



UNTAPPED TOURISTIC POTENTIAL IN SOUTH LEBANON

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Abstract

Lebanon is a small middle-eastern country with a widely diversified population religiously and culturally with a history of being a crossing point for a number of ancient (and some more recent) civilizations that still make their presence felt. The modern history of Lebanon has been filled with conflicts and wars, the most recent being the spill of the Syrian conflict into Lebanese territory. Despite all this hardship, Lebanon remains an important landmark in the Middle East and still is a sought-after destination known for a tempered Mediterranean weather with four distinct seasons, an educated and friendly population, and a variety of touristic activities.

This paper focuses on the southern region of Lebanon and will present a number of interesting destinations with historical, cultural, religious and environmental importance. This region has been little known by the general foreign public visiting Lebanon or wishing to visit Lebanon due to the fear of possible threats and the proximity of this region to the southern border with the Israeli presence. This paper will aim to provide a better understanding of the touristic potential of southern Lebanon, as well as provide a roadmap for the development of international tourism in this region.

Key words:

*Lebanon,
Tourism,
Anthropic attractions,
Immigration*

JEL Codes:

**O53
Z30
Z32
J16**

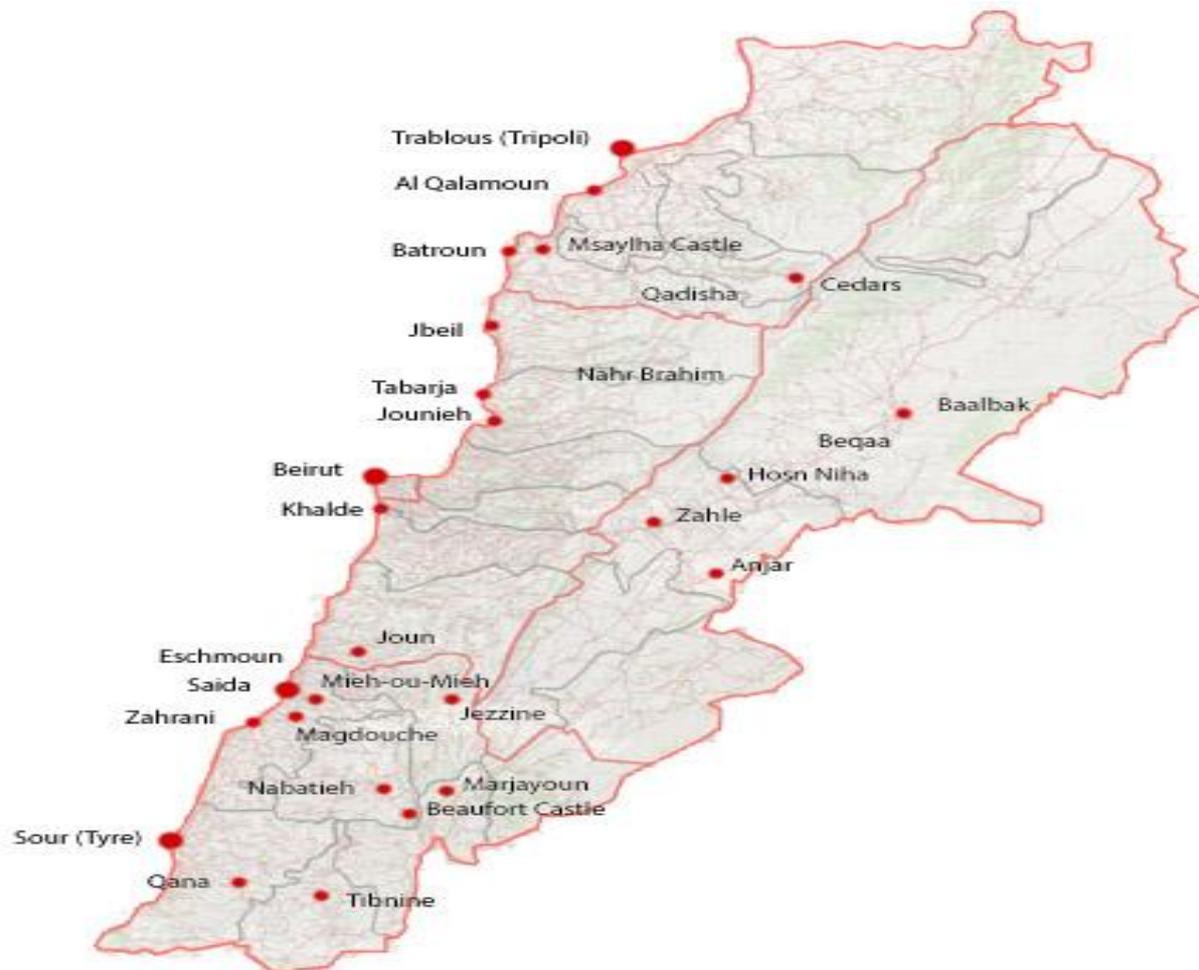
Lebanon is a small country on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. With an area of 10,452Km², it ranks 66 on the list of smallest countries by surface area in the world and is the 4th smallest of 22 Arab countries (only larger than Bahrain, Comoros, and the Palestinian territories). It is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea in the West (225 kilometers of coastline), Syria in the North and the East (375 kilometers of border) and Palestine in the South (79 kilometers of border). In addition to its narrow coastal line, Lebanon is composed of two parallel chains of mountains (the mountains of Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon) surrounding a fertile valley (the Beqaa valley). Atop these mountain chains are the two highest peaks in the country: Jounet Assaouda (the Black Peak) in the north of Mount Lebanon at 3,083 meters and Jabal al-Sheikh in the south of the Anti-Lebanon chain at 2,814 meters. One of Lebanon's most precious resources is the abundant availability of water sources, with over 40 main rivers and close to 2,000 springs with one particularly interesting river, the

