

This article is about a historical town in Ibb Governorate, Yemen. For other uses, see Jibla. Not to be confused with Jableh.

Jiblah (Arabic: **جِبْلَة**) is a town in south-western Yemen, c. eight kilometres (5.0 mi) south, south-west of Ibb in the governorate of the same name. It is located at the elevation of around 2,200 metres (7,200 feet), near Jabal At-Ta'kar]2][1]. **جَبَلُ النَّعْكَرِ** (The town and its surroundings were added to the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List due to its purported universal cultural value. The historical Palace of Queen Arwa is located in the town.[3]

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5.1 Jabal At-Ta'kar

History[edit]

Following the assassination of the Sulayhid 'Ali ibn Muhammad in 1067 CE, Arwa al-Sulayhi's husband Ahmad became the de jure ruler of Yemen, but he was unable to rule, being paralysed and bedridden. He gave all of his power to Arwa, one of her first actions was to move the capital from Sana'a to Jibla, in order to be in a better position to destroy Sa'id ibn Najar, and thus avenge her father-in-law's death. This she managed to do by luring him into a trap in 1088. She built a new palace at Jibla, and transformed the old palace into a great mosque where she was eventually buried.[3][4][5][6]

Rural life of villagers[edit]

As late as 1979, the women of Jibla would launder their clothes in large pools formed by rivulets of natural spring water, which trickled down the slopes of Jebal Attaker. Stepping stones of the brook were used in place of scrub-boards.

Rest your heart among the little hills of Dhī l-Sufāl, gaze upon its expanses, / There the air is as clear as crystal, the water is pure, and night brings even greater happiness.[7]

Infrastructure[edit]

Hospital(s)[edit]

Located here is the American Baptist Hospital. It is where Taher Qassim (a public health practitioner and founder of the Liverpool Arab Arts Festival, who was born in the village of Al-Karaba) spent 3½ years in vocation.[8]

On December 30, 2002, an Islamist militant entered Jibla Baptist Hospital, and shot and killed three Southern Baptist hospital workers. The day after the shootings, ownership of the hospital was transferred to the Yemeni government. The government assumed responsibility in 2003, and continued to employ Southern Baptist workers, until its closing in May 2007.[9]

As with other areas in war-torn Yemen, Jiblah was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but its hospital lacked capabilities to test for the coronavirus, thus doctors there had to use other means to diagnose it. Yet according to two healthcare workers there, the hospital

daily received almost 50 people with symptoms, and out of fear of reprisals, doctors did not inform relatives of deceased patients about them even being suspected to have contracted the virus.[10][11][12][13]

Mosques[edit]

See also: List of mosques in Yemen

Qubbat Bayt Az-Zum Mosque

Masjid Qubbat Bayt Az-Zūm (مَسْجِدُ قُبَّةِ بَيْتِ الزُّومِ)

Masjid Qubbat Ash-Shaykh Ya'qūb Az-Zūm]14)(مَسْجِدُ قُبَّةِ الشَّيْخِ يَعْقُوبَ الزُّومِ)

Religion

Affiliation Islam

Region West Asia

Status Active

Location

Location Jiblah, Yemen, South Arabia

Location in Yemen

Show map of Yemen

Show map of Middle East

Show map of Asia

Show all

Geographic coordinates 13°55′23.33″N 44°8′52.68″E﻿ / ﻿13.9231472°N 44.1479667°E﻿ /

Architecture

Type Mosque

Style Islamic

Completed 921 A.H.[15]

Specifications

Dome(s) 1

Minaret(s) 1

There are two historical mosques here:[3][16]

That of Queen Arwa

Qubbat Bayt Az-Zum Mosque (Arabic: مَسْجِدُ قُبَّةِ بَيْتِ الزُّومِ, romanized: Masjid Qubbat Bayt Az-Zūm), also known as Masjid Qubbat Ash-Shaykh Ya'qūb Az-Zūm]14)(مَسْجِدُ قُبَّةِ الشَّيْخِ يَعْقُوبَ الزُّومِ), which was established in 921 A.H.[15]