



Umayyad Route Lebanon

This booklet focuses on the Umayyad route in Lebanon.



Louis Cardahi
Foundation

<http://lcf.lau.edu.lb>

<http://umayyad.eu>

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

The Lebanese coast was the thoroughfare and dwelling land for civilizations since the dawn of time. In the Islamic period, starting with the Umayyad, Lebanon preserved its pivotal role in the Mediterranean and the West Asian hinterland. Construction techniques, materials and the 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 the 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.

In 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. Eventually, visitors will arrive in Beirut, with its scattered Roman ruins. There, layers of the Mamluk, Ottoman and French mandate periods take one back to its vibrant history through the stones of several monuments from all three eras. The trip continues to Saida (Sidon) and Sur (Tyr) where the Phoenician coast manifests itself as the land of many constructions from the Roman to the Islamic periods. History accompanies the visitor along the narrow streets of these old cities.

Public Andalusian Foundation "The Legacy of al-Andalus" (Spain, Andalucía)

Andalusian Council of Chambers of Commerce (Spain, Andalucía)

Algarve Tourism Board (Portugal, Algarve)

Regional Direction of Culture of Algarve (Portugal, Algarve)

Castles and Medieval Towns Circuit Association (Italy, Sicilia)

Italo-Tunisian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Tunisia, Tunis)

Association "Mediterranean Liaisons" (Tunisia, Tunis)

Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (Egypt)

Safadi Foundation (Lebanon)

Urban Planning Institute, Lebanese American University (Lebanon)

Municipality of Jbeil Byblos (Lebanon)

CulTech in Archaeology and Conservation (Jordan, Amman)

International Development Co. AID-ME (Egypt, Al Iskandanyah)

Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce "Alexandria Chamber" (Egypt, Al Iskandanyah)



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The foundation encompasses state-of-the-art facilities that cater to the mission of the LAU-Louis Cardahi Foundation to disseminate knowledge about the history of Lebanon in general and the city of Byblos in particular.

Library: The foundation's library holds approximately 1500 specialized volumes dedicated mostly to the historic and cultural life of the city of Byblos (Jbeil) and its region.

Multifunction/Exhibition Room: Designed to host multiple of activities/events and exhibitions which will also include the current painting collection and the contents of the photographic library room.

Museum: This room contains treasures from the private Louis Cardahi collection, including Phoenician artifacts, lithographs and reproductions from the Louvre Museum.

LCF-Digital Museum: The Umayyad digital museum is one of the main tangible results of the Umayyad project. It was conceived with the financial support of the municipality of Byblos through EU funding (ENPI-CBCMED). The project involves 14 partners from Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, Egypt, Portugal, Spain and Italy. In Lebanon, the partners are LAU, Byblos Municipality and the Safadi Foundation in collaboration with the ministries of Culture and Tourism.

Access to the museum is free of charge. Its hours of operation are Tuesday to Friday from 08:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m. and Saturday to Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 06:00 p.m. The museum closes on Mondays and official holidays.

Mission: The mission of the LAU-Louis Cardahi Foundation is to disseminate knowledge about the history of Lebanon in general and the city of Byblos (Jbeil) in particular.



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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.

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

Tripoli

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

Jbeil

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

Beirut

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

Saida

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

Tyre

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

Anjar

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

Baalbek

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



TRIPOLI



TRIPOLI is Lebanon's second largest city. Like Beirut, the city witnessed the presence of various Mediterranean cultures and empires including the Canaanites/Phoenicians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Umayyads, Abbasids, Crusaders, Ayyubids, Mamluks, Ottomans and French. Some of the surviving monuments are the Saint-Gilles Citadel, the St. John of Mont Pèlerin Church, Al Mansouri Great Mosque, Al Burtasi Mosque and Madrasa, Abd El Wahed Mosque, Al Ouwaisiya Mosque, Al Attar Mosque, Al Muallaq Mosque, Arghoun Shah Mosque, Taynal Mosque, Al Qartawiyya Madrasa, Al Tawashiyah Madrasa, Al Saqraqiyah Madrasa, Khan Al Saboun, Khan Al Khaiyatine, Khan Al Askar, Souk Al Haraj, Hammam Al Nouri, Hammam 'Izz Eddine, Hammam Al Jadid, Clock tower and Manshieh Park.



