



**EXPLORING LIBYA'S LOST CITIES**  
September 5 - 16, 2011  
*Led By Dr. Diederik Vandewalle*

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Dear Club Member,

Libya was once the most desirable posting in the Roman Empire. This unspoiled swathe of north Africa, recently reopened to Americans, offers the traveler a landscape of remarkably preserved Roman cities, intricate mosaics and wealth of archaeological sites.

Begin the trip in Tripoli, a favored destination for caravans carrying slaves, gold and ivory as late as the 19th century. Visit the Roman sites of Sabratha and Leptis Magna, cities of extraordinary majesty and riches. Drive south through the Jabal Nafusa to the legendary caravan city of Ghadames with its maze of interlocking courtyards and covered streets. Discover the area known as Cyrenaica, the Hellenized region of eastern Libya and enjoy a chance to learn more about a country and its longest-serving leader, Colonel Gaddafi.

Dr. Vandewalle, author of *Modern Libya*, will accompany the group throughout and his lectures and insights will focus on the varying influences that have shaped Libya today. In addition, a series of briefings and discussion opportunities with local leaders will enhance our understanding of the country.

We hope you can join us.

Sincerely,

Kristina Nemeth

Director of Club Travel



## U.S. to TRIPOLI

**Monday, September 5**

Depart the U.S.

## TRIPOLI • *Corinthia Bab Africa Hotel*

**Tuesday September 6**

Arrive in Tripoli and transfer to the deluxe *Corinthia Bab Africa Hotel*. This arid region which the Romans defined as Tripolitania 'land of three cities' referred to the three cities of Leptis Magna, Sabratha and Oea. Tripoli today is a modern town where a triumphal arch to Marcus Aurelius bears witness to a grand past. Enjoy a welcome briefing and dinner this evening. (D)

## TRIPOLI • *Corinthia Bab Africa Hotel*

**Wednesday, September 7**

Begin exploring Tripoli at the city's citadel, known in Arabic as Saraya Hamra (the Red Castle). A large part of the castle now houses Tripoli's finest museum and its own library. After lunch overlooking the Mediterranean, enjoy a walking tour of the old city. End the day with a visit to the Academy of Graduate Studies where the group will meet with the director, Dr. Milad. Established in 1988, the academy organizes symposiums, conferences and workshops on a broad range of national and international issues. Enjoy dinner this evening at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

## TRIPOLI • *Corinthia Bab Africa Hotel*

**Thursday, September 8**

Spend the morning exploring Tripoli's 20th-century architectural heritage, stopping at the Interactive Libya Museum. This museum which opened in 2010 utilizes fog-screen technology to provide an excellent overview of Libya's past and present. After a briefing at the US Embassy, head west to Sabratha, a Roman city an hour's drive west of Tripoli. Explore the site where an aquamarine sea surrounds the remains of temples, houses and baths. The most memorable part of Sabratha is its massive theater, which has been reconstructed by an Italian team of archaeologists. Return to Tripoli for dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

## TRIPOLI • *Corinthia Bab Africa Hotel*

**Friday, September 9**

Enjoy a full day excursion to the magnificent coastal site of Leptis Magna, one of the largest and best-preserved Roman cities in the world. Leptis Magna was the dominant city in the region, just as important as Carthage at the height of its influence under the Severan emperors in the early 3rd century AD. Thanks to burial under the shifting sands of its coastal location, the site has survived in an excellent state of preservation. Walk along miles of paved streets past houses and temples to the market space. Returning to Tripoli stop at the seaside Villa Silin with its stunning collection of mosaics. Return to Tripoli and enjoy dinner at the hotel. (B,L,D)

## GHADAMES • *Dar Ghadames Hotel*

**Saturday, September 10**

Rise early this morning to drive south to the legendary caravan city of Ghadames, originally settled in pre-historic times near a perennial spring. The drive is alongside the Jabal Nafusa mountain range, close to the Tunisian border, and Libya's Berber heartland. Stop at Nalut where the Berber settlement dates back to the 11th century. Continue south past Sinuwan, an oasis located next to a sebkha (salt

For additional information, please contact Commonwealth Club Travel

(415) 597-6720 • [travel@commonwealthclub.org](mailto:travel@commonwealthclub.org)

flat). Arrive in Ghadames, once the southernmost limit of Roman control in Libya. Late afternoon arrival at the *Dar Ghadames Hotel*. Enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening. (B,L,D)

**GHADAMES • Dar Ghadames Hotel**  
**Sunday, September 11**

Begin exploring Ghadames this morning where the local architecture has created perfect living conditions for an isolated settlement in a harsh natural environment. We have arranged a meeting with a staff person from the United Nations Development Program in Ghadames to discuss the impact modern technology has had on this community. As the sun sets travel by 4-wheel drive vehicles to see the dunes – known as “star dunes” – of the Grand Erg Oriental. Enjoy a Touareg music and dance performance right at the dunes where traditional songs and stories are recounted. (B,L,D)

**BENGAZI • Hotel Tibesti**  
**Monday, September 12**

Fly this morning through Tripoli to Benghazi. Upon arrival transfer to the *Hotel Tibesti*. Explore Benghazi, Libya’s second largest city, including its oldest mosque, the Jami al-Kabir, which was founded by Abd al-Sami al-Qadi around 140 A.D. End the afternoon with a stop at the British and French Second World War cemeteries. Dinner at the hotel this evening. (B,L,D)

