · *Makhinjauri* · *Chakvi* · *Ochkhamuri* · *Keda* · *Khelvachauri* · *Shuakhevi* · *Khulo*
Guria	**Ozurgeti** · Lanchkhuti · *Chokhatauri* · *Kveda Nasakirali* · *Laituri* · *Naruja* · *Ureki*
Imereti	**Kutaisi** · Chiatura · Baghdati · Khoni · Sachkhere · Samtredia · Terjola · Tkibuli · Tsqaltubo · Vani · Zestaponi · *Kharagauli* · *Kulashi* · *Shorapani*
Kakheti	**Telavi** · Akhmeta · Dedoplistsqaro · Gurjaani · Lagodekhi · Sagarejo · Sighnaghi · Kvareli · Tsnori · *Mirzaani*
Mtskheta-Mtianeti	**Mtskheta** · Dusheti · *Akhalgori* · *Sioni* · *Stepantsminda* · *Tianeti* · *Zhinvali*

Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti	**Zugdidi** · Abasha · Anaklia · Jvari · Khobi · Martvili · **Poti** · Senaki · Tsalenjikha · *Chkhorotsqu* · *Mestia* · *Ushguli*
Samtskhe-Javakheti	**Akhaltsikhe** · Akhalkalaki · Borjomi · Ninotsminda · Vale · *Abastumani* · *Adigeni* · *Akhaldaba* · *Aspindza* · *Bakuriani* · *Bakurianis Andeziti* · *Tsagveri*
Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti	**Ambrolauri** · Oni · Tsageri · *Kharistvala* · *Kvaisa* · *Lentekhi*
Kvemo Kartli	**Rustavi** · Bolnisi · Gardabani · Dmanisi · Tetritskaro · Marneuli · Tsalka · *Bediani* · *Kazreti* · *Manglisi* · *Shaumiani* · *Tamarisi* · *Trialeti*
Shida Kartli	**Gori** · Kaspi · Kareli · **Tskhinvali** · Khashuri · *Agara* · *Java* · *Surami* · *Kornisi*
Cities with local government	**Tbilisi** · **Batumi** · **Kutaisi** · **Rustavi** · **Gori** · **Zugdidi** · **Poti** · **Telavi** · **Akhaltsikhe** · **Ozurgeti** · **Mtskheta** · **Ambrolauri**
Capital city	**Tbilisi**

Capitals of Asia

Dependent territories and states with limited recognition are in *italics*

North and Central Asia	South Asia	Southeast Asia	West and Southwest Asia	
Ashgabat , Turkmenistan	**Kabul** , Afghanistan	**Bandar Seri Begawan** , Brunei	**Abu Dhabi** , United Arab Emirates	**Sana'a** , Yemen
Astana , Kazakhstan *	**Dhaka** , Bangladesh	**Bangkok** , Thailand	**Amman** , Jordan	**Stepanakert** , *Nagorno-Karabakh* *
Bishkek , Kyrgyzstan	**Diego Garcia** , *BIOT* (UK)	**Dili** , East Timor	**Ankara** , Turkey *	**Sukhumi** , *Abkhazia* *
Dushanbe , Tajikistan	**Islamabad** , Pakistan	**Flying Fish Cove** , *Christmas Island* (Australia)	**Baghdad** , Iraq	**Tbilisi** , Georgia *
Moscow , Russia *	**Kathmandu** , Nepal	**Hanoi** , Vietnam	**Baku** , Azerbaijan *	**Tehran** , Iran
Tashkent , Uzbekistan	**Kotte** , Sri Lanka	**Jakarta** , Indonesia *	**Beirut** , Lebanon	**Tskhinvali** , *South Ossetia* *
East Asia	**Malé** , Maldives	**Kuala Lumpur** , Malaysia	**Cairo** , Egypt *	**Yerevan** , Armenia *
Beijing , China	**New Delhi** , India	**Manila** , Philippines		
Hong Kong , *Hong Kong* (China)	**Thimphu** , Bhutan	**Naypyidaw** , Myanmar		
Macau , *Macau* (China)		**Phnom Penh** , Cambodia		
Pyongyang , North Korea		**Central Area** , Singapore		
Seoul , South Korea		**Vientiane** , Laos		
Taipei , *Taiwan* (ROC)		**West Island** , *Cocos (Keeling) Islands* (Australia)		
Tokyo , Japan				
Ulaanbaatar , Mongolia				

* Transcontinental country .
† See: Positions on Jerusalem . Both Israel and Palestinians claim Jerusalem as capital. Jerusalem contains the Israeli parliament and almost all Israeli government ministries. Tel Aviv contains most foreign embassies in Israel; Ramallah is the administrative seat of the Palestinian Authority.

Greek colonies of the Black Sea coast

North	Borysthenes · Charax · Chersonesus · Dioscurias · Eupatoria · Gorgippia · Hermonassa · Kepoi · Kimmerikon · Myrmekion · Nikonion · Nymphaion · Olbia · Panticapaion · Phanagoria · Pityus · Tanais · Theodosia · Tyras · Tyritake
South	Amisos · Heraclea Pontica · Kerasous · Trapezous

Authority control	GND : 4257217-4

Kabul

For other places with the same name, see Kabul (disambiguation) .

Kabul (Pashto / Dari : کابل , *Kâbol* , pronounced [ˈkʰɒːbul] ; English: / ˈ k ɑː b ʊ l /) is the capital of Afghanistan as well as its largest city , located in the eastern section of the country. According to latest estimates, the population of the city is about 4.6 million, [1] which includes all the major ethnic groups . [2] Rapid urbanization had made Kabul the world's 64th largest city [3] and the fifth fastest-growing city in the world. [4]

Kabul
کابل

Metropolis

Kabul is said to be over 3,500 years old, mentioned since at least the time of the Achaemenid Empire . The city is at a strategic location along the trade routes of South and Central Asia , and a key location of the ancient Silk Road . It has been part of the Achaemenids , Seleucids , Mauryans , Kushans , Kabul Shahis , Saffarids , Ghaznavids , and Ghurids . [5] Later, it was controlled by the Mughal Empire until finally becoming part of the Durrani Empire in 1747. [6] The city is located high up in a narrow valley between the Hindu Kush mountains.

Kabul became the capital of Afghanistan during the reign of Timur Shah Durrani (reigned 1772–1793). In the early 19th century, the British occupied the city but were compelled to abandon it. Relations between Afghanistan and Great Britain were later established. The city was occupied by the Soviets in 1979 but they too abandoned it after the 1988 Geneva Accords were signed. A civil war in the 1990s between various rebel groups destroyed much of the city, resulting in many casualties. [7]

Since the removal of the Taliban from power in late 2001, the city gradually began rebuilding itself with assistance by the international community. Despite the many terrorist attacks by anti-state elements, the city is growing and developing. The city is divided into about 18 districts .

Toponymy

Kabul (/ ˈ k ɑː b əl , ˈ k ɑː b uː l / ; Pashto : کابل *Kâbəl* , IPA: [kɑˈbəl] ; Persian : کابل *Kābol* , IPA: [kɒːˈbol]), [8] also spelled **Cabool** , **Caubul** , **Kabol** , or **Cabul** .

History

See also: History of Kabul and Timeline of Kabul

Antiquity

The word " *Kubhā* " is mentioned in the Rigveda (circa 1500–1200 BCE), one of the four canonical sacred texts (śruti) of Hinduism, and the Avesta , the primary collection of sacred texts of Zoroastrianism , refers to the Kabul River . [9] The Rigveda praises it as an ideal city, a vision of paradise set in the mountains. [10] The area in which the Kabul valley sits was ruled by the Medes before falling to the Achaemenids . There is a reference to a settlement called *Kabura* by the rulers of the Achaemenid Empire. [9] It became a center of Zoroastrianism followed by Buddhism and Hinduism . Alexander the Great explored the Kabul valley after his conquest of the Achaemenid Empire in 330 BC but no record has been made of Kabul, which may have been only a small town and not worth writing about. [5] The region became part of the Seleucid Empire but was later given to the Indian Maurya Empire .

> *"Kábul was formerly governed by princes of Turk lineage. It is said that they were originally from Tibet . The first of them was named Barhtigín ... and the kingdom continued with his children for sixty generations. ... The last of them was a Katormán, and his minister was Kalar, a Bráhman . This minister was favored by fortune, and he found in the earth treasures which augmented his power. Fortune at the same time turned her back upon his master. The Katormán's thoughts and actions were evil, so that many complaints reached the minister, who loaded him with chains, and imprisoned him for his correction. In the end the minister yielded to the temptation of becoming sole master, and he had wealth sufficient to remove all obstacles. So he established himself on the throne. After him reigned the Bráhman(s) Samand, then Kamlúa, then Bhím, then Jaipál , then Anandpál , then Narda-janpál, who was killed in A.H. 412. His son, Bhímpál, succeeded him, after the lapse of five years, and under him the sovereignty of Hind became extinct, and no descendant remained to light a fire on the hearth. These princes, notwithstanding the extent of their dominions, were endowed with excellent qualities, faithful to their engagements, and gracious towards their inferiors..."* [19]
>
> — Abu Rayhan Biruni , 978–1048 AD

The Kabul rulers built a long defensive wall around the city to protect it from enemy raids. This historical wall has survived until today. It was briefly held by Tibetan Empire between 801 and 815.

Islamization and Mongol invasion

Further information: Islamic conquest of Afghanistan

> *"Kábul has a castle celebrated for its strength, accessible only by one road. In it there are Musulmáns , and it has a town, in which are infidels from Hind ."* [21]
>
> — Istahkrí , 921 AD

Over the following centuries, the city was successively controlled by the Samanids , Ghaznavids , Ghurids , Khwarazmshahs , Qarlughids , and Khiljis . In the 13th century, the Mongol horde passed through and massively destroyed the area. Report of a massacre in the close by Bamiyan is recorded around this period, where the entire population of the valley was annihilated by the Mongol troops as a revenge for the death of Genghis Khan's grandson. During the Mongol invasion, many natives of Afghanistan fled to India where some established dynasties in Delhi . It was also ruled by Chagatai Khanate and Kartids , were vassals of Ilkhanate till dissolution of latter in 1335.