Balamand, previously known as Belmont, Bellimonte Ultra Mare, and Bellus-Mons, is the home of a monastery founded by Cistercian monks in 1157. It overlooks the renowned Koura Olive Groves.



The Cedars of Becharre are what remain from the forests that once made Lebanon so famous. Ancient Egyptians imported cedar wood to build their temples and ships. Today, the Cedars is a main tourist attraction and an important ski resort.



Wadi Qadisha is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a valley known for being a sacred destination where one can visit several monasteries carved into the sides of its rocky hills.

JBEIL



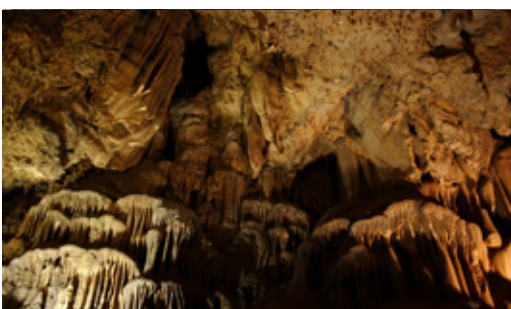
JBEIL (Ancient Byblos) is known for its historical port that hosted the trade between Ancient Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean. Its ruins include remnants of buildings from the Phoenician, Roman, Crusader, Ottoman and French mandate periods. Some layers are proofs of Neolithic and Chalcolithic settlements. Among the city's important monuments are the Bronze Age city fortifications, the Temple of Baalat Gebal, the Great Temple, the Temple of the Obelisks, the Amorite Quarry, the Persian Castle, the Necropolis, the Roman Theater, the Nympheum, the Roman Colonnade, the Roman Road, the Crusader Castle, the Medieval City Wall, the Harbor and its Mamluk towers, Al Sultan Ibrahim Bin Adham Mosque, Sultan Abd al Majid Mosque, the Saydet al Bawabeh Church and the St-John the Baptist Church.



Batroun with its Lady of the Sea Church, the Byzantine Church, the Phoenician Wall, the Roman Theater, the Saint Stephan Cathedral and the Prince's Seat Rock is worth a visit. It is also renowned for its distinguished recipe for lemonade.



Adonis Valley and the Roman Aqueduct are located in Nahr Ibrahim, formerly known as the Adonis River. An Ottoman bridge and a Roman aqueduct cross over the river.



Mebaaj Grotto is made up of ponds and lakes and 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.

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, a 12th century Crusader church that was converted into a mosque (al-Umari), and a 15th century domed chamber from the Mamluk period. Several buildings from the Ottoman period survived, such as the Amir Assaf and Amir Munzir mosques. Other buildings constructed in the Ottoman period in French Empire style include the Grand Serail, seat of the Lebanese prime minister. Early French mandate structures include the Municipality Building on Weygand Street, Nijmeh Square, the Parliament building and the National Museum. Several cathedrals, churches and a synagogue are also scattered throughout the city. The old souks of the city were replaced with a post-modern design by Spanish architect Rafael Moneo.



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, the Synagogue, Saydet el Talle Church and the Emir Bashir Palace.



Rmeileh and Jiyeh are known for their beautiful sandy beach resorts.

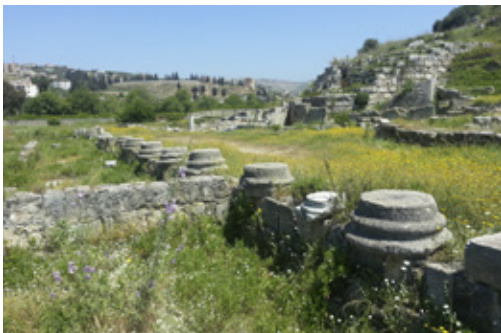


Jeita, home to the Jeita grotto, the longest karst limestone cave in Lebanon (9 km). A major tourist destination in Lebanon, Jeita Grotto was a finalist in the New 7 Wonders of Nature competition for the year of 2011.

