LAU Lebanese American University

Louis Cardahi Foundation

THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE — Cultural route of the Council of Europe — Itinéraire culturel du Conseil de l'Europe

COUNCIL OF EUROPE — CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

MAP OF THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE

Certified "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" in 2003

The Phoenician Route refers to the connection between the major nautical routes used by the Phoenicians since the 12th century BC as essential routes for trade and cultural communication in the Mediterranean. Through these routes, the Phoenicians spread alphabet and numerals – and other great Mediterranean contributions to the civilization of a "nucleus" Mediterranean cultural community, producing a total trade of manufactured goods, people and ideas.

Council of Europe Values

The Phoenicians' Route aims to foster Mediterranean intercultural dialogue, sharing the values of the Council of Europe: promotion of the rule of law, human rights and democracy across European countries, including several places of conflict, the routes help to promote freedom of expression, equality, freedom of conscience and religion, and the protection of minorities. This network is a way to work together for the development of peace and mutual respect in the Mediterranean.

https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-route/the-phoenicians-route

CITIES OF THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE IN LEBANON

The Phoenicians' Route - Lebanon: Tripoli, Anfeh, Batroun, Byblos, Jounieh, Beirut, Sidon, Tyre & Baalbek.

Tripoli
Attractions in the area of Tripoli: Bcharri, Wadi Qadisha, Menjez and Arqa

Anfeh
Attraction in the area of Anfe: Amioun Convent and Lady of Nourath

Batroun
Attractions in the area of Batroun: The Mseilha Fort and Sirkar Jbeil castle

Byblos
Attractions in the area of Byblos: Adonis Valley, Jaitaa Mousna and Mekaaj Grotto

Jounieh
Attractions in the area of Jounieh: Harissa, Jeita Grottos, and Nahr Al-Kalb

Beirut
Attractions in the area of Beirut: Zeer al Qamar, Bellebdine, The Beit Mery Ruins, and Baroua

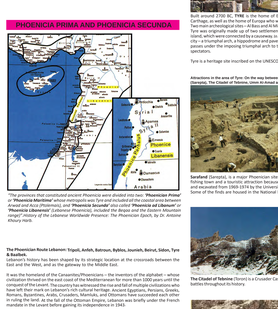
Sidon
Attractions in the area of Sidon: Echmoun, Magbloucheh, the Beaufort Castle and Chhim, Saraband is also reachable

Tyre
Attractions in the area of Tyre: Saraband, The Citadel of Tebnine, Umm al-Amad and Qana

Baalbek
Attractions in the area of Baalbek: Arqa; Niha, Kamid Al Lawz, Mount Hermon/Rashaya and Faraya

MAP OF THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE IN LEBANON

PHOENICIA PRIMA AND PHOENICIA SECUNDA



*The provinces that constituted ancient Phoenicia were divided into two: "**Phoenicia Prima**" or "**Phoenicia Maritime**" whose metropolis was Tyre and included all the coastal area between Arwad and Ptolemais (Acre). The second province was called "**Phoenicia Secunda**" or "**Phoenicia Libanesia**" (Lebanon Phoenicia), included the Bekaa and the Eastern Mountain range). History of the Lebanese Worldwide Presence: The Phoenician Epoch, by Dr. Antoine Khoury Harb.*

The Phoenician Route Lebanon: Tripoli, Anfeh, Batroun, Byblos, Jounieh, Beirut, Sidon, Tyre & Baalbek.

Lebanon's history has been shaped by its strategic location at the crossroads between the East and the West, and as the gateway to the Middle East.

It was the homeland of the Canaanites/Phoenicians – the inventors of the alphabet – whose civilization thrived on the east coast of the Mediterranean for more than 5000 years until the conquest of the Levant. The country has witnessed the rise and fall of multiple civilizations who left behind a rich legacy. Over the years, Lebanon's strategic location, Phoenicians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Crusaders, Mamluks, and Ottomans have succeeded each other in ruling the land. As the fall of the Ottoman Empire, Lebanon was briefly under the French mandate in the Levant before gaining its independence in 1943.

