

Israel

This route takes in several Lebanese historic cities in which living monuments attest to the long history of this part of the Middle Eas

The Lebanese coast was the thoroughfare and dwelling land for civilizations since the dawn of time. In the Islamic period, starting with th Umayyad, Lebanon preserved its pivotal role in the Mediterranean and the West Asian hinterland. Construction techniques, materials and t decoration of remains in the Umayyad city of Anjar, which dates back to the early 8th century, point to the transition from the Byzantine to t early Islamic periods. Not far from it is Baalbek, Roman Heliopolis, with its vestiges of the magnificent temples of Jupiter, Bacchus and Venus. In that same city lie the foundations of an Umayyad mosque in the lower walls of the renovated edifice.

the north of Lebanon, the inner part of the city of Tripoli exhibits the succession of civilizations, including the Crusader Mamluk and Ottoman periods. Then comes Byblos, the birthplace of the alphabet, with its Phoenician ruins, Roman Theater and medieval town. ntually, visitors will arrive in Belrut, with its scattered Roman ruins. There, layers of the Mamluk, Ottoman and French mandate periods tak ne back to its vibrant history through the stones of several monuments from all three eras. The trip continues to Saida (Sidon) and Sur (Tyre /here the Phoenician coast manifests itself as the land of many constructions from the Roman to the Islamic periods. History accompanies t sitor along the narrow streets of these old cities

THE PROGRAMME

he multilateral cross-border cooperation "Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme" is part of the new European Neighbourhood Policy and of its incing instrument (ENPI) for the 2007- 2013 period: it includes the European Union and partner countries regions placed along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea

THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

t Mediterranean level, tourism has often led many countries and regions to develop the industry in a competitive way rather than in a cooperative manner. For obvious climatic reasons but also due the role played by tour operators, Mediterranean tourism destinations have based their rowth essentially on a "sun and sea" vision and developed strategies aimed at maximizing short term profits instea of addressing the needs heritage. nd expectations of customers and residents. In this sense, there is a real need to adopt and introduce new consumer models translated into nvironmentally friendly tourism products, respecting natural resources and diversifying the seasonal nature of tourism demand. UMAYYA ontributes to this objective by promoting sustainable tourism based on the synergies derived from the design of a crossborder itinera between 6 countries sharing common history and cultural background.

TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE RESULTS OF THE PROJECT

- Cultural Tourism Network established and good practices in cultural tourism and cross-sector activities transferre
- Integrated strategy, all partner countries implemented addressing 3 dimensions: cultural heritage, diversification of the supply of tourism services, tourist infrastructure contributing to the seasonal tourism balance
- it tourism infrastructure and opportunities for off-season offe
- dentification and exchange of good practices related to cultural tourism

- Training sessions dedicated to policymakers, tour operators and

Med), based at LAU-Louis Cardahi Foundation



CITIES OF THE UMAYYAD ROUTE IN LEBANON

The Umayyad Route - Lebanon: Tripoli, Byblos, Beirut, Saida, Tyre, Anjar & Baalbek

Attractions in the area of Tripoli: Balamand, Cedars of Becharre and Wadi Qadisha

Attractions in the area of Jbeil: Batroun, Adonis Valley and Mbaaj Grotto

Attractions in the area of Beirut: Deir el Qamar and Beiteddine, Rmeileh and Jiyyeh, Jeita

Attractions in the area of Saida: Echmoun, Maghdouche and The Beaufort Castle

Attractions in the area of Tyre: The Citadel of Tebnine (Toron), Qana and Mansouri - Orange House Proje

Attractions in the area of Anjar: Aamiq, Bekaa wineries and Rachaya al Wadi

Attractions in the area of Baalbek: Nahr Al-Assi (the Orontes), Terbol Museum and Niha Roman Temple

PARTNERSHIP

- 1. Andalusian Council of Chambers of Commerce (Spain, Andalusia)
- 2. Algarve Tourism Board (Portugal, Algarve)
- stles and Medieval Towns Circuit Association (Italy, Sicily)
- Tunisian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Tunisia, Tun
- Association "Mediterranean Liaisons" (Tunisia, Tunis)
- 7. Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (Tunisia, Tu
- Urban Planning Institute, Lebanese American University (Lebanon)
- 10. Municipality of Jbeil Byblos (Lebanon)
- L. CulTech in Archaeology and Conservation (Jordan, Amman)
- 2. International Development Co. AID-ME (Egypt, Al Iskandanyah
- 13. Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce "Alexandria Chamber" (Egypt, Al Iskandanyah)
- 14. European Association for the Professional and Cultural Development "Maimonides" (

