Connecting people and cultures through Tourism in the Mediterranean region

Roundtable on Religious Tourism and 2\textsuperscript{nd} meeting of the Working Group on the Phoenicians’ Route Cultural Tourism Programme

29-30 May 2016, Beirut, Lebanon

I. PLACE AND DATE

1. The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the Ministry of Tourism of Lebanon (MOT) are jointly organizing the Roundtable on Religious Tourism and the 2\textsuperscript{nd} meeting of the Working Group on the Phoenicians’ Route Cultural Tourism Programme, to be held on 29-30 May 2016, in Lebanon.

2. The Roundtable on religious tourism will be held on 29 May 2016, at the Maghdouche Basilica Meeting Room.

3. The 2\textsuperscript{nd} meeting of the Working Group on the Phoenicians’ Route Cultural Tourism Programme will be held on 30 May 2016, at Le Pavillon Royal, BIEL, Beirut.

Contact Person: Miss Marlene Coussa
Tel: +961 1 340940 - 340944
Fax: +961 1 752461
Mobile: +961 3 381260
e-mail: marlycoussa@gmail.com

II. REPLIES TO INVITATIONS

4. Participants of the meetings and other side events are kindly requested to confirm their participation by registering online at http://middle-east.unwto.org/participation-form-Beirut-event-30-may-2016, by 15 May, at the latest.

III. STATUS OF PARTICIPANTS

5. The Lebanese Government will take the necessary measures to facilitate the arrival, stay and departure of participants invited by the Organization. Throughout their stay, participants will benefit from the privileges and immunities provided for in the Agreement concluded between the Organization and the Ministry of Tourism of Lebanon.
IV. RECEPTION

6. The Lebanese Authorities will organize the reception of participants at Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport (BEY) and will facilitate the free transfer of delegates on arrival and on departure between the airport, the selected hotels and the venue of the meetings.

V. ENTRY FORMALITIES

7. Delegates who require an entry visa are requested to contact diplomatic or consular missions of Lebanon in their countries in order to obtain their entry visas.

8. For more information regarding entry visa please visit the following link: http://www.general-security.gov.lb/Entry_visa/The-formalities-required.aspx

9. Delegates in whose countries Lebanon has no diplomatic mission are requested to contact the Ministry of Tourism of Lebanon (marlycoussa@gmail.com) and the UNWTO Regional Programme for the Middle East (rpme@unwto.org) sufficiently in advance, by 10 May, at the latest, indicating all the necessary information below, in order to enable the authorities of Lebanon to take the necessary measures in this respect:

- Name and surname
- Nationality
- Number and type of passport
- Scanned copy of your passport
- Place and date of birth
- Validity of passport (no less than 6 months)
- Travel information (date, time and flight number)

VI. ACCOMMODATION

10. A list of hotels with special rates for participants is attached as Annex I. Participants are invited to contact directly the hotels for reservations, indicating that they will participate in “UNWTO event in Beirut” or “the Ministry of Tourism event”. It is recommended that participants book their accommodation, by 10 May 2016, since a certain number of rooms are specially blocked at each hotel.

VII. REGISTRATION AND BADGES

10. A registration desk will be open at the Maghdouche Basilica Meeting Room on Sunday, 29 May 2016, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and at Le Pavillon Royal, BIEL, Beirut on Monday, 30 May 2016, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Badges will be issued at the time of registration. Participants are requested to wear their identification badges in the area reserved for the meetings, as well as at all social events.

VIII. WORKING LANGUAGES

11. The working languages of the Roundtable on Religious Tourism are Arabic and English. A simultaneous interpretation service will be provided.

12. The working language of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on the Phoenicians’ Cultural Tourism Programme is English.

IX. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

13. Local Currency and exchange rates: the local currency is the Lebanese Pound (LBP). The applicable exchange rate, as of April 2016, is 1685 LBP for 1 Euro and 1510 LBP for 1 US dollar.

14. Weather: Springtime (April-May) is one of the most pleasant times to visit Lebanon. The temperature varies from 15 to 20°C (59 - 68°F) in the mountains and from 25 to 30°C (77 - 86°F) along the coast.
15. Official language: While Arabic is Lebanon’s official language, English and French are widely spoken. Most Lebanese speak at least two or three languages, and visitors will find no problems communicating. Many establishments provide signs, menus, and information in both Arabic and English.

16. Official time: the official time in Lebanon is GMT + 3 hours

17. Shops and businesses are typically open Monday through Saturday, 9:00 - 18:00. Hours vary, and in summer many establishments close early. Restaurant hours vary, and many restaurants, especially in Beirut, are open late. Sunday: official shutdown (except big stores and trade centers).

