

## LEBANON – WORLD HERITAGE SITES

### **Anjar**

Anjar, 58 km from Beirut, is exclusively from one period, going back to the early 8th Century AD. Unlike Tyre and Byblos, which claim continuous habitation since the day they were founded, Anjar flourished for only a few decades.

The city benefited from its strategic position on intersecting trade routes leading to Damascus, Homs, Baalbeck and to the South. This almost perfect quadrilateral of ruins lies in the midst of some of the richest agricultural land in Lebanon. It is only a short distance from gushing springs and one of the important sources of the Litani River.

### **Baalbek**

Lebanon's greatest Roman treasure, can be counted among the wonders of the ancient world. These are not only the largest and noblest Roman temples ever built, but they are also among the best preserved. Towering high above the Békaa plain, their monumental proportions proclaimed the power and wealth of Imperial Rome.

### **Byblos**

Byblos is said to be the oldest inhabited city in the world, the source of the first Phoenician letters that gave us our alphabet. Byblos was the major seaport of the east Mediterranean during the 3rd millennium BC. The ruins include the perimeter walls, the Temple of “Baalat-Gebal” (the goddess of the city), the Temple of the “Gbelisks” and the royal tombs. There are also ruins dating from Roman times and the crusader castle and church.

### **Tyre**

Founded at the start of the third millennium BC, Tyre originally consisted of a mainland settlement and a modest island city that lay a short distance off shore. But it was not until the first millennium BC that the city experienced its golden age. In the 10th Century BC Hiram -, King of Tyre -, joined two islets by landfill. Later he extended the city further by reclaiming a considerable area from the sea.

### **Ouadi Qadisha (the Holy Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars of God (Horsh Arz el-Rab)**

The Qadisha valley is one of the most important early Christian monastic settlements in the world. Its monasteries, many of which are of a great age, stand in dramatic positions in a rugged landscape. Nearby are the remains of the great forest of cedars of Lebanon, highly prized in antiquity for the construction of great religious buildings.

### **About Lebanon: A Heaven on Earth!**

Landscapes that change with the seasons, but are always bathed in the warm sun. The daylight rising over Lebanon brings endless opportunities of fun, beach, nature and outdoor activities. You'll never know what to choose. Whatever it will be, an unforgettable time awaits you under the shiny Lebanese sun.