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."
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,
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 souveniers 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 Karamanli Mosques. Tripoli is overflowing with places to discover and sights to behold.
Tripoli

Unravel the secrets of Tripoli

www.shirstravel.com
Tripoli

A foretaste of Tripoli

www.sherwestravel.com
Tripoli’s Walled Old Town
Clock Tower in the Medina
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 (hammams) 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.
Italian Tripoli

Church Madonna della Guardia
Italian Tripoli

Church of Santa Maria
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.
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.
Villa Sileen is a Roman villa in Libya. Located near the village of Al Khoms. Villa Sileen is an excellent example of this type of the Roman architecture in North Africa.

Discovered in 1974, the villa was inhabited in the 2nd century AD. It consists of 20 rooms, including domed baths. Wall paintings and mosaics grace the villa, now on the edge of the coast, which are so well preserved because the villa had been covered by sand dunes over the centuries.

The subject-matter of the interior decoration includes scenes of hunting and chariot racing, with mosaics depicting scenes of the Nile with pygmies fighting crocodiles, as well as sea nymphs and tritons.

Visitor Information

Villa Sileen is situated on the Mediterranean coast, about 17 km from the town Al Khoms. The villa is connected to the Roman archeological site of Leptis Magna and it is located about 20 km E distance.

Note: The villa is a private property and currently it is under restoration, but a visit can be arranged at Leptis Magna administration.
Sabratha, the most important archaeological site of western Libya after Leptis Magna. Sabratha was selected as an emporium, or trading post, by Phoenician merchants for its position 43 km west of Zuwarah and 69 km east of Oea. Proof of this settlement consists of beaten floors alternating with layers of wind-blown sand under the first permanent houses of Sabratha north of the Forum. The floors indicate makeshift huts, and the depths of the layers of loose sand show the length of periods during which the site was abandoned. Sabratha as we see it nowadays is first and foremost a creation of the Roman genius for building cities. The Romans shaped it after the destruction of Carthage in 146 BC. And remained so until the Vandals concerned themselves with the fate of Sabratha in 455 BC. Carthage was retaken by Count Belisarius in 533 BC for Justinian thus the Vandal empire was short-lived. Held in the basilica is the celebrated Byzantine mosaic, with the Mausoleum Bes (built of sandstone), dating back to the Punic era. Finally in 642-3 AD Sabratha was taken by the Arabs, the town prospered under them until 748 AD until trade moved to Tripoli and the town began slowly to lose its importance and finally was left abandoned.
Welcome to Sabratha
The tepidarium was the warm (tepidus) bathroom of the Roman baths, heated by a hypocaust or underfloor heating system. The specialty of a tepidarium is the pleasant feeling of constant radiant heat which directly affects the human body from the walls and floor.
Sabratha beaches

Sabratha’s beaches lined with ancient temples
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

4 Days / 3 Nights

Itinerary

Tour Highlights

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.

VISIT A ROMAN VILLA
A small Roman Villa on its own private cove overlooking the Mediterranean with awe-inspiring mosaics.

VISIT JANZOUR MUSEUM
The museum which houses 18 underground tombs, discovered in 1958.

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 Qaramani Mosque, and the Naga Mosque.

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

EXPLORE THE ROMAN RUINS OF SABRATHA
Visit the ruins and step back in time.

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. (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 is 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 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. (B, L, D)

Day 3: Tripoli
After breakfast drive to Janzour is a small town, 13km west of Tripoli with a museum housed in one of 18 underground tombs found in the area in 1958. The museum contains some good frescoes including one that takes the form of a river from earthly life to the afterlife.

Later we continue 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.

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 4: Sabratha / Tripoli / Departure
Sabratha is one of the most visited historical sites in Libya. This city dates back to 500BC and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Back in 500BC the Phoenicians used Sabratha as a sea port and important trading post, the Romans also used the area for its harbor area.
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 form the immigration.
• Security permission.
• Special airport assistance.

DOES 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)
- Sabratha 69 km (42 mi)

TOUR PRICE
All inclusive tour package 4 days & 3 nights:

Per person
Price
On Request

Amazing Libya
A Mythical Destination
Sherwes Travel

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

SHERWES
TRAVEL
LIBYA RECEPTIVE SPECIALIST