

The Reality of Heritage Tourism and its Components in the State of Chlef
the City of Ténès as an Example

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Received: 20/04/2025

Accepted: 06/10/2025

Published:10/12/2025

Abstract:

The tourism sector plays a vital role in economic, social, and cultural development worldwide. However, in Algeria, it remains underdeveloped despite the country's rich natural, cultural, and archaeological resources. The coastal city of Ténès in Chlef holds great potential due to its diverse terrain and numerous landmarks and attractions, capable of drawing both local and foreign tourists. Ténès enjoys national and international recognition, yet suffers from a serious lack of infrastructure. This shortfall hinders tourism growth and highlights the need for rational planning and adequate resources. Thus, key questions arise: What is the current state of heritage tourism in Ténès? What are the main challenges facing this sector, and what solutions are needed for its development?

Keywords:Tourism, landmarks, attractions, Ténès

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1. INTRODUCTION

Domestic tourism, which is defined as the movement of a citizen from their usual place of residence to a place of visit for a period of not less than 24 hours and not more than six months, plays a major role in local and national development, especially in the northern regions of Algeria. This highlights the need for increased tourism investment in this region, which is why the local and national authorities are currently developing a plan aimed at improving tourism in general and domestic tourism in particular in these regions, including Ténès, Chlef, which can be considered a tourist hub of great importance in our country.

The Ténès region is strategically located, and has great potential in the field of tourism due to the diversity of its natural features as well as its many archaeological and historical monuments, contribute to its national and international recognition. From this perspective, the following question can be raised:

What is the current state of tourism and its components in the city of Ténès? What are the main challenges facing this sector and what are the solutions needed to develop it?

2. The Concept of Tourism

In its linguistic definition, “walrus” means wandering, and the phrase “tourism” means going and walking on the face of the earth (Zaki, 2006, p. 70), but in terminology, tourism is neither a phenomenon nor a simple industrial model, but a human activity encompassing behaviour, use of resources and interaction with others (Hijab, 2002, p. 22). Tourism can be divided, in terms of geography into two parts, domestic tourism and international tourism.

2.1. The Concept of Domestic Tourism

It includes the movement of tourists who hold the nationality of the country within its borders, and the World Tourism Organization estimates that spending on domestic tourism accounts for between 70 and 80 per cent of the total global tourism spending. Moreover, there are statistics that indicate that the volume of domestic tourism is nine times greater than the volume of foreign tourism (Al-Serafi, 2007, p. 11).

2.2.The Concept of International Tourism

It is the movement or activity of moving and staying across state borders and different continents, and is known as **international tourism**. The latter means the movement of tourists who visit tourist places outside their home country, and it is one of the aspects of the activity that involves either national tourists abroad or receiving foreigners for the purpose of spending their leisure, rest and recreation or participating in a specific activity (Maher, 2008, p. 70).

3.The Importance of Tourism:

Tourism is one of the most important sources of national income in many countries, and it occupies an advanced position in stimulating the growth of income and employment in the various sectors of the economy for some countries, as it contributes to attracting investment in tourism projects, and its **promotion** encourages the completion and improvement of various tourism facilities, and also contributes to achieving the following :

- Tourism helps to increase the general income of the country by providing a source of foreign currency.
- It provides new job opportunities and thus contributing to reducing unemployment which many regions suffer from.
- Enhancing and developing tourist areas by building new infrastructure, such as hotels.
- It contributes to the revitalisation of the local market and the revival of traditional industries through the demand of tourists for traditional products and souvenirs .
- Social development occurs through breaking the isolation of some places by exchanging ideas and cultures, learning about different customs and traditions across countries, and spreading cultural awareness.
- The revival of local arts, traditional industries and cultural activities of the population, especially in tourist areas located far from urban centers.
- Tourism leads to the development of underdeveloped areas.
- Tourism leads to interest in the artistic and aesthetic values that abound in our country's archaeological and historical sites and monuments and desert palaces, such as folklore, celebrations of holidays, events and weddings, in addition to reviving some customs and

traditions that have disappeared over time, as the heritage inherited by members of society is passed on from previous generations to future generations.

- Tourism is an effective tool in creating social and humanitarian integration between neighboring countries and states.

