



A Cultural Glimpse at Lebanon: The History and The Present

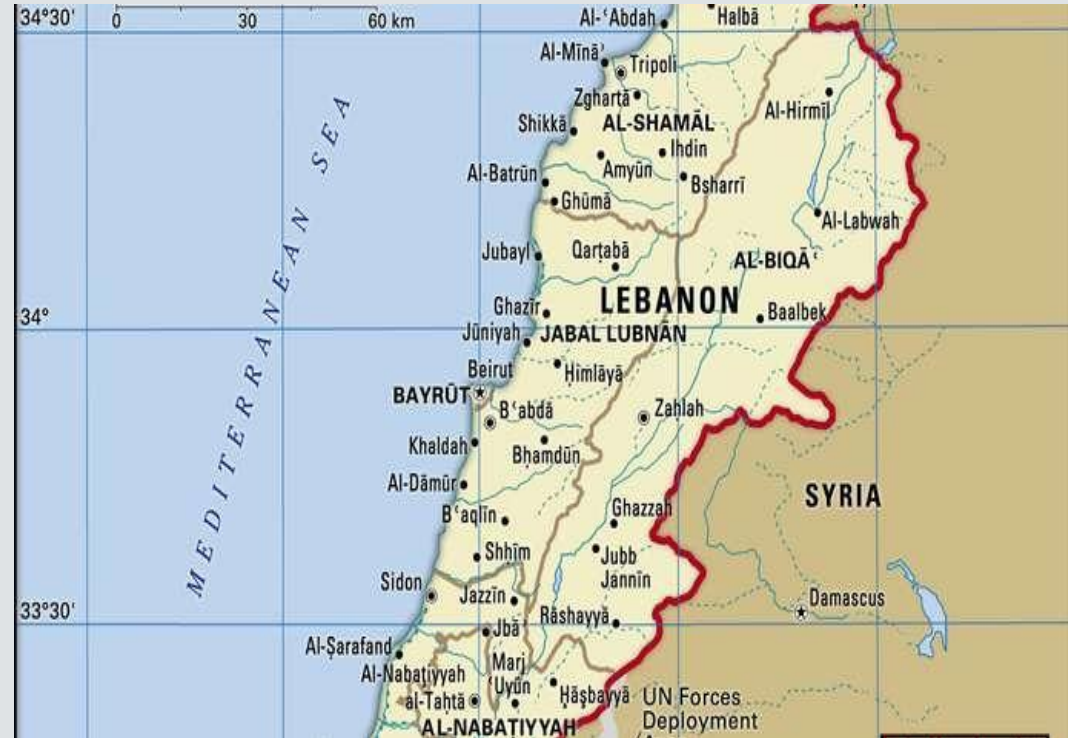
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Lebanon



Lebanon is located on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea with **Beirut** as its Capital.

Over the centuries Lebanon had been the home of numerous civilizations.



History of Lebanon

- The **Phoenicians** (2800-4000 BC): Leaving behind the ports of Tyre (Sur), Sidon, and Tripoli. The Phoenicians, also known in the Arab world as the Canaanites, invented the alphabet and passed them to the world. They were traders and worked in trading timber from cedar trees, olive oil, and wine from Byblos. The Canaanites Built Beirut City as one of the cities on the coast to establish their routes of trade.



