

LAU Louis Cardahi Foundation Promotes Smart Ways – Lebanon
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 President of the confederation of The Phoenicians' Route
<http://fenici.net/en/contact-2/>, <http://lcf.lau.edu.lb/contact/>

Lebanon's history has been shaped by its strategic location at the crossroads of culture between the East and the West. Homeland of the Canaanites/Phoenicians, the inventors of the alphabet, their civilization thrived on the east coast of the Mediterranean. The country has witnessed the rise and fall of multiple civilizations whose mark can be felt today in Lebanon's rich cultural heritage.

Canaanites & Amorites: 2300 BC,
 Egyptians-Hittites: 1350 BC,
Phoenicians: 1100 BC,
 Assyrians-Babylonian Empire: 877 BC,
 Persian Empire: 539 BC,
 Roman Empire: 64 BC,

Eastern Roman or Byzantine Empire: 395,
 The Islamic World: 635,
 The **Umayyad:** 661,
 The Abbasids: 750,
 The Rein of the Fatimids: 969,
 The Seljuks and the First Crusades: 1090,

Latin Crusader States: 1150,
 The Mameluke States 1291,
 The Ottoman Empire 1516,
 The French Mandate 1920,
 The Independent State, 1943



Map of the Umayyad Route

[Website](#)

[Banner](#)

Umayyad is a cultural tourism project across Spain, Portugal, Italy, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon that highlights the legacy of the Umayyad empire which once united these countries. This project aims to implement an integrated strategy for the enhancement of cultural tourism.



Map of the Phoenicians' Route

[Website](#)

[Banner](#)

The Phoenicians' Route refers to the connection of the major nautical routes, which, since the twelfth century BC were used by the Phoenicians as essential routes for trade and cultural communication in the Mediterranean. The confederation of the Phoenicians' Route encompasses over 100 associations and partners to include Italy, Spain, France, Lebanon, Tunisia, Greece, Croatia, Malta, Cyprus, Portugal and the Governorate of Jericho in Palestine.

ITINERARY 1	<p><u>DAY 1:</u> Tripoli – Arqa – Menjez – Al-Qoubaiyat– Kamouh El-Hermel - Baalbek</p> <p><u>DAY 2:</u> Baalbek – Niha – Ferzoul – Zahle – Chtaura – Anjar – Kamid Al-Lawz - Mount Hermon/Rashaya</p> <p><u>DAY 3:</u> Mount Hermon/Rashaya – The Beaufort Castle (Arnoun) – The Citadel of Tebnine – Qana – Tyre - Umm Al-Amad</p>
ITINERARY 2	<p><u>DAY 1:</u> Batroun – Bziza – Douma – Yanouh – Afqa – Baalbek</p> <p><u>DAY 2:</u> Baalbek – Niha – Zahle – Sannine – Baskinta – Faqra</p> <p><u>DAY 3:</u> Faqra – Faitroun – Harissa – Bkerki – Jounieh</p>
ITINERARY 3	<p><u>DAY 1:</u> Jbeil – Mebaaj Grotto – Smar Jbeil – Batroun – Mseilha Castle – Lady of Nourieh – Anfeh</p> <p><u>DAY 2:</u> Anfeh – Amioun – Bcharri – Wadi Qadisha - Tripoli – Arqa – Menjez</p>
<u>ITINERARY 4</u>	Jbeil – Adonis Valley – Yanouh – Afqa – Baalbek
<u>ITINERARY 5</u>	Jounieh – Nahr El Kalb – Bikfayya – Bolonia – Mtein – Hammana – Cedars of Shouf – Barouk – Deir El Qamar and Beiteddine – Beirut
<u>ITINERARY 6</u>	Sidon – Echmoun – Chhim – Jezzine – Beaufort Castle – Maghdouche – Sarafand - Tyre - Umm Al-Amad
<u>ITINERARY 7</u>	From the Lebanese city ports of Lebanon the cultural tourism journey of the Phoenician Route will continue to Cyprus – Greece – Europe

FROM TRIPOLI TO BAALBEK

Visit Tripoli

- The second largest city and main port in Lebanon.

Visit Arqa

- Tell Arqa, an archaeological site that goes back to Neolithic times

Visit Menjez

- Roman basalt temple called Maqam Er-Rabb or Beit Jaalouk

Visit Al-Qoubaiyat

- A region rich in water source.

Visit Kamouh El-Hermel

- An ancient pyramid located 6 Km south of Hermel

Visit Baalbek

- three main buildings: the Temple of Jupiter, the Temple of Bacchus and the circular Temple of Venus and a fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury.



About Tripoli

About Tripoli

TRIPOLI, founded by the Phoenicians around 800 BC is today the second largest city and main port in Lebanon. Like Beirut, the city witnessed the presence of various Mediterranean cultures and empires including the Canaanites/Phoenicians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Umayyad, Abbasid, Crusaders, Ayyubid, Mamluks, Ottoman and French. Facing the shores of the city there are the Palm Islands, which known for its green turtles, and which was declared a Protected Nature Reserve by the UNESCO in 1992.



Location of Tripoli



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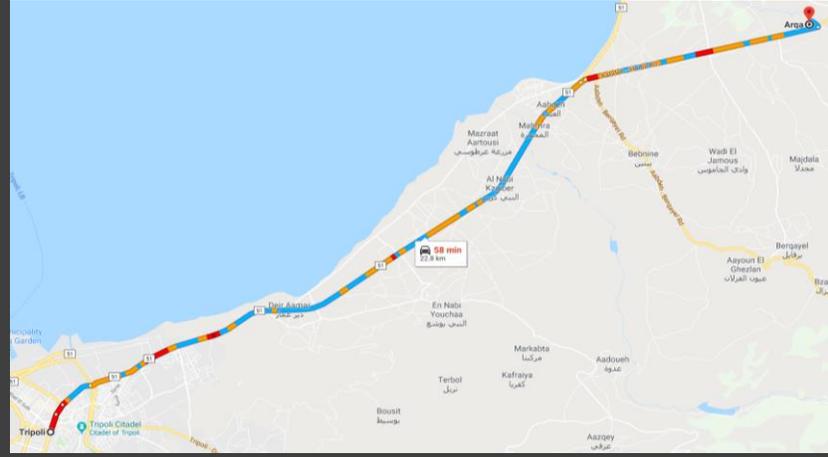
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ARQA (Phoenician: *Irqata*; 'Arqat' in the Bible) is a village near Miniara in Akkar Governorate, Lebanon, 22 km northeast of Tripoli, near the coast. The former bishopric became a double Catholic titular see (Latin and Maronite). The Roman Emperor Alexander Severus was born there. It is significant for the Tell Arqa, an archaeological site that goes back to Neolithic times, and during the Crusades there was a strategically significant castle.



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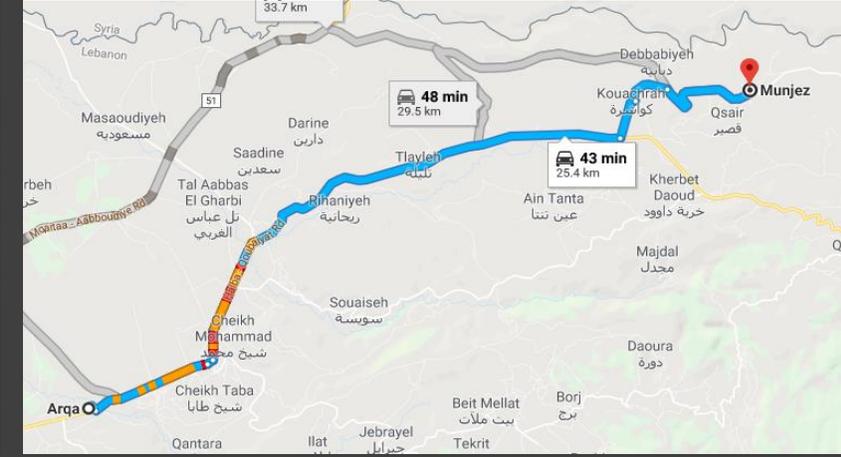


About Menjez

The village of **MENJEZ** is the home to a number of interesting historical, archaeological and religious sites, including: Beit Jaalouk temple (or “Maqam ar-Rabb”, an ancient roman temple and worship site for the goddess Nemesis, dating from the first century AD); a crusader castle ruins “Qalaat Felis” inhabited by the Chevalier de St. Jean de Jerusalem or what is also known as Ordre de Malte, the castle belonged to the Comté de Tripoli; the Maronite Monastery of our Lady of the Fort “Deir Saydet El Qalaa” built by the Jesuits Order in the 19th century; remains of a roman canal; and 180 pre-historic tombs dating back to 5,000 years BC. This archaeological diversity and richness gives Menjez the possibility to become an archaeological park for research, education, and tourism.



Location of Menjez



Road map from Arqa to Menjez



MENJEZ

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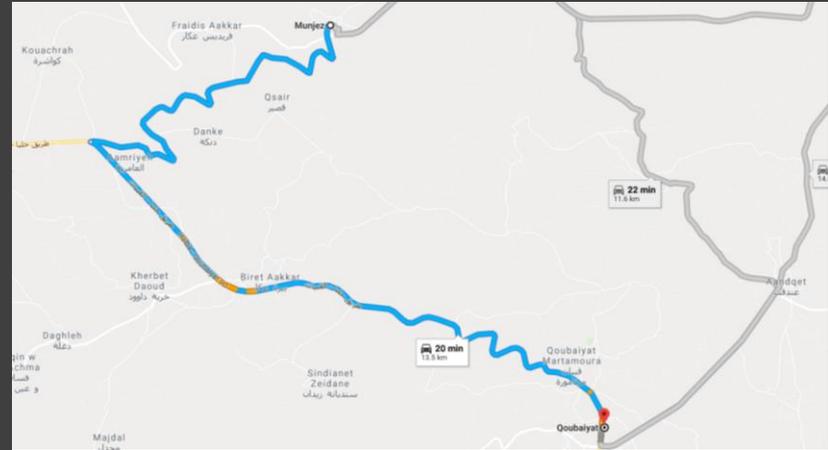
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MENJEZ



Location of Kobayat



Road map from Menjez to Kobayat

The origin of the name "**AL QOUBAIYAT**" is Aramaic. The word "Qbayya" means the big pool of water, and "Qbayyat" is the plural of it. That region was called "Qbayyat" for being rich in water sources.



AL QOUBAIYAT

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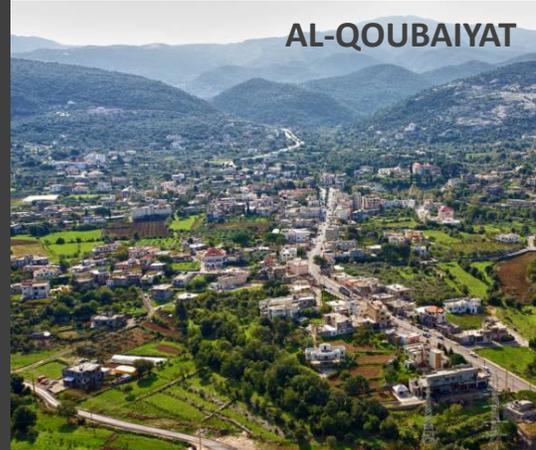
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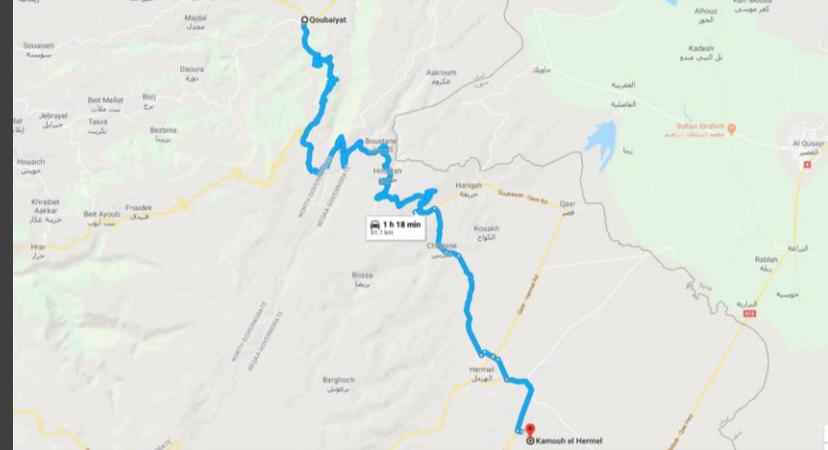
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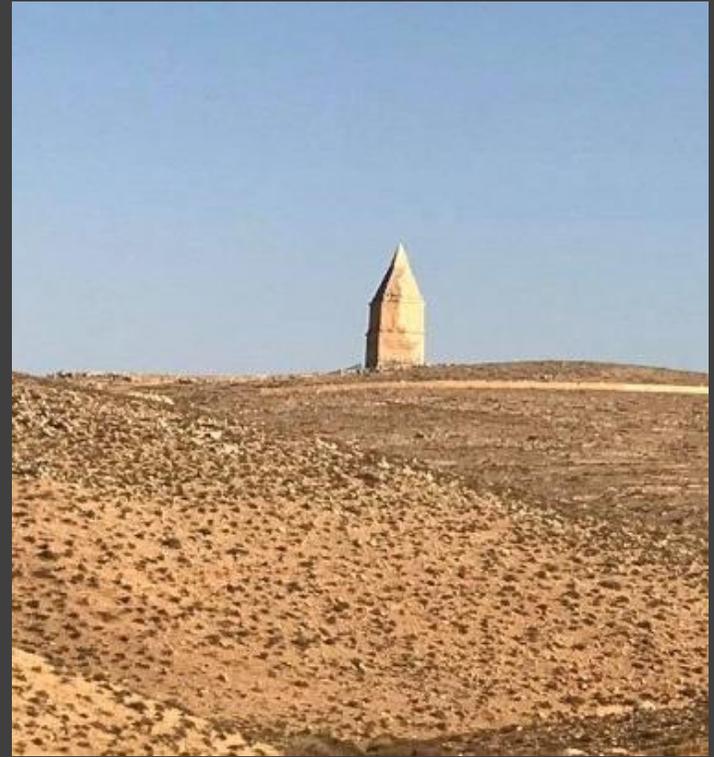


Location of Kamouh El-Hermel



Road map from Kobayat to Kamouh El-Hermel

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.



KAMOUH EL-HERMEL

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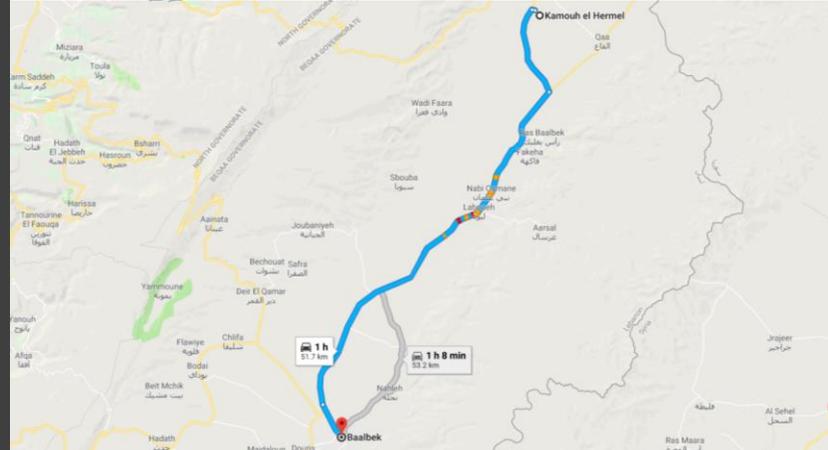


About Baalbek

About Baalbek



Location of Baalbek



Road map from Kamouh El-Hermel to Baalbek

BAALBEK, 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 Augustus, preserving the new name. Today you can see three main buildings: the temple of Jupiter, the temple of Bacchus and the circular temple of Venus. A fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury is located on the hill of Sheikh Abdallah. inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).



BAALBEK

FROM BAALBEK TO MOUNT HERMON/RASHAYA

Visit Niha Temples

- Niha Roman Temples also known for Hosn Niha, a structure of many layers the latest of which is a small Byzantine Basilica.

Visit Ferzoul

- Caves transformed into hermitages

Visit Zahle

- City of wine and poetry

Visit Chtaura

- Chtaura is the valley's hub for banking, transportation, and commerce, hotels, restaurants and (wineries since 1868)

Visit Anjar

- Important commercial centers built by the Umayyads.
- Early Islamic architecture monuments.

Visit Kamid Al-Lawz

- Spectacular buildings that are significant to the history of the region.

Visit Mount Hermon/Rashaya

- Significant cultural heritage site, temples circled Hermon (Hebbariya, Ain Harsha, Ain Libbaya, Nebi Safa, Akbeh, Aiha, Beka, Khirbet el-Knese, Yanta, Deir el-Ashayr, Rahle, Burkush, and Er-Rime).

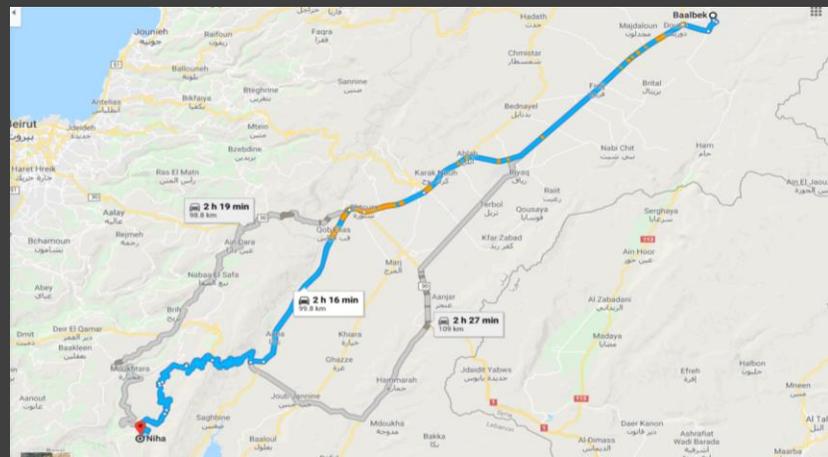


About Niha

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 a Byzantine Basilica.



Location of Niha



Road map from Baalbek to Niha



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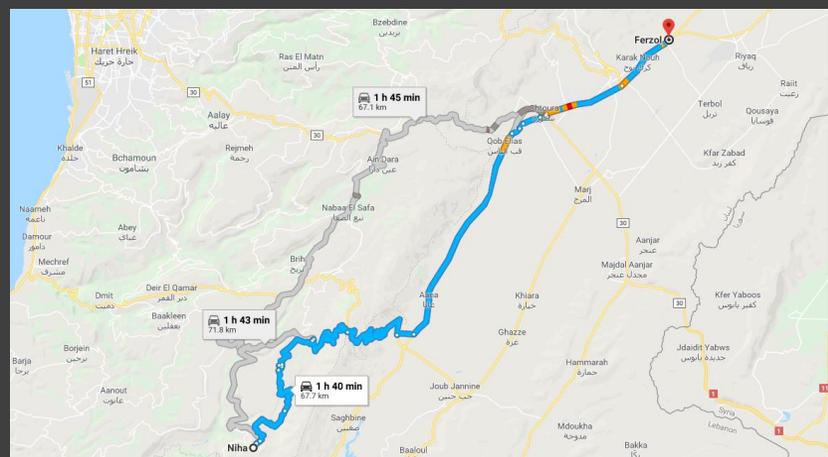
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NIHA



Location of Ferzoul



Road map from Niha to Ferzoul

FERZOUL, a presence of foundations of a Roman temple dedicated to Apollo; many sculptures and engravings; a throne of kings or queens, etc.

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.



FERZOUL

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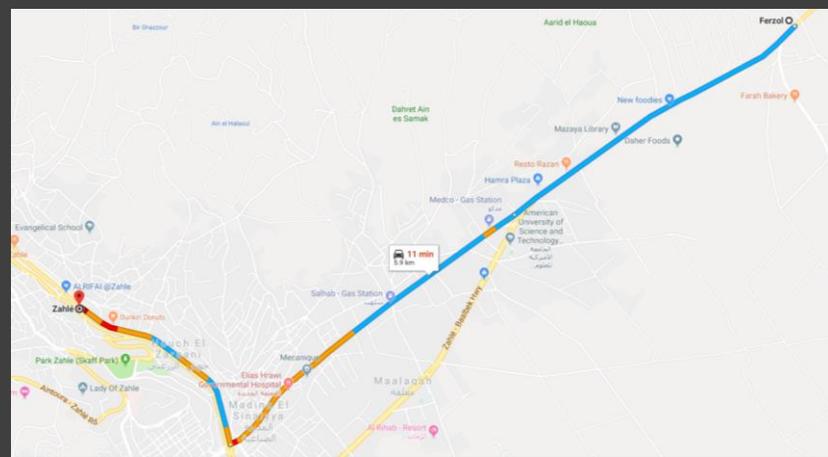
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FERZOUL



Location of Zahle



Road map from Ferzoul to Zahle

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.



ZAHLE

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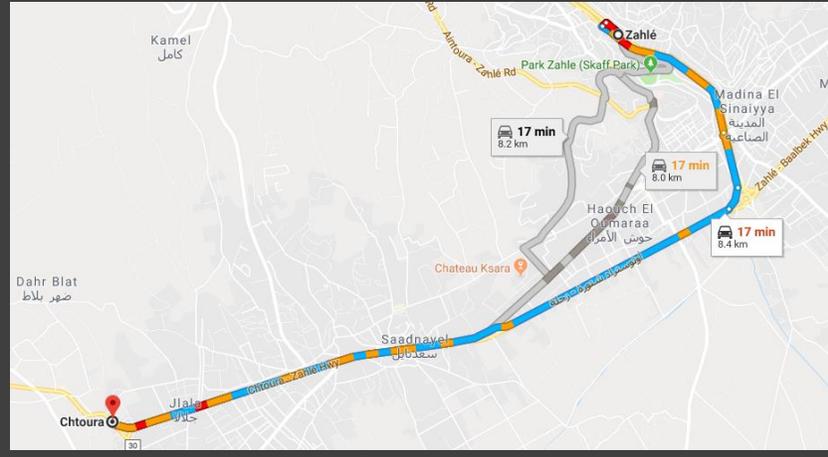
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Location of Chtaura

Road map from Zahle to Chtaura

CHTAURA is the valley's hub for banking, transportation, and commerce, hotels, restaurants and (wineries since 1868).



