

Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Algeria

United States Board on Geographic Names
Foreign Names Committee



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1. Introduction

This geographic names standardization policy has been prepared as an aid to those geographic names experts who are the working staff for the United States Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) in the standardization of the geographic names of Algeria for United States Government use. The USBGN and its staff work to effect consistent treatment of geographic name spellings in US Government databases, publications, maps, and charts, and are intended to satisfy the statutory requirements levied upon the US Board on Geographic Names in Public Law USC 80-242 to develop principles, policies and procedures for geographic names standardization, and to promulgate decisions with respect to the principles of geographic nomenclature and orthography.

2. Languages and Language Policy in Algeria

a. Demographics

As of July 2021, Algeria's population is estimated at 43.5 million¹. Most Algerians are of Arab-Amazigh origin, but only about 15% self-identify as Amazigh. The remaining majority identify themselves as Arab, with 1% claiming European descent. The Amazigh population is largely clustered in specific areas of the country, notably the Kabylie region east of Algiers, as well as the southern desert areas of the country. Approximately 99% of the population adheres to Sunni Islam, the state religion. The remaining 1% is mainly Christian and Jewish.

b. Languages

Algeria has long struggled with its national identity, and no aspect of its evolution better reflects this struggle than its language policy. Following the early Islamic conquests, Algeria assimilated many Arab traditions and customs, as well as the Arabic language. Long after Arab culture suffused the region, French colonization of Algeria began in 1830, eventually resulting in the administration of the country as a province of France. Just as Arabs had done before them, the French heavily influenced the linguistic tapestry of Algeria. By the time Algeria gained its independence in 1962, the French language was deeply entrenched within Algerian society. Especially in the early post-independence years, Algeria made a push to eliminate French from national culture, though diplomatic and official functions were generally handled in French. The imposed Arabicization that resulted gained some traction, but it was not able to fully stifle the by-then generations-long embedding of French language and customs. To date, French (ISO 639-3 code: fra) is still the lingua franca in Algeria, while Modern Standard Arabic (ISO 639-3 code: ara) and Tamazight (ISO 639-3 code: tzm) are both national and official languages.² Algerian Arabic (ISO 639-3 code: arq) and Kayble (ISO 639-3 code: kab) are the most commonly spoken variants of Arabic and Tamazight, respectively, in the country.

¹ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/algeria/#people-and-society>

² Algerian Constitution: Chapter 1, Articles 3 and 4, 06 Mar. 2016.

c. Geographic Names Standardization

The *Commission Permanente Spécialisée de Toponymie* (Permanent Select Committee on Toponymy) is the names authority in Algeria.³ Established in 1998, the committee works to integrate toponymic practice into national mapping efforts, including standardizing the geographic names in Algeria. Algeria is an active participant in UNGEGN conferences, submitting updates on its work in toponymy. Algeria currently holds the title of Coordinator of the UNGEGN Task Team for Africa.

Geographic names in Algeria should be collected as they appear on authoritative sources, which are rendered in roman script, in accordance with French orthography. Arabic script names coming from authoritative sources should be collected as Non-Roman Script (NS) names, though names romanized in accordance with the BGN/PCGN 1956 System for the romanization of Arabic may be collected as variants. The sole exception to this policy is the current Approved name for the state itself which is romanized according to the BGN/PCGN 1956 System, given the lack of an official Arabic-language rendering of the republic's name in French orthography (See paragraph 4.a., "Country Name and Codes," below). Map sources produced exclusively by France's Institut Géographique National (IGN) should no longer be considered authoritative unless no Algerian source has been produced over a particular area.

3. Toponymic Policies

a. Orthography

Geographic names on authoritative Algerian cartographic sources are rendered in Roman script, in accordance with French orthography; the toponyms themselves could be French, Arabic, or Tamazight in origin.³ Many toponyms throughout Algeria incorporate a varied and complex mix of names and terms from these languages and thus will not have a single, clear etymology. Coding geographic names by a single language is difficult and deemed unnecessary. Should a geographic names expert decide to input a language code for an Algerian toponym, only 'ara' or 'tzm', the country's official languages, are to be utilized.

b. Diacritics

Roman characters bearing diacritical marks are used in the rendering of place names on Algerian map sources, being generally in keeping with French orthography. Uppercase letters in name forms retain diacritics. The table below lists Unicode values for those diacritic-bearing letters currently seen on Algerian sources.