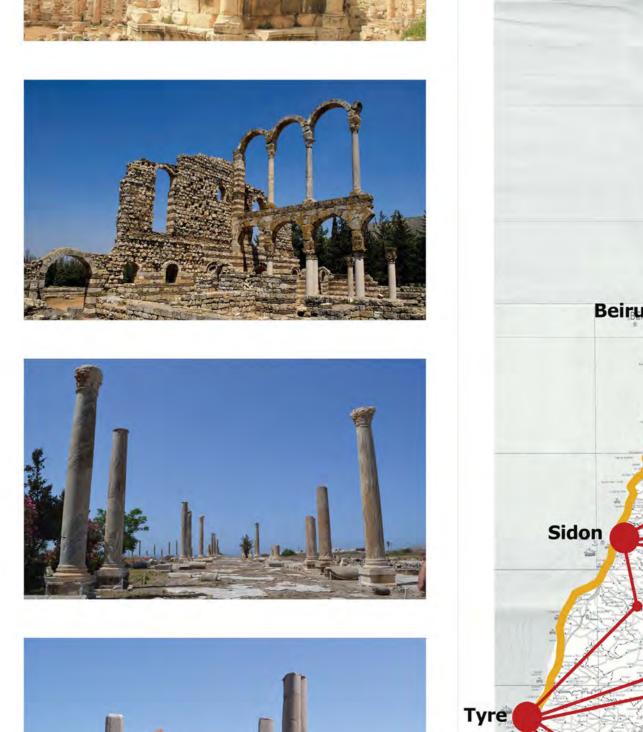
SPECIFIC OBJECT

To contribute to the improvement of territorial cohesion in order to overcome the seasonal misbalances in tourism sector within the Mediterranear territory through promotion of sustainable tourism based on synergies derived from the design of a cultural itinerary focusing on the Umayyad



Mountains.











caused the exchanges between the Orient and the Egyptians, Hyksos, Hittites, Assyrians, language of the region. Around 2700 AC, the Canaanites, Semite tribes boom to these cities, that left the permanent during this period. originating from Arabia and Mesopotamia, traces in various corners of the country. The

A country of sea, mountains and green valleys, existing coastal settlements which developed heart of the fertile meadows of Bekaa. Tyre, the Republic of Lebanon borders the east into the main cities on the Lebanese coast: Sidon in the south of the country, has an impressive Mediterranean with 223 kilometers of coast (Saida), Tyre (Sour), Berytus (Beirut), Aradus ensemble of remains of Roman architectur m south to north, and its width varies from or Byblos (Jbeil). Later, these Canaanites who a stadium, a gymnasium, thermal bathes and 0 to 75 kilometers to the Eastern border with inhabited the coastal cities would be called a spectacular hippodrome the tiers of which yria. The narrow plain coast, where cities and Phoenicians by the Greeks. Their city-states survived along with an obelisk to mark the tu villages line up quickly rises into the massif become maritime empires, they expanded their of carriages. Next to it, a byzantine arch reminds Mount Lebanon, whose peaks, snowy in winter, colonies in the coasts of the Mediterranean and us that the country was also, during centuries, reach up to 3000 meters high. Its slopes are some shores on the Atlantic, where they found a province of the Byzantine Empire.

overed by the famous Cedar tree, the symbolic for example Gadir, Cadiz, until 1200 BC. The The second half of the sixth century was marked tree of country. Behind this first mountain chain, objects manufactured by their industries and by an economic crisis caused by natural disaster lies the Bekaa valley, planted of orchards and artisans, with materials from different origins - including the earthquake in the year 551 which vineyards, dominated to the east, by the peaks gold, bronze, ivory, glass - indicate an eminent destroyed many of the monuments of the city of of another mountain chain, the Anti Lebanon eclecticism in design, encompassing countless Beirut, among which the infamous Law Schoo influences, that show in the magnificent pieces The decline of the coastal cities was followed This geographical characteristic of intimate exposed in the National Museum of Beirut. by the Muslim conquest in 634, and with t proximity between the sea and the mountain Its collections illustrate the long history of the formation of the first Muslim dynasty, the conditioned the history of this corner of the country of the Phoenicians, that was successively Umayyad dynasty, these cities were part of the Near East. The important Mediterranean facade invaded by several regional powers including large Muslim empire, and Arabic became the

the Occident since the times of the Phoenicians. Babylonians, Persians, Greeks and Romans. In the Umayyad period which lasted to the The mountain and its valleys served throughout The conquest of Alexander the Great of coastal middle of the eighth century, international istory as refuge for many religious minorities, Phoenician cities towards 333, culminated with trade was revitalized; the linen of Egypt wa which today Lebanon is a mosaic that hosts the famous episode of the city of **Tyre**, would exported to Byzantium and to Europe. Spices cknowledged branches of Islam (Sunnites, introduce definitely the Mediterranean Levant and silk from India crossed the land of the tes. Alaouites. Druzes, Ismailities) and eleven in the Hellenistic cultural sphere. The roman young Muslim empire to faraway destination hristian confessions of which the Maronite's peace, between 64 BC and the end of the fourth Of worth mentioning is that Egypt was the first century AD brought an economical and cultural supplier of gold used mainly for minting coins

