# Water | Water and Everyday Life

‘The city of Fez in Morocco was supplied with water by public fountains, called sikaya.’

From the 6th / 12th century onwards the city of Fez in Morocco was supplied with water by public fountains, called sikaya. The form of these fountains has been consistent over the centuries. In a recessed broken arch set in a wall and covered in zellij, or glazed ceramic tiles, the water issues from spigots into a basin.



**Name:**
Basin

**Dynasty:**
Hegira 751–7 / AD 1351–6 Marinid

**Details:**
Batha Museum
Fez, Morocco

**Justification:**
A hemispheric, fluted basin on a pedestal; the opening at the base befits its function as a fountain for use in the ablutions hall of the Buinaniya Madrasa in Fez.

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**Name:**
Public drinking fountain

**Dynasty:**
Hegira 971 / AD 1564 Ottoman

**Details:**
National Museum of Damascus
Damascus, Syria

**Justification:**
A handsome inlaid-marble inscription panel that would have surrounded a public fountain at the 10th- /16th-century Ottoman Mosque of Mustafa Lala Pasha.

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**Name:**
Fountain and sabil of Ahmed III

**Dynasty:**
Hegira 1141 / AD 1729 Ottoman

**Details:**
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Turkey

**Justification:**
An elaborate fountain commissioned by Sultan Ahmed III (1115–42 / 1703–30) in Istanbul during the so-called Westernisation period. It consists of four sabils, one on each corner of the structure, and four ornamental facades, three of which have fountains.



**Name:**
Fountain and sabil of Ahmed III

**Dynasty:**
Hegira 1141 / AD 1729 Ottoman

**Details:**

Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Turkey

**Justification:**
Close-up view of the Fountain and Sabil of Ahmed III.

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**Name:**
Aquamanile in the form of a ram

**Dynasty:**
Hegira 4th–early 5th centuries / AD 10th–11th centuries Fatimid–Zirid

**Details:**
Bardo Museum
Bardo, Tunisia

**Justification:**
Aquamaniles, such as this ram from Tunisia, were popular in 4th- and 5th- / 10th- and 11th-century Spain and North Africa.

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**Name:**
Fountain mouth

**Dynasty:**
Hegira 406–547 / AD 1015–1152 Hammadid

**Details:**
National Museum of Setif
Setif, Algeria

**Justification:**
A stylised stone lion that was found at the Citadel of the Beni Hammad and served as a fountainhead with water flowing from its mouth.

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