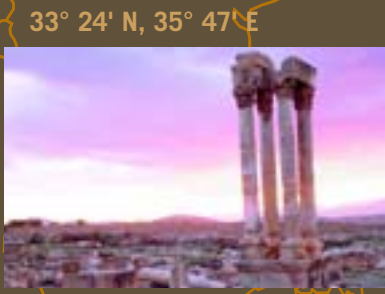


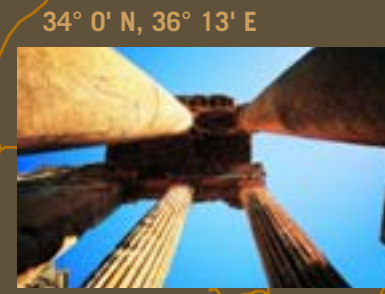
THE MIDDLE EAST

FROM THE IRANIAN PLATEAU WEST ACROSS THE LEVANT TO SYRIA, LEBANON, ISRAEL AND PALESTINE, AND INTO THE SPECTACULAR PYRAMIDS AND TEMPLES OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION, THE MIDDLE EAST PROVIDES A WEALTH OF ANCIENT RUINS FROM PAST CIVILIZATIONS. THE EARLIEST URBAN DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE ALLUVIAL PLAINS OF THE TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES RIVERS AND ALONG EGYPT'S NILE. IN MANY COUNTRIES, POLITICAL REALITIES MAKE GHF OPERATIONS DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE. THE LOOTING OF UMMU AL-QAYSIYAH IN IRAQ IS TYPICAL OF THE FATE OF MANY REMOTE AND UNGUARDED SITES ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST WITHOUT PROTECTION OR SUSTAINED GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR NECESSARY CONSERVATION.

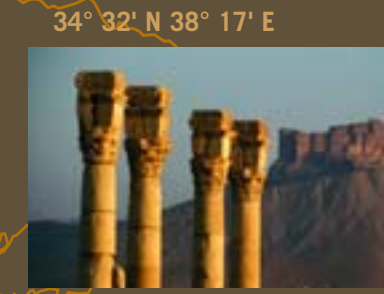
GLOBAL HERITAGE FUND IS FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON NATIVE URBAN CENTERS AND ANCIENT STRUCTURES WHICH HELP TO ILLUSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MIDDLE EAST AS A CENTER OF HUMANKIND'S EARLY DEVELOPMENT FROM 5000 BC. IN THE EARLY SUMERIAN CITY-STATES TO THE ELAMITE CITIES AND TEMPLES IN IRAN, THE MIDDLE EAST OFFERS A WEALTH OF EARLY NATIVE PRE-ROMAN SITES, SUCH AS THE LIVING CITY OF ALEPPO IN SYRIA WHICH HAS BEEN CONTINUOUSLY INHABITED FOR OVER 3000 YEARS, AND THE HISTORIC CITIES OF SANA'A AND TARIM IN YEMEN. IN EGYPT, WHERE TOURISM IS NOW BY FAR THE LEADING INDUSTRY, GHF IS FOCUSING ON THE MOST ANCIENT SITES WHICH HAVE NOT RECEIVED SUPPORT TO DATE. WHILE FLOODS AND ADVANCING SANDS DESTROY AND ERODE GLOBAL HERITAGE SITES, THE MAJORITY OF DESTRUCTION ARISES FROM UNPLANNED URBAN DEVELOPMENT, CONFLICT, NEGLECT AND LACK OF SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION.



ANJAR Lebanon
AD 705 – 750
Umayyad Dynasty



BAALBEK Lebanon
1000 BC – AD 313
Phoenician, Roman



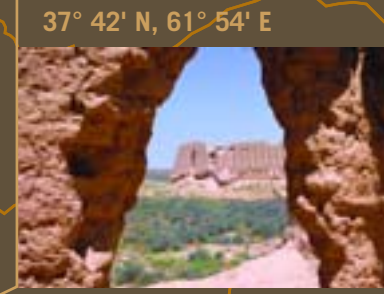
PALMYRA Syria
1000 BC – AD 271
Assyrian, Roman



