



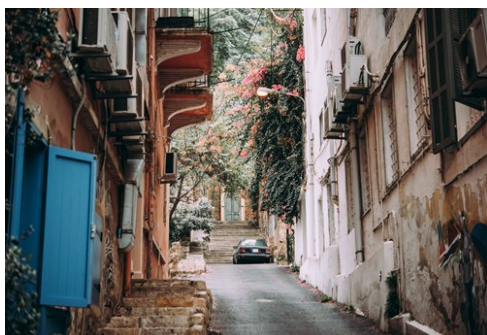
Photo: Piotr Chrobot/Unsplash.com



Henrique Pacini/Shutterstock.com



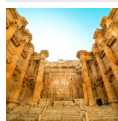
Eva Mont/Shutterstock.com



Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com

Beirut is the perfect destination for seasoned travellers: here, East and West intertwine in intricate ways, creating a city so magnetic that few are able to resist its powerful draw. Much has changed over the latter half of the twentieth century—Beirut rising to become glitterati central in the 60s but falling from grace during the bloody Civil War—but the city is alive and kicking, enticing travellers with superb gastronomy, the Middle East's most vibrant nightlife and close proximity to the ancient towns of Byblos and Baalbek.

Featured



Temples of Baalbek

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Château Ksara

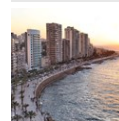
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Byblos

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Gemmayzeh & Mar Mikhael Ne...

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Sursock Museum & Palace

The Sursock Museum of Modern Art occupies the villa once inhabited by its fo...



American University of Beirut

Founded in the 1860s by an American missionary, the lush, sprawling campus o...

National Museum of Beirut

One of the best archaeological museums in the Middle East, the National Museum of Beirut provides an excellent overview of

THE CITY



Anton_Ivanov/Shutterstock.com

The latter half of the 20th century was extremely tumultuous for Beirut, a city which became the battleground for a bloody Civil War that claimed thousands of lives. The Green Line separating the Muslim West from the Christian East is still clearly identifiable by the lush vegetation sprawling across this once no man's land, and sobering war memorials, such as the decrepit Holiday Inn hotel which only saw one year in operation preceding the start of the Civil War, serve testimony to the horrors experienced by locals a mere three decades ago.

Visitors to Beirut will benefit greatly from taking a guided city tour designed to provide a deeper understanding of the historical and political context. Today's Beirut is a much safer and more secure place with a distinctive buzz and joie de vivre, but do remain vigilant if you plan to set out exploring on your own and make sure the city's volatile southern suburbs do not sneak their way onto your itinerary.

DO & SEE



Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com

Beirut makes for a fantastic base to explore the rest of the country once the city's captivating neighbourhoods are over and done with.

The best way to explore the city is to set out on foot (the public transportation system will likely appear confusing to outsiders) or by bike, hitting major historic landmarks like the Old Town's Roman Baths, natural wonders like the Pigeon Rocks just off the Corniche, and the upcoming neighbourhoods of Mar Mikhael and Gemmayzeh along the way.

The Corniche and Pigeon Rocks



Walk (or bike) along the Corniche to witness the leisurely flow of life by the Mediterranean; if you head south towards the Raouche neighbourhood, you will eventually come to one of Beirut's most iconic natural sites: the Pigeon Rocks, limestone formations jutting out of the sea. Come at sundown for shisha with a view.

Photo: diak/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al Raouche Rocks

Gemmayzeh & Mar Mikhael Neighbourhoods

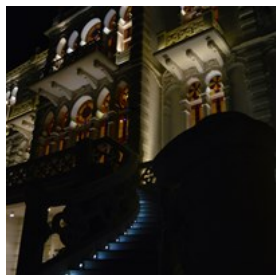


To discover an edgier, hip side to the city, walk down the thoroughfares of Armenia Street (Mar Mikhael) and Gouraud Street (Gemmayzeh), and

soak in Beirut's undeniable cool. There are plenty of attractive brunch spots and swank art galleries around (check out the St Nicholas Stairs in the summer for some al fresco art).

