



## The role of the tourism police in protecting Archaeological sites A case study on the tourism police apparatus and antiquities protection in Libya

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### دور الشرطة السياحية في حماية المواقع الأثرية دراسة تطبيقية على جهاز الشرطة السياحية وحماية الآثار في ليبيا

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#### Abstract:

The study aims to identify the role of the Tourism Police in protecting archaeological sites in Libya by examining the security measures implemented by the Tourism Police to safeguard these sites and by addressing the difficulties faced by the Tourism Police while performing their duties. The study adopted the descriptive methodology and utilized a questionnaire as a tool for data collection. The questionnaire consisted of two main dimensions, each containing a set of statements. It was distributed to a purposive sample of (90) participants, of which (76) valid questionnaires were retrieved for analysis. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was employed to conduct the necessary statistical analyses. The study concluded with a set of findings, the most important of which are as follows, the Tourism Police play a positive role in protecting archaeological sites in Libya. It was found that the mean response value for the total dimension was (3.6) according to the five-point Likert scale, and the protecting and preserving antiquities is not the responsibility of the Tourism Police Apparatus and Antiquities Protection in Libya alone, but rather a shared collective responsibility involving everyone, including citizens, the Department of Antiquities, and the Ministry of Tourism, However, the Tourism Police face several difficulties that hinder their work in the field of antiquities protection, the most significant of which are:

- a-The weakness of the penal provisions in the Libyan Antiquities Law No. (3) of 1994.
- b-The lack of cooperation from local security agencies regarding coordination with the Tourism Police to achieve joint efforts in protecting archaeological sites.
- c-Security risks associated with theft, vandalism, wars, terrorism, and illegal excavations for movable antiquities within archaeological sites.

**Keywords:** Tourism Police, Protection, Archaeological Sites, Protection of Antiquities.

#### المخلص:

تهدف الدراسة إلى التعرف على دور الشرطة السياحية في حماية المواقع الأثرية في ليبيا، وذلك من خلال بيان الإجراءات الأمنية التي تقوم بها الشرطة السياحية لحماية المواقع الأثرية، والوقوف على الصعوبات التي تواجه الشرطة السياحية أثناء أداء مهامها، وقد اعتمدت الدراسة على المنهج الوصفي، واستخدمت الاستبانة كأداة لجمع البيانات، حيث اشتملت على محورين يحتوي كل منهما على مجموعة من العبارات، وتم توزيع الاستبانة على عينة قصدية قوامها (90) شخصاً، وتم

استرجاع (76) استبانة صالحة للتحليل، كما تم استخدام برنامج الحزمة الإحصائية للعلوم الاجتماعية (SPSS)؛ لإجراء التحليلات الإحصائية اللازمة، وخلصت الدراسة إلى مجموعة من النتائج أهمها، أن للشرطة السياحية دوراً إيجابياً فيما يخص حماية المواقع الأثرية في ليبيا، فقد اتضح أن قيمة متوسط الاستجابة لإجمالي المحاور (3.6) وفق مقياس التدرج الخماسي، و أن حماية الآثار والمحافظة عليها ليست مسؤولية جهاز الشرطة السياحية وحماية الآثار في ليبيا فقط، بل هي مسؤولية تضامنية يشترك فيها الجميع، بما في ذلك المواطن، ومصلحة الآثار، ووزارة السياحة، كما تواجه الشرطة السياحية صعوبات عدة تعرقل عملها في مجال حماية الآثار، أهمها:

أ- ضعف مواد العقوبات في قانون الآثار الليبي، قانون رقم (3) لسنة 1994م.

ب- غياب التعاون من الجهات الأمنية المحلية من حيث التنسيق مع الشرطة السياحية في سبيل العمل المشترك لحماية المواقع الأثرية.

ج- المخاطر الأمنية المرتبطة بأعمال السرقة والتخريب وخطر الحروب والإرهاب والتفتيش غير الشرعي عن الآثار المنقولة داخل المواقع الأثرية.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** الشرطة السياحية، الحماية، المواقع الأثرية، حماية الآثار.

## Introduction

The protection of archaeological sites is considered one of the essential aspects of tourism security, which, in its broad sense, encompasses several dimensions, including the safety of tourists, natural landscapes, and tourism establishments such as airports, airlines, travel agencies, hotels, and museums. All these elements are exposed to security risks, including archaeological sites. The need to protect these sites arises from their status as cultural heritage that nations take pride in, as well as their importance as key components of tourism attraction that contribute to the tourism industry.

For this reason, countries pay great attention to safeguarding and preserving archaeological sites-particularly those that possess a large number of antiquities and have a flourishing tourism sector. They establish Apparatus and administrative bodies dedicated to protecting these sites, given their exposure to various risks, in order to ensure their safety through the implementation of laws and legislative regulations and by developing security plans capable of addressing crimes that threaten these antiquities.

Although the tourism sector in Libya is not yet one of the leading sectors, it remains a promising field. Therefore, a single security body was established to integrate both the tourism and antiquities aspects under the name of Tourism Police Apparatus and Antiquities Protection in Libya.

In light of this, the study focused on the protection of archaeological sites in Libya by examining the role of the Tourism Police and Antiquities Protection Authority. The study addressed this topic through both theoretical and practical dimensions. The theoretical aspect aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the subject, while the practical aspect involved identifying the procedures followed by the Tourism Police to safeguard archaeological sites and the difficulties they face in doing so. Data were collected from personnel working within this authority, and these data were analyzed to derive findings and propose appropriate recommendations.

