

The Reality of Tourism Development in The Algerian Wilaya of Constantine

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Abstract:

This paper aims to discuss the reality of tourism development in the Algerian wilaya of Constantine, considering its various touristic potentialities whether: natural, historical, cultural, etc. This led the authorities to direct their attention towards tourism development in the region. Throughout this paper, we attempt to diagnose this reality through the study of tourist traffic in the wilaya as well as the different projects that were programmed by the authorities to develop tourism at present. In the end, we offer a bundle of solutions and suggestions for tourism development in the wilaya.

Keywords: tourism, tourism development, potentialities, reality.

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Introduction:

Tourism, nowadays, has become one of the most prominent sectors that immensely contribute to economies prosperity and acts as a driver of development. From an economic perspective, the positive impact of tourism will influence the service and productive sectors by promoting tourism-related investments as well as marketing both modern and traditional tourist products, improving the conditions and potentials of reception, and so on. Whereas from a sociocultural perspective, tourism helps presenting the region by giving an overview over its customs and traditions, natural landscapes as well as touristic monuments which provide visitors with an artistic display of the wilaya. Algeria is now aware of the vital role of tourism in developing and improving economic, social, and cultural sectors. In the last years, the state has become interested in developing a range of programs and allocating financial resources to boost this sector in every wilaya, especially the major ones. Constantine is one of the wilayas that the state relies on to

develop tourism considering its important position in the region and its various natural, historical, and scientific touristic potentialities and so on.

Study aims:

Through this study, we attempt to:

- know the tourism reality in the Algerian wilaya of Constantine.
- highlight the current projects that were programmed by the state to develop tourism in Constantine.
- offer a set of solutions and suggestions to develop tourism in this wilayah.

Hypothesis:

To achieve our study aims, we have asked the following questions:

- What are the projects that are programmed by the state to develop tourism in Constantine at the present moment?
- what are the solutions or suggestions that could be adopted to develop tourism in this wilaya?

Study Hypotheses:

- the tourism sector is inactive in the wilaya despite its various touristic potentialities.
- the current programmed projects are not massive, most of them are a range of hotel or restoration interventions.

Materials and Methods:

To answer the research question and achieve our research aims, we started with tuning a set of general tourism-related concepts followed by a presentation of the wilaya and its potentialities that contribute to tourism development to eventually study the reality through the touristic traffic in the wilaya along with the various project that were programmed by the state for the sake of tourism development at the present moment. We have adopted two approaches: the descriptive approach and the analytical approach as well as relying on a set of tables and maps. By the end, we proposed a set of solutions and suggestions that we believe, from our point of view, that they are capable of reanimating, activating, and developing tourism in the wilaya.

1. General Concepts:

1.1 Tourism:

It is a broad field that comprises different types of travel depending on the traveler's (tourist's) wish to move from his residency to another location for pleasure, entertainment, studies, etc.⁽¹⁾

1.2 Types of Tourism:

There are multiple patterns and forms of tourism depending on the set objective, which is completely natural and varies according to the tourists' desires, financial means, practical and health conditions as well as their divergent intellectual tendencies. Accordingly, tourism is divided into different categories, namely⁽²⁾:

- **Leisure Tourism:**

It refers to spending leisure time and vacations away from work and responsibilities for the sake of having fun and some comfort. In this case, tourists tend to resort to places with the most breathtaking landscapes and quiet areas such as coastlines, forests, and green zones.

- **Cultural Tourism:**

It is a touristic pattern that seeks to learn about the cultures and civilizations of touristic areas. Cultural Tourism implies visiting historical and archaeological sites such as theatres, palaces, libraries, etc. Therefore, tourists will visit places that are famous for their remnants of modern and ancient civilizations.

- **Religious Tourism:**

It entails visiting places with a religious history whose visit is considered a part of religious rituals such as Elhajj and Umrah to the Sacred Mosque of Allah, as well as visiting places that are famous for their religious monuments such as major mosques and historical temples.

- **Medical or Therapeutic Tourism:**

It means visiting sites that are famous for their baths or treatment facilities, to cure specific illnesses like therapeutic baths with hot mineral water that tourists resort to for treatment or rest and relaxation.

- **Sports tourism:**

It is a type of tourism to practice hunting sports and games such as forest hunting, hunting in water, or water games such as: sailing yachts, diving, mountain climbing, etc. In addition to participation in regional and Olympic sports tournaments.

- **Adventure and Exploration Tourism:**

It is a type of tourism that allows the tourist to visit new unprecedented areas such as natural landscapes or deserts where he will discover the area's heritage, traditions, and landmarks.

