

WHV – Together to protect "Tell Umm Amer" site

Tell Umm Amer, Palestine

Site inscribed on a Tentative List since 2012

16/04/2016 – 27/04/2016



The site contains the ruins of the monastery of Saint Hilarion (born in 291 AD), which consists of two churches, a burial site, a baptism hall, a public cemetery, an audience hall, and dining rooms. The monastery was provided with good infrastructure facilities, including water cisterns, clay-ovens and drainage channels. Its floors were partially paved with limestone, marble tiles and coloured mosaics, decorated with plants and animals scenes. A great fifth century mosaic was probably laid on the floor of a chapel. The floors include also a Greek inscription decorated with circular motifs. In addition, the monastery was equipped with baths, consisting of Frigidarium, Tepidarium and Caldarium halls. The wide space of these halls ensured that the baths could adequately serve the pilgrims and merchants crossing the Holy land from Egypt to the Fertile Crescent through the main route of Via Maris.

Project objectives: The main objectives of the project are to promote the "Tell Umm Amer" site, raise awareness towards local community about its historical and cultural value, and preserve the site by involving and guiding local and international volunteers in the restoration of the Monastery.

Project activities: The volunteers will take part in a guided tour to deepen their understanding about the site. Then they will work side by side with professionals to re-define and clarify the access to the site in order to increase its visibility to visitors. They will also carry on clean-up activities and gardening at the site. Finally the volunteers will implement the renovation of the baptism basin and of the east side walls and they will take part in workshops and lectures on the history of the Monastery.

Partners: Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Municipality of Alnusairat, Culture, Arts and Folklore Association, AMIDEAST, and "Touring" Youth Group.