SAMARRA Iraq
AD 836 – 900
Abbasid



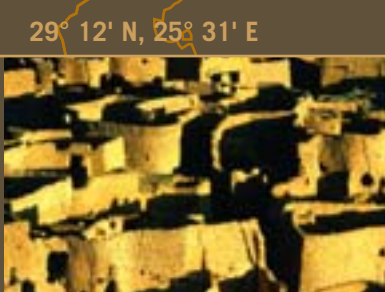
UR Iraq
3000 – 2400 BC
Sumerian



MERV Turkmenistan
600 BC – AD 1500
Achaemenid Seleucid, Seljuk



PETRA Jordan
312 BC – AD 363
Nabatean



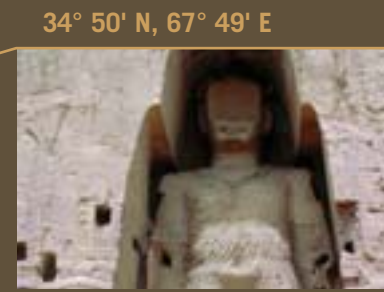
SIWA Egypt
800 BC – Present
Persian, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Arab



SHIBAM Yemen
AD 1500 – 1600
Zaydi (Shiite)



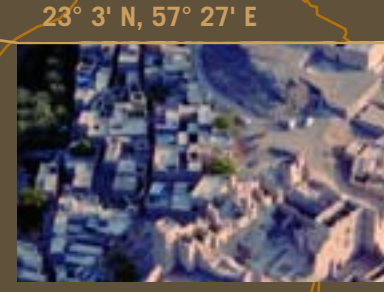
SANA'A Yemen
100 BC – Present
Sabean, Himyarite, Islamic



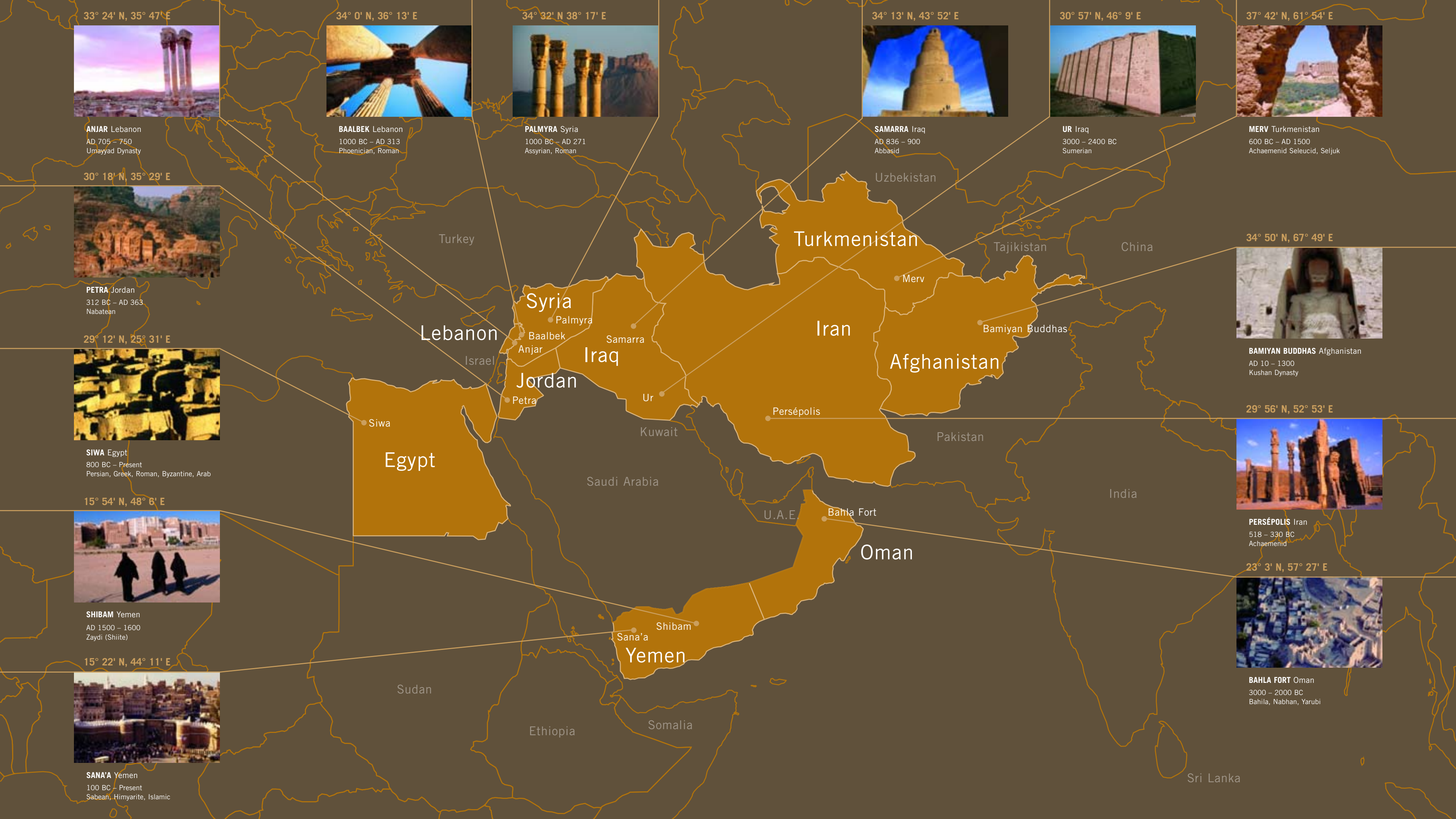
BAMIYAN BUDDHAS Afghanistan
AD 10 – 1300
Kushan Dynasty



