

LEBANON: A DESTINATION THAT HAS IT ALL!

Its diverse atmosphere and ancient history make it an important destination for tourism in the Middle-East. Lebanon offers plenty: from ancient Roman ruins, to well preserved castles, limestone caves, historic Churches and Mosques, beautiful beaches nestled in the Mediterranean Sea, world renown Lebanese cuisine, nonstop nightlife and discothèques, to mountainous ski resorts. (source: Wikipedia)

CAPITAL: Beirut

POPULATION: Approximately 3.8 million

AREA: 10,452 square kilometers

CLIMATE: Mediterranean climate, with cool, wet winters and hot, dry summers.

TIME: Lebanese time is G.M.T. +2 hours in winter (October to March) and +3 hours in summer (April to September), when daylight savings time is observed.

LANGUAGES: While Arabic is Lebanon's official language, English and French are widely spoken. Most Lebanese speak at least two or three languages, and visitors will find no problems communicating. Many establishments provide signs, menus, and information in both Arabic and English.

CURRENCY: The official Lebanese currency is the Lebanese pound or lira (LL). Notes are available in denominations of: LL1,000; LL5,000; LL10,000; LL20,000; LL50,000; and LL100,000. There are also LL250 and LL500 coins.

U.S. dollars are used widely throughout the country. Restaurants, hotels, and stores often quote their prices in U.S. dollars, and many establishments will convert and provide U.S. dollar prices for you upon request. If you plan to use U.S. dollars, it is advisable to bring small bills (US\$1 to US\$20 notes).

The US\$/LL exchange rate is relatively stable, hovering around US\$1=LL1,500.

Money or travelers checks can be exchanged at banks, private money exchange shops, and major hotels. Major credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Diners Club) are accepted at most large establishments throughout the country. ATMs are also widely available in Beirut and larger cities and will usually dispense both U.S. dollars and Lebanese pounds.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Telephones: The country code for Lebanon is (961). This is followed by the local area code and the telephone number. The area codes for mobile phones are: (03), (70), (71) or (76). The area code for Beirut is (01). If you are dialing Lebanon from outside the country, omit the (0) in the area code.

Internet: There are Internet cafés available throughout Lebanon, and many larger hotels offer high-speed and wireless Internet access for free or for a small fee.

To learn more about Lebanon: <http://www.lebanon-tourism.gov.lb/>