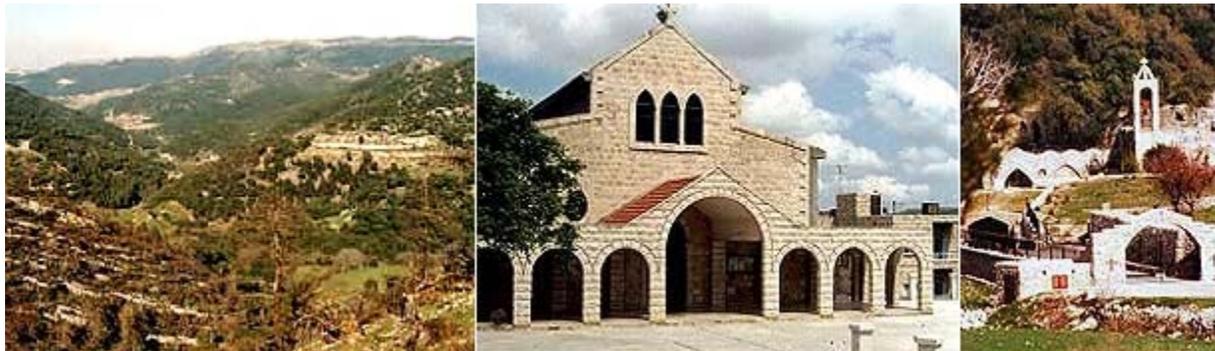


Towards the establishment of a Natural National Park in Upper Akkar –
Donnieh

Village Profile

Qobayat



In 2008 and 2009, Mada association collected data's on infrastructure, education, health and environment in various villages of the National Park pilot area. These data were collected from the municipalities, mokhtars, universities, public institutions, NGOs, school directors, cooperatives, clinics etc.

Being regularly updated

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LOCATION

Qobayat is located at the northeast of the Lebanese Republic, 140km away from Beirut, the capital. The inhabited area varies in altitude starting 550m above sea level (Zouk) to 900m (Katlabeh). The locals are distributed among seven districts and seven mokhtars: Gharbiyeh, Martmoura, South-Zouk (Saydet), Zouk, Dahr, Ghowaya and Katlabeh. Limited at the west by the village "Akkar el Atika", at the East by the line which separates the two districts of Akkar (North) and Hermel (Bekaa). Qobayat is neighboring:

- west: Kobayat - Akkar Attika – Halba;
East: Kobayat - Andaket - Chadra - the Syrian borders;
- north-West: Kobayat - Halba – Tripoli;
- south: Kobayat - Hermel - Baalbeck.

Roads connecting Qobayet to the surrounding villages are:

- Qobayet square – Katelbeh - Morghan – Hermel
- Qobayet square – Aandqit - Machta – Syria
- Qobayet hospital - Akkar el Atika - Beino
- Martmoura – Nahrieh – Aidamoun

The road linking Qobayat to Qammouaa has a segment which is in a very bad condition. The problem is that the road constructions were not meeting the *cahier de charge* conditions. For that reason, the municipality contacted the CDR (Mr. Awaykeh, ministry of public work, external roads department) in order to stop the construction.

POPULATION

According to the municipality, there are 5 000 to 6 000 permanent residents in Qobayat. During holidays and summer seasons, the population can easily reach 12 000 (primary and secondary residents according to the civil state registers).

La population résidente, suivant la méthode utilisée par le SDATL (2004), est évaluée à 6.413 habitants.

The emigration started in the late 19 century to Brazil and Venezuela, it still continuing today.

The majority of university level students go the Lebanese University of Beirut. Some go to private universities when they can afford it or can get scholarships. Some students go to the Arab University.



ADMINISTRATION

One of the first municipalities of Akkar was created in 1912 in Qobayat. In 1922, at the beginning of the French mandate, Qobayat became a center of "Caïm-macamiya". After the reunification of Akkar into one "Caïm-macamiya", Qobayat became again a municipal administration.