Photo: Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com

Sursock Museum & Palace



The Sursock Museum of Modern Art occupies the villa once inhabited by its founder, Nicolas Ibrahim Sursock, who instructed successors to turn the

building into an art museum. The will was well-executed: the Sursock Museum is now among Beirut's most attractive, with free entry and guided tours. Its namesake palace is closed to the public, but certainly worth a look.

Photo: Christelle Hayek/Unsplash

Address: Greek Orthodox Archbishopric Street, Beirut

Opening hours: Wed-Sun 10am-6pm, Mon & Tue closed

Phone: +961 1 202 001

Internet: <https://sursock.museum>

American University of Beirut



Founded in the 1860s by an American missionary, the lush, sprawling campus of the prestigious American University of Beirut is a pleasure to

stroll around. It offers something of a journey into the city's pre-war days. There is an excellent

archaeological museum on-site, along with several art galleries, and many nonchalant feline residents (cats), who famously inhabit the premises.

Photo: Jeremiah Castelo/Shutterstock.com

Address: Bliss, Beirut

Phone: +961 1 350 000

Internet: www.aub.edu.lb

National Museum of Beirut

One of the best archaeological museums in the Middle East, the National Museum of Beirut provides an excellent overview of the region's history. Highlights include the world's largest display of sarcophagi, a line-up of 31 with naturalistic-looking carved faces, a reconstructed Roman tomb, and a collection of bronze Phoenician figurines uncovered at Byblos. The museum is located on the once-volatile Green Line.

Address: Museum Street, Beirut

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 9:30am-3pm, Mon closed

Phone: +961 1 426 703

Internet: www.instagram.com/nationalmuseumbeirut

Byblos



The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Byblos is a treasured city, reportedly the first to be inhabited by Phoenicians, hosting a sequence of

mighty civilisations (from Egyptians to Ottomans) over the following millennia. It's an easy day trip from Beirut to see early settlements dating back to the B.C., the 12th century Crusader Castle, and the ancient Phoenician port.

Photo: Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com

Address: Byblos, Lebanon

Temples of Baalbek



The splendid Roman Temple of Baalbek is among Lebanon's most important archaeological monuments, an ancient place of worship with barely any competition among similar structures in the ancient world. Plan your trip around the Baalbeck International Festival for live music and plays held in the town.

Photo: FredChimelli/Shutterstock.com
Address: Baalbek Roman Ruins, Baalbek, Lebanon

Château Ksara



The historic winery hidden in the Bekaa Valley east of Beirut makes for a fantastic day trip. Tours of the underground caves are held daily, and on-site dining is available at the adjacent restaurant.

Photo: Julie Sd/Unsplash
Address: Ksara, Lebanon
Opening hours: Daily 10am-6pm
Phone: +961 8 813 495
Internet: <https://chateauxksara.com>
Email: info@ksara.com.lb

DINING



Nastya Dubrovina/Shutterstock.com

Eating out in Beirut is a foodie's holy grail: culinary influences mix and mingle in the Levantine cuisine, and so do international restaurants along the city streets. You are equally as free to tuck into a manakish (Levantine "pizza" of sorts) while taking puffs from the ubiquitous shisha as you are to put away a trendy poke bowl.

Lebanese cuisine is the definition of comfort food, featuring delicious specialities like Kibbeh (made with ground beef or lamb), everyone's favourite Hummus, Falafel, and Kunafeh - for dessert.

Makan



If Makan's rotating menu of international (most often Asian) specialities and an aesthetically pleasing interior of a historic Levantine villa (with an incredibly atmospheric courtyard)

weren't enough, Makan also operates on a rather unusual concept of allowing guests to pay what they please (or "what they think is fair") for the meal. The same goes for Motto, Makan's sister establishment a few blocks down Armenia Street - the primary culinary focus here is on Indian flavours, with different regions featured every

week.

