Aleppo City Stay **4 days**

Discover the delights of historical Aleppo. Wander round the ancient Citadel, see the hypnotic geometrical patterns of the Grand Mosque, and go bargain hunting in possibly the world's first and biggest shopping mall!

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Aleppo / Ends in: Aleppo
- Departs: Any day of the year
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:3, Lunch: 0, Dinner: 0
- Hotel Rating: 4 or 5 star (Specific to your chosen itinerary)
- Tour Guide: Yes for guided sightseeing

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - click here
- To book this trip - click here
- To enquire about this trip - click here

TOUR MAP:

QUICK WEB LINKS

Lebanon Tour Prices ::: Why Us for Lebanon? ::: Best Places to Visit ::: Lebanon Useful Info ::: Lebanon Visas ::: FAQ's on Lebanon

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Day 1: Aleppo

Welcome to Syria and the start of your city stay in ancient Aleppo! Arrive Aleppo, included transfer to your hotel and overnight. Overnight - Aleppo

Day 2: Full day city tour

Aleppo's strategic position means that throughout history it has been used as a meeting point and trade link. It has therefore been subject to numerous invasions over the years and the result is that many different architectural styles can still be seen today and therefore Aleppo is a UNESCO listed site.

Today we have a full day's touring of this beautiful and buzzing city. This morning we visit the National Museum, with its giant granite figures that guard the entrance. We then proceed to the magnificent Citadel which contains the beautifully designed Great Mosque (also known as the Umayyad Mosque) and the old covered bazaar.

The Great Mosque is built around a vast courtyard that connects to different areas of the mosque. The courtyard is made up of black and white stone pavement that forms complex but pleasing geometric patterns and two fountains also lay within.

The Citadel is a large medieval fortified palace in the centre of the old city that stands on a 50 metre high artificial hill, and is one of the most ancient and largest castles in the world. It contains many old and beautiful ruined buildings from the different peoples that have occupied it over the ages, including a 3500 year old temple to the Storm God from the Hittite's civilisation.

It is not certain when the Old Bazaar was built, but estimates say that it was founded in its current location in about 630BC. The market consists of over eight kilometres of maze-like stone passages and streets connecting the various markets where the ancient traders came from afar, to store and sell their goods. Different sections contain different goods where you can find anything from gold to clothes to various foods and spices. A highlight for visitors is the friendly and welcoming manner of the local people, who are keen to chat to you and will invite you in for many a cup of sweet tea! Overnight - Aleppo

Day 3: Free day

Free day to explore Aleppo independently or perhaps take one of many optional day trips on offer. Maybe take a drive to the impressive Basilica of St Simeon, who became famous because he lived on a small platform on top of a pillar for about 40 years. The Basilica is one of the largest and most important churches in the world in late antiquity. This trip also takes you to the ruined and picturesque Al-Mushabak Church.

Or perhaps take a day trip to explore the Dead Cities a series of ancient ghost towns. It is believed there are about 600 separate sites, from single monuments to nearly whole villages complete with houses, churches, baths and even wine presses. The great mystery is why the towns were abandoned. Some of the sites have an eerie quality, as though their occupants had suddenly vanished. As part of this optional tour you also visit the ancient city of Ebla (now known as Tell Mardikh) - famous for the several thousand cuniform tablets found there, dating back to about 2250BC.

If you want to relax why not take a wander around Aleppo, get some souvenirs (a classic is Aleppo's famous Olive Soap) or enjoy coffee and a nargile (water pipe) and watch the world go by. With so many wonderful ancient sites to visit perhaps consider extending your stay! Overnight - Aleppo

Day 4: Aleppo

Hotel check out and included onward transfer to airport.

WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

- Aleppo - ancient city and northern capital of Syria

Aleppo City Stay 4 days

- National Museum
- Ummayad Mosque - beautifully decorated home to the shrine of Zecheriah
- Citadel - the old fortified palace on a hill containing many buildings and ruins
- Old Bazaar - over 8 kilometres of covered markets
- Optional - Visit to St Simeon's Basilica and Al-Musabak Church
- Optional - Exploration of the Dead cities of Al Bara & Serjilieh and the important archaeological site of the ancient city of Ebla (Tell Mardikh)

What's Included

- Breakfast daily
- 3 nights - 4 or 5 star hotel (specific to your chosen itinerary)
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 4
- English speaking guide at all sights of antiquity on day 3
- Full day of guided touring of Aleppo - city tour of Citadel, Umayyed Mosque, Old Covered Bazaar and National museum
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air conditioned vehicles
- Entrance fees to all included sightseeing
- Syrian Tourist Visa, (excluding service fee - USD$10)and excluding USA passport holders.

What's Not Included

- International flights
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- Laundry, drinks and items of a personal nature

PRICES AND DATES: from USD $1,199

Prices shown are 'per person', based on a travelling party of at least 2 adults. The single supplement price needs to be added to the twin/double price if single rooms are required. If travelling solo, an additional '1-person' supplement will apply Prices are indicative and will vary depending on your chosen hotels, room availability as well as time of travel. Please bear this in mind if comparing prices as we always aim to deliver exceptional value. Please note that discounts will apply if there are more 4 our more people in your travelling party, since fixed costs like transportation and guiding are shared across the group.

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.

HOTELS:

The hotels listed below are ones which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard when necessary.

Coral Julia - Aleppo

The Coral Julia Dumna is a unique and vibrant hotel. The rooms are beautifully laid out and combine contemporary design with Arabesque touches and warm colours to create a feeling of coziness and comfort.

Mandaloun Hotel - Aleppo

A warm welcome awaits you with personalized Syrian hospitality at the Mandaloun Hotel. Decorated in a simple but elegant style, with wrought iron beds and local textiles. The Al Kanater restaurant has a mix of local and Western food available.

POSTCARDS:

Here's what some of our past travellers have written in to us and said about their experiences on this trip.

Dear on the go, I have just spent four wonderful days in Aleppo. What a remarkable place, the castle in the centre of town is spectacular and I could have spent days wandering the bazaar. The people were lovely and so friendly. This has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. Thank you so much for such a magnificent time.

C Fox, Nov 2010