

Silk Steps

EXPLORE AND EXPERIENCE



Libya

Libya is a country of stark contrasts, offering visitors an opportunity to view not only some of the greatest Roman and Greek cities in the world, but also the stunning vistas of the Sahara Desert.

On the Mediterranean coastal strip, near to the capital Tripoli, stand the breathtaking Roman cities of Sabratha and Leptis Magna, while further east, in the beautiful area of the Jebel Akhdar (Green Mountains) are the wonderfully preserved Greek remains of Cyrene and Apollonia.

For lovers of the desert, the Acacus region of the Libyan Sahara offers an unassailable attraction with its wild, spectacular scenery and prehistoric cave paintings. If you enjoy 4-wheel drive desert travel, this is a region you should not miss.

For those interested in World War II history, Tobruk offers visits to Rommel's headquarters and the Allied and German war cemeteries.

WEATHER

The climate in Libya is typically Mediterranean in the coastal region with maximum summer temperatures around 32°C mark whilst winter temperatures can vary between the 3°C to 21°C mark with some rain to be expected. Summer in the Sahara is very hot indeed and temperatures can reach 54°C. Winter in contrast is sunny and pleasant in the desert during the day but temperatures can drop below freezing at night. From March to June you might encounter the 'ghibli' all over Libya – a hot sand laden wind.



WHEN IN LIBYA WHY NOT...?

Journey into the beautiful wilderness of the desert and camp under the stars

Camp under the stars without another human being in sight. Your evening meal will be cooked for you over the camp fire and then you spend the evening by the fire trading tales and watching shooting stars.



Sleep in a troglodyte cave in Gharyan, a berber village. The rooms are circled around a central courtyard 6 - 7 metres below ground.

See the prehistoric rock art in the Acacus Mountains of Southern Libya Trek through a little-visited region where you will find spectacular wadis and impressive prehistoric cave art.

Visit Tobruk, forever linked with the name of the great German commander, Marshall Rommel, who laid siege to and captured the city during World War II. Here you may visit his underground headquarters, also used by Montgomery during British control of the city. There are cannons and tanks on display while, close by, are the remains of the WW2 American plane Lady Be Good which crash landed in the desert - the crew perished in the Sahara after walking immense distances and their bodies were not discovered until the early 1950s.

When planning a journey to Libya, please note that most museums are closed on a Monday.



Suggested Itineraries

Nights stay at:

- | |
|-----------|
| 1 |
| 2 Tripoli |
| 3 |

A TASTE OF LIBYA

Try a short break with a difference in Tripoli, the capital of the Republic of Libya. This ancient city has developed over the centuries benefiting from the cultural input from Romans, Islamic invaders, Turks and the Italians. During your stay in Tripoli you can take in the National Museum, the Arch of Marcus Aurelius, the Red Castle and the colourful souks in the medina. The highlight of your visit will be Leptis Magna, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, originally a Phoenician trading port and then associated with the Romans from the 2nd century BC. Virtually abandoned by the 8th century AD the wonderful Roman buildings were preserved under the sand, making this a very important archaeological site.

Cost per person (based on two people travelling in a twin/double room & inclusive of international flights with British Airways)

FROM £665.00



Nights stay at:

- | |
|------------|
| 1 |
| 2 Tripoli |
| 3 |
| 4 Ghadames |
| 5 |
| 6 Gharyan |
| 7 Tripoli |

CLASSICAL LIBYA

Discover the highlights that Libya has to offer in this journey that takes you from the capital, Tripoli, over mountains and into the desert and to underground houses.

Tripoli is an ideal starting point to visit Libya with its wealth of Roman remains, mosques and the bustling souk. Cross the Jebel Nefusa Mountains to Ghadames, an oasis town close to the borders of Algeria and Tunisia and a trading post for desert caravans. Meander through the narrow covered streets and buildings glaringly white in the bright sunlight. Drive across the desert to the troglodyte dwellings of the Berber in Gharyan, now largely abandoned for modern houses with air conditioning. Return to Libya with an en route visit to the impressive ruins of Leptis Magna.

Cost per person (based on two people travelling in a twin/double room)

FROM £995

Hotel Selection

The choice of hotels in Libya is endless and those detailed below are recommendations only. We can book most hotels throughout Libya, so please contact us if you would like alternative hotels.

Tripoli

A former royal residence, **Dar Arkno** is a villa in a quiet street approximately ten minutes' walking distance from Tripoli city centre and Green Square. There is a comfortable lounge with large screen TV, traditional lounge with cushioned floor seating, kitchen/diner, patio and small garden.

Located opposite the Aurelian Arch on a traffic free square right in the heart of the medina. **The Zameet Boutique Hotel** is a beautiful traditional hotel with a fantastic location.

Ghadames

The **Dar Arkno** is a newly-built guest house/villa approximately ten minutes' walking distance from the old town. Guests enjoy unlimited free soft drinks, tea and coffee during their stay.

The **Dar Sahara Hotel** in Ghadames is a lovely hotel was designed in the Berber style and completed in 2004.

A Silk Steps inclusive holiday price includes:

- Private return transfers between airports and hotels (unless otherwise specified)
- The services of English-speaking guides and representatives at each stage of the tour. Between most places you will travel unescorted
- Accommodation in a standard room (shared twin) with private facilities (unless otherwise specified) with breakfast
- Government taxes and compulsory service charges
- All tours and sightseeing as specified, inclusive of entrance fees
- Economy class air travel within all countries on the scheduled services of the national or domestic carrier as specified in each tour
- The services of our local representative

Extras

- International flights - please contact us for up-to-date prices - with the exception of the **Weekend in Tripoli** where flights are included.
- Travel insurance
- Meals - unless otherwise stated
- Optional sightseeing other than specified
- International airport departure tax payable overseas
- Visa fees
- Single supplement (on request)



UNVEILING LIBYA

A 15-day tour of Libya which gets under the skin of this intriguing country which has only recently opened its doors to visitors. Get a feel for the country in the capital, Tripoli, where you will be able to visit its great mosques, the lively souk and visit Leptis Magna, the superbly preserved Roman ruins of a once big city.

Leave the city and drive over the Jebel Nefusa mountains and into the desert to the oasis town of Ghadames with its intriguing desert architecture, cool, covered streets and gigantic sand dunes. Next head for Gharyan and the picturesque troglodyte houses of the Berber people. Spend a night in Zliten, with its many tombs and the intricately decorated Sidi Abdusalam Mosque, before returning to Tripoli.

Fly from Tripoli to Libya's second city, Benghazi, in the east of the country, where you can visit the World War II Cemetery and the city's busy souk. Drive to the coast and

Cyrene, visiting the Greco-Roman ruins of Ptolemais en route with its columned palace and underground cisterns. Cyrene is a beautifully preserved city dating from the 7th century BC. The city covers a huge area and its location on a cliff overlooking the Mediterranean Sea is quite spectacular. Spend three days here discovering these important remains as well as the ancient port of Apollonia and its surrounding necropolis. Return to Benghazi to fly back to Tripoli for one last time.

Cost per person (based on two people travelling in a twin/double room)

FROM £2,020

