



NORTH AFRICA: ANCIENT AND NATURALLY RICH

The peculiarity of North Africa lies in four main categories: first; geographically, it is alienated from the rest of the region - separated by the Sahara Desert, thereby sharing more similarities and communication with the Mediterranean. As a matter of fact, they are mostly grouped under the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in politics and development. Secondly, historically, it has very rich cultural heritage with some of the most ancient cities and landmarks located therein. Thirdly, unlike most other Africans with the exception of Southern Africa occupied by whites during the apartheid era, the North Africans are largely 'light skinned,' but that doesn't make them any less African than their 'black'

brothers and sisters. Finally, they have rich and very high deposit of natural resources, perhaps the most developed oil producing region in the continent and a major player globally.

From east to north, African countries rely mostly on their natural resources as a major source of income. Be it beautiful tourists' sites, diverse agricultural products and minerals, the production industry of these resources fill the employment gap for its citizens while returns from exports form larger chunks of the nations' revenue.

The North African region is made of two parts; the Maghreb consisting of Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Western Sahara, while

the Nile Valley is made up of Egypt and Sudan (which borders East and North Africa). According to the African Natural Resource Centre, a non-lending entity of the African Development Bank, African natural resources have been the bedrock of the continents economy. In 2012, natural resources amounted to 77% of the total exports and in terms of government revenue, it accounted for 42%. As the most developed oil region in the continent, North Africa has majority of Africa's oil reserves and refining capacity mainly in Egypt, Algeria, and Libya. These countries are also beautifully adorned by Mother Nature and would meet your desire for fun holiday, adventurous or research purposes.

EGYPT

Egypt's main economy depends on exportation of petroleum, cotton, textile and tourism. The Great Pyramids of Giza is the oldest of the seven wonders of the ancient world and the only one still intact. It is believed the Pyramids and the Sphinx were constructed between 2589 BC and 2504 BC. The Pyramid is in three main parts: the Great Pyramid of Khufu or Cheops; the Pyramid of Kafhre; and the smaller Pyramid of Menkaura. Each used as tomb for one of the Pharaohs of Egypt. The great Sphinx or Abu al-Hol adorns the front of the pyramids.

Since the Greece-Roman times, the Luxor has always entertained visitors. Built around the ancient site of