



MEDINA



MEDINA TOUR

Tripoli Old Town: A City of the Orient

In spite of its location in the middle of North Africa, on the Mediterranean, Tripoli Old town still retains its oriental spirit and mood, with its wiggly isles and mystic minarets, and blooming bazaars.

EXPLORE & ENJOY A WAKING TOUR

Tripoli National Museum (Closed for security reasons)

Tripoli National Museum houses the largest collection of Roman mosaics in the world and gives an interesting insight into Tripolitania's colorful past.

Al-Nakah Mosque

Al-Nakah means She-Camel and the mosque of that name is believed to be the oldest in Tripoli. However, only the foundations are from the original building. Most of the current building dates from the early 17th century.

Othman Clock Tower

The 19th century Ottoman Clock Tower is one of the most impressive landmarks in the Medina. It is sparkling white, as it has just been repainted. It is a typical Turkish design and very similar to the Dolmabahce Clock Tower in Istanbul. Coincidentally, there is yet another similar Ottoman clock tower in the centre of Tripoli in Lebanon.

Gurgi Mosque

Gurgi mosque surmounted with the only minaret that has two balconies in the whole city, inside adorned with Turkish tile and gesso moldings.

Karamanli house

which was built in the second half of the 18th century, during the reign of Ali Pasha Karamanli, and was used by Yousuf Pasha until his death. The house was restored during the early 1990s and became known as Tripoli Historical Exhibition.

Old British Consulate (option)

The former British Consulate, also known as Dar Adb al Khaliq al Nuwayji. was originally built in 1744 as a residence for Ahmad al Karamanli, the ruler of Tripoli. He donated it as the British Consulate, and it continued to serve that function until 1940. Since the 1990s it has housed a scientific library.

Many of the great trans-Saharan expeditions set off from here, including that of Gordon Laing who, in 1826, embarked on a 13-month camel trek across the Sahara to become the first white man to reach Timbuktu. Just before leaving the Consulate, Laing hastily married the British Consul's beautiful daughter, Emma. She followed his slow progress across the desert by means of mail sent back via camel caravans. But, unfortunately, on the return journey from Timbuktu he was murdered before he could reach her, so their marriage was never consummated.

Arch of Marcus Aurelius

The triumphal arch of Marcus Aurelius is Tripoli's most impressive ancient monument. It stands at the intersection of the Cardo and Decumanus and, therefore, marks the exact centre of the Roman city.

It was built in 163 AD and dedicated to the joint emperors, Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus. by the curse.

Souqs

The souqs of medina are traditionally found in closed vaulted spaces. They are typically named after either their location in medina or the kind of merchandise which they sell.

The souks in medina were of great commercial value as they showed a connection between the trans Sahara trading routes within Tripoli vilayet and southern European Merchants ships.

Souq al-Attara

This was formerly the main spice souq in the Medina. Nowadays, it has been taken over by tourist gift stores and gold jewellery shops.

Souq al-Ghizdara

One of the most interesting of the many small souqs in the Medina is Souq al-Ghizdara, where you can see coppersmiths at work making, amongst other things, the copper crescents that surmount the minarets of mosques. It is just one narrow street, so it only takes a minute to walk the length of the souq.

Souq al-Turk

This souq is located behind the clock tower, between the Greek souq and Zinget Alreeh. It was constructed by Mohammed Basha Emam Kharadikly (1687-1702) and roofed during Yousef Basha government (1795-1832). The site of this souq contains some other historical buildings such as fundq of Othman Basha of 1654. During the Italian occupation, this fundq became the polytheama cinema and presently Al-Nuser cinema. The site also contains the mosque of Mohammed Basha of 1699 and the first municipal town hall-seat of Tripoli 1870.

Souq al-Ruba

This souq was constructed by Othman Basha (1649-1672) in a typical style with vaulted brick ceiling and small openings to allow for ventilation of the space. This souq is well known for selling traditional dress for men and women.

