

The Atabegs and Ayyubids | Religious Life

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Cities in Syria, Palestine and Egypt all underwent a revival of Sunni Islam under the Atabeg and Ayyubid dynasties. Both dynasties undertook the restoration of the Great Umayyad Mosque after it suffered two catastrophic fires, and sponsored hundreds of other religious institutions, including mosques, oratories, madrasas, khanqahs, and shrines. Contemporary historians recorded a total of 242 mosques in Damascus alone.



Name:
Marble panel

Dynasty:
Hegira 575 / AD 1179 Ayyubid

Details:
National Museum of Damascus
Damascus, Syria

Justification:
A marble inscription panel that indicates Ayyubid restoration of the Umayyad Mosque by Saladin in 575 / 1179, following a catastrophic fire.



Name:
Umayyad Mosque

Dynasty:
Hegira 87–96 / AD 706–715 Umayyad

Details:
Damascus, Syria

Justification:
The mosque was well maintained by the Atabegs. Two of its three minarets date approximately to the Atabeg period, while the third dates to the Mamluk period.



Name:
Mausoleum of Imam Shafi'i

Dynasty:
Hegira 608 / AD 1211 Ayyubid

Details:
Cairo, Egypt

Justification:
The Ayyubids built this shrine for Imam Shafi'i, founder of one of the four Sunni schools of Islamic law; it symbolises a resurgence of Sunni Islam in Egypt.
