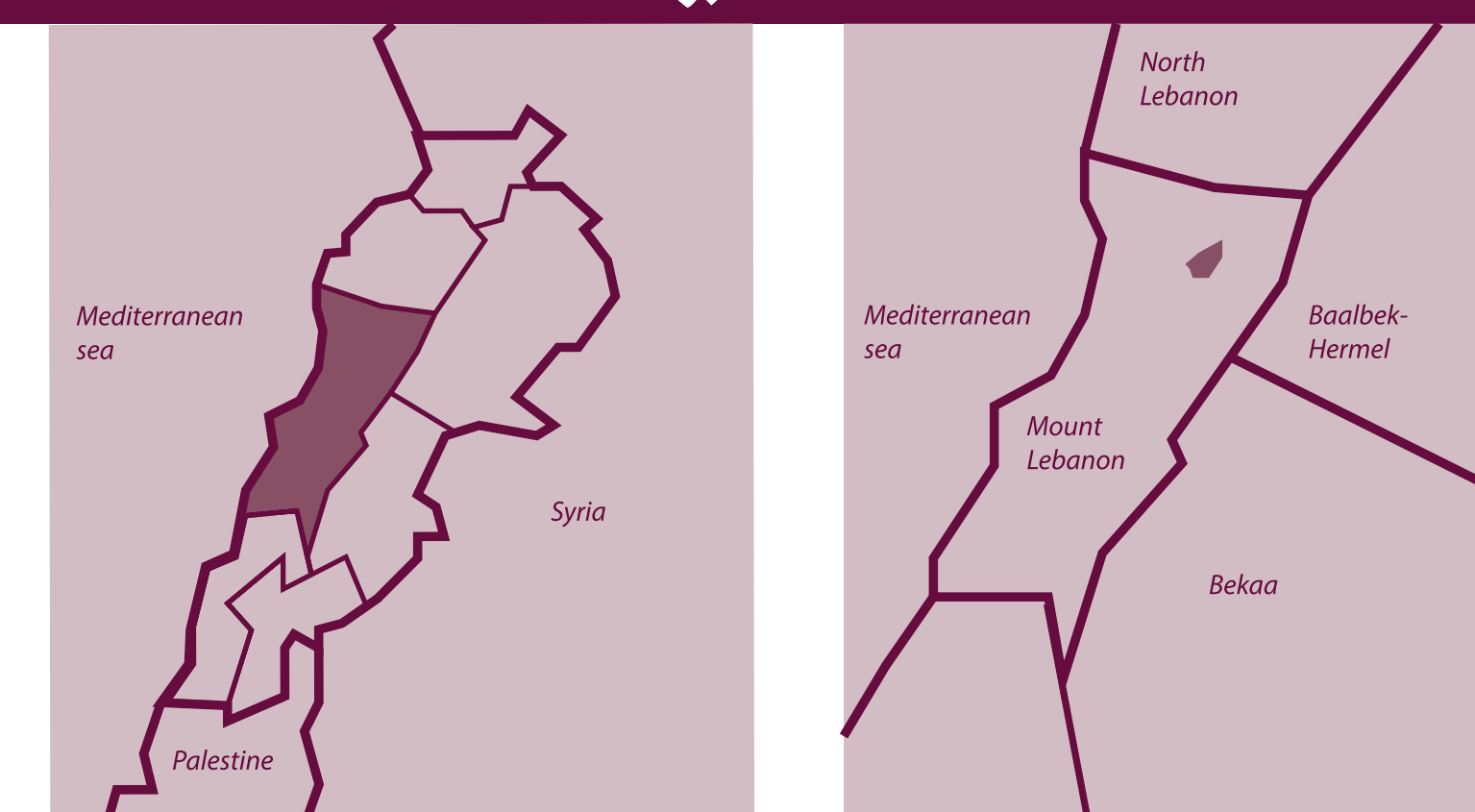


JABAL MOUSSA & ADONIS VALLEY