- **Business Tourism:**

This type of tourism is specific to areas that are considered big cities, regional or economic capitals as they attract flocks of investors and businessmen by providing an opportunity to conclude business deals and agreements, namely commercial ones.

- **Conference Tourism:**

It means participating in cultural, scientific, economic, and political events and conferences at domestic, regional, and international levels.

- **Commercial Tourism:**

It is the movement from one to another place for commercial exchange.

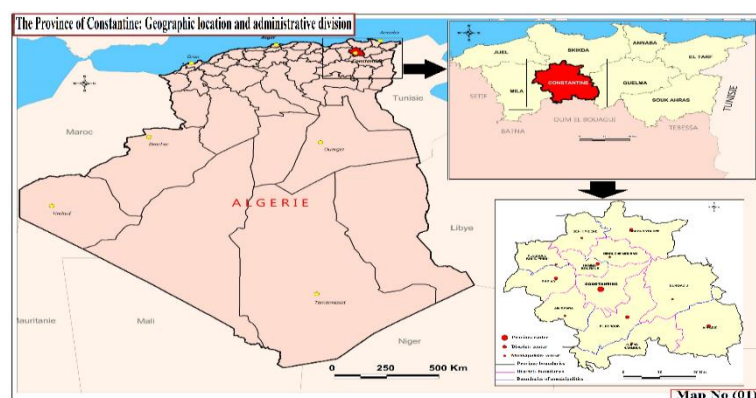
1.3 Tourism Development:

It includes all the plans, programs, and strategies that seek to optimize the use of the available touristic elements and resources to maximize revenues in foreign currency and reinvest those revenues in order to create continuous and steady growth in touristic potentialities. In addition to boosting the touristic sector productivity along with developing and improving the touristic product components so as it lives up to the expectations of both tourists and visitors⁽³⁾.

2. Presentation of the Wilaya:

The wilaya of Constantine is strategically located which makes it the capital of eastern Algeria. It is located in northeastern Algeria, bordered from the north by the Wilaya of Skikda, from the south by the Wilaya of Oum El Bouaghi, from the east by the Wilaya of Guelma, and the west by the Wilaya of Mila⁽⁴⁾. It is administratively divided into 12 municipalities over 6 Dairas, as shown in map No: 01

Figure No 01: Geographical Location and Administrative Division of the Wilaya of Constantine



Source: Tourism Directorate of the Wilaya of Constantine 2022

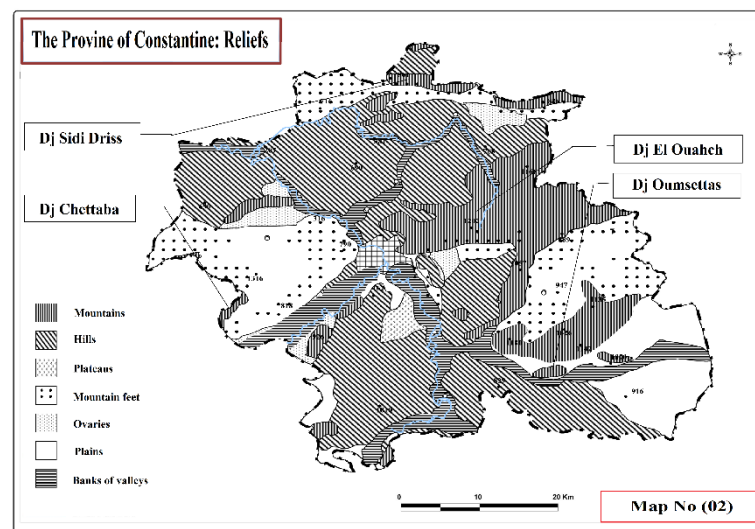
3. Potentialities Contributing to Tourism Development of the Wilaya:

3.1 Natural Potentialities:

- **Mountains:**

There is a range of mountains in the Wilaya (map No: 02) that are characterized by their flat tops and forest-covered hills with varying heights. These hills can be used for mountain or winter tourism if supported with infrastructures and touristic facilities to receive tourists.

Figure No 02: Major Mountains of the Wilaya of Constantine



Source: Tourism Directorate of the Wilaya of Constantine 2022

The major mountains in the wilaya are⁽⁵⁾:

- **Djebel El Ouahch:**

It is located in the central part of the Wilaya with an altitude of 1281m. It consists of hard rocks made of sandstone covered with the El Ouahch Forest.

- **Djebel Chettabah:**

It is located in the western part of the city with an altitude of 1316m, consisting of hard rocks made of wet lime and covered with the Chettabah Forest.

- **Djebel Sidi Driss:**

It is located in the northern part of the Wilaya with an altitude of 1295m and is composed of calcareous rocks.