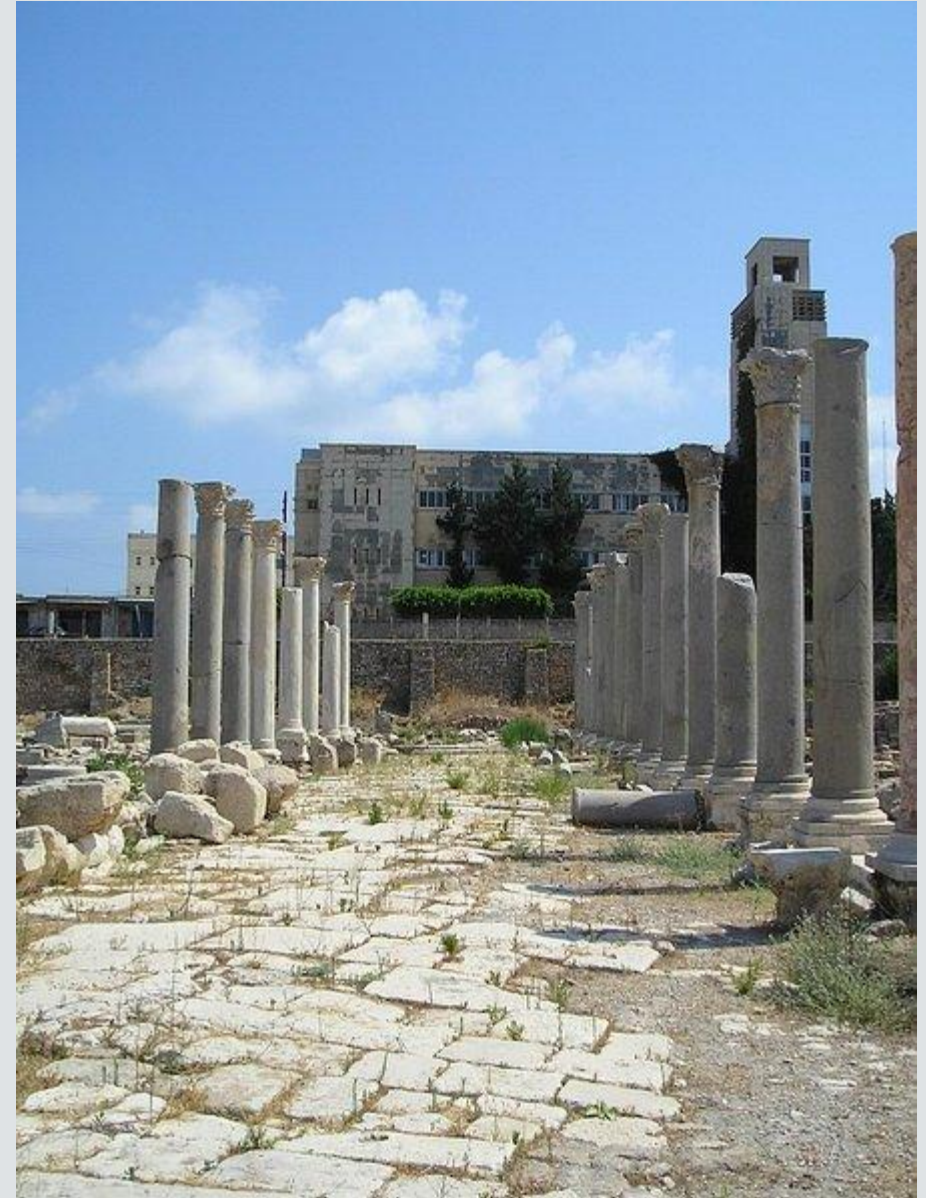
History of Lebanon

- The **Assyrians** (875-608 BC): invaded Phoenicia in 875 BC and deprived the Phoenicians of their independence. Byblos, Tyre and Sidon rebelled several times and the Assyrians brought total destruction to the cities in response.
- The **Babylonians** (585-538 BC): became the new power and occupied Phoenicia. Phoenician cities rebelled and Tyre was destroyed, again.



History of Lebanon

- The **Persians** (538 BC-333 AD): occupied the region including Phoenicia. The Phoenician navy supported Persia during the Greco-Persian war (490-449 BC). Phoenicians revolted when overburdened with heavy tributes imposed by the Persians in the fourth century BC.



