

1941 – 2011 70th Anniversary Tour Australian Battlefields – Ancient Wonders

24 Days – Libya Egypt, Syria & Lebanon



24 days, 17 April 2011 with Garrie Hutchinson

www.missiontravel.com.au

1941 – 2011 Australian Battlefields – Ancient Wonders

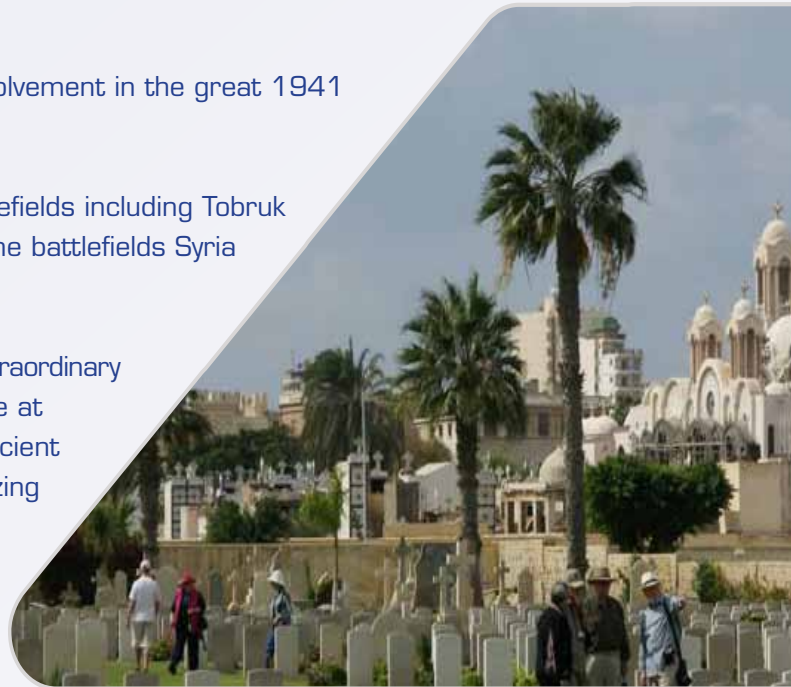
24 Days – Libya Egypt, Syria & Lebanon

2011 marks the 70th anniversary of the Australian involvement in the great 1941 battles in North Africa and the Middle East.

Historian Garrie Hutchinson will take tour to iconic battlefields including Tobruk in Libya for a special commemoration on ANZAC Day, the battlefields Syria and Lebanon and El Alamein in Egypt.

Libya, Egypt Syria and Lebanon boast some of the most extraordinary ancient wonders in existence – the great Roman theatre at Sabratha, the marvellous ruins at Leptis Magna, the ancient Greek city at Cyrene in Libya. We will also visit the amazing oasis city Ghadames in the Libyan Sahara. In Egypt we'll see the Pyramids and the Sphinx of course, and have a day for special tours in Cairo or to Saqqara.

We will take in the battles of 1941 in Lebanon and Syria – and the Australian memorials at Nahr al-Khalb, or Dog River, the ancient city of Byblos in Lebanon, and Damascus, Palmyra, Aleppo and Krak de Chevalier in Syria.



For further information

Please call **Mission Travel Group**
Phone: 03 9836 7199 or 1300 554 654
Email: info@missiontravel.com.au



mission travel group

3/400 Canterbury Rd Surrey Hills VIC 3127

Pilgrimage - Australian Battlefields, Ancient Wonders.

TOUR PRICE PER ADULT

From Melbourne/ Sydney/ Brisbane

Share Twin accommodation AUD \$9275

Single Share Supplement AUD \$1599

All inclusive escorted tour from Melbourne.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- All Airfares- Economy Emirates and local airlines. Business Class upgrade available.
- Airline taxes, visa fees and fuel surcharges
- 4 Star Hotel Accommodation throughout- Twin Share Single Supplement available.
- 24 Breakfasts 5 Lunches 24 Dinners.
- European deluxe coaches with English speaking local guides
- All sightseeing costs and entrance fees
- All visa documents (not fees)

DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Cairo optional tours
- Travel Insurance
- Lunches except where indicated
- Personal Expenses

WHAT TO DO NEXT:

A deposit of \$500 per person is required by 31 December 2010 or unless sold out prior to this date. A maximum of 21 Passengers will be accepted on this group. In order to secure a place on the tour, please contact our office for a tour registration form.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is highly recommended when travelling overseas. Please contact our office if you require a brochure and application form.

