

LIBYA

**Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++218**

Embassy of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya: 2 rue Charles l'Amoureux, 750016 Paris, France Tel: (1) 4704 7160

Capital: Tripoli **Time:** GMT + 1

Background: Since he took power in a 1969 military coup, Col. Muammar Abu Minyar al-QADHAFI has espoused his own political system - a combination of socialism and Islam - which he calls the Third International Theory. Viewing himself as a revolutionary leader, he used oil funds during the 1970s and 1980s to promote his ideology outside Libya, even supporting subversives and terrorists abroad to hasten the end of Marxism and capitalism. Libyan military adventures failed, e.g., the prolonged foray of Libyan troops into the Aouzou Strip in northern Chad was finally repulsed in 1987. Libyan support for terrorism decreased after UN sanctions were imposed in 1992. Those sanctions were suspended in April 1999.

Location: Northern Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Egypt and Tunisia

Map References: Africa

Area: total: 1,759,540 sq km land: 1,759,540 sq km water: 0 sq km

Climate: Mediterranean along coast; dry, extreme desert interior

Terrain: mostly barren, flat to undulating plains, plateaus, depressions

Natural Resources: petroleum, natural gas, gypsum

Population: 5,115,450

Nationality: noun: Libyan(s) adjective: Libyan

Ethnic Groups: Berber and Arab 97%, Greeks, Maltese, Italians, Egyptians, Pakistanis, Turks, Indians, Tunisians

Religions: Sunni Muslim 97%

Languages: Arabic, Italian, English, all are widely understood in the major cities

Economy: The socialist-oriented economy depends primarily upon revenues from the oil sector, which contributes practically all export earnings and about one-quarter of GDP. These oil revenues and a small population give Libya one of the highest per capita GDPs in Africa, but little of this income flows down to the lower orders of society. In this statist society, import restrictions and inefficient resource allocations have led to periodic shortages of basic goods and foodstuffs. The nonoil manufacturing and construction sectors, which account for about 20% of GDP, have expanded from processing mostly agricultural products to include the production of petrochemicals, iron, steel, and aluminum. Climatic conditions and poor soils severely limit farm output, and Libya imports about 75% of its food requirements. Higher oil prices in 1999 led to an increase in export revenues and helped to stimulate the economy. Following the suspension of UN sanctions in 1999, Libya has been trying to increase its attractiveness to foreign investors, and several foreign companies have visited in search of contracts.

Industries: petroleum, food processing, textiles, handicrafts, cement

Currency: 1 Libyan dinar (LD) = 1,000 dirhams

Railways: note: Libya has had no railroad in operation since 1965, all previous systems having been dismantled; current plans are to construct a 1,435-m standard gauge line from the Tunisian frontier to Tripoli and Misratah, then inland to Sabha, center of a mineral-rich area, but there has been little progress; other plans made jointly with Egypt would establish a rail line from As Sallum, Egypt, to Tobruk with completion originally set for mid-1994; Libya signed contracts with Bahne of Egypt and Jez Sistemas Ferroviarios in 1998 for the supply of crossings and pointwork

Highways: total: 83,200 km paved: 47,590 km unpaved: 35,610 km (1996 est.)

Waterways: none

Ports and Harbors: Al Khums, Benghazi, Darnah, Marsa al Burayqah, Misratah, Ra's Lanuf, Tobruk, Tripoli, Zuwarah

Airports: 142 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 59 over 3,047 m: 24 2,438 to 3,047 m: 6 1,524 to 2,437 m: 22 914 to 1,523 m: 5 under 914 m: 2 Airports -

with unpaved runways: total: 83 over 3,047 m: 5 2,438 to 3,047 m: 2 1,524 to 2,437 m: 15 914 to 1,523 m: 42 under 914 m: 19 (1999 est.)

Visa: required by all

Duty Free: goods permitted: 200 cigarettes or 250g of tobacco or 250g cigars, 250ml of perfume

Health: a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for all travelers over one year of age arriving from infected areas

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

TRIPOLI

AWAL HOTEL, Meseera El Kubra Street, Tripoli, Libya, Tel: 218 0 21 334 5258, info@awalhotel.ly, <http://www.awalhotel.ly>

CORINTHIA BAB AFRICA HOTEL, Souk Al Thulatha, Al Gadim, Tripoli, 82874, Libya, Tel: +218 213351990, Fax: 218 213351992, E-mail: reservations@corinthia.ly, www.corinthiahotels.com

FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON TRIPOLI, Gergarish Main Rd, Tripoli, Libya, 218 213372300, <http://www.starwoodhotels.com/fourpoints/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=3365>

LIBYA HOTEL TRIPOLI, Libya, info@libyahotel.com.ly, <http://www.libyahotel.com.ly>

PLASMA HOTEL, Omar Almokhtar street no. 428 Tripoli, Libya, Tel: 218 21 333 11 72 <http://plasmahotel.net>

RADISSON BLU AL MAHARY HOTEL TRIPOLI, Al Fath Street, Tel: 218 21 340 7878, info.tripoli@radissonblu.com, <http://www.radissonblu.com/hotel-tripoli>

RIXOS AL NASR TRIPOLI, P: 218 21 362 29 01, www.rixos.com

SAHARA LIBYA HOTEL, Omar Mokhtar st, Tripoli, Libya, Tel: 218 21 3345389, sahara.libya@yahoo.com, <http://www.saharalibya-hotel.com>

SAFWA HOTEL (SAFAA), Baladiya Street, opposite the U.N. Mission H.Q., P.O. Box 255, Tripoli, Libya, Telephone: (+ 21821) 3334422 – 4443257 – 3334592, Fax: (+ 21821) 4447472 – 4449062 – 3332019, E-mail: info@safwahotel.com, www.safwahotel.com

TRIPOLI APARTMENTS, ReservationsFor reservations, kindly call ++218 (0)92 6734662 or email us at info@tripoliapartments.com, www.tripoliapartments.com

TRIPOLI HAROON HOTEL, 8901 STREET NAME, ALDAHRA, TRIPOLI, LIBYA, T: 218 21 3345245, <http://tripoliharoonhotel.ly>



AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

BENGHAZI - Benina International Airport, Libya, Box 1, Benghazi, Tel: +218 (0)61 97147

JAMAHIRIYA LIBYAN ARAB, Region: Africa, Address: PO Box 2555 Haiti Street Tripoli G.S.P.L.A, Tel: 00218 21 60 20 93/60 88 60, Fax: 00218 22 309 70, Web site: www.aaco.org/midfrm/lybiandown.asp, Main Base: Tripoli

SABHA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Libya, PO Box 61, Sebha, Tel: +218 (0)71 1261

TRIPOLI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Libya, Tripoli, Tel: +218 (0)22 605026 Ext 261, +218 (0)22 400, Fax: +218 (0)22 34840

TOURIST OFFICES INFO.

WINZRIK TOURISM COMPANY, Tel: 218 21 360 45 94, abukheit@winzrik.com, <http://www.winzrik.com> Tripoli Libya