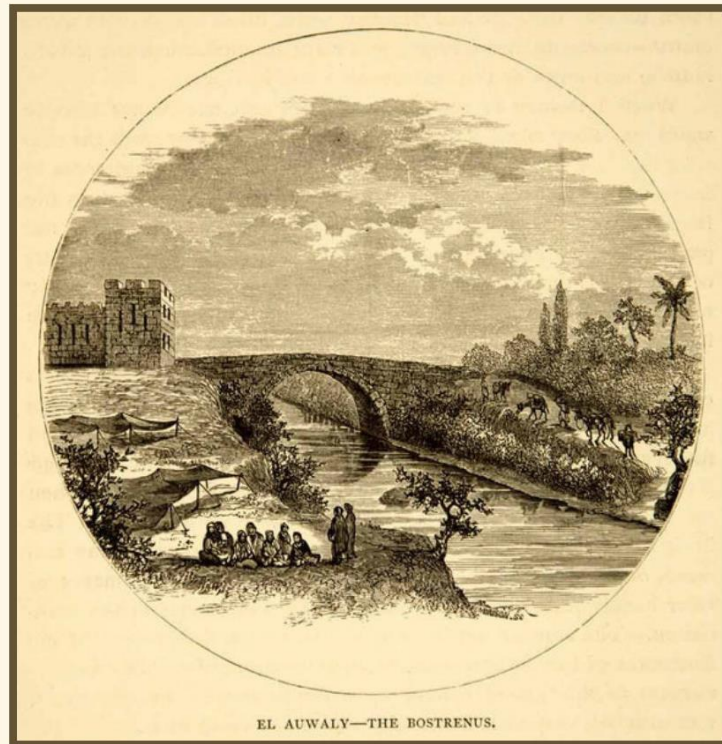


CULTURAL HERITAGE PROPOSAL FOR THE CHOUF DISTRICT

The Town of Joun



EL AUWALY—THE BOSTRENUS.

Dr Antoine J. Burkush, PhD

Strategic Cultural Heritage Proposal for the Chouf District: The Town Of Joun

Abstract

The strategy seeks to create conditions which support and raise awareness of heritage in all forms

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This collection of proposals is the result of a shared vision and a collaborative journey, guided by the input, dedication, and insights of countless individuals who hold Joun close to their hearts. It would not have been possible without the unwavering support and contributions of community members, experts, stakeholders, and local leaders, each of whom brought their unique perspectives to the table.

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the residents of Joun, whose voices, ideas, and aspirations have been the foundation of this work. Your willingness to share your thoughts and dreams for our town has been invaluable in shaping proposals that truly reflect our community's spirit and goals. Your participation in discussions, surveys, and community gatherings has been a testament to your **commitment** to Joun's future.

Special thanks to all whose contributions were instrumental in refining our vision.

To the local leaders and stakeholders who championed this project, your support has been a vital source of encouragement. Your leadership and understanding of Joun's unique challenges and opportunities have given depth to these proposals, grounding them in both our town's history and its potential for growth.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who worked behind the scenes—whether gathering data, conducting research, or organizing meetings—your efforts have been crucial in bringing this work to life.

Together, we have created a roadmap for Joun's future that honors our heritage and inspires a brighter tomorrow. I am truly grateful to each of you for your contributions, enthusiasm, and dedication to this endeavor.

With sincere appreciation,

Dr Antoine J. Burkush, PhD

الشكر والتقدير

هذه المجموعة من المقترحات هي نتيجة رؤية مشتركة ورحلة تعاونية ، تسترشد بمدخلات وتفاني ورؤى عدد لا يحصى من الأفراد الذين يحملون جون قريبا من قلوبهم. لم يكن ذلك ممكنا بدون الدعم والمساهمات الثابتة من أعضاء المجتمع والخبراء وأصحاب المصلحة والقادة المحليين ، الذين قدم كل منهم وجهات نظره الفريدة إلى الطاولة.

أولا وقبل كل شيء، أعرب عن خالص امتناني لسكان جون، الذين كانت أصواتهم وأفكارهم وتطلعاتهم أساس هذا العمل. لقد كان استعدادك لمشاركة أفكارك وأحلامك لمدينتنا لا يقدر بثمن في تشكيل المقترحات التي تعكس حقا روح مجتمعنا وأهدافه. كانت مشاركتك في المناقشات والاستطلاعات والتجمعات المجتمعية شهادة على التزامك بمستقبل جون. شكر خاص للذين كانت مساهماتهم مفيدة في صقل رؤيتنا.

إلى القادة المحليين وأصحاب المصلحة الذين دافعوا عن هذا المشروع ، كان دعمكم مصدرا حيويا للتشجيع. لقد أعطت قيادتكم وفهمك لتحديات وفرص جون الفريدة عمقا لهذه المقترحات ، مما جعلها راسخة في كل من تاريخ مدينتنا وإمكاناتها للنمو.

أخيرا ، أود أن أشكر كل من عمل وراء الكواليس - سواء في جمع البيانات أو إجراء البحوث أو تنظيم الاجتماعات - كانت جهودك حاسمة في إحياء هذا العمل.

معا ، أنشأنا خارطة طريق لمستقبل جون تكرم تراثنا وتلهم غدا أكثر إشراقا. أنا ممتن حقا لكل واحد منكم على مساهماتكم وحماسكم وتفانيكم في هذا المسعى.

مع خالص التقدير،

د. انطوان جان البرخش



مشاريع
مبادرات شخصية
"من أجل الصالح العام"

Joun Development Projects

"Pro Bono Publico"

Dr Antoine J. Burkush, PhD

رؤية واحدة، هوية واحدة، مجتمع واحد

Preface

In a world where rapid change is the new normal, the importance of strategic, sustainable, and community-centered development is paramount. Joun, with its rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, and resilient community, stands at a crossroads—one that presents both challenges and extraordinary opportunities. As we look toward Joun’s future, it is essential that our plans honor the town’s heritage, respond to today’s needs, and set a course for future generations to thrive.

This series of proposals is the result of a deeply collaborative effort to envision Joun’s path forward. Each plan reflects input from residents, local stakeholders, and community leaders, resulting in a shared vision that is both ambitious and respectful of our town’s unique identity. These proposals encompass a comprehensive range of initiatives, from infrastructure and economic development to cultural preservation and environmental stewardship, with each component tailored to address Joun’s specific strengths, challenges, and aspirations.

Our proposals emphasize a commitment to public infrastructure improvements, economic empowerment, environmental sustainability, and cultural continuity. From plans to enhance recreational facilities and community services to initiatives for sustainable tourism and green energy, each proposal aims to make Joun a model of progressive yet grounded development. The ultimate goal is to create a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient community—one that embodies the values, dreams, and talents of its people.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this vision. Your dedication, ideas, and insight have been invaluable, illuminating the pathway to a future that aligns with Joun’s core values while embracing growth and innovation. These proposals are an invitation to all residents of Joun to imagine, participate, and help build a community that harmonizes tradition with the possibilities of tomorrow.

As you review this collection, I encourage you to see not just plans, but a vision for what Joun can become. Let us move forward together, translating these ideas into action, and creating a brighter, thriving, and unified future for Joun.

With deep respect and optimism,

Dr Antoine J. Burkush, PhD

مقدمة

في عالم حيث التغيير السريع هو الوضع الطبيعي الجديد ، فإن أهمية التنمية الاستراتيجية والمستدامة التي تركز على المجتمع أمر بالغ الأهمية. تقف جون ، بتراثها الثقافي الغني وجمالها الطبيعي ومجتمعها المرن ، على مفترق طرق - مفترق طرق يمثل تحديات وفرصا غير عادية. بينما نتطلع إلى مستقبل جون ، من الضروري أن تكرم خططنا تراث المدينة ، وتستجيب لاحتياجات اليوم ، وتضع مسارا للأجيال القادمة لتزدهر.

هذه السلسلة من المقترحات هي نتيجة جهد تعاوني عميق لتصور مسار جون إلى الأمام. تعكس كل خطة مدخلات من السكان وأصحاب المصلحة المحليين وقادة المجتمع ، مما يؤدي إلى رؤية مشتركة طموحة وتحترم الهوية الفريدة لمدينتنا. تشمل هذه المقترحات مجموعة شاملة من المبادرات ، من البنية التحتية والتنمية الاقتصادية إلى الحفاظ على الثقافة والإشراف البيئي ، مع تصميم كل مكون لمعالجة نقاط القوة والتحديات والتطلعات المحددة لجون.

تؤكد مقترحاتنا على الالتزام بتحسين البنية التحتية العامة ، والتمكين الاقتصادي ، والاستدامة البيئية ، والاستمرارية الثقافية. من خطط تعزيز المرافق الترفيهية والخدمات المجتمعية إلى مبادرات السياحة المستدامة والطاقة الخضراء ، يهدف كل اقتراح إلى جعل جون نموذجا للتنمية التقدمية والمرتكزة. الهدف النهائي هو إنشاء مجتمع نابض بالحياة وشامل ومرن - مجتمع يجسد قيم وأحلام ومواهب شعبه.

وأعرب عن خالص امتناني لكل من ساهم في هذه الرؤية. لقد كان تفانيك وأفكارك ورؤيتك لا تقدر بثمن ، مما يضيء الطريق إلى مستقبل يتماشى مع القيم الأساسية لجون مع احتضان النمو والابتكار. هذه المقترحات هي دعوة لجميع سكان جون للتخيل والمشاركة والمساعدة في بناء مجتمع ينسق التقاليد مع إمكانيات الغد.

أثناء مراجعتك لهذه المجموعة ، أشجعك على رؤية ليس فقط الخطط ، ولكن رؤية لما يمكن أن يصبح عليه جون. دعونا نمضي قدما معا، ونترجم هذه الأفكار إلى أفعال، ونخلق مستقبلا أكثر إشراقا وازدهارا وموحدا لجون.

مع الاحترام العميق والتفاؤل،

د. انطوان جان البرخش

Strategic Cultural Heritage Proposal for the Town of Joun

PART ONE: Historical Background

The area around Sidon

The area around Sidon, including the Town of Joun, is rich in archaeological heritage, reflecting the historical significance of the region throughout millennia. Sidon, as a major Canaanite city, influenced its surrounding areas, including Joun, which likely served as part of its agricultural and resource hinterland. Here's a detailed overview of the archaeological significance:

The Canaanite Period:

The Canaanites, often referred to as the Phoenicians in later periods, were a Semitic people who inhabited the coastal regions of the Eastern Mediterranean, including what is now Lebanon, from around 3000 BCE to 539 BCE, when the region came under Persian control.

Sidon: A Major Canaanite City

Sidon, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, was a principal city-state of the Canaanites in Lebanon. Its name, derived from the word “šyd” meaning “fishing” in Semitic languages, reflects its ancient roots as a maritime and trading hub.

Historical Development of Sidon

1. Early Settlements (3000–2000 BCE):
 - Sidon emerged as an important coastal settlement during the Early Bronze Age.
 - Archaeological evidence suggests it was a center of commerce and culture, benefiting from its strategic location.
2. Middle Bronze Age (2000–1550 BCE):
 - Sidon grew in prominence as a city-state, engaging in trade across the Mediterranean and with Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Anatolia.
 - The city is mentioned in Egyptian texts, including the Execration Texts, which list Sidon as a significant Canaanite power.
3. Late Bronze Age (1550–1200 BCE):
 - Sidon came under Egyptian influence during the New Kingdom period.

- It became a vital port for the exchange of goods, particularly cedar wood from Lebanon, which was prized in Egypt.

- The city is mentioned in the Amarna Letters, a collection of diplomatic correspondence between the Egyptian court and Canaanite rulers.

4. Iron Age (1200–539 BCE):

- During the Iron Age, Sidon became a leading city of the Phoenicians, the successors of the Canaanites.

- Sidon specialized in glassmaking and purple dye production, which became synonymous with Phoenician craftsmanship.

- The city played a key role in Phoenician colonization, establishing trading posts and settlements across the Mediterranean, including Carthage.

Religious and Cultural Contributions

- Sidon was a religious center with temples dedicated to deities like Baal, Astarte, and Eshmun, the latter of whom was particularly revered in Sidon.

- The Canaanites of Sidon developed a written script, an early form of the Phoenician alphabet, which later influenced Greek and Latin scripts.

Foreign Dominations

- Sidon was conquered and rebuilt several times throughout history:

- By the Assyrians in the 8th century BCE.

- By the Babylonians in the 6th century BCE.

- By the Persians, who made it an important administrative center.

Legacy

Sidon and the broader Canaanite-Phoenician civilization left a lasting legacy through their innovations in trade, navigation, and cultural exchanges. Their maritime skills and the spread of the alphabet profoundly influenced the ancient world, laying the foundation for modern writing systems and commerce.

Sidon's history as a vital Canaanite city is a testament to the region's strategic importance and enduring cultural significance.

Sidon Archaeological Highlights

1. Temple of Eshmun (near Sidon, Bustan el-Sheikh):
 - Located about 2 km northeast of Sidon, this ancient temple was dedicated to Eshmun, the Phoenician god of healing.
 - Built during the 7th century BCE, it is one of the best-preserved Phoenician religious sites.
 - The temple complex reflects a blend of Phoenician and Hellenistic influences, with inscriptions in both Phoenician and Greek.
 - Nearby springs and ritual purification pools suggest its importance as a site of worship and healing.
2. Sidon Necropolis:
 - Extensive burial sites around Sidon have revealed sarcophagi from the Phoenician, Persian, and Roman periods.
 - The most famous discovery is the Alexander Sarcophagus (though it is thought not to belong to Alexander the Great) and the Sarcophagus of the Weepers, showcasing exquisite Phoenician craftsmanship.
3. Phoenician Glass Workshops:
 - Sidon was known for its ancient glass production, with archaeological evidence of glass-making facilities.

About Joun

[العدد 239 - أيار 2005](#)

جون عروسة الاقليم المطوقة بمياه الأولي وعبق ازهار الليمون

إعداد: باسكال معوض بو مارون

تصوير: المجدد سليم العازار

من آثارها قلعة أبو الحصن وقصر الليدي ستانهوب

جون العابقة برائحة الزهر الربيعي، المفخرة بأشجار زيتونها المقدسة، الزاخرة بعبق الماضي من نواويس وقصور وأديار وقلاع وعيون ماء دهريّة، اختارتها شخصيات التاريخ ودوّنت أسماءها في

سجلها الذهبي.

وفي حاضرها سطرت جون مسيرة حياة فنانيين طبعوا الحياة الثقافية اللبنانية بطريقة مميزة.

موقع وحدود

تعني كلمة جون بالسريانية «الزاوية»؛ كما أن الجونة هي عين الشمس، وهي بموقعها الحالي تشكل زاوية الاقليم الجنوبية على نهر الأولي. وتتكون أراضيها من تلال ومسطحات وأودية يلتف حولها نهر الأولي من الجنوب، ووادي «أبو اليابس» من الشمال.

يحدّ جون من الغرب بلدة علمان ومن الشمال مجدلونا والمغيرية، أما شرقاً فتحدها مزرعة الضهر والمحتقرة وجنوباً نهر الأولي، وهي تمتد حتى قرية بسري حيث يصل جسر بسري الصغير بين الشوف وجزين.

مواقع كثيرة في بلدة جون تسمح باستقراء بعض مآثرها الحضارية والعمرانية والتاريخية. وتبدأ أولاً في منطقة تلال جون الغربية وهي التلال والروابي المشرفة على المناطق الساحلية في علمان وسهول صيدا الشمالية، مما يبين ارتباطها التاريخي والحضاري بكل الشعوب التي استوطنت هذه البقعة المحيطة بمعبد اشمون منذ العصور البرونزية والفينيقية.

أول المواقع من هذه الجهة، البرغوتية وهي تلة صغيرة في أسفلها مقابر تعود إلى العصور البرونزية، وفي قمته كتلة صخرية كبيرة تتخللها معالم مقالع في صخورها بأشكال مختلفة ويرجح أن حجارتها نقلت إلى معبد اشمون والبنى القريبة منه. وتوجد بين صخور المقالع بئر ماء ومغارة مدفنية وهما مردومتان بالأترية والانقاض.

وفي البرغوتية بيوت قديمة مبنية بالحجارة الطبيعية سقوفها معقودة، وفي جوارها كنيسة تاريخية ذات سقف معقود وفوقه برج صغير للجرس فوق المدخل الذي يقع في الجهة الجنوبية من البناء الذي يرجع تاريخه إلى القرن الماضي.

صعوداً في التلة، تقع منطقة «الخشبية» والتي اكتشفت فيها نحو 18 مغارة مدفنية من مختلف الأحجام والأشكال وكلها منبوثة، وقد عثر فيها على أنية فخارية متعددة الألوان وبقايا لعظام بشرية وحيوانية وأغطية نواويس حجرية محطمة وبعض المسامير الحديدية. ويستدل من هذه المكتشفات ومن أشكال هذه المغاور أن بعضها كان آباراً مدفنية فردية وجماعية، حفرت في الصخور الطبشورية اللينة بالأدوات البرونزية خلال العصر البرونزي، ومنها مغاور تعود إلى عهود مختلفة قبل الميلاد وبعده. وقد نقشت مداخلها بدقة ويبلغ عمقها 6 أمتار وعرضها 4 أمتار وبداخلها كوّات كانت توضع فيها الجثث وتقفل فتحاتها بالحجارة العادية ثم يجري تكليسها.

