

安邦有限公司 (KKKP/PL:0557)(94046-W)

AIRBORNE SDN BHD

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9 DAYS



syria



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EMAIL: tour@airboretours.com.my

DAY 1 DEPART FOR BEIRUT, LEBANON

Depart for **Beirut, the capital of Lebanon.**

DAY 2 BEIRUT – DAMASCUS, SYRIA (2N) (L, D)

On arrival in Beirut, drive to the Lebanese-Syrian border crossing, continue to **Damascus, capital of Syria** for overnight. Free at leisure after checking in.

Cham Palace Hotel 4* or similar

DAY 3 DAMASCUS (B, L, D)

Damascus founded in the 3rd millennium B.C., is one of the oldest cities in the Middle East. Damascus boasts some 125 monuments from different periods of its history; the **National Museum** which houses the finest collection of archaeological artifacts from around the country. Among its treasures are a fragment of the oldest known alphabet in the world, unearthed at Ugarit, and an 1800-year-old synagogue transported piece by piece from Dura Europos on the Euphrates River; the **Umayyad Mosque**, which is named for Islam's first ruling dynasty, and is one of the great monuments to the ingenuity of early Islam, the **Azem Palace**, the luxurious home of the Ottoman governor; **Souq Al Hamidiyeh**, the bustling covered bazaar that fills the senses with colours and life; the **Mausoleum of Saladin**, the great leader who liberated Jerusalem from the Crusaders; the legendary Street Called Straight mentioned in the Bible, which spans the old city's length from East to West; the **Chapel of St. Ananias** and **St. Paul's Window**, from which Paul the evangelist was lowered to escape the Romans; and **Bab Touma**, the Christian quarter with its charming alleyways and handicraft shops.

Cham Palace Hotel 4* or similar

DAY 4 DAMASCUS – MAALULA – CRAC des CHEVALIERS (B, L, D)

Drive to visit **Maalula**, which attracts visitors both for its charm, and for its importance in the history of Syrian Christianity. Homes in Maalula are gaily painted in violet and blue pastels and perched abreast an imposing gorge between two mountains. Maalula is also home to a population that still speaks a dialect of Aramaic, the language of Jesus Christ, and to two historic Christian monasteries: one Greek Orthodox dedicated to St. Thekla, the other Greek Catholic dedicated to Saint Sergius.

Continue to visit **Crac des Chevaliers (UNESCO Site)**, which was built by the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem from 1142 to 1271. With further construction by the Mamluks in the late 13th century, Crac des Chevaliers ranks among the best-preserved examples of Crusader castles.

Al Wadi Hotel 3* or similar

DAY 5 CRAC des CHEVALIERS – PALYMRA – HAMA (B, L, D)

Early morning drive to **Palmyra**, an oasis in the Syrian desert which contains the monumental ruins of a great city that was one of the most important cultural centres of the ancient world. For a time, the so-called Islamic State or ISIS controlled the region around Palmyra, and some of the ruins at the site were destroyed. Continue to **Hama**.

Apamea Cham Hotel 4* or similar

DAY 6 HAMA – ALEPPO (B, L, D)

Short visit of the city of **Hama** which is laying on both sides of the Orontes's banks, adorned by its enormous wooden 'Norias' or waterwheels, which have creaked and churned since Roman times. Visit the twisting alleyways of Hama's charming old city.

Afterwards drive to Syria's second largest city, **Aleppo** which looks back on an impressive history of nearly 8,000 years, competing with Damascus for the claim to fame of the oldest continually inhabited city in the world. Due to its key location connecting the Eastern and Western worlds, Aleppo has a reputation as a city of savvy traders and merchants. The city is slowly rebuilding from the ruins of the recent conflict.

Sheraton Hotel 4* or similar

DAY 7 ALEPPO – DAMASCUS (B, L, D)

Morning visit the **Aleppo citadel**, an impregnable fortress and the finest example of Arab architecture in the Middle East, stands high above the city on a hill, which conceals layers of civilization dating as far back as the Hittites, Then continue to visit the **National Museum**, re-opened in Oct 2019, after years of closure; then drive to Damascus for overnight.

Cham Palace Hotel 4* or similar

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DAY 8 DAMASCUS – DEPART BEIRUT
Drive from Damascus back to Beirut for flight home.

(B, L)

DAY 9 ARRIVE HOME

Departure date: 21 Mar 2020

TOUR FARE (base on Twin sharing):

RM10,999pp

Single supplement RM1,900

Excludes

- **Flights from RM3,800pp Economy Class on Emirates**
- **Travel Insurance**