



## TRIPOLITANIA

The three cities of OEA, SABRATA and  
LEPTIS MAGNA

**T**ripolitania covers the whole of the northwestern part of the country. The area surrounding Tripoli as far as the Jabel Nafusa is mostly farmland, with vast groves of fruit and olive trees and date palms. Most of Libya's fresh food comes from this area.

**B**eyond the Jabel Nafusa is the start of the desert, with some spectacular scenery on the way.

South-west of the mountains lies the oasis town of Ghadames, which has its own unique attractions and should not be missed.

Sabrata and Leptis Magna, two of Libya's most famous tourist attraction and amongst the finest Roman cities in the Mediterranean, are on the coast of Tripolitania, within easy reach of the capital. As the coast dips down toward Sirt the desert comes up to meet the coast, forming the desolate natural boundary, which historically divided the provinces of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica.

## TRIPOLI



**T**ripoli, known as Tarabulus in Arabic, is the capital of Libya, although there have been attempts in recent years to move some government departments to other areas of the country. Nonetheless, Tripoli remains Libya's main business and cultural center and principal port. It has a population of approximately 1.5 million.

Known in the past as the 'the white bride of the Mediterranean', Tripoli has lost most of its pristine allure, but it still retains a good deal of character. There are many colonial buildings, historic mosques and a lively medina. The city is unlike other large cities in North Africa. The Turkish and Italian colonial period left a distinctive mark on the architecture, and the usual hallmarks of a modern commercial city,





**W.T.S.**  
**GROUP**

## History :

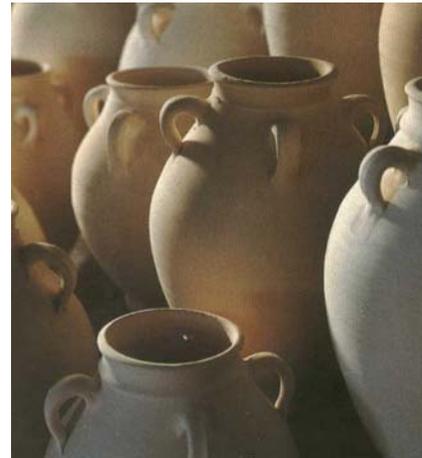
**Called Oea in antiquity, Tripoli was founded by the Phoenicians in about 500 BC, as part of their colonization of North African coast. Tripoli is Libya's only ancient city to have been continuously occupied, and very few relics of the early settlements survive.**

**Following the fall of Carthage in 146 BC, Tripoli came briefly under the jurisdiction of the Nubian Kingdom, before becoming a Roman protectorate.**

**Following a period of civil war between Roman factions, Julius Caesar annexed Tripoli as part of the province of Africa Nova. Under the Roman, Oea grew very prosperous and, together with Sabrata and Leptis Magna (the other cities of the 'tripolis'), provided the Roman Empire with grain, wild animals and slaves.**

**After the golden age of the 2nd century AD, Tripoli gradually fell into decline, along with the rest of the empire. When the Vandals overran North Africa in the 5th century, the damage to the city was devastating and it could easily have fallen into permanent ruin. The conquest by emperor Justinian's general, Belisarius, in 533 and the establishment of Byzantines to restore the city, however, Tripoli would spend the following centuries in a much reduced state.**

**When the first Arab invasion came in the 7th century, a new town was built amongst the ruins of the old. The Roman street plan can be seen in the old city today, although only one Roman monument still stand-the Arch of Marcus Aurelius. It was after the second Arab invasion in 1046 that the old city walls were rebuilt, using the Roman remains as foundations.**



**Despite a very temporary Norman occupation, from 1146 to 1158, the Arab town flourished in the 14th and 15th centuries. Many of the Islamic buildings come from this age, as well as some fine civic buildings and merchants' houses. During the 16th century the city was occupied in quick succession by the Spanish and the knights of Malta. The most visible result of their occupation is the extensive work they**



**W.T.S.**  
**GROUP**

carried out on Tripoli Castle, the Assria al-Hamra, which has been fortified and extended throughout its history.

Turks, who constructed most of the mosques, hammams and souqs which are still standing today, built the most lasting architecture monuments in the old city.

Under the Karamanlis (1711-1835), who ruled Tripoli virtually independently of the Sublime Porte during the 18th and 19th centuries, the boundaries of the old town became final and the city's characteristic winding lanes and houses were built. Most of today's old town dates from this era, including most of the buildings within the Assria al-Hamra.

It was not until the Italians invaded and conquered Libya that the city burst out of the confines of the city walls. The area which now composes central Tripoli used to be farms and gardens. The Italians built colonnaded streets radiating from the castle, thousands of houses and apartments and many public buildings. When Libya became independent many families left the old city to live in the newly vacated Italian apartments and houses. The old city suffered a decline and its buildings were poorly maintained, a process of decay, which is only just starting to be halted today by the actions of environmentalists, and some of the more important buildings are now beginning to be restored.



