

Jezzine

and its Vicinity

The casa starts at the western slope of the Niha Mountain (1889m of height) stretching out until the Riham mountain(1100m high), spreading west to the highest elevations of Sidon, Zahrani and Nabatieh, south to the Litani river, in the Jarmak plain, that separates it from Wadi al Taym and Marje'youn, and finally north to the Awali river that separates it from the Chouf area.

Historic preview

Jezzine had been throughout times and centuries mentioned by several travelers and scholars as Al Idrissi, Lucas, Lady Stanhop, the father Lamens and the father Godard. The site is inhabited since antiquity time, phoenician, roman and byzantine archaeological sites have been found in the area including a statue of a phoenician God called "the God of Jezzine" now on display at the Louvre museum in Paris.



Aerial view



Due to its strategic location it had been the theatre of several conflicts in the region. During the crusader times, the region of Jezzine along with the Chouf constituted the more considerable fief of the Lordship of Sagette; in 1256 Julian of Sagette(Sidon), sieve of debts, had sold the fief to the Teutonique order. During the mamluk period Jezzine was known for its shiite religious school of jurisprudence. The town underwent an important development during the ottoman period, especially during the al-mutassarifiya time as it had assumed a political, administrative and social role, becoming since the casa capital. During this time, roads bridges souks and a serail etc... were constructed.

Jezzine

Due to the spectacular beauty of its natural position of absolute privilege, inserted in a geographical context of marvelous landscapes, surrounded by hills and "Taumat Niha", dominating the cliffs formed by erosion

and successive seismically phenomenon, endowed with numerous water springs and a waterfall that divides it in 2 sections, plunging 80m and dominating the Bkassine pine wood, Jezzine looks as hang between the heavens and earth. located in the south at 1000 m above the sea level, at half an hour from Sidon, it enjoys a pleasant weather, being mild in summer, cold in winter. It is the headquarter of the Jezzine casa, locates on a strategic axis joining several regions, from the Chouf, the Wadi al - Taym, the Beqa' a Marje'youn, Nabatieh and the Mount ' Amel serving as natural trailer passages.

It is the mixture of a rustic and well developed town perpetuating the old traditions of the Lebanese mountain and the rural predominance: old flat and red roof houses, old souk where different land products and handicrafts are sold, and where different festivities in summer time are celebrated. It is also fast becoming an important economical center that includes a modern hospital, shopping malls, a vari-



Saydet al Maabour



ety of restaurants and hotels. The village is also characterized by permanent nocturnal life during the summer months.

The entry of the village is dominated by several appreciated restaurants, of which, some offer views of the valley and the "chellal", whilst others are adjacent to a duck pond watered by a succession of water sprays.

Visite of the Site

Wadi Jezzine: inexhaustible rivers, cultivated with orchards in terrace dominated by cliff cascades plunging 80 meters and endowing it its most beautiful scenery...

The Source of Azibé: situated on the outskirts of Jezzine, famous for its hundred years-old plane trees and famous for its trouts fishing.

There are 2 important districts: the upper one called al Daiaa and the lower one called el Sid.

The Old District (el Dai'a): Constituting the upper quarter, with its narrow street, old shops, and the cave's spring, that, before diving in the valley, crosses all the town, resting upon the centennial water mill that was operating up untill few years ago.

The Commercial District (el Sid): Is the lower quarter and the commercial area characterized by its old souk staked out of old and modern shops, workshops, sweetshops and old grocery stores. A small walk in this district allows you to discover beautiful traditional red tiled houses in multiple arcades reachable through interminable stairs.

The Municipal Palace: Was built in 1898 as the town hall and on the own charge of the municipality, at the time of the Sultan 'Abd el Hamid and the Caemmacam of the region Salim Bek 'Amoun.

Saydet el-Maabour (Our lady of the Passage): Toward the entrance of Jezzine, majestically stands the immaculate Virgin's statue. In 1898 a strategic and immemorial passage, joining Jezzine to Sidon and other inland cities, was dug in the rock with the statue erected in 1955. A religious ceremony had been celebrated for the occasion, imploring the Virgin's perpetual protection to safeguard the village. Every year on the Assumption day (August 15), impressive processions take place throughout the village, in a myriad of religious songs with the candle waving crowd, converging at the foot of the shrine.



Serhal palace

Jezzine houses several of hundred years old churches, endowed with imposing stony arches. Their suggestive lighting encourages a sense of contemplation and meditation.

Saint Maron Church: Is The oldest one in Jezzine, Built at the beginning of the 18th century in the upper quarter of



General view of the city

the town and partially destroyed by the 1759 earthquake; it has since been restored many times over. It is characterized by its dimensions and the height of its arches. A very picturesque staircase links it to the old district of Jezzine.

The church of Our Lady the Source (Saydet el-Nabeh): In the middle of this district, rises another church just as splendid, built in 1796. One will appreciate the sharpness of the icon representing the Virgin and the child, an oeuvre of the Italian artist Pierotti, it sits above an altar made of marble surmounted by a canopy. The beauty of this church is enhanced by the imposing columns that sustain its walls striped of gray and ochre stone.

Saint Antoine Church: A real architectural jewel, dating back to the 19th century, composed of a small central chapel flanked by two lateral ones. Noticeable are the fourteen luminous niches dug all around in the stone of the altar and that represent the different stations of the cross.

