



Stadt Zürich



City to City Project Partnership between Tyre (Lebanon) and Zurich (Switzerland)

Study Tours to Tyre: (#1) October 13 – 19, 2019 / (#2) April 19 – 25, 2020

Swiss Refugee Reception Experts exchanging with their Lebanese Counterparts

The Syrian Refugee Challenge in the Tyre Urban Area since 2011
How are local actors coping with the presence of 12'000 additional inhabitants ?



Families from Syria at the City Beach of Tyre, Lebanon (2018)

City of Zurich announces two Study Tours to Tyre, Lebanon

Interurban exchange of expertise

In the year 2017 the City of Tyre (Lebanon) and the City of Zurich (Switzerland) entered a City-to-City Project Partnership. The cooperation between the two cities was established in response to the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis, affecting many local communities both in the Eastern Mediterranean and in some European countries. The partnership aims at enhancing urban government capacities by exchanging expertise among professionals working on behalf of the public administration. In the year 2018 it was agreed that the exchange should focus on the topics of “urban mobility” and the “reception of refugees”.

In the context of the partnership, mobility experts from Zurich now assist the government of Tyre in dealing with some of its urgent soft mobility or slow traffic challenges. Future developments supported by Zurich shall serve the population of the whole Tyre urban area, including the inhabitants of the economically weak Eastern outskirts. As to the “reception of refugees”, local experts working in Tyre shall enable experts from Zurich (and maybe other cities) to understand, how an urban area with around 200'000 inhabitants was and is coping with an additional 12'000 refugees.

Studying the response to the refugee challenge

During the years 2019 and 2020 expert exchanges dealing with all aspects of refugee reception shall take place, both in Tyre and in Zurich. In October 2019 as well as in April 2020 a group from Zurich will discuss the situation with their counterparts in Tyre. In summer 2020 a group from Tyre will share expertise and experience with colleagues in Zurich. The three tours share the refugee topic, but each tour is an event for its own.

The 7-days tours to Tyre will address the topics of (1) Housing and Neighbourhood Relations, (2) Work and Income Generation, (3) Basic Education, (4) Social and cultural Life. The tour to South Lebanon combines on-site visits to neighbourhoods, places of work and relevant institutions including presentations and interviews with representatives of the municipality and non-state actors. Participants will arrive at an in-depth understanding of the local response to the Syrian refugee challenge and its implications in the Tyre urban area since 2011.

Program Outline

for the Study Tours to Tyre in October 13 – 19, 2019 and in April 19 – 25, 2020

Day	Topic	Main activities
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Arrival</i>	
Monday	General Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bike-Tour through the Tyre Urban Area providing a good geographical overview• Introductory presentations: (1) Recent history of Tyre; (2) Contemporary developments in the city and in Lebanon with regard to refugees• Expert exchange about the “Syrian refugee crises” with representatives of local NGOs
Tuesday	Housing and Neighbourhood Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting a Syrian family in an Eastern neighbourhood of Tyre• On-site introduction to the Occupancy Free of Charge Program of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
Wednesday	Work and Income Generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walk through agricultural areas where Syrian refugees are employed• Meeting with representatives of the construction sector
Thursday	Basic Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit an UNRWA secondary school in a Palestinian camp where Syrian refugee kids are integrated• Visit to a Lebanese public school where Syrian refugee kids can learn in the afternoon
Friday	Social and Cultural Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit to community-places in the Tyre urban area
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Departure</i>	

Tour Guides

- Thomas Schmutz, *Refugee reception and Middle East* specialist, Zurich
- Wafsa Najdi, *Syrian-owned businesses in the city* specialist, Beirut
- Lena Hochuli, *Decentralized Cooperation* specialist, Amsterdam

Target Group

The Study Tours to Tyre are designed for professionals working in the public administration, in institutions or organisations with a link to the topic of refugee reception. Ideally, there are about 15 participants in each group, of which a majority is working in the city of Zurich or in the Greater Zurich area. The groups should be gender balanced. As for the professional background and work experience of the participants we seek for an interesting “mix”.

Application / Confirmation Procedure

Prospective participants are asked to add their CV to the application for the tours. The application has to be sent to lena.hochuli@aoz.ch until May 31, 2019. An application can be for only one of the tours or it can be flexible as to either October 2019 or April 2020. The foreign affairs office of the City of Zurich will confirm a participation until June 15, 2019. Participants must in return confirm their participation by booking flights for the tour in October 2019 until June 30, 2019, for the tour in April 2020 until November 15, 2019.

These deadlines (June 30, 2019 / November 15, 2019) also apply to the payment of the confirmed study tour to Tyre.

Technical Information

for the Study Tours to Tyre on October 13 – 19, 2019 and on April 19 – 25, 2020

Travelling to and from Lebanon

The study tours start in Tyre on a Sunday evening; they end on Saturday morning.

It is up to the participants when and how they travel to and from Lebanon / Tyre. This allows them to extend their visit to Lebanon for a few days or arrive some days before the start of the tour and to see other parts of Lebanon as well. (The costs for the flights are estimated to be between CHF 500 – 600 for October 2019 and April 2020).

Turkish Airlines has daily flights from Zurich to Beirut via Istanbul at convenient times: departure from Zurich in the late morning, departure from Beirut in the early afternoon. For participants travelling with Turkish Airlines on the “official” dates, a transfer from and to Beirut Rafiq Hariri Airport is organised.

“Official” Turkish Airlines flights in October 2019:

Zurich to Beirut: October 13, 2019

10.10 TK1908 ZRH – IST (Zurich – Istanbul)

18.45 TK826 IST – BEY (Istanbul – Beirut)

Arrival in Beirut: 20.40

Beirut to Zurich: October 19, 2019

15.55 TK825 BEY – IST (Beirut – Istanbul)

20.15 TK1911 IST – ZRH (Istanbul – Zurich)

Arrival in Zurich: 22.15

“Official” Turkish Airlines flights in April 2020:

(Flight details no yet published)

Passport requirements

The passport must be valid at least until 6 month after the end of the study tour.

The passport may not contain any Israeli stamp or visa.

Cost for the Study Tour in Tyre (not including the flights to and from Lebanon)

CHF 1'250 per participant, including

- Activities in the Tyre urban area according to the program outline,
- 6 nights single room accommodation with sea view in the Tyre Rest House,
- “Official” meals, snacks and drinks (not including alcoholic beverages),
- “Official” transportation (all trips in the Tyre urban area from Monday to Friday, plus the optional transfers on Sunday evening from Beirut Airport to Tyre and/or on Saturday late morning from Tyre to Beirut Airport).

Cancellation Policy / Travel Insurance / Health Insurance

After having mutually confirmed a participation, the costs of the study tour in Tyre (CHF 1'250) must be paid in case of a cancellation. We recommend to take out a travel insurance. We also recommend to make sure that the personal health insurance covers medical services abroad.

Application

for the Study Tours to Tyre on October 13 – 19, 2019 and on April 19 – 25, 2020

Please, send your application to project coordinator Lena Hochuli (lana.hochuli@aoz.ch) until May 31, 2019 including the following information:

- Full Name (as in the passport)
- Address
- Date of Birth
- Job position
- Employer
- CV (in German or in English)
- Preferred tour (October 2019 / April 2020 / Both are possible)
- Contact details (Mail, Mobile Phone)