## SABRATA

**O**ne of the ‘ must see’ sights in Libya, Sabrata is a well-preserved Roman city, about 70 km west of Tripoli. It has one of the loveliest theatres you could wish to see.

Although the ruins overall are less spectacular than those at Leptis Magana, the site is very attractively situated overlooking the sea and there are nearby beaches. The modern town of Sabrata has grown up around the ruins.

### History :

**T**he city, as seen today, dates from the Roman occupation of Tripolitania and was built during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. It was destroyed by the Vandals, rebuilt during the Arab occupation and then neglected by the Turks. It was finally excavated during the Italian occupation and partly restored in the 1930s.



Sabrata was first settled by the Phoenicians as a trading post. The exact date of its foundation is largely a question of speculation, while Greek pottery has been found on the site dates from

the 6th century BC. The first literary reference to the settlement dates from the late 4th century BC.



**W.T.S.  
GROUP**

Excavations have revealed an early walled village of mud huts near the area of the Temple of Liber Pater. After the fall of Carthage, the Romans superimposed their ordered town plan over the original, more haphazard settlement. The transformation was slower than that at Leptis Magna.

The early Roman city was concentrated around the forum with the Liber Pater and Serapis temples, after which it spread inland on the familiar grid pattern culminating in the theatre, which is Sabrata's crowning feature.

Sabrata did not enjoy such lavish imperial favor as Leptis and so its decline was not as dramatic. The city did not collapse until the Vandals wrought their usual destruction, although its downward fortunes had already begun, due to an earthquake in 365 AD rather than the usual economic decline. When the Byzantine armies reclaimed North Africa from the Vandals, Sabrata was in a weakened state and new defensive walls were built, plus a fine church, which featured a mosaic floor. After the Arabs arrived in Tripolitania and laid siege to Tripoli, the Sabratans prepared for their own siege behind their Byzantine walls. Hearing that the Arabs had been repelled, they relaxed their vigilance, even to the point of leaving their gates open. When the Arabs finally took Tripoli, the inevitable happened. Riding through the night they took Sabrata completely by surprise and the city surrendered. Once established, the Arabs moved the market to Tripoli, depriving Sabrata of its means of economic survival, and thereafter the city declined into obscurity and ruin.



## Leptis

**I**f you only visit one archeological site in Libya, this is the one to choose. It is widely regarded as the best Roman site in the Mediterranean. The spectacular architecture and the sheer scale of the city are impressive even if your appetite for ruins is somewhat jaded.

As the site is so large and there is only one small shop selling cold drinks just inside the entrance, it is advised to take some water with you, especially in the summer time when temperatures can get very high indeed.

### History :

**L**eptis Magna was originally a Phoenician port, settled during the 1st millennium BC.

The growth of Leptis Magna into one of the most important Roman cities began in these preceding centuries, firstly through the lucrative trade with the Sudan and tropical Africa.

Slaves, gold, ivory and precious metals soon brought in wealth, supplemented by the rich agricultural land which then surrounded Leptis. By around the 6th or 7th century BC, Leptis was permanent colony under the domination of Carthage.

In the 4th century BC, Tripolitania came into conflict with Greek colonies in Cyrenaica in the east. According to legend, the boundary dispute was settled in a unique way. After a period of indecisive battles, it was agreed that each side should dispatch its fastest runners – Cyrenaica's from Cyrene in the east and Carthage from Leptis in the west. The point where the two teams met would decide the boundary. The Carthaginians sent two runners, the Philaeni brothers, who had covered two-thirds of the distance before they met their rivals. Displeased with the result, the Greeks accused them of cheating. Offered to choose between being buried alive at the point they had reached or moving the boundary closer to Leptis Magana, the Philaeni brothers chose death.





**W.T.S.**  
**GROUP**

The point on the boundary where they were buried was once marked with a gaudy monument built by the Italians but it has been demolished since the revolution.

Although the Greek were trounced, it was the Romans who finally ousted the Carthaginians from Leptis and the whole of North Africa. Following the third Punic War during which Carthage was razed, Leptis came under Roman domination. During the reign of Emperor Trajan (98-117 AD), Leptis and Tripolitania became part of the Roman Empire and its inhabitants Roman citizens.

Leptis Magna flourished during the rule of Septimius Severus (193-211), and many of the fine buildings seen today on the site date from this period. Septimius Severus was born in Leptis and favored his hometown above all others. Marble from the eastern Mediterranean was brought to Leptis for the construction of majestic public buildings. The public baths are the largest outside of Rome itself and the huge scale of the forum and basilica rival any in the Roman Empire.

At the height of its wealth, Leptis had a population of between 60,000 and 80,000 people.

Leptis fell into decline when the Severan dynasty ended. The harbor began to silt up and the Saharan trade route suffered. Tribal insurrections in Tripolitania added to the city's problems. The Vandals' occupation Leptis in 455 finally signaled the end of the great city.