4. Introducing the Ténès Region

Ténès is one of the regions that have a promising tourism future due to its important strategic location and the diversity of its terrain. It is considered one of the coastal regions, with a diverse cultural heritage, including customs, traditions and traditional industries, and it enjoys something important, namely the presence of a population with cultural tourism awareness organized in tourism associations and houses, working to push the wheel of tourism development towards prosperity through multiple programs such as sports activities, cultural events, and local festivals.

4.1. Geographical Location

The city of Ténès is located on a rocky plateau along the coast, about 60 m above sea level on the Algerian west coast, and includes a coastal strip about 20 km long, representing 6.5% of the total area of the city, between the cities of Algiers and Oran. It is a district of the province of Chlef, about 53 km from the state headquarters, bordered by the north by the Mediterranean Sea, west by the municipality of Sidi Abderrahmane, south by the municipality of Sidi Akacha, and east by Wadi Kosine, an area of 100.22 km (the municipality report, 2008).

4.2. Historical overview of the city of Ténès

The old city was built in the medieval period on high ground, and did not witness any construction or development before it, despite the fact that the region includes many ancient sites, some of which date back to prehistory, as evidenced by archaeological finds, including the castle that overlooks the sea and when the French colonists arrived in the region, they established the modern city on the ruins of the old city, and the Islamic city survived the destruction and demolition that affected most of the Algerian cities .

Excavations and archaeological remains confirmed the presence of prehistoric sites containing the remains of stone industries and tools that were spread over a large area, including caves, caverns, as well as open spaces.

Lorcin (J) confirmed through his study of these sites that they belong to the Ibero-Moroccan and Alatriancivilisations. Moreover, the tools found belong to the Neolithic period, and he dates these civilisations between 13,000 and 8,000 years BC, and for the Ibero-Moroccan, the Alatrian between 30,000 and 16,000 years BC (Lorcin, 1961, pp. 13-56).

The human settlement in the area since prehistory suggests that it was a destination for human groups due to the availability of all the elements of life, and due to the geographical location it occupies and the fact that it is a link between the interior and the coast through the Alala Valley, it was the focus of attention of the Phoenician seamen who were familiar with the establishment of trading stations along the coasts of the Mediterranean, where they built the port, and named the town Carthenna (von Maltzan, DT, p. 263) (von Maltzan, DT, p. 263).

Among the physical evidence of the Phoenicians' entry into the region are the graves dug into the rock below the French city, which are still standing today, but they are in poor condition and their presence in this place confirms that the Phoenician site is located under the Roman ruins (Benseddik, 1979, p. 165).

Ténès was founded as a Roman settlement during the reign of Emperor Augustus by his second military division (Augusti - legio - secunda), and when the Romans entered the region, their construction expanded upwards, as did most coastal cities dating back to the Phoenician period, and Ténès received the same importance for which it was established, as a centre for trade exchanges, and carrying agricultural products to Rome through its port (Marrou, 1962, p. 256).

Among the material evidence confirming these historical facts are the Christian cemetery located under the bishopric, which was found in 1937, as well as a collection of jewelry studied by Heurgon, and two mosaics, which are preserved in the National Museum of Ancient Monuments in Algiers (Heurgon, p. 18).

When the Byzantines came to North Africa, they entered the city by sea, but they could not enter it by land because the Berbers fortified themselves in the mountains, and launched

attacks on them, especially because the land route is difficult to pass, with narrow winding that are difficult to pass, which led the Byzantines to fortify the city, build walls and watchtowers (Berbrugger, 1857, p. 4).

In this period, the city of Ténès was the subject of a conflict between the emirates established in the Maghreb in general and the Central Maghreb in particular. At the end of the 2nd century AH, Ténès came under the authority of the Idrisids during the reign of Idris I, after the allegiance of Muhammad bin Khazar bin Sula al-Maghraoui as the Emir of Tlemcen. During the reign of Idris II (199 AH/815 AD), at the invitation of Muhammad, the Emir of Tlemcen, he headed to the Central Maghreb in order to expand the territory of his emirate, especially in the area of Chlef and its surroundings, which became part of the emirates (Bourouiba et al., 1984, p. 97), including the Emirate of Ténès, which was managed by nine kings from the Sulaymaniyyah and (Al-Agha, 1990, p. 131), with the arrival of the Fatimids in the Central Maghreb in the fourth century AH, a conflict was born between them and the Idrisids, and Ténès was one of the theatres of conflict between these two forces, and the Fatimids had the last word and took control (Jawdat, D. T., p. 334). In the year (473-474 AH/1081-1082 AD), the city of Ténès was opened by the Almoravids, and after 514 AH, the date of the fall of the Almoravid state by the Almohads, all the areas that were under the banner of the Almoravid state became part of the Almohad state, including the city of Ténès. The port of Ténès also played an important role between Andalusia and the Rustamid state, and the trade routes are connected to it and the city of Tahrt, the capital of the Rustamid state, which is a sensitive commercial centre linking the desert routes to Andalusia and the Mediterranean islands through the port of Ténès, as the Rustamid state had no strategic access to the waters of the Mediterranean except for the port of Ténès. (Al-Salem, 1982, p. 491). This is mentioned by Al-Yaqoubi, who died in 284 AH / 897 AD / 898 AD, who indicates the importance of the port and its proximity to the coast of Al-Andalus, and did not mention the city despite the 18 years of its establishment after his death: Whoever wants the island of Andalusia goes from Kairouan to Tunis and rides the salty sea, in which he walks for ten days in a clear and undeveloped path until he comes to the island of Andalusia

