

## THE OLD SOUKS



**Nothing is more charming than strolling in the old souks where you can find all the atmosphere of the past.**

### **Baalbeck**

Dating back to the Ottoman period, Baalbeck's authentic souk — made up of butcher shops, bakeries and spice shops — is not to be missed.

### **Batroun**

The old souk of Batroun is a pleasant cobblestone market with curved sandstone arches. It is made up of several lanes where old crafts are still practiced by tailors, cobblers and blacksmiths.

### **Byblos**

Built during the Ottoman era, the old souk of Byblos is one of Lebanon's most famous tourist attractions. It is made up of small shops selling souvenirs, local crafts and antiques. There are also restaurants, cozy cafés and lively bars.

### **Douma**

Douma is a traditional Lebanese village with stone houses featuring red-tiled roofs, noise-free streets and a charming souk. Its souk — referred to as "Al Bandar" — played a significant role in strengthening the town's economy by carrying goods from Damascus and the Bekaa, as well as cedarwood to build ships. It is picture-perfect with its arcaded stone shops and ancient monasteries and churches. There are quaint stores selling local and artisanal crafts and inexpensive goods. Previously, there were tailor shops, shoemakers, woodcarvers and furniture manufacturers.



### **Jezzine**

Souk El Sedd stands in the heart of Jezzine, where you can discover many craft shops selling the region's famous firebird cutlery.

### **Rachaya**

Rachaya El Wadi is located in the heart of the valley of Wadi Al Taym, at the foot of Mount Hermon. The local souk is one of the oldest in Lebanon, dating back to the 17th century.

### **Saida**

The old souk of Saida is a hive of activity. Made of stone archways, this authentic marketplace is home to traders selling everything from fruits to homemade soaps.

### **Tripoli**

This northern city has the largest and busiest souk, which is in fact made up of nine souks including the tailors', the tanners', the coppersmiths', the goldsmiths' and the carpenters'. The souk also comprises old schools, hammams and mosques.

Tripoli is known for its centuries-old soapmaking industry.

### **Tyre**

Take a walk through the old souk of Tyre and you will find plenty of little shops selling gold, copper, vegetables, fish, meat, clothing and antiques.

### **Zouk Mikael**

Built in the 17th century, the old souk of Zouk Mikael is charming whether you're visiting during the day or at night. This souk is well known for its weaving looms, handmade jewelry, carpentry, embroidery and marzipan.