The Byzantine general, Belisarius, reoccupied Leptis in 533 and restored Roman rule for a short time. However, the city was under frequent attack from the Berber Iznadja tribe. This turbulent period saw extensive repairs carried out on the city, especially the important public buildings. The city itself had shrunk, as can be seen by the extent of the new city walls, which encompass only a fraction of the old city. Despite the efforts of the Byzantine administration, the tribes continued to revolt and eventually Tripolitania reverted to pastoral nomadism dominated by the Berber tribes of Nafusa and Houara. The Arab invasions 644 swept away the final traces of Roman and Byzantine life from the city.

By medieval times the city was used for grazing sheep and in the 11th century it was finally abandoned to the encroaching sand dunes. It was not until the 20th century that any serious excavations were carried out. Most of the monuments were well preserved under their blanket of sand, and it is the fine condition of the ruins as well as the architecture, which make Leptis Magna so outstanding.



**W.T.S.  
GROUP**

## PENTAAPOLIS

The five cities of Cyrene,  
Apollonia, Barca,  
Ptolemais and Berenice,

**T**he eastern part of Libya is quite different, both geographically and culturally, from the rest of the country. Egypt's proximity has influenced the region's cuisine, and parts of Cyrenaica are reputed to have populations with pure Arabian ancestry inherited from the time of the original Arab conquest. The area's landscape is extremely attractive. The Jebel Akhdar "Green Mountains" lives up to its name and is reminiscent of Crete, which lies just 100 km or so to the north.

Geography aside, the main reason for visiting the region is to visit the wonderful Greek cities of antiquity. Five sites comprise the old "PENTAPOLIS" (Cyrene, Apollonia, Teuchira, Ptolemais, Barca, and Benghazi).

The most glorious of these is Cyrene, followed by Apollonia nearby on the coast. In isolation, the other sites would also command great interest, but in such a concentration of world class ruins they tend to play second fiddle.



**W.T.S  
GROUP**

## BERENICE "Benghazi"

**B**enghazi is second largest city in Libya with population of about 800,000, and is situated on the eastern side of the Gulf of Sirt. It is a major commercial center and port built around a large double harbor. The modern city displays little of its ancient heritage and is mostly a postwar development.

### History:

**F**ounded by Greek settlers who were moving westward, the settlement was originally called Eusperides, though to be the site of the legendary Garden of Hesperides of Golden Apples fame.

By 249 BC, Benghazi was called Berenice, named after the wife of Ptolemis III of Egypt who subjected Cyrenaica to Egyptian rule and married Berenice, a Cyrenaican princess. The site this later city corresponds to the modern city of Benghazi. The city became a part of the Roman Empire, but little is known of its history throughout this period. Like many Roman cities in Africa, it suffered enormous damage during the Vandal invasion and, after a brief period of repair by the Byzantine, fell into obscurity. Even after the Arab invasion, Benghazi was neglected in favor of other cities of more strategic importance, such as Ajdabiya.

It was only in the 15<sup>th</sup> century that Benghazi was rediscovered by Tripolitanian merchants, taking the city into a new and prosperous phase. The name Benghazi came about in the 16<sup>th</sup> century when the city was renamed after Ibn Ghazi, a local holy man.

The Turks took Benghazi in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and built a fort there. Their attempt to make it a center for tax collection drove traders to other towns and Benghazi suffered as a result. Under the Karamanlis, Benghazi once again suffered from neglect. It was only during the second Ottoman occupation, in mid 19th century, that the city recovered its fortunes.



**W.T.S**  
**GROUP**

## CYRENE " Shahat "

**G**enerally considered the second most important site in Libya after Leptis Magna, Cyrene is a must see. It is the most splendidly preserved of the Greek cities of Cyrenaica, know as Pentapolis, & its buildings were originally modeled on those at Delphi. Apart from the delicious Greek ruins, its location high on a bluff overlooking a plateau across to the sea is quite stunning. This city covers a huge area & still only partly excavated, not many world-heritage sites are still in this rather romantic condition: mosaics can still be discovered underfoot & priceless statues are often covered with creeps, enough of the city has been resurrected to give the visitor an impression of how it originally appeared but without the over-restored air that detracts from many classical sites.

