



> Cairo - Mounir the Fishawy

Tourists of the world

Return with your families to the beautiful landscapes of Lebanon and share with its people the joys of victory.

ITM will work with you for the recovery of tourism in Lebanon so that we can all enjoy the hospitality and welcome of its generous people.

Let Lebanon once again be the jewel in the crown of Arab tourism

With the greetings of:
Islamic Tourism magazine and website:
www.islamictourism.com

Lebanon, o Lebanon, you fill our ears, our glances and our hearts. Country of art, free press, authenticity, Arabism, mountains and tourism.

Damn the invaders who loved to throw back the needles of time and submerge you again in the desperation of war, destruction and the shedding of innocent blood. Only yesterday, Lebanon had recovered from its wounds, regained its elegance and splendour thanks to the work of its children. It was once again a hub of commerce, politics, art, the press and tourism. Her admirers returned from all corners of the earth: they returned to sit in the cafes of Raucha, to shop in Al-Hamra street, to enjoy their summer holidays in Aliah, Shtora, Bihamdon, Sauffer etc to travel in cable cars through the high green mountains, to visit the Ja'a'ita Grotto, to enjoy the relics of Baalbek, to taste its starters and roast, to hum to their music and to sway with their folkloric dancers. But the latest unjust war tried in vain to destroy everything. Let us all participate today in reconstructing Lebanon through a pioneering initiative: "War Tourism".

Details of the project

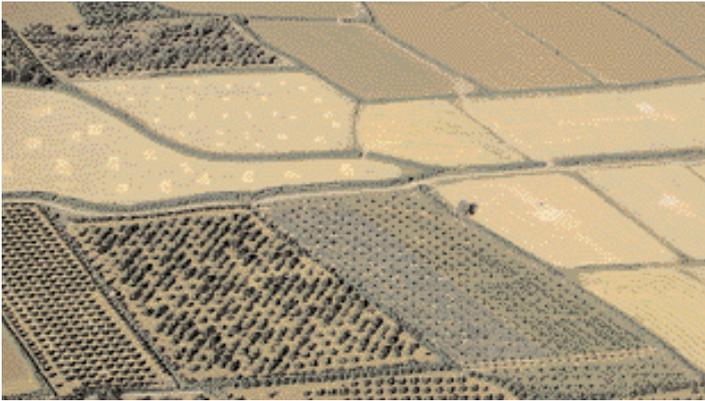
Tourist destination: Lebanon.

Date: as soon as the invaders have retreated.

Duration of the visit: one to four weeks.

Visitors: lovers of tourism from all nationalities, artists, writers, intellectuals, journalists, non-governmental organizations, religious and human rights associations, parliamentary businessmen, professional unions, etc. ▶





Projected number of visitors: half a million people.

Places to visit: Lebanese cities and villages, the scenes of massacres and destruction.

Tour guides: eye witnesses and spontaneous translators.

Photographic exhibitions: exhibitions should be organized with photographs of the destroyed towns before 12th July 2006. The exhibitions should be visited before seeing the destroyed cities and villages so a comparison can be made. These small exhibitions can be the beginning of a great exhibition that would tour the world.

Program of visits: morning programme to visit the destroyed cities and villages. Afternoon programme to visit natural landscapes. Night time programme to enjoy the cafes, restaurants, theatres and the folkloric celebrations organized specially for the visitors.



Objectives of the project

This initiative has many objectives: to raise political awareness, stimulate the economy, promote communication and re-activate the tourist industry. The return of tourists will boost the morale of the people.

When western visitors see the destruction, they will have to re-examine their preconceived notions and look at their mass media with critical eyes. They will be made aware of the media's disinformation and deception, and will be better able to empathise with the Lebanese people and support the cause of Lebanon.

On the economic level, the visits of influential people in business and government will stimulate the campaigns for donations for the reconstruction of the country.

At the communicational level, the journalists, artists, writers and intellectuals will reflect in their works what they have seen.

How to achieve the project?

This idea will be put into practice thanks to an intense campaign of all Arab and international mass media, with the support of the Lebanese Government, international and regional governmental and non-governmental organisations as well as tourist boards worldwide. It is essential to have the agreement of official patrons, land, sea and aerial transport companies, Lebanese hotels, a certain number of satellite television channels, major tourism companies, Lebanese life insurance agencies and consulates throughout the world. The duties of these patrons will be limited to offering maximum reductions to those who wish to visit Lebanon.

God is with you, dear Lebanon. Your head will always be held high, and we will return to visit your cedars, your mountains and your resorts: we will return to erect the rock of Raucha singing with Fairuz: "I love You, Lebanon". ■

