



Welcome to Libya

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Geography

The African country of Libya is considered to be mostly desert. Libya stretches about 1,000 miles along the southern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. It is surrounded by six neighboring countries: Tunisia and Algeria to the west; Egypt on the east; and Sudan, Chad, and Niger to the south.

Weather and Climate

Populated areas of Libya have an extremely mild climate when compared to West Virginia. The Mediterranean Sea in the north and Saharan deserts on the south have a great influence on Libya's climate. The southern side is mostly desert and is very sparsely populated because of the dry, hot climate. Most Libyans live on the northern coastal side where the weather is moderately mild with a reasonable amount of rain. During the summer, the temperatures range between 86 to

104 degrees Fahrenheit. Because of the hot weather during this time, many families who live by the sea camp on the sandy beaches.

Population and Economy

Libya has a small population of approximately 6.2 million residing in a land area of 1,759,540 square kilometers (a geographic area slightly larger than Alaska). Since the discovery of oil in 1959, the country's economy has relied heavily on money generated from the exportation of oil.

Clothing

The traditional dress and accompanying jewelry are very expensive in today's market. There are many dresses for both males and females that are considered traditional. These special clothes are only worn when family and friends gather to celebrate the rarest of occasions, such as the wedding celebration that continues for up to three days.



National Holidays in Libya

There are three official holidays in Libya:

- Eid Al-Fitr is celebrated at the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting. On the day of Eid, people gather in the early morning to go to mosques to perform the Eid prayer. After the Eid prayer, people usually visit various family and friends. People give gifts at this time – especially to children.

- Eid Al-Adha is a religious holiday, which translates into the “Feast of the Sacrifice.” Since it commemorates Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice his son, it is typically celebrated by sacrificing an animal. The meat is distributed among family, neighbors, friends, and through donations to poor people.
- Libyan Independence Day (December 24, 1951) celebrates the formal establishment of Libya as an independent country through rule separation from the United Kingdom and through resolutions by United Nations.



Sources

Port of Tripoli: www.flickr.com/photos/giopac/5390936177/ by Giovanni Paccaloni

Fashion photo: www.flickr.com/photos/sebastiagiralt/1324927202/ by Sebastià Giralt

Celebration photo: www.flickr.com/photos/martin-juen-fotografie/6273942985/ by Martin Juen



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