Following the era of the Khilji dynasty in 1333, the famous Moroccan scholar Ibn Battuta was visiting Kabul and wrote:

> *"In the country of Kābul there are many and various tribes. In the city and the greater part of the villages, the population consists of Tājiks (called " Sarts " by Babur). Many other of the villages and districts are occupied by Pashāis , Parāchis , Tājiks, Berekis, and Afghans . In the hill-country to the west, reside the Hazāras and Nukderis. Among the Hazāra and Nukderi tribes, there are some who speak the Moghul language. In the hill-country to the north-east lies Kaferistān , such as Kattor and Gebrek. To the south is Afghanistān ... There are eleven or twelve different languages spoken in Kābul: Arabic , Persian , Tūrki , Moghuli, Hindi , Afghani , Pashāi , Parāchi, Geberi, Bereki, and Lamghāni..."* [23]
>
> — Baburnama , 1525

From top left to right: Overview of a section of the city; Presidential Palace ; Square; Abdul Rahman Mosque ; Gardens of Babur ; Wazir Akbar Khan ; Serena Hotel

Coordinates: 34°32′N 69°10′E

Country	Afghanistan
Province	Kabul
No. of districts	22
Government	
• **Mayor**	Abdullah Habibzai
Area	
• **Metropolis**	275 km ^{2} (106 sq mi)
• **Metro**	425 km ^{2} (164 sq mi)
Elevation	1,791 m (5,876 ft)
Population (2015)	
• **Metropolis**	4.6 million
• **Demonym**	Kabuli [1]
Time zone	Afghanistan Standard Time (UTC+4:30)
Area code(s)	(+93) 20

Mirza Muhammad Haidar Dughlat , a poet from Hindustan who visited at the time wrote: *"Dine and drink in Kabul: it is mountain, desert, city, river and all else."* It was from here that Babur began his 1526 conquest of Hindustan, which was ruled by the Afghan Lodi dynasty and began east of the Indus River in what is present-day Pakistan. Babur loved Kabul due to the fact that he lived in it for 20 years and the people were loyal to him, including its weather that he was used to. His wish to be buried in Kabul was finally granted. The inscription on his tomb contains the famous Persian couplet , which states: اگرفردوس روی زمین است همین است و همین است و همین است (If there is a paradise on earth, it is this, it is this, it is this!) [24]

Durrani Empire

Further information: Durrani dynasty and Barakzai dynasty

Nine years after Nader Shah and his forces invaded and occupied the city as part of the more easternmost parts of his Empire, he was assassinated by his own officers, causing the rapid disintegration of it. Ahmad Shah Durrani , commander of 4,000 Abdali Afghans , asserted Pashtun rule in 1747 and further expanded his new Afghan Empire . His ascension to power marked the beginning of Afghanistan. His son Timur Shah Durrani , after inheriting power, transferred the capital of Afghanistan from Kandahar to Kabul in

1776, [25] and used Peshawar in what is today Pakistan as the winter capital. Timur Shah died in 1793 and was succeeded by his son Zaman Shah Durrani . Kabul's first visitor from Europe was Englishman George Forster , who described 18th-century Kabul as "the best and cleanest city in South Asia". [10]

The Islamic conquest of Afghanistan began from Herat , which was one of the important cities of Khorasan , and made its way to Kabul in the late 600's.

In 1826, the kingdom was claimed by Dost Mohammad Khan but in 1839 Shujah Shah Durrani was re-installed with the help of British India during the First Anglo-Afghan War . In 1841 a local uprising resulted in the killing of the British resident and loss of mission in Kabul and the 1842 retreat from Kabul to Jalalabad . In 1842 the British returned to Kabul, plundering Bala Hissar in revenge before fleeing back to British India (now Pakistan). Akbar Khan took to the throne from 1842 to 1845 and was followed by Dost Mohammad Khan.

The British-led Indian forces invaded in 1879 when Kabul was under Sher Ali Khan 's rule, as the Afghan king initially refused to accept British diplomatic mission and later the British residents were again massacred. The British partially destroyed Bala Hissar fortress before retreating to British India.

20th century Kabul

In the early 20th century King Amanullah Khan rose to power. His reforms included electricity for the city and schooling for girls. He drove a Rolls-Royce , and lived in the famous Darul Aman Palace . In 1919, after the Third Anglo-Afghan War , Amanullah announced Afghanistan's independence from foreign affairs at Eidgah Mosque . In 1929 King Ammanullah left Kabul due to a local uprising orchestrated by Habibullah Kalakani . After nine months rule, Kalakani was imprisoned and executed by King Nader Khan . Three years later, in 1933, the new king was assassinated by a Hazara student Abdul Khaliq during an award ceremony inside a school in Kabul. The throne was left to his 19-year-old son, Zahir Shah , who became the last King of Afghanistan .

Shujah Shah Durrani , the last Durrani King , sitting at his court inside the Bala Hissar .

During the inter-war period France and Germany worked to help develop the country and maintained high schools and lycees in the capital, providing education for the children of the city's elite families. [26] Kabul University opened in 1932 and by the 1960s western educated Afghans made up the majority of teachers. [27] By the 1960s the majority of instructors at the university had degrees from Western universities. [27]

When Zahir Shah took power in 1933 Kabul had the only 10 kilometers (6 miles) of rail in the country and the country had few internal telegraphs, phone lines or roads. Zahir turned to the Japanese, Germans and Italians for help developing a modern transportation and communication network. [28] A radio tower built by the Germans in 1937 in Kabul allowing instant communication with outlying villages. [29] A national bank and state cartels were organized to allow for economic modernization. [30] Textile mills, power plants, carpet and furniture factories were also built in Kabul, providing much needed manufacturing and infrastructure. [30]

Afghan men and women in the 1920s.

In 1955, the Soviet Union forwarded $100 million in credit to Afghanistan, which financed public transportation, airports, a cement factory, mechanized bakery, a five-lane highway from Kabul to the Soviet border and dams. [31]

In the 1960s the first Marks & Spencer store in Central Asia was built in the city. Kabul Zoo was inaugurated in 1967, which was maintained with the help of visiting German zoologists . Many foreigners began flocking to Kabul and the nation's tourism industry was starting to pick up speed. Kabul experimented with liberalization, dropping laws requiring women to wear burkas , restrictions on speech and assembly were loosened which led to student politics in the capital. [32] Socialist, Maoist and liberal factions demonstrated daily in Kabul while more traditional Islamic leaders spoke out against the failure to aid the Afghan countryside. [32] From the 1960s until the late 1970s, Kabul was a major stop on the famous Hippie trail . [33]

Men and women entering a public transport bus in the 1950s.

Kabul in 1976

In 1969 a religious uprising at the Pul-e Khishti Mosque protested the Soviet Union's increasing influence over Afghan politics and religion . This protest ended in the arrest of many of its organizers, including Mawlana Faizani , a popular Islamic scholar. In the early 1970s Radio Kabul began to broadcast in other languages besides Pashto which helped to unify those minorities that often felt marginalized. However, this was put to a stop after Daoud Khan 's revolution in 1973. [34] In July 1973, while King Zahir Shah was visiting Europe, his cousin Daoud Khan who served as Prime Minister launched a coup d'état and took over power. This was supported by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), a pro-Soviet political party. Daoud named himself President and planned to institute reforms. [35] The BBC has described the period before the April 1978 Revolution as an era when different ethnic groups of Afghanistan lived together harmoniously, intermarried and mixed socially. [10]

By 1975, the young Ahmad Shah Massoud and his followers initiated an uprising in Panjshir but were forced to flee to neighboring Pakistan where they received recruitment from Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to create unrest in Afghanistan with the help of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence . It is claimed that Bhutto paved the way for the April 1978 Saur Revolution in Kabul by making Daoud spread his armed forces to the countryside. "To launch this plan, Bhutto recruited and trained a group of Afghans in the Bala-Hesar of Peshawar , in Pakistan's North-west Frontier Province . Among these young men were Massoud, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar , and other members of Jawanan-e Musulman. Massoud's mission to Bhutto was to create unrest in northern Afghanistan. It served Massoud's interests, which were apparently opposition to the Soviets and independence for Afghanistan. Later, after Massoud and Hekmatyar had a terrible falling-out over Massoud's opposition to terrorist tactics and methods, Massoud overthrew from Jawanan-e Musulman. He joined Rabani 's newly created Afghan political party, Jamiat-i-Islami , in exile in Pakistan." [36]

Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

Further information: Soviet war in Afghanistan

On April 28, 1978, President Daoud and his family along with many of his supporters were assassinated in Kabul. Pro-Soviet PDPA under Hafizullah Amin seized power and slowly began to institute reforms. [37] Private businesses were nationalized in the Soviet manner. [38] Education was modified into the Soviet model, with lessons focusing on teaching Russian, Leninism-Marxism and learning of other countries belonging to the Soviet bloc. [38] Foreign-backed rebel groups and army deserters took up arms in the name of Islam. [38]

In February 1979, U.S. Ambassador Adolph Dubs was murdered after Afghan security forces burst in on his kidnappers. In neighboring Pakistan, President Zulfiqar Bhutto was executed in April 1979. In September 1979 Afghan President Nur Muhammad Taraki was assassinated by a team of Soviet Spetsnaz inside the Tajbeg Palace in Kabul. [39] On December 24, 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan and Kabul was heavily occupied by Soviet Armed Forces . Following this invasion, Pakistani President Zia-ul-Haq

chaired a meeting in Islamabad and was told by several cabinet members to refrain from interfering in Afghanistan, owing to the vastly superior military power of the Soviet Union. [40] However, Zia-ul-Haq, fearing that the Soviets may be advancing into Pakistan, particularly Balochistan , made no secret about his intentions of aiding the mujahideen rebel groups. During this meeting, Director-General of the ISI Akhtar Abdur Rahman advocated for the idea of covert operation in Afghanistan by arming the Islamic extremists. [40] General Rahman was heard loudly saying: " *Kabul must burn! Kabul must burn!* ", [41] and mastered the idea of proxy war in Afghanistan. [40] President Zia-ul-Haq authorised this operation under General Rahman, and it was later merged with Operation Cyclone , a programme funded by the United States.

