



THE BOOK OF

J E Z I R A



Intro

Jezzine, a strategically located town that saw the presence of the Arabs, the Crusaders and the Mamelukes. A town nestled in lush green pine forests that tells the tale of caravans of coastal merchants on their way to Damascus, that of travelers who crossed it too on their way to or from the Chouf or between Jabal Amel and the Bekaa valley. A jewel of a town where the abundance of water, vibrant landscapes and the welcoming nature of the inhabitants attracted vacationers from countries of the region every summer. A town where history, culture and religion are vividly present at every corner of the road.

Itineraries: This brochure suggests 2 strolling itineraries for families willing to connect with the charm of the place. The first one is recommended for morning hours to catch a “mankouche” at the wood oven bakery. The second itinerary is at its best in the early evening hours when the souk is bustling with locals enjoying a chat after a day’s work.

Scenic viewpoints: This brochure suggests 4 viewpoints in Jezzine and surroundings where a unique landscape can be admired.

Points of interest: Find information about some of Jezzine’s landmarks.

Activities: Adventure tourism in Jezzine

Jezzine stories: These stories revive the past through events that reflect the character of the inhabitants.

Tour Jezzine differently: Follow Ghassan Rahhal, a retired teacher and Jezzine expert, for a historical and cultural tour of Jezzine



Where to eat, where to sleep and fun activities: Great addresses in Jezzine.

Have a great time in Jezzine!

Jezzine

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1. Jezzine Hub
2. The Source
3. El Sayde Shrine
4. Mill Chapel
5. Small Square
6. Wood Oven Bakery
7. Mar Maroun Church
8. Vegetable shops
9. El Sayde Church

-  Starting & ending points
-  Points of Interest



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Itinerary 1: “The Source”

Park your car next to the Jezzine hub and walk up to the Source, this serene place where water flows generously and continuously; here locals have come over for centuries to fetch water. It was a place to meet others and hear about the latest news in town. Take a few more steps to visit a lovely chapel carved in the rock.

Follow the path of the water that crosses under the asphalted road and discover, when you find the stairs that take you back down the slope, a former mill transformed into a chapel. You might find it closed but you can peek through the windows to have a feel of the charm of the place. Next to the chapel, a small garden will host you for a picnic.

Take back the stairs further down, and let them lead you down to narrow streets and charming oldhouses. At the first cross path, go straight and follow the road; when you see stairs on your left take them to reach a small square; take a road to the right up the hill and you will find the wood oven bakery on your left.

You have reached a renowned wood oven bakery of the region, sought after by surrounding villagers.

Take the time to order a “mankouche” baked in the wood oven and rediscover a flavor that you had long forgotten.

Continue uphill and join the main road, passing by El Sayde Church and finally rejoining your car enjoying the neatly arranged and colorful vegetable displays of local shops; at some point, you will encounter stairs on the left that go up to Mar Maroun Church. This church features walls that are extremely thick, like no other in Lebanon except for Mar Youssef, another Jezzine church that you will pass by in the other stroll described in this brochure.

The walls were built this way back in the 19th century for the church to serve as a refuge against attackers. On Sundays, Mar Maroun will be open for the service and you can peek inside. If not, continue your stroll on the main road, passing by El Sayde Church and finally rejoining your car.