SAIDA



SAIDA, located south of Beirut, is known for its multi-layered sea citadel. This Phoenician city was successively ruled by the Umayyads, the Abbasids, the Fatimids, the Crusaders, the Mamluks, and the Ottomans. Some of its main monuments are the Necropolis, the Sea Citadel, Qalaat al Muiz, the Great Mosque, Bab al Saray Mosque, the Sea Citadel Mosque, Al Bahr Mosque, Abou Nakhle Mosque, Al Barrani Mosque, Al Qtaishiya Mosque, Al Kikhiya Mosque, Bahaa Al Dine al-Hariri Mosque, St Elias Church, St Nicholas Church, St Peter and Paul Chapel, Fakhreddine Palace, Riad al Solh Palace, Debbane Palace, Khan el Frenj, Khan Al Ruz, Khan el Saboun, Hammam Al Ward, and Hammam Al Sheikh.



Echmoun, a Phoenician temple dedicated to the god of healing (hence the name), is located at the entrance of Saida. 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 Saida 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.

TYRE



TYRE is best known for its Greek and Roman sites and the old Islamic city. It is the legendary city, along with Sidon, of the purple dye and murex shells. It is also the home of Elissar, the Phoenician princess who founded Carthage, as well as that 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. Some of its main monuments are the Old Mosque, Sharafeddin Mosque, Church of Saint Thomas of Orthodoxies, Church of Our Lady of the Seas, Khan Al- Ashqar, Khan Rabu, the Serail, the House of Al-Mamluk, the English School, the Souqs, the fishermen harbor and its light-house.



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



Qana, located at 13 km from Tyre, is believed to be the village where Jesus performed his first miracle, turning water into wine.



Mansouri-Orange House Project is a project that monitors and protects turtles and their eggs, and lobbies to have the beaches at Mansouri and Qoleileh declared as national nature reserves.

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 shined for only 20-30 years. Like most of the Umayyad desert palatial cities, it was abandoned by the end of the Umayyad period. 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.



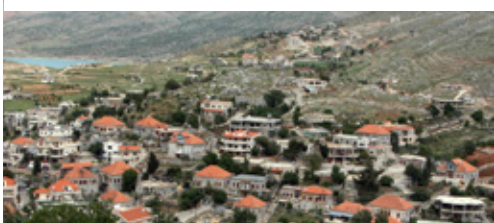
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Aamq is the largest wetland in Lebanon. It is the remains of a network of lakes and marshes that once covered a vast part of the plain, and still serves as an important stop for migratory birds en route between Europe and Africa, sheltering rare and protected species of birds in the winter.



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The Beqaa wineries are testimony to the ancient practice of winemaking in the Near East. Once in West Beqaa, make a stop at one of the many wineries that contribute to the landscape of this region such as Kouroum, Kefraya and Clos St Thomas, etc. Further north of the Beqaa valley you can also visit other wineries such as Ksara, Domaine des Tourelles, Massaya and Nakad.



Rachaya al Wadi is a village in West Beqaa lying at the foothills of Mount Hermon, one of the country's most important water reservoirs. The village is characterized by its traditional architecture and is famous for its Citadel of Independence, which witnessed the dawn of Lebanese Independence from the French Mandate in 1943.

BAALBECK



BAALBECK (Heliopolis) is best known for the remains of its Roman Temples of Jupiter, Bacchus, and Venus, along with a monumental propylaea and courtyards. It is also home to the 7th or 8th century Umayyad mosque that was built on the site of the Roman forum. It incorporates granite and limestone columns taken from the site. It was restored in the 1990s. Some of the city's main monuments are Ras Al Ain Mosque (Ras Al Imam Al Husain), Al Malek Al Saleh Mosque, Al Hanabila Mosque, Al Nahr Mosque, Qubbar Al-Saidain, Qubbat Douris and the Shrine of Al Saiyeda Khawla.



Nahr Al Assi (the Orontes) takes its source from Ain Al Zarqa near the town of Hermel, north of the Beqaa Valley, crosses Syria and plunges into the Turkish coast on the Mediterranean. Around Ain al Zarqa is Mgharet el Raheb, known as Deir Mar Maroun, "The Monastery of Saint Maroun" – the hermit monk who initiated the Maronite Christian sect.



Terbol Museum, located at 32 Km from Baalbek, showcases a traditional mud-brick farmhouse in which the everyday life of farmers is depicted and old objects are displayed. The Museum opens from May to November.



Niha Roman Temples are two temples dedicated to the Canaanite goddess of fertility Atargatis (Phoenician Astarte), and 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.