

Threats to Cultural Heritage in Libya –present status

Culture in Development

René Teijgeler, cultural heritage expert

contact@cultureindevelopment.nl

Introduction

This report is based on public accessible information primarily obtained through the internet.¹ All international professional organizations were contacted. ICA and IFLA shared the little information they had, ICOMOS could not share a list of archaeological sites as they promised not to release the information to others, while ICOM did not provide their Museum Watch List on Libya. Neither were the results available of the seminar in July in Caserta organized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Italian Ministry for Heritage, with the backing of UNESCO, to discuss the future of the important archaeological sites in Libya.

For more than one reason this report is not comprehensive or exhaustive. It should only be considered as a serious exercise of what the search for information on cultural heritage from a country in conflict using public sources only, will yield.

Table

We believe that cultural heritage should be taken as one and for that reason included in our search for data are Archaeological sites, Monuments (including religious edifices), Libraries and Archives.

Number of identified heritage localities in Libya	
<i>Kind of heritage</i>	<i>Number (n=)</i>
World Heritage sites	5
Other Archaeological Sites	12
Monuments	50
• Religious Buildings - Old Mosques	(25)
• Religious Buildings - Old Churches (including 2 synagogues)	(11)
• Cemeteries	(4)
Museums	32
Libraries	17
Archives	1
<i>Total</i>	117

¹ This report was made possible by the generous support of the Dutch Ministry of Defense, 1 CIMC Bat

The results of the search for heritage localities are given in a long table and the localities are numbered consecutively.² The most common names are given and sometimes local names or alternative names are also reported. The descriptions vary as the amount of information on the localities differs greatly.

For the World Heritage Sites the date of inscription is listed. In some instances the location is more precise than others depending on the information available. Occasionally coordinates are added. Perhaps the most important category is 'Threat.' At the same time it was also the most difficult information to obtain from public sources. With the same token the category 'Protection' was not easy to fill. It is supposed to provide information on the state of preservation of the locality. In the last category 'Remarks' the importance of the locality is given next to URL addresses for photos. The classification of the importance of a certain locality cannot be considered more than an 'educated guess.' Too little scientific information was available. However, the need to at least attempt to classify the locations is big. These categories are:

- Universal value (World Heritage Site only)
- Very important
- Important
- Less important
- Unknown

Archaeological sites

As part of a historical region valued by many successive empires, numerous rich cultural and archaeological sites are located in present-day Libya. Next to the five World Heritage sites Libya has other outstanding archaeological sites, mainly of Greek and Roman origin, some of whom are without doubt the largest and most incredible sites in the Mediterranean. It has also some very unique Neolithic sites and some sites with outstanding rock art. It also of course has the remains of many historic towns, some in ruins, some still in use today.

Archaeology took a back seat after Gaddafi's 1969 revolution although some foreign archaeologists continued work, making finds even during the low point of relations with the West. It's been neglected by the regime for quite a while. At one time it was seen as not Libyan heritage as such but imperialist. In recent years amid efforts to develop tourism the Gaddafi government had sought to improve resources and infrastructure.

Before the conflict started there were over twenty archaeological missions operating in Libya. By far the largest number, thirteen, were Italian missions, but there were also French, British, American and Polish missions amongst others.

Summary Threats. Libyans appear determined to safeguard their rich cultural heritage during the popular unrest against leader Muammar Gaddafi, protecting it from the looting seen in neighbouring Egypt's revolution just weeks before. There are non-substantiated reports of looting from work camps in relatively remote areas. However, the local militia but also the local population seemed to keep control in villages and towns, including the sites.

From public sources the following can be concluded

- Ghadamès might be under threat in the very near future due to fighting
- Sabratha only suffered minor damage
- Tadrart Acacus has a chance it was looted. Haua Fteah Cave, Big Hole of Cyrene could continue to suffer from vandalism
- Possible small looting on remote archaeological sites

² The table is not available to the public in order to prevent it from falling into the wrong hands.

Islamic sites

According to an official map showing the archaeological sites in Libya, the Islamic period is defined to begin from 641 AD to 1800 AD. The most ancient sites are located along the coast (see *Maps*).

Prehistoric Cave Art

Archaeologists, egyptologists and anthropologists must now have their eyes set on Sahara's prehistoric art in Libya, as full access to its unique prehistoric art and primeval past is only a few hours away from Europe's capitals. An incredible amount of research and work needs to be done before we can begin to grasp this wonderful reality, and understand the complete symbolism at the heart of this enigmatic, stylish and artistic civilisation, if not civilisations, the world has forgotten. These preserved treasures are believed by the Tuareg to be lessons from their ancestors and as such are true history of the Great Sahara Desert. For more information see <http://www.temehu.com/sahara-prehistoric-rock-art.htm> . It includes an overview of Sahara Areas Rich In Prehistoric Cave Art.