CHTAURA

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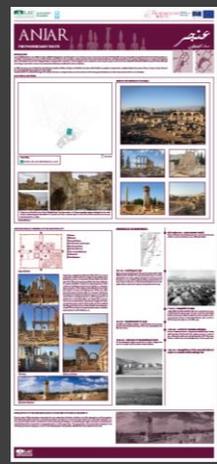
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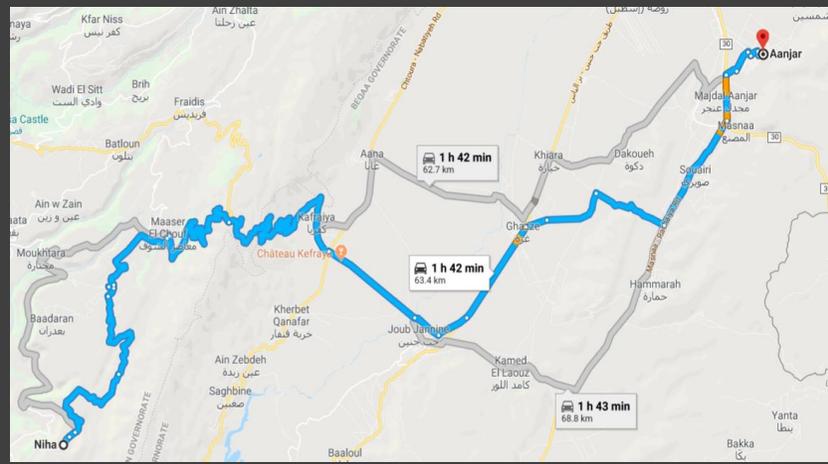


About Anjar

ANJAR, was founded by Caliph Walid Ibn 'Abd al-Malak around 705 AD. The Umayyads built it and turned it into an important commercial center as it linked Damascus, Homs, Baalbek and the Palestinian plains. It shone for only 20-30 years. Anjar displays a good example of early Islamic architecture and its influence by Roman-Byzantine architecture. This is clearly visible in the various construction techniques and decorations in the city. Anjar is a heritage site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).



Location of Anjar



Road map from Niha to Anjar



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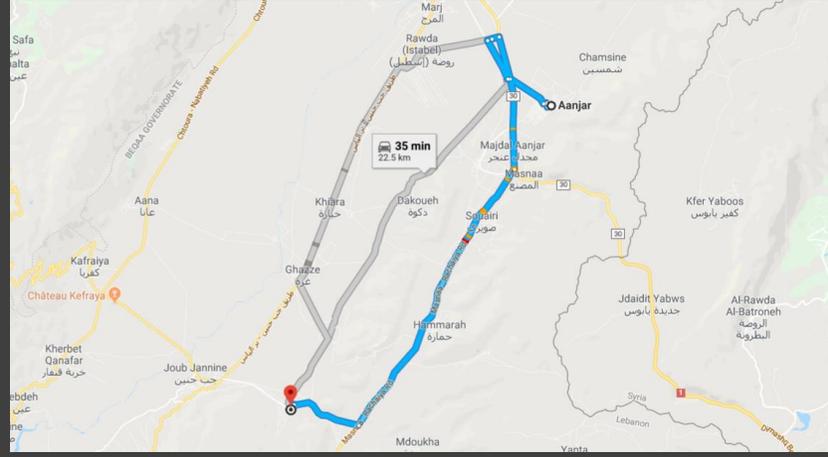


About Kamid Al-Lawz

KAMID AL LAWZ is one of the most important sites in Lebanon where archaeologists found and recorded many spectacular buildings, which are very important to the history of the region. Paleolithic material was found alongside Heavy Neolithic on through to the late Neolithic period, becoming a seat of state in the Bronze age and continuing until the Byzantine era, a German team from the University of Freiburg has conducted more recent excavations and studies.



Location of Kamid Al-Lawz



Road map from Anjar to Kamid Al-Lawz



KAMID AL-LAWZ

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About Rashaya

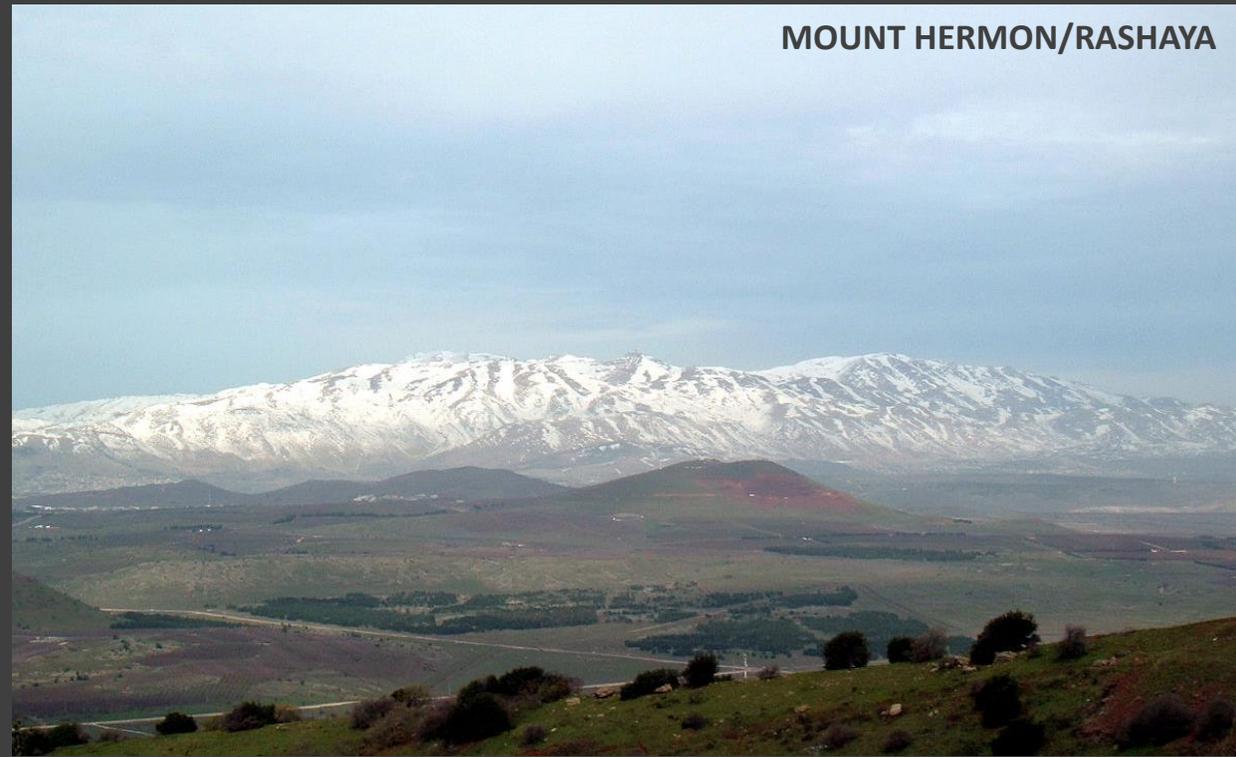
MOUNT HERMON/RASHAYA region is a significant cultural heritage site in the eastern mountain terrain. The temples which circled Hermon were oriented to the cone-shaped tip of Kasr Es-Sebayb, the highest point of the mountain and the site of a sacred enclosure in Roman and pre-Roman time. The temples which circle Hermon are, from the south: Hebbariya, Ain Harsha, Ain Libbaya, Nebi Safa , Akbeh, Aiha, Beka, Khirbet el-Knese, Yanta, Deir el-Ashayr, Rahle, Burkush, and Er-Rime.



Location of Mount Hermoun



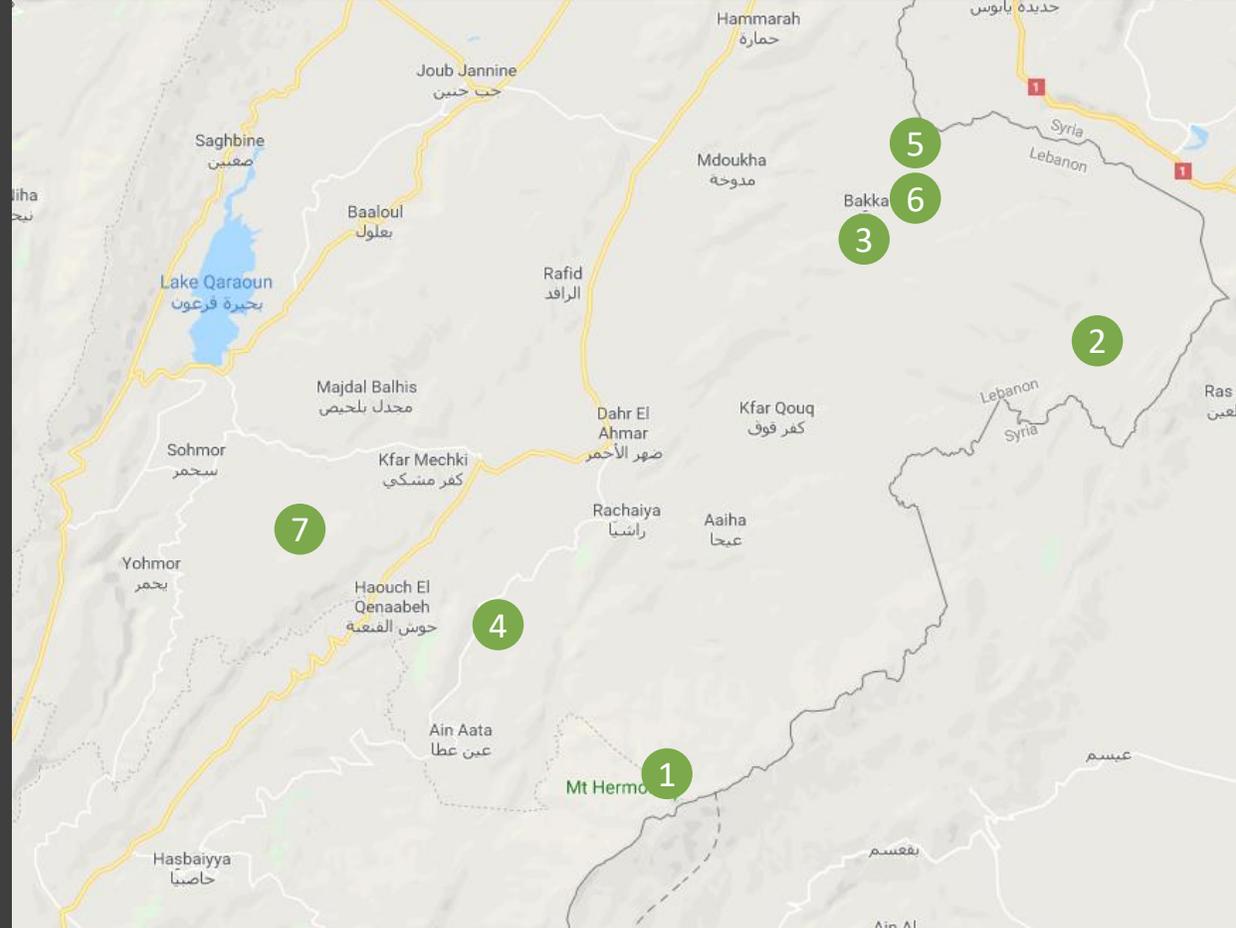
Road map from Kamid Al-Lawz to Mount Hermon/Rashaya



MOUNT HERMON/RASHAYA

SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

- 1 **Qasr Antar:** highest temple in the ancient world
- 2 **The Temple of Deir El-Ashayer:** Greco-Roman Temple
- 3 **The Temple of Bakka:** Roman Temple
- 4 **The Temple of Ain Harsha:** Roman Temple
- 5 **The Temple of Yanta:** Roman Temple
- 6 **The Temple of Khirbet El-Knese:** Roman Temple
- 7 **The Temple of Nabi Safa:** Roman Temple



Location of temples in Mount Hermon

“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, ‘Ayn Harsheh, and Deir El-‘Ashayer. Remains of temples were also found in ‘Ayha, ‘Ayn 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.”

*“The Roots of Christianity in Lebanon”
by Dr. Antoine Khoury Harb*



SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

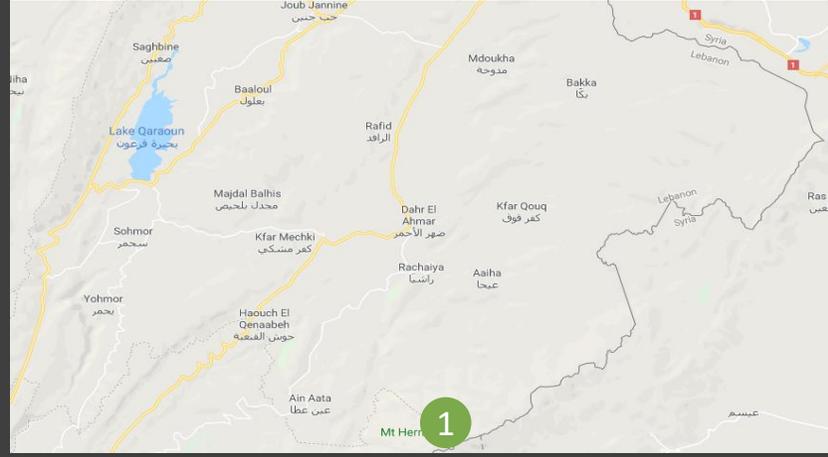
1

QASR ANTAR:

There is a sacred building made of hewn blocks of stone on the summit of Mount Hermon. Known as Qasr Antar, it was the highest temple of the ancient world, sitting at 2,814 feet (858 m) above sea level. It was documented by Sir Charles Warren in 1869. Warren described the temple as a rectangular building, sitting on an oval, stone plateau without roof. He removed a limestone stele from the northwest of the oval, broke it into two pieces and carried it down the mountain and back to the British Museum, where it currently resides. An inscription on the stele was translated by George Nickelsburg to read:

“According to the command of the greatest a(nd) Holy God, those who take an oath (proceed) from here.”

Hermon was said to have become known as “the mountain of oath” by Charles Simon Clermont-Ganneau. The name of God was supposed to be a Hellenized version of Ba'al or Hadad and Nickelsburg connected it with the place name of Baal-Hermon (Lord of Hermon) and the deity given by Enoch as “The Great Holy One”. [Eusebius recognized the religious importance of Hermon in his work “Onomasticon”, saying “Until today, the mount in front of Panias and Lebanon is known as Hermon and it is respected by nations as a sanctuary”



Location of Qasr Antar



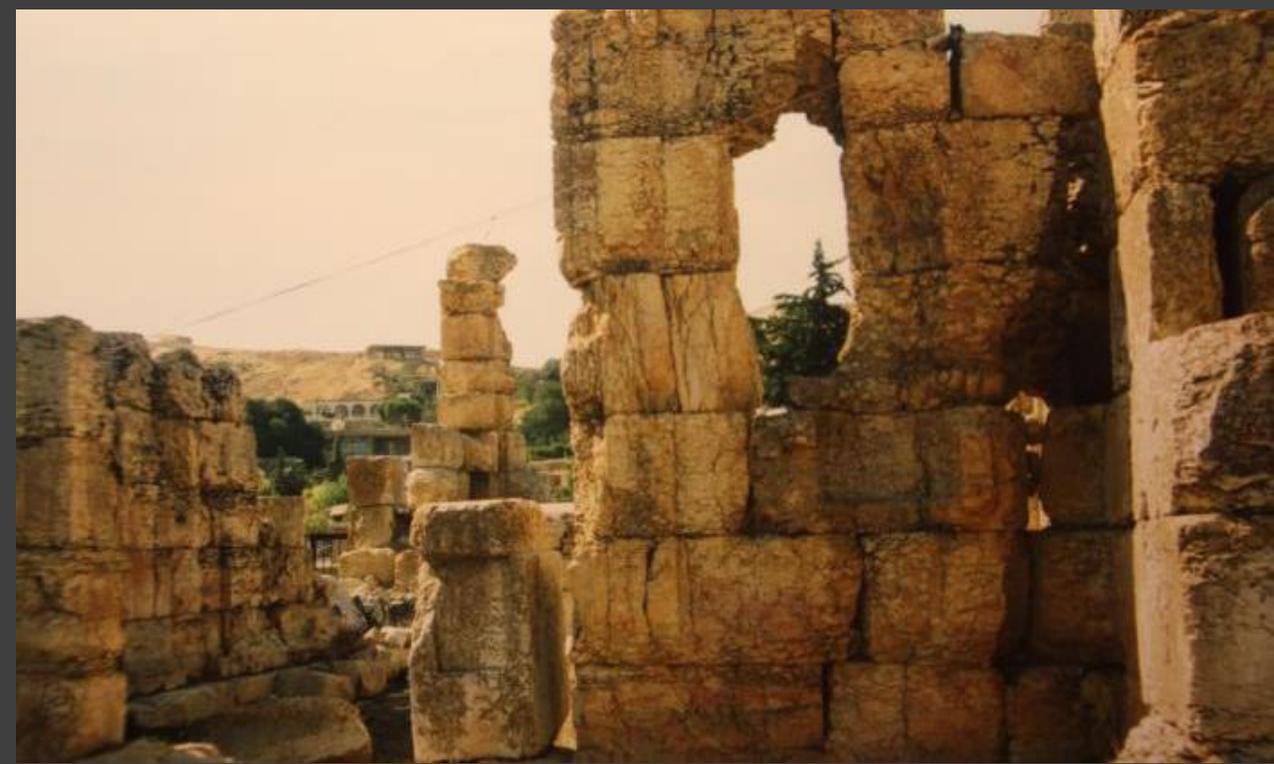
SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

2 THE TEMPLE OF DEIR EL-ASHAYER:

The village is near to the remains of a substantial Greco-Roman style temple dedicated to unknown deities, with 30 metres (98 ft) long foundations and columns re-used in local construction. A Greek inscription was found noting that a bench was installed *“in the year 242, under Beeliabos, also called Diototos, son of Abedanos, high priest of the gods of Kiboreia”*. Julien Alquot argued that the bench had liturgical uses as a mobile throne. The era of the gods of Kiboreia is not certain, as is their location which is not conclusively to be identified with Deir El Achayer, but was possibly the Roman sanctuary or the name of a settlement in the area. It has been suggested that the name Kiboreia was formed from the Aramaic word *kbr*, meaning a *“place of great abundance”*



Location of Deir El-Ashayer



SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

3

THE TEMPLE OF BAKKA:

The ruins of a Roman temple in the village are included in a group of Temples of Mount Hermon. George Taylor classified it as a prostylos temple and noted that the north and south walls remained standing and the podium floor had survived.

The site has been heavily damaged by local construction of houses over the site. The temple featured an underground crypt that was accessible via one of the houses that had been built over it.

Edward Robinson suggested that word *bakka* could have derived from the later Arabic meaning of *crowd*. Others have linked it to the Hebrew word *bikha* meaning *plain*



Location of Bakka



SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

4

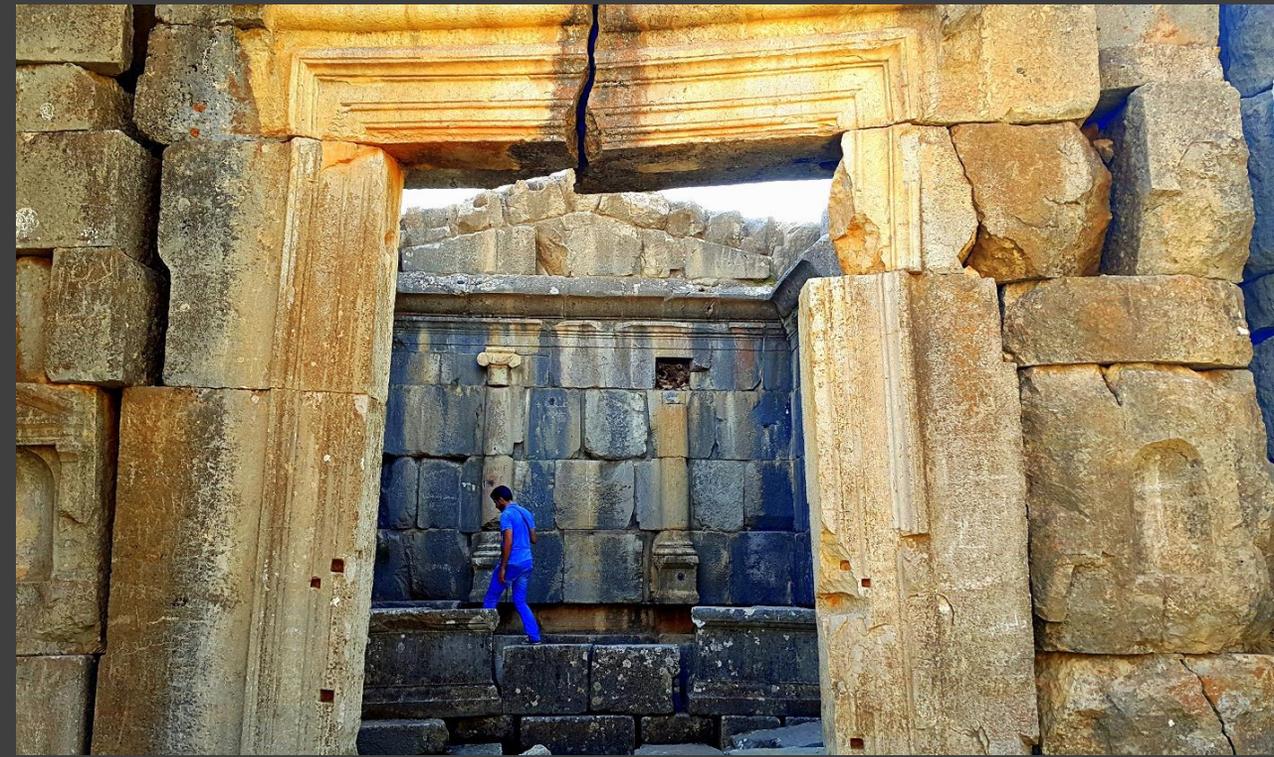
THE TEMPLE OF AIN HARCHA :

(About a forty minute walk) along a rocky path, on a ridge-top to the west, higher than the village sits one of the best examples of a Roman temple in the vicinity of Mount Hermon. The temple of Ain Harcha can also be reached by walking down from the village of Ain Ata.

It was restored in 1938-1939 and dates from a Greek inscription on one of the blocks to 114-115 AD. The temple is built of limestone, opens to the east and blends in well with the landscape. The pediment and west wall are in particularly good condition and two columns bases show what supported the beams and roof. Carved blocks show busts of Selene, the moon goddess and Helios, the sun god. Around the site are remnants of ancient habitation and tombs.



Location of Aiyh Harsheh



SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

5

THE TEMPLE OF YANTA:

There are ruins of an impressively sized and positioned Roman temple in the area that is presumed to have been built on the site of a forerunning Semitic temple. The ruins lie on either side of the road and are sparse but retain some upright stones. Around the site are remnants of ancient habitation and tombs.