## Problem of the Study

Libya possesses vast tourism resources, including natural and human attractions, which make it a highly significant tourist destination in the North African region. Among these tourism assets are archaeological sites that bear witness to the country's rich history and the continuity of its civilizations throughout the ages.

Given the deterioration of security conditions in Libya over recent years due to crises and internal conflicts, these antiquities have been exposed to threats that endanger their preservation and safety. Al-Bagheel (2017) indicated that, due to the weakness of penal provisions in the Libyan Antiquities Law, crimes targeting archaeological sites occur, and he warned that such crimes could increase if the law remains unchanged. Furthermore, the ASOR report of 2020 clearly highlighted the attacks on archaeological sites between 2011 and 2020, which resulted in five Libyan sites being removed from the World Heritage List and placed on the endangered list. These attacks included:

- a- Acts of vandalism and defacement within archaeological sites.
- b- Urban encroachment and construction adjacent to archaeological sites.
- c- Illegal excavation and research of antiquities.

According to the report, these issues are attributed to the weakness of the necessary security measures for these sites. This was further confirmed through a personal interview conducted by the researcher with an official from

the Tourism Police Apparatus and Antiquities Protection in Libya, as this Apparatus is one of the governmental bodies directly responsible for safeguarding antiquities in Libya.

Hence, the problem addressed by this study arises, leading to the following research question:

**What is the role of the Tourism Police in protecting archaeological sites in Libya?**

### **Study Hypotheses**

Based on the problem and objectives of the study, the following hypotheses were formulated:

#### **A- Main Hypothesis:**

There is no statistically significant relationship at the significance level ( $\alpha=0.05$ ) between the role of the Tourism Police and protecting archaeological sites in Libya.

#### **B- Sub-Hypotheses:**

- 1- There is no statistically significant relationship at the significance level ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) between the security procedures carried out by the Tourism Police and the protection of archaeological sites in Libya.
- 2- There is no statistically significant relationship at the significance level ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) between the difficulties faced by the Tourism Police and the protection of archaeological sites in Libya.

### **Study Objectives**

- 1- To identify the security procedures implemented by the Tourism Police to protect archaeological sites in Libya.
- 2- To identify the difficulties faced by the Tourism Police while carrying out the protection of archaeological sites in Libya.

### **Significance of the Study**

#### **Scientific Significance:**

This study contributes to the accumulation of knowledge in the field of tourism phenomena, as it provides a clear picture of the role of the Tourism Police in protecting archaeological sites. This is particularly important given the scarcity of studies related to tourism security, which is an aspect that requires thorough understanding.

#### **Practical Significance:**

The study benefits officials of the Tourism Police Apparatus by helping them understand the current situation of archaeological sites and by utilizing the study's findings to address any difficulties encountered in the protection process. It also assists in developing programs and plans that contribute to providing the necessary protection for archaeological sites, thereby supporting aspects of tourism security in Libya.

### **Study Methodology**

The study adopted the descriptive method, as it is suitable for the nature of the phenomenon under investigation.

#### **Scope of the Study**

**Subject Scope:** This study addressed the role of the Tourism Police in protecting archaeological sites in Libya.

**Spatial Scope:** The headquarters of the Tourism Police Apparatus and Antiquities Protection in Libya.

#### **Data Sources of the Study**

**A- Primary Sources:** Represented by the study sample.

**B- Secondary Sources:** Comprised of books, research papers, previous studies, in addition to electronic websites.

### **Study Terms and Operational Definitions**

#### **1- Tourism Police:**

**Terminologically :** The Libyan legislator defined the police under the provisions of Law No. (6) of 2019 concerning the Police Authority. Article 1 states that: "The police is a formal civil authority that performs its functions and exercises its competencies under the leadership of the Minister."

Article (3) of the same law clarifies these competencies, stating that: "The Police Authority is responsible for preventing, controlling, and pursuing crimes, ensuring peace and security in society, protecting lives, honor, and public and private property, safeguarding rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and the law, and other responsibilities as stipulated in the applicable legislation" (Law No. 6, 2019).

The term "Tourism" denotes the specific domain of this police branch, as the Police Authority has multiple specialized divisions, such as the Agricultural Police, Electrical Police, Traffic Police, among others, each with its distinct field of responsibility.

## **2- Protection:**

**Terminologically:** According to paragraph "seven" of Article (4) of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, protection is defined as:

"The adoption of measures aimed at preserving, safeguarding, and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions." (Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, 2005).

## **3- Archaeological Sites:**

**Terminologically:** The Libyan legislator defined in Article 1 of the Libyan Antiquities Law No. (3) of 1994 the meaning of antiquities as: "Everything created or produced by humans that relates to human heritage and is over one hundred years old" (Law No. 3, 1994).

An archaeological site is also defined as a location where remains are found that indicate human settlement activity in ancient times. Archaeological sites are identified through the artifacts present within them (Kafafi, 2011).

## **4- Protection of Antiquities:**

The researcher did not encounter a clear formal definition; operationally, it is defined as a shared responsibility aimed at defending antiquities and preserving their integrity. Protection does not equate to guarding, as guarding is only one of the seven activities encompassed by antiquities protection: education, legislation, guarding, maintenance, awareness and cultural education, documentation and publication, and investment.

## **5- Security Procedures:**

Also referred to by some as security measures, operationally, they are defined as the steps or practices implemented to achieve specific objectives related to the tasks of security and police agencies, such as intelligence gathering, investigation, training, guarding, inspection procedures, and other related activities.

