

GAZA, PALESTINE

Heritage and Holy Sites

هذا ليس حنين إلى الماضي بل تذكير بأهلٍ لأرضٍ يحمونها ويبنونها يعيشونها.

This is not nostalgia for the past, but a reminder of a people of a land who protect it, build it and live in it.

INTRODUCTION: Gaza is one of the world's longest inhabited areas and is rich in cultural treasures, with some 325 formally registered heritage sites within just 365 square kilometres.



THE GREAT OMARI MOSQUE

One of the most ancient mosques in the region, and a beloved Gazan landmark, the Great Omari Mosque (or Great Mosque of Gaza) was built in the early 7th century and named for the second caliph of Islam, Omar bin Khattab. The mosque and its rich library survived major earthquakes and wars over the years. As a site of frequent destruction, but also of resilience and renewal, it embodies the history of Gaza itself.



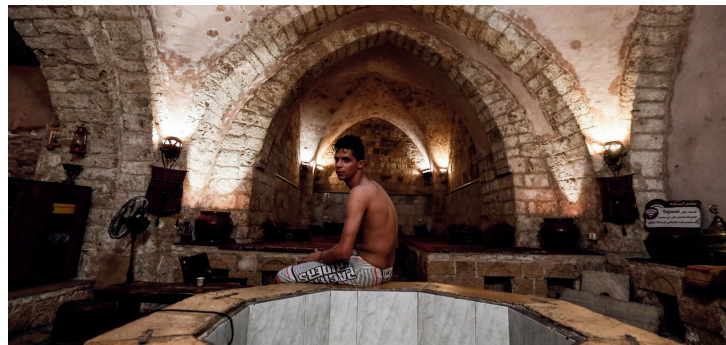
THE CHURCH OF SAINT PORPHYRIUS

This Greek Orthodox church dates back to the 4th Century, and is believed to be one of the oldest active places of worship in Gaza City, and the third oldest church in the entire world. The Church is named for Saint Porphyrius, a 5th century Bishop of Gaza who shepherded the Christian community in Gaza 1,500 years ago, and whose tomb is located at the site.



QASR EL-BASHA

This castle was built in the 13th century, and was recently turned into a museum, displaying artefacts from different periods of Gaza's history, including the ancient Egyptian, Phoenician, Persian, Hellenistic and Roman eras.



HAMMAM AL-SAMARA

The last remaining active hammam (public bath) in Gaza, dating back to the 15th century. Originally run by members of the ancient Samaritan religion, the hammam offered comfort to Gazans even in the hardest of times.



TELL UMM AMER

The Christian monastery of Tell Umm Amer contains the ruins of the monastery of Saint Hilarion, which consists of two churches, a burial site, a baptism hall, a public cemetery, an audience hall, and dining rooms.