

LEBANON, Syria, JORDAN

Petra, Baalbek and Palmyra- glorious ruins of the Levant.

Petra, Baalbek and Palmyra- architectural glories that existed during the height of the Roman influence- for history, photography and architectural enthusiasts this is a trip that will distil the history of the Levant through its spectacular ruins. Inter-woven are Biblical sites



like Bosra, Byzantine sites like Beiteddine, Crusader castles achingly beautiful in their state of disrepair, or places like the Citadel in Aleppo, so significant in the history of the power struggle of that era that it's passed through just about every major colonizing force of that period. A trip that covers the highlights of Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, this itinerary serves as an excellent introduction to the region for the time-constrained traveler. With Dubai as the staging grounds, the itinerary could either start or end with Jordan, taking in the highlights of the region.

DUBAI

Based at the sleek, contemporary Dubai Intercontinental Festival City, this is the

perfect base for travelers transiting in Dubai. Self-contained (with a shopping centre and proximate to a golf course as well as Michelin-starred hotel restaurants) as well as being convenient to the airport, this will be where you'd be starting (and ending) the journey.

Arrive in Dubai. Day at Leisure.



Calling ourselves 'travel mixologists', we've served up interesting itineraries for you to choose from- all of which are available for tweaking and embellishments whilst keeping the main ingredients.

Beautifully-themed journeys for you to choose from and to tweak according to your predilections.

URBANE NOMADS

dubai to beirut

Be picked up from the hotel at 10am and be flight transferred on to Beirut today, where you will be based at the contemporary Le Gray hotel conveniently with a rooftop pool and restaurant offering panoramic views of the city.



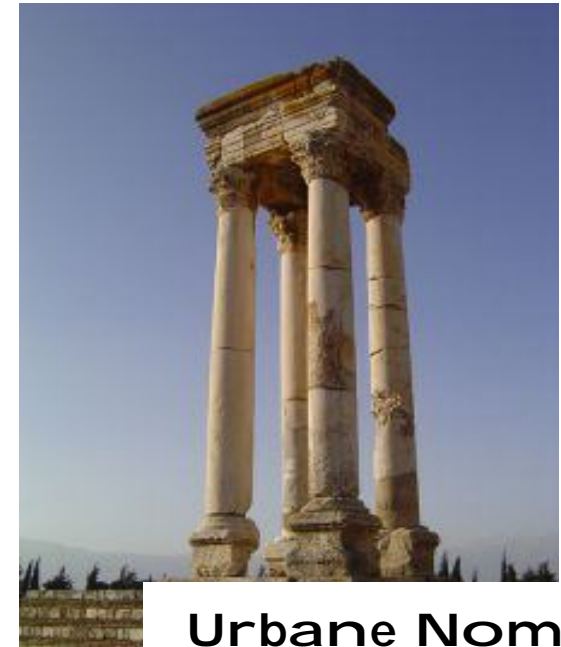
beirut

Tour of Baalbek, Ksara and Anjar.

Visit the triumvirate cities of Baalbek, Ksara and Anjar today. The largest Roman temples ever built, baalbek was constructed in ode to Jupiter, Bacchus and Venus.

Later on make your way to the wineries of Ksara – a network of cellars that are partly natural and partly excavated during Roman and Byzantine times. Acquired by Jesuit fathers in 1957, these cellars were discovered

only 9 years after they'd begun production!



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Photo courtesy of Jessica Lindholm

The Umayyad site of Anjar is unique in Lebanon in its exclusivity to the Umayyad era. Whilst other historical sites in the

country are characterized by the influence and confluence of multiple civilizations superimposed over the other, Anjar is exclusively Umayyad. A relatively new civilization in contrast to sites like Tyr and Byblos, which has been continuously inhabited since its establishment, the Umayyad site of Anjar has a sharp peak and decline. Few other sites compare to Anjar in terms of testimony to Umayyad influence. Benefiting from its strategic position on trade routers leading to Damascus, Homs and Baalbek, this almost perfectly quadrilateral site lies amongst some of the richest agricultural land in Lebanon

beirut

Tour of Beiteddine, Tyr and Sidon

Departing from the Roman temples prevalent in this journey, you'd be making your way to Beiteddine today. Beiteddine Palace was built combining the skills of the best craftsmen from Damascus and Aleppo as well as Italian architects, resulting in 'a cross between Arab and Italian Baroque'.



Heavily damaged during the Lebanese Civil War, politician and Druze leader Walid Jumblatt had ordered its restoration. One of

the palaces built for the princes has survived (Mir Amine Palace) and is incarnated as a luxury hotel. Proceed to the fairytale seacastle of Tyr and Sidon and stop for lunch (not included) in one of the restaurants overlooking the sea.