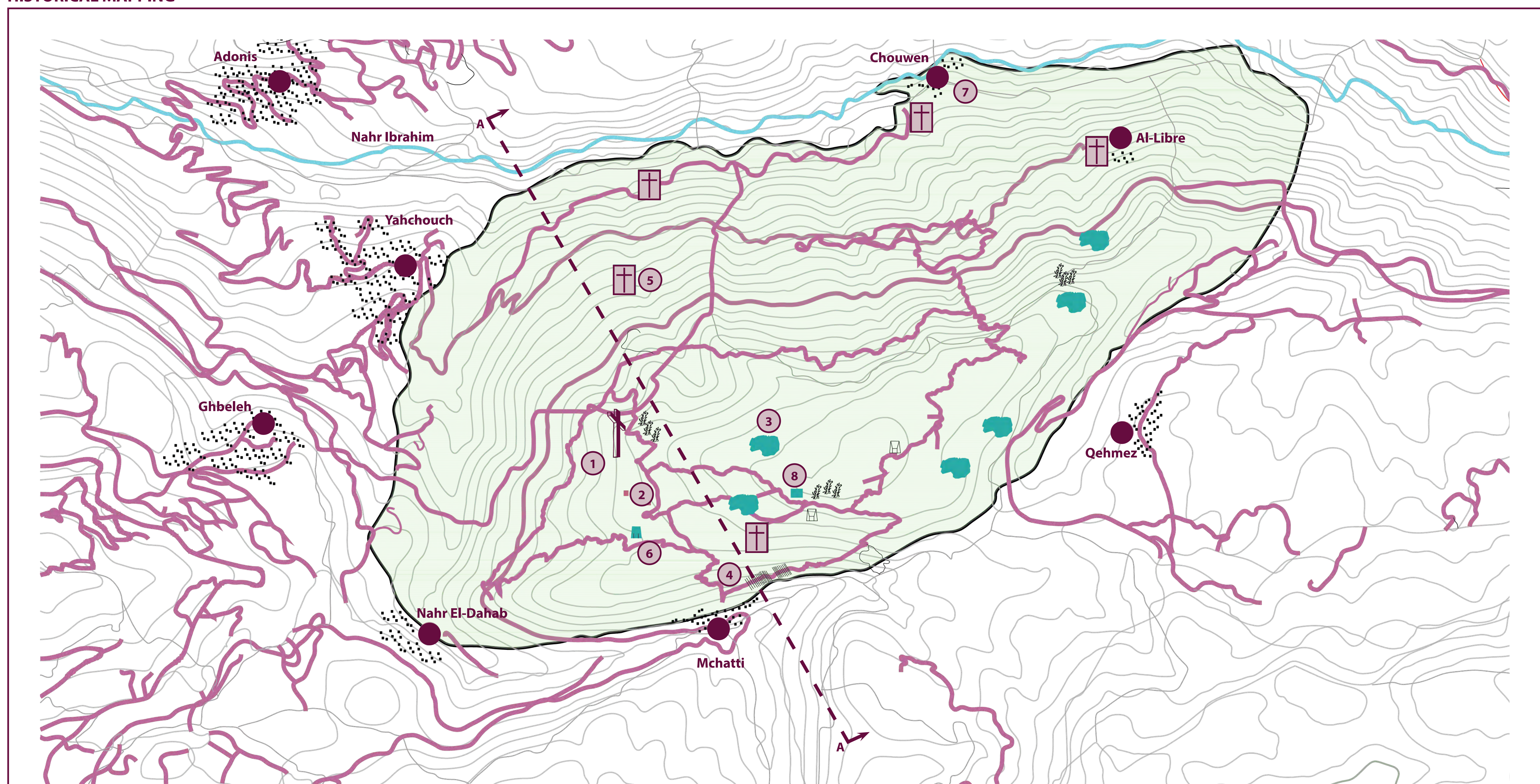
THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE

جبل موسى وادي ادونيس مسار الفينيقيين

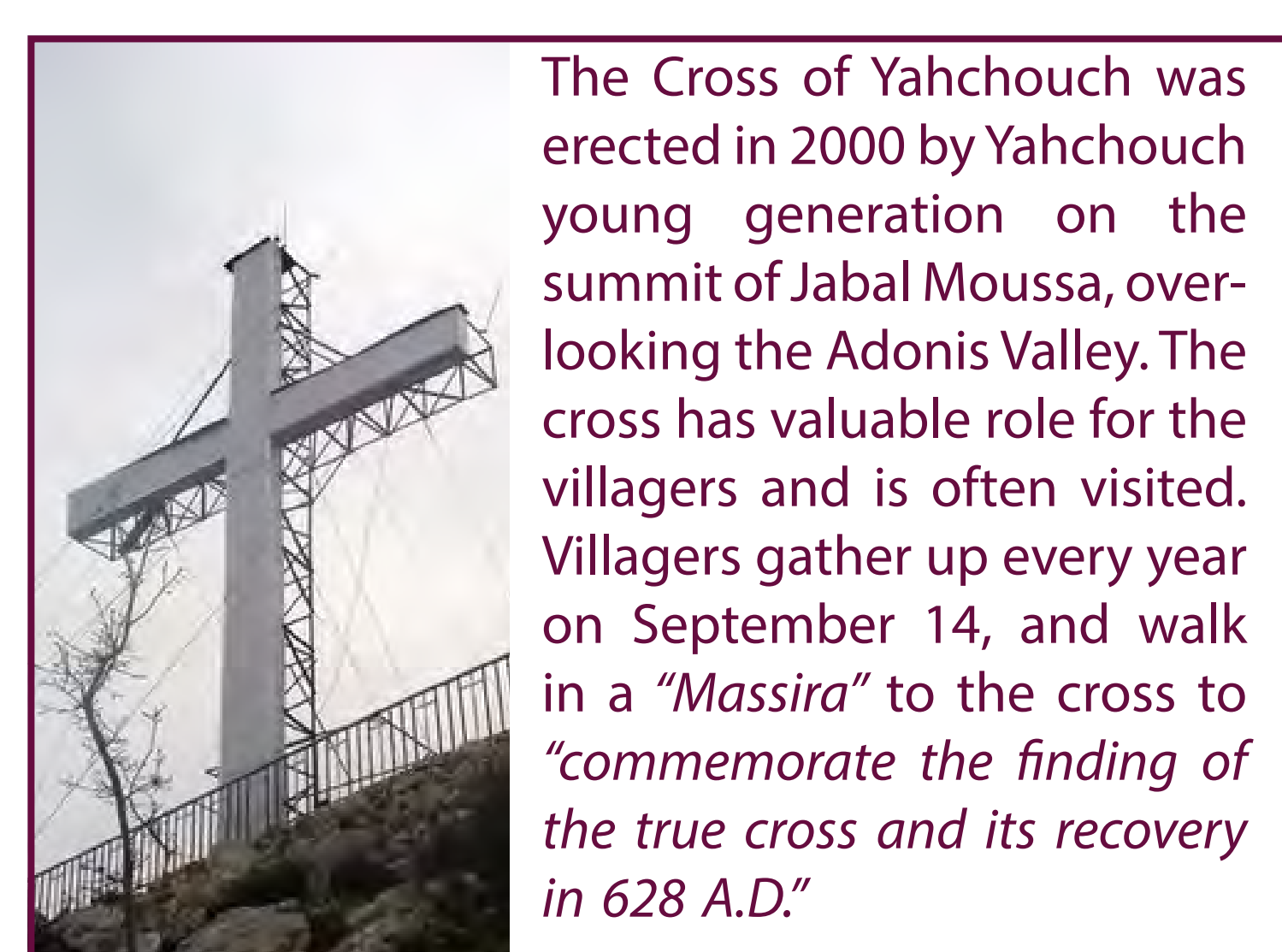
INTRODUCTION
 Jabal Moussa and Adonis Valley are two adjacent sites that fall within the boundaries of Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve. These two sites share a common history and represent concrete illustrations of a chain of events that has brought together humans and nature since the Phoenician times.



HISTORICAL MAPPING



Legend					
■ Phoenician Civilization (Iron Age) 1200 – 333 B.C.	■ Ottoman Period 1516 – 1917 A.D.	■ Greek - Roman Period 333 B.C. – 300 A.D.	— Roads	— Topography	— Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve Limit