Character	Unicode Value
Â	00C2
â	00E2
È	00C8
è	00E8

³ http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/Authorities_listAugust2011.pdf

Character	Unicode Value
É	00C9
é	00E9
Ê	00CA
ê	00EA
Î	00CE
î	00EE
Ï	00CF
ï	00EF
Ô	00D4
ô	00F4

c. Generic Terms

French and romanized Arabic and Tamazight generic terms are used in names on the most current authoritative maps sources in Algeria. Many IGN-produced maps from Algeria's colonial period almost exclusively used French generics, but maps produced by Algeria's National Institute for Cartography and Remote Sensing, *l'Institut National de Cartographie et de Télédétection* (INCT), have adopted Arabic and Tamazight generics in Roman script for most features in the country. (See Appendix A for a list of generics associated with Algeria.)

Some Algerian toponyms of Tamazight origin will contain a singular letter *n*, which serves as a connector between the generic and specific of a geographic name. *Ti n Zouzat* (Zouzat Ridge) and *Tamurt n Leqbyael* (Land of Kabyles) are two such occurrences. Algerian sources may also hyphenate similar structures (*Tamurt-n-Leqbyael*). Hyphenated or not, the letter *n*, when serving as a Tamazight connector, shall remain lower case.

d. Capitalization

1. Definite Articles

For French definite articles, refer to the IGN Toponymy Charter dated February 2003.⁴

Arabic definite articles are capitalized if they occur at the beginning of the toponym (*El Bordj*, *El Haouch*). If the article is in a medial placement, it will not be capitalized (*Aïn el Beïda*, *El Gaada el Hamra*). The general exception to this is if the Arabic article is paired with the French particle *d'*, where the Arabic article remains capitalized as *El*. This can be seen with the long form of the first-order administrative division *Wilaya d'El Oued* and the long form name of the railroad station *Station d'El Outaya*.

The Romanization of assimilated definite articles on native Algerian sources diverges from the BGN/PCGN Romanization system for Arabic, often resulting in the shortening of the

⁴ <http://www.ign.fr/adminV3/display/000/526/725/5267258.pdf>

definite article and its juxtaposition with the subsequent noun. Example: الأوغواط is most commonly romanized as ‘Laghouat,’ as opposed to ‘El Aghouat.’

2. *Honorifics: Patronyms and Teknonyms*

Elements of Arabic and Tamazight patronyms (“son of,” “daughter of”) and teknonyms (“father of,” “mother of”) as incorporated into geographic names should always be capitalized, regardless of placement within a toponym. Arabic patronyms can variously include Ibn, Bin, Ben, Ouled, Ould (all meaning “son of”) and Bent (“daughter of”), while Ou, Tamazight for “son of,” will also be incorporated into place names. Arabic *kunyas*, or teknonyms, found within Algerian geographic names typically incorporate Bu, Bou, Abou, Ba (variously, “father of”), or Oum/Oumm (“mother of”). Examples: Douar Ouled Bou Ali, Hassi Bent Abbad, Aït Ou Salah, Djebel Oumm el Arar.

a. *Long and Short Forms*

Administrative division names (ADM 1,2,3) and the country name (PCLI) are accorded long and short forms. Railroad station names that appear on official sources with corresponding generic term are given long and short form names.

b. *Numbers*

Names containing numerals (cardinal or ordinal) as integral elements may be retained in collection or spelled out in an expanded form. Names with commemorative dates containing numerals should always be retained as found on source (1776, 1985, 2011, etc.).

c. *Abbreviations*

Many abbreviations used in Algerian cartography are unique to Algeria or North Africa. The most common of these abbreviations, along with their expanded forms are listed below. Toponyms will be collected using the expanded meanings of the abbreviation, while the abbreviation will be retained when referencing the name as it appears on the source. Example: “Dja. A.E.K.” will be collected as “Djemaa Abd el Kader.”