The day after the April 1978 Saur Revolution

The Soviets turned the city of Kabul into their command center during the Soviet war in Afghanistan . Kabul was considered moderately safe during that period, as fighting was mostly in the countryside and in other major cities. Kabul was still economically active and women made up 40% of the workforce. [42] However the city was not necessarily calm. Political crime, such as assassinations of PDPA party members and guerilla attacks on military and government targets were quite common. The Soviet Embassy, for example, was attacked 4 times with arms fire in the first five years of the war. In 1983, a report from *Izvestia* said that most public places such as hospitals and state banks had "people with guns in their hands", which was not the case before 1979. A Western correspondent revisiting Kabul in December 1983 after a year, said that the city was "converted into a fortress bristling with weapons", suggesting the increasing sight of guns. [43]

Kabul in 1982 during the Soviet-Afghan War

But the city's image wasn't negative in everyone's view. American diplomat Charles Dunbar said that the Soviet troops' presence was "surprisingly modest". He said in a July 1983 article that whilst Soviet troops are a common sight, they "do not give the impression of invaders who are enforcing their occupation at the point of a bayonet". Soviet men and women were very common in the city's shopping roads, with the large availability of Western products. [44] An December 1983 article from *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* , where the author stayed two weeks in the city, said that the Soviet soldiers had a friendly atmosphere in which they would greet friends and have a chat with the population. [45] Most Soviet civilians (numbering between 8,000 and 10,000) lived in the north eastern Makroyan (*microraion*) suburb, in an apartment housing complex. It was surrounded by barbed-wire and armed tanks, for their safety. The residents were often unsafe when walking through the streets, receiving verbal abuse , rude gestures and even kidnappings from anti-PDPA/anti-Soviet Afghan civilians. Life for PDPA politicians and their families were also insecure. [46] The city's population increased from around 500,000 in 1978 to 2 million in 1988, [47] due to rural refugees but also the return of Afghan refugees from neighboring Pakistan and Iran under President Najibullah, who came into power in 1985.

Civil war and Taliban regime

Main articles: Civil war in Afghanistan (1989–1992) and Civil war in Afghanistan (1992–1996)

A section of Kabul during the civil war in 1993.

After the fall of Najibullah's [36] Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in April 1992, leaders of the different mujahideen factions were unable to form a government. Despite the 1992 Peshawar Accords , fighting started as Hekmatyar 's party refused to sign the accords and started shelling the city for power. This marked the start of a dark period of the city, in which over 50,000 civilians were killed. About 80 percent of the city was devastated and destroyed by 1996. [48] [49]

The city suffered heavily under a bombardment campaign between rival militias. Its geographic location in a narrow valley made it an easy target from rockets fired by militias who based themselves in the surrounding mountains. Initially the factions in the city aligned to fight off Hekmatyar's forces, but diplomacy inside the capital quickly broke down. [50] For the following two years in particular, much of Kabul would be laid to waste, the majority of infrastructure destroyed, and a massive exodus of the population leaving to the countryside or abroad. In December 1992, the last of the 86 city trolley buses in Kabul came to a halt because of the conflict. A system of 800 public buses continued to provide transportation services to the city. By 1993 electricity and water in the city was completely out.

Additionally to the bombardment campaign conducted by Hekmatyar and Dostum , tension between the Shi'a Hazara forces of Abdul Ali Mazari and the Wahabi Ittihad-i Islami of Abdul Rasul Sayyaf soon escalated into a second violent conflict. The fighting between the two factions quickly took on aspects of "ethnic cleansing". [51] One such example was the Afshar Operation in 1993, in which many ethnic Hazara and Pashtun civilians were murdered.

In January 1994, Dostum joined an alliance with Hekmatyar and conducted bombardment of Kabul during that period, but were eventually repelled by Massoud's forces who also bombarded the city to gain control. [52] In late 1994, bombardment of the capital came to a temporary halt. [53] [54] [55] These forces took steps to restore law and order. Courts started to work again, convicting individuals inside government troops who had committed crimes. [56] Massoud tried to initiate a nationwide political process with the goal of national consolidation and democratic elections, also inviting the Taliban to join the process but the idea was rejected by them. [57] By 1995 the university opened its doors once again.

The Taliban started shelling Kabul in early 1995 but were repelled at first by Massoud's forces. [54] Amnesty International , referring to the Taliban offensive, wrote in a 1995 report that "This is the first time in several months that Kabul civilians have become the targets of rocket attacks and shelling aimed at residential areas in the city." [54]

On September 26, 1996, as the Taliban prepared for another major offensive, Massoud ordered a full retreat from Kabul and fled north. [58] The next day the Taliban seized Kabul and established the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan . They imposed a strict form of Sharia (Islamic law), restricting women from work and education. [59] They also conducted amputations against common thieves. Their hit-squads from the infamous "Ministry for Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice" watched the streets conducting public beatings of people. [59]

The al-Qaeda of Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri became a state within the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, with bin Laden controlling Kabul and the eastern city of Jalalabad . [60]

During the hardline Taliban regime, Kabul became a ruined city, with most infrastructure already been destroyed, many residents had long left, poverty levels were high, there was little to no education or public services, and its strict laws meant there were no entertainment or other media allowed. The regime's lack of interest in development meant that the city remained barren for years. On a positive note the Taliban's rule, which would last for five years, made the city calm after years of war between different warlords.

21st century

Further information: Presidency of Hamid Karzai and List of terrorist attacks in Kabul since 2008

In November 2001, the Northern Alliance captured Kabul after the Taliban had abandoned it. A month later a new government under President Hamid Karzai began to assemble. In the meantime, a NATO -led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was deployed in Afghanistan. The war-torn city began to see some positive development as many expatriate Afghans returned to the country. The city's population grew from about 500,000 in 2001 to over 3 million in recent years. Many foreign embassies re-opened.

An American soldier standing with children at *Freedom Circle* (2011)

As of 2014, the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have been in charge of security in and around the city. Kabul is periodically the scene of deadly suicide bombings carried out by the Haqqani network , the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant – Khorasan Province , the Taliban's Quetta Shura , Hezbi Islami , al-Qaeda, and other anti-state groups. [61] [62] [63] [64] Government employees, soldiers and ordinary civilians have all been targets of attacks. [65] [66] [67] [68] [69] The Afghan government called the actions of the terrorists war crimes .

Geography, climate and environment

Further information: Geography of Afghanistan

Kabul serves as the nation's cultural and learning center, situated 1,791 meters (5,876 feet) above sea level in a narrow valley, wedged between the Hindu Kush mountains along the Kabul River . It is linked with Kandahar , Herat and Mazar-e Sharif via the circular Highway 1 that stretches across Afghanistan. It is also the start of the main road to Jalalabad and further to Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa . The Kabul International Airport is located about 16 km (9.9 mi) from the center of the city, next to the Wazir Akbar Khan neighborhood. Bagram Airfield is about 40 km (25 mi) northeast of Kabul. [70]

Kabul has a cold semi-arid climate (Köppen climate classification *BSk*) with precipitation concentrated in the winter (almost exclusively falling as snow) and spring months. Temperatures are relatively cool compared to much of Southwest Asia, mainly due to the high elevation of the city. Summer has very low humidity , providing relief from the heat. Autumn features warm afternoons and sharply cooler evenings. Winters are cold, with a January daily average of −2.3 °C (27.9 °F) . Spring is the wettest time of the year, though temperatures are generally amiable. Sunny conditions dominate year-round. The annual mean temperature is 12.1 °C (53.8 °F) .

Episkopi_Cantonment

Episkopi Cantonment is the capital of Akrotiri and Dhekelia , a British Overseas Territory on the island of Cyprus , administered as a base. It is located in the middle of the Western Sovereign Base Area, one of the two areas which comprise the territory. Although it is not the largest of the British military bases on the island, it is however home to both the civilian and military administration headquarters of the Sovereign Base Areas. Episkopi is the current command centre of British Forces Cyprus . [1]

Episkopi Cantonment in Akrotiri

See also

- British Forces Cyprus
- Royal Military Police
- Sovereign Base Areas
- Sovereign Base Areas Customs
- Sovereign Base Areas Police
- St. John's School
- Episkopi, Limassol
- Dhekelia Cantonment

References

1. ↑ "British forces overseas posting: Episkopi, Cyprus" . Ministry of Defence . Retrieved 7 June 2015 .

Capitals of British administrative divisions			
National capital : London			
Constituent countries	**Crown dependencies**	**British Overseas Territories**	
London , *England*	**Saint Helier** , *Jersey*	**Episkopi Cantonment** , *Akrotiri and Dhekelia*	**Stanley** , *Falkland Islands*
Edinburgh , *Scotland*	**Saint Peter Port** , *Guernsey*	**The Valley** , *Anguilla*	**Gibraltar** , *Gibraltar*
Cardiff , *Wales*	**Douglas** , *Isle of Man*	**Hamilton** , *Bermuda*	**Brades** , *Montserrat*
Belfast , *Northern Ireland*		**Rothera** , *British Antarctic Territory*	**Adamstown** , *Pitcairn Islands*
		Diego Garcia , *British Indian Ocean Territory*	**Jamestown** , *Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha*
		Road Town , *British Virgin Islands*	**King Edward Point** , *South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands*
		George Town , *Cayman Islands*	**Cockburn Town** , *Turks and Caicos Islands*