## **Previous Studies**

### **A- Local Studies:**

#### **1- Al-Bagheel (2017) titled: "Protection of Antiquities under the Libyan Penal Code"**

The study aimed to examine the extent to which penalties correspond to the crimes committed under the Libyan Antiquities Law, and to assess Libya's capacity to recover its stolen antiquities through international agreements and treaties. The study adopted an analytical methodology using a desk-based approach. The main findings were as follows:

- 1- The penalties stipulated in the Libyan Antiquities Law are disproportionate to the crimes committed against antiquities, and the law remains stagnant, as it has not been amended or updated since its enactment twenty-three years ago.
- 2- Crimes against antiquities can be classified as offenses affecting the public interest, as such crimes constitute an assault on the cultural heritage of the state.
- 3- International agreements and treaties signed for the recovery of stolen antiquities recognize only items removed from the country after (1970), the year of the UNESCO Convention.

In addition to these findings, the study recommended:

Developing legislative, judicial, and executive means to protect antiquities and combat crimes against them by:

- 1- Amending the current law while ensuring strict enforcement of the Antiquities Protection Law, and establishing a special prosecution for crimes against antiquities.
- 2- Facilitating information exchange among all state departments related to antiquities protection and promptly reporting crimes against antiquities to national and international authorities.
- 3- Assigning highly qualified legal specialists to pursue the recovery of antiquities looted abroad.

### **B- Foreign Studies:**

#### **1- Al-Khaddam (2015) titled: "The Role of the Tourism Police in Protecting Tourist and Archaeological Facilities in Jordan – A Field Study"**

The study aimed at several objectives, most notably to identify the security procedures implemented by the Tourism Police in protecting tourist facilities and archaeological sites in Jordan, as well as the services provided by this department to tourist groups visiting Jordan.

The study adopted a descriptive-analytical methodology, with an emphasis on documentary studies as a primary approach within the descriptive method. A questionnaire was used as a data collection tool, targeting a purposive sample of (150) employees in the Tourism Police. The study reached several findings, most prominently:

- 1- The Tourism Police play a positive role in protecting tourists, tourist facilities, and archaeological sites in Jordan.

- 2- The security procedures followed by the Tourism Police in Jordan regarding the protection of tourist facilities and archaeological sites are effective; they provide comprehensive protection that integrates both traditional and modern methods to ensure the necessary safety of these facilities and sites.

The study concluded with several recommendations, including:

- 1- Cooperation among tourism-related institutions is essential, providing the Tourism Police with the necessary security information to create a tourism environment free from obstacles that may hinder active tourism movement in Jordan.
- 2- Continuation of training courses to enhance the security awareness of the Tourism Police and achieve tourism security, along with conducting further Jordanian studies on the topic of tourism security.

## **2- Abdel-Qader (2016) titled: “The Role of the Police in Protecting Egyptian Antiquities and Securing Museums”**

The study aimed at several objectives, most importantly to investigate the looting and theft of Egyptian antiquities, whether from archaeological sites or Egyptian museums, particularly the Mallawi Museum, and to document what was recovered from these antiquities. It also aimed to highlight the importance of the Tourism Police Apparatus and Antiquities in safeguarding Egyptian antiquities.

The study adopted a descriptive-analytical methodology, using a questionnaire as a data collection tool. The targeted sample included (129) tourists, in addition to interviews with experts in the Tourism Police. The study reached several key findings:

- 1- Looting and theft operations affected museums, especially the Mallawi Museum, posing a noticeable threat to Egyptian museums. These incidents, which occurred after the January 25th Revolution, also impacted security in Egypt as a tourist destination, creating fears of instability, particularly regarding museums and archaeological sites often located within urban areas, which affected tourist visitation.
- 2- There are certain shortcomings in protection measures, mainly because some guards responsible for safeguarding museums and antiquities do not fully understand the importance of antiquities, in addition to deficiencies in modern monitoring systems and procedures.

The study concluded with several recommendations, including:

- 1- The Egyptian legislator should issue stricter legislation to deal with criminals, vandals, and those involved in looting, criminalizing all acts that destroy Egyptian heritage.
- 2- It is necessary to conduct regular and systematic training courses with pre-prepared scientific content for the Tourism Police and Antiquities Organization, to train its personnel on the latest protection and security methods.

## **3- Al-Qahtani (2017) titled: “Aspects of Risks and Crimes Affecting Antiquities and Tourist Facilities and Their Impact on Tourism Security”**

The study aimed to identify the types and sources of risks and crimes that affect antiquities and tourist facilities, as well as to clarify the methods and procedures used to protect antiquities and tourist facilities from such risks.

The study adopted a descriptive-analytical methodology and was a desk-based study. It reached several key findings, most notably:

- 1- All countries engage extensively in protecting their antiquities and tourist sites. In parallel, criminal activities are carried out by individuals seeking substantial financial gains through the theft and smuggling of antiquities and artworks by illegal means.
- 2- The security and protection of archaeological and tourist landmarks are essential requirements that all countries must cooperate to achieve, as they represent a major economic resource contributing to the economic development of nations.

The study concluded with several recommendations, including:

Allocating sufficient budgets for programs and plans related to the protection and security of antiquities and tourist facilities, providing all necessary human and natural resources, and employing the latest technological methods. Additionally, urban planning around archaeological sites must be conducted with caution, considering modern construction methods in the surrounding areas, to carefully preserve the archaeological environment while pursuing urban development.



#### **4- Asiri (2019) titled: “The Role of Asir Region Police in Mitigating Tourism Crises – A Field Study”.**

The study aimed at several objectives, most notably to examine the work of the Asir Region Police related to tourism from the respondents' perspective, assess the contribution of the Asir Region Police in mitigating tourism crises in the region, and identify the difficulties that limit the role of the Asir Region Police in addressing tourism crises according to the respondents.

