

TYRE

THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE

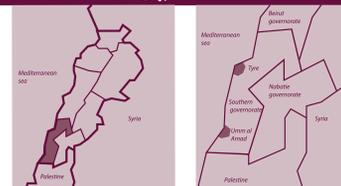
صور

مسار الفينيقيين

INTRODUCTION

Built around 2700 B.C., Tyre is the home of Elissar, the Phoenician princess who founded Carthage, as well as the home of Europa who was abducted by Zeus disguised as a white bull. Two main archaeological 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 Tyre was originally made up of two settlements, one on the mainland and the other on an island, which were connected by a causeway. In Tyre, the remains of the Hellenistic and Roman city – a Triumphal Arch, 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).



HISTORICAL MAPPING



Legend			
■	Phoenician Civilization (Iron Age) 1200 – 333 B.C.	■	Roman and Byzantine Period 64 B.C. – 635 A.D.
■	Greek – Roman Period 333 B.C. – 300 A.D.	■	Mameluke Period 1291 – 1516 A.D.
■	Crusader Period 1099 – 1099 A.D.	■	Ottoman Period 1516 – 1917 A.D.



Attractions of Tyre and Sidon



Umm Al-Amad



Seats of the Circus, Hippodrome

The Hippodrome construction dates to the first century A.D., and it is 480 meters long by 120 meters wide, with a crowd capacity of 40,000 spectators. It is considered the second largest hippodrome of its kind in the ancient world and the best preserved and was used primarily for popular sports like chariot racing, and Olympic Games activities like running and pentathlon. Underneath the Hippodrome seats area was a marketplace, and close by a wall with holes used for tying up the animal used for transportation means. Vaulted passages take to Hippodrome seats through several entrances, divided according to the social status of team supporters.



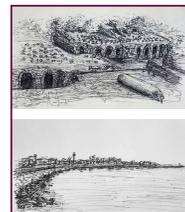
Arch of Victory & The Roman Road

The construction of the monumental gate dates to second century A.D., most likely during the rule of the Roman emperor Hadrian. Since it was built, the external shape has changed several times. It is 21 meters high. The northern tower floor covered with mosaics, that still in site, and the southern tower's floor was paved with stone.

The Roman road was constructed around the first century A.D., runs from the Monumental gate to the west. It has a convex shape and traces of chariots wheel marks from transportation and chariot races are visible on the road's flagstones.



Umm Al-Amad



Sketch of the Arcades in the Baths & Coastal Edge

The existing bath is characterized by its enormity and dates to the Romans in the second and third century A.D. The bath's level was raised by arcades, to avoid the humidity caused by seawater and underground water. Today, the marble floor and the walls of the bath do not exist. Behind the baths were the heating rooms that supply the building with hot water.



Umm Al-Amad

Umm Al-Amad is located on a hill close to the sea and temples were built overlooking the sea and the port. The remains are in an area around Al-Naqora, dating back to the second century B.C., if not earlier. The city was a religious center for a Phoenician cult, especially that of the Phoenician God Baal Hamon, whose memory lives on in a nearby valley known as Wadi Hamol (the Valley of Hamol). The site still contains the remains of two important temples, as well as other buildings, dating back to the second century and third century B.C., and represents the last of the Phoenician culture under the rule of the Greeks. Several steles bearing Phoenician inscriptions were discovered on the site, and an important sundial stone.

FORMATION OF THE PENINSULA



1: Reconstructed island dimensions 6000 B.C. The bathymetry has been calculated based on 5 meters of eustasy, 3 meters of tectonic subsidence offset against 1 meter of sediment accretion.

2: Reconstructed island dimensions 4000 B.C. and maximum coastal ingression. The bathymetry has been calculated based on 2 meters of eustasy and 3 meters of tectonic subsidence.

