

## The Ayyubid and Mamluk Khans at Aqaba

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This paper presents the results of the new archaeological excavations at Khans al-Aqaba, located 350 km south of Amman, in Jordan. These excavations have revealed that the earliest occupation at Aqaba was in the 9th-12th centuries and that the earliest khan was likely constructed in the second half of the 12th century. However, the current castle layout most closely reflects the plan of the later Mamluk khan at Aqaba that was originally built ca. 1515. This Ayyubid khan subsequently underwent several re-buildings and restorations during the Mamluk and later periods until it assumed its present appearance during the last century. The paper will focus primarily on the Khan of Aqaba during the Mamluk period. In addition to describing the architectural elements of the khan and their functions and various modifications, Dr. Al Shqour will also discuss the Mamluk and Ottoman inscriptions, parts of which have been recently revealed, which provide important information on understanding the history of the khan during these periods.

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