



*Columns of travertine*

Jerash lies in the northwestern highlands of Jordan. In this place, a spectacular Greco-Roman provincial capital was built, largely out of stone. This stone was used for building blocks, columns, capitals, pavement stones among other uses. Examination of the stone at the site reveals that it mostly consists of limestone, predominantly two types, originating from the area north of the ancient city: near-surface caliche deposits from sites such as Majar and southern Asfour and Cretaceous marine limestones from the Naur and Wadi Sir Formations from northern Asfour and the Shawahid quarry sites. These and other sites display evidence of stone extraction and shaping, and unfinished columns can still be found in situ in the ancient quarries. Most of the quarries are situated on private agricultural land as well as in built-up areas and are thus subject to a number of immediate threats such as, construction, agriculture and use of the ancient quarry blocks for building. As a part of the wider Jerash city landscape, the quarries surrounding it tell an important part of the history of the city. (Nizar Abu-Jaber)



*The ancient city of Jerash, built of limestone and travertine*



*Quarry face*

*Ashlar quarries along the road north of the ancient city*

