

Cyrrhus (al-Nabi Huri) النّبي هوري

Aleppo Governorate



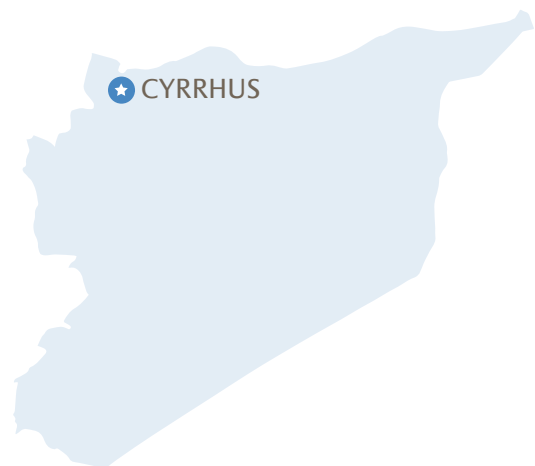


FIGURE 33. Overview of Cyrrhus and locations where damage has occurred and is visible.

Site Description

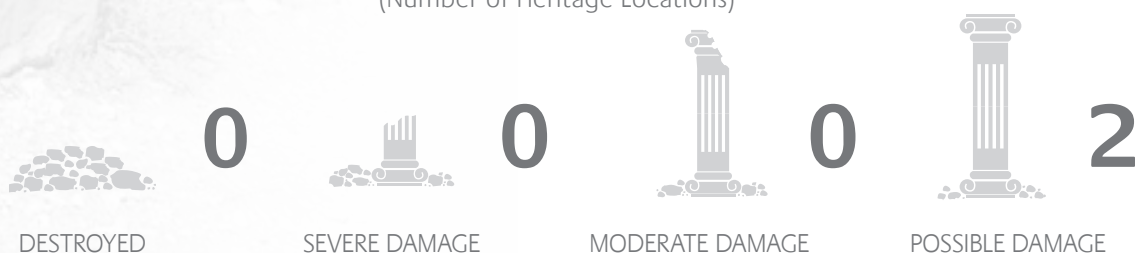
The main feature within this area is the Hellenistic/Roman/Byzantine city of Cyrrhus, founded in 300 BC. The city was conquered several times and passed through many hands. By the twentieth century, it was only lightly inhabited and the area was largely agriculture. However, a number of impressive early features, both civil and religious, have been reconstructed, particularly the mid-second century theatre:

“At Cyrrhus, a magnificent basilica held the relics of SS. Cosmas and Damian, who had suffered martyrdom in the vicinity about 283, and whose bodies had been transported to the city, whence it was also called Hagioupolis. Many holy personages, moreover, chiefly hermits, had been or were then living in this territory [...] The city was embellished and fortified by Justinian.”⁽ⁱ⁾



Cyrrhus Damage Level

(Number of Heritage Locations)





Roman theatre in Cyrrhus/Photo: Wikipedia, Creative Commons

Status Overview

Six major features (the Citadel, Basilica, theatre, Tower Tomb and North and South Gates) and the two Roman bridges near the site were examined (see figure 33). While most of the key archaeological features examined showed no damage, there is evidence of disturbance of the buried features. A dirt track cuts across a mostly buried wall, a new building measuring 23 by 15 m² has been constructed, and there are five small areas of disturbance that may indicate looting or stone robbing. The largest of these disturbances measures 615 m² in area and covers only a small portion of the site. Only two of the features examined showed any traces of possible damage.⁽ⁱⁱ⁾

NOTE

This report provides a detailed analysis of significant changes to the cultural heritage of this site resulting from the ongoing conflict in Syria. World View 1 and 2 satellite imagery acquired on 22 March 2010 and 11 June 2014 was used for this report.



FIGURE 34. Creation of a trench at the South Gate of Cyrrhus (4 x 7m).

ROMAN CITADEL

Description

The Citadel consists of an inner keep with a small walled-off town around it, only the outlines of which are easily visible. These date from between the second century BC to the sixth century AD.

Damage Assessment

Two areas of disturbed soil were visible on a review of the imagery; these are both very small, but may indicate possible looting.

SOUTH GATE

Description

The South Gate in the wall probably dates back to the sixth century AD reign of Emperor Justinian.

Damage Assessment

The imagery indicates that a small trench measuring 4 x 7 m has been dug on the southeast side of the gate, indicating possible looting (see figure 34 and 35). It is unclear how this trench has affected the gate itself.



FIGURE 35. Creation of a trench at the South Gate of Cyrrhus (4 x 7m).

(i) Vailhe, S. 2014. Cyrrhus. *The Original Catholic Encyclopedia* [1]

(ii) Casana and Panahipour (2014) reported war damage and looting at the site, and examined it on satellite imagery from August 2012. He found no evidence of damage, but noted that dense vegetation obscured much of the site. Very little vegetation is in July 2014, offering a clear view of any damage [2]