

The archaeological site of Sbeitla

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Capitol temples

 [Sbeitla](#) , [Tunisia](#)

[Kasserine Province](#)

[35.240556°N 9.119722°E](#)

[archaeological](#)

[1921-1906](#)

[with a break between 1971-1954](#)

[1955-1963](#)

[John Pierre Delhomme](#), [John](#)

[Burberry](#), [Nawal Deval](#)

[National Heritage Institute](#)

Site

Region

coordinates

Type

dates of excavations

Archaeologists

actuator



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The **archaeological** site of Sbeitla is an archaeological site located in the city of Sbeitla in the western center of the Republic of Tunisia. It is the first site equipped with kinetic lighting and an integrated guidance system. ^[1] It includes many Roman and Byzantine antiquities, most of which have been restored, and it is under the auspices of the National Heritage Institute , which in the city of Sbeitla supervises 12 of the total archaeological buildings listed in the Wilayat of Kasserine . The history of excavations and restoration of the site dates back to between 1906 and 1921. ^[2] The site also witnessed excavations between 1954 and 1971 with a break between 1955 and 1963 under the supervision of archaeologist Nawal Deval , a ^[3] .specialist in ancient Christian antiquities

Contents

Date

excavation history

public buildings

The theater

Capitol

forum

public baths

forts

water bridge

political buildings

Arch of Antoninus Pius

Arch of Diocletian

Arch of Septimius Severus

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Places of worship

The cathedral in Balator

Gocondos Temple

unknown temple

Other landmarks

Related topics

Sources

history

The city was founded by the Romans in the middle of the first century, during the period of the Flavian rule . There is no clear source for the designation of Sefita, other than an assumption that it is a diminutive of Sivas; It is a name for the city of Sbeiba , which dates back to the era of the Roman Empire Claudius , who ruled between 41 and 54 years. Whereas, the history of Sfetila dates back to the era of the Flavian dynasty who ruled Rome between the years 69 and 96. The name may be a combination of the Berber phrases Suf and Thala. The first phrase means a valley ^[4] .and the second a fountain or spring

The archaeological site of Sbeitla has received attention and study to the borders of Mount Mughila, Hajeb El-Ayoun, and North Jelma. Studies have proven that the city was an important crossroads in ancient Roman planning, which remains almost as it is today. Sbeitla was and still is a crossroads and a corridor for transporting agricultural products to Hajeb El-Ayoun and Jalama in the east, to Kabsa in the south, to Silium in the west, and to ^[5] .Sivas in the north

In the first quarter of the fourth century, the inhabitants of Sfetla converted to Christianity, like the rest of the Roman Empire, after Emperor Constantine I considered Christianity the empire's religion. The features of the Christian religion were evident in the churches and temples that the site embraces. The archaeological site witnessed massive destruction, which may be due to a natural disaster such as the earthquake that occurred in the year 365 AD, or it may be the result of the devastating war between the Muslims and the Byzantines in the year 647. In which the

^[6] .Byzantines were intransigent to preserve the strategic site



The mosaic of Bishop Honorius is . in the Bardo Museum

Excavation history

While studying at the French School in Rome , and as part of a training in archeology , the archaeological site held the young student Nawal Deval between 1954 and 1955. Then he returned to the archaeological site between 1963 and 1966, and his return to Tunisia was programmed to work on the archaeological site of Hydra . But the latter's proximity to the Algerian border made access to it impossible at that time. Deval took the opportunity to continue the [7].craftsmanship and further study the site to which he was attached and its richness

Public buildings



The theater

The Roman Empire, during and after the rule of the Flavians , knew a high level of prosperity and sophistication, which was embodied in the monuments remaining in the cities of the empire, including the city of Sbeitla. Where we find two triumphal arches, churches and a public bathroom decorated .with mosaics

theater

The Roman theater is located in the eastern center of the archaeological site, on the banks of the .Sbeitla Valley. It has been recently restored and hosts the festivals organized by the city annually

Capitol



Capitol temples

The Capitoline consists of three temples that were dedicated to the Capitoline Trinity , king of the Roman gods and the god of sky and lightning , Jupiter , in the center. His sister and wife Juno , goddess of reason and wisdom and goddess of all skills, arts and crafts, Minerva . [8] It represents the center of worship for the city. It is a homogeneous and picturesque building that reflects the architectural style circulating in the Roman period.