Municipal expenses depend on the required public works (roads and networks maintenance). Yearly salaries vary around *30 000 000L.L to 35 000 000L.L per year*. Qobayat municipality gets around 400 000 000L.L from the government, as its annual budget.

An urban planning project was initiated by the municipality in collaboration with the U.L; project coordinator Mr. Alphonse Georges. This project was blocked due to the Naher El Bared war circumstances. M. Hassan el Hajj (Halba division) is the contact person at DGUP.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Qobayat knew a great prosperity in the manufacture of silk that stopped functioning at the beginning of the 20th century.

.According to the municipality, eighty per cent of the local community is in governmental positions and five per cent are farmers. Many other are doctors, engineers and architects.

Most of the employees are part of the military service (army, police state, general security, customs, civil defense). Others occupy administrative functions from the lower ranks until the rank of ambassador and general director; in the educational field from the academic professors, to elementary teachers.

RETAIL AND SERVICES

Qobayat is well equipped with retail shops. A relatively big minimarket provides Qobayat and its surroundings. The main retail shops in Qobayat is Ninat Establishment (Wholesales) for its owner Georges Rizk, near the municipality. Other shopping place are Adib Salloum's supermarket and three clothing shops.

Two banks : Byblos bank ; BLC bank

AGRICULTURE

The blackberries culture thrived in Qobayat but disappeared today to be replaced by different fruit trees: vines, apple trees, pear trees, cherry trees and especially olive-trees followed by growing tobacco, vegetables and seeds. Certain livestock farms remain in Qobayat like certain poultry farms, some herds of goats and sheep and the fisheries ponds. The agriculture sector is getting more and more neglected due to shifting from agriculture to other job opportunities and university degrees as well as the local perception of agriculture as a job for the poor and not so gifted intellectuals.

Irrigation in Qobayat is provided by a concrete network that covers all agricultural lands. Although Qobayat is very rich in water and have a climate very suitable for agriculture practices, only 15% of the agricultural land is being used.

FARMERS

Only four persons are considered as farmers but all households' backyards are partly used for agriculture. When the harvested crops exceed the family's demand, they are sold in the village vegetable market. Qobayat is not considered an agriculture region anymore. Youth prefers governmental positions and university instead of the agricultural sector.

- Nizar Roubiin Abdo
- Rouchel Charbel Maarbiss
- Toni Mkhayel (roses)
- Abd Allah Challita (ornamental and decoration plants)

The Carmelite Covent produces its own wine under the "Carmel" trademark. One fourth of the local community produces Arak for home consumption.

Pine trees are harvested in Qobayat. People from other regions spot the pine trees, harvest the pine and give some of the harvested product to the owner of the trees.

MAIN PRODUCTION



Fruits, vegetables and other vegetations are usually used for home consumption (Cherry, Apricot, apple, pear, grapes, potatoes, tomatoes, cucumber, and peach). Most of the local agricultural products are sold in Tripoli's vegetable market (Souk el Hisby). Qobayat is also known for the abundance of olive trees (40 000 – 50 000 trees).

Few green houses are available in Qobayat. Their main crops are tomatoes, potatoes and cucumber. One of these green houses is specialized in rose production and another one is specialized in ornamental plants.

Home made products: Thym, Rose water, Jam, *mou'ajjanat* and not long time ago, the *tnoub* (raw material for *Kotran* production, a poisonous solution applied on the ground to keep away snakes and scorpions and also known as an efficient medicine for the *scabies* illness). It is mainly a combination of different coniferous trees extracts.

GRAZING AND LIVESTOCK

Grazing is practiced in the whole Qobayat area by shepherds from Qobayat mostly and shepherds from Beit Jaafar in some areas.