PORTUGAL



Route of the Umayyads in Portuga

Portugal. Over time, this region has been to the Kūra (Islamic province) of Ossónoba. The absence of physical record, became a markedly er the influence of the Mediterranean Sea Umayyads also gave the Algarve a new design immaterial heritage. In addition, there are a lot nd its people. It has approximately 5,000 km² of urban space from which the historical areas of archaeological remains, most of which are on s currently divided into 16 municipalities, of current cities are direct heirs. At the time, display in the museums throughout the region. reveal the diversity and specificity of the urban centres of al-Andalus were organized The Umayyad Route in the Algarve is a journey its territories. It has a population of roughly around two poles: the citadel and the medina. through the ancient paths of the region, which 450,000 inhabitants and its main economic Of the Umayyad legacy in the Algarve, it is includes fourteen locations which are among worth highlighting the traces of urban walls the most genuine and representative sites in ne geographical territorial boundary of the and husun – sets of fortified palatines, property terms of landscape and culture of the Algarve. Algarve corresponds to the space that belonged, of clan groups that dominated the territory in the 6th century, to the Visigoth provincial and its natural resources. Also noteworthy is

ne Algarve stretches along the southern coast diocese and later, from the 8th to the 13th century, the set of places of memory that, due to the

SPAIN



eUmayyad Route begins in Algeciras (al-Yazirat briefly the capital. From here we move on to its the Province of Cordoba we will be stopping off -Khadra in Arabic), the gateway through which neighbour, Carmona, in the heart of the Seville in three towns that played important strategic n entered the Iberian Peninsula and where countryside in which Arabic tribes from Yemen and defensive roles: Carcabuey, Priego de ne new conquerors that crossed the Straits of settled including the Ibn Khaldun, the family Córdoba and Zuheros. From Alcalá la Real, in Gibraltar in the year 711 stationed their armies. of the great historian of the same name. Our Jaén, and its impressive Qalat (fort), we will s here that Tarik reorganized his troops journey continues along the valley of the River set out on the last stage of the route toward hat same year before taking on the Visigoths. Genil where we come to Ecija, and thence to Granada, which had a forerunner in the Emirate ur next stop is the nice village Medina Sidonia. Córdoba, the capital of the Umayyad caliphate, and Caliphate periods in the now vanished city e city of Seville already had a dynamic its spiritual centre and powerbase, capital of of Madinat Ilbira. Lastly, we come to Almuñecar cosmopolitan past when it was conquered the arts and of wisdom and home to one of the (al-Munakab), where the exiled Umayyad by the Muslims in the year 712. Isbiliya as it most important buildings in the Islamic West, Emir Abderrahmán I, known as al-Dakhil (the was known in Arabic became one of the most the Great Mosque, built on the instructions of Immigrant), first entered the Peninsula. important cities in al-Andalus, of which it was the overlord of al-Andalus Abderrahman I. In



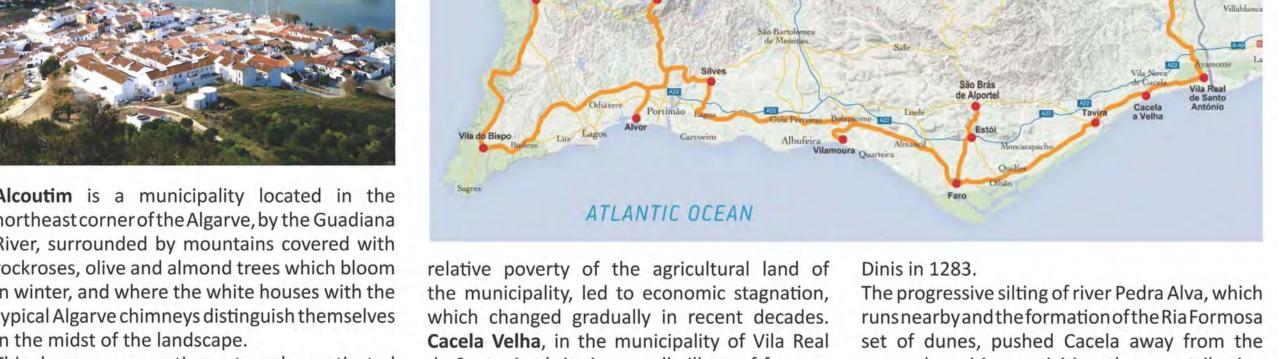
he history of **Algeciras** is a tale of ups and downs played out in time with the bonanza nd the conflicts in the Straits of Gibraltar an the relations between the shores of Europe