The natural prehistoric rock art drawings and engravings are found in various wadis across Libya. There are hundreds of wadis in the Acacus region and Wadi Tashwinat alone houses around 101 wadis. To find only a tiny selection of the most popular ones in Fezzan (n=57), see <http://www.temehu.com/libyan-art-galleries.htm>. For a selection of the wadis of Messak Mellet & Settafet and Metkhandoush (n=13), see <http://www.temehu.com/libyan-art-galleries.htm>

Threat. Vandalism is a serious problem for the unprotected ancient Libyan rock art. Some foreign visitors and locals have written or painted over some of the paintings, inscribed their names or initials, poured water over them to bring-out the colours for better photos, urinated on pictures, superimposed originals with other symbols, rubbed-off the heads of human images, and even cut-off some sections all together to be smuggled out of the country.

- Tadrart Acacus. There is a chance that this site has been looted

Natural Caves

Potentially karstifiable rocks cover much of the surface of Egypt and northern Libya. Study of caves and other karstic features of this region has been hampered by lack of roads, rapid disintegration of the surface of friable, poorly consolidated limestone, wind-blown sand and other factors. Interbedding with marly aquicludes hampers speleogenesis locally.

There are a number of big caves in the Green Mountain area, the most famous of which are the Big Hole of Cyrene and the Haua Fteah cave. Four more natural caves are listed in Wikipedia, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_caves#Libya

Threat. Vandalism is a serious problem for the unprotected ancient Libyan ancient caves.

Monuments

Former wartime damage and years of neglect have left large parts of the historic monuments in serious decline. But recent years have seen an upsurge in restoration. Grand old buildings are being carefully rehabilitated and turned to new uses.

Summary Threats. From public sources the following can be concluded

- Ghadamès Mosque, might be under threat in the very near future
- The medinas of Sirt and Misurata most probably suffered much due to heavy fighting
- The Greek Orthodox St. George Church, Tripoli was ransacked
- The Coptic Orthodox Church St Mark's, Tripoli was damaged by NATO bombing

- The Italian Municipal Christian Cemetery, Tripoli was slightly damaged

Medinas

'Medina' is the Arabic word for town, and 'suuq' for market. The two mix in Old Tripoli, as in other cities and towns in this part of the world. Historians trace the origins of the medina of Tripoli back to Roman times. The Harbor Monument stands at the historic gates of the medina. Other well-known medinas can be found in Sirt and Dahra. Often the Old Towns house several monuments like ancient religious buildings.

Threat. During reconstruction in post-conflict societies many medinas are affected by the drive to modernize the urban centres. From public sources the following can be concluded

- Due to the heavy fighting it is most probably that the medinas of Sirt and Misurata suffered much.

War memorials

Libya was the theatre of some of the most fearsome battles of World War Two in North Africa, the most famous of which is the Battle of Tobruk. The cemeteries of European and allied soldiers are well-looked-after amongst others by the British Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Libya also houses several World War and other war memorials.

Threat. There is no report of any damage to the war memorials.

Churches

The largest Christian group in Libya is the Coptic Orthodox, with a population of over 60,000. The Coptic (Egyptian) Church is known to have historical roots in Libya long before the Arabs advanced westward from Egypt into Libya. However, the Roman Catholics have a large number as well, with 40,000 members followed by a small Anglican congregation in Tripoli, mostly of African immigrants. Orthodox communities other than that of the Egyptian Copts include the Russian Orthodox, Serbian Orthodox, and the Greek Orthodox. They have been supporting each another and have been in good fellowship.

In the 1969 revolution that brought Gadhafi to power, most church properties were seized. During Gadhafi's reign, Christian churches were barred from carrying out religious practices outside the church buildings. Catholics, for example, were prohibited from reciting the rosary in public and distributing Bibles was a criminal offense. Also, religious literature is restricted. The Roman Catholic Cathedral of Tripoli was made into a mosque in 1970, while the cathedral in Benghazi was closed down. It was being restructured for a possible conversion into a museum before the rebellion.

When the rebellion began, some Christian leaders expressed concerns over the future of Christianity in the mainly Islamic country. Churches in Tripoli have closed down indefinitely, following the entry into the city on 21 August of National Transitional Council (NTC) fighters backed by the NATO alliance. Several armed men entered a Catholic church in Tripoli on 22 August and took hostage the people inside. Quoting one report: "We raised our both hands. They said they were looking for guns, but when they could not find any, they took away the church's television set. We were not harmed". Churches in Benghazi city did not encounter any problem.

Threat. There are relatively peaceful relations between Christians and Muslims in Libya and the churches were hardly affected by the conflict. Depending on the political outcome of the revolution this remains to be seen. There is the possibility that Christians and their religious edifices could be considered the representatives of the West and their 'imperialism' or simply anti-Islam. In that case the churches will be under threat.