Location of Yanta

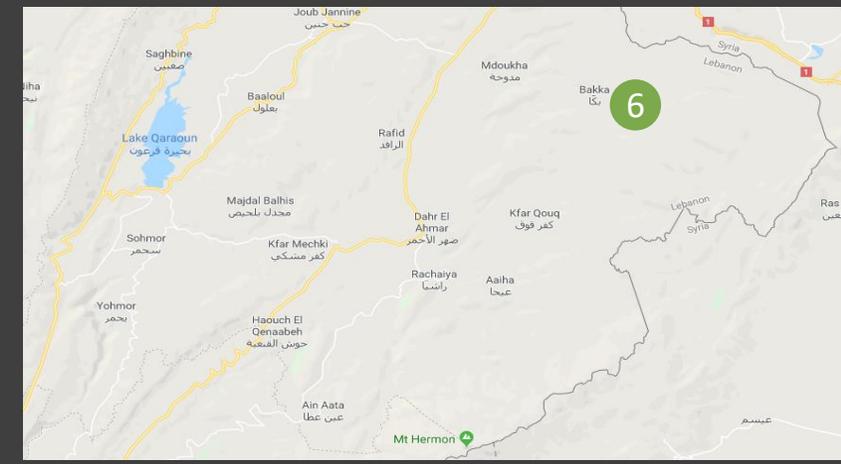


SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

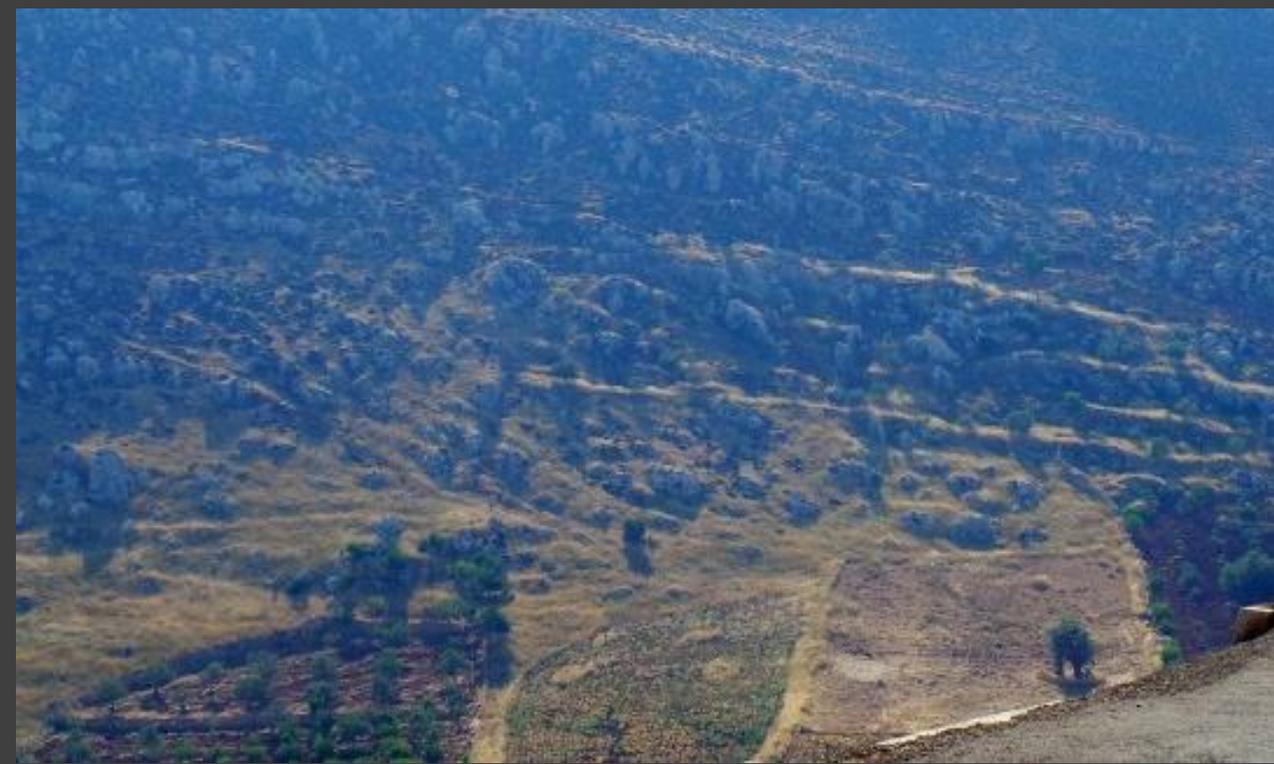
6 THE TEMPLE OF KHIRBET EL-KNESE:

Khirbet El-Knese, El-Knese or El Knese are two Roman temples south of Yanta, north of Rashaya in the Rashaya District of the Beqaa Governorate in Lebanon.

The upper and lower temples are included in a group of Temples of Mount Hermon. The lower temple faces east with the peak of Mount Hermon to the south. George F. Taylor described it as an Antae temple with moulded architraves to the right of the south antae. El Knese has supposed connections to the word "ecclesia".



Location of Khirbet El-Knese



SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF MOUNT HERMON

7 THE TEMPLE OF NABI SAFA:

In 1852 the village was visited by an orientalist by the name of Edward Robinson. He later wrote about his visit, mentioning the existence of two Roman sarcophagi in the area. One may see the ruins of a Roman temple having connection with a group of sanctuaries on Mount Hermon. This temple, seventy feet by thirty, has suffered a great deal of damage, but from its position facing the splendid Mount Hermon, it offers a unique and unparalleled spectacle. George Taylor spoke of the alignment of the doorway in relation to the Mountain. The blocks of stone used in the construction are a yard thick, skillfully hewn and finished. The pediment is attractive and elegant. The only wall still standing with its pilasters is the one on the north side. Impressive columns embellish the entrance on the western side and there one can see an altar and a stairway leading to an underground chamber. It is supposed that the temple was once used as a sanctuary dedicated to the prophet Safa, En-Nabi Safa, the Pure, descendant of Jacob. His honorable body is believed to lie somewhere in the grounds accompanied by his spirit and an ancient tradition has it that one day a man with sufficiently deep faith will uncover it



Location of Nabi Safa



SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA

- 1 **Qasr Banat:** ancient temple (probably Roman)
- 2 **laat:** Corinthian column
- 3 **Ferzoul Habis:** Hermit caves
- 4 **Temnin el-Foka:** Roman temple
- 5 **Nahle:** Roman temple



TYPOLGY OF TEMPLES

The typology of the temples has been studied and they are generally divided into **Antae, Prostylos or Peripteral types.**

- **Antae** temples have side walls that extend to form a porch at the front or rear (or both) and terminated in pilasters that were called the *antae*.
- If columns were placed in advance of the walls or antae, the temple was termed **Prostylos**
- If columns surrounded the temple it was termed **Peripteral**. The peripteral type is thought to be the most perfect form of temple and the best preserved of this type is the Temple of Bacchus at Baalbek.

Location of temples in Beqaa



SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA

1 QASR BANAT:

An ancient temple (probably Roman) situated 1.5 kilometres (0.93 mi) east of Chlifa in the Baalbek District of the Beqaa Governorate in the city of Qsarnaba.

It is believed the site was called the *Castle of Virgins* and was the residence of virgins in Roman times. Indeed the arab world "Qasr" comes from the latin "castra" (meaning in English: "castle").

George F. Taylor classified Qasr el Banat among a group of ancient Roman Temples of the Beqaa Valley. It is suggested to date to Ancient Roman, but it is possible that was originally built as a very small temple- during Ancient Greek eras or earlier.



Location of the Temple of Qasr Banat



SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA

2

IAAT

The location of the Pillar is 4 miles (6 km) northwest of the Baalbek ruins, between the towns of Baalbeck and Chlifa.

At one point a plaque was installed on the northern side of the monument; however, it has been removed and no other history is known of the column, which is believed to be a funerary monument. The column is also widely believed in local legend to be related to St. Helena, but it is most likely a funerary monument.

Whilst technically not being a temple, Taylor suggested that the column might have been placed where it is as a victory column to mark the site of a great ancient battle. He also noted a cartouche on the sixth cylinder of the column.



Location of the Temple of Iaat



SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA

3 FERZOUL HABIS:

The historic caves of Habis were used as a hideout back in Roman and Byzantine eras.

Back then, reaching the caves was a difficult feat. But once inside, it's possible to reach any cave through interconnecting tunnels.

Now, the caves are a pleasant place to sit and enjoy a sunny day in the shade.

A spectacular landscape framed by the caves overlooks Wadi el Habis, Bekaa valley, and Anti Lebanon mountains.



Location of the Temple of Ferzoul Habis



SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA

4 TEMNIN EL-FOKA:

The village of Temnin el Fawqa is located at the lower eastern part of Mount Sanin. The numerous springs of the region explain human settlement there, and the development of the flowing water goddess cult. In this area apart from the Nymphaeum Sanctuary in Temnin. Hadad and Atargatis are the water cult god and goddess. They were particularly worshiped during the Roman period. Temnin el-Foka is a nymphaeum is close to the spring of Ain el Job. The nymphaeum is an arched watercourse built of large stones that has been constructed 4 metres deep into a hill. It leads to a cistern underground. A gully has formed at the outflow, where a boundary pillar is carved with the image of a goddess. It resembles a similar cippus at Kafr Zabad.



Location of the Temple of Temnin El-Foka



SOME TEMPLES IN THE AREA OF BEQAA

5

NAHLE:

Situated northeast of Baalbeck above a deep and very pretty valley, the slopes of this village are studded with the familiar burial chambers often found near Roman/Byzantine sites.

The massive foundation stones of Nahle' s Roman temple suggest that a mighty structure once stood here.

This sanctuary consisted of two parts: an open air court and a large room with a ceiling where notches for the wooden beam still exist. Only a few courses of stone are still standing, but the temple maintains its dignity despite crowding by modern village residences.



Location of the Temple of Nahle



FROM MOUNT HERMOM/RASHAYA TO UMM AL-AMAD

Visit Beaufort Castle

- Located in Arnoun

Visit The Citadel of Tebnine

- The Citadel of Tebnine (Crusader Castle).

Visit Qana

- The village where Jesus performed his first miracle.

Visit Tyre

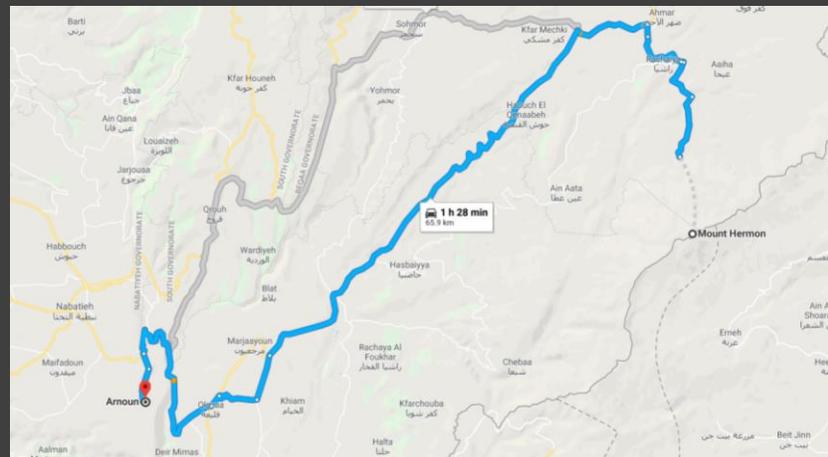
- Two main archeological sites – Al Bass and Al Mina – are testimony to its historical significance.

Visit Umm Al-Amad

- Encompasses layers of tangible Greek civilization artifacts.



Location of Arnoun



Road map from Mount Hermon to Arnoun

THE BEAUFORT CASTLE, Arnoun: The castle was built as a defensive and strategic post for the Crusaders.

Consecutively used by the Ayyubids, the Mamluks and Amir Fakhreddine. It was later restored during the French mandate following an earthquake.

[View Reference](#)



THE BEAUFORT CASTLE

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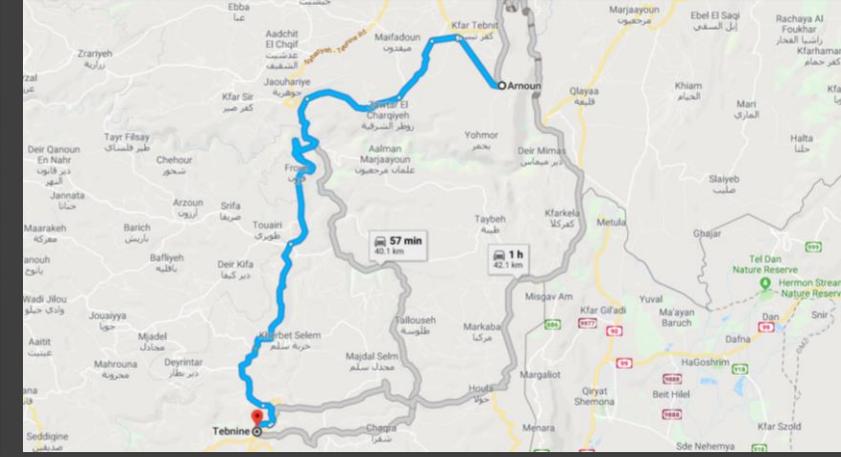
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THE BEAUFORT CASTLE



Location of Tebnine



Road map from Arnoun to Tebnine

THE CITADEL OF TEBNINE (Toron) is a Crusader’s Castle built in 1105. The fortress witnessed many battles throughout its history. The Crusader Castle has been used by many different factions and armies and conquerors over the years that include Alexander the Great, because of its strategic position overlooking miles of terrain. Many of the existing families of Tebnine have a background makeup of Phoenician, European and Arab due to ranging influences in the region over centuries.



THE CITADEL OF TEBNINE

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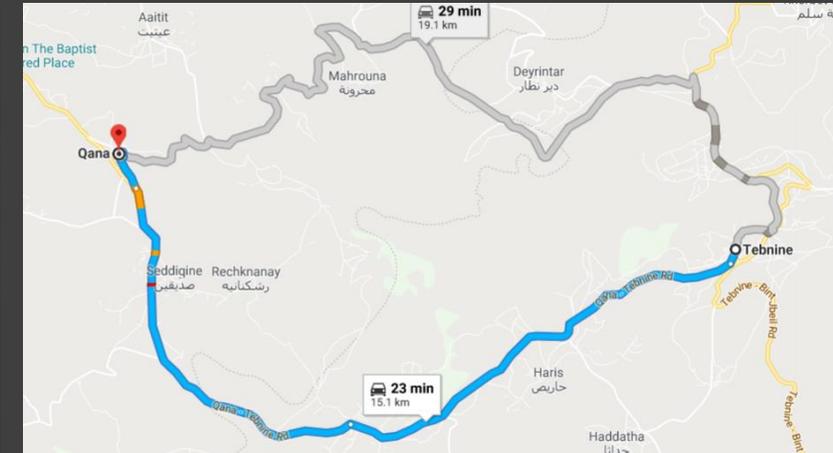


About Qana

QANA (Cana), located at 13 km from Tyre, it is believed that this is the village where Jesus performed his first miracle, turning water into wine.



Location of Qana



Road map from Tebnine to Qana



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About Tyre

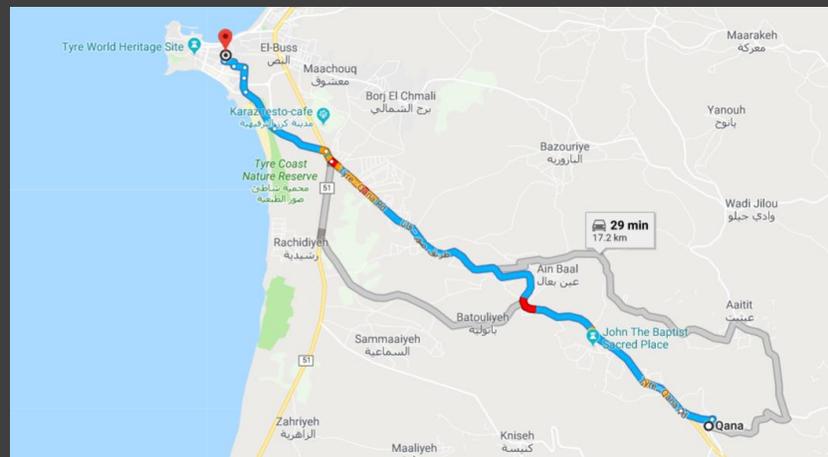
About Tyre

TYRE, built around 2700 BC, it 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 a testimony to its historical significance. Tyre was originally made up of two settlements – one on the mainland and the other on an island – the two cities were connected with a causeway.



Location of Tyre



Road map from Qana to Tyre



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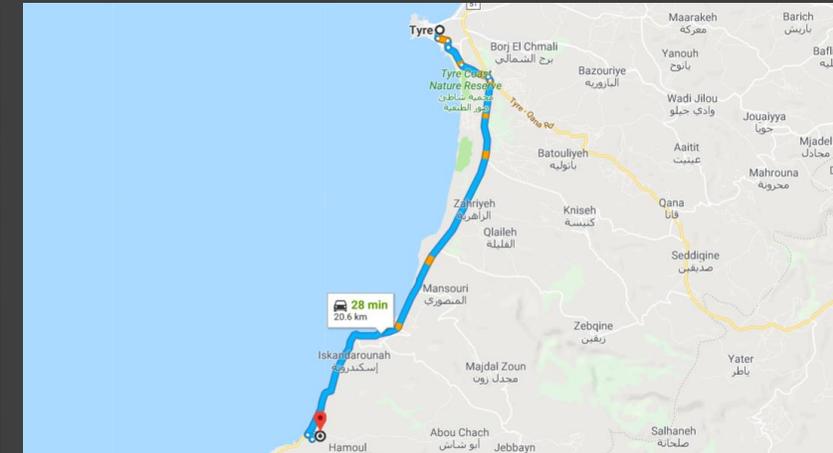
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Visit Umm Al-Amad

- Encompasses layers of tangible Greek civilization artifacts.



Location of Umm Al-Amad



Road map from Tyre to Umm Al-Amad

UMM AL-AMAD as a Phoenician city encompasses layers of tangible Greek civilization artifacts witnessed by (archeological findings) at the eastern shoulder of the Naqoura Sea- south Lebanon. Umm Al-Amad was discovered by a French explorer in 1772, though the first excavations didn't take place until 1861. The city of more than 60,000 square meters still bears witness to an important historical period and tells of architectural art and precision in engraving and sculpture with tools dating back to the Iron Age, which was named after the discovery of iron nearly 3,000 years ago. Umm Al-Amad's two temples were built roughly between 287 and 222 B.C.



FROM BATROUN TO BALLBEK

Visit Batroun

- Phoenician wall.

Visit Bziza

- Ruins of a Roman temple standing over fifteen meters high with fragments of pottery and oil lamps.

Visit Douma

- Different civilizations (ancient Greece, ancient Rome, Turkey...)

Visit Yanouh

- Yanouh, once a Phoenician center, is half-way between Byblos (Jbeil) and Heliopolis (Baalbek)

Visit Afqa

- A site of one of the finest waterfalls in the mountains of the Middle East.

Visit Baalbek

- three main buildings: the Temple of Jupiter, the Temple of Bacchus and the circular Temple of Venus and a fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury.



About Batroun

BATROUN, derives from the Greek Botrys, is founded by the Phoenicians on the southern side of the promontory called in Antiquity, Theoprosopon (*Râs ach-Chaq'a'*) and during the Byzantine Empire, Cape Lithoprosopon.

The city was under Roman rule to Phoenicia Prima province, and later after the region was Christianized became a suffragan of the Patriarchate of Antioch.



Location of Batroun



BATROUN



BATROUN

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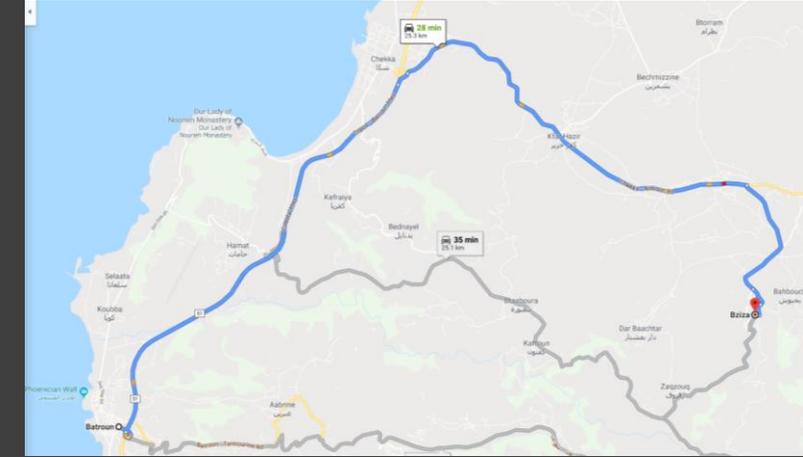
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BATROUN



Location of Bziza



Road map from Batroun to Bziza

The Roman temple at **BZIZA** is quite well preserved. The western facade is embellished by an elegant portico of three limestone columns, the remainder of an original four, supporting architecture of the ionic order.



BZIZA

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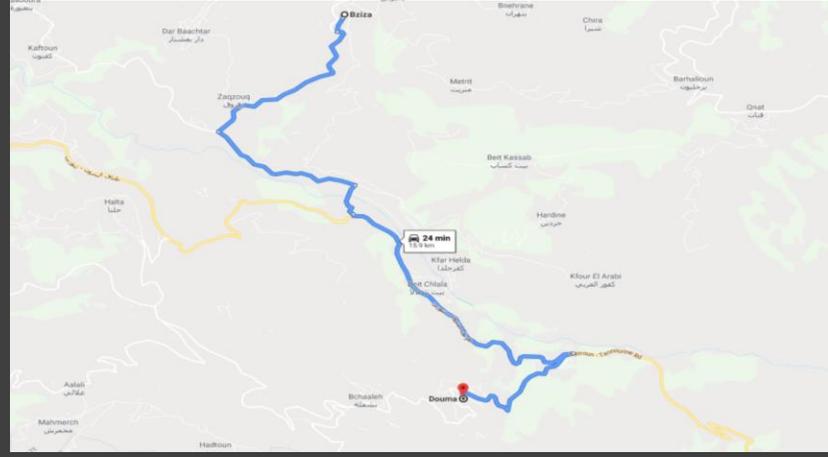
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BZIZA



Location of Douma



Road map from Bziza to Douma

DOUMA witnessed different civilizations including ancient Greece, ancient Rome and Turkey. However, the Ottoman Empire left the largest impact on Douma's inhabitants.

In the town square sits a 4th-century A.D. sarcophagus, bearing a Greek inscription recording that this was the burial place of Castor, who died in 317 A.D.



