



Bab Sidi Kacem



Tunis : Bab sidi Kasim au moment des démolitions

Cette porte fut percée au XIV^{ème} siècle, mais le bastion qui la flanquait date des travaux entrepris par Hamouda Pacha à la fin du XVIII^{ème} siècle.

Bab Aliwa

Cette porte fut percée au XIV^{ème} siècle, mais fut reconstruite à l'époque mouradite (XVII^{ème} siècle). A l'occasion de ces travaux elle fut dotée d'un grand réservoir d'eau (sabil) destiné aux bêtes de somme des caravanes venant du sud.

Bab Sidi Abdallah

Porte hafside reconstruite au XIX^{ème} siècle.



Tunis : Les bastions de la Kasbah et Bab sidi Abdallah

Bab al-Fallak (al-Falla)

Cette porte tire son nom de celui du général hafside Ibn al-Fallak (XIV^{ème} siècle), mais doit son aspect actuel aux travaux de l'époque mouradite (XVII^{ème} siècle).

Bab al-Gordjani

Cette porte date du XIV^{ème} siècle, mais doit son aspect actuel aux travaux de Hamouda Pacha.

La Kishla d'al-Attarine

Elle est située au n° 20 de la rue al-Attarine. Ce monument dont la direction des travaux fut confiée à l'intendant (amine) des souks de Tunis, fut la première des cinq casernes édifiées par Hamouda Pacha (vers 1814). Elle ne possède aucun organe de défense et s'apparente par son aspect architectural aux grandes demeures de la médina.

La Kishla de Sidi Ameer

Elle occupe le mur sud de la place de Sidi Ali Azzouz, et fut l'œuvre de Hamouda Pacha.

La caserne d'al-Bshamkiya

Elle fut également édifié par Hamouda Pacha et abrite actuellement les locaux de l'hôpital Aziza Othmana.

A city walled by its inhabitants: Sfax

The city of Sfax stands at the bottom of a spacious bay of 15 km in width. The shallows, preventing ships of a deep draft from approaching it, provide excellent natural defenses against pirates. The walls of the medina dates from the early Middle Ages, that of the Rbat (suburb) was built in the eighteenth century.



The walls of the medina

The wall of Sfax, built in 848 (half in stones and half brick masonry) was almost totally rebuilt in the Fatimid-Zirid period (tenth-twelfth centuries). Most of the structures of the present monument date from this work, but from the early Middle Ages to the nineteenth century it was constantly consolidated and repaired through a maintenance effort supported by the inhabitants themselves. It benefited, indeed, from several *habous*, managed by a steward (or *Mukaddam Wakil aḥbas ai-Sur*) elected from among former *marabouts* and wealthy merchants.

The curtains form a quadrilateral and follow the perimeter of the hill on which the town was built, so that the walls reach 10 to 12 m high outside, but as little as 1 m inside. These

walls, quite thick at the base, are built of masonry rubble and have an accented effect. The west and north curtains have kept most of their structures inherited from the Middle Ages, the southern, the most exposed to attacks by sea, especially those of the Knights of Malta, underwent major alterations during the Ottoman era, designed to provide the maximum of means of defense. From this period date the quadrangular artillery platforms (the *Bordjs Drira*, *al-Bagra*, *al-Rsas*, and *Sidi Mansur*).

Bordj Sidi Khanfir (west curtain)

The salient, dating from the Hafsid era, consists of a hexagonal tower (14m high and 21m in perimeter) consisting internally of two rooms for gunnery one above the other. The lower chamber occupied by a prayer room, also includes the tomb of a former *marabout* Sidi Khanfir.



Sfax :
l'enceinte
urbaine
au début
du XX^{ème}
siècle



Sfax : enceinte sud au début du XXème siècle

It is a rectangular artillery platform (28 x 18 m) flanked by the four corners of the protruding oblong. The south-west tower, serving until the nineteenth century for the emission of light signals, gave the whole platform in its present name. Sfaxien vessels operating in the harbor were, in fact, guided by lights at night, lit at the top of the watchtowers (*manar*) of the Kasbah, Bordj al-Nar and the Nadhour of Bab al-Diwan, which also played the role of viewpoints from where soldiers and volunteer wardens took their turns reporting the approach of enemy fleets.

The doors of the medina

The enclosure of Sfax was pierced, from the early Middle Ages, with two doors: Bab al-Djibli, to the north, and Bab al-Diwan (al-Bahr) to the south.

Bordj al-Nar



Sfax : Borj al-Nar au début du XXème siècle

Bab al-Djibli

This is a door into a hallway, penetrating through a protruding oblong. The inner bay is surmounted by an inscription in Arabic mentioning the reconstruction of the door in its original position, by Abu Paris the Hafsidi (1420). Another inscription commemorates the restoration undertaken in 1809 by the architect Muhammad al-Mnif, under the direction of the superintendent of *habous* Ibrahim al-Sallam.

Bab al-Diwan

This gate, linked to the port (hence the current name) is a monument that has been significantly altered by restorations since 1881. Originally it consisted of only three bays, of which one opened onto the medina and the other onto the suburb [*faubourg*]. The latter opens into a rectangular hallway open



Sfax : Bab al-Diwan

to the sky (10 m long) and oriented north-south. A bay fitted in the east wall of this hallway in turn gives access to a second hallway (12 m long) with a cell reserved for guards and tax collectors. The first hallway is guarded by a high oblong (al-Nadhour), built in 1630, equipped with a gatehouse.

Written accounts show that the monument has undergone at least three repairs (1306, 1646, 1748). The work during the Hafsid period transformed the primitive monument into a veritable fortress endowed, like the Almohad gates of Morocco, with an open span and an angled passage.

According to the Sfaxien historian Magdish, "... upon each attack of the corsairs of Malta, the alert is given from a drum by the lookouts posted in the nadhour of Bab al-Bahr. The *raï's* then prepare their vessels manned with volunteers and set off in pursuit of the enemy vessels from Ras al-Makhabaz as far as Ras Adar, and sometimes to the land of the corsairs..."

The Kasbah

The citadel of Sfax, the seat of civil and military authority during the Hafsid and Turkish periods, would have also succeeded to the Kasaba, the residence of the senior marabouts of the Kasr of Sfax.

The enclosure of the monument is flanked by two towers and a artillery bastion dating back to the sixteenth century.

The Ksar-ribat Tanyour

Located to the west of Sfax, the monument is a square building of 40 m square (flanked by round towers) dating back to the early Middle Ages.



Sfax : l'enceinte urbaine et la Kasbah au début du XXème siècle



Sfax : le Ksar-ribat de Tanyour (état actuel)