The Source



Water Canal



The wood oven bakery



Mar Maroun Church



Vegetable stands



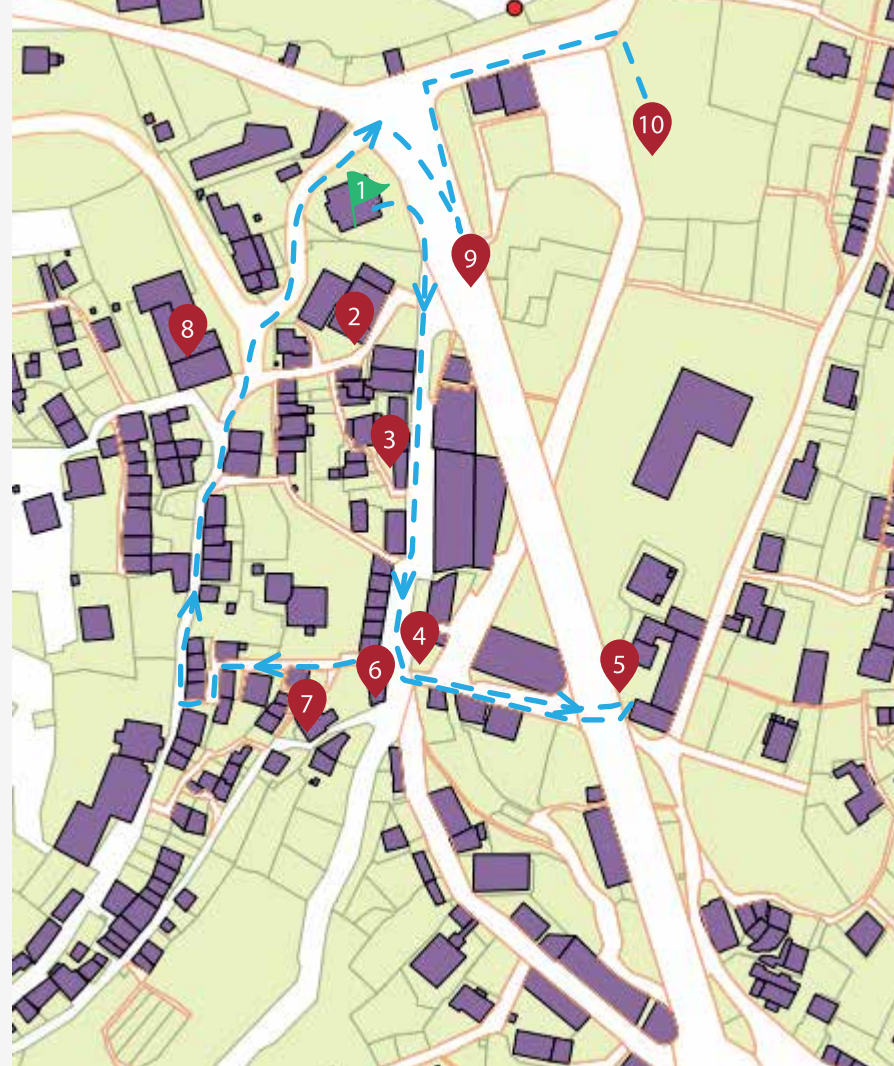
El Sayde Church

Itinerary 2: “Souk El Sed”

1. Municipal Palace
2. Kanaan Mansion
3. Souk el Sed
4. Fountain
5. Mar Mtanous Church
6. Mouneh Shop
7. Old Houses
8. Mar Youssef Church
9. Menshiyeh and playground
10. Georges and Juliette Aziz Park

 Starting & ending points

 Points of Interest



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A longer strolling itinerary is one that starts at the Municipal Palace in the town square of Jezzine. Park your car in the vicinity of the Palace, and start walking towards Souk el Sed, admiring the outstanding architecture of the Kanaan Mansion.

Take the chance to knock at the door of the second floor and if you are lucky, you will be invited by a charming lady to enjoy a cup of coffee in surroundings that tell the history of Jezzine. After that, continue your walk towards the Souk and admire the Jezzine Cutlery in display in shop windows.

Be curious; one of these shops offers demonstrations on how these renowned items have been crafted for years; other shop owners are very eager to comment and share explanations, stories and legends that have been told over the years about the craft. At some point on your left you will find a fountain that stands at a crossroad. Take a left and head towards the Monastery of Mar Mtanous to admire its high arched ceiling that stands 14 meters high.

Come back to the Souk and just before the provision (mouneh) shop, take a flight of stairs that will lead you up the hill, passing next to two houses presenting a beautiful architecture with arches and details that are seldom seen in Lebanon anymore. At the top of the stairs, you will reach an asphalted road that you can take downhill until you reach a roundabout that marks the location of the imposing structure of the Church of Mar Youssef.

Keep going downhill till you reach the Municipality Palace. It is now time to cross the main road and make a pause in the Menshiyeh garden and a playground that will charm your kids before finding a place to eat in the restaurant street.

Any one of those restaurants will delight you with carefully prepared Lebanese dishes; do not forget to ask for the Jezzine kibbe and for potatoes baked the Jezzine way. Before getting back to your car, walk to the newly developed Georges and Juliette Aziz Park for a great conclusion to your promenade.



