







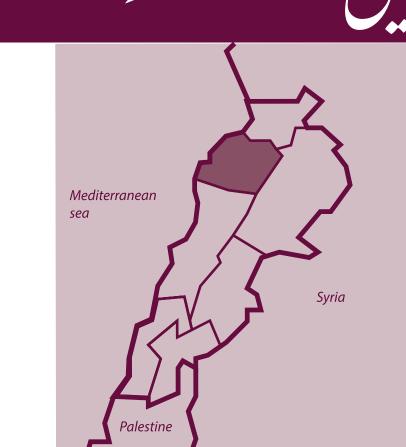


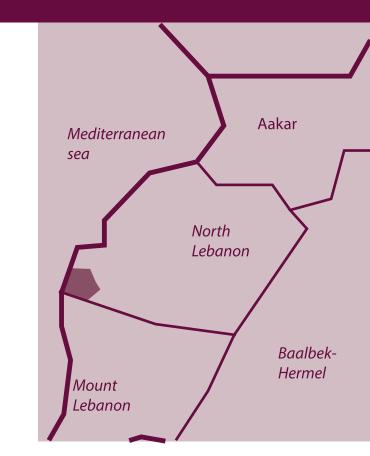




### THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE

**INTRODUCTION** Batroun, derived from the Greek "Botrys", was founded by the Phoenicians on the southern side of the promontory called Theoprosopon "Râs Ach Chaq'a" in Antiquity, and Cape Lithoprosopon during the Byzantine Empire. The city was under Roman rule to "Phoenice Prima" province and later, after the region was Christianized, it became a suffrage of the Patriarchate of Antioch.





### HISTORICAL MAPPING

**The Phoenician Wall** 



The 225 meters long solid sandstone Phoenician sea wall is situated just south of the old port. Originally a sand dune. Men started hewing it to take hard sand rocks for building temples, houses and other structures, which explains its present shape. The Phoenicians used this wall as protection against sea storms and invaders, while during Roman times, it functioned again as a quarry.



This historic shipyard is where the Phoenician Princess used to bathe. It is directly facing the Phoenician wall.

**Pond of the King's Daughter** 

Built on the ruins of a Byzantine Church in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the beautiful white-washed sandstone chapel of the Lady of the Sea is located on the seashore near the Phoenician Wall.

**Miraculous Lady of the Sea Church** 



Located north of the harbor and recognized by its square towers, the stunning St. Stephen's Cathedral was completed in the early 1900's by the Italian architect Giusape Maggiore.

Just next to the St. Stephen's Cathedral is the beautiful domed 19<sup>th</sup> century (1867) Orthodox Church of St. George.

St. Estephan Church





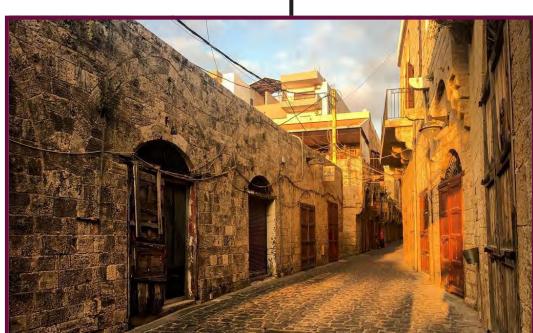
The 9<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Phoenician citadel built by Ittobaal, king of Tyre, (approx. 887-856 B.C.). As a fortification to impede the advance of the Assyrian armies. It is the oldest surviving vestige of a building

in the town. **Phoenician Castle** 



Roman remains have been recently excavated from the San Stephano land, only to uncover several sarcophagi and vestiges from the Roman Period.

**Roman Cemetery** 



Situated in the northern part of the old own, the restored sandstone 19th century souks are still in use. Just next to the St. Stephan's Cathedral is the domed 19<sup>th</sup> century (1867) Orthodox Church of St. George.

Old Sougs



Well of the Judge or Bir Al-Kadi is a form of infrastructure created by the citizens of Batroun in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

This theater was a sign of Roman economic wealth and power during the periods of Roman reign. It was the main pub-

lic gathering space of the area, only to become a backyard theater for a photography studio currently.

Well of the Judge



Ottoman Period 1516 - 1917 A.D.

# Lebanese State 1943 - Present

### MSEILHA FORT - BATROUN PORT (BEFORE AND AFTER)



Located on a rocky hill next to the coastal highway, 4 Km north of Batroun, this early 17th century castle was reputedly built by Fakhr El-Dine Maan II and served as a look-out post for the Beirut-Tripoli seaside road.

