



## Lebanese Country Guide

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Notice to all Travellers. The Information on Vaccination and Health Precautions has been removed from this Country Guide to make way for the larger than normal Travel Advisory from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Persons intending to travelling to Lebanon should consult the Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844 for the relevant vaccination and health precautions.

### Tourist Entry Requirements

Australian ordinary passport holders travelling to Lebanon as a tourist are usually issued a single entry visa upon arrival at major ports of entry into Lebanon. This visa allows entry into Lebanon for up to one month (renewable for three months) and is free of charge. Travellers are recommended to have at least six months validity on their passport from the date they intend to depart Lebanon, as well as documentary evidence of their onward/return travel arrangements and their ability to financially maintain themselves for the duration of their stay.

It is illegal in Lebanon to travel to Israel. Any evidence of previous or future travel to Israel (such as passport stamps, itinerary etc.) may result in a traveller being denied entry to Lebanon, deported or having other actions taken against them. Additional conditions may apply to minors. Travellers are recommended to contact a Lebanese mission on the details below for further information and to ensure their specific circumstances make them eligible to receive a visa on arrival in Lebanon.

### Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Thu, 1st November 2018.

*Exercise a high degree of caution in Lebanon because of the unpredictable security situation, the threat of terrorist attack and ongoing political and sectarian tensions. The situation could deteriorate without warning. Reconsider your need to travel to Tripoli (except the neighbourhoods of Jabal Mohsen and Bab-al-Tabbaneh where you should not travel due to the risk of violent civil unrest) and northern Lebanon north of a line from Tripoli to Sir Ed Dinniyeh and Laboue. Do not travel to the north-eastern Beka'a Valley region, extending east and north from Rayak. This includes the Hermel-Baalbek region, and the towns of Arsal, El Qaa and Ras Baalbek. See Safety and security. Do not travel south of the Litani River, with the exception of the city of Tyre, because of the danger of landmines, unexploded ordnance and the uncertain security environment. See Safety and security. Do not travel within five kilometres of the Syrian border, the Golan Heights, and Shebaa farms. Cross-border clashes are likely. See Safety and security. Do not travel to Palestinian refugee camps. Extremist groups operate inside the camps. The Lebanese state has no formal security presence in the camps. Do not travel to Beirut's southern suburbs (including Dahiyeh). This includes the area south of the Camille Chamoun Sports Stadium to the airport and east of the main airport road including the suburbs of Chiyah, Ghobeire, Haret Hreik, Bir el Abed, Borj el Barajne, Mraije, Roueiss, Lailake, Hay el Sellom, Tahouitit el Ghadir and Bir Hassan. It also includes west of the airport road and the area west of the airport highway to the coast, south from Adnon El Hakim Road to Abbas El Mousawi Road. See Safety and security.*

*Pay close attention to your personal security. Monitor the media and other local information sources for developments. See Safety and security. Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere, at any time, in Lebanon. Extremists may seek to target Westerners in Lebanon, including Beirut. If you notice a security operation is underway, immediately leave the area. See Safety and security. Protests over domestic and regional developments could occur at any time. Avoid large gatherings and demonstrations as they could turn violent. See Safety and security. Australian Embassy staff in Beirut have been advised against travelling on flights that cross Syrian airspace. Check your airline's flightpath before booking. Kidnapping for political, ideological and for other motives such as ransom has occurred in Lebanon. Targets have included foreign nationals. Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Departure options may be severely limited during a crisis. Don't expect the Australian Government to facilitate your departure.*

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are strongly encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Lebanon at [www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au).

### Lebanese Representation in Australia

Lebanese Embassy, Canberra

27 Endeavour Street  
RED HILL ACT 2603

Tel: (02) 6295 7378

Fax: (02) 6239 7024

Web: [www.lebanemb.org.au](http://www.lebanemb.org.au)

Lebanese Consulate General, Sydney

Suite 3.08, Edgecliff Centre  
203 New South Head Rd  
EDGECLIFF NSW 2027

Tel: (02) 9328 3711

Web: [www.lebconsyd.org.au](http://www.lebconsyd.org.au)

Lebanese Consulate General, Melbourne

Tel: (03) 9529 4588 Fax: (03) 9529 3160

Honorary Consulate of Lebanon, Adelaide

Tel: (08) 8231 8922 Tel: (08) 8231 8933

Honorary Consulate of Lebanon, Brisbane

Tel: (07) 3375 4741 Fax: (07) 3375 5569



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### Time Differences between Lebanon and Australia

Lebanon is Greenwich Mean Time +2 hours (+3 during daylight saving). The applicable time zones are Eastern European Time (EET) or Eastern European Summer Time (EEST) during daylight saving. Daylight saving is observed from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October each year.