وتنتشر هذه المدافن القديمة على منحدرات الخشبية ومنخفضاتها، وقد حفرت في صخورها منذ العهود القديمة آبار لتجميع مياه الأمطار يستعملها الرعاة حتى اليوم لإرواء قطعانهم.

وعبر الوادي لجهة الجنوب تبرز تلة «العانسية» الحصينة التي نبشت فيها مغاور كثيرة، منها مدافن من العصر البرونزي محفورة في الصخور حول عين الماء في جهة الغرب، كما تظهر في التلة نواويس ومغاور مدفنية. وعلى سطح التلة خرائب وبيوت قديمة جدرانها متداعية كانت تشكل مزرعة «العانسية»

التي ورد اسمها بين قرى الاقليم في عهد المتصرفية. وفي الطرف الغربي الجنوبي في بلدة جون تلة أخرى اكتشفت فيها حديثاً مغارة مدفنية حفر مدخلها بدقة متناهية، وفي داخلها أربع غرف صغيرة منحوتة في الصخر وبداخلها أربعة نواويس، ضاعت مع محتوياتها من الفخاريات والأدوات والعملات الرومانية.

قلعة أبو الحصن الصليبية

تقوم هذه القلعة على سطح تلة بعلو 80 متراً عن مجرى نهر الأولي الذي يلتف حولها بشكل بيضاوي ويحولها إلى شبه جزيرة تحوطها المياه من مختلف الجهات ما عدا الجهة الجنوبية، حيث يقع المنفذ الوحيد إلى القلعة. وقد بنى الصليبيون هذه القلعة لتتحكم بالوادي وهي تشكل مع «شقيف تيرون» وقلعة «جزين» شبكة دفاعية من جهة البر، لحماية ممتلكات «بارونية صيدا» التابعة لمملكة بيت المقدس الصليبية؛ ويعود تاريخ بناء هذه القلعة إلى أوائل القرن الثاني عشر ميلادي.

ويذكر المؤرخ الصليبي وليم الصوري قلعة «Belhocem» أو قلعة «بيت الأحزان» في منطقة صيدا في معرض حديثه عن بطريرك بيت المقدس الذي كان محارباً مقدماً شارك في حصار مدينة صور التي سقطت بيد الصليبيين عام 1124م، وفي عام 1128 ذهب لنجدة حصن «Belhocem» الذي احتلته مجموعات من المسلمين، لكنه توفي أثناء الحصار.

كذلك، زار عالم الآثار الفرنسي دينان في العام 1936 القلعة المعروفة باسمها الصليبي أو قلعة «أبو الحصن» كما يسميها السكان المحليون وحدد موقعها ووصف أنقاضها، وقد قال: «ان الجزء الأكبر من القلعة بحالة سيئة، وهو من العهد العربي أو التركي ومع ذلك، فإن آثار اللمسات المعمارية للافرنج بادية بوضوح.»

وفي الجهة المقابلة للقلعة لجهة جون تقع تلة النقبة على الضفة الثانية للنهر، ويوجد فيها بقايا أبنية مهدمة ومنشآت عمرانية ويبدو أنها تعود إلى الحقبة التاريخية نفسها التي أنشئت فيها، وقد أنشئت لأغراض عسكرية ودفاعية من جانب الجماعات والدويلات التي حاربت الصليبيين. وفي الوادي أيضاً مطحنة بيت الشامي التي توقفت عن العمل في أواسط هذا القرن.

دير المخلص

يقوم دير المخلص على رابية تحيط بها غابات الصنوبر وكروم العنب والزيتون، في الجهة الشرقية من جون، وهو من المعالم التاريخية الهامة في اقليم الخروب كونه أول دير بني في المنطقة في العصور الحديثة. ويرجع تاريخ بنائه إلى أوائل القرن الثامن عشر، حيث انتقل الرهبان المخلصيون سنة 1700م من مدينة صيدا للسكن في مزرعة مشموشة والرصيف قرب بلدة جون. وكانت الأراضي من أملاك الشيخ قبلان القاضي وصهره الشيخ علي جنبلاط، وقد استطاع المطران افطيموس الصيفي الدمشقي استئجار المزرعة من مالكيها، ليستثمرها الرهبان ويعتاشوا من مداخيلها.

ثم واصل المطران جهوده لإتمام المعاملات القانونية لبناء الدير وحاز على موافقة الأمير حيدر الشهابي والاذن الشرعي من قاضي صيدا ومحكمتها الشرعية في سنة 1710، وحصل على اجازة بناء كنيسة ودير مكان كنيسة ودير قديمين تهدياً منذ زمن طويل. وفي سنة 1717 باشر الرهبان أعمال البناء، ويظهر أن أقدم بناء سكنه الرهبان هو القبو المستعمل اليوم كمخزن للزيت، وأول بناء شيده هو الممشى الممتد من الشرق إلى الغرب ويدعى «ممشى المؤسس».

وفي العام 1720 تم بناء كنيسة الدير الكبرى وفي سنة 1759 وقع زلزال عنيف تصدّع بفعله جزء من الدير القديم. وتوالت على الدير نكبات عدة، لكنه بقي صامداً واستمرّ بناء الأجنحة والمدارس والدور الجديدة والمستودعات والعنابر، وفي بداية القرن الحالي ارتفعت القبة الشاهقة مع ساعتها المشهورة. وهكذا مع مرور الزمن كان بناء الدير يتكامل وتتوسع أمكنته ليغدو على صورته الحالية بمنشأته العمرانية والهندسية الرائعة.

قصر الليدي ستانهوب

يقع هذا القصر على رابية في الجهة الشمالية الشرقية من بلدة جون وتعرف بـ«ضهر الست». والليدي استر ستانهوب باكورة أولاد الكونت شارل ستانهوب وابنة أخت وليم بيت رئيس وزراء انكلترا في ذلك العصر. اتسمت بالشجاعة وحب المغامرة فاجتذبت حياة الشرق وثرواته وأساطيره، فزارته عام 1810 وطافت في بلدانه إلى أن حطّ بها الرحال في جون سنة 1818 محاولة تحقيق أحلامها بالسيطرة والنفوذ متمثلة بزنوبيا ملكة الشرق، فتقرّبت من عبد الله باشا والي عكا الذي منحها سنة 1821 الموافقة للإقامة في هذا المكان بموجب عقد ايجار من رهبان دير المخلص. وهذه البقعة من جون غنية بالآثار القديمة كالأديرة والكنائس، والبناء الذي اختارته الليدي، كان بقايا دير قديم حوّله أحد التجار إلى خان للمسافرين فاعتنت به ورمتته ورتّبت حدائقه وأضافت إليه بعض الأجنحة والممرات والاسطبلات والملاجئ لتحتمي بها أيام الحروب.

يتألف القصر من جناحين: جناح الست وهو مبني بحجارة كبيرة، وهندسته جميلة، وفيه غرف كثيرة موزعة بين غرف خاصة وغرف للضيوف وللموظفين، وتحت هذا الجناح دهليز الاهراءات. أما الجناح الثاني فمخصص للخدم مع غرف نوم للرجال والنساء ومطبخ وغرفة للأواني والأدوات المنزلية وغرفة للمونة. كما بنت الليدي حول قصرها سوراً جعلت له مدخلين: الأول، للزوار والخدم، والثاني، للنساء اللواتي يدخلن القصر سراً. وأعدت في دهاليز القصر (تحت الأرض) قبواً وغرفة للمحاكمة ولتنفيذ الأحكام بالسجن والشنق. واستعملت هذه الغرفة كمخبأً للهاربين الذين كانت تأويهم، وتتصل الغرفة بسرّادب يؤدي إلى خارج القصر.

ويتضح من مخطط القصر ومنشأته العمرانية انه كان قلعة حقيقية فيها كل أسباب الراحة والرفاهية وقد يضاها قصور الأمراء والحكام في ذلك العصر، ووفر لليدي ستانهوب الحماية الضرورية لتحقيق أحلامها وطموحاتها التي غامرت من أجلها في هذه البلاد. وقد أثارت حفيظة الحكام المحليين حيث دبّ الخلاف بينها وبين الأمير بشير الشهابي الثاني الذي هددها أكثر من مرة، فحذرتة وحرّضت الناس ضده وضد ابراهيم

باشا المصري. ويذكر أن الشاعر الفرنسي لامارتين زارها في قصرها في العام 1832. وفي 23 حزيران 1839م أسلمت الليدي استر ستانهوب الروح بعد أن أصيبت بداء السل، وقد حضر يومها إلى جون قنصل انكلترا السيد مور، يرافقه الأب وليام طومسون فوصلا إلى قصرها، وشيخاً جثمانها في منتصف تلك الليلة، حيث لف بالعلم الانكليزي، وتم دفنها في القصر.

عيون وينايع

تتميز الجهة الشمالية من بلدة جون بوفرة يناييعها التي تناسب بين أوديتها ومنخفضاتها. وفي الزاوية الشمالية من تلة الليدي ستانهوب تتفجر يناييع عدة تشكل ما يسمى «العيون» وأغزرها في الوقت الحاضر «عين ميرون» التي قد يكون اسمها التاريخي تحريفاً للفظ «gurna» أي الجرن المحفور في الصخر، وشيّدت فوق العين قطرتان معقودتان ترجعان إلى القرن الماضي. وتحيط بمنطقة العين مغاور مدفنية من العصر البرونزي محفورة بالصخور الطباشورية التي تتكوّن منها التلال.

وبالقرب من هذا المكان، تبرز رابية متوسطة الارتفاع بين التلال العالية ويبدو أن في هذا الموقع الحصين كانت توجد قرية عامرة خلال العهود القديمة، حيث تكثر كسر الفخار الملونة والمتعددة الأشكال في أراضيها.

أما المعالم الأثرية الباقية فيها فمنها: ناووس حجري محفور في الصخر عند أول التلة، وإلى جانبه نحت في الصخور في شكلين مربعين ملاصقين لبعضهما.

وفي الوسط ناووس آخر منحوت في الصخر وبقربه شكل بئر مدفنية زالت معالمها. وفي الطرف الشمالي الغربي للتلة توجد مغارتان مدفنتان نحتت فيهما ناووس صغيرة الحجم احدهما ينزل إليها عن طريق درج محفور في الصخر لتسهيل الدخول إلى الحجرة. وفي آخر التلة حفرت 3 مدافن في كتلة صخرية تطل على الوادي. أما الطرف الجنوبي للتلة فنجد فيه مغاور مدفنية عدة، وعلى سطح التلة ناووس استقرّ على مسافة قريبة من قصر الوادي.

جزء من التراث

موقع جون الحالي من دون شك هو جزء من التراث الحضاري المتنوع الذي تخترنه، ومن معالمها التاريخية الدينية جامع البلدة الذي شيّده «محمد الفضيل» وهو مغربي طابت له الإقامة في جون. ومن الأبنية الدينية أيضاً 3 كنائس للطوائف المسيحية الموارنة والكاثوليك والبروتستنت. وفي البلدة العديد من الأبنية الحجرية القديمة الجميلة ذات هندسة معمارية أنيقة، وذوق فني رفيع اشتهر به بناؤو الاقليم خلال القرن التاسع عشر وأوائل القرن العشرين.

وفي جون أربع مؤسسات تربوية منها مدرسة جون التكميلية الرسمية المختلطة، وثانوية جون فضلاً عن المدارس الخاصة وهي: مدرسة دير المخلص الثانوية، ومدرسة دير الراهبات.

أما على الصعيد الزراعي فتشتهر جون بأراضيها المليئة بأشجار الزيتون وإنتاج الزيت والصابون، كما تنتشر في البلدة أشجار الحمضيات. ويستخرج الأهالي في البلدة ماء الزهر وأيضاً ماء الورد ودبس

الخروب. كما ظهرت فيها حديثاً بعض الزراعات في الخيم البلاستيكية كزراعة الخضار والازهار. تتميز جون بارتفاع نسبة المتعلمين في صفوف أبنائها بحيث تزيد على 95% بينهم عدد كبير من الأطباء والقضاة والمحامين والمهندسين وحملة الشهادات العليا في الاختصاصات كافة، والموظفين في إدارات الدولة المختلفة.

كما أغنت جون الحياة الثقافية والفنية في لبنان من خلال أبنائها ومنهم الفنان المسرحي نصري شمس الدين، والممثل الكوميدي حسن علاء الدين (شوشو)، والممثل المسرحي ميشال نبعه، والملحن الموسيقي ناصر مخول.

Joun Archaeological Significance

Joun, located inland from Sidon, holds archaeological potential, particularly as part of the broader Phoenician hinterland. While detailed excavations in Joun itself have been limited, the area is historically significant for several reasons:

1. Ancient Roads and Trade Routes:
 - Joun likely sat on trade routes connecting Sidon to inland regions, facilitating the movement of goods such as cedar wood, olive oil, and wine.
 - Remnants of ancient pathways and water systems may exist, linking it to Sidon and the Temple of Eshmun.
2. Roman and Byzantine Influence:
 - Roman and Byzantine ruins, such as building foundations, mosaics, and pottery, have been found in the surrounding areas.
 - Joun could have hosted small settlements or estates serving Sidon during these periods.
3. Agricultural Terraces and Ancient Reservoirs:
 - Archaeological evidence suggests the presence of ancient terracing and water management systems, indicative of agricultural activity vital for Sidon's economy.
4. Nearby Sites of Interest:
 - Maghdouche: South of Joun, this town is home to the ancient shrine of Our Lady of Mantara, associated with biblical history.
 - Jezzine: Southeast of Joun, this area has revealed Roman ruins and traces of ancient habitation.
 - Chhim: A nearby village with significant Byzantine archaeological remains, including a church and mosaics.

جون».. جوهرة الشوف اللبناني»

ما إن تدخل بلدة جون الشوفية حتى يغمرك هذا الشعور الجميل بأنك في قلب بلدة لبنانية عريقة تذكرك بأجواء القرية الحقيقية. فعلى الرغم من الحدائق التي ألفت بظلالها على معالم جون من هنا وهناك، فإنها استطاعت أن تحافظ على دفئها إن في مجال عمارتها الهندسية أو معالمها التاريخية.

كل ما يخطر على بالك أو تمنى أن تلاقه وأنت في مشوار سباحي تنقيفي وخدماتي، باستطاعتك أن تجده في جون. فبدءاً من ممارسة رياضة المشي في ممرات خاصة استحدثت في البلدة، مروراً بمواقع أثرية تعود إلى ما قبل الميلاد، وصولاً إلى اللقمة اللبنانية الأصيلة، هي نشاطات ستشدك إلى زيارة جون التي تبعد نحو الـ55 كلم عن بيروت.

تلّة «النقبا» و«عين حبرون» و«قصر إستير استنهوب» و«دير المخلص» ومسجد «محمد الفضيل» تمثل التاريخ والجغرافيا فيها، بينما يعدّ مطعم «تل القمر» الذي يقع على أطرافها مركزاً سياحياً في موقعه وخير مثل للقامة اللبنانية والجلسة العائلية السعيدة.

ترزح بلدة جون الشوفية بالمواقع والمعالم التاريخية والطبيعية، فهي إضافة إلى المغاور الـ18 التي تزدحم بها منطقة «الخاشبية» كما يسميها أهل البلدة، فإن الجهة الشمالية منها تتميز بوفرة ينابيعها، فهناك قصر الليدي إستير استنهوب الذي حيك في أروقته أهم القرارات السياسية في البلاد في (القرن الثامن عشر). وكذلك هناك ينابيع عدة أهمها «عين حبرون» المحفورة في الصخر. أما مشروع «النقبا» المخصص لهواة ممارسة رياضة المشي على الأقدام، فهو يعدّ واحداً من أجمل هذه الدروب في الطبيعة اللبنانية نظراً لموقعه المحاط بالأنهر والينابيع وظلال الأشجار.

تلّة «النقبا» درب مخصصة لممارسة رياضة المشي

تعدّ تلّة «النقبا» وهي منطقة حرجية تظللها أشجار السنديان والصنوبر، ويبلغ طولها نحو الـ5 كلم، واحدة من الدروب ذات الطبيعة الخلابة المخصصة لرياضة المشي في لبنان. فهي تتكامل مع درب آخر يعرف بـ«طريق القداسة» المتصل بموقع دير المخلص الذي يتوسط البلدة، ويعدّ واحداً من أهم المواقع الدينية في منطقة الشوف.

تقع تلّة «النقبا» المشرفة على بلدة جون في الجهة المقابلة لقلعة «أبو الحصن» الذي يلقها بشكل بيضاوي نهر الأولي. على هذا الطريق الذي استحدث مؤخراً بموازرة رئيس بلديتها العميد سليم خرياطي، في استطاعتك أن تمشي في تعرجات ومنعطفات طبيعية بين آثار لأبنية مهذمة ومنشآت عمرانية تعود إلى أوائل القرن الثاني عشر.