The study adopted a descriptive methodology and used a questionnaire as a data collection tool. A sample of (101) individuals working in the tourism sector in the Asir region was selected. The main findings were:

- 1- The Asir Region Police enforce safety and security regulations in cooperation with other security and service authorities, conduct patrols in archaeological and tourist areas as well as hotels, and contribute to mitigating tourism crises by securing tourist sites and attractions and exchanging expertise in protecting tourist facilities.
- 2- Among the difficulties limiting the role of the Asir Region Police are the absence of a specialized tourism security police unit and the lack of sufficient safety measures in tourist facilities.

The study concluded with several recommendations, including:

- 1- Raising tourists' awareness of security and preventive measures in tourist areas through appropriate publications and media, while employing modern technologies in security operations.
- 2- The importance of establishing a specialized tourism security police unit.

### **Similarities and Differences between the Current Study and Previous Studies**

#### **Similarities:**

The current study is similar to previous studies in the following aspects:

- 1- The current study resembles previous studies in terms of the variables examined. It is similar to all previous studies in addressing antiquities as a study variable, and it is similar in considering the police as an independent variable only in the studies of Al-Khaddam (2015) in Jordan, Abdel-Qader (2016) in Egypt, and Asiri (2019) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- 2- The current study is similar to previous studies in terms of methodological procedures with a field-based nature and the use of a questionnaire as a data collection tool, except for the studies of Al-Bagheel (2017) and Al-Qahtani (2017), which primarily followed a desk-based approach.

#### **Differences:**

The current study differs from previous studies in the following aspects:

- 1- Previous studies differ from the current study in terms of geographical scope. Al-Khaddam (2015) was conducted in Jordan, Abdel-Qader (2016) in Egypt, and Asiri (2019) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. As for Al-Qahtani (2017), it was primarily a desk-based documentary study. Al-Bagheel (2017) was conducted in Libya; however, it differs from the current study as it addresses antiquities from a legal and legislative perspective.
- 2- The current study differs in its adoption of a field-based approach, whereas previous studies varied in approach. Some were theoretical and relied on a desk-based methodology, such as Al-Bagheel (2017) and Al-Qahtani (2017), while others, including Al-Khaddam (2015) in Jordan, Abdel-Qader (2016) in Egypt, and Asiri (2019) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, followed field-based methodologies.

*In contrast, the current study addresses the protection of archaeological sites in Libya through the role of the Tourism Police in this domain, representing the scientific gap that this study seeks to fill.*

### **Methodological Procedures of the Study**

#### **Study Method**

The study adopted the descriptive method due to its suitability to the nature of the phenomenon under investigation. This method describes the phenomenon under study and explores its dimensions through available documentary information and field data, which were then analyzed using statistical techniques. The (SPSS) program was employed to implement the steps of this method.

#### **Population and Sample of the Study**

The researcher followed a non-probability sampling approach, and a purposive sample was selected based on the consensus of experts in the field. Accordingly, the targeted participants were the members affiliated with the Cultural Heritage Protection Department across all branches of the apparatus, as it is the specialized component

responsible for the protection of antiquities within the organizational structure of the Tourism Police Apparatus and Antiquities Protection in Libya. The total number of targeted individuals was (76), and Table (1) below illustrates the sample distribution and the survey response process as follows:

**Table (1)** Distribution and Response of the Survey

Number of Distributed Questionnaires	Unreturned	Unreturned (%)	Invalid	Invalid(%)	Retrieved Valid	Valid(%)
90	14	%15.5	0	%0	76	%84.4

#### Study Instrument

The questionnaire was adopted as the instrument for collecting the necessary data for this study.

#### Validity and Reliability of the Study Instrument

To verify the validity, the researcher presented the questionnaire form, after its design, to the study supervisor, and then it was scientifically evaluated by specialists and experts in the field, as well as a specialist in applied statistics, where the necessary modifications were made.

As for reliability, it was confirmed using statistical measurement through Cronbach's alpha by distributing the study instrument to a pilot sample from the targeted study population, in order to assess the instrument's stability before its final distribution. Table (2) below illustrates the Cronbach's alpha value obtained from administering (29) questionnaires:

**Table (2)** Overall Results of Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
0.775	30

#### Statistical Methods Used in the Study

- 1- Percentages and frequencies.
- 2- Cronbach's alpha test.
- 3- One-sample t-test.
- 4- One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA).
- 5- Relative distribution.

#### Description of the Characteristics of the Study Sample

**Table (3)** Characteristics of the Study Sample

s/n	Category		Frequency	(%)
1	Gender	Male	76	100 %
		Female	0	0.0 %
2	Educational Qualification	Secondary (High School)	39	51 %
		Bachelor's Degree (license)	36	47 %
		Master's Degree	1	1.3 %
		Doctorate (PHD)	0	0.0 %
3	Years of Experience	Less than five years	10	13 %
		Five – ten years	21	27 %
		Ten years or more	45	59 %
Total			76	100.0

The data in Table (3) indicate the characteristics of the study sample, who are affiliated with the Cultural Heritage Protection Department. All members of the sample were male (100%), while no female participation was recorded (0%). Regarding educational qualification, those holding a high school diploma represented the largest proportion (51%), followed by bachelor's degree holders (47%), whereas the proportion of master's degree holders did not exceed (1.3%), and no PhD holders were recorded (0%). Concerning years of practical experience, the largest group in the sample had more than ten years of experience (45%), followed by those with Five to ten years of experience (21%), while those with less than five years of experience constituted (10%). As for female participants, their number was zero, representing (0.0%).

