

## ITU Regional Development Forum for Arab Region

19 March 2019  
UN-House-ESCWA, Beirut – Lebanon

### INFORMATION NOTE



Lebanon is a small country (just over 10,400 square kilometers in size) situated along the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea. All regions are within easy reach of the capital Beirut: it will take a maximum of 4 hours to drive from one end of the country to the other. Beirut, Tripoli, Byblos, Sidon, Tyre and other major cities are situated on the narrow coastal plain, only 6 Km at its widest point. The country enjoys a Mediterranean climate with hot summers and mild winters.

Lebanon's strategic location has, from the earliest times, made it the center of the Middle East's tumultuous history. Lebanon is an Arab country, and Arabic is the official language. Lebanon is unique among Arab countries, however, as it has a laissez-faire capitalist economy and a democratic system of government with an active parliament. Elections are held for municipal councils and for the President of the Republic every six years, while members of Parliament are elected every four years.

The earliest inhabitants of coastal Lebanon were a Semitic people related to the Canaanites who came to coastal Lebanon from the Arabian Peninsula about 3500 BC. The Greeks named these seafaring people 'Phoenicians' and they established city-states and spread their 22-letter alphabet throughout the Mediterranean region. After being successively ruled by the Egyptians, Assyrians, Neo-Babylonians, Persians, and Greeks, Lebanon came under Roman rule in 64 BC. It later became part of the Eastern Roman - or Byzantine - Empire. From 1515 to 1918, Lebanon was part of the Ottoman Empire. After WWI, Lebanon fell under the French Mandate. The Republic of Lebanon, established by the Constitution of 1926, won its independence from France in 1943.



Since Lebanon has, for many years, been a trading nation, its citizens have always had a very worldly and a strong proficiency in foreign languages, particularly French and English. Lebanese also have a deep belief in the importance of education. Thus, the literacy rate in Lebanon is among the highest in the region. Lebanon has one of the best educational systems in the Middle East and private sector involvement is high. Approximately half of the Lebanese students attend private schooling from elementary to secondary levels. The population, last estimated to be around 4,000,000 citizens, is very diverse with 17 different religious communities.

## Currency

The Lebanese unit of currency is the Pound (lira). The exchange rate hovers at around LL 1,500 to the Dollar, but any visitor to Lebanon generally would not have to worry about changing money as almost all shops and businesses freely accept U.S. Dollars for payment. Credit cards are also widely accepted. Travelers checks can be converted at the offices of money changers and banks and cash advances can be made at ATM machines using a credit card.

## Visa Requirement

- 1- UNLP holders are granted, free of charge, an entry visa upon arrival at Rafic Hariri International Airport, Beirut- Lebanon.
- 2- Nationals of the following Countries: Andorra – Antigua and Barbuda – Argentina – **Armenia** – Australia – Austria – **Azerbaijan** – The Bahamas – Barbados – **Belarus** – Belgium – Belize – Bhutan – Brazil – **Bulgaria** – Canada – Chile – **China Rep** – Czech Republic – Costa Rica – **Croatia** – Cyprus – Denmark – Dominican Republic – **Estonia** – Finland – France – Great Britain - **Georgia** – Germany – Greece – **Hong Kong – Hungary** – Iceland – Ireland – Italy – Japan – **Kazakhstan – Kyrgyzstan – Latvia – Lithuania** – Liechtenstein – Luxembourg – **Macedonia – Macau (S A R)** – Malaysia – Malta – Mexico – **Moldova** – Monaco – Montenegro – Netherlands – New Zealand – Norway – Palau – Panama – Peru – **Poland** – Portugal – **Russia – Romania** – Saint Kitts & Nevis – Samoa – San Marino – Serbia– Singapore – **Slovakia – Slovenia** – South Korea – Spain – Sweden – Switzerland – **Tajikistan** – Turkey -Trinidad & Tobacco – **Turkmenistan** – USA – **Ukraine – Uzbekistan** –Venezuela –**Yugoslavia:** are granted with a free entry visa upon arrival at Rafic Hariri International Airport, Beirut- Lebanon (valid for one month and renewable up to three months). Women under age of 25 coming from the countries mentioned above **in Bold**, need 2 ways ticket and complete address in Lebanon.
- 3- Nationals of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries (Saudi Arabia – Kuwait - United Arab of Emirates – Bahrain- Qatar - Oman) in addition to nationals of the Jordanian Hashemite Kingdom are exempted from entrance visas.
- 4- Nationals of the following Countries: Egypt – Sudan – Tunisia – Morocco - Algeria – Libya – Yemen – Somalia – Djibouti – Mauritania – Comers Island – Iraq – Nigeria – Ghana – Cote d'Ivoire: are granted an entry visa upon arrival at Rafic Hariri International Airport, Beirut- Lebanon (valid for one month and renewable up to three months) at the cost of around US\$ 17.00 with the following conditions:
  - Two-ways ticket non-refundable
  - Hotel Reservation or complete personal address with telephone number in Lebanon
  - US\$ 2000 cash or certified check with a same value from a well known bank
- 5- All other travelers are required to obtain an entry visa prior to commencing their travel to Lebanon. Should you encounter any problem in applying for the visa, please let us now immediately and we will provide you with a “Facilitation Letter”.
- 6- **All Passports stamped by the Israeli Authorities are not allowed to enter Lebanon.**

## Venue for Meeting and Accommodation



The **ITU Regional Development Forum** will take place at the UN-House/ESCWA premises ([map](#))

Every participant is responsible for his/her own hotel booking (*List of Beirut hotels attached*). Please make sure to make the necessary room reservation **as early as possible**.

## Transportation

Service taxis are the most common means of transportation around Beirut. There are a few bus companies that connect the major cities of Beirut, Tripoli, Saida and Tyre. Below you can find contact numbers of taxi companies.

1. **Charlie Taxi:** +9611 285 710
2. **White Taxi:** 01 513 593
3. **Trust Taxi:** +961 1 427 777
4. **Allo Taxi:** +961 1517 030

## Weather

Lebanon or the land of the sun. The country enjoys more than 300 sunny days per year and is almost rain-free from June till late October. It is a Mediterranean climate that prevails over Lebanon, resulting in mild temperatures, short rainy winter days and warm summers.

<https://www.timeanddate.com/weather/lebanon/beirut/historic?month=3&year=2018>

## Power Outlet Standards

### Electricity in Lebanon

In Lebanon the power plugs and sockets are of type A, B, C, D and G. The standard voltage is 220 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz.

### **Which power plugs and sockets in Lebanon?**

In Lebanon the power plugs and sockets are of type A, B, C, D and G. Check out the following pictures.

- Type A: mainly used in North and Central America, China and Japan. This socket only works with plug A.
- Type B: like type A but with an extra prong for grounding. This socket also works with plug A.
- Type C: also known as the standard "Euro" plug. This socket also works with plug E and plug F.
- Type D: mainly used in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and some African countries. This socket only works with plug D.
- Type G: this type is of British origin. This socket only works with plug G.



Type A: This socket has no alternative plugs



Type B: This socket also works with plug A



Type C: This socket also works with plug E and F



Type D: This socket has no alternative plugs



Type G: This socket has no alternative plugs

### Essential Numbers

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 1. Red Cross:                          | 140  |
| 2. Interior Security Forces/Emergency: | 112  |
| 3. Interior Security Forces:           | 125  |
| 4. Customer protection:                | 1739 |
| 5. Information Center                  | 1515 |
| 6. Weather                             | 1718 |

Source : <http://www.dawlati.gov.lb/en/important-numbers>