لوحات رسمتها الطبيعة بكل أشكالها ستشاهدها وأنت تمشي بينها وكأنك في كتاب تاريخ تتصفّحه عن قرب. ومنها ستطلّ على غابات الصنوبر وكروم العنب والزيتون التابعة لـ«دير المخلص»، فهناك يستطيع الزائر أن يأخذ استراحة في أحضان الطبيعة حيث يحلو تأملها فتمارس رياضة روحية بامتياز.

نبع «عين حبرون» مياه عذبة تتدفق من الصخور

تتميز الجهة الشمالية من بلدة جون بينابيعها التي تنساب بين أوديتها ومنخفضاتها. وتعدّ «عين حبرون» الأشهر فيها وهي مقصد لأهل منطقة الشوف، الذين يرتشفون مياهها العذبة منذ مئات السنين. وشيّد عليها قنطرتان معقودتان ترجعان إلى القرن الماضي. تحلو الجلسات العائلية حول هذا الينبوع الذي تتدفق مياهه من الصخور، فيشكّل معلماً جغرافياً عريقاً.

السياحة الدينية من ميزات بلدة جون

تحتلّ السياحة الدينية في بلدة جون حيزاً لا يستهان به من نشاطاتها المختلفة، فإضافة إلى «دير المخلص» العريق الذي يعدّ من أهم المعالم الدينية في منطقة إقليم الخروب، ويعود تاريخ بنائه إلى أواخر القرن الثامن عشر، هناك مسجد البلدة الذي شيّده محمد الفضيل، وهو مغربي أعجب ببلدة جون فشيدّه بعد أن استقرّ فيها. ويعتبر هذا المسجد معلماً تاريخياً يشكّل جزءاً من تراث بلدة جون في هذا الإطار.

قصر اللبدي إستير استنهوب معلم تاريخي يعيق بعطر امرأة حديدية

يقع هذا القصر على رابية في الجهة الشمالية الشرقية لبلدة جون تعرف بـ«ضهر الست»، فهذه المرأة الحديدية التي كانت تربطها قرابة برئيس وزراء بريطانيا وويليام بيت (ابنة أخته)، حطت في هذه البلدة عام 1818، فاخترت هذا البناء يومها لتسكنه وليكون ملجأً للمسافرين والهاربين من وطأة الحروب. في زيارتك للقصر ستكتشف معالمه التاريخية، فقد رتبته اللبدي البريطانية بحيث أحاطته بالحدائق الغناء كما أضافت إليه جناحين، أحدهما يتضمن غرفاً للضيوف ودهليزا يوصلك إلى إهراءات القمح، وآخر خصصته للمطبخ والخدم في القصر. شكّل هذا القصر قلعة حقيقية وقر للبدي استنهوب الحماية لها من بطش الأمير الشهابي بشير الثاني، ووالي مصر إبراهيم باشا. دفنت اللبدي استنهوب في القصر عام 1938 بعد أن أصيبت بداء السلّ

القيام بنزهة إلى بلدة جون الشوفية ستكون واحدة من المشاريع السياحية التي تستحق منك إدراجها على روزنامة نشاطاتك في لبنان الأخضر

وللوصول إلى بلدة جون بإمكانك أن تسلك طريق بيروت - صيدا لتتوجّه إلى جون من مفرق نهر بسري، أو عن الطريق الداخلية للشوف الأعلى وهي تمر بـ«بيت الدين» وبلدات أخرى مجاورة

مشوار يعيق برائحة زهر الليمون وبلوحات على مدّ النظر، سيحوّلك التعرّف إلى هذه الأرض

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Potential for Future Discoveries in Joun

Given its proximity to Sidon and other historically rich sites, Joun holds untapped archaeological potential. The following are areas of interest for future exploration:

- **Canaanite-Phoenician Settlements:** As part of Sidon's hinterland, Joun might contain remnants of smaller Canaanite villages or agricultural infrastructure.
- **Roman and Byzantine Periods:** Potential ruins of estates, villas, or early Christian sites might still lie undiscovered.
- **Medieval Remains:** Joun could have been influenced by Crusader or Mamluk activity, given its location near Sidon.

Cultural and Historical Significance

Joun's landscape, with its natural beauty and proximity to ancient Sidon, suggests it played a supporting role in the region's historical narrative. While formal archaeological projects are limited, local folklore, historical texts, and ongoing studies could reveal more about its role in the Canaanite, Phoenician, and later periods.

The Bisri Valley

F BISRI VALLEY

The Bisri Valley displays distinct geological and ecological features that foster sensitive agricultural practices, dotted by countless archaeological remains and places of worship that testify of its historical, strategic and religious importance across all periods of history. It is a cultural landscape that shows a clear balance between a natural environment and human activities that shaped, developed and gave meaning to the landscape. One can consider it to be a part of a wider “Cultural Landscape of the Sacred Valley of Eshmoun”, centered on the entire course of the Awali/Bisri river.

The Bisri Valley holds great historical, cultural and religious significance. In the direct hinterland of the ancient city of Sidon, ... the valley has known uninterrupted human occupation since the Bronze Age. Around 70 identified archaeological sites; settlements, tombs, fortresses, ruined convents, a temple, bridges, roads, stairs; testify of this rich history. **Even the name “Bisri” is a derivative of “Bostrenos”, the river’s name in Hellenistic times.** Located on the edge of the same water course, the famous temple of Eshmoun north of Saida and the Roman- period temple of the Bisri Valley had a symbolic connection and were located on the same pilgrimage route. Indeed, the river used to also be named “Asclepios” which is the Greek equivalent of Eshmoun. A religious importance that lived on after the advent of Christianity, with historic churches and convents dotting the valley (Atallah, 2017).

Source:

Lebanon Eco Movement (LEM): Request for an Inspection On the Impacts of the Bisri Dam Project in Lebanon

<https://en.calameo.com/read/003202948e9b47ca3e063>

2 cdr.gov.lb/study/sdatl/English/NPMPLT.PD

CLICK TO REVIEW THE RICH HERITAGE OF BISRI VALLEY: A REPORT BY ANTOINE ATALLAH

<https://www.calameo.com/books/003202948e9b47ca3e063>



The roman road network, including the two roads linking Saïda to Jezzine and Jezzine to the Chouf
Khalil, Wissam. "Routes et Fortifications dans le Chouf Libanais" in Dossier d'Archéologie No 350 Mars/Avri

The name "Bisri" is in itself a testimony of the valley's ancient history, as it is a variation "Bostrenos" which was given to the Awali's upper course in antiquity. A name probably a settlement named "Bostra" which could correspond to the modern village of Bisri. As the temple complex and pilgrimage site of Eshmoun near its mouth, it had a strong sacr that was expressed in another of the river's ancient names, "Asclepios", which is also th the Greek god of healing.



The Bostrenus, ancient name of Al-Awali
Adam & Charles Black. 1854. David Rumsey Historical Map Collection



The podium of the temple of Eshmoun in Bustan el-Cheikh
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Echnoum_Libanon_026.jpg

Much further upstream, in the valley of Bisri, is a second temple, where the Nahr Array and Nahr Barouk join to form the Nahr Bisri. Today, only four columns remain standing, the rest of the temple being buried under silt and mud carried by the river floods over the centuries. It is one of only two temples in Lebanon to be located at the bottom of a valley and directly adjacent to a river bed. Never excavated, the grey granite of the four remaining columns and some ornamental blocks strewn across the site indicate it was an important place of worship and one among the largest rural temples of Lebanon. This temple and surrounding archaeological field will be drowned by the dam.



Three of the four monolithic granite pillars of the Bisri Roman temple
 Antoine Atallah



A roman period rock-cut tomb in the Bisri valley
Antoine Atallah



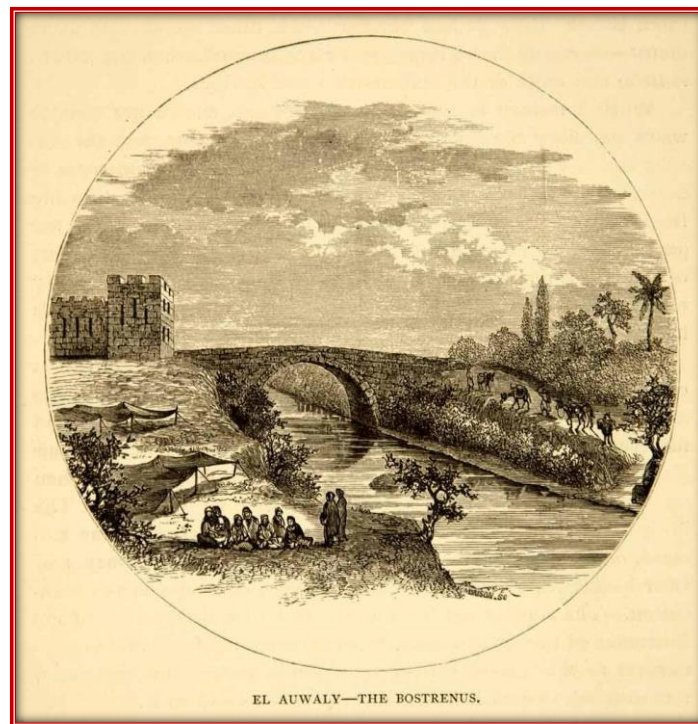
The roman/byzantine bridge close to the Bisri temple
Antoine Atallah

THE RICH HERITAGE OF THE AWALI RIVER

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Awali** (Arabic: نهر الأوالي / ALA-LC: *Nahr al-Awalī*, ancient **Bostrenus** / Bostrenos)^{[1][2]} is a **perennial river** flowing in Southern **Lebanon**.^[3] In ancient times it was known as Asclepius River. The 48 kilometres (30 mi) long Awali originates from the **Barouk** mountain at a height of 1,492 metres (4,895 ft) and the Niha mountain. The Awali is supplemented by two tributaries, the Barouk and Aaray rivers. The Awali is also known as the Bisri river in its upper section; it flows through the western face of **Mount Lebanon** and into the **Mediterranean**.

The Awali river has a discharge of 10.1625 m³/s (358.89 cu ft/s), it forms a watershed that has an area of about 294 km² (114 sq mi).^[4] The river flows into Joun Lake, which is part of the **Bisri Dam** project to improve the supply of fresh water to the region.^{[5][6]} A large portion of the Bisri Dam project funding, from the **World Bank**, was cancelled by the World Bank in September 2020.^[7]



1886 WOOD ENGRAVING ART AWALI RIVER

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Sidon Archeology



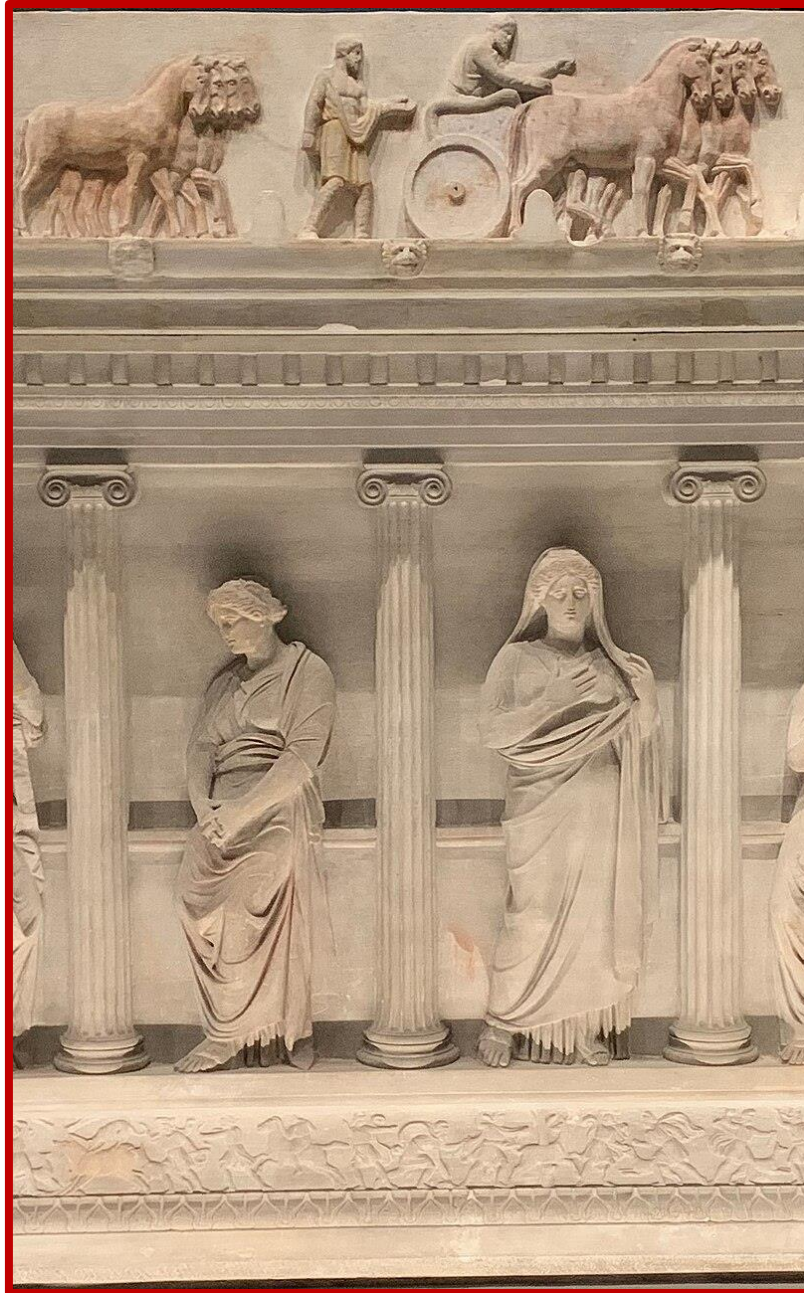
Sidon Archeology



Sidon Archeology



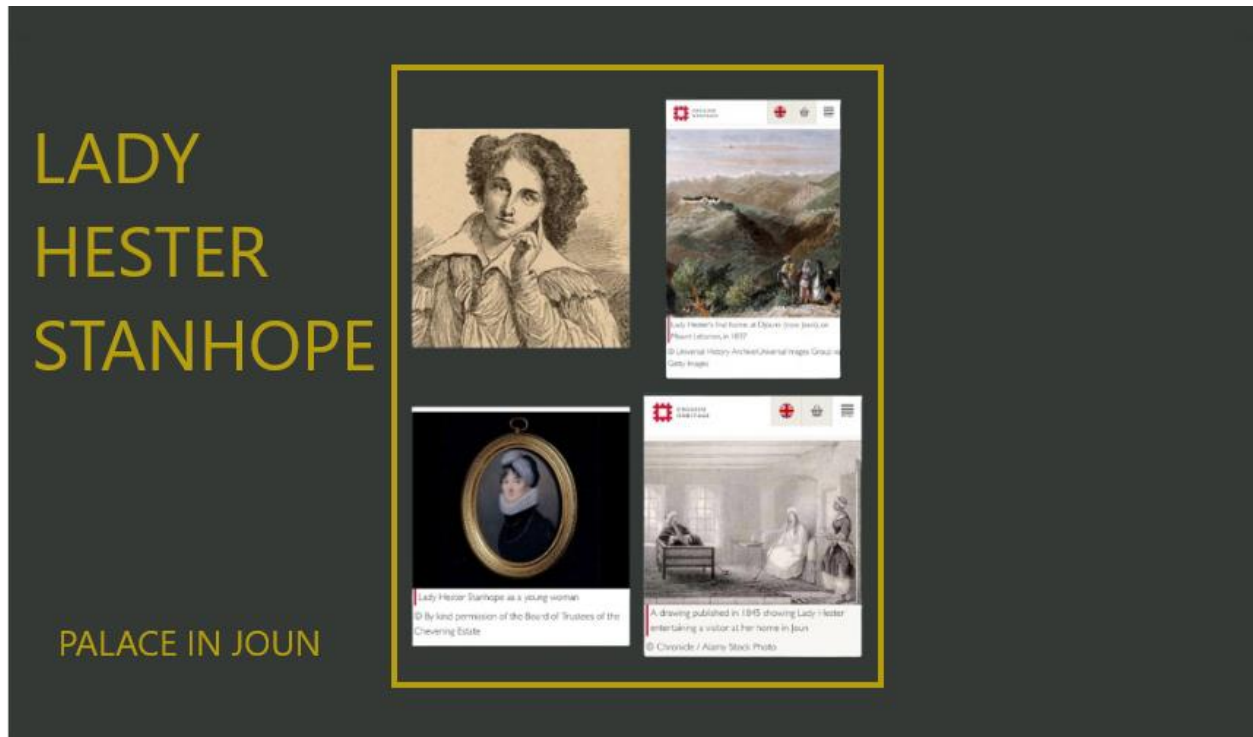
By Kralayolverin - Own work, commons.wikimedia.org



Sidon Archeology

Istanbul_Feb_2020_11_37_37_885000_(cropped)

HISTORICAL LANDMARK: THE PALACE OF LADY HESTER STANHOPE



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Hester Stanhope

Lady Hester Lucy Stanhope (12 March 1776 – 23 June 1839) was a British adventurer, writer, antiquarian, and one of the most famous travelers of her age. Her

excavation of [Ascalon](#) in 1815 is considered the first to use modern archaeological principles, and her use of a medieval Italian document is described as “one of the earliest uses of textual sources by field archaeologists”.^{[1][2]} Her letters and memoirs made her famous as an explorer.^[3]

Memoirs: In 1846, some years after her death, Dr Meryon published three volumes of *Memoirs of the Lady Hester Stanhope as related by herself in Conversations with her Physician*, and these were followed in the succeeding year by three volumes of *Travels of Lady Hester Stanhope, forming the Completion of her Memoirs narrated by her Physician*.^[4]

Footnotes:

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ARAB NEWS NEWSPAPER

Lebanon’s English Enigma: Lady Hester Stanhope

Author: Fiona O’Brien, Reuters

Publication Date: Thu, 2004-07-01 03:00

JOUN, Lebanon, 1 July 2004 — She was known as the Queen of the East, cast as both tyrant and heroine, an English adventurer lured by the Orient who ultimately died an eccentric recluse in the remote hills of Lebanon.