Overall, these results indicate that the sample is predominantly male, and that the educational level is mainly distributed between high school and bachelor's degrees, while the representation of postgraduate studies is extremely limited. It is also evident that the majority of the sample members possess relatively long work experience, which reflects the nature of the work in this field, requiring the accumulation of practical field expertise.

#### Data Analysis and Testing of the Study Hypotheses:

The results in Table (4) below show the weighted mean for each item of the questionnaire (Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree), where the scores (5, 4, 3, 2, 1) were assigned to the responses Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, respectively, in order to determine the evaluation level of the statements according to the five-point Likert scale, as follows:

**Table (4)** Classification of the Study Sample Responses According to the Weighted Mean Based on the Five-Point Likert Scale

Evaluation Level	Very High	High	Average	Low	Very Low
scale	4.20 - 5	3.40 - 4.19	2.60 - 3.39	1.80 - 2.59	1 - 1.79

#### Testing the First Sub-Hypothesis

**There is no statistically significant relationship at the significance level ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) between the security procedures carried out by the Tourism Police and the protection of archaeological sites in Libya.**

Overall, the results in Table (5) below indicate that the significance level from the one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) is (0.000), which is less than the significance threshold of (0.05) , This indicates the existence of a statistically significant difference between the mean number of responses across the options (Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree), The results showed that the sample's opinions tended toward the "Agree" option, with the mean value for "Agree" being (32.20), followed by the "Neutral" option with a mean of (19.80) , This indicates that the study sample supports the majority of the security measures implemented by the Tourism Police Apparatus and Antiquities Protection to safeguard archaeological sites in Libya.

**Table (5)** Overall Summary of the Security procedures Implemented by the Tourism Police Apparatus and Antiquities Protection for Safeguarding Archaeological Sites According to One-Way ANOVA Analysis

Option	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Mean	16.07	32.20	19.80	7.60	03.3
Statistical Significance	0.000				
Meaning of Statistical Significance	There are significant differences				

As shown in Table [6], the mean values for the items under the **security procedures implemented by the Tourism Police Apparatus and Antiquities Protection for safeguarding archaeological sites in Libya** range between (1.88) and (4.41). It was found that most of the items had mean values greater than (3), and the statistical significance values were less than (0.05). The responses of the study sample on this axis were presented in an organized manner and classified into Three Categories:

**First category:** Responses of the study sample regarding the items that represent security procedures highly implemented.

**Second category:** Responses of the study sample regarding the items that represent security procedures moderately implemented.

**Third category:** Responses of the study sample regarding the items that represent security procedures not implemented.



**Table (6)** illustrates the distribution of the study sample according to the security procedures implemented by the Tourism Police and Antiquities Protection to safeguard archaeological sites in Libya

S / n	Items	F & %	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Weighted Mean	Standard Deviation	Statistical Significance	Evaluation Level
1	There is monitoring and inspection of visitors at the entrances and exits of archaeological sites.	F 24 % 31.6%	29	15	8	0		3.91	0.968	0.000	High
2	There is monitoring and inspection at the entrances and exits of archaeological sites for the staff working at these sites.	F 1 % 1.32%	16	26	31	2		2.78	0.857	0.026	Moderate
3	The Tourism Police establish specific schedules and a designated timetable for visiting archaeological sites.	F 27 % 35.5%	36	12	1	0		4.17	0.737	0.000	High
4	The Tourism Police use a surveillance system (cameras) at archaeological sites.	F 25 % 32.9%	38	11	2	0		4.13	0.754	0.000	High
5	The Tourism Police seek to provide elevated civil defense towers to protect archaeological sites from fire hazards where needed.	F 11 % 14.5%	47	17	1	0		3.89	0.644	0.000	High
6	The Tourism Police establish barriers or barbed wire fences around archaeological sites that require such measures.	F 9 % 11.8%	43	19	4	1		3.72	0.793	0.000	High
7	The Tourism Police use the Smart Geographic Information System (GIS), which enables access to all data related to archaeological sites.	F 0 % 0%	0	0	67	9		1.88	0.325	0.000	Low
8	The Tourism Police seek to provide fixed security points near archaeological sites.	F 2 % 2.63%	54	19	1	0		3.75	0.519	0.000	High
9	The Tourism Police work to secure events held within archaeological sites.	F 26 % 34.2%	40	5	5	0		4.14	0.811	0.000	High
10	The Tourism Police monitor tourist groups that set up campsites (camping) near archaeological sites.	F 22 % 28.9%	29	16	9	0		3.84	0.980	0.000	High
11	The Tourism Police collect information about the staff working in cafés, restaurants, kiosks, and service facilities adjacent to or within archaeological sites.	F 10 % 13.2%	27	19	19	1		3.34	1.039	0.005	High
12	The Tourism Police use awareness tools inside the sites, such as brochures and signs, to regulate visitors' behavior.	F 17 % 22.4%	29	30	0	0		3.83	0.772	0.043	High
13	The Tourism Police establish a specific mechanism to communicate with residents living near archaeological sites to receive reports about any security threats to the site.	F 2 % 2.63%	29	20	24	1		3.09	0.926	0.389	Moderate
14	The Tourism Police coordinate with the Antiquities Authority regarding the protection and preservation of archaeological sites, through communication with international and regional organizations and the inclusion of eligible sites in the World Heritage List.	F 27 % 35.5%	35	14	0	0		4.17	0.719	0.000	High
15	The Tourism Police communicate with legislative authorities to improve and amend the necessary provisions of the Libyan Antiquities Law, in a manner that supports the security procedures for the protection of antiquities.	F 38 % 50%	31	7	0	0		4.41	0.657	0.000	Very High
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>21.1%</b>	<b>42.37%</b>	<b>20.18%</b>	<b>15.1%</b>	<b>1.23%</b>	<b>3.67</b>	<b>0.692</b>	<b>0.004</b>	<b>High</b>

