

Received : 20 May 2024, Accepted: 15 June 2024

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33282/rr.vx9i2.35>

## **Archaeological Monuments as an Attraction Factor in Tourism: The Case of Roman Monuments in The Province of Constantine (Algeria)**

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### **Abstract**

This study targeted the subject of historical monuments as an attraction factor in tourism: the case of Roman monuments in Constantine Province. It focused on highlighting various Roman period monuments in this province as a tourism attraction factor. These monuments include Tiddis city, Loulis tomb, Massinissa tomb, Bonuara cemetery, and Roman arches. The study provided an introduction to these monuments, detailing their history and locations. We developed a tourism itinerary by creating a map of the Roman tourism route for the province. Additionally, this study addressed methods for preserving these historical monuments and promoting them as significant tourism attractions.

**Keywords:** Historical monuments, Roman tourism route, tourism, Constantine Province.

### **Introduction**

Historical monuments and the remnants of historical sites are the most important tangible link between a nation's past and its present, carrying meanings and experiences that narrate the lives of ancestors. To highlight this archaeological and cultural wealth, it must be adopted as a tourism attraction factor.

Tourism serves as an urban, cultural, and social means that contributes in various ways to the exchange and transfer of civilizations and cultures among different nations. It is the bridge through which all conditions and knowledge of people pass. Cultural travel has been practiced since ancient Greek times.

The Constantine Province is rich in a considerable number of tourist sites with historical, natural, cultural, and archaeological significance. It is a destination for various tourists and can be exploited as a primary attraction factor in tourism within this province. This research focuses specifically on Roman period monuments.

### **Objective of the Study**

Through this study, we aim to:

- Highlight various historical monuments in the Constantine Province, particularly Roman archaeological sites.
- Develop a Roman tourism itinerary.
- Provide a set of proposals to enhance and valorize the historical monuments of the Constantine Province to make them a tourism attraction factor.

### **Problem Statement**

To achieve the desired goal, we posed the following questions:

- What are the various tourist sites in the Constantine Province?
- What are the specific Roman period monuments?
- What are the proposed methods to highlight this cultural heritage? How can they be utilized to make them a point of attraction for tourists in the province?

### **Methodological Approach**

To answer the posed questions and achieve the research objectives, we first established a set of general concepts related to our study. Then, we discussed historical monuments globally and in Algeria, eventually focusing on the Constantine Province, moving from the general to the specific. We highlighted various tourist sites in general and specifically Roman archaeological sites, using tables and maps and employing a descriptive method. Finally, we provided some suggestions that we believe can effectively enhance the historical monuments of the province and make them more attractive to tourists.

## **1. General Concepts**

### **1.1 Definition of Tourism**

Linguistically, the term "tourism" means wandering, traveling over the earth. Tourism is a multifaceted human activity involving a set of relationships and services

resulting from a person's temporary stay in a new and distinct environment, away from their usual place of residence, to meet their needs or achieve a benefit as long as this stay does not result in material profit<sup>(1)</sup>.

## 1.2 Definition of Heritage

Heritage represents the cultural identity of diverse societies. It is a means to understand the varied cultures regarding the relationships between peoples based on influence and interaction. It is of two types: tangible and intangible<sup>(2)</sup>.

## 1.3 Definition of Archaeology

It comprises architectural works, sculpture and painting on buildings, elements or formations of archaeological nature, or inscriptions and caves, and groups of monuments that all have exceptional universal value from the perspective of history, art, or science. This is considered tangible heritage<sup>(3)</sup>.

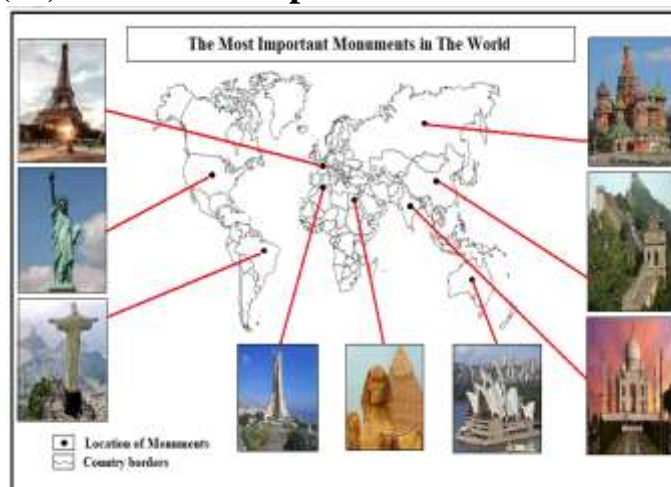
## 1.4 Definition of Historical Monuments

