



Experience **UNESCO**
HERITAGE SITES

Differently





EXPERIENCE

ANJAR

DIFFERENTLY

WHY?

- Designated as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984
- A must-see city on the Umayyad Route (EU cultural route). The Umayyads, the first hereditary dynasty of Islam, ruled from Damascus in the first century after the Prophet Muhammad, from 660 to 750 A.D.
- It stands unique as the only historic example of an inland commercial center
- Its site is an outstanding example of an 8th century town planning with a mix of architectural elements featuring Roman-Byzantine to Arabo-Islamic arts
- The Umayyad city of Anjar is approximately 114,000 square meters, enclosed by a two meter thick wall fortified by 40 towers and spread across a rectangular area
- The city's slender columns and fragile arches stand in contrast to the massive bulk of the nearby Anti-Lebanon mountains
- The actual village of Anjar is famous for its strong Armenian ties
- Anjar is a declared Hima area and a part of Hima to Hima program

- Visit the Archeological site of Anjar (Little Palace, Main Streets, Colonnades, Mosque, the Great Palace)* - *ask for a local guide onsite*
- Visit one of the several "French Rooms" still standing in the village*
- Taste the mix of Lebanese and Armenian flavors in Anjar's restaurants*
- Don't miss the homemade preserves and the handicrafts on sale at the Umayyad site boutique (sp. gold and silver art)*
- Hiking the different trails of the village (5 km next to the river or 10 km on the foothill)*
- Biking on specific trails in the plain agricultural lands*
- Organic strawberry picking (activity available from May till October)*
- Planting seedlings in the newly developed forest*

WHAT TO DO?

WHILE YOU ARE HERE

- Taanayel lake and dairy farm
- Kfarzabad wetlands: an extension of the Ammiq wetlands, and important area for migratory birds (For visit contact SPNL: 814 344 | 961 -740 343 | 961. www.Spnl.org)
- Niha temples: the site has 2 temples, one of them is dedicated to the Syro-Pheonician God Hadaranes, retaining at its entrance a well-preserved relief carving of a priest making an offering to the deities
- Ferzol: the “Wadi Al-Habis” in Ferzol contains a number of tombs, shrines and rock-cut sanctuaries from Roman and Byzantine times.
- Terbol museum: the museum is an old farmhouse, a prototype of traditional local architecture (For visits: 987678 3 961 – 455104 5 961. terbol@fnp.org.lb)
- Ksara winery: offering a guided tour to the Roman caves and an option for tutored tasting of the brand’s wines.
- Riyak train station: it was once a railroad terminal, the oldest in the Middle East (dating back to 1895), linking Lebanon to Europe and the Arab countries.
- Karak Nouh: Noah’s Karak, or the tomb of Noah, is 42 meters long and 2.5 meters wide. The mosque itself was built with reused Roman stones and is decorated with ancient Arabic inscriptions.
- Zahle: notable for its traditional red-roofed houses, arcades and decorated facades typical of 19th century architecture.

SPEAK LIKE A LEBANESE

- Wadi Al Habis: Wadi means valley in Arabic and Habis is the hermit
- Wadi Al Arayesh: the valley of climbing vines



Organize your stay

Anjar Municipality

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Municipality_anjar@hotmail.com



* Activities suitable for kids



EXPERIENCE

BAALBECK

DIFFERENTLY

WHY?