DOUMA

FROM BATROUN TO BALLBEK

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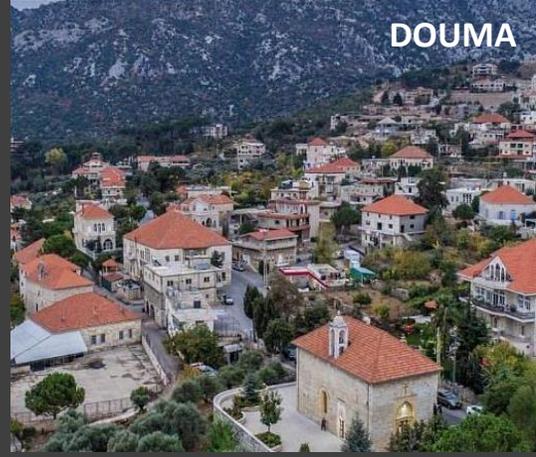
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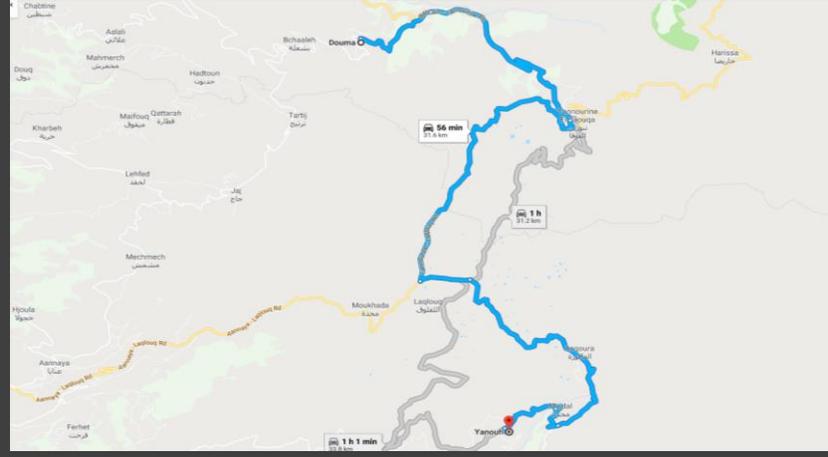
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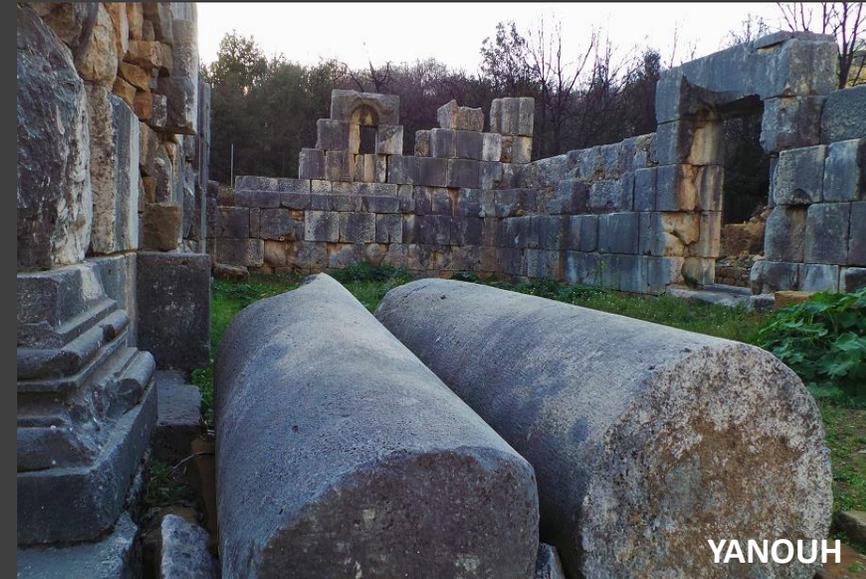
- three main buildings: the Temple of Jupiter, the Temple of Bacchus and the circular Temple of Venus and a fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury.



Location of Yanouh



Road map from Douma to Yanouh



YANOUH

YANOUH, once a Phoenician center, is half-way between Byblos (Jbeil) and Heliopolis (Baalbek). Its Phoenician temple is a monument to the same religion as that of Apeca, but the later Roman temple was dedicated to Diana, the Roman goddess of the hunt and daughter of the god Jupiter.

FROM BATROUN TO BALLBEK

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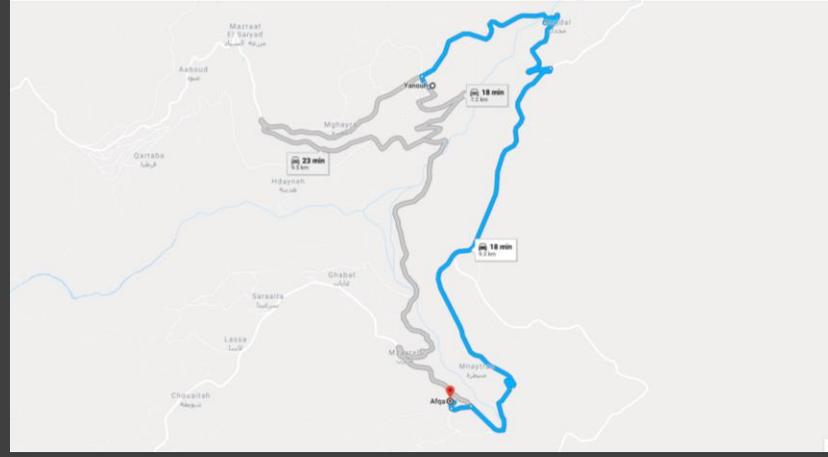
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YANOUH



Location of Afqa



Road map from Yanouh to Afqa

AFQA, Known in ancient times as *Apheca* or *Afeka*, located in the mountains of Lebanon, aligned centrally between Baalbek and Byblos.

It is the site of one of the finest waterfalls in the mountains of the Middle East, which feeds into the Adonis River (known today as Abraham River or Nahr Ibrahim in Arabic), and forms Lake Yammoune, with which it is also associated by legend.

In Greek mythology Adonis was born and died at the foot of the falls in Afqa. The ruins of the celebrated temple of Aphrodite.



AFQA

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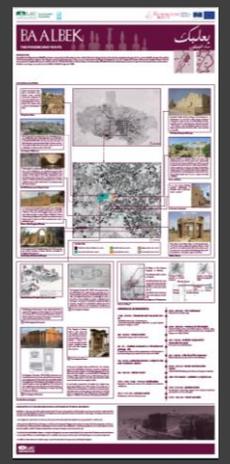
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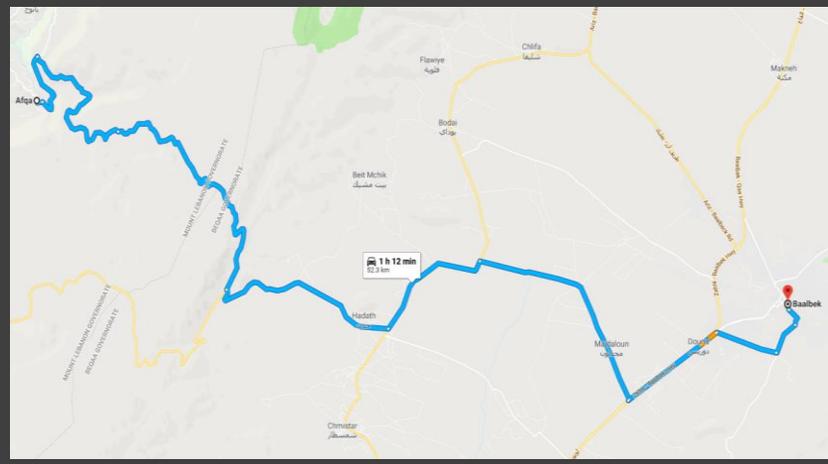


About Baalbek

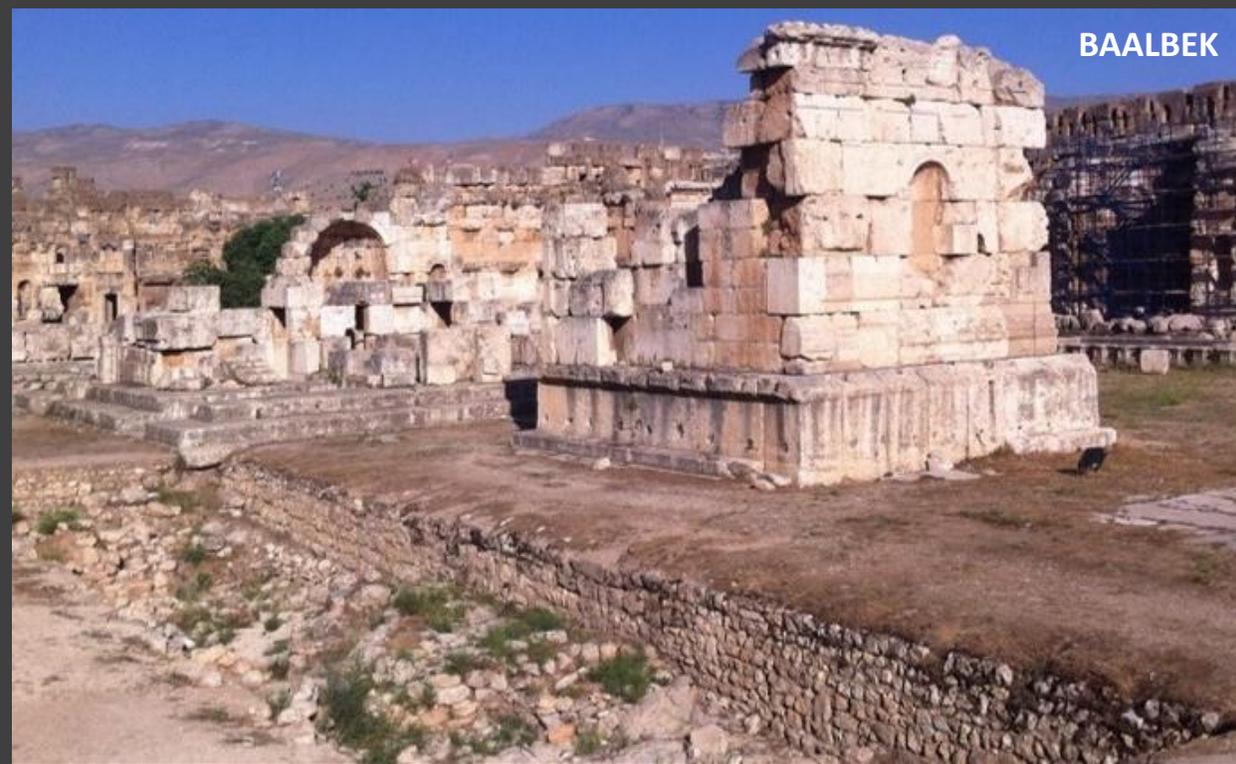
BAALBEK, Founded by the Phoenicians, it was later conquered by the Macedonians who called it Heliopolis (always the City of the Sun) for assimilation between the god Sun and the Phoenician divinity Baal. Then it became a Roman colony under Augustus, preserving the new name. Today you can see three main buildings: the temple of Jupiter, the temple of Bacchus and the circular temple of Venus. A fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury is located on the hill of Sheikh Abdallah. inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).



Location of Baalbek



Road map from Afqa to Baalbek



FROM BALLBEK TO FAQRA

Visit Niha Temples

- Niha Roman Temples also known for Hosn Niha, a structure of many layers the latest of which is a small Byzantine Basilica.

Visit Zahle

- City of wine and poetry

Visit Sannine

- Source of many mountain springs

Visit Baskinta

- Phoenician and Greek remains

Visit Faqra

- Qalaat Faqra is an archaeological site in Kfardebian, with Roman and Byzantine ruins.



About Niha

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 a Byzantine Basilica.



Location of Niha



Road map from Baalbek to Niha



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NIHA



Location of Zahle



Road map from Niha to Zahle

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.



ZAHLE

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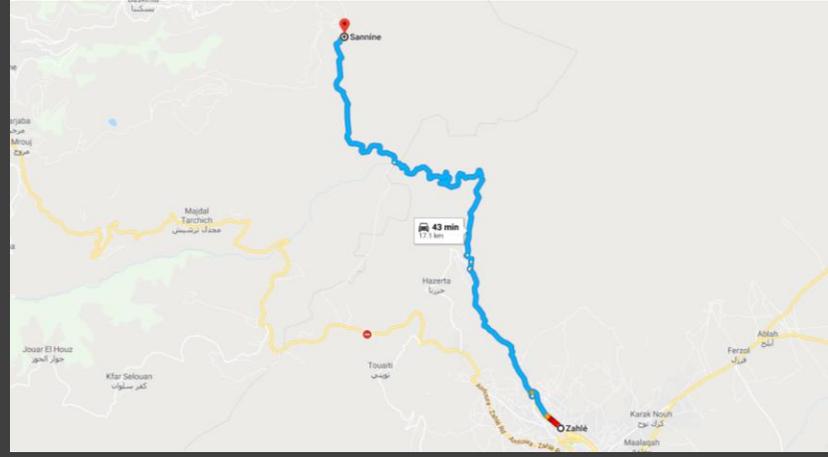
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Location of Sannine



Road map from Zahle to Sannine

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.



FROM BALLBEK TO FAQRA

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Location of Baskinta



Road map from Sannine to Baskinta

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.



FROM BALLBEK TO FAQRA

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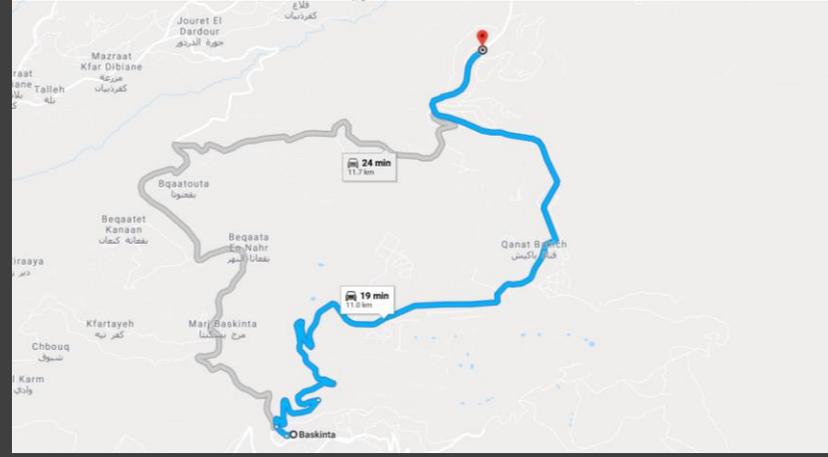
- Phoenician and Greek remains

Visit Faqra

- **Qalaat Faqra is an archaeological site in Kfardebian, with Roman and Byzantine ruins.**



Location of Faqra



Road map from Baskinta to Faqra

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.



FROM FAQRA TO JOUNIEH

Visit Faitroun

- **Faitroun rocks**

Visit Harissa

- The Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon.

Visit Bkerki

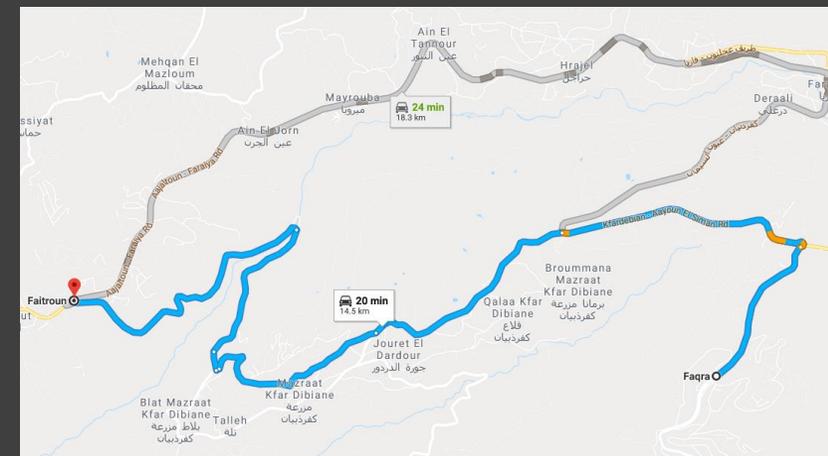
- Maronite Catholic Patriarchate of Antioch of the Maronite Church in Lebanon

Visit Jounieh

- Important winter shelter for ships sailing from the south to Byblos.
- St. Savior Orthodox Convent (Phoenician temple)
- Holy Spirit Kaslik (museum).
- Jeita Grotto.
- Ancient Lycus River (Nahr el Kalb)



Location of Faitroun



Road map from Faqra to Faitroun

FAITROUN rocks. A Preserve the Natural Rock Formations.



FROM FAQRA TO JOUNIEH

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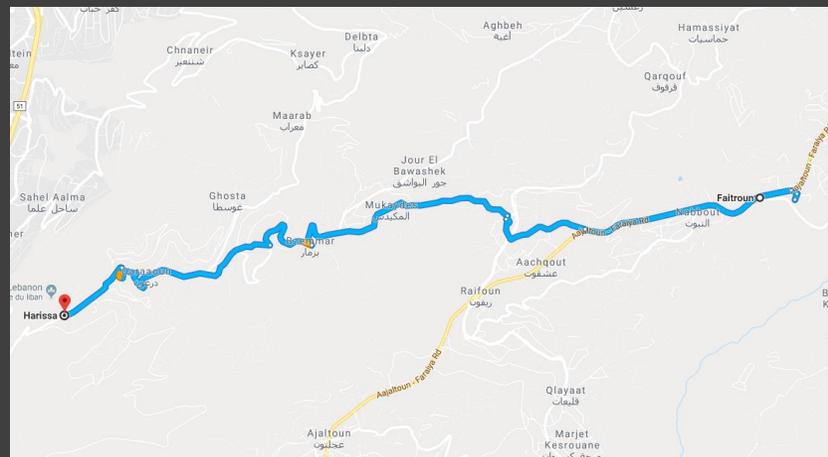
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- Ancient Lycus River (Nahr el Kalb)



FAITROUN

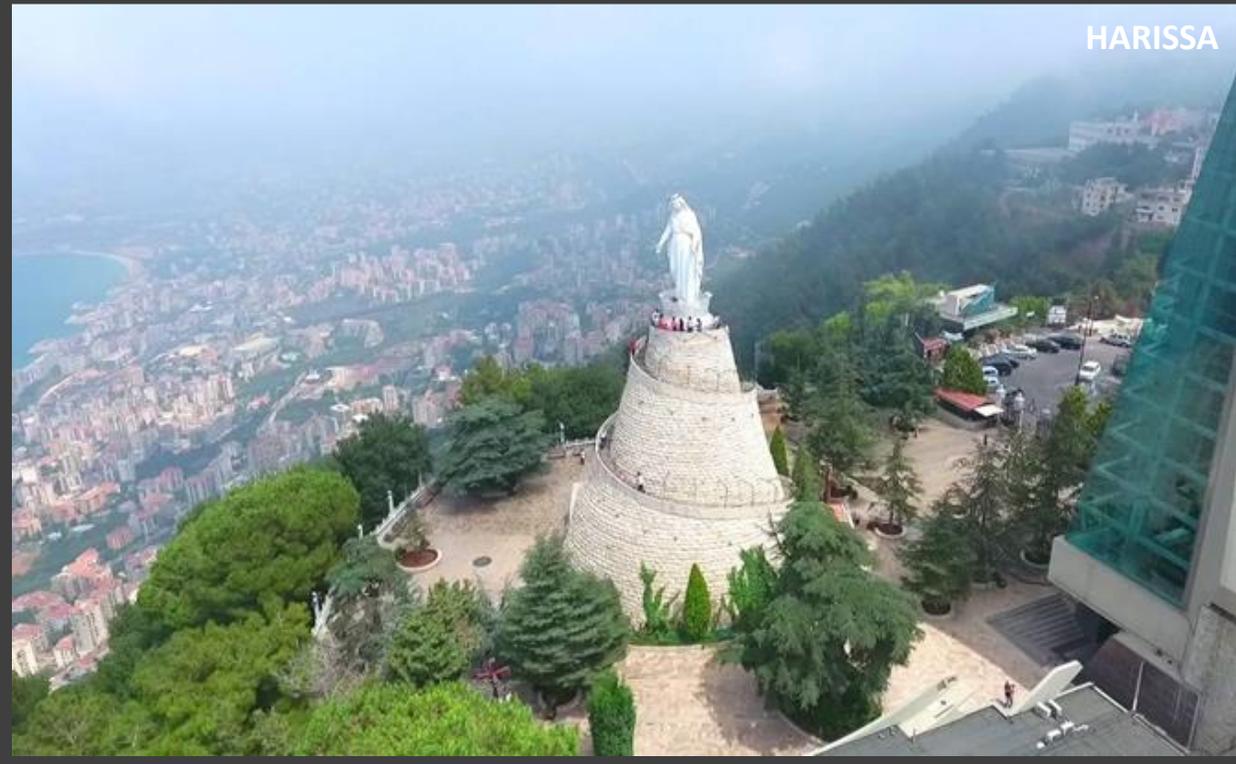


Location of Harissa



Road map from Faitroun to Harissa

THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON draws millions of faithful both Christians and Muslims from all over the world. The 50th jubilee in 1954 was also the hundredth 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.



HARISSA

FROM FAQRA TO JOUNIEH

Visit Faitroun

- Faitroun rocks

Visit Harissa

- The Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon.

Visit Bkerki

- Maronite Catholic Patriarchate of Antioch of the Maronite Church in Lebanon

Visit Jounieh

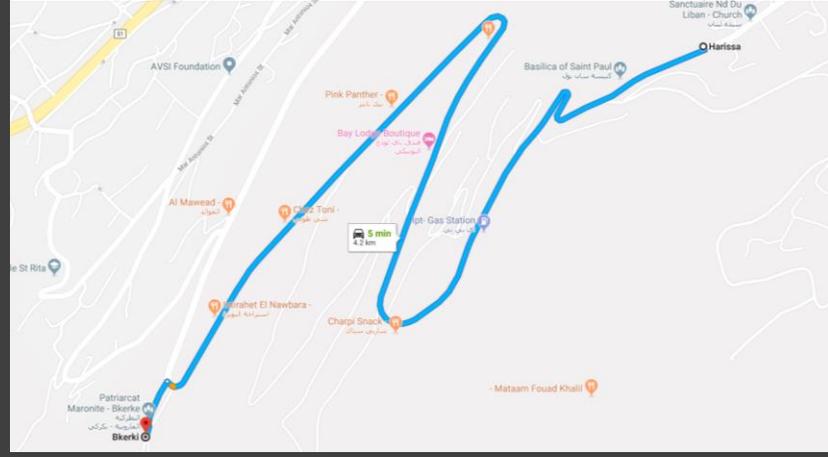
- Important winter shelter for ships sailing from the south to Byblos.
- St. Savior Orthodox Convent (Phoenician temple)
- Holy Spirit Kaslik (museum).
- Jeita Grotto.
- Ancient Lycus River (Nahr el Kalb)



HARISSA



Location of Bkerki



Road map from Harissa to Bkerki

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*.



BKERKI

FROM FAQRA TO JOUNIEH

Visit Faitroun

- Faitroun rocks

Visit Harissa

- The Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon.