Municipal Palace



Kanaan Mansion



Souk El Sed



Mar Mtanous Church



Houses with arches



Mar Youssef Church

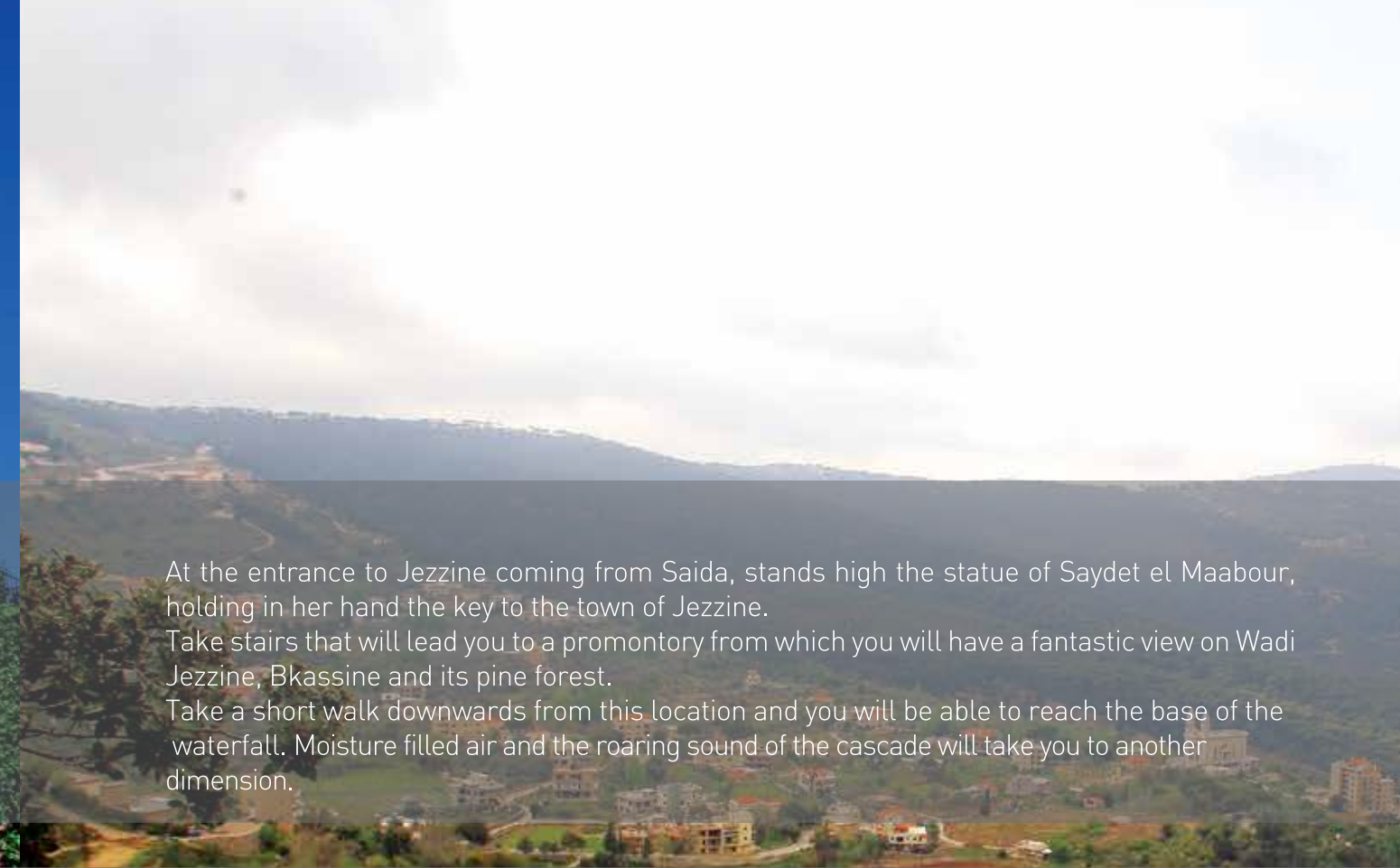
Scenic View Points



Saydet el Maabour



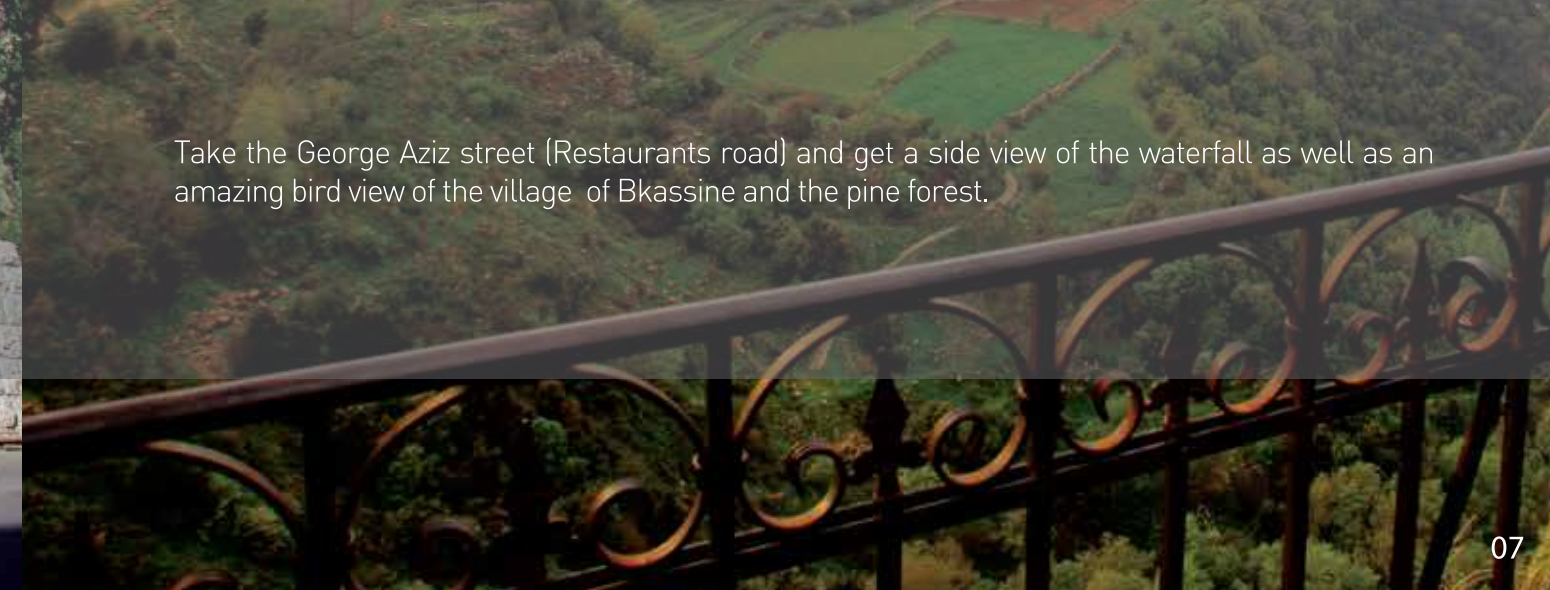
The Balcony



At the entrance to Jezzine coming from Saida, stands high the statue of Saydet el Maabour, holding in her hand the key to the town of Jezzine.

Take stairs that will lead you to a promontory from which you will have a fantastic view on Wadi Jezzine, Bkassine and its pine forest.

Take a short walk downwards from this location and you will be able to reach the base of the waterfall. Moisture filled air and the roaring sound of the cascade will take you to another dimension.



Take the George Aziz street (Restaurants road) and get a side view of the waterfall as well as an amazing bird view of the village of Bkassine and the pine forest.