Photo: Timothy Christianto/Shutterstock.com

Address: Patriarch Arida, Beirut

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 12pm-12am, Sun 12-5pm

Phone: +961 70 954 057

More Info: Suggested payment for dinner: 35,000 Lebanese pounds

Onno



Once featured on Anthony Bourdain's glorious "No Reservations" culinary TV-show, Onno has stayed up to par with its scrumptious Armenian specialities, as well as some dishes very unfamiliar to the western palate (fried sheep pancreas, anyone?). It's a true feast, so come hungry.

Photo: HelgaBragina/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ibrahim Abdul Aal, Beirut

Phone: +961 1 740 948

Babel Bay



If you're ready to splurge, few places are better than Babel, a fine dining restaurant located right by the marina. The selection of dishes is

abundant, with fresh fish and seafood being a particular highlight. Service is, likewise, impeccable.

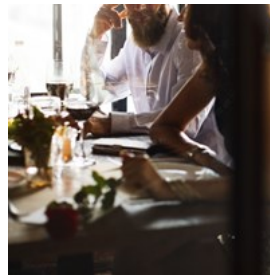
Photo: Mike Dexter/Shutterstock.com

Address: Zaitunay Bay, Beirut

Phone: +961 1 370 846

Internet: www.babelrestaurant.com

Tawlet



Considered by gourmands and laymen alike to be one of the best restaurants in the city, Tawlet is a Beirut institution, known for the quality of the food and for its hip and elegant style. It only opens for lunch, offering a traditional sample buffet, made with the freshest organic ingredients.

Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com

Address: 12 Rue al-Nahr, Mar Mikhael, Beirut

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 1pm-4pm, Sat 12pm-4pm

Phone: +961 1 448 129

Internet: www.tawlet.com

Email: info@tawlet.com

More Info: Chalhoub Bldg

Seza



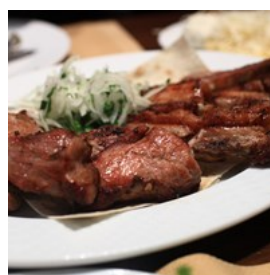
This lovely and quirky local Armenian-Lebanese fusion restaurant has a welcoming and homey feeling to it, with great decor and ambience. On the menu are hearty servings of home-made specialities including kibbeh and kofta (meatballs in cherry sauce), among many others.

Photo: Anatoly Tipliyashin/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rue Patriarch Arida, Mar Mikhael, Beirut

Phone: +961 1 570 711

Mayrig



Another Armenian restaurant, Mayrig stands out for its impeccable decor and ambience. Visitors can dine outdoors in the small garden or stay inside and admire the columns and beautiful

decoration inside while enjoying the very best of Armenian cuisine.

Photo: Chubykin Arkady/Shutterstock.com

Address: 282 Rue Pasteur, Beirut

Opening hours: Daily 12pm-12am

Phone: +961 1 572 121

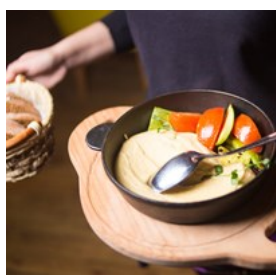
CAFÉS



EYJAN/Shutterstock.com

Beirut's celebrated café culture means you'll be spoilt for choice when it comes to having a strong cup of Lebanese coffee or a casual meal. Many local cafés also serve shisha (or hookah), which is commonly enjoyed by locals any time of day or night.

El Denye Hek



In the heart of Beirut's busiest districts, El Denye Hek is a popular Lebanese eatery, part cavern part intimate garden. Service is prompt and offerings abundant. Come for a traditional Lebanese breakfast or a mighty feast of dinner or lunch.

