



Lebanon

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Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Saifi Urban Gardens (p366)
- ➔ Hotel Albergo (p367)
- ➔ BEYt (p367)
- ➔ L'Auberge de la Mer (p379)
- ➔ Mir Amin Palace (p388)

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Liza (p369)
- ➔ Mayrig (p369)
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- ➔ Tawlet Ammiq (p388)

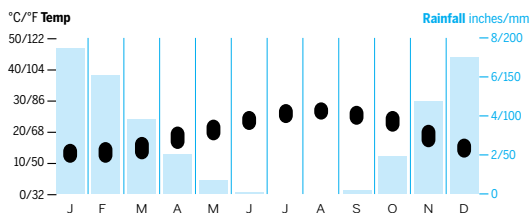
Why Go?

As contradictory and challenging as it is charming, this diminutive Mediterranean nation stands with one bejewelled slipper in the Arab world and one Manolo Blahnik planted firmly in the West. It's a place where culture, family and religion are all-important, but where sectarian violence can too often erupt – claiming lives and scarring both the landscape and the national psyche.

Home to a world-famous national cuisine, a string of sexy beach resorts and the Middle East's most glamorous city (Beirut), this is also a country where the fiery orators and fierce foot soldiers of Hezbollah are based, and where scores of Palestinian and Syrian refugees currently shelter. Scarred by decades of civil war, invasions and terrorist attacks, yet blessed with magnificent mountain vistas, majestic ancient ruins and a people who are resilient, indomitable and renowned for their hospitality, Lebanon rewards the traveller with food for thought and a feast for the senses and the stomach. Don't miss it.

When to Go

Beirut



Dec–Apr Skiing and après-ski parties in the mountains.

May–Sep The perfect time to go hiking along wild trails and through cedar forests.

Jun–Aug Beirut's famous beach lounges and night-clubs beckon.



Lebanon Highlights

- 1 Party at beach lounges, rooftop nightclubs and hipster bars in **Beirut** (p359).
- 2 Explore haunting Roman-era ruins along the coastline and inland towards the ancient 'Sun City' of **Baalbek** (p390).
- 3 Admire Byzantine mosaics at **Beiteddine Palace** (p387).
- 4 Celebrate a Mediterranean sunset in pretty-as-a-picture **Byblos** (Jbail; p375).
- 5 Marvel at **Jeita Grotto** (p374) and its stalactites and stalagmites.
- 6 Hike past rock-cut monasteries and gushing waterfalls in the scenic **Qadisha Valley** (p382).
- 7 Visit a trio of up-and-coming organic wineries in the mountains above **Batroun** (p381).
- 8 Walk in the footsteps of the Romans at two archaeological sites by the sea in **Tyre** (Sour; p385).
- 9 Breathe crisp, cedar-scented air in the **Shouf Biosphere Reserve** (p389).