BEIRUT TO DAMASCUS

Be picked up at 10am after breakfast today, proceeding in
Urbane Nomads
Damascus



Photo courtesy of Mira Pavlakovic

You will be visiting Bosra (a major archeological site that has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site) en route. Consisting of a Roman theater and Nabatean and Roman monuments as well as churches, mosques and medresses, Bosra was successfully captured by the Rashidun caliphane in 634 from the Byzantines.

Day in Damascus is at Leisure.

alleys of Straight Street, before ending the day at Qassioun Mountain, taking in the panoramic view of Damascus at sun set



Photo courtesy of M Hussein

Visit the Bel Temple, Valley of the Tombs, the Colonnade as well as the Bath of the Queen Zenobia.



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damascus

City tour of Damascus – from the souks of Hamidiyeh to the Omayyad Mosque (where the head of John the Baptist is reputedly still kept), Saladin’s Tomb to exploring the back

palmyra

Transfer today to Palmyra, a city which, in romantic lore is most associated with Zenobia, the Syrian queen famous for staging a famous revolt against the Roman Empire.

palmyra to aleppo

Transfer to Aleppo today, stopping by the Nourias (water wheels) of Hama and Apamea. Over night in Aleppo at the Mansouriya Hotel, Aleppo’s own chic

boutique hotel and symptomatic of Aleppo's new found cache amongst the Bohemian jet-set. Its under-the-radar restaurant quickly winning fans amongst the gastronomic societies in the region, specializes in Syrian truffles (in season between February and March)

Visit the Citadel, Grand Mosque and Caravanserais. Explore Aleppo's bazaar, deemed to be the best preserved in the region as well as walk through its Christian and Armenian quarters with its churches.



Aleppo to damascus

Drive back to Damascus today. Visit the Krak des Chevaliers en route as well as Ma'aloulam, a scenic village in Syria and the only place in the world where Aramaic is still spoken. Visit the village's two most important monasteries (Mar Sarkis and Mar Taqla). Overnight in Damascus.



Photo courtesy of Simon Gurney

DAMASCUS

On own arrangement. We suggest rounding

up the souvenirs (ref: our Syrian souvenir guide) in Damascus' bazaars and back alleys, possibly being in Omayyad Mosque again just in time before the evening prayers (a particularly spiritual and fascinating time to be there as you witness the masses assembling for prayer. Tonight you will be based at Dar al Mamlouka



DAMASCUS to amman

Drive to Amman. Be met and transferred to the Four Season Amman . Your luggage will be collected and loaded into the vehicles. The drive to Amman will take about an hour. Day at leisure.

amman to petra

The journey to Petra begins today.



Photo courtesy of Pierre Drap

After breakfast, begin check-out and commence on the journey (you will be met at approximately 9am at the hotel lobby). On this trip you would be passing by Mt Nebo, Madaba, the desert castles of Petra as well as traversing the King's Highway, one of the most ancient trading routes in the world that winds its way through different ecological zones (forested highlands, plateaus, deep ravines and desert).

The King's Highway, referenced in the Bible as the route that Moses wanted to lead his people through and, in an unabbreviated journey would take some 2-3 days starting from either Amman or Aqaba with pitstops in Kerak, Madaba and Petra.



Photo Courtesy of Andrew Green

You'll witness the Biblical kingdom of the Ammonite civilization (Hisban, Dhiban, Madaba and Aroer). Do stop to take a look at

the 6th century mosaic map in Madaba (the oldest map of the Holy Land). Mount Nebo provides more context, being the site where Moses had gazed upon the Holy Land.

There is also the hilltop Herodian fortress of Machaerus (allegedly where John the Baptist was imprisoned and beheaded by Herod).

Kerak has some of the most spectacular desert castles as well as major Islamic shrines. Stop at the Crusader fortress of Kerak (built in 1136) and re-conquered by Saladin (or Salahuddin Al-Ayyoubi) in 1189. By contrast there is also the Roman legionary fortress of Lejjun (now unfortunately destroyed by earthquake).



petra

A full day exploration of the ancient Nabatean city. Proceed from the visitor's centre on Horseback, riding to the Dam before dismounting and continuing on foot through a long narrow gorge to the much-photographed Treasury, Theatre Court and

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Roman column in the Basin. This is a



Full day exploration involving a 1000 steps up to the Monastery (a spectacular temple carved out of the rock) and is best started early to avoid the crowds. There is the option of hiring a sure-footed donkey to go up the 1000 stairs (going down takes about half an hour).

