







OLD CITY OF BYBLOS

Byblos is said to be the oldest city-state in the world. The phoenician of Byblos started trading cedar wood through shipping with Egypt sine the 1st Dynasty in Egypt in the 4th mellenium BC.

NAME

In the 4th millennium BC it used to be called Gubia. The Assyrians use to call it Gubil, the Egyptians Kepen, the Greeks, mainly Herodote called it Byblos, the Crusaders called it Gibelet. The word Byblos comes from Bublos the essence used to make paper or Papyrus

TRADE

By 3000 BC Byblos became the key port city on the Levantine. Constant trade between Mesopotamia,

Anatolia, Cyprus, Greece and the Kingdom in Egypt made of Byblos a thriving commercial center and a flourishing wealthy city state.

Byblos is famous by its Alphabet



Temple of Baalat Gebal 3000BC

Baalat-Gebal or the Lady of Byblos. The forecourt of the temple , the largest open space we see today is the most important space in Phoenician temples, it is open to the main square were the tabernacle rises.



Temple of the Obelisks 2600BC

There are a group of 26 obelisks in the temple of the Obelisks dedicated to the God Reshed with sizes ranging from 50 cm to 2 m. In the middle of the temple rises a big rectangular stone which is a representation of the God.



The Crusader Castle 1100AD

The city stayed under the lordship of the Genoese family, the Embriacios till 1282. The architecture of castles is of Romanesque Style with influence of Norman architecture. The walls are double shelled filled with rubble. The castle is constituted of a two stories keep in the center and surrounded by an enclosure with towers serving as defence for the curtian walls.

ATTRACTIONS IN THE OLD TOWN

The Old Town of Byblos is enclosed inside the Medieval Walls built at the time of the crusades. The town is before anything a medieval town. The Old Souks and the Khan as well as the old buildings we see today are built during the Ottoman era in around the 18th century.



The Ancient Port Of Byblos

The ancient port of Byblos has been used since 4500BC first as a fishing port then as commecial port since 3500BC. The port we see today goes back to the medieval times and the Sea Castle as well as the walls of the quay and the port rooms were built by the Crusaders.

The Fossils Museum

The fossil fish displayed in ths musuem are extracted from quarries in the mountains of Bvblos. These fossils go back to 100 to 200 million years of age in the Secondary Paleolithic Era. A lot of the Prehistoric Fish displayed there are now extinct.



The Old Souks

The Old Souks of Byblos as well as the big Khan are built in the beginning of the 19th century or little before during the Ottoman rule. The Mosque used today goes back to that era too but its foundations goes back to the Ommeyyades times.



The Crusader **Church St** John Mark

The Cathedral Saint John Mark is built by the Crusades in around 1100AD. It is of Romanesque style from the outside and the ceiling inside uses medieval Gothic techniques. The West wall was broken by an earthquake and has been rebuilt later. The bell tower goes back to the 18th century.



MAPS

CRUSADERS CHURCH ST JOHN MARK PLAN

The architecture is characterized by thick walls and stairs embedded within the thickness of the wall. The roof supported by massive square piers. The walls are double shelled filled with rubble braced by circular granite columns salvaged from the Roman era .The style shows lack of sculpture and the presence of geometric and rhythmic design.



The curtain wall is constituted of two strong walls of masonry, the space in between was filled with earth and rubble. They were protected by fire from the towers.



THE ANCIENT PORT OF BYBLOS

WALKING TRACK THROUGH MAIN ATTRACTIONS

- 1-ANCIENT WALL- 3000BC
- 2-ROMAN BATH 200AD
- 3-ROYAL TOMBS 1900BC
- 4-ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE (DISPLACED)
- 5-TEMPLE BAALAT GEBAL 2800BC
- 6-NEOLITHIC HOUSES 3500BC
- 7-PHOENICIAN ARISTOCRATIC HOUSE AROUND 1500BC
- **8-SACRED ANCIENT WELL**
- 9-PHOENICIAN ARISTOCRATIC HOUSE AROUND 1500BC
- 10-TEMPLE IN "L" 2800BC
- 11-TEMPLE OF THE OBELISKS (RESHEF) 2800BC
- 12-BYBLIAN KINGS FORTRESS 550BC
- 13-ROMAN TEMPLE 100AD
- 14-CRUSADER CASTLE 1098AD
- **15-FISH FOSSILS MUSEUM**
- 16-OTTOMAN PATH TO ST JOHN MARC CHURCH
- **17-WAX MUSEUN**
- **18-ROMAN MOSAICS**
- 19-CRUSADER CHURCH ST JOHN MARC 1100AD
- 20-ROMAN MOSAICS
- 21-MEDIEVAL PORT ROOMS
- 22-MEDIEVAL/CRUSADER SEA CASTLE
- 23-VIEW OVER THE PORT/PICTURES SPOT
- 24-ORTHODOX CHURCH 19TH CENTURY AD
- 25-GATE THROUGH MEDIEVAL WALL TO BEACH
- 26-MAIN GATE THROUGH MEDIEVAL WALL ARCH WAY
- 27-MEDIEVAL WALL
- 28-MEDIEVAL WALL TOWER
- 29-OTTOMAN OLD SOUKS 19TH CENTURY
- 30-MAIN GATE THROUGH MEDIEVAL WALL ARCH WAY



CRUSADER CASTLE PLAN

- Keep or Donjon Stairs to Roof Stairs to Plateform Tower Plateform 2 3

- 5 Curtain Walls 6 Grand Hall 7 Rooms 8 Stairs to Upper Floor 9 Ground Gate 10 North Tower Room 1 Entrance Bridge