



## Beirut disseminates a diverse cultural offer to its confined inhabitants

Beirut (Lebanon), UNESCO Creative City of Literature since 2019, promptly reacted to the COVID-19 pandemic by offering a rich and diverse digital cultural offer to its confined inhabitants, originating from both its public authorities and private sector.

Museums from the city, notably the [National Museum](#), have transformed their permanent exhibitions into virtual visits, available to all via their official websites. Every week, the National Museum provides a detailed presentation of an art piece selected from its collections, on the Cultural Agenda website. The Directorate General of Antiquities, for its part, invites inhabitants to take part in virtual guided tours to explore archaeological sites in and around Lebanon.

Beirut has also developed measures dedicated to the field of literature. Considered a basic necessity, the city's bookshops have been allowed to open for a period of two hours a day for the inhabitants to (re) discover the joys of reading books. The bookshops have also developed rapid book delivery services to support its greater outreach.

Local associations such as Dar Onboz or Achkal Alaouan have also organized reading sessions and interactive activities for kids, through social media and their websites.

Compounding the challenges of COVID-19, the explosions of 4 August 2020 has further damaged the cultural life of Beirut. UNESCO is committed to supporting the reconstruction and recovery of Beirut's cultural life, including through the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

### To know more:

<https://www.conservatory.gov.lb/>

**KEY WORDS:**

- Access to and participation in culture
- Youth engagement