- Designated as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984
- A Phoenician worship center for a triad of deities maintaining its religious function in Hellenistic and Roman times, converted into a fortress in Islamic times
- One of the finest examples of Imperial Roman architecture in its apogee
- A sanctuary of 3 temples dedicated to Jupiter, Bacchus and Venus
- The 6 famous columns of Baalbeck used to be part of the 54 twenty meters high columns surrounding the cella of the temple of Jupiter
- The Temple of Bacchus is one of the best-preserved remains of a Roman temple in the world featuring, on its monumental entrance, carvings related to the cult of Bacchus
- 24 monoliths are used in the earlier construction, the largest weighing over 800 tons
- AKA Heliopolis: City of the Sun

- Visit the Archeological site of Baalbeck (Temples of Jupiter, Bacchus and Venus, with the site museums, towers and patios)* - *ask for a local guide onsite*
- Visit “Hajar El Hobla”, one of the largest monoliths excavated in the Roman quarries *
- Visit “Sayyida Khawla” Shrine*
- Visit the 7th or 8th century Umayyad mosque*
- Visit the house of the Lebanese poet and journalist Khalil Moutran*
- Try the traditional iconic pastry named “Sfiha Baalbakiyi” *
- Visit an authentic old house “Baalbeck Guesthouse” *
- “Sajeyeh” activity: a traditional Baalbaki way of cooking by digging a hole in the ground, filling it with charcoal, and covering it with the “Saj”

WHAT TO DO?

WHILE YOU ARE HERE

- Plamyra Historic Hotel: opened since 1874, the legendary hotel welcomed many celebrities. Its collection of photographs and pieces of art, the hotel is a museum to itself.
 - Ras El Ain spring and garden: the ancient spring provides the town with water. A small peristyle monument and a nymphaeum from the Roman period can be seen on the site.
 - Mercury Temple: built in the 1st century B.C. above the remains of an ancient temple, and dedicated to the deity who protected plants and livestock, it can be reached by way of a stairway sculpted in rocks.
 - Laat Column: believed to be a funerary monument, the Corinthian column is 18 meters high and installed on a four huge stone steps.
 - Qubbat Duris: an octagonal structure of 8 granite columns, designed as a cupola. In it lays an Ayyubid mausoleum dating back to the 13th century.
 - Deir el Ahmar: unique for its authenticity, heritage, religious and holy sanctuaries, family activities, traditional cuisine, wine production and warm hospitality.
- (Contact: WADA association: +961 3 622369)

SPEAK LIKE A LEBANESE

- **Hajar El Hobla:** Hajar means stone and el Hobla means the pregnant woman. The Stone of the Pregnant Woman is considered to be the largest stone in the world (1000 tons).
- **Sayyida Khawla:** Sayyida means lady; in the Arab world Sayyida is a title given to a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad. Khawla was the daughter of Imam Hussein, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad.
- **Sfiha Baalbakiyi:** it is an open-faced meat pie made with lamb or beef.
- **Saj:** it is a cooking plate/grill made of metal with a heating source underneath it, usually used to prepare the traditional Lebanese flat bread (Saj Bread).



Organize your stay

Charbel Saliba (Local Tour Guide)
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Ihab Raad (Baalbeck Guesthouse)
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* Activities suitable for kids





EXPERIENCE

BYBLOS

DIFFERENTLY

WHY?

- Designated as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984
- One of the oldest continuously-inhabited cities in the world since Neolithic times
- Considered as the origin of our contemporary alphabet with the most ancient Phoenician inscription carved on the legendary sarcophagus of King Ahiiram
- Since the Bronze Age, Byblos provides one of the primary examples of urban organization in the Mediterranean world
- Known for its close relationship with Pharaonic Egypt and the trade of cedar wood that was essential for the construction of monumental temples in Egypt
- The city has the best preserved Roman remains on the Lebanese coast, including a theater
- Distinguished for its ancient harbor, seaside fish restaurants, ancient souks, and charming residential neighborhoods dating back to the Middle Ages, as well as an enormous wealth of historic sites and ruins.