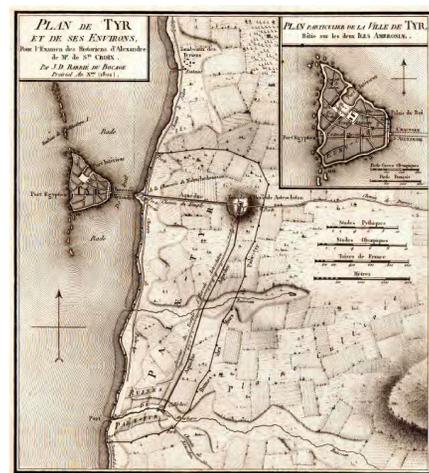
3: Reconstructed island dimensions 2000 B.C. and maximum coastal ingression. The bathymetry has been calculated based on 1.5 meters of eustasy, 3 meters of tectonic subsidence.

4: Reconstructed island dimensions 1000 B.C. maximum coastal ingression. The bathymetry has been calculated based on 1 meter of eustasy, 3 meters of tectonic subsidence.

5: Reconstructed island dimensions 330 B.C. The bathymetry has been calculated based on 3 meters of tectonic subsidence.

6: Present day coastal morphology and bathymetry.

HISTORICAL MAP



Tyre was built on an island in the third Millennium B.C. The political and administrative capital achieved greatness, especially in the Phoenician period. During the fourth century B.C., Alexander the Macedonian connected the island with the mainland. The mole he built, also served as a dam for the accumulation of sea sands, which eventually altered Tyre from an island to a peninsula.

Tyre's transformation allowed it to expand the city and implement an innovative urban plan on the new land. Construction reached its zenith in the Byzantine and Roman Periods in the 6th century A.D. However, earthquakes shattered Tyre in the 6th century, destroying most urban life, and left the city diminished. During the Arab and Crusader Periods, the city was reduced to a small part of the old island.

AERIAL VIEWS: 1918 A.D. vs. 2015 A.D.



Tyre - 1918



Tyre - 2015

CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS

- 2750 B.C. - The Foundation of the City of Tyre**
- 1375 B.C. - Establishment of Egyptian Influence**
- 969 B.C. - Expansion of Tyre by King Hiram**
He transformed the city ports into international ports. Tyre reaches its peak in economy and prosperity.
- 334 B.C. - Revolution of the Slaves**
Slaves burned down the city of Tyre.
- 332 B.C. - Formation of Peninsula**
Alexander the Macedonian took Tyre by building a 20 meter wide bridge.
- 64 B.C. - 635 A.D. - Roman and Byzantine Period**
Tyre announced the Romans as their new protectors.
- 313 A.D. - The First Basilica**
Tyrians built the first Basilica during the Byzantine Period.
- 636 - 696 A.D. - Islamic Period**
Arabs controlled the region after defeating the Byzantines.
- 1090 - 1099 A.D. - Crusader Period**
The Crusaders invaded Tyre.
- 1516 - 1917 A.D. - Ottoman Period**
Tyre became part of the Ottoman State and belonged mostly to the state of Acre.
- 1943 - Lebanese State**
The state of Lebanon was established and Tyre was one of its major cities.
- 1948 - Palestinian Refugees**
The refuge of the Palestinians who built several camps in and around Tyre.
- 1975 - Lebanese Civil War**
Tyre was affected by the Lebanese Civil War and Israeli invasion.

EVALUATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

Despite the great importance of the archaeological sites and historical ruins in Tyre, they are exposed to several dangerous threats due to the lack of maintenance and monitoring:

- The floor mosaics are not bordered, and visitors can step over them without any prevention.
- The Roman Hippodrome is accessed by some vehicles as a road shortcut.
- The sites lack security guards and touristic guides.

Most of the Phoenician sites are in ruin due to the several earthquakes which hit the region for centuries and the accumulation of several layers of civilizations above them. Moreover, after 1978, the Palestinian camp of Albass expanded towards the Roman archaeological site which now threatens the existing ruins and the potential unexcavated those underground.

However, the Al-bass Roman site has become a well-known landmark in Lebanon due to its unique features and the festivals held there every year.