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from a place called Tens ... between it and Tahrt, a distance of four days ... (Al-Yaqoubi, p. 110).

5. Qualifications of the Ténès Region and its Tourism Resources

5.1. Natural Tourism Resources

5.1.1. Mountain Heights

-Bissa mountain range: The Bissa Mountains are located in the east, which includes RasTénès, this rocky massif, interspersed with the Caesarea (Cherchell) road, which has rugged paths, in addition to the sites of OuladGharbi, Tragnea, and SidiMarouane.

-Mainis Mountains: The Mainis Highlands belong to the large mountain mass of Dahra, which is located to the west, with a maximum height of about 516 m. The highest peak is about 516 m. The connection to it is through a corridor linking Jebel Haroun, Jebel Hadid, and Jebel Raqoun, these heights are parallel to the SidiAkkacha Plain in the south.

-Bouhlou Levels: This section is located to the south and follows the SidiAkkacha plain, it is a small area with an altitude ranging from 255-482 metres at the highest peak, interspersed with valleys: Ben Ali, Bouhlou, Copper Element.

As for the most important mountain peaks recorded in the entire Ténès region, they reach 779 m above sea level, represented by the Tzanont peak, in addition to another series of peaks that vary in height, there: RasTénès: 642m, Mainis: 516m, JabalTabouli: 413m, JabalBouhlou: 255-482m, Jabal Caesar: 405m, JabalHarour: 382m Based on the recorded statistics, the region is considered primarily mountainous, as the mountains represent 70% of the total general area (Ténès Tourist Office).

5.1.2. Water Resources

The region was permeated by a group of valleys and springs that represent a source of supply for the city and the neighbouring plain, with drinking water and irrigation, as for the most important of these resources, we mention:

OuedAlala

This valley passes east of the city of Ténès, passing through the plain of SidiAkkacha, then Jebel Caesar, then the old city of Ténès, and the Islamic city of Ténès located at an altitude of 40 to 50 m, and continues its path to reach its mouth in the sea, this valley resulted in the creation of a crack in the mountain, the rocky Caesar, to make a road bounded on the left by a mountain wall, and on the right by a river bank, which is the road leading to Chlef. A river bank, which is the road leading to Chlef, the valley forms a strait at Mount Caesar, which increases the depth of the valley to about 25 m. The valley draws its water from the south, and passes through an area estimated at about 32,000 hectares, and its yield reached 90 litres per second, but most of its water flows into the sea (Municipality report, 2008).

Tevilas Valley

This valley is considered the second in terms of importance in terms of water supply, and it is located to the east, its springs, or its tributaries are also eastern, coming from the direction of Ras Tens, passing through an area estimated at 1600 hectares, and there are two other streams, namely: Wadi al-Hamri, Bouiqoub, in addition to other less important streams.

5.1.3. Vegetation:

The outskirts of the city have an important forest cover, representing about 4443 hectares or 48.5% of the total area, most of these forests overlook the coast, and as for the most important trees, there are: Pine trees, many cork trees, and oak trees on Mount Bisa.

5.1.4. Climate

The geographical and astronomical location of the city of Ténès, the Mediterranean climate prevails in the region, characterised by hot and dry summers and cold and rainy winters, and the humidity reaches up to 85%, especially in the spring and summer, and the amount of rainfall in Ténès is about 501 mm (Municipality Report, 2008).

