

National Training Session on monitoring techniques of marine turtles

Tyre Nature Coast reserve (Lebanon) , 3-7 July 2018



About Byblos

Location & Population

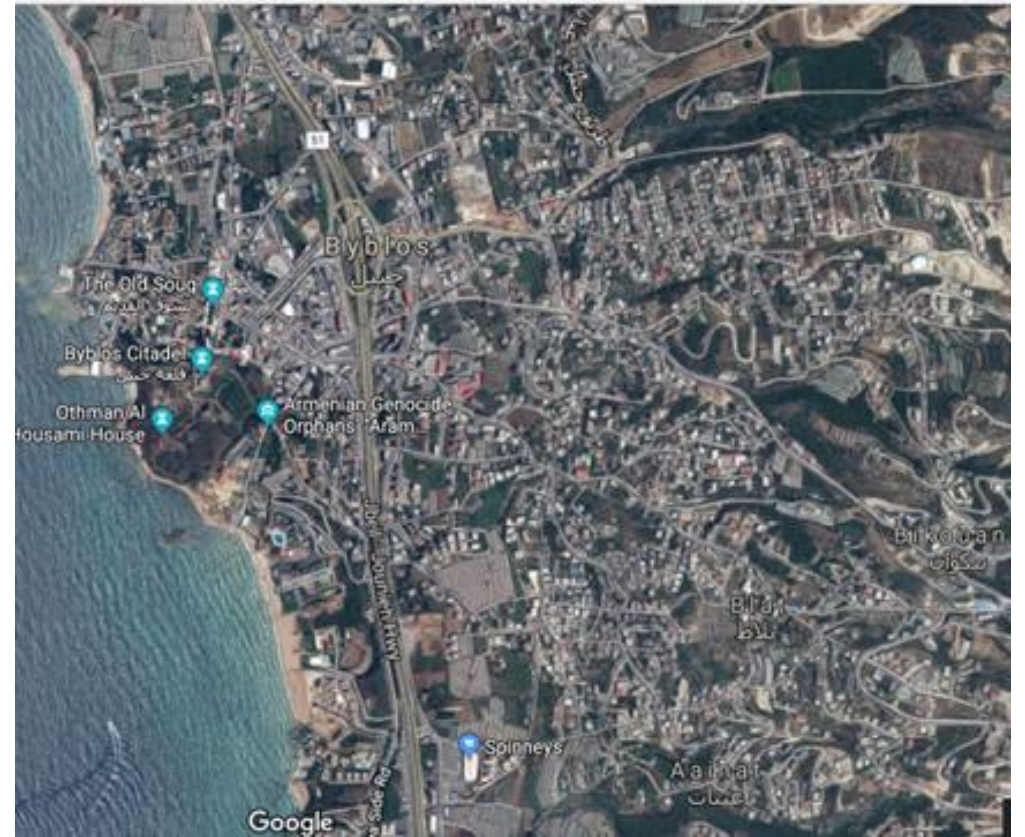
Byblos is located about 42 kilometers (26 mi) north of Beirut.

Latitude in degrees, minutes, and seconds: 34° 07' 16" N

Longitude in degrees, minutes, and seconds: 35° 38' 53" E

City 40,000 inhabitants

Metro 100,000 inhabitants



On the map

Characteristics

Jbeil is the only archaeological coastal site with a protected natural environment. Thanks to the implementation of the development plan No8645 (February 5 1962), the old town of Jbeil, which is included in the medieval ramparts, was restored and protected from anarchic urbanization.

The natural-historic complex is surrounded to the north and south by sand dunes and threatened with destruction by development projects.

A tiny island off the coast of Jbeil and the neighboring village of Aamchit serve as additional poles of attraction.

Characteristics



- Byblos is re-emerging as an upscale touristic hub. With its ancient port, Phoenician, Roman, and Crusader ruins, sandy beaches and the picturesque mountains that surround it make it an ideal tourist destination.
- The city is known for its fish restaurants, open-air bars, and outdoor cafes.

Byblos Public Beach

- Description: The Byblos beach are divided in two by the town. Both beaches show the same characteristics - fine sand with gently rising slopes. There is very small area at the southern end where some sand dunes could develop. In a moist and wet sand dunes slack, some vegetation such as reed *Phragmites australis* and shrub is growing.
- Beach use: These beaches are very popular with tourists, and are covered with sun beds, umbrellas, tables and chairs. There are private enterprise facilities for daily use. The facilities are also open at night time, and their lights illuminate the beaches.
- On both beaches, the tourist facilities are in the middle of the beach.

Byblos Public Beach

- Sand dunes: There are some small rests of former sand dunes, and a dune slack where Common Reed is growing.
- Marine turtles: Fishermen reported in 2001 often seeing *Caretta caretta* and *Chelonia mydas* in the sea, and also nesting of *C. caretta* on the beach. Nesting may occur only accidentally. There are some places with a beach morphology suitable for turtle nesting, but the tourist pressure is much too high.

Some obstacles

Cultural heritage and tourism development in Jbeil has to address several of the problems which characterize the national scene:

- The lack of institutional and legislative frameworks,
- The absence of a multi-sectoral approach,
- Deficiency in financial and human resources,
- Deteriorating urban environments and complex tenure conditions etc.

Obstacles

- As in other cities in Lebanon the Ministry of Transport and Public Works can affect Jbeil through its influence over maritime property which oversees all master plans for the city.
- Since Jbeil is a coastal city, the impact of MOTP decisions on the physical and social fabric of the old is significant. As is evident in decree 4810, which allows private owners to double their exploitation rights if constructing hotels, the absence of negotiations and discussion could have a disastrous impact on the existing historic fabric.

Advantages

Locally, other issues unique to Jbeil will pose a distinct challenge/advantage to any project. Some of these characteristics are:

- The historic city is well preserved.
- Very low incidence of residence in the city.
- Surrounding populations rarely frequent the historic core.
- The caza of Jbeil functions almost as a distant suburb of the capital.
- Jbeil is a regional node in rural urban migration especially from the area of Batroun.
- The proximity of the Aamchit and Batroun beaches render the combination of different forms of leisure and cultural tourist