PERSÉPOLIS Iran
518 – 330 BC
Achaemenid



BAHLA FORT Oman
3000 – 2000 BC
Bahila, Nabhan, Yarubi

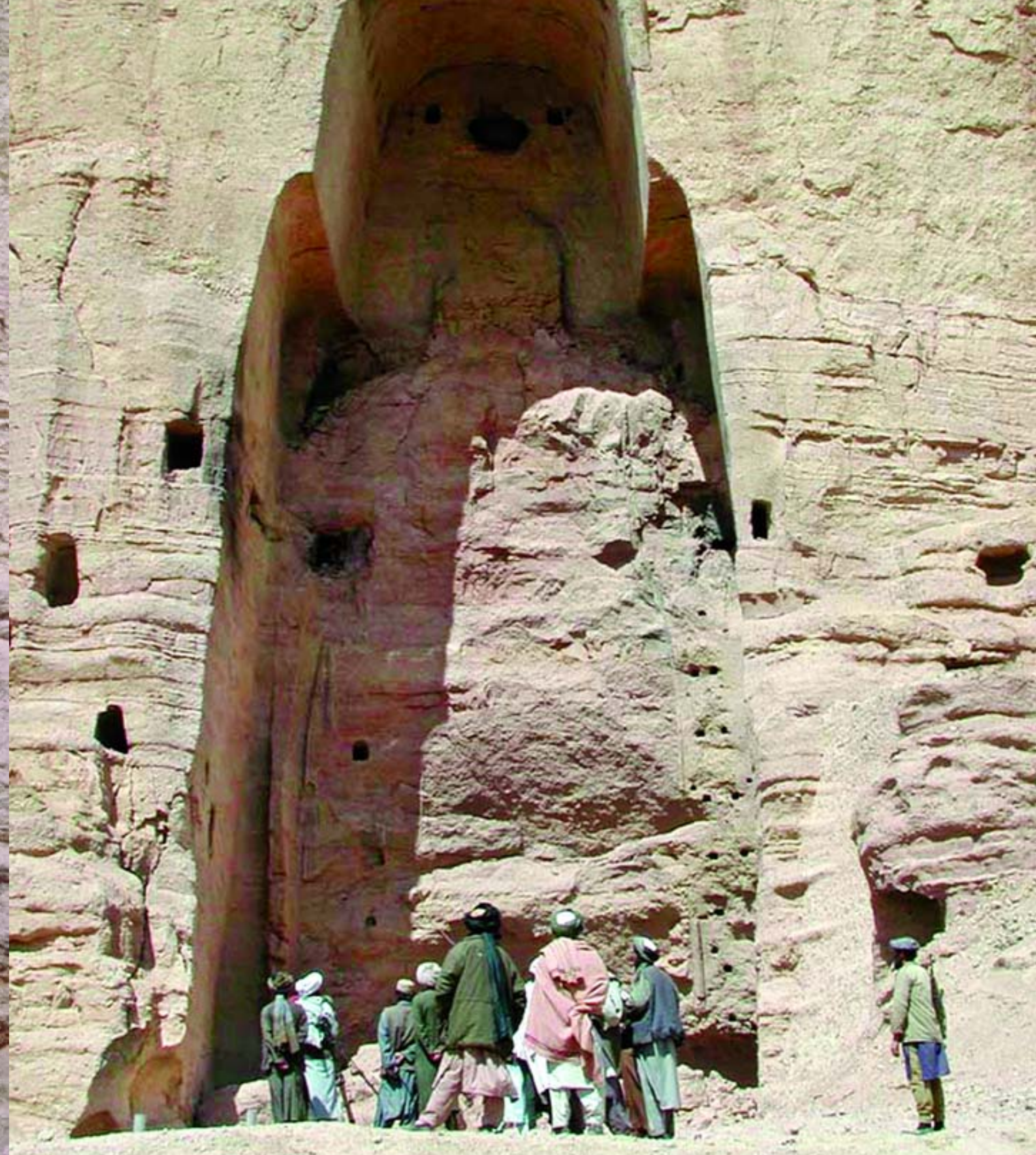


BAMIYAN BUDDHAS

Afghanistan

AD 10 – 1300
Kushan Dynasty

The deliberate destruction of the ancient monumental standing Buddhas of Afghanistan's Bamiyan Valley shocked the world. A UNESCO World Heritage site, the Buddhist monuments of the Bamiyan Valley are a unique representation of the Gandharan style of Buddhist art. Located on the Silk Road trade route, the cultural landscape of the Bamiyan Valley includes cave art, archaeological sites, and fortified structures. The remaining artifacts are threatened by military action, looting, and landmines in the area.





SIWA Egypt

800 BC – Present
Persian, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Arab

Situated 50 miles from the border of Libya in Egypt's Western Desert, the remarkable oasis of Siwa lies in a valley, 70 feet below the surrounding desert. Founded in the 8th century BC, the settlement is renowned as a former religious center that attracted historical figures such as Alexander the Great, who visited the site in 331 BC. Consisting of a fore-court, vestibule and sanctuary, Siwa's 7th century BC Temple of Amun (otherwise known as the Temple of the Oracle) is believed to have housed the famous Greek oracle, Jupiter Amun. Modern construction, salt damage and erosion threaten the preservation of this ancient temple.

PERSÉPOLIS Iran

518 - 330 BC
Achaemenid

