

Excursion: Deir el Qamar, Beiteddine, Museum & Beirut

Dep	Arr	Duration	Details
08:00	09:00	60 min	Depart Beirut to Deir el Qamar
09:00	09:30	30 min	Visit Deir el Qamar
09:30	09:45	15 min	Depart to Beiteddine
09:45	11:45	120 min	Visit Beiteddine palace
11:45	13:00	75 min	Depart Beiteddine to Beirut
13:00	14:00	60 min	Lunch in Beirut
14:00	14:15	15 min	Drive to National Museum
14:15	15:45	90 min	Visit the National Museum
15:45	16:00	15 min	Drive to the city center
16:00	16:45	45 min	Visit city centre on foot
16:45	17:00	15 min	Return to the hotel
	17.00	15 min	Arrival to hotel in Beirut

Duration of excursion: 9 hours

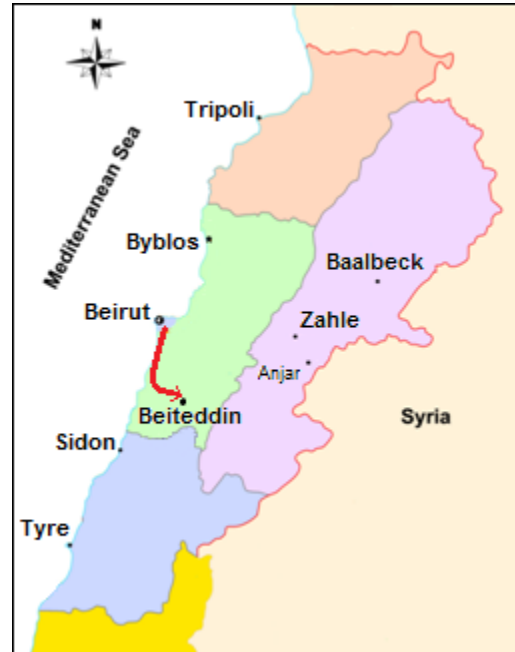
Description of excursion:

From Beirut, drive south to the Shouf mountain via the coastal road then up towards Deir el Qamar, enjoying the beautiful scenery and the green mountain.
 Deir el Qamar. A village with white houses and red tile roofs built on steep slopes of the mountain. This town was the residence of governors of Lebanon in the 16th to 19th century.
 The tours continue towards Beiteddine and visit the Palace which was built by Emir Bechir II (1788-1840) and serves today as the summer palace of the Lebanese presidents since 1943.
 Return back to the coast and then to Beirut to visit the National museum which houses some of the finest treasures recovered in Lebanon. After the museum a city tour of Beirut, capital of Lebanon and heart of the Orient, is very promising with its newly refurbished old buildings. The pedestrian area or Solidere, as known, full of restaurants, side-walk cafes, night clubs and the most fashionable boutiques selling European & International brands.. During the huge reconstruction program, excavations have revealed ruins from the Phoenicians and Roman times.

Description of sites:

Deir el Qamar

Located in the Shouf Mountains, 40 kilometers South of Beirut, this village with its white houses and red tile roofs is built on steep slopes of the mountain. This was the residence of Governors of Lebanon in the 16th to 19th centuries. Many historic buildings have been restored to their former glory.





Beiteddine

In Arabic, Beiteddine means “house of faith”. 43 kilometers away from Beirut stands this magnificent palace built at the beginning of the 19th century by Emir Bechir, who reigned over Lebanon for more than 50 years. With its arcades, galleries and rooms decorated by artists from Damascus, this building is a model of eastern architecture.

Today the palace houses a museum of ancient weapons, costumes and jewelry as well as an archaeological museum and a museum of Byzantine mosaics.

National museum

One of the more interesting exhibits is the sarcophagus of Ahirom, the Phoenician king of Byblos. The inscription on it is dated back to the 12th century BC and is the oldest Phoenician inscription yet discovered. On the first floor are the Egyptian, Phoenician and Roman royal jewelry, along with pottery. The museum covers six thousand years of civilization and heritage.

Beirut

Beirut was built on a rocky promontory, a sight also occupied by prehistoric man. In ancient times it was overshadowed by more powerful neighbors, but when the city-states of Sidon and Tyre began to decline in the first millennium BC, Berytus, as it was called then, acquired more influence, but it was not until Roman times that it became an important port and cultural center.

After the Roman power waned, Greek influence dominated in the Byzantine period, beginning in the 4th century AD. Later, the Crusaders held the city for some 200 years. It was only at the end of the 19th century, after 400 years of Ottoman rule that Beirut began to develop and modernize. Modern Beirut, which has well over 1 million citizens, remains the cultural and commercial center of the country. Since the early 1990's, Beirut's city center is being redeveloped into a modern city that will also retain its familiar Oriental flavor.