These are tangible architectural witnesses carrying historical and aesthetic significance, reflecting what ancestors created from various civilizations in the field of architectural art<sup>(4)</sup>.

## 2. Historical Monuments Globally

Historical monuments are a category of tangible heritage that possess exceptional universal value from a historical perspective. Some countries are known for specific monuments or distinctive sites (map No. 01).

### Map No (01): The Most Important Monuments in The World



**Source:** Researchers achievement 2024

Some of the most important and famous historical monuments worldwide, which serve as symbols of their respective countries, include:

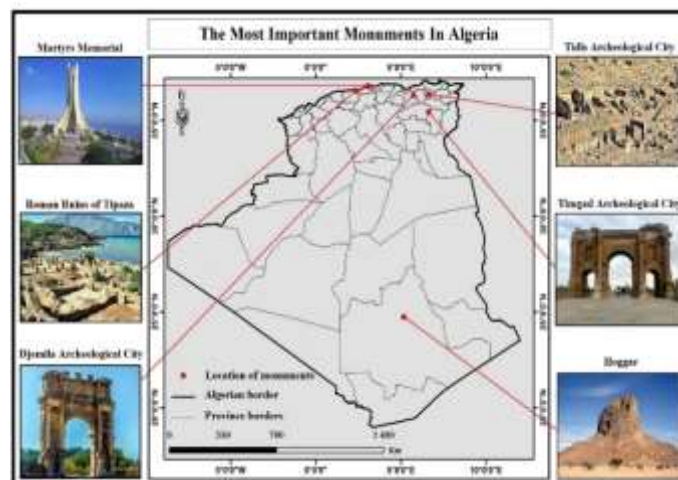
- Red Square in Russia.
- The Great Wall of China in China.
- The Taj Mahal in India.
- The Eiffel Tower in France.
- The Statue of Liberty in the USA.
- Christ the Redeemer in Brazil.
- The Sydney Opera House in Australia.
- The Pyramids in Egypt.
- The Martyrs' Memorial in Algeria.

These sites attract tourists from all over the world each year and are significant tourism attractions in their respective countries, along with other historical and archaeological sites.

### 3. Historical Monuments in Algeria

Each province in Algeria is rich in its own unique historical and tourist monuments. The most notable ones include (map No. 02):

#### Map No (02): The Most Important Monuments in Algeria



**Source:** Researchers achievement 2024

- Tiddis in Constantine Province.
- Timgad in Batna Province.
- The Hoggar Mountains in Tamanrasset Province.
- The Martyrs' Memorial in Algiers Province.
- Roman ruins in Tipaza Province.
- Djemila in Setif Province.

In our study, we focus on Constantine Province, the capital of Eastern Algeria, as a model.

#### 4. Description of the Study Area

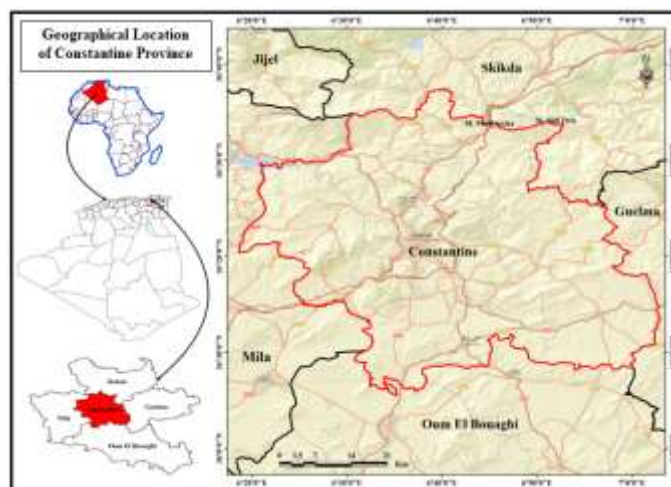
The Province of Constantine (Map (03)) is part of North-East Algeria. It is bounded to the north and south respectively by latitudes  $36^{\circ}75'N$  and  $36^{\circ}5'N$ , and to the east and west by longitudes  $7^{\circ}E$  and  $6^{\circ}25'E^{(5)}$ .

