

Algiers-Skikda line

The **Algiers-Skikda line** is one of the two trunk lines in the Algerian railway network, the other being the Algiers-Oran line. The line hosts passenger services connecting Algiers station with either Annaba or Constantine, the two largest cities in eastern Algeria. The first segment of the line connected Constantine to the port of Skikda and opened on September 1, 1870, remaining isolated from the remainder of the Algerian network until the opening of the Algiers-Constantine segment in 1879 and further extensions on November 3, 1886.^[2]

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Algiers-Thénia section

The 53.5 kilometer section between Algiers and Thénia includes 10 kilometers shared with the Algiers-Oran line from Algiers station to the El Harrach wye.^[1] This segment has been electrified in 2009 (25,000 volt) and is double-track. Further upgrades are being applied to the line.^[3]

130 daily passenger trains use the portion shared with the Algiers-Oran line, while 63 trains a day continue east on further parts of the line. Commuter rail services using this portion of the Algiers-Skikda line connect Algiers to Houari Boumediene Airport and Thénia, among others.

Thénia-Constantine section

The Thénia-Constantine is not electrified and is single track from Thénia to Bordj Bou Arréridj and from Ramdane Djamel to Skikda.^[1] The portion between Sétif and the town of El

Algiers-Skikda line	
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DMU using the Algiers-Skikda line near the <u>East–West Highway</u> in the <u>Bibans</u>	
Overview	
Stations	51
Service	
Type	<u>Heavy rail</u>
System	<u>SNTF</u>
History	
Opened	1 September 1870
Last extension	1886
Technical	
Line length	540 ^[1] km (340 mi)
Number of tracks	Single track (270 km) and double-track (281 km)
Track gauge	1,435 mm (4 ft 8½ in) <u>standard gauge</u>
Electrification	25 kV AC <u>overhead line</u> from <u>Algiers station</u> to <u>Thénia</u>
Operating speed	80 km/h (50 mph)
Route map	
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Guerrah (in the municipality of Ouled Rahmoun) is being upgraded by SNTF.

Services

One day train connects Algiers and Constantine in 7 hours while a night train connects Algiers and Annaba. The namesake of this line, Skikda, is not served by passenger services anymore, requiring passengers to connect at the nearby Ramdane Djamel station.

Regional services connect Algiers to Sétif, Béjaïa (via the Béni Mansour-Bejaïa line), and M'Sila, Algeria.

Speeds

Passenger services on this line operate at speeds of 70–80 km/h. The Bordj Bou Arreridj-Sétif segment sees trains reaching 100 km/h.

References

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