

Aleppo حبل

Aleppo Governorate



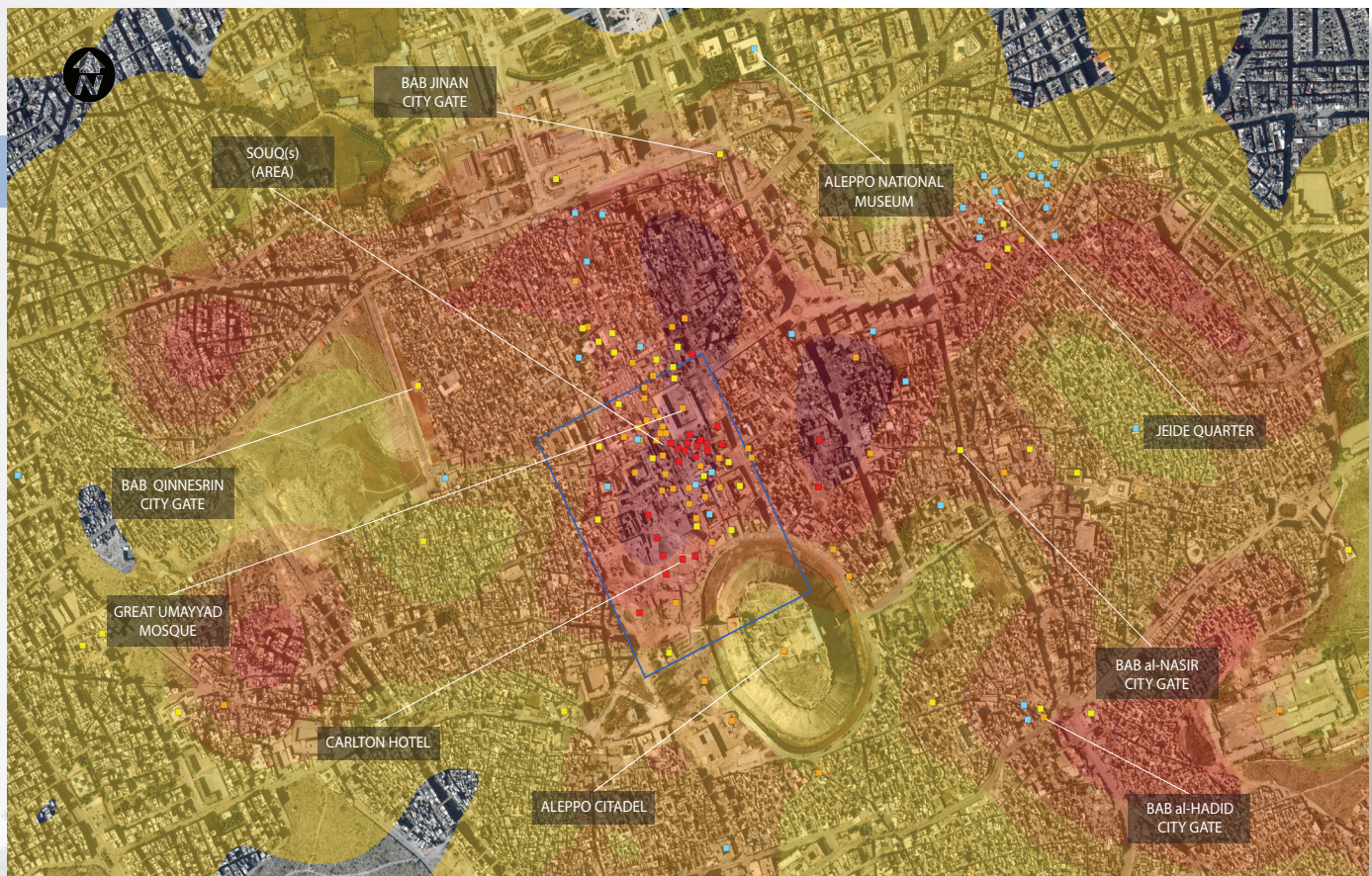


FIGURE 1. Cultural heritage damage assessment in Ancient City of Aleppo overlaid general infrastructure damage density analysis by UNOSAT.

High to low damage



Site Description

This area covers the Ancient City of Aleppo World Heritage Property, inscribed in 1986 and added to the list of World Heritage in Danger by UNESCO in 2013.