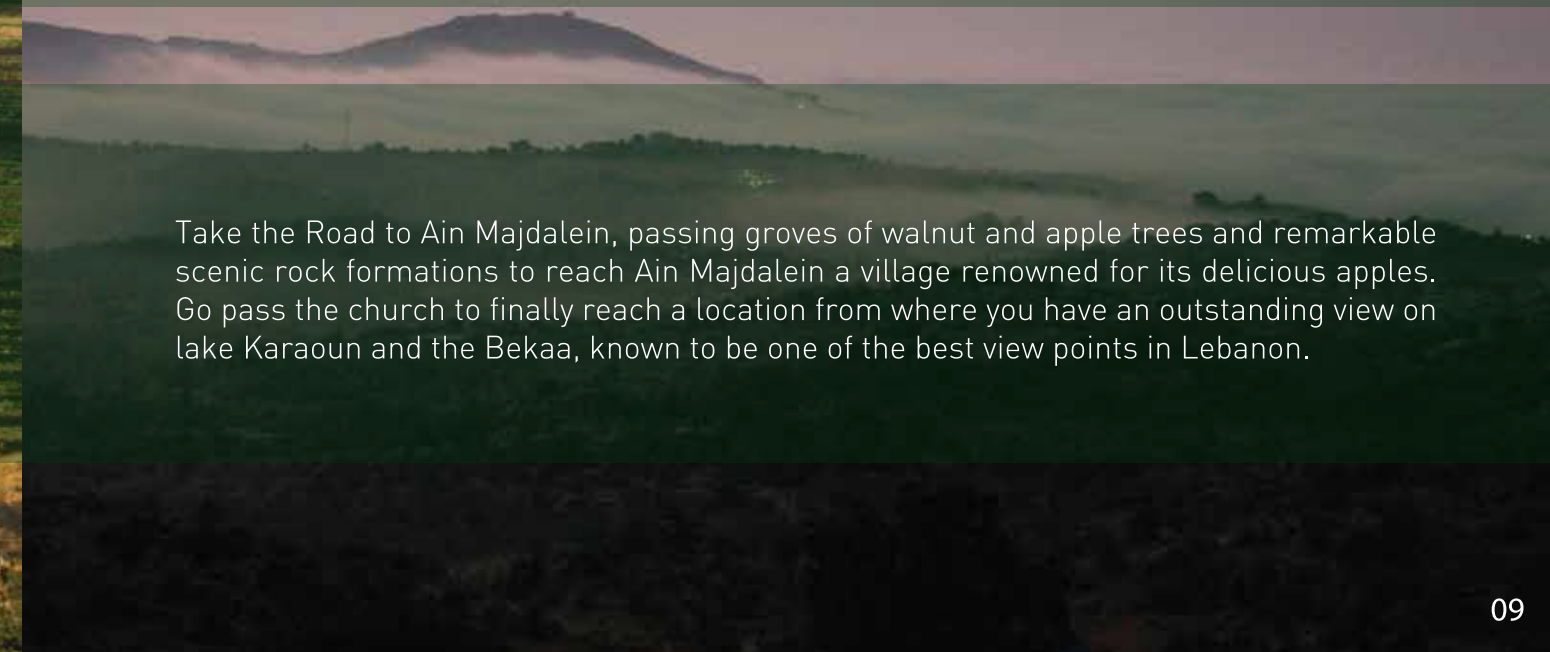


Jezzine Bater Road

Ain Majdalein

On the road leading to the Chouf, stop for a moment to enjoy a spectacular landscape of terraces and wild vegetation.

Initially part of the first trout raising project in Lebanon, the Azzibeh terraces are now used to grow grapes for wine production.



Take the Road to Ain Majdalein, passing groves of walnut and apple trees and remarkable scenic rock formations to reach Ain Majdalein a village renowned for its delicious apples. Go pass the church to finally reach a location from where you have an outstanding view on lake Karaoun and the Bekaa, known to be one of the best view points in Lebanon.

Points of Interest

The Municipal Palace

It was built in 1898 to serve as the Jezzine seraglio. It is a state of the art structure of Ottoman style classical architecture with columns, arches and pediments. It was restored in 1983 and is now the Municipal Palace.