Capitals of Asia				
Dependent territories and states with limited recognition are in *italics*				
North and Central Asia	**South Asia**	**Southeast Asia**	**West and Southwest Asia**	
Ashgabat , Turkmenistan	**Kabul** , Afghanistan	**Bandar Seri Begawan** , Brunei	**Abu Dhabi** , United Arab Emirates	**Sana'a** , Yemen
Astana , Kazakhstan *	**Dhaka** , Bangladesh	**Bangkok** , Thailand	**Amman** , Jordan	**Stepanakert** , *Nagorno-Karabakh* *
Bishkek , Kyrgyzstan	**Diego Garcia** , *BIOT* (UK)	**Dili** , East Timor	**Ankara** , Turkey *	**Sukhumi** , *Abkhazia* *
Dushanbe , Tajikistan	**Islamabad** , Pakistan	**Flying Fish Cove** , *Christmas Island* (Australia)	**Baghdad** , Iraq	**Tbilisi** , Georgia *
Moscow , Russia *	**Kathmandu** , Nepal	**Hanoi** , Vietnam	**Baku** , Azerbaijan *	**Tehran** , Iran
Tashkent , Uzbekistan	**Kotte** , Sri Lanka		**Beirut** , Lebanon	**Tskhinvali** , *South Ossetia* *
East Asia	**Malé** , Maldives			

Beijing , China	**New Delhi** , India	**Jakarta** , Indonesia *	**Cairo** , Egypt *	**Yerevan** , Armenia *
Hong Kong , *Hong Kong* (China)	**Thimphu** , Bhutan	**Kuala Lumpur** , Malaysia		
Macau , *Macau* (China)		**Manila** , Philippines		
Pyongyang , North Korea		**Naypyidaw** , Myanmar		
Seoul , South Korea		**Phnom Penh** , Cambodia		
Taipei , *Taiwan* (ROC)		**Central Area** , Singapore		
Tokyo , Japan		**Vientiane** , Laos		
Ulaanbaatar , Mongolia		**West Island** , *Cocos (Keeling) Islands* (Australia)		

***** Transcontinental country .
† See: Positions on Jerusalem . Both Israel and Palestinians claim Jerusalem as capital. Jerusalem contains the Israeli parliament and almost all Israeli government ministries. Tel Aviv contains most foreign embassies in Israel; Ramallah is the administrative seat of the Palestinian Authority.

This article related to government in the United Kingdom or its constituent countries is a stub . You can help Wikipedia by expanding it .

This Cyprus -related article is a stub . You can help Wikipedia by expanding it .

Mariehamn

Mariehamn (Finnish : *Maarianhamina*) is the capital of Åland , an autonomous territory under Finnish sovereignty . Mariehamn is the seat of the Government and Parliament of Åland , and 40% of the population of Åland live in the city. Like all of Åland, Mariehamn is unilingually Swedish-speaking and around 88% of the inhabitants speak it as their native language. [3]

Mariehamn

Town

Mariehamns stad

View of Mariehamn

Coat of arms

Location of Mariehamn in Finland

History

Södragatan , one of the oldest streets of Mariehamn.

The town was named after the Russian empress Maria Alexandrovna . Mariehamn was founded in 1861, around the village of Övernäs , in what was at the time part of the municipality of Jomala . The city has since expanded and incorporated more of Jomala territory. Mariehamn was built according to a very regular scheme which is well-preserved. One of the oldest streets is *Södragatan* where many wooden houses dating from the 19th century can be seen.

Harbours

The museum ship *Pommern* is anchored in the western of Mariehamn's two harbours, Västerhamn.

The city is located on a peninsula . It has two important harbours, one located on the western shore and one on the eastern shore, which are ice-free for nearly the whole year, and have no tides. [6] The Western Harbour is an important international harbour with daily traffic to Sweden , Estonia and mainland Finland . A powerful incentive for Baltic ferries to stop at Mariehamn is that, with respect to indirect taxation, Åland is not part of the EU customs zone and so duty-free goods can be sold aboard. Mariehamn Airport is located in the neighbouring municipality of Jomala, some 3 kilometres (2 mi) north-west of Mariehamn city centre. Åland and Mariehamn have a reputable heritage in shipping. The Flying P-Liner *Pommern* museum ship is anchored in the Western Harbour. The Eastern Harbour features one of the largest marinas in Scandinavia . The famous Dutch steamer *Jan Nieveen* (now called *F.P. von Knorring* , after Åland teacher and vicar Frans Peter von Knorring) can also be found here.

Culture

The city is an important centre for Åland media; both of the local newspapers (Ålandstidningen and Nya Åland), several radio stations and the local TV channels (TV Åland and Åland24) operate out of the city. The islanders are traditionally fond of reading, and had public libraries before 1920. A printing works was established in the town in 1891. [6] The municipal library, which was built in 1989, is one of the most interesting modern buildings.

Municipal library

Architecture

Mariehamn features several buildings drawn by Finnish architect Lars Sonck , who moved to Åland as a child. Buildings drawn by him include the church of Mariehamn (1927), the main building of the Åland Maritime College (1927) and the town hall (1939). Hilda Hongell also designed several buildings, although only a few are still standing.

Demographics

A chart on population increase.

Saint George 's church

Year	Population
1987	9,966
1990	10,263
1997	10,408
2000	10,488
2002	10,632
2004	10,712
2006	10,824
2008	11,005
2009	11,123
2010	11,190
2011	11,262
2012	11,345
2013 (May)	11,446

Location in Åland	
Coordinates: 60°06′N 019°56′E	
Country	Finland
Region	Åland
Sub-region	Mariehamn
Charter	1861
Government	
• **Mayor**	Barbara Heinonen
Area (2016-01-01) [1]	
• **Total**	11.80 km ^{2} (4.56 sq mi)
• **Land**	11.79 km ^{2} (4.55 sq mi)
• **Water**	8.96 km ^{2} (3.46 sq mi)
Area rank	311th largest in Finland
Population (2016-03-31) [2]	
• **Total**	11,521
• **Rank**	89th largest in Finland
• **Density**	977.18/km ^{2} (2,530.9/sq mi)
Population by native language [3]	
• **Swedish**	87.7% (official)
• **Finnish**	5.8%
• **Others**	6.5%
Population by age [4]	
• **0 to 14**	14.8%
• **15 to 64**	67.8%
• **65 or older**	17.4%
Time zone	EET (UTC+2)
• **Summer (DST)**	EEST (UTC+3)
Municipal tax rate [5]	16.5%
Website	www.mariehamn.ax

Climate

Mariehamn has a transitional climate between humid continental climate with certain maritime influence as a result of the strong maritime moderation from being an island in the Baltic Sea. This renders summers to be cooler than both the Swedish and Finnish mainlands, with winters being similar in cold to the adjacent coastal part of Sweden but milder than Finland's mainland.

Tirana

Tirana (/ t ɪ ˈ r ɑː n ə / (listen) ; Albanian : *Tiranë* ; Gheg Albanian : *Tirona*) is the capital and largest city of Albania . It is also the heart of Albania's cultural, economic and governmental activity, located on the central-west corner of the country surrounded by mountains and hills with the Dajti Mountain on the east and a slight valley opening on the north-west overlooking the Adriatic Sea in the distance. The city is located some 700 kilometres (430 miles) north of Athens , 290 km (180 mi) west of Skopje , 250 km (160 mi) south-east of Pristina and 160 km (99 mi) south of Podgorica .

Tirana was founded as a city in 1614, although the area has been continuously inhabited since antiquity. One of the ancient monuments, the Tirana Mosaic is believed to have been part of a 3rd-century Ancient Roman house. Later, in the 5th and 6th centuries, a Paleo-Christian Basilica was built around this site. Tirana did not attain much significance until the early 20th century, when the Congress of Lushnjë proclaimed it Albania's capital following the country's declaration of independence in 1912.

Tirana is the largest city in Albania and one of largest cities in the Balkans , ranking 7th, with a population of 800,000. [3] The city is ranked among the ten sunniest cities in Europe, with 2,544 hours of sun per year. [4]

Being Albania 's primate city , Tirana is considered the heart of Albania because of its central location and its importance in finance, commerce, media, entertainment, arts, international trade, education, service, research and healthcare. Almost all of the country's largest companies, media and scientific institutions have their headquarters in the city. Tirana is also the seat of power of the Government of Albania , the residences for work of the President and the Prime Minister of Albania. Tirana retains Roman and Byzantine monuments, as well as a number of Ottoman monuments.

Tirana
Tiranë (Albanian)

Municipality

Clockwise from top: Skanderbeg Square , Toptani Mall , Kapllan Pasha Tomb , Resurrection Cathedral , "Post Block" memorial, Petrelë Castle , City Hall and Tirana seen from Mount Dajt .

History

See also: Timeline of Tirana

Early history

Ancient mosaics from the 3rd century.

The oldest discovery in Tirana was a Roman house, later transformed into an aisleless church with a mosaic-floor, dating to the 3rd century, with other remains found near a medieval temple at Shengjin Fountain in the eastern suburbs. A castle possibly called *Tirkan* or *Theranda* , whose remnants are found along Murat Toptani Street, was built by byzantine Emperor Justinian I and restored by Ahmed Pasha Toptani in the 18th century. [5] The area had no special importance in Illyrian and classical times.

In 1510, Marin Barleti , an Albanian Catholic priest and scholar, in the biography of the Albanian national hero Skanderbeg , *Historia de vita et gestis Scanderbegi Epirotarum principis* (*The story of life and deeds of Skanderbeg, the prince of Epirotes*), referred to this area as a small village. [6]

Records from the first land registrations under the Ottomans in 1431–32 show that Tirana consisted of 60 inhabited areas, with nearly 2,028 houses and 7,300 inhabitants. Tirana is mentioned since 1572 as *Borgo di Tirana* . [7]

In 1614, Sulejman Bargjini , a local ruler, built the Old mosque , a small commercial centre, and a hammam (Turkish bath). During this period, the Et'hem Bey Mosque , built by Molla Bey of Petrela , was constructed. It employed the best artisans in the country and was completed in 1821 by Molla's son Etëhem , who was also Sulejman Bargjini's grandnephew. In 1800, the first newcomers arrived in the settlement , the so-called *ortodoksit* . They were Vlachs from

villages near Korçë and Pogradec , who settled around modern day Park on the Artificial Lake . [8] They started to be known as the *llacifac* and were the first Christians to arrive after the creation of the town. After Serb reprisals in the Debar region, thousands of locals fled to Tirana. In 1807, Tirana became the center of the Sub-Prefecture of Krujë-Tirana. After 1816, Tirana languished under the control of the *Toptani* family of Krujë . Later, Tirana became a sub-prefecture of the newly created Vilayet of Shkodër and Sanjak of Durrës.

