

Libya

Geography

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

Area:

total area: 1,759,540 sq km

land area: 1,759,540 sq km

Land boundaries: total 4,383 km, Algeria 982 km, Chad 1,055 km, Egypt 1,150 km, Niger 354 km, Sudan 383 km, Tunisia 459 km

Coastline: 1,770 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea: 12 nm

Gulf of Sidra closing line: 32 degrees 30 minutes north

Climate: Mediterranean along coast; dry, extreme desert interior

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

Natural resources: petroleum, natural gas, gypsum

Land use:

arable land: 2%

permanent crops: 0%

meadows and pastures: 8%

forest and woodland: 0%

other: 90%

Irrigated land: 2,420 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

current issues: desertification; very limited natural fresh water resources; the Great Manmade River Project, the largest water development scheme in the world, is being built to bring water from large aquifers under the Sahara to coastal cities

natural hazards: hot, dry, dust-laden ghibli is a southern wind lasting one to four days in spring and fall; duststorms, sandstorms

People

Population: 5,248,401 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 48% (female 1,226,851; male 1,269,813)

15-64 years: 49% (female 1,261,424; male 1,331,093)

65 years and over: 3% (female 76,017; male 83,203) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 3.7% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 44.89 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 7.91 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 61.4 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 64.29 years

male: 62.12 years
female: 66.57 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 6.32 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Libyan(s)

adjective: Libyan

Ethnic divisions: 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

Literacy:

total population: 60%

male: 77%

female: 42%

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

conventional short form: Libya

local long form: Al Jumahiriyah al Arabiyah al Libiyah ash Shabiyah al Ishirakiyah

Type: Jamahiriya (a state of the masses) in theory, governed by the populace through local councils; in fact, a military dictatorship

Capital: Tripoli

Independence: 24 December 1951 (from Italy)

National holiday: Revolution Day, 1 September (1969)

Constitution: 11 December 1969, amended 2 March 1977

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal and compulsory

Flag: plain green; green is the traditional color of Islam (the state religion)

Economy

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

Agriculture: 5% of GDP; cash crops - wheat, barley, olives, dates, citrus fruits, peanuts; 75% of food is imported

Transportation

Railroads:

note: Libya has had no railroad in operation since 1965, all previous systems having been dismantled

Highways:

total: 19,300 km

Inland waterways: none

Pipelines: crude oil 4,383 km; petroleum products 443 km (includes liquified petroleum gas 256 km); natural gas 1,947 km

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

Airports:
total: 146

Defence Forces

Branches: Armed Peoples of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah (includes Army, Navy, and Air and Air Defence Command), Police