- Moussa Makhoul Faress owns around 300 goats.
- Georges Youssif al Jaalouki (next to the municipality building) owns goats, sheep and cows. He is a butcher so his livestock increases and decreases depending on the meat demand in the village.
- Makhoul, Nasser and Gerges Zaynoun have goats and sheep. Around 400-500 animal in all. They are butcher and also shepherds.
- Joseph al Daher owns the Castello restaurant. He owns 5 or 6 cows (he can afford up to 30).

BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE

WATER:

All households in Qobayat are connected to drinking water (few exceptions) and sewage networks that covers around 50% of the village. Qobayat water is under two separate managements (municipal and governmental). The municipality uses the Nabeh el Joz water source for drinking water (within a good quality network) and irrigation (through traditional irrigation canalization). The Ministry of Energy uses its private artesian wells in Qobayat to supply water for 78 surrounding villages. Qobayat municipality has also established a water treatment plant for the sewage network.

Locals pay a tax of around 70 000 L.L per year for the municipality to have access to drinking water and 75 000 L.L for sewage network and waste collection.

DRINKING WATER

Qobayat is considered a region rich in underground water it has more than twenty eight water sources. The four main water sources are:

- a. In Helsbein region:
 - i. Nabeh El Aabiyad: 1.5 inches, irrigation for 40 plots.
 - ii. Ain el Sitt 3 inches, irrigation 100 plots.

b. In Qatelbeh region:

- i. Nabeh El Joz: 4 inches in summer and up to 10-12 inches in winter. Provides drinking water to the whole village through a good quality network. This water is frequently tested for biological contamination.

c. In Al Jord region:

- i. Nabeh El Nassara: 5-6 inches irrigates the Al Jord region around 360 plots. Qobayat municipality has planned a network system complemented by reservoirs in the Al Jord sub-region. But, these plans were never executed yet because of the landownership conflict between Qobayat and Beit Jaafar

DAMS AND RESERVOIRS

The municipality is now studying the implementation of a dam in Helsbein sub-region. One of the constraints facing this establishment of this dam is that the dam is located in the future IBA¹ which create territorial management difficulties. One reservoir is located in Zouk sub-region that lacks a pumping system to be functional.

ARTESIAN WELLS:

Private and public wells are dwelled by different engineers. We can count:

- 10 private for irrigation about 100 – 150 m deep that supplies 5 to 6 inches of water.
- 9 wells used by the ministry of energy that supply 78 villages near Qobayat. Qobayat is not linked to this water supply system.

WATER PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENT

The Water Public Establishment is planning to nationalize the water in Qobayat. But this project is facing resistance from locals who will have to pay an additional tax of 200 000L.L for the water in addition to the 70 000 LL per year that they are already paying. This implies higher production costs and will affect the agriculture in the region and may cause a shifting in agricultural practices towards plant species requiring less irrigation.

The nationalization of Qobayat waters is in the hands of justice.

ELECTRICITY

The electric network was first established in 1963. Since then, the network is always upgraded when needed in order to supply all households with electricity without having to deal with technical problems like shortage in supply and frequent technical accidents. 98% of households are connected to the electricity network except some distant agricultural constructions.

¹ IBA: Important Bird Area. Qobayet future IBA is located in the Helsbein valley with its surrounding mountains.

The municipality is now studying the possibility of implementing new renewable resources to generate electricity like wind mills and solar panels.

Lately, the locals have been complaining from the electricity availability and the high costs of generator memberships. For that reason, the municipality is trying to find sustainable energy solutions but is having lots of difficulties for two main reasons; the first is that installing the renewable energy equipment is very expensive and the second is that the municipality is not up to date with the renewable energy options and don't have any employees specialized in this domain.

- a. Generators: 10 common electricity generators supply all the households. They are private generators distributed upon the 6 sub-regions. Connection fees are relative to the time of consumption and not the consumed energy.
- b. Solar energy for water heating; lately, around 30 houses installed solar panels for water heating. Also, Qobayat Country Club and used for the swimming pool.

