

Roman Columns by Day, Rooftop Beirut by Night — A 6-Day Lebanon Itinerary

Six days through Lebanon's compact, layered coast and interior — Beirut's rebuilt seafront and Gemmayzeh nightlife, an underground river at Jeita Grotto, Byblos's stacked Phoenician-to-Crusader ruins, Batroun's 2,000-year-old sea wall and hillside wineries, and Baalbek's colossal Roman temple complex in the Bekaa Valley — with real guides, boutique hotels, and 2026 prices for every stop.

DURATION

6 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

April–June & September–October

Lebanon's shoulder seasons bring mild, mostly dry Mediterranean weather in Beirut and along the coast, with the Bekaa Valley and mountain roads clear of winter snow; July–August are hot and crowded on the coast, while November–March bring rain and snow to the interior.

FROM

\$620 USD / person

for 2 people, incl. 5 nights' boutique lodging, 2 full-day private tours, a wine tasting, and all transfers

Day 1

Arrival in Beirut & Sunset at the Pigeon Rocks

Touch down on Beirut's seafront and ease into the city with a sunset walk along its most famous sea cliffs before a Gemmayzeh seafood dinner.

Airport Transfer — Beirut-Rafic Hariri Int'l Airport to Gemmayzeh

~20 minutes · private transfer, ~\$40 USD total

A short coastal run from BEY's single terminal into Beirut's restored Ottoman-era Gemmayzeh district, pre-booked through a licensed transfer service rather than hailed curbside.

Civitatis Beirut Transfers · www.civitatis.com/en/beirut/transfers

Sunset Walk — Raouché & the Pigeon Rocks

~1 hour, self-guided · free

Beirut's twin sea arches rising straight out of the Mediterranean just off the Corniche, best seen from the cliff-top walkway as the sun drops behind them and the Corniche fills with evening strollers, fishermen, and manoushe carts.

Dinner — Merou, Mar Mikhael

~1.5 hours · ~\$35-45 USD / person

A buzzy seafood counter-turned-restaurant in the Mar Mikhael warehouse district plating the day's catch simply, with char-grilled fish and arak on a street that turns fully nocturnal after 9pm.

Merou · Mar Mikhael, Beirut

Overnight — The GEM Boutique Hotel

From \$110-130 USD / night, for 2 people

A small design-forward hotel tucked into a restored Gemmayzeh townhouse a few blocks from the Beirut waterfront, with exposed stone and a rooftop terrace over the district's balconies.

The GEM Boutique Hotel · Gemmayzeh, Beirut

Day 2

Jeita's Underground River, Harissa & Byblos

A full day tracing Mount Lebanon's limestone spine — an underground river you float through, a cable car over the bay, and a Phoenician port town for the night.

Full-Day Tour — Jeita Grotto, Harissa & Byblos, with Nakhal Tours & Travel

~8 hours, guided · ~\$80 USD / person, incl. transport, entrances & lunch

A licensed guide and driver loop north from Beirut through all three of Mount Lebanon's signature day-trip stops in one run, with private vehicle pickup from the hotel included.

Nakhal Tours & Travel · +961 1 382 444 · www.nakhal.com.lb

Jeita Grotto

~1.5 hours, included with tour

A two-level karst cave system north of Beirut, its upper gallery walked on foot past chandelier-like stalactites and its lower grotto crossed by small boat along an underground river — one of the longer such cave systems in the Middle East and a longtime finalist for the New7Wonders of Nature.

Harissa Teleferique & Our Lady of Lebanon

~45 minutes, included with tour

A cable car climbing from the Jounieh waterfront to the hilltop shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, with the whole curve of Jounieh Bay opening up below the cabin on the way up.

Overnight — Aleph Boutique Hotel, Byblos

From \$95-115 USD / night, for 2 people

A small stone-walled hotel inside Byblos's old quarter, an easy walk from both the fishing port and the Crusader castle, with the day's tour dropping you here instead of back in Beirut.

Aleph Boutique Hotel · Byblos Old Souk

Day 3

Byblos's Phoenician Ruins & the Old Port

A slower day inside one of the oldest continuously inhabited towns on Earth, before the coast road north to Batroun.

Sunset — Chez Maguy Beach Club

~1.5 hours, self-guided · ~\$15-20 USD / person (drinks)

A long-running beachfront spot built around natural rock pools that fill and drain with the tide, where Batroun's crowd gathers for a swim at golden hour and a drink as the sun drops into the sea.

Chez Maguy · Batroun seafront

Overnight — Batroun Bahsa Bay

From \$100-125 USD / night, for 2 people

A second night on the same stretch of Batroun's old bay.

Batroun Bahsa Bay · Batroun

Day 5

Baalbek's Roman Temples & the Bekaa Valley

East over the mountains to the Bekaa Valley, for Roman ruins on a scale that outdoes Rome itself, and a stop at one of Lebanon's oldest wine cellars.

Full-Day Tour — Baalbek, Anjar & Ksara, with Nakhal Tours & Travel

~9 hours, guided · ~\$75 USD / person, incl. transport, entrances & lunch

A long but essential day east across Mount Lebanon into the Bekaa Valley, run with a licensed guide given the site's protected status — self-driving here isn't the standard way in.

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Baalbek's Roman Temple Complex

~2.5 hours, included with tour

The largest Roman temple complex ever built, anchored by the Temple of Jupiter's six surviving columns — among the tallest Roman columns standing anywhere — and the almost completely intact Temple of Bacchus beside it, raised on a platform of stones so massive their quarrying is still debated.

Ksara Wine Cellars

~1 hour, included with tour

Lebanon's oldest winery, founded by Jesuit monks in 1857, built around limestone cellars first carved out in Roman times and now stacked floor to ceiling with aging barrels and bottles.

Château Ksara · Zahlé, Bekaa Valley

Overnight — The GEM Boutique Hotel, Beirut

From \$110-130 USD / night, for 2 people

Back to the same Gemmayzeh townhouse for a last night in the capital.

The GEM Boutique Hotel · Gemmayzeh, Beirut

Day 6

Beirut's National Museum & Departure

One last morning in the capital before the short ride back to the airport.

National Museum of Beirut

~1.5 hours, self-guided · ~\$6 USD / person

Lebanon's main archaeological museum, built to hold what Baalbek, Byblos, and Tyre have given up over a century of digging — Phoenician sarcophagi, Roman mosaics, and a basement collection once sealed in concrete to protect it through the civil war.

Downtown Beirut & Martyrs' Square

~1 hour, self-guided · free

A walk past the rebuilt Ottoman-French quarter around Néjmé Square and the blue-domed Mohammad Al-Amin Mosque, standing beside the shelled-out St. George Cathedral bell tower left as a reminder of the war.

Airport Transfer — Gemmayzeh to Beirut-Rafic Hariri Int'l Airport

~20 minutes · private transfer, ~\$40 USD total

The same short coastal run back out to BEY, timed with a couple of hours' buffer for check-in.

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