Lady Hester Stanhope was a legend in her own lifetime, a 19th century femme fatale whose name conjured images of intrigue, decadence and romance.

Unconfined in death as in life, after two burials and 165 years her ashes were finally scattered this month on the lonely hillside which she dominated until her death in 1839.

Stanhope was born on March 12, 1776 in the southern English county of Kent. Her uncle was Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger, and in 1803 she moved to London, holding court at Downing Street as his social and political hostess.

Known for her stately beauty and lively conversation, she stayed with Pitt until he died in 1806. In 1810, with her personal life crumbling around her, she decided to travel and set sail in search of adventure.

It was not long in coming. In Athens, Lord Byron swam out to greet her; she was shipwrecked off Rhodes. She borrowed Turkish costume and dressed as a man.

In Cairo, she met the Pasha, in Damascus she refused to wear the veil, in Jerusalem the doors of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre were closed and reopened in her honor.

She traveled to Syria, visited Palmyra dressed as a Bedouin and was crowned Queen of the Desert. She fell ill in an outbreak of plague, traveled to Acre and Nazareth.

In 1814, tired of wandering, she settled in a ruined monastery in south Lebanon, moving three years later to an even more remote property where she stayed until she died.

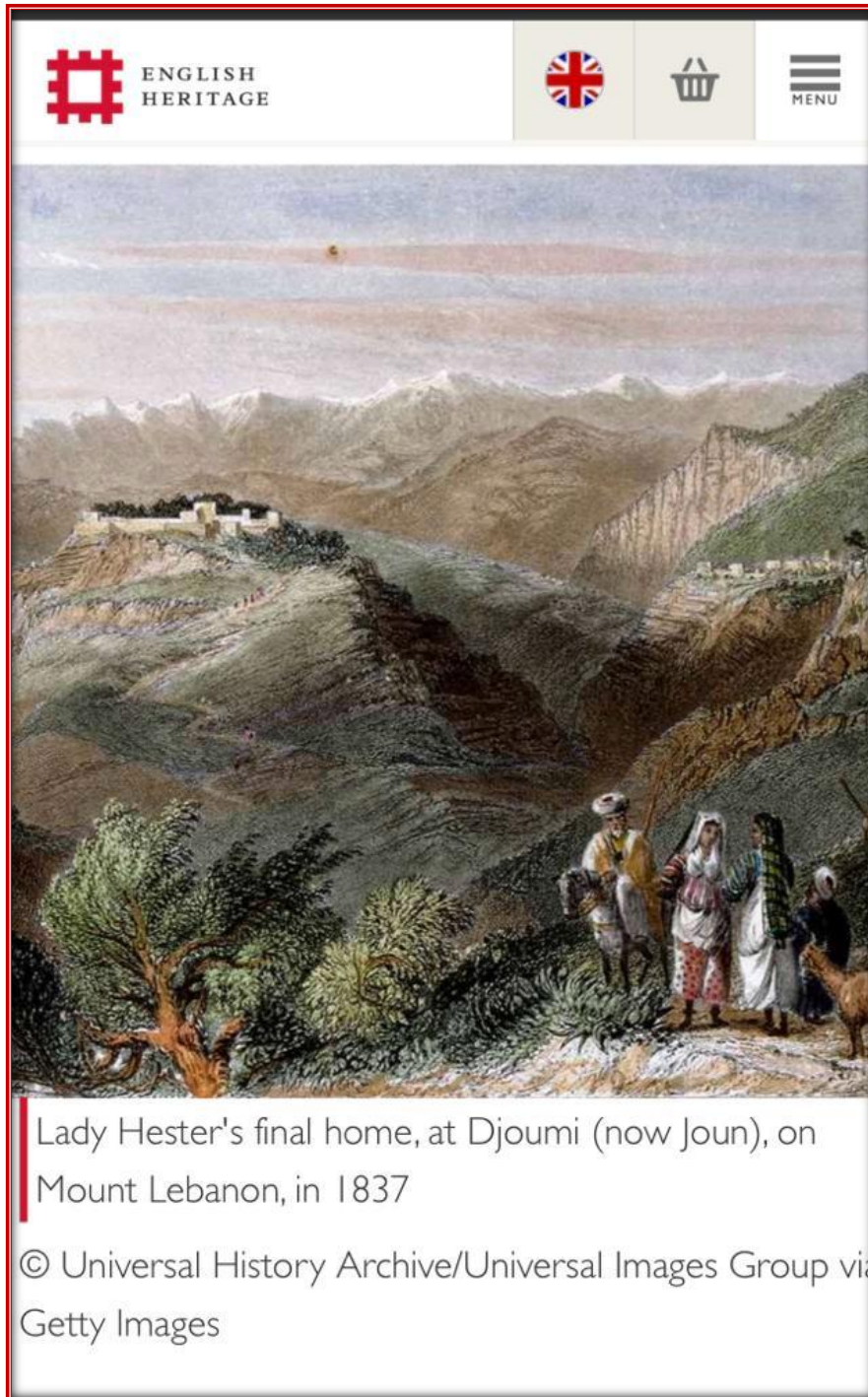
Standing at the site on the anniversary of her death on June 23, beside olive trees and the scattered archways of what was once a magnificent home, three dozen guests and journalists waited for her ashes to be scattered.

“Do you want me to put her down somewhere?” asked a woman from the British Embassy holding the turquoise urn holding her remains.

Stanhope was a woman who could not be put down. In Lebanon, defying conventions with her shaved head and male dress, she played politics, forming her own militia and wielding great power from her hilltop.







The image is a screenshot of a website interface. At the top left is the English Heritage logo, a red grid pattern, followed by the text "ENGLISH HERITAGE". To the right are three icons: the Union Jack flag, a shopping basket, and a menu icon labeled "MENU". Below the navigation bar is a large historical painting. The painting depicts a rugged mountain landscape with a castle on a hillside. In the foreground, a group of people, including a man on a horse and several women in traditional dress, are gathered on a path. The sky is hazy and blue.

Lady Hester's final home, at Djoumi (now Joun), on Mount Lebanon, in 1837

© Universal History Archive/Universal Images Group via Getty Images

MEMOIRS
OF THE
LADY HESTER STANHOPE,
AS RELATED BY HERSELF
IN CONVERSATIONS WITH HER
PHYSICIAN;
COMPRISING
HER OPINIONS AND ANECDOTES OF
SOME OF THE MOST REMARKABLE PERSONS
OF HER TIME.

All such writings and discourses as touch no man will mend no
man.—*Tyers's Rhapsody on Pope.*

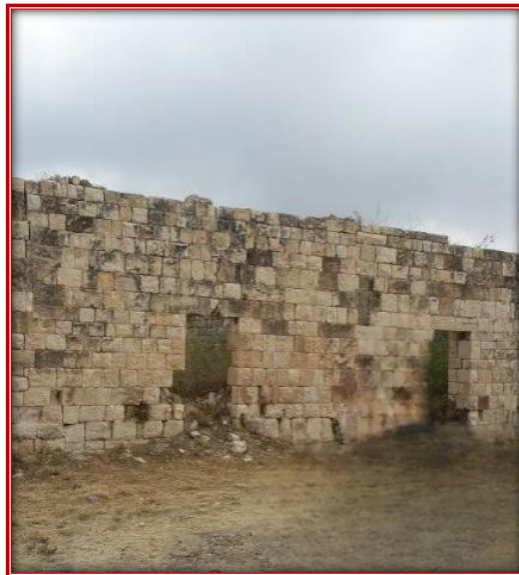
Second Edition.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
HENRY COLBURN, PUBLISHER,
GREAT MARLBOROUGH STREET.

1846.



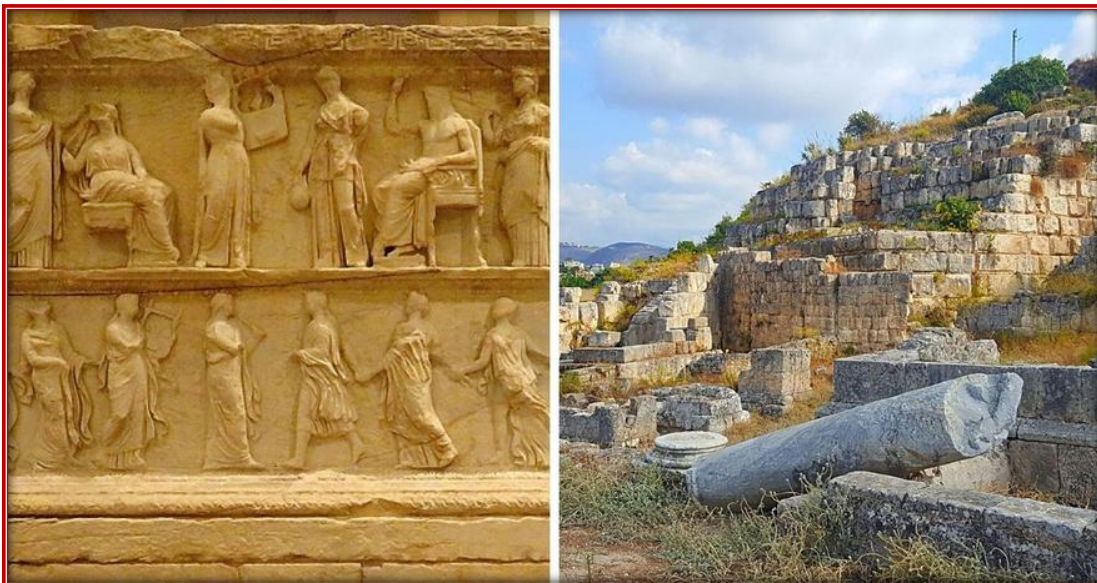
THE RICH HERITAGE OF THE TEMPLE OF ESHMUN

Old World Gods » Canaanite

Eshmun: The Divine Healer in Ancient Phoenician Beliefs



Eshmun, the ancient Phoenician god of healing, held a significant position in the pantheon of the region. Worshiped in the city of Sidon, his temple, originally built in the 7th century BC, evolved over time with additions by various monarchs.



Note about the Temple of Eshmun:

The *Temple of Eshmun* is an ancient place of worship dedicated to *Eshmun*, the Phoenician god of healing. It is located near the **Awali river, approximately **2 kilometers (1.2 miles)* northeast of *Sidon* in southwestern Lebanon¹². Let's delve into its fascinating history:

- *Origins and Construction*: – The temple's construction began during the reign of *Eshmunazar II, the King of Sidon, at the end of the **6th century BCE. Initially, it was built to celebrate the city's recovered wealth and stature during the **Achaemenid era* (circa *529–333 BCE*).

- Over time, the temple complex underwent significant expansion by subsequent monarchs, including *Bodashtart* and *Yatonmilk*. These expansions occurred across centuries marked by alternating independence and foreign rule.

- *Architectural Diversity*: – Due to its prolonged development, the sanctuary showcases a rich blend of different architectural and decorative styles. It reflects influences from *Phoenician, **Achaemenid, **Hellenistic, and **Roman* periods.

- The temple consists of an *esplanade* and a grand court enclosed by a massive *limestone terrace wall. This wall supports a monumental podium that once held Eshmun's **Greco-Persian style marble temple*.

- Within the sanctuary, a series of *ritual ablution basins* were fed by canals channeling water from the *Asclepius river* (modern Awali) and the sacred **"YDLL" spring*. These installations served therapeutic and purificatory purposes associated with the cult of Eshmun.

- *Artifacts and Inscriptions*: – The site has yielded valuable artifacts, including those inscribed with *Phoenician texts. Notable examples include the **Bodashtart inscriptions* and the *Eshmun inscription*. These texts provide insights into the temple's history and that of ancient Sidon.

- The temple was improved during the early *Roman Empire, featuring a colonnade street. However, it eventually declined due to earthquakes and fell into oblivion as **Christianity* replaced polytheism. Many of its large limestone blocks were repurposed for later structures.

- *Rediscovery*: – In *1900*, local treasure hunters rediscovered the temple site, sparking the curiosity of international scholars.

The worship of Eshmun dates back to ancient times, and he was venerated through various rituals and ceremonies. Early devotees sought his healing powers and believed in his ability to bring renewal and vitality to life.

Ritual practices included ablution and purifications in the sacred waters brought from the Asclepius River and the holy spring 'YDLL'. These rituals were aimed at therapeutic and purifying purposes, reinforcing the belief in Eshmun's healing abilities.

Development of Eshmun's divine attributes and role

As the Phoenician civilization grew, so did the divinity of Eshmun. He became associated with celestial and cosmic powers, which elevated his status within the pantheon. Eshmun's role extended beyond healing to encompass aspects of salvation and renewal of life.

His divine attributes represented the interconnectedness between physical health, spiritual well-being, and the cyclical nature of existence.

Architectural styles and features of the temple complex

The temple complex boasts a grand terrace with a massive limestone wall surrounding it. Atop the monumental podium stands the marble temple of Eshmun, showcasing a captivating blend of Greek and Persian architectural elements.

The sanctuary's design is a testament to the cultural exchange between Phoenicia and neighboring civilizations.

Ritual practices and healing ceremonies in the temple

The Temple of Eshmun was not only a place of worship but also served as a center for medicinal and therapeutic practices. The temple featured ritual ablution basins fed by channels carrying water from the sacred Asclepius River and the YDLL sacred spring.

These facilities were utilized for therapeutic and purifying purposes, emphasizing the deity's role as the god of healing.

The temple's rituals and healing ceremonies were conducted by priests skilled in ancient medical and spiritual traditions.

Offerings and prayers were made to Eshmun, seeking his divine intervention for physical, emotional, and spiritual healing. The significance of these practices highlights the societal reliance and faith in Eshmun's powers of rejuvenation and restoration.

Eshmun's Cult and Beliefs

The worship of Eshmun, the god of healing, extended beyond public religious practices and was deeply intertwined with popular and private beliefs. Eshmun dominated the sacred imagination of the Phoenician people, offering hope and solace through his healing powers.

Popular and private worship of Eshmun

Eshmun's cult was not confined to formal religious ceremonies but permeated the daily lives of the Phoenician populace. In homes, individuals sought his blessings for health, prosperity, and protection from ailments.

Shrines dedicated to Eshmun were erected in households, where families would perform private rites and engage in personal devotion.

Moreover, communities outside the temple complex gathered to honor Eshmun through festive celebrations, processions, and communal rituals. These gatherings reinforced social cohesion, emphasized the significance of Eshmun's healing attributes, and fostered a collective sense of well-being.

Connection between Eshmun and the god Baal

Eshmun's association with the prominent Phoenician god, Baal, reflects their shared roles in promoting salvation and restoration. While Eshmun held a specific healing domain, he often intermingled with Baal in religious narratives and practices.

The belief in their complementary powers further solidified Eshmun's prominence within Phoenician cosmology.

Spread of Eshmun's cult in the ancient Near East

The popularity of Eshmun's cult extended throughout the ancient Near East, bridging borders and cultures. From significant Phoenician cities like Sidon and Beirut to regions in Syria, Palestine, and Egypt, the worship of Eshmun left a considerable impact.

This widespread veneration of Eshmun was facilitated by Phoenician trade networks, fostering the exchange of ideas, religious practices, and artifacts. As Phoenician colonies were established across the Mediterranean, the influence of Eshmun's cult grew, leaving traces of devotion in various archaeological remains and inscriptions.

Sidon as the Center of Eshmun Worship

Sidon, a prominent ancient city, held great importance as the center of Eshmun worship. The god's presence in Sidon shaped the religious and cultural landscape of the city.

Eshmun's importance in the city of Sidon

Eshmun held a position of high reverence in Sidon, being regarded as the most significant deity within the city.

The people of Sidon deeply believed in his healing powers and sought his divine intervention for physical well-being and spiritual renewal.

Discoveries and remnants of Eshmun's sanctuary in Sidon

Archaeological excavations in Sidon have unearthed fascinating remnants of Eshmun's sanctuary, shedding light on the grandeur and significance of the temple complex. These discoveries include architectural fragments, inscriptions, and relics associated with the rituals performed in honor of Eshmun.

Evidences of Eshmun's cult in surrounding regions

Not only was Eshmun's influence limited to the city of Sidon, but his presence and cult extended to the surrounding regions of the ancient Near East. Evidence in the form of dedicatory inscriptions, artifacts, and epigraphy found in Syria, Palestine, and Egypt attest to the widespread devotion to Eshmun.