Abbreviation	Expanded Form	Meaning
A. / Ae.	Aïn(e)	Spring
Abr.	Abrevoir	Watering place
A.E.	Abd el	Proper Name
A.E.K.	Abd el Kader	Proper Name
A.E.R.	Abd er Rahmane	Proper Name
Ag.	Aguelmam	Pool/Spring/Well
Anen./Ancnes.	Ancien/Anciennes	Former
Argb.	Argoub	Hill/Mountain
b.	Bou	Father of
b.	Ben	Son of
bi.	Beni	Sons of

Abbreviation	Expanded Form	Meaning
B./Bj.	Bordj	Fort/Tower
B.	Bir	Well
Bl.	Bled	Locality/Area
C.	Cap	Cape
Ch.	Chaba	Wadi
Ch./Chet.	Chabet	Wadi
Cim.	Cimitière	Cemetery
Det./Dret.	Dechret	Farm
Dr.	Douar	Houses/Village
Dj.	Djebel	Mountain
Dja.	Djemaa	Mosque
Djat. / Djet.	Djebbanat/Djebbanet	Cemetery
Dom.	Domaine	Estate
Fd.	Faïd / Faid	Depression
Fme.	Ferme	Farm
Ft.	Forêt	Forest
Ha./Hta.	Houita	Shrine
Hi.	Hassi	Well
Hr.	Hennchir	Farm
I.	Île	Island
Ka.	Koubba	Tomb
Ka./Kia.	Koudia	Hill
Kat./Kiat.	Koudiat	Hill
Kbet.	Koubbet	Tomb
Ket./Kiet.	Koudiet	Hill
Mat. / Ma. / M'ta	Mechta	Farm
Med./Md./M'hamed	Mohammed	Proper Name
Mgne.	Montagne	Mountain
Mon.	Maison	House
Mon. Fre.	Maison Forestière	Forester's lodge
Pte.	Pointe	Point
Pts.	Puits	Waterholes
Rba.	Rokba	Rocks
Sk.	Souk	Market
St./Ste.	Sainte	Honorific
Ston.	Station	Station
Ta./Tia.	Tenia	Pass
Tet.	Teniet	Pass
Za.	Zouia	Religious Site
Zet	Zribet	Building

d. Unique Linguistic Situations

Algerian toponyms greatly resemble those of Morocco in orthography and convention. While French acts as a lingua franca, Arabic and Tamazight are the national and official languages, as noted above.

During the French colonial period, Algeria was mapped by the IGN in French orthography, which in the process imposed French names upon geographic features throughout the country. Once Algeria claimed independence from France, antipathy for all things French permeated every sphere, coming to bear upon even the country's geographic names. Though many geographic names as found on the IGN-era mapping were changed to strip away French terms, the maps produced by its native Algerian successor, *l'Institut National de Cartographie et de Télédétection* (INCT), retained the French orthography, rather than turning to an Arabic script rendering of toponyms.

Algeria does not currently have an official romanization system,⁵ though the schema used in romanizing place names in government mapping reflects many aspects of the IGN System 1973 (See Appendix B for an Algeria-specific profile of this system used by the IGN in the past, as incorporated into STANAG 3689). While it is said that use of the system (and variations derived from it) can better preserve local pronunciations of particular place names in theory, such a system in practice functions as a loose set of guiding principles which can make a true standardization of place names difficult, leading to multiple romanized forms of particular names and terms. Thus, one Arabic term for mosque, *jāmi*⁶(جامع), is romanized variously as Djama', Djama, Djamaa, Djêma, Djêma', Djema', Djema and Djemaa on Algerian source material. It is unclear if at some point in the future Algeria may turn to using a romanization system not unlike the UN System. If such a change does occur, BGN policy would be updated accordingly.

4. Political Geography Policy

a. Country Name

The Geopolitical Entities, Names, and Codes (GENC) Standard⁷ two-character code for Algeria is DZ, with the three-character code being DZA. The Geopolitical Entities and Codes (GEC) designation for Algeria is AG.⁸ Algeria is composed of fifty-eight (58) first-order administrative divisions (ADM1s), known as *wilayas* (provinces). Each province shares its name with its corresponding seat. Second-order administrative divisions, known as *dairas*, likewise share their names with their administrative seats.

⁵ UNGEGN Working Group on Romanization Systems. "Report on the Current Status of United Nations Romanization Systems for Geographical Names – Arabic." January 2003.

