

Entry Procedures for Syrians to Lebanon

Updated in January 2023

As of 5 January 2015, if you are a Syrian national wishing to enter Lebanon you must inform the border authorities of the reason for your entry and provide relevant supporting documentation including a valid national identity card, and/or passport, and a family booklet if you are travelling with your family. As of 21 March 2022, the General Security amended the categories and procedures related to entry to Lebanon. On 23 December 2022, GSO added few amendments to its decision of 21 March 2022.

The procedure allows Syrian nationals to enter Lebanon under different categories:

1- Business visit: Only granted to professionals, business, employees in the Syrian public sector, or religious persons for business visits and will be given for one month and non-renewable.

2- Property owner: If you own property in Lebanon, you will receive 15 days entry permit in order to approach the regional GSO office to receive a one-year residency permit and pay the necessary fees, the residency is issued and renewed at the regional GSO offices. Under this category, family members can visit you for one week renewable once for one week.

3- Tenant: If you have a lease agreement registered with the Municipality and GSO and proof of livelihood (i.e., bank account) you will be granted 15 days entry permit in order to approach the regional GSO office to receive a one-year residency permit and pay the necessary fees, the residency is issued and renewed at the regional GSO offices. As tenant of the property, you can undertake the responsibility for your parents, married children, single sisters, and brothers, and they are granted entry permits for a week, renewable for a similar time and for one time.

Note: The housing pledge is accepted after submitting an attestation from the municipality or the Mukhtar proving that the building belongs to the Lebanese who signed the pledge.

4- Student: You need to provide proof of registration by a Lebanese university, and a valid student card and previous certificates obtained. You will be granted a 7 day entry permit to finalize your student residency permit.

5- Travelling to another country: In case of transit through Lebanon, you must present: valid passport, visa to a third country and a non-refundable airplane/boat ticket and a receipt for the price of the travel ticket. You will be granted 24 hours permit to cross.

If the country that the Syrian intends to travel to does not require to obtain an entry visa. Syrians traveling through one of the Lebanese ports are allowed to enter by virtue of a pledge of responsibility submitted by the ship's maritime agent to the General Security Center of the port (the place of departure of the ship) 48 hours before the ship's departure, under which he undertakes to transport the passengers from the border to the port and is responsible for them throughout the period their presence on Lebanese territory.

6- Medical visits: For entry for medical treatment, you need to present medical reports from a hospital or doctor in Lebanon. You will receive a 48-hour entry. One family member can accompany you. You will be able to enter only through Al-Masnaa and Al-Aboudieh crossing points, starting from 06:00 am until 18:00 pm.

7- Appointment with a Foreign Embassy: 48 hours entry permit with a presentation of proof of appointment. Entry to Lebanon will be exclusive to those whose names were received from foreign embassies to the General Directorate of Public Security and circulated to the land border points. Entry period is between 07:00 am and 18:00 p.m.

However, if the appointment is at Kingdom Saudi Arabia embassy, you will receive one week entry permit with a statement of departure through Al-Masnaa and Al-Aboudieh crossing points.

8- Pledge of Responsibility (sponsorship): as of 21 March 2022, you are not allowed to enter Lebanon based on a pledge of responsibility. However, if you are in Lebanon and you already hold a valid residency based on pledge of responsibility, you are allowed to exit and re-enter the country based on it as long as it is valid.

9- Father/Mother of a Lebanese person: you must present your passport or your ID, a family booklet and a copy of the ID or individual civil extract of the Lebanese person. You will be granted a one-month residency.

10- If you have residency in any Arab or foreign country for a period of no less than a month can be granted a temporary visa of one month.

11- Diplomats, holders of special passports or on mission and their companions (no more than two): They can be granted a temporary residence for 6 months.

12- Annual residency permit (working or non-working)/ Permanent residency permit/ Courtesy visa/ Feature several return trips: you must present your passport or your ID and your valid residence via card, stamped on the passport, or deposited.

13- Spouse and minor children of the holders of the following residency: Annual work (first and second category only) / Annual non-work / Permanent/ Minor children's holders of courtesy visa: you must present your passport or your ID, a valid residence card for the father, mother or husband and a Family Booklet. You will be granted an entry permit for a week; during which you have to visit the regional center where you live to obtain a residency card similar to the residency holder if you are entitled to do so.

14- Husband/children/ wife of a Lebanese person or wife of a Palestinian refugee in Lebanon: you must present in addition to your identification documents, a proof of kinship relationship (executed marriage certificate, family booklet, family civil extract). You will be granted a temporary residency for 6 months.

15- Taxi driver / bus driver: you must present in addition to your identification documents, the registration papers of the vehicle, compulsory insurance, proof of ownership of the vehicle or a legal driving authorization. This applies on holders of a manifest stamped by the Syrian authorities (in which the names of the accompanying passengers and vehicle specifications are mentioned), and those who do not have a manifesto who are seeking entry on their own. You will be granted an entry permit for a period of /24/ hours, with a departure statement.

16- Public truck driver: you must present in addition to your identification documents, the registration papers of the vehicle, compulsory insurance, proof of ownership of the vehicle or a legal driving authorization. You will be granted a temporary residence for one month.

17- Public transport truck driver's assistant: you must present in addition to your identification documents, evidence that your name is included in the vehicle book. You will be granted an entry permit or a temporary residence similar to what the truck driver obtained.

18- A domestic worker accompanied by her Syrian sponsor: the supporting documents are the passport of the domestic worker, a valid residence abroad, on which the name of the Syrian sponsor accompanying her is written. She will be granted a paid entry visa for a month, and if the sponsor wishes to extend it, he/ she should visit the regional center within the scope of its residence to submit a visa transfer request.

19- Professional syndicates' members: you have to present a union card issued by one of the syndicates listed in the decision in addition to the identification documents and a letter signed by the head of the association including the reason of entry to Lebanon. You will be granted an entry permit is granted for a period of 15 days. Your family members (spouse, daughters, sons) can accompany you provided that they leave with you.

20- If you are an employee of UN, INGOs working in Syria, an Arab and foreign embassies employee and who's not a diplomat, or an employee of Syrian embassies abroad, you can receive a temporary residency for one month.

The necessary precautions and preventive measures regarding COVID-19 should be taken.