Lebanon's Phoenician cultural identity is reflected in its tangible and intangible heritage through archeological sites scattered along the coastline, in the mountain region and the Beqaa Valley.

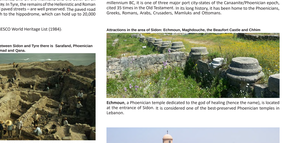
From their earliest days in Byblos, the Phoenicians developed a unique and legendary society around their sea trade and much-loved cedar, founding cities in Tripoli, Batroun, Beirut, Sidon, Tyre, and Baalbek. Phoenicians established a network of colonies across the Mediterranean. Mountains and down the eastern side into the Beqaa Valley, establishing the city of Baalbek and other sites in the Beqaa region.

TYRE

TYRE is the home of Elissa: the Phoenician princess who founded Carthage, as well as the queen of Europa who was abducted by Zeus disguised as a white bull. Two main archeological sites – Al-Bass and Al-Mina – are testimony to its historical significance. Tyre was originally made up of two settlements, one on the mainland and the other an island. Alexander the Great conquered Tyre after a seven-month siege and destroyed the island city – it triumphed with, a hippodrome and paved streets – are well preserved. The paved road passes under the imposing triumphal arch to the hippodrome, which can hold up to 20,000 spectators.

Tyre is a heritage site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).

Attractions in the area of Tyre: On the way between Sidon and Tyre there is: Saraband, Phoenician Cemetery, The Citadel of Tebnine, Umm Al-Amad and Qana.



Saraband (Sarafand), is a major Phoenician site located between Sidon and Tyre. It is now a fishing town and is known for its spectacular attraction because of its restaurants. The site was well studied and excavated from 1969-1974 by the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania. Some of the finds are housed in the National Museum of Beirut.

The Citadel of Tebnine (Toron) is a Crusader Castle built in 1105. The fortress witnessed many battles throughout its history.

Qana (Canaa), located at 13 km from Tyre. It is believed that this is the village where Jesus performed his first miracle, turning water into wine.

SIDON

SIDON, south of Beirut, is known for its multi-layered tell (Hadar). Founded in the fourth millennium BC, it is one of three major port city-states of the Canaanite/Phoenician epoch, cited 20 times in the Old Testament. In its long history, it has been home to the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Crusaders, Mamluks and Ottomans.

Attractions in the area of Sidon: Echmoun, Magbloucheh, the Beaufort Castle and Chhim.

Echmoun, a Phoenician temple dedicated to the god of healing (hence the name), is located at the entrance of Sidon. It is considered one of the best-preserved Phoenician temples in Lebanon.

Magbloucheh is known for Our Lady of the Guard Church containing a grotto, where it is believed the Virgin Mary stayed while Jesus visited the surrounding cities of the south.

Beaufort Castle is located 40 km from Sidon on an escarpment of almost 1000 meters above the valley. The castle was built as a defensive and strategic post for the Crusaders. Cryptanalyst Lt. Colonel Wolf Mendl, a British officer from Palestine, it was later restored during the French mandate following an earthquake.

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g500629-d4076392-Reviews-Beaufort_Castle-Arnoun_Nabatieh_Governorate.html

Chhim has several landmarks around it such as the Temple of Echmoun, an ancient place of worship dedicated to Echmoun, the Phoenician god of healing. It is located near the Awali river. The site was occupied from the 7th century BCE to the 8th century CE, suggesting an integrated relationship with the nearby city of Sidon.

BEIRUT

BEIRUT, the capital and the largest city of Lebanon, has hosted successive historic periods of major powers and civilizations in the Mediterranean and West Asia. It has layers of Phoenician, Roman, Byzantine, Mamluk, Ottoman and French mandate periods. Today's archaeological sites include a Phoenician port, several Roman remains of a hippodrome, baths and temples.

Attractions in the area of Beirut: Zeer Al Qamar and Bellebdine, The Beit Mery Ruins and Baroua.

