

AIA TRIP TO LEBANON/BEIRUT: DESCRIPTION, SCHEDULE, COST
April 30-May 9, 2019 – Final Draft, 09-14-18

أهلاً وسهلاً AhlanwaSahlan. Welcome to Lebanon—We will hear this greeting many times as we tour the historical and cultural sites of this fascinating country in the spring of 2019.

On our visit we will learn how the Phoenicians, Greeks, and Romans left their imprint on this country, as well as the impact of more recent powers, like the Byzantine and Ottoman empires.

Egyptian pharaohs felled the famous cedars of Lebanon to build their temples in Thebes. Byblos, located on the shores of the Mediterranean, is a World Heritage site that has been inhabited since 5000 BC. And in Baalbek, known as Heliopolis in ancient times, the Romans built a temple to Jupiter that was one of the largest in the empire. This tour will include medieval souks, spectacular caverns, vineyards, and mountain monasteries.

Our headquarter for this nine day journey will be Beirut, Paris of the Middle East, where tradition and modernity coexist in a vibrant urban setting. Historic churches and mosques intermingle with swanky nightclubs and exclusive stores; world-class universities and ultramodern apartments contrast with traditional neighborhoods and relics of ancient times.

Everyone will be amazed and delighted by the energetic mixture of people that characterizes this part of the world.

Day 1: Trip starts on Tuesday, April 30, at Paris Airport (CDG), where we will fly from Paris to Beirut (13:40 pm flight; the time may change by next spring). Travelers should arrive in Paris early that morning or the day before.

Day 2: Sightseeing in Beirut

Day 3: Tour to Nahr El Kalb (inscriptions by earlier conquerors); Jeita Grotto (caves); Byblos by the sea (one of oldest towns; UNESCO world heritage, crusader castle); Harissa (large monument of Our Lady of Lebanon)

Day 4: Tour to Druze Beiteddin Palace and Deir El Kamar. (Not a full day)

Day 5: Tour to Sidon (visit old souks, soap factory, castle, cavanserai) and continue to Tyre (UNESCO world heritage site, largest harbor of Phoenicians)

Day 6: Day in Beirut – more museums, beach, evening stroll, galleries

Day 7: Tour to Baalbeck (UNESCO world heritage site, temple of Jupiter, one of best preserved Roman ruins), Anjar (8th century Umayyad town, UNESCO world site) and winery.) Full day

Day 8: Tour to Cedars, Besharrah (Gibran museum), St. Antonio's church and hermit caves. Full Day

Day 9: Tour into Bekaa Valley to visit some villages, wineries, lake, more casual day.

Day 10: Depart for Paris (7:55 am flight). It may be difficult to arrive in Paris for a return flight to US on same day.

Cost/person based on double occupancy (land package only): \$1,930, single supplement - \$200. This cost is based on the group of 25 people. Group limited to 25 people. Trip is an AIA member benefit.

Included:

- Hotel (Breakfast included) 9 Nights
- Airport Transfers
- Tours: Eight days of tours in 25 passenger van with English speaking guide. Lunch with soft drink is included on seven days. On the second day in Beirut there is no lunch included—only transportation to different parts of the city. All entrance fees are included.
- Tips
- Farewell Dinner

Not Included:

- Airfare
- Dinners – for 8 nights
- Wine, beer, etc. at lunch
- Taxi charges for individual trips in city
- Personal expenses

Travel Arrangements:

All Participants will make their own travel arrangements to Beirut.

Meeting place is Paris airport on April 30, at 11:40 for departure at 13:40 on Air France/Middle East Airlines. (Specific flight information will be forwarded later.)

Return to Paris is on May 9, at 7:55 am

(Anyone wishing to depart at a different time/day must make their own hotel arrangements and airport transportation).

AIA will arrange tickets from Paris to Beirut and return for participants who select this service. Cost per ticket will be an extra \$200.

Trip briefing: September 26, 3:30 – 4:30 PM, Albuquerque Journal, 7777 Jefferson NE

ADVANCE PAYMENT: \$1,000 will secure your placement on this trip. \$600 non-refundable (no exceptions). Payment via check only.

BALANCE PAYMENT: by December 17, 2018

REQUIREMENTS: individual travel health and trip cancellation insurance