Photo: pil76/Shutterstock.com

Address: Armenia, Beirut

Phone: +961 71 476 666

Al Falamanki



When in Raouche, settle in for a feast at Al Falamanki, whose casual ambience and waterside location have earned the place repeat customers in abundance. Few experiences beat sharing a water pipe at sundown, and if you get peckish, there always are plenty of manakish varieties to choose from.

Photo: Chubykin Arkady/Shutterstock.com

Address: Raouche Rock, Beirut

Opening hours: Daily 8am-3am

Phone: +961 1 808 011

Internet: www.instagram.com/alfalamanki

The Lebanese Bakery



Anyone who's laid eyes on a double egg-topped manoushe from The Lebanese Bakery will simply have to have it - resistance is futile. If that variety doesn't tickle your fancy, one of the menu's many surely will.

Photo: Loredana Bitculescu/Shutterstock.com

Address: Salim Bustros, Beirut

Phone: +961 1 337 807

Internet: www.thelebanesebakery.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



AlessandroBiascioli/Shutterstock.com

Living up to its somewhat unexpected title of the Middle East's 'Party Capital', Beirut never hesitates to throw a great one. Summer is prime party season when the city's breezy terraces fill up with revellers and poolsides get crowded with sunbeds. Action commonly goes on till dawn, persisting well after the first rays of sunlight. Dress to impress: many upper-scale establishments have a dress code and face control in place.

The Sporting Club



The legendary Sporting Club has persevered through some of the most tumultuous years in Lebanese history and come out on the other

end unscathed - so much so, in fact, that it almost qualifies as a living museum of the Lebanese 1950s. No longer an exclusive hangout for the jet-setting crowd, The Sporting Club now welcomes all.

Photo: g-stockstudio/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ra's Bayrut, Beirut

Phone: +961 1 742 200

Tickets: Entrance fee applies

More Info: Pool and beach facilities available; there is a seafood restaurant on site.

Saint-George Yacht Club & Marina



Damaged severely during the Civil War, the iconic Saint-George no longer functions as a hotel, but still stands as part of the Marina complex

frequented by local elites and expats. Pop-up parties are held by the poolside during the summer; there is a bar and restaurant on site.

Photo: Here/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ain Mreisseh, Beirut

Phone: +961 70 652 655

Internet: www.stgeorges-yachtclub.com/pool.php

Ferdinand



Ferdinand is a feisty bar with class, that serves excellent cocktails and a wide selection of locally produced beers. Fun vibes are Ferdinand's

main draw, but the house burgers are certainly a very close second.

Photo: DisobeyArt/Shutterstock.com

Address: Mahatma Gandhi, Hamra, Beirut

Phone: +961 1 355 955

Iris



The stylish rooftop Iris is a place few can find fault with: it can both be a relaxed sea-view terrace and a full-on DJ party spot, with live music

weekends and a stable clientele of locals that can at times feel a tad too sizeable. Drinks are mixed by skilled bartenders.

Photo: Jacob Lund/Shutterstock.com

Address: Beirut New Waterfront - Seaside Pavilion Rooftop,

Beirut

Phone: +961 3 090 936

Internet: www.irisbeirut.com

The Grand Factory



A premier concert venue and party location, The Grand Factory is known to electro music fans as Beirut's best night time hangout, one that hosts artists performing in varying genres. One comes here to dance the night away, and no setting could be better than The Grand Factory's rooftop with a view of the mountains and the sea.

Photo: [bbernard/Shutterstock.com](#)

Address: Al Rehban, Beirut

Phone: +961 71 694 469

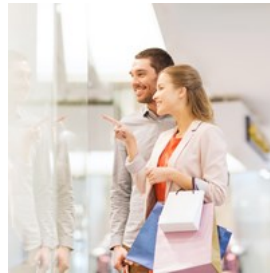
SHOPPING



LEBANESE NOSALGIA/Shutterstock.com

Shopping is a blast in Beirut, although do not expect much in the way of an oriental marketplace: the Beirut Souks are a polished shopping complex with dining and entertainment, and luxury department stores like Aïshti see moneyed shoppers from Beirut and outside come through their doors. Local products worth buying include art and handicrafts produced by Lebanese artisans (fabrics, ceramics, metalwork and more).