Visit Bkerki

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- Jeita Grotto.
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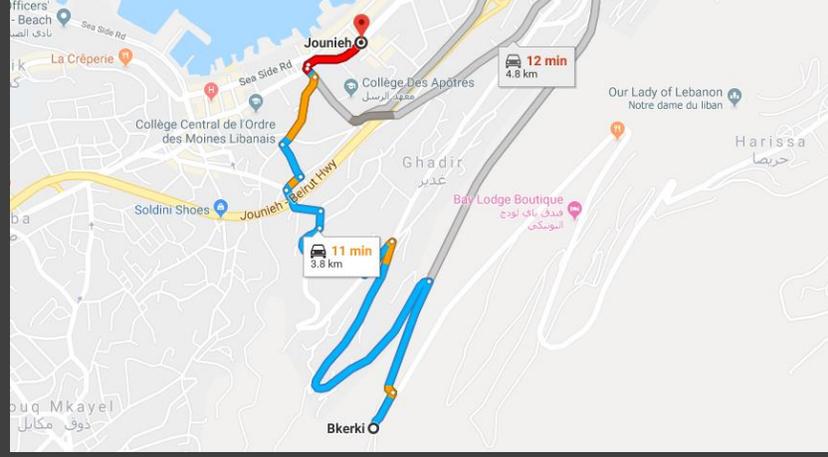
About Jounieh

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 in Strabo.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/44884>



Location of Jounieh



Road map from Bkerki to Jounieh



FROM JBEIL TO ANFEH

Visit Jbeil

- Oldest inhabited city in the world
- Archaeological site
- Old Souk
- Heritage landmarks

Visit Mebaaj Grotto

- Located in Tourzaiyya, made up of ponds and lakes, and is believed to be 30 to 40 million years old.

Visit Smar Jbeil

- Smar Jbeil has a Phoenician citadel.

Visit Batroun

- Phoenician wall.

Visit Mseilha Castle

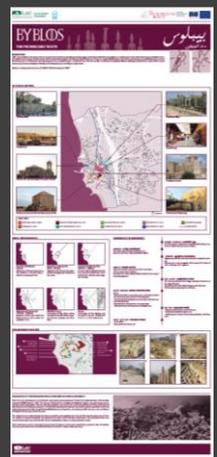
- The Mseilha Fort is a fortification situated 5.5 km north of the city of Batroun.

Visit Lady of Nourieh

- A Marian shrine in Hamat can be called the Lady of Light.

Visit Anfeh

- The remains of the civilizations include Phoenician and Roman walls, wine presses, mosaics, places of worship, caves, water tanks, and steps.



JBEIL

About Jbeil

About Jbeil

Location of Jbeil

JBEIL is believed to have been first occupied between 8800 and 7000 BC and continuously inhabited since 5000 BC, making it one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



JBEIL

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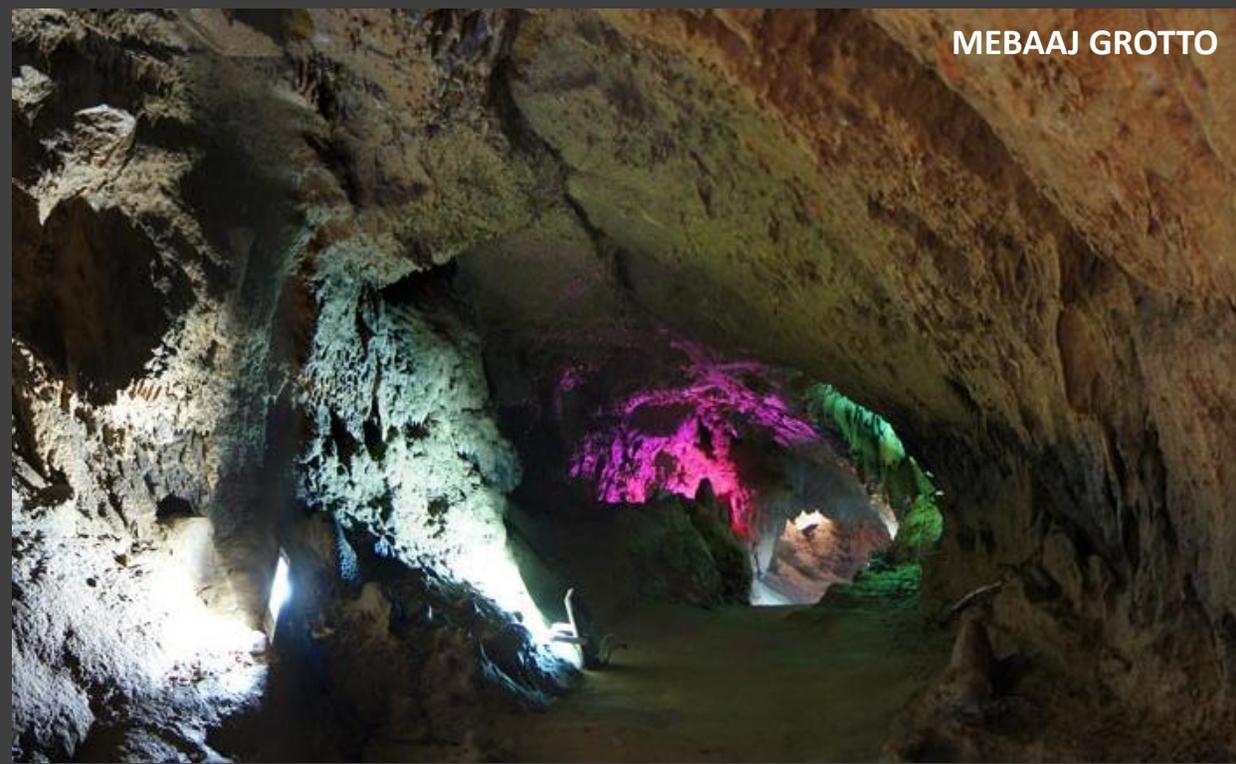
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Location of Mebaaj Grotto **Road map from Jbeil to Mebaaj Grotto**

MEBAAJ GROTTTO is made up of ponds and lakes, and is believed to be 30 to 40 million years old. While the accessible area in the grotto is 220 meters long, its total length is estimated at 4500 meters.



MEBAAJ GROTTTO

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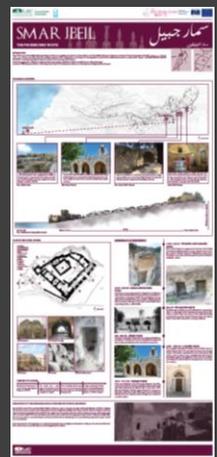
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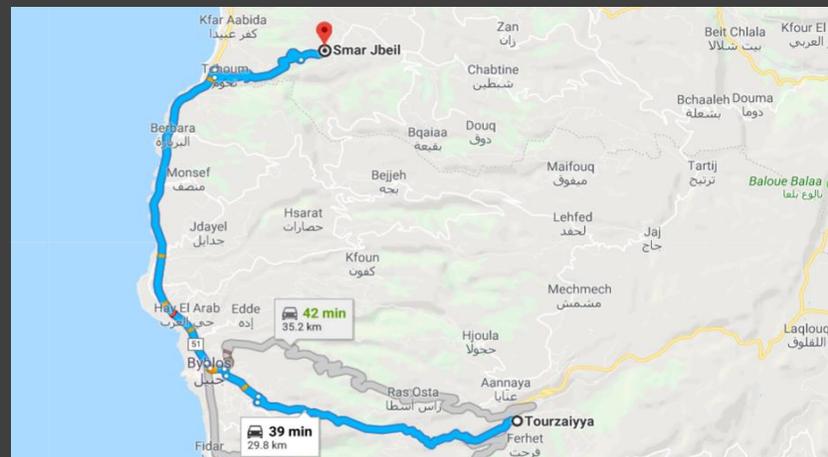


About Smar Jbeil

SMAR JBEIL is a small agglomeration situated in the region of Batroun in North Lebanon at an altitude of 500m, on the way between Batroun, Rashana and Douma. The name is of Phoenician origin and means Guardian of Jbeil, the Watchman. Smar Jbeil is one of the most ancient towns of Lebanon, having a Phoenician citadel which was used by the Romans, who left inscriptions in the northern wall. The Crusaders for their part built basements around its two towers and a church on the side facing north. Wells were dug in the living rock as well as deep underground galleries.



Location of Smar Jbeil



Road map from Mebaaj Grotto to Smar Jbeil



SMAR JBEIL

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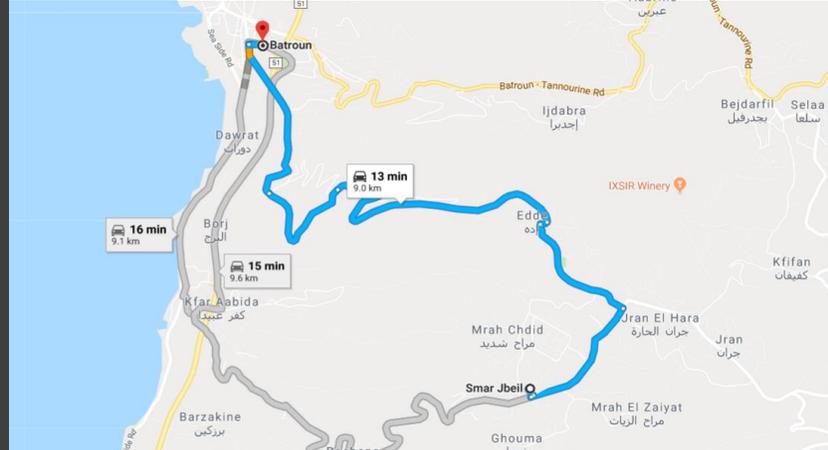
About Batroun

BATROUN, derives from the Greek Botrys, is founded by the Phoenicians on the southern side of the promontory called in Antiquity, Theoprosopon (*Râs ach-Chaq'a'*) and during the Byzantine Empire, Cape Lithoprosopon.

The city was under Roman rule to *Phoenicia Prima* province, and later after the region was Christianized became a suffragan of the Patriarchate of Antioch.



Location of Batroun



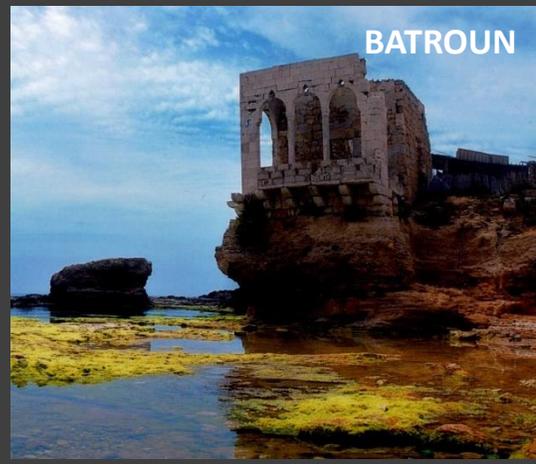
Road map from Smar Jbeil to Batroun



BATROUN

FROM JBEIL TO ANFEH

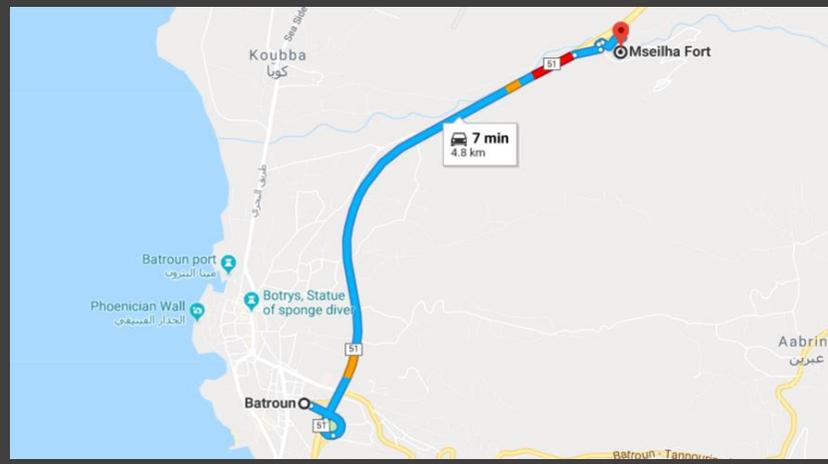
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BATROUN



Location of Mseilha Fort



Road map from Batroun to Mseilha Castle

THE MSEILHA FORT is a fortification situated 5.5km north of the city of Batroun in Lebanon. The current fort was built by Emir Fakhreddine II in the 17th century to guard the route from Tripoli to Beirut. 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 MSEILHA FORT

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LADY OF NOURIEH, (*Saydet el Nourieh* in Arabic), situated midway between Batroun and Anfeh. It is a Marian shrine in Hamat, Lebanon. Nourieh is a derivative of the Arabic word, *Nour*, meaning light. Thus, in English, the Marian shrine can be called, Our Lady of Light.



FROM JBEIL TO ANFEH

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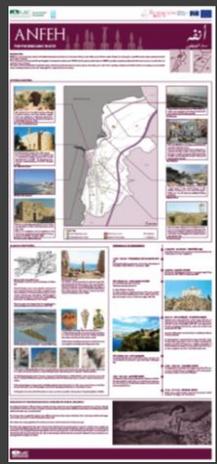
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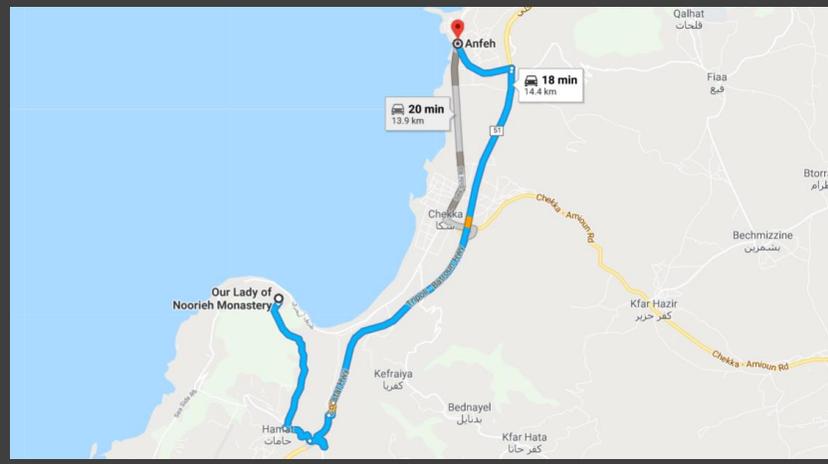


About Anfeh

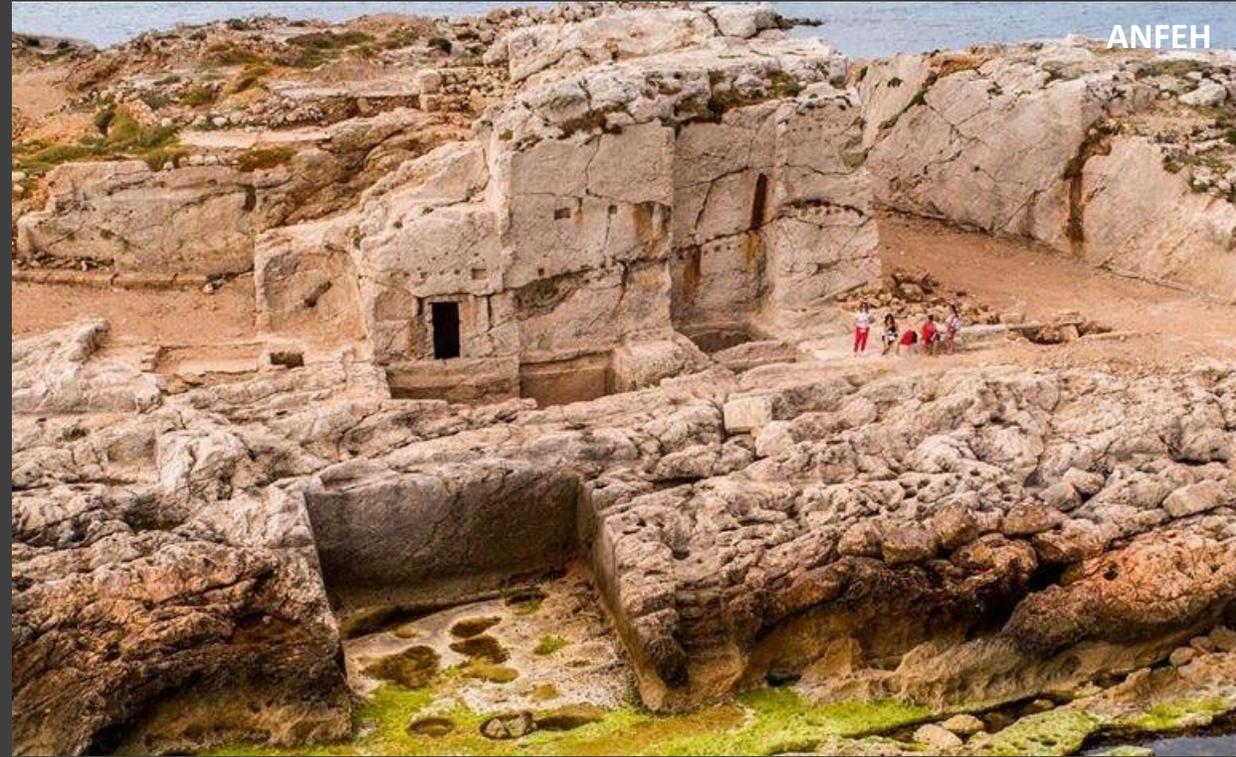
ANFEH is among the coastal Phoenician cities and towns that still exist today in Lebanon. Prior to the recent excavation, Anfeh was thought to have been founded around 1300 BC, but the pottery, which dates to 3200 BC, provides compelling evidence that the town was once a much older and significant city in antiquity. The remains of these civilizations include Phoenician and Roman walls, wine presses, mosaics, places of worship, caves, water tanks, and steps.



Location of Anfeh



Road map from Lady of Nourieh to Anfeh



FROM ANFEH TO MENJEZ

Visit Amioun

- Small caves built in the old city's rocks and visit Saint John "Al-Sheer".

Visit Bcharri

- Infamous Cedar Forest of Lebanon

Visit Wadi Qadisha

- Sacred destination

Visit Tripoli

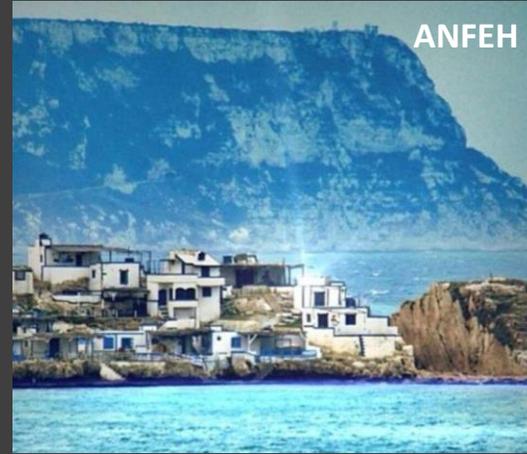
- The second largest city and main port in Lebanon.

Visit Arqa

- Tell Arqa, an archaeological site that goes back to Neolithic times

Visit Menjez

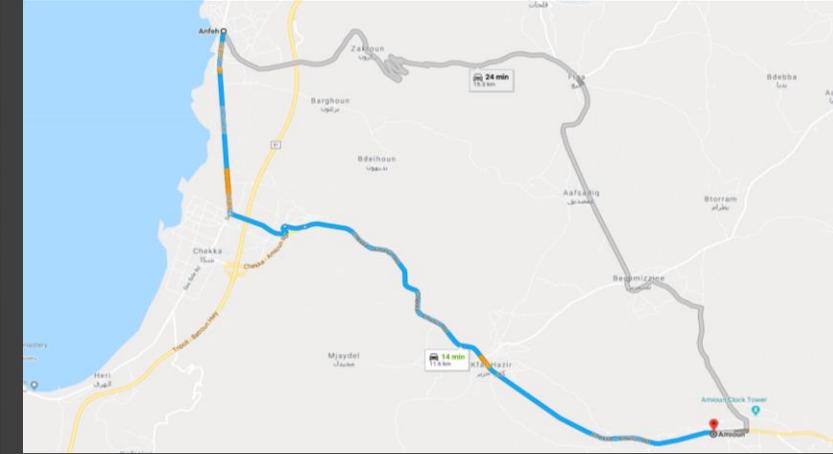
- Roman basalt temple called Maqam Er Rabb or Beit Jaalouk



ANFEH

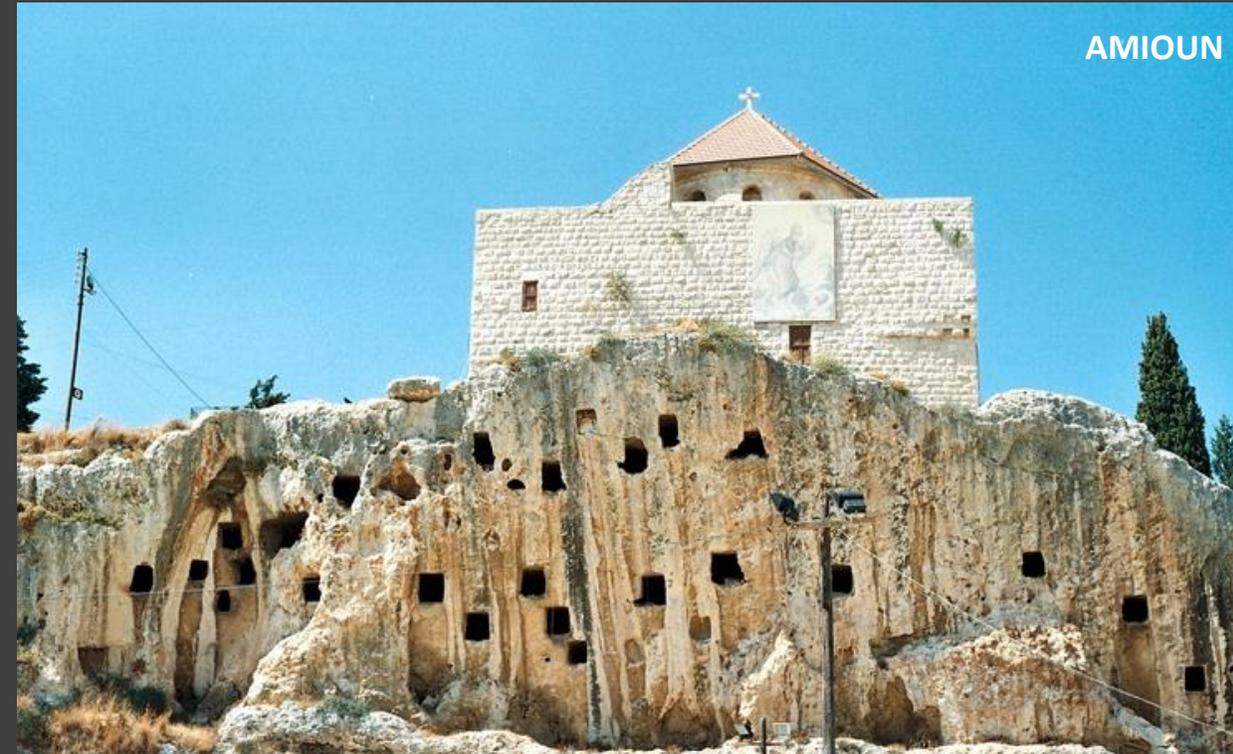


Location of Amioun



Road map from Anfeh to Amioun

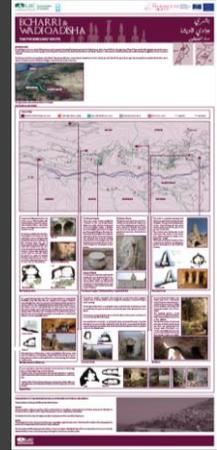
AMIOUN Convent site is a very old settlement whose history can be traced back to the Paleolithic period. This is supported by the number of small caves built in the old city's rocks. The ancient Semitic peoples are thought to have arrived in the region around 4000 B.C. Saint John "Al-Sheer" is a church elevated on the rocky cliff over a number of vaults in the southeastern facade of the cliff.



