LIBYA 3 DAYS & 2 NIGHTS

TRIPOLI & LEPTIS MAGNA

“Tripoli, the bride of the Mediterranean.”

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Welcome to Libya!
Welcome to Libya!

Welcome to Libya!
Welcome to LIBYA
In hot climates, people paint buildings light colours to reflect the sun and keep them cool. Tripoli has many white buildings that glare in the bright light, in 1307 an Arab traveller At Tigiani, described arriving at the city. "When we approached, we were blinded by the brilliant whiteness of the city from which the burning rays of the sun were reflected, I was convinced that Tripoli is rightly called the white city."

Sherwes Travel
And now again the story of Tripoli changes. But whatever the outcome, she will still have her limpid skies, her air like wine, and a climate where it is a sin to acknowledge an ache or a pain, old age or unhappiness.

Mabel Loomis Todd,
Welcome to Tripoli!

The city was known as Oea in ancient times and was one of the original cities (along with Sabratha and Leptis Magna) that formed the African Tripolis.

TRIPOLI
The bride of the Mediterranean

SHERWES TRAVEL
LIBYA RECEPTIVE SPECIALIST
Welcome to Tripoli!
Welcome to Tripoli
Tripoli, a backdrop of choice

The Libyan capital of Tripoli is filled with wonderful sights, charm and hospitality. Situated on the Mediterranean Sea in the north-west of the country, Tripoli has the largest harbour in North Africa; it is a city constantly abuzz with activity. The many historical sites and ruins dotted throughout the city stand testament to its rich and fascinating history. Visitors to Tripoli can stroll in the bustling bazaars, shopping for holiday souvenirs and trinkets as well as beautiful textiles and exquisite jewellery. Tourists are spoilt for choice when it comes to the amazing sights in and around the city, from the Red Castle to the Gurgi and Karamani Mosques. Tripoli is overflowing with places to discover and sights to behold.
Tripoli

Unravel the secrets of Tripoli

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Tripoli

A foretaste of Tripoli

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Tripoli’s Walled Old Town
Clock Tower in the Medina

Sherwes Travel
One of the most interesting aspects of Tripoli is the old city that sits at the northern point of the larger metropolitan area. The term ‘medina’ generally refers to the old or central part of the downtown area. Here in Tripoli, it is the original, once-walled part of the city.

It is believed that the Phoenicians began sailing the coastal waters as early as 1000 BCE and founded the city as a trading center about 500 BCE. After the fall of Punic Carthage in 146 BCE, the city became a Roman protectorate. The Romans referred to the city as Oea and along with the coastal cities of Sabratha and Leptis, this Roman coast became known as Tripolitania, or “place of three cities.” As the Western Roman Empire deteriorated, the Vandals swept in from Germanic Europe to occupy and conquer North Africa. They completed their conquest in 431 ACE. The Eastern Roman Empire of the Byzantines conquered many of the coastal cities in 533 ACE but by then the city was already in decline. The Arab conquest of Libya began in 642 ACE and included Tripoli by 643. Under Muslim control, the city again became a wealthy and powerful center of commerce and one of the principle centers for trade with sub-Saharan Africa. A second Arab conquest, by the Bani Hilal tribe of 200,000 migrating families, took place in 1046 ACE. This conquest led too much of the old city being rebuilt. The rebuilding process utilized many of the Roman remains, which can still be found throughout the old city.

In 1460 ACE, Tripoli declared itself an independent city-state and remained so until the Spanish captured the city in 1510 and occupied until 1530. The Spanish then ceded the city to the Knights of Malta. The Ottoman Turks took control of the Tripoli in 1551 ACE and built most of the mosques, bathhouses (hammans) and markets (souqs) that are still visible today. Under waning Turkish control, Ahmed Karamanli seized power and declared himself Pasha and established the Karamanli Dynasty. The Ottomans reoccupied the city in 1835.

In 1911, the Italian government annexed Tripolitania and the Cyrenaica coast of North Africa and in 1922, Benito Mussolini came to power and began exerting greater control in an effort to expand Italian imperialism in Africa. When Italy was defeated in WWII, it formally relinquished control in 1947 and the United Nations created the independent State of Libya in 1949.
Tripoli’s Old Town

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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.

**MEDINA TOUR**

**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 Abd al Khaliq al Nuniyyi, 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 souqs 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.

**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.

**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 Yousuf 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 polythema 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.

**EXPLORE & ENJOY A WAKING TOUR**

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You will explore early 20th-century Italian Tripoli. Basically, your exploration of Tripoli’s 20th-century Italian architecture heritage will take you through three neighbourhoods. Immediately south of Martyrs’ Square is the heart of the early 20th-century Tripoli.

Tripoli underwent a huge architectural and urbanistic improvement under Italian rule: the first thing the Italians did was to create in the early 1920s a sewage system (that until then lacked) and a modern hospital.

Furthermore, the Italians – in order to promote Tripoli’s economy – founded in 1927 the Tripoli International Fair, which is considered to be the oldest trade fair in Africa. The so-called Fiera internazionale di Tripoli was one of the main international "Fairs" in the colonial world in the 1930s, and was internationally promoted together with the Tripoli Grand Prix as a showcase of Italian Libya. (We will drive Fiera internazionale di Tripoli to see it from outside).

Italo Balbo, the 1934-1940 Governor of Italian Libya, is considered by some Italian historians (like G. Gentile) to be the Father of modern Libya.
Italian Tripoli

Church of Santa Maria
Italian Tripoli
Italian Tripoli
Italian Tripoli

Church Madonna della Guardia
Italian Tripoli
Italian Tripoli
Italian Tripoli
The Museum of Libya in Tripoli was part of the restoration project of a 1939 building realized by the Milan architect Saul Meraviglia Mantegazza in a new-Moorish style. Eventually it became the residence of the Italian governor in Libya, then it was turned into the Royal Palace and finally into the Town Hall.