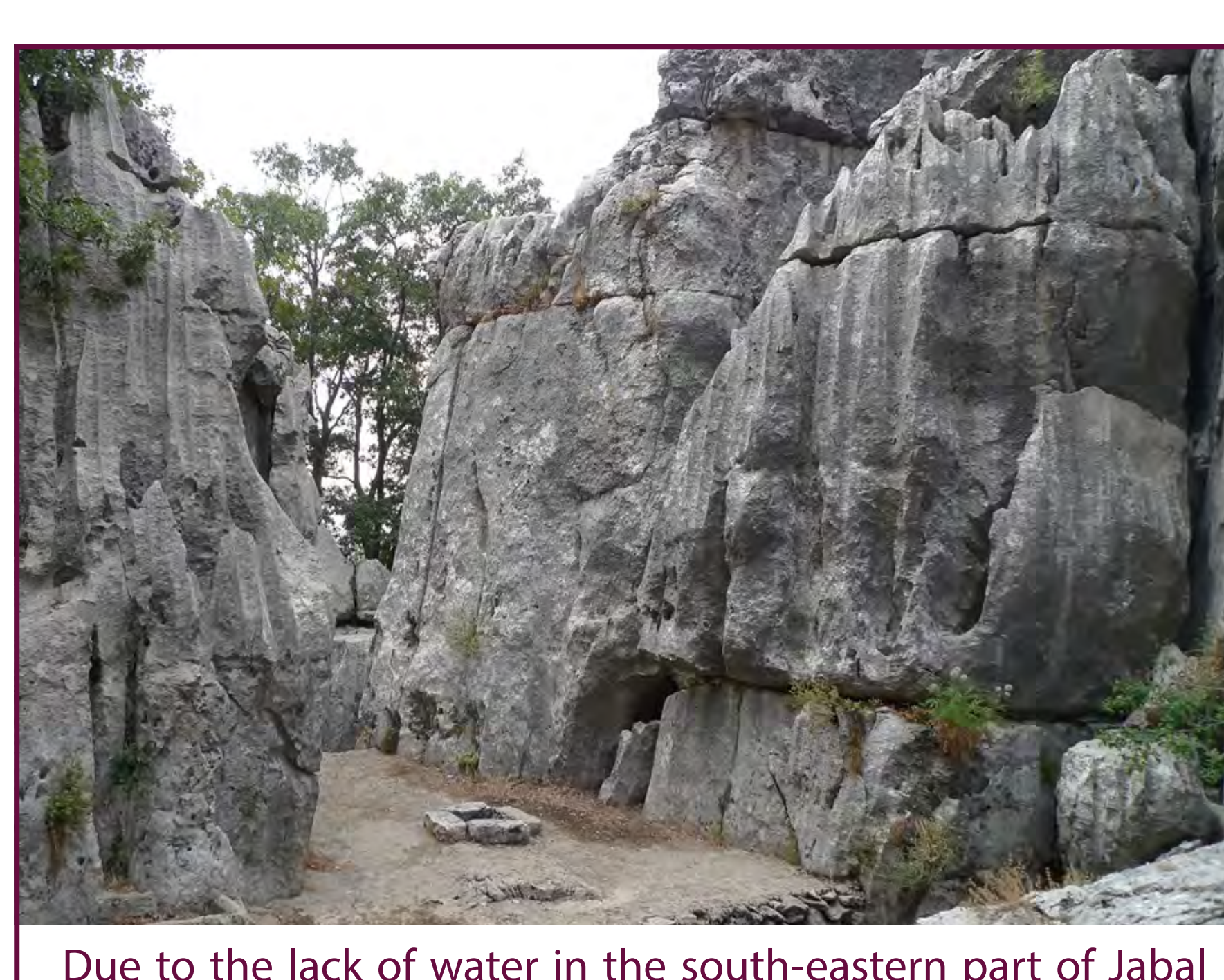
1 The Cross Site
 The Cross of Yahchouch was erected in 2000 by Yahchouch young generation on the summit of Jabal Moussa, overlooking the Adonis Valley. The cross has valuable role for the villagers and is often visited. Villagers gather up every year on September 14, and walk in a "Massira" to the cross to "commemorate the finding of the true cross and its recovery in 628 A.D."



2 Old Houses
 Three Lebanese houses were built more than 300 years ago. Around them, terraces cultivated with white mulberry trees. While water at the summit was scarce, the water for farming was provided by an ancestral vaulted cistern built with stones. The oldest of the three houses is typical of the vernacular construction type.



5 Mar Geryes Monastery
 The Mar Geryes monastery was put together by a monk of the Zouain family in the 14th century. The church was built on the remains of Roman ruins. The present monastery has been reconstructed by the Zouain family in the early 20th century and until the mid-fifties it was inhabited by a priest.



6 The Well
 Due to the lack of water in the south-eastern part of Jabal Moussa, people used to collect rainwater in wells.



3 Hadrian's Inscriptions
 The Hadrian's inscriptions are a series of stone inscriptions engraved under the order of the Roman Emperor Hadrian (117 - 138 A.D.). The aim of the inscriptions was to protect 4 types of trees (Cedar, Juniper, Fir and Oak). They are considered one of the first instances of nature conservation, even though he wanted them for the construction for Roman vessels.
 The text on the inscriptions can be either the entire following message or simply one part of it: "IMP HAD AUG DFS - AGIV CP". This is read such as: "IMPeratoris HADriani AUGusti DeFinitio Siluarum Arborum Genera Quatuor Cetera Priuata", which means: "From the Emperor Hadrian Augustus, delimitation of the forest, four types of trees (are reserved only for him) the others are private use."