The Province of Constantine covers an area of 2297.2 km<sup>2</sup> and is bordered by:

- The Province of Skikda to the north.
- The Province of Oum-El Bouaghi to the south.
- The Province of Mila to the west.
- The Province of Guelma to the east.

During the last administrative division, the province was divided into six (06) *daira* capitals, comprising a total of twelve (12) municipalities.

#### Map No (03): Geographical Location of Constantine Province



**Source:** Researchers achievement 2024

#### 5. Tourist Attractions of Constantine Province

The Province of Constantine boasts a significant number of historical and archaeological tourist attractions (Table No. 01). These sites are characterized by cultural and architectural diversity (Map No. 04). The province is an exceptional tourist destination, particularly in the field of cultural and historical tourism, which is the predominant form of tourism in this region. The succession of various civilizations in the area has contributed to its rich archaeological diversity.

#### Map No (04): Tourist Monuments in the Province of Constantine



Source: Cirta Public Museum 2024

**Table No (01): Historical Monuments of Constantine Province**

Historic Landmarks	Geographical Location
Bears Cave	Sidi Mcid Constantine
El Arouia Cave	Sidi Mcid Constantine
Pigeons Cave	Sidi Mcid Constantine
Tiddis City	Beni Hemidene
Bounouara Cemetery	Mazla Bounouara Mountain Ouled Rahmoune
Massinissa Mausoleum	Massinissa El khroub
El Hofra Temple	Southern West Constantine
The Roman Arcs	Ain El Bey road Constantine
Lollius Mausoleum	Beni Hamidene near Tiddis
Caesar Baths	Oued Rhumel Cliff Constantine
The Old City	Downtown Constantine
Djamaa El Kebir	El Batha Square Downtown Constantine
Ahmed Bey Residency	El Ghrab Constantine
Ahmed Bey Palace	Sidi El Haouas Square Downtown Constantine
Sidi Mhammed El Ghrab Mausoleum	El Ghrab West Bank of Oued Rhumel Constantine
Souq El Ghazal Mosque	Didouche Mourad Road Downtown Constantine
Sidi Lakhdar Mosque	El Djezzarine Street Downtown Constantine
Sidi El Kettani Mosque	Bouhali Said Square Souq El Asr Constantine
Zwaya	Downtown Constantine
Bab El Kantara Bridge	Downtown Constantine
Sidi Mcid Bridge	Downtown Constantine

Sidi Rached Bridge	Downtown Constantine
Mellah Slimane Bridge	Downtown Constantine
The Falls Bridge	Sidi Mcid Constantine
Devils Bridge	Downtown down the Groove Constantine
Sidi Mcid Elevator	El Ghirane Yugoslavia Road Constantine
Derb El Siyah	Downtown along Oued Rhumel Constantine
Monument to the Dead	On top of Vieux Rocher Constantine
Constantin Monument	Downtown El Kentara Constantine
El Amir Abdelkader Mosque	El Amir Abdelkader Constantine
Cirta Museum	Coudiat Aty Downtown Constantine
Regional Theater	Rahbet el Djemel Downtown Constantine
Cultural Centers	Downtown Constantine
Saleh Bay Bridge	United Nations Square Downtown Constantine
Ahmed Bey Concert Hall	Zouaghi Slimane near Constantine Airport
Moudjahidine Museum	Chaab El Rasas Road Constantine


**Source:** Tourisme Directorat of Constantine Province 2024




These attractions drew 90,060 tourists to the province in 2023 (82,926 Algerians and 7,134 foreigners)<sup>(6)</sup>. The most visited site was the historical Ahmed Bey Palace, which attracted 42,626 visitors, including 4,194 foreigners and 38,432 Algerians<sup>(7)</sup>. In our study, we have chosen among these various attractions to highlight and develop a tourism itinerary that will serve as a point of attraction for tourists in the province, focusing on Roman period monuments as a sample.