PHONE LINES, GSM COVERAGE & INTERNET AVAILABILITY

Most of the village is connected to the Ogero network. GSM network coverage is excellent due to the implementation of two antennas: one for alpha and the other for MTC. Internet connections are available at three different internet cafes, the municipal library and in some private organizations or companies. Qobayat has 8 phone booths.

SEWAGE

The municipality of Qobayat installed lately a new sewage network linked to a water treatment plant. The installation of this system is still ongoing. In 2006, the main pipeline A was installed with 4 km of individual connections. In 2008, another main pipeline B was installed with 9 km of individual connections.

These pipelines cover Martmoura, Zouk, El Gharbiyeh and Sayedet el Ghessaleh. The municipality project to extend the pipeline B (4km) to cover the remaining streets: Daher, Ghwaya with 9 km of individual connections. When it comes to Katelbeh, the municipality is planning to implement a collective sewage system because it is very difficult to connect this part of the village to the main pipelines for geographical reasons.

Products and maintenance are now provided by the engineer Dr Kamil Zoughayb . This canalization system links approximately 60% of Qobayet constructions.

The Water treatment plant was installed in 2002 and is located in the Gharbieh sub-region (pictures available). USAID, YMCA and the municipality worked together to accomplish this project. Its

management is held by the municipality. Operating fees² are paid by both Qobayat (2/3) and Aandiit (1/3) municipalities. Households that are not yet connected to the network still use the septic whole system. The waste water in this case is collected by cisterns and emptied in the water treatment plant reservoir to get treated with the sewage coming from the network. Treated water is rejected in the river and is used for agriculture.

SOLID WASTE

Collection is done daily in down town, 3 times a week in distant streets including all households. The municipality pays a private association 3 500 000 L.L per month to collect solid wastes from households. Collected wastes are dumped in the Srar dumper in Tripoli. As for the swage network, the solid waste collection fees are included in the municipal service package³ with no extra charge.

One of the municipality future plans is the implementation of a waste sorting plant in collaboration with Dr. Kamil Zoughayb.

Qobayat hospital uses an aching system to treat medical wastes. Dangerous products are kept in isolated reservoirs waiting for a decision from the MoE. The hospital's management is interested in solar energy and recycling (a recycling deal with SANITA failed due to the geographical positioning; it is too far from SANITA's headquarter).

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TOURISM

- A Phoenician and pagan altar in front of "St.Chahlo" church, Phoenician,
- Greek and Roman pieces of currency at "Ghassalet" church and "Chahlo",
- Roman tombs in every parts, and two Roman ruins: The first is the temple of the God "Ban", in Helsban Saint Valley, transformed in a church baptized under the name of st. Artimos-Challita. The second is one castle in Chouita, witness of the events of the Omeyade-Byzantine war.

² (45 000 000 L.L per year) including 4 employees (2 from Qobayat and 2 from Aandiit). This amount is payed by both Qobayat (2/3) and Aandiit (1/3) municipalities from their municipal budgets (sandouk al baladiyeh). No extra fees are required for households connected to the sewage system.

³ *Kimat takjiriyat (mousakkafat) it is evaluated by a committee and each household pays fees between 60 and 100 thousands L.L.*

EDUCATION

The Italian religious mission of the Carmelite fathers arrived to Qobayat in the middle of the 19th century and undertook a cultural and social activity beside the spiritual one since they established a free school for the poor in order to supply the locals with books, meals and clothes especially for the orphans.

. Nowadays university students are in hundreds and many doctorates actually live and work/practice in Qobayat.

