



Photo: Ain Fasat in Taghma, Yefren

Nafusa Montaines

The Nafusa Mountains (Berber: *Adrar n Infusen* (Nafusa Mountain), are a mountain range in the western Tripolitania region of northwestern Libya. It also includes their regions around the escarpment formed where the northern end of the Tripolitanian Plateau meets the Mediterranean coastal plain or the *Jefara*.

History

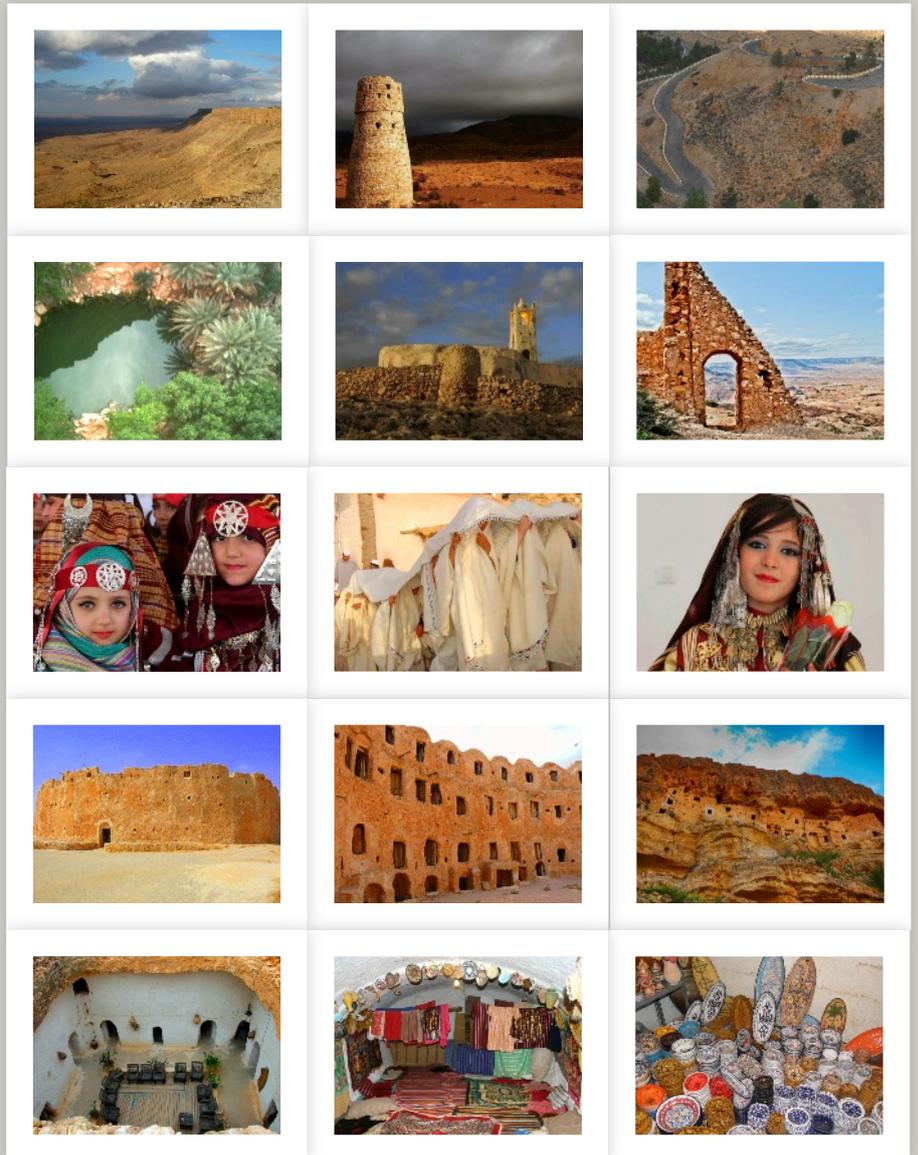
Ancient Libyan people

The area has been as a major population and cultural center of the Ancient Libyans. The Ancient Libyan Zenata tribe expanded west into the Berber regions in various periods. The Nafusa region shelters most of Libya's Berber-speaking population, who speak Nafusi Berber. In addition to their living society and culture, the area contains a rich variety of Ancient Libyan legacy, which goes back over millennia.

Geography

The Nafusa Mountains form the boundary between the Libyan coastal plain, known as the *Jafara*, to the north, and the Tripolitanian Plateau to the south. The beds (strata) of the Tripolitanian Plateau slope downwards to the south and tilt upwards towards the north creating the highest portion of the plateau as the Nafusa mountains which rise to over 750 meters. The plateau ends abruptly on the north with an escarpment which has up to 350 meters of topographic prominence. A series of deep valleys which drain north toward the *Jefara* cut into this escarpment. It extends some 250 kilometers within Libya, from just east of the city of Gharyan (about 60 kilometers south of Tripoli) in the east to the city of Wazzin at the Tunisian border in the west. Spurs and isolated upthrusts continue into Tunisia, but this region is almost unpopulated, in marked contrast to the situation in Libya.

Berber heartland



Towns in the mountains include Gharyan, Yefren, Zintan, Jadu, Kabaw, Al-Qawalish and Nalut. The mountain villages raise primarily goats, olives and grain, but also have fig and apricot orchards.