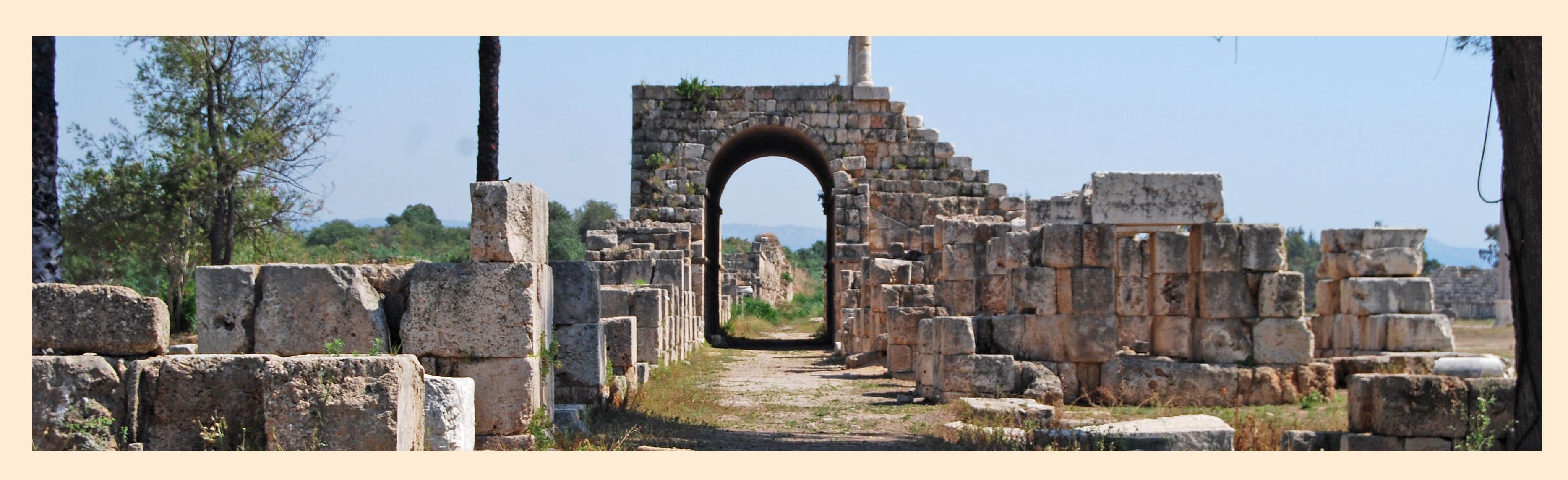


TYRE







Tyre (Sour)

Tyre is a famed Phoenician city, the home of the Elissar, the founder of Carthage. It is approximately 49 kilometers south of Sidon. During the Crusader and the following Mamluk and Ottoman periods – the city, like most of the coastal Lebanese cities was by the province of Acre (Akka) in Palestine.

The importance of the city of Tyre comes from its port and its agricultural hinterland. This city has one foot in the sea and another one in the land and agriculture. Its hinterland and its ancient roads include many bridges and monuments are a "must see" in the Umayyad itinerary.

Tyre may have been the land from which the early Phoenicians sailed to Carthage in Tunisia.

On its shores the murex shells were discovered. The production of the purple dye which became the royal color, added to the fame of Tyre. The city shores may have been the site from which Europa was abducted by Zeus in Greek mythology. Sidon is also known from the New Testament, specifically in the Gospels of St. Mark.

Tyre thrived in the Hellenistic and Roman periods. It is the home to the largest Roman hippodrome in the Eastern Mediterranean. This city witnessed a revival of its maritime role in the first half of the eighth century in the Umayyad period, mostly through the increase of building ships. In the Fatimid period (1012th c.), the city of Tyre was the host of a royal mint in which dinars (gold) and dirhams (silver) were minted. Evidently that was because of its important economic role.

Tyre is known for its vast and serene sandy beaches, and it is known for its active fishing harbor. In Tyre, Al Baqaa Fishermen Cooperative Housing Complex, a recent fishermen village in the outskirts of the city, designed by Lebanese architect Hashim Sarkis, won the Agha Khan Award for architecture. Local tourism in these cities is thriving especially driven by the food and the beaches. Many good restaurants are in Sarafand, on the way from Sidon to Tyre.