Al-Yazirat al-Khadra, the gateway to al-Anda the Maghrib, was the first city to be take y the Muslims. In times of the er served as the capital of the cora, or provinc cumscription, and maintained ading activity with the Maghrib, evidence of hich can be found in its busy shipyard Tariq ibn Zyad disembarked

eciras became a base for Musa's conquests i beria at the dawn of al-Andalus. It grew quickly ith the construction of the walled Medina of Old Town, a great mosque commissioned b Abd al-Rahman I and a fortress for the governor. History, scenery, art and atmosphere come together in one of the most captivating citi where light, air and colour create a gamut ensations on the banks of the Guada tessos and Rome and achieved the ran at might be termed metropolis in the cours time, under the name of Isbiliya, still treasures day various monuments from the Umayyad

period of Isbiliya occurred in 1248, upon its surrender to Ferdinand III. The whole Lower







Given its strategic position, the importance of Still in the 10th century, the Mozarabic Bishor

acela Velha, in the municipality of Vila Real set of dunes, pushed Cacela away from the is human occupation, strongly motivated de Santo António, is a small village of farmers sea and maritime activities, thus contributing by mining, continued its existence with the and fishermen with one-storey whitewashed to the decrease of the population. The 1755 e 13" century, years when Alcoutim was sea and vast beaches along the Ria Formosa village, which justified the loss of its status of econquered by the Christians, having received (estuary), which amazes everyone by the beauty village and its subsequent integration into Vila e town charter in 1304 during the reign of nhabited by the Romans, it was an importan illage linked to fishing and fish salting. ources- sometimes as being a medina and

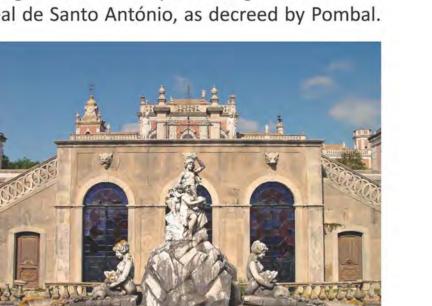
others as a hisn (rural fortification). Howe ertain that during the Umayyad perio etween the 10th and 11th centuries, it was ready an urban nucleus of some importance ancient Roman city of Ba

icela Velha was probably raised to territory that stretched through the lai the coast up to the river Guadiana.

of Ossonoba, Julian, was buried there, more own, which in addition to building its precisely at the Sitio da Fonte Salgada, as small gardens with trees and flowers.

mportance. This fact coincided with the decline After the Christian re-conquest, Cacela became that it was inhabited since the earliest times. of the mining activity that, together with the a village thanks to a Charter granted by King





Estoi is a village, belonging to the municipality f Faro, maintains the Algarve character in its evidenced by the tombstone, which denotes It is located 10 km away from Faro. The good

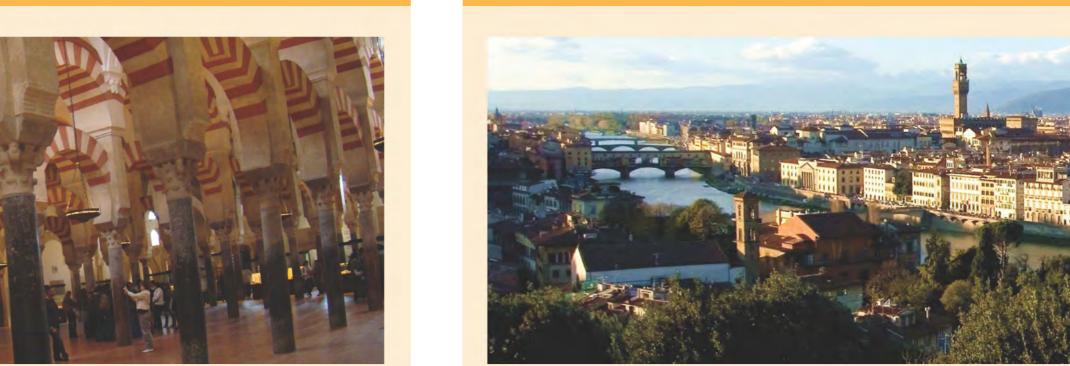
water sources are the main factors of the fact







ITALY



Thanks to its natural wealth and central position real objective was the booty they could seize. comprising the central areas and Enna, Catania the Mediterranean, Sicily has always been The Arabs settled permanently in Sicily in 827 and Syracuse, and lastly the Val Demone which at the crossroads of different cultures, forming AD when they landed in Mazara on the western covered, among others, the cities of Messina, a bridge between Europe and Africa. Through part of the island, although it was not finally Cefalù and the gulf of Catania. The fall of the the centuries the Greeks, Romans, Arabs and conquered until the Aghlabids took the city of Kalbid dinasty brought the fragmentation of ormans, and at other times the Phoenicians, Taormina in 902. In 910 they were replaced by the island and civil war, which dogged the la