From public sources the following can be concluded

- The Greek Orthodox St. George Church, Tripoli was ransacked
- The Coptic Orthodox Church St Mark's, Tripoli was damaged by NATO bombing

- The Italian Municipal Christian Cemetery, Tripoli was slightly damaged

Old mosques

The Muslims arrived in North Africa during the first half of the 7th century AD. It took nearly five centuries for Islam to reach the various communities of the Sahara desert, as it is still advancing today across sub-Saharan Africa.

It is difficult to say how many mosques there are in Libya but it is evident that it is almost impossible to find a street or an area that does not have a mosque. Some mosques were named after the tribe that built the mosque; while others were named either after a holy man or after an influential ruler.

Threat. There is evidence that in the beginning of the uprising Gadhafi's forces did not hesitate to enter and clear a mosque of protesters. The Ghadamès Mosque might be under threat due to heavy fighting in the very near future.

Synagogues and Jewish cemeteries

In the past the Jewish cemeteries have been levelled off and buildings were erected on them without giving the families the opportunity to remove the remains of their dead. These included four cemeteries in Tripoli (very recently), one in Benghazi, and sixteen in small towns. This forever erased the Jewish past from Libya. The same can be said for the seventy-eight synagogues that were allowed to fall into ruin or turned into mosques or, as in the case of the Central Synagogue in Benghazi, a Coptic church. Sixty-four of them were destroyed, forty-four in Tripoli, three in Benghazi, and seventeen in small towns. More information at <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/142527>

Threat. It is to be expected that the few remaining Jewish religious sites will continue to be under threat.

Museums

Libya has a long history and has been in contact with many other civilizations, from pre-historic age to the modern age, passing through so many ages. The museums in Libya focus on Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Arabic antiquities. There are other museums, mainly archaeological, at Cyrene, Homs, Gaigab, Germa, Leptis Magna, Tokrah, Zanzur, Marsa Susah, and Sabrata. Tripoli is home to many museums of different quality.

Libyan museums are hardly known outside Libya. They are rarely listed in or covered by any of the specialist publications and organisations, and despite the fact that Assaraya Alhamra Museum being one of the most valued museums in the world, largely for its unique collection of artifacts dating from the Stone Age to the present day, Libyan museums still remain in total darkness. To this day, not a single museum has a website.

Summary Threats.

- Misurata Museum probably suffered much from heavy fighting
- Museum of Libya, Tripoli. One wing was looted
- Ghadamès Museum. At high risk due to fighting in the next few days
- Apollonia Museum was broken into and looted
- Tolmeitha Museum suffered minor thefts
- Benghazi Museum was heavily looted
- Sirt Museum at high risk to continuous heavy fighting

Libraries

According to a research report Libya houses 1917 libraries in the year 2000. Of these are 67 academic libraries, 29 public libraries, 176 cultural centres, 80 special libraries and 1565 school libraries. In addition, France and Italy maintain cultural centres with libraries in the national capital.

In 1986 Gadhafi attempted to close the departments and destroy the libraries of the faculties of English and French at Al Fatah University. It was part of the Arabization campaign and another of Gadhafi's steps to eliminate Western influence. The students successfully thwarted Gadhafi's attempt. A compromise was worked out whereby the departmental libraries were spared, but both foreign languages were gradually to be phased out of university curricula.

Summary Threats. There is no report of any damage to the libraries. However, that does not mean that libraries were not affected as we do not have any information on their status.

Archives

No information could be collected on the archives except for the National Archives. Before the revolution the government was in the process to collect archives from government offices. It is suggested that throughout the country several storages of records must exist. Next to the heritage value of the archives the dynamic (running) archives are of the utmost importance for the (continuation) of the public administration.

Summary Threats. There is no report of any damage to the archives. However, the possibility remains that angry mobs turned to the streets and destroyed anything that reminds them of the former regime. Such events might occur (again) after the victory is complete. Many government buildings hold dynamic archives that the new government needs to continue to govern the country.

Future

The Department of Antiquity is responsible for all museums and archaeological sites in the country. As was recommended on the July seminar in Caserta it is in need of re-organisation, something that had already been started before the uprising. One know Libyan archaeologists hopes that the Department of Antiquity will be seen as part of the Libyan identity and the future of Libya.

The Libyan Tourism Police accompanied the several tours in the country, one tourist officer to a group of 5 to 10 persons. The tourists also needed to pay extra for this 'service.'