The exceptional ruins of Persépolis are located 400 miles south of Tehran. Founded in 518 BC by King Darius I, the majestic palace complex served as the center of royal receptions and festivals, and as the seat of government for the Achaemenid Empire. The Achaemenid reign ended abruptly in 330 BC, when the city was invaded, pillaged and burned by Alexander the Great. The factories and pollution that accompany urban development pose a great threat to preserving Persépolis.



**SAMARRA** Iraq

AD 836 – 900
Abbasid

Located 60 miles north of Baghdad on the east bank of the Tigris River is the remarkable ancient city of Samarra. Covering an area of 22 square miles, the former Abbasid capital flourished as a trading center in the 9th century AD and is one of the largest archaeological sites in the world. Samarra's architectural masterpieces include the Great Mosque with its exquisite spiral minaret, constructed between AD 849 and 851, and the remains of more than 20 magnificent palaces. The current state of unrest in Iraq poses a great threat to the continued preservation of historical monuments.



UR Iraq

3000 – 2400 BC
Sumerian

The remarkable ancient city of Ur is renowned as the birthplace of Abraham, father of the Hebrews. During the 3rd millennium BC, Ur was the capital of the prosperous Sumerian empire; its spectacular ruins provide evidence of a culturally and technologically advanced civilization. An immense pyramidal ziggurat, which once served as the primary place of worship, dominates the city. Within the tombs of the Royal Cemetery, dating from 2600–2500 BC, were discovered some of the most exquisite Mesopotamian precious and semi-precious jewelry and artifacts ever discovered. The cumulative effects of erosion and mismanagement of Ur, including Iraqi placement of warplanes at the site during the Persian Gulf conflict, pose a threat to preservation of the city's ancient structures.