Located on the Mediterranean, with almost was home to several Phoenician colonies numerous dynasties: the Aghlabids, Fatimids, west, between sub-Saharan Africa and Europe, founded cities like Kerkouane. They struggled in Carthage. Gems from the Punic civilisation throughout their long history. The land also for power with the Romans, who built include the remains of the city of Kerkouane, almost 40% of the country's surface area. wheat, wine and the renowned olive oil. Kairouan, Tunis, Sousse, Monastir and Mahdia Between both worlds, fertile plains like those Islam reached these lands in the mid-7th remain from the Islamic era. Many cities such the vast palm groves like those in Gabes and a founded the city of Kairouan, the cultural and preserve traces of the 17th-century Andalusi vast catalogue of historical cities. religious center for all the Maghreb. From that Moriscos. Inhabited since pre-historic times, Tunisia time on, Tunisia witnessed the rise and fall of

00 kilometres of coastline, the Tunisian like Carthage. In the end, the Carthaginians Zirids, Almohads, Hafsids, Turks, and Ottomans... ands have served as a bridge between east and supplanted their Phoenician backers and Great archaeological ruins can still be found roots in the Sahara, whose desert covers new cities that supplied the empire with while the Romans left El Jem and Dougga. the Medjerda mix with areas of salt lakes, century. To consolidate their power, the Muslims as Zaghouan, Testour and the region of Cap Bon

who formed a happy synthesis in his Sevil

peoples from all over the World. Golden

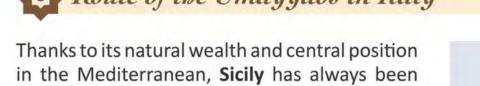
lecades, which ones in decline, led to the

nich delighted travelers with its customs and

entury of Romanticism, to the traditional cit

riod. Of the ancient mosque of Umar Ibn Guadalquivir river fell together with Sevil Adabbas (now the collegiate church of San It therefore, once again, became the seat ador), which received the faithful from 829 Princes and its history and legend associated to 1182, we can still see part of its minaret, in a special way with the figure of Pedro illeries of the Orange-Tree Courtyard, though court by assimilating the influences of Musli eatly transformed, as well as being able to Spain. With the discovery of America, the city duce to some extent its size and orientation. reached its zenith, a new Babel, a melting po





a bridge between Europe and Africa. Through the centuries the Greeks, Romans, Arabs and Normans, and at other times the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Swabians, Angevins, Aragonese and Spanish all made **Sicily** their home, helping shape its history and leaving behind a mixture ultures and important architectural r scattered around a unique island with an attractive mélange of styles and traditions. Although the first incursions into **Sicily** by th rabs date from the Umayyad period, their on eal objective was the booty they could seize. The Arabs settled permanently in Sicily in 827 AD when they landed in Mazara on the wester part of the island, although it was not finally conquered until the Aghlabids took the city of Sicily, which was completed in 1091



vracuse, and lastly the Val Demone which Two distinct themes permeate the story of surnames and place names, Sicilian vocabu





nown in Roman times as Ruspina, Monastir ed great importance during the reign of the r latively short period, the dynasty founded by The city is famous for its springs, not in vain t Ibrahim ibn al-Aghlab ushered in a golden era better known attraction is the "Water Temple ie main fortifications were built with the go of preserving the autonomy of the country an rotecting Islam. Only one of these chai litary fortifications, the Ribat, still stand day as a witness of a prestigious past. e importance of **Monastir** was not o d particularly after the decline of Kair ecame a holy city to which pilgrims floc President Habib Bourguiba, who devote arge part of his life for the indepe modernization of the



ongthe slopes of the 1,295-meters high Mount and became Hunerikopolis under the sho

believed to have been a Libyque colony well before being conquered by the Phoenicians. n Roman times, Ziqua provided Carthago wit er. In Ziqua a long aqueduct started and overed around 130 kilometers carrying fresh o attested by the Triumphal arch. ausoleum of Sidi Ali Azouz, the patron of the n, is a building with a beautiful dome and lls that marks the center of the t adays it is possible to perceive the gre nce of the Andalusi Moorish atmospher ets of **Zaghouan**, because of the gi number of Moorish from the Iberian Peninsul ghlabids in the 8th and 9th centuries. During this that took refuge in this city in the 17th century.