Zeer El Qamar and Bellebdine are known for the Mamluk-inspired Fakhreddine Mosque, the 'House' (Tomb) Palace, the Palace of Fakhreddine II Ma'ani, its Synagogue, Sayded el Talle Church and the Emir Bashir Palace. Amaiden and Jeyyeh are known for their beautiful sandy beach resorts.

The Beit Mery Ruins is a site rich with ancient Roman and Byzantine remains, as well as the Church of Our Lady of Lebanon, the Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, and the Chapel of Saint Charbel. Roman temples were erected in this same general area in what is now known as Deir El-Qala'a.

Baroua is a village in the Chouf District of Lebanon. Historically, the village is known for being the birthplace of the Druze religious leader Al-Hakim Bi-Amr Allah. Baroua is home to the mountain lake of Barouk that stands at 1364 m above sea level. The mountain also has the largest natural reserve in Lebanon, the Al-Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve, and boasts the oldest and most elegant cedar forest in Lebanon, the Cedrus Libani.

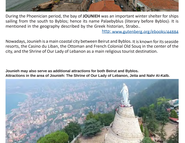
JOUNIEH

During the Phoenician period, the bay of **JOUNIEH** was an important winter shelter for ships sailing from the south to Byblos; hence its name Poetapitos (literary before Byblos). It is mentioned in the geography described by the Greek historian, Strabo.

http://www.jounieh.org/jounieh-a4464

Nowadays, Jounieh is a main coastal city between Beirut and Byblos. It is known for its seaside resorts, the Casino du Liban, the Phoenicians' Port, the Grotto of Jeita, the Harissa Church and City, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon as a main religious tourist destination.

Jounieh may also serve as additional attractions for both Beirut and Byblos.
Attractions in the area of Jounieh: The Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, Jeita and Nahr Al-Kalb.



Our Lady of Lebanon is a Christian shrine located at the top of Harissa Hill, overlooking the Jounieh Bay. It is a place of worship for the Christians of Lebanon and a popular tourist destination. The statue of the Virgin Mary was blessed by Pope John XXIII in Vatican City and was placed on the top of the Harissa Hill in 1908. The statue was then replaced by a larger one in 1950 and was blessed by Pope Pius XII. The statue was then replaced by a larger one in 1950 and was blessed by Pope Pius XII. The statue was then replaced by a larger one in 1950 and was blessed by Pope Pius XII.

Jeita located about 20 Km north of Beirut there are the Jeita Grotto, a place that offers a spectacular view of the Jeita Valley. The Jeita Grotto is a massive cave in Lebanon, (9 kilometers). A major tourist destination in Lebanon, Jeita Grotto was a finalist in the New 7 wonders of Nature competition for the year of 2011.

Nahr Al-Kalb is the ancient Lycus River. Past generals and conquerors have traditionally left monuments at the mouth of the river, known as the commemorative stelae of Nahr el-Kalb. In 2005, the stelae were listed in the UNESCO Memory of the World initiative.

BYBLOS

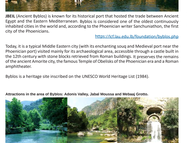
JBEIL (Ancient Byblos) is known for its historical port that hosted the trade between Ancient Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean. Byblos is considered one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world and, according to the Phoenician writer Sanchuniathon, the first city of the Phoenicians.

https://jbeil.com/en/#/Foundation/byblos.php

Today, it is a typical Middle Eastern city (with its enchanting souq and Medieval port near the Phoenician port) which mainly for its archaeological area, accessible through a castle built in the 12th century with stone blocks retrieved from Roman buildings. It preserves the remains of the Neolithic period, the famous Temple of Obelisks, the Phoenician era and a Roman amphitheater.

Byblos is a heritage site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).

Attractions in the area of Byblos: Adonis Valley, Jaitaa Mousna and Mekaaj Grotto.



