



*"Behold, the Lion  
that is from the tribe of Judah,  
the Root of David, has overcome  
so as to open the book  
and its seven seals."*

REVELATION 5:5

# ORAN

City population 650,000  
Surrounding region 1.5 million



relational



99%  
Muslim



connected

## A HOPE & A FUTURE

Mirrored sky scrapers reflect the sea and the sky, and the dense metropolis that sprawls right up to the bluffs that stretch for miles along the Mediterranean coast. Carved into this cliffside, a multi-lane tiered highway overlooks the shipping yard and ferries of the Port D'Oran. From the ancient sport's arena to the graffiti murals, Oran has layers upon layers of cultural influences, historical conflicts, and a strong independent spirit. Its reputation is "un peu sulfureuse" as nightlife and strong language contrast with the modesty of Islam. Oran is young, dynamic and prosperous. It is the commercial center and the 2nd most important city in Algeria.

Oran's strategic location for military and trade on the Mediterranean, and its abundant agricultural advantages have invited invaders since history began. Arabs, Europeans, and Ottomans all ruled here, leaving their mark on architecture and culture. Even now, history is kept alive in Sidi el Houari, the Spanish Quarter where Spanish is still the common language. The largest synagogue in North Africa still in existence is here, although it is now a mosque. The old colonial church is now a library, still bearing Christian symbols. The European parts of town are spacious, orderly and well-groomed. Infrastructure is very modern, and you can even take underground transit to the popular stadium.

In contrast, the Arab medina is a dense maze of winding streets with tables and carts piled high with potatoes, carrots, cherries, and in-season produce. A multi-colored canopy of umbrellas shade shoppers from the hot sun as they crowd around their favorite vendors.



## LANGUAGES

Árabe argelino,  
Tamazight (bereber)  
también:  
Árabe moderno estándar,  
francés, español.

*Yves Saint Laurent's bright colors and flowing kaftans  
reflect the local garb of his hometown.*

## THE COLORFUL CITY OF "RAI"

Oran is the home of Rai, the modern North African style of music with Arabesque melodies infused with a house beat and socially conscious lyrics. Cheb Mami's unique sound was introduced to the west with Sting's "Desert Rose." Khaled's award winning 2012 "C'est La Vie" is a perfect example of the house style of Rai.

From arabesque tiles to tree-lined European promenades and landscaped neighborhood parks to Turkic geometric designs, Oran reveals her many occupiers. But there are Imazighen (Berber) here, too - the indigenous population who mostly moved into the hills to preserve their ways.



# OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE

## strategic

Algerian Arabs are one of the 30 largest unreached people groups in the world.

Early Christian roots, although most Algerians do not know their heritage.

Easily accessible from Europe

**Ibero-Americans** may have some unique opportunities to connect.

A movement here could spread widely throughout 1/3 of Algeria, which is 99% UNENGAGED. These areas include nomads as well as remote towns with pastoral farmers.

## possibilities

Residency requires an excellent business plan.

Some possibilities might be...

- Specialized English teaching: (business, science, engineering)
- University teaching
- art, design, fashion
- fitness clubs and athletic trainers
- engineering
- business
- technology & marketing consulting
- leadership consulting
- imports / exports

## challenges

Obtaining residency is a formidable challenge, but possible with God!!

Anyone moving here must have a proper respect for the strong Islamic representation in government, and the leeway given to extremists.

Humility is a must for any worker.. The west's reputation as Imperialist requires we stand in a different spirit, as representatives of the King of kings.

Christianity may be seen as a political movement, and one Arabs are not aligned with.

*"More than the sounds  
of many waters,  
than the mighty breakers  
of the sea, the LORD on  
high is mighty."*

P S A L M 93 : 4

Arab, Amazigh (Berber), and foreign believers in Algeria are experiencing noteworthy unity in a country where brutal civil war cost over 100,000 lives in the 90's. This kind of peace is only found in Jesus! May the unity of the Body be a light to all those who need peace.

Since 2012, the Protestant Church of Algeria is no longer recognized as a religious entity, part of an ongoing battle since its foundation in 1972. The large movement to Christ among the indigenous Kabyle may be seen by Arab Muslims as political.

It is hard to know how many Algerian Arabs have come to faith. Intense persecution keeps many secret and isolated. Some Christians have been imprisoned and fined for sharing faith with Muslim friends.

## PRAY WITH THE CHURCH

In 2019 Algerian Christians began fasting and praying:

*"in favour of the blessing of our country, its socio-political stability, economic recovery and the good administration of its natural resources."*



Lift up your heads,  
you gates;  
lift them up,  
you ancient doors,  
that the  
King of glory  
may come in.

PSALM 24:9

Has God put his beloved in Algeria on your heart?