AMIOUN

FROM ANFEH TO MENJEZ

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 - Small caves built in the old city’s rocks and visit Saint John “Al-Sheer”.
- Visit Bcharri
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 - The second largest city and main port in Lebanon.
- Visit Arqa
 - Tell Arqa, an archaeological site that goes back to Neolithic times
- Visit Menjez
 - Roman basalt temple called Maqam Er Rabb or Beit Jaalouk



About Bcharri

BCHARRI is a town to the east of Tripoli. Bcharri is the town of the only remaining and preserved original Cedars of Lebanon (*Cedrus Libani*), and is the birthplace of the famous poet, painter and sculptor Khalil Gibran who now has a museum in the town to honor him.



Location of Bcharri



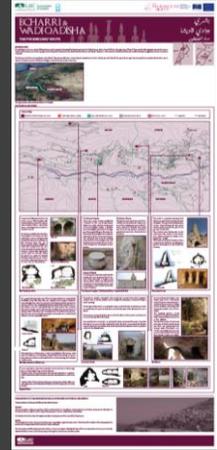
Road map from Amioun to Bcharri



BCHARRI

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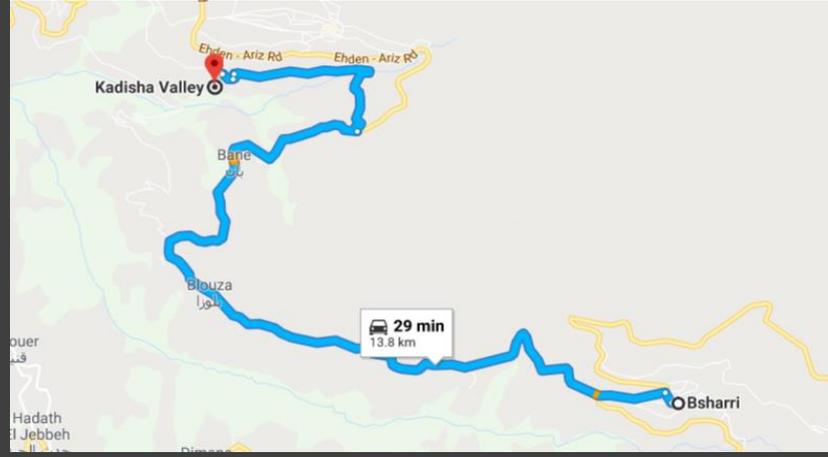
About Wadi Qadisha

WADI QADISHA is a valley known for being a sacred destination where one can visit several monasteries carved into the sides of its rocky hills.

Wadi Qadisha (the Holy Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars heritage sites are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1998).



Location of Wadi Qadisha



Road map from Bcharri to Wadi Qadisha



WADI QADISHA

FROM ANFEH TO MENJEZ

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About Tripoli

About Tripoli



Location of Tripoli



Road map from Wadi Qadisha to Tripoli

TRIPOLI, founded by the Phoenicians around 800 BC is today the second largest city and main port in Lebanon. Like Beirut, the city witnessed the presence of various Mediterranean cultures and empires including the Canaanites/Phoenicians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Umayyad, Abbasid, Crusaders, Ayyubid, Mamluks, Ottoman and French. Facing the shores of the city there are the Palm Islands, which known for its green turtles, and which was declared a Protected Nature Reserve by the UNESCO in 1992.



FROM ANFEH TO MENJEZ

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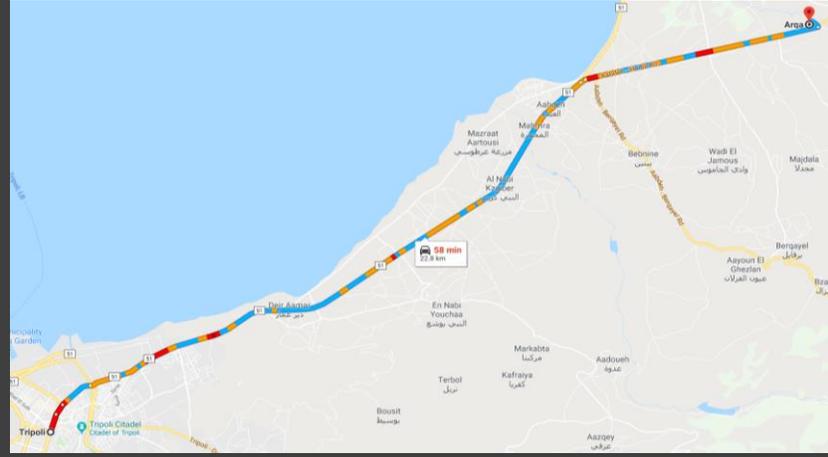
- The second largest city and main port in Lebanon.

Visit Arqa

- **Tell Arqa, an archaeological site that goes back to Neolithic times**

Visit Menjez

- Roman basalt temple called Maqam Er Rabb or Beit Jaalouk



ARQA (Phoenician: *Irqata*; ‘*Arqat* in the Bible) is a village near Miniara in Akkar Governorate, Lebanon, 22 km northeast of Tripoli, near the coast. The former bishopric became a double Catholic titular see (Latin and Maronite). The Roman Emperor Alexander Severus was born there. It is significant for the Tell Arqa, an archaeological site that goes back to Neolithic times, and during the Crusades there was a strategically significant castle.



FROM ANFEH TO MENJEZ

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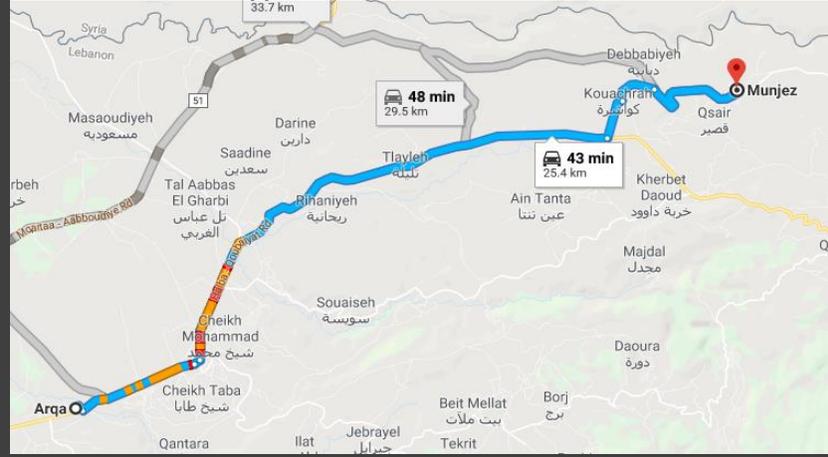


About Menjez

The village of **MENJEZ** is the home to a number of interesting historical, archaeological and religious sites, including: Beit Jaalouk temple (or “Maqam ar-Rabb”, an ancient roman temple and worship site for the goddess Nemesis, dating from the first century AD); a crusader castle ruins “Qalaat Felis” inhabited by the Chevalier de St. Jean de Jerusalem or what is also known as Ordre de Malte, the castle belonged to the Comté de Tripoli; the Maronite Monastery of our Lady of the Fort “Deir Saydet El Qalaa” built by the Jesuits Order in the 19th century; remains of a roman canal; and 180 pre-historic tombs dating back to 5,000 years BC. This archaeological diversity and richness gives Menjez the possibility to become an archaeological park for research, education, and tourism.



Location of Menjez



Road map from Arqa to Menjez



MENJEZ

FROM JBEIL TO BAALBEK

Visit Jbeil

- Oldest inhabited city in the world
- Archaeological site
- Old Souk
- Heritage landmarks

Visit Adonis Valley

- An Ottoman bridge and a Roman aqueduct cross over the Adonis River.

Visit Yanouh

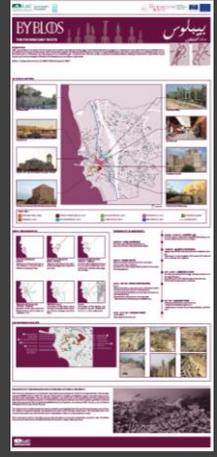
- Yanouh, once a Phoenician center, is half-way between Byblos (Jbeil) and Heliopolis (Baalbek)

Visit Afqa

- A site of one of the finest waterfalls in the mountains of the Middle East.

Visit Baalbek

- three main buildings: the Temple of Jupiter, the Temple of Bacchus and the circular Temple of Venus and a fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury.



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FROM JBEIL TO BAALBEK

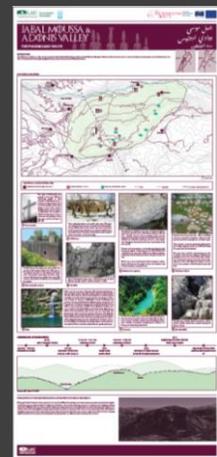
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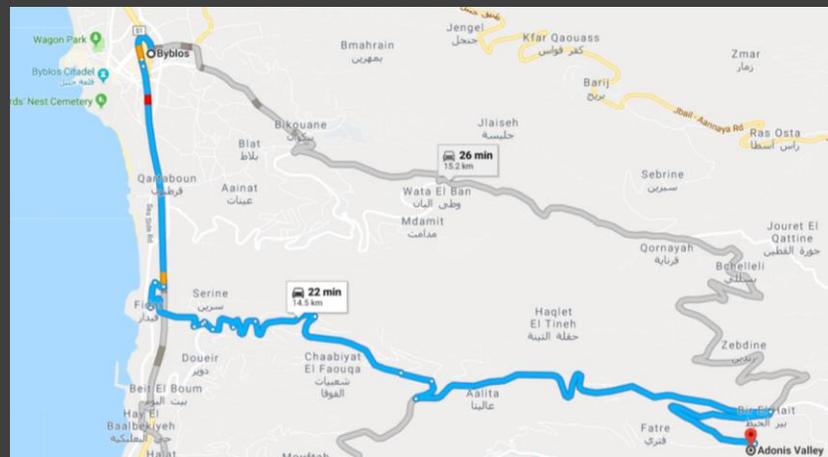


About Adonis Valley

ADONIS VALLEY is south of Byblos and Jabal Moussa. An Ottoman bridge and a Roman aqueduct cross over the Adonis River. According to legend that is where the Phoenician/Greek god Adonis was killed by a wild boar while hunting. Jabal Moussa is one of the very few soundings in Lebanon that exists in mountainous areas (hinterland heritage), and was inhabited during the Phoenician/Canaanean Bronze age, Medieval period, and the most recent Ottoman period. Recent excavations were discovered.



Location Adonis Valley



Road map from Byblos to Adonis Valley



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- Archaeological site
- Old Souk
- Heritage landmarks

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Visit Yanouh

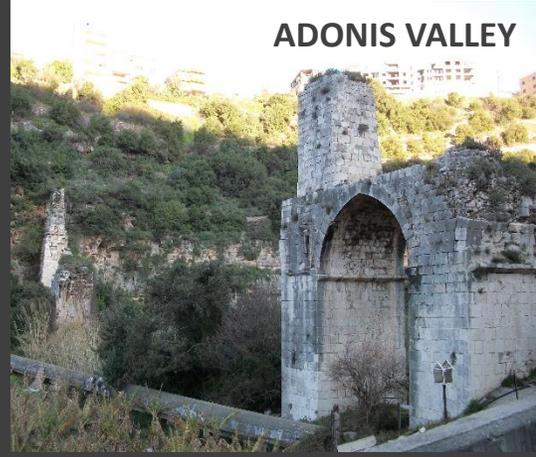
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Visit Afqa

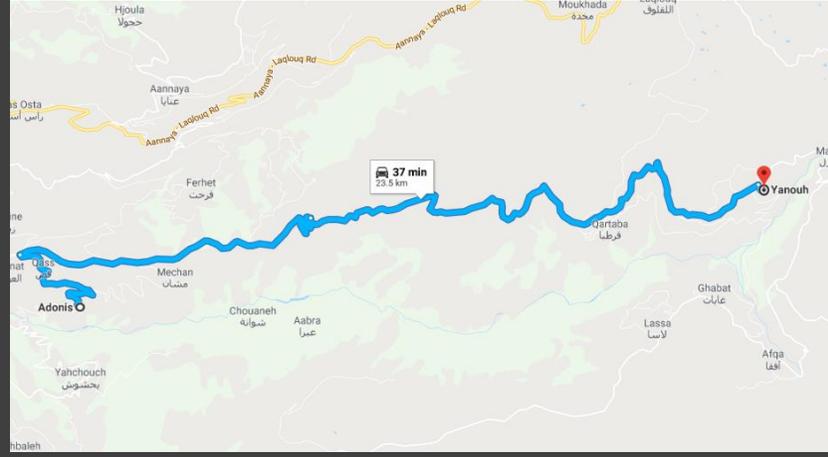
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Visit Baalbek

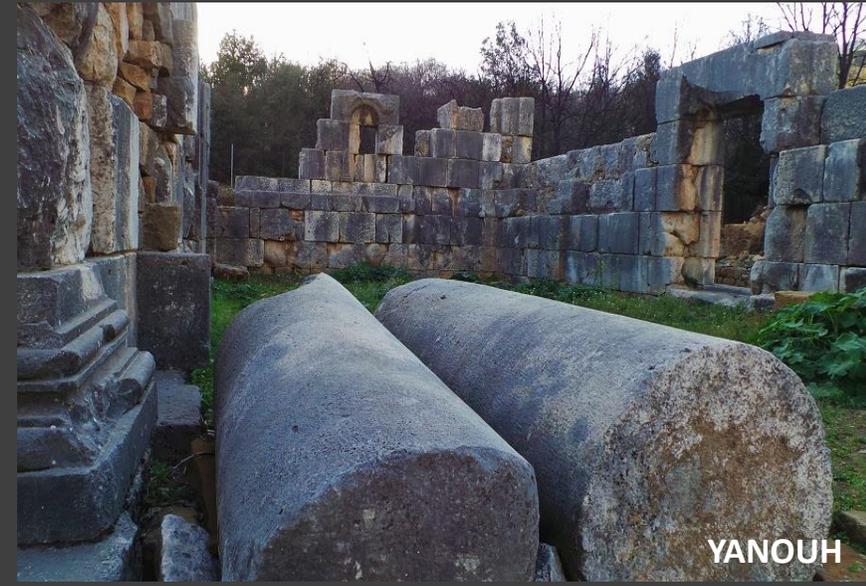
- three main buildings: the Temple of Jupiter, the Temple of Bacchus and the circular Temple of Venus and a fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury.



Location of Yanouh



Road map from Adonis Valley to Yanouh



YANOUH, once a Phoenician center, is half-way between Byblos (Jbeil) and Heliopolis (Baalbek). Its Phoenician temple is a monument to the same religion as that of Apeca, but the later Roman temple was dedicated to Diana, the Roman goddess of the hunt and daughter of the god Jupiter.

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Visit Baalbek

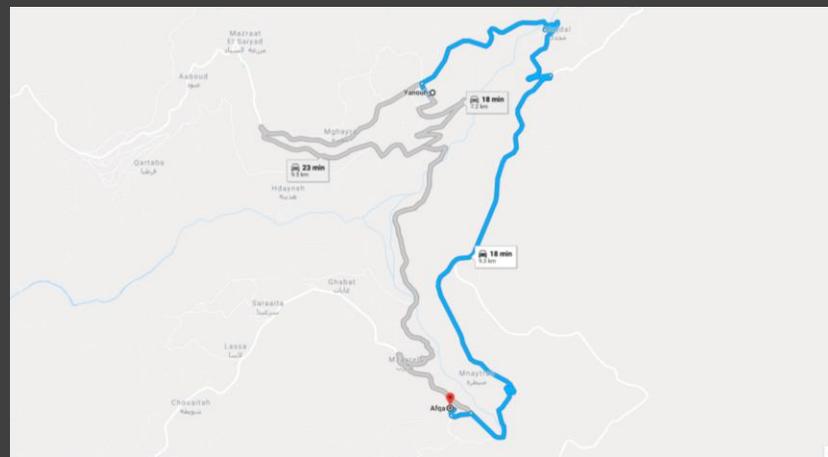
- three main buildings: the Temple of Jupiter, the Temple of Bacchus and the circular Temple of Venus and a fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury.



YANOUH



Location of Afqa



Road map from Yanouh to Afqa

AFQA, Known in ancient times as *Apheca* or *Afeka*, located in the mountains of Lebanon, aligned centrally between Baalbek and Byblos.

It is the site of one of the finest waterfalls in the mountains of the Middle East, which feeds into the Adonis River (known today as Abraham River or Nahr Ibrahim in Arabic), and forms Lake Yammoune, with which it is also associated by legend.

In Greek mythology Adonis was born and died at the foot of the falls in Afqa. The ruins of the celebrated temple of Aphrodite.



AFQA

FROM JBEIL TO BAALBEK

- Visit Jbeil**
- Oldest inhabited city in the world
 - Archaeological site
 - Old Souk
 - Heritage landmarks

- Visit Adonis Valley**
- An Ottoman bridge and a Roman aqueduct cross over the Adonis River.

- Visit Yanouh**
- Yanouh, once a Phoenician center, is half-way between Byblos (Jbeil) and Heliopolis (Baalbek)

- Visit Afqa**
- A site of one of the finest waterfalls in the mountains of the Middle East.

- Visit Baalbek**
- **three main buildings: the Temple of Jupiter, the Temple of Bacchus and the circular Temple of Venus and a fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury.**

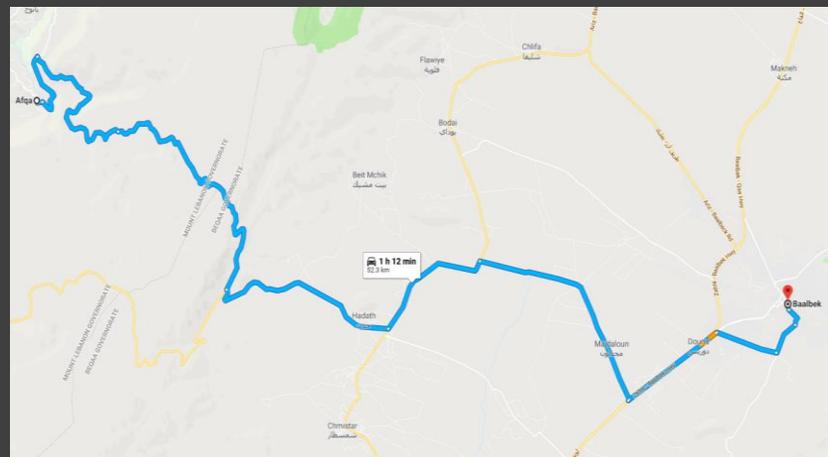


About Baalbek

About Baalbek

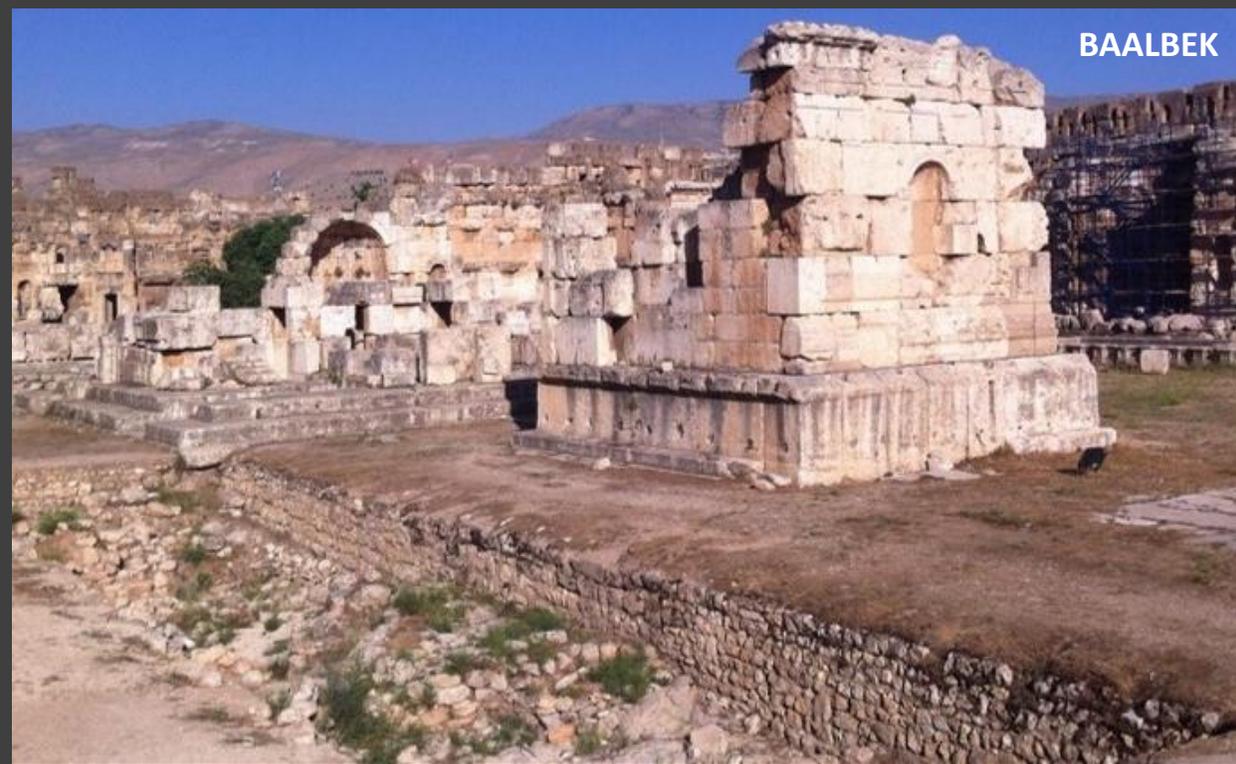


Location of Baalbek



Road map from Afqa to Baalbek

BAALBEK, 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 Augustus, preserving the new name. Today you can see three main buildings: the temple of Jupiter, the temple of Bacchus and the circular temple of Venus. A fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury is located on the hill of Sheikh Abdallah. inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).