Aassi River (which means “rebel” or “disobedient one” in Arabic), characterized by its northern flow contrary to all other rivers that have a southern flow. “Based on the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (2005), forests cover 13.2 percent of the country's territory. Other Wooded Land (OWL) adds an additional 11.3 percent of the territory, yielding a total of 24.5 percent.”(USAID, 2009). Lebanon has more than 9 different forest bioclimatic zones depending on the altitude at which these forests grow (from coastal altitudes all the way up to over 2400 meters) with a large variety of vegetation and wildlife and 13 natural reserves, 28 protected forests and 17 natural sites spread across the length of the country. Lebanon's most distinctive vegetation is the ancient cedar forests whose tree can be found on the national flag; the cedars cover an area of 2,000 hectares spread over 12 forests.

This small country is also home to over 4 million Lebanese nationals with almost half of them residing in or around the Great Beirut Area (the capital and its numerous suburbs). In addition to the

nationals, around 2 million refugees and foreigners have taken residence in Lebanon.

Figure1. Lebanon map



Source:

https://www.google.com/search?q=lebanon+map&tbm=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=B1SSMCjFYdrdeM%253A%252C-xkSqRuEVq6lmM%252C_&usq=_6KR871pcM3cH1IGZRfsnkoQXVul%3D&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjw-KX0taXbAhWDLFAKHVraBckQ9QEILTAC#imgrc=B1SSMCjFYdrdeM:&spf=1527407862220

The refugees are comprised of close to 1.5 million Syrians fleeing the conflict in their homeland, close to half a million Palestinian refugees and a couple thousand refugees and immigrants from the surrounding countries (Iraq, Egypt, Sudan, etc.) making the national to refugee ratio close to 34%. Lebanon has a very particular demographic: the 4 million Lebanese residing in Lebanon are divided amongst 18 official monotheistic sects split close to equal between the Christian and the Islamic religions. Being at a crossing point between Europe, Asia, and Africa, Lebanon has had an exceptional history. A number of civilizations (both ancient and

recent) emerged, passed by, conquered or simply resided in the territory which is now the Republic of Lebanon such as the Phoenicians, the Egyptians, the Greek, the Persians, the Romans, the Arabs, the Crusaders, and the Ottomans. Remnants of these civilizations are still present today and can be seen all over the country. This is further reinforced by the nomination of a number of sites by the UNESCO as World Heritage Sites such as Anjar, Baalbeck, Jbeil (Byblos), Tyre, the Holy Valley of Qadisha and Hosh Arz el Rab (the Forest of the Cedar of God).