### History:

**T**he city owes its name to the nymph Cyrene, known in Greek as kurana. It was founded by a group of Greek immigrants who had fled from the island of Threa (Santorini). The date generally agreed upon for this event is 631 BC, but the historical facts are somewhat shrouded in legend. It is know that Threa at that time was suffering from severe drought & emigration seemed to be the only solution. Legend states that before setting out, the leaders of Threa consulted the oracle of Delphi & were advised to head for Libya. The leader of this expedition was Battus, who became the first king of Cyrene. The original party of about 200 set sail from Threa & landed at a small island called Platea in the gulf of bombo. This first settlement was not a success, as there was no water & very little land. They then moved to the mainland & again set up in a rather arid area. Finally the local Libyan tribes helped them to settle in the favorable location which became Cyrene. King BattusI ruled over tiny community for 40 years,



**W.T.S.**  
**GROUP**

& during that time the nucleus of the future great city took shape. The city flourished & was soon attracting large numbers of Greek settlers. The dynasty of Battus lasted until 331 BC, encompassing a golden age of considerable power & prosperity for the city. At its height, it was a seat of culture & learning, which rivaled Athens & Rome. One of the city's most important exports was the Silphium plant (now extinct) which was highly prized for its medicinal properties. Descriptions of these properties are rather extravagant but they indicated that it was used as a purgative & antiseptic. When Alexander the great conquered Egypt in 331 BC, he traveled to the Cyrenaican borders and was met by ambassadors bearing gifts.

Satisfied with this show of friendship he never set foot in Cyrene and headed south instead. Following Alexander's death the Greek world fragmented and Cyrene came under attack from Egypt and fell under the rule of the Ptolemies dynasty. It was not until 75 BC, following the battle of Actium, that the Pentapolis became part of the Roman Empire. The city never fully recovered, despite efforts by the emperor Hadrian to reconstruct the buildings and repopulate the city. By the 4<sup>th</sup> century, Cyrene and the other cities of the Pentapolis were virtually deserted. The city lay unexcavated until the Italians began work during the 1920s & 30s.



W.T.S  
GROUP

## APOLLONIA " Susah"

**S**usah is situated on the coast line about 20 km north of Shahat " Cyrene", the old town is beautiful but falling into decay. The real interest of the town is the ruins of Apollonia.

The foundation of Apollonia was well linked with the foundation of Cyrene in the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC and the name Apollonia developed from the Greek god Apollo, the ancient city of Apollonia was built to provide a port for Cyrene well known for exporting the medical plant " SILPHIUM" which played an important role in the economic life of Cyrene, to the extent that it was stamped on its coin.



**W.T.S.**  
**GROUP**

## TEUCHIRA "Tocra "

**T**ocra is small town about 60 km east of Benghazi. Teuchira the original Greek name for Tocra, was founded around 510 BC. It became part of the Pentapolis. It changed names more than once and was called "Arsinoe" after the wife of Ptolemy II, and was briefly known as Cleopatris, the name of the daughter of Cleopatra and Mark Antony.

Tocra has well researched Roman ruins, though not all the workings are totally uncovered. There are still some surrounding walls built by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian in the 6th century and Turkish for, most probably built over the site of the Greek acropolis.

## PTOLEMAIS "Tolmeita"

Farther east along the coast from Tocra (70 km) is Tolmeita "Ptolemais", probably the more rewarding site of the two. The ancient city of Ptolemais was named after Ptolemy II Philadelphus in the 3rd century BC. The town was actually founded earlier but only became of importance under the Ptolemy's rule as part of the Pentapolis.

Ptolemais was originally the harbor for inland city of Barca "Al-Marj", but later was of importance in its own right. After the Roman occupation the city was altered and buildings constructed, proving its continuing role as an important center. From the 3rd century, both Apollonia and Ptolemais became the main cities in Cyrenaica. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century, Ptolemais became the seat of the bishop and capital of a province and fortifications were increased against raids by Berber tribes, but were insufficient to prevent the Vandals in the 5th century from taking the city. Ptolemais fell into decay with the Arab invasion and its only use was in providing building material for the new village. The site was rediscovered in 1935 by the Italian.



**W.T.S**  
**GROUP**

## BARCA " Al-Marj "

**S**ituated east of Benghazi (95 km) in the fertile plains, it was established by the fourth king of Cyrenaica " King Arcesilaus II". Barca is situated in one of the most fertilized plains in cyreniaca, over looking on spacious plain centered by closed basin of fertile soil and because of that it is very famous for exporting the agricultural products, cattels, honey, fruits and wool, and in third century BC, Ptolemais was it harbor mainly for exporting all the goods of which the city was famous for.

Barca celebrated as a resistance center against the Greek invaders in Cyrene. In this city (Arceslians II) was murdered. Baraca's people also fought the mother of the named king, who collaborated with the Persians against the city resistance.

## TOBRUK

**T**obruk is the last two of any size before the Egyptian boarder. Tobruk became a household name during WWII, when it became a key player in the power struggle between the Allied and Axis powers. The town sustained a lengthy siege, during which time it was virtually reduced to rubble. It has been rebuilt since the war and is now a modern developed with little charm. The key items of interest are the **WAR CEMETRIES**.