4 The Roman Stairs
 Romans were known for their skills in building roads, for connection between cities and travel from one place to another in an easier way.
 They created a network connecting Maameltein up to Afqa between 64 B.C. and 249 A.D., linking the coast with the hinterland.
 The roads were used for several purposes, such as military and economic. Romans settled most probably on the ruins of the Phoenician civilization. The Roman stairs found on the Roman heritage trail in the Jabal Moussa Biosphere are the most conserved part of this thousands years old way.

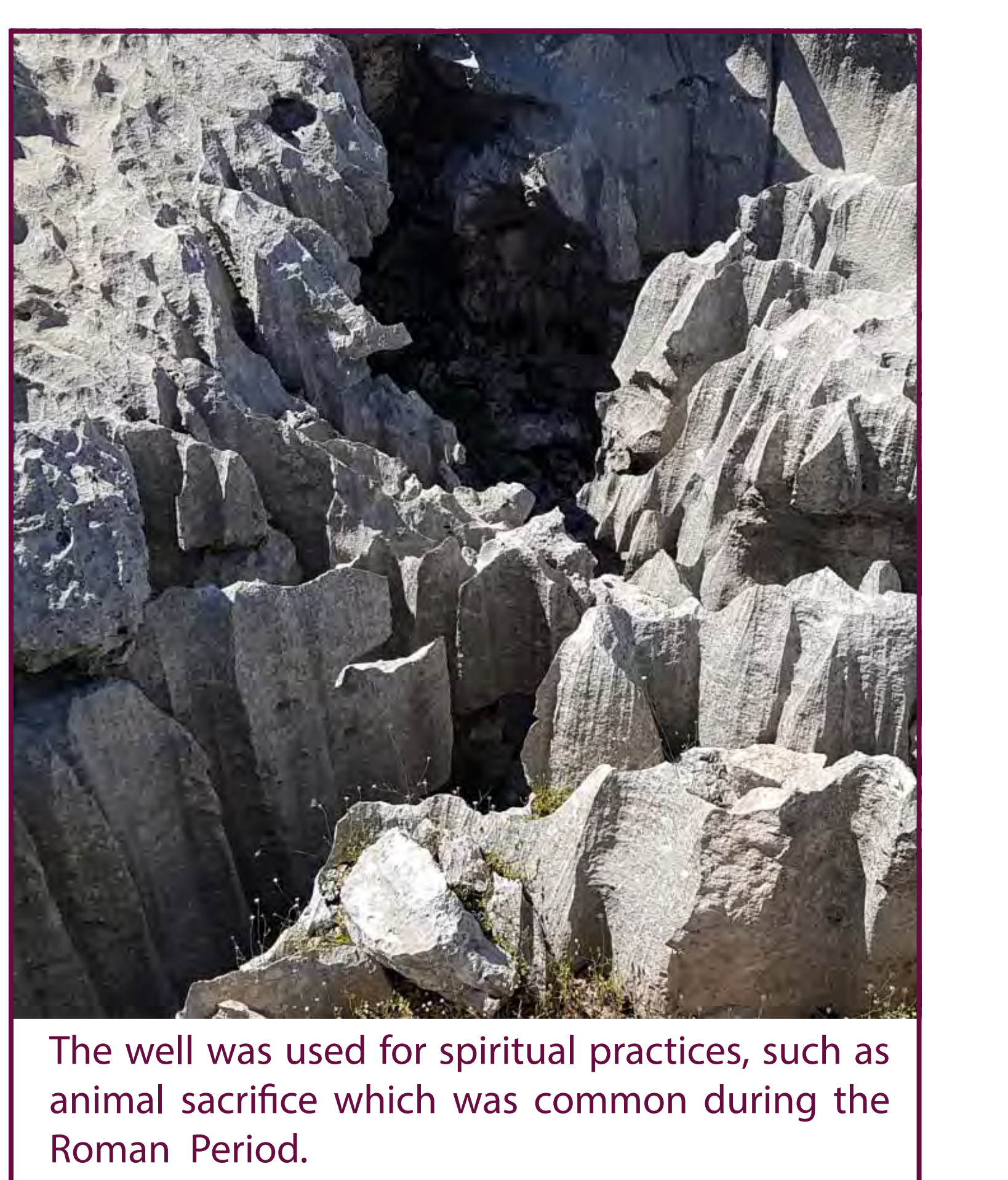


9 Afqa

Adonis was the outcome of the love affair between the King Cinyras of Cyprus and his beautiful daughter Myrrha. Following the tale, after the seduction, Myrrha was turned into a tree bearing the name Myrrha and the child emerged as Adonis breaking out of the tree. Astarte, also known as Aphrodite in Greek mythology; the goddess of love and fertility, found Adonis and nurtured him until he grew into a handsome young man, and finally she fell in love with him. Ares was jealous of Aphrodite's affection for Adonis and sent a wild boar, that killed Adonis at the foot of the Afqa Spring. Adonis's blood turned the water of the river red, resulting in the phenomena of the annual red coloring of the river. The Gods felt pity for Aphrodite and allowed Adonis to raise from the death for a few. The blooming of the red anemones represents his rebirth, which allegedly spring from the spilled blood of Adonis. Therefore, the Valley is named after the youth Adonis and the Phoenician myth of Adonis was later adapted by the Greek mythology.

