

The Abbasids | The Aghlabids: Shield of the Abbasid Dynasty

'Ifriqiya became the main link for trade between the East and West, and between al-Andalus and the Sudan.'

The Aghlabids built several architectural landmarks in Kairouan, Monastir, Sousse and Tunis. Ifriqiya became the main link for trade between the East and West, and between al-Andalus and the Sudan. Ifriqiya's agricultural and other industries, such as textile weaving and ceramics, prospered. The downfall of the Aghlabids was due mainly to the frivolity and profligacy which dominated the rule of Ziyadat Allah III (290–6 / 903–9), which prompted the people of Ifriqiya to withdraw their support, and led in turn to the fall of Ifriqiya – with no resistance – to the Fatimids.



Name:
Coin (dinar)

Dynasty:
Hegira 192 / AD 808 Aghlabid

Details:
Museum of Islamic Art
Raqqada, Kairouan, Tunisia

Justification:
This Aghlabid dinar was struck at Kairouan; it followed the Abbasid model, but was struck with Aghlabid-style kufic script.



Name:
Carved wood fragment

Dynasty:
Hegira 242–9 / AD 856–63 Aghlabid

Details:
Museum of Islamic Art
Raqqada, Kairouan, Tunisia

Justification:
A carved-wood fragment that comes from the minbar (pulpit) presented to the Great Mosque of Kairouan by the Aghlabid prince Abu Ibrahim Ahmed (r. 242–9 / 856–63).



Name:
Great Mosque of Sousse

Dynasty:
Hegira 236–47 / AD 851–62 Aghlabid

Details:
Sousse, Tunisia

Justification:
Built by the Aghlabid Prince Abu al-'Abbas Muhammad in 236 / 851, it stands close to the Ribat of Sousse with its high tower that was used as a minaret.



Name:
Great Mosque of Sousse

Dynasty:
Hegira 236–47 / AD 851–62 Aghlabid

Details:

Sousse, Tunisia

Justification:

Interior view of the Great Mosque of Sousse showing an arched prayer hall.

**Name:**

Great Mosque of Sousse

Dynasty:

Hegira 236–47 / AD 851–62 Aghlabid

Details:

Sousse, Tunisia

Justification:

View of the open courtyard at the Great Mosque of Sousse showing a staircase ascending to the outer walls near the tower (minaret).

**Name:**

Sousse Ribat

Dynasty:

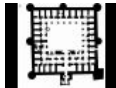
Hegira 256 / AD 821 Aghlabid

Details:

Sousse, Tunisia

Justification:

Facing the Great Mosque of Sousse, the ribat's tower or minaret. The ribat accommodated a garrison of warrior-Sufi mystics that had dedicated themselves to jihad – defending the shores of Ifriqiya.

**Name:**

Sousse Ribat

Dynasty:

Hegira 256 / AD 821 Aghlabid

Details:

Sousse, Tunisia

Justification:

Plan of the Ribat of Sousse.