## SAHARA CITIES

### GHADAMES

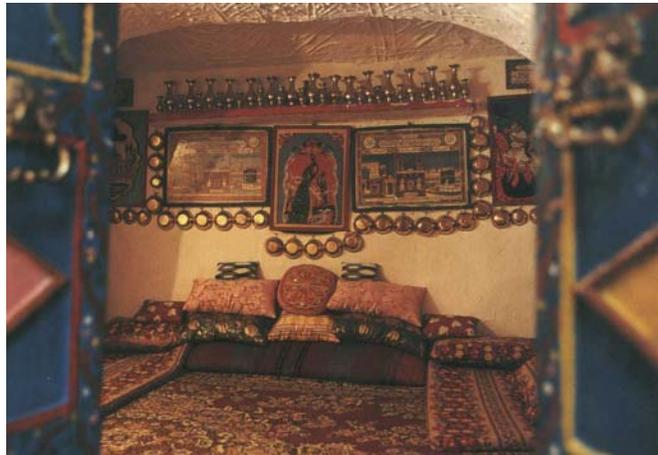
**T**he oasis town of Ghadames lies 650 km south west of Tripoli, close to the boarder with Algeria and Tunisia.

The earliest reference to Ghadames date from the Roman times, when the town known as “Cydamus” and marked the southern most boundary of the Roman Empire. Despite military expeditions to the far south the Romans found the Sahara outpost difficult to occupy in the long term.

In the seventh century, it was conquered by the Arab Muslims under the leader ship of Aucba Ben Nafaa.

The people of Ghadames are of Arab, African, Berber and Tuareg origin, and the town was formerly on an important tarns Sahara trading route stretching from Tripoli to Lake Chad and beyond. Ghadames is famed for its traditional desert architecture and earned itself the sobriquet “ Pearl of the Desert”.

The old city is constructed entirely with mud bricks, held together with mud mortar and then whit washed. The style is eclectic and unique to this part of the Sahara.





**W.T.S  
GROUP**

## GERMA

**S**ince the dawn of history, the old historical source talk about tribes called Garamantes inhabited the Libyan Sahara. They were described by Herodotus as “warrior nation” used chariots drawn by horses, & he referred to their agriculture, & pastoral practices, including breeding oxen of long horns & thick skins.

It is not so easy to define the size of Garamant’s kingdom, but historical source say that the Garamantes spread their sovereignty over the region from their capital (Germa or Garama) till the southern boarder of Tripoli area (from Bunjem in the east to Ghadames in the west)

The remains of Germa or Garama the capital of Garamantes tells us the story of the human civilization development in the Sahara region since prehistoric times.



## OJALA

**O**jala is an oasis situated to the south of ajdabia, conquered by the aucba in the first century of Al-Hijra.

It was mentioned in the historical reference, & its importance comes through its geographical position as one of the most strategic sites for trade caravan routes.

The Arabic geographer, al-idrisi mentioned Ojala citizens in the sixth century of alhijra as civilized people practicing prosperous commercial activities.

Before this time, in the fourth century the Muslims traveler <ibn hawaqal> also mentioned this Saharan City & referred to its surplus production of high quality date palms which were prepared for export.



## GABEROUN

**S**ince the revolution, the authorities have found it difficult to maintain any kind of modern facilities at the lake & they have persuaded the dawada to move new gabraoun- a new village in the wadi.

The lake itself is in a lovely setting, fringed on one side with palm trees & the ruined old village nestling on the other. The scene is topped off by the magnificent, high sand dune, which is reflected in the lake.

One of the mysterious features of the lake is the fact that although it's as salty as the dead sea, if you dig a pit, even only a few feet from the lake's edge, it fills with fresh water. Very handy if you have been swimming!

## RAMALT DAWADA

**T**his area of the ubari Sand Sea contains 11 lakes, the origins & extraordinary qualities of which have baffled geographers & explorers alike.

Mavo Lake, is known as the lake, which changes color. sometimes the water is red, sometimes the water is blue or green. It is thought that the color changes are caused by algae in the water. what ever the cause it is surreal sight

Mandara

Which is very pretty & surrounded by palm trees, although the water level can sometimes drop to that of a muddy pool.

The lakes lie in two lines on the northeast to southwest axis. The other lakes of interest

Gaberoun, Umm Tademka, At- (where the saline natron is Bera & Umm lakes sometimes



are Al-Hassan, Trouna mineral collected), Hassas., these appear on

maps under different names. These are the locally used names.

A couple of these remote lakes were occupied until quite recently by the Dawada tribe. Their name means "worm eater" arising from the fact that their diet was

composed mainly from the small creatures fished from the lake at Gaberoun. They were not worms at all, of course, but a species of tiny, red shrimp called "Artemiasalina", which thrived in the lake's high salinity. The shrimp are still valued locally.



**W.T.S.**  
**GROUP**

## GHAT

**G**hat is a small Tuareg town set in a dip between two mountain ranges, the Akakus to the east and the Tassili to the west. The town known as Rhapsa in Roman times, was a key trading post for the trans Sahara caravans and until recently there were still occasional caravans going to Mali. However, the old route up to Ghadames and Tripoli hasn't been used for years.

