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-Taʿkar (جَبَل ٱلتَّعْكَر).[1][2] 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 (مَسْجِد قُبَّة بَيْت ٱلْزُّوْم)  
Masjid Qubbat Ash-Shaykh Yaʿqūb Az-Zūm (مَسْجِد قُبَّة ٱلشَّيْخ يَعْقُوْب ٱلْزُّوْم)[14]  
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: مَسْجِد قُبَّة بَيْت ٱلْزُّوْم, romanized: Masjid Qubbat Bayt Az-Zūm), also known as Masjid Qubbat Ash-Shaykh Yaʿqūb Az-Zūm (مَسْجِد قُبَّة ٱلشَّيْخ يَعْقُوْب ٱلْزُّوْم),[14] which was established in 921 A.H.[15]