

Inspired by a variety of sources, jewelry is the living testimony of an age-old creative force. From prehistory and antiquity to the Middle Ages, from the Roman-Byzantine era to the emergence of Islam, traditional jewelry has always expressed the very essence of those eras through harmonious symbolism

Not so long ago Algiers, Tlemcen and Constantine were vibrant jewelry centers, if only because of the sheer number of stands and shops. Other regions are also known for the quality of their jewelry.

- Kabyle jewelry (Béni Yenni)

Ath Yennis are famous for their silver jewelry. The forms and colors used are specific to the region. The glazing technique was introduced around the 15th Century. One could proudly show off a renewed Ameslukh, Ikhelkhalen (anklet), Taharabt, Tbessaht, Letraks, Tigwedmatin, Adwir, Tbzimin, or Tabzimt.

- Chaoui jewelry

While of a different shape than Kabyle jewelry, “full” or “hollow” Chaoui jewelry has stood the test of time yet it has managed to preserve its authenticity. It is defined by the “Alaq Tchoutchara” (earring) that is sadly not made anymore, the Timcherreft (also an earring), the Korsa Bel Quota, a more recent creation, “Amquyas,” the Abzim, whose close resemblance to the Kabyle fibula can surely be rooted in an obvious ethnic analogy, the Lamessak, a recent creation true to the Chaoui style, the Tinahissin, the Cherketh or Semsem, the khelkhal (ancient ankle bracelet that women from the region never take off), the Guerrar, the Skhab, or necklace, to be found throughout the Mahgreb region.

- M’sila jewelry

This tradition that very closely resembles Chaoui jewelry of a hybrid style, with Roman and Byzantine external influences, and is based on traditions pertaining to daily life and the environment. Besides the Akhelkhal, one can find Abzims and necklaces whose main characteristic is a close resemblance to Chaoui jewelry, although of a less refined style.

- Tuareg jewelry

This jewelry reflects a well-preserved and wisely maintained tradition, thanks mainly to the legendary Inadens. It attained mythical social status. The Tuareg society is truly devoted to artisans and noble trades, such as jewelry. Its symbolism echoes the perpetual quest of the Tuareg to control natural elements. Pendants, rings, pectorals, earrings, anklets, brass rings, and shell necklaces are all loyal representations of a bygone era. One should also mention the Tareout, Tasralt, Tineralt, Khomessa, Tareout N’azeref, Tisequin, Ihebsans, and Asarou ouam Afer that combine utility and pleasure reminiscent of nearby Black Africa by their mystical aspects. Tuareg jewelry reflects a constant concern for pure aesthetics.