



DESTINATION LEBANON

200 persons



BASICS

Participants:	200 persons
Destination:	Lebanon
Date/period:	2006
Duration:	5 days / 4 nights
Hotel category:	5 stars deluxe
Type of rooms:	100 double rooms
Meals:	full board
Transport:	A/C modern coaches, 4x4 vehicles and private vehicles
Formalities:	international passport valid 6 months after return date no stamp of Israel in passport visa for Lebanon issued locally
International flights:	AF/MEA might be best option, in view of several flights a day

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

**Day
01 :**

- Arrival to Beirut airport
- Greeting & welcome
- Airport assistance & check-in
- Luggage handling separately
- Transfer to hotel
- Express check in at hotel
- Welcome dinner at hotel



Beirut

**Day
02 :**

Beirut- Tripoli

- morning: ½ day conference
- afternoon: incentive - bargaining in the old Souk of Tripoli.
- dinner at Art Lounge in Beirut
- Return to hotel



Tripoli souk

**Day
03 :**

Beirut - Mt Sannine - Baalbeck

- self drive cross Mount Sannine in 4x4 vehicles (raid/trial)
- Roman feast in Temple of Baalbeck with lunch
- Return to Beirut
- Individual transfers to Casino du Liban
- Dinner at Casino du Liban
- Return to hotel



Baalbeck

Day
04 :

Beirut

- city tour in Beirut incentive: Beirut City game
- Lunch at Center of Beirut
- Free afternoon
- Gala dinner in Villa Linda Sursock
- Return to hotel

Sursock museum



Day
05 :

- Breakfast at hotel
- Transfers to Beirut airport

Beirut



DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 01 : BEIRUT

Group arrival at Beirut international airport. **Meet & assist** the group with their **visas, portage** of luggage to vehicles. **6 English/French speaking guides** and TLB representatives will meet the group and welcome them with flowers for the ladies and pins representing the Lebanese emblem « The Cedars » for the gentlemen. An “airport check-in” will be arranged (room keys, luggage tags are delivered, passports collected to prepare the express check-in, allowing participants to have immediate access to their rooms upon arrival at the hotel).

The 200 participants will be split into **6 buses of 45 seats** (air conditioned, microphone), with 1 guide in each bus, who will stay their guide for the 4 coming days. **Transfer** to the **Hotel**. During the transfer, **soft drinks and a variety of Lebanese pistachio** will be served, while our local guides introduce the country.

Upon arrival, **welcome cocktail** including canapés and open regular bar.

100 double rooms will be ready, and in each room, participants will find a beautiful **illustrated book on Lebanon**, along with a **fruit basket** and a **welcome “personalized” letter**.

Dinner at the hotel.



DAY 02 : BEIRUT – TRIPOLI – BEIRUT

After breakfast, half day conference at the hotel.

Possibility to have the conference in nature if desired or to have some animation during the coffee breaks (water “vendors”, Arabic coffee,...)

Conference hall will be prepared according to the bank’s requirements: LCD projector, screen flipcharts, ...

Coffee Breaks will include a variety of sweets, coffee, tea, juice and croissants.

Participants who do not attend the conference will assist the Lebanese chef in preparing the lunch and thus get some insight in the rich Lebanese cuisine, which is famous all over the world. Participants will all receive a booklet with the prepared dishes, Arabic coffee and how to prepare a water pipe, in short the recipes for an Oriental Feast.

Transfer to Byblos, north of Beirut, for **lunch in restaurant “Al Azraq”**, a beautiful setting overlooking the sea and Byblos.

After lunch, we will drive north to Tripoli or Trablous by its Arabic name.

The souks of Tripoli are divided into different areas, some covered and other in open air; and all are restored in its authentic shape. Almost everything is sold here, from souvenirs, fruits and vegetables, to utensils for the house, but the souk's most famous article is undoubtedly olive soap. **Different small groups each get their "shopping list" in Arabic** and should go and **shop in the area**. They should **ask around** to know where to go, what to buy and eventually buy the listed goods, nothing better to make a **great authentic contact with the locals** in an **authentic souk** (unlike tourist trap souqs in other parts of the Mid-east). The bought items will be **offered in Baalbeck Temple** (see following day)



Return to the hotel in Beirut.