### 6. Roman Historical Monuments of Constantine Province

The Roman period monuments include: the Roman ruins of Tiddis, the Bonuara cemetery, the tomb of Massinissa, the Roman arches, and the Loulis tomb (Table No. 02).

**Table No (02): Roman monuments in the province of Constantine**

Roman monuments	Geographical Location	Figure
Tiddis City	Beni Hemidene	

<p>Bounouara Cemetery</p>	<p>Mazla Bounouara Mountain Ouled Rahmoune</p>	
<p>Massinissa Mausoleum</p>	<p>Massinissa El khroub</p>	
<p>The Roman Arcs</p>	<p>Ain El Bey road Constantine</p>	
<p>Lollius Mausoleum</p>	<p>Beni Hamidene near Tiddis</p>	

**Source:** Tourisme Directorat of Constantine Province 2024

### 6.1 Roman Ruins of Tiddis

The ancient city of Tiddis is located in the municipality of Beni Hamidan, situated on a rocky plateau 27 km from the city of Constantine along National Road No. 27. It covers an area of 40 hectares and reaches an elevation of 574.90 meters. It appears as a deserted mountain with high, strong rocks, featuring prominent bright red ruins of an old city with several remains, tombs, and caves, etc. These ruins reflect the various civilizations that have passed through the area, starting from prehistoric times, through the Phoenician, Roman, Christian, and even Islamic periods<sup>(8)</sup>.

### 6.2 Bonuara Cemetery



The megalithic cemetery of Bonuara is located on the southwestern slopes of Mount Mezzala, adjacent to National Road No. 20 leading to Guelma, 2 km north of the village of Bonuara. It contains a collection of tombs called "dolmens," which means stone tables. Typically, these historical monuments are in the form of a table consisting of four vertical stone slabs and a table. Together, they form a triangular-shaped room. Usually, the dolmen is surrounded by a single circle of stones and sometimes by two, three, or four circles. The ancient inhabitants of the area used these fortified tombs for burying their dead, a practice that seems to have continued until the third century<sup>(9)</sup>.

### **6.3 Tomb of Massinissa**

The tomb is located in the municipality of El Khroub, 16 km from the city of Constantine. It features a square-like structure resembling a multi-story fortress. The stones are over 2 meters long, with a square base, and the tomb's height ranges from 16 to 18 meters. The monument consists of a crypt, a ground floor, and a first floor. Significant funerary items were found in this structure<sup>(10)</sup>.

### **6.4 Roman Arches**

These arches are remnants of Roman civilization and are located at the confluence of Wadi Rhumel and Wadi Boumerzoug. They were used to carry water supply channels to the reservoirs and cisterns in Koudiat Ati. The arches are 60 meters long and 20 meters high. Originally, there were 10 stone-built arches, but only 5 remain. They were classified as national heritage in 1900<sup>(11)</sup>.

### **6.5 Loulis Tomb**

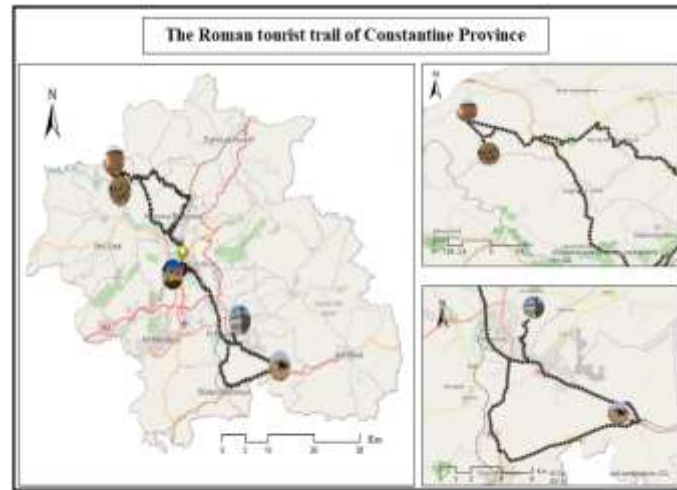
The Loulis Tomb is located in Mount Chouaya at a place called "El Hari," about 25 km northwest of Constantine, not far from Tiddis. It has a cylindrical shape, built of carved stones, and was constructed by "Loulis Ibrikis," the then ruler of Rome, in memory of his family<sup>(12)</sup>.