Aleppo is one of the (if not the) oldest, continuously occupied cities in the world with some 7,000 years of known settlement history. It was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Property List due to its prominent location on the crossroads of several trade routes from the second millennium onwards. It was ruled by a succession of major empires, all of which left lingering marks on the city. Due to its long history of occupation, a large number of buildings in and around the original city of Aleppo are of great historical significance:



Aleppo Damage Level (Number of Heritage Locations)

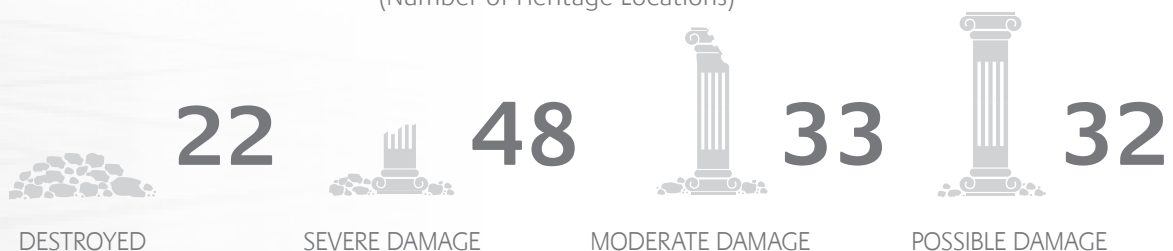




FIGURE 2. Overview of Aleppo and damage to cultural heritage locations.

“Aleppo has exceptional universal value because it represents medieval Arab architectural styles that are rare and authentic, in traditional human habitats. It constitutes typical testimony of the city’s cultural, social, and technological development [...] It contains vestiges of Arab resistance against the Crusaders, but there is also the imprint of Byzantine, Roman and Greek occupation in the streets and in the plan of the city.”⁽ⁱ⁾

Status Overview

Using satellite imagery, this study examined 210 key structures and locations within the World Heritage Property. These include the citadel, city walls and gates, 73 historic buildings, 83 religious buildings (mosques, madrassas, mausoleums, shrines, churches and a synagogue), the National Museum, and the souqs/markets (comprising 45 sections). It is not possible to discuss every site, so the area has been summarised and mention will only be given to key sites. Sites examined are listed in Annex 2.

Of the locations examined, 104 have sustained damage, while roughly a fifth of the sites are completely destroyed. Inspection of the imagery suggests that within the World Heritage Site, the area to the east and southeast of the citadel towards Bab Antakya is the most affected, particularly between the citadel and the Umayyad Mosque; large parts of this area are no longer present (as seen in figures 1, 2 and 3). Throughout the area, there is visible evidence of severe structural damage from shelling impacts and from fire. One building has been completely destroyed, as have some of the surrounding structures due to a targeted explosion.⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ In addition to the examination of the selected structures, a large number of other buildings within the World Heritage Site were clearly damaged and, in some cases, have collapsed. Visible rubble in the streets indicates a number of other buildings may be affected.



FIGURE 3. Overview of Aleppo and damage to cultural heritage locations.

Additionally, 35 structures were reported to have sustained damage from internal fires or damage which is too light to confirm.⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ Damage is likely, given the state of the surrounding buildings, but these cannot be verified via imagery. Also given the significant damage observed in surrounding areas, a large amount of structural damage can be expected to the nearby buildings, even if they appear undamaged from an aerial perspective.

NOTE

This report provides a detailed analysis of the significant changes made to the cultural heritage of this site resulting from the ongoing conflict in Syria. World View 1 and 2 satellite imagery acquired on 21 November 2010, 22 October 2014 and 06 November 2014 were used for this report.

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ALEPPO DAMAGE ASSESSMENT SUMMARY		
	LOCATION NAME	DAMAGE LEVEL
1	Al-Adiliyya Mosque	Possible damage
2	Carlton Hotel	Destroyed
3	Great Umayyad Mosque	Severe damage
4	Hammam Al-Mahasin	Severe damage
5	Khan Absi	Moderate damage
6	Khan al-Jumruk	Moderate damage
7	Khan al-Nahasin	Severe damage
8	Kahn al-Sabun	Destroyed
9	Khan al-Shuna	Destroyed
10	Khan al-Wazir	Moderate damage
11	Khan Burghul	Severe damage
12	Khan Fatayyin	Destroyed
13	Khan Ibaji	Destroyed
14	Khan Jiroudi	Destroyed
15	Khan Khattin	Severe damage
16	Khan Khayer Bek	Possible damage
17	Khan Nasser	Destroyed
18	Khan Oulabiya	Severe damage
19	Madrasa al-Sahibiye	Moderate damage
20	Madrasa Khusruwiye	Destroyed
21	Madrasa Shabakhitiye	Severe damage
22	Madrasa Sultaniye	Moderate damage
23	Madrasa Sharafiya	Destroyed
24	Madrasa Yashbakiya	Severe damage
25	Mosque Aslan Dada	Possible damage
26	Mosque Saffahiya	Moderate damage
27	Public Toilets (ancient historic building)	Destroyed
28	Qaysariya Darwishiya	Destroyed
29	Qaysariya Farayyin	Severe damage
30	Qaysariya Hakkakin	Destroyed
31	Qayasriya Oulabiya	Severe damage
32	Roushdiya Military School (historic building)	Moderate damage
33	State Hospiral (historic building)	Destroyed
34	Suq al-Atarin	Severe damage
35	Suq Aqqadin	Destroyed
36	Suq Aslan Dada	Severe damage

