

Baalbeck – Anjar – Zahle

Baalbeck

Baalbek is a town in the Anti-Lebanon foothills east of the Litani River in Lebanon's Beqaa Valley, about 85 km (53 mi) northeast of Beirut and about 75 km (47 mi) north of Damascus. It is home to the annual Baalbeck International Festival.

In Greek and Roman antiquity, it was known as Heliopolis. It still possesses some of the best-preserved Roman ruins in Lebanon, including one of the largest temples of the empire. The gods that were worshipped there—Jupiter, Venus, and Bacchus—were equivalents of the Canaanite deities Hadad, Atargatis, and another young male fertility god. Local influences are seen in the planning and layout of the temples, which vary from the classic Roman design.



Anjar:

Anjar also known as Haoush Mousa ,is a town of Lebanon located in the Bekaa Valley. The population is 2,400, consisting almost entirely of Armenians. The total area is about twenty square kilometers (7.7 square miles). In the summer, the population swells to 3,500, as members of the Armenian diaspora return to visit there.



Maqam el-Sayida Khawla (Mrs Khawla)

She is the daughter of el-Hussein Ali (peace be upon them) whose Maqam and Tomb are located near the historical castle of Baalbek at the southwestern entry of the city. It is said that she was the daughter of the youth master of the Heaven's residents. She was barely five years old when she fell sick while prisoners of the el-Hussein family were being taken to Baalbek. She died when they got there and was buried near a cypress tree. A dome that was built above her tomb is there till today and a mosque with some halls and two minarets have been built around it.



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ZAHLE

Zahlé is the capital and largest city of Beqaa Governorate, Lebanon. With around 50,000 inhabitants, it is the fourth largest city in Lebanon after Beirut. Zahlé is known as the "Bride of the Beqaa" and "the Neighbor of the Gorge" due to its geographical location and attractiveness.



Berdawni

The banks of the Berdawni River have long been a place where people of Zahlé and other parts of Lebanon come to socialize. The town's most popular attraction is a 300 m (984 ft) promenade along the river, referred to as "Al Wadi" ("the valley"). Sheltered between the ravine's limestone cliffs, it is lined up with large outdoor restaurants, cafes and playrooms, and shaded by trees. The promenade is closed during late fall and winter, when cold winds from the mountain sweep through the ravine.