## AKAKUS

**T**he Akakus mountains area is one of the highlights of Libya. Even without its cave paintings it would be one of the most stunning parts of the Sahara because of the wild beauty of the terrain. The cave art is generally very well preserved and is regarded as some of the finest in Africa.

## ZWELA

**O**ne of the most important cities in Fezzan region, south of Libya.  
Its ruins dated back to the Fatimid period.  
The excavations in this city brought to light a golden Islamic dinar minted in zwela during <al-muiz> the Fatimid caliph in 412 of al-hijra.  
In Tripoli museums, exist today a precious collection of zwela findings.



**W.T.S  
GROUP**

## GIRZA

**G**irza is situated in sauf al-gean. Valley <wadi> The lives in all its aspects have been flourished between the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> centuries during Christian era.

The remains of girza are very famous in the field of urban design, in what was named compound sample. The influence came from the old civilizations of mespotema in Iraq & the ancient civilization of Egypt.

The fenced farms were cultivated to contribute to the prosperity of the three cities– Tripoli-leptis magna-sabratha.

Such existing remains give us good example of the high level in social & economic life, that Griza has witnessed during times of stability inscriptions give us information about names of some elite citizens like <nomair> which are from Arabic origins.

## SULTAN "OLD SIRT"

**S**ultan is situated to the east of modern Sirt. It was mentioned by some of the medieval geographers & travelers, like Ibn Hawqal in the fourth century of Al-Hijra, who said in his book (Surat Al-Ard) that city with strong walls supported by castles & forts, also he mentioned that Sirt was noted for its goats & was visited by ships & exported the famous (Sirt-Alum).

Regarding the Arabic traveler Al-Bakri (from the fifth century of Al-Hijra), he mentioned sultan in his book (Al-Masalik wa Al-Mamalik) & referred to it's market, bath & mosque.

The historical medieval sources speak a lot about the prosperity of this city during the 4<sup>th</sup> centuries of Al-Hijra & the time of its decline afterwards. Generally, Sultan City is a good example of the Islamic City plans & it has kept up its origin plan up to now completel

## GEOGRAPHY



**W.T.S**  
**GROUP**

**L**ibya is the fourth– largest country in Africa, with 1.760.00sq km of mostly desert terrain.

Tunisia and Algeria border it to the west, to east by Egypt and to the south by the Sudan, Chad and Niger.

Only the narrow coastal strip receives sufficient rainfall to be suitable for agriculture and it's here that 90% of the population resides and where the capital, Tripoli, is situated south of Tripoli is the Jefara plain, which provides most of the agriculture for the country.

The north-eastern part of the country, the Jebel Akhdar area (also known as the green mountains), is the most verdant region and also one of the most beautiful.

The interior of the country is largely uninhabited desert dotted with small oasis communities, the largest being kufra , in the south-east, and Sebha, capital of the Fezzan , in the center.

In the extreme south are the Tibesti and Tassilimountains of the central Sahara, which rise to heights of 3000 and 1000 meters, respectively, Libya's Sand Seas include the Calanscio Sand Sea in the east near the Egyptian border and the Murzuk and Ubari Sand Seas in the south-west.

These formations are vast areas of shifting Sand Dunes, some several hundred, meters high.

There are no permanent rivers in Libya, only wadis (or watercourses) which catch the infrequent run-off from rainfall. In the Fezzan, years sometimes go by without rain and agriculture is sustained from subsurface aquifers. The existence of vast fossil aquifers in the south and south –east has prompted the building of huge pipeline to bring water to the coastal areas for use in agriculture and industry.

The Great Man river project is the largest engineering scheme currently being carried out in the world, and at an estimated

US \$ 27 billion it's probably the most expensive.

Libya has large , high- quality oil reserves, most of which are in the desert areas south of the Gulf of Sirt .

The Gulf area is dotted with oil terminals, mostly around Ras Lanuf and Brega, which does nothing for the land-scape but a whole lot for the economy of the country.

## CLIMATE



**W.T.S  
GROUP**

**D**ue to the lack of natural barriers, the Sahara deserts on the one hand and the Mediterranean on the other affects Libya's climate. Summer is generally very hot, with temperatures on the coast around 30°C, often accompanied by high humidity, while in the south they can reach a sweltering 50° C.

In the winter, the weather can be cool and rainy on the coast, even snowing occasionally in the Jebels , while the temperatures can drop to subfreezing at night.

Periodically during the spring, you may encounter the gabli, a hot, dry, sand-laden wind which can raise the temperature in a matter of hours to between 40° C and 50° C.

The winds can last from just a few hours to several days.

### Flora & fauna

**I**nland, the only vegetation is largely confined to the oases, where the date palm reigns supreme , along with figs and oleander. Outside of the oases, the acacia tree can sometimes be found providing the only shade in the middle of wilderness.

On the coast, the usual array of Mediterranean flora thrives.

There are large areas given over to the cultivation of olives and citrus fruit.

