

# The Fatimids | Pleasures and Celebrations at Court

‘The Fatimids enjoyed the outdoor life, keeping well-maintained gardens and orchards.’

The Fatimids enjoyed the outdoor life, keeping well-maintained gardens and orchards. Visitors were invited to walk in the grounds to enjoy the decorative fountains and sounds of running water. Some royal residences had menageries that accommodated a variety of exotic animals and birds. Beyond the palace gates, royal and upper-class society pursued a variety of sports including hunting and horsemanship. Birds, hares and gazelles were pursued for sport using birds of prey, dogs and horses. Polo, mace-striking and spear-throwing were other favourite sports.



**Name:**  
Ivory casket

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 5th–6th centuries / AD 11th–12th centuries Fatimid

**Details:**  
Museum of Islamic Art at the Pergamon Museum  
Berlin, Germany

**Justification:**  
Both utilitarian and expensive objects were decorated with motifs relating to the natural world: gardens, orchards and the wilderness.

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**Name:**  
Jar

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira late 4th–early 5th century / AD late 10th–early 11th century Fatimid

**Details:**  
Burrell Collection, Glasgow Museums  
Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

**Justification:**  
Both utilitarian and expensive objects were decorated with motifs relating to the natural world: gardens, orchards and the wilderness.

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**Name:**  
Oliphant

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 5th–6th centuries / AD 11th–12th centuries Fatimid

**Details:**  
Museum of National Antiquities (Historika Museet)  
Stockholm, Sweden

**Justification:**  
A Fatimid ivory horn decorated with deer, rabbits and other animals. Both its function and decoration relate closely to hunting.

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