



# Vent Nouveau

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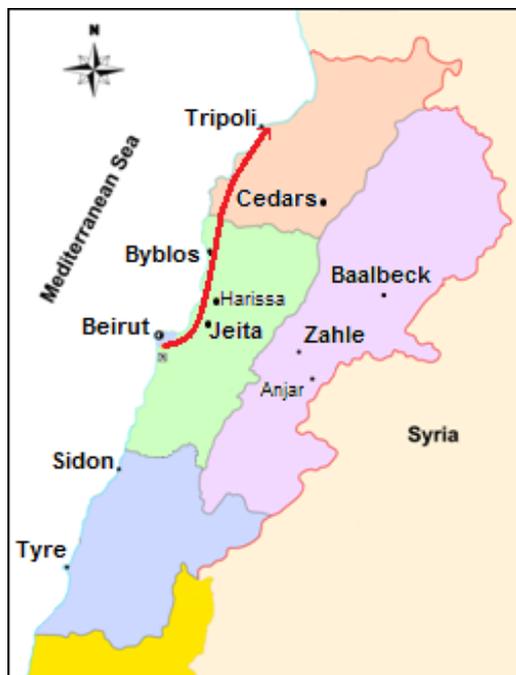
**MICE - DMC**

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## Excursion: Tripoli & Byblos

Dep	Arr	Duration	Details
08:00	09:30	90 min	Depart to Tripoli
09:30	10:00	30 min	Visit Taynal mosque
10:00	11:00	60 min	Visit St Giles castle
11:00	11:45	45 min	Visit souk & hammam
11:45	12:00	15 min	Short drive to Lions Tower
12:00	12:15	15 min	Photo stop at Lions Tower
12:15	13:15	60 min	Drive back to Byblos
13:15	14:15	60 min	Lunch in Byblos
14:15	15:00	15 min	Visit St. John cathedral
15:00	16:15	75 min	Visit Byblos castle
16:15	16:45	30 min	Visit the old souk
16:45	17:00	15 min	Walk to old port
17:00	17:45	45 min	Drive back to Beirut
	17:45		Arrival to Beirut

**Duration of excursion: 9 hrs 45 min**



### **Description of excursion:**

From Beirut drive towards the north through the coastal road to Tripoli. Visits starts to the Taynal mosque then short drive by bus to St. Giles castle. Visit the biggest Crusaders castle built in Lebanon. Walk through the old souk of Tripoli and visit a hammam (Turkish bath), Khan El Saboun (soap caravanserai) and other attractions. Proceed by bus for a short drive to Al Mina (port) for a photo stop of the Crusaders Lions Tower built in purpose to control and protect the port of Tripoli.

After Tripoli return towards Beirut. Half-way is Byblos one of the oldest cities in the world, going back at least 7,000 years. Lunch will be served in Byblos then walk through the old city for visiting St. John-Marcus Cathedral, the Crusader's castle, the Phoenician Roman and Byzantine ruins, the old souk and the old harbor. Return back to Beirut.

### **Description of sites:**

#### **Tripoli**

Tripoli is located 85 kilometers north of Beirut and is the second largest city in Lebanon. The city shares in the long history of the coast of the Levant and was the center of a Phoenician confederation with Sidon, Tyre and Arados Island. Hence the name Tripoli, which means, "triple city". Tripoli nowadays is rich in monuments from the Crusader period such as the biggest Crusaders castle ever built in Lebanon over a hill overlooking the old city and from the Mamlouk times; the ancient bazaars (market), Mosques, caravansaries and baths, all of them add an oriental charm to the modern city, which is now a prosperous industrial and business center.

On the sea side of Tripoli and near the port still standing from the Crusaders period a tower, out of many other destroyed, the so called Lions Tower due to the lions carved on both sides of the main entrance.

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## **Byblos**

Byblos is located only 36 kilometers north of Beirut and is one of the oldest cities in the world, going back at least 7,000 years. The rise and fall of nearly two dozen successive levels of human culture, makes Byblos one of the richest archaeological sites in the Middle East.

Millennium ago, Byblos was the commercial and religious capital of the Phoenician coast. Byblos also gave its name to the Bible and it was there that the first linear alphabet, the forerunner of the alphabet we use today, was invented.

The Crusaders-Medieval port has been restored and the nearby excavations of the city's past stretch from Stone Age to the Crusader era. The old part of town, with its cafés and restaurants adds to the attraction of this ancient city and make Byblos a popular destination.

Before Byblos was excavated, the ruins of successive cities had formed a mound about 12 meters high, covered with houses and gardens. Excavations revealed a wealth of history, including the remnants of an ancient city dating back to the third millennium BC, foundations of a temple erected in 2,700 BC, a Temple of the Obelisks, enclosures and houses from pre-urban times, etc. etc.

The sight also contains a Roman theatre; nine underground Royal Tombs of the Byblos Kings, a Roman colonnade and a Crusader's castle.