STAYING ON IN EUROPE

If you would like to undertake further travel at the end of the tour. Mission Travel Group will be able to assist you with additional travel, please advise your needs when registering for the tour.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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ITINERARY

Day 1- 17 April 2011 - ARRIVE TO TRIPOLI AIRPORT.

Entrance formalities. Reception by our guide. Check in at hotel. Welcome dinner at local restaurant.

Overnight Tripoli

Day 2- 18 April 2011 - Tripoli – Sabratha - Tripoli 73 km.

Day 1 - 17 April 2011 - ARRIVE TRIPOLI, LIBYA

Transfer and check in at hotel. Welcome dinner at local restaurant.

Overnight: Tripoli

Day 2- 18 April 2011 - TRIPOLI – SABRATHA - TRIPOLI

Morning sightseeing in Tripoli, and then a tour to the magnificent Roman site of Sabratha with its marvelous Colonnaded Theatre. Late evening drive back to Tripoli.

Overnight Tripoli

Day 3- 19 April 2011 - LOCAL FLIGHT TO GHADAMES.

Sightseeing in the World Heritage oasis town of Ghadames with its labyrinthine passages and unique architecture and a visit to the cultural museum. See the sun set over the Sahara. Dinner in a richly decorated traditional house.

Overnight: Ghadames.

Day 4 – 20 April 2011- Tripoli – Morning flight from Ghadames to Tripoli.

Visit the Tripoli War Cemetery and the excellent National Museum of Tripoli. Walk to the nearby Medina for a traditional lunch and tour of Medina with its traditional souks and mosques.

Overnight: Tripoli

Day 5- 21 April 2011 - LEPTIS MAGNA – BENGHAZI

Tour of Leptis Magna, 120 km from Tripoli - perhaps the greatest Roman archaeological site in the world. Late afternoon: drive to Tripoli airport to catch the early evening flight to Benghazi.

Overnight Benghazi

Day 6- 22 April 2011- BENGHAZI – GASR LIBYA – AL-BAIDHA

Visit the Benghazi War Cemetery, then visit Benghazi city center. Lunch at local restaurant, then drive toward the Green Mountain area. Make a stop at Gasr Libya to visit its extraordinary Byzantine mosaics.

Overnight: al-Baidha

Day 7- 23 April 2011 - CYRENE – APOLLONIA – DERNA – TOBRUK

Visit the beautiful site of the ancient Greek city of Cyrene, with a terrific small museum and the great Temple of Zeus - then on to the ancient port of Apollonia. Lunch in local restaurant then proceed towards Derna and Tobruk.

Overnight: Tobruk

Day 8 – 24 April - 2011 - TOBRUK.

Visit Second World War sites in Tobruk and surrounding area: Tobruk War Cemetery and Australian Memorial, Knightsbridge (Acroma), German & French cemeteries. Visit the Australian field hospital - the Fig Tree, and Al Watany museum. We will also traverse the Red Line – Post R1 – R43 in four wheel drives.

Day 9 – 25 April 2011 - TOBRUK - ANZAC DAY

ANZAC Day memorial service at the Australian Memorial in the Tobruk War Cemetery.

Overnight: Tobruk

Day 10 - 26 April 2011 - BARDIA – SOLLUM – MERSA MATRUH

To Bardia – scene of the victorious first Australian action in North Africa on 3 January 1941. We will look for evidence of the battle and see the English Soldier's Room. Then to Libya -Egypt border at Imsa'a. Visit the Sollum War Cemetery then continue on to Mersa Matruh for overnight (and a swim).