PART TWO: Strategic Cultural Heritage Proposal for the Town of Joun

Preamble

In introducing this proposal, it was my hope that we, as a Town, would re-engage and re-think what heritage means, as a form of identity inherited but also in the process of continuous re-imagining, as a component of identity.

Taking the word in its widest sense, “heritage”, can be said to embrace all those elements of Joun life which we have inherited from the generations gone before us, and whose continuing survival into the future depends on the attitudes and actions of the present.

Introduction

What is heritage?

The Oxford English Dictionary defines ‘heritage’ as ‘property that is or may be inherited; an inheritance’, ‘valued things such as historic buildings that have been passed down from previous generations’, and ‘relating to things of historic or cultural value that are worthy of preservation’. The emphasis on inheritance and conservation is important here, as is the focus on ‘property’, ‘things’ or ‘buildings’. So (according to the Oxford English Dictionary, anyway), heritage is something that can be passed from one generation to the next, something that can be conserved or inherited, and something that has historic or cultural value. Heritage might be understood to be a physical ‘object’: a piece of property, a building or a place that is able to be ‘owned’ and ‘passed on’ to someone else.

In addition to these physical objects and places of heritage there are also various practices of heritage that are conserved or handed down from one generation to the next.

The invisible or ‘intangible’ practices of heritage, such as language, culture, popular song, literature or dress, are as important in helping us to understand who we are as the physical objects and buildings that we are more used to thinking of as ‘heritage’.

Practices of heritage are customs and habits which, although intangible, inform who we are as collectives, and help to create our collective social memory. We use objects of heritage (artefacts, buildings, sites, landscapes) alongside practices of heritage

(languages, music, community commemorations, conservation and preservation of objects or memories from the past) to shape our ideas about our past, present and future.

In short: Over the past two decades our concept of the word “heritage” has evolved somewhat and now the concept includes not only tangible heritage but also elements of our intangible living heritage such as songs, poems and language. When we speak of heritage today, we are talking about our interaction with the world around us, both real and abstract, our identity and our need to tell our own story in our own way.

Developing a Town

Developing a town involves a mix of strategic planning, community engagement, and sustainable practices.

1. Community Engagement

- Public Forums and Workshops: Involve residents in the planning process through regular meetings and workshops. This ensures that the development reflects the community's needs and desires.
- Volunteer Programs: Encourage community members to participate in beautification projects, such as planting trees or maintaining public spaces.

2. Economic Development

- Support Local Businesses: Create incentives for local businesses, such as tax breaks or grants. This can help stimulate the local economy and create jobs.
- Attract New Businesses: Develop a marketing strategy to attract new businesses to the area. Highlight the town's unique features and potential for growth.

3. Infrastructure Improvement

- Upgrade Transportation: Improve roads, public transportation, and pedestrian pathways to make the town more accessible.
- Enhance Public Spaces: Invest in parks, recreational facilities, and public squares to create vibrant community spaces.

4. Sustainable Practices

- Green Building Initiatives: Promote the use of sustainable building materials and energy-efficient designs in new constructions.
- Renewable Energy Projects: Invest in renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind power, to reduce the town's carbon footprint.

5. Cultural and Social Development

- Cultural Events: Organize festivals, art shows, and cultural events to celebrate the town's heritage and bring the community together.
- Educational Programs: Develop programs that focus on skill-building and education, particularly for youth and underserved populations.

6. Urban Planning

- Mixed-Use Development: Encourage mixed-use developments that combine residential, commercial, and recreational spaces. This can create a more dynamic and livable environment.
- Historic Preservation: Protect and restore historic buildings to maintain the town's character and attract tourism.

7. Health and Safety

- Healthcare Facilities: Ensure that there are adequate healthcare facilities and services available to residents.
- Public Safety: Invest in public safety measures, such as improved lighting, emergency services, and community policing

These strategies can help create a thriving, resilient, and sustainable town.

Benefits of Investments in Sustainable Cultural Development and Heritage Preservation

1. Cultural tourism and heritage protection based on active community participation yield important and sustainable benefits in terms of employment and income;
2. Information/communications support to improved cultural assets and revived traditional arts and crafts significantly increase tourist flows. Without tourist books, brochures, and maps, individual tourists miss the opportunity to view cultural assets and local arts and crafts.
3. Without relevant in-depth information, tourist guides cannot provide sufficient information to tourists. Similarly, unless informed, communities and neighborhoods of cultural assets cannot fully participate in their preservation. Yet, resources for information and communications support are scarce.
4. The availability of small grants creates important returns in increasing the flow of tourists and lengthening their stay; incomes of participating households are also enhanced;

5. Corruption is minimized if funds are managed through participatory and transparent community-based mechanisms, which emphasize public disclosure of how funds are spent
6. Sustainability of investments in cultural heritage preservation also depend on the long-term support of local governments. As tourism incomes increase and the potential income flows become positive, local governments more readily invest in the infrastructure, such as water supply and sanitation, in neighborhoods of cultural assets and;
7. The pilot projects are successful in achieving their outcomes, but the available funds should be enough to create nation-wide income effects. Many cultural assets continue to face the risk of extinction unless successful pilots are substantially expanded and deepened through regular investment projects for the benefit of a much larger segment of the populations of countries.

Cultural Heritage as a Driver for Economic Revival Town

Statistics, indicators, and data on the cultural sector, as well as operational activities, provide ample evidence that culture can be a driver of sustainable development with community-wide social, economic and environmental impacts through green jobs, reducing poverty, preserving resources, or strengthening community resilience.

The cultural sector's contribution to the economy and poverty alleviation through creative industries, sustainable cultural tourism, and cultural infrastructure, can serve as strategic tools for revenue generation¹.

Infrastructure, improvement of public spaces, and rehabilitation, restoration, and conservation of selected buildings) will stimulate the touristic potential and tackle the long-term development of the socio-economic aspect of the local population.

While the *Economic empowerment through income generation opportunities and promotion of tourism* component the focus will be on supporting the entrepreneurs, either through the revival or boosting of traditional crafts or opening of new, non-traditional economic activities, upgrading of existing businesses, providing young people with marketable skills, along with the increasing the attractiveness of the sites through the upgrading of physical infrastructure.

Key Considerations:

Revitalizing a historic site in ruins can be a rewarding project that preserves cultural heritage while bringing new life to the area.

Here are some ideas to consider:

1. Assessment and Planning

- Historical Research: Conduct thorough research to understand the site's historical significance and original features.
- Condition Assessment: Evaluate the current state of the ruins to identify structural issues and areas that need immediate attention.

2. Preservation and Restoration

- Stabilization: Ensure the structural stability of the ruins to prevent further deterioration.
- Restoration: Restore key elements to their original state using traditional materials and techniques where possible.
- Adaptive Reuse: Adapt parts of the site for new uses while retaining its historical character. This could include converting old buildings into museums, cultural centers, or community spaces.

3. Community Engagement

- Public Involvement: Involve the local community in the planning and revitalization process through workshops and public meetings.
- Volunteer Programs: Encourage community members to participate in preservation efforts, such as clean-up days or guided tours.

4. Sustainable Practices

- Eco-Friendly Materials: Use sustainable and locally sourced materials for restoration work.
- Energy Efficiency: Incorporate energy-efficient systems, such as solar panels or green roofs, to reduce the environmental impact.

5. Cultural and Educational Programs

- Exhibitions and Events: Host exhibitions, cultural events, and educational programs to attract visitors and raise awareness about the site's history.
- Interactive Displays: Create interactive displays and digital tours to engage visitors and provide a deeper understanding of the site's significance.

6. Economic Development

- Tourism: Develop the site as a tourist attraction to boost the local economy. This could include guided tours, souvenir shops, and cafes.
- Grants and Funding: Seek grants and funding from government agencies, non-profits, and private donors to support the revitalization efforts.

Revitalizing a historic site can create a vibrant community space that honors the past while providing new opportunities for the future.

Historical profile Value of the Chouf

The town of Joun in the Chouf region of Lebanon is surrounded by several historical sites that reflect its rich cultural heritage.

Here are some notable ones:

Beiteddine Palace

- Location: Beiteddine, near Joun.
- Significance: Built by Emir Bashir Shihab II in the 19th century, this palace is a prime example of Lebanese architecture. It hosts the annual Beiteddine Festival and houses the Beiteddine Palace Museum².

Deir al-Qamar

- Location: Deir al-Qamar, near Joun.
- Significance: This historic village was once the capital of Mount Lebanon Emirate. It features well-preserved 17th and 18th-century architecture, including the Fakhreddine Mosque, Younes Maan Palace, and Saidet At-Tallé Church⁵.

Moussa Castle

- Location: Near Beiteddine.
- Significance: Built by Moussa Abdel Karim Al-Maamari, this unique castle features waxworks and a large collection of weapons. It is a testament to the builder's dedication and creativity⁵.

Chouf Cedar Reserve

- Location: Barouk, Maaser el Shouf, and Ain Zhalta.
- Significance: This nature reserve is home to some of the oldest cedar trees in Lebanon. It also includes historical sites like the Beiteddine Palace and the village of Moukhtara.

These sites offer a glimpse into the rich history and cultural heritage of the area around Joun.

More About Joun

Joun is a picturesque village located in the Chouf district of Mount Lebanon, approximately 13 kilometers from the city of Sidon¹. Here are some key highlights about Joun:

Geography and Demographics

- Location: Joun is situated on seven hills, giving it a unique and scenic landscape¹.
- Population: The village has around 7,400 inhabitants, primarily Greek Catholic, Shiite, and Maronite¹.

Historical Significance

- Ancient Roots: Joun is an old village with a rich history, located above the temple of the Phoenician god Eshmun near Sidon¹.
- Ottoman Era: In 1887, the Ottomans appointed the first commission of Joun to manage local affairs, and by 1903, the village had elected officials¹.

Cultural and Religious Landmarks

- Monastery of the Holy Savior (Deir el-Moukhalles): Founded in 1711, this Greek Catholic monastery is a significant landmark. It features a beautiful old church and a collection of icons, manuscripts, and religious objects².
- Lady Hester Stanhope Site: Known as "Dahr El Sitt," this site was the residence of the British antiquarian and explorer Lady Hester Stanhope until her death¹.

Economy and Local Products

- Agriculture: Joun is rich in olive trees and grapes, known for its high-quality olive oil and soap production¹.

Education and Community

- Schools: The village has four schools, two public and two private, catering to the educational needs of its residents¹.

Joun's blend of historical significance, cultural heritage, and natural beauty makes it a fascinating place to explore

Local traditions and festivals

Joun, with its rich cultural heritage, celebrates several local traditions and festivals that reflect its vibrant community spirit.

Here are some notable ones:

1. Feast of the Holy Savior (Deir el-Moukhalles)

- Date: Celebrated annually on August 6th.
- Description: This festival is centered around the Monastery of the Holy Savior. It includes religious ceremonies, processions, and community gatherings. The monastery, founded in 1711, plays a significant role in the village's religious and cultural life².

2. Olive Harvest Festival

- Date: Typically held in the autumn, during the olive harvest season.
- Description: Given Joun's rich olive groves, the olive harvest festival is a major event. It celebrates the harvest with traditional music, dance, and food. The festival also includes demonstrations of olive oil production and soap making, showcasing the village's agricultural heritage¹.

3. Lady Hester Stanhope Commemoration

- Date: Various events throughout the year.
- Description: Lady Hester Stanhope, a British antiquarian and explorer, lived in Joun until her death. The village commemorates her contributions with events that include historical reenactments, lectures, and tours of her residence site, known as "Dahr El Sitt"¹.

4. Easter Celebrations

- Date: Varies each year based on the Christian calendar.
- Description: Easter is a significant religious event in Joun, marked by church services, processions, and community feasts. The celebrations often include traditional Lebanese foods and communal activities that bring together residents of different faiths¹.

5. Cultural and Music Festivals

- Date: Various times throughout the year.

- Description: Joun hosts several cultural and music festivals that highlight local talent and traditional Lebanese music. These festivals often feature performances by local musicians, dance troupes, and artists, fostering a sense of community and cultural pride¹.

These festivals and traditions are integral to Joun's cultural identity, offering a glimpse into the village's rich heritage and community spirit.

Some lesser-known historical gems near Joun

Here are some lesser-known historical gems near Joun that history enthusiasts might find fascinating:

1. Deir el-Moukhalles (Monastery of the Holy Savior)

- Location: A few kilometers past the village of Joun.
- Significance: This Greek Catholic monastery, founded in 1711, features a beautiful old church and a collection of icons, manuscripts, and religious objects¹.

2. Khan Sacy

- Location: Al Moutran Street, Saint Nicholas Neighborhood, Saida.
- Significance: This historic khan (caravanserai) offers a glimpse into the region's trading history and architectural heritage².

3. Niha Fortress

- Location: Near the village of Niha, overlooking the Awali River.
- Significance: This ancient fortress dates back to the Crusader period and offers stunning views of the surrounding landscape⁴.

4. Kfarhim Grotto

- Location: Near the village of Kfarhim.
- Significance: This natural grotto features impressive stalactites and stalagmites and has historical inscriptions and artifacts.

5. Traditional Water Mills

- Location: Along the Awali River.
- Significance: These water mills, some of which are still partially intact, were used for grinding grain and other agricultural purposes, demonstrating the river's role in supporting local livelihoods⁵.

6. Phoenician Ruins

- Location: Scattered along the Awali River.
- Significance: Various Phoenician ruins, including remnants of ancient structures and artifacts, highlight the historical importance of the Awali River to the Phoenician civilization³.

These hidden gems offer a deeper understanding of the rich history and cultural heritage near Joun. Exploring these sites can provide valuable insights into Lebanon's past.

The Lady Hester Stanhope site in Joun

Restoring the Lady Hester Stanhope site in Joun can be a fascinating project that honors her legacy and brings new life to the area. Here are some ideas and steps to consider:

1. Historical Research and Documentation

- Detailed Study: Conduct thorough research on Lady Hester Stanhope's life and her time in Joun. This includes her residence, known as "Dahr El Sitt"⁵.
- Archival Materials: Gather historical documents, photographs, and any existing records related to the site.

2. Site Assessment and Planning

- Condition Assessment: Evaluate the current state of the ruins to identify structural issues and areas that need immediate attention.
- Master Plan: Develop a comprehensive master plan that outlines the restoration process, including timelines, budgets, and key milestones.

3. Preservation and Restoration

- Stabilization: Ensure the structural stability of the ruins to prevent further deterioration.
- Authentic Restoration: Use traditional materials and techniques to restore key elements of the site to their original state.
- Adaptive Reuse: Consider adapting parts of the site for new uses, such as a museum, cultural center, or community space, while preserving its historical character.

4. Community Engagement

- Public Involvement: Involve the local community in the planning and restoration process through workshops and public meetings.
- Volunteer Programs: Encourage community members to participate in preservation efforts, such as clean-up days or guided tours.

5. Sustainable Practices

- Eco-Friendly Materials: Use sustainable and locally sourced materials for restoration work.
- Energy Efficiency: Incorporate energy-efficient systems, such as solar panels or green roofs, to reduce the environmental impact.

6. Cultural and Educational Programs

- Exhibitions and Events: Host exhibitions, cultural events, and educational programs to attract visitors and raise awareness about Lady Hester Stanhope's legacy.
- Interactive Displays: Create interactive displays and digital tours to engage visitors and provide a deeper understanding of the site's significance.

7. Economic Development

- Tourism: Develop the site as a tourist attraction to boost the local economy. This could include guided tours, souvenir shops, and cafes.
- Grants and Funding: Seek grants and funding from government agencies, non-profits, and private donors to support the restoration efforts.

By combining historical preservation with modern amenities and community involvement, you can create a vibrant and sustainable site that honors Lady Hester Stanhope's legacy.

Showcasing Lady Hester Stanhope's legacy at the site

Showcasing Lady Hester Stanhope's legacy at the site in Joun can be both educational and engaging. Here are some innovative ideas:

1. Interactive Exhibits

- Augmented Reality (AR) Tours: Use AR to create immersive tours that allow visitors to see reconstructions of the site as it was during Lady Hester Stanhope's time. Visitors can use their smartphones or AR glasses to view these enhancements.
- Virtual Reality (VR) Experiences: Develop VR experiences that transport visitors back in time to witness key moments in Lady Hester Stanhope's life and travels.

2. Educational Programs

- Workshops and Lectures: Host workshops and lectures on topics related to Lady Hester Stanhope's life, archaeology, and the history of the region.
- School Programs: Develop educational programs and field trips for local schools to teach students about her contributions and the historical significance of the site.

3. Cultural Events

- Historical Reenactments: Organize reenactments of significant events from Lady Hester Stanhope's life, such as her archaeological excavations or her interactions with local communities.
- Themed Festivals: Host annual festivals celebrating her legacy, featuring music, dance, and traditional crafts from the era.

4. Digital Archives and Resources

- Online Archive: Create a digital archive of documents, photographs, and artifacts related to Lady Hester Stanhope. This can be accessible to researchers and the general public.
- Interactive Website: Develop a website with interactive maps, timelines, and multimedia content to provide a comprehensive overview of her life and achievements.

5. Art Installations

- Sculptures and Murals: Commission local artists to create sculptures or murals depicting scenes from Lady Hester Stanhope's life and travels.
- Art Exhibitions: Host art exhibitions featuring works inspired by her legacy and the historical context of the site.

