



WORLD DISCOVERY  
— HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE —

## Treasures of Lebanon



The Roman city of Baalbeck

### DAY 1 - Arrive Beirut.

On arrival in Beirut you will be met by a representative of World Discovery outside immigration and customs. You will then be taken by private car direct to your hotel.

### DAY 2 – Beirut, Byblos.

After breakfast your World Discovery guide will collect you from your hotel and take you on a short tour of Lebanon's capital city, including a visit to the excellent National Museum of Beirut. Then drive north along the Mediterranean coast to the charming port of **Byblos**, said to be the oldest continuously inhabited town in the world. Here you will walk through the ancient ruins, dating back some 7,000 years, and enjoy lunch overlooking the Phoenician harbour. Return in the late afternoon to Beirut. *If you have sufficient time, for an additional cost you may also include a visit to the amazing Jeita Grotto, famous for its dramatic stalactites and stalagmites.*

**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch.**

### DAY 3 - Sidon, Beiteddine.

In the morning head south to the Phoenician port of Sidon, with its dramatic 'Castle of the Sea', before driving into the Chouf Mountains to the hill town of Beiteddine to visit the beautiful 19th century palace, built by the Emir Bechir in traditional Lebanese style. The palace contains an extensive collection of Byzantine mosaics. A brief stop is also made at the pretty town of **Deir al-Qamar**. Continue to Zahlé, a pleasant town located at 900m/2555ft and renowned for its clean mountain air, where you will stay for the next two nights.

**Meals included: Full breakfast.**

#### DAY 4 - Baalbeck.

For most people today's visit to the breathtaking ruins of Baalbeck will be the highlight of any holiday to Lebanon. This vast Roman city is undoubtedly one of the wonders of the ancient world, its monumental temples towering above the surrounding Beqaa Plains. The **Temple of Jupiter**, whose famous remaining 6 columns define the city, was the largest temple ever built by the Romans, while the 'smaller' **Temple of Bacchus** is larger than the Parthenon. The Temple of Bacchus is perhaps the most intact temple to have survived from classical times, and its rich decoration led the 19th century artist David Roberts to describe it as "the most elaborate work, as well as the most exquisite in detail, of anything of its kind in the world". You will also visit the attractive **Temple of Venus**, built in the 3rd century AD; during the Byzantine period this was converted into a church dedicated to Saint Barbara, who is the patron saint of Baalbeck to this day. As well as visiting the ruins themselves you may also spend time in the interesting on-site museum. Lunch will be taken at the historic Palmyra Hotel close to the ruins. In the afternoon return to Zahlé for overnight.

**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch.**

#### DAY 5 - Aanjar, Chateau Ksara Winery.

After breakfast drive to the fascinating archaeological site of Aanjar, located close to the border with Syria. This unusual city, with its slender arches and columns and its distinctive brickwork was built by the Omayyad dynasty in the 8th century and flourished for a mere few decades before being abandoned. It was very much a commercial centre, located on the intersecting trade routes leading to Damascus, Baalbeck and the south. Continue to Ksara, where you will visit the acclaimed Lebanese Winery Chateau Ksara ('Les Caves de Ksara') for some wine-tasting. Wine making was established here in Roman times and even today the wines are kept in extensive underground caves built around a natural grotto enlarged by the Romans for this purpose. Return to Beirut for an afternoon at leisure and overnight.

**Meals included: Full breakfast.**

#### DAY 6 – Homeward flight.

Private transfer to the airport for your homeward flight.

**Meals included: Full breakfast.**