



A tall, weathered wooden post stands on a rocky mountain peak. The post is the central focus, with a smaller branch leaning against it. The background shows a vast landscape of rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. The foreground is composed of large, light-colored rocks.

## A delightful experience

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Recently, having heard all about the vigorous conservation efforts being made to safeguard the Jabal Moussa area, I gladly accepted an invitation to participate in a group walk across the mountain. The result? A delightful experience that truly stimulated the senses.



Ziyad Baroud and Maxime Chaya (© APJM)

Those of us who made the trek were initially surprised by the richness and biodiversity of the region. However, negotiating it on foot and rubbing shoulders with the unspoiled vegetation only made us feel closer to the mountain and intent on preserving it - a mindset that was apparently shared by the migratory birds circling high overhead!

In a region, Kesrouan, where environmental concerns are still low on most people's list of priorities, it is truly astonishing how a group of passionate individuals initiated the Jabal Moussa conservation project. One cannot but admire their perseverance and dedication to preserve the mountain, its wildlife and the associated culture. Their hard-earned success in having it designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve is nothing short of remarkable.

Each and every one of us can contribute to preserving such precious havens, not to mention the environment in general. All it takes is respecting nature in front of our children, teaching the new generation to do the same and encouraging it to think and behave along conservational lines in order to set the ball rolling and yield positive results in the near future.

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Foam (© M. Chaya)



Drained foam (© M. Chaya)



Colchicum (© M. Chaya)



Lichen shellfish (© M. Chaya)



Peony fruit showing its stained seeds (© M. Chaya)



Peony fruit showing its stained seeds (© M. Chaya)



Butterfly (© M. Chaya)



Frog from the Rana speices (© M. Chaya)