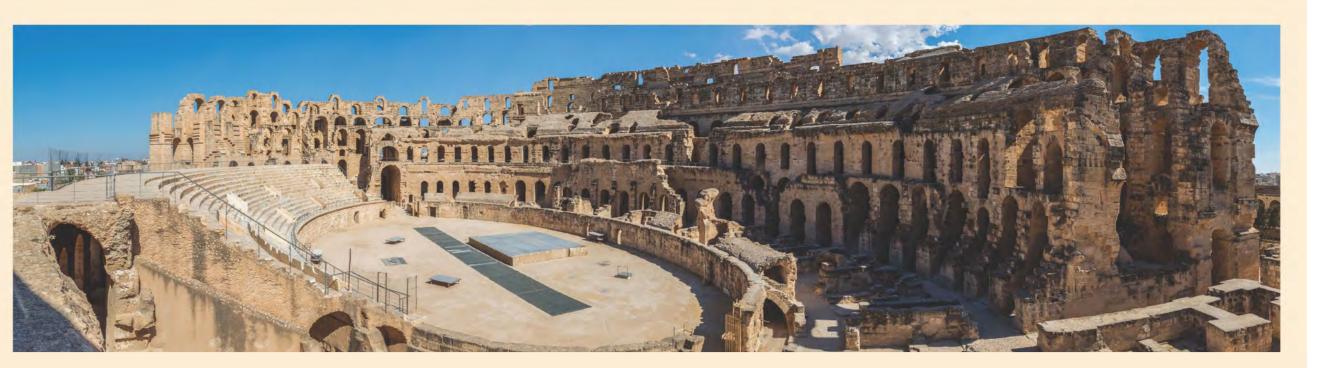
hird city of the country in terms of population nd economic importance, **Sousse** was founded the 9th century b.C. by the Phoenicians, who lled it Hadrumetum.

as an independent city until the 6th centu . when it came under Carthaginian influence. After the Punic Wars and the destruction of arthage by the Romans, it was established a colony by Trajan (r. 98-117 AD) and again ecame a prosperous trading centre. ne century later, Hadrumetum suffered the

_cts of Rome's reprisals against the emp ordian, the independent ruler of El Jem and builder of the great amphitheatre. It rose again Zaghouan. Formerly called Ziqua, Zaghouan is reign of the Vandals. Under the Byzantines



TUNISIA



Carthaginians, Swabians, Angevins, Aragonese the Fatimid Dynasty and later, in 947, by the years of their reign. Finally, in 1061, the Great and Spanish all made Sicily their home, helping Kalbids, an independent local dynasty, who ruled Count Roger launched the Norman conquest o shape its history and leaving behind a mixture until 1053. The Arab presence in Sicily brought Sicily, which was completed in 1091. f cultures and important architectural remains prosperity and thriving cultural life. The island scattered around a unique island with an was divided into three administrative provinces, attractive melange of styles and traditions. whose names still exist today: The Val di Mazara, Although the first incursions into Sicily by the the largest area covering the western part of the Arabs date from the Umayyad period, their only island, with its capital in Palermo, the Val di Noto,

at the crossroads of different cultures, forming ormina in 902. In 910 they were replaced by In general the Normans (1061-1194) were springs or for domestic or agricultura Fatimid Dynasty and later, in 947, by the tolerant rulers. Muslims were afforded ntil 1053. The Arab presence in Sicily brought freedoms. This attitude led to a mingling of date back to the Arab-Norman period and gest area covering the western part of the comprising the central areas and Enna, Catania documented period of Arab culture in **Sicily**. prosperity. For these reasons, in addition to covered, among others, the cities of Messina, both the Muslim and Norman civilizations in is full of Arabic words covering an entire set o Cefalù and the gulf of Catania. The fall of the north-east **Sicily**: defence as manifested in the everyday objects and rural customs. albid dinasty brought the fragmentation of fortresses and castles and water, which inspired ie island and civil war, which dogged the last the building of numerous bridges and other ears of their reign. Finally, in 1061, the Great public works either to protect the purity of the



protected status and allowed to retain certain covers the Sicilian Castles and fortresses w ocal cultures and a flowering of what became — inland and coastal areas, focusing part s divided into three administrative provinces, known as Arab-Norman culture. As a result on medieval towns, villages and castles. senames still exist today: The Val di Mazara, and paradoxically, it was during the Norman Arabs also brought innovations in irriga period that Arab influence reached its peak and and new crops and fruits which made Sic ind, with its capital in Palermo, the Val di Noto, this explains why the 12" century is the best bloom and grow in a long period of peace ar

EGYPT



vas given the name of Justinianopolis ar stood first the siege by the Arab conquer a Ibn Nafii, the founder of Kairouan. century, it fell under the Arab rule. It wa ider the Aghlabid dynasty that Sousse wa en a new lease of life which is still refle

rategic coastal city, **Sousse** was subsequent pied by the Normans in the 12th cen paniards in the 16th century and subseque by the French. In the Second World War the ity was bombed several times before bein

Nicknamed the Pearl of the Sahel, Sousse is now an important commercial port and a first rist attraction. The Corniche bo Bou Jaafar beach is the most frequented esplanade during the summertime. Its still intact architecture was a source of inspiration

Tourism has expanded over the last decades hanks to the quality of the beaches, the the accommodation, the refined cuisi wide range of leisure activities and the cultura events which take on an international flavour





