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# PATRIMOINE TRIPOLI LIBAN

*Association under the 1901 law  
No. 942003036  
of April 21, 2009*



**The Patrimoine Tripoli Liban (PTL) association is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that was established in 2009 in Paris, with the aim of strengthening the Lebanese collective identity through heritage and culture.**

To achieve this mission, Patrimoine Tripoli Liban seeks to promote and preserve the Lebanese heritage, with a particular focus on the heritage of Tripoli.



Benefiting from a series of symposiums dedicated to the cultural heritage of Tripoli, organized in collaboration with prominent international experts and with the support of the Regional Council of Ile de France and the Senate, the 'Heritage Tripoli Lebanon' association works on three main axes:

1. General inventory of heritage.
2. Raising awareness among the population.
3. Enhancing the value of heritage sites.



Their story has resonated with over 4.5 million Lebanese expatriates scattered around the world, and several of them have joined, including Abdelmoneem Marhaba, Fabien Mawas, Jad Zyadeh, Rola Khayat, Aïda et Miled Hannadib, Mounir Alame- ddine, Hala Sankari, Mirna Haddara.

## OUR IDENTITY

The association was born out of the need to promote the city of Tripoli and its history, to advocate for and preserve its heritage, and to dispel prejudices that hinder its tourism and overall economic, social, and cultural development. It is comprised of a group of compatriots seeking to unite around this noble cause. They aim to leverage heritage to strengthen Lebanese citizenship and identity.

## OUR HISTORY

Founded in 2009 by Joumana Timery, Faten Mourad, Rawa Khatib, and Walid Chmaït, Patrimoine Tripoli Liban's mission is to unite their compatriots around Lebanese heritage, enabling them to reconnect with their Lebanese roots after being compelled to leave their country due to the political conflicts of 1975.

Seeking to unite Lebanese people worldwide, Joumana Timery and her team founded the Patrimoine Tripoli Liban association, which aims to bring together and remind all Lebanese individuals of their shared culture and heritage.



In 2018, Patrimoine Tripoli Lebanon established its presence in Tripoli to be closer to the local community and its needs. Bridging the East and the West, the organization solidifies its main headquarters in Paris, serving as the wellspring of inspiration for matters of identity, culture, and heritage preservation. PTL has a team of about ten dedicated volunteers working tirelessly to achieve the association's goals.



## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

The association has come a long way in promoting the historical heritage and culture of the city of Tripoli. Here are some examples :

- All the work is based on study days that took place in partnership with the Regional Council of Île-de-France, including its hemicycle. These events resulted in scientific recommendations that form the foundation of its work.



- As soon as the security situation allowed in 2015, the association went into the field to initiate new concepts in culture and heritage preservation, thus becoming a platform for dialogue, peace, and conflict resolution. In this capacity, numerous cultural events were organized on-site to promote local culture and breathe new life into this endangered heritage.

In this context, the first Heritage Days were born in 2015, following the model of similar events in France. This project, in line with the recommendations established during the symposiums, focusing on heritage awareness and promotion, was named 'Tourathi-Tourathak@,' 'Heritage in Sharing@.'



● 3 seasons were celebrated :

> « **Khan el Askar** » rehabilitated for the occasion, opened to the public for the first time in 2015.

> « **Burj el sbe3** » ou «**The Tower of Lions**» enhanced for the occasion, reopened to the public for the first time in 2016.

> The staircase « **Ahwet el tall el Oulia** » rehabilitated by students and hosting a piano concert in 2016.

> The abandoned Tripoli railway station revitalized and opened to the public in 2017.

Unfortunately, this project has been on hold since the beginning of the revolution, followed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenging conditions of education in the country.



● Concurrently, in 2015, roundtable discussions were organized in partnership with the IFPO (French Institute for the Near East) to develop a socio-economic roadmap that could provide livelihoods based on heritage in Tripoli.

● In Paris, in 2015 and 2016, symposiums on identity and heritage were organized to continue the reflection on the connection between them.

● « **Concerts, performances, and artisanal exhibitions** ». Each year, the association participates in exhibitions with the aim of promoting artists and crafts from Tripoli, establishing a connection between Tripoli's artisans and international markets.





## INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATIONS

1. The Patrimoine Tripoli Liban association celebrates, every year, in collaboration with the Ministries of Education, Tourism, and Culture of Lebanon, the 'Tripoli Heritage Days' (JPT), a springtime event in Tripoli, known as 'Tourathi-Tourathak' (Heritage in Sharing). Indeed, this is an educational program introduced by the association into school curricula in the North Lebanon region.

2. Collaborations with local institutions for event organization: Municipalities of Tripoli and El Mina, French Institute, Safadi Foundation, Azm Foundation.

## ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF LEBANON

1. Humanitarian Support: In the face of the numerous crises gripping the country, 'Heritage Tripoli Lebanon,' in partnership with the **'Rose and Gilbert Chaghoury Foundation,'** has been providing monthly support to 500 families in Tripoli, offering them conditioned food and meals.

2. Municipal Library Equipment (Tripoli and El Mina Municipalities) along with educational support through the 'Tourathi Tourathak©' project, including the dispatch of textbooks, books, and school supplies.



## RECENTLY:

The day after the August 4th explosion, Patrimoine Tripoli Liban provided all necessary assistance to the affected residents and homes. Thanks to established relationships with international French organizations, PTL was able to aid the explosion victims. It soon became apparent how crucial it is to find sustainable solutions to the economic and social crisis that is severely impacting the country.

1. PTL launched the 'Baladi' project, with multiple objectives, including the transmission of an ancestral know-how that is under threat of disappearing, and for now, the city of Tripoli is its sole custodian.



2. The Creation of a professional formation center:

To respond to a crucial need to develop ancestral know-how in order to guarantee their sustainability, the PTL association is committed to training in artistic professions. The Tripoli Lebanon Heritage association created a professional training center for endangered artistic professions in July 2023 with the aim of safeguarding and developing them.

This center will also make it possible to train and offer jobs to young people and the unemployed in a city where the unemployment rate exceeds 80% in certain neighborhoods. It will also be able to empower women and limit the flow of migration.

# COMMITMENTS:

To do this, PTL offers training in 5 main professions:

- Embroidery and Sewing: at the association's headquarters
- Pottery: at the artisan's workshop
- Soap making: in the artisan's workshop
- Woodworking: at the craftsman's workshop
- Restoration

## Future:

- **Glass blowing**
- **Copper work**
- **Mattress manufacturing**

The city of Tripoli, historic jewel of Lebanon, has suffered for years from a deterioration of its built material heritage. The old buildings, witnesses to the history of this city, are in imminent danger. Aware of the disastrous situation and the threatening danger, and considering the built heritage a catalyst for the economic and tourist development of the city, the Tripoli Lebanon Heritage association is committed to the field of defending this ransacked heritage in order to preserve it and protect him. PTL multiplies its actions to achieve its goal:

- Protest demonstrations
- Whistleblowing and legal follow-ups
- Media pages
- Constant vigilance and field visits



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