

Must-Visit Attractions in Beirut (all max within 30 mins from AUB)

Adapted from www.theculturetrip.com

Beirut, the Capital of [Lebanon](#) and its largest city, is a hub of culture and history. The city has survived the [ravages of time and war](#), but there's still much to see. Here are our suggestions for must-visit attractions in Beirut.

AUB Archeological museum:

The AUB Archaeological Museum is the third oldest museum in the Near East, after Cairo and Constantinople. The initial donation for the construction of a science building to be named Post Hall was given by Morris Jessup, in gratitude to George E. Post, professor of botany and surgery, for curing him. The Museum opened in 1902.



https://website.aub.edu.lb/museum_archeo/Pages/index.aspx

Beirut Souks

Looking for a place to shop in [Beirut](#)? The souks are your answer. An architectural wonder [Downtown](#), the Beirut Souks are the hub of designer and mid-range brands. Walk around the popular shopping area, dine, peruse and maybe spend some money. Beirut is one of the Middle East's fashion capitals, and this place is one of the reasons why.



Martyrs' Square

An important landmark in Lebanese history, Martyrs' Square is dedicated to those who were executed during Ottoman rule. It is also the traditional dividing line between East and West Beirut. First constructed in 1931, the monument has remained relevant due to the repeated political assassinations in Lebanon's recent past.



Nijmeh Square

In the heart of Beirut, Nijmeh Square was part of the extensive reconstruction [Beirut](#) underwent after the civil war. Home to the parliament, two cathedrals and a museum, the square is one of Beirut's activity hubs. Grab a cup of coffee or a [meal](#) overlooking this square's 1930's Rolex clock.



Hamra Street

A center of Beirut's 1960's intellectual activity, it is no surprise that this street was called the city's Champs Elysees. It is a popular place with tourists and locals alike, who gather here to try to absorb the remnants of the intellectual city. Hamra is home to several bookshops, three universities (including the American University of Beirut) and a rich nightlife.

Zaitunay Bay

A posh yachting dock, Zaitunay Bay is the place for brunch in Beirut, so is part of most locals' weekend plans. Try places like [Babel Bay](#), [Paul](#) and [Coast](#) for a relaxing meal by the docks.



Pigeon Rocks, Raouche

Located in the sea by the historical Raouche, the Pigeon Rocks are a Lebanese natural treasure. In the area surrounding the rocks, evidence of ancient human existence in Lebanon has been found. Walk on Raouche's Corniche and marvel at these amazing sights.



Sursock Museum

A major contemporary art museum in Beirut and home of Lebanese culture, [Sursock](#) is a private villa-turned-attraction. The house itself is a marvel as it is the perfect example of Lebanon's older architecture, having been built in the 19th century by the Sursock family. Opening hours: Open daily from 10:00 to 18:00, Closed on Tuesdays <https://sursock.museum/>



Grand Serail

Also known as the Government Palace, the Grand Serail is the Lebanese Prime Minister's main base. The building itself is a marvel from the Ottoman Era, and is a must-visit for anyone wanting to learn about Beirut's history.



Roman Baths

Located in Downtown Beirut, marvel at this historical landmark. The ruins haven't been functional as baths for a long time, but it is easy to imagine what life in the Roman Empire may have looked like.



Saifi Village

An upscale residential area in Beirut, Saifi Village is definitely worth walking through. Built in the French Colonial style, the village is home to several art galleries and an upscale farmers' market.



Mohammad Al-Amin Mosque

Also referred to as the Blue Mosque, this marvel is located in Downtown Beirut. It was built after the donation of the Late Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, and continues to be a symbol of his work. The mosque is only one of the achievements of this late Prime Minister. He shifted his business focus to rebuild Downtown Beirut to what it is today, provided students with educational scholarships and encouraged foreign investment in Lebanon.



St Nicholas Stairs

Also known as the Escalier de l'Art, these stairs connect Rue Gouraud (in Gemmayzeh) and Rue Sursock. The site is a shortcut to the Sursock Museum and is a popular tourist destination.

Robert Mouawad Museum

Another house-turned-museum, the [Mouawad](#) is the place to find eclectic art. Opened in 2006, the house's collection includes ancient pottery and accessories collected from the region. The mission behind the museum is to preserve the local historical culture.

The National Museum of Beirut

The main archaeological museum in Lebanon, the [National Museum](#) is home to many treasures. The collection ranges from the prehistoric period through the Roman period and into the Arab era. The museum itself is a marvel as it was destroyed in the civil war, and fully restored in 2011. Operating Hours: 09:00-17:00



Best Restaurants in town (all max within 30 mins from AUB):

Lebanese food:

Make sure to try Manoushe, Kunafa, Labnet, Fatoush, Shawarma, Tabouli, Kebbe, fatayer, & the world-class Lebanese wine. <https://foodyoushouldtry.com/15-lebanese-foods-must-try/>

Leila: <https://www.zomato.com/beirut/leila-min-lebnen-minet-el-hosn>

Loris: <https://www.zomato.com/beirut/loris-gemmayze>

Abd El Wahab: <https://www.zomato.com/beirut/abd-el-wahab-ashrafieh>

Socrate: <https://www.socrate.com/>

Burj Al Hamam: <http://www.burjalhamam.com/>

Sultan Ibrahim: <http://www.al-sultanbrahim.com/>

Armenian food:

Mayrig: <https://www.zomato.com/beirut/mayrig-gemmayze>

Onno: <https://www.zomato.com/beirut/onno-hamra>

International food:

Casper & Gambini: <https://www.zomato.com/beirut/casper-gambinis-hamra>

Dar Bistro & Books: <https://www.zomato.com/beirut/dar-bistro-books-hamra/menu>

Salon Beyrouth: <http://www.salonbeyrouth.com/>

French food:

Metropole: <https://www.zomato.com/beirut/metropole-brasserie-minet-el-hosn>

Lebanese breakfast:

Snack Faisal: <http://www.al-sultanbrahim.com/>

Lebanese desserts:

Taj Al Moulouk: <http://www.tajalmoulouk-lb.com/home.htm>

Abdul Rahman Hallab: <https://www.hallab.com.lb/>

Restaurants with entertainment program:

Teatro Verdun: <https://www.zomato.com/beirut/teatro-verdun-verdun>

Music Hall: <http://www.themusichall.com/Subpage.aspx?pageid=16#/Subpage.aspx?pageid=11>