- Djebel Oum Stas:

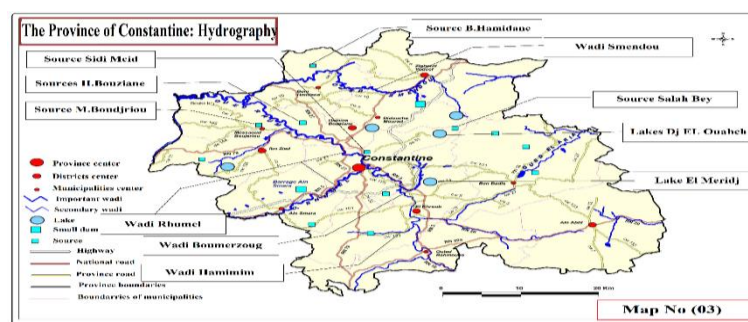
It is located in the far south of the state with an altitude of 1326m. It consists of solid limestone. It takes the form of a solid massif with two asymmetrical hills, permeated by several normal faults. It has prominent rock edges that correspond to tectonic fractures that may result in the emergence of karst springs.

However, this forest wealth is unexploited for tourism. It is neglected by the authorities of the Wilaya as all the mountains lack proper infrastructure for tourism reception except for Djebel Chettabah where is located the forest of Chettabah that is used for wellness and leisure tourism only.

● Water Wealth:

The Wilaya of Constantine disposes of an array of water resources (map No:03), that can be used in developing different types of tourism such as leisure and thermic tourism. This water wealth is widely known for its valleys, thermal springs, and lakes in this order.

Figure No 03: Water Wealth of the Wilaya of Constantine



Source: Tourism Directorate of the Wilaya of Constantine 2022

This water wealth is divided into⁽⁶⁾:

Valleys:

The main valleys in the wilaya are:

Oued Rhumel:

Which is the most prominent valley in the region, it flows from areas with an altitude of 1160m along the southern borders of the hill, reaching Constantine (500m of altitude) until getting trapped in the limestone gorges of the Constantine Rock at a depth of (200m) before changing its direction to the northwest at the level of lower Constantine basin, and then it joins Oued Endja in Sidi Marouane.

Oued Boumerzoug:

It is considered the second most important stream in the Wilaya of Constantine, with a length of 31.5km; it flows from El Fourchi Springs (Ain Mlila) and runs over a flat topography. The most important tributaries of Oued Boumerzoug are located on the eastern side, the main ones being:

- Oued El Barda:

Flowing from Djebel Oum Stas and Ain Abid region.

-Oued Hamimime:

Whose source is located in the El Meridj zone in El Kheroub.

- Oued Smendou:

Flowing from the heights of Djebel El Ouahch.

- Thermal Sources:

The most important thermal sources are:

- Hama Bouziane Sources:

They are the most important sources in the wilaya because of their high flow rate and their considerable water temperature. They include Ain Hemmam Zouaoui, Ain Sekhouana, Ain Bergli.

- Sidi M'cid Source:

This source is located in the municipality of Constantine, with an influx of 6L per second at a temperature of 19°.

- Saleh Bey Source:

It is located in the municipality of Constantine, with an influx of 30L per second and it is safe for drinking.

- Massaoud Boudjeriou Source:

This source is located along Oued Rhumel.

- Beni Hamidane Source:

This source is located in the area called (Dar El Oued) located near the archaeological site of Tiddis.

* Lakes:

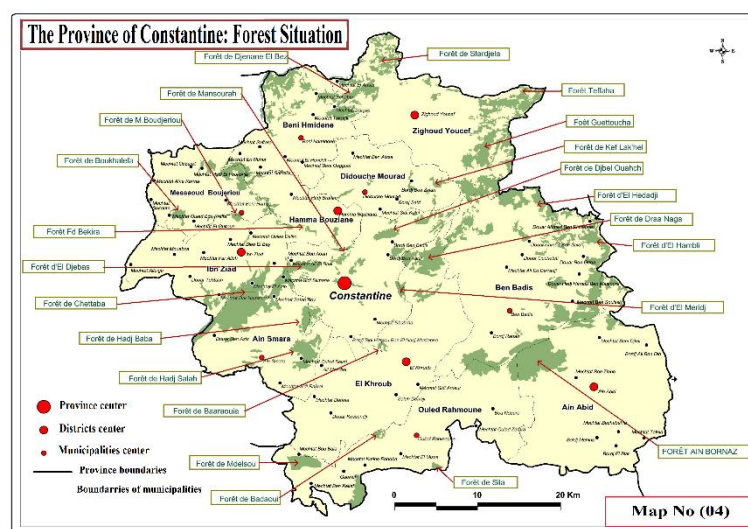
- Djebel El Ouahch Lakes:

- El Meridj Lake:

All of this water wealth possessed by the wilaya is unexploited as a matter of fact. As it goes for the forest wealth, the water wealth is, likewise, neglected by the state's authorities except for Oued Rhumel which has been rehabilitated and used for leisure tourism. The same applies to El Meridj Lake which is situated in El Meridj Forest and used, likewise, for wellbeing and leisure tourism.

