

Excursion: Tripoli & Cedars

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	12:45	60 min	Drive to Blaouza for lunch
12:45	13:45	60 min	Lunch in Blaouza
13:45	14:15	30 min	Drive to the Cedars
14:15	15:30	75 min	Visit the Cedars forest
15:30	18:00	150 min	Drive back to Beirut
	18:00		Arrival to Beirut

Duration of excursion: 10 hours

Description of excursion:

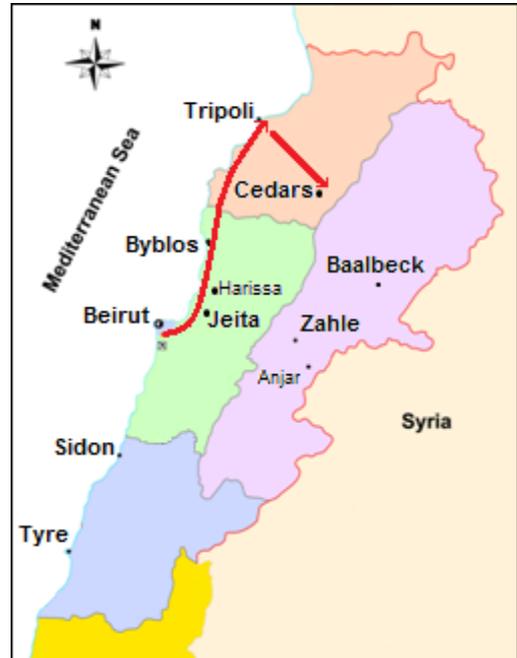
From Beirut drive towards the north through the coastal road to Tripoli. Visits starts to the Taynal mosque then St. Giles castle. Walk through the old souk of Tripoli and visit a hammam, Soap caravanserai and other attractions. The tour continues towards the mountains to Blaouza where lunch will be served and then proceed to the forest of the Cedars of Lebanon (2000 m. altitude). Some of the trees are about 3,000 years old. After visiting the Cedars forest drive down and back through Qadisha Valley (Holly Valley), where many monks long time ago built their monasteries in this valley and lived offering to God their life and prayers. Some of these monasteries are carved in the rock or even part of them. The drive back to Beirut through Qadisha valley is a breathtaking of scenery and serenity enjoying the wonderful view and making en route many photo stops.

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.





The Cedars

The most venerable representatives of the Cedars of Lebanon, which once covered the country's mountains, are in the Besharre region in the North of Lebanon. Mentioned 103 times in the Bible and other ancient texts. Some 2,000 trees, many between 1,000 and 2,000 years old, stand on slopes 2,000 high in the shadow of the 3,088 meter peak of Cornet Es Sawda.

From Lebanon's Cedar forests, Solomon got the timber to build his temple and palace, while the Egyptian Pharaohs used the wood to carve their sarcophagi and "sun ships". The Cedar tree is the emblem of Lebanon and adorns its flag.