**First category - Responses of the study sample regarding the items that represent security procedures highly implemented:**

**The results in Table (6) show the responses of the study sample regarding the items representing security procedures that are highly implemented, as presented in the table as follows:**

- Item (1) (There is monitoring and inspection of visitors at the entrances and exits of archaeological sites).
- Item (3) (The Tourism Police establish specific schedules and a designated timetable for visiting archaeological sites).
- Item (4) (The Tourism Police use a surveillance system (cameras) at archaeological sites).
- Item (5) (The Tourism Police seek to provide elevated civil defense towers to protect archaeological sites from fire hazards where needed).
- Item (6) (The Tourism Police establish barriers or barbed wire fences around archaeological sites that require such measures).
- Item (8) (The Tourism Police seek to provide fixed security points near archaeological sites).
- Item (9) (The Tourism Police work to secure events held within archaeological sites).
- Item (10) (The Tourism Police monitor tourist groups that set up campsites (camping) near archaeological sites).
- Item (11) (The Tourism Police collect information about the staff working in cafés, restaurants, kiosks, and service facilities adjacent to or within archaeological sites).
- Item (12) (The Tourism Police use awareness tools inside the sites, such as brochures and signs, to regulate visitors' behavior).
- Item (14) (The Tourism Police coordinate with the Antiquities Authority regarding the protection and preservation of archaeological sites, through communication with international and regional organizations and the inclusion of eligible sites in the World Heritage List).
- Item (15) (The Tourism Police communicate with legislative authorities to improve and amend the necessary provisions of the Libyan Antiquities Law, in a manner that supports the security procedures for the protection of antiquities).

**Second category- Responses of the study sample regarding the items that represent security procedures moderately implemented:**

**The results in Table (6) show the responses of the study sample regarding the items representing security procedures that are moderately implemented, as presented in the table as follows:**

- Item (2) (There is monitoring and inspection at the entrances and exits of archaeological sites for the staff working at these sites).
- Item (13) (The Tourism Police establish a specific mechanism to communicate with residents living near archaeological sites to receive reports about any security threats to the site).

**Third category: Responses of the study sample regarding the items that represent security procedures not implemented:**

**The results in Table (6) show the responses of the study sample regarding the items representing security procedures not implemented, as presented in the table as follows:**

- Item (7) (The Tourism Police use the Smart Geographic Information System (GIS), which enables access to all data related to archaeological sites).

In general, the results in Table [6] indicate that, except for Item (7), all other items received means greater than (3) with significance levels below (0.05), meaning they are statistically significant, Item (7), however, obtained a mean below (3), indicating it is not statistically significant, which means that the study sample does not strongly agree [on the use of smart geographic information systems by the Tourism Police].

The overall percentage for the choice “Agree” represents the majority, reaching (42.37%), followed by “Strongly Agree” at (21.1%) of the sample size, indicating that most of the sample support the items included in this dimension.

The overall weighted mean of the dimension is (3.67), reflecting a high level of approval, with a statistical significance of (0.004), which is less than (0.05), meaning it is statistically significant.

*Therefore, the first sub-hypothesis is rejected, indicating that there is a statistically significant relationship at the significance level ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) between the security procedures carried out by the Tourism Police and the protection of archaeological sites in Libya.*

#### Testing the Second Sub-Hypothesis

**There is no statistically significant relationship at the significance level ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) between the difficulties faced by the Tourism Police and the protection of archaeological sites in Libya.**

In general, the results in Table [7] below show that the significance level from the one-way ANOVA analysis (ANOVA) equals (0.000), which is less than the significance level (0.05). This indicates that there is a statistically significant relationship between the average number of responses for the options (Strongly Agree, Agree, Agree to some extent, Disagree, Strongly Disagree).

The results showed that the respondents' views tended toward the option "Agree," with a mean value of (29.4), followed by "Agree to some extent" with a mean of (24.8). This indicates that the Tourism Police face several difficulties while protecting archaeological sites in Libya, according to the majority of the study sample.

**Table (7)** General Summary of the Difficulties Faced by the Tourism Police While Protecting Archaeological Sites According to One-Way ANOVA Analysis (ANOVA)

Option	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Mean	8.6	29.4	24.8	12.6	0.6
Statistical Significance	0.000				
Meaning of Statistical Significance	There are differences				

As shown in Table [8], the results indicate that the means of the items **in the difficulties axis, which face the Tourism Police while protecting archaeological sites in Libya**, range between (2.36) and (4.22), It was found that the majority of the items in this axis had means greater than (3) and that the statistical significance values were less than (0.05). The responses of the study sample in this axis were presented in an organized manner, classified into three categories:

**First category:** Responses of the study sample regarding items representing a severe difficulty.

**Second category:** Responses of the study sample regarding items representing a moderate difficulty.

**Third category:** Responses of the study sample regarding items that do not represent a difficulty.

**Table (8)** shows the distribution of the study sample according to the difficulties faced by the Tourism Police and Antiquities Protection in safeguarding archaeological sites in Libya