PETRA Jordan

312 BC - AD 363
Nabatean

The city of Petra, meaning “rock” in Greek, has been inhabited since the Neolithic era. Evidence has been found of the existence of community settlements dating back to 9000 BC. But little is known about Petra until 312 BC, when the Nabateans, a pre-Romanic Arab tribe, repelled an attack by Alexander the Great and settled in Petra, eventually making it the capital of their kingdom. All of the facades are carved out of sandstone or limestone, which are both sedimentary rocks. Subsequently the facades have suffered greatly from wind and rain erosion and are in serious danger of eroding beyond recognition.





ANJAR Lebanon

AD 705 – 750
Umayyad Dynasty

Located 34 miles east of Beirut, the beautiful city of Anjar flourished for only a few decades. A rare historic example of an inland commercial center, Anjar is one of few archaeological sites left by the Umayyad Dynasty. The city's remarkable architecture combines structures of Roman and Byzantine origin, complete with external fortifications, palaces, mosques, public baths, a complex drainage and sewage system, and over 600 shops.

**BAALBEK** Lebanon

1000 BC – AD 313
Phoenician, Roman

The magnificent Baalbek Roman temple ruins are among the largest and most beautifully preserved places of worship ever discovered. While little is known about the early history of Baalbek, evidence suggests that the city was initially a flourishing trade center, and later became an important religious site. Hundreds of tombs carved into the hills surrounding the temple complex are believed to date to the time of the Phoenicians. The site is further renowned for its megaliths, which are the largest building blocks ever utilized in a man-made structure.

BAHLA FORT Oman

3000 – 2000 BC
Bahila, Nabhan, Yarubi

In the heart of the Sultanate of Oman stands the picturesque oasis town of Bahla and the ruins of its immense fort. Believed to date back to the 3rd millennium BC, the 165-foot walls, turrets and wind-tower of this impressive structure were built entirely of earthen brick upon a stone foundation. In ancient times Bahla Fort was renovated and rebuilt by successive rulers. Today, large sections of the walls collapse each year following the wet season, leaving the structure in a state of extreme disrepair.





PALMYRA Syria

1000 BC - AD 271
Assyrian, Roman

The oasis town of Palmyra (now called Tadmor), located in the heart of the Syrian desert, was one of the most powerful towns on this arid stretch of the famed Silk Road trade route. The remaining ruins, an impressive array of columns, arches and temples covering an area of almost three square miles, have fallen victim to natural erosion. Without immediate intervention, severe weathering and erosion will continue to destroy the remnants of this desert landmark.

MERV Turkmenistan

600 BC – AD 1500
Achaemenid, Seleucid, Seljuk

Founded by Persian kings, the oasis town of Merv prospered with a strategic location on the fabled Silk Road as a cross-roads of Eastern and Western cultures. With fortified walls surrounding the city, Merv became a major cultural center for a variety of religious faiths and one of the most important capitals of Islam. Reaching a pinnacle of prosperity from the 11th to the 12th centuries AD, the city was among the most developed of its time, with two magnificent libraries attracting scholars from all over the world. A number of monuments still stand from Merv's numerous occupations, including military fortifications, mosques, and various dwellings. These monuments have weathered greatly with the passage of time, and the foundations are weakening with the rising water table due to the Karakum Canal built in the 1950s.





SANA'A Yemen

100 BC – Present
Sabean, Himyarite, Islamic

According to popular legend, Shem, son of the biblical Noah, founded Sana'a. Sana'a is arguably the longest continuously inhabited city in the world. The first historical reference to Sana'a is found in inscriptions dating back to the first century AD during the Sabean Dynasty. Economic development in the 1970s, accompanied by staggering population growth placed considerable stress on the city's historic buildings and inadequate infrastructure. Thirty historic houses collapsed between 1978 and 1979. In 1984 the Republic of Yemen created an organization to preserve Old Sana'a; by 1987 its responsibilities had been extended to historic cities throughout Yemen. Preservation work is ongoing.



SHIBAM Yemen

AD 1500 – 1600
Zaydi (Shiite)

Deep within the province of Hadramout, the spectacular mud-brick skyscrapers of Shibam rise 100 feet above the desert floor. Erected over 500 years ago, the imposing structures of this beautiful oasis constitute the oldest example of vertical construction in the world. The settlement itself is believed to date back to the 2nd century AD. Sadly, much of Shibam's architecture has sustained structural damage from the torrential floods that occasionally sweep the area.