Saint Joseph Church: An imposing architectural feat, built in 1860, curiously deprived of central columns, its impressive arches seem to challenge the laws of the weight. The church is composed of

two distinct parts, one higher than the other that had served to separate men and women.

Serhal Palace: Fabulously constructed, in a hybrid architectural and decorative style, the fruit of the tireless efforts and the unappeased passion of a now deceased reputed physician of the region. Though incomplete, the monumental palace is composed of a multitude of immense rooms quite surmounted with arcades and inlaid with magnificent stained glass windows. The decorated and fascinating fountains are gracefully sculpted.



The Cutlery of Jezzine

The cutlery of Jezzine: Carved from horn and ivory recognizable by the bird crest handle, highly sought-after, these pieces of cutlery symbolize the art and the sophistication of a traditional Lebanese craft which is over two centuries old. This cutlery is often offered in a casket by the Lebanese government to foreign heads of states in sign of friendship. One can see a craftsman in his workshop situated in the commercial district of the village (the Sid).

The Vicinity of Jezzine

The region of Jezzine is stepped with well preserved picturesque villages devoid of the concrete and the anarchical constructions.

The Tyrone Cave: Designated by the Arabian chronicals under the name of Shaqif Tyrun, and Qal'at Niha and Tyrone Niha by the locals. Located in the Chouf at 7km to the north of Jezzine



Municipality of Jezzine

and 1100m above the sea level and 300m above the nearest road. It is dug into a steep cliff of the Mount Niha, overlooking the confluence of the Barouk river and the Wadi Jezzine that together give birth to the Awali river which joins the north of Sidon to the Mediterranean sea. Located at a stronghold point, it defended the entry of the Lordship of the Sagette. This cave fortress is similar to the one of al'Habis in Tiberiade; this kind of caves were composed of several floors with many vast rooms, supplied by a secure source of water stored in cisterns. Large silos could store abundant provisions. It is not sure whether here or in Jezzine cave, that Emir



Mandaloun

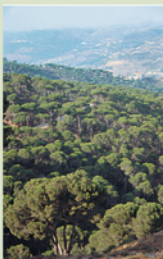
Fakhreddine II had taken refuge in February 1633 to escape the Turk Ottomans. These last led by the Pasha Ahmad Kichk wanted to capture him in order to quash the revolt targeting the reunification and the independence of the Mount Lebanon. But than the prince surrendered and delivered himself to the

hands of the Turks who first exiled him to Constantinople and then executed him together with his three sons.

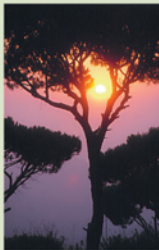
Bkassine: This village is located directly in front of Jezzine with its imposing cathedral, proudly trained, dominating in all its splendor the interminable pine forest that descends the flank of the hill until the valley of Jezzine. This cumulus of greenery constitutes the largest pine forest in the entire Middle East (Not to be missed at sunset).

Machmouché: On the road that leads from Jezzine to Bkassine, stands the famous convent of Our Lady of Machmoucheh dating back to the 18th century and that had housed the first school of the region. One can visit a very beautiful church distinguished by an apse inlaid with niches and topped with a double arched vault.

The sanctuaries of Michée and Zellige: To the summit of a hill stand two ancient sanctuaries one dedicates to the prophet Michée and the other to the prophetess Zellige (deformed Biblical name). They are two modest cubic buildings of varied sizes surmounted of an immaculate dome.



Bkassine pine wood



Qaytoulé: Is a village nestled at the bottom of the valley, characterized by a succession of red roofed houses. One can admire the panoramic view from the Haytoura road that offers an impregnable view on Qaytoulé. The village appears surrounded of an army of pine trees that seem to continue as far as the mediterranean sea.

Bisri: Where restes of Ceres temple, roman road, water aqueduct and mosaics were discovered.

Roum: Some kilometers to the East of Jezzine and easily recognizable by its perfectly conical hill,



Anane

adorned with a minaret surrounded by skywards rising bell-towers. Roum is especially known for its famous festival of September where the well annual mule ran takes place.

Anane : On the way to Sidon, where an artificial lake of the Litani project was constructed during the sixties, allowing to irrigate the region during the periods of drought. Byzantine ruins discovered (in 1995) regroup the rests of a mosaic naved church.

Sfaray: Standing on a rocky promontory where stands a medieval fort known as citadel Abi el-Hassan, of which one can hardly distinguish the basis that are perfectly confound with the rock.

Kfarhouné : Strategic point joining the region of Jezzine to that of Rihan, Marjeyoun and the Bekaa, it is characterized especially by its minarets and its bell-towers that cohabit harmoniously. A road at the entrance of the village leads to the Greek Catholic St. Georges convent dating back to 1883. A true heaven of peace due to its isolation. This small picturesque convent offers a breathtaking panoramic views on its surroundings. Often shepherds bring their flock to graze in peace thus rendering the place even more suggestive.

Khalat Khazem: Situated in the region of Rihan but within the casa of Jezzine, an alike wood reserve covers it. A beautiful karstic cave has been discovered there.

Thus, the region of Jezzine appears as being a succession of villages of multiple facets, seducing visitors by its panoramic nature perpetual beauty and their rustic and picturesque aspect. The well preserved folk traditions and especially the cordial welcome enhance its local aspect.

August 2002 Jezzine municipality has launched the yearly Heritage Festival.

For more information, call the municipality:
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The Tyron Cave: Reference "Les Défenses du Rpyaume de Jérusalem"

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