



Libya

EXPLORE THE HIDDEN GEMS

All year round

February 01 - December 01, 2024 (8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS)

Led by Local Guide

Libya is a country of stark contrasts, offering visitors an opportunity to see not only some of the greatest Roman and Greek cities in the world, but also the spectacular Libyan Desert. On Libya's western Mediterranean coast, explore the charming Old Town in the country's capital city of Tripoli and admire the breath-taking ancient Roman city of Leptis Magna. Travel to the heartland of the Berber people in the Nafusa Mountains to see one of the world's greatest treasures, the Granary of Qasr al-Haj. Explore the unique whitewashed houses designed to keep the homes cool during the hot days and warm during the cold nights. Get a fascinating glimpse into the Berber culture and see how they live in their traditional troglodyte caves. At the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Sabratha, you will discover Roman Ruins that date back to the second century AD. With Libya, now allowing US Citizens to enter the country, now is the time to visit this stunning treasure.

Ihab Zaki
Managing Director

Day 01

Arrive in Tripoli



Upon arrival at the airport in **Tripoli**, a city founded in the 7th century BC by the Phoenicians, met and transfer to *Victoria Hotel or similar* for check-in. After a short rest, you will meet your guide for a tour briefing followed by dinner at the *Hotel*. **(D)**

Day 02

Tripoli



Your tour of Tripoli begins after breakfast with a visit to the **Museum of Libya**, located in the city's **Old Town** and housed in the historical "Red Castle of Tripoli." The museum contains displays of archaeological and historical relics from around Libya - some dating back 5,000 years. You will spend time wandering the narrow-whitewashed streets and ancient souks of the Old Town and admire its attractive architecture. Sites include the **Gurgi Mosque**, perhaps Tripoli's most elegant; **Al-Naqah Mosque** (Camel Mosque), the oldest one in Tripoli; the colorful Turkish tilework of the historic 18th century **Karamanli House**; the **British Consulate**; and the famous **Othman Clock Tower**. See the **Arch of Marcus Aurelius**, Tripoli's most impressive ancient monument. Explore Tripoli's **Italian neighborhoods** and admire its 20th-century Italian architectural heritage. In the late afternoon, visit **Janzour**, a small town just west of Tripoli. Here you will find an impressive **Museum** housed in one of 18 actual ancient underground Punic tombs and containing some excellent frescoes. You will also visit an old **Christian Church** and Tripoli's **WWII Cemetery**, the burial site of allied soldiers. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant and return to the *Hotel* for your overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Note: If the tour falls on a Friday, the itinerary will be shuffled around due to the closure of sites and shops.

Day 03

Tripoli (Leptis Magna & Villa Sileen)



You will spend the day exploring the spectacular ruins at **Leptis Magna**, one of the greatest ancient sites in the

world. Originally, a Phoenician trading port during the seventh century BC, it prospered for nearly 1,000 years before Vandal invasions and sandstorms led to its downfall. This vast city remained buried for some 1,300 years until the 1920's when a major excavation by Italian and Libyan archaeologists revealed the limestone and marble wonders that you will explore today. For security precautions, Leptis Magna Museum is closed to visitors. On the way back to Tripoli, you will stop at **Villa Sileen** (if opened), which dates back to the Byzantine period and belonged to a wealthy Roman family. The villa, with its well-preserved wall frescos and intricate mosaic tiled floors, are a perfect example of what an ancient luxury home would have looked like during this period. After dinner at a local restaurant, return to the *Hotel* for your overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Day 04

Tripoli - Jebel Nafusa - Ghadames



Today will be a long, but rewarding driving day as you make your way south into the heart of Berber country to **Jebel Nafusa**, a mountain that rises abruptly from the desert plain of Jefara. The lush, fertile plains on the high plateau are full of olive, fig, and fruit trees and vineyards. Here you will visit the magnificent 12th century fortified **Granary of Qasr al-Haj**, one of the World's 80 Greatest Treasures. This intriguing structure stores the harvests of the semi-nomadic people just as it has been for many centuries. The drive ends at **Ghadames**, the "Pearl of the Desert," and a great example of a traditional settlement. Transfer to *Dar Ghadames Hotel or similar* for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Day 05

Ghadames



Spend the day visiting **Ghadames**, an ancient caravan center situated at the edge of the Sahara near the borders of Algeria and Tunisia. This Berber town of unique architecture, palm groves, and gardens, is an oasis that forms part of the sub-region of **Gharian**. It offers the traveler the warm hospitality of the Berber

people and a unique perspective of day-to-day life that has not changed for centuries. In the **Old Town**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, you will discover unique homes built of mud, lime, and palm tree trunks. This special design keeps the homes cool during the hot days and warm during the cold nights. In addition, the rooftops are all connected to allow the women to get around without being seen by men. Enjoy lunch at a traditionally decorated house then head to the dunes by **4-WD** for a wonderful view of the **Sahara** surrounding Ghadames and watch the spectacular sunset. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Day 06

