

Water | Water Management

'The heritage of Roman techniques in water management was further developed under the Islamic dynasties.'

While the systems constructed by the Romans were gainfully re-used over the ages, the contribution of Islamic civilisation in water management is also important. The large-scale Arab immigration and population increase led to the growth of a new landholding class who invested in agricultural production. Thus, the heritage of Roman techniques in water management was further developed under the Islamic dynasties, as can be seen by the construction of many water-management systems, including subterranean canals, regular canals, aqueducts, cisterns, dams, rain reservoirs and waterwheels (noria).



Name:
Aghlabid Reservoirs

Dynasty:
Hegira 248 / AD 862 Abbasid

Details:
Kairouan, Tunisia

Justification:
One of the two extant pairs (originally there were 15) purpose-built stone reservoirs that once supplied Kairouan with water, and gave it the name: 'Town of the Cisterns'. Water poured initially into the small pool to be filtered and then transferred to the bigger pool to be stored.



Name:
Qanat (inside the Psychiatric Hospital)

Dynasty:
12th century Fatimid/Norman

Details:
Palermo, Italy

Justification:
A Fatimid (297–567 / 909–1171) underground water system that collected aquifer water and extended up to 10 km to provide a continuous water supply.



Name:
Aqueduct

Dynasty:
Hegira 712–914 / AD 1312–1508 Mamluk

Details:
Cairo, Egypt

Justification:
The aqueduct (lit. waterway) is a commonly seen construction in the Islamic World built to provide water to a castle or palace complex, but which en route might have supplied private residences and gardens.



Name:
Kırıkçeşme water-supply system

Dynasty:

Hegira 971 / AD 1564 Ottoman

Details:

Kemberburgaz, Istanbul, Türkiye

Justification:

The aqueduct seen here is part of a 54 km-long water-supply system which has 33 arched sections. The system saw many additional sections and reservoirs added to it throughout the Ottoman period; remarkably it still supplies water to Istanbul.
