

**07 nights / 08 days**  
**itinerary**

**EXCLUSIVE**  
services group

## Lebanon Special Interest Package

**Day 01:** Arrival to Beirut Airport.  
Meet and assist by our representative at the airport.  
Transfer to the chosen hotel for check in.

Overnight at Hotel



**Day 2: Breakfast at 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...

After visiting the City, we will proceed towards the mountains, first stop will take place at the Barouk Cedars Forest, located 2 km from the center of Barouk and includes tourist information, rest rooms, and gift shop for organic products. From the Barouk entrance there are several hiking trails one can follow to bird and animal lovers. You will benefit from a very special hiking experience in a very fresh & clean environment.

Proceed to visit Beiteddine 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 Beiteddine 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.

Return to hotel for Overnight.



### Day 3: Breakfast at 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.

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...

In Jbeil we will take a 20 mnts Boat trip, exploring the sea view of the old and new city of Byblos. The trip will start at the old Phoenician port and ends at the restaurant as below

Return to hotel for Overnight.



### Day 4: Breakfast at Hotel.

Gather at the lobby, meet our guide and proceed to experience the wild beauty of Lebanon.



We will be at Ras El Metn is a Lebanese village in the caza of Baabda, it has a beautiful location, overlooking the valleys and the sea together because it is located on a hill crowned with a pine forest that aided magnificence and beauty.

Ras El Metn is the birthplace of one of Lebanon's most famous modern personalities. The writer Anis Freiha. He said: "There is in Lebanon, a sacred mountain, that the top may be the most beautiful peaks of God on earth, which is my village Ras El Metn". Freiha compared his village to "a peninsula surrounded by two deep valleys on three sides, it is by the geographic composition isolated from the outside world".

Ras El Metn was classified by the Ministry of Tourism as a "Summer Tourism Town".

The hike will start in Ras El Metn where we will visit the Government house, built by the Lamaeyen princes in 1775. Although damaged in Lebanon's recent war, we can still appreciate the serial's elegant courtyard and bell tower and some attractive houses built with Lebanese architectural heritage.

The hike will continue from the smell of pine trees to the smell of Carob molasses in Ksaibe village that earned to be "capital of molasses carob" in the southern Mount Lebanon. The villagers are still tracking molasses traditional industry which place them number one in Lebanon, in terms of quality. We will visit a carob mill to discover this production where you can buy local fresh syrup.

In Ksaibe we will pass by the Sanctuary of St Veronica Giuliani (optional) that was inaugurated in July 2016. This saint is performing many miracles and making herself known in Lebanon. This is the first time ever in 300 years that she has been venerated outside of Italy Since her death.

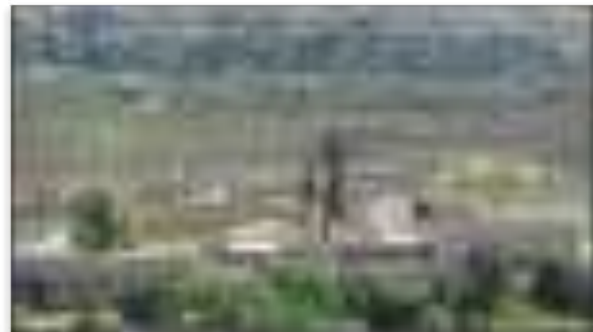
\*WHERE: Ras El Metn / Ksaibe  
Mount Lebanon / Baabda district  
800 m above sea level  
30 km from Beirut

\*WHAT TO GET: cap, sunglasses and sunscreen. Wear comfortable and always keep a windproof jacket in your backpack

\*ESSENTIAL ECOTOURISTIC RULES & REGULATIONS

- Smoking is strictly prohibited during the event
- Always follow the guide on the designated trail
- Do not go off road without notifying the guide
- Do not get close to a cliff especially when the guide in charge tells you not to do so.

Return to hotel for Overnight.



### Day 5: Breakfast at Hotel.

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After Beirut city we will proceed to visit the South-east of Shtoura, just a few kilometers from Zahleh and forty-eight from Beirut, at 900 meters altitude, one finds an attractive corner of the Beqaa, finally Tannayel, a site granted to the Jesuit Fathers in 1860. The Fathers with fine determination drained the soil, planted trees, and established a farm with vegetable gardens, orchards, a herd of cattle and flocks of sheep and goats. They installed a large plant for dairy products such as cheese of fine quality, much in demand. Their Université St.-Joseph developed there its Faculty of Agriculture.

Possibility to have bike renting and discover the area by walking or bike or horse riding (Rental supplement not included).

Return to hotel for Overnight.



### Day 6: Breakfast at Hotel.

Gather at the lobby, meet our guide and proceed to experience the wild beauty of Lebanon.

We are heading this time on a new trail in the Bekaa valley, specifically to Mhaydse, a small yet beautiful village in Rachaya district.

Mhaydse is a very special historical village located between Al Rafid and Kawkaba. What's really unique about this village is that it's the only village in the region that was not destroyed by the French government during the occupation.

Our hike will be inside and around this village, accompanied by beautiful views and breathtaking natural settings along the way.

We will start on a moderate uphill track surrounded by the beauty of the Bekaa valley.

We will continue on a fairly harder track around the village passing by natural caves engraved in the exceptional rocky nature of this area. We will then reach an old oak forest and enjoy its shades.

All levels will then meet in the piazza of the village for lunch. We will also have the chance to buy local products that this region is famous for.

\*WHERE: Mhaydse

86 km from Beirut,

Around 850m above sea level



\*WHAT TO GET: cap, sunglasses and sunscreen. Wear comfortable always keep a windproof jacket in your backpack

**\*ESSENTIAL ECOTOURISTIC RULES & REGULATIONS**

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Return to hotel for Overnight.



**Day 7: Breakfast at 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 Qadisha valley globing 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 Qadisha. 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.

On the way back to Beirut, pass by Zgharta village, a beautiful area in the North of Lebanon, offering green escapes.

Return to hotel for Overnight.



**Day 8: Breakfast at Hotel.**

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



## **\*\* End of Our Services\*\***



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