

RAFTING IN ASSI RIVER

Program:

| Dep | Arr | Duration | Details |
|-------|-------|----------|---|
| 08:00 | 09:00 | 60 min | Depart from Beirut via Bekaa Valley to Chtaura |
| 09:00 | 09:30 | 30 min | Break in Chtaura for coffee |
| 09:30 | 11:00 | 90 min | Drive to Hermel area |
| 11:00 | 13:00 | 120 min | Rafting in "Assi River" |
| 13:00 | 13:15 | 15 min | Drive to the restaurant |
| 13:15 | 14:15 | 60 min | Lunch in restaurant on the river (Trout fish & soft drinks) |
| 14:15 | 15:15 | 60 min | Visit Pyramid of Hermel and St. Maroun convent |
| 15:15 | 16:45 | 90 min | Drive back to Chtaura |
| 16:45 | 17:15 | 30 min | Break in Chtaura for coffee |
| 17:15 | 18:15 | 60 min | Drive back to Beirut |
| | 18:15 | | Arrival to Beirut |



Duration of excursion around 10 hours.

Practical information:

- Swimming suit, sandals & T-shirt
- Hat, sunglasses & sunscreen
- Towel, spare clothes, spare shoes

Description of site:

The Orontes or "Assi" is a river of Lebanon, Syria and Turkey.

It was anciently the chief river of the Levant, also called Draco, Typhon and Axius. The last was a native form, from whose revival, or continuous employment in native speech, has proceeded the modern name 'Āṣī ("rebel"), because the river flows from the south to the north unlike the rest of the rivers in the region.

The Orontes rises in the great springs of Labweh on the East side of the Bekaa Valley, very near the fountains of the southward-flowing Litany, and it runs due north, parallel with the coast, falling 2000 feet (600 m) through a rocky gorge. Leaving this it expands into the Lake of Homs, having been dammed back in antiquity. The valley now widens out into the rich district of Hamah (Hamaih-Epiphaneia), below which lie the broad meadow-lands of Amykes, containing the sites of ancient Apamea and Larissa. This central Orontes valley ends at the rocky barrier of Jisr al-Hadid, where the river is diverted to the West, and the plain of Antioch opens.

The river is classified as level 2 with some cascade rated as level 4.