

## **ALGERIA CUSTOMS**

### **Greetings**

Greetings are genuinely cordial and open. They are usually accompanied by a handshake and frequently an embrace (between members of the same sex). Anything less friendly is considered impolite.

### **Gestures**

Algerians commonly use hand gestures during or instead of conversation.

Two clasped hands is a greeting at a distance.

Pressing a flat right hand to the heart shows appreciation or thanks.

The index finger may be extended to indicate a warning, but it is impolite to point directly at someone or something.

Algerians avoid using the left hand for gestures.

Algerians take care not to let the bottom of the foot point at others, and they do not place feet on furniture

### **Holidays**

National holidays include New Year's Day, Labor Day (1 May), Independence Day (5 July), and Revolution Day (1 Nov.).

Muslim holy days are set according to the lunar calendar.

*Aid al Fitr*, a two-day feast at the end of *Ramadan*, is a time for visiting, feasting, and worshipping. *Ramadan* is the month in which the *Qur'an* was revealed to Muhammad, so each day Muslims do not eat, drink, or smoke from sunrise to sunset.

After an evening prayer (*tarawih*), they eat and visit with family and friends. *Aid al Adha* is a two-day event held in conjunction with the summer pilgrimage to Makkah, Saudi Arabia. It also commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son. *Mouhareem* (the lunar calendar's New Year), *Achoura* (celebrated one month after *Aid al Adha*), and *Al Mawlid* (Muhammad's birthday) are also religious holidays.

### **Eating\Diet**

Devout Muslims do not eat pork or drink alcohol.