S / n	items	F & %	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Weighted Mean	Standard Deviation	Statistical Significance	Evaluation Level
1	The Tourism Police face weaknesses in certain provisions of the Antiquities Law, which disrupts their work and the procedures they follow to protect archaeological sites.	F	25	43	8	0	0	4.22	0.623	0.000	Very High
		%	32.9%	56.58%	10.53%	0%	0%				
2	The Ministry of Tourism provides the Tourism Police with information about the accredited tour guides under its supervision who perform their duties within the archaeological sites.	F	28	0	33	14	1	3.53	0.766	0.047	High
		%	36.8%	0%	43.42%	18.4%	1.32%				
3	There is cooperation from relevant regional and international bodies for protecting archaeological sites, including the Arab Archaeologists Union, Arab and International Criminal Police, and UNESCO.	F	17	35	24	0	0	3.91	0.733	0.000	High
		%	22.4%	46.05%	31.58%	0%	0%				
4	The Tourism Police face difficulty in obtaining cooperation from other local security authorities for joint coordination in protecting archaeological sites.	F	1	48	18	9	0	3.54	0.720	0.000	High
		%	1.32%	63.16%	23.68%	11.8%	0%				
5	Other security authorities intervene when their assistance is requested during a security incident at an archaeological site.	F	3	39	19	15	0	3.40	0.849	0.000	High
		%	3.95%	51.32%	25%	19.7%	0%				
6	Tourism Police face a shortage of financial and human resources to provide a security post at every archaeological site.	F	17	39	20	0	0	3.96	0.701	0.000	High
		%	22.4%	51.32%	26.32%	0%	0%				
7	Geographical factors, such as terrain and climate, affect the work of the Tourism Police at archaeological sites, especially in desert areas.	F	11	41	24	0	0	3.83	0.661	0.000	High
		%	14.5%	53.95%	31.58%	0%	0%				
8	The local residents living near archaeological sites show their cooperation in protecting these sites, either by reporting any security threats or providing assistance to the Tourism Police when requested.	F	2	11	34	27	2	2.75	0.876	0.006	Moderate
		%	2.63%	14.47%	44.73%	35.6%	2.63%				
9	The responsible state authorities provide financial support, equipment, and other necessary resources that the Tourism Police need to perform their assigned duties.	F	0	19	38	19	0	3	0.711	0.897	Moderate
		%	0%	25%	50%	25%	0%				
10	The responsible state authorities provide sufficient support to the Tourism Police to carry out their annual training programs, which enhance the skills and efficiency of their personnel.	F	0	12	35	28	1	2.76	0.727	0.006	Moderate
		%	0%	15.79%	46.05%	36.8%	1.32%				
11	There is interest and willingness among local citizens to join and work in the Tourism Police.	F	0	22	39	13	2	3.07	0.754	0.449	Moderate
		%	0%	28.95%	51.32%	17.1%	2.63%				
12	The Tourism Police face the threat of terrorist acts targeting archaeological sites.	F	9	44	19	4	0	3.76	0.727	0.000	High
		%	11.8%	57.89%	25%	5.26%	0%				
13	The Tourism Police face the risk of wars and the resulting armed conflicts affecting archaeological sites.	F	11	43	18	4	0	3.8	0.737	0.000	High
		%	14.5%	56.58%	23.68%	5.26%	0%				
14	The Tourism Police face the risk of trespassing and illegal excavation of movable antiquities within archaeological sites.	F	4	41	24	7	0	3.55	0.748	0.000	High
		%	5.26%	53.95%	31.58%	9.21%	0%				
15	Archaeological sites face the risk of aircraft over flights that exceed the sound barrier.	F	1	4	19	49	3	2.36	0.706	0.000	Low
		%	1.32%	5.26%	25%	64.5%	3.95%				
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>11.31%</b>	<b>38.65%</b>	<b>32.63%</b>	<b>16.31%</b>	<b>0.79%</b>	<b>3.53</b>	<b>0.506</b>	<b>0.005</b>	<b>High</b>

**First category- Responses of the study sample regarding the items representing severe difficulties:**

**The results of Table (8) show the responses of the study sample regarding the items that represent severe difficulties, as presented in the table as follows:**

Item (1) (The Tourism Police face weaknesses in certain provisions of the Antiquities Law, which disrupts their work and the procedures they follow to protect archaeological sites).

Item (4) (The Tourism Police face difficulty in obtaining cooperation from other local security authorities for joint coordination in protecting archaeological sites).

Item (6) (Tourism Police face a shortage of financial and human resources to provide a security post at every archaeological site).

Item (7) (Geographical factors, such as terrain and climate, affect the work of the Tourism Police at archaeological sites, especially in desert areas).

Item (12) (The Tourism Police face the threat of terrorist acts targeting archaeological sites).

Item (13) (The Tourism Police face the risk of wars and the resulting armed conflicts affecting archaeological sites).

Item (14) (The Tourism Police face the risk of trespassing and illegal excavation of movable antiquities within archaeological sites).

**Second category - Responses of the study sample regarding the items representing Moderate Difficulties:**

**The results of Table (8) show the responses of the study sample regarding the items that represent moderate difficulties, as presented in the table as follows:**

Item (8) (The local residents living near archaeological sites show their cooperation in protecting these sites, either by reporting any security threats or providing assistance to the Tourism Police when requested).

Item (9) (The responsible state authorities provide financial support, equipment, and other necessary resources that the Tourism Police need to perform their assigned duties).

Item (10) (The responsible state authorities provide sufficient support to the Tourism Police to carry out their annual training programs, which enhance the skills and efficiency of their personnel).

Item (11) (There is interest and willingness among local citizens to join and work in the Tourism Police).