6. Community Involvement

- Volunteer Programs: Engage the local community in preservation efforts and site activities through volunteer programs.
- Storytelling Sessions: Organize storytelling sessions where local historians and community members share stories and anecdotes about Lady Hester Stanhope.

7. Sustainable Practices

- Eco-Friendly Restoration: Use sustainable materials and practices in the restoration process to highlight the importance of environmental stewardship.
- Green Spaces: Develop green spaces around the site for visitors to enjoy, incorporating native plants and landscaping that reflect the historical period.

8. Collaborations and Partnerships

- Academic Partnerships: Collaborate with universities and research institutions to conduct archaeological studies and publish findings related to the site.
- Cultural Exchanges: Partner with cultural organizations and museums to host traveling exhibitions and exchange programs.

More The Awali River

Here are some lesser-known historical sites along the Awali River that are intriguing:

1. Bisri Valley Archaeological Sites

- Overview: The Bisri Valley, through which the Awali River flows, is rich in archaeological sites. Surveys have identified numerous sites, including ancient settlements and burial grounds⁵.
- Significance: These sites offer insights into the region's ancient civilizations and their interactions with the river.

2. Roman Aqueducts

- Location: Near the Awali River.
- Significance: Remnants of Roman aqueducts can be found in the area, showcasing the advanced engineering skills of the Romans and their efforts to manage water resources⁵.

3. Phoenician Ruins

- Location: Scattered along the river.
- Significance: Various Phoenician ruins, including remnants of ancient structures and artifacts, highlight the historical importance of the Awali River to the Phoenician civilization⁵.

4. Medieval Bridges

- Location: Along the river.
- Significance: Several medieval bridges span the Awali River, reflecting the historical trade routes and the strategic importance of the river for transportation and commerce⁵.

5. Traditional Water Mills

- Location: Near the riverbanks.

- Significance: These water mills, some of which are still partially intact, were used for grinding grain and other agricultural purposes, demonstrating the river's role in supporting local livelihoods⁵.

These lesser-known sites offer a deeper understanding of the historical and cultural significance of the Awali River. Exploring these locations can provide valuable insights into the region's past and its development over the centuries.

Research projects and initiatives related to the archaeological sites in the Bisri Valley

There are ongoing research projects and initiatives related to the archaeological sites in the Bisri Valley.

Here are some notable efforts:

1. ICOMOS Lebanon Initiatives

- Research and Documentation: The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Lebanon has been actively involved in documenting and assessing the cultural heritage of the Bisri Valley. They have expressed concerns about the potential destruction of valuable cultural assets due to the proposed Bisri Dam project¹.

- Advocacy: ICOMOS Lebanon has been advocating for the preservation of the Bisri Valley's cultural landscape, emphasizing its historical significance and the need for comprehensive research before any development¹.

2. Collective Valleys Project

- Research Focus: This project, led by Arab Urbanism, investigates the impact of dam construction on Lebanon's valleys, including Bisri. It explores the historical, environmental, and socio-cultural implications of such infrastructure projects².

- Community Engagement: The project highlights grassroots mobilization efforts and the role of local communities in reclaiming and protecting their landscapes².

3. Save the Bisri Valley Campaign

- Grassroots Movement: This campaign has been instrumental in halting the Bisri Dam project. It involves local activists, researchers, and international organizations working together to protect the valley's archaeological and natural heritage².

- Research and Awareness: The campaign has conducted extensive research to document the valley's archaeological sites and raise awareness about their significance².

4. World Bank and Environmental Assessments

- Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA): The World Bank, in collaboration with local authorities, conducted ESIA's to evaluate the potential impacts of the Bisri Dam project on the environment and cultural heritage³.

- 3D Documentation: As part of the mitigation measures, 3D documentation of the archaeological sites in the Bisri Valley has been undertaken to preserve detailed records of the ruins¹.

These ongoing research projects and initiatives aim to protect and preserve the rich cultural heritage of the Bisri Valley while promoting sustainable development practices.

Developing the historic Awali River in Lebanon

Developing the historic Awali River in Lebanon can be a transformative project that enhances the local environment, boosts tourism, and preserves cultural heritage. Here's a comprehensive plan to guide the development:

1. Assessment and Planning

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Conduct an EIA to understand the potential impacts of development on the river's ecosystem.
- Historical Research: Document the historical significance of the Awali River and its surroundings to ensure that development respects and highlights its heritage.

2. Infrastructure Development

- Riverbank Restoration: Stabilize and restore the riverbanks using eco-friendly materials and techniques to prevent erosion and enhance natural beauty.
- Walking and Cycling Paths: Develop scenic walking and cycling paths along the river to encourage outdoor activities and tourism.
- Bridges and Viewing Platforms: Construct pedestrian bridges and viewing platforms to provide access and scenic viewpoints.

3. Cultural and Recreational Facilities

- Cultural Centers: Establish cultural centers or museums along the river to showcase the history and significance of the Awali River.
- Parks and Recreational Areas: Create parks and recreational areas with amenities such as picnic spots, playgrounds, and sports facilities.

4. Sustainable Practices

- Renewable Energy: Install solar panels and other renewable energy sources to power facilities along the river.
- Waste Management: Implement effective waste management systems to keep the river and its surroundings clean.

5. Community Engagement

- Public Participation: Involve the local community in the planning and development process through public meetings and workshops.
- Volunteer Programs: Encourage community members to participate in clean-up drives and maintenance activities.

6. Tourism and Economic Development

- Eco-Tourism: Promote eco-tourism activities such as guided nature walks, bird watching, and kayaking.
- Local Businesses: Support local businesses by creating opportunities for them to offer services and products to visitors.

7. Educational Programs

- Environmental Education: Develop educational programs and workshops focused on the river's ecosystem and conservation efforts.
- Historical Tours: Offer guided historical tours to educate visitors about the river's cultural and historical significance.

8. Funding and Partnerships

- Grants and Donations: Seek grants and donations from international organizations, government agencies, and private donors.
- Public-Private Partnerships: Collaborate with private sector partners to share costs and resources.

By combining environmental sustainability, cultural preservation, and community engagement, the development of the Awali River can become a model project that benefits both residents and visitors.

Creating a cultural heritage strategy for the town

Here are some steps to guide through the process:

1. Assessment and Inventory

- Identify Heritage Assets: Catalog historical sites, buildings, artifacts, traditions, and intangible heritage.

- Community Involvement: Engage local residents to gather stories, memories, and insights about the town's heritage.

2. Vision and Goals

- Define Objectives: What do you want to achieve? Preservation, education, tourism, community pride?

- Set Priorities: Determine which heritage assets need immediate attention and which can be developed over time.

3. Stakeholder Engagement

- Form Partnerships: Collaborate with local government, cultural organizations, historians, and community groups.

- Public Consultation: Hold meetings and workshops to gather input and build consensus.

4. Action Plan

- Preservation Initiatives: Develop plans for the conservation and restoration of physical sites.

- Educational Programs: Create initiatives to educate the community and visitors about the town's heritage.

- Promotion and Tourism: Develop marketing strategies to attract tourists and promote cultural events.

5. Funding and Resources

- Identify Funding Sources: Look for grants, donations, and sponsorships. Organizations like UNESCO and the European Union often have funding opportunities for cultural heritage projects.

- Budget Planning: Allocate resources effectively to ensure sustainable implementation.

6. Implementation and Monitoring

- Project Management: Assign roles and responsibilities for each part of the strategy.

- Regular Reviews: Monitor progress and make adjustments as needed to stay on track.

7. Promotion and Celebration

- Cultural Events: Organize festivals, exhibitions, and tours to celebrate the town's heritage.
- Digital Presence: Use social media and websites to share stories and updates about heritage projects.

Common Challenges that may be encountered

Developing a town can be a rewarding but complex process. Here are some common challenges you might encounter:

1. Funding and Budget Constraints

- Limited Resources: Securing adequate funding for projects can be difficult. Grants, loans, and public-private partnerships are often necessary but can be competitive and time-consuming to obtain.
- Budget Management: Ensuring that projects stay within budget while meeting quality standards requires careful planning and oversight.

2. Community Resistance

- Change Aversion: Residents may resist changes, especially if they feel their needs and opinions are not being considered.
- Engagement: Keeping the community engaged and informed throughout the development process is crucial but can be challenging.

3. Regulatory and Legal Issues

- Zoning Laws: Navigating zoning laws and regulations can be complex and may limit development options.
- Permits and Approvals: Obtaining the necessary permits and approvals can be a lengthy and bureaucratic process.

4. Environmental Concerns

- Sustainability: Balancing development with environmental sustainability is essential but can be challenging, especially in areas with sensitive ecosystems.
- Climate Change: Addressing the impacts of climate change, such as increased flooding or extreme weather events, requires forward-thinking planning and infrastructure.

5. Infrastructure Limitations

- Aging Infrastructure: Upgrading or replacing aging infrastructure, such as roads, water systems, and public buildings, can be costly and disruptive.
- Capacity: Ensuring that infrastructure can support future growth and development is crucial.

6. Economic Factors

- Market Conditions: Economic downturns or fluctuations can impact funding availability and the feasibility of development projects.
- Job Creation: Attracting businesses and creating jobs to support the local economy is a key challenge.

7. Social and Cultural Dynamics

- Diverse Needs: Addressing the diverse needs of different community groups, including marginalized populations, requires inclusive planning.
- Cultural Preservation: Balancing development with the preservation of cultural and historical heritage can be challenging.

8. Technological Integration

- Adoption: Integrating new technologies into town development, such as smart city solutions, requires investment and community buy-in.
- Digital Divide: Ensuring equitable access to technology and digital services for all residents is important.

9. Coordination and Collaboration

- Stakeholder Alignment: Aligning the interests and goals of various stakeholders, including government agencies, businesses, and residents, can be complex.
- Project Management: Coordinating multiple projects and ensuring they are completed on time and within scope requires strong project management skills.

Addressing these challenges requires a strategic approach, effective communication, and a commitment to sustainability and inclusivity.

Funding Difficulties

Restoration projects face numerous challenges in Lebanon

Here are some of the key obstacles:

Funding and Financial Constraints

- **Limited Resources:** Securing adequate funding for large-scale restoration can be difficult, especially in the aftermath of a crisis when resources are stretched thin.
- **Competing Priorities:** Governments and organizations may prioritize immediate humanitarian needs over cultural restoration, leading to delays in funding.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

- **Public Support:** Gaining the support and involvement of the local community is crucial but can be difficult if there are differing opinions on the restoration priorities.
- **Stakeholder Coordination:** Aligning the interests and goals of various stakeholders, including government agencies, non-profits, and private investors, requires effective communication and collaboration.

Economic and Market Conditions

- **Economic Downturns:** Economic instability or downturns can impact the availability of funding and the feasibility of restoration projects.
- **Market Fluctuations:** Fluctuations in the cost of materials and labor can affect project budgets and timelines.

Cultural and Social Dynamics

- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Ensuring that restoration efforts respect and preserve the cultural significance of the site is essential but can be challenging.
- **Social Cohesion:** Restoration projects can play a role in promoting social cohesion, but this requires inclusive planning and community engagement.

Strategies to Overcome Challenges

- **Diverse Funding Sources:** Seek a mix of funding sources, including grants, donations, public funding, and private investment.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Collaborate with private sector partners to share costs and resources.
- **Community Involvement:** Engage the local community in the planning and restoration process to build support and ensure the project meets their needs.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Use sustainable materials and practices to minimize environmental impact and ensure long-term viability.

Addressing these challenges requires a strategic approach, effective communication, and a commitment to preserving cultural heritage.

Funding the restoration of historic sites

Funding the restoration of historic sites in Lebanon can be quite challenging. Here are some common obstacles you might encounter:

1. High Costs

- Restoration Expenses: The cost of restoring historic sites can be significantly higher than new construction due to the need for specialized materials and skilled labor.
- Maintenance: Ongoing maintenance costs can also be substantial, requiring a long-term financial commitment.

2. Limited Funding Sources

- Grants and Donations: While grants and donations are available, they are often competitive and may not cover all expenses.
- Government Funding: Public funding can be limited and subject to political and budgetary constraints.

3. Regulatory and Compliance Issues

- Historic Preservation Standards: Adhering to strict preservation standards and regulations can increase costs and complexity.
- Permitting: Obtaining the necessary permits and approvals can be a lengthy and bureaucratic process.

4. Economic Viability

- Return on Investment: Convincing investors of the economic viability of restoration projects can be difficult, especially if the site does not have immediate commercial potential.
- Revenue Generation: Developing sustainable revenue streams from the restored site, such as tourism or event hosting, can be challenging.

5. Community and Stakeholder Support

- Engagement: Gaining the support of the local community and stakeholders is crucial but can be difficult if there are differing opinions on the site's use and restoration.
- Awareness: Raising awareness about the historical significance and potential benefits of the restoration project is essential for garnering support and funding.

6. Project Management

- Coordination: Coordinating multiple funding sources and managing the project effectively requires strong organizational skills.
- Timeline: Delays in funding can lead to project delays, which can increase overall costs and impact the project's success.

7. Economic Conditions

- Market Fluctuations: Economic downturns or fluctuations can impact the availability of funding and the feasibility of restoration projects.
- Funding Priorities: Competing priorities for public and private funding can make it difficult to secure the necessary resources for historic site restoration.

Attracting private investors for historic site restoration

Attracting private investors for historic site restoration requires a strategic approach that highlights the potential benefits and returns on investment.

Here are some effective strategies:

1. Develop a Compelling Vision

- Clear Plan: Present a detailed restoration plan that outlines the project's goals, timeline, and expected outcomes.
- Unique Selling Points: Emphasize the historical significance and unique features of the site that make it an attractive investment.

2. Demonstrate Economic Viability

- Revenue Streams: Identify potential revenue streams, such as tourism, events, retail spaces, or cultural activities, that can generate income.
- Market Analysis: Provide data on market demand, visitor numbers, and economic impact to show the project's potential profitability.

3. Leverage Tax Incentives and Grants

- Tax Credits: Highlight available tax credits and incentives for historic preservation that can reduce the financial burden on investors.
- Matching Grants: Seek matching grants from government agencies or non-profits to demonstrate additional financial support.

4. Public-Private Partnerships

- Collaborative Approach: Propose a public-private partnership model where the risks and rewards are shared between the public sector and private investors.
- Government Support: Showcase any government support or endorsements that can add credibility to the project.

5. Community and Stakeholder Engagement

- Local Support: Demonstrate strong community support and involvement, which can enhance the project's appeal to investors.
- Stakeholder Alignment: Ensure that the interests of various stakeholders, including local businesses and cultural organizations, are aligned with the project's goals.

6. Marketing and Promotion

- Professional Presentation: Create high-quality promotional materials, including brochures, videos, and presentations, to attract potential investors.
- Media Coverage: Seek media coverage to raise awareness and generate interest in the project.

7. Showcase Successful Case Studies

- Examples of Success: Present case studies of similar successful restoration projects to illustrate the potential benefits and returns.
- Site Visits: Organize site visits to other restored historic sites to show investors the tangible results of similar projects.

8. Flexible Investment Options

- Investment Packages: Offer flexible investment packages that cater to different levels of investment, from small contributions to major funding.
- Return on Investment: Clearly outline the expected return on investment and the timeline for achieving it.

9. Sustainability and Innovation

- Green Practices: Highlight the use of sustainable practices and technologies in the restoration process, which can appeal to socially responsible investors.
- Innovation: Incorporate innovative elements, such as digital tours or interactive exhibits, to enhance the site's appeal and visitor experience.

By presenting a well-rounded and compelling case, you can attract private investors who see the potential for both financial returns and positive community impact.

Securing funding for the restoration of historic sites like the Lady Hester Stanhope site in Joun

Securing funding for the restoration of historic sites like the Lady Hester Stanhope site in Joun can be challenging but there are several avenues you can explore:

1. Grants and Government Programs

- National Trust for Historic Preservation: Offers various grants for planning and preservation projects¹.
- Historic Preservation Fund (HPF): Managed by the U.S. National Park Service, this fund supports a wide range of preservation activities².
- State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs): Often administer grants and loan programs for historic preservation⁴.

2. Private Foundations and Non-Profits

- The Getty Foundation: Provides grants for conservation and preservation projects.
- Tourism Cares: Offers grants for projects that enhance and preserve cultural heritage.

3. Public-Private Partnerships

- Collaborations: Partner with private companies and investors who have an interest in cultural heritage and community development.
- Sponsorships: Seek sponsorships from businesses that can benefit from the publicity and community goodwill associated with the project.

4. Community Fundraising

- Crowdfunding: Use platforms like Kickstarter or GoFundMe to raise funds from the community and supporters worldwide.
- Fundraising Events: Organize events such as galas, auctions, or community fairs to raise money and awareness.

5. Tax Incentives and Credits

- Historic Tax Credits: Many countries offer tax credits for the restoration of historic properties, which can significantly reduce the financial burden.

- Rebate Programs: Look for local or national rebate programs that support energy-efficient upgrades and sustainable practices in restoration projects.

6. Educational and Cultural Grants

- Educational Institutions: Partner with universities and research institutions that may have access to grants for educational and cultural projects.
- Cultural Ministries: Apply for grants from cultural ministries or departments that support heritage preservation.