As a result of the recent awareness of the value of Libyan culture and history, many societies began collecting their old traditions for publishing in the Internet and for reintroducing into the modern daily life, to slow down the rate of disappearance as well as to teach the newer generations the traditions of the past ancestors. Members of Libya's Amazigh, or Berber, minority, whose language Gaddafi suppressed, have demanded the country's new rulers recognise them and their tongue in a [new constitution](#). Another good example for this cultural awareness is the Tuareg Imzad Project (The Imzad Hearers), which provides training for girls to continue playing the imzad, their mothers played for so long.

The Libyan people seem to be well aware of the importance of their heritage considering how they protected it from Gadhafi's forces. Also, there appears to grow a new artistic spirit on the ruins of the revolution. Artists in Benghazi started to make works next to the new art museum from scrap metal pieces left over from the fighting. Others exhibit their gloomy paintings or woodwork. In the Tripoli Post of September 17 a suggestion is made to create a 'National Heritage Site for The New

Libya.' It should remember that those who died fighting for freedom also died to leave a lasting legacy. In an encouraging 'Statement of Intention for the Path of a New Libya' by CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISTS OF TRIPOLI on September 6th 2011 the support of 'all the community activities such as sports, arts (music, theatre, cinemas, fine arts, etc.) and other cultural activities In Tripoli' was clearly mentioned.

Maps

On the internet a few maps on Libya can be found. For a limited Interactive map for archaeological sites see http://www.temehu.com/libyemap/map_of_libya_index.htm. For a limited interactive map for coordinates see http://www.temehu.com/libyemap/map_of_libya_coordinates_finder.htm. For all kinds of useful information and numerous maps see <http://www.temehu.com/libyemap/map.htm>

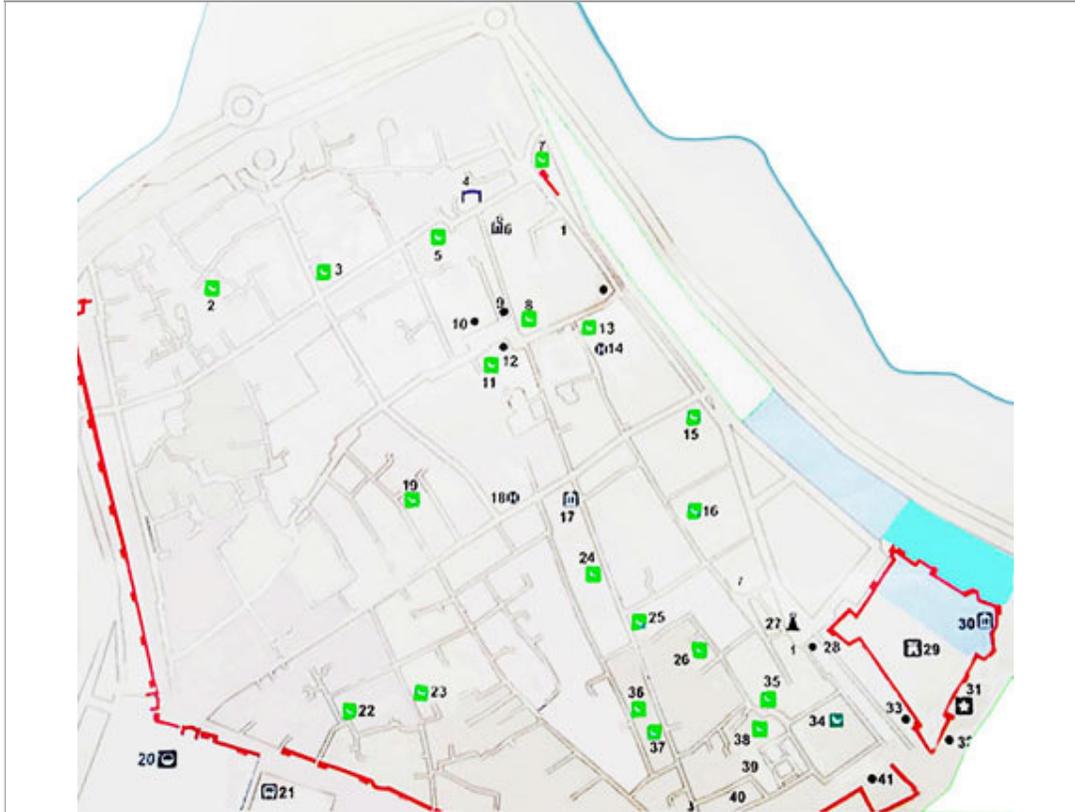
The Mosques of The Old City In Tripoli



A map showing the distribution of mosques in the Medina (the Old City of Tripoli). Source: <http://www.temehu.com/islamic-tourism-and-mosques.htm>

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Qaramanli Mosque | 4 - Darghut Mosque | 7 - Sidi Salem Mosque |
| 2 - Al-Naqah Mosque | 5 - Gurji Mosque | |
| 3 - Muhammad Pasha Mosque | 6 - Mahmoud Mosque | |

