

Beni Isguen, Historical Oasis Village That is Difficult to Enter



Founded in the 14th century, Beni Isguen, meaning “the sons of those who keep the faith,” is a Berber town in the oasis of M'zab, Algeria. Due to the strict religious and social ideals of the town, strangers are not allowed in the town in most hours of the day. Nevertheless, Strangers may not still be able to enter without the help of a resident in the permitted hours. Some parts of the town are also completely forbidden to the nonresidents. There is even a watchtower, called Tour du Tafilet, to make sure people comply with these prohibitions. Moreover, the residents of the town prefer not to leave the oasis in order to preserve their purity.