The fort is built on a long, narrow limestone rock near the Nahr El-Jawz River. Its walls are constructed with small sandstone blocks quarried from the nearby coast and built onto the edge of the limestone rock. The thickness of the walls ranges from 1.50 -2 meters. The larger limestone blocks are the only remains of an earlier structure probably built for the same defensive reason.

Mseilha Caste (Qalaat Mseilha) The fort's architectural design consists of two homogenous sections built in two separate phases. The fort is approached through a narrow path and small stairway cut into the northern side of the bedrock. A small platform precedes the low arched main gate, secured by two loopholes and a small opening in the ceiling above the entrance.

The step stone stairs take you to the entrance of the castle, with views of the coast and the Nahr Al-Jawz running be-

neath the ancient bridge. From the highway, the castle is signposted and easily reached by car or on foot.



Old Port Area - 1940's

AGRICULTURAL AREA MORPHOLOGY

**Batroun Aerial View Ca. 1920's** 



Old Batroun

**Central Batroun** 

**New Batroun** 

**Current Green** 

Lost Green

**Current Port Area - Today** 

Previously, being an economic hub where trade was happening across different cultures, the port area in Batroun is now shifting towards a more touristic aspect to cater for the public's needs and to set Batroun as an anchor point along the coastal line. It may have lost the sponge and mulberry industries, but it is clear water (one of the clearest in Lebanon) keeps Batroun a touristic landmark which attracts people from all over the nation.

## **CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS**

**Roman Theater** 

9<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. - Tyre Recolonizes Batroun Phoenician Citadel rebuilt by Ittobaal King of Tyre 887-856

200 B.C. - War of Alexander the Great

63 B.C. - Coastal Road Coastal Road is built.

Crusaders brang down Batroun and made it part of Tripoli.

1861- Silk and Sponge Industry

Economic boom due to rising silk industry.

1110 A.D. - Crusader Influence

1970's - 1980's - Coastal Highway

Construction of the coastal highway from Beirut to Tripoli facilitating Batroun's accessibility.

**Today** 

• Rise of tourism in the area accompanied with a properly preserved environment. New projects to accommodate this expansion.

Mid Second Millennium - First Records of Ba-

troun •The name of Batroun first appeared in the letters of Tal El-Am-

arna dating from the first half of the 1500's B.C. Pottery were left behind.

7<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. - Assyrian Army Conquers Batroun

Citadel fails at protecting town.

64 B.C. - Arab Tribal Influence

anon including Batroun, thus transforming it into a base for their raids against coastal cities.

Arab tribes capture Beqaa and proceed to other areas in Leb-

551 A.D. - Earthquake Violent earthquake strikes Batroun clearing it from historical records up until 12<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

etymology of Botrys; its new Greco-Roman name.

Batroun used vinery symbols on its coinage to accredit the

17<sup>th</sup> Century - Mseilha Fort Mseilha Fort built in city center with some of its parts remaining today.

1890's - Rail Transport

Rail transport created in Lebanon linking south to north along the coastal line.

1990 - 1975 - Lebanese Civil War

Devastating civil war which resulted in the destruction of many parts of Beirut and the South, however leaving Batroun untouched.

## **EVALUATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND HISTORICAL BUILDINGS**

dential apartments and offices. Both the mulberry and sponge business were lost.

• Batroun is indeed rich with historical landmarks. The responsible authorities and the municipality have been strict in preserving the town's heritage, although Batroun is not listed by the UN Culture Agency. However, some structures are inevitably decaying.

After being a neglected state for most of its lifetime, Batroun knew great success in the Mutessarrifat period where

mulberry tree production grew in it which opened the door for a great success in the silkworm industry. Batroun was

also known for its lemonade and very fine sponge. As a result, most of Batroun was green. However, due to the civil war

which allowed illegal construction and population increase, these green spaces are being torn down to become resi-

• The Phoenician Wall: originally a sand dune, is slowly disintegrating because of the pressure of the waves. It remains an interesting gathering area which has a beautiful access to the sea.

• St. Estephan Church: is always renovated and taken care of as it is a popular touristic attraction.

• The Ancient Roman Theater: currently falls in the backyard of a photography studio. Therefore, it is a more private site which is not directly exposed to the public.

• The Souk: Since the 1990's, the main street started regaining its original touristic theme. Therefore, houses and shops have been renovated and turned into local restaurants, pubs, and shops.

• Makaad Al-Mir: remains a touristic attraction due to its interesting location on water and that it remains untouched.