A Map of The Main Site of Interest In Tripoli



A map showing the main sites of interest in Tripoli. Source: http://www.temehu.com/Cities_sites/Tripoli.htm

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1-Nadi Bab al-Baher | 2-Sidi Solieman Mosque | 3-Ben Saber Mosque | 4-Marcus Aurelius Arch |
| 5-Gurji Mosque | 6-Old French Consulate | 7-Sidi Abd Alwahab Mosque | 8-Othman Basha Mosque |
| 9-Secondhand Bookshop | 10-Turkish Prison (O. Church) | 11-Catholic Cathedral | 12-Banco di Roma |
| 13-Darghut Mosque | 14-Hammam Darghut | 15-Al Kateis Mosque | 16-Mohamed Basha Mosque |
| 17-Yusuf Qaramanli House | 18-Hammam Al Kebira | 19-Sidi Katab Mosque | 20-Tunis Garage (Bus & Taxi) |
| 21-Mutahedeen Agency | 22-Ben Latif Mosque | 23-Charush Mosque | 24-Huria Mosque |
| 25-Druj Mosque | 26-Kuaruba Mosque | 27-Ottman Clock Tower | 28-Traditional Teahouse |
| 29-Assaraya Alhamra | 30-Jamaheriya Museum | 31-Police Station | 32-Balcony |
| 33-Old Castle Door | 34-Ahmed Basha Mosque | 35-Sufi Mosque | 36-Ben Tabun Mosque |
| 37-Knenara Mosque | 38-An Naqah Mosque | 39-Hammam Alheygha | 40-Mat'am Assarai & Asharq |

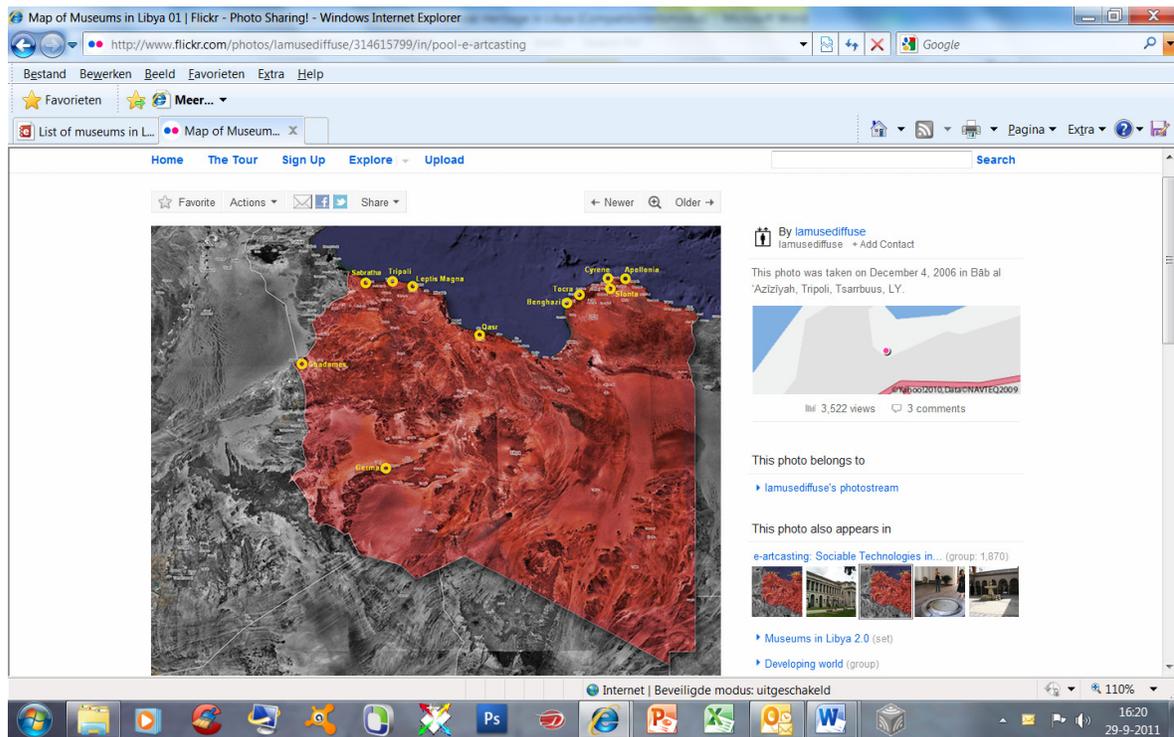
Ancient Islamic Sites In Libya



According to an official map showing the archaeological sites in Libya, the Islamic period is defined to begin from 641 AD to 1800 AD. The most ancient sites are located along the coast. Source: <http://www.temehu.com/islamic-tourism-and-mosques.htm>

