

Lebanon – Land of the Phoenicians

Tour Code LB

Departing 14 October, 21 October 2009

A short but in-depth detailed tour of Lebanon, once known as the 'Switzerland of the Middle East'. Scenically stunning with high mountains, deep fertile valleys and a stunning coastal stretch, along with a wealth of well-preserved archaeological sites with very few visitors and mixed with the region's best cuisine and world rated wineries, the country has much to offer! The tour covers this small but alluring country in its entirety, allowing time to discover both its rich antiquities, in particular the great temples of Baalbek, but also appreciate its modernity in busy Beirut and the relaxed ancient harbour city of Byblos.



Lion entablature, Baalbek
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ITINERARY

Day 1 Fly to Beirut – Wednesday 14/21 October

Afternoon departure from London Heathrow Terminal 1 with BMI British Midlands direct to Beirut, arriving in the evening. Transfer to the centrally located Mayflower hotel for three nights

Day 2 In Beirut – Thursday 15/22 October

We have a morning city tour including the excellent National Museum with its unrivalled collection of the region's artefacts. After a break for lunch we drive into the Chouf Mountains to visit the beautiful 19th century palace at Beit Eddine. We return to Beirut in the evening. Dinner in a smart local restaurant (B,D)

Day 3 Visit Tyre and Sidon – Friday 16/23 October

Today we venture south to the old Phoenician ports of Sidon and Tyre. At Sidon we visit the Crusader castle of the sea and wander through the towns' labyrinthine souq. After a break for lunch we continue to Tyre with its extensive Roman ruins including the largest hippodrome in the Middle East. We return to Beirut for a typical Lebanese dinner in a local restaurant (B,D)

Day 4 Drive to Bekaa Valley. Visit Aanjar and Baalbek – Saturday 17/24 October

We depart Beirut this morning heading into the Bekaa Valley stopping at the Ksara winery to sample some of Lebanon's finest wines. We continue to the tranquil Ummayyad remains at Aanjar before arriving at Baalbek to visit the most famous of Lebanon's ancient sites with its glorious temples of Jupiter and Bacchus. We spend the afternoon exploring this amazing complex with an overnight stay at the Palmyra hotel, close to the site. Dinner in the hotel. (B,D)

Patrick Syder Travel

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Day 5 Drive via the 'Cedars of Lebanon' to Byblos – Sunday 18/25 October

Reluctantly leaving Baalbek behind we drive across the Lebanese Mountains and drive via Bcharre to view the remaining Cedars of Lebanon. Some are reputed to be 3000 years old. Bcharre, the centre of the Maronite church, is dramatically located and offers a tranquil break for lunch before we descend once again to the coast and drive to the ancient city of Byblos. Two nights at the Victory hotel with a wonderful Lebanese dinner at a local restaurant overlooking the harbour (B,D)

Day 6 In Byblos – Monday 19/26 October

We spend the day in the delightful harbour town of Byblos. This morning we explore its ancient ruins said to be the oldest continuously inhabited town in the world. The afternoon is free to explore its gentle paced souk and relax with a stroll around its pleasant harbour. This evening we dine at a traditional restaurant. (B,D)

Day 7 Visit Tripoli and Jeita Caves. Drive to Beirut – Tuesday 20/27 October

We drive north to Tripoli to visit the dramatic Citadel overlooking the Mediterranean and the old city crammed with Islamic architectural treasures. In the afternoon we visit the famous underground caves at Jeita to wonder at the amazing limestone formations. We return to Beirut for our final evening to enjoy a farewell dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight at the Mayflower hotel (B,D)

Day 8 Fly to London – Wednesday 21/28 October

After an early breakfast we transfer to Beirut International airport for our BMI British Midland flight direct to London Heathrow arriving at midday (B)

Cost £995.00 per person in twin room (excludes international flight)

Single supplement charge £175.00



Colonnaded Street, Roman Tyre
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Price includes –

- ▶ Tour accompanied from London by Patrick Syder
- ▶ Specialist Lebanese guide for the duration of the tour
- ▶ All transportation - private a/c bus
- ▶ Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees
- ▶ Four star hotel in Beirut and Byblos, three star character hotel in Baalbek on half board basis
- ▶ Quality restaurant dinners in Beirut and Byblos
- ▶ All departure taxes
- ▶ All airport transfers
- ▶ Porter, hotel and restaurant staff gratuities

Not included – travel insurance, visa fee (£15.00), drinks, lunches, guide and driver gratuities, BMI international return flight (cost approx. £400.00)

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