

JOUN: A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

THE BEAUTIFUL TOWN OF
THE CHOUF MOUNTAINS

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

Antoine J. Burkush, PhD

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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.

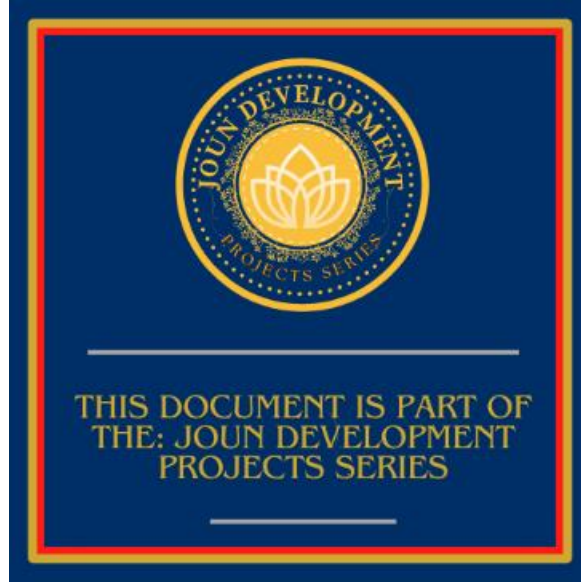
إلى القادة المحليين وأصحاب المصلحة الذين دافعوا عن هذا المشروع ، كان دعمكم مصدرا حيويا للتشجيع. لقد أعطت قيادتكم وفهمك لتحديات وفرص جون الفريدة عمقا لهذه المقترحات ، مما جعلها راسخة في كل من تاريخ مدينتنا وإمكاناتها للنمو.

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 ، بتراتها 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



Joun: A Journey Through Time

PART ONE

PHOTOS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE PHOTOS ARE THE BEAUTIFUL WORK OF MANY PHOTOGRAPHERS INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHERS FROM JOUN

ALI BADAWI

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HABIB SALEH

HAMZA EID

KAMEEL RAYESS

MARWAN AL RABIH

MITRI SOUJAA and GEORGE LTEIF

“MAHMOUD”

MOHAMMAD BARBAR

MOHAMMAD KAMBAZ

SAMI BAYDOUN

SARAH SALLOUM

VOMOS TODOS LEBANON

Joun: A Journey Through Time

Preface

Welcome to Joun, a town where history whispers through ancient stones and the beauty of nature paints every corner. Nestled in the heart of Mount Lebanon, Joun is a place where the past and present harmoniously coexist, offering a unique glimpse into Lebanon's rich cultural tapestry.

This book, "Joun: A Journey Through Time," is a tribute to the town's enduring spirit and vibrant heritage. Through a blend of historical narratives and captivating photographs, we aim to take you on a journey that explores the essence of Joun. From its earliest days to its modern charm, each page is a testament to the town's resilience, beauty, and the stories of its people.

As you turn these pages, you will discover the landmarks that define Joun, the traditions that have been passed down through generations, and the faces of those who have shaped its history. Whether you are a resident, a visitor, or someone with a deep appreciation for history and culture, this book invites you to experience Joun in all its glory.

Join us as we delve into the heart of Joun, celebrating its past, cherishing its present, and looking forward to its future.

Introduction

Joun, also known as Joon or Djoun in Phoenician, is a picturesque Lebanese village nestled on seven hills within the Chouf district of Mount Lebanon. It lies approximately 13 kilometers away from the city of Sidon. The name “Joun” translates to “the corner” in Aramaic, and its unique location places it at the intersection between Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon, forming a distinctive corner shape¹².

Here are some fascinating details about Joun:

Historical Significance:

Joun is an ancient village situated above the temple of the Phoenician god Eshmun, near Sidon.

In 1887, the Ottomans established the first commission for Joun, responsible for land management, environmental regulation, and local security supervision.

By 1898, the commission had its own logo and individual stamps for official statements.

In 1903, the Ottoman Empire mandated elected officials for the municipality, ensuring local governance and national authority coordination¹.

Population and Diversity:

Joun is home to approximately 7,400 inhabitants who belong to various religious communities, including Greek Catholics, Shiites, and Maronites.

The village’s rich cultural tapestry reflects its diverse heritage¹. Joun boasts three churches and one mosque.

Geography and Agriculture:

The village is renowned for its olive trees and grapevines, contributing to olive oil and soap production.

Olive groves and vineyards dot the landscape, adding to Joun’s scenic beauty¹.

Monastery of the Savior:

The Monastery of the Savior (Arabic: *دير المخلص*) stands on a hill covered with pine, olive, and grape trees.

Built in the early 18th century, this Melkite Basilian Salvatorian Order monastery is a significant landmark in the Chouf district¹.

Lady Hester Lucy Stanhope Site:

Located on another hill to the northeast of Joun, this site is known as “Dahr El Sitt” (Arabic: *ضهر الست*).

Lady Hester Stanhope, a British antiquarian and explorer, resided here until her death.

The site offers breathtaking views and historical intrigue¹.

Joun’s blend of history, natural beauty, and cultural heritage makes it a captivating corner of Lebanon worth exploring!

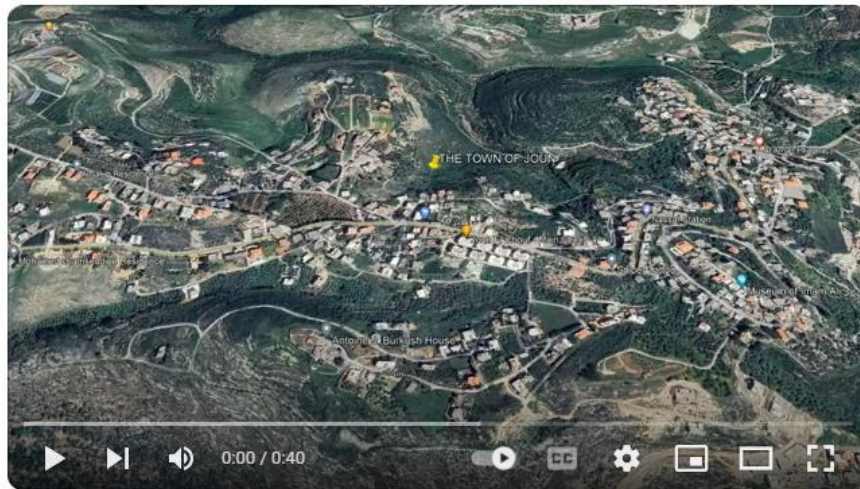
SOURCE: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JounJoun>, a town in the Mount Lebanon Governorate

VIDEOS CREATED FOR JOUN



TOWN OF JOUN SEAL

<https://youtu.be/183KeScx9qc?si=pCyq9m-bE1gu62w5>



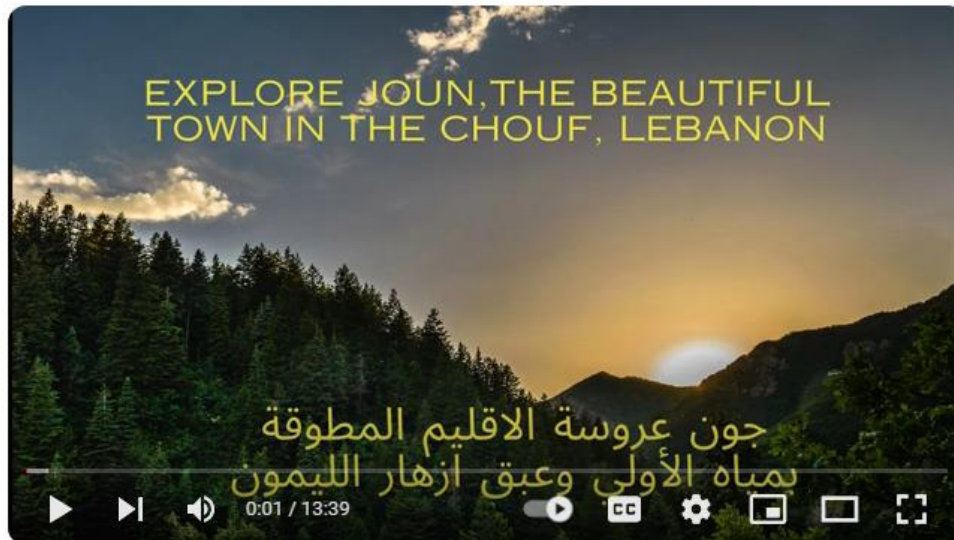
JOUN, AL CHOUF, LEBANON

<https://youtu.be/FY7Qumv1a10?si=hCWxUbsneHwjXe0>



INTRODUCING THE TOWN OF JOUN, AL CHOUF, LEBANON

<https://youtu.be/WAW1xPTd6UI>



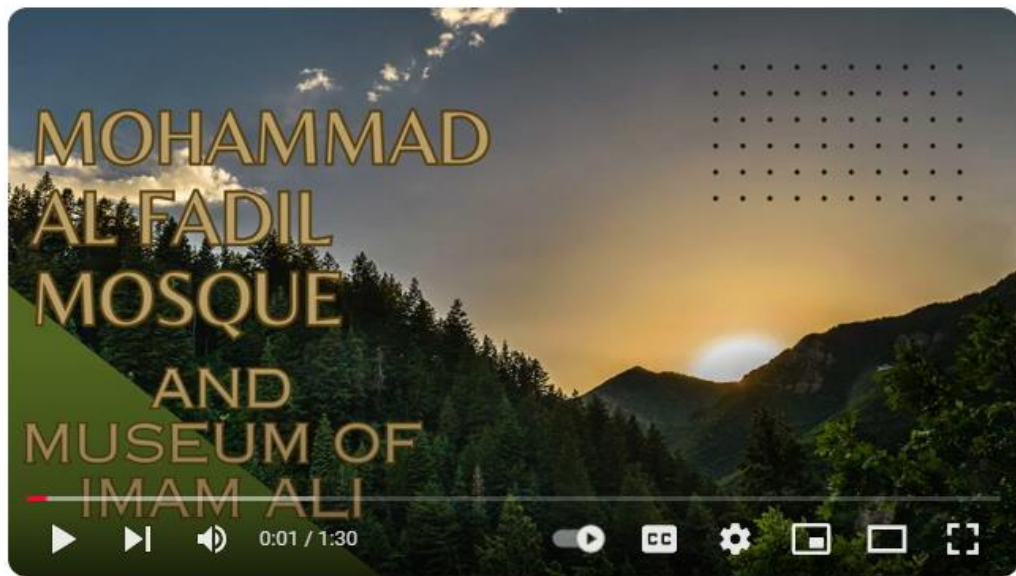
EXPLORE JOUN, ARABIC THE BEAUTIFUL TOWN IN THE CHOUF, LEBANON

https://youtu.be/dr6_q0ETio?si=4wA0f5YLJ-Kp0FG6



THE SOCIAL HARMONY IN JOUN

<https://youtu.be/Yi0kHZ-Y5XA?si=olGhGXIf4L7LEqx5>



MOHAMMAD AL FADIL MOSQUE, JOUN AL CHOUF, LEBANON

<https://youtu.be/FbiCy9gTxnA?si=tjSCssi1iLmLtri0>



MONASTERY OF SAINT SAVIOUR, JOUN, AL CHOUF, LEBANON

https://youtu.be/Hva77YqCUgg?si=SF4Gt4pMBk9r_rdG



https://youtube.com/shorts/kluvro4fOn4?si=qRY5HsF_V0_Fblf9



TOURISM JOUN

<https://youtu.be/wXVMFW-6GKU?si=JLUGW7ug8dHfZSJj>



AWALI RIVER JOUN AL CHOUF LEBANON

https://youtu.be/ZawrKqHkbwY?si=liBfkt3opuWz_0YL



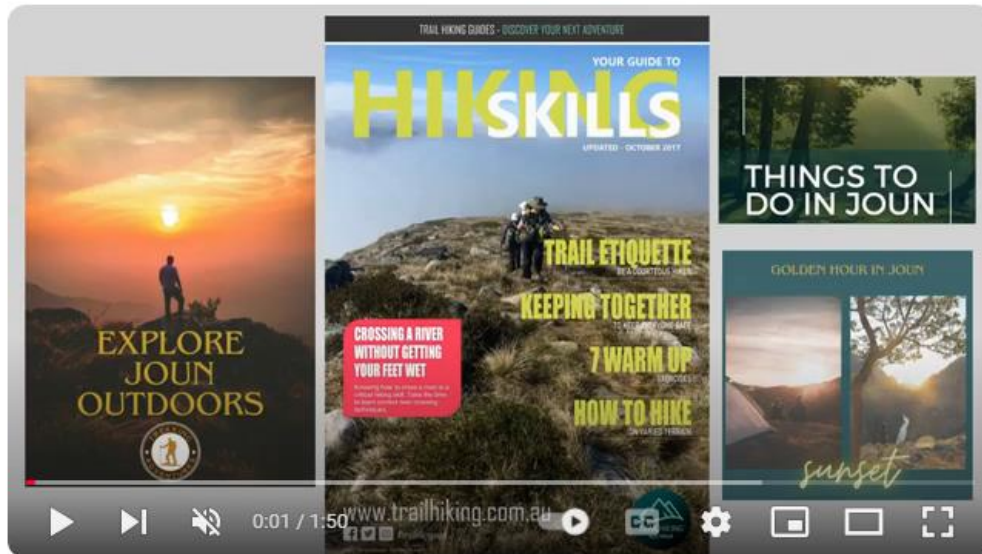
THINGS TO DO IN JOUN

<https://youtu.be/EeCGfB1gEoo?si=Y3cJnHpl25Fx6ocV>



RAS QATEEAH POETIC (VIDEO)

<https://youtu.be/v5SQSQAdUQ?si=TM5XH1AYTuUAdqM2>



YOUR GUIDE TO HIKING SKILLS

<https://youtu.be/2RKSOAWdtK4?si=0so7VCacwJrtq9wh>

Historical Background

- Ancient Roots: Joun's history dates back to ancient times, with evidence of early settlements and agricultural activities. The town's name is believed to be derived from the Phoenician word "Joun," meaning "a place of shelter."
- Religious Significance: The town is known for its religious diversity and historical significance. The Deir el-Moukhalles monastery, founded in 1711, is a prominent Greek Catholic monastery that has played a vital role in the town's religious and cultural life. The ancient Mohammad Al Fadil Mosque is equally an important Land marks in Joun. More details will be provided late for both landmarks.
- Ottoman Era: During the Ottoman period, Joun was part of the administrative region of Mount Lebanon. The town saw various developments in infrastructure and agriculture during this time.

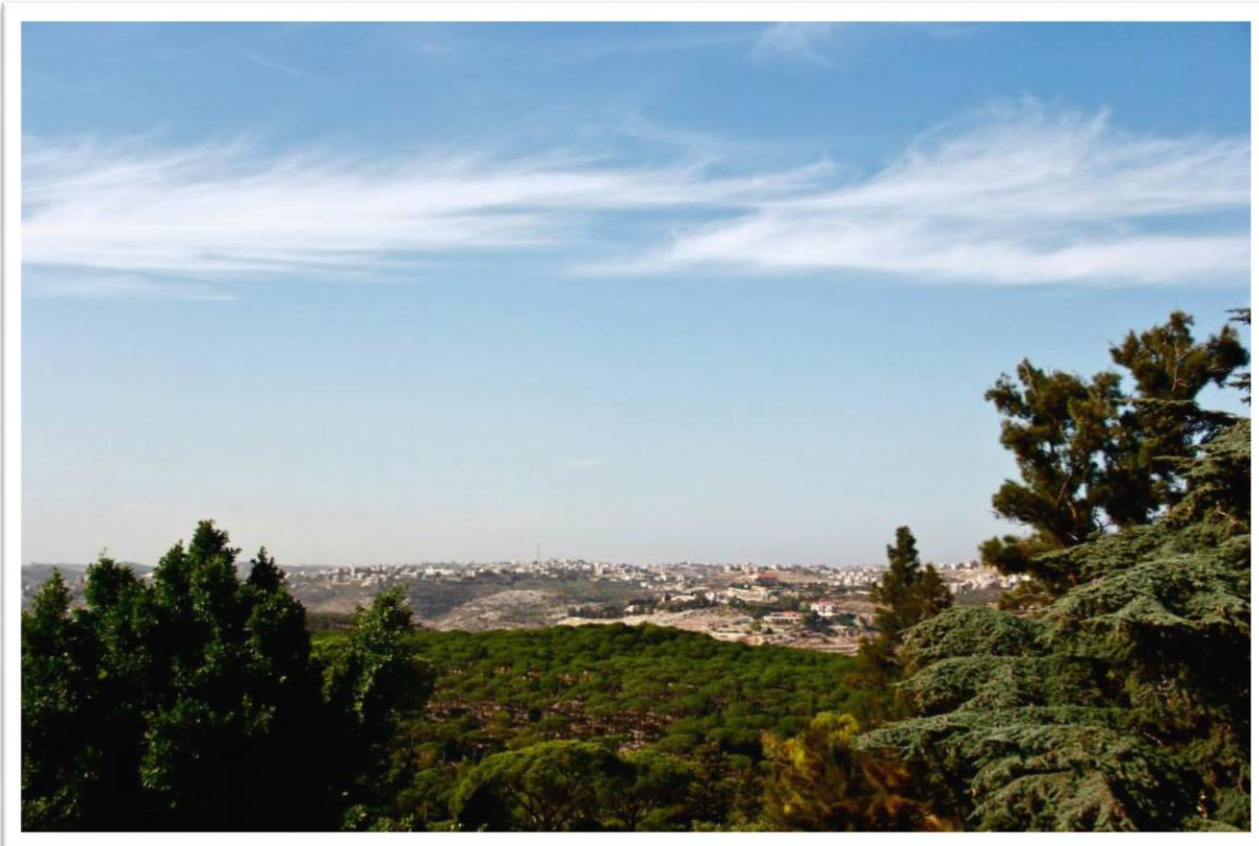


Cultural and Social Aspects

- Interfaith Harmony: Joun is known for its interfaith and social cohesion, with a community that includes various religious and ethnic groups living in harmony.
- Notable Residents: The town has been home to many notable figures, including clergy members, journalists, and media personalities who have contributed to its rich cultural tapestry.

Modern Developments

- Architecture: Joun boasts a mix of traditional and modern architecture, reflecting its historical evolution and contemporary growth.
- Natural Beauty: The town is surrounded by beautiful orchards and wooded hills, making it a picturesque location that attracts visitors and nature enthusiasts.



Source:

(1) John the Apostle: Bible Biography, Facts and Death. <https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/john-the-apostle-bible-biography-facts-and-death/>.

(2) Who Was John the Apostle? The Beginner's Guide. <https://overviewbible.com/john-the-apostle/>.

(3) St. John the Apostle - Encyclopedia Britannica.
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-John-the-Apostle>.

(4) Gospel of John - World History Encyclopedia.
https://www.worldhistory.org/Gospel_of_John/.

(5) John (given name) - Wikipedia.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_%28given_name%29.

 <https://youtu.be/FY7Qumv1a10>





https://youtu.be/KKhscm_Atr8



Joun's Geography

Geographically, Joun is situated in the Chouf District of Mount Lebanon, approximately 13 kilometers from the city of Sidon¹. The town is uniquely positioned on seven hills, offering stunning panoramic views of the surrounding landscape¹. The elevation of Joun ranges from 50 meters to 448 meters above sea level, with an average elevation of 286 meters². This varied terrain contributes to the town's rich agricultural heritage, particularly known for its olive trees and grapevines¹.



1: [Wikipedia](<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joun>)

2: [Topographic Map] (<https://en-gb.topographic-map.com/map-p7jfgt/Joun/>)

Source: Conversation with Copilot, 9/11/2024

(1) Joun - Wikipedia. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joun>.

(2) Joun topographic map, elevation, terrain. <https://en-gb.topographic-map.com/map-p7jfgt/Joun/>.

(3) How do we define cities, towns, and rural areas? - World Bank Blogs.

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/sustainablecities/how-do-we-define-cities-towns-and-rural-areas>.

Description of The Beautiful Four Seasons in Joun:



Spring

Spring in Joun is a time of renewal and vibrant colors. As the temperatures begin to rise, the town comes alive with blooming flowers and lush greenery. The hills and valleys are adorned with a tapestry of wildflowers, and the air is filled with the sweet scent of blossoms. The Spring Flower Festival is a highlight of the season, where the streets of Joun are decorated with colorful blooms, and local artisans display their crafts. It's a perfect time for hiking and picnicking, as the weather is mild and the landscape is at its most picturesque.

Summer

Summer in Joun is warm and sunny, with long days perfect for outdoor activities. The town's elevation provides a pleasant respite from the coastal heat, making it a popular destination for those seeking cooler temperatures. The olive groves and vineyards are lush and green, and the annual Olive Festival celebrates the town's rich agricultural heritage with music, dance, and culinary delights.

Autumn

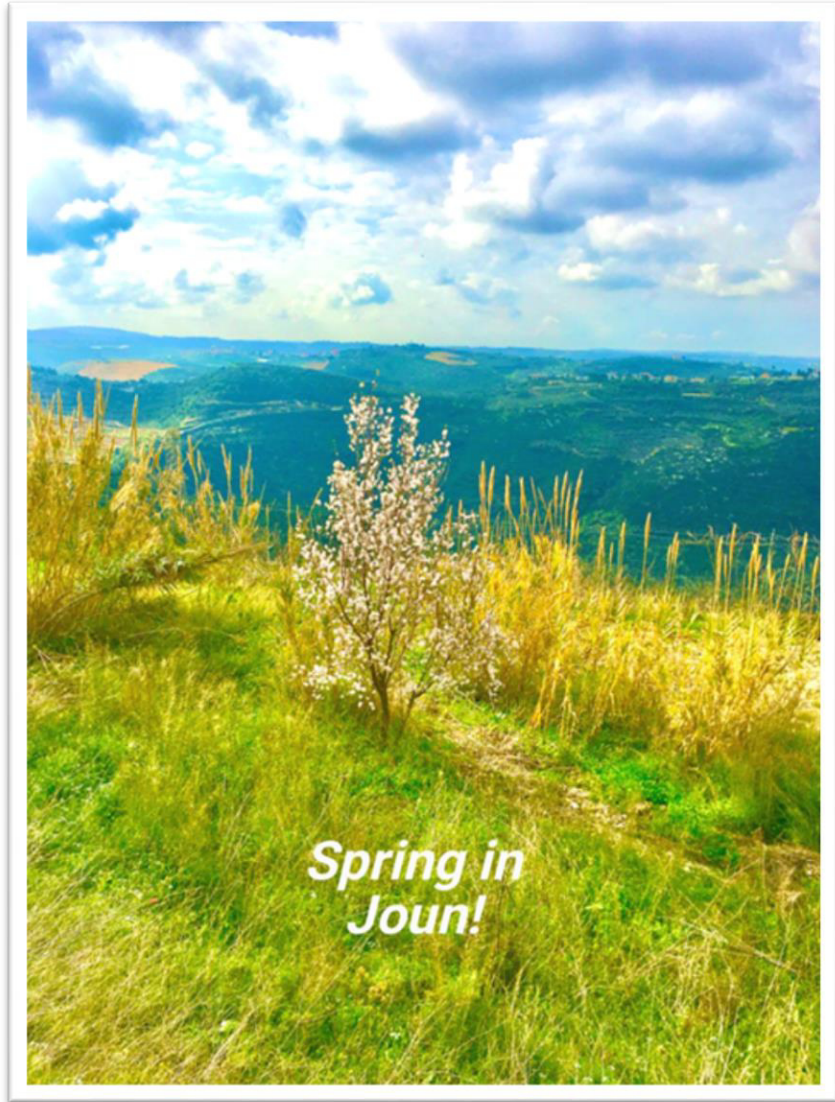
Autumn in Joun is a season of golden hues and crisp air. The hillsides are painted with the warm colors of fall foliage, creating a stunning backdrop for outdoor adventures. The harvest season brings an abundance of fresh produce, and the Olive Festival continues to be a highlight, showcasing the town's famous olive products. The cooler temperatures make it an ideal time for hiking and exploring the natural beauty of the

region. The Awali River, with its gentle flow and lush riverbanks, provides a serene setting for leisurely walks and picnics.

Winter

Winter in Joun is a time of tranquility and cozy charm. While the town rarely sees snow, the higher elevations and nearby mountains may be dusted with a light blanket of white, adding to the picturesque scenery. The cooler temperatures create a crisp, refreshing atmosphere, perfect for enjoying the peaceful beauty of the Joun Forests and the surrounding countryside. The town's traditional Lebanese houses, with their red-tiled roofs and arched windows, take on a warm, inviting glow, making it a perfect time to explore the architectural heritage and enjoy the local hospitality.

Each season in Joun offers its own unique charm and beauty, making it a wonderful place to visit and experience throughout the year. Whether you're drawn to the vibrant colors of spring, the sunny days of summer, the golden hues of autumn, or the cozy charm of winter, Joun has something special to offer in every season.





The Air in Joun

The air in Joun is truly a sensory delight, offering a unique blend of natural fragrances that invigorate and soothe the senses. Here's a description of the fresh air in Joun:





A Symphony of Scents

Pine Forests: The pine-covered hills surrounding Joun release a refreshing, resinous aroma that fills the air. The scent of pine is known for its invigorating and calming properties, making every breath feel like a rejuvenating experience. Walking through the pine forests, you'll notice the crisp, clean smell that is both grounding and uplifting.

Lemon Blossoms: Intermingling with the scent of pine is the delicate and sweet fragrance of lemon blossoms. The citrusy notes add a bright and cheerful dimension to the air, creating a harmonious blend of scents. The lemon trees, often found in local gardens and orchards, bloom in the spring, filling the air with their enchanting aroma.

Seasonal Variations

Spring: During spring, the air is particularly fragrant as the lemon trees are in full bloom. The combination of pine and lemon blossom scents creates a refreshing and invigorating atmosphere, perfect for outdoor activities like hiking and picnicking.