- Forests

Figure No 04: Forest Wealth of the Wilaya of Constantine



Source: Tourism Directorate of the Wilaya of Constantine 2022

The most important forests are ⁽⁷⁾:

*** Djebel El Ouahch Forest:**

It is located in the municipalities of Constantine and Didouche Mourad, in the northern part of the city of Constantine. It is spread out over 5380 hectares and covered by both the fruity pine and the Aleppo Pine.

*** El Meridj Forest:**

It is located in the northeastern part of the municipality of El Kheroub, at a distance of 7 km from the city. It is spread out over 202 hectares and covered with Aleppo pine and cypress.

*** Echettabah Forest:**

It is located in the municipality of Ain Smara and spread out over 2356 hectares. Out of the plant varieties that are common there, we find Aleppo pine and green oak.

*** Draa Naga Forest:**

It is located in the municipalities of El Kheroub and Ibn Badis and spread out over 641 hectares. They are called prototype forests because growing plant varieties such as conifers and cypresses were tested there.

*** Hadj Baba Forest:**

It is located in the municipality of Constantine and spread out over 641 hectares. It is predominantly covered with Aleppo pine.

*** El-Baaraouia Forest:**

It is located in the municipality of El Kheroub and spread out over 4864 hectares. It is predominantly covered with Aleppo pine.

*** El Mansourah Forest:**

It is located in the municipality of Constantine in the Mansoura region. It is set over a schist soil and its total area is estimated to be 32 hectares.

This forest wealth is, for the most part, neglected by the state authorities and not used for tourism. An exception to that would be El CHettabah Forest and El Meridj forest which have been used for the sake of entertainment and leisure tourism. Both of them dispose of touristic facilities (Snober Land for leisure games and entertainment in El Meridj Forest for example). Djebel El Ouahch Forest, on the other hand, had enjoyed the presence of an amusement park but it has been neglected and destroyed.

3.2 Historical Capabilities:

The Wilaya of Constantine stands on a solid historical heritage that makes it a shining jewel for tourism. Many civilizations chose to settle in Constantine and each civilization had made its mark and left behind an array of (archaeological, religious, and cultural) historical evidence and monuments. The latter can be used to develop different types of tourism, namely: adventure and exploration tourism, cultural tourism as well as religious tourism. These monuments are represented in table No: 01

Table No 01: Historical Monuments of the Wilaya of Constantine

Era	Historic Landmarks	Location
Stone Age	Bears Cave	Sidi M'cid Constantine
	El Arouia Cave	Sidi M'cid Constantine
	Pigeons Cave	Sidi M'cid Constantine
Protohistory	Tiddis City	Beni Hamidene
	Bounouara Cemetery	Mazla Bounouara Mountain Ouled Rahmoune
Numedian Era	Massinissa Mausoleum	Massinissa El Khroub
	El Hofra Temple	Southern West Constantine
Roman Era	The Roman Arcs	Ain El Bey road Constantine
	Lollius Mausoleum	Beni Hamidene near Tiddis
	Caesar Baths	Oued Rhumel Cliff Constantine
Islamic Era	The Old City	Downtown Constantine
	Djamaa El Kebir	El Batha Square Downtown Constantine
Ottoman Era	Ahmed Bey Residency	El ghrab Constantine
	Ahmed Bey Palace	Sidi El Haouas Square Downtown Constantine
	Sidi M'hammed El Ghrab Mausoleum	El Ghrab West Bank of Oued Rhumel Constantine
	Souq El Ghazl Mosque	Didouche Mourad Road Downtown Constantine