⁶ Romanized according to the BGN/PCGN 1956 System.

⁷ The Geopolitical Entities, Names, and Codes (GENC) Standard is the U.S. Government profile of ISO 3166.

⁸ Maintenance of the Geopolitical Entities and Codes (formerly FIPS PUB 10-4) listing has ceased as of December 31, 2014.

Conventional Short Form	Algeria
Conventional Long Form	People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Arabic Short Form - Romanized	Al Jazā'ir
Arabic Short Form - Non-Roman Script	الجزائر
Arabic Long Form - Romanized	Al Jumhūrīyah al Jazā'irīyah ad Dīmuqrāṭīyah ash Sha'bīyah
Arabic Long Form - Non-Roman Script	الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

b. Capital Name

Conventional Form	Algiers
Approved Form	Alger
Approved Form - Non-Roman Script	الجزائر

c. First-Order Administrative Divisions

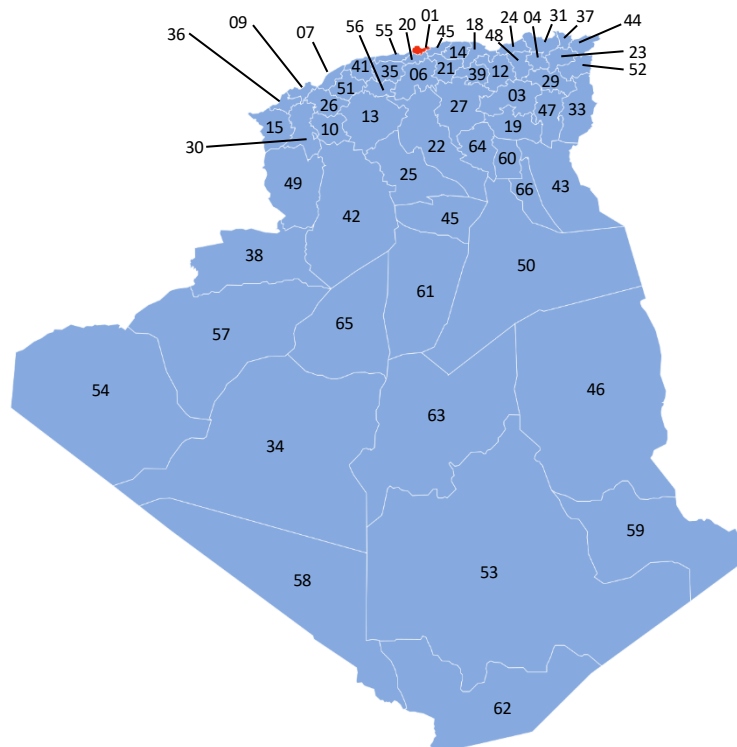
Name	GEC	GENC	Seat (PPLA)
1. Adrar	AG34	DZ-01	Adrar
2. Aïn Defla	AG35	DZ-44	Aïn Defla
3. Aïn Temouchent	AG36	DZ-46	Aïn Temouchent
4. Alger	AG01	DZ-16	Algiers ⁹
5. Annaba	AG37	DZ-23	Annaba
6. Batna	AG03	DZ-05	Batna
7. Béchar	AG38	DZ-08	Béchar
8. Bejaïa	AG18	DZ-06	Bejaïa
9. Béni Abbès	AG57	DZ-49	Béni Abbès
10. Biskra	AG19	DZ-07	Biskra
11. Blida	AG20	DZ-09	Blida
12. Bordj Badji Mokhtar	AG58	DZ-50	Bordj Badji Mokhtar
13. Bordj Bou Arréridj	AG39	DZ-34	Bordj Bou Arréridj
14. Bouira	AG21	DZ-10	Bouira
15. Boumerdes	AG40	DZ-35	Boumerdes
16. Chlef	AG41	DZ-02	Chlef

⁹ In addition to serving as the PPLA for the province of Alger, 'Algiers' is also the national capital (PPLC).

