

Beirut Mini Break

Country(ies): Lebanon

Tour type: City Break

Transport: A/C car/minibus/coach

Group size: Min: 2 | Max: 12

Days: 4 days

Start Location: Beirut, Lebanon

End Location: Beirut, Lebanon

Meals: Breakfasts - 3, Lunches - 0, Dinners - 0

Highlights:

Beirut city tour, Pigeon Rock, historic town of Byblos, Harissa cable car, Jeita Grotto, optional tours to Baalbek, Beiteddine Palace, Ksara Caves wine tasting and Aanjar



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Beirut, transfer to hotel

Your Lebanon adventure begins in the capital city of Beirut. Your guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel in the city, where we will brief you on what to expect over the next few days.

If you've had a long flight, you have the rest of the day to rest or if you arrived earlier, you have time to explore your new surroundings at your leisure.

OVERNIGHT: Beirut hotel

MEALS: None

EXTRAS: Single room supplement (LBTMBC) Extra day in Beirut - pre-tour

Day 2: Beirut, Jeita Grotto, Byblos, Harissa by cable car

We start the day with a visit to the Jeita Grotto, which is a system of two separate, but interconnected, limestone caves spanning an overall length of nearly 9 kilometres. It boasts one of the world's largest and beautiful collections of stalactites and stalagmites.

Next, we visit Byblos, the world's oldest continually inhabited city. Its charming Phoenician harbour is rich in history and heritage and is one of the most intriguing places to visit in Lebanon.

We then make our way to Harissa - a mountain village which is home to one of the most important Lebanese Pilgrimage sites, The Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon. We'll explore the village via cable car, taking in the breathtaking views of the city and its bay.

Later in the day, we'll explore the capital city, indulging in its beautiful architecture, tall modern buildings and we will also explore down-town Beirut, visiting the Corniche, the Pigeon Grotto and the Beirut Souks.

OVERNIGHT: Beirut hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 3: Free day. Optional tours available

You have the day free to explore the city of Beirut at your leisure or you can choose to take an optional day trip. Prices are based on a minimum of 2 people travelling, with discounts available if more people take the tour. You can arrange these tours either in advance or while you are in Beirut.

Optional Tour 1: Visit Barouk Cedars - Deir El Qamar - Beiteddine Palace

This optional tour starts with a visit to the Barouk Cedar Nature Reserve, located in the Chouf district of Lebanon. The nature reserve is situated on the slopes of the Barouk Mountain and is home to the towering cedar forests of Barouk, Maaser el Shouf and Ain Zhalta-Bmohray.

The Barouk Cedar Nature Reserve is an important bird and eco-tourism area, in fact, the reserve is home to approximately 32 species of wild mammals, 200 species of birds, and 500 species of plants.

Next, we head to the Chouf Mountains to explore the village of Deir El Qamar, a name which literally translates to 'monastery of the moon'. The village was the capital of Lebanon in the 17th century.

We then visit the Beiteddine Palace built in the 19th century by Emir Bechir II Chehab around a former Druze hermitage. The palace took over 30 years to build and today it is considered to be one of the great surviving achievements of Lebanese architecture.

Optional Tour 2: Baalbek - Ksara Caves - Anjar

This optional tour starts with a visit to Baalbek, also known as Heliopolis or 'the City of the Sun' by the ancient Greeks and Romans who dedicated the main temple to Jupiter - the god of the sun and the two other temples Venus and Mercure - who partnered Jupiter in the triad of gods.

Baalbek is one of the best-preserved temple complexes in the Middle East, with the monument staying intact through wars, earthquakes and much more. Next, we visit the Ksara Caves, which date back to the Roman period.

Your guide will take you on a tour of the caves and the winery here, which produces some of Lebanon's finest wine. Lastly, we visit Anjar, an important Umayyad site in Lebanon, which was founded in the 8th century by the Caliph Walid.

It is believed that Anjar was once an imperial residence due to its palaces, baths and mosques. It also has remnants of 600 shops, which indicates that the purpose of this settlement was primarily

OVERNIGHT: Beirut hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Cedars, Beiteddine & Deir El Qamar tour Baalbek, Anjar & Vineyards tour

Day 4: Free time, transfer to airport

You have free time to explore Beirut on your own today. You will be collected at your hotel and transferred to the airport to board your flight home. Additional nights in the same tour hotel may be added if you would like to extend your stay (subject to availability).

OVERNIGHT: Beirut hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Extra day in Beirut - post-tour

Included:

- Accommodation in a central 4-star boutique hotel
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (3 breakfasts)
- 24hr airport arrival and departure transfer service
- Entrance fees to sites visited in the itinerary
- Sightseeing tours as detailed in the itinerary
- English speaking guide for all tours
- All transport and transfers in AC vehicles

Excluded:

- International flights
- Visa fees (free visa available on arrival for most nationalities)

- Travel insurance (compulsory, available from Encounters Travel)
- Optional tours
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary (lunches & dinners)
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips
- Hotel gala dinner supplements if applied on Christmas & New Year's Eve
- Any other items not mentioned above

Options

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements - full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

Single Room Supplement (LBTMBM)

Min numbers: 1

This option books a single room in all the accommodation throughout the tour. If you are happy to share a room with another traveller of the same sex, let us know and we will aim to pair you up. The supplement is payable if this is not possible, but it will be removed from your booking or refunded if a room share becomes available later. Room shares are arranged in order of booking.

1. Accommodation

We use a good quality 4-star hotel on this tour, located in central Beirut and within walking distance of the popular Hamra Street with its many restaurants, shops, bars and cafes. There is plenty to see and do on foot around the hotel.

Please visit the accommodation tab of this tour for examples of the hotels normally used on this tour. If you have any specific accommodation requests please let us know and we'll be happy to provide you with a customised quotation.

Please check the Single Room Supplement option for details on room sharing options and charges for solo travellers on this tour.

2. Dates & Prices

This tour is designed as a sample tailor-made tour itinerary. As such we do not offer set group departure dates that you can join. Rather, the tour is available for you to do privately starting on any date of the year. Guideline seasonal prices are given below, based on 2 people travelling. If you would like to adjust the tour itinerary, or there will be more or less people travelling, please contact us and we will customise a price for you.

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Note: Please [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.
