

# FORTIFICATION SYSTEM OF LISSUS; THE CITY OF 12 GATES

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## **Abstract**

*Lissus*, this ancient city is located in the important crossroad between North-South and East-West, on mountains and fields, river and the sea. This location was the main stimuli to grow, develop and rise several times throughout different historical periods. Unfortunately, the positive geographical position was not entirely an advantage for Lissus because it was admired and destroyed by different historical predators and enemies. This caused that settlers of that period created an impressive and unique fortification. This fortification system was awesome, complex and fascinating at that time. It consists of its planimetry, surrounding walls, protecting towers and many of the city entrances. The fortification system is compounded by three successive generations and it is defined from the hipsometry of territory by a surface of 20 acres, protected by 23 towers which are mainly in square plan but they are in the circular plan as well. This system is also special and unique because it consists of many entrances and this feature can not be found in other Illyrian cities. The city has 12 gates and entrances and Lissus is called as “The City of Gates”. Road system is characterized by a great number of roads. These roads are external and internal. This makes us think that the city had a very busy system of transport and means of movements and vehicles. The re-construction of Lissus had four stages. These stages were distinguished by its one-by-one structures and its special and distinct techniques such as: *opus incertum*, *opus mixtum*, *opus reticulatum*. Although it had many ruins and damages, Lissus succeeded to survive and develop in the same place and location with the same population and it was considered as an important part and key in the ethno-cultural continuum and continuous chain.