School Name	Level	Public/ Private	Number	Primary students	Intermediat e students	Secondary
Rawdat Al-Kobayat Al-Rasmiyye	Kindergarde- n	Public	99	99		
Al Zouk Al Rassmiya	Primary - Intermediate	Public	211	100	111	
Deir Doumet lil-Abaa Al-Karmaliyyin	Primary - Intermediate	Private	561	444	117	
Sayedet Al Salam Li Rahbat Al MAhabbeh	Primary Intermediate	Private	453	353	100	
Thanawiat Al Qobayat Al Rasmiya Lil Banat	Secondary	Public	231			231
Thanawiat Al Qobayat Al Rasmiya Lil Sobyen	Secondary	Public	114			114
Al-Madrassa Al-Faniyye Lil-Tamrid	Technical secondary	Public	540			540
Al Madrassa Al Mihaniya Lil Rahbat Al Antouniat	Technical secondary	Private	48			

HEALTH

HOSPITAL

Name: Hôpital Notre Dame de la Paix
Contact: Soeure Marie Edward Tel: 06 351670
Status: Private – Soeures Antonines
Date of creation: 1998
Opening days: 7 days a week
Nb. of beds: 150 beds but only 80 beds are used

Nb. of doctors per specialization:

General surgery (6)	Ophthalmology (3)	Diab./Endo. (3)	Neuro-pediatrie (1)
Neuro surgery (3)	General medicine (2)	Dermatology (1)	Cardiologie pediatrique (1)
ORL (1)	Cardiology (4)	Medecine interne (1)	Pediatrie / Rean. Neo-Natale (6)
Orthopedic surgery (6)	Gastro-Enterology (5)	Hematology & Cancerologie (1)	Chirurgie Infantile (1)
Urology (3)	Pneumology (2)	Maladies infectieuses (2)	Gynecologie / Obsterique (6)
Anesthesie & Reanimation (3)	Radiologie (2)	Urgences (4)	

Nb of employees: 150

Services:

- Emergency 24 hours
- Radiology 24 hours
- One pharmacy (supplying in-house patients with all drugs)
- One laboratory
- Kitchen
- Café
- Provide training for students in nursing schools

Needs:

- Funds to buy medical equipments and to increase salaries of staff
- A neurologist

DISPENSARIES

AL-MARKAZ AL-TOBBI AL-IJTIMA'I LIL MOUNAZAMAT MALTA

Status: Private
Date of creation: 1980

Nb of doctors and specialties:

General Health (1)	Cardiologist (1)	Pediatrician (1)	Gynecologist (1)	Eye-specialist (1)	Dentist (3)
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Nb of employees: 8
Opening days: Monday – Friday
Services:

- Laboratory
- Day care center

- Pharmacy

Problems according to the dispensary:

- Shortage in certain medicines

Beneficiaries: Qobayat and surroundings (Akroum, Al Sendyeneh, Akkar Al Atiqua, Aidamoun, Andaket, Al Bireh ...)

AL KOBAYAT PUBLIC DISPENSARY

Status: Public

Date of creation: 1950

Nb. of doctors per specialty:

- One gynecologist

Nb. of employees: 8

Opening days: Monday – Saturday

Problems according to the dispensary:

- Laboratory is inactive
- No cleaning team
- Only a few patients visit the dispensary

Beneficiaries: Qobayat and surroundings

DOCTORS AND SPECIALTIES (PRIVATE CLINICS)

General Health (2)	Eye-specialist (1)	E.N.T. specialist (1)	Cardiologist (1)	Physiotherapist (2)
Pediatrician (1)	Dentists (8)	Urologist (1)	Bones surgeon (1)	

LABORATORIES AND PHARMACIES

General Lab (2), Dental Lab (2), Pharmacies (2)

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

CHURCHES

Churches in Qobayat used to look like traditional houses. Then the art of construction developed itself with the development of the liturgy and according to the economic situations. It generated several changes as for example, in the beginning of the 20th century, the East wall was engraved vertically to put there, above the altar, a big picture for the Saint of the church, imported from Europe. So the church is itself transformed from a simple cubic room to a luxurious church with a complex architectural style like the church of the Carmelite Fathers in Qobayat.