Flag

Seal

Coordinates: 41°19′44″N 19°49′04″E

Country	Albania
County	Tirana
Established	1614
Government	
• **Mayor**	Erion Veliaj [1] (SP)
Area	
• **Municipality**	1,110.03 km ^{2} (428.58 sq mi)
• **Administrative Unit**	41.8 km ^{2} (16.1 sq mi)
Elevation	110 m (360 ft)
Population (2011)	
• **Municipality**	557,422 [2]
Time zone	CET (UTC+1)
• **Summer (DST)**	CEST (UTC+2)
Postal Code	1001–1028, 1031
Area Code	(0)4
Website	Official Website

Modern

In 1889, the Albanian language started to be taught in Tirana's schools, while the patriotic club Bashkimi was founded in 1908. On 28 November 1912, the national flag was raised in agreement with President Ismail Qemali . During the Balkan Wars , the city was temporarily occupied by the Serbian army and it took part in uprising of the villages led by Haxhi Qamili . In 1917, the first city outline was compiled by Austro-Hungarian architects. On 8 February 1920, the Congress of Lushnjë proclaimed Tirana as the temporary capital of Albania, which had gained independence in 1912. [9] The city retained that status permanently on 31 December 1925. In 1923, the first regulatory city plan was compiled by Austrian architects. [10] The centre of Tirana was the project of Florestano Di Fausto and Armando Brasini, well known architects of the Benito Mussolini period in Italy. Brasini laid the basis for the modern-day arrangement of the ministerial buildings in the city centre. The plan underwent revisions by Albanian architect Eshref Frashëri, Italian architect Castellani and Austrian architects Weiss and Kohler. Modern Albanian parliamentary building served as a club of officers. It was there that, in September 1928, Zog of Albania was crowned King Zog I, King of the Albanians. Tirana served as the venue for the signing, between Fascist Italy and Albania, of the Pact of Tirana.

In 1939, Tirana was captured by Fascist forces appointing a puppet government . In the meantime, Italian architect Gherardo Bosio was asked to elaborate on previous plans and introduce a new project in the area of present-day Mother Teresa Square . [11] A failed assassination attempt was made on Victor Emmanuel III of Italy by a local resistance activist during a visit in Tirana. In November 1941, two emissaries of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia (KPJ), Miladin Popović and Dušan Mugoša, managed to call a meeting of three Albanian communist groups and founded the Communist Party of Albania , of which Enver Hoxha would shortly emerge as the leader. The town soon became the center of the Albanian communists, who mobilized locals against Italian fascists and later Nazi Germans, while spreading ideological propaganda. On 17 November 1944, the town was liberated after a fierce battle between the Communists and German forces . The Nazis eventually withdrew and the communists seized power.

From 1944 to 1991, massive socialist-styled apartment complexes and factories began to be built, while Skanderbeg Square was redesigned with a number of buildings being demolished. For instance, Tirana's former Old Bazaar and the Orthodox Cathedral were razed to the ground for the erection of the Soviet-styled Palace of Culture. The northern portion of the main boulevard was renamed Stalin Boulevard and his statue was erected in the city square. Because private car ownership was banned, mass transportation consisted mainly of bicycles, trucks and buses. After Hoxha's death, a pyramidal museum was constructed in his memory by the government.

Prior to and after the proclamation of Albania's policy of self-imposed isolationism , a number of high-profile figures paid visits to the city, such as Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev , Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai and East German Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer . In 1985, Tirana served as the ceremonial venue of Enver Hoxha's funeral. A few years later, Mother Teresa became the first religious figure to visit the country following Albania's long declared anti-religious atheist stance. She paid respect to her mother and sister resting at a local cemetery. Starting at the campus and ending at Skanderbeg Square with the toppling of Enver Hoxha's statue, the city saw significant demonstrations by University of Tirana students, demanding political freedoms in the early 1990s.

The city in 1991.

The Bazaar at the turn of the 20th century.

In 1988, the first outsiders were allowed to walk into the Skanderbeg Square .

Post-communism

See also: Fall of communism in Albania

The *Mustafa Matohiti* Street is known as *Rruga e Salës* among the locals, named after former Prime Minister Sali Berisha. [12]

Geographically, Tirana is situated on the western slopes of Dajti Mountain in central Albania . Its average altitude is 110 meters (360 ft) above sea level and its highest point measures 1,828 metres (5,997 feet) at Mali me Gropa. By road the city is 700 kilometres (430 miles) north of Athens , 290 km (180 mi) west of Skopje , 250 km (160 mi) south-east of Pristina and 160 km (99 mi) south of Podgorica .

The city is surrounded by Dajti Mountain on the east, south and west, standing at 1,613 metres (5,292 ft) elevation above sea level . In winter, the mountain is often covered with snow and is a popular retreat to the population of Tirana, which rarely sees snow falls. The forests are composed of pine , oak and beech , while its interior relief with canyons , waterfalls , caves , lakes and landforms. [24] Due to its natural heritage, it considered the "Natural Balcony of Tirana". The mountain can be reached through a narrow asphalted mountain road onto an area known as Fusha e Dajtit. From this small area there is an excellent view of Tirana and its plain.

Tiranë river flows through the city, as does the Lanë river . Tirana is home to several artificial lakes , among which are included Tirana , Farka, Tufina, and Kashar. The present municipality was formed at the 2015 local government reform by the merger of the former municipalities Baldushk, Bërzhitë, Dajt, Farkë, Kashar, Krrabë, Ndroq, Petrelë, Pezë, Shëngjergj, Tirana, Vaqarr, Zall-Bastar and Zall-Herr, that became municipal units. The seat of the municipality is the city Tirana. [25]

A Satellite imagery illustrating the Tirana Metropolitan Area.

Climate

Under the Köppen climate classification , Tirana has humid subtropical climate *(Cfa)* , and receives just enough summer precipitation to avoid Köppen's *(Csa)* Mediterranean climate classification, since every summer month has more than 40 millimetres (1.6 in) of rainfall, with hot and moderately dry/humid summers and cool and wet winters. Some snow falls almost every winter, but it usually melts quickly. [26] With 2544 hours of sun, Tirana is the 8th most sunniest city in Europe . [27] Tirana lies on the boundary between Zone 7 and Zone 9 in terms of the hardiness zone . [28]

After the fall of communism in Albania , a reorganization plan was announced in 1990, that would extend the compulsory education program from eight to ten years. The following year, major economic and political crisis in Albania , and the ensuing breakdown of public order, plunged the school system into chaos. Widespread vandalism and extreme shortages of textbooks and supplies had a devastating effect on school operations, prompting Italy and other countries to provide material assistance. Many teachers relocated from rural to urban areas, leaving village schools understaffed and swelling the ranks of the unemployed in the cities; about 2,000 teachers fled the country. -The highly controlled environment that the communist regime had forced upon the educational system over the course of more than forty-six years was finally liberated set for improvement. In the late 1990, many schools were rebuilt or reconstructed, to improve learning conditions. Most of the improvements have happened in the larger cities of the country especially in Tirana.

The building of the Faculty of Law of Tirana.

In Tirana, there are 64 primary schools and 19 secondary schools. [89] The city is also host to many higher education institutions. This brings many young students from other cities and countries, especially from neighbouring countries, to Tirana. Many private Universities have been opened during the recent years. The French computer science university Epitech is also located in the city.

In recent years, foreign students mainly from Southern Italy are being enrolled at Italian-affiliated universities in Tirana in the hope of better preparing themselves for entrance exams in Italy's universities.

International School of Tirana is part of the Quality Schools International

Universities in Tirana

Name	Established	City	Type	Students	Academic staff
University of Tirana	1957	Tirana	Public Classic School	35,000	900
University of Arts	1966	Tirana	Public Art School	1200	64
University of Medicine	2013	Tirana	Public Medical School	8460	417
Polytechnic University	1951	Tirana	Public Technical School	10,000	280
Agricultural University	1951	Tirana	Public Agricultural School	14,000	480
School of Magistrates	1997	Tirana	Public Law School	27	15
European University	2006	Tirana	Private Classical School	2952	167
Tirana International School	1991	Tirana	Private Quality School	200	-
Marin Barleti University	2005	Tirana	Private Classical School	-	-
Catholic University	2004	Tirana	Private Theological School	1500	600
Epoka University	2004	Tirana	Private Classical School	1400	85
Bedër University	2011	Tirana	Private Gülen Theological School	1000	50

Notable people

Main article: List of people from Tirana

International relations

Further information: List of twin towns and sister cities in Albania

As Tirana, many of them are the most influential and largest or primate cities of their country and political, economical, cultural capital of their country.

Ankara [90] Barcelona [91] Beijing [92]	Brussels Bucharest [93] Doha [94] [95]	Florence [92] Marseille [96] Moscow [92] [97]	Pristina [92] Rome [92] [97] Thessaloniki [92] [97]	Turin [98] Skopje [99] [100] Sarajevo	Sofia Zagreb [92] [97] Zaragoza [92] [97]

Gallery

Skanderbeg Square

University of Tirana

University of Arts

Lana river

Lake of Tirana

Ethem Bey Mosque

Mother Albania

Along the Skanderbeg Square

Clock Tower

City Hall

Sacred Heart Church

Former Residence of Enver Hoxha

Pazari i Ri (New Bazaar)

See also

- Timeline of Tirana
- Symbols of Tirana

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Notes

1. ↑ Station ID for Tirana is 13615 Use this station ID to locate the sunshine duration
2. ↑ Kosovo is the subject of a territorial dispute between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia . The Republic of Kosovo unilaterally declared independence on 17 February 2008, but Serbia continues to claim it as part of its own sovereign territory . The two governments began to normalise relations in 2013, as part of the Brussels Agreement . Kosovo has received formal recognition as an independent state from 111 out of 193 United Nations member states .

