

## TRANSPORT

Transport is one of the fundamental pillars of sustainable development and prosperity for any country. Efficient transport systems and modern networks are therefore a necessity for economic development, social well-being, large-scale production and environmental preservation.

In Algeria, the transport sector is undergoing a real transformation. Many projects have been carried out or are under achievement in order to make this sector more efficient and effective for the country's economic and social development. For example, the railway tracks splitting into two along the entire new North Motorway, the progressive electrification of the network and the construction of new stations and commercial harbour in the central region were part of the five-year program 2015-2019.

The port infrastructure has undergone a development of ports specialized in the transport of hydrocarbons, such as the port of Djen-Djen, the only port in deep water. A new plan to extend and modernize existing ports should be put in place. In the medium term, Algeria should have a modern port in the west of Algiers that meets world standards.

Airport infrastructure has benefited from significant investments in recent years (80 billion dinars) for the modernization and upgrading of existing airport runways. The traffic is dominated by Air Algérie at more than 50%.

Land transport has developed more rapidly than other modes of transport, backed up somewhat by the development of road infrastructure (motorways, express ways and other roads) and the financing facilities granted by State agencies. There is a public enthusiasm for urban and interurban transport because of it does not need funding neither require qualification.

### **Bus:**

Created in 1959 under the name of Régie Syndicale des Transports Algérois (RSTA), it managed the bus, trolley and tram networks of Algiers.

After the independence and tram and trolley bus lines abandonment, RSTA continued to be the sole public transport operator until the opening to the private sector, by decree in February 1987.

In the 2000s, marked by the return of economic growth and political stability, the public authorities, through the Ministry of Transport, revived the public sector company under the name "Entreprise de Transport Urbain et Suburbain d'Alger(ETUSA)" (Algiers Urban and Suburban Transport Company).

### Public lifts:

Algiers station towards Che Guevara Boulevard (Square Port Said).  
Rue Larbi Ben M'hidi towards Rue Docteur Saâdane (Government Palace).  
Rue Didouche Mourad towards Boulevard Mohamed V.

### Taxis:

In Algeria, there are individual and collective taxis. The latter concerns predefined journeys, where fares are not fixed. It is common to share the taxi with other people during rush hour.

There are also inter-wilayas taxis connecting the big cities to the bus stations.

### Metro:

The opening of Algiers metro on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011, connecting Tafourah (Grande Poste) to Hai El Badr (Kouba) along 9.5 km and serving 10 stations, makes Algiers the first city in the Maghreb to be equipped with an underground metro. It was operated by RATP El Djazaïr, a subsidiary of Régie Autonome des Transports Parisiens (RATP) with Société du Métro d'Alger.

Extension works of line 1 of Algiers metro was completed in 2015 and was operational on 5 July 2015. This is the first 4 km- extension of line 1, which connects Hai El Badr station to El Harrach. Other extensions were unveiled in April 2018, such as the 2<sup>nd</sup> extension of line 1 of 3.7 km length connecting Hai El Badr Station to Aïn Naâdja Station, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> extension of line 1 connecting Tafourah - Grande Poste to La place des Martyrs of 1.9 km length.

Algeria has just launched another flagship project, the Oran metro.

### Tram:

In 2018, six cities in Algeria have a tram:

- **Algiers tram:** inaugurated in 2011, is a public transport system serving the urban areas of Algiers. It includes a 23.2 km network with 38 stations.
- **Constantine tram:** inaugurated on 4 July 2013, is a public transport system serving the urban areas of Constantine, along 9 km - line including 10 stations.
- **Oran tram:** Operating since 2 May 2013, it is the longest 48 km- network in the country.
- **Sidi Bel Abbés tram:** inaugurated on 26 July 2017, 13.74 km long with 22 stations. Sidi Bel Abbés, is the second largest city in western Algeria after Oran.
- **Tramway of Ouargla:** inaugurated on 20 March 2018, it includes a 9.7 km line with 16 stations. Ouargla is the fifth city in Algeria to have a modern tramway.
- **Sétif tram:** inaugurated on 8 May 2018, 22.4 km long with 26 stations (2 lines).

Several cities such as Batna, Mostaganem, and Annaba will be equipped with the tram. Other appropriate studies will be undertaken for tram projects in other wilayas. A partnership agreement was signed on 14 November 2010 by Société du Métro d'Alger

(EMA), Ferrovial Company and the French group Alstom, for the assembly of trams at the railway complex.

### **Cable Car:**

Algeria shows a particular interest in cable transport as it is an ecological, secure and touristic mode of transport.

The country has two cable transport systems in Algiers, Constantine, Skikda, Annaba, Tlemcen, Blida and Oran, namely gondola lift and cable car.

Some cable cars and gondola lifts have undergone technical renovation, such as the cable cars serving Algiers to El-Madania, the Martyr Memorial and Bologhine and Constantine gondola lift.

Algeria will be endowed over the coming years with a program of new projects, modernizing and maintaining all the country's cable cars. Indeed, many works will strengthen the country's cable car system.

#### Sources:

Ministry of Transport.  
National Statistics Office (ONS),  
ANDI, UNCTAD (UNCTAD report 2017),  
Economic report prepared by the Swiss Embassy in Algiers.