	Sidi Lakhdar Mosque	El Djazzarine Street Downtown Constantine
	Sidi El Kettani Mosque	Bouhali Said Square Souq El Asr Constantine
	Z'waya	Downtown Constantine
Colonial Era	Bab El Kantara Bridge	Downtown Constantine
	Sidi M'cid Bridge	Downtown Constantine
	Sidi Rached Bridge	Downtown Constantine
	Mellah Slimane Bridge	Downtown Constantine
	The Falls Bridge	Sidi M'cid Constantine
	Devil's Bridge	Downtown down the Groove Constantine
	Sidi M'cid Elevator	El Ghirane Yugoslavia Road Constantine
	Derb El Siyah	Downtown along Oued Rhumel Constantine
	Monument to the Dead	On top of "Vieux Rocher" Constantine
Postcolonial Era	Constantine Monument	Downtown El kentara Constantine
	El Amir Abdelkader Mosque	El Amir Abdelkader Constantine
	Cirta Museum	Coudiat-Aty Downtown Constantine
	Regional theater	Rahbet el Djmel Downtown Constantine
	Cultural Centers	Downtown Constantine
	Saleh Bay bridge	United Nations Square Downtown Constantine
	Ahmed Bey Concert Hall	Zouaghi Slimane near Constantine Airport

Source: Tourism Directorate of the Wilaya of Constantine 2022

All of this historical and monumental wealth that the wilaya dispose of is being used for tourism's sake. It receives great attention from the wilayat's authorities that make sure to preserve

it and monitor it periodically as well as rehabilitate it from time to time. The authorities rely on it to boost adventure and cultural tourism as it acts as a magnet that captivates tourists.

3.3 Touristic Infrastructure:

- Hotels:

The Wilaya of Constantine disposes of 28 hotels with a total capacity of 1657 rooms and 269 beds. These hotels employ 811 workers who provide services and look after the well-being of tourists inside the facilities across the year 2022. These numbers are portrayed in table No: 02 below

Table No: 02 Hotels of the Wilaya of Constantine

Number	Hotel Name	Rating	Reception Capacity		Jobs	Location
			Beds	Rooms		
1	Mariott	5*	260	180	382	Constantine
2	El Khayem	4*	226	125	74	El Khroub
3	Hocine	4*	156	99	150	El Khroub
4	Arc En Ciel 1	3*	180	70	36	El Khroub
5	Arc En Ciel 2	3*	180	67	40	El Khroub
6	Panoramic	3*	144	72	35	Constantine
7	Cirta	3*	120	76	30	Constantine
8	Novotel	3*	149	117	80	Constantine
9	Errafie	3*	70	38	29	El Khroub
10	Ain El Bey	3*	104	74	37	Constantine
11	Ibis	2*	212	172	49	Constantine
12	Princes	2*	67	42	15	Constantine
13	El Bey	1*	120	55	20	Constantine
14	El Maghreb	1*	32	19	05	Constantine
15	Grand Hotel	N.R	76	58	06	Constantine
16	Ben M'hidi	N.R	54	44	05	Constantine
17	Central	N.R	31	29	02	Constantine

18	Hob El Kheir	N.R	44	23	08	Constantine
19	Jugurtha	N.R	35	29	06	Constantine
20	Sidi Lakhdar	N.R	48	24	02	Constantine
21	El Mountazah	N.R	30	15	05	El Khroub
22	El Hawa Talk	N.R	80	50	10	Constantine
23	Aures	N.R	20	13	01	Constantine
24	Sernousse	N.R	34	17	02	Constantine
25	El Guerioune	N.R	37	17	07	El Khroub
26	Vieux Rocher	N.R	49	26	08	Ain Smara
27	Eucalyptus	N.R	56	25	08	Constantine
28	El Ritedj	N.R	110	40	04	El Khroub
Total			2699	1657	811	/

Source: Tourism Directorate of the Wilaya of Constantine 2022

These hotels are divided into 16 rated hotels and 09 unrated ones. The rated hotels include one 5-star hotel which is the Marriott Hotel, and four 4-star hotels: El Khayem, Panoramic, Hocine, and Arc En Ciel 2. In addition to six 3-star hotels: Arc En Ciel 1, Cirta, Novotel, Ibis, El Bey, and Errafie, followed by three 2-star hotels: Hotel des Princes, Ain El Bey, and El Maghreb. Whereas there are only two 1-star hotels: Le Grand Hotel and Ben M'hidi while the rest are unrated.

Accordingly, most of Constantine's hotels are rated and range from 3 to 4 stars, whereas we record only one 5-star hotel at the Wilaya level which reflects a lack of this type of hotels.