Beirut Souks



The polished Beirut Souks are far from an Oriental understanding of a boisterous marketplace. Stores that line these tranquil streets include upscale international names like Louis Vuitton, D&G, Armani, and more - along with more affordable high-street brands. The Souks are more than just a shopping complex, with entertainment options, street markets and attractive public spaces.

Photo: [Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com](#)

Address: Waygand, Beirut

Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm

Phone: +961 1 957 000

Internet: www.beirutsouks.com.lb

L'Artisan du Liban



Started by a non-profit aiming to support local artists nearly four decades ago, L'Artisan du Liban now boasts two locations (a further one on Clemenceau Street) where artwork, woven rugs, embroidery, home decor items, and jewellery all made exclusively by Lebanese craftsmen and women are on sale.

Photo: [Walid Nohra/Shutterstock.com](#)

Address: Pasteur, Beirut

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-3pm, Sun closed

Phone: +961 1 564 907

Internet: <https://lartisanduliban.com>

Souq al Ahad Sunday Market



Weekends see the Souq al Ahad fill up with vendors selling all manner of goods, from books to knick-knacks and original antiques, most sold at prices that are simply unbeatable.

Photo: pixfly/Shutterstock.com

Opening hours: Sat & Sun 7am-7pm

ABC Mall



If one-stop shopping is more your thing, head to the capital's most popular shopping centre, ABC Mall, and browse through local and international

brand-name stores with dining and entertainment conveniently at hand.

Photo: blurAZ/Shutterstock.com

Address: ABC MALL VERDUN LG FL, Beirut

Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm

Phone: +961 1 212 888

Internet: www.abc.com.lb

Email: info@abc.com.lb

L'Atelier du Miel



Skip the magnets: a nicely packaged jar of Lebanon's very own natural honey makes for a souvenir miles ahead of any trinket. There are a surprising many kinds of honey to choose from, along with other honey-based treats. The Mar Mikhayel location also contains a trendy cafe.

Photo: Alinute Silzeviciute/Shutterstock.com

Address: Tabaris, Next to BLC Bank, Beirut

Phone: +961 1 565 975

Internet: www.atelierdumiel.com

Orient 499



Sophisticated jewellery, interior decor items, cosmetics, pieces of clothing and more are all carefully selected from across the region

(nationally and internationally). The brand prides itself on supporting "sustainable luxury", so do expect prices slightly above average.

Photo: Ditty_about_summer/Shutterstock.com

Address: 499 Omar Daouk, Beirut

Phone: +961 1 369 499

Internet: www.orient499.com

TOURIST INFORMATION



diplomedia/Shutterstock.com

Safety



Keep up-to-date with travel safety advice when planning a trip to Beirut and all through your stay. While most visits are trouble-free, there is a risk of terrorism present at all times, especially so in crowded areas and around dates of political significance, such as elections.

Governments of many countries advise against travel to some parts of Lebanon (particularly

around the borders with Syria and Israel, and around refugee camps) and the southern suburbs of Beirut, where the threat of terrorism is especially high.

Photo: Abdul Aziz/Unsplash

Passport/Visa



Citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries—Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates do not require a visa to enter Lebanon and can stay for up to 6 months in a year for the purpose of tourism, provided they have no Israeli marks or stamps in their passports and a nonrefundable onward ticket; same applies to citizens of Jordan for stays of up to 3 months a year.

Visa on arrival is granted under the above conditions to nationals of the European Union, much of Europe, the USA, Mexico, Canada, China, Australia, and many other countries across Asia and South America.

If you do require a visa, an application must be made in advance via a Lebanese embassy or consulate closest to you.

Given that visa policies can change, it's always best to check with the nearest Lebanese embassy or consulate or consult the official Lebanese General Security website for the most current information before planning your trip.

