



Your passport to adventure

Country(ies): Lebanon

Tour type: Small Group

Transport: A/C car/minibus/coach

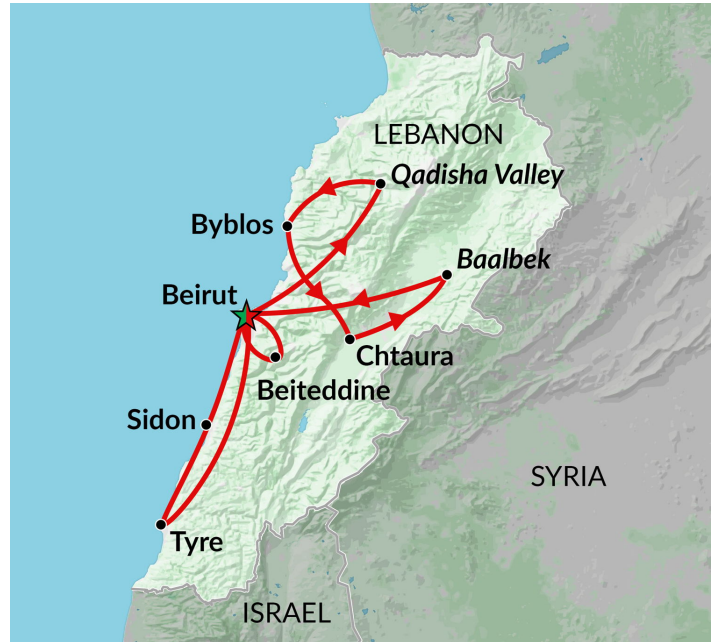
Group size: Min: 2 | Max: 18

Days: 8 days

Start Location: Beirut, Lebanon

End Location: Beirut, Lebanon

Meals: Breakfasts - 7, Lunches - 1, Dinners - 0



Highlights:

Beirut, Beiteddine Palace, Tyre World Heritage Site, Sidon Souk, Baalbek temple complex, Ksara Caves wine tasting, Cedar Forest, Qadisha Valley, Baatara Gorge & Waterfall, Byblos harbour & history, Jeita Grotto, Harissa cable car

Day 1: Arrive in Beirut, transfer to hotel

Your journey begins upon your arrival at Beirut International Airport. A member of our team will greet you, and you will be escorted to your hotel. Overnight stay in Beirut.

OVERNIGHT:

Beirut hotel

MEALS:

EXTRAS:

Extra day in Beirut - pre-tour

Single Room Supplement (LBSGLE)

Day 2: Jeita Grotto, Harissa cable car & Baatara Gorge

After leaving Beirut and heading north, we'll visit the spectacular Jeita Grotto. This system of limestone caves spans almost 9 kilometres and contains one of the largest collections of stalactites and stalagmites in the world. The grotto is a symbol of Lebanon and was a finalist in the New 7 Wonders of Nature competition. Depending on the water level, you can explore the caves on foot or by boat.

Next, we visit Harissa, home to the important Christian shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon. A cable car will take us to the top of the basilica, where we can enjoy a spectacular view of Jounieh Bay, considered one of the most beautiful bays in the Middle East.

Then, we'll head inland to visit the unique Baatara Gorge Sinkhole. In the spring and during rainy periods, a 255-metre waterfall cascades into an enormous cavern. The cave is also known as the Cave of the Three Bridges due to the three natural stone arches that the waterfall drops over. This is a spectacular natural phenomenon, and we'll have time for a short hike here and to explore the nearby village of Douma. A traditional Lebanese lunch is included today.

The day finishes with a short drive to the beautiful Qadisha Valley, where we'll spend the night in the Monastery of St. Anthony. You'll stay in a separate building with simple but comfortable en-suite accommodation. If the monastery is closed or unavailable, we will use a nearby guesthouse.

OVERNIGHT:

Qadisha Valley monastery or guesthouse

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch

EXTRAS:**Day 3: Qadisha Valley, Cedars Ski Resort & Becharre**

If you're interested, you can rise early this morning to join the monks of the monastery for morning prayers. After breakfast, we'll have time to explore the Qadisha Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site also known as the Holy Valley. The Holy River, Nahr Qadisha, flows through it, and its steep cliffs are home to many ancient caves used as shelters and burial sites. It's a great place for a short morning hike.

Our first stop after leaving the valley is the nearby village of Becharre, the birthplace of the iconic novelist and poet Kahlil Gibran. The village has a museum dedicated to him, featuring his paintings and manuscripts. Next, we'll stop at the Cedars of God, an area that holds the last remaining groves of the ancient cedar forests of Lebanon. The famous Cedrus Libani trees are mentioned in the Old Testament and are the national symbol of the country.

Later today we'll arrive in Byblos, an ancient Phoenician city that is another UNESCO World Heritage Site. Locally known as Jbeil, it is thought to have been inhabited for up to 7,000 years. The city is full of significant historical and archaeological sites and also features a lovely Phoenician harbour.

OVERNIGHT:

Byblos hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:**Day 4: Morning in Byblos, Ksara Winery**

We dedicated this morning to discovering the harbour area and the key attractions of Byblos. Our journey today will take us to the village of Zahle, but we'll first make a stop at the Ksara Winery, reputedly the oldest in Lebanon. The winery's caves and tunnels stretch for about 2 miles and have served as wine cellars for many generations. You'll be given a guided tour of the caves and winery before enjoying a wine tasting session, where you can sample the produce and purchase any you may like.