ALEPPO DAMAGE ASSESSMENT SUMMARY		
	LOCATION NAME	DAMAGE LEVEL
37	Suq Atiqa	Severe damage
38	Suq Battiya	Severe damage
39	Suq Bazerjiya	Destroyed
40	Suq Dahsheh	Possible damage
41	Suq Dra'	Destroyed
42	Suq Ebi	Severe damage
43	Suq Halawiya	Moderate damage
44	Suq Hammam	Severe damage
45	Suq Haraj	Destroyed
46	Suq Hibal	Severe damage
47	Suq Hur	Severe damage
48	Suq Jukh	Moderate damage
49	Suq Karamash	Severe damage
50	Suq Khan al-Farayyin	Severe damage
51	Suq Khan al-Nahassin	Possible damage
52	Suq Khan al-Wazir	Moderate damage
53	Suq Manadil	Destroyed
54	Suq New Istanbul	Destroyed
55	Suq Old Istanbul	Severe damage
56	Suq Qawooqiya	Destroyed
57	Suq Sabun	Severe damage
58	Suq Saqatiya	Severe damage
59	Suq Sham	Severe damage
60	Suq Surmayatiya	Severe damage
61	Suq Siyagh	Destroyed
62	Suq Zarb	Severe damage
63	Walled City Area	Moderate damage



Damages to one of Aleppo's Souq/Photo: Lens Syrian Revolution.

Destroyed

CARLTON HOTEL

Description

The Carlton Hotel was 150 years old. It was a popular resort due to its location in the centre of the World Heritage Property and its internal preservation of historic features.

Damage Assessment

Satellite imagery confirms the building was completely destroyed—not even the foundations remain (see figure 2). This was caused by explosives that were placed in a tunnel underneath it in May 2014.^(iv)

THE SOUQ(S)

Description

The souqs (markets) were largely unchanged since the sixteenth century, with some dating back to the thirteenth century. They consist of a network of linked, covered and uncovered passages and courtyards for shops, totalling approximately 7 km, and contain numerous historic buildings. The souqs were still in use at the start of the conflict and were a popular destination for Syrians and tourists alike.

Damage Assessment

Many of the souqs were badly damaged in a fire in 2012.^(v) Imagery verified visible damage to 34 of the 45 souqs examined; a 35th souq was reported to have been damaged by the fire, but damage could not be confirmed. Additionally, 20 of these 35 souqs contained 1,121 shops supporting the official estimate that 1,500 of the 1,600 shops were damaged or destroyed.^(vi) Of the 20 souqs which sustained damages, 4 souqs sustained a minimum of moderate damage (and at least one is suspected to have severe damage inside); 19 sustained severe damage; and 11 have been completely destroyed (see figure 2).



Damages to the Great Umayyad Mosque. Images shown the Gerat Umayyad Mosque Minaret destroyed/Photos: Aleppo Lens/Lens Young Halabi, Lens Syrien Revolution (Sami), al-Fanar Media, and APSA (The Association for the Protection of Syrian Archaeology).

CITY WALLS AND GATES

Description

Some parts of the walls of the Ancient City of Aleppo still survive, as do several of the original wall gates. Although many of the gates and walls are in their original location, most of the surviving architecture is Islamic reconstruction dating back to the thirteenth through fifteenth centuries.

Damage Assessment

Bab al-Nasr gate and Bab Jinan gate have sustained moderate structural damage. Bab al-Hadid gate has been severely damaged. Damage has been reported to Bab Qinnasrin gate, but this is not visible.^(vii) However, the section of the city wall to the east of that gate does show severe damage.

GREAT UMAYYAD MOSQUE

Description

The Great Umayyad Mosque was originally founded in 715 AD, making it one of the oldest mosques in the world. It stands on the site of an older cathedral, which in turn stood on the Hellenistic-Roman agora. The minaret, considered an architectural masterpiece, was erected between 1090 and 1092 AD. Most of the present mosque dates to the twelfth century. The north gallery of the mosque housed the al-Wakfya library, which contained thousands of rare manuscripts.