Lebanon, 12 noon, December = Perth 6pm, Darwin 7:30pm, Brisbane 8pm, Adelaide 8:30pm, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 9pm.  
Lebanon, 12 noon, June = Perth 5pm, Darwin, Adelaide 6:30pm, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 7pm.

### Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Lebanon: +961

To Dial Australia Call: 00 61 <City> <Number>

Australian Reverse Charges Direct:  
01 425 900

Travelex Card Services:  
Call the US on +1 954 838 8294

Visa Global Assistance:  
From Beirut: 426 801 \* 866 654 0130  
Outside Beirut: 01 426 801 \* 866 654 0130  
\* wait for second dial tone.

MasterCard:  
Call the US on +1 636 722 7111

American Express Travellers Cheques:  
426801 wait for second dial tone 888 937 2639

Emergency Services: 112

The emergency services may not always have English speakers available. In this case, you should have a Arabic speaker call on your behalf or contact the Australian Embassy.

### Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

#### Passports

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

#### Credit Cards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

#### Travel Insurance

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Australian Representation in Lebanon

Australian Embassy, Lebanon

Embassy Complex  
Serail Hill  
DOWNTOWN BEIRUT

Tel: (+961 1) 960 600  
Fax: (+961 1) 960 601

Web: [www.lebanon.embassy.gov.au](http://www.lebanon.embassy.gov.au)

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in Lebanon are strongly encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian Embassy in Beirut, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at [www.orao.dfat.gov.au](http://www.orao.dfat.gov.au).



## Lebanese Country Guide

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### Duty Free Allowances for Lebanon and Australia

Allowances when entering Lebanon:

Alcohol: 2 L of spirits/champagne or 4 L of other alcohol.  
 Tobacco: 800 cigarettes or 1,000g of tobacco or 50 cigars.  
 Other Goods: Up to LBP 2,000,000 worth.

Allowances when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.  
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.  
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. The above rates may be reduced depending on a traveller's entry point into Lebanon and nationality. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting Lebanon & Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For further details on Lebanese customs go to [www.customs.gov.lb](http://www.customs.gov.lb), or for information on Australian customs visit [www.homeaffairs.gov.au](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au).

### Electrical Adaptors and Voltage

Electrical Socket type: European (type C) are the most common.

Supply: Both 110V and 220V is used in Lebanon. Travellers are urged to check the electrical info panel on their device. If it says "Input: 100-240V, 50-60 Hz" then a voltage converter should not be required.

Tip: Many other electrical sockets are also currently used in areas of Lebanon.

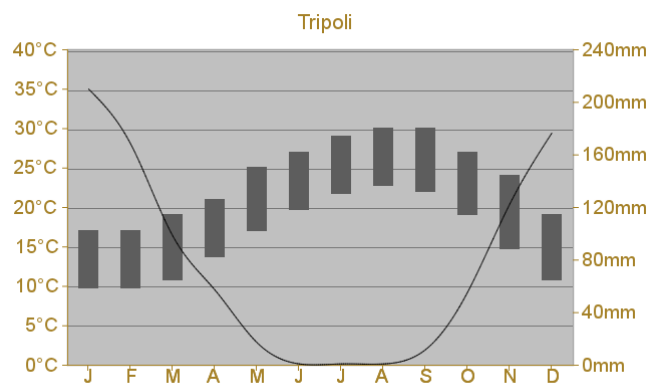
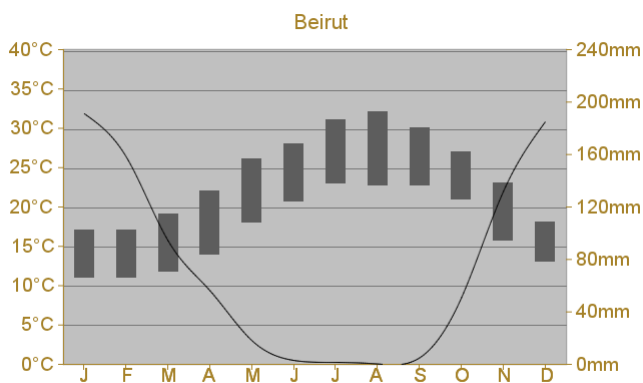


### Lebanese Public Holidays 2018

01 Jan: New Year's Day	25 May: South Liberation Day
06 Jan: Christmas (Orth.)	15-16 Jun: Eid Al-Fitr (Ramadan)
09 Feb: St. Maroun Day	15 Aug: Assumption
14 Feb: Rafik Hariri Day	21-22 Aug: Eid Al-Adha
25 Mar: Annunciation Day	11 Sep: Hijri New Year
30 Mar: Good Friday	20 Sep: Ashoura
02 Apr: Easter Monday	20 Nov: Birth of Mohammad
06 Apr: Good Friday (Orth.)	22 Nov: Independence Day
09 Apr: Easter Monday (Orth.)	25 Dec: Christmas Day
01 May: Labor Day	

Islamic holidays are determined by the sighting of the moon and thus may vary slightly to those dates outlined above.

### Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Lebanon



For up to date weather forecasts please go to [www.bbc.com/weather](http://www.bbc.com/weather).

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## Lebanese Country Guide

### Page 4 of 5 Lebanese Currency Information and Cheat Sheet Exchange Rate with Lebanon

Interbank Rate  
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 1,071 Lebanese Pounds  
 1,000 Lebanese Pounds (LBP) = 0.93 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin  
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) buys 1,030 Lebanese Pounds  
 1,000 Lebanese Pounds (LBP) will cost 0.97 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These currency rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

### Currency Cheat Sheet

500 LBP = \$0.49 AUD		This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.	
1,000 LBP = \$0.97 AUD	10,000 LBP = \$9.71 AUD	100,000 LBP = \$97.08 AUD	
2,000 LBP = \$1.94 AUD	20,000 LBP = \$19.42 AUD	200,000 LBP = \$194.17 AUD	
3,000 LBP = \$2.91 AUD	30,000 LBP = \$29.13 AUD	300,000 LBP = \$291.25 AUD	
4,000 LBP = \$3.88 AUD	40,000 LBP = \$38.83 AUD	400,000 LBP = \$388.34 AUD	
5,000 LBP = \$4.85 AUD	50,000 LBP = \$48.54 AUD	500,000 LBP = \$485.42 AUD	
6,000 LBP = \$5.83 AUD	60,000 LBP = \$58.25 AUD	600,000 LBP = \$582.50 AUD	
7,000 LBP = \$6.80 AUD	70,000 LBP = \$67.96 AUD	700,000 LBP = \$679.59 AUD	
8,000 LBP = \$7.77 AUD	80,000 LBP = \$77.67 AUD	800,000 LBP = \$776.67 AUD	
9,000 LBP = \$8.74 AUD	90,000 LBP = \$87.38 AUD	900,000 LBP = \$873.75 AUD	
		1 million LBP = \$970.84 AUD	

### Lebanese Banknotes and Coins

The official currency of Lebanon is the Lebanese Pound, also know as Lebanese Lira (or the French term "Livre"). Currency symbols used for the pound include "LL", "L£", "£" or "ل.ل.". US Dollars are also widely accepted throughout Lebanon. The following units of currency are the most common but other versions and denominations are also in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images prior to travelling.







## Lebanese Country Guide

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### About Lebanon

Full Name: Al Jumhuriyah al Lubnaniyah (Lebanese Republic)

Size: 10,400 sq km (15% the size of Tasmania).

Total population: 5.9 million. Beirut: 2 million.

Language: Arabic is the official language, English and French are also widely spoken.

Religion: Sunni Islam 27%, Shia Islam 27%, Maronite Catholic 21%, Greek Orthodox 8%, other Christian 11%, Druze 6%.

GDP Per Capita: US\$15,800 (Australia US\$40,800).

Significant Dates:

- 3000 BC - The Phoenicians (Canaanites) begin exploring the Mediterranean to trade and colonise.
- 64 BC - Roman Empire conquers Lebanon.
- 30's AD - St Paul and St Peter begin to spread Christianity in the region.
- 395 AD - Lebanon is part of the Eastern (Byzantine) Roman Empire.
- 634-36 - Arab conquest introduces Islam.
- 1095-1291- The Crusader states conquer and rule Lebanon.
- 1282-1516 - The Egyptian Mamluks defeat the Crusaders and rule Lebanon.
- 1516-1916- The Ottoman Turks defeat the Mamluks and rule Lebanon.
- 1920 - France administers Lebanon.
- 1946 - Lebanon becomes independent.
- 1967 - 450,000 Palestinians enter Lebanon after the Arab-Israeli war.
- 1975-90- Lebanese civil war.
- 1976-2005- Syrian occupation of Lebanon.
- 1981-82- PLO attacks Israel from southern Lebanon. Israeli forces invade.
- 1983-84- Hezbollah suicide attacks kill over 300 US and French peacekeepers.
- 1996 - Israel bombs Hezbollah bases in southern Lebanon.
- 2005 - Former President Rafik Hariri is assassinated. Anti Syrian rallies force the Syrian army to withdraw.