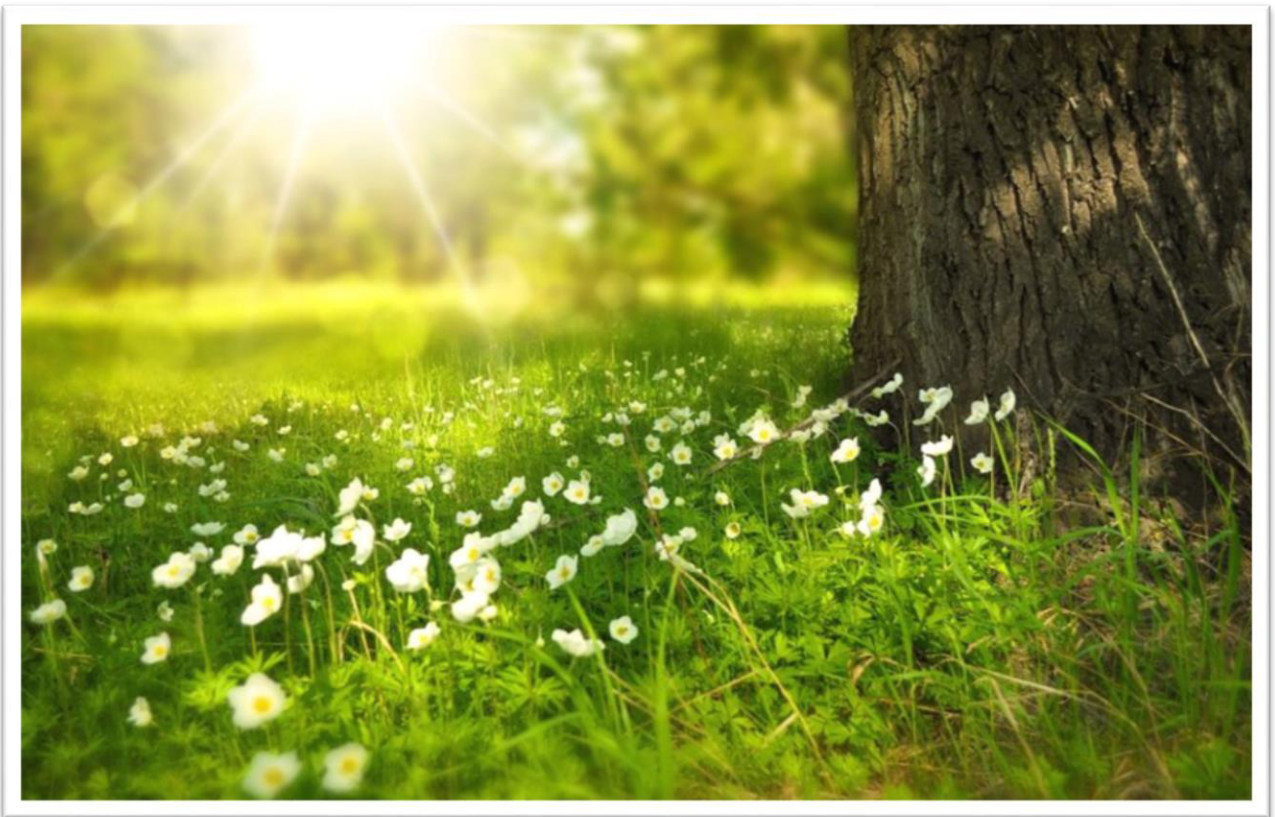
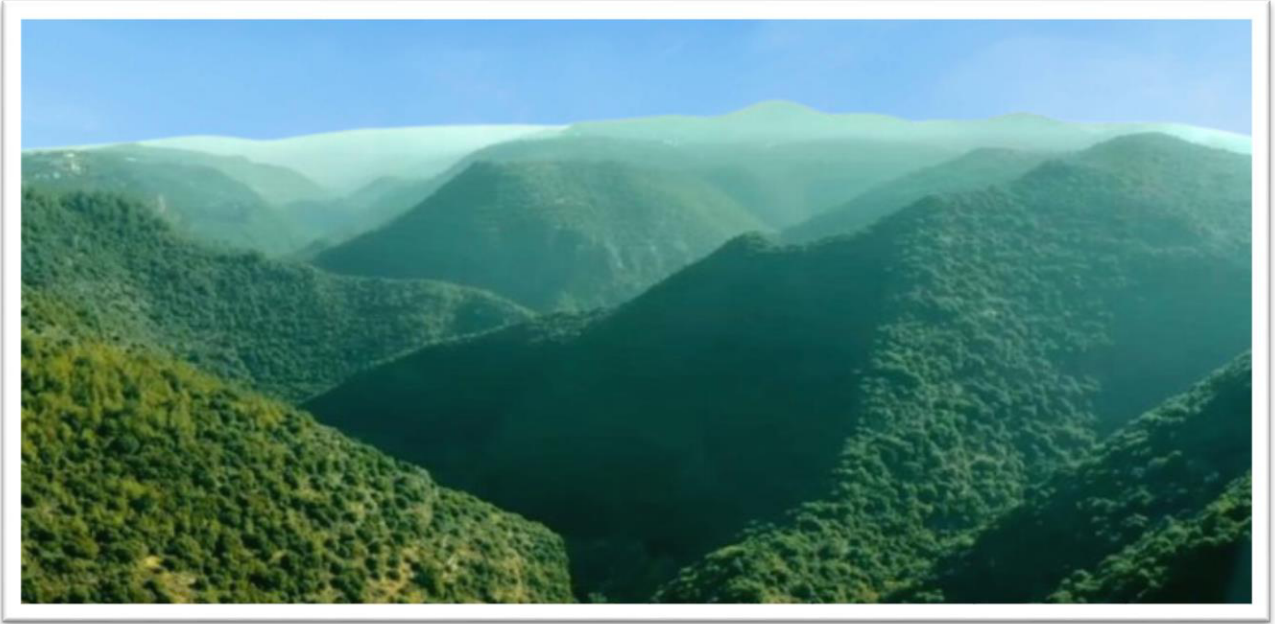
Summer: In the summer, the warm air enhances the resinous scent of the pine trees, while the lingering notes of lemon blossoms add a touch of sweetness. The gentle breeze carries these scents throughout the town, providing a constant reminder of the natural beauty that surrounds Joun.

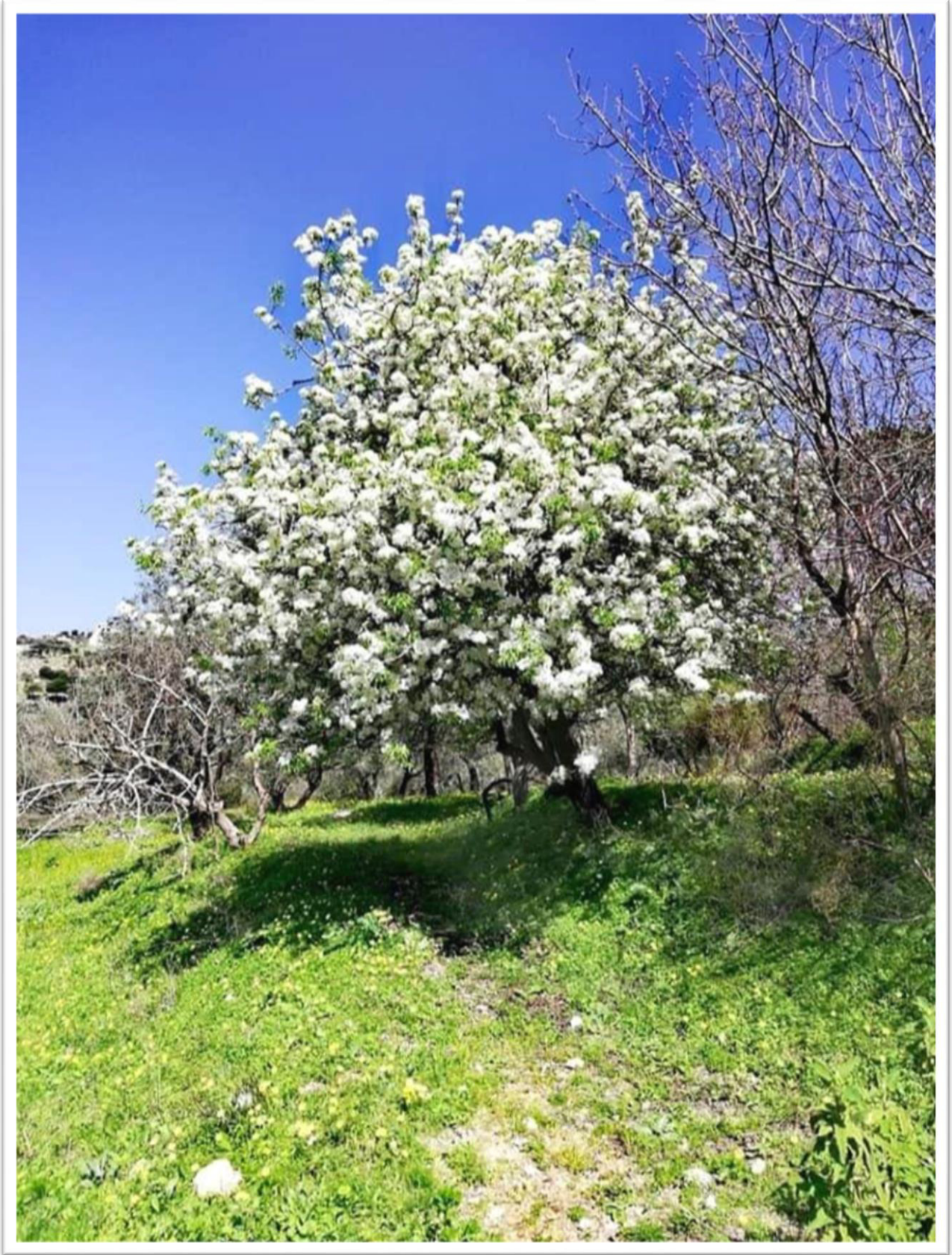
Autumn: As the weather cools in autumn, the pine scent becomes more pronounced, offering a crisp and refreshing quality to the air. The occasional whiff of lemon blossoms adds a subtle sweetness, making the air feel fresh and clean.

Winter: Even in winter, the air in Joun retains its unique blend of pine and citrus scents. The cooler temperatures enhance the crispness of the pine aroma, while the evergreen nature of the lemon trees ensures that their fragrance is never far away.

A Breath of Fresh Air

The combination of pine and lemon blossom scents in Joun creates an atmosphere that is both invigorating and soothing. Whether you're exploring the pine forests, strolling through olive and lemon orchards, or simply enjoying the fresh air from a scenic viewpoint, the natural fragrances of Joun provide a constant reminder of the town's unique and beautiful environment.







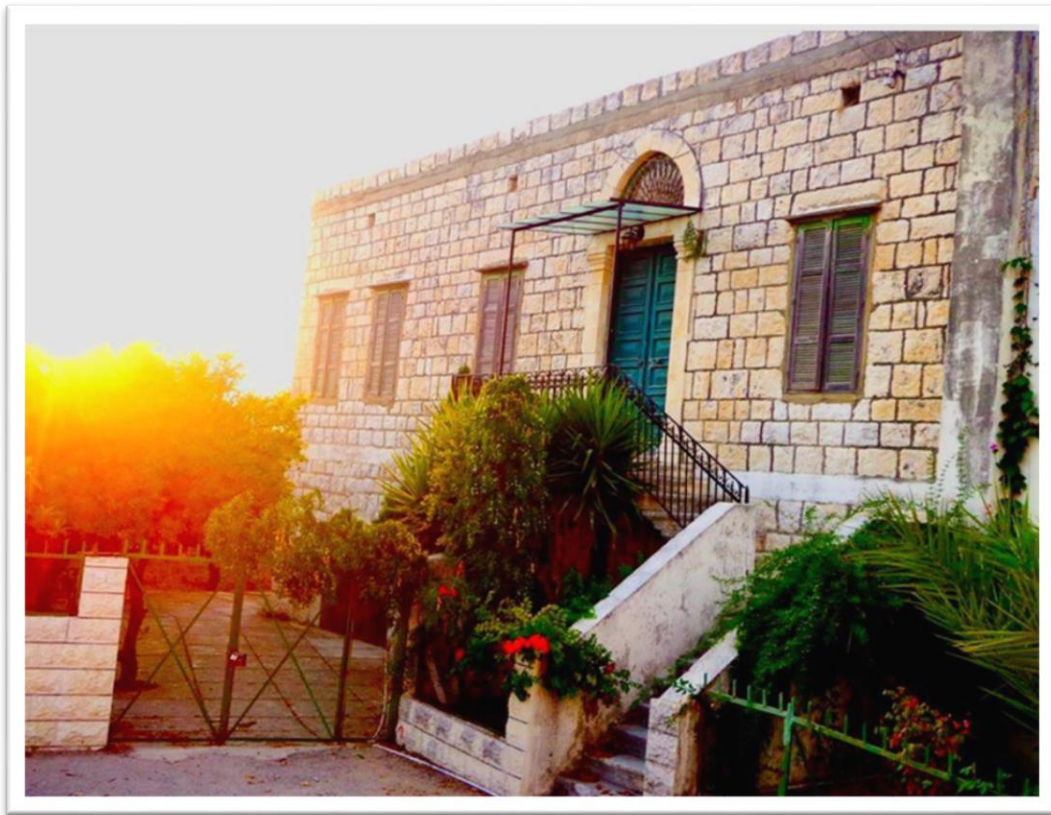
Explore more Joun trails ,... Joun famous for olive oil, carob, Bou-sfeir, Lemon and Orange Blossoms: EXHALE ...
BREATHE



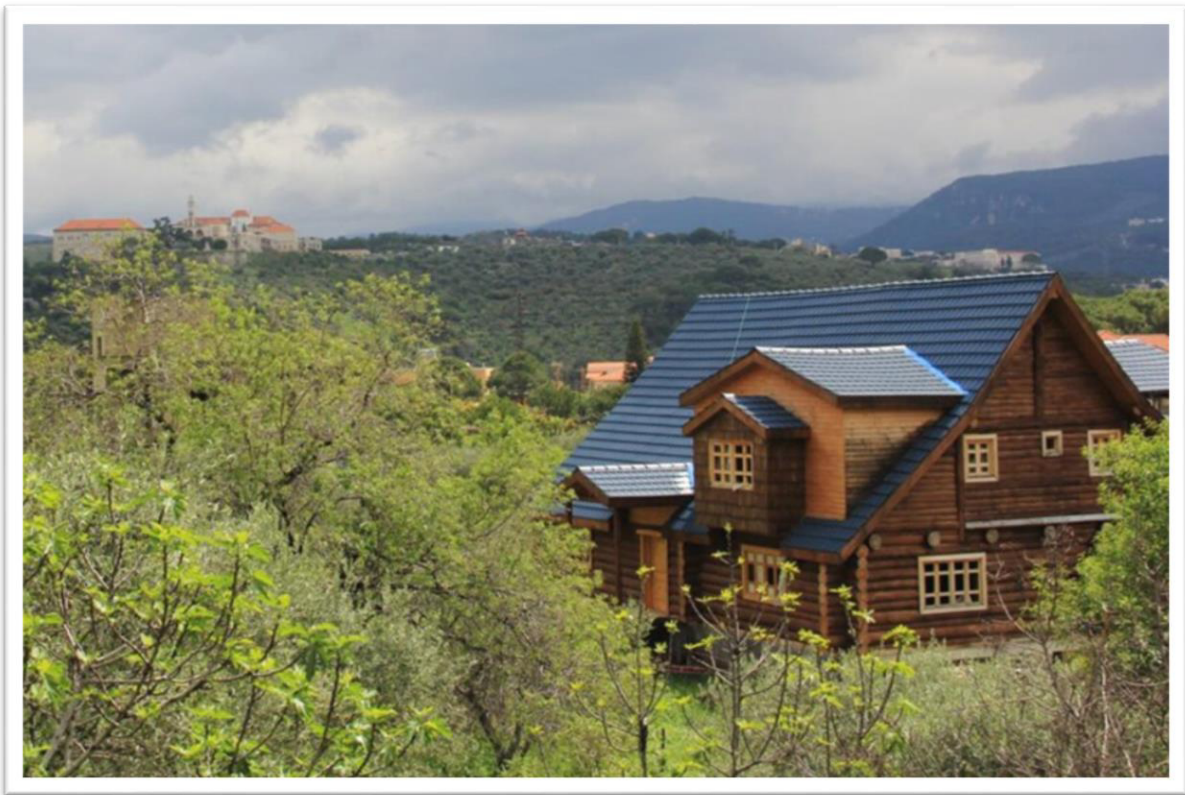
Architectural Heritage



Joun's architecture is a testament to its rich history and cultural diversity. The town boasts a variety of architectural styles, reflecting the different eras and influences that have shaped it. Traditional Lebanese houses, with their red-tiled roofs and arched windows, are a common sight, offering a glimpse into the town's past. Many of these houses are adorned with intricate stone carvings and beautiful courtyards, showcasing the craftsmanship of local artisans.

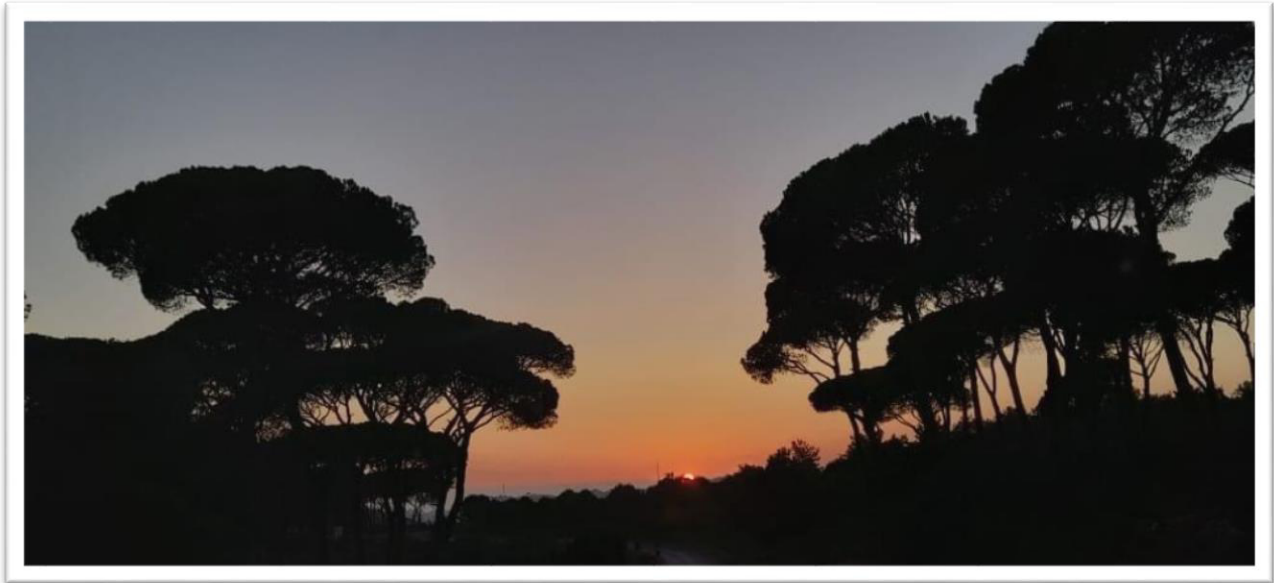






Natural Beauty

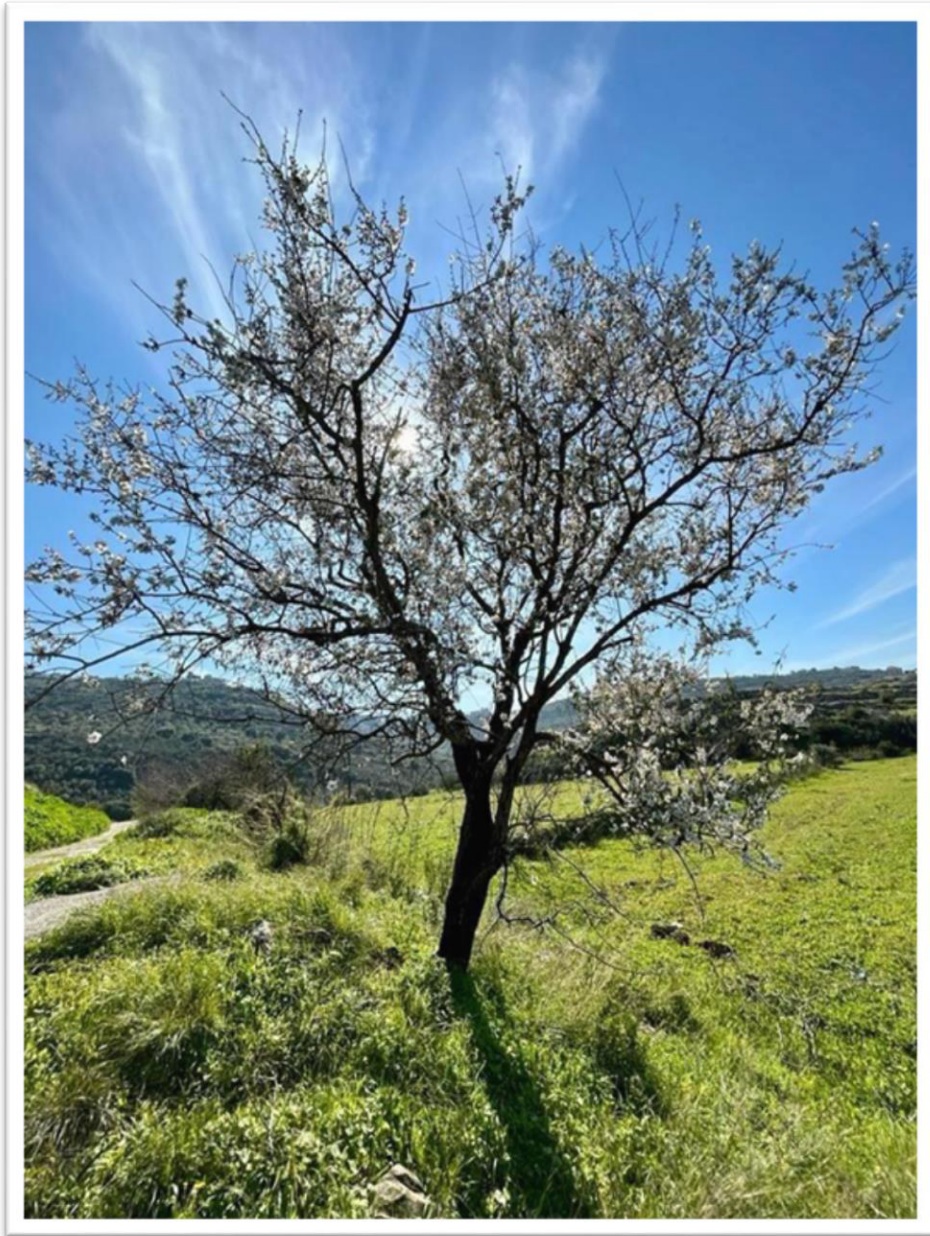
Joun is blessed with an abundance of natural beauty, making it a haven for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts. The town's landscape is characterized by rolling hills, lush valleys, and scenic vistas that offer breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside. The Joun Forest, with its diverse flora and fauna, provides a tranquil escape for those seeking to connect with nature. The forest is a popular spot for hiking, picnicking, and bird-watching, offering a peaceful retreat from the hustle and bustle of daily life.



The town's proximity to the Mediterranean Sea also adds to its natural allure. The coastal areas near Joun are known for their pristine beaches and crystal-clear waters, perfect for swimming, fishing, and other water activities. The combination of mountainous terrain and coastal beauty makes Joun a unique destination that offers the best of both worlds.

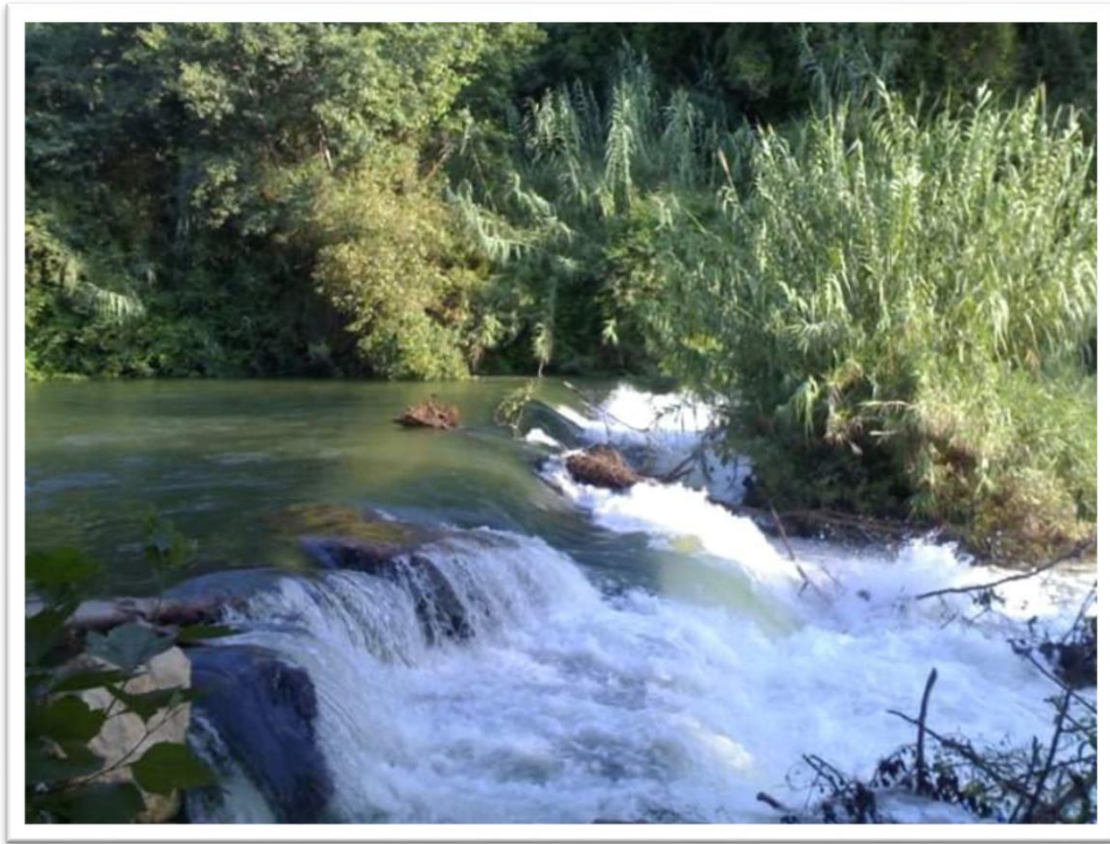
As you turn these pages, you will discover the **landmarks** that define Joun, the traditions that have been passed down through generations, and the faces of those who have shaped its history. Whether you are a resident, a visitor, or someone with a deep appreciation for history and culture, this book invites you to experience Joun in all its glory.





The Awali River

Adding to Joun's natural charm is the beautiful Awali River that meanders through the town. This river, with its gentle bends and clear waters, is a lifeline for the local ecosystem and a source of serenity for residents and visitors alike. The riverbanks are lined with lush vegetation, providing a habitat for various species of birds and wildlife. The soothing sound of the flowing water and the picturesque views make it a perfect spot for leisurely walks, picnics, and moments of reflection.



The Awali River, also known as the Asclepius River in ancient times, is a perennial river that flows through Southern Lebanon, including near the town of Joun³. Originating from the Barouk and Niha mountains at an elevation of 1,492 meters, the river travels approximately 48 kilometers before emptying into the Mediterranean Sea³.

The Awali River is supplemented by two tributaries, the Barouk and Aaray rivers, and is known as the Bisri River in its upper section³. It forms a watershed covering an area of about 294 square kilometers³. The river's clear waters and gentle meanders create a picturesque landscape that enhances the natural beauty of Joun and its surroundings.

The riverbanks are lush with vegetation, providing a habitat for various species of birds and wildlife. This serene environment makes the Awali River a popular spot for leisurely walks, picnics, and nature photography. The river also plays a crucial role in the local ecosystem and supports agricultural activities in the region.

In addition to its natural beauty, the Awali River is part of the Bisri Dam project, which aims to improve the supply of fresh water to the region³. Although a significant portion of the project's funding was canceled in 2020, the river remains an essential resource for the local communities³.

Source:

(1) Awali (river) - Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Awali_%28river%29.

(2) . <https://bing.com/search?q=Awali+river+near+Joun>.

(3) Awali Map - Stream - Lebanon - Mapcarta. <https://mapcarta.com/12901316>.

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(5) . <https://bing.com/search?q=beautiful+Awali+river+that+meanders+near+Joun>.

(6) THE AWALI RIVER, JOUN, AL CHOUF, LEBANON - YouTube.