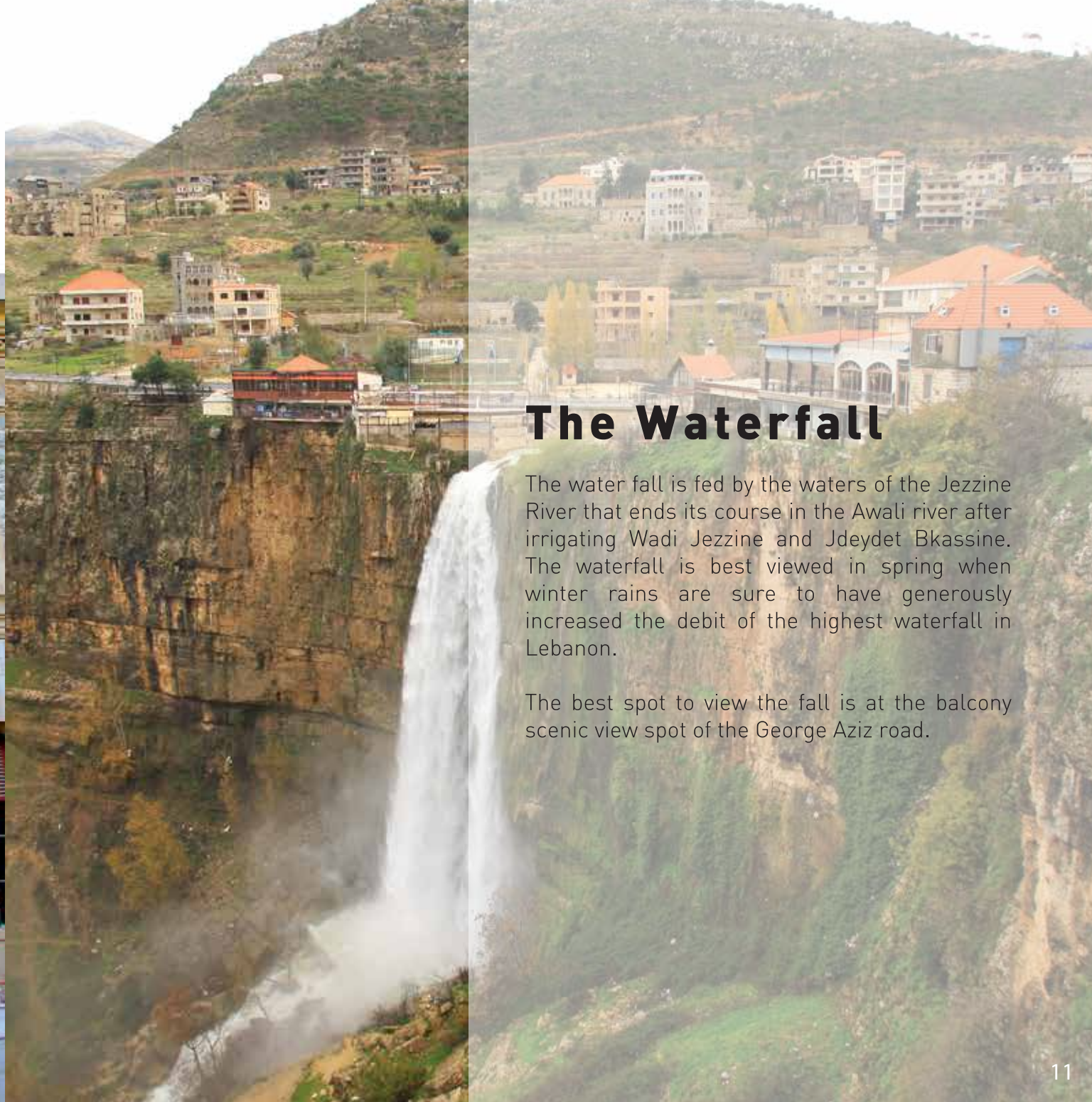
It is at its best at night, when lit by projectors highlighting the beauty of its architecture.



The Waterfall

The water fall is fed by the waters of the Jezzine River that ends its course in the Awali river after irrigating Wadi Jezzine and Jdeydet Bkassine. The waterfall is best viewed in spring when winter rains are sure to have generously increased the debit of the highest waterfall in Lebanon.

The best spot to view the fall is at the balcony scenic view spot of the George Aziz road.



The Farid Serhal Palace

The Farid Serhal Palace in Jezzine is a hidden jewel that is waiting to be showcased and given the place it deserves among Jezzine's major points of interest. The palace features the architecture of Andalusia and even ancient Greece. It stands there, frozen in time, waiting to blow you away with its majestic beauty. Visits can be organized by contacting the current owner of the palace.



Activities

Jezzine is a place where adventure sports lovers' thirst can be quenched with activities such as canyoning, and where families and nature lovers can find in horseback riding, biking and hiking a great highlight for their day.

