

Lebanon – Land of the Phoenicians

Tour Code LB

29 October – 4 November 2020

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

Afternoon departure from London Heathrow with MEA Middle Eastern Airlines direct to Beirut, arriving in the evening. Transfer to the Ramada by Wyndham hotel in Downtown Beirut close to shops and restaurants for three nights. Welcome dinner in a smart local restaurant (D)

Day 2 In Beirut

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 (B)

Day 3 Visit Tyre and Sidon

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 (B)

Day 4 Drive to Bekaa Valley. Visit Aanjar and Baalbek

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

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 the 'Cedars of Lebanon' and St Anthony Monastery to Byblos

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 visit the beautiful Monastery of St Anthony located in the Qadisha Valley. Later we descend to the coast and drive to the ancient city of Byblos. Two nights at the Aleph hotel, perfectly located close to the modern souq and old town restaurants (B)

Day 6 In Byblos

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. We meet again for our final evening to enjoy a farewell dinner in a fine restaurant overlooking the picturesque harbour (B,D)

Day 7 Visit Jeita Caves. Drive to Beirut airport and fly to London

This morning we visit the famous underground caves at Jeita to wonder at the amazing limestone formations. Later we transfer to Beirut International airport for our MEA Middle Eastern Airline flight direct to London Heathrow (B)

Cost £1495.00 per person in twin room (excludes international flight)

Single supplement charge £99.00



Price includes –

- ▶ Tour accompanied by Patrick Syder *FRGS*
- ▶ 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
- ▶ Two quality restaurant dinners in Beirut and Byblos
- ▶ All airport transfers
- ▶ Porter, hotel and restaurant staff gratuities

Not included – travel insurance, visa fee, drinks, lunches and three dinners, guide and driver gratuities, MEA international return flight

Colonnaded Street, Roman Tyre
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