- Visit the Archeological site of Byblos (the Neolithic houses, the monumental temples of the Bronze Age including temples of “Baalat Gubla”, L-shaped Temple, Temple of the Obelisks, the Persian fortifications, the Royal Tombs, the Roman road and theater, and the Crusaders citadel)* - *ask for a local guide onsite*
- Visit the old town (the “Souk”, the ancient harbor and the byzantine church)*
- Visit the museums in the city (the fossils museum +961 9 540555, the wax museum +961 9 540463, the Phoenician Museum in LAU-Louis Cardahi Foundation +961 9 547262 ext 3911)*
- Enjoy the sunset at the bars of “Al Bahsa” beach
- Have some drinks and find good food at the lively old souk outdoor bars
- Discover the city by riding around on bicycles (Byblos Bike Sharing System)*
- Diving

WHAT? TO DO

WHILE YOU ARE HERE

- Amshit village: a pleasant place with attractive beaches, temples remnants, traditional houses and many Lebanese cuisine restaurants.
- Hakel village: famous to be a witness for life's evolution thanks to its quarries that are rich in extraordinary state of conservation marine fossils: fish, crustaceans, shrimps, starfish, etc... Fossils are on display at two family owned museums in the village
- Annaya village: a pilgrimage destination to the Sanctuary of Saint Charbel in the Monastery of saint Maroun and his hermitage.
- Bental Nature Reserve: check our booklet "Experience nature Reserves Differently"



SPEAK LIKE A LEBANESE

- Souk: Souk means a market in Arabic.
- Baalat Gubla: Baalat is a Phoenician word that means goddess. Gubla is the Phoenician nomination of the city of Byblos. The name Byblos appeared with the Greeks. The actual name of the city in Arabic is Jbeil.



Organize your stay

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* Activities suitable for kids





EXPERIENCE

WADI QADISHA & HORSH ARZ EL RAB

DIFFERENTLY

WHY?



- Designated as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1998
- “Wadi Qadisha” is one of the most important settlement sites of the first Christian monasteries in the world, giving shelter to monastic communities
- The monasteries of Qadisha are among the most significant surviving examples of the strength of the Christian faith
- “Wadi Qadisha” is one of the deepest and most beautiful valleys in Lebanon. In its gorge runs the Qadisha River, giving the area its rugged landscapes
- Filled with caves and rock-shelters inhabited from the third millennium B.C.
- “Horsh Arz El Rab” is one of the last vestige of antique forests of Cedrus Libani, a valued construction material in the antique world
- “Horsh Arz El Rab” is located on Mount Makmel, between 1900 and 2050m altitude
- The cedars of Lebanon are cited 103 times in the Bible
- The oldest cedar trees in “Horsh Arz El Rab” reach a height of 35 meters and a circumference of 14 meters

- Hiking the highest peak of Lebanon: “Qornet Sawda”
- Hiking the trails of “Wadi Qadisha” leading to several monasteries* among them:
 - Monastery of Saydet Hawqa: a 13th century monastery, it was built, according to the legend, to expiate a betrayal.
 - Qannoubine Monastery: the residence of the Maronite patriarchs between 15th and 19th centuries. A walk on the nearby trail can lead you to the chapel of Saint Marina.
 - Monastery of “Mar” Lishaa: nestled in a fold of a cliff, it is the place where was founded the first Maronite Order in 1695.
- Hiking the cedars forest of Hadath el Jobbeh*

WHAT TO DO?



WHILE YOU ARE HERE

- Bcharré: “Mar” Sarkis Monastery housing Gibran Khalil Gibran Museum, Gibran house, remains of Phoenician vestiges, Qadisha Grotto
- Diman Village: visit the 19th century Maronite Patriarchate
- Bekaa Kafra village: highest village in Lebanon and home town of “Mar” Charbel (village’s old churches, St. Charbel house and grotto, old houses)
- Hasroun village: traditional Lebanese houses, old souk, “Mar” Laba church
- Hadath el Jobbeh village: 12th century St. Daniel church, old houses
- Visit the Monastery of Mar Antonios Qozhaya where the Maronite monastic order was first established. Inside the museum of the Monastery is shown the first Arabic press in the Middle East established in 1610

SPEAK LIKE A LEBANESE

- **Wadi Qadisha:** Wadi means Valley in Arabic while Qadisha is an Aramaic nomination that means Holy.
- **Horsh Arz El Rab:** it means the Forest of the Cedars of God.
- **Mar:** a word of syriac origins meaning lord. It is usually used as a title for saints or eminent religious figures



Organize your stay

Information Office of Bsharré
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* Activities suitable for kids



EXPERIENCE

TYRE

DIFFERENTLY

WHY?

