



# TRAVEL CAUTION & ADVISORY

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## LEBANON

LEVEL 4  
DO NOT TRAVEL  
RELEASE FOR PUBLIC USE

UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION (UNCLAS)

27 DECEMBER 2024

# TRAVEL ADVISORY | Lebanon

## Summary

**Updated to urge U.S. citizens to depart Lebanon via commercial options while still available.**

Due to the unpredictable nature of ongoing conflict between Hizballah and Israel and recent explosions throughout Lebanon, including Beirut, the U.S. Embassy urges U.S. citizens to depart Lebanon while commercial options still remain available. At this time, commercial flights are available, but at reduced capacity. If the security situation worsens, commercial options to depart may become unavailable. Please check flight options at [Beirut–Rafic Hariri International Airport](#). The U.S. Embassy may not be able to assist U.S. citizens who choose to remain.

If you choose to remain in Lebanon, be prepared to shelter in place should the situation deteriorate further. The U.S. Embassy strongly encourages U.S. citizens in Southern Lebanon, near the borders with Syria, and/or in refugee settlements to depart those areas immediately.

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Do Not Travel to Lebanon due to **crime, terrorism, civil unrest, kidnapping, unexploded landmines, and the risk of armed conflict**. Some areas, especially near the borders, have increased risk. Read the entire Travel Advisory.

**Country Summary:** U.S. citizens who remain in Lebanon should be aware of the risks and review their personal security plans.

U.S. citizens in Lebanon should be aware that consular officers from the U.S. Embassy are not always able to travel to assist them. The Department of State considers the threat to U.S. government personnel in Beirut serious enough to require them to live and work under strict security. The internal security policies of the U.S. Embassy may be adjusted at any time and without advance notice.

Since October 8, cross-border exchanges of fire have occurred between Hizballah and Israel; in some instances, including targets well north of the border region. On September 17-18, communications devices exploded in locations throughout Lebanon, including Beirut, killing dozens and injuring thousands. On September 20, a targeted strike hit the southern suburbs of Beirut.

The Lebanese government cannot guarantee the safety of U.S. citizens against sudden outbreaks of violence and armed conflict. Family, neighborhood, or sectarian disputes can escalate quickly and can lead to gunfire or other violence with no warning.

Terrorist groups continue plotting possible attacks in Lebanon. Terrorists may conduct attacks with little or no warning targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, and local government facilities.

Local security authorities have noted a rise in violent crimes, including political violence. Multiple unsolved killings in Lebanon may have been politically motivated.

Kidnapping, whether for ransom, political motives, or family disputes, has occurred in Lebanon. Suspects in kidnappings may have ties to terrorist or criminal organizations.

Unexploded landmines and explosive remnants of war are a hazard along the border with Syria. Heed land mine warning signs. Do not venture off the road into areas marked off with red and white plastic tape. Avoid roadside ditches, shoulders, and unmarked trails. Never touch anything resembling unexploded munitions.

U.S. citizens should avoid demonstrations and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings or protests as these have the potential to turn violent quickly and with little notice. Protesters have blocked major roads, including thoroughfares between downtown Beirut and the area where the U.S. Embassy is located, and between Beirut and Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport.

Read the [country information page](#) for additional information on travel to Lebanon.

If you decide to travel to Lebanon:

- Visit our website for information on [Travel to High-Risk Areas](#).

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- Appoint one family member to serve as the point of contact with kidnappers/hostage-takers, media, U.S. and host country government agencies, and members of Congress if you are kidnapped, or taken hostage.
- Keep travel documents up to date and easily accessible.
- Do not touch unknown metal objects and avoid traveling off well-used roads, tracks, and paths due to risk of unexploded ordnance.
- Avoid demonstrations and crowds.
- Stay alert in locations frequented by Westerners.
- Monitor local media for breaking events and adjust your plans based on new information.
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive Alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Follow the Department of State on [Facebook](#) and [X/Twitter](#).
- Review the [Country Security Report](#) for Lebanon.
- Visit the CDC page for the latest [Travel Health Information](#) related to your travel.
- U.S. citizens who travel abroad should always have a contingency plan for emergency situations. Review the [Traveler's Checklist](#).

#### **Southern Lebanon – Level 4: Do Not Travel, Depart If You Are (See map below)**

The U.S. Embassy strongly urges U.S. citizens to avoid southern Lebanon and to depart if you are there; that is, all parts south of the city of Saida, to include inland areas, as illustrated in the map below. Cross-border rocket, missile, and artillery fire continues to impact southern Lebanon on a daily basis and has caused a significant number of fatalities and injuries.



#### **Border with Syria – Level 4: Do Not Travel, Depart If You Are There**

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The U.S. Embassy strongly urges U.S. citizens to avoid the Lebanon-Syria border and to depart if you are there. This area has seen clashes between Lebanese security forces and Syrian-based violent extremist groups. The U.S. Department of State also warns U.S. citizens of the risk of traveling on flights that fly over Syria, which include some flights to and from Beirut.

**Refugee Settlements – Level 4: Do Not Travel, Depart If You Are There**

The U.S. Embassy urges U.S. citizens to avoid travel to refugee settlements in Lebanon and depart if you are there. These settlements are prone to outbreaks of violence including shootings and explosions.

Reported by:

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