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https://youtu.be/pxiz6_BK1oQ



The Rich Heritage of the Awali River

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Awali (Arabic: نهر الأولي / 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



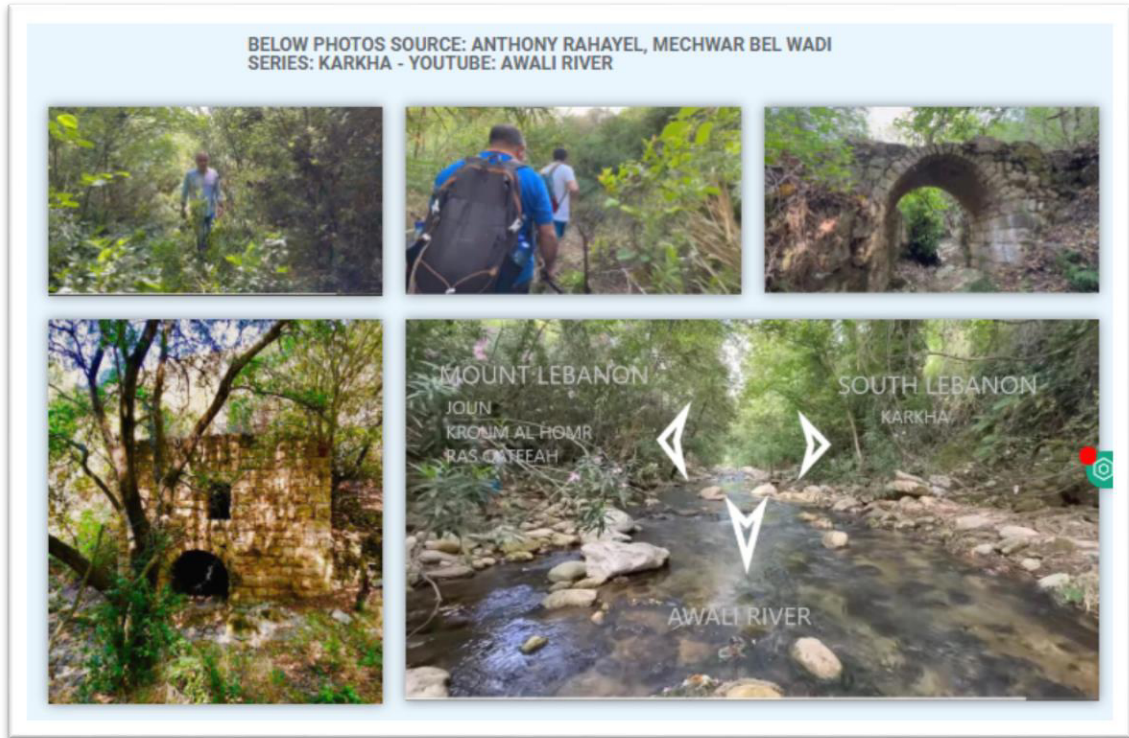
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- ^Greater Beirut Water Supply Augmentation Project: Environment and Social Impact Assessment” (PDF).
- ^Ray, Kirshen and Vogel, Patrick A., Paul H., and Richard M. (2010). “Integrated Optimization of Dual Quality Water and Wastewater System”. *Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management*. 136: 11 – via ascelibrary.
- ^“Q&A: Bisri Dam Project Cancelation”. World Bank. Retrieved 2021-02-09.



Dip and Refresh ...

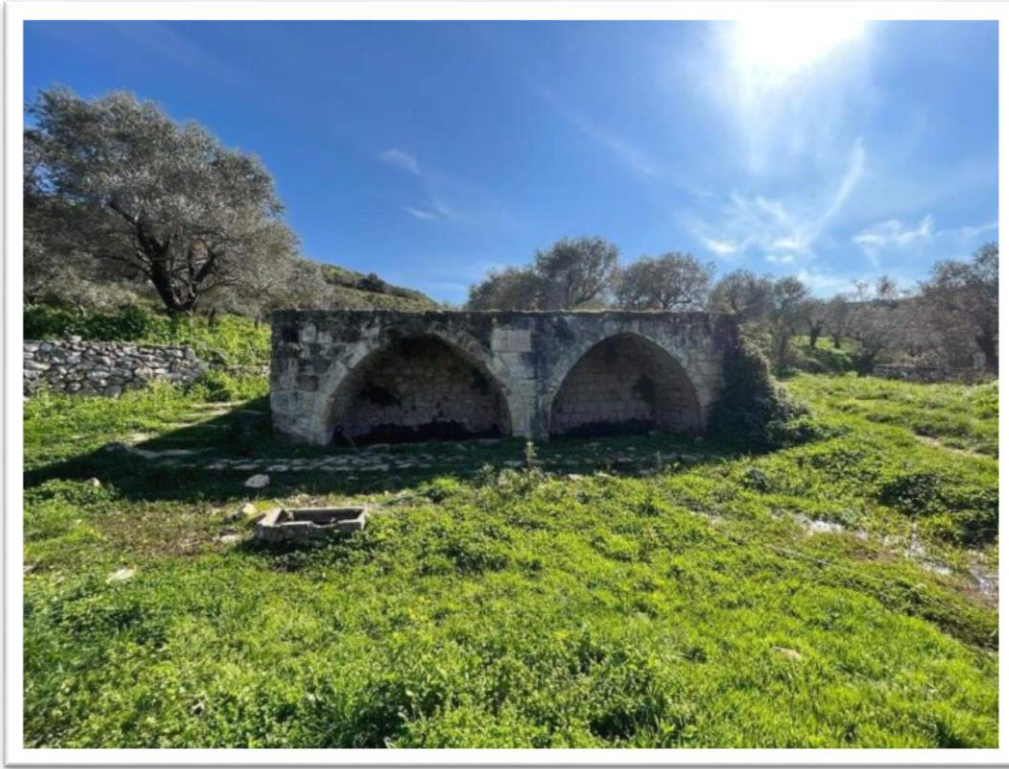




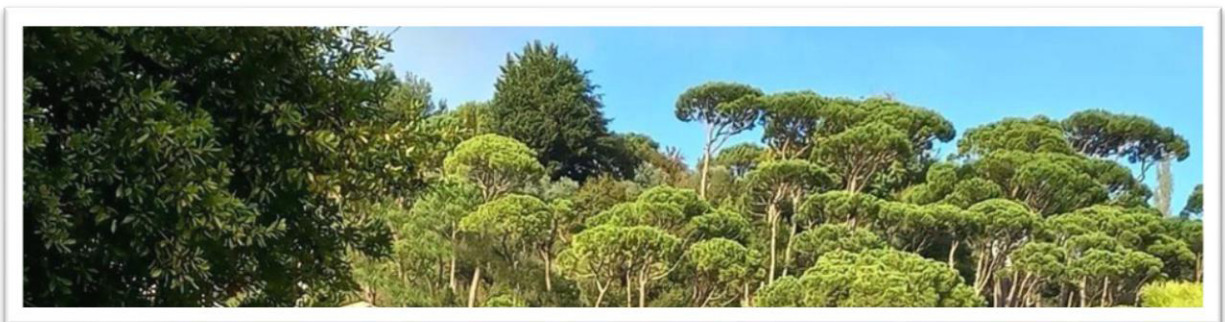
<https://youtu.be/2F2ArIK7c9q>



The Spring of “Ain Hayroun”



The Pine Hills Surrounding Joun

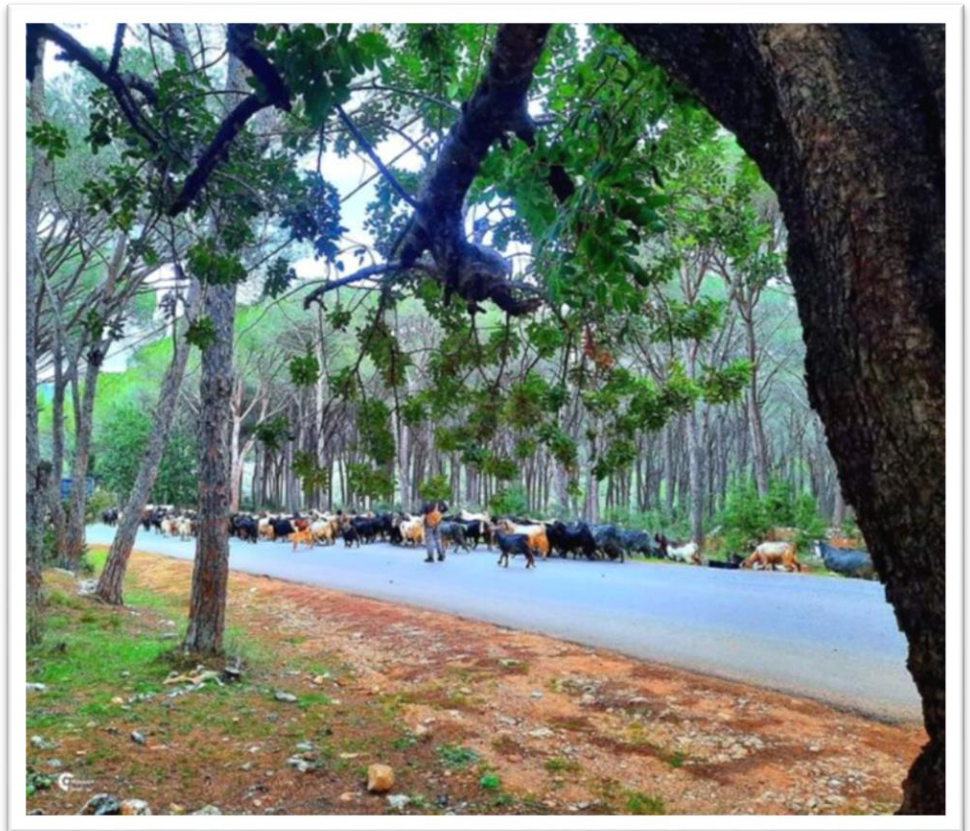












Deir el-Moukhalles Monastery

A few kilometers past the village of Joun lies the Monastery of the Holy Savior, known locally as Deir el-Moukhalles. Founded in 1711 on an even older site, this Greek Catholic monastery is a cornerstone of the town's religious and cultural heritage. The monastery overlooks fragrant orchards and wooded hills, providing a serene and picturesque setting.

Deir el-Moukhalles is renowned for its beautiful old church, which houses a collection of icons, manuscripts, and religious objects. The monastery has been a place of worship, education, and refuge for many generations. It also played a significant role in the life of Lady Hester Stanhope, who lived nearby and was known for her adventurous spirit and contributions to the local community.



Joun is Classified as “Entity with Exceptional Scenery”



Hiking Trails and Picnic Areas

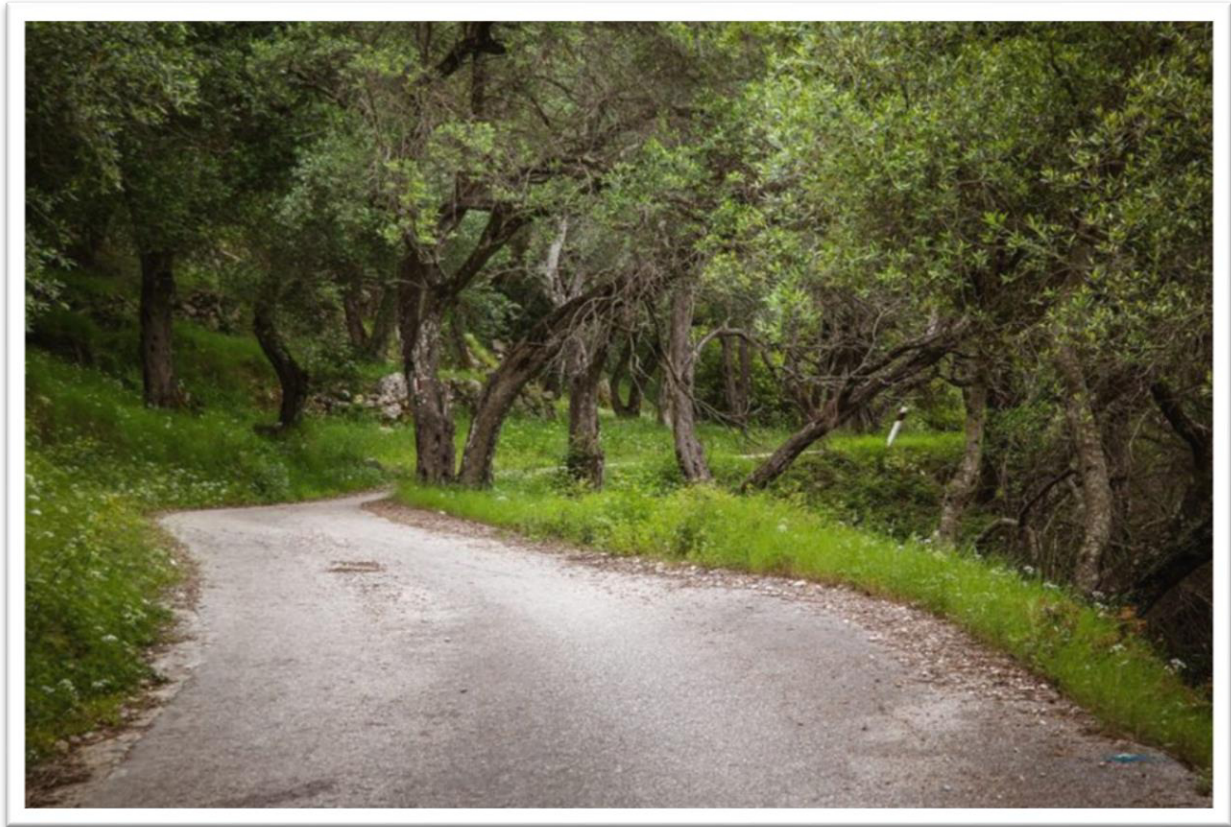
Joun is a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts, offering a variety of hiking trails and picnic areas that showcase the town's natural beauty. The Joun Forest is a popular destination for hikers, with trails that wind through dense woodlands and offer stunning views of the surrounding hills and valleys. These trails vary in difficulty, making them accessible to both casual walkers and experienced hikers.

One of the most scenic trails leads to the Awali River, where hikers can enjoy the tranquil sounds of flowing water and the lush greenery along the riverbanks. This area is also ideal for picnics, with several spots offering shaded areas and picturesque views. The combination of natural beauty and peaceful surroundings makes it a perfect place for families and friends to gather and enjoy the outdoors.



Another notable trail is the Mount Barouk Trail, which offers a more challenging hike with rewarding panoramic views of the Chouf region. The trail passes through cedar forests and offers glimpses of Lebanon's diverse flora and fauna. At the summit, hikers are treated to breathtaking vistas that stretch all the way to the Mediterranean Sea.

For those looking for a more leisurely experience, the Joun Picnic Park provides well-maintained picnic areas with tables, benches, and barbecue facilities. Surrounded by nature, it's an ideal spot for a relaxing day out with family and friends.



Source:

(1) The Four Beautiful Seasons of the Olive Groves of Greece.

<https://greekreporter.com/2024/09/06/four-seasons-olive-groves-greece/>.

(2) Olive Groves in Greece – The Growing Trend of Olive Tourism.

<https://travellingjezebel.com/olive-groves-in-greece/>.

(3) Jaen Land of Olive Groves, Olive Trees, Olives and Olive Oil.

<https://www.andaluciaexplorer.com/2018/05/olive-groves-olive-trees-olives-and.html>.

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<https://www.italia.it/en/puglia/things-to-do/olive-grove-in-puglia-itinerary>.

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<https://www.getyourguide.com/jabalquinto-1179742/jabalquinto-aires-de-jaen-olive-grove-visit-and-tasting-t428938/>.

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<https://www.zillow.com/the-pinehills-plymouth-ma/>.

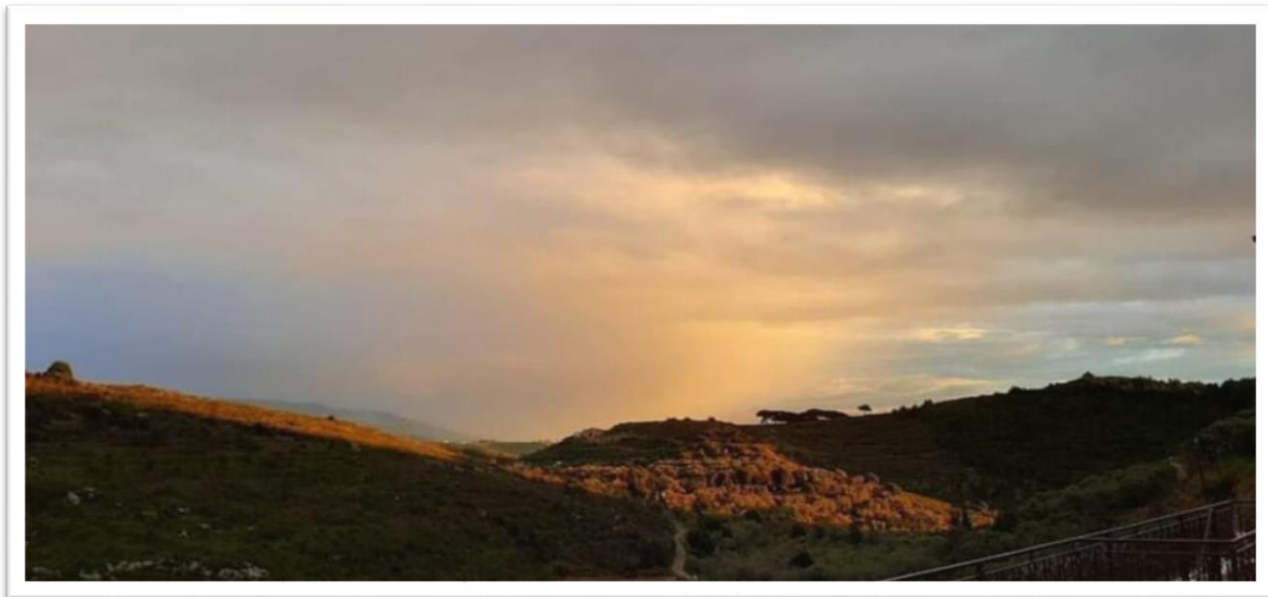
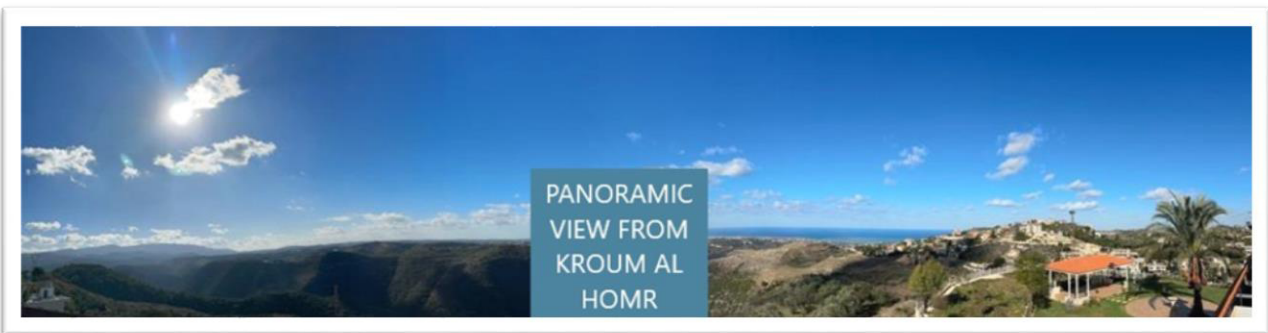
(8) Pine Hills, Julian Homes for Sale & Real Estate - Compass.
<https://www.compass.com/homes-for-sale/pine-hills-julian-ca/>.

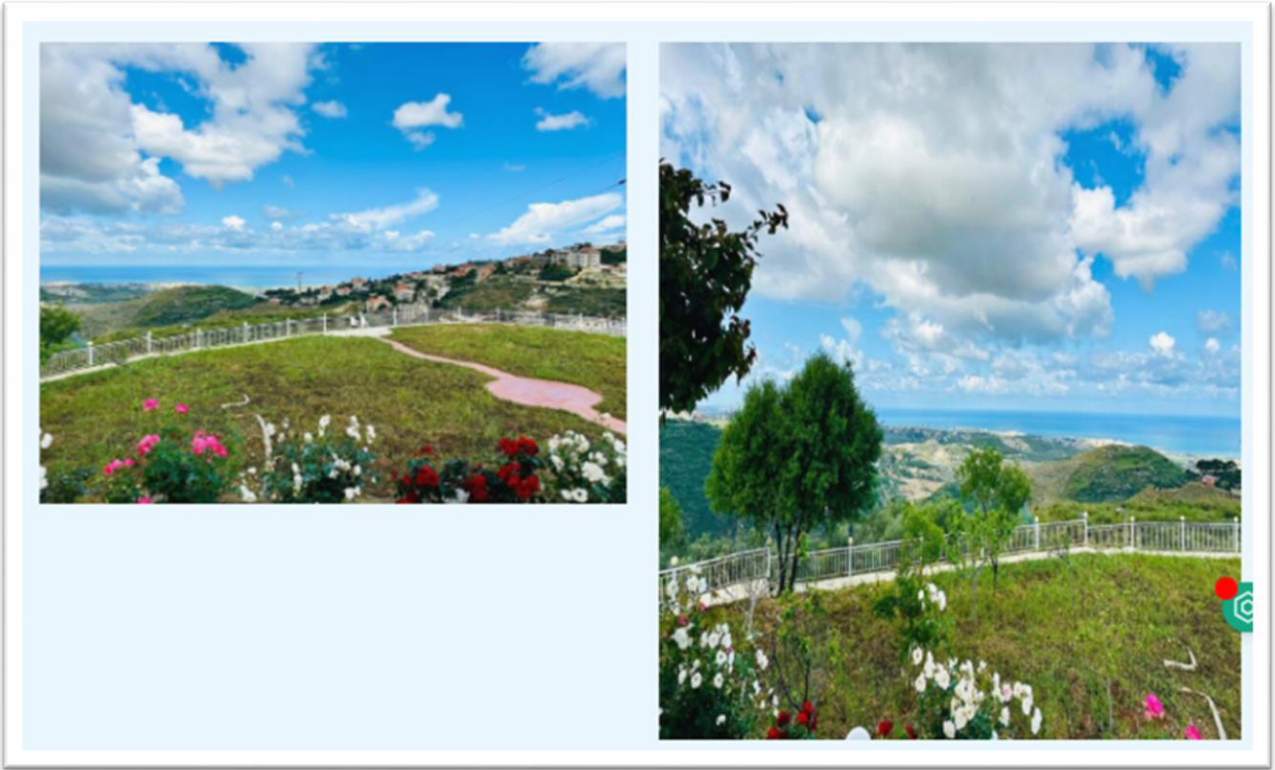


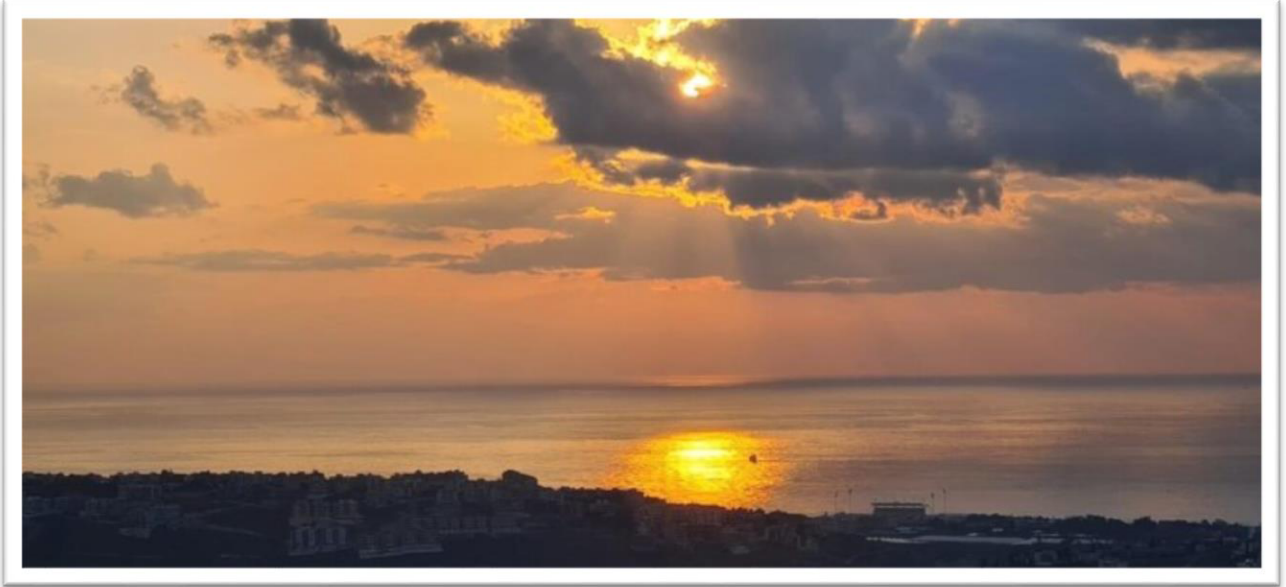
The Stunning Views of the Mediterranean Sea:

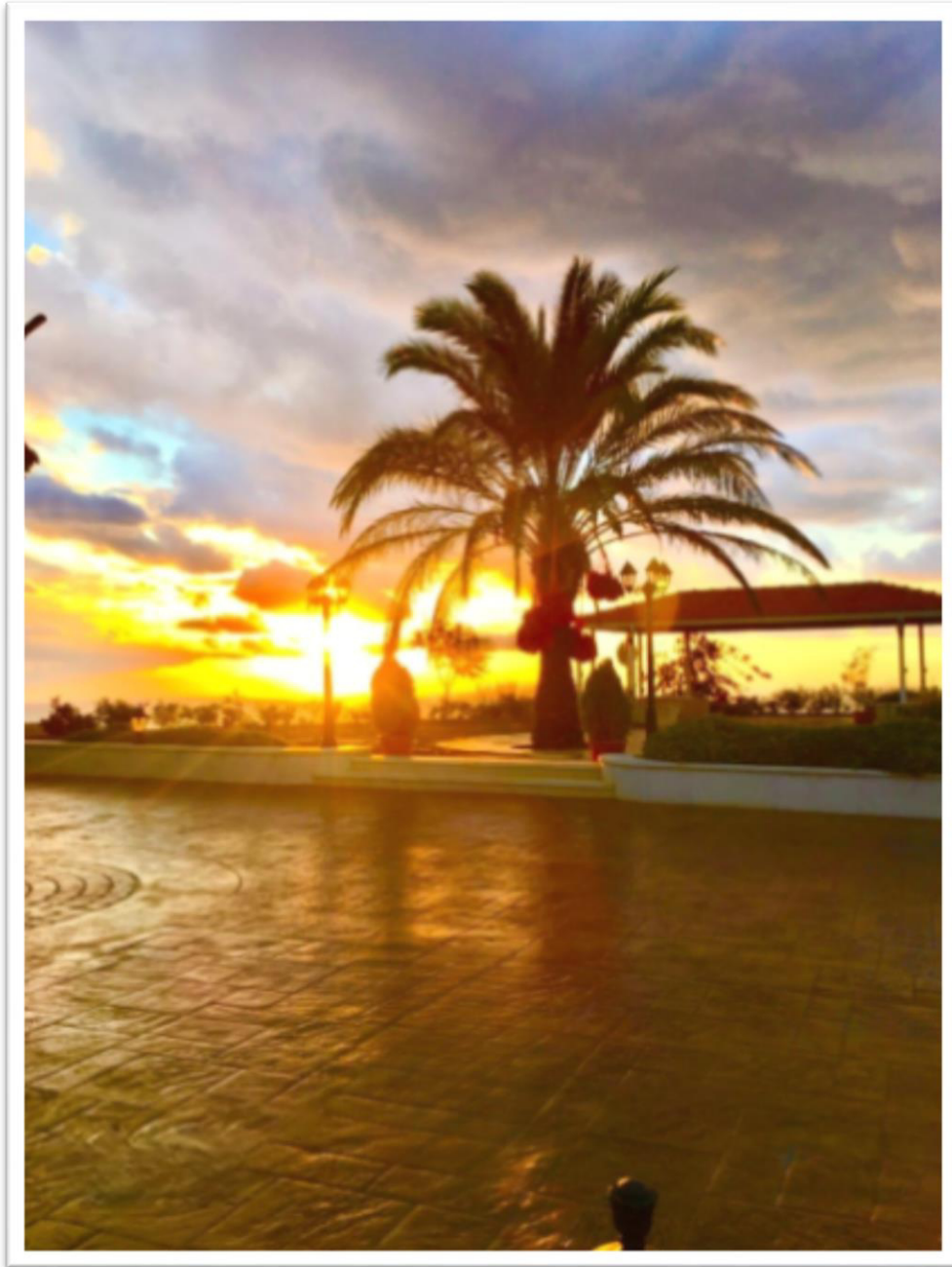
One of the most captivating features of Joun is its stunning views of the Mediterranean Sea. From various vantage points in the town, visitors can enjoy panoramic vistas of the sparkling blue waters stretching out to the horizon. These views are particularly breathtaking at sunset, when the sky is painted with hues of orange, pink, and purple, creating a mesmerizing backdrop.

