

من قلبي حلام لبيروت

Our Ghetto Gospel

★ **HAMRA** Coffee shops such as Dar Bistro & Books, and restaurants and pubs such as Rabbit Hole, Neighbors and Ferdinands (which have the BEST BURGER IN BEIRUT). • Henry's Handmade if you're in Hamra (the owner is a restoration genius and was featured on BBC for restoring heritage sites, objects and spaces in Lebanon. He also makes lovely handmade bracelets, which you won't get enough of.) **When you're Beirut AF:** Traditional Lebanese live band/drunken night, pop by Mezyan for some cool tunes & good food and drinks. • Metro Al Madina host their infamous "Bar Farouq" & "Hishik Bishik" plays; they are the Lebanese and Egyptian renditions of Cabaret (Moulin Rouge style clubs) in the Middle East during the time of the civil war. The plays will change your life. (And Yasmina, the main actress/singer is mesmerizing.) • For some good jazz and blues, hit Blue Note Café.

Our Melting Pot

★ **DOWNTOWN** area to visit the Souk el Akel Market Beirut Souks and shopping district. • Downtown also hosts several historical landmarks. Make sure to check out the ruins (or what's left of them) of several churches that date back to the civil war. There is also the famous mosque on Martyr's square, where our late prime minister who was assassinated is buried. Riad El Solh and Martyrs Square are relics of the civil war. Let the activist in you soak it in. ★ **BOURJ HAMMOUD** is super culturally relevant as a huge percentage of our population are Armenian. They even have seats in our parliament. Have a walk about the markets, and eat the best Armenian street food or have lunch/dinner at the famous Onno. Mayass is also great for Armenian! ★ **MAR MKHAYEL** Start at Massaad Stairs, the ones by Paint Up! There are few street art gems on this street, keep a look out. • Oslo, for the yummiest ice cream. Memory Lane, an old Clothes Manufacturing space turned hangout. • Tawlet for some typical Lebanese food cooked by women in different villages. • Plan Bey for posters, photographs from famous Lebanese illustrators - everything there is very handmade and all local artists. Take a peak at the next door shop called Zawal for more home oriented handmade items. • Motto/Makan, charming concept restaurants that serve a different cuisine every day. • BEYt Guesthouse for a lovely garden and space to chill & have some homemade cake. • Kalei for some coffee under the trees. (And more painted stairs down that street!) • Zeinab Lebanese food & shisha. • Once back at the main road - stop off at the old Train Station. Back in the day, there was a huge event called 'Waiting for the Train' where tons of street artists painted large murals representing the physical and conceptual struggle of the every day man (or woman) in Lebanon, who is waiting for the train to come back. • The Food Dealer, organic pub/cafe. • Papercup, Bookstore & Cafe. • Dinner at Baron (must tries are the cauliflower, the aubergines, the Brussel sprouts, the brisket, the merguez and the baklava) • Dinner at Mothershucker for good oysters, fish tacos, poke bowls and gin cocktails • Sit outside at The Gathering (must tries are the roast beef tartine, sumac chicken rolls, brie and truffle panini, truffle pizza, guacamole and beef chunks) • Happy Prince burgers ★ **MONOT** Margaritas and Mexican food at Pacifico's summer terrace. Eat Sunshine for breakfast or lunch • Gluten free and healthy treats from Oh Bakehouse to take with you. **BADARO** Street of pubs and restaurants, must tries are Kissproof, Villa Badaro and East Village. ★ **CASABLANCA** Ain Mreyseh. Sunset drinks at the Four Seasons Beirut rooftop or Iris, a classic • Drinks and dance at The Garden State, a little oasis in Sin El Fil. Myu on the roof, Popup hotel in Saint Georges and if Sky Bar opens then definitely check that out Party at The Grand Factory, Decks on the beach, Discotheque or Uberhaus (Garten). • After hours party must: **BO18** • Drinks at Capitole, Trainstation, Junkyard • Party at Music Hall, live shows included.

وين السريرة!

GEMAYZEH Coup D'etat on top of Hostel, Emm Nazih. Lebanon hosts a few good concerts and live shows; look up what's playing either on the waterfront or in low-key charming venues like Concrete and The Station. ★ **SURSOCK MUSEUM** For the culture junkies **Bouzet Hanna** in Achrafieh (typical Lebanese ice cream) • Tan in **Sporting**, the old school beach of Beirut & have lunch in their terrace Arabic restaurant for some very good fried bizri fish and mezze ★ **SAIFI** Meat The Fish for some delicious lunch, every day the menu changes but some classics remain and are a must (go maximum by 1:00PM to guarantee a seat) • Patisserie Beurre; delicious freshly baked pastries every day • The Backburner; good coffee to wash down Meat The Fish & Patisserie Beurre for baked goodies.

Sky to Sea

★ **TYRE (SOOR)** • Sanwichet Mahfouz: Have the fatayel sandwich • Foul el Baroud: In old souk, have this foul for breakfast. This is the oldest foul shop in the area handed over to the current owner who is the great grandson. • Best hotel: Dar Alma in The area of the Christians (7ay al masi7iyyeh) • El Jamal: love this place! Eat while seated in the waters. • A strip of 4 restaurants on the beach, very basic with plastic chairs that offer fish fresh from the sea. Best one: Captain Bob • Cloud59 beach • Le Phenicien for lunch • The Old Souk/Harbour

خذني إزرعني بأرض لبنان

CHOUF Beiteddine to explore the palace and the surroundings. ★ **BEKAA** valley. • Tawlet Ammiq for lunch • Lake Qaroun to see heaven on earth • Make a stop at the famous Hadwane for the best local labneh and Zareeshe sandwiches you'll ever eat in your life. **DOUMA** The old Souk and beautiful Beit Douma ★ **JBEIL/BATROUN** Beaches to check out are Bonita Bay, O Glacee, Pierre and Friends. • Ixsir winery is a must to spend the day, very good Lebanese wine, great food and a nice little wine tour. • Old souk and port of Jbeil, followed by lunch at Bab Al Mina - sit outside on the terrace and go wild on the mezze and fish. If you go at night, have dinner at e-cafe in the souk and do some bar hopping around there as well. • Jamal - Have a seat in the sea with great food & Arak (local Anis alcoholic beverage.) • The Joining; tan, drink & eat then experience some canoeing/caving in some of Lebanon's most beautiful waters **ANFEH** aka the Santorini of Lebanon • Go to Chez Fouad for the food, beer, arak, and sea • Ta7t El Ri7, has a great place to lounge by the sea and delicious sea food/drinks. ★ **BAALBECK** for the Roman ruins and temples. ★ **TAANOURINE** to see the Cave of 3 Bridges, one of Lebanon's greatest natural beauties & the breathtaking Baatara Gorge Waterfall. ★ **BROUMANA** Dinner at Mounir if you want some typical Lebanese mezze style restaurant. • Dinner at Blackrock steakhouse in the Printania hotel and then pass by Escobar or Cinco for drinks • Lunch or dinner in the Naas area (after Bikfaya): go to Fadel for Lebanese food or to Lola for more international food (make sure to sit outside in both and book in advance) • Mogntagnou in **FARAYA**.