Lebanon's economy relies heavily on the service and banking sector that makes up close to 70% of its gross national product (Lebanonembassy.org, 2018). According to the Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (IDAL) "the World Travel and Tourism Council's (WTTC) latest report ranked Lebanon 36th worldwide in terms of travel and tourism's total contribution to GDP, which maintained its level at 19.4% in 2016 (around USD 9.2 billion), exceeding by far the world's 10.2% average" (IDAL.com, 2018). Though Lebanon has suffered a decrease in the number of

inbound tourists after 2010 due to the escalation of the conflict in Syria, it has been able to remain a prominent destination for tourists from all over the world. According to a report issued by BLOM (Bank du Liban et d'Outre Mer) in 2018, Lebanon suffered a drop in the total number of yearly inbound tourists by nearly 50% between 2010 and 2013 (dropping from 2,200,000 to 1,300,000) but has been witnessing a constant growth since 2014 with the total yearly number of inbound tourists reaching 1,900,000 in 2017 (BLOM Bank, 2018).

Table 1. Macroeconomic indicators of Lebanon and Romania (2016)

Indicators	Lebanon	Romania
GDP Mill.\$	49,599	187,593
GDP per capita .\$	8,257	9,493
Debt Mill.\$	70,312	69,819
Debt (%GDP)	142.18%	37.60%
Debt Per Capita \$	12,016	3,554
Deficit	-3,736	-5,632
Deficit (%GDP)	-7.56%	-3.00%
Expenditure (M.\$)	13,309.0	63,852.9
Gov. Health Exp. (%Bud.)	10.72%	12.84%
Gov. Health Exp. P.C. \$	260	447
Density	575	82
Population	6,006,668	19,644,350
Immigrant stock	1,997,776	226,943
% Immigrant	34.14%	1.15%
GDP Mill.\$	49,599	187,593

Source: Designed by the authors based on <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/le.html> [Accessed 25 Mar. 2018].

The summary report issued by IDAL described the tourism sector as one of the largest contributors to employment in Lebanon, with more than 338,500 direct and indirect jobs making close to 20% of the total employment ratio in Lebanon. The spending from tourism activities in 2016 was close to 10.5 billion USD, 33% of which was from Emirati, Saudi Arabian and Egyptian tourists. The same report stated that Lebanon has a number of competitive advantages for the tourism sector. Some of these advantages are culinary (Beirut won the "Best International City for Food in the World" title in 2016), as well as leisure (Beirut ranks

amongst the top 25 best cities worldwide for beaches, resorts, and nightlife uniqueness). Moreover, Lebanon is renowned for its diverse and spectacular landscape and nature heritage, as well as mild Mediterranean climate very different from the rest of the region, with the city of Jbeil (also known to be one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in history) earning the title of the "Arab Tourism Capital" of 2016 (IDAL.com, 2018). Lebanon is also known for winter tourism with its snow-covered mountains from December to April. A multitude of well-maintained stations offers the possibility of engaging in a variety of hobbies, such

as skiing, snowboarding, and other related activities, totaling over 300km of slopes spread across 6 major stations. Another important aspect of tourism in Lebanon is religious tourism. Lebanon is home to over 250 sites of religious interest. These religious sites are of importance for both Muslims and Christians and are often visited by both religions in an effort of devotion and worship.

In this paper, we will take a look at the touristic activities taking place in South Lebanon. We will identify the level of involvement of these regions with the overall touristic activity in Lebanon and we will present a number of sites of touristic importance and value that could provide a base for all those interested in visiting Lebanon to discover another aspect of the culture and history mainly focused on the religious, environmental, cultural and outdoor activities parts.