**APOLLONIA • Almanara Hotel**  
**Tuesday, September 13**

After breakfast drive to the site of Ptolemais for lunch under the shade of trees at the entrance to the site. After lunch begin exploring the rich port of ancient Barce, situated between the Mediterranean and the steep slopes of the Cyrenaican plateau. Spend the afternoon walking through the site where the theater, school, and the magnificent theater date back to Greek times. Drive to Apollonia across the fertile lands of the eastern Cyrenaican plateau and into the uplands of the Jabal Akhdar or Green Mountains. Dinner and overnight at the *Almanara Hotel*. (B,L,D)

**APOLLONIA • Almanara Hotel**  
**Wednesday, September 14**

Visit the site of Apollonia - the port of Cyrene. With its three basilicas, a palace and a theater, Apollonia is as large as Cyrene but offers a scale, beauty and position that make it memorable. Afternoon excursion to Cyrene which was founded by the Greeks in 631 BC and suffered a more chequered history than Leptis with a succession of wars, earthquakes and subsequent rebuilding. Return to Apollonia for dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)



**TRIPOLI • Corinthia Bab Africa Hotel**  
**Thursday, September 15**

Morning flight to Tripoli. Upon arrival, drive to the Green Book Center where economist Youssef Sawani, Director of Research at the Green Book Center, will provide the group with a briefing on Libya’s latest economic reform policies. Enjoy a farewell dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

**TRIPOLI to U.S.**  
**Friday, September 16**

Enjoy a morning visit to the studio of Ali Albani, a wonderful contemporary artist whose has exhibited all over the world and lives in Tripoli. After lunch, drive to the airport for your flight back to the U.S. (B,L)

**TOUR PRICE PER PERSON: \$5,790**  
**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$1,180**

*Based on minimum of 10 travelers and a maximum of 30 travelers*

**Tour price includes:**

- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Meals as per itinerary
- Libyan Visa fees
- Bottled water on the bus
- All sightseeing in a deluxe, air-conditioned coach
- Internal flights
- All entrance fees and special events listed
- Full lecture program and Study Leader
- Pre-departure materials and reading list
- The services of a local Libyan guide
- The services of a professional tour manager who will accompany the group throughout the trip
- Gratuities

**Does not include:**

- International airfare into and out of Tripoli (approx. \$1,200)
- Excess luggage charges
- Medical expenses
- Trip insurance
- Items of a purely personal nature

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**Deposit and Payments**

To make a reservation a deposit of \$500 per person is required by check. Please mail your check (payable to “Distant Horizons”) with your completed reservation form to the address on the form.

**Final payment is due on June 6, 2011.**

**Deposits, Cancellations and Refunds**

Please note the following policies on cancellations and refunds. *We strongly recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.*

If cancellation occurs:	Cancellation charge:
More than 90 days prior to departure	\$250 per person
Between 90 and 60 days prior to departure	50% of per person trip cost
Between 60 days and 30 days prior to departure	75% of per person trip cost
Within 30 days of departure	100% of per person trip cost

**Dr. Diederik (Dirk) Vandewalle** (PhD Columbia) teaches in the Government Department and at the Amos Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. He is the former chair of Dartmouth's Asian and Middle Eastern Studies program. He is also the author of the book *A History of Modern Libya*, published in 2006.

His research and teaching focus in the areas of comparative economic development in Emerging Economies, economic reform in the Arab Gulf states, North Africa, and Asia. He is editor of several books and edited volumes on Libya and North Africa, and is writing a manuscript on the economic emergence and prospects of the Arab Gulf countries, based on research from his most recent Fulbright Regional Research Award in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries (2005-2006).

He has written numerous articles on economic development issues in the Arab world, and received, in addition to two regional Fulbright research awards, a Social Science Research Council Award for research in Morocco and Yemen. He is on the editorial board of several scholarly publications, and lectures and consults widely in policy and academic settings in the Middle East, Europe, and Asia.

## VISAS

Libyan tourist visas for American passport holders will be issued upon arrival in Tripoli. Four days prior to departure a copy of the visa will be emailed to each trip participant. Our operator, Distant Horizons, has been arranging group travel to Libya since the country began issuing visas for Americans in 2004. As you may be aware Libya did close its doors to American travelers in 2006 but re-opened them in late 2010. Distant Horizons has been sending groups since the country re-opened and is happy to report that the visa process is working very smoothly. Distant Horizons will require a legible copy of your passport prior to departure but you will not need to give them your actual passport in order to obtain the visa.

## RESPONSIBILITY

The Commonwealth Club of California, our tour operator (Distant Horizons) and our ground operators and suppliers act only as agents for the travelers with respect to transportation and arrangements, and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The Commonwealth Club of California and Distant Horizons accepts no liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration California: 2096889-40

# COMMONWEALTH CLUB TRAVEL: EXPLORING LIBYA'S LOST CITIES

## RESERVATION FORM



**Commonwealth  
Club Travel**

Informed Travel for the Discerning Mind

I would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space(s) for the *Exploring Libya's Lost Cities* trip.

Enclosed is a deposit of \$500 per person, in the total amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

*Please make checks payable to "Distant Horizons."*

### Room Arrangements

- Single Supplement
- Double Occupancy, I will be sharing a room with:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I would prefer a roommate, but will pay the single supplement if one is not available.

### Travel Arrangements

- I/we wish to be booked on the group flight from San Francisco.
- I/we wish to be booked on a flight departing from:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I/we will make other travel arrangements to arrive in Tripoli

### Personal Information

#### Traveler 1:

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Traveler 2:

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions and agree to them

Traveler 1 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Traveler 2 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send reservation form to: Commonwealth Club Travel, 595 Market Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105

Tour operator: Distant Horizons • CST: 2046776-10