- Designated as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984
- Metropolis of Phoenicia in past times. According to the tradition, Tyre was founded in 2750 B.C.
- Tyre a port city: it was the most important center for maritime and land commerce with colonies in the eastern Mediterranean
- Legends and mythology in Tyre:
 - Tyre is the place of discovery of the purple pigment reserved for royalty and nobility
 - Tyre is the birthplace of Cadmos, credited for the introduction of the alpha bet to Greece and his sister, Europe, who gave her name to the European continent
 - King Hiram of Tyre was the provider of the material and architects for the construction of the Temple of Solomon
- Two archeological sites reflect the former glory of Tyre
- AKA Queen of the Seas

- Visit the Archeological sites of Tyre:* - *ask for a local guide onsite*
 - Al Bass site: greco-roman necropolis, monumental way, arch of triumph and the hippodrome of the 2nd century, one of the biggest of the Roman world.
 - The Maritime site: the Roman baths, the two palaestrae, the arena, the Roman colonnaded road, the residential quarter, and the remains of the 12th century cathedral
- Visit Tyre Coast Nature Reserve*
check our booklet "Experience nature Reserves Differently"
- Workshops at Istanbuli Theatre, an old cinema renovated by the restless efforts of Kassem Istanbuli and his team +961 70 903846*
- Enjoy the sandy beaches of Tyre, the best in the country*
- Pottery and traditional blown glass workshops at "Les Ateliers de Tyr" (+961 3 475787)*
- Diving

WHAT TO DO?

WHILE YOU ARE HERE

- “Ras El-Ain”: Tyre’s main source of water since Phoenician days, visit the stone reservoirs that fed the arched aqueducts of the roman period
 - Hanawey: at the entrance of the village, a limestone sarcophagus of four meters high from the 1st century A.D. stands on a foundation made of three huge stones, known by Hiram Sarcophagus.
 - Qlaileh: visit “Nabi Omran” shrine, a major Shiite sanctuary where the prophet Omran was buried according to the tradition , and the village’s archeological remains (+961 3 556335)
 - Qana: the village gathers many sites and monuments directly related to the tradition of the passage of Jesus Christ through the village and his first miracle. Visit of the Jars site and the site of the Statuary and the miraculous cave (+961 7 430045)
- NB: the visit to Qana for non-Lebanese requires a special permit from the Lebanese Army in Saida (+961 7 724912)



SPEAK LIKE A LEBANESE

• **Ras El Ain:** Ras literally means head in Arabic while Ain is the source of water. All fountains and water sources names in Lebanon include the word Ain

Nabi Omran: Nabi is prophet; Nabi Omran is the father of Virgin Mary, Sayyida Maryam, and the uncle of Nabi Chamoun al Safa



Organize your stay

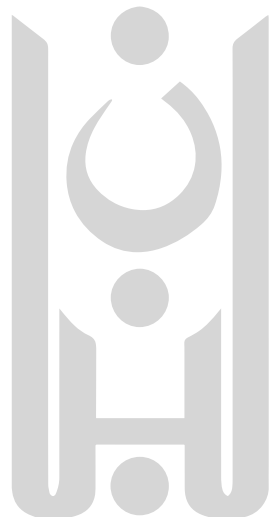
Tyre Municipality

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* Activities suitable for kids





Ministry of Tourism

SPEAK LIKE A LEBANESE !
“*Ahla wa Sahla*”: It means welcome

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