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External links

- Municipality of Tirana (in Albanian)
- Visit Tirana Tourism Portal

Topics related to Tirana

Tirana		
Landmarks	**Government**	Albanian Parliament · Presidential Palace · Presidential Office · Prime Minister's Office · Albanian National Bank · Supreme Court · Constitutional Court
	Museums	Historical Museum · Sciences Museum · Archaeological Museum · National Art Gallery · National Theatre of Opera and Ballet · National Theatre · National Archives · National Library · National Martyrs Cemetery · Pyramid of Tirana
	Religion	Et'hem Bey Mosque · Great Mosque · Bejtyl Evel Mosque · Tanners' Mosque · Kokonozi Mosque · Sulejman Pasha Mosque · Sheh Dyrri Teqe · St Paul's Cathedral · Sacred Heart Church · Resurrection Cathedral · Saint Procopius Church
	Sport	National Arena · Tirana Olympic Park · Selman Stërmasi Stadium · Asllan Russi Palace · KF Tirana · Partizani Tirana · Dinamo Tirana
	Parks	Grand Park · Rinia Park · Farka · Botanical Garden · Tirana Zoo · Mount Dajti
	Monuments	Skanderbeg Monument · Clock Tower · Mother Albania · Justinian Castle · Petrelë Castle · Tanners' Bridge · Tirana Mosaic · Unknown Soldier · Kapllan Pasha Tomb · Sulejman Pasha Tomb · Bride's Tomb · Pazari i Ri
	Squares	Skanderbeg Square · Mother Teresa Square · Dëshmorët e Kombit Boulevard · Ali Demi Street · Bajram Curri Boulevard · Elbasan Street · Kavajë Street · Dibër Street · Durrës Street · Zogu I Boulevard · Zhan D'Ark Boulevard · Mustafa Lleshi Street · Pjetër Budi Street
	Universities	University of Tirana · Polytechnic University · Academy of Music and Arts · Academy of Sciences · Centre of Albanological Studies · European University · Luarasi University · Academy of Physical and Sports · Agricultural University · New York University · Kristal University · Marin Barleti University · Skanderbeg Military University
Infrastructure	**Transport**	Tirana International Airport · Rail Station · Bus lines · Tirana–Elbasan Highway
	Economy	Tirana Stock Exchange · Tirana Bank · Tirana Logistic Park
	Buildings	TID Tower · ABA Business Tower · Tirana East Gate · Toptani Shopping Center · Citypark Shopping Center · Plaza Hotel · Rogner Hotel · Tirana International Hotel · Dajti Hotel · Taivani
	Health	Mother Teresa Hospital · Military Hospital · Universal Hospital
	Media	Digitalb · Top Channel · IN TV · Klan TV · Tirana TV · RTSH

Districts	Tirana 1 · Tirana 2 · Tirana 3 · Tirana 4 · Tirana 5 · Tirana 6 · Tirana 7 · Tirana 8 · Tirana 9 · Tirana 10 · Tirana 11

Capitals of European states and territories

Capitals of dependent territories and states whose sovereignty is disputed shown in *italics* .

Western	**Amsterdam** , Netherlands [1] · **Andorra la Vella** , Andorra · **Bern** , Switzerland · **Brussels** , Belgium [2] · ***Douglas*** , *Isle of Man (UK)* · **Dublin** , Ireland · **London** , United Kingdom · **Luxembourg** , Luxembourg · **Paris** , France · ***Saint Helier*** , *Jersey (UK)* · ***Saint Peter Port*** , *Guernsey (UK)*
Northern	**Copenhagen** , Denmark · **Helsinki** , Finland · ***Longyearbyen*** , *Svalbard (Norway)* · ***Mariehamn*** , *Åland Islands (Finland)* · ***Nuuk*** , *Greenland (Denmark)* · ***Olonkinbyen*** , *Jan Mayen (Norway)* · **Oslo** , Norway · **Reykjavík** , Iceland · **Stockholm** , Sweden · ***Tórshavn*** , *Faroe Islands (Denmark)*
Central	**Berlin** , Germany · **Bratislava** , Slovakia · **Budapest** , Hungary · **Ljubljana** , Slovenia · **Prague** , Czech Republic · **Vaduz** , Liechtenstein · **Vienna** , Austria · **Warsaw** , Poland
Southern	**Ankara** , Turkey [3] · **Athens** , Greece · **Belgrade** , Serbia · **Bucharest** , Romania · ***Gibraltar*** , *Gibraltar (UK)* · **Lisbon** , Portugal · **Madrid** , Spain · **Monaco** , Monaco · **Nicosia** , Cyprus [4] · ***North Nicosia*** , *Northern Cyprus* [4, 5] · **Podgorica** , Montenegro · ***Pristina*** , *Kosovo* [5] · **Rome** , Italy · **San Marino** , San Marino · **Sarajevo** , Bosnia and Herzegovina · **Skopje** , Macedonia · **Sofia** , Bulgaria · **Tirana** , Albania · **Valletta** , Malta · **Vatican City** , Vatican City · **Zagreb** , Croatia
Eastern	**Astana** , Kazakhstan [3] · **Baku** , Azerbaijan [3] · **Chișinău** , Moldova · **Kiev** , Ukraine · **Minsk** , Belarus · **Moscow** , Russia [3] · **Riga** , Latvia · ***Stepanakert*** , *Nagorno-Karabakh* [4, 5] · ***Sukhumi*** , *Abkhazia* [3, 5] · **Tallinn** , Estonia · **Tbilisi** , Georgia [3] · ***Tiraspol*** , *Transnistria* [5] · ***Tskhinvali*** , *South Ossetia* [3, 5] · **Vilnius** , Lithuania · **Yerevan** , Armenia [4]

[1] Also the capital of the Kingdom of the Netherlands · [2] Also the seat of the European Union , see Institutional seats of the European Union and Brussels and the European Union · [3] Transcontinental country · [4] Entirely in Southwest Asia but having socio-political connections with Europe · [5] Partially recognised country

Capital cities of the Candidate Countries of the European Union

Turkey : Ankara

Serbia : Belgrade

Montenegro : Podgorica

Republic of Macedonia : Skopje

Albania : Tirana

Administrative Divisions of Tirana County

County Seat: **Tirana**

Municipality of Kamëz	Kamëz · Paskuqan
Municipality of Kavajë	Golem · Helmas · Kavajë · Luz i Vogël · Synej
Municipality of Rrogozhinë	Gosë · Kryevidh · Lekaj · Rrogozhinë · Sinaballaj
Municipality of Tirana	Baldushk · Bërzhitë · Dajt · Farkë · Kashar · Krrabë · Ndroq · Petrelë · Pezë · Shëngjergj · Tirana · Vaqarr · Zall-Bastar · Zall-Herr
Municipality of Vorë	Bërxullë · Prezë · Vorë

Subdivisions of Tirana Municipality

Municipal Seat: **Tirana**

Administrative Unit of Baldushk	Baldushk · Balshaban · Fushas · Isufmuçaj · Kakunj · Koçaj · Mumajes · Mustafakoçaj · Parret · Shënkoll · Shpatë · Shpat i Sipërm · Vesqi · Vrap
Administrative Unit of Bërzhitë	Bërzhitë · Dobresh · Fravesh · Ibë · Ibë e Poshtme · Kllojkë · Kus · Lugë-Shalqizë · Mihajas-Cirmë · Pashkashesh · Pëllumbas · Rozaverë
Administrative Unit of Dajt	Brrar · Darshen · Ferraj · Lanabregas · Linzë · Murth · Priskë e Madhe · Qafmollë · Selbë · Shishtufinë · Shkallë · Surrel · Tujan
Administrative Unit of Farkë	Farkë e Madhe · Farkë e Vogël · Lundër · Mjull Bathore · Sauk · Selitë
Administrative Unit of Kashar	Kashar · Katundi i Ri · Kus · Mazrek · Mëzez · Yrshek · Yzberisht
Administrative Unit of Krrabë	Krrabë · Mushqeta · Skuterë
Administrative Unit of Ndroq	Calabërzez · Grebllesh · Kërçukje · Lagje e Re · Mënik · Ndroq · Pinet · Sauqet · Shesh · Zbarqe · Zhurje
Administrative Unit of Petrelë	Barbas · Daias · Durisht · Fikas · Gurrë e Madhe · Gurrë e Vogël · Hekal · Kryezi · Mangull · Mullet · Përcëllesh · Petrelë · Picall · Qeha · Shënkoll · Shytaj · Stërmas
Administrative Unit of Pezë	Dorëz · Gjysylkanë · Grecë · Gror · Maknor · Pajanë · Pezë e Madhe · Pezë e Vogël · Pezë Helmës · Varosh
Administrative Unit of Shëngjergj	Bizë · Burimas · Derje · Domje · Façesh · Fage · Parpujë · Shëngjergj · Shëngjin · Urë · Vakumone · Verri
Administrative Unit of Tirana (1–11) [1]	**T1 · T2 · T3 · T4 · T5 · T6 · T7 · T8 · T9 · T10 · T11**
Administrative Unit of Vaqarr	Allgjatë · Arbanë · Bulticë · Damjan-Fortuzaj · Gropaj · Lalm · Prush · Sharrë · Vaqarr · Vishaj
Administrative Unit of Zall-Bastar	Bastar i Mesëm · Bastar-Murriz · Besh · Bulçesh · Dajt · Mner i Sipërm · Selitë Mali · Shëngjin i Vogël · Vilëz · Zall-Bastar · Zall-Dajt · Zall-Mner
Administrative Unit of Zall-Herr	Çerkezë-Morinë · Dritas · Herraj · Kallmet · Pinar · Priskë e Vogël · Qinam · Radhesh · Zall-Herr

Municipalities of Albania

Municipalities in Albania are administrative divisions made up of local administrative units and their inclusive villages.