For canyoning, call: 33North - Gilbert Moukheiber 03-454 996
or Lebanese Adventure: 03-214989

For horseback riding, call: 03-109556 or 03-456524

For hiking, call: Joe Harfouch 03-353293

For biking, call: Jezzine by bike - Chirine Bourached:
70-172 522

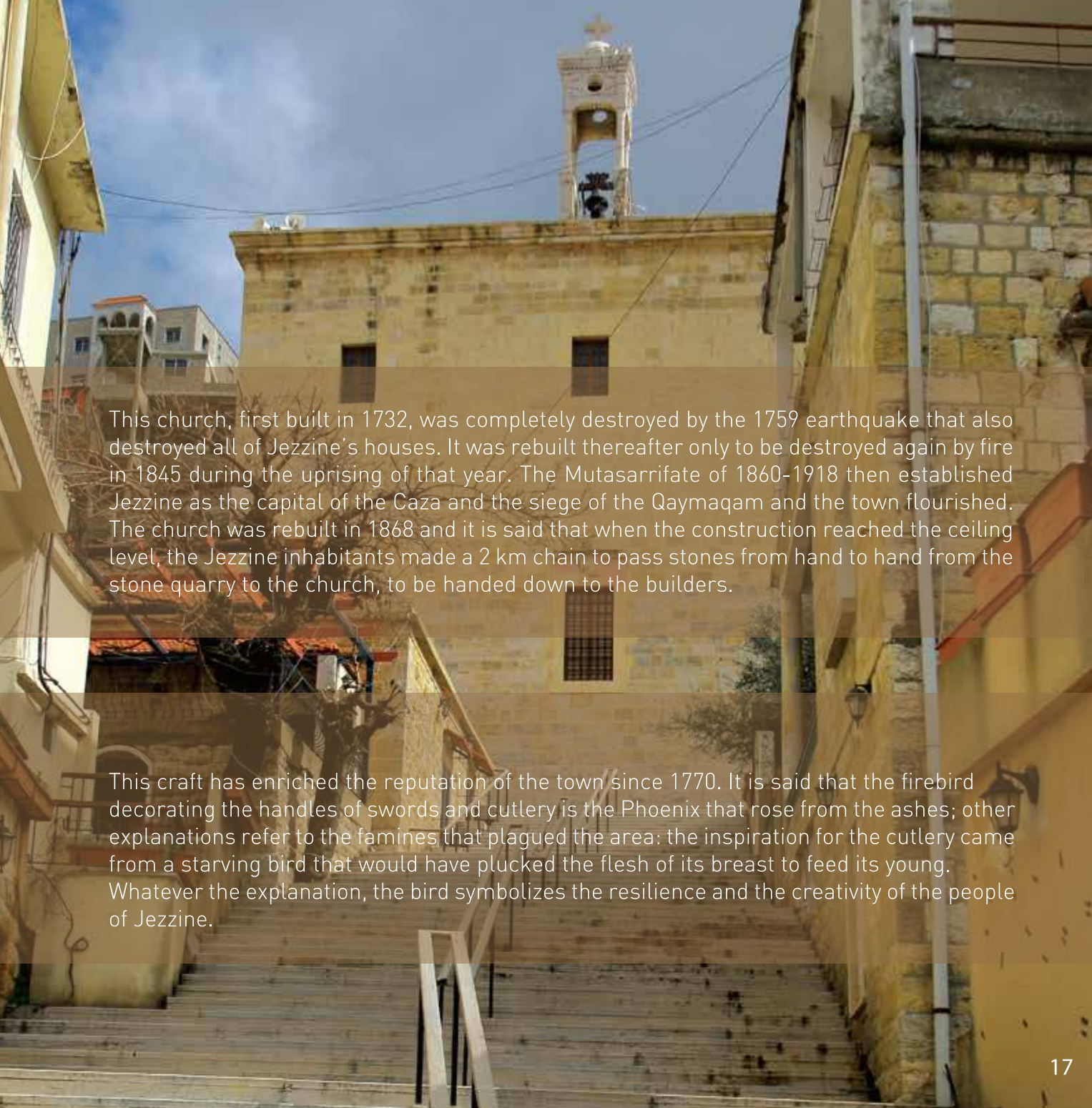
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Jezzine Stories