Around 9 o'clock pm, participants will be met in the Hotel Lobby and escorted to the **Art Lounge**. The area around the Art Lounge will be transferred in an ambiance of "Chicago in the 50's with dark alleys leading them on a 5 minute walk to the Art Lounge. The Art Lounge will be decorated and branded exclusively for the group. Music instruments and a choreographer will be available if the group wishes to organize their own "jam session show". (This includes "branding", on the spot management, hostesses, a belly dancer and other artists)

Return to the Hotel.

DAY 03 : BEIRUT – MT SANNINE – BAALBECK - BEIRUT

After breakfast, each guide will meet his group for a briefing on the day.

Each 4 participants will depart for a self drive in **4x4 vehicles**, a convoy of 50 vehicles (Toyota, BMW, Mercedes, Infinity,...), driving up to Zaarour in **Mount Lebanon**. There, we will leave the tarmac roads, for a thrilling **Off-Road** Raid/Trial, marvelous views and panorama up to **Mt Sannine (more than 2000 meter above sea level)**, and a memorable descend to **Zahle** where we reach the tarmac again.



Continue to Baalbeck for a **Roman Feast** in the archaeological site of Baalbeck with its famous **Bacchus and Jupiter Temples**. Groups will offer the bought gifts in the souk of Tripoli and by doing so, acquire their entrance to the Temple complex. A Roman Feast will be organized here with a lunch served in the complex by one of the Wine Houses of the Bekaa Valley.

Two Lebanese women, will be preparing hot and **traditional bread**, during the lunch. Participants can participate trying to make their own bread!

4x4 drop off and the coaches take the groups back to the hotel in Beirut.

Around 9 o'clock pm, our representatives will meet participants in the Hotel Lobby to escort them to "**Casino du Liban**". The transport to the Casino will be private per couple:

- winning team of the Mt Sannine Rally will be transferred in deluxe limousine.
 - 2nd winning team will be transferred in Mercedes, BMW or Jaguar
 - rest of the group will be transferred per couple in private vehicles towards the Casino
- Arrival of the convoy at the Casino and reception with professional photographer to take shots of the group, as diplomatic and VIP's. (to be announced in tomorrow's newspaper – see day 05). Dinner at the casino restaurants with Mediterranean cuisine and open bar (including whisky and wine).

Return to the Hotel.

DAY 04 : BEIRUT

After breakfast, each guide will meet his group for a briefing on the day. The participants will be divided into different smaller groups and will leave to the departure point of the "**Beirut city game**".



Groups will receive a number of questions to reply to, that will take them to the different areas of the city: City Centre, the Corniche, Hamra and Ashrafiyeh. A representative of TLB will be present in each area of the city to help the group if necessary. Shuttles will be driving between the different areas of the city transferring the groups around. With the replies on all questions, participants will know where the ending point of their discovery tour is and where lunch will be served.

Lunch in the City Centre, at Place de l'Etoile. One of the pedestrian streets will be closed off from the public and will serve as a lunch area for the group. The different restaurants in this area (being aligned side to side) will prepare different dishes for groups to choose from: mezze, barbecue, international cuisine, dessert, drinks, Arabic coffee, water pipe... and a surprise corner with **Belgian beer and Belgian snacks (to be left as a surprise)**

After lunch, the participants will receive their prizes (prizes for everybody, as everybody is a winner) in the presence of the **Mayor of Beirut. (Nature of the prizes have to be set yet....)** Every participant will receive a newspaper with the pictures taken at Casino du Liban & during the Trial/Raid.



Return to the hotel for some time at leisure.

Private Gala Dinner at the Villa Linda Sursock in the Sursock Family quarter. This superb luxury villa is owned by Lady Cochrane and her husband Sir Sursock, was built in Mediterranean style and dates back to the 19th Century. A reception worthy a grand Lebanese **marriage**; Dispersing rice and flowers on people coming in, "Zalghouta" (women singing popular typical poems & songs), etc. Then, the atmosphere turns discreetly to "**local flavour**", more

artistic and gentle ... a **Pianist** playing **Fayrouz** songs (Fayrouz: Lebanese singer and for many decades the most famous voice in the Arab world) accentuated by a "**Sound and Light**" show.