Each of the three temples was built on a podium separated by porticos , each topped by a portico resting on four columns topped by a colosse. The Capitol can be entered through the runways of the two side temples, and there is no amphitheater in the .middle temple

Forum

The Roman Forum is a rectangular monument located between the Arch of Antoninus Pius and the Capitol, surrounded by a wall 70 meters long and 67 meters wide. In the middle of it is a batha stretching over an area of 37 meters by 34 meters, furnished with limestone sheets , surrounded by columns on three sides, numbering 13 in the southeast, and 15 on both sides. It is crowned



Archaeological Forum



.Shower room in public bathrooms

with capitals of the Corinthian order , reaching a total height of 5.5 meters. On either side of this bath are two corridors 6 meters wide that extend to the border of the Capitol, and lead .to small rooms between four and five meters wide

Public baths

It is another landmark among the monuments in the archaeological site. It was built in the third century and witnessed numerous excavations in 1916-1917, 1922 and 1946-1949. ^[9] Bathrooms have rooms with different temperatures; Cold rooms, hot rooms and moderate rooms. In addition to containing a spacious shower room decorated with mosaics . The shower room is spacious and extends over an area of 27 by 17 meters, without a ceiling. She went beyond her primary role of bathing, to also include education, conversation, sports activities and keeping clothes. Each of the .cold rooms has a swimming pool

forts

Of the few Byzantine monuments remaining in the archaeological site, we find three fortresses, which are hideouts in which the inhabitants are holed up and consist of a group of rooms, and a well to supply drinking water. The forts can be accessed via a ladder. The history of excavations ^[6] .and restoration of two of these forts dates back to after 1945

Water bridge



water bridge

This bridge is located on the edge of the archaeological site, on the Sbeitla Valley. It is carved in the rock, extends over 50 meters, and is supported by 3 columns. The restoration of the bridge took place in the works that extended from 1907 to ^[10] .1911

Political buildings

Arch of Antoninus Pius

The Arch of Antoninus Pius is one of the distinguished monuments of the archaeological site of Sbeitla . It is a gift to the fifteenth Roman emperor Antoninus Pius , who ruled in the period July 11 138 and March 7, 161 and to his two adopted sons ^[11] . prestigious. The arch is located on a four-



The back facade of the Arch of
. Antoninus Pius



. Arch of Diocletian

step runway and leads to a forum. It consists of three arched doors and rests on four columns with capitals. Each of them depends on a rule

Arch of Diocletian

The Arch of Diocletian is located in the southeast of the archaeological site. It was restored between 1910 and 1911, [12] and is the distinctive archaeological landmark of the city of Sbeitla. It was erected as a gift to the first emperors of the Quaternary in the Roman era. The Tetrarchy is a system established by the Roman emperor Diocletian, in the late third century, to counter the repeated and difficult attacks of the Berbers by a single man. The first quatrain was known as the domination of Diocletian, so this archaeological landmark is named after him

Arch of Septimius Severus

The Arch of Septimius Severus is located in the poorer part of the city in the northwest of the site, and its construction appears to have been of a lower quality than the Arch of Diocletian for which the city is famous, located to the southeast of the archaeological site. Only a few traces of the arch [13] were left

Places of worship

Cathedral of Ballatore



Bellator Church

It is the cathedral church of Sfeila, dating back to the fourth century. It has undergone several restorations. It can be entered through two side doors. It extends over a distance of 35 meters in length and 15 meters in width. The landmark consists of 3 naves separated by two lines of eight pairs of columns. At both ends of the central nave, the church contains two domes. Where one of them was the entrance to the church. The Ballatore is part of the center of worship for Catholic Christians. What distinguishes the cathedral is its beautiful baptistery, decorated with mosaics in its floor and sides, and decorated with images of fish. The baptistery is protected by an iron fence, which has contributed to the protection of the mosaic to this day



unknown temple

Temple of Gocondos

It is a small church named after the Vandal bishop in Africa. It was built in the fifth or beginning of the sixth century. It was formerly a sanctuary of a rectangular church, without doors on three sides, and an arched door on the fourth side. The idol has a distinctive shape and two indentations on the sides make it in the shape of an egg. After the construction of another building, the baptism was dispensed with and turned into a small temple that was gifted to Gocondos, and he was buried in it.

The Unknown Temple

This temple is located on the outskirts of the archaeological site and opposite the building of the chapters. The entire facade of the building was demolished, so it remains unknown and we do not know which saint to follow.

Other landmarks

The archaeological site contains a number of other monuments, the most important of which are

- oil presses
- The Vitalis and Service Churches
- .Water tank



water tank



.Vitalis Church



Service Church

Baptistry Basin for
the Vitalis Church

oil presses

مواضيع ذات صلة

- المتحف الأثري بسبيطة
- سبيطة

المصادر

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