

07 nights / 08 days
itinerary

EXCLUSIVE
services group

Lebanon Cultural & Archeological Package

Day 01:

Arrival to Beirut Airport

Meet and assist by our representative at the airport.
Transfer to the chosen hotel for check in.

Dinner at the chosen hotel (set menu with soft drink & water)
Overnight at the hotel.



Day 02: Breakfast at the hotel.

Gather at the lobby, Meet our Guide, and visit Beirut the capital and the largest city of Lebanon. It's worthwhile stopping to visit the archeological sites of ancient ruins in the central district of the city newly renovated with exceptional architecture. You can see old Ottomans Mosques and Ancient Churches, the grand serial and roman bath. The City of Beirut is famous with both modern and old shops, buildings, restaurants and hotels...

**Proceed to visit Beitedine a small town in the Chouf District of the Mount Lebanon Governorate in Lebanon. It is the administrative capital of the Chouf District. The town is well known for the Beitedine Palace, which hosts the annual summer Festival. Parts of the palace are today open to the public while the rest is still the president's summer residence. We can see the Mosaic Exhibition, the Arms Museum, some royal rooms, royal gardens and much more.

**On the way we will visit Deir al-Qamar "Monastery of the Moon" a village in south-central Lebanon, five kilometers outside of Beiteddine, consisting of stone houses with red-tiled roofs. Deir al-Qamar was the capital and the residence of the governors of Lebanon. It is also notable for its 15th-century Fakhreddine Mosque, Fakhreddine II Palace, and other historical palaces and administrative buildings. Deir al-Qamar is a known as the Capital of Emirs. People from all religious backgrounds lived there and the town had a mosque, synagogue and Christian churches. One of the most important historical and religious site in Deir al-Qamar located in Dany Chamoun Square: Our Lady of the Hill known as Saydet El Talle a Maronite church goes back to the 15th century. Fakhreddine Mosque was built in 1493 and it is the oldest mosque in Mount Lebanon.

This area of Lebanon is famous with green sceneries and both historical and natural aspect.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel.



Day 03: Breakfast at the hotel.

Gather at the lobby, Meet our Guide, and visit Tripoli the largest city in northern Lebanon and the second-largest city in the country. Situated 85 kilometers of Beirut. Even though the history of Tripoli dates back at least to the 14th century BCE, the city is famous for having the largest Crusader fortress in Lebanon, and it has the second largest amount of Mamluk architectural heritage on earth. Visit the old khans, souks and mosques.

Proceed to visit Byblos City a Mediterranean city in the Mount Lebanon Governorate. It is believed to have been occupied first between 8800 and 7000 BC. It was built by Cronus as the first city in Phoenicia. It is one of the cities suggested as the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world and the site has been continuously inhabited since 5000 BC. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

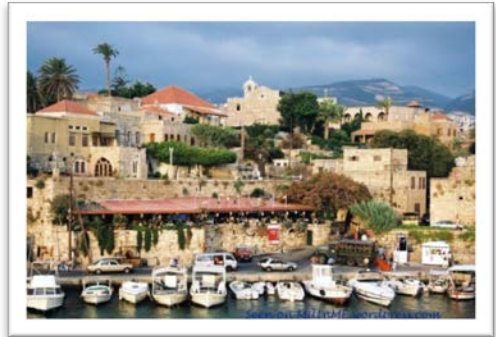
The visit of Byblos offers the discovery of the Crusaders Castel, the Old Port with the sea castle, st John Church, the old souk , the Roman colonnades & amphitheater and much more...

After Byblos, the trip continues to visit Rachana village located about 14 kilometers north Byblos.

Rachana is known as the museum village. Entering the village, you will find sculptures, as well as other art forms, everywhere on the road, in front of the houses in the gardens and on squares.

Welcoming sculptors from all over the world for fifteen days every year, the international park of Sculpture in Rachana displays over 50 sculptures.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel.



Day 4: Breakfast at the hotel.

Gather at the lobby, meet our guide and visit Sidon located around 44km from Beirut, with almost 45 min drive. Sidon is one of the Famous names in ancient history. But of all of Lebanon's cities this is the most mysterious, for its past has been tragically scattered and plundered. Sidon's Sea Castle is the most important thing to see, it was built by the crusaders as a fortress of the holy land. It is one of the most prominent archaeological sites in the port city of Sidon, Lebanon. Sidon is a busy commercial center with the pleasant, conservative atmosphere of a small town. Since Persian times this was known as the city of gardens and even today it is surrounded by citrus and banana plantations. From the famous other things to see is the Soap Museum, Visitors can see a demonstration of how traditional olive oil soaps are made and learn about the history of the "hammam" (bath) traditions.

**Proceed to visit Tyre located around 38 km from Sidon city, with almost 37 min drive. The city Founded at the start of the third millennium B.C., Tyre originally consisted of a mainland settlement and a modest island city that lay a short distance off shore. But it was not until the first millennium B.C. that the city experienced its golden age. The original island city had two harbors, one on the south side and the other on the north side of the island. The harbor on the north side of the island was, in fact, one of the best harbors on the eastern end of the Mediterranean. The harbor on the south side has silted over, but the harbor on the north side. You can see the ancient columns, the public baths, the Triumphal Arch, the hippodrome and much more....

