# UAE lifts travel ban after four years, igniting Lebanese tourism revival



After a four-year hiatus, the UAE has lifted its travel ban on Lebanon, effective from May 7, 2025, sparking a wave of optimism among both Emirati tourists and the Lebanese tourism sector. This decision was influenced by a visit from Lebanese President Joseph Aoun to Abu Dhabi, where he met with President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Both leaders emphasized the importance of rekindling ties between their nations, a sentiment echoed by Lebanon’s Ministry of Tourism, which is gearing up for what it anticipates will be a bustling summer season.

Lebanon's capital, Beirut, is witnessing a cultural renaissance. Restaurants and bars are thriving, with new venues opening almost weekly. The local hospitality scene is invigorated by a series of summer festivals featuring local and international artists, alongside a plethora of exciting cultural offerings, including art exhibitions at newly established galleries. Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi, founder of Barjeel Art, expressed his enthusiasm for the revitalised cultural landscape, stating, “I was keen to visit [the new cultural institutions],” reflecting a sentiment shared by many who regard Lebanon as a vital cultural hub despite its past challenges.

The Lebanese Ministry of Tourism is optimistic about the upcoming tourist influx, particularly from the Gulf region. Efforts have been made to bolster the tourism infrastructure, including enhanced airport amenities and training for local guides. Minister Laura Lahoud highlighted the government’s commitment to providing a robust experience for visitors, stating, “It is important that visitors have the best experience from the moment they arrive until the moment they leave." She reiterated the aim of sustaining tourism not just in the capital but throughout Lebanon, hoping to draw attention to the country’s diverse natural beauty and rich cultural heritage.

The hospitality sector is already feeling the effects of renewed interest. Iconic establishments like the Phoenicia Hotel, which recently reopened after extensive renovations due to the tragic Beirut Port blast in 2020, are reporting increased inquiries and bookings. General manager Mathieu Greppo noted a “modest uptick” in interest from Emirati travellers and expressed optimism for the summer. The city’s vibrant dining scene is also set to benefit, with new restaurants like Mimi in Achrafieh catering to a demographic eager to reinvest in Lebanon’s recovery. Co-owners Yasmina and Elissa Yared shared their positive outlook, emphasising that “despite all the problems, there is potential to invest here."

Moreover, Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam has assured safety measures for incoming Arab tourists, reaffirming security as a priority to maintain stability and attract visitors from neighbouring Gulf nations. This commitment is further reflected in actions such as the establishment of a tourism operations room to oversee safety and service quality at airports and popular tourist destinations.

As the summer approaches, the Lebanese government is hopeful that the return of Emirati and Gulf tourists will be a catalyst for broader economic recovery. With a renewed commitment to creating a welcoming environment, Lebanon seeks not only to encourage tourism but to foster deeper connections with its regional neighbours.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.thenationalnews.com/travel/2025/06/08/lebanon-travel-uae-emiratis-gulf-tourism/), [[5]](https://www.businessnews.com.lb/cms/Story/StoryDetails/12387/UAE-officially-lifts-travel-ban-after-a-four-year-suspension-as-of-May-7)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.thenationalnews.com/travel/2025/06/08/lebanon-travel-uae-emiratis-gulf-tourism/), [[4]](https://www.thenationalnews.com/travel/2025/06/08/lebanon-travel-uae-emiratis-gulf-tourism/), [[2]](https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/uae/2025/05/04/lebanon-travel-ban-lifted/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.arabnews.com/node/2599890/middle-east), [[7]](https://www.thenationalnews.com/travel/2025/06/08/lebanon-travel-uae-emiratis-gulf-tourism/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.lbcgroup.tv/news/news-bulletin-reports/852845/uae-lifts-travel-ban-lebanon-ramps-up-airport-and-tourism-security/en), [[3]](https://www.arabnews.com/node/2599890/middle-east)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://www.businessnews.com.lb/cms/Story/StoryDetails/12387/UAE-officially-lifts-travel-ban-after-a-four-year-suspension-as-of-May-7), [[7]](https://www.thenationalnews.com/travel/2025/06/08/lebanon-travel-uae-emiratis-gulf-tourism/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/travel/2025/06/08/lebanon-travel-uae-emiratis-gulf-tourism/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/uae/2025/05/04/lebanon-travel-ban-lifted/> - The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the lifting of the travel ban on UAE citizens to Lebanon, effective from May 7, 2025. This decision follows Lebanese President Joseph Aoun's visit to Abu Dhabi, where he met with President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. UAE citizens are required to register in the 'Twajudi' service before traveling to ensure effective communication. The registration is mandatory, and travelers must inform the relevant authorities upon their return through the service. The Ministry emphasized the importance of adhering to these procedures to ensure the safety and security of citizens.
3. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2599890/middle-east> - Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam announced that security services are prepared to ensure the safety of Arab tourists during the summer, following the UAE's decision to lift the travel ban on its citizens to Lebanon. The meeting with Gulf Cooperation Council ambassadors, including those from Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar, highlighted the importance of this development. Salam expressed hope that other Arab countries would follow suit in the coming weeks. The Lebanese government is committed to maintaining stability and security to attract Arab tourists back to Lebanon.
4. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/travel/2025/06/08/lebanon-travel-uae-emiratis-gulf-tourism/> - After a four-year hiatus, the UAE lifted its travel ban to Lebanon in May, leading to a surge of Emirati visitors eager to experience Lebanon's vibrant cultural scene. Beirut's restaurants and bars are thriving, with new venues opening regularly. The city is also hosting summer festivals featuring live music and performances from both local and international artists. Cultural attractions, including art exhibitions and new galleries, are drawing visitors. Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi, founder of Barjeel Art, expressed his enthusiasm for the cultural developments and plans to visit more frequently to explore the country's rich cultural offerings.
5. <https://www.businessnews.com.lb/cms/Story/StoryDetails/12387/UAE-officially-lifts-travel-ban-after-a-four-year-suspension-as-of-May-7> - The UAE has officially lifted its four-year travel ban on Lebanon, allowing Emirati citizens to travel to the country starting May 7, 2025. This decision marks a significant step toward renewing ties between the two nations. The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that the move comes in implementation of directives from President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and is part of a broader effort to strengthen fraternal relations with Lebanon. The lifting of the ban follows a recent official visit to the UAE by President Joseph Aoun, during which both leaders agreed to facilitate travel between the two countries.
6. <https://www.lbcgroup.tv/news/news-bulletin-reports/852845/uae-lifts-travel-ban-lebanon-ramps-up-airport-and-tourism-security/en> - With the UAE lifting its travel ban on Lebanon starting May 7, Lebanese authorities are enhancing security measures at airports and popular tourist destinations. A new tourism operations room will oversee tourist safety and service quality, including rapid intervention in any security incidents or service disruptions. The Lebanese government is committed to ensuring the safety of returning Gulf tourists and is implementing measures to streamline arrivals and reduce congestion at the airport. These efforts aim to provide a secure and welcoming environment for visitors.
7. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/travel/2025/06/08/lebanon-travel-uae-emiratis-gulf-tourism/> - Following the lifting of the UAE's travel ban, Lebanon is experiencing a resurgence in tourism, with Emirati visitors contributing significantly to the economy. The influx of tourists is revitalizing the hospitality sector, with increased bookings in hotels and a boost in spending at local businesses. The Lebanese government is optimistic about the positive impact of returning Gulf tourists on the country's economic recovery and is working to ensure a welcoming environment for visitors.