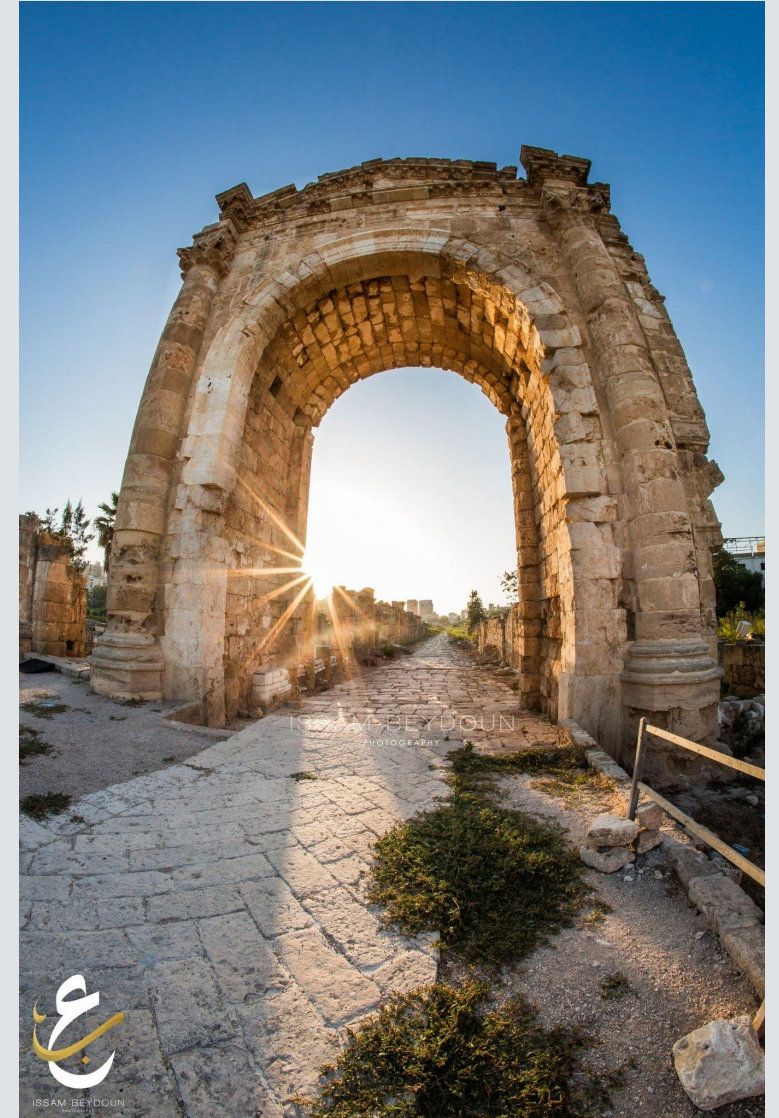
History of Lebanon

- The **Greeks** (333 - 64 BC): defeated the Persian troops when Alexander the Great attacked Asia Minor in 333 BC. The Phoenician cities made no attempt to resist. Tyre fell after 6 months of resistance. Alexander's conquest left a Greek imprint on the area. The Phoenicians, being a cosmopolitan civilization amenable to outside influences, adopted aspects of Greek civilization and continued with their trade business.



History of Lebanon

- Current Port of Tyre



History of Lebanon

- The **Romans** (64 BC – 600 AD): Leaving behind the temples of Baalbek and leading Lebanon to flourish economically and intellectually. Economic prosperity led to a revival in construction and urban development; temples, palaces and the first School of Law in history were built throughout the country, as well as paved roads that linked the cities.



History of Lebanon



History of Lebanon

- The Bible states that the first woman who believed in Christianity, became the first convert outside the Jews was a Phoenician woman.
- Baalbek also known as the city of the sun. The temples of Baalbek were built to receive sunlight every second of the day, until sunset.



Beginning of a New Era

7th
Century

- Arab Muslims Conquered the region
- However, the Maronites held onto their religion and identity. (The Maronites had emerged after the establishment of the Maronite Church after the Roman Empire left its prints in the region)

16th
Century

- Lebanon (Known as the Mount Lebanon Governorate) was conquered and ruled by the Ottoman Empire during the 16th century and remained under their rule for the next 400 years.
- Many cultural and traditional practices were handed to the Lebanese due to very long conquest. Language, food, clothing, social practices and even games.

1923-1946

- After the Ottoman Empire collapsed after WWI, the Mount Lebanon Governorate was yet again put under the French Mandate.
- The 5 provinces which constituted the Mount Lebanon Governorate gained their independence in 1943.