Name	GEC	GENC	Seat (PPLA)
17. Constantine	AG04	DZ-25	Constantine
18. Djanet	AG59	DZ-51	Djanet
19. Djelfa	AG22	DZ-17	Djelfa
20. El Bayadh	AG42	DZ-32	El Bayadh
21. El Meghaier	AG60	DZ-52	El Meghaier
22. El Meniaa	AG61	DZ-53	El Meniaa
23. El Oued	AG43	DZ-39	El Oued
24. El Tarf	AG44	DZ-36	El Tarf
25. Ghardaïa	AG45	DZ-47	Ghardaïa
26. Guelma	AG23	DZ-24	Guelma
27. Illizi	AG46	DZ-33	Illizi
28. In Guezzam	AG62	DZ-54	In Guezzam
29. In Salah	AG63	DZ-55	In Salah
30. Jijel	AG24	DZ-18	Jijel
31. Khenchela	AG47	DZ-40	Khenchela
32. Laghouat	AG25	DZ-03	Laghouat
33. Mascara	AG26	DZ-29	Mascara
34. Médéa	AG06	DZ-26	Médéa
35. Mila	AG48	DZ-43	Mila
36. Mostaganem	AG07	DZ-27	Mostaganem
37. M'sila	AG27	DZ-28	M'sila
38. Naama	AG49	DZ-45	Naama
39. Oran	AG09	DZ-31	Oran
40. Ouargla	AG50	DZ-30	Ouargla
41. Ouled Djellal	AG64	DZ-56	Ouled Djellal
42. Oum el Bouaghi	AG29	DZ-04	Oum el Bouaghi
43. Relizane	AG51	DZ-48	Relizane
44. Saïda	AG10	DZ-20	Saïda

Name	GEC	GENC	Seat (PPLA)
45. Sétif	AG12	DZ-19	Sétif
46. Sidi Bel Abbès	AG30	DZ-22	Sidi Bel Abbès
47. Skikda	AG31	DZ-21	Skikda
48. Souk Ahras	AG52	DZ-41	Souk Ahras
49. Tamanrasset	AG53	DZ-11	Tamanrasset
50. Tébessa	AG33	DZ-12	Tébessa
51. Tiaret	AG13	DZ-14	Tiaret
52. Timimoun	AG65	DZ-57	Timimoun
53. Tindouf	AG54	DZ-37	Tindouf
54. Tipaza	AG55	DZ-42	Tipaza
55. Tissemsilt	AG56	DZ-38	Tissemsilt
56. Tizi Ouzou	AG14	DZ-15	Tizi Ouzou
57. Tlemcen	AG15	DZ-13	Tlemcen
58. Touggourt	AG66	DZ-58	Touggourt

Figure: Current first-order administrative divisions of Algeria. *Wilayas* are identified by their GEC designations.



d. Conventional and Anglicized Names**Conventional Names**

Name	UFI	UNI	Designation
Algeria	336619	14033580	PCLI
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	336619	6080631	PCLI
Algiers	-458371	-659067	PPLC

e. Boundary Disputes

For the latest country-specific boundary dispute information, contact the US Department of State Office of the Geographer and Global Issues at internationalboundaries@state.gov.

5. Source Material***a. Preferred Sources***

The producer of preferred source material is the *Institut National de Cartographie et de Télédétection* (INCT). Recent editions are preferred over older editions. Sources produced by Algerian federal agencies are preferred over other sources. The following is a list of authoritative map series for Algeria ordered from most authoritative to least:

1. Institut National de Cartographie et de Télédétection. Topographic Maps, 1:25,000, 1:50,000, and 1:200,000.
2. Service Géologique de Algerie. Carte Géologique de l'Algerie, 1:200,000.
3. Institut Géographique National. Carte d'Algerie, 1:200,000.
4. Institut Géographique National. Carte du Sahara, 1:200,000.
5. Institut Géographique National. Carte d'Afrique, 1:500,000.