Quarter	Churches' or Monasteries' Names
Al-Kobayat al-Gharbiyye	Al-Arbaain Chahid Church
Al-Kobayat Martmoura	Al-Chahidi Moura Church; Saydet Deir Anan Church; Mar Jerjes Monastery; Mazar Saydet Chahlou
Al-Kobayat al-Zouk	Al-Habal Bila Danas Church; Saydet al-GHassala Church
Al-Kobayat al-Daher	Saydet al-Intikal Church; Saydet al-Salam Church; Mar Doumet Monastery; Mazar Mar Jerjes wa Mar Daniel
Al-Kobayat Ghwaya	Mar Jerjes Church; Mar Challita Monastery
Al-Kobayat al-Katelbeh	Saydet al-Naser Church; Mar Charbel Church; Mazar Saydet Kemmee

SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

GOVERNMENTAL CENTERS

Court Center of Electrécité du Liban Civil Defense Center General Security Services Center Police Station	Phone Office Post Office Tobacco Registration Office Water Company Center of Ministry of social affairs
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CENTER OF MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Date of creation: Around 30 years ago

Contact: 06 350545

Nb. of employees: 20

Opening days: Monday – Saturday

Activities:

- A dispensary (it contains 4 doctors: a general health doctor, a gynecologist, a pediatrician and a dentist)
- Social workers
- Teaching computer, sewing, drawing on ceramic ...

Beneficiaries: Qobayat and surroundings

ASSOCIATIONS/ NGO'S

RED CROSS

Date of creation: 2002

Nb of volunteers: 52

Main activities:

- Emergency 24 hours

- Patients' treatment at home
 - First aid
 - Developed medical transportation
- Problems:**
- Remoteness from Beirut
 - Shortage in volunteers during winter

CARITAS DU LIBAN

Date of creation: 1989

Contact: 06 351655

Nb of employees: 1

Nb of volunteers: 8

Main activities:

- Mobile clinic (selling medicines and testing blood)
- Summer camps for children
- Assistance to elderly
- Assistance to patients
- Visit to prisons
- Home for the elderly (it contains 24 persons)

Beneficiaries: Qobayat and surroundings

MAR MANSOUR ASSOCIATION

Date of creation: 1982

Contact: 06 350575 (Chaalán Maaiki)

Nb of members: 20

Main activities:

- Assistance to students (10 students)
- Food aid
- Constructing a home for the elderly
- Undertaking entertainment parties for the elderly

Beneficiaries: Qobayat and surroundings

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION "QOBAYAT COMMITTEE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT"

Date of creation: 1995

Contact: 03 455599 (Habib Karam)

Nb of members: 10

Main activities: Established in 1995 by 10 persons, its objective is awareness concerning: air pollution, forest conservation, underground water and fires. The CEQ had renovated the Fire Tower that has now all necessary equipment to function as a guest house. The CEQ have participated in the implementation of the Karm Shbat Protected Area by a MoE decision in 1995. On a weekly basis, the CEQ receives approximately two to three tourist groups visiting mainly the forests and the religious sites. Other activities of the CEQ include reforestation and pruning as well as organizing camping activities in Morghan.

AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVE

Date of creation: 1975

Contact: 06 350237 (Tony Ra'ed)
Nb. of members: 167
Main activities:

- Constructing irrigation channels and agricultural roads
- Vegetable market
- Squeeze olives (it services 25 villages)
- Providing plants and bushes from time to time

The Cooperative was first established in 1975. The person in charge of it is M. Toni Raad. The Coop management (seven persons elected each three years) is divided into; A Supervising committee (President; Vice President; Secretary); Moulazimin three persons; And 170 members gathering almost 90% of the farmers in Qobayat (including people who do some farming as a hobby).

