





BAALBEK

Baalbek, the "City of the Sun" of antiquity is without any doubt the most extraordinary archaeological site in Lebanon, known all over the world for its monumental complex of Roman temples. Founded by the Phoenicians, it was later conquered by the Macedonians who called it *Heliopolis* (always the City of the Sun) for assimilation between the god Sun and the Phoenician divinity Baal. Then it became a Roman colony under Augusto, preserving the new name. Today you can see three main buildings: the temple of Jupiter, the temple of Bacchus and the so-called circular temple of Venus. A fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury is located on the hill of Sheikh Abdallah. In July and August the temples become the scenery of the Baalbeck Festival, an international music, theater and dance show.







Temple of Jupiter

DESTINATIONS IN BAALBEK



Panoramic View of the Archaeological Site

SURROUNDINGS: Niha, Kamid Al-Lawz, Mount Hermon/Rashaya, Anjar, Ferzoul, Zahle and Kamouh El-Hermel



Temple of Bacchus



Circular Temple of Venus







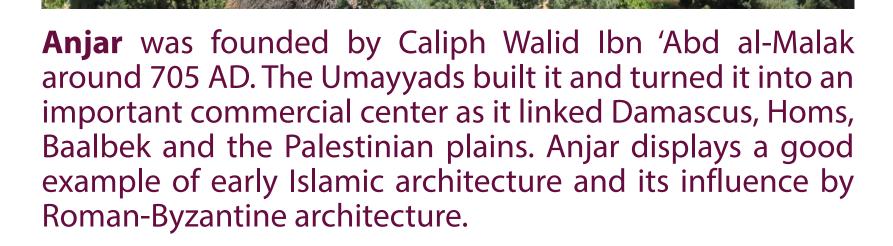


Niha Roman Temples are two temples dedicated to the Canaanite goddess of fertility Atargatis (Phoenician Astarte), the god of thunder, lightning and rain Hadaranes, and their son. It is also known for Hosn Niha, a structure of many layers the latest of which is a small Byzantine Basilica.

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. Paleolithic material was found alongside Heavy Neolithic through to the late Neolithic period, 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.

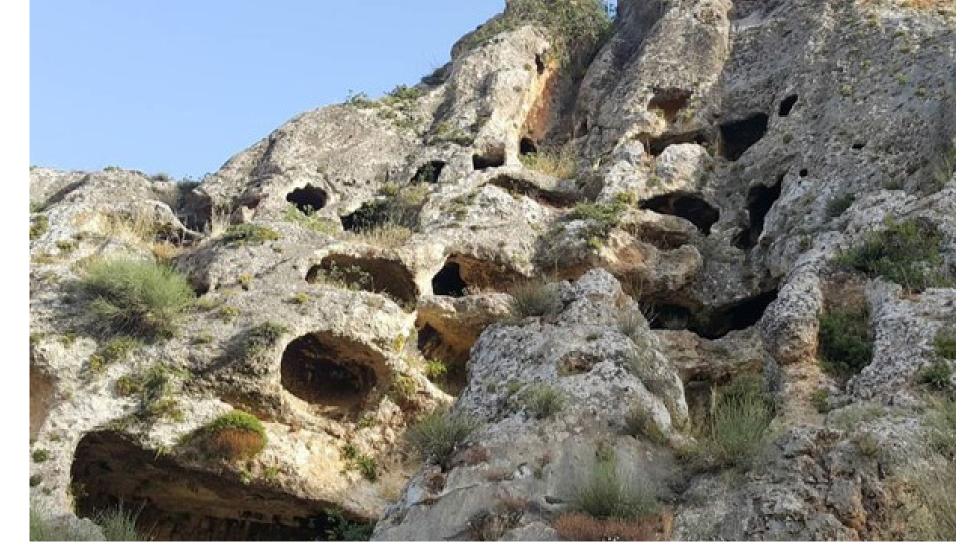


Mount Hermon has the largest number of temples ever to be found in any region in the world. Among the temples located in the western slope of the mountain, there is one in a place called Jabal Khan, another near the village 'Aqbe, in addition to temples found in the villages of Hebbariyeh, Nehi Safa, Bakka Yanta, 'Ayin Harsheh, and Deir El-'Ashayer. Remains of temples were also found in 'Ayha, 'Ayin Lebbayam, Kfarqouk, Borqosh, Mdoukha, Raqleh, Helwa, 'Ayn Qania, Al-Ram, and others, in addition to those found on the eastern slope overlooking the Syrian territories.