The museum it tells the story of the country and of the Libyan traditions in an interactive way, creating some dynamic educational systems and individual informative paths.
LEPTIS MAGNA

Explore

how the Romans lived.

Sherwes Travel
The archaeological ruins in Libya, mainly Roman, are truly exceptional on account of their size and their preservation. In the third Century, the Roman Emperor Septimius Severus, so-called "the African" because he was born in Leptis Magna, transformed this old Carthaginian trading post into a showcase of a triumphant Rome, a town built to show its power to the African people. But beyond its archaeological dimensions, Leptis Magna symbolizes the myth of Rome more than any other site. Similar to the American myth, Septime Sèvère the African showed that every citizen of Rome could become Emperor and develop the civilization even in the desert.
The hotel is an excellent choice for business and leisure stays. From this hotel it is possible to access the most interesting places of the city. It has a panoramic café and indoor non-alcoholic bar with enough space to have a chat with your friends. It offers a choice of single, double and twin comfortable air-conditioned rooms equipped with a color satellite tv which includes international channels. All rooms have Wi-Fi.
Shopping for souvenirs in Libya is a real pleasure - nobody pressures you in any way at all, it is so refreshing!
LIBYA

Itinerary

VISIT 2 WW CEMETERY
The 2 WW Cemetery in Tripoli contains 1,369 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 133 of them unidentified.

ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPIECES
Discover the cultural and historical depth of Tripoli, a modern city filled with remnants of a grand past, including the Arch of Marcus Aurelius, the Ahmad Pasha al Qaramanli Mosque, and the Naga Mosque.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES
Enjoy one day at the magnificent coastal site of Leptis Magna, one of the largest and best-preserved Roman cities in the world.

EXPLORE 20TH-CENTURY TRIPOLI
"Italian Libya" Basically, your exploration of Tripoli’s 20th-century Italian architecture heritage will take you through three neighborhoods.

ENJOY A TOUR IN MUSEUM OF LIBYA
The museum is housed in the old King Idris’s place and is utilises fog screen technology very interesting to explore.

Day 1: Arrival Day
Scheduled flight to Tripoli and transfer to Victoria hotel in the centre of town. Later with your guide get an impression of this fascinating city with its long and changing history.

We drive to Tripoli’s II WW Cemetery, which contains 1,369 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 133 of them unidentified. There will be also a visit to an old Christian church and much more.

The tour goes on to explore the old city (Medina), where the old city's labyrinthine streets are filled with treasures such as the Banco di Roma building, the gracious Ottoman-era mansions and courtyards with tiny pools, and the ancient Roman arch embedded with relief sculptures showing the 2nd century Emperor Marcus Aurelius riding triumphantly in his chariot. Lunch in one of many nice restaurants in Tripoli. (L. D)

Day 2: Leptis Magna
After breakfast we head for one of the most spectacular Roman sites along the Mediterranean coast. Let your guide Yousef who’s passion is the history of Libya explain how the Romans lived in this part of their empire and what their favourite pastimes were. Late Lunch nearby the site. On the way to back to Tripoli we make a stop at Villa Sillen which belongs to an ancient wealthy Roman family. Dinner in a local restaurant and overnight at Victoria hotel.

Later we explore 20th century Italian Tripoli. Basically, your exploration of Tripoli’s 20th-century Italian architecture heritage will take you through three neighbourhoods. Immediately south of Martyrs’ Square is the heart of the early 20th-century Tripoli. Dinner in a local restaurant and overnight at Victoria hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 3: Tripoli / Departure
After breakfast visit Museum of Libya. The museum utilizes fog screen technology, in which traditional and bulky fixed screens were replaced by projection screens which produce thin curtain of “dry fog” that serves as a translucent projection surface.

Later we drive to the old town with your guide to do some shopping for souvenirs – or just wander around to get enticed by the confusing array of streets and alleyways in the Medina. Have a break in one of Tripoli's cafés before transfer to Mitiga International Airport for your flight after what it had been an unforgettable tour. (B)
**WHAT IS INCLUDED**
- Private guided transfer from/to Mitiga International Airport.
- 3 nights hotel accommodation in a single room at Victoria hotel.
- Meals: Breakfast at Victoria hotel. Lunch outside in Tripoli and nearby the sites. Breaks during the tour that include coffee, tea, beverages and pastries. Dinner in fine local restaurants Tripoli.
- Private vehicle, exclusively for the tour.
- A guided tour of important culturally fascinating places.
- A dedicated and knowledgeable English-speaking local guide accompanying you throughout the tour. This continuity will allow you to get to know their guide.
- Entrance fees to the sites.
- Business visa approval from the immigration.
- Security permission.
- Special airport assistance.

**TOUR PRICE**
ON REQUEST

**TAST OF LIBYA**
3 DAYS & 2 NIGHTS

**DID NOT INCLUDE**
- Extra services at the hotel such as phone calls, laundry and room service... Etc.

**DISTANCE FROM TRIPOLI TO MAJOR ATTRACTIONS**
- Leptis Magna 120 km (74 mi)

**WELCOME TO LIBYA!**
Sherwes Travel
WE WISH YOU A PLEASANT JOURNEY ONWARD
AFTER IT HAS BEEN UNFORGETTABLE TOUR

SHERWES TRAVEL
LIBYA RECEPTIVE SPECIALIST