Independence of Lebanon

- On November 22, 1943, the independence of Greater Lebanon was declared.
- The French troops imprisoned members of the parliament after the newly elected government amended articles in the constitutions that referred to the French Mandate and thus abolishing it.
- The remaining Ministers who escaped imprisonment and exile from the Rashaya citadel met in the house of the Speaker of Parliament, gave recognition to the government to carry out its functions.
- The French had to yield to the will of the people and released the prisoners from imprisonment on November 22, 1943, thus officially giving Lebanon independence.



The Republic of Lebanon: Facts

Area
10452 km²

Population
5,988,153
(UN
Estimated
2016)

**Official
language**
Arabic

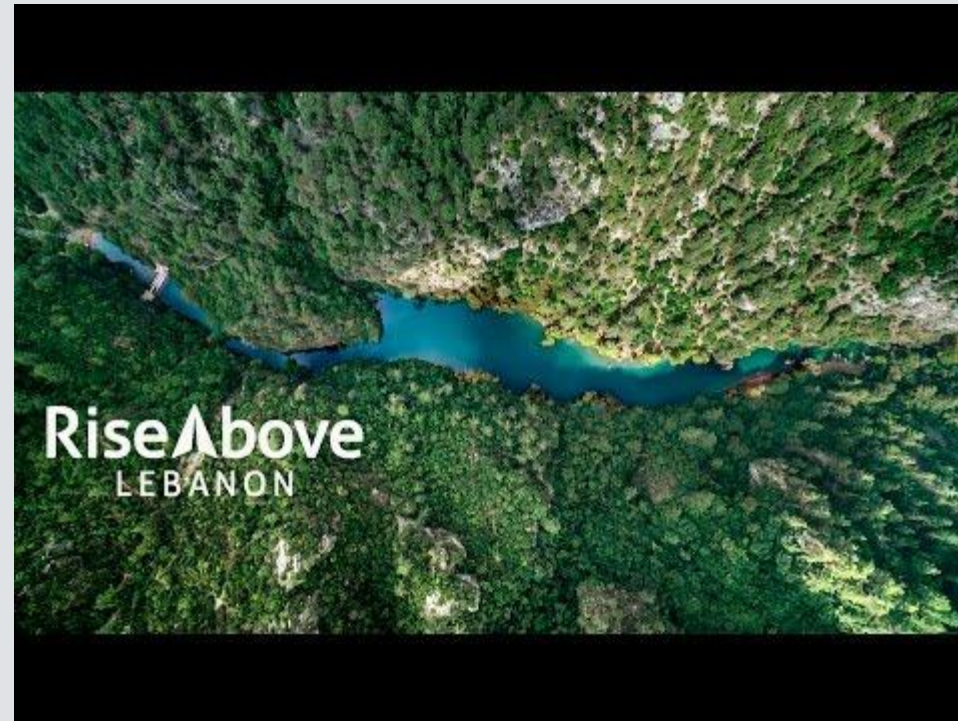
Bilingual
French &
English

Rich
culture

One of
the most
touristic
countries
in ME.

Lebanon a Touristic Place

- Lebanon is known for its climate and beautiful weather. Its known for having a long mountain range and a coast that stretches along its western region.
- It is also known for its Bekaa valley and fertile soils. Lebanon is a touristic country that is visited by people from around the world.



Activities you can do in Lebanon





Nature

Lebanon has three main rivers passing through it:

- Al Assi River
- Al Litani River
- Al Birdawni River



It also has one huge artificial lake:

- Al Karaoun

In West Bekaa



Nature

Lebanon is known for its natural landmarks such as:

- Giita Grotto,
- Baakleen Water falls,
- Falougha water springs and cedar forests.





