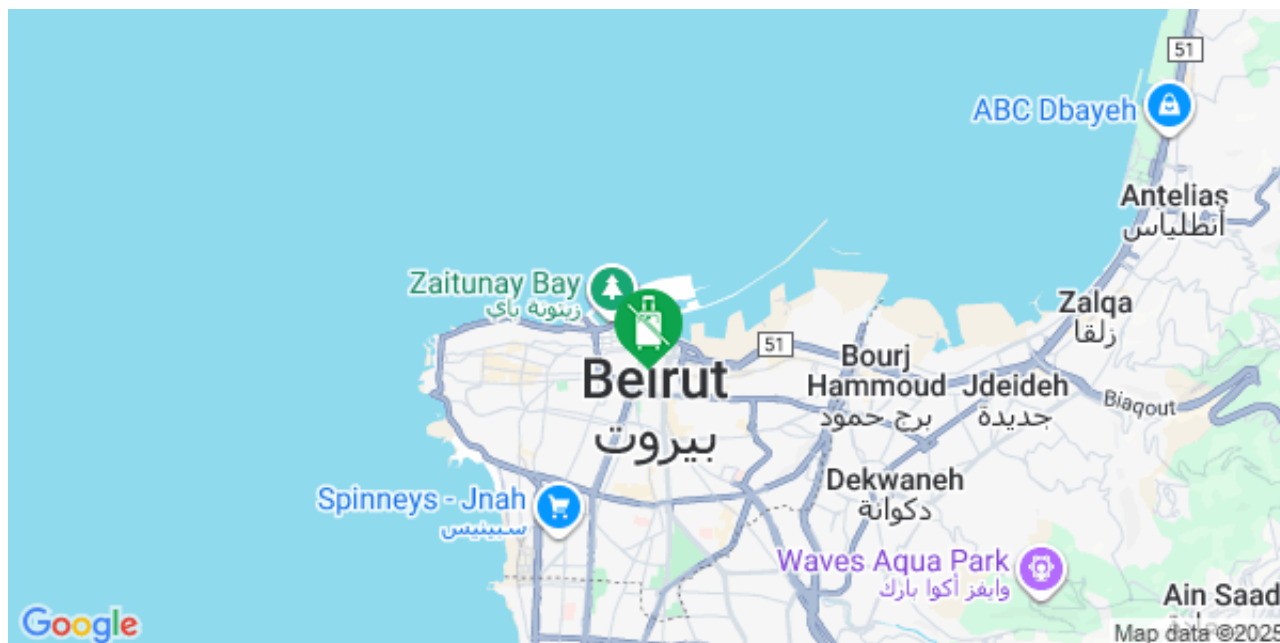


Travel



28

NOV

10:26 UTC

Lebanon Tactical: Pope Leo XIV slated to visit country on November 30-December 2; allot for disruptions

Current Situation:

- Pope Leo XIV is scheduled to visit Lebanon from November 30 to December 2 as part of his first overseas tour.

November 30

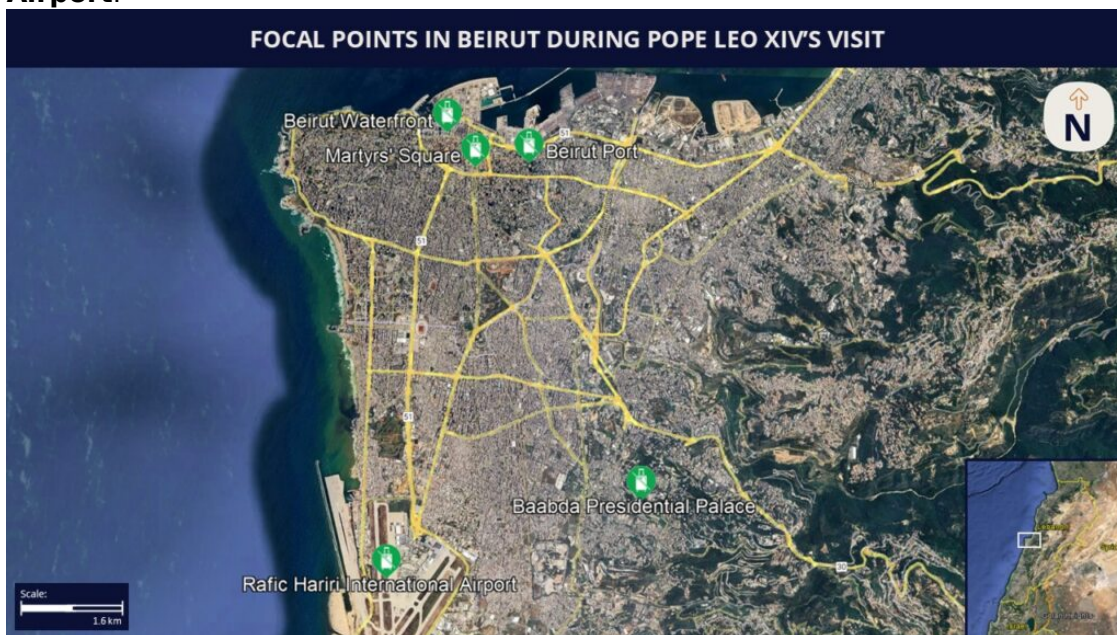
- Pope Leo XIV is scheduled to arrive at **Beirut's Rafic Hariri International Airport** at 15:45 (local time).
- He will meet with President Joseph Aoun at the **Baabda Presidential Palace** at 16:45, followed by separate meetings with Speaker of the National Assembly Nabih Berri at 17:15 and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam at 17:30.
- At 18:00, the Pope is expected to address a gathering of government authorities, civil society representatives, and members of the diplomatic corps.