The coastal areas near Joun offer pristine beaches and crystal-clear waters, perfect for swimming, fishing, and other water activities. The combination of mountainous terrain and coastal beauty makes Joun a unique destination that offers the best of both worlds. Whether you're hiking up a hill or relaxing by the shore, the views of the Mediterranean Sea are sure to dazzle you.









Ras Qateeah Pine Hill

Ras Qateeah Pine Hill is a picturesque area located within the Joun Estates in Joun, Lebanon. This beautiful region is known for its lush pine forests and stunning natural landscapes, making it a popular destination for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts.



Natural Beauty and Scenery

Ras Qateeah Pine Hill is characterized by its dense pine forests that provide a serene and tranquil environment. The area is perfect for hiking, picnicking, and enjoying the great outdoors. The pine trees offer shade and a cool respite during the warmer months, making it an ideal spot for a relaxing day out in nature.

Hiking Trails

The pine hills of Ras Qateeah are crisscrossed with numerous hiking trails that cater to all levels of hikers. These trails offer breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape, including panoramic vistas of the Mediterranean Sea and the rolling hills of Mount Lebanon. The trails vary in difficulty, providing options for both casual walkers and experienced hikers.

Picnic Areas

Ras Qateeah Pine Hill is also home to several well-maintained picnic areas. These spots are perfect for families and groups of friends looking to enjoy a meal amidst the

beauty of nature. The picnic areas are equipped with tables, benches, and barbecue facilities, making it easy to spend a leisurely day outdoors.

Flora and Fauna

The pine forests of Ras Qateeah are rich in biodiversity. The area is home to a variety of plant species, including wildflowers and native shrubs. Birdwatchers will also find plenty to enjoy, as the forests provide a habitat for numerous bird species. The peaceful environment and natural beauty make it a haven for wildlife enthusiasts.

Accessibility

Ras Qateeah Pine Hill is easily accessible from Joun and the surrounding areas. The well-marked trails and picnic spots make it a convenient destination for both locals and visitors. Whether you're looking for a challenging hike or a peaceful place to relax, Ras Qateeah Pine Hill offers something for everyone.



<https://youtu.be/v5SQSQTAdUQ>



Historical Landmark: The Palace of the Lady Hester Stanhope

Lady Hester Stanhope, often referred to as the "Queen of the Desert," was a remarkable British adventurer and archaeologist who made Joun her home in the early 19th century¹². Born in 1776, she was the niece of William Pitt the Younger, the British Prime Minister. After a series of personal and financial setbacks, she left Britain in 1810 and embarked on extensive travels through Europe and the Middle East¹.

In 1814, Lady Stanhope settled in Joun, a village in Mount Lebanon². She was known for her unconventional lifestyle and strong personality, often dressing in male attire and adopting local customs. Her residence in Joun became a sanctuary for many, including refugees from inter-clan and inter-religious conflicts¹. She was highly respected by the local Druze community and even earned the enmity of Emir Bashir Shihab II due to her influence and support for the local people¹.

Lady Stanhope's home in Joun

Lady Stanhope's home in Joun was a hub of activity and a place where she entertained numerous visitors, including European travelers and local dignitaries.

Lady Hester Stanhope was a fascinating and unconventional figure in the early 19th century. Here are some key highlights of her life:

Early Life and Background

- Birth and Family: Born on March 12, 1776, in Chevening, Kent, England, Lady Hester was the eldest child of Charles Stanhope, 3rd Earl Stanhope, and Lady Hester Pitt. She was also the niece of William Pitt the Younger, the British Prime Minister¹.

- Role in Politics: After her mother's death, she moved in with her uncle, William Pitt the Younger, and became his hostess and private secretary. She was known for her beauty, wit, and conversational skills².

Adventurous Spirit

- Travel to the Middle East: In 1810, after a series of personal losses and romantic disappointments, Lady Hester left England for the Middle East. She traveled extensively, visiting places like Rhodes, Athens, and Constantinople¹.

- Archaeological Pioneer: She conducted the first archaeological excavation in Palestine in 1815, using a medieval Italian document to guide her. This was one of the earliest uses of textual sources in archaeology³.

Life in Lebanon

- Settlement in Joun: Around 1814, Lady Hester settled in Joun, Mount Lebanon. She lived in a house known locally as "Dahr El Sitt" or "Dar El Sitt" and became a prominent figure in the region⁴.

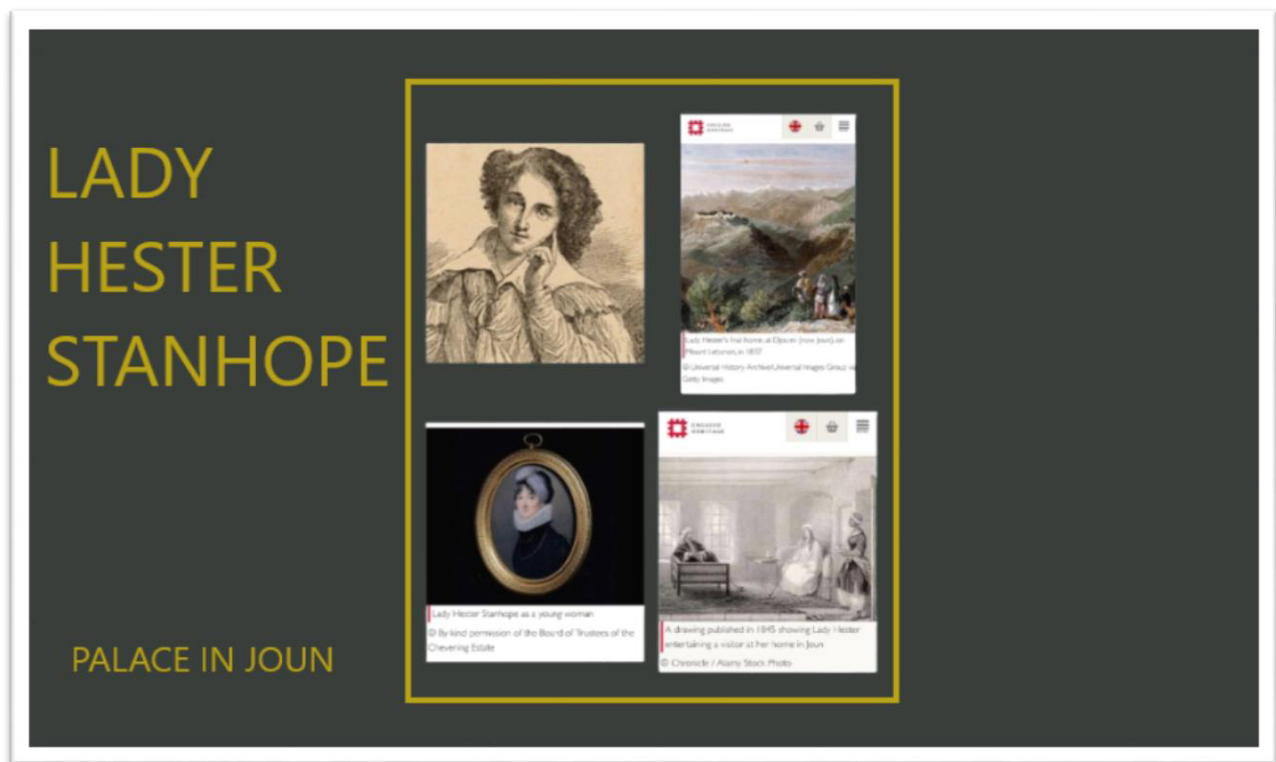
- Influence and Legacy: Known as "Queen Hester," she defied social conventions and became a respected figure among the local population. Her letters and memoirs made her famous as an explorer and adventurer³.

Later Years and Death

- Final Years: Lady Hester spent her later years in Joun, where she continued to receive visitors and correspond with notable figures of her time. She passed away on June 23, 1839¹.

Lady Hester Stanhope's life was marked by her adventurous spirit, intellectual curiosity, and defiance of societal norms. Her legacy as an explorer and pioneer in archaeology continues to be remembered.

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 travellers 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:

Silberman, Neil Asher (July–August 1984). “Restoring the Reputation of Lady Hester Lucy Stanhope”. *Biblical Archaeology Review*. 10: 68–75. Retrieved 23 May 2014.

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Chisholm 1911, p. 775.

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.

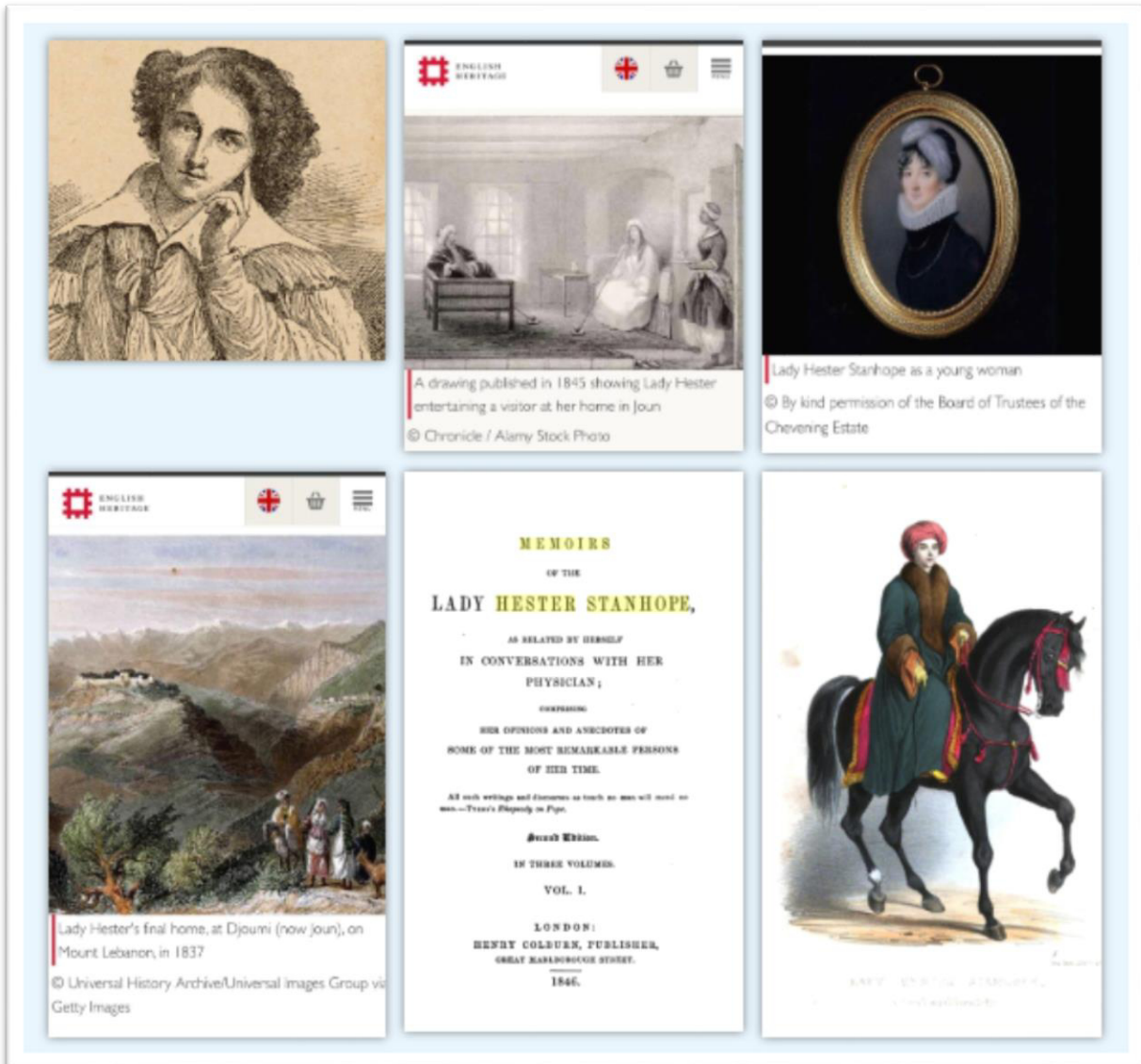
She traveled to Syria, visited Palmyra dressed as a Bedouin and was crowned Queen of the Desert. She fell ill in an outbreak of plague, traveled to Acre and Nazareth.

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.





Key Aspects of Her Life During This Period

After settling in Lebanon, Lady Hester Stanhope's life took on a unique and influential character. Here are some key aspects of her life during this period:

Settlement in Joun

- Arrival and Residence: Lady Hester arrived in Lebanon around 1814 and initially settled in a ruined monastery in the south. She later moved to a more remote property in Joun, where she lived until her death⁴.

- Lifestyle: She adopted an unconventional lifestyle, dressing in male attire and living in a manner that defied the norms of both Western and Eastern societies. Her residence, known locally as "Dahr El Sitt" or "Dar El Sitt," became a center of activity and influence².

Influence and Relationships

- Political Influence: Leveraging her aristocratic background and experience in British politics, Lady Hester accumulated significant political influence in the region. She befriended the Druze community and the Hasana Bedouin, who assisted her in her travels and endeavors².
- Interfaith Relations: She maintained good relations with various religious and ethnic groups, including the Druze and the local Christian communities. Her ability to navigate these relationships helped her maintain her status and influence².

Adventures and Achievements

- Exploration: Lady Hester continued her adventurous pursuits, including a notable visit to the ancient city of Palmyra, where she was hailed as "Queen of the Desert"⁴. Her travels and explorations made her a legendary figure in the region.
- Archaeological Contributions: She conducted one of the earliest archaeological excavations in Palestine, using a medieval Italian document to guide her. This pioneering work earned her recognition in the field of archaeology¹.

Challenges and Legacy

- Financial Troubles: Despite her influence, Lady Hester faced significant financial difficulties. Her extravagant lifestyle and generous support of the local communities led to mounting debts².
- Final Years: In her later years, she became increasingly reclusive and erratic. She passed away on June 23, 1839, in her residence in Joun¹.

Lady Hester Stanhope's life in Lebanon was marked by her defiance of social conventions, her adventurous spirit, and her significant influence in the region. Her legacy as an explorer, political figure, and unconventional leader continues to be remembered.

Source:

(1) Lady Hester Stanhope - Wikipedia.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lady_Hester_Stanhope.

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(4) Lady Hester Stanhope: Queen of the Desert. <https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/lady-hester-stanhope-queen-of-the-desert/>.

(5) A Cyclopaedia of Female Biography/Stanhope, Lady Hester. https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/A_Cyclopaedia_of_Female_Biography/Stanhope,_Lady_Hester.

Source: (1) Lebanon's English Enigma: Lady Hester Stanhope | Arab News. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/251856>.

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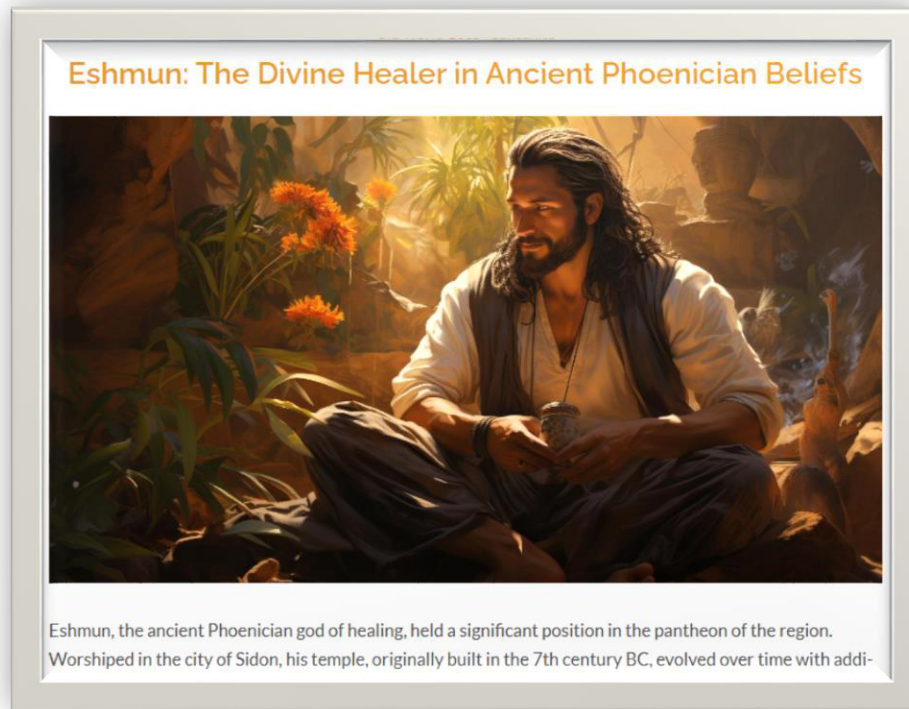
(3) Lady Hester Stanhope - Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lady_Hester_Stanhope.

(4) Stanhope, Lady Hester Lucy | Encyclopedia.com. <https://bing.com/search?q=Lady+Hester+Stanhope+life+in+Lebanon>.

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The Temple of Eshmun



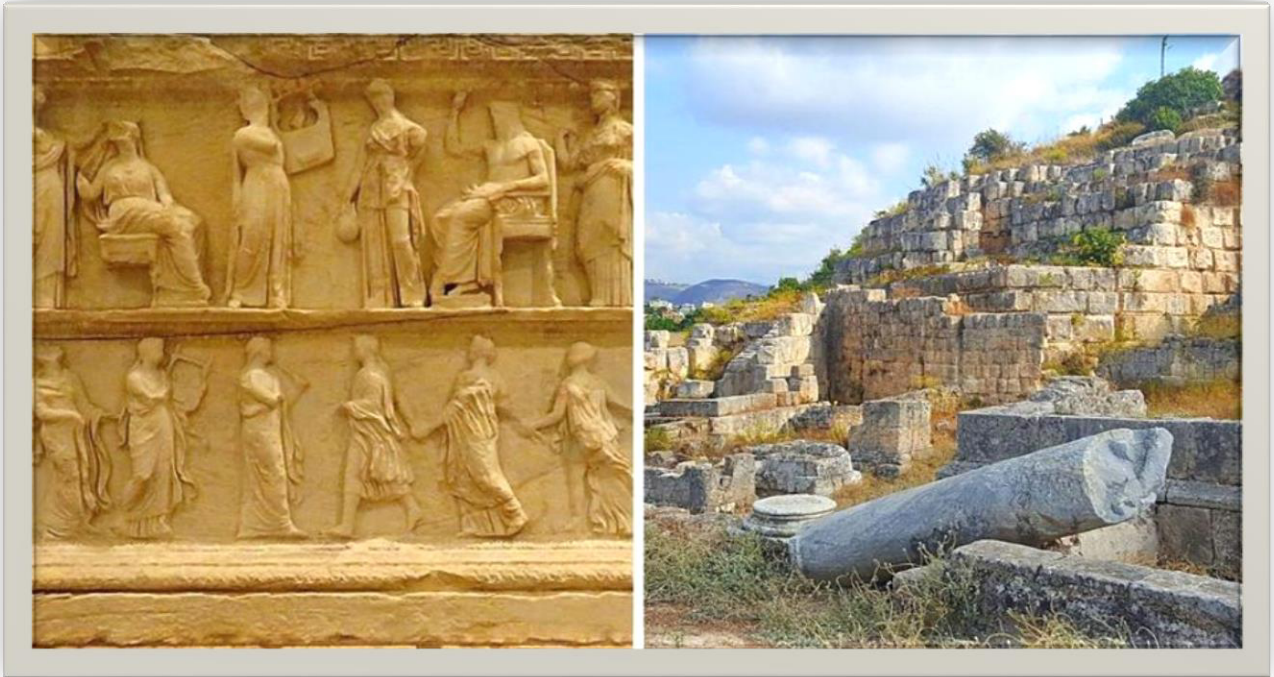
Located near the Awali River, just 2 kilometers northeast of Sidon, the Temple of Eshmun is an ancient place of worship dedicated to Eshmun, the Phoenician god of healing³. The temple complex dates back to the 7th century BC and was originally constructed by the Sidonian king Eshmunazar II during the Achaemenid era³.

Over the centuries, the temple was expanded by subsequent monarchs, resulting in a blend of architectural styles, including Phoenician, Achaemenid, Hellenistic, and Roman influences³.

The sanctuary features a grand esplanade and a monumental podium that once supported Eshmun's Greco-Persian style marble temple³. Ritual ablution basins, fed by canals channeling water from the Awali River and the sacred "YDLL" spring, were used for therapeutic and purificatory purposes³. The site has yielded many valuable artifacts, including inscriptions in Phoenician, providing insight into the history of ancient Sidon³.

Despite being damaged by earthquakes and the advent of Christianity, which led to the construction of a church on the site, the Temple of Eshmun remains a significant archaeological and historical landmark³. It stands as a testament to the rich cultural and religious heritage of the region.

THE RICH HERITAGE OF THE TEMPLE OF ESHMUN



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: – In1900, local treasure hunters rediscovered the temple site, sparking the curiosity of international scholars.



The origins of Eshmun in Phoenician mythology

Eshmun, the god of healing, originated from ancient Phoenician mythology. He was initially a nature deity and a god of spring vegetation. Over time, Eshmun’s divine attributes evolved as the Phoenician pantheon evolved, acquiring celestial and cosmic characteristics.

The mythology surrounding Eshmun tells a story of his transformation into a celestial god after being pursued by Astarte, the goddess of love. This mythological tale highlights his significance in Phoenician beliefs.

Early worship and rituals dedicated to Eshmun

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.

¹: [Tourism Lebanon](<https://tourism-lebanon.com/deir-el-moukhalles-joun/>)

²: [National Archives Blog](https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/lady-hester-stanhope-queen-of-the-desert/)

³: [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_Eshmun)

Source:

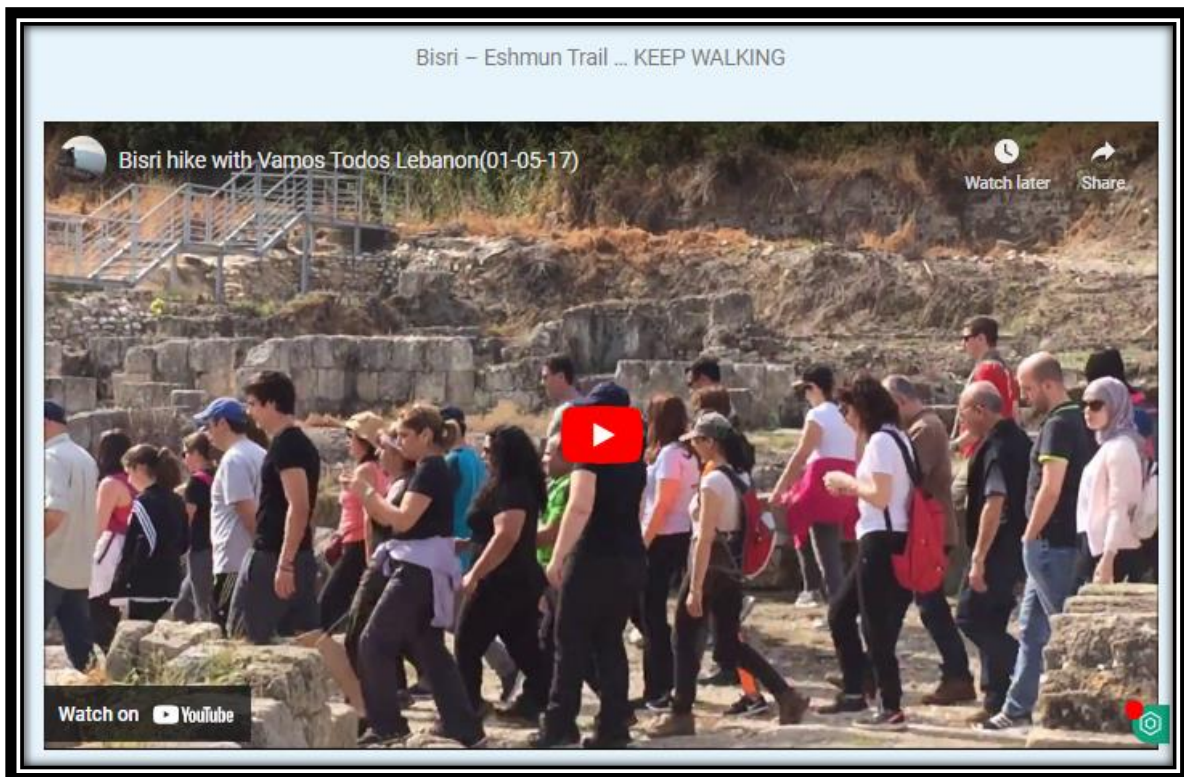
(1) Temple of Eshmun - Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_Eshmun.

(2) Echmoun Temple - City guide to Visit Saida Lebanon.
<https://visitsaida.com/p/echmoun-temple/>.

(3) Temple of Eshmoun - LebanonUntravelled.com.
<https://lebanonuntravelled.com/temple-of-eshmun-eshmun/>.



https://youtu.be/o_N9f78kxIE



Joun Is a Town That Exemplifies Interfaith Harmony and Social Cohesion

Joun is a town that exemplifies interfaith harmony and social cohesion, reflecting Lebanon's rich tapestry of religious and cultural diversity. The town is home to a mix of religious communities, including Christians, Muslims, and Druze, who have lived together in peace and mutual respect for generations.