- **Travel Agencies:**

There are 84 travel agencies in the wilaya of Constantine that recruit 325 employees who make sure to deliver services to locals and tourists throughout the year 2022 as shown in table No: 03 below

Table No: 03 Travel Agencies of the Wilaya of Constantine

Number	Travel Agency Name	Category	Jobs	Location
1	Le Rocher Voyage	B	04	Constantine
2	Nouvelle Ere de tourisme et	A	08	Constantine

	voyages			
3	Djena Tours	A	06	Constantine
4	Akouas Voyages	A	04	Constantine
5	Integral Voyages	B	03	Constantine
6	Alfa Tour	B	05	Constantine
7	Bellara Voyages	A	04	Constantine
8	Abdelmouize Voyages	B	03	Constantine
9	Magellan Voyages	A	02	Constantine
10	Mondial Tours	A	05	Constantine
11	Nouba Travel	A	30	Constantine
12	Thema Voyage	A	02	Constantine
13	Bridge Travel	A	04	Constantine
14	Yara Tourisme	A	04	El Khroub
15	Cirta Voyages et Tourisme	A	02	Constantine
16	Lotus Travel	B	06	El Khroub
17	Rhumel Atlas	A	05	Constantine
18	5 Juillet Tourisme et Voyage	B	05	Constantine
19	Djallel Voyages	B	02	Constantine
20	Clic Voyages	A	03	Constantine
21	Essabil Tourisme et voyages	B	03	El Khroub
22	Sigma Tourisme et Voyages	A	03	Constantine
23	Salama Voyages	A	02	Constantine
24	Zenith Voyages	A	05	Constantine
25	Bicha Voyages	B	03	El Khroub
26	Diamond Tours	A	03	Constantine

27	Aya Charkia Voyages	A	05	Constantine
28	El Walid Voyages	A	03	Constantine
29	Amouri Tourisme et Voyages	B	02	Constantine
30	Africa Tours	A	02	Constantine
31	Galaxie Voyages	A	04	Constantine
32	ATV/EGT/EST	A	04	Constantine
33	Bensari Voyages	A	02	Constantine
34	Actual Voyages	A	02	El Khroub
35	Al Saqifa Voyages	B	10	Constantine
36	ONAT ATV 01	A	02	Constantine
37	ONAT ATV 02	A	02	Constantine
38	TVA/EPE SPA TCA01	A	03	Constantine
39	Khoudja Tours	B	05	El Khroub
40	El Djoussour El Kadima	A	02	Ain Smara
41	Numidia Travel	A	40	Constantine
42	TVA/EPE SPA TCA02	A	02	Constantine
43	Cynthia Voyages	A	04	Constantine
44	El Koudia Tourisme et Voyage	B	04	Constantine
45	Atelier du voyage et Tourisme	A	03	Constantine
46	Gallia Tours	A	02	Constantine
47	Nostalgia Tourisme Service	B	01	El Khroub
48	Loujaine Travel	B	02	Constantine
49	Rama Tours	B	03	Constantine
50	Yasmine Travel	A	03	Constantine
51	HB Aventura	A	02	Constantine

52	Belkis Travel	B	01	El Khroub
53	Constantine Travel	A	02	Constantine
54	Baha Travel	A	03	Constantine
55	Essafer El Kebir	B	02	Constantine
56	Mahrez Voyage	A	02	Constantine
57	El Wassie Voyages	A	02	El Khroub
58	Syla Tour	A	02	Constantine
59	El Safina	A	05	Constantine
60	Berani Voyages	A	02	El Khroub
61	Segueni Tourisme et voyages	A	02	Constantine
62	Paradis Travel	B	06	Constantine
63	Masar Tourisme et Voyages	A	06	Constantine
64	Dz Go	A	01	El Khroub
65	Ever tours Travel	A	02	Constantine
66	Galaxie Voyages	A	02	Constantine
67	Choudar Voyages	A	02	Constantine
68	Bouarroudj Travel Services	A	03	Ain Smara
69	Travellova	A	02	Ain Smara
70	El Mounkid Voyages	A	02	Didouche Mourad
71	Dergham Travel Services	A	02	Ain Smara
72	El Kendi Voyages	A	03	Hamma Bouziane
73	Kemmi Travel	A	02	Didouche Mourad
74	Messaadi Travel Services	A	02	Ain Abid
75	Ouellam Travel Services	A	03	Ain Abid

76	Numidia	A	05	Zighoud Youcef
77	One Life Travel	A	04	Hamma Bouziane
78	Hamsa Travel	A	01	Didouche Mourad
79	Reconnaissance Voyages	A	03	Didouche Mourad
80	Bendjaballah voyage et Tourisme	A	03	Didouche Mourad
81	Touati Tours	A	02	El Khroub
82	Omar et Ahmed Voyage et Tourisme	A	02	El Khroub
83	La Gloire Mimoune Tour	A	02	El Khroub
84	Raoua Voyages et Tourisme	A	02	El Khroub
Total		65 A 19 B	325	/

Source: Tourism Directorate of the Wilaya of Constantine 2022

These travel agencies fall into two categories: A and B. Agencies refer to tourism and travel agencies that operate in national reception tourism. National tourism refers to the range of services that respond to domestic demand at the national level. Reception tourism refers to the range of services that respond to the exterior demand on the national level, which amounts to 65 agencies. B agencies, on the other hand, represent tourism and travel agencies that send tourists internationally which total up to 19 agencies. Therefore, most of the tourist agencies that are present in the wilaya fall into the A category.