When assessing the destination of the inbound tourists to Lebanon per region, it becomes clear that the spread is not even between the 5 Qazaa (jurisdictions) that make-up Lebanon. According to a 2014 report issued by IDAL, the biggest share of visitors is concentrated in Beirut and the Mount Lebanon region with more than 300,000 visitors yearly to the various touristic sites in those areas. On the other hand, the North and the South share the lowest ratios with less than 10,000 tourists per year. This is also reflected in the investments poured into these areas towards the development of tourism with the South being home to a mere 3% of the total hotels in Lebanon, compared to the North (with similar tourist interest) holding 14% of that same total (IDAL, 2015). When looking for the touristic value of South Lebanon, one can only find very little research. Most of what is found when conducting such a search is a few recommendations from tourism sites or organizations mentioning the most renowned locations on the upper border of what is considered to be South Lebanon. The rest is mostly composed of warnings and travel bans from foreign embassies, ministries, and governments stating high risks and danger associated with the presence of foreigners south of Saida (technically considered the entry point to South Lebanon). These warnings are due to two main factors: firstly, the entity bordering Lebanon from the South, namely the Israeli forces; secondly the presence of a major Palestinian refugee camp (considered one of the

largest and most prone to skirmishes) on the borders of Saida.

However, if we consider closely the events of the last decade, shortly after the last Lebanese-Israeli conflict that took place in 2006, we notice that the only time an actual exchange of fire took place was on the 3rd August 2010, between the Lebanese Military and the Israeli Defense Forces. Other than this particular incident, the cease fire has been maintained, noting that the Southern Lebanese border is also home to 10,460 members of the United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon, a multinational military force under the command of the United Nations whose role is to monitor and report on the military activities taking place on that border. As for the Palestinian camp activity in that region, it is important to note that the camp benefits from a strong military oversight by the Lebanese army, with a number of outposts surrounding the camp, with strict control over the entrance and exit of the camp. Most clashes that are related to the camp take place on the inside and are restricted to skirmishes between the various factions that compose the Palestinian entities present inside the camp. Moreover, there are numerous roads leading in and out of Saida with no contact or proximity to the camp that allow a safe passage even under the most strenuous conditions (noting that if need be the Lebanese army can cut off the access to and near the camp and can redirect all traffic to safe roads as part of an emergency contingency plan set in place for extreme situations). In addition, roads that lead to South Lebanon without passing through Saida are also available for those who would prefer to avoid the area all together, noting that a large number of Lebanese residing in the South or who spend their time in the South on weekends and vacations pass by these roads (in proximity to the camp) with no incident whatsoever.

Having attended to the issue of safety and security of the region, we will present a number of cities and villages with touristic interest, while detailing the possible touristic value and attraction present in each of them starting with the entrance to South Lebanon: Saida also known as Sidon. Saida is a coastal city approximately 50 kilometers south of the capital, Beirut. Evidence shows that this city was inhabited close to 6000 years ago. Historically, Saida peaked during the Persian Empire (550-330 B.C.) being a major source of naval fleets and sailors that were crucial in the war against both the

Egyptians and the Greeks. The importance of the city lead the Persians to build the temple of Eshmoun (Phoenician god of healing, worshiped alongside the southern coast during that period) was built. In addition to being a major provider of ships and seamen, Saida was also known for its glass productions and its purple dye that is extracted from the shell of *Murex Trunculus* (a medium-sized sea snail). Having the importance we mentioned earlier, Saida was a main target for conquerors and shifted from the Persian control under the rule of Alexander the Great, then under Roman domination, which left behind a number of monuments including a theater. Later on, Saida was conquered by Muslims and stayed so close to 400 years until the arrival of the Crusaders, which made it part of the baronies of the Kingdom of Jerusalem before it was retaken by Saladin, then lost again, then regained by the Mamluks at the end of the 13th century. When Fakhreddine the Second was appointed ruler of Lebanon, Saida flourished again and reclaimed its role as a major port for commerce, especially with the French, being one of the largest ports of trade between France and the land of Syria up until the later days of the Ottoman empire when most of the land occupied by the Ottomans began to fall into obscurity and decay.

What was left by all these passing civilizations and forces can still be seen nowadays, starting with the Crusader Sea Castle (Qala'at al-Bahr) which they built atop the shrine of the Phoenician god Melkart. It is located on a small island with a narrow causeway linking it to the mainland. The fortress consists of two main towers with a series of double walls made of Roman stones and columns that were repurposed. The fortress also presents a typical small-sized mosque whose dome can still be witnessed today as a reminder of the Ottoman presence in the region. The entrance to the fortress is available to all in exchange for a nominal fee of 4,000 Lebanese pounds per person for foreigners, roughly equivalent to little less than 3 American dollars. Facing the fortress on the mainland is the old souk that houses Khan Il-Franj (the Inn of the Franks), whose name is a reminder of the rich trade that took place between the French and the land of Syria through Saida under the rule of Fakhreddine. In addition to the inn's typical rectangular shape surrounding a fountain and the long narrow alleyways of the souk where to our day merchants sell their goods, a traditional soap