Overnight: Mersa Matruh



Pilgrimage - Australian Battlefields, Ancient Wonders.

ITINERARY

Day 11- 27 April 2011 - EL ALAMEIN - ALEXANDRIA

Drive to El Alamein. We will visit Tel el Eisa, El Alamein war cemetery, Australian 9th Division memorial, El Alamein Military Museum and the Italian and German memorials. Then continue to Alexandria.

Overnight: Alexandria

Day 12- 28 April 2011 - CAIRO

Visit the Great Library of Alexandria, Pompey's Pillar, the catacombs and the two military cemeteries in Alexandria – Hadra and Chatby.

Overnight: Cairo

Day 13 – 29 April 2011- CAIRO

A morning visit the Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza, lunch and in the afternoon visit the extraordinary Egyptian Museum.

Overnight Cairo

Day 14 – 30 April 2011 – CAIRO

Free day in Cairo - tours can be arranged to Saqqara (Step Pyramid, Serapaeum) and Danshur (the Red and Bent Pyramids), or shopping in the great Khan el-Khalil market, visit Old Cairo's ancient churches and the Old Cairo War Cemetery.

Overnight CAIRO

Day 15 – 1 May 2011 - CAIRO - DAMASCUS

Transfer to airport for morning flight to Damascus. Afternoon: a walk

Day 16 2 May DAMASCUS

A day in the Old City: the wonderful Souq, al-Hamidiyya, the Street Called Straight, Chapel of Ananias, the great Umayyad Mosque, Mausoleum of Saladin, dinner

Overnight: Damascus

Day 17 3 May DAMASCUS - PALMYRA

Visit the National Museum before driving to Palmyra, one of the greatest sites of the ancient world. Terrific ruins, an Arab castle and mysterious Palmyrene tombs.

Overnight: Palmyra

Day 18 4 May PALMYRA

Palmyra was first settled around 2000 BC, and was a Roman city by the first century AD. Its struggle for independence from Rome in the 200's was eventually led and lost by Queen Zenobia then paraded in

Rome wearing golden chains.

Overnight: Palmyra

Day 19 5 May HOMS - APAMEA - ALEPPO

Apamea is an ancient site, second only to Palmyra in Syria – notable for the two kilometre long main street - the Cardo. Aleppo was taken by the Australian Light Horse in 1918, but its history goes back 2500 years when the first citadel was built. Then current castle built in the early 13th century is enormously impressive. There's a Commonwealth War Graves cemetery, a wonderful souk, a great mosque. Aleppo is famous for its food.

Overnight: Aleppo

Day 20 6 May DEAD CITIES - KRAK DES CHEVALIERS - HAMA

Visit the mysterious Dead Cities – some 100 distinct stone agricultural settlements built over hundreds of years before being abandoned in the 10th century; Krak des Chevaliers – the supreme example of a Crusader castle built in the 12th century, and surrendered in 1271. Then on to Hama, with its massive wooden waterwheels.

Overnight: Hama

Day 21 7 May B TARTUS - BYBLOS

Travel to Tartus on the coast for a visit to the castle and Cathedral of our Lady of Tortosa - a Crusader cathedral/fortress. Then cross the border to Lebanon to the ancient Phoenician town of Byblos- so named because the book is said to have been invented here.

Overnight: Byblos (Jbail)

Day 22 8 May NAHR al-KALB (DOG RIVER) - BEIRUT

To Beirut via Nahr al-Kalb where invaders have left inscriptions since Rameses II in 1230 B.C. – including the Australians in 1918 and 1941. Visit Beirut War Cemetery, National Museum.

Overnight - Beirut

Day 23 9 May BAALBEK- BEITEDDINE – SIDON

See Baalbek an extravagant Roman city known then as Heliopolis (Sun City), Beiteddine scene of savage fighting by Australians in 1941 and a magnificent Ottoman palace, and on to Sidon War Cemetery.

Overnight - Beirut

DAY 24 - 10 May 2011 –

Beirut - onward travel or back home.