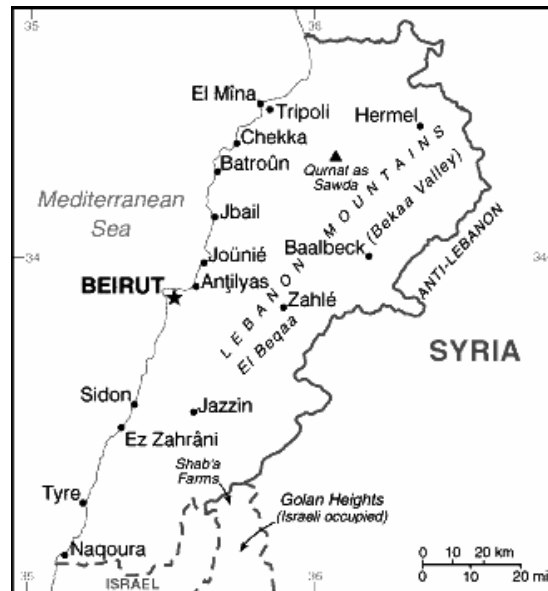
Return to the hotel.

DAY 05 : Departure

After breakfast, transfer to Beirut International airport.

There, we will **Assist** the participants with their **check in, portage** of luggage, etc.

VISITED CITIES & SITES



Lebanon, named "the white one" by the prophet Jeremiah because snow covered it most of the year, is a long mountain range extending over a distance of about 160 km from southwest to northeast along the Mediterranean coast. Relatively to the dryness of the rest of the Arab world, Lebanon is particularly fortunate & famous for a mild, diverse and rich natural environment that allows a wide range subtropical and traditional Mediterranean agriculture.

Lebanon has long enjoyed its privileged position at the crossroads of three continents, proving its resilience over millennia of razzings by foreign invaders & natural disasters. Before the recent years of civil war, Lebanon was the multi-faceted "jewel of the Middle East", with souqs, ritzy hotels & cutting-edge fashions. Today the country has emerged from the civil war with its spirit & natural environment intact, if not its structure, Beirut in particular, rising from the ashes more alive than ever.

Ancient cities, pristine mountains, spectacular gorges and the ambitious and worldly spirit of its people distinguish it as a destination within the Middle East.

BEIRUT

The capital of Lebanon has a breathtaking situation at the coast of the Mediterranean coast on the slopes of the Kneisseh. The city dates back to the Phoenician Era and is today the commercial and administrative heart of the country. Regaining its status as “Pearl of the Middle East”, Beirut will seduce you visiting its different areas, such as Achrafiyeh with its beautiful villas or the Hamra area where it is great to window shop and soak up the atmosphere. The downtown area with Place de l'Etoile has been restored in its original shape and is a vibrant place in the evening to stroll around, relax, talk or smoke a water pipe. The most famous natural feature of Beirut are Pigeon Rocks. These offshore rock arches are a lovely complement to Beirut's dramatic sea cliffs, and it is a delight to wander along the Corniche, Beirut's coastal road, and just take in the sea air, stop to drink a coffee served from the back of a van and watch the fabulous sunset.



TRIPOLI (TRABLOUS)

Tripoli (Trablous), 85 Km North of Beirut, has a special character all its own due to its historical wealth, relaxed lifestyle and thriving business climate, this is the city where modern and medieval blend easily into a lively and hospitable metropolis. Known as the capital of the North, Tripoli is Lebanon's second largest city.

Of the Mamluk city 195 monuments remain. The monuments include the whole range of religious, civil, and military architecture such as mosques, madrassahs, khans, and the Saint-Gilles Citadel.

Forty-five buildings in the city, many dating from the 14th century, have been registered as historical sites. Twelve Mosque from the Mamluk and Ottoman times have survived along with an equal number of Madrassas or theological schools. Secular buildings include the hammam or bathing-house, which followed the classical pattern of Roman- Byzantine baths, and the Khan or caravansary. The Souks, together with the Khan, form an agglomeration of various trades where tailors, jewelers, perfumeries, tanners and soap-makers work in surroundings that have changed very little over the last 500 years. Tripoli is classified 2nd in the world with its fascinating Mamlouk architecture.



BAALBECK

Located in the fertile Bekaa Valley, the city of Baalbeck originated in Phoenician times as a place of worship to Baal, the Phoenician Sun God. During the Hellenistic period (333-64 BC), the Greeks named the city Heliopolis, or “City of the Sun.” However, Baalbeck entered its golden age in 47 BC, when Julius Caesar made it a Roman colony. Perhaps because of the area's agricultural importance in feeding the eastern inhabitants of the Roman Empire—or perhaps because of its strategic location along the major east-west and north-south



trading routes—the Romans selected this site to construct the largest religious temples in their empire. Over a span of 200 years (60 BC – 150 AD), a succession of Roman emperors oversaw the construction of the magnificent temples to honor the divine Roman trinity: Jupiter, Venus and Mercury. These temples also served as a monument to the wealth and power of Imperial Rome.