Interfaith Harmony

The residents of Joun have a long history of interfaith cooperation and dialogue. This spirit of unity is evident in the town's religious sites, such as the Church of Saint George and the Monastery of the Holy Savior (Deir el-Moukhalles), which coexist alongside mosques and Druze religious centers. These places of worship are not just spiritual havens but also symbols of the town's commitment to religious tolerance and understanding.

THE SOCIAL HARMONY IN JOUN



Community leaders and religious figures in Joun actively promote interfaith dialogue and cooperation. Events and festivals often include participants from different religious backgrounds, fostering a sense of shared community and mutual respect. This inclusive approach helps to strengthen the bonds between different faith groups and ensures that everyone feels valued and respected.

Social Cohesion

Social cohesion in Joun is also strengthened by the town's vibrant community life. Festivals, cultural events, and communal activities bring people together, creating opportunities for interaction and collaboration. The annual Olive Festival and Spring Flower Festival are prime examples of events that unite the community, celebrating the town's heritage and fostering a sense of belonging.

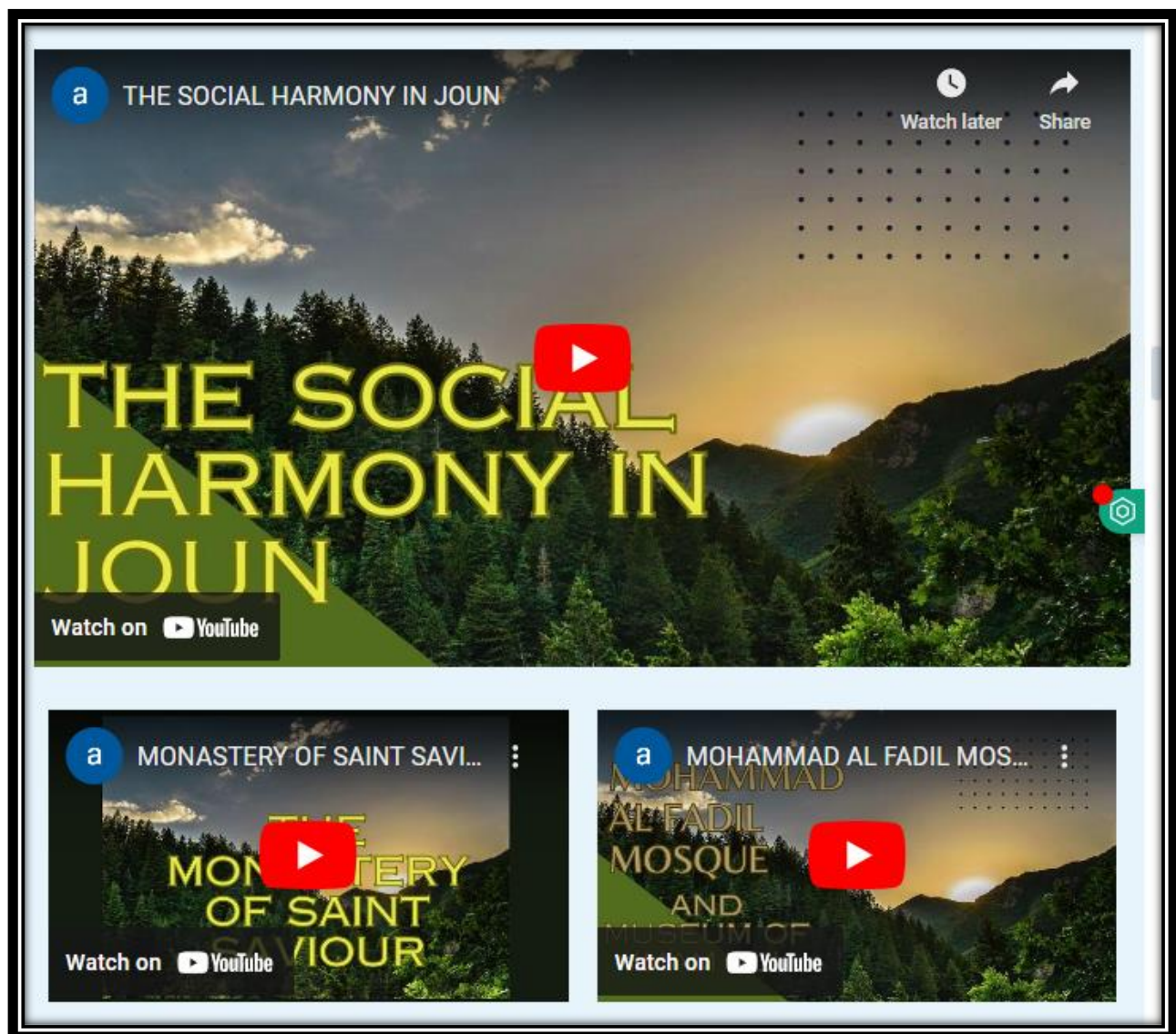


<https://youtu.be/Yi0kHZ-Y5XA>



<https://youtu.be/Hva77YqCUgg>

<https://youtu.be/FbiCy9gTxnA>



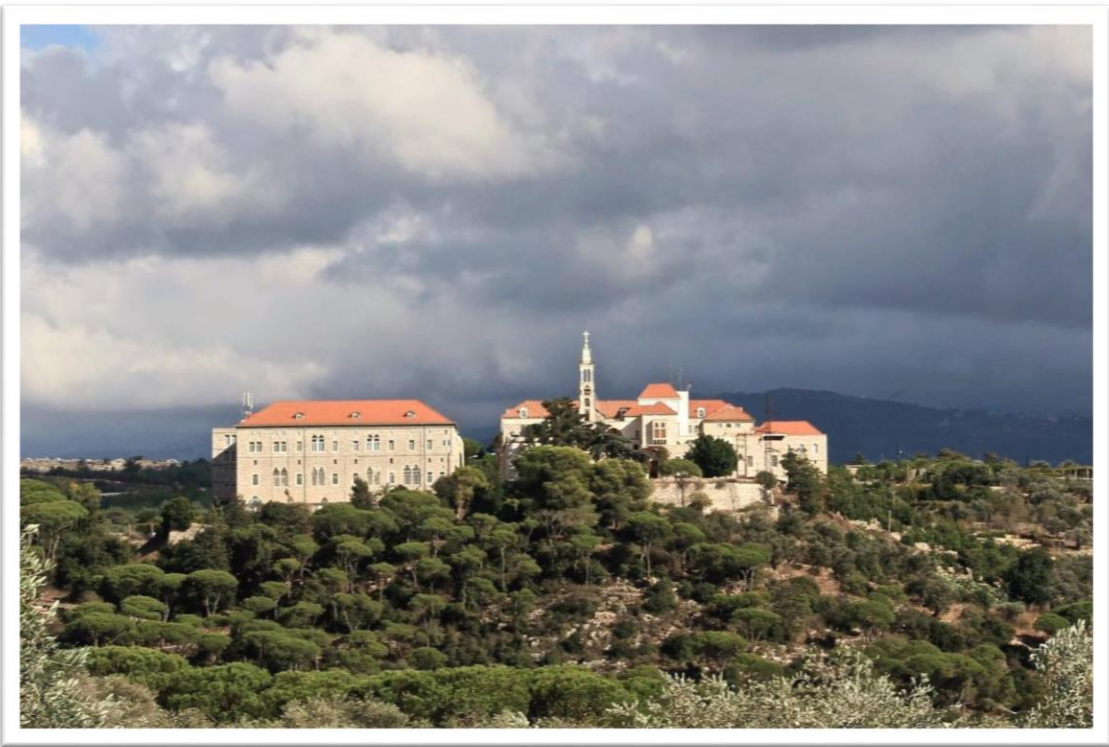
The town's educational institutions and local organizations play a crucial role in promoting social cohesion. Schools in Joun often emphasize the importance of diversity and inclusion, teaching students about the value of respecting different cultures and beliefs. Local organizations and NGOs also work to support community development and social welfare, ensuring that all residents have access to essential services and opportunities.







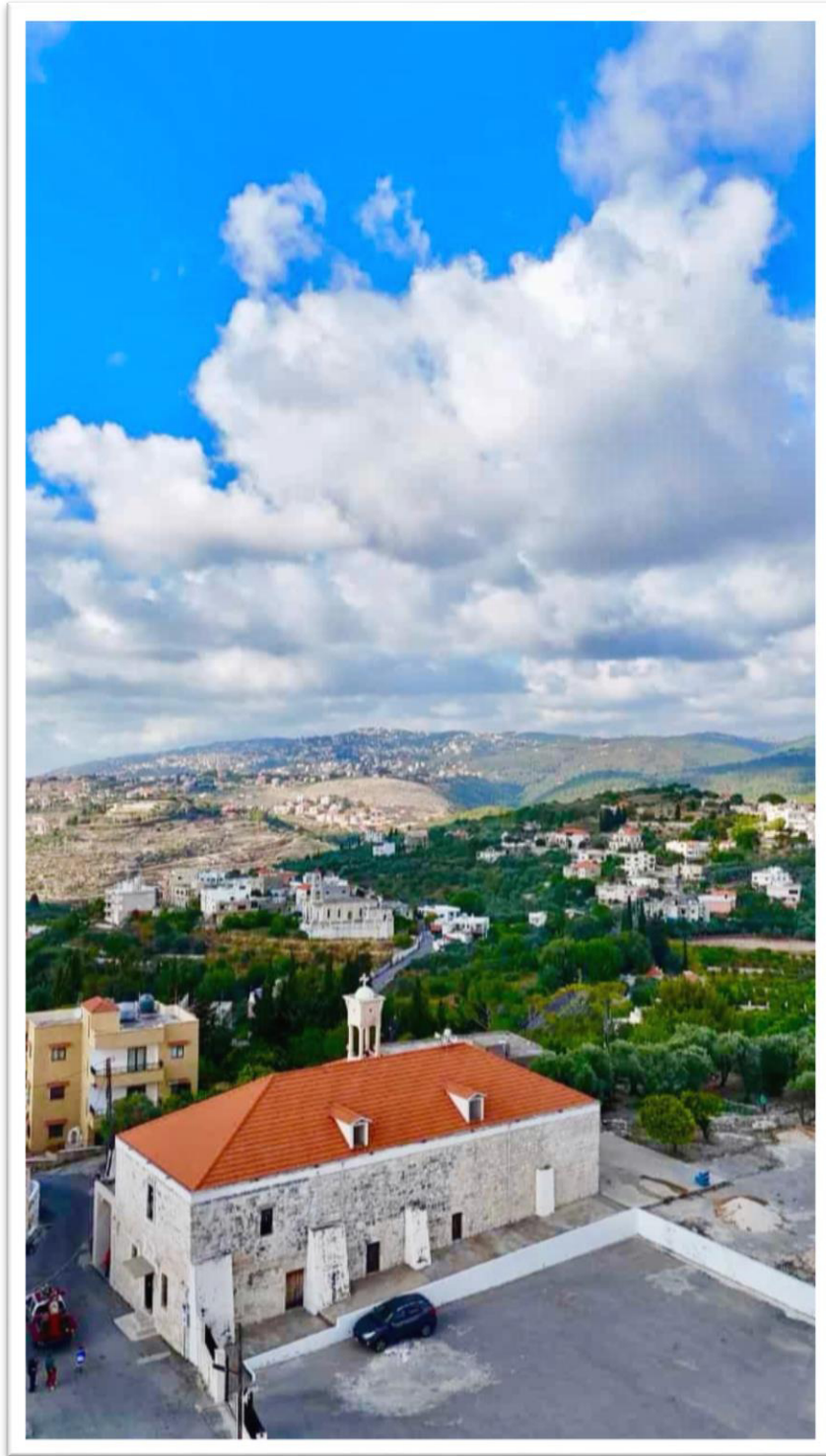
MONASTERY OF THE HOLY SAVIOUR (Deir Al Moukhalles)





<https://youtu.be/9vE8O0rKd9Y>







Historical Figures and Their Contributions

Historical figures like Lady Hester Stanhope have also contributed to the spirit of interfaith and social cohesion in Joun. Lady Stanhope, who lived in Joun in the early 19th century, was known for her support of the local community, regardless of religious affiliation. Her home became a sanctuary for many, including refugees from inter-clan and inter-religious conflicts, and she was highly respected by the local Druze community.

Modern Efforts

In contemporary times, Joun continues to uphold its tradition of interfaith harmony and social cohesion. Community initiatives and projects often focus on promoting dialogue, understanding, and cooperation among different religious and cultural groups. These efforts are supported by local authorities, religious leaders, and community organizations, all working together to maintain the town's legacy of peace and unity.

Overall, Joun's commitment to interfaith harmony and social cohesion is a testament to the town's enduring spirit and the values of its residents. It serves as a model for other communities, demonstrating that diversity can be a source of strength and unity.

Joun is home to many well-educated and accomplished individuals

Joun is home to many well-educated and accomplished individuals who have made significant contributions in various fields. Here are some notable examples:

Engineers

Joun boasts a number of skilled engineers who have contributed to both local and international projects. These professionals work in various disciplines, including civil, mechanical, electrical, and environmental engineering. Their expertise is evident in the town's infrastructure and development projects, as well as in their contributions to engineering firms and organizations worldwide.

Medical Doctors

The town is also home to several esteemed medical doctors who specialize in various fields such as family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, and surgery. These doctors provide essential healthcare services to the community and are often involved in

medical research and education. Their dedication to improving public health is a cornerstone of Joun's well-being.

PhD Holders

Joun has a number of residents who have earned PhDs in diverse fields such as science, technology, humanities, and social sciences. These individuals often work as researchers, professors, and consultants, contributing to academic and professional communities both locally and internationally. Their advanced knowledge and research help drive innovation and progress in their respective fields.

Authors and Poets

The town has a rich literary tradition, with several authors and poets calling Joun their home. These writers have published works ranging from novels and poetry to academic texts and articles. Their contributions to literature and culture are celebrated in local literary circles and beyond, enriching the cultural fabric of the town.

Judges and Lawyers

Joun is also known for its distinguished judges and lawyers who have made significant contributions to the legal field. These professionals are involved in various aspects of law, including civil, criminal, and corporate law. Their expertise and commitment to justice play a crucial role in maintaining the rule of law and ensuring fair legal processes.

Successful Businessmen and Business Executives

The town is home to many successful businessmen and business executives who have excelled in various industries such as finance, real estate, technology, and agriculture. These individuals have not only contributed to the economic development of Joun but have also played a role in philanthropic activities, supporting local initiatives and community projects.

These well-educated and accomplished individuals are a testament to the rich intellectual and professional heritage of Joun. Their contributions continue to shape the town's development and enhance its reputation as a center of excellence.

Famous People from Joun

For Profiles Details, Visit the Who's Who Section of Joun Town Website

Link: ----

Joun has been home to many notable individuals who have left their mark on the town and beyond.

ACTORS

1. HASSAN ALAAEDDINE
2. GHASSAN ESTPHAN
3. MICHEL NABAA

AUTHORS, POETS

1. MOHAMMAD NAIM BARBAR
2. SABAH BARBAR
3. WAFAA YOUSSEF ESTPHAN
4. ALI MAJEED GHOSN
5. NIKOLA HADDAD / نقولا حداد
6. JEAN MAROUN KHALED

BUSINESS OWNERS and BUSINESS EXECUTIVES

1. SALEM ABDELNOUR
2. KHALIL ABDELNOUR
3. ZIAD ABDELNOUR ZIAD ABDELNOUR
4. YOUSSEF BADRI
5. ROBERT ABOU ABDO
6. NASSIF BURKHUCH
7. Dr ANTOINE BURKUSH, PhD
8. HABIB ADIB CHAAYA
9. AYOUB CHAMI

10. CHARLES AYOUB CHAMI
11. EZZAT CHAMSEDDINE
12. HOUSSAM AFIF CHAMSEDDINE
13. Dr AMAL CHMOUNY, PhD
14. SOUHAIL CHMOUNY
15. JIHAD DAGHER
16. JIHAD DOUMIT
17. JAD DOUMIT
18. ANTOINE YOUSSEF EID
19. ANTOINE HABIB FAWAZ
20. H.E. ELIAS HANNA
21. JAMAL ISMAIL, FMP, MSc
22. RAWAD TOUFIC ISMAIL
23. ALAIN ELIAS JAWISH
24. DANIEL HABIB JAWISH
25. ELIAS JAWISH
26. JEREMY ROGER JAWISH, DEA
27. MARIO ELIAS JAWISH
28. BASSILIOS N. KHORIATY
29. CAMILLE KHORIATY
30. DANIELLE KHORIATY AGUTO
31. ELIE NAKHLE CORIATY (KHORIATY)
32. GEORGE KHORIATY
33. JACQUES KHORIATY
34. JAWAD KHORIATY
35. JEREMY ROGER JAWISH, DEA

36. JOE KHORIATY
37. PATRICIA FOUAD KHORIATY
38. PATRICK KHORIATY
39. DR PAUL FOUAD KHORIATY, MD
40. YOUSSEF FOUAD KHORIATY
41. Dr FADY KOUSSA, PhD
42. CLAUDE MAKHOUL
43. Dr HAITHAM CHAWQI MEZHER, PhD
44. KARL MOUSSAWBAA
45. EMILE NABAA
46. BECHARA SAADEH
47. MOHSEN YOUSSEF SALEH
48. MICHEL ABDALLAH SAFAR
49. SAMIR SAMMOUN
50. Dr BECHARA D. SLEIMAN, PhD
51. DAOUD SLEIMAN
52. WILLIAM D. SLEIMAN
53. KHALIL BECHARA TALJ
54. YOUSSEF KHALIL AL ZAIN
55. KAMAL GEORGE ZIADE
56. RAMZI ZIADE
57. ZIAD ZIADE

DENTISTS

1. Dr CLAUDE AYOUB CHAMI
2. Dr YOUSSEF CHMOUNY
3. Dr EDOUARD JAWISH

4. Dr CHRISTIANE-MARIE PAUL KHORIATY
5. Dr LAYAL HAIDAR SALEH
6. Dr JAMAL YOUSSEF SALEH
7. Dr MASSOUD YOUSSEF SALEH
8. Dr MOHAMMAD HAFEZ SALEH
9. Mohsen Saleh, Dental Lab

EDUCATORS

1. ANTOINE BADRI
2. Dr MASSOUD BORKHOUCHE, PhD
3. Dr GRACE CHAMI SATHER, PhD
4. Dr AHMAD HANI CHAMSEDDINE, PhD
5. Dr ALI HANI CHAMSEDDINE, PhD
6. Dr OSAMA AHMAD CHAMSEDDINE, PHD
7. Dr ADNAN ISKANDAR FAWAZ, PhD
8. ALI ISSAM GHOSN
9. LAMA ADNAN GHOSN , PhD
10. Dr MOHAMMAD KAMAL GHOSN, PhD
11. Dr ABBAS HUSSEIN ISSA, PhD
12. ROGER NABAA
13. ALI AFIF SALEH
14. QASSEM AFIF SALEH
15. Dr JEANINE KAMAL ZIADE, PhD
16. KAMAL GEORGE ZIADE

EMIGRANTS FROM JOUN

1. GEORGE BORKUSH
2. SHICKRY BURKOSH

3. ASSAAD BURKUSH
4. ALEXANDER ESTPHAN
5. SIMON ESTPHAN
6. HABIB ESTPHAN
7. ASSAF MEKHAIL
8. PETER SAMMON
9. JOHN SAMMON
10. WADIH TALGE
11. TAMAME TALGE

ENGINEERS

1. CAMILLE S. ABOUFADEL
2. Dr CHARBEL S. ASSAAD, PhD
3. WALID B. BADRI, ARCHITECT
4. YOUSSEF A. BADRI
5. DANIEL J. BORCOCHE
6. JACQUES Y. BORCOCHE
7. NASSIF Y. BURKHUCH
8. CHARLES A. CHAMI
9. YASMINA C. CHAMI, ARCHITECT
10. ALI IBRAHIM CHAMSEDDINE CIVIL
11. ISSAM ABDEL JALIL CHAMSEDDINE
12. ALEXANDRE A. DAHER
13. ADIB FOUAD DOUMIT
14. SAMIR DOUMIT
15. ZIAD DOUMET

16. ANTOINE H. FAWAZ
17. BASSEM MOHAMMAD GHOSN
18. HUSSEIN ADNAN GHOSN
19. NAIM ALI GHOSN
20. ABDALLAH MOUSTAPHA GHOSN ARCHITECT
21. JAMAL ISMAIL, FMP, MSc
22. MOHAMMAD ALI ISMAIL
23. RAWAD TOUFIC ISMAIL
24. ABBAS HUSSEIN ISSA, ARCHITECT
25. BASSAM ALI ISSA
26. GHAZWAN MOHAMMAD ISSA
27. JAMAL ISMAIL
28. MOHAMMAD ALI ISMAIL
29. BASSAM ALI ISSA
30. GHAZWAN MOHAMMAD ISSA
31. ANTHONY JAWAD KHORIATY
32. ELIE N. KHORIATY
33. GEORGE KHORIATY
34. HALIM SALIM KHORIATY, ARCHITECT
35. JACQUES KHORIATY
36. JAWAD KHORIATY
37. JESSICA JAWAD KHORIATY
38. HAITHAM C. MEZHER, PHD
39. HALIM SALIM KHORIATY, ARCHITECT
40. MICHEL T. MEZHER
41. KAMAL K. MONTHSSAWBAA

42. NASSAR NASSAR
43. ALI AFIF SALEH
44. ALI YOUSSEF SALEH
45. HAIDAR HAFEZ SALEH
46. HAMAD AHMAD SALEH
47. IMAD YOUSSEF SALEH
48. MOHAMMAD AFIF SALEH
49. MOHAMMAD AHMAD SALEH
50. ALI YOUSSEF SALEH
51. ALI AFIF SALEH
52. KHODR HAFIZ SALEH
53. JEAN F. ALSAMMOUN
54. SAMIR SAMMOUN
55. KHALIL B. TALJ

JUDGES

1. Dr AFIF CHAMSEDDINE, PHD
2. Dr GHADA AFIF CHAMSEDDINE, PhD
3. Dr MIRYAM AFIF CHAMSEDDINE, PhD

LAWYERS

1. AYOUB CHAMI
2. HOUSSAM A. CHAMSEDDINE,
3. Dr GHADA AFIF CHAMSEDDINE, PhD
4. Dr MIRYAM AFIF CHAMSEDDINE, PhD
5. BOUTROS DOUMIT
6. ALI ISSAM GHOSN
7. NABIL ISSAM GHOSN

8. ELIAS HANNA
9. DANIELLE KHORIATY AGUTO
10. PATRICIA FOUAD KHORIATY
11. Dr RITA CAMILLE KHORIATY PhD
12. LINA GHAZI SALEH
13. KAMIL NASR
14. MAHA MEZHER
15. LINA GHAZI SALEH
16. Dr MOHAMMED SALEH, PhD

MAYORS

1. LABIBEH ALBORKHOCHE
2. ANTOINE HABIB FAWAZ
3. ELIAS HANNA
4. Dr ROGER MICHEL JAWISH
5. SALIM KHORIATY
6. GEORGE MAKHOUL

MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

1. MOHAMMAD CHAMSEDDINE
2. Dr AMAL A. CHMOUNY, PHD
3. HASSAN EID
4. IBRAHIM EID
5. RAFLE KHORIATY
6. HASSAN NASSAR
7. NAJWA QASSEM

MEDICAL DOCTORS

1. Dr RIMA ALAAEDDINE, MD

2. Dr KHALIL AYOUB CHAMI, MD
3. Dr ABBAS A. CHAMSEDDINE, MD
4. Dr ALI CHAMSEDDINE, MD
5. Dr JAMAL ABDEL JALIL CHAMSEDDINE, MD
6. Dr MAJID ALI GHOSN, MD
7. MOHAMMAD ABDEL HALIM HAIDAR, MD
8. Dr GHASSAN M. ISSA, MD
9. Dr DOLLY JAWISH, MD
10. Dr ROGER M. JAWISH, MD
11. Dr KAMEL MOUSSA QASSEM, MD
12. Dr AL ACHRAF RAFLE KHORIATI, MD
13. Dr DANA RAFLE KHORIATI, MD
14. Dr PAUL KHORIATY, MD
15. Dr KHALIL KOUSSA, MD
16. Dr MOUSSA KOUSSA, MD
17. Dr NICOLE R. CHARBEL, MD (Dr Suzanne Koussa, MD)
18. Dr CHRISTIANE-MARIE PAUL KHORIATY, DDS
19. DR PAUL FOUAD KHORIATY, MD
20. Dr KHALIL KOUSSA, MD
21. Dr MOUSSA KOUSSA, MD
22. Dr SALAM KOUSSA, MD
23. Dr SUZANNE KOUSSA, MD
24. Dr EDWARD MAKHOUL, MD
25. Dr MILAD E. MAROUN, MD
26. Dr LOUBNA MOUSSA QASSEM, MD
27. Dr KAMEL MOUSSA QASSEM, MD

28. Dr WASSIM E. ROUPHAYEL, MD
29. Dr GHINA KHODR SALEH, MD
30. Dr HASSAN A. SALEH, MD
31. Dr BECHARA G. ZIADE, MD
32. DR DESIREE KARAM ZIADE, MD
33. Dr GEORGE K. ZIADE, MD

MILITARY CORPS

1. WALID G. BORKHOUCHE
2. SALIM KHORIATY
3. ASSAAD MOATY
4. KARAM K. MSAWBAA
5. ABBAS IBRAHIM SALEH

MUKHTARS

- SAMIR A. ISSA
- FOUAD Y. KHORIATY
- SAMI AL KHOURY
- MITRI L. LTAIF
- YOUSSEF G. MAROUN

MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

HISTORICAL NOTE: PAST MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Early Town Commission members:

- Greek Catholic: Gorges Chami, Mitri Msawbaa, Assaad Khoriaty, Mikhail Nabaa, Youssef Gibran Khoury.
- Shiite: Hossein Chamseddine, Hossein Saleh.
- Maronite: Ibrahim Youness, Youssef Estphan
- Protestant: Youssef Koussa

Their tasks were to take care of the land of Joun and regulate the environment and day-to-day work, such as agricultural life and water and also to supervise the local security.

In 1898, the commission had its own logo, and each member had his own stamp. And the members used it to sign official statements.

In 1903, the Ottoman Empire put a law that required electing the municipality members instead of recruiting them; And since then, Joun had its elected officials who took care of local matters as well as supervised the relationship with the national authority.