manufacturing can be found. Tourists can visit Khan Il-Saboun (the Inn of the Soap) to see the traditional process of manufacturing soap from olive oil. The entrance costs 5,000 Lebanese pounds (3.4 USD) for adults including a guide that will provide all the relevant information about every aspect of the process in Arabic, French or English and will answer questions related to the Khan or to the area. South of the old souk, is the Great Omari mosque, named as a tribute to the second caliph Omar Ibn al-Khattab. The mosque is actually a converted Byzantine church which was then turned into a mosque before being reclaimed as a church by the crusaders that named it the Church of St. John the Baptist during the 13th century. The mosque is a mix of Crusader and Mamluk architecture were the typical Crusader buttresses still hold the south wall under a Mamluk style minaret. The mosque is open for visitors outside of prayers hours. Last but not least, 2 kilometers away from Saida is the temple of Eshmoun, the Phoenician equivalent to Asklepios the Greek god of medical arts. The original temple was built during the 17th century B.C. but with each passing century and subsequent civilization, additions were made, such as Roman colonnades, mosaics and even the basis of a Byzantine church.

Moving further south is the village of Maghdouche, which means "holy" in Syriac. The nomenclature of the village comes from the fact that the Virgin Mary was said to have stayed in a cave in that region while waiting for Jesus while he preached in Saida and Tyre. That cave is referred to nowadays by "Our Lady of Mantara" (Our Lady of Awaiting). During the early 1960s, a cathedral was erected atop the cave with a tower on which resides a statue of the Virgin Mary with her son in her arms. The cave has been a site of pilgrimage since its rediscovery in 1721, most prominently on the Feast of the Nativity of the Virgin. Both the cave and the cathedral are important landmarks that tourists should visit not only for the beauty of the sites but also for the history that they hold and their symbolism.

A bit higher up, atop the mountain sits the town of Jezzine with its rock-carved statue of the Virgin Mary known as Saydet el-Maabour (Our Lady of the Crossing). This town is known for a variety of attractions that the Lebanese like to visit and enjoy. Firstly, the area is in the heart of a large pine forest and is home to Lebanon's tallest waterfall with a height of 74 meters. A number of restaurants are

can be found just above the waterfall. The sight, smell and sound of the waterfall during spring are a sensation that many Lebanese like to enjoy while eating above the Jezzine Valley. Other attractions include the Fakhreddine Grotto, the cave in which Emir Fakhreddine hid from the Ottomans, the 18th-century convent of St. Antoine and the Farid Serhal palace. Jezzine is also known for its cutlery and daggers which were gifted to foreign dignitaries by the Lebanese presidents. The recipient list included names such as Jacques Chirac, Charles de Gaulle, Pope Benedict XVI, Ronald Reagan, Nicolas Sarkozy and Mikhail Gorbachev (who is said to have donated his ivory set to be displayed in a museum in Russia.) Surrounding Jezzine, tourists can enjoy visits to historic landmarks such as the 16th century St. John the Baptist Church and the 17th-century convent of Bkassine which is surrounded by the 2.2 km² Bkassine Pine Forest, with pine trees up to 400 years old. This forest is home to a number of eco-projects (most renown of which is “La Maison de la Foret”) that allows visitors to enjoy a stay inside the heart of the forest in wooden bungalows and take part in hiking trips, climbing activities or cycling on dedicated roads. Another landmark not to be missed in Jezzine is the Karam winery, founded by the Karam brothers when they decided to plant grapes in a region where wine grapes are not a common occurrence. The winery has an international reputation and provides the reputable Jezzinyac (the equivalent to French cognac) that is made from a number of grapes from different altitudes (Miksasi, Merhawi, Hifawi, Zawtarani) and glass-jar aged for 14 years. The winery provides (pre-scheduled) guided tours to get to know the winery, its history, and the production process as well as lunch and wine tasting activities.