5.2. Cultural and Archaeological Monuments in the Ténès Region

5-2-1-Sidi Marwan Caves

The Lower Cave

First discovered by Dr Marchand and located in a mountain head known locally as Ras el-Naghs, this cave discovered many industries dating back to the Ramadiyat period, also known under the name of snails, including human bones and carved stones of the Silax type.

The Church Cave

Located to the east of the lower cave, many fragments of pottery dating back to the Roman period, vases and oil lamps that were used for ancient religious rituals were found, hence the name of the church cave, in addition to the two mentioned caves, the upper cave and the Manar cave.

Ras Ténès, located in the Sidi Marwan mountain, is of great archaeological importance because it contains valuable evidence of Iberomoric and stone industries dating back to the Neolithic period due to a layer of sandstone type, the site includes caves.

5.2.2. Phoenician Tombs

The Phoenician tombs on the coast of Ténès, carved in marine rocks, are monuments of a funerary nature that translate religious rituals and social customs that prevailed among the Phoenician sailors at the time, these tombs were made by digging into the rocks around the 10th century BC, the cemetery extends over an area of 05 hectares, but the most prominent five of them are located in a cave in the form of a pyramidal shrine (Festival Governorate Bulletin, 2010).

5.2.3. Ténès Wall

The wall dates back to the Roman period and is still standing today in the centre of the city of Ténès, built using huge and thick stones along the wall with rectangular guard towers, during the French period, a second wall was built on top of the original wall to protect the European city and the wall has openings to monitor the atmosphere outside it.

5.2.4. The ancient city of Ténès :

Ténès is one of the oldest Mediterranean cities due to its history full of events and civilisations that succeeded in its harbour, its name derives from the Berber word Tens, which means key, its construction dates back to 262 AH by Andalusian sailors, in which markets, baths, mosques, corners, and beautifully designed houses, some of which are still standing, surrounded by a wall that includes doors, the most famous of which are Bab Al Bahr, Bab Khokha, Bab IbnNasih and Bab Al Qibla.

5.2.5. Bab al-Bahr :

This door is one of the most important parts of the wall of the old city of Ténès, so named because it overlooks the seafront of Ténès, it is all that remains of the five doors included in the wall, this door takes the form of a defensive tower that awaits movement outside the city walls to guard it and ensure its security, characterised by a square-shaped base and thick walls decorated with Moorish-Islamic decorations.

5.2.6. SidiBoumeiza Mosque

The SidiBoumeiza Mosque is one of the most important archaeological mosques in Algeria and was classified as the third oldest mosque in Algeria in 1905 AD after the SidiOkba Mosque in Biskra and the SidiBoumediene Mosque in Tlemcen, dating back to the 9th century AD by the Sunnahjis during the reign of Almoez Din Allah Fatimi, and some attribute its foundation to Alawin. It is characterised by a beautiful architecture of remarkable originality, as it harmoniously blends the Moorish, Andalusian and Maghreb civilisations. The mosque has the oldest mihrab pattern and was built according to the Damascus Mosque and the Mosque of the Messenger of God, peace be upon him, with its thirty-nine columns, which were brought from the Roman city of Ténès.

5.2.7. SidiBel Abbas Mosque :

Named after the name of the man who studied the Holy Quran during the 11th century, the SidiBel Abbas Mosque is characterised by an ancient Islamic architectural style that retains to this day its original design, with an ancient door and ten columns, the roof has interlocking wooden pieces, and the roof has three pyramidal domes covered with tiles.

5.2.8. Lala Aziza Mosque :

This mosque is located adjacent to the market hall of the Kasbah of Ténès, named after Lala Aziza, the daughter of the Sultan who built the mosque and gave it its name because of his great love for her, this mosque is characterised by its simple shape and small size, but it bears all the techniques of building ancient mosques in Algeria, found near the mosque in 1987 AD on a jar dating back to the 10th century AD, containing silver coins and is today in the Cherchell Museum.

5.2.9. Ténès Lighthouse :

The lighthouse is located in the northeast of the city of Ténès, dating back to 1865 AD, it is one of the most beautiful historical buildings that stand on the Chilean coast, the lighthouse was named in 1957 AD as a Roman lighthouse, the lighthouse carries arches and columns built with solid stones, its internal sections contain technical rooms with machines and lighting devices to serve ships and vessels and guide them to enter the port of Ténès.