The country's history is a continuous sequen

modern attractions including cinemas, theatres, different eras

70 km from the north-western side of the N

e Arabian Desert. North of Cairo, the Nile settled on the banks of the Nile created

rming the fertile Nile Delta, which drains into numerous techniques for working the land,

vides into various branches that fan out hieroglyphic script, developed agriculture and

e Mediterranean. Apart from a few oases irrigation and construction. Lower and Uppe

North African country is concentrated in the state within clearly defined frontiers under the

Nile valley, which has truly astonishing heritage supreme authority of Pharaohs. This ancient

in terms of its agriculture, cities and society land was ruled by 31 dynasties for almost three

amassed over five thousand years of history. millennia. Traditionally the history of Ancient

e first millennium BC was a period of decline of invasions, eras of glory, battles and victories.

and of foreign domination with Libyans, From the 7th century onwards, it was rule

Ethiopians, Kushites, Assyrians and Persians by numerous dynasties and foreign powe

accessively conquering the country. In 332 BC the Umayyads, Tulunids, Abbasids, Fatimids

Great marked the beginning of a prosperous the French and the British... In 1922, the cour

Alexandria, the new capital founded by Ptolemy, Kingdom. Testaments to the past include the

e conquests by the Macedonian Alexander Avyubids, Mamelukes, Ottomans, and finally

lenistic period in the land of the Pharaohs. finally won its independence from the United

of Alexander's generals, would become a Great Pyramids at Giza, the temples at Lux

illiant beacon of culture, thanks to its Museion Abu Simbel and Saint Catherine's monastery.

nd its famous Library, which was built to house The cities of **Alexandria** and Cairo are shinin

knowledge and to encourage philosophy and examples of the Islamic era, with outstand

sciences to flourish. Today the Alexandria monuments such as the Islamic district in

one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient Cairo's Islamic guarter starts with al-Azhar str

of the Ptolemies has lost its famous lighthouse, Cairo, and the El-Qala'a district in Alexandria.

and their priests, by allowing them to build shopping malls, an opera house and visitors

gnificent new temples on the banks of the can also enjoy oriental music and dance shows

t Dandarah, Esna, Kom Ombo and Philae. Another attractive option is a stroll along

ally succumbed to the unstoppable spread of the river, while the Egyptian museums and the

cianity, which began with the preaching of Pyramids of Giza transport you back in time

the country was absorbed into the Byzantine The Alexandrian coastline extends no less the

into the Islamic realm. General Amr Ibn al-As dotted with beautiful bays and harbours, suc

ounded a camp city called Fustat to house the as Abu-Qir and the crescentshaped Easter

o conquest of 639-640 AD brought Egypt Delta to Lake Mariout in the east. The co

juering armies and govern the country from Harbour, which is overlooked by the majes

strategic position to the south of the Delta. Qaitbey Fortress. The Corniche in Alexandria

e strength and independence of its citizens. Montazah, it enjoys spectacular views of the

5,000 years of civilization have contributed to is a treat in both summer and winter. Starting

cultural heritage of Egypt and to building at Ras El Tin and stretching all the wa

k in **Alexandria** and in the fourth century the ancient lands of the Pharaohs.

ncient Egyptian and Ptolemaic civilization Nile Promenade, which has excellent views

Route of the Umayyads in Egypt

idently respect the beliefs of the Egyptians

ttered about the desert, almost all life in this Egypt eventually united forming the first nation

ccording to the Greek geographer Herodotus, of the Kings... The banks of the Nile have given Egypt is divided into three great periods or gypt is a gift of the Nile". The river's mighty rise to countless wonders and to a civilization "Empires": Old, Middle and New, separated by ters form an uninterrupted oasis, a long of granitelike endurance that continues to intermediateperiodscharacterized by instability rip of intensely green lands encircled to the fascinate. Ancient Egypt first entered history and foreign invasions. est by the Libyan Desert and to the east by around 3100 BC when the peoples that had

JORDAN



The Jordanian territory, located on the borders founded the administrative system of Ajna within the great empires of the Middle East, (military districts; also Junds). was crossed by endless numbers of conquering armies: Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans and Byzantines.

