

73

Travel Guide

**INTERNATIONAL
SELECTION
PANEL**



-endeavor

BEIRUT, JUL 24-26, 2017

General information - Beirut

- Despite its small area of 10,452 square km, Lebanon is a land resplendent in its diverse geography, landscape, culture and history.
- Beirut, capital and largest city of Lebanon, is located at the Mediterranean Sea at the foot of the Lebanon Mountains. The city benefits from a Mediterranean climate which brings mild winters and hot summers with high levels of humidity. In July the temperature varies between 27°C (81°F) and 30°C (86°F).



- Once a famous port, and in the 1970s a hub of economic, social, intellectual, and cultural life in the Middle East, Beirut was devastated by civil war between 1975 and 1991. Despite the religious tensions unleashed by the civil war, Beirut retains its essentially liberal and tolerant way of life.
- Today, Beirut is a vibrant city and offers its visitors a unique East-meets-West atmosphere. Tourists can see churches next to mosques or modern skyscrapers facing the remnants of war conflicts. The city's magnificent array of museums, restaurants, bars and clubs make it a city worth discovering.

The following destinations are recommended for a short stay in Beirut

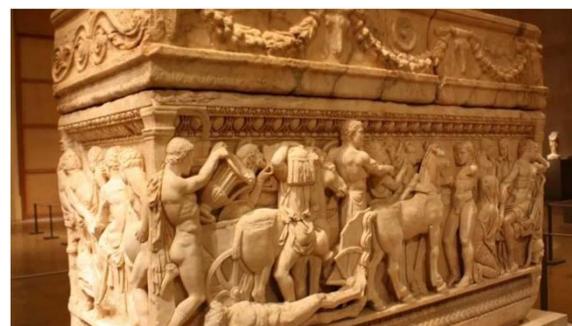
Beirut Central District

- Due to the devastation incurred on the city center from the Lebanese Civil War, it underwent a thorough reconstruction and development plan that gave it back its cultural and economic position in the region.
- BCD includes Beirut Souks, a major commercial with many shops restaurants and cafes.
- On the outskirts of BCD there is Zeitouna Bay a long strip which is located in the Beirut Marina with a spectacular view of the Mediterranean. The area includes many restaurants and eateries.



The National Museum

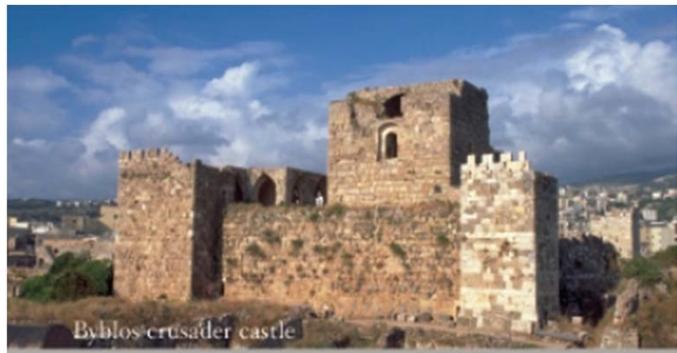
- Located on the former Green Line (separating East and West Beirut during the war) , this is Beirut's major cultural institution.
- The museum has an impressive, displayed collection of archaeological artefacts that offers a great overview of Lebanon's history and the civilizations that made their home here.
- Highlights include the famous, much-photographed Phoenician gilded bronze figurines found buried near the Obelisk Temple at Byblos, and a moving group of Phoenician marble statues of baby boys (from Echmoun, 6th century BC).



The museum is 7 km (4.5 mi) away from Beirut Central District

Byblos

- Byblos is one of the most seen touristic places in Lebanon. The town's history goes back 7,000 years and it includes archaeological sites from the Canaanite, Phoenician and Roman cultures.
- Byblos is also known for its historic port where many restaurant and cafes surround it.
- The town is famous for its wax museum that presents scenes of Lebanese customs and traditions and for the fossil museum where you can see prehistoric flora and fauna preserved in rock.



Byblos is 36 km (22 mi) north of Beirut

Jeita Grotto



Jeita is 18 km (11 mi) north of Beirut

- Jeita Grotto, one of Lebanon's most stunning natural wonders was a finalist in the New7Wonders of Nature, a 2011 competition for the best natural wonders on the planet.
- The grotto is a system of two separate, but interconnected, karstic limestone caves spanning an overall length of nearly 9 km (5.6 mi).
- Jeita Grotto is composed of a dry upper gallery and a lower gallery with an underground lake that is seen by boat.

Helpful tips



- Beirut – Rafic Hariri International Airport (BEY) is the only operational commercial airport in Lebanon. It is located 9 km (5.6 mi) from the city center in the southern suburbs of Beirut.
- Due to the summer busy season, it is advised to go to the airport 2-3 hours ahead of the flight scheduled time.
- For flight information call the airport: +961 1 628 000.



- The Lebanese Pound (LBP) is the currency of Lebanon. The most popular exchange rate is the United States Dollar (USD) to LBP rate and that is fixed at 1,500.
- You can use both LBP or USD while in Lebanon.



- We do not recommend to take public transports or call taxis on the street. The most convenient way to go around is taking an UBER with the mobile app.
- You can also call Allo taxi 1213 from Lebanon or +91 1 517 070 and mention Endeavor to benefit from corporate rates negotiated, or book online <http://www.allo.taxi>
 - “Please choose your country” : Lebanon
 - “Book now”
 - Account number : 1485 - Password: 5878
 - Choose to pay cash
- It is important to pre-book your taxi for your arrival at BEY, taxis lined up at the airport are not reliable.
- Walking is safe but be aware of the traffic when crossing streets.
- Be particularly careful when crossing the road. The traffic is very unregulated and most drivers don't follow any rules.



- Have your ID documents on you all the time. For security reasons, police and army checkpoints are common in Lebanon. You will rarely be asked for your passport while crossing them, but have it with you just in case.
 - Always be polite to the police and the Lebanese Army, they are working very hard to keep Lebanon safe.
-

Helpful tips



- Do not drink water from the tap. Local or foreign bottled water is safe to drink from.
- Eat a lot of delicious Lebanese food! Lebanon is much appreciated for its cuisine which is among the most varied and savory in the world.
- You will also find numerous restaurants in Lebanon that offer international cuisines.
- Some areas in Beirut are most associated with trendy restaurants and pubs such as Mar Mikael and Gemmayzeh.



- Due to its hot and humid climate choose clothing in lightweight fabrics. However all indoor places have strong air conditioning (AC) and we recommend to have a light jacket in case.
- Outdoor sunscreen is a must, while a hat and sunglasses will prove useful as well.



- If you intend to visit any religious sites during your stay, make sure you bring clothes that cover shoulders and legs.



- For more information about where to go and what to do in Beirut, please refer to the booklet guide “Best of Beirut” provided to you by the Endeavor Lebanon team.
- In case you plan to book individual touristic tours outside Beirut it is advisable to use Kurban Travel Agency. Endeavor Lebanon negotiated corporate prices with the agency. You can book your tour by sending an email to Lama Mansour, email: lama.mansour@kurbantravel.com