Photo: ConvertKit/Unsplash

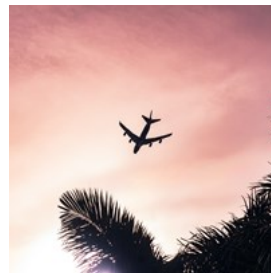
Best Time to Visit



June through August are some of the hottest months, but these are also the months when Beirut's celebrated party scene is at its most active, with revellers gathering by the poolside, on rooftops and by the Med. Spring and autumn have milder temperatures and are better fit for slow-paced city exploration and hikes. December through March are the height of ski season when winter sports enthusiasts flock to the surrounding slopes.

Photo: djedj/Pixabay

Beirut-Rafic Al Hariri International Airport (BEY)



Beirut-Rafic Hariri International Airport (BEY) is located just 9 kilometres south of Beirut's bustling city centre. This proximity allows travellers to reach the heart of Beirut in just 15 to 20 minutes by car. While taxis or ride-sharing apps are the primary mode of transport from the airport, adventurous travellers can also opt for shared minibuses that run sporadically to various city destinations.

Photo: Eduardo Velazco Guart/Unsplash

Address: Beirut-Rafic Al Hariri International Airport

Phone: +961 1 628 000

Internet: www.beirutairport.gov.lb

Public Transport



Public transport in Beirut is undergoing significant improvements but still faces challenges. One of the best ways to get around Beirut is by taxi or ride-sharing apps like Uber.

Photo: Reinaldo Kevin/Unsplash

Taxi



Traditional taxis are widely available throughout Beirut and are usually metered, but it's recommended to confirm this before

starting your journey to avoid any misunderstandings regarding fares. In addition to traditional taxis, ride-sharing apps like Uber and Careem are popular and offer a reliable and convenient way to get around the city.

Photo: Gustavo/Unsplash

Pharmacy



Some of the most prominent pharmacies you'll find in Beirut include Karout Pharmacy, Machmouchi, and Al Madina.

Photo: Diana Polekhina/Unsplash

Address: Al Madina - corner of Hamra & Nehme Yafet

Opening hours: Open 24 hours

Phone: +961 1 349 349

Post



Post offices in Beirut generally operate from 8am to 3pm, Monday to Friday. They provide a wide range of services, including mail and parcel delivery, financial transactions, and various formalities related to government and non-governmental services.

Having said that, don't count on Liban Post for speedy delivery. For more time-sensitive parcels or letters, try a private provider like DHL.

Photo: Ali Bakhtiari/Unsplash

Address: LibanPost Chouran - Takiyeddine Al Solh Street, Itani Building, Ground Floor Chouran, Beirut,

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-3:30pm, Sat & Sun closed

Phone: +961 1 814 053

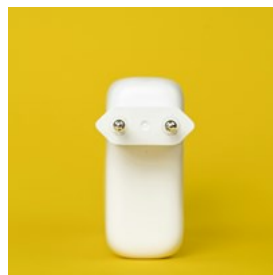
Telephone



Country code: +961 Area code: 1

Photo: Miryam León/Unsplash

Electricity



In Beirut, the electrical voltage is 230V with a frequency of 50Hz. The types of electrical plugs used are types C, D, and G.

Photo: Mika Baumeister/Unsplash

Population

Metro area: 2.4 million (2024)

Destination: Beirut

Currency

Lebanese Pound (LBP)

Opening hours

In Beirut, shops usually open from 10am to 7pm, Monday to Saturday. Some may open later or close earlier, especially on weekends. Banks typically open from 8am to 3pm, Monday to Friday.

Newspapers

An-Nahar (in Arabic): www.annahar.com

Ad-Diyar (in Arabic): <https://addiyar.com>

Emergency numbers

Police: 112

Fire Department: 175

Civil Defense: 125

Lebanese Red Cross: 140

Information is subject to change. Please contact your Lifestyle Consultant for the most up-to-date recommendations.