Aljaghboub	Benghazi	Gharyan	Sabratha
Ajdabiyah	Ben Jawwad	Ghat	Sert
Albayda	Bounjeem	Leptis Magna	Sultan
Alkufrah	Cyrene	Misuratha	Tobruk
Almerj	Darnah	Old Sert	Tripoli
Awjla	Ghadames	Sabha	Ubari

Map of museums in Libya



Map of museums in Libya created with Flickr. Source:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/lamusediffuse/314615799/in/pool-e-artcasting>

Main sources of information

- [International Directory of Islamic Cultural Institutions](#) by Aḥmad ‘Ujaymī, Acar Tanlak and Ahmed Lajimi. Istanbul, 1989.
- [Mission Report. Civil-Military Assessment Mission for Libyan Heritage](#) by Blue Shield and IMCuRWG, September 28 to 30, 2011
- [Librarianship as a profession : an investigation of Libyan librarians' attitudes](#) by El Bennani and Fauzia Khalil. McGill University, Montreal. October 2000
- [Report of mission to the Center for the National Archives and Historical Studies in Tripoli, Libya](#) by Anne Lama, Archives National, Paris.2010
- Jewish Population in 1906 - 15,000. In *The Book of Mordechai - A Study of the Jews of Libya. Selections from writings of Mordechai Hakohen (1856-1929)* by Harvey E. Goldberg, p. 170.
- Internet sources
 - Temehu Tourism Services
 - [Online Museum](#)
 - [Islamic Tourism & Ancient Mosques In Libya](#)
 - [Christian Churches & WW Cemeteries In Libya](#)
 - [Looklex Libya](#) – an online travel guide
 - [Encyclopedia of the Nations](#) » Africa » Libya » Libraries and museums
 - Wikipedia - [Christianity in Libya](#)
 - [World Heritage Centre](#) - Libya
- Numerous news articles in newspapers, magazines, press releases, e-journals and blogs

The tables below are only samples of the complete list of this Assessment to give the reader insight in the procedure that was followed. The reason not to publish the complete list is not to facilitate the looting of Libya's heritage! The full report and the extensive list have been send to UNESCO only.

Assessment Cultural Heritage in Libya (Sample)

World Heritage Sites (Sample)						
<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Inscribed since</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Threat</i>	<i>Importance</i>
<u>1</u>	<u>Ghadamès</u> (Also see <u>Ghadamès Museum</u>)	<u>Historic town.</u> Known as “the pearl of the desert” and stands in an oasis. It was a crossing point for important caravan routes. The fortified city is one of the oldest pre-Saharan cities and an outstanding example of a traditional whitewashed architecture with its overhanging covered alleys that create what is almost an underground network of passageways and, at the top, open-air terraces reserved for women.	1986	600 km Southwest of Tripoli within the <u>triangle</u> between Libya, Tunisia and Algeria.	Latest reports of 26 Sept. say Gadhafi's troops launched an attack on the town. It is a possible hide out for Gadhafi According reports the town had been under shelling of the governmental troops. Apparently in retaliation for anti-regime protests. These reports could not be confirmed.	Universal value. Major tourist attraction. More information and photos at http://looklex.com/libya/ghadames.htm

Other Archaeological Sites (Sample)						
<i>No</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Threat</i>	<i>Protection</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
6	<u>Red Castle</u> or <u>Tripoli Castle</u> or <u>Asaraya al-Hamra</u> (Also see <u>al-Jamahiriya National Museum</u>)	<u>Castle</u> It was built at the site of the Roman Castrum, the Roman fortified camp. The first fort was built in the 7th century. In the 16th century the new fortifications were added. During the centuries the fort has evolved into a citadel with a labyrinth of courtyards, alleyways and houses, surrounded by high defensive walls. Till the 20th century the castle was the seat of power in the area Tripolitania. The total area is more than 10.000 square meters.	<u>Tripoli</u> At the corner of the medina	None	<u>National Museum</u> has been protected very well and the collection stored prior to the rebels' arrival.	Very important Includes <u>National Museum</u> For more information and photos see http://www.temehu.com/Cities_sites/Tripoli.htm

