

# Lebanon

## Jabal Al Rihane



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**Declaration date:** 2007

**Surface area:** 18,430 ha

**Administrative division:** Ministry of Environment

### Human activities:

Generally, Jabal Al Rihane is a low populated (c.23476 individuals) biosphere reserve. In winter, this number drops down to about 12000 as the professional men and women, move to Beirut and its suburbs where jobs, better schools, and warmer weather are available.



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### Ecological characteristics:

The Jabal Al Rihane Biosphere Reserve (Latitude 33° 27' 01.17" N; Longitude 35° 33' 47.17"E) covers an area of 18430 ha. at an altitude ranging between 270 meters in the south, where



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the Litani River constitutes a natural boundary, and 1500 meters to the north, at Mzairaa south to the Jezzine and Niha villages; and extends along the ridge of the southern Mount Lebanon Chain overlooking both the Beqaa Valley (Rift Valley) to the east and the Mediterranean sea to the west. The Jabal Al Rihane Biosphere Reserve is a true mosaic of ecological systems broadly representing the "evergreen sclerophylic broussailles and forests" biogeographic region within a Mediterranean biome. A dominant feature of this biosphere reserve is the existence of many mountain peaks such as Jabal Safi, Jabal Sujud, Jabal Bir Kallab, and Jabal Bourqab that culminate at 1300, 1200, 1360 and 1300 meters respectively. This mountainous relief gives rise to a number of eco-zones. From a more aesthetic point of view, such a landscape, dominated by peaks and basins, offers wonderful limitless views. Stands of old oak trees (more than 500 years old) are recognized as outstanding scenic landscapes.