BAALBEK

FROM JOUNIEH TO BEIRUT

Visit Jounieh

- Important winter shelter for ships sailing from the south to Byblos.
- St. Savior Orthodox Convent (Phoenician temple)
- Holy Spirit Kaslik (museum).
- Jeita Grotto.
- Ancient Lycus River (Nahr el Kalb)

Visit Nahr Al-Kalb

- Runs from a spring in Jeita near the Jeita Grotto to the Mediterranean Sea.

Visit Bikfayya

- Stone houses with red-tiled roofs resting amidst pine and oak forests make Bikfaya one of the most sought-after suburbs of Beirut
- One of Lebanon's most popular summer resorts.

Visit Bolonia

- Pine forest



About Jounieh

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 in Strabo.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/44884>



Location of Jounieh



JOUNIEH



JOUNIEH

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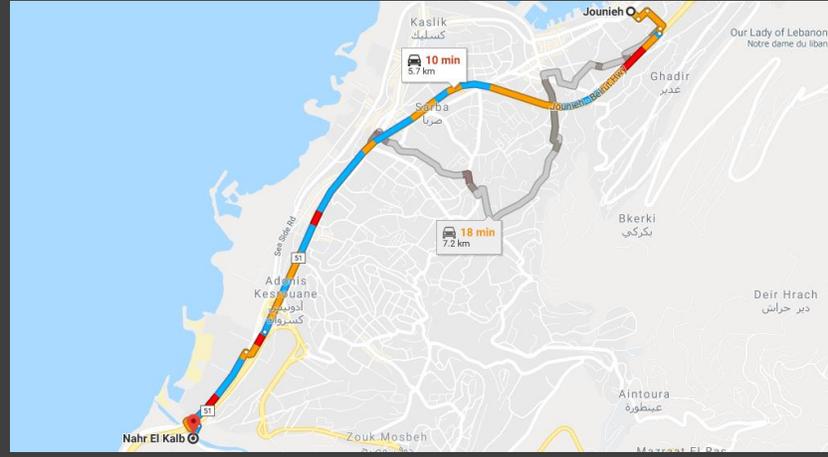
Visit Bolonia

- Pine forest

NAHR AL-KALB is the ancient Lycus River. Past generals and conquerors have traditionally built monuments at the mouth of the Nahr al-Kalb, known as the Commemorative stelae of Nahr el-Kalb. In 2005, the stelae at the river were listed in the UNESCO Memory of the World initiative.



Location of Nahr El-Kalb



Road map from Jounieh to Nahr El-Kalb



NAHR AL-KALB

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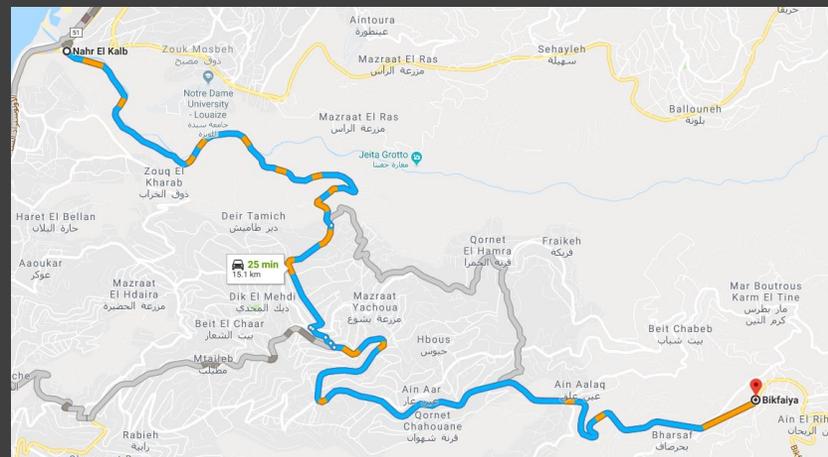
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- Visit Bolonia
- Pine forest



Location of Bikfayya



Road map from Nahr El-Kalb to Bikfayya

The name **“BIKFAYYA”** of the town comes from Phoenician origin (Beit Kfeya) the stone house – that is consecrated to worship the God “Kifa”.

Historians believe that Bikfayya was the consecrated shrine of the Phoenician Baal. It was also the capital of the Christian Cancimat of Lebanon (1840–1860).



FROM JOUNIEH TO BEIRUT

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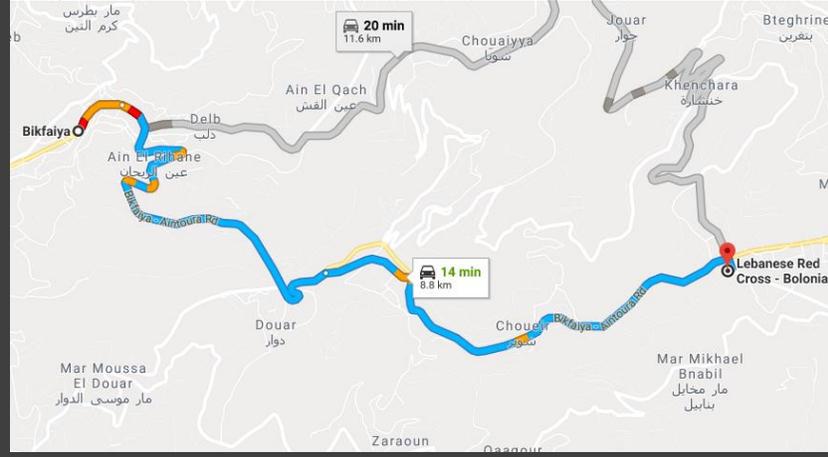
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Visit Bolonia

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Location of Bolonia



Road map from Bikfayya to Bolonia

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.



FROM JOUNIEH TO BEIRUT

Visit Mtein

- Old silk factories.

Visit Hammana

- Multiple water sources, natural evergreen trees.

Visit Cedars of Shouf

- The largest natural reserve in Lebanon.

Visit Barouk

- Largest natural reserve in Lebanon, the Al Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve.

Visit Deir El-Qamar

- Deir El-Qamar: Saydet el Talle Church and the Emir Bashir Palace.

Visit Beiteddine

- Mamluk inspired Fakhreddine Mosque, the Yousef Chehab Palace, the Kharj Barracks, the Palace of Fakhreddine II Ma’ani, its Synagogue.

Visit Beirut

- Capital of Lebanon.



Location of Mtein



Road map from Bolonia to Mtein

Originally home to seven factories, **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 .



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Visit Beirut

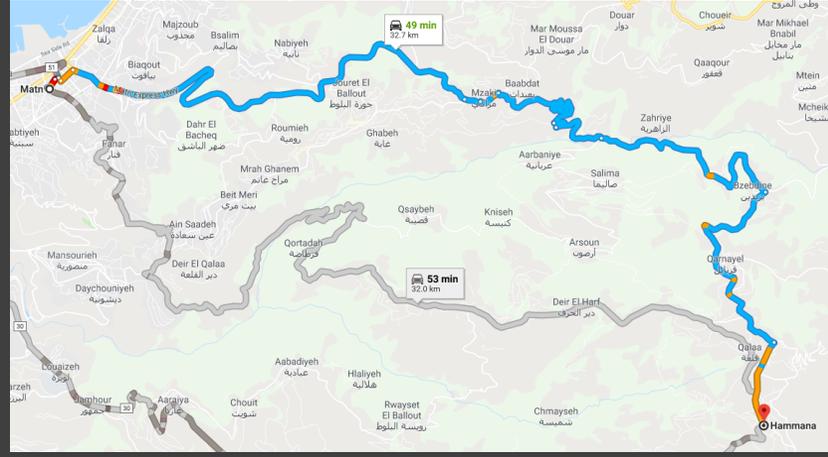
- Capital of Lebanon.



MTEIN



Location of Hammana



Road map from Mtein to Hammana

The word "**HAMMANA**" may have come from the name of the Phoenician Sun God "*Hammon*" or "*Hamman*". These two names are derived from the word "*Hama*" which means heat of the sun.

The village has multiple water sources like the Shaghour fall, Ain-al-Hosa spring, Al-Kadaneh spring, Ain Soltan spring, Ain Maytri spring and many more. Evergreen trees such as pines, firs, spruce as well as some cedar trees are found everywhere in the town.



HAMMANA

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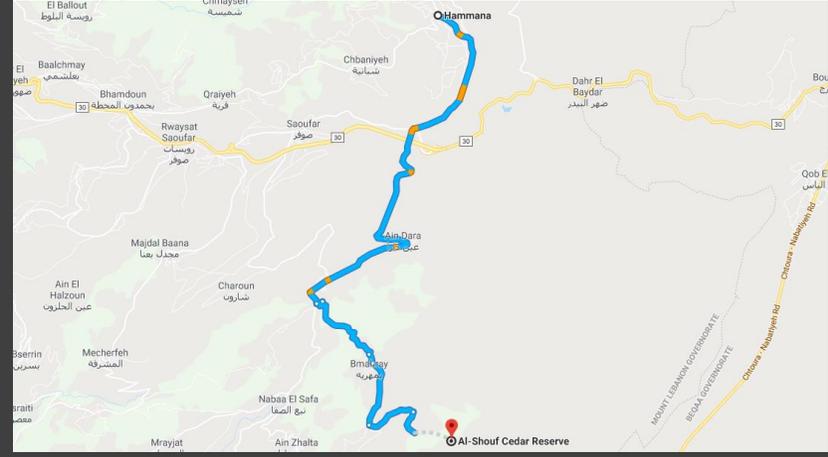
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Visit Beirut

- Capital of Lebanon.



Location of Shouf



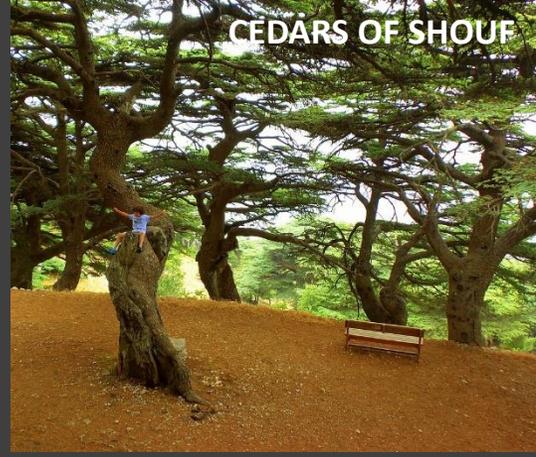
Road map from Hammana to Cedars of Shouf

AL SHOUF CEDAR NATURE RESERVE is a nature reserve in the Chouf District of Lebanon. It is located on the slopes of Barouk mountain and has an area of 550 km², nearly 5.3% of the Lebanese territory. The reserve contains the Lebanon cedar forests of Barouk, Maaser el Shouf and Ain Zhalta-Bmohray. It is an Important Bird Area (IBA) and Eco-tourism area. It hosts 32 species of wild mammals, 200 species of birds, and 500 species of plants.

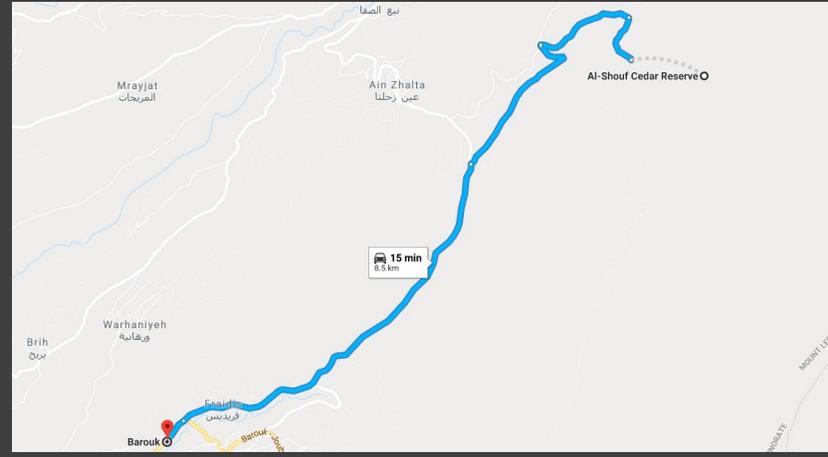


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Location of Barouk



Road map from Cedars of Shouf to Barouk

BAROUK is a village in the Chouf District of Lebanon. Historically, the village is known for being the “land of good”, because of its fountain (*Nabeh-el-Barouk*). Barouk is crowned by its mountain “Jabal el Barouk” that stands 1943 m above sea level. The mountain also has the largest natural reserve in Lebanon, the Al Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve, and contains the oldest and most elegant cedar forest in Lebanon, the “*Cedrus Libani*”. That cedar is considered, among with other cedar forests, the real Cedars of Lord “*Arz el Rab.*”



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About Deir El-Qamar

During the 16th to 18th centuries, **DEIR AL-QAMAR** was the capital and the residence of the Emirate of Mount Lebanon.

It is also notable for its 15th-century Fakhreddine Mosque, Fakhreddine II Palace, and the palace of the Emir Yusuf Shihab.

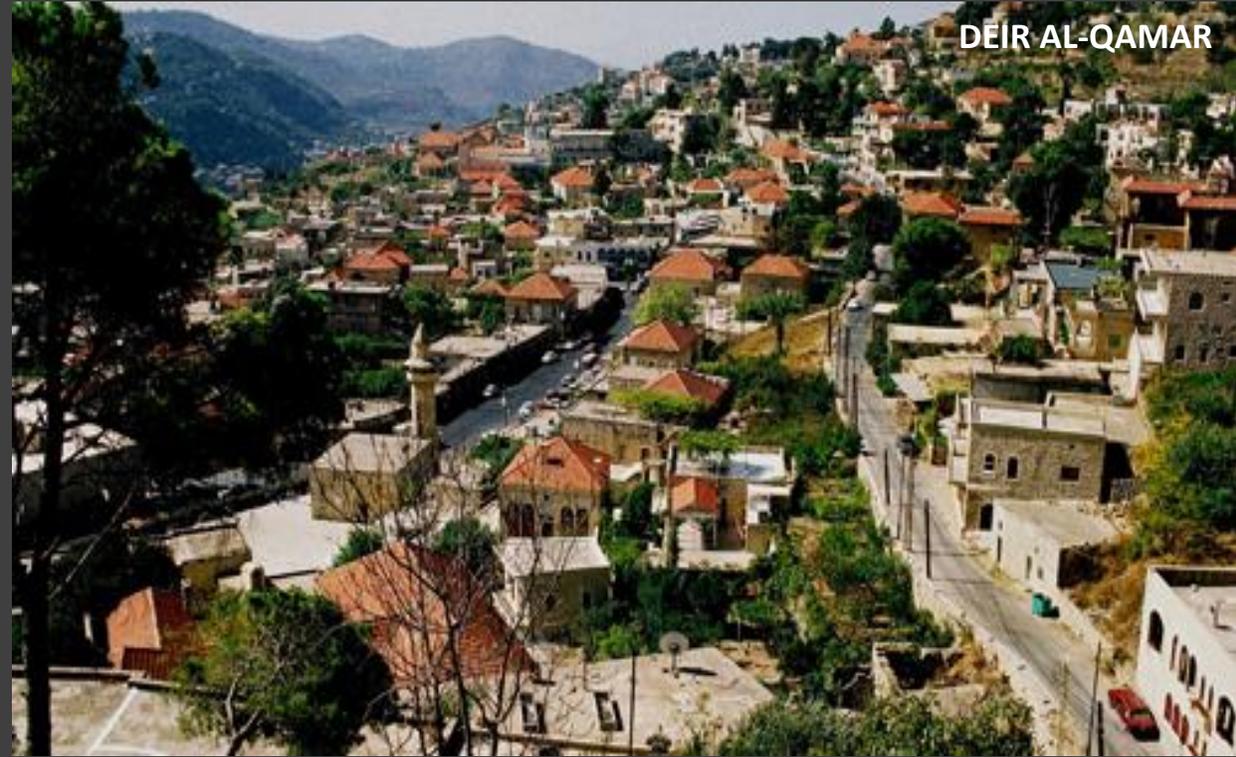
The 17th century Deir al-Qamar Synagogue is also in the village, although closed to the public. During its peak, the city was the Centre of Lebanese literary tradition.



Location of Deir El-Qamar

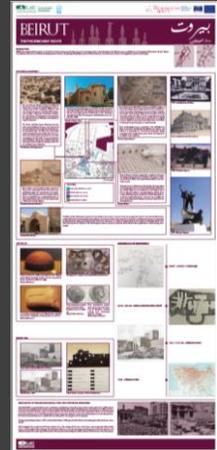


Road map from Cedars of Barouk to Deir El-Qamar



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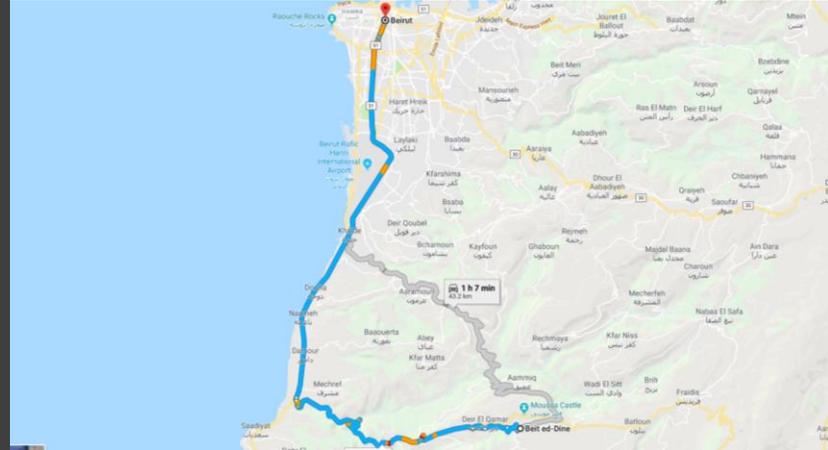


About Beirut

About Beirut



Location of Beirut



Road map from Beiteddine to Beirut

BEIRUT, the capital and the largest city of Lebanon, has hosted successive historic periods of major powers and civilizations in the Mediterranean and West Asia. It has layers of Phoenician, Roman, Byzantine, Mamluk, Ottoman and French mandate periods. Today's archaeological highlights include a Phoenician port, several Roman remains of a hippodrome, baths and temples.



FROM SIDON TO UMM AL-AMAD

- Visit Sidon
 - Multi-layered city
- Visit Echmoun
 - One of the best preserved Phoenician temples in Lebanon.
- Visit Chhim
 - Temple of Chhim
- Visit Jezzine
 - Religious landmarks
- Visit Beaufort Castle
 - Located in Arnoun
- Visit Maghdouche
 - Known for Our Lady of the Guard Church containing a grotto.
- Visit Sarafand
 - Major Phoenician site located between Sidon and Tyre.
- Visit Tyre
 - Two main archeological sites – Al Bass and Al Mina – are testimony to its historical significance.
- Visit Umm Al-Amad
 - Encompasses layers of tangible Greek civilization artifacts.



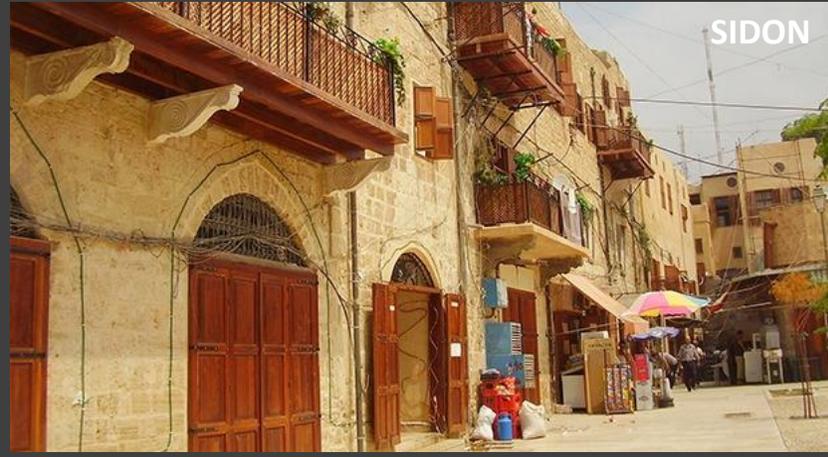
About Sidon

About Sidon

SIDON is known for its multi-layered sea citadel. Founded in the fourth millennium BC, it is one of three major port city-states of the Canaanite/Phoenician epoch, cited 35 times in the Old Testament. In its long history, it has been home to the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Crusaders, Mamluks and Ottomans.



Location of Sidon



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SIDON



Location of Echmoun



Road map from Sidon to Echmoun

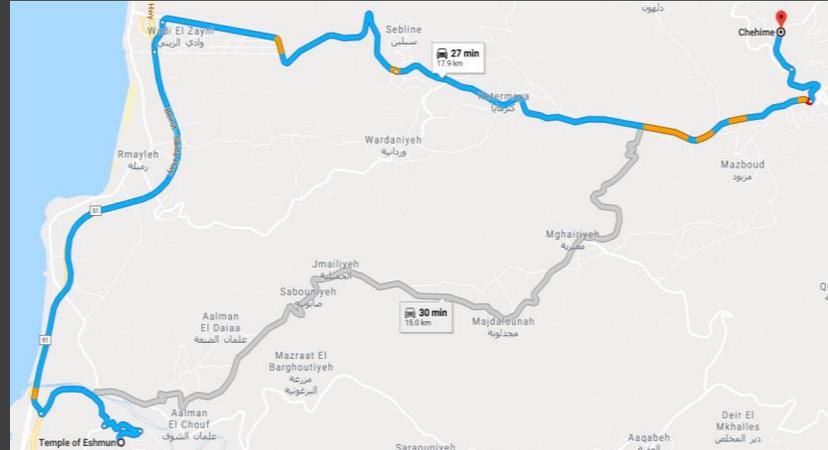


ECHMOUN

ECHMOUN, a Phoenician temple dedicated to the god of healing (hence the name), is located at the entrance of Sidon. It is considered one of the best-preserved Phoenician temples in Lebanon.

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Location of Chhim

Road map from Echmoun to Chhim

CHHIM has several landmarks around it, like The Temple of Eshmoun which is an ancient place of worship dedicated to Eshmoun, the Phoenician god of healing. It is located near the Awali river. The site was occupied from the 7th century BCE to the 8th century CE, suggesting an integrated relationship with the nearby city of Sidon.



CHHIM

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CHHIM



Location of Jezzine



Road map from Chhim to Jezzine

Meticulously sculpted by Youssef Ghossoub, the Statue of the Virgin Mary stands at the west entrance of **JEZZINE** overlooking the villages of Bkassine, Wadi Jezzine, the Bkassine Pine Forest and the waterfall. It's religious significance and cultural icon has become a key point in the region with vast natural landscapes surrounding it. In her hand, the Virgin Mary holds the key to the town of Jezzine. The view from there is fantastic and it is a great spot to take panoramic pictures.

