

## UNESCO World Heritage Sites Depicted on Bank Notes – Algeria

Algeria is a North African country with a Mediterranean coastline and a Saharan desert interior. Many empires have left legacies here, such as the ancient Roman ruins in seaside Tipaza. In the capital, Algiers, Ottoman landmarks like circa-1612 Ketchaoua Mosque line the hillside Casbah quarter, with its narrow alleys and stairways. The city's Neo-Byzantine basilica Notre Dame d'Afrique dates to French colonial rule. There are currently 7 UNESCO sites in Algeria. Fortunately 6 sites are shown on Algerian banknotes. There are also 2 Algerian notes with a Tunisian UNESCO site depicted (Ksar of Aït Ben Haddou)!

The Kasbah of Algiers is depicted on 13 different banknotes! The Kasbah is a unique kind of medina, or Islamic city. It stands in one of the finest coastal sites on the Mediterranean, overlooking the islands where a Carthaginian trading-post was established in the 4th century BC. There are the remains of the citadel, old mosques and Ottoman-style palaces. Most of these are of the "French style" of notes with the use of pastel colors and allegorical and landmark motifs. They include:

- P77/B123 5 Francs from 1925-1933 and P94/B137 of 1944 with the very similar motifs
- P79/B125 50 Francs of 1913
- P80/B126 50 Francs from 1918-1937
- P110/B214 10,000 Francs from 1955-1957
- P129/B149 100 Nouveaux Francs from 1959-1961
- P125/B304 100 Dinars of 1964
- P129/B308 500 Dinars from 1970-1973
- P135/B314 200 Dinars of 1983
- B412 2000 Dinars of 2020
- B413 2000 Dinars of 2022

The M'Zab Valley is a region of the northern Sahara that holds five traditional fortified villages (ksour), an intact example of traditional human habitat perfectly adapted to the environment. It is shown on 2 100 Dinar notes showing the ruins of Ksar: P131/B312 100 (1981) and P134/B313 (1984).

Timgad, called Thamugas by the Romans, was a Roman colonial town in North Africa noteworthy for being one of the best extant examples of the grid plan as used in Roman city planning. It was founded by the Emperor Trajan around 100 AD. Notable features include:

Streets: decumanus maximus and cardo, lined by a partially-restored Corinthian colonnade.

Trajan's Arch, a 12 m high triumphal arch

3,500-seat theater

Four bathhouses

A library

The Capitoline Temple

Timgad is depicted on 5 notes:

P105/B144 5,000 Francs from 1946-1947

P108 & P109 / B203 2,000 Francs from 1949-1956, P113/B208 & P120/B148 overprint 50 Nouveaux Francs of 1956/1959

The Al Qal'a (Fortress) of Beni Hammad is an archeological site, which holds the first capital of the Hammadid empire. It was founded in 1007 and destroyed in 1152. The town includes a 7 km-long line of walls. Inside the walls are four residential complexes, and the largest mosque built in Algeria after that of Mansurah. The remains of the emir's Dal al-Bahr palace include three separate residences separated by gardens and pavilions. The Al Qal'a of Beni Hammad is shown P133/B310 20 Dinars of 1983.

The Tassili n'Ajjer mountain range is on 1,000 Dinar notes:

- P140/B404 of 1992, P142/B406 from 1992/1998, P143/B407 of 2005 with similar motifs
- B413 2,000 Dinars of 2022.

I have chosen the B413 note because it depicts THREE UNESCO sites! These include Kasbah of Algiers, The Tassili n'Ajjer mountain range and the only site depicting the UNESCO site Tipasa. On the shores of the Mediterranean, Tipasa was an ancient Punic trading-post conquered by Rome and turned into a strategic base for the conquest of the kingdoms of Mauritania. It comprises a unique group of Phoenician, Roman, palaeochristian and Byzantine ruins alongside indigenous monuments such as the Kbor er Roumia, the great royal mausoleum of Mauretania. All of these sites are on the back of the note. The note has two other features worth mentioning. It is an IBNS Bank Note of the Year nominee for 2022 – loaded with security features! It has a somewhat unique substrate called DuraNote by the manufacturer LandQart. It is a “sandwich”, with layers of paper/polymer/paper as can be seen in the window. I used a black background to display the crescent and star on the back image.



Figure 1 – B413 2000 Dinar front, 2022

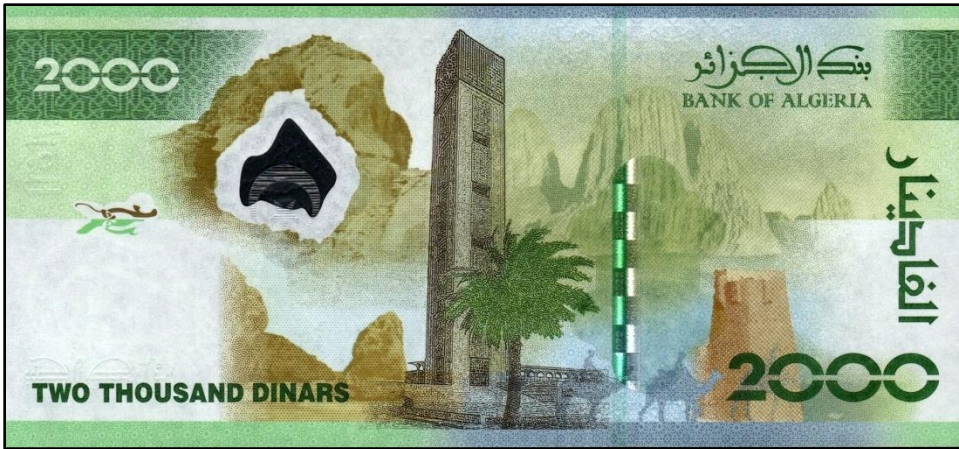


Figure 2 – B413 2000 Dinar back, 2022

#### UPDATE – UNESCO SITES FOUND ON WORLD BANKNOTES

- Countries with UNESCO sites – 115 countries
- UNESCO sites depicted on banknotes – 147 sites
- Total banknotes found with UNESCO sites – 1,339 banknotes