

## **The Citadel**

### Hours

09.00-17.30 April-September

09.00-16.30 October-March

09.00-16.00 Ramadan

Closed Tuesdays. Open all holidays.

### Admission:

Non-Syrians 150 Syrian Lira (~2.2€)

Students (with ISIC card) 10 SL

Syrians 15 SL

Admission to the main museum, housed in the Ottoman Barracks, follows a similar price schedule as entrance to the Citadel. Two smaller museums of military artefacts and military history can be visited free of charge in the Arsenal and the Ayyubid Tower.

### Inside:

A new short film, with 3-D renderings of Citadel and its underground spaces, is shown frequently in the presentation room located next to the museum. On the other side of the museum, a terrace café offers snacks, beverages, and excellent views to the north. Modern restroom facilities are located in the Throne Hall, in the Barracks, and behind the Amphitheatre. Multi-lingual guides are available at the entrance ticket booth, paid depending on tour duration time. Most of them have keys to the Royal Hammam and other closed complexes.

The Citadel is not wheelchair accessible at this time.

### Getting to the Citadel

Once in Aleppo, the Citadel is an unmistakable landmark. Come on foot through the covered markets from one of the Old City gates (Bab Antakya or Bab Qinnisrine recommended). Parking, and tour bus parking, is available at Bab Qinnisrine and in a new lot directly to the south-east of the Citadel entrance. Taxis from other parts of town to the Citadel (al-Qala'a) cost between 15-50 SL. Frequent public busses from western Aleppo run from Aleppo University and Sa'ad Abdullah Square in front of the main post office.

## **(2) The Citadel Perimeter Area (text also appearing on main page, below 'the citadel')**

The area directly around the Citadel is rich in historic and cultural attractions. Enter beautiful courtyards of old mosques and schools, take a bath at one of the ancient and still-functioning *hammams*, visit the vibrant traditional covered markets to the west, and meander through the peaceful neighbourhoods to the east of the Citadel.

## **(3)Recent tourism development projects:**

### The Citadel

The Citadel receives many local, domestic, and international visitors each year. Developing tourism in the Citadel is a central complementary initiative of the conservation projects undertaken by The Syrian Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums and the Historic Cities Programme of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. The tourism projects cover several areas and have various components:

### 1. Tourist Path System inside the Citadel

The implementation of this project began in 2003 and was completed in 2005. A development plan was made for these pathways, taking into consideration the following:

- Existing historic stone pathways inside the Citadel used to connect sites and buildings.
- Design of a tourist route winding through most of the important sites and structures in the Citadel, with shortcuts available for visitors with limited time.

### 2. Visitor's Centre

Included in the development projects were several museums inside the Citadel. These museums aim to deepen the visitors experience with cultural and tourist activities. Inside the Ottoman Barracks—the 19<sup>th</sup>-century rectangular building on the northern ramparts, the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums allocated the middle section of space for a museum presentation with historical presentations and objects found in the Citadel. The western quarter of the structure was allocated for a small book and gift shop. The right-most quarter houses a presentation room, hosting video presentations several times an hour, occasional lectures, and special events related to the Citadel. In the left section of the barracks, a café offers visitors light snacks and drinks.

The two other museums are located in the Ayyubid complex. The Arsenal showcases military instruments and tools. In the Ayyubid Tower, on the southern wall of the Citadel, a more general presentation details the military history of the Citadel.

### 3. Publications and books

#### Tourism development in the Citadel Perimeter Area

As a result of an agreement between the Directorate of the Old City of Aleppo and the Historic Cities Programme of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, several development projects have begun to take place in the Perimeter area, especially with regards to developing appropriate tourist facilities. A few neighbourhoods have been designated for pilot projects beginning in the summer of 2006 and finishing at the end of 2007. These neighbourhoods lay between the entrance to of the *Zarab Souk* and the entrance to the Government House. The rest of the neighbourhoods will have projects implemented by the Old City Directorate of Aleppo in the beginning of this year, which will be completed in the coming years. [Visit the perimeter](#)

### **(4) Books and Materials**

The Historic Cities Programme of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture has produced several useful publications to provide visitors with specific information on the history of the Citadel and specific sites inside.

**Guidebook to the Citadel of Aleppo.** Provides overview of history of the city and Citadel, as well as details on the specific occupation periods and their building projects of note in the Citadel.

**Maps** of visitor paths in the Citadel, at the visitor's centre. Labelling and explanations of pieces exhibited at the museum.

**Brochure** with brief information on the Citadel's history and specific structures.

**Book** describing the work of the Historic Cities Programme in Syria, concentrating on its work in and around citadels, especially the Citadel of Aleppo and its Perimeter area. Soon to be released in the coming months.