7. International Funding Sources

- UNESCO: Offers funding and support for projects that preserve world heritage sites.
- European Union: Provides grants for cultural heritage projects through programs like Creative Europe.

By exploring these funding options and creating a compelling case for the restoration project, you can attract the necessary resources to bring the Lady Hester Stanhope site back to life.

UNESCO Role in supporting the restoration of historic sites in Lebanon

UNESCO has been actively involved in supporting the restoration of historic sites in Lebanon, particularly following the Beirut port explosions.

Here are some key initiatives and funding opportunities:

1. Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF)

- Purpose: The HEF provides emergency funding for the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage sites affected by crises.
- Example: UNESCO's HEF funded a 3D documentation project to preserve Beirut's architectural heritage after the 2020 explosions¹.

2. Li Beirut Initiative

- Overview: Launched in response to the Beirut port explosions, this initiative supports the rehabilitation of schools, heritage buildings, museums, galleries, and the creative industry.
- Funding: UNESCO has mobilized international partners and coordinated financial assistance to support these efforts².

3. International Partnerships

- Collaborations: UNESCO works with various international organizations, such as ALECSO, ALIPH, ARC-WH, Blue Shield, ICCROM, ICOM, ICOMOS, ICESCO, IFLA, and WMF, to provide technical and financial support for heritage preservation².

4. Recent Funding Announcements

- Cultural and Creative Industries: In May 2023, UNESCO announced US\$ 100,000 in financing to support cultural and creative industries in Lebanon³.

Steps to Apply for UNESCO Funding

1. Identify Eligible Projects: Ensure your project aligns with UNESCO's funding criteria, focusing on cultural heritage preservation and restoration.
2. Prepare a Detailed Proposal: Include a comprehensive plan outlining the project's goals, timeline, budget, and expected outcomes.
3. Engage with Local Authorities: Collaborate with the Lebanese Directorate of Antiquities (DGA) and other relevant bodies to strengthen your application.
4. Submit Applications: Follow the specific application procedures for the relevant UNESCO funding programs.

By leveraging these funding opportunities and collaborating with international partners, you can secure the necessary resources to restore the Lady Hester Stanhope site in Joun.

Examples of UNESCO-funded projects in Lebanon:

Here are some successful examples of UNESCO-funded projects in Lebanon:

1. Li Beirut Initiative

- Overview: Launched in response to the Beirut port explosions, this initiative supports the rehabilitation of schools, heritage buildings, museums, galleries, and the creative industry.

- Impact: The initiative has mobilized international partners and coordinated financial assistance to support these efforts, including the restoration of the Sursok Palace².

2. Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF)

- Purpose: Provides emergency funding for the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage sites affected by crises.

- Example: Funded a 3D documentation project to preserve Beirut's architectural heritage after the 2020 explosions¹.

3. Mediterranean Living Heritage Project (MedLiHer)

- Scope: Supports the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria.
- Activities: Includes documentation, promotion, and safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage elements³.

4. Creative Industries Support

- Funding: In May 2023, UNESCO announced US\$ 100,000 in financing to support cultural and creative industries in Lebanon.
- Focus: This funding supports artists and cultural entities in Beirut, helping them continue producing cultural works despite the challenges posed by the port explosions².

5. Media and Elections Project

- Objective: Supported access to reliable information during elections.
- Outcome: Trained 56 reporters from 20 local media institutions in unbiased election reporting and engaged over 55 young Lebanese in monitoring and countering hate speech and fake news¹.

These projects demonstrate UNESCO's commitment to preserving Lebanon's cultural heritage and supporting its recovery and development. If you have a specific project in mind, these examples can provide valuable insights into potential funding and support avenues.

Funding opportunities specifically available for cultural heritage preservation projects in Lebanon

There are several grants and funding opportunities specifically available for cultural heritage preservation projects in Lebanon.

Here are some notable ones:

1. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP)

- Overview: Managed by the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, this fund supports the preservation of archaeological sites, historic buildings and monuments, museum collections, and traditional cultural expressions.
- Funding Range: Grants typically range from \$10,000 to \$500,000².
- Eligibility: Non-governmental organizations, museums, educational institutions, and ministries of culture are eligible to apply².

2. Lebanese Cultural Heritage Foundation

- Overview: This non-profit organization focuses on preserving, protecting, and promoting Lebanese culture, heritage, and history. They support various projects through grants and community-based initiatives¹.

- Activities: Includes workshops, conferences, seminars, and exhibitions aimed at raising awareness and preserving cultural heritage¹.

3. iHERITAGE Sub-Grants

- Overview: Part of the iHERITAGE project, these sub-grants aim to revolutionize the interpretation and preservation of Mediterranean UNESCO cultural heritage using advanced technology.

- Focus: Enhancing the understanding and protection of cultural heritage through innovative approaches⁴.

4. UNESCO Funding

- Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF): Provides emergency funding for the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage sites affected by crises¹.

- Li Beirut Initiative: Launched in response to the Beirut port explosions, this initiative supports the rehabilitation of heritage buildings and cultural sites².

5. European Union Grants

- Creative Europe Program: Offers funding for cultural heritage projects, including those in Lebanon, focusing on cross-border cooperation and innovation in the cultural sector⁴.

Applying for Grants:

1. Identify Eligible Projects: Ensure your project aligns with the specific criteria and objectives of the grant.
2. Prepare a Detailed Proposal: Include a comprehensive plan outlining the project's goals, timeline, budget, and expected outcomes.
3. Engage with Local Authorities: Collaborate with relevant bodies to strengthen your application.
4. Submit Applications: Follow the specific application procedures for each grant program.

These grants provide valuable support for preserving Lebanon's rich cultural heritage.

Requirements for submitting grant applications for cultural heritage preservation projects

Submitting grant applications for cultural heritage preservation projects typically requires specific documentation and adherence to certain requirements.

Here are some common elements you might need:

1. Project Proposal

- Executive Summary: A brief overview of the project, including its goals, significance, and expected outcomes.
- Detailed Description: A comprehensive description of the project, including the historical significance of the site, the preservation methods to be used, and the project's impact.

2. Budget and Financial Plan

- Detailed Budget: A breakdown of all projected costs, including materials, labor, and administrative expenses.
- Funding Sources: Information on other funding sources, including any matching funds or in-kind contributions.

3. Timeline and Work Plan

- Project Timeline: A detailed timeline outlining the phases of the project and key milestones.
- Work Plan: A step-by-step plan of the activities to be undertaken, including who will be responsible for each task.

4. Organizational Information

- Background Information: Information about the applying organization, including its mission, history, and previous experience with similar projects.
- Staff and Qualifications: Resumes or CVs of key staff members and experts involved in the project, highlighting their qualifications and experience.

5. Supporting Documentation

- Letters of Support: Letters from partners, stakeholders, or community members expressing their support for the project.
- Permits and Approvals: Copies of any necessary permits or approvals from local authorities or heritage organizations.

6. Evaluation and Sustainability Plan

- Evaluation Plan: A plan for how the project's success will be measured and evaluated.
- Sustainability Plan: Information on how the project will be maintained and sustained after the grant period ends.

7. Visual Documentation

- Photographs and Maps: Current photographs of the site, historical images, and maps showing the location and layout of the project area.
- Architectural Plans: Any architectural or engineering plans related to the restoration work.

8. Compliance with Grant Guidelines

- Eligibility Criteria: Ensure that the project meets all eligibility criteria specified by the grant provider.
- Application Forms: Complete all required application forms accurately and thoroughly.

Tips for a Successful Application

- Clarity and Conciseness: Ensure that the proposal is clear, concise, and well-organized.
- Attention to Detail: Pay close attention to the specific requirements and guidelines provided by the grant provider.
- Proofreading: Review the application thoroughly to avoid any errors or omissions.

By preparing these documents and following the grant provider's guidelines, you can increase your chances of securing funding for your cultural heritage preservation project.

Project Proposal Example: Restoration and Preservation of the Temple of Eshmun

This example focuses on the restoration and preservation of a historical site near Joun.

1. Executive Summary

The Temple of Eshmun, located near the Awali River, is a significant Phoenician archaeological site dedicated to the god of healing. This project aims to restore and

preserve the temple, enhance its accessibility, and promote its historical and cultural significance to both locals and tourists.

2. Project Description

- Objective: To restore and preserve the Temple of Eshmun, ensuring its structural stability and enhancing its historical value.
- Scope: The project includes structural restoration, conservation of artifacts, development of visitor facilities, and educational programs.
- Significance: The temple is a vital part of Lebanon's cultural heritage, reflecting the rich history of the Phoenician civilization.

3. Budget and Financial Plan

- Total Budget: \$500,000
- Breakdown:
 - Structural Restoration: \$200,000
 - Artifact Conservation: \$100,000
 - Visitor Facilities: \$100,000
 - Educational Programs: \$50,000
 - Contingency: \$50,000
- Funding Sources:
 - Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP): \$200,000
 - Lebanese Cultural Heritage Foundation: \$100,000
 - Private Donations: \$100,000
 - Public-Private Partnerships: \$100,000

4. Timeline and Work Plan

- Phase 1 (Months 1-3): Detailed assessment and documentation of the site.
- Phase 2 (Months 4-9): Structural restoration and conservation of artifacts.
- Phase 3 (Months 10-12): Development of visitor facilities and educational programs.
- Phase 4 (Months 13-15): Final evaluation and project completion.

5. Organizational Information

- Applicant: Lebanese Cultural Heritage Foundation
- Project Team:
 - Project Manager: Dr. Nadia El-Hage
 - Lead Archaeologist: Prof. Karim Mansour
 - Conservation Specialist: Dr. Leila Haddad
 - Community Liaison: Mr. Fadi Khoury

6. Supporting Documentation

- Letters of Support: From local authorities, community leaders, and cultural institutions.
- Permits and Approvals: Obtained from the Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA).

7. Evaluation and Sustainability Plan

- Evaluation Metrics: Number of visitors, community engagement, and preservation outcomes.
- Sustainability Plan: Ongoing maintenance funded by visitor fees and donations, and continued community involvement.

8. Visual Documentation

- Photographs and Maps: Current photographs of the temple, historical images, and site maps.
- Architectural Plans: Detailed plans for the restoration work.

This sample proposal outlines the key components needed for a successful grant application for cultural heritage preservation.

Strategies to consider when developing a strategic plan for the historical sites near Joun

Developing a strategic plan to benefit from the historical sites near Joun can enhance cultural heritage, boost tourism, and support local economic development.

Here are some key steps and strategies to consider:

1. Comprehensive Assessment and Documentation

- Historical Research: Conduct thorough research and documentation of all historical sites near Joun, including their historical significance, current condition, and potential for tourism.

- Mapping and Inventory: Create a detailed map and inventory of the sites to identify key areas for development and preservation.

2. Community Engagement and Collaboration

- Public Involvement: Engage the local community in the planning process through public meetings, workshops, and surveys to gather input and build support.

- Partnerships: Collaborate with local authorities, cultural institutions, NGOs, and private sector partners to pool resources and expertise.

3. Sustainable Tourism Development

- Eco-Tourism: Promote eco-friendly tourism practices that preserve the natural environment and cultural heritage.

- Tour Packages: Develop guided tour packages that include visits to multiple historical sites, offering a comprehensive experience for tourists.

4. Infrastructure and Accessibility Improvements

- Transportation: Improve transportation infrastructure to make historical sites more accessible to visitors.

- Facilities: Develop visitor facilities such as information centers, restrooms, and cafes to enhance the tourist experience.

5. Educational and Cultural Programs

- Workshops and Lectures: Organize educational programs, workshops, and lectures to raise awareness about the historical significance of the sites.

- School Programs: Develop educational programs for local schools to teach students about their cultural heritage.

6. Marketing and Promotion

- Digital Marketing: Use social media, websites, and online platforms to promote the historical sites and attract visitors.

- Events and Festivals: Host cultural events and festivals that celebrate the heritage of the area and draw tourists.

7. Funding and Grants

- Government Grants: Apply for grants from government agencies that support cultural heritage and tourism development.

- Private Donations: Seek donations from private individuals and organizations interested in preserving cultural heritage.
- Public-Private Partnerships: Form partnerships with private sector companies to share costs and benefits.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Performance Metrics: Establish metrics to monitor the success of the strategic plan, such as visitor numbers, economic impact, and community satisfaction.
- Regular Reviews: Conduct regular reviews and updates of the strategic plan to ensure it remains relevant and effective.

By implementing these strategies, you can effectively leverage the historical sites near Joun to promote cultural heritage, boost tourism, and support local economic development.

A Heritage Strategy for The Chouf and the Town of Joun

Introduction:

The Chouf is an incredible district made up of proud towns and villages, each with their own distinctive personalities, bound together by an administrative border.

Each of our communities has a distinctive identity and their own story to tell. This can present challenges but it is also our greatest strength and our greatest opportunity. And they also have much in common.

This Heritage Strategy will play a crucial role in helping us to tell those stories: the stories of our communities and the story of The Chouf.

It will also help us to sustain and develop our heritage assets, to take them with us into the future and establish local place-based cultural plans to deliver on opportunities and local priorities across the district.

We hope that everyone across The Chouf in the years to come – and many years in the future – will feel the impact of this strategy as we uplift our ambitions and take essential steps to not only sustain our heritage assets but better tell the story of The Chouf - and make sure it can be told for many years to come.

What is a Heritage Hub?

The Heritage Hub will be an online platform that will showcase the amazing heritage offer in The Chouf, acting as a gateway for people to get involved in activities across the region and help us to collaborate and connect our region's heritage.

This action plan covers priorities for the whole of The Chouf

A fundamental part of the action plan is through the creation of local **Cultural Delivery Plans** (CDPs). These delivery plans will explore unique aspects and the identity of The Chouf through heritage activity.

We recognize that one size doesn't fit all and so we will aim to create these Cultural Delivery Plans by developing them with communities, partners, businesses, and local councilors.

They will focus on coordinating localized priorities for the delivery of culture, heritage, and tourism¹.

What is a Cultural Delivery Plan?

A Cultural Delivery Plan (CDP) is a collaboratively designed action plan for key areas of cultural development, including heritage, created by local communities to ensure that the plans are fit for purpose in each The Chouf district.

This Heritage Strategy encourages inclusive opportunities for everyone to understand, enjoy and share our common heritage

Whilst the focus of the strategy is the heritage that is managed by The Chouf Council, it also provides a vision and support for the work of the local voluntary heritage sector by creating the conditions for collaboration and growth which will support individuals and communities to tell their stories. It will also offer a strategic approach for private sector organizations to care for the heritage assets in their ownership.

The Chouf has a remarkable story to tell

We have the greatest number of tourist sites. But heritage is not just a question of physical assets, Conservation Areas and significant landscapes. It is the story of our area, its people and identity, which have formed the communities we live, work, and learn in today.

Heritage in Action

This strategy is designed to change the way we appreciate heritage and takes a proactive and innovative approach to how we protect, care for and sustain all our heritage. It encourages us to think in a creative way about how our unique assets can be used for the benefit of the people of The Chouf and to support communities in meeting the challenges priorities.

The heritage sector has faced a number of challenges in recent years, such as Covid-19 recovery and financial pressures, which this strategy seeks to address. The Chouf Leadership is the guardian of heritage in the area and leads by example in the management of its own heritage assets, including the built heritage and landscapes of the area as well as the portable heritage of museum, gallery, library and archival collections.

The Chouf Leadership Council will also contribute to the wider development of heritage across the region and nationally to ensure that economic and regeneration benefits are maximized across the Chouf and beyond.

Key objectives of this strategy

- To demonstrate clarity in the Chouf Leadership Council’s approach to heritage
- To contribute to an ambitious approach to heritage, culture and tourism in The Chouf – which will better tell the story of our communities
- To connect heritage assets and people so that they can best benefit their communities
- To adopt a creative, collaborative and innovative approach to heritage sustainability
- To improve collaboration in planning, to ensure that heritage assets and activity in the district are well connected

Context

The Chouf Leadership Council recognizes the need for a Heritage Strategy to explore opportunities created by ambitions for regeneration and place-based working and the important economic benefits which a focus on heritage can bring to the district. The Council also recognizes that there is much to gain through heritage programs which support communities to recover from the cost of living crisis, which can readily deliver positive impacts for wellbeing, aspiration and skills development.

Given the challenges our children and young people face, there are particularly strong benefits through heritage learning outside the classroom and this can apply to informal learning throughout all stages of life. Heritage also has a significant role to play in social cohesion through bringing diverse communities together to share individual experiences, cultural traditions and hopes for the future.

Definition: What is ‘heritage’?

Our heritage is all around us. In our towns and cities and in our villages and rural areas

In historic buildings, places of worship, inspiring landscapes, ancient ruins and archaeological sites, statues, and memorials. In places where great events happened, where famous figures of the past wrote their names in the history books and where countless ordinary men and women lived and worked. It speaks to us of who we are and where we have come from, of how we came to be the people and the nation we are today.

The scope of this Heritage Strategy

People, places and things: Heritage is the unique story of people, places and things.

In addition to our built heritage, natural landscape and our collections, this strategy supports the stories and identities of our communities and people and the crucial role they have as the foundations and the fabric of our place today and into the future.