The first confrontation of Islam and the byzantine world in Jordan was in 629 AD in the battle of Mutah near Karak. In 636, the Arabs were able to control Syria, Jordan and Palestir after the decisive battle of Yarmouk. Omar ibn al-Khattab, the second of the Rashidun Caliphs



bid is located in the northern part of Jordan, highlands areas, with an average elevatio 620 meters. It is the capital of **Irbid** Governorate ith a total of about 1,018,700 inhabitants. It ell connected to other urban centres in Jorda

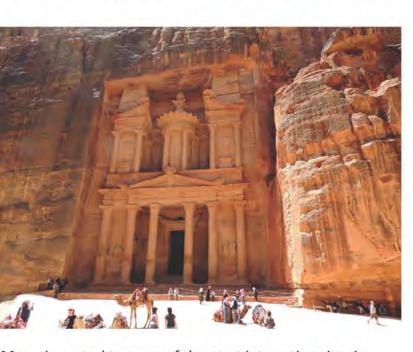
y a modern road network. The city is a lively community with a large niversity. In the past few decades, **Ir**l ty witnessed excessive urban growth associated with the large increase in population. Irbid city fabric and grow formed, at the end of the nineteenth ce and the beginning of the twentieth centur around one nucleus -the Mount (Tal), a ich the new city extended to the south of it **rbid**, of the twentieth century, has become the nost important commercial and administrative commercial and cultural activities with more throughout history as Arabella. In the Hellen' an 300 villages in northern Jordan. istorically, Irbid city has been an urban space birthplace of Nittai of Arbela. Irbid is equi in which a multiplicity of social, economic and ultural practices operated at different levels Mount ('Tal') **Irbid** was settled during the ea Bronze Age, Iron, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic eras, involving a continuous history of 6,000-



Hajj route was built. The line from Amman to Zarqa to
Damascus is still functional especially for cargo transport.which is a Nabtaean caravanserai with a small siq and a
number of rock carved facades, dams, and cisterns.The city grew randomly into a highly populated traffic
congested urban centre. Its western part is more modernwhich is a Nabtaean caravanserai with a small siq and a
number of rock carved facades, dams, and cisterns.



7,000 years. The city on the Tal was surrounded / a defensive wall of large black basalt s with a citadel to monitor the surrounding are centre in the North of Jordan; it is the city It was a part of the Hellenistic league of the central business district (C.B.D.) and shares Decapolis in the first century AD, known period, Irbid was a major trade centre and th



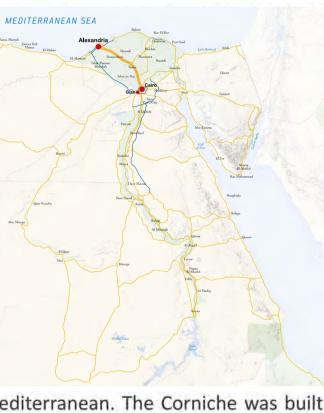
grew especially after when an Army Camp and Palestinian Byzantine ancient monuments and archaeological remains 1948 refugee camp were established there. During the
construction of the Hijaz railway, the Zarqa station on thein the main city, Petra, one can visit the Neolithic village in
suburban Beidha which also includes Mini or Little Petra



from Pella, Beit Ras (Capetolias) and Umm Qays archaeological heritage cities of the Decapolis Irbid and its surroundings gained mor mportance during the Islamic era. The city



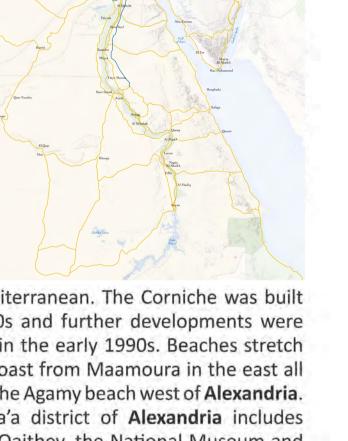




of the country from the first century BC, to the Umayyad dynasty. Cairo also has plenty of enormous wealth of Egyptian history in all the



White Mediterranean. The Corniche was bu



/orld, but the tombs of Anfushi, the catacombs and the Qalawun complex, one of the city's most of Kom el-Shokafa and the fascinating Greco- famous monuments, which stretches from Bab in the 1930s and further developments we Roman Museum continue to highlight the al-Futuh in the north to Bab Zuweila in the south made to it in the early 1990s. Beaches stretc osmopolitan nature of the Mediterranean (the old gates of Cairo during the Umayyad along the coast from Maamoura in the east a in the Ptolemaic period. This period is also dynasty and later under the Mamelukes). People the way to the Agamy beach west of Alexandria. aracterized by an interesting fusion between like to visit the capital's medieval markets such The Al-Oala'a district of Alexandria include ellenistic elements and others inherited from as Khan El-Khalili. The Museum of Islamic Arts the fort of Qaitbey, the National Museum ar pharaonic Egypt, such as the creation of a in Cairo is considered one of the greatest of its the Library of Alexandria, which is one of the ew cult to the God Serapis and the birth of kind, with exceptional collections and a main largest most important libraries in the ancient w language and script: Coptic. The deep- façade adorned with decorations and recesses world. The library has various rare collections ted nature of the ancient local culture obliged inspired by Islamic architecture. It has pieces books and historical objects offering a mixture even Imperial Rome, the oppressive occupier from all the different periods starting with of history and legend and highlighting the