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

Umayyad Route-Lebanon





Ferzoul, there are many caves on a hill in the north-east of the village in the time of the Byzantines, they were transformed into hermitages for the anchorites; a whole region is known as the plural. The caves of the hermits.



Zahle is known as the "Bride of the Beqaa" for its geographical location and attractiveness, but also as "the City of Wine and Poetry".

It is famous throughout Lebanon and the region for its pleasant climate, numerous riverside restaurants and quality arak.



Kamouh El-Hermel, the pyramid has been suggested to date to the first or second century BC due to similarities with architecture of tower tombs of the late Selucid era at Palmyra in Syria.

The pyramid sits on top of a hill that is clearly visible from a distance and has been fenced off to prevent damage.

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 Palaebyblus (literary before Byblos). It is mentioned in the geography described by the Greek historian, Strabo. The Geography of Strabo, Volume 1 (of 3) by Strabo Nowadays, Jounieh is a main coastal city between Beirut and Byblos. It is known for its seaside resorts, the Casino du Liban, the Ottoman and French Colonial Old Souq in the center of the city, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon as a main religious tourist destination.







The Ottoman and Colonial Souk











St. Savior Greek Catholic Monastery

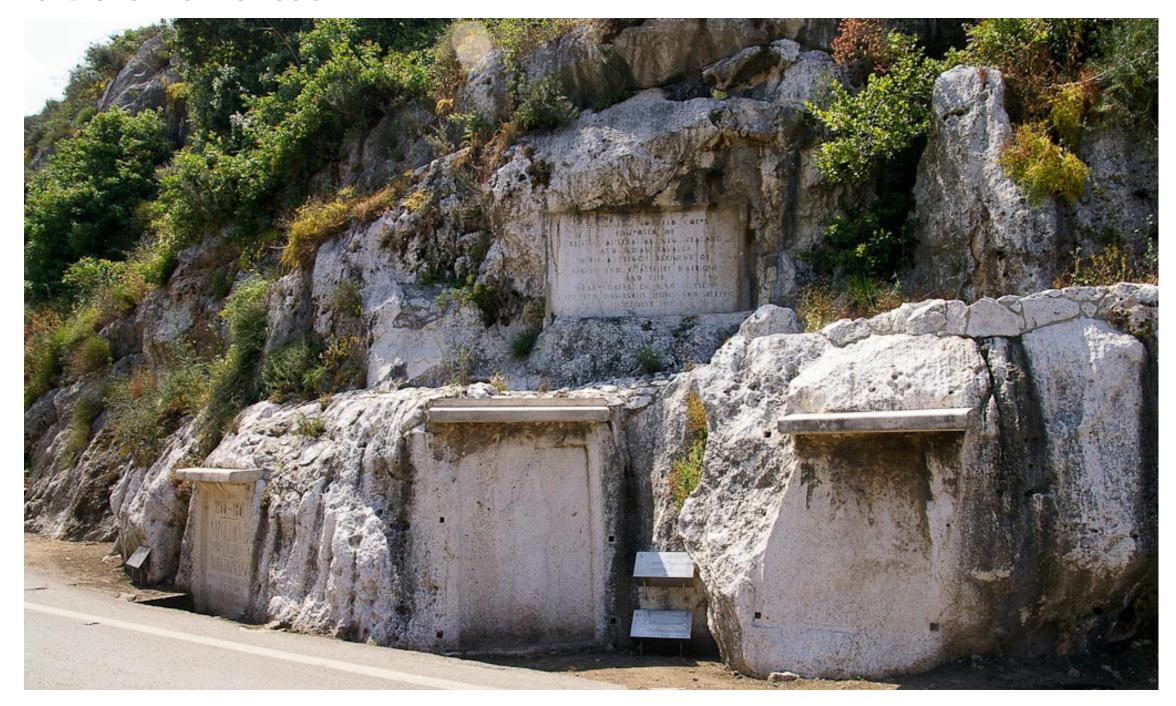
SURROUNDINGS: The Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, Jeita, Nahr Al-Kalb, Faqra, Faitroun rocks, Baskinta, Mount Hermoun, Bkerki, El-Mtein and Bolonia Forest