EMILE NABAA, Lawyer, Université Saint Joseph, Former President of the Municipal Council of Joun

MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. LABIBEH M. ALBORKHOUCHE
2. ROBERT H. BOU ABDO
3. HABIB A. CHAAYA
4. HOUSSAM A. CHAMSEDDINE
5. ANTOINE Y. EID
6. Dr MOHAMMAD KAMAL GHOSN, PhD
7. MOHAMMAD A. HAIDAR
8. MAHMOUD S. ISMAIL
9. HUSSEIN K. ISSA
10. SALIM KHORIATY
11. YOUSSEF F. KHORIATY
12. EMILE NABAA
13. Dr WASSIM E. ROUPHAYEL
14. YOUSSEF K. AL ZAIN

NURSING

1. MAHA BORCOSHE ASSAAD

2. NOHA MAKHOUL JAWISH, DEA

PAINTERS

1. SAMIR SAMMOUN
2. RABIH ZAAROUR
3. BOUTROS AI OJEIMI 1814

PHARMACISTS

1. Dr AHMAD AL ZAIN
2. Dr FADY KOUSSA

PHD HOLDERS

1. Dr RIMA ALAAEDDINE, PhD
2. Dr CHARBEL S. ASSAAD, PHD
3. Dr MASSOUD BASIL BORKHOUCHE, PhD
4. Dr ANTOINE J. BURKUSH, PhD
5. Dr GRACE A. CHAMI SATHER, PhD
6. Dr RALPH A. CHAMI, PHD
7. AHMAD HANI CHAMSEDDINE, PhD
8. Dr ALI H. CHAMSEDDINE, PHD
9. Dr EZZEDDINE CHAMSEDDINE, PhD
10. Dr GHADA AFIF CHAMSEDDINE, PhD
11. Dr ISSAM ABDEL JALIL CHAMSEDDINE, PhD
12. Dr MIRYAM AFIF CHAMSEDDINE, PhD
13. Dr OSAMA A. CHAMSEDDINE, PhD
14. Dr RIYAD ABDEL JALIL CHAMSEDDINE, PhD
15. Dr AMAL A. CHMOUNY, PhD
16. Dr ADNAN I. FAWAZ, PhD

17. Dr LAMA ADNAN GHOSN, PhD
18. Dr MOHAMMAD KAMAL GHOSN, PhD
19. Dr FOUAD HAIDAR, PhD
20. Dr ABBAS HUSSEIN ISSA, PhD
21. Dr RITA CAMILLE KHORIATY, PhD
22. Dr HAITHAM CHAWQI MEZHER, PhD
23. Dr IHSAN MOOTI, PHD
24. Dr MOHAMMED SALEH, PhD
25. Dr QASSEM AFIF SALEH, PhD
26. Dr BECHARA D. SLEIMAN, PhD
27. Dr JEANINE KAMAL ZIADE, PhD

PHOTOGRAPHERS

1. MITRI L. LTAIF
2. TONY LTEIF
3. MICHEL NACHEF
4. HABIB SALEH

PUBLIC SECTOR OFFICIALS

1. SALEM ABDELNOUR DEPUTY
2. KHALIL ABDELNOUR DEPUTY
3. JEAN BORKHOUCHE
4. FADL TOUFIC CHAMI
5. CHAMSEDDINE ABDEL JALIL CHAMSEDDINE
6. EID DOUMIT
7. CHAMSEDDINE ABDEL JALIL CHAMSEDDINE
8. EID DOUMIT
9. IBRAHIM EID

10. YOUSSEF ESTPHAN
11. NABIH ESTPHAN
12. HABIB JAWISH
13. MICHEL NABAA
14. IBTIHAJ YOUSSEF SALEH
15. YOUSSEF K. AL ZAIN
16. GEORGE BECHARA ZIADEH

RELIGIOUS PERSONALITIES

1. ABBOTT SEMAAN ABOU ABDO
2. ARCHBISHOP BOULOS BORKHOUCHE
3. Fr HANANIYA BORKHOUCHE
4. ARCHIMANDRITE NICHOLAS BORKHOUCHE
5. SHEIKH KHODR EID (IMAM MASJID JOUN)
6. Fr HANNA KANAAN
7. BISHOP ATHANASIOS KHORIATY
8. BISHOP GEORGE KHORIATY
9. BISHOP GABRIEL (NICOLA) NABAA,
10. BISHOP PHILIPPE NABAA
11. BISHOP SIMON NASR
12. BISHOP ANTOINE NASR
13. BISHOP SEMAAN NASR
14. **A Note About Sheikh Abdel Basset Abdel Samad**

SINGERS & COMPOSERS

1. NASRI CHAMSEDDINE
2. NASSER MAKHOUL
3. RABIH ZAAROUR

SPORTS

1. HUSSEIN K. ISSA (Professional Footballer)
2. HASSAN NASSAR (Sports Journalist)

STARTUPS ENTREPRENEURS

- Names of Startups Entrepreneurs

UNITED NATIONS, IMF, WORLD BANK

1. Dr RALPH AYOUB CHAMI, PhD
2. Dr EZZEDDINE CHAMSEDDINE, PhD
3. IMAD SALEH, ENGINEER

VOLUNTEERS

- HAMZA EID
- WISSAM A. GHOSN

These individuals, along with many others, have played a crucial role in shaping the identity and legacy of Joun. Their achievements and contributions are a source of pride for the town and continue to inspire future generations.



Joun High School

Notable Religious Personalities

Joun has been home to several notable priests and bishops who have made significant contributions to the religious and social fabric of the town and beyond. These religious members from Joun have positively influenced their congregations:

Here are a few prominent figures:

1. ABBOTT SEMAAN ABOU ABDO
2. ABOUNA BECHARA ABOU MRAD B.S.O AL MOUKARRAM
3. ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS BOULOS NASSIF BORKHOUCHE SMSP
4. FR HANANIYA BORKHOUCHE BSO
5. ARCHIMANDRITE NICHOLAS BORKHOUCHE BSO
6. FR JEAN CHAMI, SMSP
7. ARCHBISHIOP PIERRE CHAMI
8. SHEIKH KHODR ALI EID IMAM MASJID JOUN
9. Fr HANNA KANAAN B.S.O.
10. BISHOP ATHANASIOS KHORIATY B.S.O.
11. ARCHIMANDRITE GEORGE KHORIATY B.S.O.
12. BISHOP PHILIPPE NABAA, B.S.O. BISHOP OF BEIRUT
13. BISHOP GABRIEL (Nikolaos) NABAA, BISHOP OF SAIDA, B.S.O.
14. BISHOP SIMON NASR B.S.O.
15. BISHOP ANTOINE NASR, B.S.O.
16. BISHOP SEMAAN NASR, B.S.O.

These individuals have played significant roles in shaping the religious and social life of Joun. Their contributions continue to influence the town and serve as a testament to the enduring spirit of its community.

Philanthropy in Joun

Philanthropy plays a significant role in the community of Joun, with many residents actively involved in charitable activities and initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for all.

Here are some key aspects of philanthropy in Joun:

Community Support and Development

Many local organizations and individuals in Joun are dedicated to supporting community development projects. These initiatives often focus on improving infrastructure, education, healthcare, and social services. For example, community members frequently organize fundraising events to support the renovation of schools, the construction of community centers, and the provision of medical supplies to local clinics.

Educational Initiatives

Education is a major focus of philanthropic efforts in Joun. Scholarships and financial aid programs are established to help students pursue higher education, both locally and abroad. Local philanthropists often sponsor educational workshops, vocational training programs, and literacy campaigns to ensure that all residents have access to quality education and opportunities for personal growth.

Healthcare and Social Services

Philanthropy in Joun also extends to healthcare and social services. Many residents contribute to initiatives that provide medical care and support to those in need. This includes funding for medical equipment, free health check-ups, and support for individuals with disabilities. Social services such as food banks, shelters, and counseling services are also supported by local philanthropists to help vulnerable members of the community.

Environmental Conservation

Environmental conservation is another important area of focus for philanthropic efforts in Joun. Local organizations and volunteers work together to preserve the natural beauty of the town, including its forests, rivers, and wildlife. Initiatives such as tree planting campaigns, clean-up drives, and awareness programs are regularly organized to promote environmental sustainability and protect the town's natural resources.

Cultural and Religious Preservation

Philanthropy in Joun also involves the preservation of the town's rich cultural and religious heritage. Donations and volunteer efforts support the maintenance and

restoration of historical sites, churches, and monasteries. Cultural events, festivals, and exhibitions are often funded by local philanthropists to celebrate and preserve the town's traditions and history.

Youth Engagement

Engaging the youth in philanthropic activities is a growing trend in Joun. Programs and initiatives are designed to encourage young people to participate in community service and volunteer work. This not only helps in addressing community needs but also instills a sense of responsibility and civic duty among the younger generation.

Notable Philanthropists

Several notable individuals from Joun have made significant contributions to philanthropy. Their efforts have had a lasting impact on the community, inspiring others to get involved and make a difference. These philanthropists often prefer to remain anonymous, focusing on the positive outcomes of their contributions rather than seeking recognition.

Philanthropy in Joun is a testament to the town's strong sense of community and commitment to improving the lives of its residents. The collective efforts of individuals and organizations continue to make a meaningful difference, fostering a spirit of generosity and solidarity.

Highlights Joun's Vibrant Festivals:

Joun is also renowned for its vibrant festivals, which bring the community together and celebrate the town's rich cultural traditions.

The annual Olive Festival, held in the autumn, showcases the town's famous olive products and includes traditional music, dance, and culinary delights. Another highlight is the Spring Flower Festival, where the streets of Joun are adorned with colorful blooms, and local artisans display their crafts.

These festivals not only preserve Joun's cultural heritage but also attract visitors from near and far, adding to the town's charm and vitality.











The Rich Heritage of the Bisri Valley

THE RICH HERITAGE OF 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>

Examining the Bisri Valley: A Case of Uncovered Heritage
An overview of what could be lost
by Antoine Atallah

The Bisri and Bisri valley are one of Lebanon's oldest archaeological sites. The canyon, located in a mountainous region of the Bekaa Valley, is 2000 years old and has been the site of a major settlement since the 3rd millennium BC. The valley is rich in archaeological sites, including a large number of tombs, a temple complex, and a large number of other structures. The valley is also rich in natural resources, including a large number of waterfalls and a large number of other natural features.



The Bisri valley, showing the river and surrounding landscape.



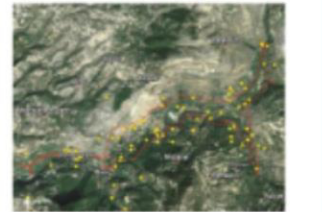
The Bisri valley, showing the river and surrounding landscape.

The Bisri valley is one of the most important archaeological sites in Lebanon. It is a valley of great historical and cultural significance. The valley is rich in archaeological sites, including a large number of tombs, a temple complex, and a large number of other structures. The valley is also rich in natural resources, including a large number of waterfalls and a large number of other natural features.



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A close-up view of an ancient stone structure, possibly a tomb or part of a temple.



A view of a large stone structure, possibly a tomb or part of a temple, surrounded by trees.



A view of a large stone structure, possibly a tomb or part of a temple, surrounded by trees.

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A view of a large stone structure, possibly a tomb or part of a temple, surrounded by trees.



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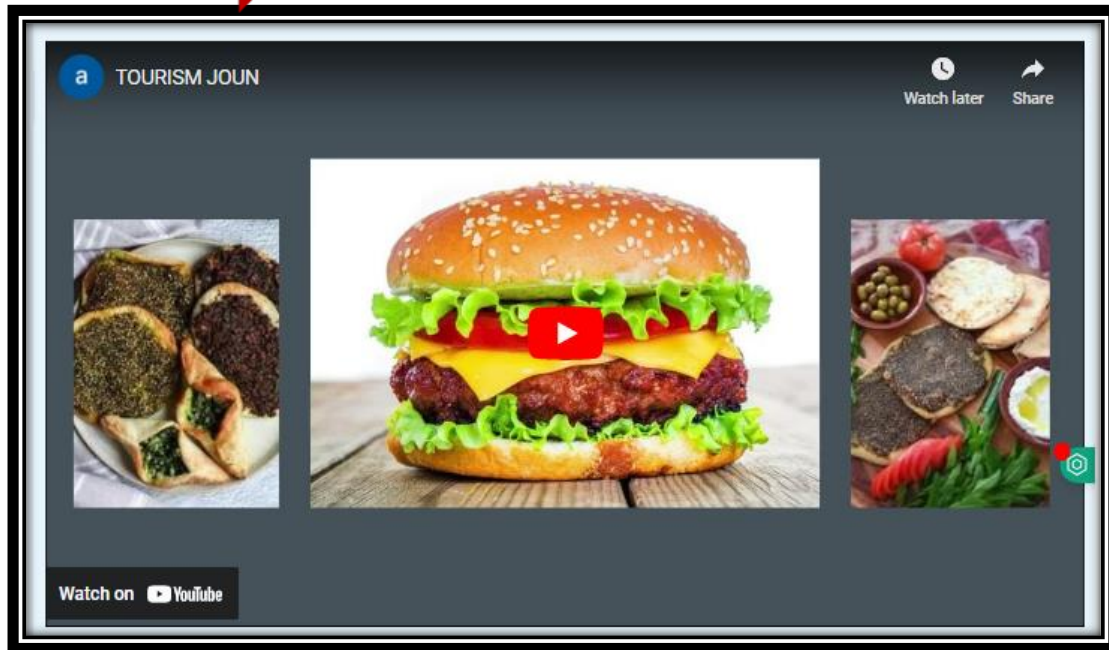
A view of a large stone structure, possibly a tomb or part of a temple, surrounded by trees.

Joun Offers a Delightful Array of Dining Options

Joun offers a delightful array of dining options that cater to various tastes and preferences. Here are some notable restaurants and cafes in the town:

CLICK HERE

<https://youtu.be/wXVMFW-6GKU>



Local Delicacies and Culinary Traditions

Joun is also known for its local delicacies, such as olive oil, fresh bread, and homemade jams.

Many of the town's restaurants and cafes incorporate these ingredients into their dishes, offering a true taste of the region's culinary heritage.

Whether you're looking for a hearty meal or a light snack, Joun's dining scene has something to satisfy every palate.

More Places of Interest in Joun

JOUN VILLAGE TOURISM: MORE PLACES OF INTEREST IN TOWN

Village tourism refers to the practice of visiting rural villages as a form of travel experience.

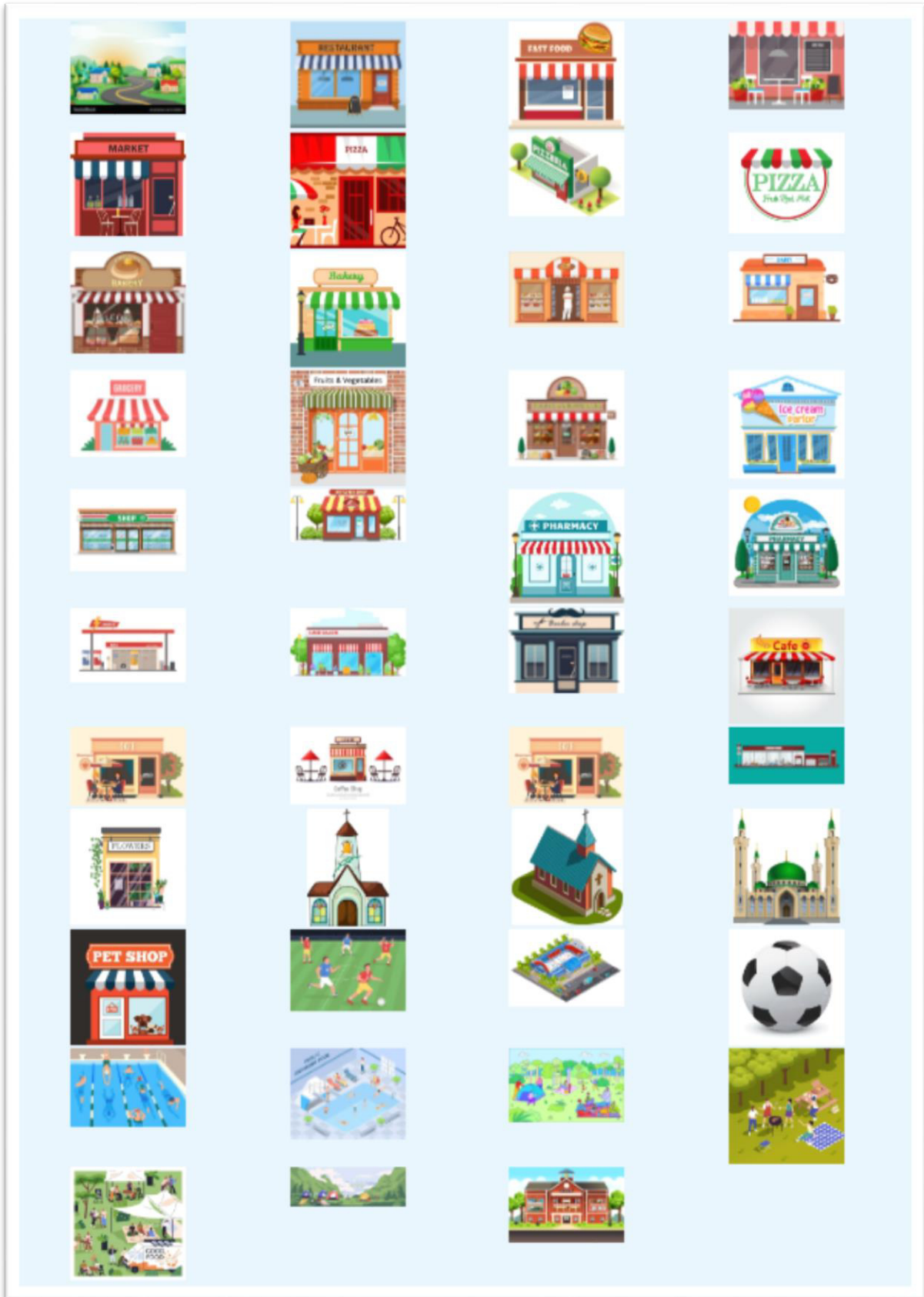
These villages often have inhabitants who are traditionally involved in primary industries like fishing, agriculture, and mining.

Over time, changes in economy and society have led to many village communities embracing tourism.

The appeal of village tourism lies in its combination of physical, historical, and nostalgic attributes, offering visitors a glimpse into a microcosm of community life.

Whether set in rural areas or as independent attractions, villages provide an opportunity to encounter another way of life and discover the regional character of a country.

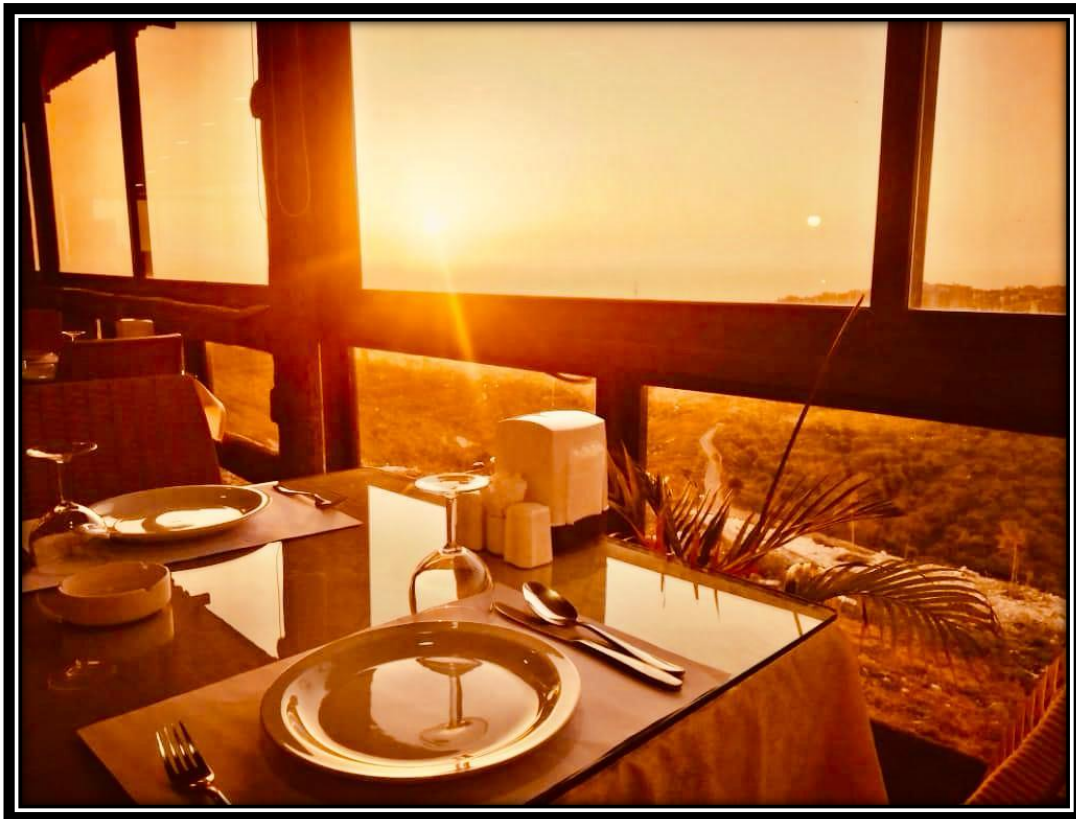
So, if you're curious about exploring the traditional lifestyle of the Town of Joun, village tourism might be just the thing for you!



Restaurants in Joun

<https://www.facebook.com/tilaljounrestaurant?mibextid=LQQJ4d>











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Order placement: Before 22 December Tel: 76822507

Tilal
جونا Joun



Accommodations in Joun: Chalets and Bungalows

If you are looking for a cozy, beautiful, and cozy getaway, the chalets and bungalows in Joun offer an excellent choice. Here are some options to consider:

Le Paradis des Souhails

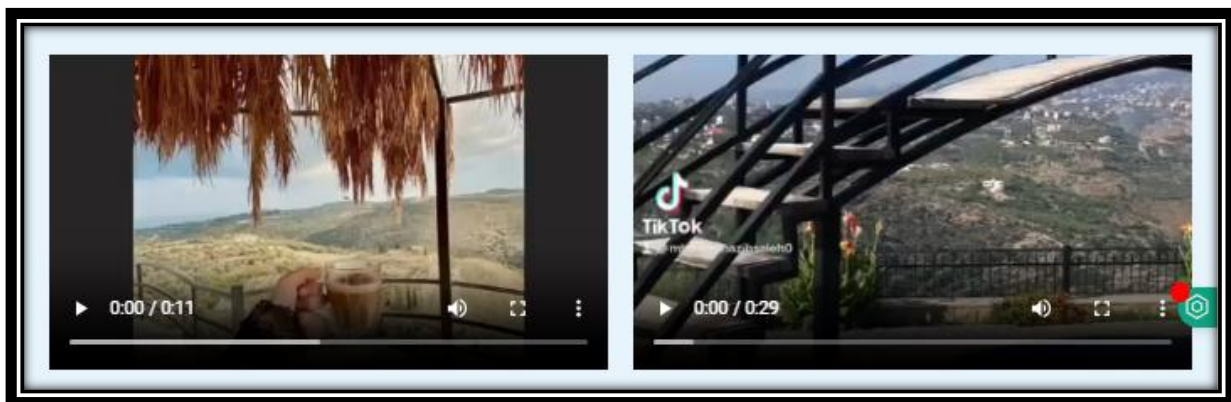


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<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/ieQFrQ4ytCrhuBLt/?mibextid=UalRPS>

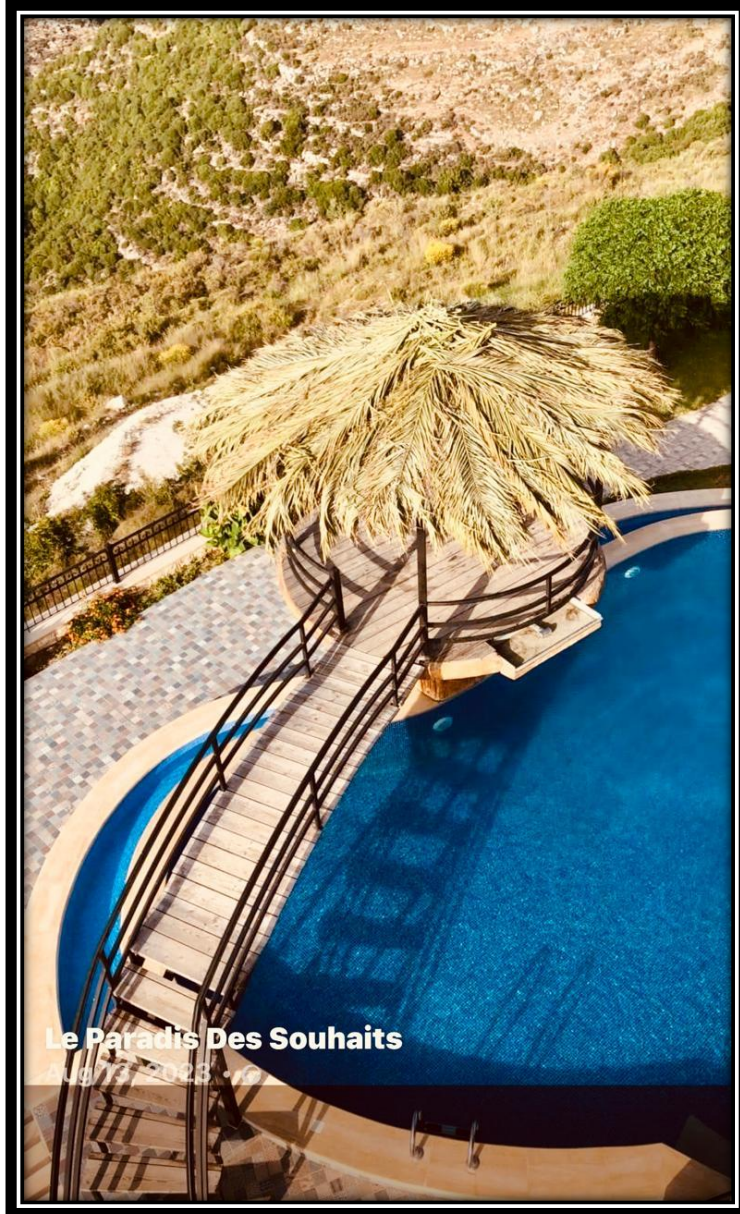
<https://joun-estates.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/LE-PARADIS-DES-SOUHAITS-2.mp4>

<https://joun-estates.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/LE-PARADIS-DES-SOUHAITS-3-1.mp4>

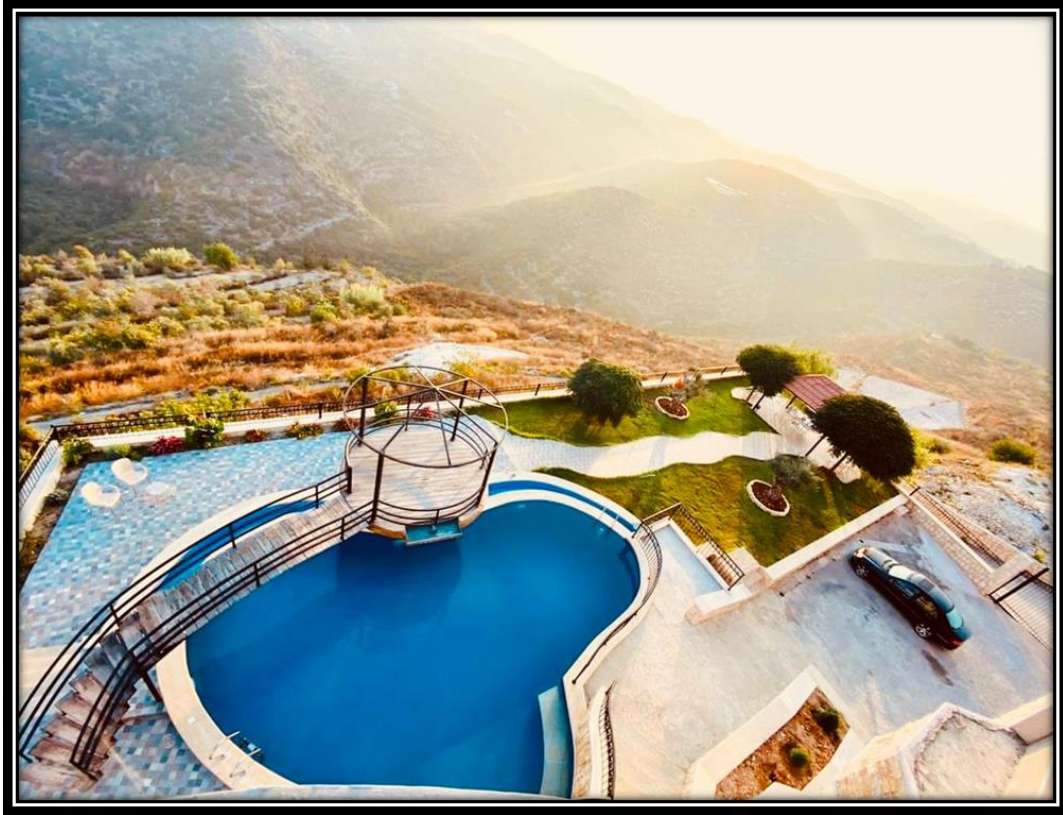










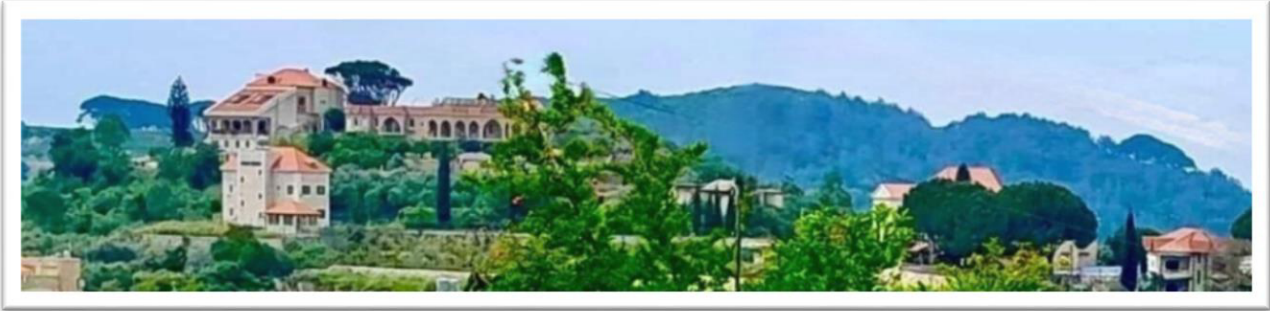






Joun Development Needs

Joun, like many towns, has specific development needs that can enhance the quality of life for its residents and promote sustainable growth. Here are some key areas where development efforts could be focused:



Infrastructure Improvement

- Roads and Transportation: Upgrading and maintaining roads to ensure safe and efficient transportation. Improving public transportation options can also help reduce traffic congestion and provide better connectivity to nearby cities and towns.
- Utilities: Ensuring reliable access to essential utilities such as water, electricity, and internet. Upgrading infrastructure to support these services can improve living conditions and support economic activities.

