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The Road to Al Ula - Tourradar

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Day 1



Arrival day

Today we will be welcoming you at Jeddah airport as our guide will be waiting for you holding a sign with 88Destinations on it , we will be taking you to your hotel where you can rest for a bit.



Day 2



Jeddah - City tour

Today we will start our tour in the morning starting with The Tayebat Museum for a fascinating look into Jeddah's long and cosmopolitan past, take an informative tour inside the Tayebat Museum for a superbly curated representation of the city's 2,500-year history. Located in the Al Faisaliyah district, the museum is housed in a multiroom complex that re-creates the traditional Hijazi architecture of the old city, with bay windows overlaid with intricate wooden lattice work and ornate coral masonry.

With several floors of in-depth exhibits, the museum offers a living history lesson on the foundation of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and the wider Arabian Peninsula. There is also an entire floor dedicated to the city's rich Islamic heritage.

Before we move to the next tour we will have lunch in one of the local nice restaurants here in Jeddah that serves the famous traditional dishes in Jeddah, after our lunch we will start cruising around the city and make short stops in the most famous monuments like the world tallest flag pole, the world tallest fountain and the open air museum, then we will go towards the beach to see the floating mosque and Jeddah waterfront to enjoy a walk on the beach, this is our last stop before we start our tour in Jeddah Historical city Al Balad.



Al Balad Tour (Jeddah Historical City)

Today we will explore and understand the country through its diverse and rich culture of food and people.

We will start our tour in Al Balad as local call it which means “ the town” as reference to the base of Jeddah. Al-Balad was founded in the 7th century and historically served as the centre of Jeddah. Al-Balad's defensive walls were torn down in the 1940s. In the 1970s and 1980s, when Jeddah began to become wealthier due to the oil boom, many Jeddawis moved north, away from Al-Balad Al Balad is registered as a world heritage UNISCO site and since then the old buildings with its unique window designs and doors are being preserved along with its unique buildings which some have been built using sea shells and stones !. The old buildings once housed the famous Jeddah families and hosted the founder the late King Abdulaziz when first entered Jeddah. Our tour will go through the history of these building including going inside one of the buildings to see the interior designs , furniture and life back then Will also explain the historical importance of some sites and locations while we wonder around the narrow streets to explain how merchants used to sell their goods and how pilgrims used to get their supplies of cloth and food before they head to Makkah through the Makkah Gate in Al Balad.

The old Mosques is another tourist attraction where some were founded over 300 years ago and still functional as a mosque. The main attraction in this tour is the food and snacks of Al Balad where we will pass by some famous vendors known to offer the best local snacks such as the local drink made of bread “ Sobia” and the old bakery which its famous for its fresh bread. Another local snack that consist of Bean and pickles “ Balilah”. We will stop for rest in one of the local coffee open air places and try famous local tea mixed with milk and herbs We will move to visit the center of Al Balad to see the first hotel built in Jeddah influenced by Italian architecture then pass by the first school built in Saudi. We will also visit one of the art houses and museum offering its unique local art collection and antiques.

During this tour you will pass by many shops where they offer different merchandise such as perfumes, cloth, jewelry , antiques and souvenirs where you can buy and bargain ! we will also introduce you to some local shops to see some crafts being made such as the local sandals , perfumes and gold jewelry crafts. You will pass by different local communities within Al Balad which each community gather for tea and chat , kids playing around and street cats strolling for food !

the Balad spirit Finally at the end we will visit one of the local restaurants for dinner and try the famous local dishes such as Kabab , fish or liver with bread !



Day 3



Diving and snorkeling - Boat trip

Jeddah is known to have one of the best corals around the world. For the last day, we will be spending the day on a boat cruising around the beach. Doing all water activities like snorkeling, diving, swimming, tanning and having a light lunch on the boat. Moving on, our major lunch would be at one of the famous and well known sea food restaurants.



Day 4



Train to Madinah - City tour - Drive to Ula

Today we will take a train (upon availability) from Jeddah to Madinah which will take around 1 hour and 50 minutes.

After our arrival we will check in to our hotel and rest a little and have lunch before we start our tour at 3:30 PM.

The first place visited is the Madinah museum that contains the old railway that used to take the people all the way from Damascus to Madinah.