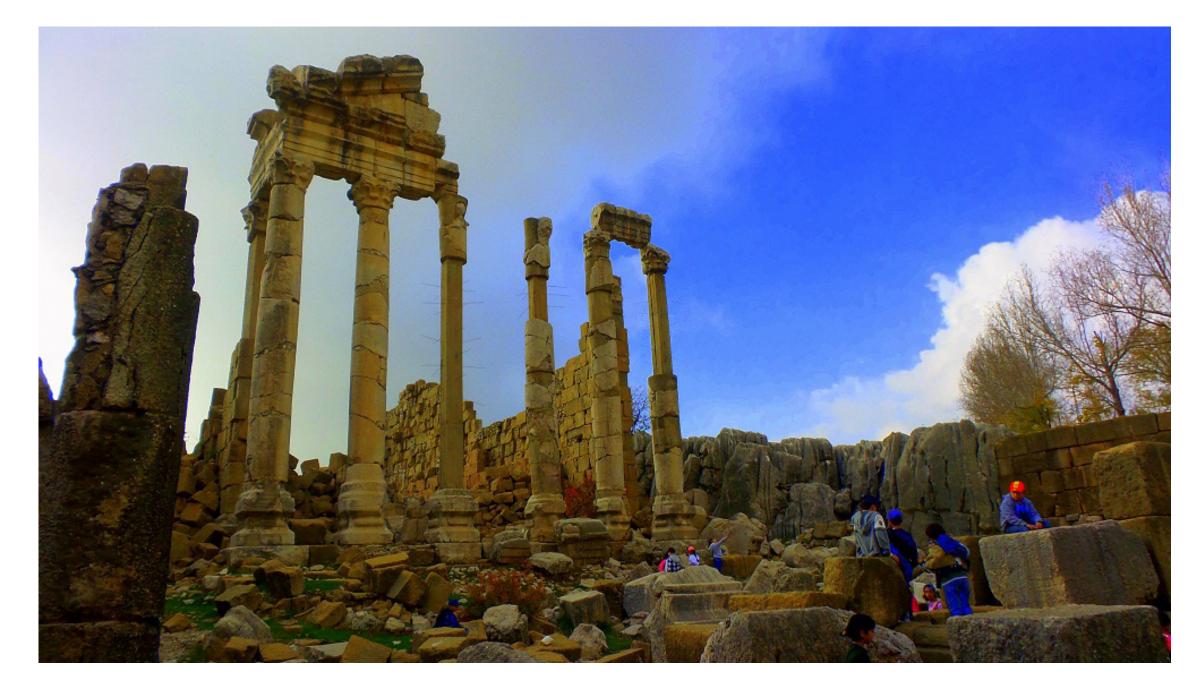
The Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon draws millions of believers, both Christian and Muslim, from all over the world. The 50th jubilee in 1954 was also the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception. During these celebrations, Pope Pius XII sent his representative, Cardinal Angelo Roncalli (later to become Pope John XXIII) to Lebanon. Pope John Paul II visited Our Lady of Lebanon in 1997.



Jeita located about 20 Km north of Beirut there are the Jeita Grotto, a place that offers a spectacle of rare beauty. Jeita Grotto, is the longest karst limestone 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 tradi-tionally built 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.







The Temple of Adonis is partly dug in the rocky platform of **Faqra**, so it's partly a rock sanctuary. It does not rest on a platform. In front of the shrine, to the east, is a large, square court with an altar, surrounded by a colonnade, and there's another altar standing in front of the entrance. The square court was surrounded on three sides by a portico in the Doric building order. Several columns were sufficiently well-preserved to be re-erected.

Faitroun rocks, a Preserve the Natural Rock Formations.

Baskinta carries the ruins of monuments, cemeteries, and numismatics, pottery remains that date as back as the Phoenician and the Greek ages. The Greeks knew Baskinta and built in it several palaces - of which enormous stones, pillars stands, and underground passages still exist.



Mount Sannine is a mountain in the Mount Lebanon range. Its highest point is 2,628 m (8,622 feet) above sea level in Lebanon. Mount Sannine, which has a base of limestone, is the source of many mountain springs.



Bkerki is the episcopal see of the Maronite Catholic Patriarchate of Antioch of the Maronite Church in Lebanon, located 650 m above the bay of Jounieh.

Though now exclusively used by the church, the area was owned by the noble Khazen family. The clergy use it under a special waqf.



Originally home to seven factories, **El-Mtein** was known for its abundant berry production and silk manufacturing.

Today, what you can still see are the ruins of only one silk factory, which stands defiantly.



Bois De Bologne - Ghabet Bolonia - Bolonia Forest is beautiful and picturesque area looking over the deep green valley of the River Salimeh. A unique pinewood forest offering a splendid view extending eastwards to the distant summits of Mount Sannine.