(61)	Belsh · Berat · Bulqizë · Cërrik · Delvinë · Devoll · Dibër · Divjakë · Dropull · Durrës · Elbasan · Fier · Finiq · Fushë-Arrëz · Gjirokastër · Gramsh · Has · Himarë · Kamëz · Kavajë · Këlcyrë · Klos · Kolonjë · Konispol · Korçë · Krujë · Kuçovë · Kukës · Kurbin · Lezhë · Libohovë · Librazhd · Lushnjë · Malësi e Madhe · Maliq · Mallakastër · Mat · Memaliaj · Mirditë · Patos · Peqin · Përmet · Pogradec · Poliçan · Prrenjas · Pukë · Pustec · Roskovec · Rrogozhinë · Sarandë · Selenicë · Shijak · Shkodër · Skrapar · Tepelenë · Tiranë · Tropojë · Ura Vajgurore · Vau i Dejës · Vlorë · Vorë

Albania articles			
History	Illyrians		Ardiaei · Albanoi · Amantini · Enchele · Taulantii
	Middle Ages (1190–1385)		Principality of Arbanon · Kingdom of Albania · Despotate of Arta · House of Kastrioti
	Ottoman period (1385–1912)		Skanderbeg's rebellion · League of Lezhë · Kanun of Lekë Dukagjini · Islamization of Albania · Albanian Pashaliks · Massacre of the Albanian Beys · Revolts of 1833–39 · Uprising of Dervish Cara · Albanian National Awakening · League of Prizren · Congress of Manastir · Revolt of 1910
	Independence (1912–present)		Provisional Government of Albania · Albania during the Balkan Wars · Republic of Central Albania · Principality of Albania (1914–25) · Albania during World War I · Autonomous Albanian Republic of Korçë · Italian protectorate · Vlora War · Republic of Mirdita · Albanian Republic (1925–28) · Albanian Kingdom (1928–39) · Italian Fascist occupation · German Nazi occupation · Albanian resistance during World War II · Communist Albania (1946–91) · Orthography Congress (1972) · Post-Communist Albania · 1997 civil unrest · NATO membership · EU Accession
	See also		Origins · Timeline · Archives
Geography	Landscape		Mountains · Rivers · Lakes · Lagoons · Islands · Bays · Rock formations
	Environment		Climate · Biodiversity · Habitat · Protected areas
Politics	Executive		Government · Head of state *(list)* · Head of government *(list)* · Foreign relations · Political parties · Elections · Treaties · Visa policy
	Judiciary		Constitution · Corruption · EURALIUS · Prosecutor General
	Administration		Counties · Municipalities · Cities · Subdivisions · Maps
	Legislature		Parliament · Chairperson · Members · Opposition
	Human rights		Abortion · Capital punishment · LGBT · Ombudsman
	Security		Military · Police · Organized crime · Prisons · Border crossings
Economy	Finance		Banking · Lek (currency) · Taxation · Trade unions · State Supreme Audit
	Retail		Shopping malls · Supermarkets
	Industry		Agriculture · Healthcare · Companies
	Energy	Operators	KESH · OST · OSHEE · ERE
			Hydropower plants · Wind farms · Solar power
	Natural resources		Oil and gas · Mining
	Infrastructure		Highways · Aviation · Maritime · Railways · Bridges · Tunnels · Highrises · Telecommunications · Postal services
	Tourism		Riviera · National parks · Castles · Museums · Monuments · Lighthouses · Photographs of Albania
Society	People		Demographics · Clans · Noble families · Diaspora
	Culture	Art (galleries)	Architecture · Photography
		Education	Alphabet (scripts) · Language · Literature · Libraries · Universities · Proverbs · Albanology
		Tradition	Mythology · Besa · Religion · Sworn virgins
		Costumes	Qeleshe · Fustanella · Xhubleta · Brez · Opinga · Xhamadan
		Cuisine	Gjellë · Tavë kosi · Kabuni · Raki · Beer · Wine · Cognac Skënderbeu
	Sports	Football	National team · Clubs · Players · Stadiums
		Other sports	Weightlifting · Athletics · Cycling · Basketball · Volleyball · Swimming · Olympics
	Entertainment		Music · Television · Radio · Cinema
	Symbols		Heraldry · Flag · Coat of arms · Gestures · Sign language · Awards · .al
	Other		Public holidays · Smoking
Outline · Index · Bibliography **Book · Category · Portal**			

Authority control	WorldCat Identities · VIAF : 167355723 · LCCN : n82213241 · GND : 4270905-2 · SUDOC : 067106854 · BNF : cb12460512r (data)

Algiers

This article is about the capital of Algeria. For other uses, see Algiers (disambiguation) .
"Algerine" redirects here. For other uses, see Algerine (disambiguation) .

Algiers
الجزائر (in Arabic)

Algiers (Arabic : الجزائر , *al-Jazā'er* ; Algerian Arabic pronunciation: دزاير Dzayer, Berber : Dzayer tamaneɣt , French : *Alger*) is the capital and largest city of Algeria . In 2011, the city's population was estimated to be around 3,500,000. An estimate puts the population of the larger metropolitan city to be around 5,000,000. Algiers is located on the Mediterranean Sea and in the north-central portion of Algeria. [2]

Sometimes nicknamed *El-Behdja* (البهجة) or alternatively *Alger la Blanche* ("Algiers the White") for the glistening white of its buildings as seen rising up from the sea, Algiers is situated on the west side of a bay of the Mediterranean Sea . The modern part of the city is built on the level ground by the seashore; the old part, the ancient city of the deys , climbs the steep hill behind the modern town and is crowned by the casbah or citadel, 122 metres (400 ft) above the sea. The casbah and the two quays form a triangle. [3]

Etymology

Dzayer tamaneɣt (in Berber)

City

Overview of Algiers

Coat of arms

Nickname(s): Algiers the White; Algiers the Dazzling

Location in Algeria and Africa

Coordinates: 36°45′14″N 3°3′32″E

Country	Algeria
Province	Algiers Province

District	Sidi M'Hamed District
Government	
• Wali (Governor)	M. Mohamed Kebir Addou
Area	
• City	363 km ^{2} (140 sq mi)
• Metro	1,190 km ^{2} (460 sq mi)
Highest elevation	424 m (1,391 ft)
Lowest elevation	2 m (7 ft)
Population (2011) [1] [2]	
• City	3,415,811
• Density	9,400/km ^{2} (24,000/sq mi)
• Metro	5,000,000
• Metro density	4,200/km ^{2} (11,000/sq mi)
Time zone	CET (UTC+1)
Postal codes	16000–16132
Area code(s)	(+213) 021
Climate	Csa

Climate data for Algiers (Dar El Beïda international airport) 1976–2005 averages, extremes 1838–present													
Month	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Year**
Record high °C (°F)	27.6 (81.7)	31.4 (88.5)	36.3 (97.3)	36.5 (97.7)	41.1 (106)	44.6 (112.3)	45.2 (113.4)	47.5 (117.5)	44.4 (111.9)	39.5 (103.1)	34.4 (93.9)	30.4 (86.7)	47.5 (117.5)
Average high °C (°F)	16.7 (62.1)	17.4 (63.3)	19.3 (66.7)	20.9 (69.6)	23.9 (75)	28.2 (82.8)	31.2 (88.2)	32.2 (90)	29.6 (85.3)	25.9 (78.6)	20.8 (69.4)	17.9 (64.2)	23.7 (74.7)
Daily mean °C (°F)	11.1 (52)	11.7 (53.1)	13.2 (55.8)	14.9 (58.8)	18.1 (64.6)	22.2 (72)	25.1 (77.2)	26.0 (78.8)	23.6 (74.5)	20.1 (68.2)	15.3 (59.5)	12.6 (54.7)	17.8 (64)
Average low °C (°F)	5.5 (41.9)	5.9 (42.6)	7.1 (44.8)	8.8 (47.8)	12.3 (54.1)	16.1 (61)	18.9 (66)	19.8 (67.6)	17.6 (63.7)	14.2 (57.6)	9.8 (49.6)	7.2 (45)	11.9 (53.4)
Record low °C (°F)	−3.3 (26.1)	−1.9 (28.6)	−1.0 (30.2)	−0.8 (30.6)	2.6 (36.7)	5.5 (41.9)	9.0 (48.2)	9.5 (49.1)	8.2 (46.8)	4.1 (39.4)	−0.1 (31.8)	−2.3 (27.9)	−3.3 (26.1)
Average precipitation mm (inches)	81.4 (3.205)	72.7 (2.862)	55.0 (2.165)	58.4 (2.299)	41.9 (1.65)	8.5 (0.335)	4.5 (0.177)	8.2 (0.323)	28.3 (1.114)	58.8 (2.315)	89.6 (3.528)	91.0 (3.583)	598.3 (23.555)
Average precipitation days (≥ 0.1 mm)	11.4	10.6	9.7	9.1	7.3	2.5	1.5	2.5	5.3	8.6	11.1	12.1	91.7
Average relative humidity (%)	71	66	65	62	66	66	67	65	68	66	68	68	67
Mean monthly sunshine hours	139.5	158.2	207.7	228.0	300.7	300.0	353.4	325.5	267.0	198.4	153.0	145.7	2,777.1
Mean daily sunshine hours	4.5	5.6	6.7	7.6	9.7	10.0	11.4	10.5	8.9	6.4	5.1	4.7	7.6
Source # 1: World Meteorological Organization (average temperatures and precipitation, 1976–2005) [20]													
Source # 2: Arab Meteorology Book (humidity and sun), [21] Meteo Climat (record highs and lows) [22]													

Government

See also: Algiers politics and administration (fr) and List of mayors of Algiers

Local architecture

Algiers waterfront

There are many public buildings of interest, including the whole Kasbah quarter, Martyrs Square (*Sahat ech-Chouhada* ساحة الشهداء), the government offices (formerly the British consulate), the "Grand", "New", and Ketchaoua Mosques , the Roman Catholic cathedral of Notre Dame d'Afrique , the Bardo Museum (a former Turkish mansion), the old *Bibliothèque Nationale d'Alger* —a Turkish palace built in 1799–1800 [23] —and the new National Library , built in a style reminiscent of the British Library .