Appendix A: Glossary of Generic Terms

Generic	Designation	Description
'Erg	ERG	sandy desert, dune(s), Sand dune(s), area of moving dunes
'Âgueïlet	WTRH	waterhole(s) / well
'Aïn	SPNG	spring(s)
Abreuvoir	WTRH	waterhole(s) / watering place
Adrar	CLF	cliff(s)
Adrar	HLL	hill
Aérodrome	AIRF	airfield
Aguelmam	LK, POOL	lake, rain pool
Aguelm	WLL	well
Aïn	PND	pond
Aïn	POOL	pool(s) / Spring
Akbet	MT	mountain
Annexe	ADMD	administrative division
Annk	GRGE	gorge(s)
Anou	WLL	well
Anse	BAY	bay
Arch	TRB	tribal area
Archane	DUNE	dune(s)
Archane	HLLS	hills
Argoub	HLLS	hills
Arich	BUTE	butte(s)
Arich	HLL	hill
Arigat	DUNE	dune(s)
Arigat	HLL	hill
Arrêt	RSTP	railroad stop
Arrondissement	ADMD	administrative division
Assif	STM	stream
Azrou	MTS	mountains
Bab	PASS	pass
Bahiret	PLN	plain(s)
Baie	BAY	bay
Barrage	DAM	dam
Barrage	RSV	reservoir(s)
Base	INSM	military installation
Batterie	FT	fort
Bi'r	WLL	well
Biar	WLL	wells

Generic	Designation	Description
Bled	AREA / LCTY	area / locality
Bois	FRST	forest(s)
Bois	PRK	Forest, Woods, park
Bordj	INSM	military installation
Borj	FT	fort
Cap	CAPE, PT	Cape, point
Cape	CAPE	cape
Cercle	ADMD	administrative division
Cha'ba	WAD	wadi
Chaba	STMI	intermittent stream
Chabket	HLLS	hills
Chaïb	RVN	ravine(s)
Chapelle	CH	church
Chebket	SLP	slope(s)
Chott	WTLDI	intermittent wetland, Playa, Lake, salt lake
Chouachi	HLLS	hills
Chouf	MT	mountain
Cimetiere	CMTY	cemetery
Cité	PPL	populated place
Cité	PPLX	section of populated place
Col	PASS	pass
Colline	HDLD	headland
Commune	ADMD	administrative division
Couvent	CVNT	convent
Crique	COVE	cove(s)
Dahar	MT	mountain
Daiet	DPR	depression(s), salt lake, pool, swamp, marsh
Daïet	PNDI	intermittent pond
Daïra	ADMD	administrative division
Dalaa	RDGE	ridge(s)
Dalàaroum	RDGE	ridge(s)
Dar	HSE	house(s)
Defour	HLL	hill
Delaat	HLLS	hills
Demrhat	DUNE	dune(s)
Dhraa	HLL	hill
Dir	RDGE	ridge(s)
Dir	SLP	slope(s)

Generic	Designation	Description
Djamaa	MSQE / SHRN	mosque / shrine
Djebel	CUET	cuesta(s)
Djebel	MESA	mesa(s)
Djebel	MT	mountain
Djenane	EST	estate(s)
Djenane	HSE	house(s)
Djerf	MT	mountain
Djorf	HLL	hill
Djorf	SCRP	escarpment
Djorf	SLP	slope(s)
Dlaa	DUNE	dune(s)
Douar	AREA	area
Douar	PPLX	section of populated place
Dra	RDGE	ridge(s)
Dra'	HLL	hill
Dra'	MT	mountain
Draa	CLF	cliff(s)
Draa	HLLS	hills
Dzîra	ISL	island
Écueil	RK	rock
Elb	DUNE	dune(s)
Faid	WAD	wadi
Faïd	DPR	depression(s)
Faïd	RVN	ravine(s)
Faidh	STM	stream
Feïd	CULT	cultivated area
Feïdj	TRGD	interdune trough(s)
Fer'at	WAD	wadi
Ferchet	DPR	depression(s)
Ferket	RDGE	ridge(s)
Ferket	SPUR	spur(s)
Ferme	FRM	farm
Foret	FRST	forest(s)
Forêt	RESF	forest reserve
Ga'raet	LKN / LK	salt lake, lake
Gaada	HLL	hill
Gada	RDGE	ridge(s)
Gadet	CLF	cliff(s)