Plans and projects:

- The Coop has already installed a fridge in the region and constructed 30 Km of agricultural roads. But, some financial constrains⁴ are preventing the establishment of already planned projects.
- Olive oil production in the Coop started in 2003; and the equipments are upgraded when needed. It receives the olives from twenty five neighboring villages. The main advantage is the quick processing of fresh olive without having to keep it waiting for a long time waiting to be processed. Time is a crucial element because it affects the quality of the extracted oil. Processing cost is around 9 000 L.L for the Gallon (around 85 Kg of olive)
- The future COOP project is to upgrade the equipment in order to process the Olive seeds to get a flammable product that is used for heating. The machinery and functioning costs are around 60 000\$. One ton of processed seeds can be sold for a price of 50\$/ton. This processing system will be able to spare the local environment from excessive wood cutting. (A ton of wood is sold for 150\$) therefore, a household can be heated the whole year for an amount of 500 000 L.L. Seeds are now sold to Syrian companies that makes out of it products like soap and Hubble Bubble charcoal.
- With donations from the USAID and YMCA, the COOP was able to supply the local community with affordable green houses equipment. (2.5 \$/m2 instead of 6\$)
- The cattle farm was functioning from 2003 till 2006. It enclosed 22 cows and had room for 13 more. Products were sold from door to door inside the village. Due to Naher el Bared war, the farm had to close down and the cows were sold to the Rene Moawad Foundation because the workers (mostly Syrians) had to flee the country and no other workers were available to keep the work going.
- The vegetable market's main objective is providing for the locals local products in an affordable price while encouraging agriculture in the region. The COOP applies a commission rate of 15% of the vegetables selling price.

Beneficiaries: Qobayat

⁴ High production costs facilitating foreign products invasion in the local markets. Natural facts like climate perturbation, parasites and diseases. Finally, the fact that local perception of agriculture as an old fashioned, nonprofit job. Locals don't tend to invest in agriculture, they prefer to invest in other sectors.

INFORMAL GROUPS OR INITIATIVES

DALILET LOUBNEN LIL-FATAYET ASSOCIATION

Date of creation: 1963
Contact: 03 870290 (Hilda al-Khoury) or 03 318937 (Bernadette Skandar)
Nb of members: 145
Main activities:

- Colony
- Summer camp for girls
- Visit to prisons, home for the elderly and orphanages
- Sport activities (basketball and football)
- Planting trees
- Vaccination campaigns

Beneficiaries: Children, youth and elderly

SCOUT DU LIBAN ASSOCIATION

Date of creation: 1963
Contact: 03 870290 (Hilda al-Khoury) or 03 318937 (Bernadette Skandar)
Nb of members: 145
Main activities:

- Colony
- Summer camp for girls
- Visit to prisons, home for the elderly and orphanages
- Sport activities (basketball and football)
- Planting trees
- Vaccination campaigns

Beneficiaries: Children, youth and elderly

SAYDET AL-SALAM SCOUTS

Date of creation: 2004
Contact: 03 870290 (Hilda al-Khoury) and/or
03 318937 (Bernadette Skandar)
Nb of members: 85
Main activities:

- Colony
- Summer camp for girls
- Visit to prisons, home for the elderly and orphanages
- Sport activities (basketball and football)
- Planting trees
- Vaccination campaigns

Beneficiaries: Children and youth

CULTURAL AND SPORT CENTERS OR ACTIVITIES

SPORT'S GROUNDS

Activities:	Basketball
Size:	1600m ²
Users:	Kids and scholars
Location:	Outside school
Status:	Private open to public

LIBRARY

Name:	Centre de Lecture et d'Animation Culturelle – CLAC
Date of creation:	21 November 2001
Contact:	06 351750
Opening days:	Monday – Saturday
Status:	Public
Volume of books:	5466
Equipments:	Computers, films, magazines, newspaper...
Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lend books• Conference• Lectures and drawing sessions• Hand-puppet
Users:	Youth (322)and adult (294) in 2007

Language	Number of books
Arabic	2595
French	2586
English	285

INTERNET CAFÉS

A total number of 3 internet shops with 33 computers used mostly by children and youth

TOURISM IN QOBAYAT

LODGING AND RESTAURATION

Guesthouses run by local residents :

- Bernadette Iskandar (03 318 937)
- Couvent des soeurs lazaristes (06 351 535)
- Georges Karam (03 542 935)
- Qobayat country club (03 637 172) a resort with 6 "chalets" and a swimming pool.