4. Tourism Traffic in the Wilaya:

Table No 04: Tourism Traffic of the Hotels at the Wilaya of Constantine

Number of Hotels	Number of Guests			Number of Nights		
	Algerians	Foreigners	Total	Algerians	Foreigners	Total
28	82926	7134	90060	108600	24954	133554

Source: Tourism Directorate of the Wilaya of Constantine 2022

Hotels of the Wilaya of Constantine have received a number of 90060 tourists, including 7134 foreigners and 82926 Algerians throughout the year 2022 (table No: 04). It is a small number indeed but still encouraging to pay attention to the tourism sector and develop it. These figures also show that a great number of tourists received in these hotels represent Algerians. As for the number of nights spent in these hotels, 133554 nights have been spent by the totality of tourists, 108600 nights were spent by Algerians whereas 24954 nights have been spent by foreigners in these hotels. These figures also highlight the fact that the number of nights spent by Algerians in these hotels exceeds the number of nights spent by foreigners.

- **Travel Agencies:**

Table No 05: Tourist Traffic of Travel Agencies in the Wilaya of Constantine 2022

Number of Agencies	Number of Foreigns Tourists	Number of Algerians Tourists	Total
84	1261	1836	3097

Source: Tourism Directorate of the Wilaya of Constantine 2022

The state's travel agencies work on selling tickets, booking hotels, travel trips, visas, Hajj, and Umrah ⁽⁸⁾. These agencies have received some 3097 tourists, including 1261 foreigners and 1836 Algerians throughout the year 2022 (Table No 05). This small number also reflects the low activity of these agencies. These figures show that the number of Algerian tourists received by the agencies in the region exceeds the number of foreign tourists, which indicates that most of them organize trips from Constantine and not toward it. This is an indicator of the travel agencies' role in selling tickets and exporting tourists in the absence of every attempt to attract them by promoting the previously mentioned wilayah's potentialities. Thus, these agencies are not performing their roles as it should be in terms of reanimating the tourism movement as well as presenting the touristic potentialities and facilities of the wilaya to attract tourists.

5. Efforts to develop Tourism in Wilaya:

At present, the authorities' efforts to develop tourism in the wilaya refer to a range of projects. Some of them are related to the public sector and are directly supervised by the state. Other projects are related to the private sector and are supervised by private investors specializing in this field. These projects fall into:

- **Public Sector Projects:**

They are represented by 07 projects as shown in table No 06

Table No 06: Public Sector Tourism Development Projects

Nature of the Project	Project Progress Percentage (%)	Location
Ancient City Restoration	15	Downtown Constantine
Derb Siyah Rehabilitation	00	Downtown Constantine next to Oued Rhumel
Rehabilitation of Djebel El Ouahch Attraction Park	00	Djebel El Ouahch Constantine
Djebel El Ouahch Golf Course	00	Djebel El Ouahch Constantine
Le Vieux Rocher Starred Restaurant	00	Downtown Vieux Rocher Constantine
Therapeutic Pools	00	El Meridj El Khroun
Bardo Sustainable Garden	85	Downtown Constantine next to Oued Rhumel

Source: Tourism Directorate of the Wilaya of Constantine 2022

Three of these projects are restoration and renovation interventions (The Old City, Derb Siyah, and an attraction park). Whereas five of them represent touristic facilities (a golf course, a rated restaurant, and an attraction park) with a very low rate of progress (for most of them, the work hasn't started yet) except for the sustainable garden which is near completion. Hence, these figures reflect the slow pace of tourism development in the region.

