

THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
OF PHILADELPHIA
AND COOPERATING COUNCILS:

INSIDE SYRIA AND LEBANON

\$6,200 PER PERSON • SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT \$1,740

Tour price includes:

- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Meals as listed in the program
- All sightseeing in a deluxe air-conditioned coach
- All entrance fees and special events listed
- Pre-departure materials and reading list
- Visa fee for Syria *if arriving on the group flight from London on November 5*
- The services of a Council staff person and a Distant Horizons tour manager
- The services of local Syrian and Lebanese guides
- Gratuities to guides and drivers

Does not include:

- International airfare - into Damascus and out of Beirut (approximately \$1,500 from JFK)
- Passport fees
- Visa fee for Syria *if not arriving on the group flight from London on November 5* (approximately \$131)
- Visa fee Lebanon (approximately \$17)
- Excess luggage charges
- Medical expenses
- Trip Insurance
- Items of a purely personal nature



For more information, any questions
or a detailed itinerary, please call
World Affairs Council of Philadelphia at
800.942.5004 x 209 or 217
or email travel@wacphila.org
www.wacphila.org

Tour Operated by Distant Horizons
1-800-333-1240
CST 2046776-10

Dear World Affairs Council Travelers,

Lying at the crossroads between the Orient and the Occident, this trip to Syria and Lebanon offers a rare chance to explore two countries full of splendid historical sites representing a vast range of civilizations. Join us as we discover bustling, ancient bazaars, exquisite art and architecture and a magnificent landscape of deserts and ancient ruins. **At the same time a series of briefings and meetings have been arranged with carefully selected people and organizations to allow the opportunity to understand how these countries are planning for their future and their roles in today's political map of our world.**

Our trip begins in Damascus, the capital of Syria and chosen by UNESCO as the 2008 Arab Capital of Culture. Explore impressive museums and the Umayyad Mosque, said to contain the head of John the Baptist, and walk along the Street Called Straight. Spend two days exploring Palmyra to see the series of large-scale monuments containing funerary art such as limestone slabs with human busts representing the deceased. Continue to Aleppo, which has the largest medieval citadel in the world and an animated bazaar where the traditions of the Middle Ages do not seem at all remote.

Head west to cross the Lebanese border, admiring the Phoenician temples at Baalbek where the mountains which form the backdrop are all that can dwarf the enormous size of this impressive archaeological site. Spend four nights in Beirut discovering the city, from the 1,000 year old cedar trees at Bcharre to the Crusader Castle, a medieval relic in Tripoli. Meet with officials from Solidere, the construction company responsible for rebuilding Beirut, to learn about their ambitious plan to return the city to its former importance as the business capital of the Middle East. Visit Byblos, believed by many to be the oldest continuously-inhabited city in the world. Although much has changed, a walk through the bazaar takes the group back to covered souks where sack-loads of herbs and spices fill the alleys.

Space is limited and we hope you will be able to join us on this magnificent tour of Syria and Lebanon.

Joan Russell
Director of Travel
World Affairs Council

SPECIAL EVENTS

Please note that these special Council briefings will be confirmed with specific dates and times closer to departure

DAMASCUS

- Briefing at the US Embassy
- A visit to the Syria Trust for Development, a non-governmental, non-profit organization, whose aim is to empower people from all walks of life to play a full role in building and shaping of their society
- Meeting with the Syrian Young Entrepreneurs Association
- Visit with Da'ad Mousa, a Syrian lawyer and women's rights activist

ALEPPO

- Meeting with faculty and students at the University of Aleppo
- Enjoy drinks at the Baron's Hotel where Agatha Christie stayed and wrote the first part of *Murder on the Orient Express*

BEIRUT

- Briefing at the US Embassy
- Visit Al Majmoua, the leading micro-finance NGO in Lebanon
- Meet with staff from the Beirut Association for Social Development, a non-profit organization dedicated to defending human rights and empowering women
- A visit to the American University of Beirut
- Meeting with entrepreneur Maria Hibri, a collector of traditional textiles who then uses them to create modern home furnishings

INSIDE SYRIA AND LEBANON

NOVEMBER 4 TO NOVEMBER 18, 2010



WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
of Philadelphia & Cooperating Councils

THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA
AND COOPERATING COUNCILS:
INSIDE SYRIA AND LEBANON

RESERVATION FORM

Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

(1) _____
First Middle Last

(2) _____
First Middle Last

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

I would like to reserve _____ space(s) at \$500 per person on "Inside Syria and Lebanon"

Enclosed is my deposit for \$ _____.

I am a member of the _____ Council.

Please make checks payable to Distant Horizons.
Your deposit is refundable up to 90 days prior to departure less a \$400 per person administrative fee.

PAYMENTS MAY BE MADE BY CHECK ONLY

ROOM ARRANGEMENTS

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY, I WILL BE SHARING WITH _____

I WOULD LIKE A SINGLE ROOM

I WOULD PREFER A ROOMMATE, BUT WILL PAY THE SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT IF ONE IS NOT AVAILABLE.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

I/WE WISH TO BE CONTACTED TO DISCUSS MY/OUR FLIGHTS

I/WE WILL MAKE MY/OUR OWN AIR ARRANGEMENTS

PLEASE RETURN WITH A \$500 DEPOSIT PER PERSON TO
WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA
ONE SOUTH BROAD STREET, SUITE 2M, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107
or call

Within the Philadelphia area 215-561-4700,
Outside Philadelphia area 800-942-5004 x 209 or 217
E-mail: travel@wacphila.org

The Council will be moving offices in June 2010. Please email us or visit our website for more information before mailing a reservation to us.

U.S. to DAMASCUS Thursday, November 4
Depart the U.S.