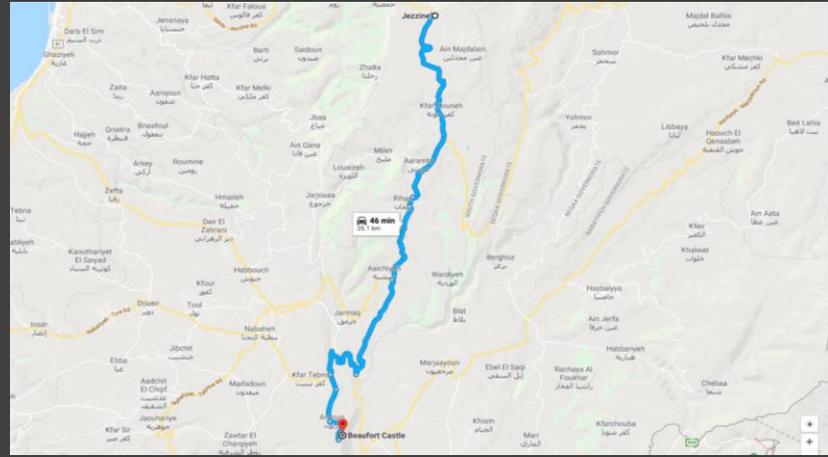


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Location of Arnoun



Road map from Jezzine to Beaufort Castle (Arnoun)

THE BEAUFORT CASTLE is located 40 km from Sidon on an escarpment of almost 1000 meters above the valley. The castle was built as a defensive and strategic post for the Crusaders. Consecutively used by the Ayyubids, the Mamluks and Amir Fakhreddine. It was later restored during the French mandate following an earthquake.



THE BEAUFORT CASTLE - ARNOUN

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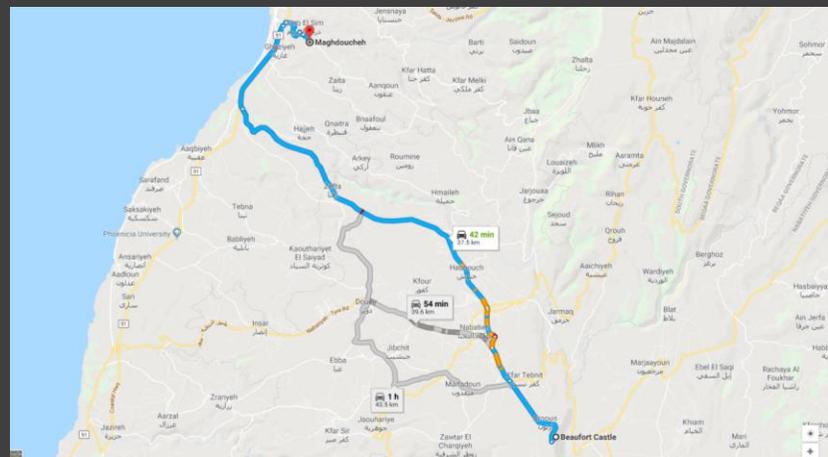


About Maghdouche

MAGHDOUCHE is known for Our Lady of the Guard Church containing a grotto, believed to be the place where the Virgin Mary stayed while Jesus visited the surrounding cities of the south.



Location of Maghdouche



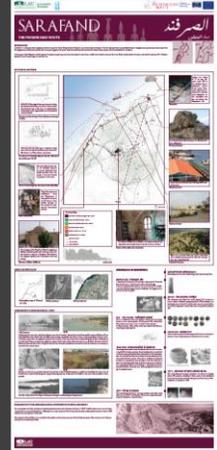
Road map from Arnoun to Maghdouche



MAGHDOUCHE

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About Sarafand

SARAFAND (Sarepta), is a major Phoenician site located between Sidon and Tyre. Presently it is now a fishing shore and a touristic attraction because of its restaurants. The site was well studied and excavated in 1969-1974, by the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania. Some of the finds are now in the National Museum of Beirut.



Location of Sarafand



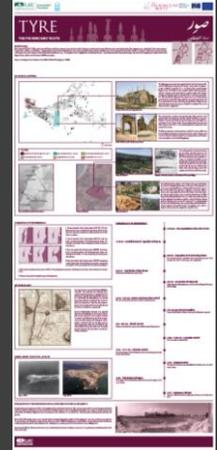
Road map from Maghdouche to Sarafand



SARAFAND

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About Tyre

About Tyre



Location of Tyre



Road map from Sarafand to Tyre

TYRE, built around 2700 BC, it 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.

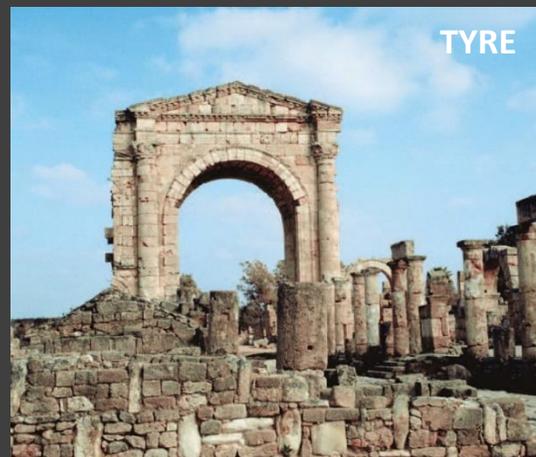
Two main archaeological sites - Al Bass and Al Mina - are a testimony to its historical significance. Tyre was originally made up of two settlements – one on the mainland and the other on an island – the two cities were connected with a causeway.



TYRE

FROM SIDON TO UMM AL-AMAD

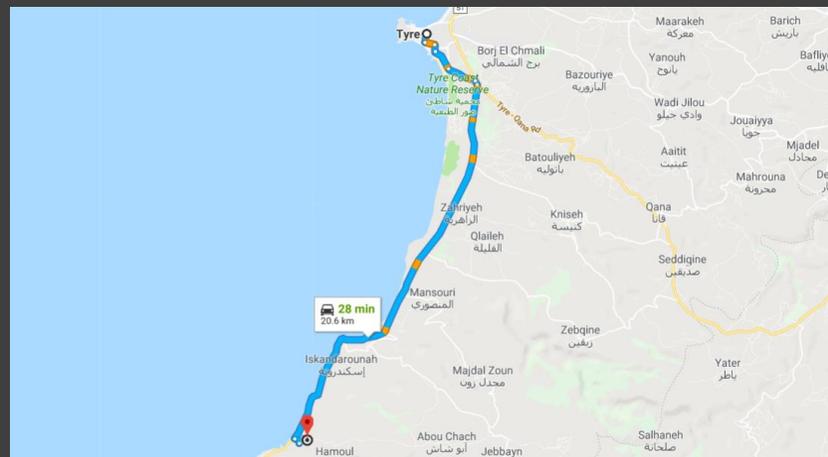
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TYRE



Location of Umm Al-Amad



Road map from Tyre to Umm Al-Amad

UMM AL-AMAD as a Phoenician city encompasses layers of tangible Greek civilization artifacts witnessed by (archeological findings) at the eastern shoulder of the Naqoura Sea- south Lebanon. Umm Al-Amad was discovered by a French explorer in 1772, though the first excavations didn't take place until 1861. The city of more than 60,000 square meters still bears witness to an important historical period and tells of architectural art and precision in engraving and sculpture with tools dating back to the Iron Age, which was named after the discovery of iron nearly 3,000 years ago. Umm Al-Amad's two temples were built roughly between 287 and 222 B.C.



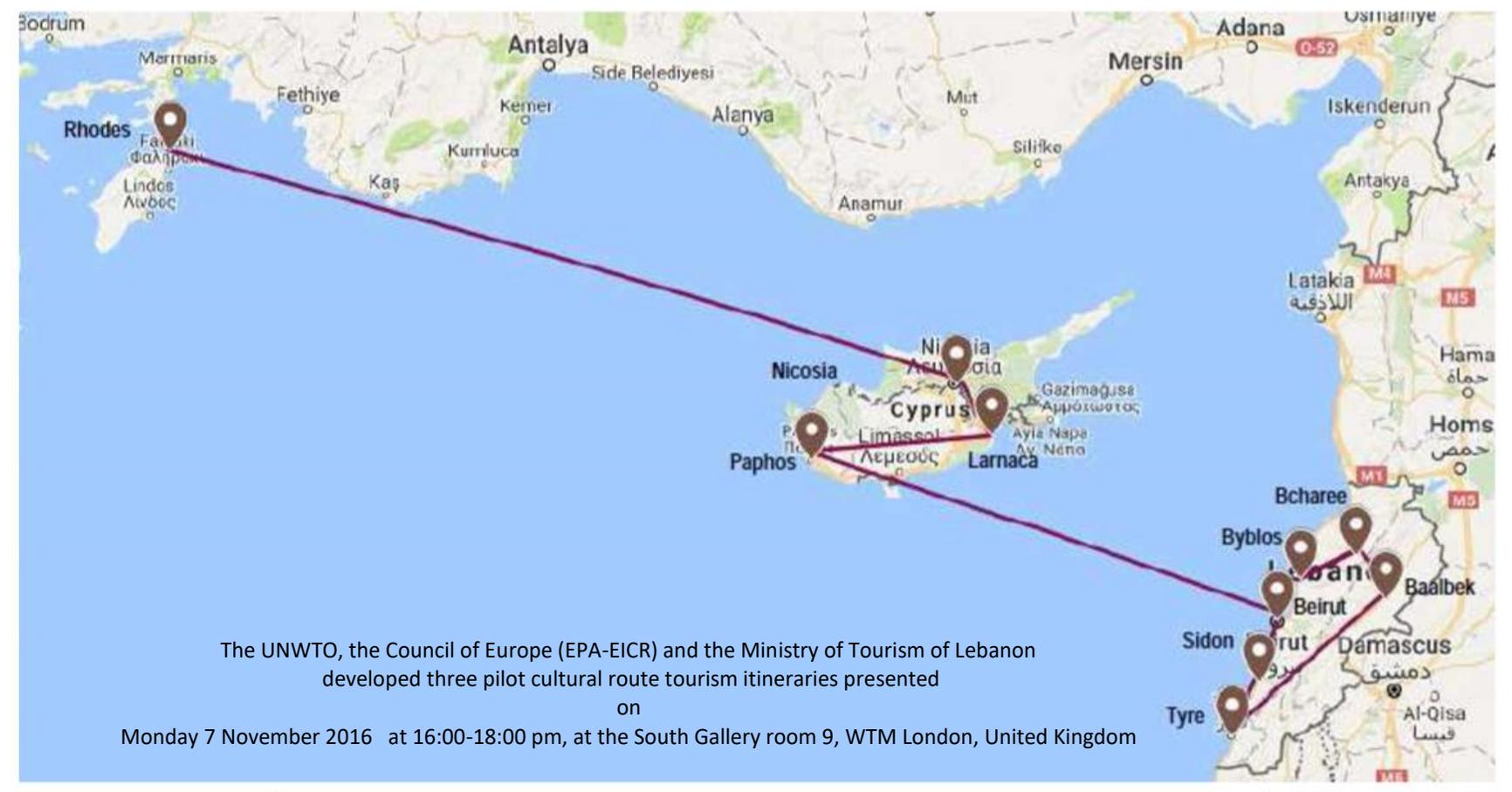
UMM AL-AMAD

**FROM LEBANON TO CYPRUS –GREECE
Riding the Phoenician Wave**



Phoenicians' Route Transnational Itinerary

Countries: Lebanon-Cyprus-Greece



The UNWTO, the Council of Europe (EPA-EICR) and the Ministry of Tourism of Lebanon developed three pilot cultural route tourism itineraries presented on Monday 7 November 2016 at 16:00-18:00 pm, at the South Gallery room 9, WTM London, United Kingdom

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TRIPOLI



TRIPOLI, founded by the Phoenicians around 800 BC is today the second largest city and main port in Lebanon. Like Beirut, the city witnessed the presence of various Mediterranean cultures and empires including the Canaanites/Phoenicians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Umayyad, Abbasid, Crusaders, Ayyubid, Mamluks, Ottoman and French.

Facing the shores of the city there are the Palm Islands, which known for its green turtles, and which was declared a Protected Nature Reserve by the UNESCO in 1992.

Attractions in the area of Tripoli: Becharri, Wadi Qadish, Menjez and Arqa



Becharri is a town to the east of Tripoli, and it is in the area where the infamous cedar Forest of Lebanon are located. These forests known from the Bible to the Ottoman period as a major source for woods to construct large audience halls in antiquities, and which were essential to forge good relations between Ancient Egypt and the city of Byblos.



Wadi Qadisha is a valley known for being a sacred destination where one can visit several monasteries carved into the sides of its rocky hills. Wadi Qadisha (the Holy Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars heritage sites are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1998).



Menjez has an exceptional archaeological heritage site in Lebanon and includes a Roman basalt temple called Maqam Er Rabb or Beit Jaalouk, the only basalt in Lebanon.



Arqa (Phoenician: Irqata; 'Arqat in the Bible) is a village near Miniara in Akkar Governorate, Lebanon, 22 km northeast of Tripoli, near the coast. The former bishopric became a double Catholic titular see (Latin and Maronite). The Roman Emperor Alexander Severus was born there. It is significant for the Tell Arqa, an archaeological site that goes back to Neolithic times, and during the Crusades there was a strategically significant castle.

ANFEH



ANFEH is a town in the Koura district of the North Governorate of Lebanon. It is located 13.5 km north of Batroun and 15 km south of Tripoli. It is among the coastal Phoenician cities and towns that still exist today in Lebanon.

Prior to the recent excavation, Anfeh was thought to have been founded around 1300 BC, but the pottery, which dates to 3200 BC, provides compelling evidence that the town was once a much older and significant city in antiquity.

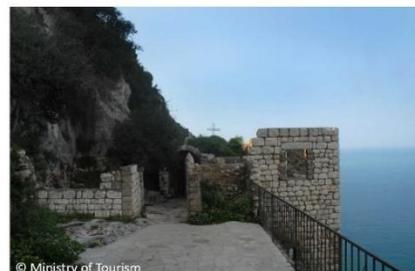
The remains of these civilizations include Phoenician and Roman walls, wine presses, mosaics, places of worship, caves, water tanks, and steps. A wide area of Anfeh and its surroundings are covered with salines, and the production of sea salt, "white gold," is a staple of the local economy.

<https://www.the961.com/anfeh-lebanon-photos/>

Attraction in the area of Anfeh : Amioun Convent and Lady of Nourieh



Amioun is a very old settlement whose history can be traced back to the Paleolithic period. This is supported by the number of small caves built in the old city's rocks. The ancient Semitic peoples are thought to have arrived in the region around 4000 BC. Saint John "Al-Sheer" is a church perched on the rocky cliff over a number of vaults in the southeastern facade of the cliff.



Lady of Nourieh, *Saydet el Nourieh* in Arabic, is a Marian shrine in Hamat, Lebanon. Nourieh is a derivative of the Arabic word, *Nour*, meaning light. Thus, in English, the Marian shrine can be called the Lady of Light.

BATROUN



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, became a suffragan of the Patriarchate of Antioch.

Attractions in the area of Batroun: The Mseilha Fort and Smar Jbeil Castle .



The Mseilha Fort is a fortification situated 5.5 km north of the city of Batroun. The current fort was built by Emir Fakhreddine II in the 17th century to guard the route from Tripoli to Beirut. Resting 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 rock.



Smar Jbeil is a small agglomeration situated in the region of Batroun in North Lebanon at an altitude of 500m, between Rashana and Douma. The name is of Phoenician origin and means Guardian of Jbeil. One of the most ancient towns in Lebanon, Smar Jbeil has a Phoenician citadel which was used by the Romans, who left inscriptions on the northern wall. The Crusaders, for their part, built basements around its two towers and a church on the side facing north. Wells and deep underground galleries were also dug in the living rock.

BYBLOS



JBEL (Ancient Byblos) is known for its historical port that hosted the trade between Ancient Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean. Byblos is considered one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world and, according to the Phoenician writer Sanchuniathon, the first city of the Phoenicians.

<https://lcf.lau.edu.lb/foundation/byblos.php>

Today, it is a typical Middle Eastern city (with its enchanting souq and Medieval port near the Phoenician port) visited mainly for its archaeological area, accessible through a castle built in the 12th century with stone blocks retrieved from Roman buildings. It preserves the remains of the ancient Amorite city, the famous Temple of Obelisks of the Phoenician era and a Roman amphitheater.

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

Attractions in the area of Byblos: Adonis Valley, Jabal Moussa and Mebaaj Grotto.



Adonis Valley is south of Byblos and Jabal Moussa. An Ottoman bridge and a Roman aqueduct cross over the Adonis River. According to legend, this is where the Phoenician/Greek god Adonis was killed by a wild boar while hunting.



Jabal Moussa, where recent excavations were discovered, is one of the very few sites in Lebanon that exist in mountainous areas (hinterland heritage) and was inhabited during the Canaanite/Phoenician, Bronze Age, Medieval and Ottoman periods. The area is managed by Jabal Moussa-UNESCO Biosphere Nature Reserve.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/arb-states/lebanon/jabal-moussa/>



Mebaaj Grotto is made up of ponds and lakes, and is believed to be 30 to 40 million years old. While the accessible area in the grotto is 220 meters long, its total length is estimated at 4500 meters.

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 Palaeblyblos (literary before Byblos). It is mentioned in the geography described by the Greek historian, Strabo.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/44884>

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.

Jounieh may also serve as additional attractions for both Beirut and Byblos.

Attractions in the area of Jounieh: The Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, Jeita and Nahr Al-Kalb.



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 traditionally 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.

BEIRUT



BEIRUT, the capital and the largest city of Lebanon, has hosted successive historic periods of major powers and civilizations in the Mediterranean and West Asia. It has layers of Phoenician, Roman, Byzantine, Mamluk, Ottoman and French mandate periods. Today's archaeological highlights include a Phoenician port, several Roman remains of a hippodrome, baths and temples.

Attractions in the area of Beirut: Deir El Qamar and Beiteddine, The Beit Mery Ruins and Barouk



Deir El Qamar and Beiteddine are known for the Mamluk-inspired Fakhreddine Mosque, the Yousef Chehab Palace, the Kharj Barracks, the Palace of Fakhreddine II Ma'ani, its Synagogue, Saydet el Talle Church and the Emir Bashir Palace. Rmeileh and Jiyeh are known for their beautiful sandy beach resorts.



The Beit Mery Ruins is a site rich with ancient Roman and Byzantine remains, as well as the historic Maronite Monastery of Saint John the Baptist which was built in 1750. Phoenician and Roman temples were erected in this same general area in what is now known as Deir El-Qala'a.



Barouk is a village in the Chouf District of Lebanon. Historically, the village is known for being the "land of good," by virtue of its fountain (Nabeh-el-Barouk). Barouk is crowned by its mountain Jabal el Barouk that stands at 1943 m above sea level. The mountain also has the largest natural reserve in Lebanon, the Al Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve, and boasts the oldest and most elegant cedar forest in Lebanon, the Cedrus Libani.

SIDON



SIDON, south of Beirut, is known for its multi-layered sea citadel. Founded in the fourth millennium BC, it is one of three major port city-states of the Canaanite/Phoenician epoch, cited 35 times in the Old Testament. In its long history, it has been home to the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Crusaders, Mamluks and Ottomans.

Attractions in the area of Sidon: Echmoun, Maghdouche, the Beaufort Castle and Chhim



Echmoun, a Phoenician temple dedicated to the god of healing (hence the name), is located at the entrance of Sidon. It is considered one of the best-preserved Phoenician temples in Lebanon.



Maghdouche is known for Our Lady of the Guard Church containing a grotto, where it is believed the Virgin Mary stayed while Jesus visited the surrounding cities of the south.



Beaufort Castle is located 40 km from Sidon on an escarpment of almost 1000 meters above the valley. The castle was built as a defensive and strategic post for the Crusaders. Consecutively used by the Ayyubids, the Mamluks and Emir Fakhreddine, it was later restored during the French mandate following an earthquake.

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g5606246-d4076392-Reviews-Beaufort_Castle-Arnoun_Nabatleh_Governorate.html



Chhim has several landmarks around it such as the Temple of Eshmun, an ancient place of worship dedicated to Eshmun, the Phoenician god of healing. It is located near the Awali river. The site was occupied from the 7th century BCE to the 8th century CE, suggesting an integrated relationship with the nearby city of Sidon.



Built around 2700 BC, **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 archeological 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).

Attractions in the area of Tyre: On the way between Sidon and Tyre there is Sarafand (Phoenician Sarepta), the Citadel of Tebnine, Umm Al-Amad and Qana.



Sarafand (Sarepta), is a major Phoenician site located between Sidon and Tyre. It is now a fishing town and a touristic attraction because of its restaurants. The site was well studied and excavated from 1969-1974 by the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania. Some of the finds are housed in the National Museum of Beirut.



The Citadel of Tebnine (Toron) is a Crusader Castle built in 1105. The fortress witnessed many battles throughout its history.



Located on the eastern shoulder of the Naqoura Sea in South Lebanon, **Umm Al-Amad** encompasses layers of tangible Greek civilization artifacts. Although it was discovered by a French explorer in 1772, it was not excavated until 1861. The city of more than 60,000 square meters still bears witness to an important historical period and tells of architectural art and precision in engraving and sculpture with tools dating back to the Iron Age, so named after the discovery of iron nearly 3,000 years ago. Umm Al-Amad's two temples were built roughly between 287 and 222 BC.



Qana (Cana), located at 13 km from Tyre. It is believed that this is the village where Jesus performed his first miracle, turning water into wine.

BAALBEK



Founded by the Phoenicians, **BAALBEK** was later conquered by the Macedonians who called it Heliopolis (always the City of the Sun) for assimilation between the Sun god and the Phoenician divinity Baal. It later became a Roman colony under Augustus, preserving the new name. Today you can see three main buildings: the Temple of Jupiter, the Temple of Bacchus and the circular Temple of Venus. A fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury, is located on the hill of Sheikh Abdallah. In July and August, the International Baalbek Festival hosts leading international, regional and local performers and musicians.

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

Attractions in the area of Baalbek: Anjar, Niha, Kamid Al Lawz and Mount Hermon/Rashaya.



Anjar was founded by Caliph Walid Ibn 'Abd al-Malak around 705 AD. The Umayyads built it and turned it into an important commercial center as it linked Damascus, Homs, Baalbek and the Palestinian plains. It shined for only 20 to 30 years. Anjar displays a good example of early Islamic architecture and its influence by Roman-Byzantine architecture. This is clearly visible in the various construction techniques and decorations in the city. Anjar is a heritage site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).



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/Rashaya region is a significant cultural heritage site in the eastern mountain terrain. The temples which circled Hermon were oriented to the cone-shaped tip of Kasr es-Sebayb, the highest point of the mountain and the site of a sacred enclosure in Roman and pre-Roman time. The temples which circle Hermon are, from the south: Hebbariya, Ain Harsha, Ain Libbaya, Nebi Safa, Akbeh, Aiha, Beka, Khirbet el-Knese, Yanta, Deir el-Ashayr, Rahle, Burkush, and Er-Rime.

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International Partners

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List Of Current Members Of The Phoenician Route

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