Program (1)

Lebanon Gems 8 D/ 7 N

**Day 1 : Arrival to Lebanon**

Upon arrival, our representative will meet you at the general security Passport control to assist you in visa procedures and stamps. We will escort you to your vehicle for transfer to the hotel and provide check in assistance. Overnight at the hotel.

**Day 2 : Beirut City Tour and Street Food**

Food reveals about the culture of the country that’s why in this tour we will mix between the food and the sites. Your tour will begin with the National Museum, the principal museum of archaeology, history and culture in Lebanon. Afterwards, we will have a food stop to try a traditional on the go Lebanese breakfast our famous “Manouche “. We will continue to explore the downtown area including Martyrs Square, Nejmeh Square with the famous clock tower, the Roman Ruins and Bathes, Mohammad El Amin Mosque and Saint Georges Church. To know more about the history of these renovated souks we will have a stop in one of the oldest sweet & Juice shops that was totally destroyed during the civil war and after the reconstruction of the downtown, he took the same location to open his shop. Our lunch will be bites from different street food sandwiches such as shawarma , falafel … Finally, we will grab a traditional Lebanese coffee cup, walk through the corniche, and enjoy the views of the pigeon rocks.

**Day 3 : Baalback, Anjar and Ksara**

You will start your day by venturing through Lebanon's countryside to Baalbek, also called Heliopolis. The site is a dedication to the gods of Jupiter, Venus and Mercury, and was classed a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984. This ancient site is largely made up of semicrumbled temples built by the Romans, including the massive Temple of Jupiter, the best-preserved Roman ruin in Lebanon. Drive to Anjar and explore the town's showpiece – the Umayyad ruins. Wander through this fascinating complex: remnants of an 8thcentury palace city ruled by the Ummayad dynasty; ruined temples, arcades and gates built in Hellenistic and Roman style. At the end you will have a tour of Ksara Winery where you will visit the caves and have a wine tasting.

**Day 4 : Sidon and Tyre**

After a one-hour drive from Beirut by comfortable coach, your day trip starts to the coast to visit Sidon, an important commercial center with a wealth of history. The city’s narrow alleyways and traditional souks, or markets where we will visit the Soap Museum. It sweeps you back to the Middle Ages, when visiting its imposing crusader castle was built overlooking the harbor. Explore the impressive Great Mosque and hear how it was built in the 16th century on the foundations of a Crusader building. Your final stop will be in the magnificent city of Tyre, built by the Romans. Listen to the stories of the ancient city’s prosperity which was based on an industry of purple-dyed textiles, and visit the UNESCO-listed ruins built during Roman times.

**Day 5 : Jeita, Harissa &Byblos**

You will be driven north to visit Jeita Grotto, the jewel of tourism in Lebanon, where 2 limestone crystallized grottoes characterized by extraordinary concretions of stalactites and stalagmites sculpted naturally in different forms, sizes and colors are found. Then proceed to Harissa where you will see the Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, which is a Marian shrine and a pilgrimage site in Lebanon. In addition, you will enjoy a panoramic view of Jounieh Bay using the cable cars from Harissa to Jounieh. Then transfer to Byblos, the "oldest continuously inhabited city the world" to visit the famous Crusader castle and discovering some beautiful churches and the old souks.

**Day 6 : Shouf Mountains**

First, you will visit Deir Al Qamar village to witness its distinctive narrow streets, stone steps, and historical buildings and palaces. Deir Al Qamar resembles an open-air museum. From the 16th to 18th centuries, the picturesque village served as the residence of the Ottoman appointed governors of Lebanon, beginning with Fakhreddin II. You will continue your journey to Beiteddine built by the Emir’s 3 sons: Qassim, Khalil and Amine. Today Emir Khalil's palace is used as the Serail of Beiteddine, the seat of local administration. As for the palace of Emir Amine, which dominates the Beiteddine complex; it was beautifully restored and converted into a luxury hotel by the Ministry of Tourism. You will end your tour by 1 hour walking in the beautiful nature of the Shouf reserve where you can admire the cedars tree in addition to many conserved plants and animals

**Day 7 : Batroun and Nabu Museum**

You will start your tour by heading to Nabu Museum which offers an exceptional collection of artifacts from the Bronze and Iron Age and contemporary arts from Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq and the region. Then you will proceed to the charming coastal town of Batroun which was a flourishing city and port in Phoenician times (3000 - 64 BC), as you’ll discover it’s old souks and the famous Phoenician wall.

**Day 8: Departure**

After Breakfast you will check out and get transferred to the airport prior three hours of your flight time.