Damage Assessment

The Umayyad Mosque is perhaps the worst affected of Aleppo's monuments. The minaret was destroyed during fighting in 2013—its rubble is clearly visible in the imagery.^(viii) There appears to be severe damage to the eastern outer wall, the southern part of the eastern gallery, and the northeast corner of the northern gallery. It was destroyed by the same fire which ravaged the rest of the gallery and destroyed the library in 2013.^(ix) In addition, the marble-tiled courtyard has been partially destroyed. Lastly, the garden is severely damaged as is the entrance to the souq from the eastern gallery.



Impact damage visible on Aleppo's Citadel structure/Photo: Facebook.



Moderate Damage

ALEPPO CITADEL

Description

"An outstanding example of an Ayyubid twelfth century city with its military fortifications constructed as its focal point[...] The encircling ditch and defensive wall above a massive, sloping, stone-faced glacis, and the great gateway with its machicolations comprise a major ensemble of military architecture at the height of Arab dominance." (UNESCO Inscription) Within the fortifications, the Temple to the Storm God, built in the third millennium BC, was discovered; it is one of the oldest features of Aleppo.

Damage Assessment

Impact damage is visible on the stone cladding of the glacis (the damage largely dates back to 2012⁽⁴⁾). Minor structural damage is visible on some of the other structures, including some of the towers on the wall. The worst damage was done to the Temple to the Storm God. A roof was constructed in 2005 to protect the excavated area; this is no longer present. The state of the excavation underneath is unclear in the imagery, but appears as if it may have been disturbed. Although the Gatehouse is known to have sustained minor to moderate damage from an attack in 2012,⁽⁴⁾ damage cannot be verified with the imagery.



Debris lies on the ground of the damaged Museum of Science in the old city of Aleppo/Photo: REUTERS/Muzaffar Salman.

JDEIDE QUARTER

Description

North of the Ancient City, particular attention was paid to the Jdeide quarter, which contains numerous important historic and religious buildings, many dating back to the thirteenth through eighteenth centuries.

Damage Assessment

Little damage was visible on the buildings in this area after review of satellite imagery. However, the area—including the historic buildings in it—is reported to be heavily damaged.^(xii) Therefore, these buildings represent most of the sites marked as possibly sustaining damage in the Annex.

ALEPPO NATIONAL MUSEUM

Description

The museum contains some of the most important collections from across Syria, especially from Aleppo, covering all phases of Syria's history.

Damage Assessment

Potential damage to the south-eastern section of the roof was visible when satellite imagery was examined. This may be a result of reported shelling of the building, however most damage may be to the façade of the structure, so is not visible in the imagery.^(xiii)

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- (i) UNESCO Ancient City of Aleppo World Heritage Property List Inscription [1]. Available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21>
- (ii) For example, this BBC News article [2] reports on the destruction of the Carlton Hotel, 08 May 2014. Available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-27323790>
- (iii) These are listed in Annex. 2
- (iv) Photo of damage to Bab Qinnasrin available on the blog page of Alisar Iram, 08 April 2013 [3]. Available at: <http://alisariram.wordpress.com/2013/04/08/bearing-witness-the-destruction-of-the-great-city-of-aleppo-part-two/>
- (v) This video by AMC [4] was shared by Le patrimoine archéologique syrien en danger in April 2013 and shows the results of the destruction of the minaret and the fire in the north gallery. It was also reported in the 38th State of Conservation Report [5]. Many other reports and videos are available. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=448507048567144>
- (vi) See, for example, this video by HalabRabiAl3arabi from 13 October 2012 [6]. Available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDMjg8BAOms&feature=channel&list=UL>
- (vii) Photo shared by Le patrimoine archéologique syrien en danger, 10 August 2012 [7]. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/Archeologie.syrienne/photos/a.356831687718495.72737.168536393214693/356831704385160/?type=3&theater>
- (viii) Photos shared by Le patrimoine archéologique syrien en danger, 10 August 2012 [8]. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.356786014389729.72730.168536393214693&type=3>
- (ix) Damage reported in the 38th State of Conservation Report [5]. Available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2014/whc14-38com-7A-Add-en.pdf>
- (x) Shells were reported to have hit the building twice according to two DGAM reports, Report 1 [9] and Report 2 [10]. Available at: <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1290> and <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1292>
- (xi) For example, this New York Times article [10] reports on the fire in the souq, 29 September 2012. The page also includes a link to a video of the fire. Available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/30/world/middleeast/fire-sweeps-through-ancient-souk-of-aleppo-citys-soul.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>
- (xii) 38th State of Conservation Report [2]. Available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2014/whc14-38com-7A-Add-en.pdf>