

Lebanon – A Brief History



Beirut Aerial View

Lebanon is a small country on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, bordered by Israel to the south and Syria to the east and north. The total area of Lebanon is approximately 10,000 square kilometres, about half the size of Lac La Biche County. Lebanon's geography consists of narrow coastal plains with two mountain ranges separated by the very fertile Bekaa valley, which in Roman times was considered the granary of the Roman Empire. The elevation of Lebanon ranges from sea level to 3088 meters in the mountains. Everything from oranges and bananas to cold weather crops can be grown somewhere in Lebanon. The climate is typical Mediterranean with cool wet winters and hot, dry summers. In the mountains, winter snowfalls can be very heavy and in some areas averages over a meter at time. The mountains, consisting of very porous rock, absorb much of the winter moisture and release it during the summer in the form of numerous springs and rivers.

The population of Lebanon is about 4,500,000 people consisting of 17 different ethnic and religious groups. The major Christian and Muslim sects are represented in Lebanon's population. In addition, there are approximately 20 million Lebanese living in countries around the world. It is estimated that there are about 600,000 Canadian Lebanese of all dominations, with the majority living in Quebec.

Lebanon is a country rich in history, a cross roads for three continents. Everywhere you go, you come in contact with the past. Ancient ruins from

Babylonian, Egyptian, Roman, Greek, Byzantine and Arab civilizations blend into the landscape. Many of these structures are still used as churches and mosques. In the ruins of Baalbeck, lies the Temple of Bacchus and the Temple of Jupiter. It is by far the largest Roman edifice, larger than the Parthenon in Greece and still hosts many concerts including past performances by the Three Tenors. Baalbeck sits on the site of even more ancient temples built by the Canaanites and other older civilizations. From the shores of Lebanon the Phoenicians set out in their ships, to trade with all parts of the known world. With them they took the alphabet invented by the Phoenician, Cadmus The Teacher.

To learn more about Lebanon, its history and its people, join us on the July long weekend, at the Lac La Biche recreation grounds. The entry fee for the family fair on the recreation grounds is a donation to the Lac La Biche food bank.

Zicki Eludin
Chairman – Organizing Committee
Lakeland Lebanese Cultural and Educational Society



Beirut Lebanon