Further south on the coast is the city of Sour (Tyre), a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1979. The city is known for two main things: firstly as one of the most excavated cities in Lebanon, secondly as one of the most beautiful beach destinations in the country. The history of Sour dates back to the 3rd millennium B.C. and is similar to that of Saida but also extends to the development of the alphabet and the aide in the construction of the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem thanks to materials and architects sent by King Hiram of Tyre. The city is home to two major archeological sites: the roman old city on the peninsula of Al-Mina and Byzantine inland hippodrome of Al-Bass. The city also houses

a 4th-century cathedral, a 5th-century Roman circus and the remnant of a 12th-century Crusader cathedral, in which the coronation of the King of Jerusalem took place. Both main sites are open for visits and the entrance fee cost 6,000LBP (4USD) per site with a 50% deduction for students. In between the two archeological sites are the old souks, similar to Saida’s and renowned for their traditional shops and restaurants that offer visitors an exceptional experience. The souks are mainly composed of a Shiite quarter with its typical double-domed mosque and the Christian Quarter made up of narrow streets and traditional houses and two crusader era towers. Besides historical landmarks, Sour is also home to the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve, a 380 ha reserve and Ramsar site (UNESCO Wetland convention 1971), in which visitors can enjoy the largest, most beautiful and finest sandy beach in Lebanon, in addition to a large number of diverse fauna and flora, as well as prominent bird nesting site. Some of the animals found in that region are the endangered Loggerhead, the green sea Turtle, and the Arabian spiny mouse. The site has three parts, a tourism zone open to visitors with beach activities and accommodations in spring and summer, an agricultural and archeological zone, and a conservation zone.

The locations that will be described in the upcoming part of the paper require a special permit for foreigners to access as they are part of the UNIFIL zone. This permit is easily obtained from the General Security bureau located in Saida, it requires tourists to present their passports and a route plan.

Approximately 12 km southeast of sour is the village of Qana. This village is said to be the location of the first miracle publicly performed by Jesus in Galilee, namely the turning of water into wine. The village is home to a number of natural rock caves in which it is said that the wedding, during which the miracle took place, was held. These caves also present old inscriptions, bas-reliefs, and carvings said to represent Jesus and the apostles. The entrance to the caves is free and open for all. In addition to visiting this religious site, visitors to Qana can see the tomb of King Hiram, previously mentioned, who helped build the temple of Solomon. The tomb itself is is a colossal limestone sarcophagus resting atop an imposing

pedestal. The last stop in Qana is the Museum of Moussa Tiba, the prolific painter native to that village and whose art was displayed all around the world (Lebanon, France, Germany, Norway, Egypt, Kuwait, and Brazil). The museum is actually the painter's old house turned into a museum by his family. It is important to note that his work is part of the collections of the Musée des Beaux-Arts Chartres, the Institute du Monde Arabe in Paris, and the UNESCO in Beirut. In this museum, visitors can admire more than 300 art pieces alongside work of other Lebanese and Arab artists such as Shafiq Abboud, Halim Jurdak, and Hussein Madi.

Moving up from the coast of Lebanon into the Nabatieh Governate some 500 meters above sea level is the Shaqif Castle (Beaufort or Belfort Castle from its original crusader name). This castle is a Crusader fortress built by the King of Jerusalem around 1140 atop ancient fortifications. The castle was then captured by Salah El-Din in 1190 and then retaken by the Crusaders around 1250. The castle eventually fell into the hands of the Islamic armies soon after. The particularity of this castle is that it is a rare case of medieval fortifications that had an actual military use and high value in recent warfare. In fact, this castle had such a crucial location that it was held by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) during the Lebanese civil war, then taken over by the Israelis in 1982 and used as an advanced post during their occupation of southern Lebanon until their retreat in 2000 when they destroyed parts of it despite the United Nations appeals to preserve such a piece of history. The castle is surrounded by ruins of an old village with the same architectural style, although the castle itself is mostly in ruins, it is still an amazing piece of art that hides a multitude of labyrinths and offers a panoramic view of large parts of the southern region of Lebanon.