- **Private Sector Projects:**

There are 19 projects and all of them are hotels as shown in table No. 07

Table No 07: Private Sector Tourism Development Projects in the Wilaya of Constantine

Nature of The Project	Rating	Project Owner	Project Surface Area (m ²)	Reception capacity (Beds)	Jobs	Project Progress Percentage (%)	Municipality
Motel (R+3)	N.R	Single-Member LLC RCB Services et Hotellerie	453	64	11	60	El Khroub

Hotel (R+8)	3*	Kechkar Fath Eddine	2474	130	53	20	Constantine
Hotel (R+5)	2*	Khnioua Riyad	439.51	56	10	05	Constantine
Hotel (R+5)	3*	LLC Slimane Motel	1420	68	22	60	El Khroub
Hotel (R+8)	2*	Merrah Belkacem	324	155	15	20	Constantine
Hotel (R+6)	2*	Righi Yacine	800	216	55	02	El Khroub
Hotel (R+5)	3*	Single-Member LLC El Rayyan Hotels et Services	6620	188	80	03	El Khroub
Hotel (R+2)	1*	Rahmani Fateh	10063	144	60	03	El Khroub
Hotel (R+7)	3*	Single-Member LLC Dar el Diafa Cirta	244.19	110	35	00	Constantine
Hotel (R+7)	3*	Farouq Abdelkrim	50000	120	80	05	Constantine
Hotel (R+6)	3*	JSC "City Mall"	50000	300	180	00	Constantine
Hotel (R+2)	2*	LTD Flash Door Hammoud Nadjet	11000	140	87	05	El Khroub
Hotel (R+3)	1*	Khenchoul Nasreddine	3700	94	30	05	Constantine
Hotel (R+5)	2*	LTD Construction	8000	72	50	05	El

		Promotion Services					Khroub
Hotel (R+7)	3*	Korichi Mehdi Manar LTD For Development	6100	256	120	00	El Khroub
Hotel (R+4)	2*	Faouzi Sahraoui	1680	100	50	00	Ain Abid
Hotel (R+3)	1*	El Amine Chater Khelifa	12455	76	10	00	El Khroub
Hotel (R+8)	2*	Louai Bitsh	7000	252	100	00	El Khroub
Motel (R+2)	N.R	Noura Ben Helilou	2280	24	10	00	Consta ntine
Total			175052.7	2565	1058	/	/

Source: Tourism Directorate of the Wilaya of Constantine 2022

Almost the totality of these hotels are mid-range (seven *3-star hotels, seven *2-star hotels, three 1-star hotels, and two non-rated motels) with a total reception capacity of 2565 beds. These projects will open up 1058 new job opportunities and are mostly located in the municipalities of Constantine and El Khroub. This is a clear indicator that the tourism heart is beating at the level of these municipalities. The rate of progress is low (most of them did not exceed 5%, while others haven't started yet) except for two hotels which also reflect the slow pace of tourism development in the region.

6. Suggestions and Solutions to Develop Tourism in Wilaya:

- Taking care of the natural potentialities of the wilaya and using them for the sake of well-being and leisure tourism by creating touristic facilities that will attract tourists and offer an outlet to the wilaya.
- Increasing the number of 5-star hotels in this wilaya as it contains only one 5-star hotel, which is critical compared to a wilaya of Constantine's size.
- Increasing the number of B agencies, as the wilaya only comprises 19 agencies, since they play an important role in attracting foreign tourists if compared with A agencies.
- Paying more attention to the wilaya's travel agencies in general and supporting them to animate their operations and attract tourists.

- Training the employees or workers in the different touristic facilities of the wilaya and sending them for internships abroad.
- Working on introducing the touristic potentialities of the different regions of the state through: the tourism directorate website, social media groups and pages, presentation cards such as touristic cards, maps, and monographs. In addition to coordinating with the media (written, audio and visual) to promote tourism in Algeria in general and in Constantine in particular.
- Encouraging, supporting, and boosting associative movements and including them in the mission of tourism development and promotion in the wilaya.

Organizing events, exhibitions, and touristic fairs, or participating in and contributing to them, in coordination with the local authorities of the wilaya and the various directorates, departments, and sectors.

- Accelerating the completion of the ongoing projects by allocating funds from the state's budget, thus accelerating the tourism development rate in the wilayas.

Conclusion:

The Wilaya of Constantine is strategically located in the Algerian territory, possesses various potentialities that contribute in tourism development: natural, historical, cultural, etc. However, most of them remain untapped by the authorities of the wilaya; major focus is placed on historical potentialities through the various archaeological, cultural and religious monuments left behind by the different civilizations that set foot in the region. The state relies on these monuments in adventure and cultural tourism as well as attracting tourists. Much attention is also paid to the different touristic infrastructures, namely hotels and travel agencies which amount to a considerable number but are ineffective as reflected in the tourist traffic of the Wilaya (a small number but encouraging, nonetheless, to pay more attention to tourism in the wilaya). Major efforts have also been made by the state to boost this traffic and activate the tourism sector with a range of projects, mostly hotels and restoration interventions but they remain insufficient. More efforts should be made with a particular focus on advertising and promoting the region's potentialities along with using the other neglected potentialities in wellbeing and leisure tourism to create an outlet for the wilaya.

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