

# The land of a thousand martyrs

## Waits for millions of tourists

Cairo - Mounir El Fishawy

Algeria is a vast country with proud people who sacrificed millions to gain their freedom and independence. God blessed it with lots of resources and beautiful nature. Its two neighbours Morocco and Tunisia are giants in the world of tourism but Algeria is determined to compete with them and become a jewel in the crown of tourist destinations on the western side of the Arab world.

### Natural beauty and climate

Algeria is the second largest Arab country after Sudan with an area of about 2,381,741 sq. km. It also has a Mediterranean coastal line of about 1200 km and a variable terrain which encompasses flat land, deserts and mountains. In the south there is a famous peak Tahat but the most famous peaks are those of the Atlas mountains.

The climate is also variable. Wet Mediterranean weather dominates the eastern side where oaks grow. The south east has semi-Mediterranean weather allowing the growth of oak forests. Elsewhere you find arid or semi-arid weather (from the Wahran hills to the Atlas Mountains) before you drop to a desert climate. These varied climates, together with a diversity of interesting plants, attract tourists who are seeking a non traditional form of tourism.

Cultural tourism is considered one of the important components of tourism in Algeria due to the excellent heritage sites in many Algerian cities which date back to pre-historic times. The country also has unique collections in its museums.

### Algerian tourism renaissance

The Algerian tourist renaissance has started. Tourism jumped in the last few years to the head of the government's priorities as emphasised by the Minister Mohammad Al-Sagher Qarah. The National Department of Tourism is the right arm of the ministry and is keen to attend as many tourism fairs as possible. It participated in exhibitions in Berlin, London, Paris, Milan, Madrid, Moscow, Dubai,

Cairo and other cities.

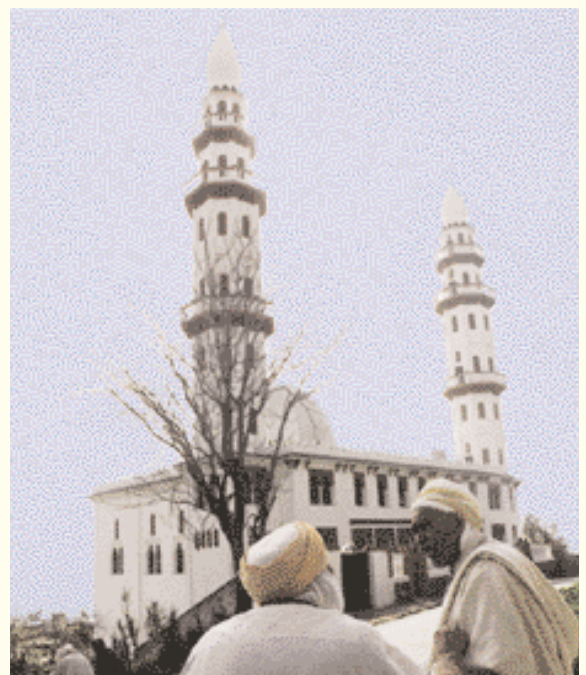
In 2003, the government enacted legislation aimed at encouraging Arab and foreign investment in the tourist sector. It has also taken positive steps such as encouraging partnerships between the private and public sectors, increasing its presence in international fairs, activating measures to preserve the environment and beaches, hosting conferences, opening festivals and encouraging investment in hotel and resorts construction by improving banking procedures and relaxing tax and customs regulations and investment laws.

### Algeria and Islamic Tourism

The distinguished contributions and participation of Islamic Tourism Magazine in international fairs and exhibitions has attracted the attention of Mr. Abdul Ali Tair, the General Director of the National Department of Tourism, who has always met the magazine's representatives. He has a good knowledge of the role of the media in tourism and the excellent role the magazine and its website play within this sector. His kind invitation for a representative of the magazine to visit Algeria was gratefully received. ■



The Martyr's Monument, Algiers. نصب الشهيد، الجزائر.



Al-Noor Mosque. مسجد النور.