Tyre, a UNESCO World Heritage city because of **Church with garden** its Greek and Roman sites, is known worldwide thanks to its Phoenician and Roman ruins including the racecourse, which is one of the largest in the Roman world. During the stay in Tyre, tourists must not miss visiting the Roman monuments: El Bass and the archaeological city. The most famous medieval monuments in Tyre are the small churches built on the spina of the hippodrome in the 6th century and reused until the Crusade period. In the archaeological city, the district probably from the 7th century dedicated to the craft of making glass is found. Other medieval monument is the great crusader cathedral built in the 12th century where the king of Jerusalem Frederik Barbarossa was crowned.

Al-Bass Area Site

Byzantine period.

It is the historic heart of the city. It has the archaeological site which is bordered on one side with a large necropolis. The structures belong to both the Roman and Byzantine periods between the 2nd and the 6th centuries. The site includes a monumental three-bay arch and one of the largest and best preserved Roman hippodromes. It has a U shape. It measures 480 meters by 160 meters and used to accommodate large number of spectators. The Necropolis consists of a large number of sarcophagi and constructed tombs dating

back to the Roman period. They were reused

many times after that date throughout the



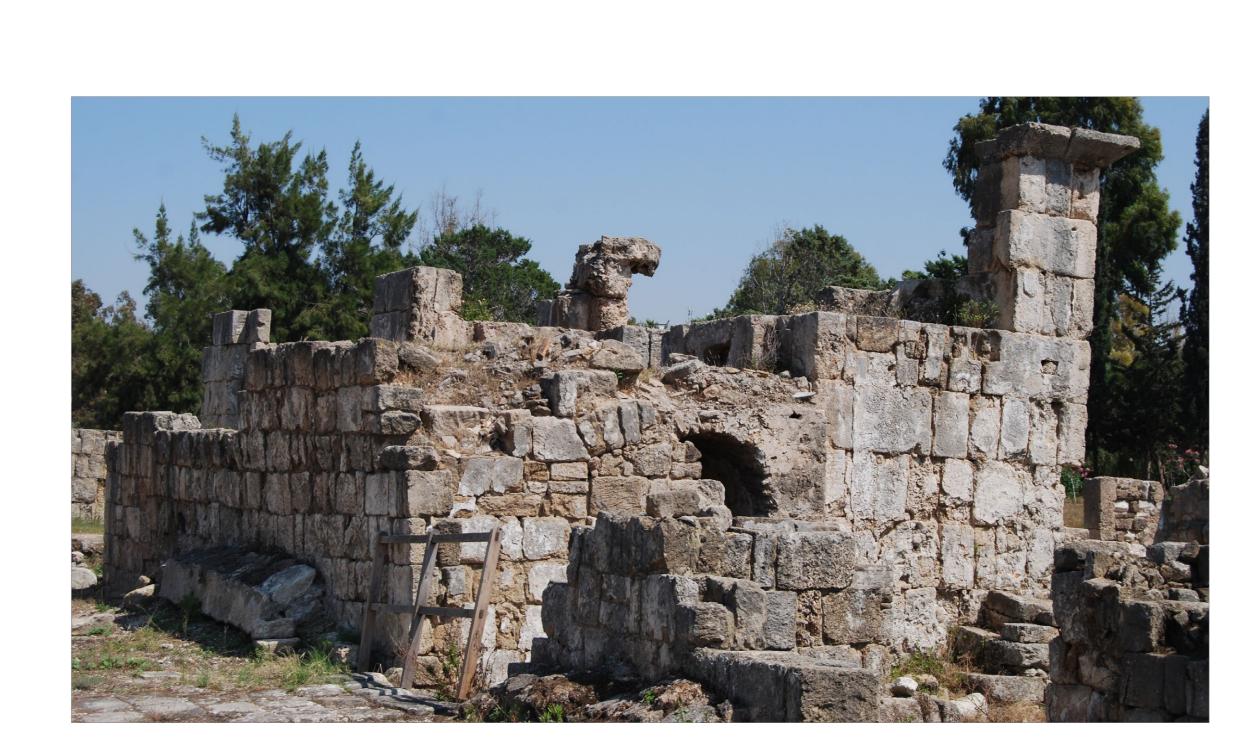
Columbarium: built in the 2nd century AD and it consists of 12 cells divided on 3 levels. It was used to seal off urns containing the remains of cremated people.



Roman Road: laid in the 1st century AD, the road was paved with large slabs of limestone. It is bordered on one side by a colonnade at the other by an aqueduct.