Generic	Designation	Description
Gara	BUTE	butte(s)
Gassi	TRGD	interdune trough(s)
Ghaba	FRST	forest(s)
Gherd	DUNE	dune(s)
Golfe	GULF	gulf
Guelb	DUNE	dune(s)
Guelb	HLL	hill
Habel	DUNE	dune(s)
Hadjar	RK	rock
Hafa	CAPE	cape
Haï	PPLX	section of populated place
Halte	RSTP	railroad stop
Hamada	HMDA	rock desert
Hamma	HLL	hill
Hammada	PLAT	plateau
Hammar	HLL	hill
Haouch	CULT	cultivated area
Haouch	FRM	farm
Haoud	DPR	depression(s)
Haouita	CMTY	cemetery
Haoutia	SHRN	shrine
Hassi	POOL	pool(s) / Well
Hassi	WLL	well(s)
Hassiane	DPR	depression(s)
Hedeb	HLL	hill
Henchir	RUIN	ruin(s)
Hezam	HLL	hill
Hofret	DPR	depression(s)
Houillères	MN	mine(s)
Iguidi	DUNE	dune(s)
Ile	ISL	island
Îlot	ISLT	land-tied island
Irhil	MT	mountain
Irhzer	WAD	wadi
Isk	MT	mountain
Jorf	SCRP	escarpment
Jumhūriyah	PCLI	independent political entity
Kaber	TMB	tomb(s)

Generic	Designation	Description
Kalaa	MT	mountain
Kalaa	SLP	slope(s)
Kef	CLF	cliff(s)
Kef	HLL	hill
Kef	HLLS	hills
Kerba	RDGE	ridge(s)
Kern	SPUR	spur(s)
Khalidj	BAY	bay
Khalidj	STM	stream
Khanguet	GRGE	gorge(s)
Khanqat	PASS	pass
Khebb	DUNE	dune(s)
Khebtet	HLL	hill
Khechem	HLL	hill
Khelidj	MRSH	marsh(s)
Khelidj	STMA	anabranh
Kherbet	RUIN	ruin(s)
Kouba	SHRN	shrine
Koudia	HLL	hill
Koudiet	SLP	slope(s)
Kraâ	HLL	hill
Kraâ	HLLS	hills
Krebb	RDGE	ridge(s)
Krenak	PASS	pass
Ktef	HLL	hill
Lac	LK / LKI	lake / intermittent lake
Lari	HLL	hill
Lari	RDGE	ridge(s)
Ma'der	DPR	depression(s)
Mader	WAD	wadi
Madjen	POOL	pool(s)
Madjene	DPR	depression(s)
Maison	BLDG	building(s)
Maison	HSE	house(s)
Makabra	TMB	tomb(s)
Makbarat	CMTY	cemetery
Marabout	MSQE	mosque
Marabout	SHRN	shrine

Generic	Designation	Description
Marais	MRSB	marsh(es)
Marhder	DPR	depression(s)
Massif	MT	mountain
Massif	MTS	mountains
Mazraet	CULT	cultivated area
Medjez	FORD	ford
Mehareg	DPR	depression(s)
Meksem	PASS	pass
Mennkeb	HLL	hill
Merdja	DPR	depression(s)
Merdja	MRSB	marsh(es)-swamp
Merdjet	PLN	plain(s)
Merfeg	HLLS	hills
Mezraâ	FRM	farm
Mine	MN	mine(s)
Mine de Fer	MNQ	abandoned mine
Mkam	SHRN	shrine
Mont	HLL	hill
Mont	MT	mountain
Mosquée	MSQE	mosque
Mouiet	WLL	well
Moulin	ML	mill(s)
Moungar	HLL	hill
Mzara	SHRN	shrine
Nahr	STM	stream
Nif	HLL	hill
Nza	DUNE	dune(s)
Oasis	OAS	oasis(-es)
Oglat	WLL	well(s)
Ouad	WAD / STM	wadi / stream
Oucht	HLL	hill
Oued	CNL	canal
Outha	PLN	plain(s)
Pépinière	NSY	nursery(-ies)
Phare	LTHSE	lighthouse
Rabet	HLL	hill
Rade	RDST	roadstead
Ragoubet	HLL	hill

