CITIES OF THE PHOENICIANS’ ROUTE IN LEBANON

Lebanon's Phoenician cultural identity is reflected in its tangible and intangible heritage. Ancient Egyptians, Persians, Greeks, and Romans have left their mark on Lebanon's rich cultural heritage. Around their sea trade and much-loved cedar, founding cities in Tripoli, Batroun, Beirut, and other sites in the Beqaa region.

Beirut was founded by the Phoenicians around 2800 BC. It was a trading port and the capital of Phoenicia. It is known for its historic Maronite Monastery of Saint John the Baptist which was built in 1750. Phoenician monuments at the mouth of the river, known as the commemorative stelae of Nahr el-Kalb. Beirut’s history dates back to the era of the Mamluk Sultanate, with traces of Ottoman rule visible in its architecture.

Cyprus and Malta, located in the eastern Mediterranean, played a significant role in the Phoenician trade network. The Phoenicians established colonies on both islands, using them as trade hubs and centers of commerce.

Ferzoul is a town in the Akkar District, north Lebanon, known for its historical significance. It played a crucial role in the Phoenician trade network, serving as a gateway to the region.

Baalbek is a heritage site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984). The site is known for its large stone structures, including the circular Temple of Venus. A fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury, is located on the Site of the Promontory (Râs ach-Chaq'a) in Antiquity, and Cape Lithoprosopon is a coastal feature noted for its historical significance. The site is located on the eastern shoulder of the Naqoura Sea in South Lebanon.

Sidon is a town in the Saida District, southern Lebanon, known for its historical significance. The site is a Phoenician port and later a Mamluk city. It was used by the Ayyubids, the Mamluks, and Emir Fakhreddine. It was later restored during the Crusades.

Tyre was originally made up of two settlements, one on the mainland and the other on an island. It is a major Phoenician site located between Sidon and Tyre. It is now a historic Maronite Monastery of Saint John the Baptist which was built in 1750.

Tripoli is a city in the Akkar District, north Lebanon, known for its historical significance. The city was an important trading center for the Phoenicians. The site includes the discovery of iron nearly 3,000 years ago. Umm Al-Amad's two temples were built roughly 2,000 years ago. Situated on the eastern shoulder of the Naqoura Sea in South Lebanon, Tripoli was an important trading center for the Phoenicians.

The provinces that constituted ancient Phoenicia were divided into two: 'Phoenicia Prima' and 'Phoenicia Secunda'. 'Phoenicia Prima' included Syria, Phoenicia, and Cilicia, while 'Phoenicia Secunda' included Crete, Sicily, and Sardinia. The Phoenicians were skilled seafarers and traders, known for their use of the腓尼基字母表(Punic alphabet) and their contributions to maritime technology.

Croatia and Greece, located in the western Mediterranean, also played a role in the Phoenician trade network. The Phoenicians established colonies on both islands, using them as trade hubs and centers of commerce.

The Phoenicians were known for their seafaring skills and their role in the development of maritime trade. Their influence can be seen in the spread of their language, alphabet, and trade networks across the Mediterranean region.

The Phoenicians' cultural influence is evident in various artistic, architectural, and linguistic contributions. The Phoenician alphabet, derived from the earlier Ugaritic script, was influential in the development of several other alphabets, including the Greek, Latin, and Etruscan alphabets.

The Phoenicians were also known for their trade in spices, particularly cinnamon and myrrh. They were active traders in the Mediterranean region, establishing colonies and trade networks that extended from the Iberian Peninsula to the Persian Empire.

The Phoenicians' legacy is evident in the many Phoenician sanctuaries and temples that were constructed across the Mediterranean region. These structures often served as centers of worship and trade, and their architectural styles and techniques influenced later developments in the region.

The Phoenicians' influence on the development of maritime trade and technology is also notable. They were skilled sailors and navigators, and their trade networks were extensive, spanning the Mediterranean and Red Sea regions.

The Phoenicians' cultural and trade legacy is evident in the many artifacts and inscriptions that have been discovered across the Mediterranean region. These artifacts provide insights into the daily lives of the Phoenicians, their beliefs, and their contributions to the development of maritime trade and technology.