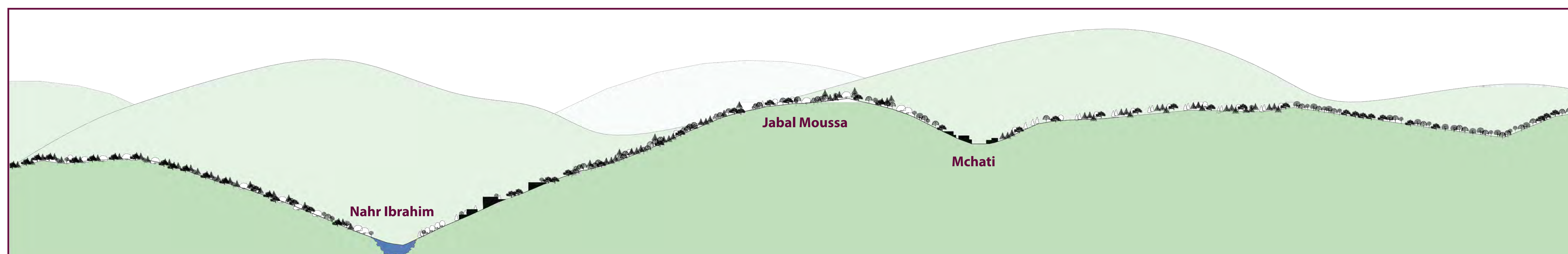
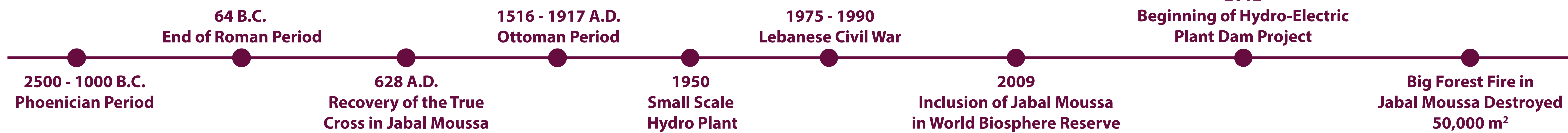


7 Chouwen
 The Chouwen lake is the result of the widening of the Ibrahim river and is located north to the Jabal Moussa Biosphere. "Jannet Chouwen", which means "Paradise of Chouwen" in Arabic is a popular camping site, in addition to a hiking and swimming destination.



8 Sacrificial Well
 The well was used for spiritual practices, such as animal sacrifice which was common during the Roman Period.

CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS



EVALUATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

- Although, the Bio-reserve's aim is to provide visitors with enough knowledge and some necessary measures have been neglected.
- More provisions must be taken for safety and cleanliness.
- Some trails need improvement since they are still dangerous lacking safety nets.
- Difficult trails are missing rails for safety measurements and are misleading because of the lack of proper signs for orientation.
- The lack of garbage bins is surprising, since the mountain is a protected Bio-reserve, and trails usually take a whole day to complete.
- Proper preservation and restoration procedures have been taken for safe access to cultural and historical sites.
- Signage explaining historical monuments have been placed, giving visitors a sufficient understanding of the context.