**A** wonderful variety of bird life can be seen all over Libya, as it is on the migratory route of many species.

In the desert regions, the camel is the most common animal that visitors will come across ( not surprisingly), but there are still a few herds of gazelle in remote areas and the nocturnal fennec ( a small fox) can be glimpsed from time to time. Lizards, snakes and scorpions are also quite common, some of the snakes are poisonous, so great care should be exercised when travelling in the desert.



**W.T.S.  
GROUP**

## EDUCATION

**E**ducation is free for all Libyans and virtually all children attend school until the age of 16, many continuing their education to college and university level.

University students often study abroad on state-paid grants. Medicine, engineering and agriculture are the most popular fields of study. Women are being encouraged to continue their education to university level, although few study abroad.

## RELIGION

**T**he religion of the country is almost 100% Sunni Muslim, and Libyans are conservative, though not fundamentalist, in their outlook.

## LANGUAGE

**A**rabic is the official language in Libya and knowledge of it is great help, as you'll find few people who speak English outside the main centers.

Those often speak English in business and some older Libyans speak Italian.

Some berber groups, notably in the Jebel Nafusa, still speak their own language and Tuaregs in the south, in addition to Arabic, also speak Tifinagh (also known as Tamashek).

National & Religious Holidays



**W.T.S**  
**GROUP**

## National Holidays :

<b>First of September (Al-Fateh) Revolution</b>	<b>September 1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Declaration of the Authority of the People</b>	<b>March 2<sup>nd</sup>.</b>
<b>Evacuation of the British forces</b>	<b>March 28<sup>th</sup>.</b>
<b>Evacuation of the American forces.</b>	<b>June 11<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Evacuation of Italian forces</b>	<b>October 7<sup>th</sup>.</b>
<b>Egyptian Revolution</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> July.</b>

“ Religious Holidays: (please note that Moslems use the Lunar calendar

<b>Islamic (lunar) New Year</b>	<b>Moharram 1<sup>st</sup>.</b>
<b>The prophet's Sacred Birthday</b>	<b>Rabii Al-Thani 12<sup>th</sup>.</b>
<b>Eid Al-Fitr (end of fasting month Ramadan)</b>	<b>Shawal 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>.</b>
<b>Eid Al-Adha</b>	<b>Dhul -Hijja 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, &amp; 12<sup>th</sup>.</b>

Hotels & Tourist Villages



Hotel name & category	City	Telephone & fax numbers
Corinthia hotel	Tripoli	Tele: + 218 ( 0 ) 21 3351990 Fax : + 218 ( 0 ) 21 3351992
Al-Mahri hotel 5*	Tripoli	Tele: + 218 ( 0 ) 21 333 40 90 / 96 Fax : + 218 ( 0 ) 21 44 49 502
Al-Kabir Hotel 5*	Tripoli	Tel : + 218 ( 0 ) 21 444 59 50 / 58 Fax: + 218 ( 0 ) 21 444 59 59
Bab Al-Baher hotel 4*	Tripoli	Tel : + 218 ( 0 ) 21 33 50 676 / 78 Fax: + 218 ( 0 ) 21 33 50 711
Winzrik Hotel 4*	Tripoli	Tel : + 218 ( 0 ) 21 340 4407/8 Fax :+ 218 ( 0 ) 21 340 35 79
Waddan Hotel 4*	Tripoli	Tel: + 218 (0) 21 333 0041 /5 Fax: + 218 (0) 21 4445601
Wahat Hotel 3*	Tripoli	Tel: + 218 (0) 21 333 40 61 /69 Fax: + 218 (0) 21 444 50 55
Gargresh Tourist Village	Tripoli	Tel : + 218 (0) 21 477 4361 / 69
Janzur Tourist Village	Tripoli	Tel : + 218 (0) 21 4890421 / 423
Tibesty Hotel 5* deluxe	Benghazi	Tel : + 218 ( 0 ) 61 90 98 029 / 31 Fax: + 218 ( 0 ) 61 90 97 160
Ouzou Hotel 5*	Benghazi	Tel : + 218 ( 0 ) 61 90 95 160 / 66 Fax: + 218 ( 0 ) 61 90 92 110
Garyounes Tourist Village	Benghazi	Tel : + 218 ( 0 ) 61 909 7491 Fax: + 218 ( 0 ) 61 90 92 110
Goz Ettik Hotel 4*	Misrata	Tel : + 218 ( 0 ) 51 61 46 14 Fax: + 218 ( 0 ) 51 61 05 00
Gaser Al-Bayda 3*	Al-Bayda	Tel : + 218 ( 0 ) 84 633 455 / 58 Fax: + 218 ( 0 ) 84 633 459
Massira Hotel	Tobruk	Tel : + 218 ( 0 ) 8762 5761 / 70 Fax: + 218 ( 0 ) 87 62 5769

Hotel name & category	City	Telephone & fax numbers
Mahri Hotel 4*	Sirt	Tel : + 218 ( 0 ) 54 60 101 /4 Fax: + 218 ( 0 ) 54 61310