High quality restaurants: Morgan, Monte Verde, Challal Essamaq (Torrent of fish), Due Mila, Chelal Al Malek, Diwan Al Wadi, Al-Jandoul (Gondola), other restaurants inside the city, snack bar and sweets shop.

SUGGESTED FIELD VISITS WHILE VISITING QOBAYAT:

- 1- Kobayat- Chouita- Ghazrata- Akkar El Atika
- 2- Kobayat - Biré - Jaalouk water source– Menjez
- 3- Kobayat - Andaket – Oudine
- 4- Kobayat - Andaket - Akroum
- 5- Kobayat - Ain el Sit - Mar Challita - Nabeh el Abiad - Nabeh Betwege - Nabeh el Deleb - Wadi el Maasser and Ain el Hijal - Mar Sarkis and Bakhos covent – Mahbassé
- 6- Katlabeh - Nabeh el jawz valley - Zaboud - Saydet Kemmah
- 7- Katlabeh, Sayidat el Nasr and Mawach
- 8- Kobayat – Chambouk - Le protectorat de Karem Chbat
- 9- Morgane, Chanabik of Alexander, Chanbouk, Sayidat Aanan covent, Btalya Oum Haratein, Karm Chbat, Chir el Sanam

The monumental sanctuaries are: Mar elias (Oudine), Mar Elian, Mar saba, Mar Challita, Mar Sarkis and Bakhos, Saydet Kammah, Mar Gerges in Chouita, Saydet Ghazrata, Saydet Chahlo, convent of Saint Georges in Martmoura.

The Double Churches dating since the seventh or sixth century where locals used to serve bread, wine, oil and incense; Atouns (a construction used for traditional chloride production. One is located near to the Hospital); Mourayk's grave (Moreik and Mourekiyan monuments dating from the byzantic age).Naos (the old Ain al Rimmaneh Graveyard); Owayiek caves (1 big and the others are smaller); Ancient silk mills owned by Dr. Elie Hkaymeh (GP of the international cultural union).

The Zaboud cemeteries are the memorials of the God Zabad. These cemeteries are very vast tombs dug like rooms in the rocks. In the center of the principal room rises a carved stone column as if it supported the rock. The place is surrounded by mountains where several fertile fields extend. Nabeh Zaboud is a very beautiful, shaded tourist place and gives on a marvelous landscape.

The Bird Museum in the Carmelites Covent (birds, insects and all other easy to get wild animals (samples from all around the world). This museum is not representative of the local avifauna, fauna and insects. It holds different species from around the world.



Independent animal and bird keepers that are mainly visited by local population such as: Rikallah Maaykeh; Elie Mousseh and Joseph al Rahy. The available animals are gazelles, birds, rabbits and chickens. The forest rangers are rarely covering the region that is included in the Helsbein future protected area and IBA which is still visited by a number of hunters. In two releasing into the wild experiences all freed birds were shut down by hunters.

PROBLEMS & SUGGESTIONS:

The village lacks lodging facilities what is considered as a good potential for tourism especially that most of the households are relatively large.

The village needs more youth activities. Even the sport clubs are closed. Schools make no competitions or tournaments. Only the municipal library organizes some activities.

Need for more job opportunities (or jobs with higher salaries); every person in villages has different jobs simultaneously; i.e Mr. X is in charge of the Bed and Breakfast hosting in the Conseil de l'Environnement, he owns a sports wear shop and employed in the Support Center (*markaz al inaash*)

The municipality needs to do more studies and consulting concerning the implementation of a Dam in Heilsbein region in the future P.A. and IBA.

The locals are complaining from the quarries vehicles. Three hundred trucks passing by the village on a daily basis. These trucks are damaging the main road. They are also a source of extreme noise pollution, forest and agricultural crops pollution. These trucks are also the reason for traffic jam in the region not to forget that most of the trucks damage the passing cars by dropping rocks or mazout on the road.

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