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel.



Day 5: Breakfast at the hotel.

Gather at the lobby, meet our guide and visit The Cedars forest. Located around 115km from Beirut, with almost 02.40hrs drive, it is one of the last vestiges of the extensive forests of the Cedar that once thrived across Mount Lebanon in ancient times. Simply known as "The Cedars of the Lord", this resort settlement in Lebanon's highest range is one of the most dramatically beautiful spots in the country. Its centerpiece is an ancient grove of cedars, a tree synonymous for millennia with Lebanon itself. Just below The Cedars are the town of Bsharre, birth & burial place of Gibran Khalil Gibran, Lebanon's famous poet, philosopher & paint.

A stop on the way to have a panoramic picture of the majestic Quadisha valley englobing many natural caves that have been used as shelters & burial places back as far as the Paleolithic period. Early Christian communities fleeing persecution found refuge in the Kadisha. In 1998, UNESCO added the valley to the list of World Heritage Sites because of its importance as the site of some of the earliest Christian monastic settlements in the world, and its continued example of early Christian faith.

Proceed to visit Balamand Monastery. It is on this ancient site that the Cistercian monks built Balamand Abbey in 1157 A.D. on existing Byzantine ruins after the failure of the second crusade.

The Cistercians abandoned the Monastery of Balamand before the capture of Tripoli by the Mamlouk Sultan Qalwan. Three hundred years after the departure of the Crusaders, Greek Orthodox monks took possession of the monastery. The monastery began with a group of ten monks and soon increased to twenty five. In parallel to their life of prayer, the monks cultivated the soil, wrote and copies manuscripts and hosted guests who sought refuge in difficult times. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the monastery acquired estates in the whole region of Koura (North Lebanon) and Tripoli (the Capital of North Lebanon). It became an important center for agricultural production.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel.



Day 06: Breakfast at the hotel.

Gather at the lobby, Meet our Guide, Head to visit Baalbek located around 87km from Beirut, with almost 2:10 hrs drive. Baalbeck, Lebanon's greatest Roman treasure, can be counted among the wonders of the ancient world. The largest and most noble Roman temples ever built, they are also among the best preserved. You can see the Temple of Bacchus, Stone of the Pregnant Woman, List of Roman monoliths, List of ancient architectural records & Monoliths, and List of largest monoliths in the world and much more...

Proceed to visit Anjar located 47km from Baalbeck, with almost 55min drive. It is completely different from any other archaeological experience you'll have in Lebanon. Anjar is exclusively one period, the Umayyad. You can see The Tetra-pylon, a monumental entrance with four gates, the public baths, The Cardo-Maximus lined with shops and much more....

On the way we will visit Ksara winery located 15 km from Anjar, with almost 25 min drive. Château Ksara developed the first dry wine in Lebanon. Château Ksara wine is most popular in Lebanon.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel.



Day 07: Breakfast at the hotel.

Gather at the lobby, Meet our Guide, Head to visit Jeita Grottoes located around 21 km from Beirut, with almost 45 min drive. The Jeita Grottoes are a system of two separate, but interconnected, limestone caves spanning an overall length of nearly 9 kilometers (5.6 mi). Though inhabited in prehistoric times, the lower cave was not rediscovered until 1836 by Reverend William Thomson; it can only be visited by boat since it channels an underground river that provides fresh drinking water to more than a million Lebanese. In 1958, Lebanese speleologists discovered the upper galleries 60 meters (200 ft) above the lower cave which have been accommodated with an access tunnel and a series of walkways to enable tourist's safe access without disturbing the natural landscape. The upper galleries house the world's largest known stalactite. The galleries are composed of a series of chambers the largest of which peaks at a height of 120 meters (390 ft). Aside from being a Lebanese national symbol and a top tourist destination, the Jeita grotto plays an important social, economic and cultural role in the country. It was one of top 14 finalists in the New 7 Wonders of Nature competition.

Proceed to visit Harissa, Our Lady of Lebanon being one of the most important shrines in the world honoring the Virgin Mary. The shrine is highlighted by a huge, 15-ton bronze statue of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of God. It is 8.5 m high, and has a diameter of five meters. The Virgin Mary stretches her hands towards Beirut. The shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon draws millions of faithful both Christians and Muslims from all over the world. The 50th jubilee in 1954 was also the hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the Immaculate Conception. During these Jubilee celebrations, Pope Pius XII sent his representative, Cardinal Angelo Roncalli to Lebanon, the later Pope John XXIII. Pope John Paul II visited Our Lady of Lebanon in 1997. In Harissa we can take a ride by the famous cable car down towards Jounieh's city, overlooking its spectacular Bay View.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel.



Day 08:

Check out from hotel, transfer to Airport for flight back.



For rates or availability enquiries please email us to: info@exclusiveservicesgroup.net

**** End of Our Services****

EXCLUSIVE
services group

Dbayeh, Bldg. 955- A, 2nd Floor
Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: 00 961 81 865 677/ 00961 71 384 969
Info@exclusiveservicesgroup.net
mice@exclusiveservicesgroup.net