OVERNIGHT:

Zahle guesthouse

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 5: Baalbeck & Anjar

Today we head to Baalbek, a definite highlight of any visit to Lebanon. Known to the Romans and Greeks as "Heliopolis" or "City of the Sun," it is home to a superbly well-preserved temple complex. This complex is one of the finest examples of Roman architecture at its peak, built as a sanctuary to worship the Heliopolitan triad of Jupiter, Venus, and Mercury. Pilgrims would flock here in their thousands, and the largely intact temples still hold outstanding artistic and historical value.

We then visit the Umayyad city of Anjar, located in the Bekaa Valley. Founded in the 8th century by Caliph Walid, this city provides evidence of excellent town planning. It features mosques, palaces, and baths, as well as the ruins of 600 shops, which show that it was once an important commercial centre.

In the afternoon, we'll return to Beirut.

OVERNIGHT:

Beirut hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 6: Deir al Qamar, Beiteddine & Beirut City Tour

After breakfast, we leave Beirut and drive to the Chouf Mountains to visit the village of Deir al Qamar. Its name means "Monastery of the Moon", and it served as Lebanon's capital in the 17th century. This quaint and charming UNESCO World Heritage Site is known for its stone houses and winding streets.

We then continue to the beautiful Beiteddine Palace. Constructed in the 19th century by Emir Bashir, the palace is exceptionally well-preserved and stands as a testament to the opulence of its era.

Finally, we return to Beirut in the afternoon for a city tour. As one of the world's oldest cities, Lebanon's capital has a turbulent history, both ancient and modern. This is visible in the mix of modern high-rises, charming old houses, and historical buildings, some of which still bear the marks of the 1970s civil war. Highlights of our tour include the Beirut Souks, the Corniche, and the city's downtown area. We'll also see the famous Pigeon Grotto, also known as the Rock of Raouché, a striking natural formation in the sea.

OVERNIGHT:

Beirut hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 7: Tyre & Sidon

Today we'll tour southern Lebanon, beginning with a visit to Tyre, also known as Sour. More than 4,000 years old, this once-great Phoenician city is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site filled with important historical landmarks.

Our next destination is Sidon, or Saida, another ancient Phoenician city, and possibly the oldest. The city grew wealthy from its production of glass and a valuable purple dye extracted from murex shellfish. Today, it's a fast-growing and important administrative and commercial centre.

In Sidon, we'll visit the Crusader Sea Castle, the Great Mosque, and Khan el Franj, among other interesting sites. You'll also have the chance to stroll through the old souks. We'll then return to Beirut for the night.

OVERNIGHT:

Beirut hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 8: Beirut free time. Departure airport transfer

Today is the last day of the tour and your time is free to explore Beirut some more until you are transferred to the airport for your departing flight home.

OVERNIGHT:

N/A

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Extra day in Beirut - post-tour

Included:

- 5 nights in 3 to 4-star hotels in Beirut and Byblos
- 1 night in a guesthouse or hotel in Zahle
- 1 night in a monastery accommodation in Qadisha Valley
- 24-hour airport pick-up and drop-off transfer service
- All transport and transfers in air-conditioned vehicles
- Entrance fees for all visited sites
- All sightseeing tours as outlined in the itinerary
- Wine tasting at Ksara Caves
- English-speaking guide for all tours
- Meals as specified in the itinerary (7 breakfasts, 1 lunch)

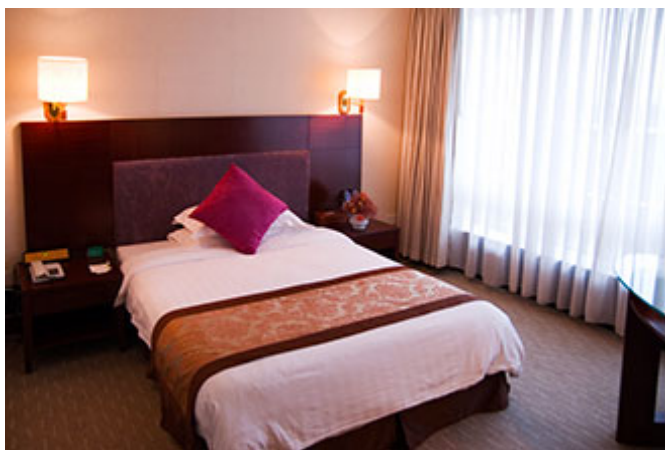
Excluded:

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa fees (free on arrival for most nationalities)
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Hotel gala dinner supplements if applied on Christmas & New Year's Eve
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips
- Any other items not mentioned above

Options

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

Single Room Supplement (LBSGLE)



From \$500.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This tour is based on twin-share accommodation. This option guarantees a single room in all accommodations throughout the tour for solo travellers.

If you're happy to share a room with another traveller of the same sex, please let us know and we'll do our best to find a suitable roommate for you. If a room share isn't possible at the time of booking, the single room supplement will be added to your booking and will be payable with your balance payment. However, if we are able to arrange a room share for you before your balance is due, this supplement will be removed from your invoice. If a room share becomes available after you've paid the supplement, we will refund it to you. Room shares are allocated in order of booking.

Please note: Single-room supplement prices may vary seasonally.

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Note: Please [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.