Healthcare Facilities

- Medical Services: Expanding healthcare facilities and services to meet the needs of the growing population. This includes building new clinics, hospitals, and specialized medical centers, as well as ensuring access to emergency medical services.
- Preventive Care: Promoting preventive healthcare measures and wellness programs to improve overall public health. This can include vaccination drives, health education campaigns, and regular health check-ups.

Educational Opportunities

- Schools and Vocational Training: Investing in educational infrastructure, including schools and vocational training centers, to provide quality education and skill development opportunities for all age groups.
- Scholarships and Financial Aid: Establishing scholarship programs and financial aid for students to pursue higher education and specialized training, both locally and abroad.

Economic Development

- Local Businesses: Supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs through grants, loans, and training programs. Encouraging the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can boost the local economy and create job opportunities.
- Tourism: Promoting Joun as a tourist destination by highlighting its natural beauty, historical sites, and cultural events. Developing tourism infrastructure, such as hotels, restaurants, and recreational facilities, can attract visitors and generate revenue.

Environmental Conservation

- Sustainable Practices: Implementing sustainable practices to preserve the natural environment, including waste management, water conservation, and renewable energy initiatives.
- Green Spaces: Creating and maintaining parks, gardens, and other green spaces to enhance the town's aesthetic appeal and provide recreational areas for residents.

Community Services

- Social Services: Expanding social services to support vulnerable populations, including the elderly, disabled, and low-income families. This can include housing assistance, food programs, and counseling services.
- Cultural and Recreational Activities: Promoting cultural and recreational activities to foster community engagement and enhance the quality of life. This can include organizing festivals, sports events, and arts programs.

Safety and Security

- Public Safety: Enhancing public safety measures, including law enforcement, fire services, and emergency response systems. Ensuring that residents feel safe and secure in their community is essential for overall well-being.

Interfaith and Social Cohesion

- Dialogue and Cooperation: Promoting interfaith dialogue and cooperation to strengthen social cohesion and mutual understanding among different religious and cultural groups. Organizing community events and initiatives that bring people together can foster a sense of unity and shared purpose.

Addressing these development needs can help Joun thrive and ensure a better future for its residents.

Involving residents in decision-making for town development

Involving residents in decision-making for town development is crucial for creating a community that reflects the needs and desires of its inhabitants. Here are some effective strategies the local government in Joun can use to engage residents:

1. Public Meetings and Forums

Organize regular public meetings and forums where residents can voice their opinions, ask questions, and provide feedback on proposed projects and policies. These gatherings can be held in accessible locations and at convenient times to encourage maximum participation.

2. Surveys and Questionnaires

Distribute surveys and questionnaires to gather input from a broad cross-section of the community. These can be conducted online, via mail, or in person. Surveys can help identify residents' priorities, concerns, and suggestions for town development.

3. Community Workshops

Host interactive workshops where residents can collaborate on specific projects or issues. These workshops can include brainstorming sessions, group discussions, and hands-on activities to foster creative solutions and community involvement.

4. Advisory Committees

Establish advisory committees composed of residents, local business owners, and other stakeholders. These committees can provide ongoing input and recommendations on various aspects of town development, ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered.

5. Participatory Budgeting

Implement participatory budgeting, where residents have a direct say in how a portion of the town's budget is allocated. This process involves residents proposing and voting on projects, giving them a tangible role in financial decision-making.

6. Digital Engagement Platforms

Utilize digital platforms and social media to engage residents who may not be able to attend in-person meetings. Online forums, interactive maps, and virtual town halls can provide convenient ways for residents to participate and stay informed.

7. Focus Groups

Conduct focus groups with specific segments of the population, such as youth, seniors, or business owners. These smaller, targeted discussions can provide deeper insights into the needs and preferences of different community groups.

8. Transparent Communication

Ensure transparent and consistent communication about development plans, progress, and decisions. Regular updates through newsletters, websites, and social media can keep residents informed and involved.

9. Collaborative Planning

Adopt a collaborative planning approach where residents are involved from the initial stages of project development. This can include co-designing public spaces, contributing to master plans, and participating in visioning exercises.

10. Feedback Mechanisms

Create easy-to-use feedback mechanisms, such as suggestion boxes, online comment forms, and dedicated email addresses. Encourage residents to share their thoughts and ideas on an ongoing basis.

11. Educational Campaigns

Run educational campaigns to inform residents about the planning process, the importance of their participation, and how they can get involved. Workshops, informational sessions, and educational materials can help demystify the process and empower residents to contribute.

12. Partnerships with Local Organizations

Partner with local organizations, schools, and community groups to reach a wider audience and encourage participation. These partnerships can help mobilize residents and ensure that diverse voices are heard.

By implementing these strategies, the local government in Joun can foster a more inclusive and participatory approach to town development, ensuring that the community's needs and aspirations are at the forefront of decision-making.

Source:

(1) Participatory Planning: Shaping Cities through Community ... - ArchDaily.
<https://www.archdaily.com/1009635/participatory-planning-shaping-cities-through-community-engagement>.

(2) Community Participation in Urban Planning: the Case of ... - Springer.
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12132-016-9295-7>.

(3) Local Government Community Engagement Strategies - GovPilot.
<https://www.govpilot.com/blog/government-community-engagement>.

(4) Engaging the community in the development of a local housing strategy.
<https://localhousingsolutions.org/plan/engaging-the-community-in-the-development-of-a-local-housing-strategy/>.

PART TWO

THINGS TO DO IN JOUN



Joun, cradled within the majestic Chouf Mountains of Lebanon, invites adventurers to explore its enchanting natural wonders. Whether you seek tranquility or exhilaration, Joun, as it is the case of most of the Chouf towns, offers a tapestry of outdoor activities that celebrate its rich heritage and breathtaking landscapes.

Mountain Adventures

Hiking Trails:

Verdant Hills: Embark on scenic hikes through lush hillsides, where wildflowers bloom and birds serenade your journey.

Historical Paths: Follow ancient trails that connect villages, revealing centuries-old stories etched into the landscape.

Rock Climbing:

Chouf Crags: Scale rugged cliffs and limestone formations, challenging your agility and strength.

Panoramic Views: Reach summits for sweeping vistas of terraced vineyards, olive groves, and the Awali River below.

Cave Exploration:

Hidden Depths: Delve into Joun's extensive cave systems awaiting your discovery.

River Escapades

Awali River Gorges:

Rafting and Kayaking: Ride the rapids of the Awali River, feeling the rush of cool water against your skin.

Canoeing: Descend through narrow gorges, rappelling down waterfalls and immersing yourself in nature's amphitheater.

Picnics by the Awali River:

Shaded Banks: Spread a blanket under ancient trees along the riverbanks. Feast on local delicacies while the water murmurs nearby.

Birdwatching: Spot herons, kingfishers, and other winged residents as they flit among the reeds.

Fishing:

Tranquil Pools: Cast your line into serene pools, hoping for a catch of freshwater trout or carp.

Reflections: Watch the mountains mirror themselves in the calm waters, creating a serene backdrop for your angling adventure.

Community Bonding

Scout Camps:

Youth Gatherings: Scouts and youth groups find camaraderie around campfires, sharing stories and forging lifelong friendships.

Leadership Skills: Learn teamwork, survival techniques, and environmental stewardship in Joun's natural classroom.

Educational Excursions:

School Outings: Students explore history, geology, and ecology firsthand, connecting classroom learning to the real world.

Archaeological Sites: Visit ancient ruins and imagine the lives of those who once inhabited these lands.

Family Adventures:

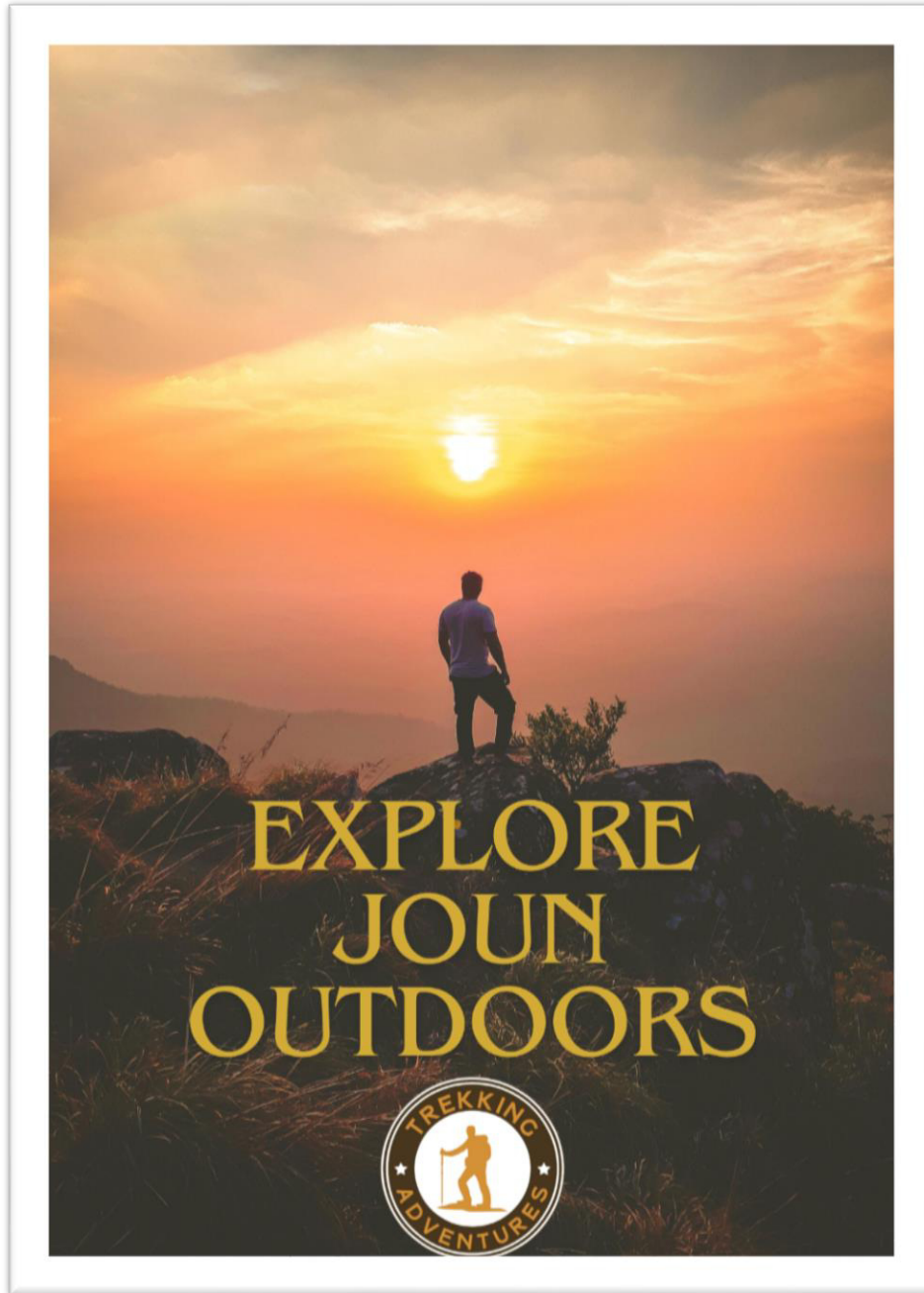
Multigenerational Fun: Families picnic, hike, and play by the river, creating cherished memories against the backdrop of Joun's beauty.

Shared Experiences: Grandparents, parents, and children bond over shared laughter and exploration.

The town residents, are passionate about outdoor adventure activities, and the outdoor environment, they have a respect for the environment in which they live and work, with a minimal impact sustainable use environmental policy.

In Joun, the mountains echo with whispers of the past, and the river flows as a timeless witness to unity. Whether you seek adrenaline or serenity, let Joun's natural embrace be your guide—a place where history, culture, and adventure converge in harmonious celebration.

Source: Lebanon Traveler.com (Chouf)





<https://youtu.be/EeCGfB1gEoo>







Hiking in Joun



Ah, the beauty of hiking in the town of Joun—a symphony of earth and sky, where each step is a note, and the trail unfolds like a timeless melody.

Imagine this:

The Forest's Embrace: You step onto the trail, surrounded by towering trees. Their leaves whisper secrets, and sunlight filters through the canopy, dappling the ground. The earth cradles your feet, connecting you to ancient roots.

Vistas Unveiled: As you ascend, the world opens up. Rocky outcrops reveal sweeping vistas—the valley below, a patchwork of greens and blues. Your breath catches, and you feel small yet part of something grand.

Sunrise Serenade: Early mornings bring magic. You hike in darkness, guided by moonlight. And then—the sun peeks over the horizon. Colors ignite: oranges, pinks, golds. Birds join in, their songs harmonizing with daybreak.

Mountain Streams: You cross babbling streams, their icy waters refreshing. Stones become stepping stones, and you balance, feeling the rush of life around you. Maybe you dip your hands, cupping water to your lips.

Wildflower Waltz: Spring paints the trail with wildflowers. Lupines, Indian paintbrush, and delicate blooms carpet the meadows. Each petal holds a promise—a fleeting beauty, like a whispered secret.

Summit Triumph: Finally, you reach the summit. The air thins, and your heart swells. Below, valleys stretch like green oceans. You've climbed, not just in elevation, but into your own resilience.

Silent Conversations: Hiking invites introspection. You listen—to the rustle of leaves, the wind’s sigh, your own heartbeat. Thoughts unravel, and clarity emerges. Maybe you find answers or simply peace.

And as you descend, legs tired but spirit soaring, you carry the mountain within you. The beauty of hiking isn’t just in the views—it’s in the journey, the connection to nature, and the stories etched into your soul.

So go forth, fellow wanderer. Lace up those boots, follow the trail markers, and let the beauty of hiking in the town of Joun weave its magic.

Hiking Trails in Joun



Joun, with its rolling hills and scenic beauty, offers several delightful hiking trails for nature enthusiasts. Lace up your hiking boots and explore the following trails:

Joun to Deir el-Moukhalles Trail:

– This trail leads from Joun village to the Deir el-Moukhalles Monastery. The path winds through olive groves, pine forests, and ancient stone terraces. Along the way, you’ll catch glimpses of the Mediterranean Sea and the surrounding mountains. The monastery itself is a serene spot to rest and take in the views.

Joun Olive Grove Trail:

– Explore the picturesque olive orchards surrounding Joun. The trail meanders through centuries-old olive trees, their gnarled trunks telling stories of generations past. Breathe in the earthy scent of olives and enjoy the peaceful ambiance.

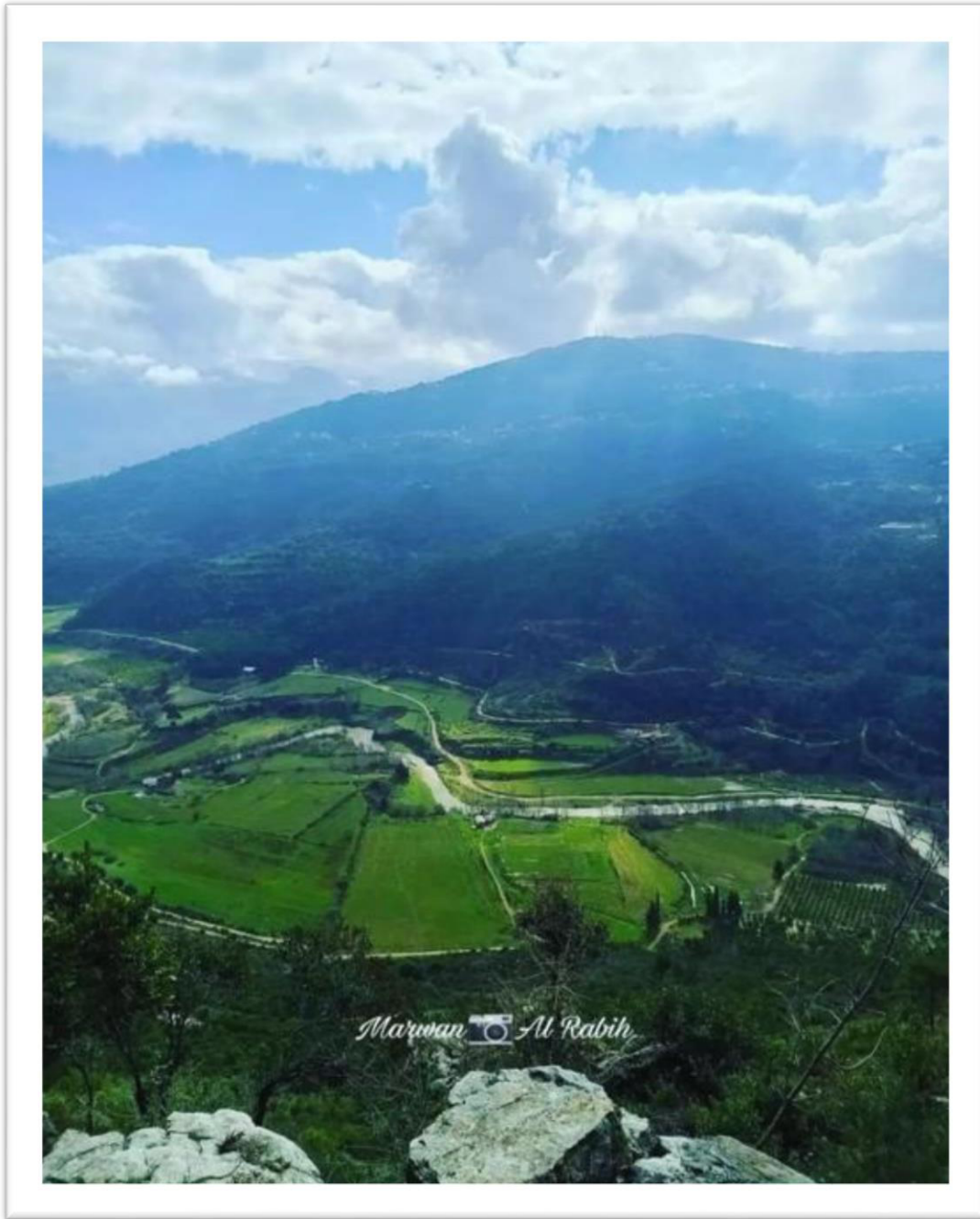
Eshmun Temple Trail:

– For history buffs, this trail connects Joun to the Eshmun Temple, an ancient Phoenician sanctuary dedicated to the healing god Eshmun. The temple ruins are nestled in the hills near Sidon. The hike offers a blend of nature and archaeology.

Joun Sunset Ridge Trail:

– As the name suggests, this trail is perfect for catching mesmerizing sunsets. Follow the ridge as it curves around Joun, providing panoramic views of the Chouf Mountains and the coastal plains. Bring your camera to capture the golden hour magic.







<https://youtu.be/16Ho-lwGCdA>



THE AWALI VALLEY - BISRI TRAIL

AWALI – BISRI TRACK BY TONY AOUN



(<https://www.wikiloc.com/hiking-trails/track-03-marej-besri-41113281>)

ALSO SAMI BEYDOUN:



(<https://www.wikiloc.com/hiking-trails/hammam-bridge-deir-mkhalles-joun-33421920>)



By Sami Beydoun

VIDEO BELOW: AWALI RIVER VALLEY – BISRI: DRONE BY BASHIR CHOUCAIRE



<https://youtu.be/jxzHd7NZZOk>

The screenshot shows a YouTube video player interface. At the top, the video title is "BISRI VALLEY: DRONE BASHIR CHOUCAIRE". The video content is a drone shot of a valley with a red dirt path and mountains in the background. Below the video are two map thumbnails. The first map shows a trail route with yellow markers and an elevation profile below it, titled "TONY AOUN: BISRI - DEIR AL MOKHALLED TRAIL". The second map shows a different trail route with yellow markers and an elevation profile below it, titled "SAMI BEYDOUN - HAMMAM BRIDGE DEIR AL MOKHALLES JOUN".



More trails to explore



https://youtu.be/VHaiuzs2_jY

<https://youtu.be/2NeVmn37bz8>

<https://youtu.be/tlq7Vugrrig>

MORE TRAILS TO EXPLORE...

The three Videos Below by Hamza Eid BaldatJoun FB page

a By Hamza Eid BaldatJoun

Watch later Share

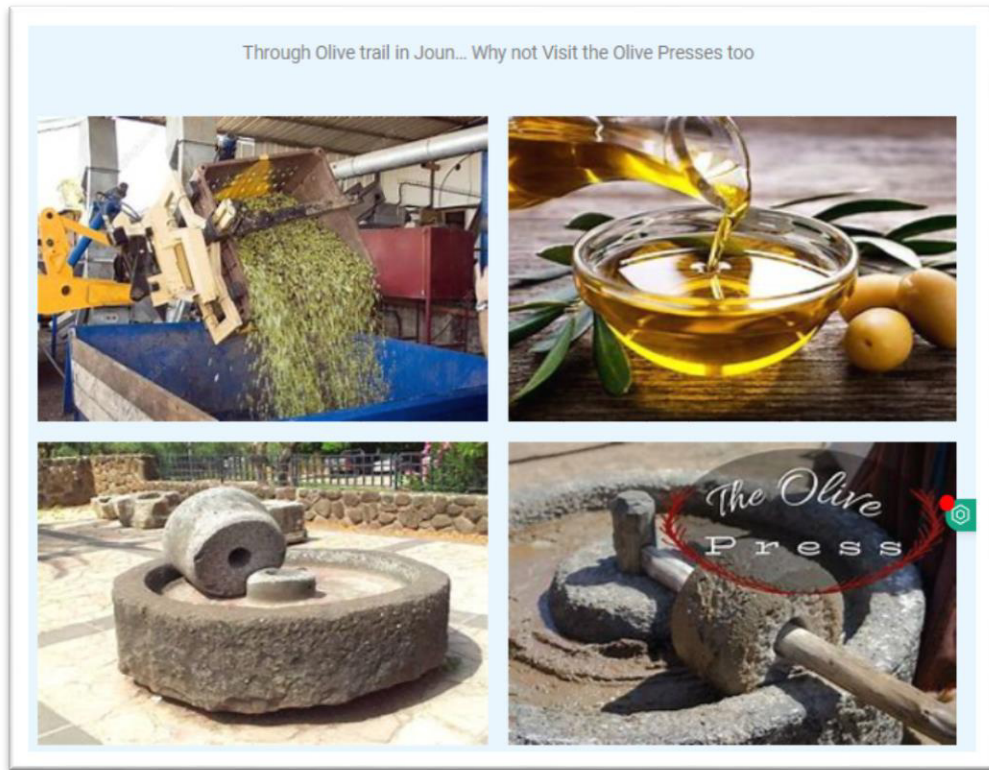
Watch on YouTube

a By Hamza Eid BaldatJoun2

a By Hamza Eid BaldatJoun3

Joun,... in Iqlim Al Kharrob is also famous for Carob Trees (Kharroub), and of course the well known Olive Oil

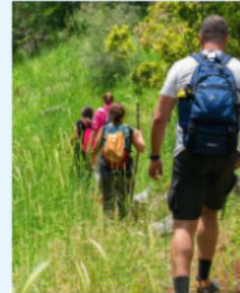
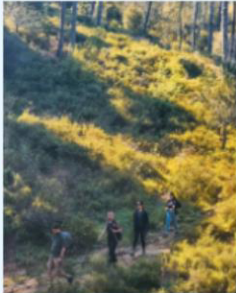


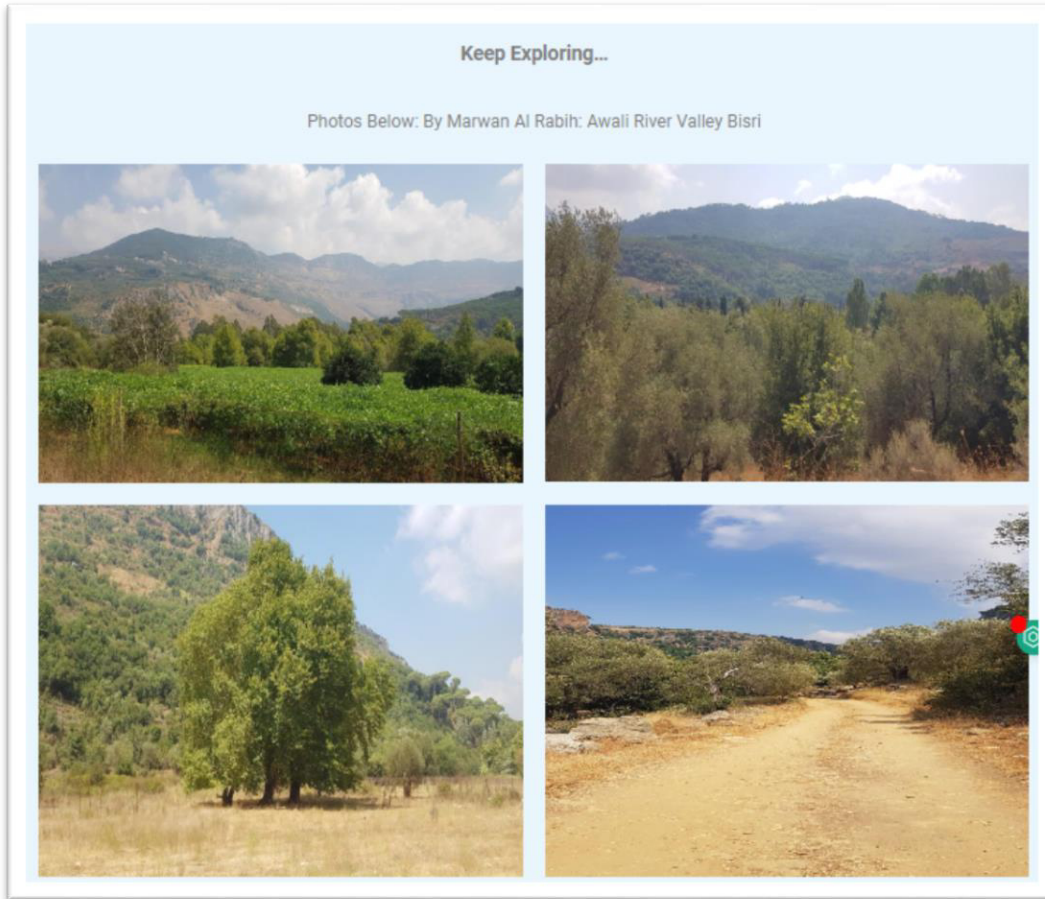


Through vineyards and valleys on the vineyards trail in Joun



Keep Exploring ...







