

BEIRUT

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A wide-angle photograph of the Beirut coastline at sunset. The sea is on the right, with the sun low on the horizon creating a golden glow. A long promenade with palm trees and a stone wall runs along the coast. Tall apartment buildings line the left side of the promenade. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

The Guardian

BEIRUT

A nighttime photograph of the Beirut skyline. The image shows several modern high-rise buildings with illuminated windows and facades. In the foreground, there's a waterfront area with a promenade, some outdoor seating, and a few boats docked. The sky is a deep blue, and the city lights reflect on the water.

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INTRODUCTION

If the earth were a single state, Beirut would be its capital. Beirut is the capital and largest city in Lebanon. The fusion of the east and west, of tradition and modernity, earned Beirut a nickname “Paris of the middle east”



TERRITORY:

Beirut is covering an area of 19.8 km². It is bounded by the Mediterranean sea to the west and north and Beirut river to the east. Beirut is the only municipality in Lebanon which is also a governorate. The governor is Marwan Abboud and the mayor is Jamal Itani. Beirut municipality is divided into 12 quarters:

- Port
- Achrafieh
- Dar El Mreisseh
- Mina El-Hosn
- Rmeil
- Bachoura
- Saifi
- Ras Beirut
- Mazraa
- Medawar
- Zuqaq El-Blat
- Mousaitbeh

FOUNDATION

After the civil war 1975-1990 , A large area of buildings was destroyed. Much of the area is soon to be transformed into a futuristic complex by Solidere a development company which established by prime minister Rafik Hariri. It's cultural landscape went major reconstruction.



DEVELOPMENT

The government putted a development program targeted several fields:

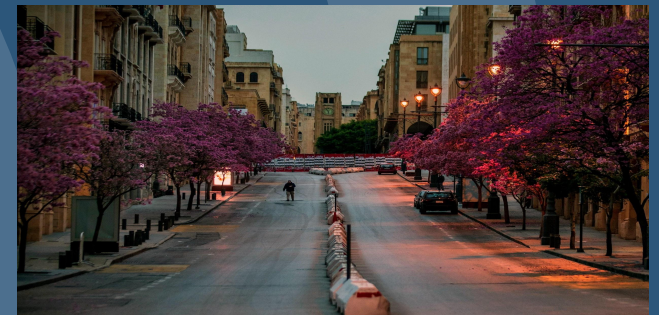
- Transportation
- Banking & Finance
- Tourism



TRANSPORTATION

The transportation was the most important field between all sectors. It included:

1. Building a modern airport:
 - It is the only operational airport in the country
2. Improving the existing port: The port of Beirut is one of the largest and most commercial in the eastern Mediterranean.
3. Improving Infrastructure: created a new roads, bridges, and highways connecting Beirut with Syrian cities such as Damascus.



BANKING & FINANCE

Beirut became an established banking enter for Arab wealth, Much of which was invested in construction, commercial enterprise, and industry. It is resulted from characteristics of Lebanese banking system:

- ❑ Lebanese currency is fully convertible and can be exchanged freely with any other currency.
- ❑ No restrictions on the free flow of capital and earnings into and out of Lebanese economy.
- ❑ Banking-secrecy law



TOURISM

The tourism industry is important to the local economy, and major source of revenue for the city, and Lebanon in general. It was ranked 9th best city in the world and a beta+ city for the cultural and modern places that has such as:

1. National museum of Beirut
2. Jeita grotto
3. Zaitona bay

PLACES OF INTEREST

1. Museum of Beirut: the museum is a magnificent insight into Lebanon's history. It has a numerous number of Phoenician and the Egyptian artifacts.
2. Jeita grotto: is a system of 2 interconnected karstic limestone caves
3. Zaituna bay: an innovative tourist attraction extending the existing Beirut corniche, and the new sea promenade, a series of overlapping platforms, provide outdoor spaces and public areas for displaying artwork.



POPULATION

Beirut is not only the largest city in Lebanon, but also it has the highest population which is equal to 2.4 M. Beirut has undergone through a huge increase in population which is equal to 0.73%.

It is one of the most religiously diverse cities in the Middle East. There is a total of 18 recognized religions within the area, include four Muslim sects, twelve Christian sects, and a Jewish sect.



ARTS & FASHION

Beirut has hundreds of art galleries with international fashion designers who not only put Beirut on the style map, but also continue to dominate paris fashion year after year such as: Elie Saab, Zuhair Murad, Reem Acra.



CONCLUSION:

From destruction to modernity and development, no other middle eastern city has proved itself such as Beirut. The people of beirut show that they can turn tragedy into cultural innovation.