Natural Waterfalls



Falougha water springs



Hermel Pyramid



Pigeons Rock / Raouche Beirut



Harrissa Teleferique/ Mountain cable cars



Giitta Grotto

Food and People

The Lebanese food is varied and offers numerous options from a number of cuisines:

- Arabic to international.
- However, the Lebanese kitchen is known for its:
 - ❖ hot and cold mezza,
 - ❖ grilled meat / chicken skewers,
 - ❖ tabboule,
 - ❖ fattouch,
 - ❖ humus, moutabal,
 - ❖ falafel,
 - ❖ fateh,
 - ❖ stuffed vines

- ❖ mouth watering desserts likes, knefeh, halawet el jebneh etc...



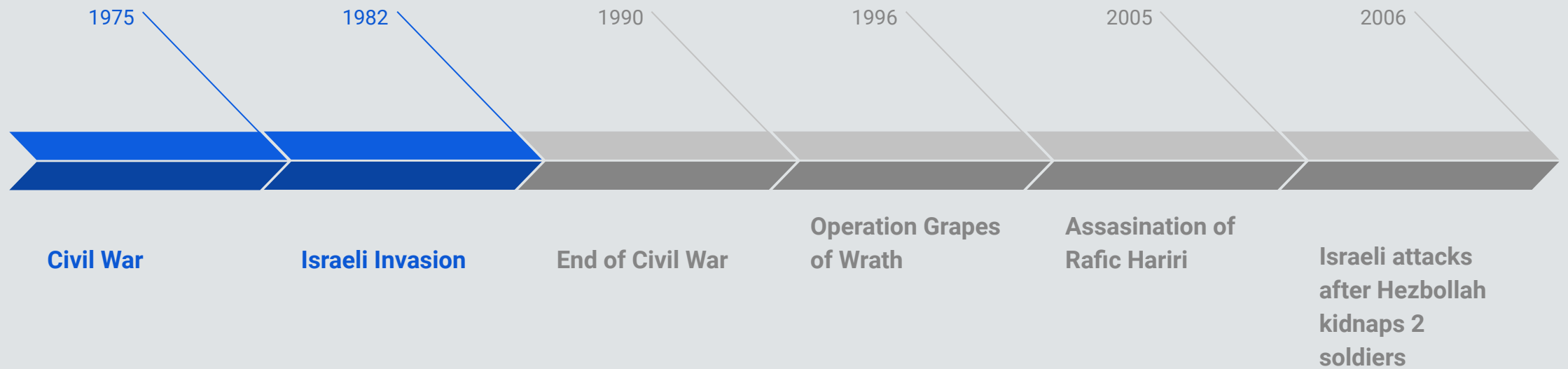
People

The Lebanese community is multicultural.

- Lebanon has a heterogeneous society composed of numerous ethnic, religious, and kinship groups.
 - There are many religious beliefs and sects.
 - People from different religions marry and live harmoniously.
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- ❖ The Lebanese people are well educated and learn different languages mainly English and French in addition to their mother tongue.
 - ❖ At University many major in medicine, engineering and business. The majority of people possess a university degree.
 - ❖ Many Lebanese have immigrated to different places around the world, mainly to the US, Europe, Australia and Brazil.

Clashes

Over the years, Lebanon has witnessed many wars and clashes and wars:



Recent Incidents

17 October 2019 -

protests arise after government decides to impose unfair taxations.

January 2020 -

protests continue over falls in the value of the currency and the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown culminate in rioting after a massive chemical explosion in the Beirut port.





Explosion

Mass Explosion

2020 August - A huge explosion in the port of Beirut causing massive destruction, thousands of injuries, hundreds of people dead and missing.





BEIRUT PORT EXPLOSION, 4 Aug 2020



United Forever

- In times of hardship, the Lebanese people stick together, open their homes for their fellow brothers and sister and welcome them.
- After the Beirut explosion, many people joined hands and teamed up to help each other, remove the rubble and debris, aid in excavation for missing people and clean the aftermath of the explosion.
- For centuries the Lebanese people have proven that despite everything they have passed through, they have always been united and they have always loved life.

Hand in Hand



A Lively Spirit

Despite all the torment and the problems that Lebanon has witnessed and the Lebanese have been through they still have a lively spirit and enjoy life. They sing and dance and live their life to the fullest.