5.2.10.Cannons :

The cannons are located at the top of the city of Ténès, adjacent to the Sidi Marwan mountain, where they overlook the port, made in the late nineteenth century AD and placed in this location during the First World War in order to defend the port of Ténès from invasion, knowing that the city was under French occupation (Ténès Tourist Bureau).

5.3. Traditional industries in the Ténès region:

Traditional and craft industries are an important element in supporting tourism and one of its resources, as they contribute to reducing unemployment and obtaining hard currency. They also play a role in preserving the local industrial and craft heritage of the region, as tourists buy local products and thus transfer a souvenir image of the region, and the development of the tourism sector leads to an increase in the performance of artisans and the stability of rural people in their areas.

Traditional industry has played an important role in highlighting the role of women, especially rural women. It was also considered a support for the man in daily life, so she stayed at home and sold what she produced, thus helping her husband to bear the hardships of life. Weaving or other pottery was the woman's main concern and responsibility to provide a significant income through which she shares the burden of the family with her husband, and the Ténès region has spread various traditional industries, including the manufacture of marine fishing tools and fishing vessels for the nature of the maritime region and the manufacture of various types of textiles in addition to local traditional clothing.

6. Tourism Investment in the City of Ténès and its Components

The Ténès region has many physical tourism assets, but they have not yet reached the required level, including the following:

6.1.Travel and Tourism Agencies:

There are two tourism agencies in the Ténès region, the Ben Talha Tourism and Travel Agency and the Chalfouh Travel Agency, which have eased the burden on the people of the region to travel to the holy sites to perform the Hajj and Umrah rituals. Previously, they used to travel even to the state or outside the state, but the two agencies have limited activities. They only sell plane tickets or organise Hajj and Umrah trips. Additionally, they can organise tourist trips to bring tourists to the region, book them in hotels, and find a tour guide to accompany and take care of these groups, but their activity is almost non-existent, as they are only interested in Umrah trips only.

6.2. Tourism Offices and Associations and their Activities:

These offices promote tourism by participating in local events in the region or abroad in order to introduce the heritage of the region, but these offices are almost non-existent in the region, and if they exist, they suffer from lack of funding and the absence of a headquarters where they receive tourists, and they do not make an effort to print tourist brochures about the region and try to develop tourism investment in the region, and there are also other associations in Ténès that are active in the field of tourism, traditional industry and cultural events, but they also suffer from lack of funding and lack of a headquarters.

6.3. Hotel Structures and Rest Centres

The Ténès region contains four unclassified hotels, two rest centres, a hostel and a youth centre, but most of them do not have facilities for the comfort of tourists except for the restaurant, and the hotels and centres suffer from the lack of services provided, bearing in mind that they are all located in the coastal area of Ténès and need to be rehabilitated in order to keep pace with international hotel management systems.

Table 1. Ténès Hotels and Rest Centres

Hotels	Number of rooms
Fine arts	<i>60</i>
Gobili	<i>120</i>
PANORAMA	<i>80</i>
Falaq	<i>100</i>
Jahaltia Shrine	<i>40</i>
Baldati Comfort Centre	<i>100</i>
Comfort Centre Wadi El Kasb	<i>100</i>
Sidi Abdel Rahman Youth Shrine	<i>40</i>

Source: Prepared by the researcher

6.4. Means of Communication and Transportation:

Ténès is connected to the rest of the state or neighbouring states through a network of state and municipal roads, in addition to main roads linking it to neighbouring states, including the state of Mostaganem, the state of Tipaza, and the region is equipped with postal centres and means of communication.

7.Tourism Expansion:

At the level of the Ténès region, a study is underway to develop a tourism expansion plan, which includes all tourist facilities according to the requests of private investors, and this project has passed the study stage, awaiting approval and materialisation and includes all the coast in Ténès.

8.Results

-Tourism has become inevitable in Algeria, as it is considered an additional financial resource if it is well exploited, especially on the side of archaeological sites.

-Tourism is linked to the cultural and tourism awareness of members of society, and the greater the awareness, the greater the demand for tourism .

-The coastal region of Ténès has the potential to be a centre of attraction and an excellent destination for tourists, especially its archaeological and historical sites and monuments, beaches and forests.

The severe shortage of accommodation and hotel capacity, training in traditional tourism crafts, and the absence of tourist guides are among the main obstacles to tourism activity and its development in the region .

Tourist sites in the region are still in dire need of support in terms of reception structures and facilities, as well as reviewing the price and making it competitive.