SOURCE: MOOVTOO Creusée par la rivière "El Awali" la vallée de Bisri est une vallée particulièrement fertile au sud-ouest de Beyrouth. La vallée est l'un des espaces les plus riches du Liban en termes de biodiversité. Il compte aussi plusieurs vestiges archéologiques témoins des civilisations phénicienne, romaine, mamlouk et ottomane. Située entre 400 et 500 mètres d'altitude, la vallée de Bisri présente de magnifiques forêts, notamment de pins, et des terrains agricoles cultivés par des producteurs locaux. La beauté du site fait l'unanimité et séduit les amoureux de la nature, qu'ils soient randonneurs, photographes ou même scientifiques.



The Trail to the Picturesque Valley of Sayedat Al Waara Church

If you are looking to participate or learn more about this event, we would recommend contacting the Holy Saviour Monastery in Joun or the local Melkite Greek Catholic community, as they would likely have the most accurate and up-to-date information.

Camping in Joun



Ah, the beautiful experience of camping in Joun and vicinity—a communion with nature, where the stars become your ceiling and the earth cradles your dreams.

Imagine this:

Campfire Tales: You gather around a crackling fire, its warmth chasing away the night's chill. Friends share stories—ghostly whispers, epic adventures, and childhood memories. The flames dance, casting shadows on your faces.

Starry Canopy: You lie on a blanket, staring up at the vast sky. Stars twinkle like ancient secrets, constellations weaving tales of gods and heroes. The Milky Way spills across the darkness, and you feel both insignificant and connected.

Forest Lullaby: The rustle of leaves, the hoot of an owl—it's a symphony. You drift to sleep in your cozy tent, cocooned in a sleeping bag. The forest breathes around you, crickets singing you into dreams.

Dawn Awakening: Morning arrives—a gradual unveiling. Birds stretch their wings, and dew-kissed grass sparkles. You emerge from your tent, rubbing sleep from your eyes. Coffee brews, and the sun paints the horizon.

Campfire Breakfast: You cook over an open flame—pancakes sizzling, toast bread crisping. The smell alone is nourishment. Maybe you forage for wild berries or fish in a nearby stream. Nature provides, and you are part of it.

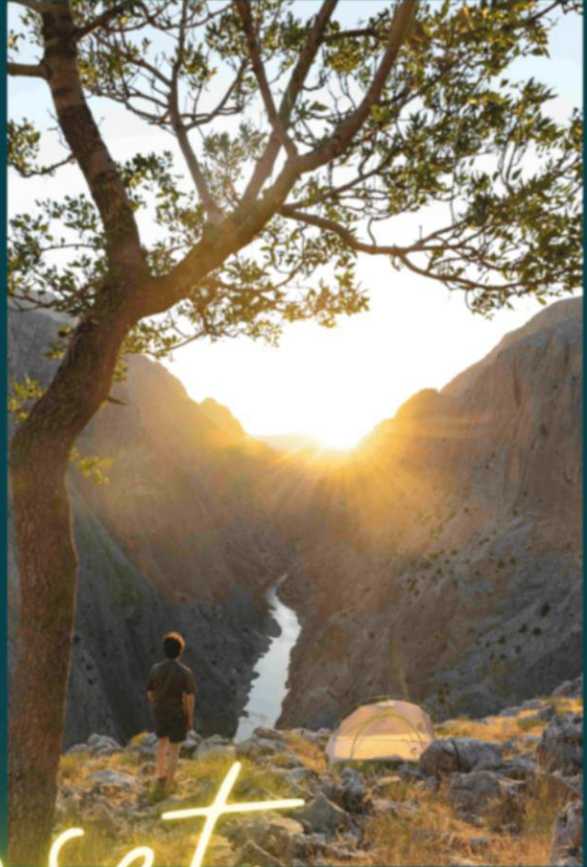
Trail Wanderings: Backpack slung over your shoulders, you explore. The trail leads to hidden superb scenes, moss-covered boulders, and vistas that steal your breath. Each step is an invitation—to discovery, to presence.

Leave No Trace: You pack out what you brought in. Respect for the land is woven into your soul. You extinguish the fire, leaving only ashes. The forest whispers its gratitude.

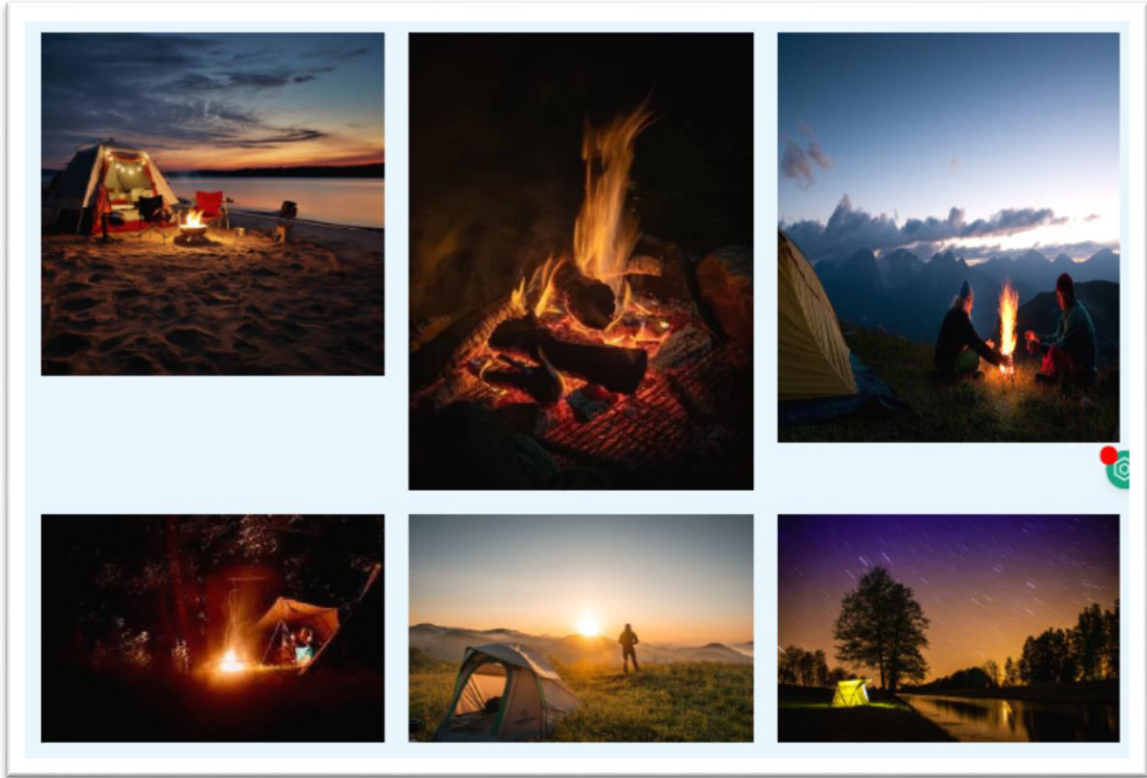
And as you bid farewell, you carry the scent of pine, the echo of laughter, and the promise of return. The beautiful camping experience is not just about tents and gear—it is about wonder, simplicity, and finding solace under the open sky.

So go forth. Camp in Joun and may your nights be star-studded, your trails winding, and your heart full.

GOLDEN HOUR IN JOUN



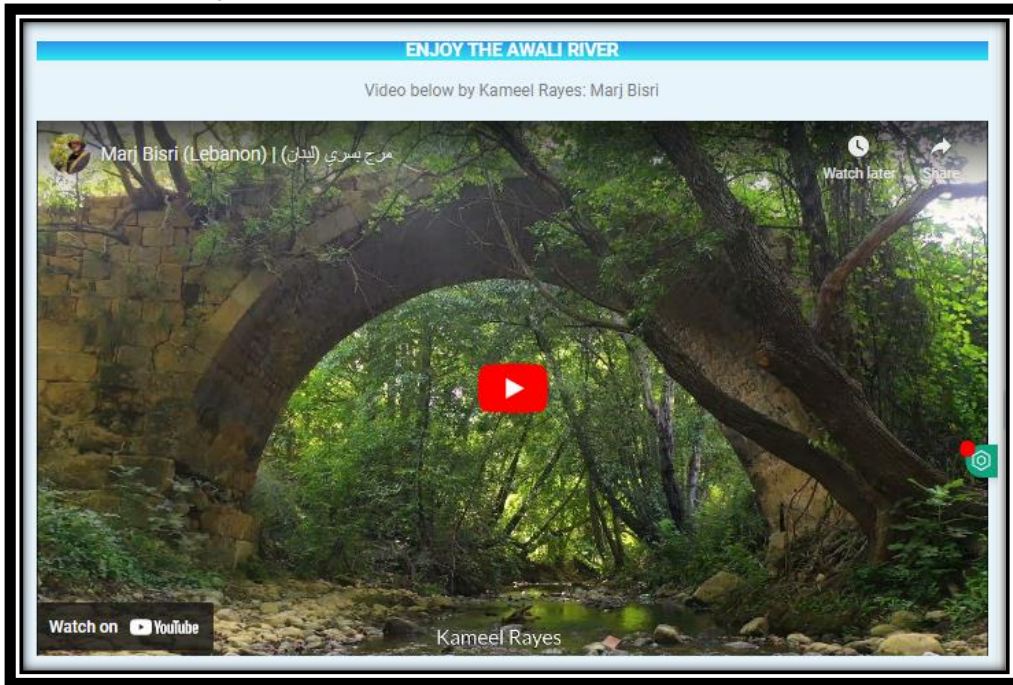
sunset



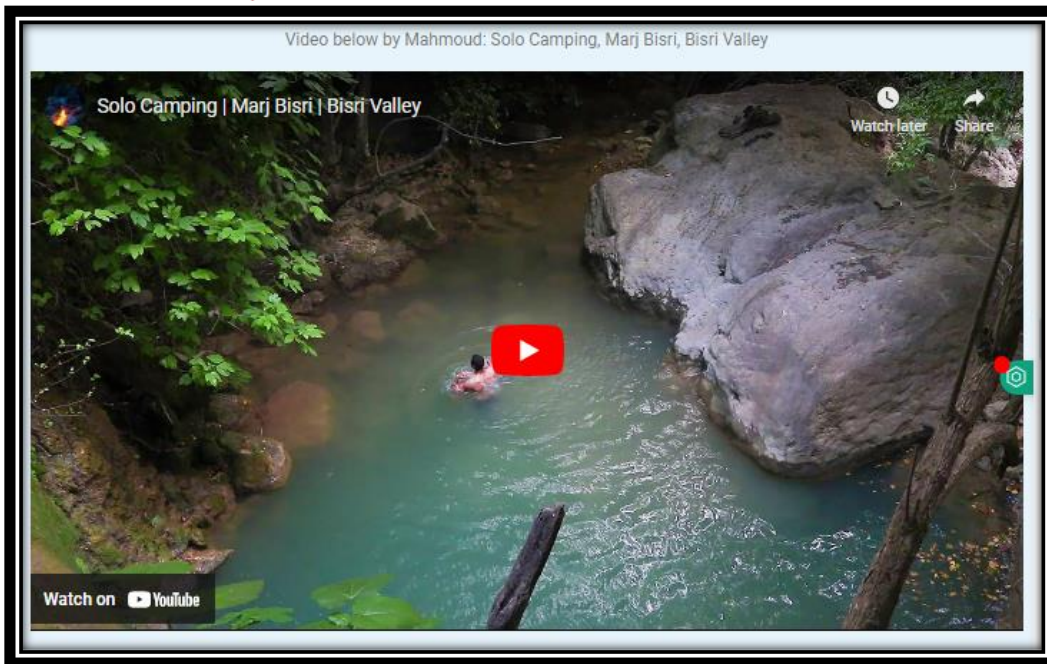
Experience the Awali River Trails



<https://youtu.be/ApSS7Oe-Xbg>



<https://youtu.be/IT3PwKKP3jE>





BISRI: THE ANCIENT AND PICTURESQUE VILLAGE BY THE AWALI RIVER

Cycling in Joun



Enjoy the beautiful bicycling experience in the town of Joun

Picture this: You're pedaling along a sun-kissed trail, the wind whispering through your hair. The world blurs into a vibrant mosaic of greenery, and your worries fade away. Each rotation of the pedals feels like a dance, a rhythmic communion with nature.

The Town of June unfolds before you—a canvas of lakes, golf courses, and charming streets. The scent of blooming flowers mingles with the fresh air. Birds serenade you from the branches, their melodies harmonizing with the soft hum of your tires.

As you pedal, you notice the details: the way sunlight dapples the pavement, the laughter of families picnicking by the lake, and the occasional wave from fellow cyclists. Maybe you stop to sip water, feeling the sun's warmth on your skin.

And when you reach a hill, you lean forward, muscles straining, heart pounding. But the view from the top—the reward—is worth it. The world stretches out, a panorama of possibility. You coast downhill, exhilaration bubbling up inside you.

At sunset, you find a quiet spot to rest. The sky blushes pink and orange, a masterpiece painted just for you. You breathe deeply, grateful for this simple joy—the freedom of two wheels and open roads.

So, embrace the beautiful bicycling experience in the town of Joun. Let it carry you away, pedal stroke by pedal stroke, into moments of pure bliss.

Photos below By Haig Melikian: Cycling Across the Scenic Deir Al Mokhalless Woods





Picnicking in Joun



Ah, the beautiful picnicking experience in the town of Joun

Picture this: You spread a soft blanket on a sun-dappled meadow. The grass tickles your legs as you sit cross-legged, surrounded by loved ones. A wicker basket overflows with delights: crusty baguettes, creamy cheeses, and juicy berries.

Feast of Flavors: You unwrap sandwiches—layers of smoked turkey, crisp lettuce, and tangy mustard. The first bite is a symphony of textures and tastes. Nearby, a bottle of chilled rosé awaits, its blush echoing the sunset.

Nature's Table: The breeze carries scents—wildflowers, freshly mown grass. Birds serenade your meal, and ants march in single file, eyeing crumbs. You laugh, brushing away a ladybug that lands on your hand.

Shady Canopy: The oak tree above provides shelter. Its leaves filter sunlight, casting dappled patterns on your picnic spread. You lean back, feeling the earth cradle you, and close your eyes.

Sweet Finale: Dessert arrives—a strawberry tart, its crimson berries glistening. Each bite bursts with summer. You share forkfuls, laughter, and stories. Time slows; worries fade.

Golden Hour: The sun dips lower, casting long shadows. The world turns golden, and you savor this suspended moment. Maybe you lie back, watching clouds drift, feeling utterly content.

And as the day wanes, you gather your memories, fold the blanket, and leave only footprints. The beautiful picnicking experience isn't just about food—it's about connection, laughter, and the simple joy of being alive.

So go forth, may your baskets be full, your company delightful, and your heart light.



Useful Hiking Resources

USEFUL HIKING RESOURCES

Hiking Groups in Lebanon

SOME HIKING GROUPS IN LEBANON:

- Lebanon By Nature
- Lebanese Explorers
 - Vamos Todos
 - Highkings961
 - Leave No Trace
- Mountleb Wanderers
- On Foot We Go



<https://youtu.be/2RKSOAWdtK4>

Guide to Hiking Skills

a YOUR GUIDE TO HIKING SKILLS

Watch on YouTube

HOW TO CHOOSE A CAMP SITE

If your planning on heading out into the wilderness, be sure to read these tips on choosing a campsite, your home away from home.

THINGS TO DO IN JOUN

GOLDEN HOUR IN JOUN

Free resources, tips, advice, and location information for hiking in Lebanon. Includes a checklist for choosing a campsite, a list of hiking trails, and a guide to the best time to hike in Lebanon.

HOW TO CHOOSE A CAMP SITE

If you're planning on heading out into the wilderness, be sure to read these tips on choosing a campsite, your home away from home.

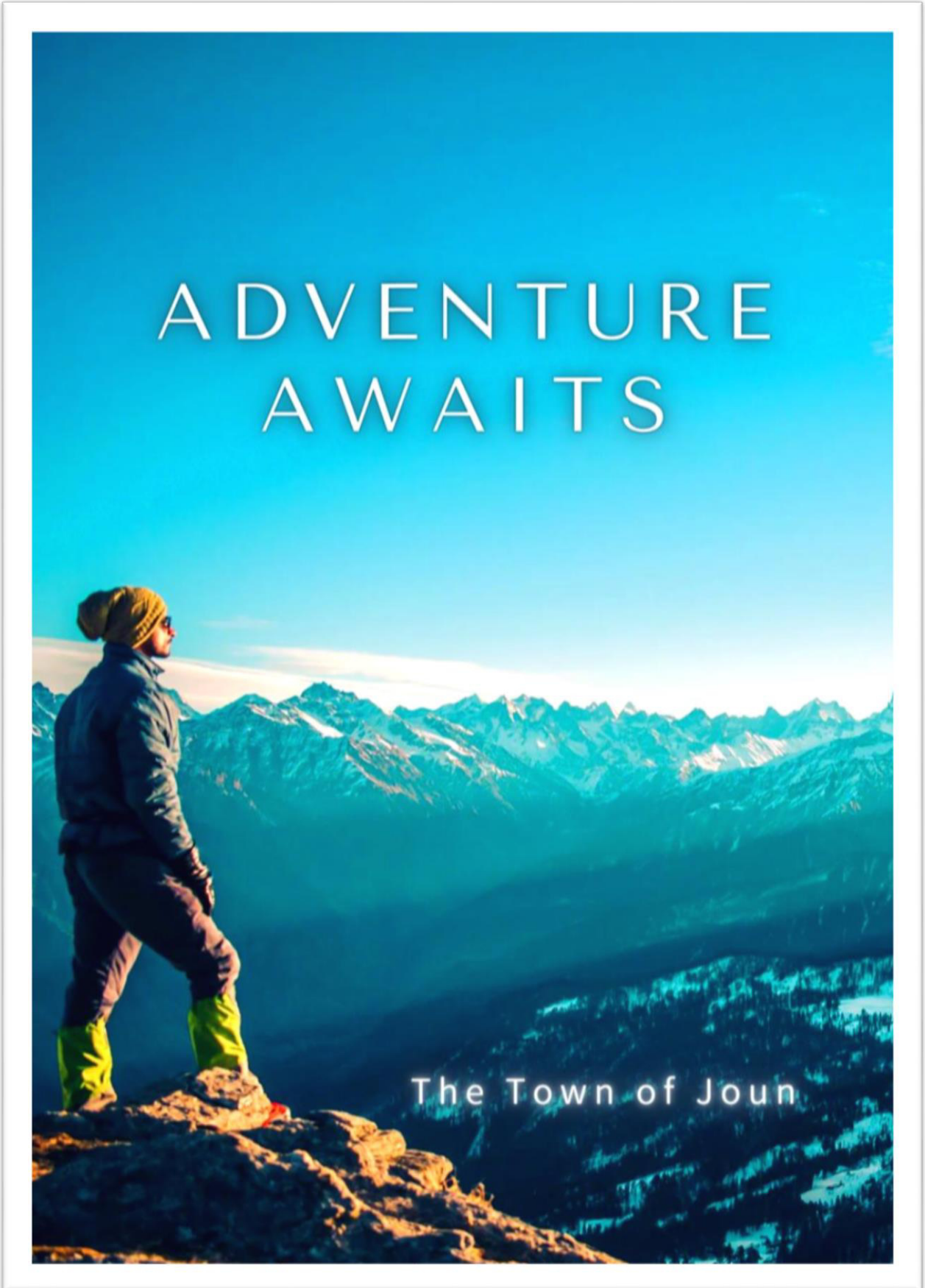
THINGS TO DO IN JOUN

Lebanon is a beautiful country with a rich history and culture. There are many things to do in Joun, from hiking to sightseeing. This guide will help you plan your trip and make the most of your time in Joun.

GOLDEN HOUR IN JOUN

The golden hour is the best time to hike in Joun. The light is soft and the temperatures are just what you need. This guide will help you plan your trip and make the most of your time in Joun.





APPENDIX

MORE ABOUT JOUN

Lebanese Army Magazine

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، المفاخرة بأشجار زيتونها المقدسة، الزاخرة بعبق الماضي من نواويس وقصور وأديار وقلاع وعيون ماء دهرية، اختارتها شخصيات التاريخ ودوّنت أسماءها في سجلها الذهبي

وفي حاضرها سطرّت 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 والمحتفرة وجنوباً نهر الاولي، 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
قمتها كتلة صخرية كبيرة تتخللها معالم مقالع في صخورها بأشكال مختلفة ويرجح أن حجارتهما نقلت إلى
معبد اشمون والبنى القريبة منه. وتوجد بين صخور المقالع بئر ماء ومغارة مدفنية وهما مردومتان بالأثرية
والانقراض.

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 آنية 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 الطباشيرية 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.

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

كذلك، زار عالم الآثار الفرنسي دينان في العام 1936 القلعة المعروفة باسمها الصليبي أو قلعة «ابو 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 تهديماً منذ زمن طويل. وفي سنة 1717 باشر الرهبان أعمال البناء، ويظهر أن أقدم بناء سكنه الرهبان هو القبو المستعمل اليوم كمخزن للزيت، وأول بناء شيّدوه 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. وتوالى 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 بمنشآته 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، فنقّرت من عبد الله باشا والي عكا الذي منحها سنة 1821 الموافقة للاقامة 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 ورمته 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 دهايز القصر (تحت الأرض) قبواً وغرفة للمحاكمة ولتنفيذ الأحكام بالسجن والشنق. واستعملت هذه الغرفة كمخبأً للهاربين الذين كانت تأويهم، وتتصل الغرفة بسرداب يؤدي إلى خارج القصر.

ويتضح من مخطط القصر ومنشأته العمرانية انه كان قلعة حقيقية فيها كل أسباب الراحة والرفاهية وقد يضاهاى 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 هدهدا أكثر من مرة، فحذرتة وحرّضت الناس ضدّه 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، وشيّعاً جنثمانها في منتصف تلك الليلة، حيث لف بالعلم الانكليزي، وتم دفنها في القصر.

عيون ويناابيع

تتميز الجهة الشمالية من بلدة جون بوفرة بناييعها التي تنساب بين أوديتها ومنخفضاتها. وفي الزاوية الشمالية من تلة الليدي ستانهوب تتفجر يناييع عدة تشكل ما يسمى «العيون» وأغزرها في الوقت الحاضر أي الجرن المحفور في الصخر، «gurna» «عين ميرون» التي قد يكون اسمها التاريخي تحريفاً للفظة وشيّدت فوق العين قنطرتان 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 ناوويس 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 تختزنه، 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 وبيانتاج 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 in Asharq Al Awsat Newspaper

جون.. جوهره 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 الحداثة التي ألقت بظلالها على معالم جون من هنا وهناك، فإنها استطاعت أن تحافظ على دفنها إن في مجال عمارتها الهندسية أو معالمها التاريخية.

كل ما يخطر على بالك أو تتمنى أن تلاقيه وأنت في مشوار سياحي تثقيفي وخدمي، 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 حIRON» و«قصر إستير استنهوب» و«دير المخلص» ومسجد «محمد الفضيل» تمثل التاريخ والجغرافيا فيها، بينما يعدّ مطعم «تلّ القمر» الذي يقع على أطرافها مركزاً سياحياً في موقعه وخير مثل للقمة اللبنانية والجلسة العائلية السعيدة.

تزدحم بلدة جون الشوفية بالمواقع والمعالم التاريخية والطبيعية، فهي إضافة إلى المغاور الـ18 التي تزدهم بها منطقة «الخشبية» 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 حIRON» 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 السديان 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» المتصلّ بموقع دير المخلص الذي يتوسط البلدة، ويعدّ واحداً من أهم المواقع الدينية في منطقة الشوف.

تقع تلة «النقبا» المشرفة على بلدة جون في الجهة المقابلة لقلعة «أبر الحصن» الذي يلقها بشكل بيضاوي نهر الأولي. على هذا الطريق الذي استحدث مؤخرا 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 تتصّفحه 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 حIRON» مياه عذبة تتدفّق من الصخور

تتميّز الجهة الشمالية من بلدة جون بينابيعها التي تناسب بين أوديتها ومنخفضاتها. وتعدّ «عين حIRON» 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 تتدفّق مياهه من الصخور، فيشكّل معلما جغرافيا عريقا

السياحة الدينية من ميزات بلدة جون

تحلّل السياحة الدينية في بلدة جون حيزا لا يستهان به من نشاطاتها المختلفة، إضافة إلى «دير المخلص» العريق الذي يعدّ من أهمّ 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 فشيّده بعد أن استقرّ فيها. ويعتبر هذا المسجد معلما تاريخيا يشكّل جزءا من تراث بلدة جون في هذا الإطار

قصر اللبدي إستير استنهوب معلم تاريخي يعبق 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، فاختارت هذا البناء يومها لتسكنه وليكون ملجأ للمسافرين والهاربين من وطأة الحروب. في زيارتك للقصر ستكتشف معالمه التاريخية، فقد رتبته الليدي البريطانية بحيث أحاطته بالحدائق الغناء كما أضافت إليه جناحين، أحدهما يتضمن غرفا للضيوف ودهليزا يوصلك إلى إهراءات القمح، وآخر خصصته للمطبخ والخدم في القصر. شكّل هذا القصر قلعة حقيقية وقر لليدي استنهوب الحماية لها من بطش الأمير الشهابي بشير الثاني، ووالي مصر إبراهيم باشا. دفنت الليدي 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 يعبق برائحة زهر الليمون وبلوحات على مدّ النظر، سيحوّلك التعرّف إلى هذه الأرض

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