<b>Congress Hall 4*</b>	<b>Sirt</b>	<b>Tel : + 218 ( 0 ) 54 60165</b> <b>Fax: + 218 ( 0 ) 54 63530</b>
<b>Mahri Hotel 5*</b>	<b>Zliten</b>	<b>Tel : + 218 ( 0 ) 52 162 0121 / 27</b> <b>Fax: + 218 ( 0 ) 52 162 0120</b>
<b>Harouj Hotel 4*</b>	<b>Houn</b>	<b>Tel : + 218 ( 0 ) 57 603 873 – 76</b> <b>Fax: + 218 ( 0 ) 57 603 642</b>
<b>Mahri Hotel 4*</b>	<b>Sebha</b>	<b>Tel : + 218 ( 0 ) 71 631 910</b> <b>Fax: + 218 ( 0 ) 71 633344</b>
<b>Rabta Hotel 4*</b>	<b>Gharyan</b>	<b>Tel : + 218 ( 0 ) 41 631973 /74</b> <b>Fax: + 218 ( 0 ) 41 631972</b>
<b>Kafila Hotel 2*</b>	<b>Ghadames</b>	<b>Tel : + 218 ( 0 ) 484 62 991</b> <b>Fax: + 218 ( 0 ) 484 62 176</b>
<b>Winzrik Hotel 2*</b>	<b>Ghadames</b>	<b>Tel &amp; fax: + 218 ( 0 ) 484 62485</b>
<b>Waha Hotel 2*</b>	<b>Ghadames</b>	<b>Tel : + 218 ( 0 ) 484 62 569 / 71</b> <b>Fax: + 218 ( 0 ) 484 62 568</b>

### Hospitals & Emergency

<b>Central Hospital</b>	<b>Tripoli</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 21 333 9161</b>
<b>Salaheddine Hospital</b>	<b>Tripoli</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 21 690 511</b>
<b>Central Hospital</b>	<b>Zawia</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 23 20115 - 20111</b>
<b>Central Hospital</b>	<b>Gharyan</b>	<b>+ 218( 0 ) 41 30208</b>
<b>Ghadames Hospital</b>	<b>Ghadames</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 484 2151 – 2611</b>
<b>Khoms Hospital</b>	<b>Khoms</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 31 23611</b>
<b>Central Hospital</b>	<b>Misrata</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 51 614 444 – 616 688</b>
<b>Misrata Medical Center</b>	<b>Misrata</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 51 615 776 – 615 729</b>
<b>Sirt Hospital</b>	<b>Sirt</b>	<b>+ 218( 0 ) 54 62500</b>
<b>Jdabia Hospital</b>	<b>Jdabia</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 64 25719</b>
<b>Al-Jalaa Hospital</b>	<b>Benghazi</b>	<b>+ 218( 0 ) 61 80594 – 80610</b>
<b>Al-Jamahiriya Hospital</b>	<b>Benghazi</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 61 909 0001 – 909 0005</b>
<b>Al-Bayda Hospital</b>	<b>Al-Bayda</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 84 2662 – 2666</b>
<b>Al-Marj Hospital</b>	<b>Al-Marj</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 67 22933</b>
<b>Derna Hospital</b>	<b>Derna</b>	<b>+ 218( 0 ) 81 30201 – 30202</b>
<b>Sebha Hospital</b>	<b>Sebha</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 71 620 666</b>

Security Centers & Police Depts.



**W.T.S  
GROUP**

<b>Name &amp; Address</b>	<b>Telephone Numbers</b>
<b>Ras Jdir Police Dept.</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 283 2012</b>
<b>Zawia Police Dept.</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 23 20222</b>
<b>Gharyan Police Dept</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 41 33111</b>
<b>Sabrata Police Dept</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 24 29051</b>
<b>Central Police Dep. Tripoli</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 21 444 0274</b>
<b>Misrata Police Dept</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 51 616 721</b>
<b>Ghadames Police Dept</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 484 2250</b>
<b>Sirt Police Dept.</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 54 62801</b>
<b>Jdabia Police Dept</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 64 25642</b>
<b>Al-Bayda Police Dept</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 84 32111</b>
<b>Al-Marj Police Dept</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 67 21556</b>
<b>Derna Police Dept</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 81 22898</b>
<b>Imssaed Police Dept</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 882 220 303</b>
<b>Sebha Police Dept</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 71 620 345</b>
<b>Security Center for the region of Tripoli</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 21 800 015</b>
<b>Security Center for the region of Sebha</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 71 623 595</b>
<b>Security Center for the region of Zawia</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 23 20241</b>
<b>Security Center for the region of Benghazi</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 61 223 0011</b>
<b>Security Center for the region of Khoms</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 31 62218</b>
<b>Security Center for the region of Sirt</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 54 65148</b>
<b>Security Center for the region of Misrata</b>	<b>+ 218 ( 0 ) 6518751 619 996</b>