We believe that ‘heritage is the unique story and spirit of place’ and so includes a capacity to describe a wide range of assets and resources which reflect the stories of our community. These can be both tangible – things we can see and touch – and the intangible – those we cannot grasp physically, such as the cultural heritage of music and sport, as well as memories, stories, skills and crafts handed on from person to person.

The strategy will seek to create conditions which support and raise awareness of heritage in all forms and help to take both the famous stories and those which are lesser known into the future.

Key principles

We have developed a set of principles which will lead to improved creative solutions to challenges and problems. Together with the Council’s approach of working with people, partners and place.

The key principles which inform the Strategic Heritage Action Plan and its delivery are:

Perception

We see heritage as an asset

Heritage is an asset to our communities and an opportunity, not a liability. We will encourage others to see the potential which heritage presents and establish new and innovative partnerships. We will develop and promote our heritage and cultural offer to share the story of The Chouf as widely as we can and help shape the perceptions of our communities.

Preservation, innovation and sustainability

How we care for our heritage is important

We will find ways to protect, care for and sustain our heritage which will continue long into the future. To do this, we will think creatively about future use, working with partners and local communities, so that together the heritage of our district will not only be sustained but thrive, in a financially and environmentally sustainable way.

Place-based collaboration and inclusion

Heritage should reflect our shared cultural history

We will share resources, listen to communities and their priorities, involve partners and work to create solutions together. Heritage will become a basis for sharing the stories of all our communities which have made The Chouf what it is today, ensuring equity of access to heritage. We will support people as we explore challenging aspects of our heritage together, to acknowledge it and to learn from it.

Regeneration and celebration

Our unique heritage can attract economic benefits

We will utilize our rich and diverse heritage assets as a stimulus for wider investment and engagement to promote tourism and growth. We will use heritage to celebrate what is great and special about our unique people, places and businesses and communicate this widely, with confidence.

Vision

A vision for heritage in The Chouf 2030

By 2030 in The Chouf, we will have a strong sense of where we have come from and how this has shaped the shared heritage of our families, communities and places.

We will have built on strong foundations to create an aspirational future based on understanding, pride and identity. Our extraordinary stories will be known to the world in creative, contemporary ways so that The Chouf is recognized and celebrated globally.

The Chouf' heritage will be an undeniable reason to visit, live, invest, study and work here and is a catalyst for regenerative change.

By creating the conditions for heritage in all its forms to thrive and be sustained and enhanced in innovative and relevant ways, the health and vibrancy of our citizens and communities will be positively impacted.

Because heritage is readily visible and accessible digitally and in communities, local places, town centers, historic buildings and landscapes, opportunities to get involved will include everyone. As a result, our heritage collections will be valued as fully reflective of the strong character and diversity of our area, telling the stories of all our communities and making us feel at home.

Development of Success Measures

Success will be measured by a range of performance and benchmarking indicators, some of which are already in existence; others will need to be established and implemented through the delivery of the Strategic Heritage Action Plan.

The Chouf Council will actively seek to identify opportunities within existing community research and partnership.

This will ensure outcomes can be demonstrated and feed into the long-term sustainable development of the strategy.

Wherever possible, measures are to be designed and agreed in partnership with communities as part of the Cultural Delivery Plans and heritage partnerships to ensure stakeholder buy-in, local ownership and collaborative commitment to the outcomes outlined.

HERITAGE STRATEGY OBJECTIVE	OUTCOMES	HOW WE WILL MEASURE SUCCESS
1. To demonstrate clarity in the Council's approach to heritage.	CONFIDENCE	Increased investment levels for The Chouf heritage from external funders and other investors.
	SUSTAINABILITY	Reduced number of heritage at risk assets.
	ENGAGEMENT	Increased numbers of heritage related partnership projects initiated and complete. Numbers of partners and Council Services involved in Heritage Partnership Group.
2. To contribute to an ambitious approach to heritage, culture and tourism in The Chouf – which will better tell the story of our communities.	AMBITION & OPPORTUNITY	Increased visitor attendances at key heritage sites and participation in programs. Increased number of diverse community attendance at heritage sites and taking part in heritage programs.

	PARTICIPATION	Increased number of people participating in heritage engagement programs and involved in the development of local Cultural Delivery Plans (CDPs).
	DUTY OF CARE	Increased numbers of heritage related partnership projects initiated and complete.

HERITAGE STRATEGY OBJECTIVE	OUTCOMES	HOW WE WILL MEASURE SUCCESS
3. To connect heritage assets and people so that they can best benefit their communities.	PARTICIPATION	Increased levels of use for heritage wellbeing programs such as social prescribing.
	DUTY OF CARE	Increased number of heritage assets being used by communities. Increased percentage of unused heritage assets with secured appropriate future.
	ENGAGEMENT	Increased levels of satisfaction in heritage programs by a greater range of under-represented groups. Number of partners and Council Services involved in CDPs.
4. To adopt a creative, collaborative and innovative approach to heritage sustainability.	CONFIDENCE	Increased percentage of heritage sites are achieving awards and standards.

	SUSTAINABILITY	Increased percentage of unused heritage assets with secured appropriate future. Reduced climate impact of heritage assets.
	PARTICIPATION	Number of partners and Council Services involved in CDPs and Heritage Partnership Group.

HERITAGE STRATEGY OBJECTIVE	OUTCOMES	HOW WE WILL MEASURE SUCCESS
5. To improve collaboration in planning, to ensure that heritage assets and activity in the district are well connected.	CONFIDENCE	Increased percentage of unused heritage assets with secured appropriate future.
	AMBITION & OPPORTUNITY	Increased levels of economic benefits including employment opportunities created through heritage led regeneration programs.
	PARTICIPATION	Number of partners and Council Services involved in CDPs and Heritage Partnership Group.
6. To support place-making and the delivery of the Council's ambitions.	DUTY OF CARE	Increased levels of positive feedback from residents and stakeholders about heritage assets in the district.

SUSTAINABILITY	Increased investment levels for The Chouf heritage from external funders and other investors.
AMBITION & OPPORTUNITY	Increased levels of economic benefits including employment opportunities created through heritage led regeneration programs.

How will success be defined

Once adopted, this strategy will create a long-term pathway for heritage in The Chouf for the next decade and beyond. The overall delivery of the associated Strategic Heritage Action Plan will take us many years into the future and will determine how we raise investment to support our vision. Its priorities will change and adapt to circumstances. However, the Vision, Key Principles and Objectives will remain constant, providing vision and certainty for heritage assets and activity across the district, increasing trust in the Council and creating conditions for long term collaboration and investment.

More people, including those currently underrepresented in heritage activity, will be able to participate actively in sharing their stories and enjoying the benefits to health and well-being, community cohesion, learning and aspiration that heritage brings to everyone. Heritage provision will be sustained for the long term through innovative, appropriate opportunities for re-use and commercial development of our heritage and we will seek additional funding to support the aims outlined in this strategy and deliver the action plan.

This will result in the improved profile of The Chouf as a destination, better facilities for residents and visitors and a contribution to economic regeneration and local pride of place.

Success will be demonstrated through being true to the spirit of the strategy across the Council and the Chouf district, with our communities, partners and stakeholders. The achievement of the Outcomes highlighted in the Strategic Heritage Action Plan will be evaluated on an annual basis.

How will we do this?

Governance

The Council will oversee the implementation of the Chouf Heritage Strategy. Any initiatives within the Strategic Heritage Action Plan specifically led by the Council and requiring resources will be presented for approvals using the Council's usual governance processes.

How will the Heritage Strategy be implemented?

Resources will be required and sought to deliver the ambitions in the Heritage Strategy.

One key strand of delivery will be through contribution to the creation of Cultural Delivery Plans implemented in key areas and developed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and local communities to ensure appropriate care, use and sustainability of both physical and intangible heritage.

Another strand will consist of the development of the Heritage Hub, which will become a central place for this activity to be recorded online and shared by other means, providing connectivity and collaboration across the Chouf district.

Lead officers will work with the Council's Corporate Policy team to ensure that the Strategic Heritage Action Plan is updated annually, with appropriate levels of member, public and sector engagement. They will also work with the Planning Policy and Conservation Planning teams to ensure that the strategy considers changes in associated policies and statutory planning needs, for example, taking account of the Heritage Strategy in future planning policies, guidance and design codes/ guidance as well as requirements to produce new documents such as Conservation Area Appraisals and an audit of Non-Designated Heritage Assets and to inform the context of the next The Chouf Local Plan.

The Council will build on existing heritage and culture related networks and, working with key stakeholders, explore options for developing a Heritage Partnership Group for The Chouf establishing how this could best connect with creating local place-based Cultural Delivery Plans. This group will operate as a subgroup of a proposed The Chouf Cultural Partnership and will feed back plans and activity through relevant Council officers, who will communicate this information through the usual Council reporting processes.

STRATEGIC HERITAGE ACTION PLAN

2025 – 2030

Scope of this Action Plan

A Strategic Heritage Action Plan will sit alongside the Heritage Strategy for the duration of the strategy. Each plan will cover a three-year period. The first plan will cover 2025 - 2027 and focus on key actions for that period.

It is recognized that some actions will not be completed within a three-year action plan and therefore will continue through to the next three-year plan. This approach to long-term planning is necessary to achieve truly transformational results.

Resourcing the Action Plan

Funds and capacity will be sought both externally, internally and with partners to deliver the actions set out in this plan for its duration. This Program of work will form a major heritage development focus for the Chouf district which is additional to the Council services' capacity.

Local Cultural Delivery Plans

An immediate focus for this Strategic Heritage Action Plan will be to identify key resources needed to contribute to local Cultural Delivery Plans (CDPs), which will be developed by the Council as a new approach to place-based co-production for cultural activity.

As part of the Chouf Cultural Strategy development, community engagement will take place in order to pilot the approach to the CDPs in localized areas in The Chouf. Once adopted, CDPs will be the main driver for heritage development across the district. Local engagement and co-production will be at the heart of the CDPs to ensure that they are rooted in community need.

The CDPs will coordinate more detailed and localized heritage, culture and tourism related actions in specific localities across the Chouf district in collaboration with local communities and organizations.

CDPs will incorporate planning for the future of The Chouf's leading heritage assets, linked to local need and any existing plans.

OBJECTIVE I: To demonstrate clarity in the Council's approach to heritage			
OUTCOMES	KEY ACTIONS	TIMESCALE	COUNCIL PRIORITY
CONFIDENCE SUSTAINABILITY ENGAGEMENT	Establish and deliver a long-term communications plan for the Heritage Strategy to promote and raise awareness of Heritage across The Chouf and more widely.	Start 2025	ASPIRE AND ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY
	Establish an externally funded heritage development team to co-ordinate the delivery of this action plan, to build capacity to improve the collation of data and intelligence around heritage and develop strategic partnerships.	Start 2025	
	Improve auditing of existing performance management information in relation to statutory heritage duty of care including heritage at risk assets.	Start 2026	

OBJECTIVE 2: To contribute to an ambitious approach to heritage, culture and tourism in The Chouf – which will better tell the story of our communities			
OUTCOMES	KEY ACTIONS	TIMESCALE	COUNCIL PRIORITY
PARTICIPATION AMBITION & OPPORTUNITY DUTY OF CARE	Adopt and deliver marketing of The Chouf district as a visitor destination, based upon the Heritage, Tourism and Cultural strategies, supporting growth and investment.	Start 2025	ASPIRE AND ACHIEVE
	Embed heritage themes strongly into the district's cultural Programs	Throughout duration of Heritage Strategy	
	Create and implement a Workforce Development Plan for heritage, which takes account of the need for inclusion in opportunities, recruitment and training.	2028	SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY
	Complete delivery	Start 2025 Complete 2026	

OBJECTIVE 3: To connect heritage assets and people so that they can best benefit their communities			
OUTCOMES	KEY ACTIONS	TIMESCALE	COUNCIL PRIORITY
PARTICIPATION DUTY OF CARE ENGAGEMENT	Develop Phase I of an online Heritage Hub to provide a central point for connectivity, co-ordination, collaboration and showcasing of heritage activity across The Chouf.	Start 2025	SHAPED BY PEOPLE
	Work with partners to develop Programme of heritage interpretation across The Chouf linked to Blueprints for our towns and other key local developments and gateways and linked to Tourism and Cultural Strategy actions.	Throughout duration of Heritage Strategy linked to timescales for key development programs.	INDEPENDENT SAFE AND COHESIVE
	Create and integrate community co-production approaches into future plans for heritage development.	Throughout duration of Heritage Strategy.	ASPIRE AND ACHIEVE WELL

	<p>Through cross Council co-ordination, integrate heritage opportunities into the Council's Inclusive Communities Framework and The Chouf Futures Strategy for Learning resulting in education, skills development and health improvements.</p>	<p>Throughout duration of Heritage Strategy linked to timescales for Council strategy implementation.</p>	
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OBJECTIVE 3 (continued): To connect heritage assets and people so that they can best benefit their communities			
OUTCOMES	KEY ACTIONS	TIMESCALE	COUNCIL PRIORITY
<p>PARTICIPATION DUTY OF CARE ENGAGEMENT</p>	<p>Work with partners and communities and through CDPs to develop further heritage led learning opportunities for all ages, ensuring they are accessible and their impacts can be evaluated.</p>	<p>Throughout duration of Heritage Strategy</p>	<p>SHAPED BY PEOPLE</p>

	<p>Increase heritage partnerships delivering wellbeing activity and make them sustainable.</p>	<p>2028</p>	<p>INDEPENDENT</p> <p>SAFE AND COHESIVE</p> <p>ASPIRE AND ACHIEVE WELL</p>
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OBJECTIVE 4: To adopt a creative, collaborative and innovative approach to heritage sustainability			
OUTCOMES	KEY ACTIONS	TIMESCALE	COUNCIL PRIORITY
<p>CONFIDENCE</p> <p>SUSTAINABILITY</p> <p>PARTICIPATION</p>	Develop and implement an Investment Strategy for heritage in partnership with partners and funders.	<p>Start 2026</p> <p>Complete 2028</p>	<p>SHAPED BY PEOPLE</p> <p>CLEAN AND GREEN</p> <p>EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE</p>
	Maintain links with Planning Service functions to ensure future guidance documents including conservation and design, and planning policies such as the Chouf Local Plan, take into account the outcomes of the Heritage Strategy and help to manage the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework.	Throughout duration of Heritage Strategy	
	Establish and manage a Local Heritage List (by which locally cherished and significant assets will be assessed and added to The Chouf local list of Non-Designated Heritage Assets), including procedures and mechanisms to manage and maintain the list.	2027	

OBJECTIVE 4: (continued): To adopt a creative, collaborative and innovative approach to heritage sustainability			
OUTCOMES	KEY ACTIONS	TIMESCALE	COUNCIL PRIORITY
CONFIDENCE SUSTAINABILITY PARTICIPATION	Collate a fabric condition risk assessment of all statutorily designated (Listed and Scheduled) Council owned buildings/monuments to inform future management options.	2027	
	Explore the establishment of The Chouf Building Preservation Trust as a means to deliver key heritage priorities.	2028	SHAPED BY PEOPLE
	Create Arts Museum	2025	CLEAN AND GREEN
	Ensure substantive progress towards meeting the 'Required Action'	2025	EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE

	<p>Create a long-term Heritage Commercial Investment Plan with a multi-site commercial focus, where appropriate, to support the sustainability of heritage assets managed by the Council.</p>	<p>Complete 2028</p>	
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OBJECTIVE 5: To improve collaboration in planning, to ensure that heritage assets and activity in the district are well connected			
OUTCOMES	KEY ACTIONS	TIMESCALE	COUNCIL PRIORITY
CONFIDENCE AMBITION & OPPORTUNITY PARTICIPATION	Set up a Heritage Partnership group, comprising Council officers, key heritage partners, relevant organizations and community representatives, to report to a newly formed Cultural Partnership Board/ Compact for The Chouf.	2025	
	Support the district's heritage sector to recover from challenges such as cost of living crisis through collaboration, sharing resources and expertise, and linked to Tourism and Cultural Strategy actions.	Throughout duration of Heritage Strategy	ASPIRE AND ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY
	Develop systems to enable collaborative reporting to the Chouf Cultural Partnership Board/Compact on a range of heritage sector benchmarking information.	2026	

OBJECTIVE 6: To support place-making and the delivery of the Council's ambitions			
OUTCOMES	KEY ACTIONS	TIMESCALE	COUNCIL PRIORITY
CONFIDENCE AMBITION & OPPORTUNITY PARTICIPATION	Make links with the Tourism Strategy and Cultural Strategy to ensure heritage plays a key role in increasing the Visitor Economy and is promoted and supported accordingly in the long term.	Throughout duration of Heritage Strategy	ASPIRE AND ACHIEVE
	Support the heritage sector to create climate emergency plans for their organizations.	Throughout duration of Heritage Strategy	SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY
	Create opportunities through heritage related programs and activity to raise awareness of climate change and integrate climate control measures into the delivery of heritage projects.	Throughout duration of Heritage Strategy	SHAPED BY PEOPLE

	<p>Complete and further develop approaches for appropriate repurposing and renewal of significant heritage assets across the Chouf District.</p>	<p>Throughout duration of Heritage Strategy and linked to relevant regeneration project timescales</p>	
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