Monuments (Sample)						
<i>No</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Threat</i>	<i>Protection</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
<u>18</u>	<u>Palace of King Idris</u>	<p><u>Palace</u></p> <p>Built by the Italians between 1924 and 1939 as the Italian Governor's Palace. Next, the Royal Palace, seat of King Idris of Libya, 1951-1969. Later renamed the People's Palace by Gaddafi. It also once housed the National Library but not anymore.</p>	<u>Tripoli</u>	Unknown	Unknown	<p>Important</p> <p>Includes <u>Museum of Libya</u></p> <p>For photos see http://www.panoramio.com/photo/8163297</p>
<i>Religious Buildings -Old Mosques</i>						
<u>30</u>	<u>Gurgi Mosque</u>	<p><u>Mosque</u></p> <p>Best known ancient <u>mosque</u> of Tripoli</p> <p>Small but beautifully decorated 19th century building was built by the Turks, and is considered one of the best examples of Islamic stone carvings and floral motifs in the capital.</p> <p>Built in 1833 by Yussef aka Mustapha Gurgi , a sea captain who originally came from Georgia. Nine columns support a roof made up of sixteen small domes. The mosque's minaret is octagonal in shape and has two balconies.</p>	<p><u>Tripoli</u></p> <p>Old City (Al-Hara)</p> <p>Located west of Marcus Aurelius' Arch</p>	Unknown	Unknown	<p>Very important</p> <p>For more information and photos see http://www.temehu.com/islamic-tourism-and-mosques.htm</p>

Monuments (Sample)						
<i>No</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Threat</i>	<i>Protection</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
		This was the last of Tripoli's mosques built in the Ottoman period and it has the most lavishly decorated interior with marble columns imported from Italy, ceramic tiles from Tunisia and stone carvings from Morocco.				
<i>Religious Buildings – Old Synagogues and Churches</i>						
<u>54</u>	<u>Slat Dar Bishj</u>	<u>Synagogue</u> Probably transformed into a mosque	<u>Tripoli</u> Old city (Al-Hara)	Unknown	Unknown	Important Photos at http://www.paolocason.it/Libia/Pagine/Luoghi%20di%20Culto.html Also at http://www.temehu.com/Cities_sites/christian-churches-cemeteries.htm
<u>56</u>	<u>Christ of King Church</u> Used to be called <u>St Mary, the Lady of</u>	<u>Episcopal Church.</u> Former Roman Catholic church, now occupied by the Anglican Diocese. The church was given to the Anglican Diocese of Egypt by Col. Gaddafi in	<u>Tripoli</u> Old city (Al-Hara)	According to a report of March, none of the Christian churches had suffered in Tripoli.	The church was restored around 2007 by the government for use of a museum	Important. For a photo see http://www.jmecca.org.uk/biblelands_pentecos

Monuments (Sample)						
<i>No</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Threat</i>	<i>Protection</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
	<u>Angels</u> or <u>Santa Maria degli Angeli</u>	<p>2008.</p> <p>Originally a small church for the Maltese Roman Catholic community that was founded in 1645. The cathedral was greatly enlarged in 1870 by the architect Fra Fortunato da Rosina and modified in 1891 through the work of Fra Silvestro of Lastebasse who in his turn decorated it.</p> <p>The building was constructed totally from stone imported from Malta. Even the workers who built it were Maltese. In fact, it was always thought of as the Church of the Maltese.</p> <p>The church was handed over to the Episcopal community in January 2007 by the Ministry of Tourism via the Islamic Call Society and in agreement with the Roman Catholic authorities.</p>				<p>http://www.biblelands_egypt_libya.html</p> <p>Also photos at http://www.paolocason.it/Libia/Pagine/Luoghi%20di%20Culto.html</p>
<i>Cemeteries</i>						
<u>64</u>	<u>Tripoli War Cemetery</u> or <u>Commonwealth War Cemetery Tripoli</u>	<p><u>Cemetery</u></p> <p>It honours the soldiers of Britain, Sudan, India, and South Africa who died in World War II. Commonwealth soldiers buried in the cemetery came from military hospitals set up in Tripoli after it was liberated from German-Italian forces by the 8th Army on Jan. 23, 1943.</p> <p>It was then left abandoned until a few years ago. Date palms provide islands of shade in a sea of</p>	<p><u>Tripoli</u></p> <p>Mansour district, west of Sharia Jamahuriya</p>	Unknown	<p>The cemetery is well maintained.</p> <p>A major renovation programme was planned.</p>	<p>Important</p> <p>For more information and photos see http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cr&CRid=2238838</p>

Monuments (Sample)						
<i>No</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Threat</i>	<i>Protection</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
		<p>1,369 tombstones.</p> <p><u>Tripoli Military Cemetery</u>, where the none World War military casualties are buried, is co-located with <u>Tripoli War Cemetery</u></p> <p>Access to these cemeteries is via the <u>Italian Municipal Christian Cemetery</u>.</p>				