**Third category -Responses of the study sample regarding the items That Do Not Represent Difficulties:**

**The results of Table (8) show the responses of the study sample regarding the items that do not represent difficulties, as presented in the table as follows:**

Item (2) (The Ministry of Tourism provides the Tourism Police with information about the accredited tour guides under its supervision who perform their duties within the archaeological sites).

Item (3) (There is cooperation from relevant regional and international bodies for protecting archaeological sites, including the Arab Archaeologists Union, Arab and International Criminal Police, and UNESCO).

Item (5) (Other security authorities intervene when their assistance is requested during a security incident at an archaeological site).

Item (15) (Archaeological sites face the risk of aircraft over flights that exceed the sound barrier).

In general, the results in Table [8] indicate that the majority of the items in this dimension, totaling seven (1, 4, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14), represent major difficulties, followed by four items (8, 9, 10, 11) representing moderate difficulties, noting that items (9, 10) are related to item (6) in the aspect representing major difficulty. Conversely, four items (2, 3, 5, 15) do not represent difficulties in this dimension.

The overall percentage for the choice “Agree” represents the majority, reaching (38.65%), followed by “Somewhat Agree” at (32.63%) of the sample, indicating that most of the sample support the majority of the items in this dimension.

The overall weighted mean for the dimension equals (3.53), reflecting a high level of agreement, with a statistical significance value of (0.005), which is less than (0.05), meaning it is statistically significant.

***Therefore, the second sub-hypothesis is rejected, indicating that there is a statistically significant relationship at the significance level ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) between the difficulties faced by the tourism police apparatus and the protection of archaeological sites in Libya.***

## Testing the Main Hypothesis

**There is no statistically significant relationship at the significance level ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) between the role of the Tourism Police and protecting archaeological sites in Libya.**

To test this hypothesis, the One-Sample T-Test was used to verify its validity and to determine the statistical significance of the opinions of the study sample regarding this hypothesis.

The table below shows the weighted mean, standard deviation, and the results of the T-test (test value and statistical significance).

**Table (9)** The mean, standard deviation, and T-test results for the overall role of the Tourism Police and Antiquities Protection Apparatus in protecting archaeological sites in Libya

No	Weighted Mean	Standard Deviation	T-Test Statistic	Statistical Significance	Decision
76	3.6	0.607	4.755-	0.000	Rejected

It is evident from the data presented in Table [9] that the weighted arithmetic mean value is (3.6) with a standard deviation of (0.607), and the T-test statistic value is (-4.755) with a statistical significance of (0.000). Since this value is smaller than the significance level (0.05) and the weighted arithmetic mean is greater than (3), this indicates that the result is statistically significant.

*Therefore, the main hypothesis is rejected, which means that the Tourism Police and Antiquities Protection Apparatus plays a positive role in protecting archaeological sites in Libya.*

## Conclusions

- 1- The study indicated that the Tourism Police and Antiquities Protection Apparatus plays a positive role in protecting archaeological sites in Libya, as the overall mean response value for this dimension was (3.6) according to the five-point Likert scale (Table 9).
- 2- The study showed a statistically significant relationship between the security procedures carried out by the Tourism Police and the protection of archaeological sites in Libya. The overall mean response value for this dimension was (3.67) according to the five-point Likert scale (Table 6).
- 3- The study revealed a statistically significant relationship between the difficulties faced by the Tourism Police and the protection of archaeological sites in Libya, with an overall mean response value of (3.53) according to the five-point Likert scale (Table 8).
- 4- The protection and preservation of antiquities are not solely the responsibility of the Tourism Police and Antiquities Protection Apparatus in Libya, but rather a shared responsibility involving all parties - including citizens, the Department of Antiquities, and the Ministry of Tourism.
- 5- The Tourism Police lacks the use of certain modern technologies, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), in its procedures for protecting archaeological sites.
- 6- The Tourism Police faces several difficulties that hinder its work in protecting antiquities, including:
  - a. The weakness of the penal provisions in the Libyan Antiquities Law (Law No. 3 of 1994).
  - b. The lack of cooperation from local security agencies in coordinating joint efforts with the Tourism Police to protect archaeological sites.
  - c. Security risks associated with theft, vandalism, armed conflicts, terrorism, and illegal excavation of movable antiquities within archaeological sites.
  - d. Limited resources, which prevent the establishment of security checkpoints at all archaeological sites.
  - e. Geographical challenges, particularly those related to working in desert areas.

## Recommendations

- 1- The Libyan legislator should fully recognize his responsibility toward protecting Libya's cultural heritage and take a serious stance to address the weakness of the penal provisions in the Libyan Antiquities Law. The law should be amended as soon as possible.
- 2- Local security authorities should cooperate with the Tourism and Antiquities Police in Libya through coordinated joint efforts aimed at protecting archaeological sites from potential security threats.



- 3- State officials should provide the necessary financial support to enable the Tourism Police to implement its security plans, including the establishment of security checkpoints near archaeological sites and addressing geographical challenges, particularly in desert areas.
- 4- The Tourism Police should adopt modern technologies in its security procedures for protecting archaeological sites, with a special focus on utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as one of the most important tools in this regard.
- 5- Awareness among local residents living near archaeological sites, as well as workers at these sites -particularly those of high importance, should be enhanced. This can be achieved through cooperation with various relevant entities, both governmental (such as municipalities, antiquities offices, and educational supervisors in the regions) and non-governmental (such as organizations and companies involved in tourism, cultural, and heritage activities).
- 6- Greater attention should be given to advanced training programs for the Tourism Police, and such programs should continue regularly to enhance their skills in protecting archaeological sites and to ensure they stay up to date with the latest security technologies in this field.

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## Compliance with ethical standards

### *Disclosure of conflict of interest*

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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