This complex has a main semi-circular room with marble floors, in addition to a garden and many tombs. It has a complex water supply system to irrigate the garden. It was probably built in the 3rd century AD and reused throughout the Byzantine period.

Other small adjacent attractions in the same area include The Arcade Tomb with a rectangular structure and decorated with an arcade; the Columbarium, built in three levels with four burial cells each, dates back to the 2nd century AD and was used until the 4th century AD; the Funerary Chapel may be dated to the 6th century AD. It has a small courtyard furnished with a small fountain. The inside walls and floors of the whole structure were once covered with marble; the Mosaic Tomb, called so because its floor is covered with mosaics from the Byzantine period; the Monumental Arch, constructed in the 2nd century, this 20 meter high arch was reconstructed in the 20th century; the Roman Road is paved with large limestone blocks on which the impressions of chariot wheels can still be seen. It is bordered on both sides with a Doric colonnade; the Pedestrian Road on the southern side of the Roman Road. The pedestrian sideway still preserves the Byzantine paving. This pedestrian road gave access to several shops on its southern part. Remains of these shops were discovered under the arches of the aqueduct.



Funerary Chapel: 1400 years old, only parts of its foundation, walls and floors, remain to this day.



Aqueduct: it drew its water from Ras Al-Ain spring located 6 km South and Al Maashouk sping, East of Tyre.

The Aqueduct

This Aqueduct runs along the left side of the Roman Road. It carried water from the springs of Ras el-'Ain, 6 km south of Tyre. The foundations of the aqueduct are preserved to a length of almost 200 meters.

The Crusader Church

This chapel was first built during the Byzantine period when the hippodrome was abandoned. The chapel continued to be used during the Crusader period when its walls were then covered with paintings and inscriptions (shields, horses, boats, etc.).

Glass Making Area

Remains of large glass making ovens are still visible in this area. They date back to the beginning of the Islamic period (7th century AD). Big blocks of green glass are still visible near this workshop.



The Great Arch: this great arch probably marked the city's official border. Made of sandstone, it was covered with plaster and colorfully painted. It consists of three arches, a 21-meters high central one, flanked by 2 smaller ones, for pedestrian use. It is believed the arch was built by Hadrian in the 2^{nd} century AD.



Hippodrome: built in the 2nd century AD, it is the second largest after the Circa Maximus in Rome with a capacity between 20 000 and 40 000 spectators. It is the only one to be built of stone instead of the usual brick. Its main purpose was to host chariot races.

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



TYRE

Surroundings









Surroundings

Tyre is open to the east with wonderful natural attractions. To the east of Sidon lays the town of Maghdoucheh. It is a town known for its agriculture specially the bitter oranges, grapes and other seasonal fruits.

Groves of oranges, bananas and other fruits lay east of Tyre. Among them lays the Mansouri – Orange House Project, 13 km from Tyre. This project monitors and protects the turtles and their eggs. Villages scatter along the hills and plains east of the city. These include Qana, 13 km from Tyre, which is believed to be the village where Jesus performed his first miracle, turning water into wine. On a more somber note, Qana has witnessed many large-scale killings during Israeli incursions. A memorial was built to

remember all the victims. The Crusaders Toron Castle, also named fortress of Tebnine, is 28 km southeast of Tyre, in the village of **Tebnine**. The Toron was built in 1105 by the Crusaders to regain Tyre from the Fatimids of Egypt. Saladin claimed it in 1187, after a difficult battle. In 1229 the Egyptian sultan al-Kamil (Saladin's brother) gave back the domain to the French and more than thirty years later, in 1266 the Franks lost it to the Mamluks and were never able to take it back. In the middle of the 17th century and up till the 18th century, the fortress witnessed many clashes between the local Emirs on one side and the Ottomans on the other; after which it became the administrative center of the area.

Fortress of Chqif Arnoun, also named Beaufort, is one of the most impressive Crusade forts. It is located at around 40 kilometers north-east from Tyre, built on top of a mountain overlooking the natural way of passage for connecting the hinterland of Tyre (Nabatiyyeh Region) to the Begaa by the Marjeyoun region. Built by the Crusaders in 1139 on the ruins of an ancient fort, it passed from one hand to another before its final fall into the hands of the Mamluks in 1268. Fakhreddin Maan, the Great, will fortify it before being dismantled by the Ottoman after his defeat. The exceptional view of this fort overlooks the Beqaa, Jabal el-Sheikh and the hinterland of Tyre.













Qana















Fortress of Tebnine















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