Museums (Sample)						
<i>No</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Threat</i>	<i>Protection</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
68	<p><u>al-Jamahiriya National Museum</u></p> <p>or</p> <p><u>Red Castle Museum</u></p> <p>or</p> <p><u>Assaraya Alhamra Museum</u></p> <p>or</p> <p><u>Archaeological Museum of Tripoli</u></p> <p>Also see the <u>Red Castle</u></p>	<p><u>Museum</u></p> <p>Housed in a wing of the <u>Red Castle</u></p> <p>The museum only occupies 10000 square meters but holds some of Libya's most treasured archaeological and historical heritage, including the oldest known African mummy, from Uan Muhuggiag in the Libyan Sahara. Further invaluable samples of Neolithic, prehistoric, Berber, Garamantian, Phoenician, Punic, Greek, Roman and Byzantine culture.</p> <p>The museum was established in 1919, by the colonial Italians. The British renamed it in 1948 the Libyan Museum. The museum reopened to the public in 1988, renamed the Assaraya Alhmarra museum.</p>	<p><u>Tripoli</u></p> <p>Coordinates 32°53'45"N 13°10'49"E 32.89583°N 13.18028°E</p>	<p>Last report confirms that the staff stored the artifacts prior to the rebels' arrival. Also, artefacts were hidden in secret vaults and exterior doors were welded. Fighters of the Misurata Brigade soon protected the museum.</p> <p>A Russian report claiming the museum had been looted was not confirmed.</p>	<p>It has been protected very well according to two reliable reports. Hardly any damage.</p> <p>In 1982, in a joint venture with the UNESCO, the museum was improved to its current world class status.</p>	<p>Very important.</p> <p>Major tourist attraction.</p> <p>For tourist videos of the collections from June 2011 see at YouTube Historical exhibition in Tripoli, Libya part-1 ;</p> <p>Historical exhibition in Tripoli, Libya part-2 ;</p> <p>Historical exhibition in Tripoli, Libya part-3 ;</p> <p>Historical exhibition in Tripoli, Libya part-4</p> <p>For recent photos see http://www.blueshield.at/libya_2011/gallery/tripoli/index.html</p> <p>Also see http://www.temehu.co</p>

Museums (Sample)						
<i>No</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Threat</i>	<i>Protection</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
						m/Cities_sites/museum-of-tripoli.htm
69	<u>Museum of Libya</u> Also see <u>Palace of King Idris</u>	<u>Museum</u> The concept of the museum is based on the “Edutainment” concept. The museum is divided in six thematic areas presenting a wide vision of what was Libya’s history and what is Libya nowadays. The archaeological rooms on the ground floor exposing rare archaeological master pieces. Rooms dedicated to the desert, to traditions, arts and antiques, modern Arab architecture, technological innovations, the revolution of 1969, the Green Book, music, leisure, modern art pieces expressing the desert, the sea and the capital are all located on the first floor.	<u>Tripoli</u>	From published photos it can deduced that ‘The Glorious Revolution Room’ was looted after the NTC’s fighters took Tripoli. Some of the Green Books were burned and the Volkswagen Beatle was damaged.	Opened in 2010 on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Libyan revolution	Less important. For more information and photos see http://www.temehu.com/Cities_sites/museum-of-lybia.htm More photos at http://www.pbase.com/bcmorrow/museumoflibya&page=1

Libraries (Sample)						
<i>No</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Threat</i>	<i>Protection</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
<u>100</u>	<u>Government Library</u>	<u>Library</u> The library held 37,000 volumes in 2002	<u>Tripoli</u>	Unknown	Unknown	Very important
<u>101</u>	<u>Libyan Studies Center</u>	<u>Library</u> The center holds 100,000 volumes	<u>Tripoli</u>	Unknown	Unknown	Important
<u>102</u>	<u>Al-Fateh University Library</u>	<u>Academic library.</u> It is the largest and most important institute of higher education in Libya. The university was founded as an independent university in 1973 as the University of Tripoli when the University of Libya was divided up.	<u>Tripoli</u> Sidy Almasry, Al Furnaj Road. Coordinates <u>32°51'21"N</u> <u>13°13'17"E</u> <u>2.8557519°</u> <u>N</u> <u>13.2212842°</u> <u>E</u>	Unknown	Unknown	Very important For more information see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Fateh_University

Archives (Sample)						
<i>No</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Threat</i>	<i>Protection</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
<u>117</u>	<u>Center for the National Archives and Historical Study (National Archives)</u>	<p><u>National Archives</u></p> <p>In 1977 the center was created, then known as the Historical Centre of Libyan Studies. It holds three linear kilometers of documents.</p> <p>The present building dates from 1984. In 2009, the Centre has been mandated by the government to collect, process, store and conserve documents from the ministries</p> <p>It has a central location and stands on three floors including a semi-basement for documents storage.</p> <p>It has also an extensive collection of documents relating to the history of Tripolitania under Ottoman rule.</p>	<p><u>Tripoli</u></p> <p>Castello</p> <p>Coordinates 32° 53' 22.24" N 13° 10' 42.94" E</p>	Unknown	Unknown	<p>Very important</p> <p>Contact: Director of the CNARHS, Prof Mohamed Jerary: jerary1940@yahoo.com</p>