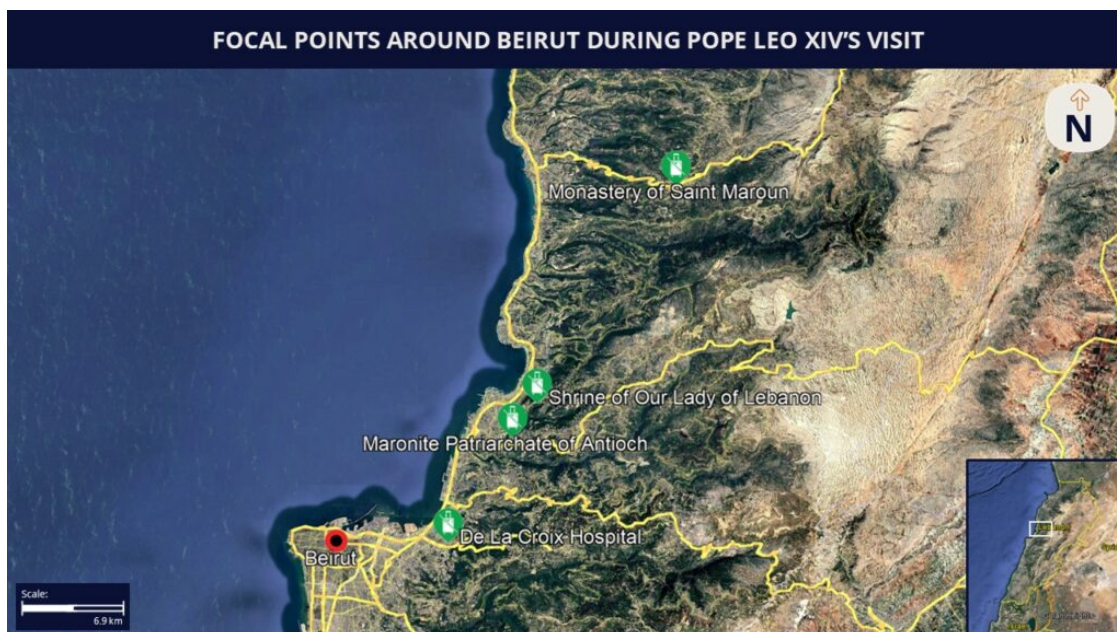
December 1

- The Pope will conduct several prayer gatherings at various locations in Beirut and its outskirts.
- He will visit the **Monastery of Saint Maroun in Aannaya** at 09:45.
- At 11:20, he will hold a meeting with bishops, priests, and pastoral workers at the **Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon in Harissa**, followed by a meeting with Catholic patriarchs at the Apostolic Nunciature in **Harissa** at 12:30
- At 16:00, the Pope will lead a public interreligious gathering in **Beirut's Martyrs' Square**.
- At 17:45, he will hold a meeting in the square in front of the **Maronite Patriarchate of Antioch in Bkerki**.

December 2

- The Pope will visit the **De La Croix hospital in Jal el Dib** at 08:30.
- He will hold a silent prayer at the site of the Beirut Port explosion at 9:30 and attend a Holy Mass at the **Beirut Waterfront** at 10:30.
- At 12:45, a farewell ceremony for the Pope will be held at **Beirut's Rafic Hariri International Airport**.





Source: [The Vatican](#)

Assessments & Forecast:

1. The Pope's visit to Lebanon follows his ongoing trip to Turkey and reflects the Vatican's intention to commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea while strengthening engagement between the Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church.
2. **FORECAST:** Significant travel disruptions are expected both in Beirut and its outskirts included in the Pope's itinerary. Authorities are likely to impose road closures along the Pope's convoy routes, possibly at a short notice. Temporary restrictions on pedestrian movement are also anticipated near key visit locations, alongside crowd-management measures. Enhanced security screening at Beirut's Rafic Hariri International Airport is possible and may result in delays to passenger services. A heightened security presence is expected throughout Beirut for the duration of the visit.
3. The Pope's visit also comes amid ongoing Israeli military operations targeting Hezbollah in Lebanon, including a recent strike on a senior Hezbollah figure in Beirut's Dahiyeh district on [November 23](#). This has contributed to an elevated risk of escalation between Israel and Hezbollah in the coming days, with the group under pressure to respond. **FORECAST:** Israel is likely to refrain from additional strikes in Beirut or other areas during the Pope's visit to avoid international condemnation. Given Hezbollah's currently degraded capabilities, any retaliatory action is also expected to remain limited, reducing the likelihood of a renewed hostilities confrontation in the immediate term coinciding with the visit.

Recommendations:

1. Those operating or residing in Lebanon on November 30-December 2 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance and allot for disruptions to travel due to Pope Leo XIV's scheduled visit.
2. Remain cognizant of authorities' updates regarding road closures and other security measures that may be announced at short notice.