Ghadames - Gharyan - Tripoli



Today will be another long driving day back to Tripoli, stopping along the way in **Gharyan**, a large village located in the **Nafusa Mountains** and an excellent place to experience true Berber culture. Here you will discover spectacular **troglydyte caves**, built by the Berbers to keep them cool during the hot summer months. Transfer to *Victoria Hotel or similar* for check-in and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Day 07

Tripoli (Sabratha)



Today you will travel about 45 miles west of Tripoli to **Sabratha**, a fantastic historical city that dates back to 500 BC. The Phoenicians used this UNESCO World Heritage Site as a port and trading post. Explore the **theatre**, probably the most popular site in Sabratha as well as the **baths, temples**, and the spectacular **amphitheater**, which housed up to 10,000 spectators. Afterwards, you will return to Tripoli to freshen up and relax, then spend more time at the **old town** with your guide to do some shopping for souvenirs – or just wander maze of streets and alleyways in the **Medina**. Dinner will be at a local restaurant then return to the *Hotel* for your overnight **(B,L,D)**

Note: Sabratha Museum may be closed to visitors.

Day 08

Tripoli - USA

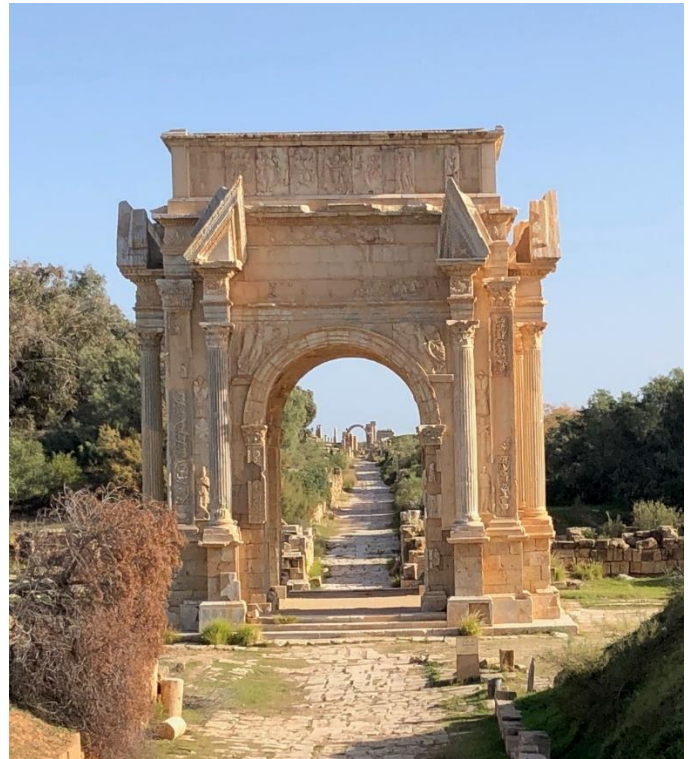


Very early morning transfer to the airport for the flight back to the US. **(B)**

“We (STS) reserve the right to change the order of activities or sites due to unforeseen schedule conflicts or in order for the itinerary to run smoothly.”

Special trip remarks:

This tour requires a flexible spirit, and a sense of adventure Libya is notorious for closing its borders to American Citizens without notice, so it is imperative you have an alternative plan should they suddenly stop giving visas. Should this occur, we will transfer the costs paid toward the Libya trip to another destination of equal value. Spiekermann Travel is not responsible for additional costs for hotels, flights, or other unforeseen reasons. We HIGHLY recommend travel insurance that will cover for these incidents. By signing up for this tour, you are accepting this possibility may arise and agree to be tolerant, flexible, and patient.



Tour Cost (Land Only):

Per person sharing in double occupancy

1 traveler in single \$4,495.00

2 - 4 travelers \$3,595.00

Single Supplement: \$395.00

Trip Grade: II Lodging Level: ***_****



Tour Includes:

- Airport / Hotel / Airport transfers.
- All accommodation at mentioned Hotels or similar (4*).
- Travel by modern & air-conditioned motor coach.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- Entrance fees to all mentioned sites and museums.
- English-speaking local guide.
- Bottled water during tours.
- Business Visa support letter.

Trip Grade:

II Active – Some hikes, slightly more demanding walks at or to sites, few elevations, comfortable but busy schedule and some long rides and extensive drives.

Lodging Level:

***** Superior:** Lodges and hotels with additional amenities, refined service and comfort level acceptable to western standards. (Best available to 4 stars).

Tour does not include:

- International air in and out of Libya.
- Libya visa approval (currently \$150 - subject to change. **You must not have an Israeli stamp in your passport**).
- Visa Authorization Code fee (currently \$450.00 - Subject to change)
- Activities and sites not described in the itinerary.
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, and porters.
- Any required pre arrival & pre departure PCR tests (If any).
- Items of a personal nature (camera fees, laundry, excess luggage, etc.).
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules or misconnections.
- Travel protection insurance. (Highly Recommended)