Mar Maroun church: “Resilience”

Jezzine cutlery: “Creativity”



This church, first built in 1732, was completely destroyed by the 1759 earthquake that also destroyed all of Jezzine's houses. It was rebuilt thereafter only to be destroyed again by fire in 1845 during the uprising of that year. The Mutasarrifate of 1860-1918 then established Jezzine as the capital of the Caza and the siege of the Qaymaqam and the town flourished. The church was rebuilt in 1868 and it is said that when the construction reached the ceiling level, the Jezzine inhabitants made a 2 km chain to pass stones from hand to hand from the stone quarry to the church, to be handed down to the builders.

This craft has enriched the reputation of the town since 1770. It is said that the firebird decorating the handles of swords and cutlery is the Phoenix that rose from the ashes; other explanations refer to the famines that plagued the area: the inspiration for the cutlery came from a starving bird that would have plucked the flesh of its breast to feed its young. Whatever the explanation, the bird symbolizes the resilience and the creativity of the people of Jezzine.



Emir Fakhreddine II's Cave: "Resistance"

For his independentism and his opening to the West, the Ottomans fought the Emir who eventually found shelter in the cave; his supporters provided him with provisions and water from a nearby source that came to be known as "the Source of Gold" since the Emir paid for water with gold. The Emir was dislodged from the cave in February 1633 by a subterfuge of the Ottomans: they lit a huge fire under the opening of the cave and the Emir was forced to leave his safe refuge. He was later executed in Constantinople in 1635.

Électricité du Liban: "Avant-garde"



Boulos Kanaan, a Jezzine native and son of Soleiman Bey Kanaan, brought electricity to Jezzine in 1926 at a time when Lebanon was still in the dark. Electricity was generated using the energy of the waterfall; this is why the office of "Electricité du Liban" is still located on the ground floor of the Kanaan Mansion.

Al Maabour or the Passage: "Mutual Aid"

The Passage or "Maabour" in Arabic, is one of the most important achievements of the Mutasarrifate era.

A huge rock, measuring 70 m in length and 7 m in height blocked the entrance to Jezzine, forcing travelers to pass over it. In 1898, Jezzine inhabitants, all volunteers, carved the rock, thus allowing all villages of the area to be connected to the siege of the Caza and allowing Jezzine to be connected to the siege of the Mutasarrifate, Baabda.

Tour Jezzine Differently

Take the opportunity to follow Mr. Ghassan Rahhal, a well-known researcher of the history of Jezzine for a 2-hour tour a la carte. You will probably need to use your car. Call Mr. Rahhal on 71.642 946 at least 2 days ahead of your arrival to decide on the time of the tour and the subject. Three options are available: The geographical location of Jezzine, Jezzine's man made landmarks and a religious tour of Jezzine's churches. The price is USD 40 for a 2-hour tour.



Where to eat in Jezzine



Restaurants

Al Bouhaira Café*	07-780536
Al Chalouf	07-781774 03-722774
Al Charek	07-780408
Al Naher Café*	07-780168
Al Rayyan Café	07-781368
Al Sed Café	03-299780
Al Shallal	07-780067 03-513497
Bouza Bachir	03-722212
Harfouche Drinks	07-780484
Le Délice	71-878775
Manzar el Shallal*	07-780884
Mardakouch	07-781560 03-276731
Park Jezzine	03-389961
Resto Heresh	07-780 111 03-691312
Sakhret al Challal	07-781041 03-475228
Snack Cinema Empire	70-717007

Pub

Coin Rouge	03-120856
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* open in summer only



Where to sleep in Jezzine

Fun & Activities

Auberge Wehbe*
Etoile du Loup*
Iris Flower
Rizk Plaza

07-780217 07-781009
03-425525
07-781999 70-449305
07-781066 03-901990

Aqua Park (Pool)
H2Eau (Pool)
Canyoning
Jezzine Country Club
Royding Club

07-780077 03-719602
70-279575
03-720774
03-538830
03-109556 03-456524

* with swimming pool



FOR YOUR VISIT

THANK
YOU

Concept by: **Beyond Beirut**

Photo credits: Joe Harfouch

Design by: Sarah Mneimneh