Adonis Valley is south of Byblos and called Mouse An-Dibiyeen bridge and a Roman aqueduct (you see the Adonis River). According to legend, this is where the Phoenician/Greek god Adonis was killed by a wild boar while hunting.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon (Freemasons of Lebanon, both Christian and Muslim, from all over the world). This Site (Jaitaa) in 1954 was also the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception. During these celebrations, Pope Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli) proclaimed Our Lady of Lebanon as the patron saint (become Pope John XXIII) to Lebanon. Pope John Paul II visited Our Lady of Lebanon in 1997.

Jaitaa Mousna, where recent excavations were discovered, is one of the very few sites in Lebanon that exist in mountainous areas (Homsiyeh heritage) and was inhabited during the Canaanite/Phoenician, Bronze Age, Medieval and Ottoman periods. The area is managed by Jaitaa Mousna—UNESCO Biosphere Nature Reserve.

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/arab-states/lebanon/jaitaa-mousna/

Mekaaj Grotto is make up of ponds and lakes, and is believed to be 30 to 40 million years old. While the accessible area in the grotto is 220 meters long, its total length is estimated at 4500 meters.

BATROUN

BATROUN, derived from the Greek Botrys, was founded by the Phoenicians on the southern side of the promontory called Theoprosopon (Ras ash Chaq'ch in Antiquity, and Cape Ghazzoun) during the Byzantine Empire. The city was under Roman rule to Phoenice Prima province and later, after the region was Christianized, became a suffragan of the Patriarchate of Antioch.

Attractions in the area of Batroun: The Mseilha Fort and Sirkar Jbeil Castle.

The Mseilha Fort is a fortification situated 5.5 km north of the city of Batroun. The current fort was built by Emir Fakhreddine II in the 17th century to guard the route from Tripoli to Beirut and to protect the city from Mamluk invasions from the north. The fort was also constructed with small sandstone blocks quarried from the nearby coast and built into the edge of the rock.

Sirkar Jbeil is a small agglomeration situated in the region of Batroun in North Lebanon at an altitude of 500m. between Rashana and Douma. The name is of Phoenician origin and means "Sanctuary of Jbeil" (Jbeil being the Phoenician god Adonis). Sirkar Jbeil is surrounded by a wall which was used by the Romans, who left inscriptions on the northern wall. That Crusaders, for their part, built basements around its two towers and a church on the side facing north. Vaults and deep underground galleries were also dug in the living rock.

ANFEH

ANFEH is a town in the Koura district of the North Governorate of Lebanon. It is located 13.5 km north of Batroun and 15 km south of Tripoli. It is among the coastal Phoenician cites and towns that still exist today in Lebanon.

Prior to the recent excavations, Anfeh was thought to have been founded around 1100 BC, but the pottery, which dates to 3200 BC, provides compelling evidence that the town was once a much older and significant city in antiquity.

The remains of these civilizations include Phoenician and Roman walls, wine presses, mosaics, ancient worship, caves, water tanks, and tombs. A wide area of Anfeh and its surroundings are covered with salines, and the production of sea salt, "white gold," is a staple of the local economy.

https://www.the961.com/anfeh-lebanon-photos/

Attraction in the area of Anfeh : Amioun Convent and Lady of Nourath

Amioun is a very old settlement whose history can be traced back to the Paleolithic period. This is suggested by the number of small caves built in the old City's rocks. The ancient Semitic peoples are thought to have arrived in the region around 4000 BC. Saint John "Al-Sharer" is a church perched on the rocky cliff over a number of vaults in the southeastern facade of the city.

Lady of Nourath, Seydet el Nourath in Arabic, is a Maron shrine in Hamat, Lebanon. Nourath is a derivative of the Arabic word, Nour, meaning light. Thus, in English, the Marian shrine can be called the Lady of Light.

TRIPOLI

TRIPOLI, founded by the Phoenicians around 800 BC is today the second largest city and main port in Lebanon. Like Beirut, the city witnessed the presence of various Mediterranean cultures and empires including the Canaanite/Phoenicians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Umayyads, Abbasid, Crusaders, Ayyubid, Mamluks, Ottoman and French.