BEKAA VALLEY (WINE & GASTRONOMY)

The Lebanese cuisine has a reputation as one of the best in the world; the people of the Land of Milk & Honey knew how to take advantage of an exceptional Mediterranean and Ottoman heritage, and developed it by the means of oriental finesse.

Lebanese culinary habits are indeed very oriental, and meals are taken rather late, gathering with family and friends, time is taken to enjoy the “mezzé”, these delicious hors-d’oeuvres, before pursuing with main dish & deserts.

While Lebanese wines are still fairly unknown, there are some very beautiful Lebanese-made wines available worldwide. From the Bekaa Valley, for example, you'll find Ksara and Château Kefraya. Ksara is an excellent, full-bodied red and its winery, founded by Jesuit priests, is the largest in the Middle East. Château Kefraya produces a light and pleasant rosé. And from the Mount Lebanon region is Château Musar, which is an outstanding, full-bodied red. The entire Mediterranean rim is known for their anise-flavored liqueurs. In the South of France there is Pastis, in Italy you'll find Sambuca, in Greece Ouzo, and in Lebanon there is the ubiquitous Arak, which is the national drink. Interestingly, these anise-flavored liqueurs came into existence around the turn of the century as a substitute-out of desperation actually-when the infamous beverage Absinthe became illegal.



SUGGESTED HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

LE ROYAL HOTEL BEIRUT *****DELUXE

(member of the Leading Hotels of the World)



LOCATION: Ideally located on one of the world's most beautiful seashores, Le Royal Hotel - Beirut offers the visitors elegant comfort, breathtaking views, and the magnificent azure Mediterranean sea, Just 15 km from Beirut International Airport, Beirut city center, , Le Royal Hotel is a nucleus of shops, rooms, suites, sporting and entertainment alternatives.



ACCOMMODATION: All of our spacious guest rooms and suites have sensational, panoramic views of the Mediterranean Sea and are appointed with luxurious amenities.

Guest Room Amenities: private balconies, bathrobe & bathroom amenities, controlled air conditioning, interactive TV system, connecting rooms, data port on phone - network connection, internet in the rooms, free morning newspaper delivered to Room, hairdryer, mini bar, safe box.

HOTEL FACILITIES

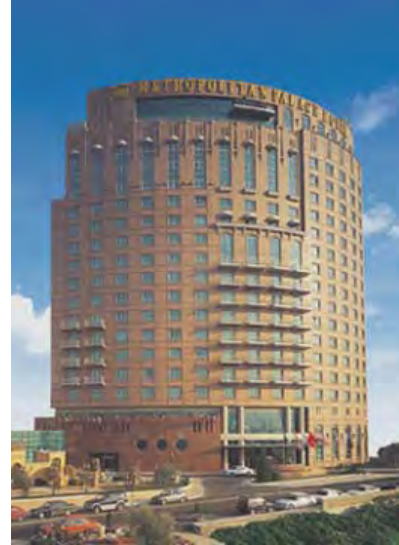
- restaurants & bars: To complement its refined accommodation and unique service, the hotel proudly offers several restaurants; from French cuisine to casual atmosphere, at le royal every detail is well thought of to make all our guests feel at home.
- swimming pool
- fitness center & spa
- business center
- room service
- hair salon
- shopping on site
- laundry service
- conference halls



THE METROPLITAN PALACE HOTEL BEIRUT *****DELUXE

(member of Worldhotel deluxe collection)

LOCATION: The Metropolitan Palace Hotel - Beirut, Sin El Fil, is a landmark in Beirut, the thriving city of business and a shopper's paradise. Only a few minutes drive from Beirut International Airport, Broumana and City Center.



ACCOMMODATION: Aside from being tastefully furnished, every room is elegantly appointed to make you feel home away from home with an unsurpassed view of Beirut.

Guest Room amenities: interactive TV System with satellite programming and in-house channels, Internet with Wireless remote control keyboard, air-conditioning and temperature controls are easily operated, in-room safe deposit box, minibar, en-suite bathrooms with direct dial telephone, bathtub, bathrobes, express laundry service, valet service, 24-hours room service, full butler service, direct dial telephones with voice mail.

HOTEL FACILITIES

- 24-hours room service.
- 24-hours laundry service
- Beauty and Hair Salon.
- Six food and beverage outlets.
- A first class shopping arcade.
- Business center / "Candles" Lounge.
- Spectacular swimming pool.
- Fully Equipped gymnasium.
- Spa