To stay within the same spirit of modern conflict and resistance tourism, another prime location is the Mlita Museum of Resistance. Some 50Km north of the southern Lebanese border in the town of Mlita, one of the most important sites of resistance against the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, the Mlita Museum of Resistance was opened in 2010 and spreads over 60,000m² of labyrinths and forest paths and buildings. Visitors can have a guided tour of the location while learning about the history of the site, the conflict and the weapons and military equipment displayed. The

museum has a number of actual Israeli equipment; vehicles and weapons captured or left behind by the occupying troops during their retreat in 2000 or after the 2006 war, with the centerpiece being a heavily armored Merkava tank. Visitors can also go through a series of tunnels and reinforced locations previously used by the resistance, all while learning about the communication and transport equipment used in these narrow paths.

Also in the Nabatieh Governorate, one can visit the village of Hasbaya. This village on the bank of the Hasbani River is surrounded by silver-green olive trees and is known to produce honey, grapes, figs, prickly pears, pine nuts and other fruit. The main attraction in Hasbaya is the huge citadel of the Chehab emirs. The citadel is surrounded by medieval houses and a mosque. The actual history of the citadel is uncertain but is thought to reach as far back as the Crusaders, or maybe even earlier as the Roman Empire. The citadel was claimed by the Chehabs who rebuilt it after defeating and evicting the Crusaders in 1172. This citadel has suffered through many ravaging fires in battle and is known to be the scene of bloody conflict. Currently, it is inhabited by a large number of members of the Chehab family, which means that visiting the citadel from the inside is not possible; it remains an amazing work of art that can be enjoyed from the outside. Hasbaya is also home to the lesser-known Roman Temple of Hebbariyeh where visitors can see parts of the walls of the temple still intact to our days as well as the 1st century AD underground crypt. Another attraction is the traditional Sabek Soap Factory where visitors can witness and learn about traditional methods of soap production. The last thing to see in Hasbaya is Khalwat El-Bayyadah, the retreat of Druze cheikhs used for meditation and worship. Visitors can tour the Khalwat with permission from the resident Cheikh, noting that female visitors are required to cover their heads as a courtesy to the religious aspect of the location.

Last but not least, the Litani River, the longest river in Lebanon, provides a large number of activities that could offer a significant boost in attracting tourists towards the southern region of Lebanon. The river starts in the Beqaa valley and spreads over 140km to end up into the Mediterranean Sea just north of Sour. The river is a prime location for family activities as well as mild and extreme sports. A large part of the river bank is

home to restaurants, cafes, camping sites and picnic locations. The river is safe for swimming in designated areas while others are reserves for kayaking, canoeing, and other water sports. A number of agencies provide trips and equipment for tourists to visit the area and enjoy a ride on the river for relatively low prices. Other amenities include the rental of chalets, tents, and food and beverages in areas close to the Shkif castle.

CONCLUSIONS

Lebanon has been long known as a prime touristic location in the Middle East. Although it has suffered from a number of drops in the inbound tourism levels at alternative intervals due to wars, conflicts, threats and terrorism risks, it is now regaining its place as a top destination for foreign tourism. Tourism in Lebanon spreads over different types: nightlife tourism, historical tourism, ecotourism, and religious tourism.

The flux of tourists is mainly concentrated around the capital city Beirut and Mount Lebanon as these are the areas mostly advertised, invested in and known to the general public, in addition to the fear of various risks in other regions of the country. However, South Lebanon remains an area of high potential that is currently on the path to growth and development and promises to become part of the highly thought after destinations for all four types of tourism present in Lebanon. It is a large portion of the country, with very hospitable people, that offers attractions and activities of interest to people of all ages and backgrounds. It also offers an aspect of the country that is not found anywhere else in Lebanon and probably in the entire region as it presents a variety of testimonial locations and sites to the modern history of Lebanon in its resistance against the occupation, and provides an insight on the atypical military strategies and activities.

Moreover, the size of the country and the distance between Beirut and South Lebanon allows tourists to visit most if not all of the above-mentioned locations within a one-day limit. This means that, within a short period stay, tourists can visit South Lebanon and discover all of its treasures without having to sacrifice visiting and enjoying any other location or site in other regions of the country. South Lebanon was and remains a fertile region that welcomes all those who seek it out and provides

them with all kinds of enjoyable activities, interesting locations, and unforgettable memories of an area that witnessed the rise and fall of civilizations and empires from the ancient times to our modern days.

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