We'd arranged for part of the trip to be done on horseback. As this is only the beginning (and possibly the most strenuous portion) of the trip, do pace yourself. A full day's exploration of temples, baths and columns – somewhat repeated in Syria's Palmyra, and Lebanon's Baalbek but not on the same scale and grandeur.

PETRA TO AMMAN

Drive back to Amman, stopping by Wadi Rum (also referred to as Valley of the Moon) although the name 'Rum' has been thought of as having Aramaic roots (meaning 'high' or 'elevated'). Here you will find the marking of many civilizations- rock paintings, graffiti and temples.



Photo courtesy of Cristiano Galbiati

Most associated with T.E. Lawrence who'd used it as the staging grounds for the Arab Revolt, look out for the impressive rock formations (named 'Seven Pillars of Wisdom' in the spirit of T.E. Lawrence). Wadi Rum is now home to the Zalabia Bedouin. Night spent at the Four Seasons Amman.

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AMMAN TO DUBAI

Evening International flight back to Dubai.

dubai

Check out and proceed for International
flight back home.

Airport transfer not included.

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Date	Nts. Location/Route	Accommodation/ Details	Rooms/Travel Time/Basis
Day 1	Dubai	Intercontinental Festival City	
Day 2	Dubai to Beirut	Le Gray Hotel	
Day 3	Beirut	Le Gray Hotel	
Day 4	Beirut	Le Gray	
Day 5	Beirut to Damascus	Four Seasons Damascus	
Day 6	Damascus	Four Seasons Damascus	
Day 7	Palmyra	Tadamora Palace Hotel	

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Day 8	Aleppo	Mansouriya Hotel	
Day 9	Aleppo	Mansouriya Hotel	
Day 10	Aleppo to Damascus	Four Seasons Damascus	
Day 11	Damascus	Four Seasons Damascus	
Day 12	Damascus to Amman	Four Seasons Amman	
Day 13	Amman to Petra	Movenpick Petra	
Day 14	Petra	Movenpick Petra	
Day 15	Petra to Amman	Four Seasons Amman	
Day 16	Amman to Dubai	Intercontinental Festival City	
Day 17	Dubai	Intercontinental Festival City	

Total Price

USD \$ 8,500 Per Person

(Approximate Price only)

On a Double Occupancy Basis

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Important Notes

Trip Grading/Difficulty:

This itinerary is done at a relaxed pace, with no strenuous or overtly physical activities and is suitable for all ages.

Flights

It is essential that you give us your air schedule at least 60 days prior to departure, so that we may confirm your arrival and departure hotels.

Health

You are strongly advised to contact your own GP or vaccination centre in respect of required vaccinations for Syria. Check on recommended immunizations as least a month before travel. Among the items you might pack are: sun creams (factor 12 and above), insect repellent, sting relief cream, antiseptic cream, a lightweight hat and sunglasses.

Important Note

While we endeavor to make the itinerary as accurate as possible, it should be considered an approximate schedule of activities rather than a rigid schedule of events. Trip itineraries are subject to revision due to weather, road and trail conditions, government restrictions and other factors beyond our control.

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Booking Conditions:

Booking your tailor-made holiday

A booking is accepted only after we receive the completed signed booking form and/or the non-refundable deposit required. If the booking is made within 60 days of departure, then full payment is required at the time of confirmation except over the Christmas & New Year period when the full itinerary amount must be made at the time of booking. The balance of payment due for your travel arrangements must be paid by you not later than 60 days before departure; otherwise we may treat the booking as cancelled.

Methods of payment

Payments for deposits and final monies for Travel Arrangements may be made by bank transfer.

Cancellation

All cancellations must be advised in writing and will take effect the day we receive it. Urbane Nomads refunds all recoverable costs after cancellation, subject to third-party cancellation and refund policies and a USD500 administration and travel planning fee.

In some cases hotels require prepayment in full for hotel rooms and services in the peak period. In such cases these deposits are non refundable.

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Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking the Travel Arrangements that You are adequately insured for the full duration of the your travel arrangements in respect of illness, injury, death, loss of baggage and personal items, cancellation and curtailment. The choice of insurer is the sole discretion of You. In signing the Booking Form or paying for your holiday You confirm to Us that You either have or will have procured such insurance before the commencement of Your Travel Arrangements.

Further Terms and Conditions apply. In signing the Booking Form or paying the deposit you confirm to Us that you have accepted the booking terms and conditions.

The Urbane Nomad keenly seeks the best that travel has to offer-keenly seeking out exciting design hotels with its associated mod cons, the most unique travel experiences in localities yet to be discovered by the masses or experiencing a favoured tourist destination on an entirely different level.

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