

Lebanon – Land of the Phoenicians

Tour Code LB

Departing 12 April 2010

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
© www.syderimages.com

ITINERARY

Day 1 Fly to Beirut – Monday 12 April

Afternoon departure from London Heathrow Terminal 1 with BMI British Midlands direct to Beirut, arriving in the late evening. Transfer to the Hamra based Plaza hotel for three nights

Day 2 Visit Tyre and Sidon – Tuesday 13 April

Today we venture south to the old Phoenician ports of Sidon and Tyre. At Tyre, its extensive Roman ruins include the largest hippodrome in the Middle East and a well preserved bath complex overlooking the Mediterranean. In Sidon we visit the Crusader castle of the sea and wander through the towns' beautifully restored labyrinthine souq. Welcome dinner at a fine Lebanese restaurant (B,D)

Day 3 In Beirut – Wednesday 14 April

We have a morning city tour including the excellent National Museum with its unrivalled collection of the region's artefacts, and the city's reconstructed Downtown area. Later we drive into the Chouf Mountains to visit the beautiful 19th century palace at Beit Eddine returning to Beirut in the evening. Dinner at a Hamra restaurant (B,D)

Day 4 Drive to Bekaa Valley. Visit Aanjar and Baalbek – Thursday 15 April

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 19th century built Palmyra hotel, close to the site and that oozes a wonderful sense of charm and faded grandeur. Dinner in the hotel. (B,D)

Patrick Syder Travel

Escorted Cultural Tours – Zenobia House, 23 Bowmans Close, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3SR
Tel/Fax: +44 (0)1903 879737 email: info@sydertravel.com www.sydertravel.com

Day 5 Drive via Jeita Caves to Byblos – Friday 16 April

This morning we visit the famous underground caves at Jeita to wonder at the amazing limestone formations before continuing to the ancient town of Byblos for two nights at the Ahiram hotel. We enjoy a wonderful fish lunch at the famous Pepe Abed restaurant overlooking the harbour and spend the afternoon in the delightful old town area at leisure, to explore its gentle paced souk and relax with a stroll around its pleasant harbour (B,L)

Day 6 Visit Tripoli and the Cedars at Bcharre – Saturday 17 April

We drive north to Tripoli to visit the dramatic Citadel overlooking the Mediterranean and the old city crammed with Islamic architectural treasures. Later we drive into the mountains to visit the ‘Cedars of the Lord’ at Bcharre before returning to Byblos in the early evening. Dinner at a local restaurant set within the old city. (B,D)

Day 7 Visit old Byblos. At leisure in Beirut – Sunday 18 April

This morning we explore the ancient ruins of Byblos said to be the oldest continuously inhabited town in the world and later drive to Beirut for a free afternoon perhaps to take a leisurely stroll along the busy Corniche or shop along delightful Hamra Street. Overnight at the Plaza hotel with dinner at a nearby Hamra restaurant (B,D)

Day 8 Fly London – Monday 19 April

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 £200.00



Price includes –

- ▶ Tour accompanied by Patrick Syder
- ▶ Specialist Lebanese guide for the duration of the tour
- ▶ All transportation - private a/c bus
- ▶ Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees
- ▶ Comfortable Hamra based four star hotel in Beirut and well located three star hotel in Byblos, 19th century 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 (available with Polani Travel ATOL No.5311 or direct with BMI from £370.00)