Facing the shores of the city there are the Palm Islands, which known for its green turtles, and which was declared a Protected Nature Reserve by the UNESCO in 1992.

Attractions in the area of Tripoli: Bscharri, Wadi Qadisha, Menjez and Arqa.

Bscharri is a town to the east of Tripoli, and it is in the area where the infamous cedar Forest of Lebanon are located. These forests known from the Bible to the Ottoman period as a major source for woods to construct large audience halls in antiquities, and which were essential to forge good relations between Ancient Egypt and the city of Byblos.

Wadi Qadisha is a valley known for being a sacred destination where one can visit several monasteries carved into the sides of the valley walls.

Wadi Qadisha (the Holy Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars heritage sites are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1998).

Menjez has an exceptional archaeological heritage site in Lebanon and includes a Roman basalt temple called Maqam El Kaldu or Beit Jaddoua, the only basalt in Lebanon.

Arqa (Phoenician: Irqata; 'Arqa' in the Bible) is a village near Minyara in Akkar Governorate, Lebanon. Arqa is known for being the birthplace of Alexander Severus and for its Christian and Catholic Vicar see (Latin and Maronite). The Roman Emperor Alexander Severus was born there. It is significant for the Tell Arqa, an archaeological site that goes back to Neolithic times, and during the Crusaders there was a strategically significant castle.

BAALBEK

Founded by the Phoenicians, **BAALBEK** was later conquered by the Macedonians who called it Heliopolis (means the City of the Sun) for association between the Sun god and the Phoenician divinity Baal. It later became a Roman colony under Augustus, preserving the new name. Today, Baalbek is known for its Roman ruins, including the Temple of Jupiter, the largest of the circular Temple of Venus, a fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury, is located on the hill of Sheikh Abdallah. In July and August, the International Baalbek Festival hosts leading international, regional and local performers and musicians.

Baalbek is a heritage site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).

Attractions in the area of Baalbek: Arqa; Niha, Kamid Al Lawz and Mount Hermon/Rashaya.

Niha Roman Temples are two temples dedicated to the Canaanite goddess of fertility Atargatis and her son Hadad. The temples are located in the Bekaa Valley, approximately 15 km from Zahle. It also known for Hosn Niha, a structure of many layers the latest of which is a small Byzantine Basilica.

Kamid Al Lawz is one of the most important sites in Lebanon where archaeologists found and recorded many spectacular buildings, which are significant to the history of the region. Excavations have revealed a large number of tombs and burials, and the discovery of texts and evidence suggests that it became a seat of state in the Bronze Age until the Byzantine era. A German team from the University of Freiburg has conducted more recent excavations and studies.

Mount Hermon has the largest number of temples ever to be found in any region in the world. Among the temples located in the western slope of the mountain, there is one in a place called Jebel Ansar, Ain Dara, Bafa, Bafa Wadi, Ain Al Hour, Ain Al Hour Wadi, Ain Al Hour Wadi Al Hajar, Ain Al Hour Wadi Al Hajar Al Sharqi, Ain Dara, Bafa Wadi, Ain Al Hour Wadi Al Hajar Al Sharqi. Remains of temples were also found in Bhaa, Tell Ashtaroun, Marqaya, Rimseh, Mkhalbeh, Ain Al Hour, Ain Qana, Al-Rare, and others, in addition to those found on the eastern slope overlooking the Syrian territories.

Arqa was founded by Caliph Walid Ibn 'Abd al-Malek around 705 AD. The conquests both it and turned it into an important commercial center as it linked Damascus, Homs, Baalbek and Tripoli. Nowadays, the city is known for its good example of early Islamic architecture and its influence by Roman-Byzantine architecture.

Arqar is a heritage site included on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).

Faraya, there are many caves on a hill in the north-east of the village in the Sino of Byzantines, they were transformed into hermitages for the anchorites, a whole region known as the planet. The caves of the hermits.