- Private institutions (8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
- Shops (9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., except Sunday).
- Big stores and trade centers open daily even on Sundays and holidays (from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.).
- Museums (9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- Historical sites (every day from 9:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m.).
- Banking hours (Monday through Saturday, 8:30-14:00)
- Government offices and post offices (Monday to Thursday, 8:00-14:00; Friday 8:00-11:00; Saturday 8:00-13:00

18. Electricity: Electric current is 220 volts, 50 Hz cycles. A two-pin plug, with round pins is commonly used (Type C, similar to many European countries).

# Annex I - LIST OF HOTELS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel / Distance from the venue of the meetings</th>
<th>Rates in US Dollar $ (per room per night)</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>**** Four Seasons Hotel 300 m from the venue of the meetings</td>
<td>Superior King City View Single/Double Room: 170 USD Deluxe Sea View Single/Double Room: 190 USD Four Seasons City View Suite: 445 USD Deluxe Four Seasons Sea View Suite: 550 USD Rates are on Bed basis only, plus 10% VAT. Breakfast is 40 USD net per person</td>
<td>Name: Mr Houssam Akil Title: Sales Manager Tel: +961 1 761111 Fax: +961 1 761100 email: <a href="mailto:reservations.bei@fourseasons.com">reservations.bei@fourseasons.com</a> website: <a href="http://www.fourseasons.com/Beirut">www.fourseasons.com/Beirut</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**** Phoenicia InterContinental Hotel 400 m from the venue of the meetings</td>
<td>Premium Sea View Single/Double Room: 230 USD Phoenician Suite: 560 USD Diplomatic Suite: 675 USD Rates are on Bed &amp; Breakfast basis, subject to 10% VAT</td>
<td>Name: Miss Farah Chamas Title: Assistant Sales Manager Tel: +961 1 369110 Fax: +961 1 363537 email: <a href="mailto:reservation@phoeniciabeirut.com">reservation@phoeniciabeirut.com</a> website: <a href="http://www.phoeniciabeirut.com">www.phoeniciabeirut.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**** Le Gray Hotel 800 m from the venue of the meetings</td>
<td>Deluxe Single/Double Room: 200 USD Corner Suite: 600 USD Rates are on Bed basis only, plus 10% VAT Breakfast is 30 USD Net per person</td>
<td>Name: Georges Matar Title: Reservation Agent Tel: +961 1 962828 Fax: +961 1 971112 email: <a href="mailto:reservations@legray.com">reservations@legray.com</a> website: <a href="http://www.legray.com">www.legray.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**** Gefinor Rotana Hotel 1 km from the venue of the meetings</td>
<td>Classic Single Room: 95 USD Double Room: 110 USD Classic Suite Single: 160 USD Classic Suite Double: 175 USD Rates are on Bed &amp; Breakfast basis, subject to 10% VAT</td>
<td>Name: Rabih Harake Title: Reservation Supervisor Tel: +961 1 371888 Fax: +961 1 372999 email: <a href="mailto:res.gefinor@rotana.com">res.gefinor@rotana.com</a> website: <a href="http://www.rotana.com">www.rotana.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**** Monroe Hotel 400 m from the venue of the meetings</td>
<td>Single Room: 90 USD Double Room: 100 USD Executive Suite: 270 USD Rates are on Bed &amp; Breakfast basis, subject to 10% VAT</td>
<td>Name: Mr Elie Hani Title: Acting Director of Sales &amp; Marketing Tel: +961 1 371122 Fax: +961 1 371112 email: <a href="mailto:reservation@monroebeirut.com">reservation@monroebeirut.com</a> website: <a href="http://www.monroehotels.com">www.monroehotels.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**** Warwick Palm Beach Hotel 500 m from the venue of the meetings</td>
<td>Single Room: 95 USD Double Room: 105 USD Executive Suite: 135 USD Rates are on Bed &amp; Breakfast basis, subject to 10% VAT</td>
<td>Name: Miss Berthe Barakat Title: Director of Sales &amp; Marketing Tel: +961 1 372000 Fax: +961 1 368109 email: <a href="mailto:bbarakat@warwickhotels.com">bbarakat@warwickhotels.com</a> website: <a href="http://www.warwickpalmbeach.com">www.warwickpalmbeach.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*** Elysee Residence AbdelAziz Street – Hamra 3 km from the venue of the meetings</td>
<td>Studio Single/Double: 50 USD Junior Suite Single/Double: 55 USD Rates include Bed &amp; Breakfast and taxes</td>
<td>Name: Mr Hassan Wehby Title: Manager Tel: +961 1 744850 Fax: +961 1 344502 email: <a href="mailto:manager@elyseeresidence.com">manager@elyseeresidence.com</a> website: <a href="http://www.elyseeresidence.com">www.elyseeresidence.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>