



Land and Climate

Lebanon covers 10,452 square kilometers. A low coastal plain dominates the west but gives way to Lebanon mountains in the east. Nestled between the Lebanon mountains and the anti-Lebanon mountains on the Syrian Border is the fertile Bekaa valley. Lebanon is home not only to its more famous cedar, pine, and cypress trees but also to olive, citrus, apple and banana trees. The country enjoys a Mediterranean climate with mild, rainy winters and long warm summers. In Beirut the average daily high temperature is 14 C (57 F) in winter and 32C (90 F) in summer. It is cooler in the mountains in the summer. Snow falls in winter at the higher elevations and can last year-round.

Language

Arabic is the official language in Lebanon and is spoken by all. It is common for people to speak more than one language, even three or four, thus; French and English are widely spoken among the Lebanese. Foreign newspapers and magazines are available, and the prolific local press publishes in French and English as well as Arabic. Communication is definitely not a problem!

General Attitudes

Lebanon has been deeply influenced by its long association with the West. At the same time, traditional values and attitudes continue to be important, creating a unique society. With an entrepreneurial spirit and a background in international finance, Lebanon is striving to restore its former status as a modern and progressive country.

Visiting

Hospitality is prized tradition in Lebanon. People feel honored to have guests in their homes, and they also enjoy visiting others. Hosts usually serve coffee or tea to guests. Etiquette requires that such an offer be accepted. If invited to a meal, guests might bring flowers, a plant, a special dessert, or something for the home.

Accommodation

Lebanon has a good hotel capacity, including a number of outstanding luxury establishments. In Beirut, there are also many small, well-run hostels. Furnished apartments, which offer self-service facilities, are found throughout Greater Beirut and in other populated centers.

What to Bring

Everything that you might require during your stay can be bought in Lebanon at prices comparable to those in Europe or America. In summer, light cotton clothing, a hat and sunglasses are essential. Visitors during winter months will require warm clothing. Be sure to bring your essential medicines etc.



Post and Communications

A state-of-the-art telecommunications network has been built and expanded to all areas. Hotels as well as private business centers offer advanced business services, and internet cafes are popular in the major cities. Cellular phones are widely used and can be rented for a limited time. You can buy sim cards at the airport.



The area code for Lebanon is: 961

Regional Codes are as follows:

Beirut: 01

Mount Lebanon: 04

Mount Lebanon (South): 05

North Lebanon: 06

Keserwan & Byblos: 09

South Lebanon: 07

Zahle & Bekaa: 08

Cellular/Mobile Network: 03 / 70

While there still only a few public post boxes in Lebanon, the mail delivery service has improved with the recently privatized postal service known as LibanPost.

Credit Cards

Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels, restaurants and shops. Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Diner's Club International are recognized, along with local credit cards such as Investment Credit Card, Cashless Card and Link.

Transportation

Lebanon's transportation system is being rebuilt. New bridges and tunnels have been completed, as has a 15 kilometer highway in the south. A northern highway and a circular one around Beirut are being built, and a road between Beirut and Damascus, Syria is planned. Car rental agencies are found in all major cities. Public transportation is also available, buses and taxi-service taxis go to almost every town. Taxis have red license plates, are comfortable and reasonably priced. Most families own cars, and traffic can be heavy in urban areas. You can also use the UBER service.



Local Time

Lebanese local time is GMT + 2 hours. Daylight Saving Time takes place on the last weekend of March and resets on the last weekend of October.

The currency is the Lebanese Pound (LBP)

Notes are available in the following denominations:

500 – 1,000 – 5,000 – 10,000 – 20,000 – 50,000 – 100,000

Coins are:

50 – 100 – 250 – 500 – 1000

Daily exchange rates of LBP vs. USD

<https://www.bdl.gov.lb>

Here are some interesting places you can visit



Baalbek Ruins - Dominating the centre of modern Baalbek, this wonderful Roman temple complex is one of the Middle East's major archaeological highlights.



Beach at Damour - Enjoy your time at the beach.



Byblos (Jbeil) - A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Byblos (Jbeil) has been home to a wealth of civilizations over the last 8,000 years.



Chateau Ksara - Founded in 1857, Chateau Ksara is one of Lebanon's oldest wineries and an ever-popular stop on Bekaa Valley tours.



Downtown Beirut - From Roman relics to rooftop bars, from elegant mosques to designer stores, from bullet-pocked ruins to glitzy restaurants, downtown Beirut (Beirut Central District) is a study in contrasts. Archaeological museums, art galleries, and Mediterranean vistas offer much, but for many the focus will remain on food, drink, and fun in this place.



Hamra Street (Rue Hamra) - Take a walk through Lebanon's cultural history on a visit to Hamra Street (Rue Hamra) in Beirut.



Jeita Grotto - one of the Middle East's greatest natural wonders, the stunning Jeita Grotto cave system extends around 6km into the mountains 18km, northeast of Beirut.



Jounieh - Known for the enormous Casino du Liban and the Téléferique gondola lift that runs to Our Lady of Harissa above, Jounieh is a party-friendly high-rise beach town about 11 miles (18 kilometers) north of Beirut.



Pigeon Rocks - These limestone outcrops just offshore are prime selfie territory and a Beirut landmark. They are impressive; one has an archway eroded through it. Cafes here serve good coffees and are decent spots to sit and admire the view with a shisha or beer.



Port of Byblos – Enjoy the view while the sun sets.



Temple of Bacchus - Baalbek's Temple of Bacchus is often described as the most beautifully decorated temple in the Roman world, and it's certainly one of the best preserved.

Popular (seafood) restaurants



Al Sultan Brahim Restaurant / Al Mokhtar Restaurant

Foods / Coffee



Lebanon is home to some of world's best coffee places, street foods and restaurant dining experience.

Ministry of Tourism

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