DAMASCUS Friday, November 5
Arrive in Damascus late-afternoon. Upon arrival transfer to the charming *Talisman 1 Hotel*. **D.**

DAMASCUS Saturday, November 6
Leisurely morning will conclude with a tour orientation followed by lunch. Afternoon visit to the Umayyad Mosque which is one of the great monuments of early Islam. Admire the full splendor of the mosque's design which has lost little of its impact over 12 centuries. Enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel this evening. **B,L,D.**

DAMASCUS Sunday, November 7
Continue exploring Damascus at the National Museum which was founded in 1919. Enjoy a brief orientation in the museum's magnificent recreation of an 18th-century drawing room from a Damascene mansion. Schedule permitting, the group will be met by the museum's director. After a traditional lunch visit the Shrine of Sayidda Zeinab, and then continue with a walking tour through the bazaar and the traditional khans. The final stop for the day is at the Street Called Straight which since Roman times has been the major west/east thoroughfare of Damascus. Visit the house of Ananias, where in a small underground chapel Saul of Tarsus (St. Paul) converted to Christianity. This evening enjoy a private visit to a traditional Damascene house for drinks before dinner at a local restaurant. **B,L,D.**

PALMYRA Monday, November 8
Morning departure for a three-hour drive across the desert past beehive-shaped houses and Bedouin tents to the palm-forested city of Palmyra, one of the great sites of the ancient world. Spend the balance of the day exploring the remains of this oasis city located midway between the Mediterranean seaboard and the thin cultivated zone of the Euphrates. Overnight at the *Zenobia Cham Hotel* (executive rooms). **B,L,D.**

PALMYRA Tuesday, November 9
Continue exploring Palmyra today including a number of the tombs located here. After lunch visit the small but wonderful museum, the main colonnaded street with its theater and public fountain, and the Temple of Bel, a large site built to a high standard of craftsmanship whose impressive scale reflects the peak of Roman prosperity in the Antonine period. **B,L,D.**

ALEPPO Wednesday, November 10
Drive to Aleppo arriving in time for lunch. Upon arrival transfer to the *Sheraton Hotel*. Late afternoon visit to the covered souks which house a number of khan including the Khan al-Sabun whose facade is decorated in a rich variety of carved detailing. The courtyard includes much elegant arcading and a fine arch. Here, walking along narrow cobbled-paths, a whole range of goods from old carpets to beautiful brass can be found. **B,L,D.**

ALEPPO Thursday, November 11
This morning begin exploring the city at the Citadel, a masterpiece of Arab military architecture which combines the practical with the flamboyant. After lunch visit the Archaeological Museum which has a fine collection of artifacts from Mari, Ebla and Hama, as well as a number of items from the Classical period including Greek and Roman pottery. **B,L,D.**

ALEPPO Friday, November 12
Morning visit to Ain Dara. Ain Dara has remains from many periods including Seleucid Greek and Arab but its main interest lies in the Neo-Hittite period at the beginning of the first millennium BC when Ain Dara was one of the fragmented principalities established following the Sea Peoples' invasion of the Levant. After a picnic lunch enjoy an afternoon visit to the 5th-century monastery of St. Simeon which is notable not only for its scale but also for the classical refinement of its detail. Evening at leisure. **B,L.**

DAMASCUS Saturday, November 13
Drive back to Damascus today, first stopping at Ebla, one of the most important Bronze Age sites discovered. Continue on to Apamea, nestled on the east side of the Orontes Plain. Visit the Turkish caravanserai which has recently been converted and restored as a museum of mosaics. Enjoy lunch by the river banks at Hama watching the enormous wooden water wheels which creak with the flow of the Orontes. A highlight of the day will be the stop at Krak des Chevaliers, a supreme example of Crusader castle building. Arrive in Damascus late afternoon. Overnight at the *Talisman 1 Hotel*. **B,L.**

BEIRUT Sunday, November 14
Morning departure for Lebanon stopping en route at Baalbek. Enjoy lunch at the Hotel Palmyra with clear views of the wonderful ruins before setting out to explore the site. Continue on to the ruins of Aanjar which was discovered in the 1950s by archaeologists looking for the lost city of Chalcis. Arrive in Beirut late afternoon and transfer to the *Gefinor Rotana Hotel*. **B,L,D.**

BEIRUT Monday, November 15
Spend the day exploring Beirut. Our morning begins when an official from Solidere will meet the group in the town center. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the Archaeological Museum of Beirut whose collection covers the whole of antiquity right down to the Romans and is considered one of the richest museums in the Middle East. Continue to Villa Sursok. Enjoy dinner at Khan El Mir, a restaurant located in the Old Souks of Zouk. **B,L,D.**

BEIRUT Tuesday, November 16
Morning visit to Byblos which is claimed to have been inhabited longer than any other town on earth. Wander through the Balaat Gebal Temple, the most ancient temple at the site. Head south to Beiteddine, which is situated on a massive rocky spur overlooking a cascade of carefully-tended terraces. After a refreshing lunch served on the terraces of the Mir Amin Palace Hotel, begin exploring Beiteddine which, in principle, belongs to the state. Dinner at a local restaurant. **B,L,D.**

BEIRUT Wednesday, November 17
Drive north to Tripoli whose history goes back to the 8th century BC. The biggest and most famous medieval relic is the Crusader Castle where our tour will begin. Cross the street to begin a walking tour through the narrow streets of old Tripoli including the wonderful bazaar. Walking through the tailors' quarters, we will arrive at one of the most serene Mameluke monuments, the delicate free standing Al Burtayisat Mosque on the edge of the River Abu Ali. Special farewell dinner tonight. **B,L,D.**

BEIRUT to U.S. Thursday, November 18
Return home.

