

Libya



Full name: The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Government: Jamahiriya (a state of the masses) in theory, governed by the populace through local councils

Location: Northern Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Egypt and Tunisia

Capital: Tripoli

Area: 1.77 million sq km (685,524 sq miles); slightly larger than Alaska

Climate: Mediterranean along coast; dry, extreme desert interior

Terrain: mostly barren, flat to undulating plains, plateaus, depressions

Natural Hazards: hot, dry, dust-laden ghibli is a southern wind lasting one to four days in spring and fall; dust storms, sandstorms

Population: 5.8 million (UN, 2005)

Ethnicity: Berber and Arab 97%, other 3% (includes Greeks, Maltese, Italians, Egyptians, Pakistanis, Turks, Indians, and Tunisians)

Major Language: Arabic

Religion: Sunni Muslim 97%, other 3%

Life expectancy: 71 years (men), 76 years (women) (UN)

Currency: 1 Libyan dinar (LD) = 1,000 dirhams