The main building in the Kasbah was begun in 1516 on the site of an older building, and served as the palace of the deys until the French conquest. A road has been cut through the centre of the building, the mosque turned into barracks , and the hall of audience allowed to fall into ruin. There still remain a minaret and some marble arches and columns. Traces exist of the vaults in which were stored the treasures of the dey. [23]

The Great Mosque (*Jamaa-el-Kebir* الجامع الكبير) is the oldest mosque in Algiers. It was first built by Yusuf ibn Tashfin , but reconstructed many times. The pulpit (*minbar* منبر) bears an inscription showing that the building existed in 1097. The minaret was built by the sultan of Tlemcen , in 1324. [24] The interior of the mosque is square and is divided into aisles by columns joined by Moorish arches. [23]

The New Mosque (*Jamaa-el-Jedid* الجامع الجديد), dating from the 17th century, is in the form of a Greek cross , surmounted by a large white cupola, with four small cupolas at the corners. The minaret is 27 metres (89 ft) high. The interior resembles that of the Grand Mosque. [23]

The church of the Holy Trinity (built in 1870) stands at the southern end of the *rue d'Isly* near the site of the demolished Fort Bab Azoun باب عزون. The interior is richly decorated with various coloured marbles. Many of these marbles contain memorial inscriptions relating to the British residents (voluntary and involuntary) of Algiers from the time of John Tipton, the first English consul, in 1580 (NB Some sources give 1585). One tablet records that in 1631 two Algerine pirate crews landed in Ireland , sacked Baltimore , and enslaved its inhabitants. [23]

The Ketchaoua Mosque

The Ketchaoua mosque (*Djamaa Ketchaoua* جامع كتشاوة), at the foot of the Casbah, was before independence in 1962 the cathedral of St Philippe, itself made in 1845 from a mosque dating from 1612. The principal entrance, reached by a flight of 23 steps, is ornamented with a portico supported by four black-veined marble columns. The roof of the nave is of Moorish plaster work. It rests on a series of arcades supported by white marble columns. Several of these columns belonged to the original mosque. In one of the chapels was a tomb containing the bones of San Geronimo . [23] The building seems a curious blend of Moorish and Byzantine styles.

Algiers possesses a college with schools of law, medicine, science and letters. The college buildings are large and handsome. The Bardo Museum in Tunisia holds some of the ancient sculptures and mosaics discovered in Algeria, together with medals and Algerian money. [23]

Cosmopolitan Algiers

The port of Algiers is sheltered from all winds. There are two harbours, both artificial—the old or northern harbour and the southern or Agha harbour. The northern harbour covers an area of 95 hectares (235 acres) . An opening in the south jetty affords an entrance into Agha harbour, constructed in Agha Bay. Agha harbour has also an independent entrance on its southern side. The inner harbour was begun in 1518 by Khair-ad-Din Barbarossa (see History, below), who, to accommodated his pirate vessels, caused the island on which was Fort Penon to be connected with the mainland by a mole . The lighthouse which occupies the site of Fort Penon was built in 1544. [23]

Algiers was a walled city from the time of the deys until the close of the 19th century. The French, after their occupation of the city (1830), built a rampart , parapet and ditch , with two terminal forts, Bab Azoun باب عزون to the south and Bab-el-Oued اد to the north. The forts and part of the ramparts were demolished at the beginning of the 20th century, when a line of forts occupying the heights of Bouzareah بوزريعة (at an elevation of 396 metres (1,299 ft) above the sea) took their place. [23]

Notre Dame d'Afrique , a church built (1858–1872) in a mixture of the Roman and Byzantine styles, is conspicuously situated overlooking the sea, on the shoulder of the Bouzareah hills, 3 km (2 mi) to the north of the city. Above the altar is a statue of the Virgin depicted as a black woman. The church also contains a solid silver statue of the archangel Michael , belonging to the confraternity of Neapolitan fishermen. [5]

Villa Abd-el-Tif , former residence of the dey , was used during the French period, to accommodate French artists, chiefly painters, and winners of the Abd-el-Tif prize , among whom Maurice Boitel , for a while of two years. Nowadays, Algerian artists are back in the villa's studios.

Monuments

- **Notre Dame d'Afrique** , accessible by one cable car , is one of the city's most outstanding monuments: located in the district of Z' will ghara, the basilica was built around 1858.
- **Monument des Martyrs** (*Marquand E' chahid*): an iconic concrete monument commemorating the Algerian war for independence . The monument was opened in 1982 on the 20th anniversary of Algeria's independence. It is fashioned in the shape of three standing palm leaves which shelter the "Eternal Flame" beneath. At the edge of each palm leaf stands a statue of a soldier, each representing a stage of Algeria's struggle.

The Monument of the Martyrs (Maquam E'chahid)

- **The El Jedid mosque** at the Place des Martyrs near the port.
- **Place of the Emir Abdelkader** (formerly Bugeaud): in memory of the famous emir Abd El-Kader , resistant during French conquest of Algeria .
- **Grand Post Office** (1910, by Voinot and Tondoire): construction of the neo-Moorish type which is in full centre town of Algiers.
- The **Jardin d'essai** (*Garden of Test* ; *El-Hamma*): situated in the east of Algiers, it extends over 80 hectares (198 acres) and contains exotic plants and gardens. It was created in 1832 by A. Hardy.
- **Villa Abd-el-Hair** , with the top of the Garden of test, one of the old residences of the dey, where until 1962, were placed the artists prizes winner of Price Abd-el-Hair , and in particular Maurice Boitel and Andre Hamburg .
- **Citadel** .
- **Riadh El-Feth** (shopping centre and art gallery).
- **Ketchaoua Mosque** (This mosque became the Saint-Philippe cathedral during colonization before becoming again a mosque).
- **National Library** , is in the district of El HAMMA and was built in the 1990s.
- **The Great Mosque of Algiers** at the Rue de la Marine . It is the oldest mosque of Algiers and was built during the reign of the Almoravid sultan Yusuf ibn Tashfin .
- **Le Bastion 23 - Palais des Rais** , built in 1576 by Dey Ramdhan Pacha and located in the lower Casbah in the Bab El Oued neighborhood.

The El Jedid mosque at the Place des Martyrs

Grand Post Office

Demographics

Algiers has a population of about 3,335,418(2012 estimate). [25]

Year	Population
1977 (Census)	1,353,826
1987 (Census)	1,507,241
1998 (Census)	1,519,570
2007 (Estimate)	2,072,993

The ethnic distribution is 53% from an Arabic-speaking background, 44% from a Berber-speaking background and 3% foreign-born.

- 1940 – 300,000 people lived in Algiers.
- 1960 – 900,000 people lived in Algiers.
- 1963 – 600,000 people lived in Algiers.

Economy

Algiers is an important economic, commercial and financial center, with in particular a stock exchange with a capitalisation of 60 million euros. The city has the highest cost of living of any city in North Africa , as well as the 50th highest worldwide, as of March 2007, having gained one position compared to the previous year. [26]

Mohamed Ben Ali El Abbar, president of the Council of Administration of the Emirate Group EMAAR, presented five "megaprojects" to Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, during a ceremony which took place Saturday, July 15, within the Palace of the People of Algiers. These projects will transform the city of Algiers and its surroundings by equipping them with a retail area and restoration and leisure facilities.

The first project will concentrate on the reorganization and the development of the infrastructures of the railway station "Aga" located in the downtown area. The ultramodern station intended to accommodate more than 80.000 passengers per day, will become a center of circulation in the heart of the grid system, surrounded by commercial offices and buildings and hotels intended for travelers in transit. A shopping centre and three high-rise office buildings rising with the top of the commercial zone will accompany the project.

" Centre Commercial Al Qods " in Algiers

The second project will not relate to the bay of Algiers and aims to revitalize the sea front. The development of the 44 km (27 mi) sea front will include marinas, channels, luxury hotels, offices, apartments of great standing, luxury stores and leisure amenities. A crescent-shaped peninsula will be set up on the open sea. The project of the bay of Algiers will also comprise six small islands, of which four of round form, connected to each other by bridges and marinas and will include tourist and residential complexes.

The third project will relate to restructuring an area of Algiers, qualified by the originators of the project of "city of wellness". El Abbar indicated to the journalists that the complex would be "agreeable for all those which will want to combine tourism and well-being or tourism and relaxation". The complex will include a university, a research center and a medical centre. It should also include a hospital complex, a care centre, a hotel zone, an urban centre and a thermal spa with villas and apartments. The university will include a medical school and a school for care male nurses which will be able to accommodate 500 students. The university campus will have the possibility of seeing setting up broad ranges of buildings of research laboratories and residences.

Air Algérie head office in Place Audin near the University of Algiers , in Alger-Centre

Ministry of Finance of Algeria

Another project relates to technological implantation of a campus in Sidi Abdellah, 25 km (16 mi) south-east from Algiers. This 90 hectares (222 acres) site will include shopping centres, residential zones with high standard apartments and a golf course surrounded by villas and hotels. Two other residential zones, including 1.800 apartments and 40 high standard villas, will be built on the surrounding hills.

The fifth project is that of the tourist complex Colonel Abbès, which will be located 25 km (16 mi) west from Algiers. This complex will include several retail zones, meeting places, and residential zones composed of apartments and villas with views of the sea.

Currently there is another project under construction, by the name of Algiers Medina. The first step of the project is nearly complete.

A Hewlett Packard office for French-speaking countries in Africa is in Algiers. [27]

Tourist installations

Some 20 km (12 mi) to the west of Algiers are such seaside resorts as Sidi Fredj (ex-Sidi Ferruch), Palm Beach , Douaouda , Zéralda , and the *Club of the Pines* (residence of State); there are tourist complexes, Algerian and other restaurants, souvenir shops, supervised beaches, and other amenities. The city is also equipped with important hotel complexes such as the hotel Hilton, El-Aurassi or El Djazair . Algiers also has the first water park in the country. The tourism of Algiers is growing but is not as developed as that of the larger cities in Morocco or Tunisia .

Panorama of the city as seen from Bologhine district

Education

This section needs expansion .
You can help by adding to it . *(January 2017)*

Mediterranean Games	
Alexandria 1951 · Barcelona 1955 · Beirut 1959 · Naples 1963 · Tunis 1967 · İzmir 1971 · Algiers 1975 · Split 1979 · Casablanca 1983 · Latakia 1987 · Athens 1991 · Languedoc-Roussillon 1993 · Bari 1997 · Tunis 2001 · Almeria 2005 · Pescara 2009 · Mersin 2013 · *Tarragona 2018* · *Oran 2021*	
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