Generic	Designation	Description
Ras	CAPE	cape
Ras	DUNE	dune(s)
Ras	HLL	hill
Redjem	HLL	hill
Région	RGN	region
Rekab	HLLS	hills
Rich	RDGE	ridge(s)
Rivière	STM	stream
Rokba	HLL	hill
Roknet	HLL	hill
Rouissat	HLL	hill
Ruine	RUIN	ruin(s)
Sebkha	SBKH	sabkha(s)
Sebkra	SBKH	sabkha(s)
Seguiet	CNL	canal
Sehb	WAD	wadi
Souk	MKT	market
Sra	HLLS	hills
Srassif	HLLS	hills
Srat	MT	mountain
Station	RSTN	railroad station
Steihat	DUNE	dune(s)
Tassili	PLAT	plateau
Tayert	TRGD	long depression
Tehi	PASS	pass
Tellet	MT	mountain
Teniet	PASS	pass
Timas	WLL	well, water hole, pool
Tizi	PASS	pass
Tombeau	TMB	tomb(s)
Vallée	VAL	valley
Wādī	WAD	wadi
Wilaya	ADM1	first-order administrative division
Zaouia	CTRR / SHRN	religious center / shrine
Zebaret	DUNE	dune(s)
Zemla	DUNE	dune(s)
Zrībet	BLDG / FARM	building(s) / farm
Zumlat	HLL	hill

Appendix B: From STANAG 3689: Transliteration of Algerian Arabic

Note: This document is for historical purposes and does not reflect current collection policy.

TRANSLITERATION OF ALGERIAN ARABIC IGN (France) System

Explanatory Notes

1. The first column gives the Arabic letter, the second its name in Roman letters, the third its transliteration into Roman letters, the fourth remarks on transliteration.
2. Only the forms of the letters in isolation are given; for the forms in initial, medial and final positions, see any Arabic grammar or dictionary.
3. Short initial vowels are represented by alif bearing hamza and the appropriate pointing, though the pointing and hamza are usually omitted.
4. The definite article is transliterated el, except before words beginning with the letters t, ts, j, d, dz, r, s, z, ch, and n, when it is pronounced and transliterated et, ets, ej, ed, ~~edz~~, er, es, ez, ech, and en respectively.

Arabic Letter	Name of letter	Transliteration	Remarks
ا	alif	a, e, i, o, ou	Following the vowel point which it bears, and according to local pronunciation.
ب	bâ	b	
ت	tâ	t	
ث	tâ or tsâ	t, ts	According to local pronunciation.
ج	djîm	dj	
ح	hâ	h	
خ	kha	kh	
د	dâl	d	
ذ	dâl or dzâl	d, dz	According to local pronunciation.
ر	râ	r	
ز	zîne	z	
س	sîne	s	Between two vowels is transliterated ss.
ش	chîne	ch	
ص	sâd	s	Between two vowels is transliterated ss.
ض	dâd	d	
ط	tâ	t	
ظ	dâ or dzâ	d, dz	According to local pronunciation.
ع	'aïn	'	
غ	ghain	gh	

Arabic Letter	Name of letter	Transliteration	Remarks
ف	fâ	f	
ك/ق	kâf/gâf	k, g	According to local pronunciation. Before e or i, g is transliterated gu.
ك	kef	k	
ل	lâm	l	
م	mîm	m	
ن	noûn	n	Followed by e mute when n is preceded by a, e, i, or o; to avoid pronunciation as a nasal vowel an, en, in, or on. Exceptions: ben, bin.
ه	hâ	h	
و	ouâou	ou	
ي	yâ	i, î, y	Between two vowels or at the beginning of a word is transliterated y; as second element of a diphthong, transliterated î.
َ	fatha	a, e	According to local pronunciation.
ِ	kesra	e, i	According to local pronunciation.
ُ	Damma	o, ou	According to local pronunciation.
اَ	fatha alif	â	
اِ	kesra yâ	î	
اُ	damma ouâou	ô, oû	According to local pronunciation.
ة	tâ marboûta	a	In the construct state, transliterated et.
ّ	tanouîne	omitted	Found in classical Arabic only.
ّ	tanouîne	omitted	Found in classical Arabic only.
ّ	tanouîne	omitted	Found in classical Arabic only.
ّ	jezm or soukoûn	omitted	Indicates the end of a syllable.
ّ	chedda or tachdid		Indicated by doubling the consonant concerned.
ء	hamza	omitted	Glottal stop not always found in local pronunciation.
أ	hamzet el ouesla	omitted	Written over an unpronounced initial alif.
آ	alif madda	â	Takes the place of a lengthened alif.
أى	alif maksoura	a	In the final position.