## **7. Enhancing the Roman Tourism Route in Constantine Province**

When the true value and importance of cultural heritage are recognized, the need to preserve and promote it becomes evident. These physical components must be utilized for tourism promotion, serving as significant qualitative and quantitative attractions. They not only attract ordinary tourists but also appeal to historians, archaeologists, and students, among others. These visits aim to raise awareness about heritage, highlight its value and history, and enrich the knowledge base regarding this tangible heritage. In this context, and as we aim to highlight and enhance this cultural

heritage in Constantine, we have developed the Roman tourism route as a purely archaeological tourism path in the region (Map No. 05).

### Map No (05): The Roman tourist trail of Constantine Province



**Source:** Researchers achievement 2024

Starting from the city center towards Tiddis and the Tomb of Loulis via National Road 27 or National Road 03, passing through Provincial Roads 08 and 10. Then heading towards the Tomb of Massinissa via National Road 03 and Bonuara Cemetery through National Road 20. Finally, returning to the city center passing by the Roman Arches.

The authorities can capitalize on this route to attract tourists and organize guided tours, thereby making the destination well-organized and structured. Efforts should be made to promote and develop this route.

### 8. Proposal for Highlighting and Valorizing Archaeological Sites

- **Raising Awareness and Historical Interest:** Conducting seminars, scientific conferences, radio and television programs, YouTube channels, and social media platforms in general to spread awareness about the historical and archaeological significance.
- **Training Tour Guides:** Educating tourist guides to accompany visitors and provide them with information about archaeological and historical sites.
- **Excavation and Research:** Conducting excavations to unearth buried artifacts and compiling lists of cultural properties.
- **Creating Digital Platforms:** Establishing online platforms featuring archaeological and historical sites to educate about our heritage.
- **Organized Tours:** Developing tourism routes that showcase Roman archaeological sites. These routes would utilize national and provincial roads such as National Road 27, 03, 08, and 10. The itinerary would include visits to Tiddis, Tomb of Loulis,

Tomb of Massinissa via National Road 03, and Bonuara Cemetery via National Road 20. Finally, returning to the city center via the Roman Arches.

- **Educating about Historical and Cultural Assets:** Informing tourists about the historical and cultural significance of the tourist regions.
- **Providing Tourist Guides and Maps:** Offering tourist guides and maps of the tourist regions and the services available.
- **Marketing Offers:** Advertising marketing campaigns (pricing, discounts, various costs).
- **Promoting Activities:** Informing about activities and programs organized in the tourist regions.
- **Creating Tourist Activities:** Developing tourist activities such as painting and photography near these landmarks, which also serve as free promotion.
- **Supporting Community Activities:** Promoting and supporting community activities in the tourism sector.
- **Organizing Festivals and Cultural Events:** Organizing festivals and cultural events to highlight this heritage and its history.
- **Restoration and Development:** Integrating and developing prepared spaces for tourists to rest and relax near the monuments.
- **Preservation through Three-Dimensional Archives:** Working on preservation efforts through three-dimensional archives.

## Conclusion

Tourism is one of the oldest and most deeply rooted human phenomena, encompassing cultural and historical elements. Visiting famous archaeological sites known for their ancient relics from various civilizations is central to both general and cultural tourism. In our study of "Constantine, the historic province" with its rich history and diverse archaeological sites built over different epochs, we highlighted Roman archaeological sites including the ancient city of Tiddis, the Tomb of Massinissa, the Tomb of Loulis, Bonuara Cemetery, and the Roman Arches through various maps we created (showing their locations and tourist routes).

Therefore, Constantine Province boasts a diverse array of tourism assets—natural, historical, and archaeological. Our focus has been on highlighting these archaeological sites, promoting them, and making them the main attraction for tourists.

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