9. Suggestions

Although the Ténès region has significant tourism assets, especially its archaeological and historical monuments, in addition to its natural resources, the tourism sector is still underdeveloped, so to promote this sector, we propose the following:

- It is imperative to formulate a rational tourism policy in order to promote this sector in the Ténès region.

- The need to provide modern hotel and restaurant facilities and tourist and recreational facilities, as tourism resources alone are not enough to attract tourists.

- Use various tourism advertising programmes to promote the region and encourage university students and schoolchildren to visit it periodically.

- Adopting a policy of training and developing human resources working in the sector and pushing them towards professionalism and creativity.

- Modernising the roads in the region to avoid traffic accidents and reduce traffic congestion, allowing tourists to easily and safely reach the sites they want to visit.

- The need to encourage traditional industries in the region because they play an important role in supporting and promoting the tourism sector, as well as being an important source of income.

- Paying attention to the maintenance and preservation of archaeological sites by installing fencing, securing, cleaning, restoring and reconstructing their important architectural features.

- Installing signs at the entrances of archaeological sites that include the name of the site and an illustrative map showing its features, and signs on the facades of architectural monuments that include the name of the monument, its layout and a brief history of it.

10. CONCLUSION

Through this intervention, we have tried to highlight the importance of tourism in the region, as tourism is one of the strategic sectors that Algeria is betting on after hydrocarbons, by highlighting the tourism assets in this region. It is important to note that tourism is still traditional despite all the efforts made, due to its lack of reliance on e-tourism towards tourists, including not dealing with them in electronic booking, and in the absence of

accommodation facilities cannot rely on tourism alone to take care of demand creation, as encouraging private accommodation currently remains the only way to improve the image of tourism.

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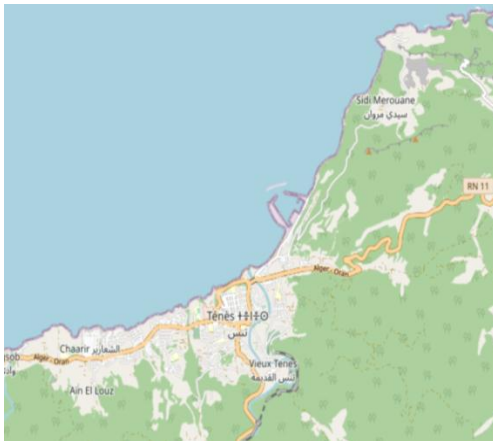
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12. Appendices

Map showing the location of Ténès

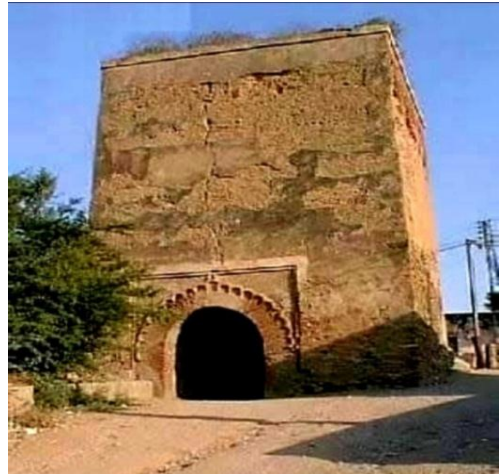


Source (<https://chlef.mta.gov.dz/>)

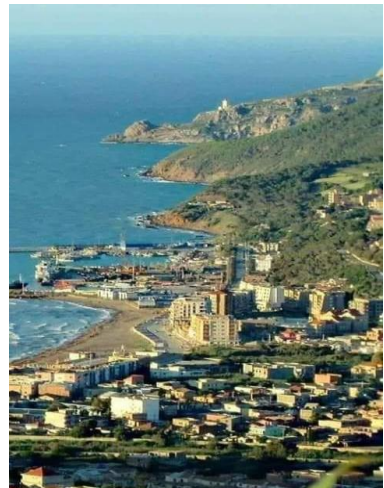
Photos showing the old city of Ténès with forests



Source: Directorate of CulturePhoto of a street in the Old City Photo of Bab Al Bahr



Source: Directorate of CulturePhotos showing the Ténès waterfront



Source: (<https://www.google.com/imgres>)

Photos of one of the beautiful beaches of Sidi Marwan in the region with the lighthouse



Source :(<https://www.google.com/imgres>)