Then we will go to Mount Uhud, it is the largest mountain in Medina and a major pilgrimage site, Mount Uhud commemorates the famous battle between Muslim and Meccan forces in 625 CE. Climb a small hill to observe the site of the battlefield, and see the burial places of the Prophet Muhammad's 50 companions who perished, most notably his uncle Hamza. A mosque also stands on site. The mount rises 1,077 m (3,533 ft)

We will have a short coffee and snack break on one of the mountains that has a great view point where you can see the entire city from the top.

Will end the tour in Qiba Street which connect two Mosques , the grand Mosque and Qiba Mosque which both have significant importance in Islamic history in which the first was the house that prophet Mohammed lived and eventually it's his grave visited by . The second was the first Mosque ever built. you will have a general overview how the city was built and shaped throughout the 1400 years.

In the same street which is a nice pedestrian street for walking , there are many traditional food shops and snacks where you can taste the unique cuisine in Madinah such as "Kabli: a rice and lamb "

After our tour today we will take a road trip to Al Ula, upon our arrival in Al Ula we will settle in our farm camp.



Day 5

Full day tour - Madain Saleh - the Hejaz railway



Today we are starting with the most popular historical site in Saudi Arabia, Madain Saleh is the most iconic historical site of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its one of Saudi Arabia tours that is a must do, it is the first to be listed as a UNESCO World Heritage, Madain Saleh means the "cities of Saleh" after the name of the Prophet Saleh who tried to convert the ancient people of Thamud to Islam. But this name started to be used only during the Ottoman occupation of the Hejaz, whereas the people who built this city, the Nabateans, called it Hijra.

The importance of Madain Saleh is ostensibly displayed by its 111 monumental tombs, among which 94 were decorated with majestic facades on the sandstone massifs of the area, especially the Jibal Ithlib. The smallest tomb is barely 2,7 meters tall but the biggest reaches an impressive 21,5 meters! Madain Saleh was the second largest city of the Nabatean kingdom whose capital was Petra (in today's Jordan) where the Nabatean people created more than 600 tombs. What most people don't know that there are many other fascinating archeological sites attest to the thousands of years of human occupation of the area thanks to the underground water available for millennia. Don't worry we are showing everything you need to see !

We will visit the Hejaz Railway, In the early 19th century CE the Ottomans built a railway station at Madain Saleh that was along the Hejaz Railway linking Damascus to the holy city of Makkah. You will have the chance to see the triclinium (or diwan in Arabic) that were once dedicated to banquets and rituals. They are composed of three benches where people used to seat while musicians were playing. At least six of them were found in Madain Saleh with the names of owners.

If Madain Saleh does not have as many tombs as Petra it has a special feature with the numerous inscriptions written on the monumental tombs. And of course we are going to check them out together.

Before we head to our last stop, we will pass by the Elephant Rock, also known as Jabal AlFil, one of AlUla's many geological marvels. Unlike the ornate, hand-carved facades of nearby Hegra's Nabataean tombs, the "trunk" and "body" of this monolithic red sandstone beast were hewn by natural forces — millions of years of wind and water erosion. The beauty of the unrefined structure is enhanced by its surroundings of a fine-sand sea studded with rocky outcrops, many of which are equally impressive in size and have interesting shapes and figures. We will finish our tour in the Heritage village of Al-Ula also known as Ad-Deerah, is the traditional Arabian village where people of the oasis moved some 8 centuries ago and inhabited until the 20th century. It was built on a higher part of the valley in order to be clear from the floods that can occur during the raining season. At its maximum expansion the town contained over 1 000 houses that were built adjacent to one another thereby forming a wall around the town to defend the population.



Dedan - Ikma mountain

Ikma mountain or Jabal Ikma, a mountain near to the ancient city of Dadan, the capital of Dadanite and Lihyanite Kingdoms, has been described as a huge open-air library.

There is no such site that is more significant, than Jabal Ikma, home to the highest concentration of, and most varied inscriptions, in AlUla.

While Madain Saleh is finally meeting the fame it deserves, a nearby archeological site located 25 kilometers to the south, Dedan, is also of great interest, not only for the extent of the remains of this ancient oasis city that once thrived there, but also because its history is much older than the neighboring Madain Saleh.

We hope you're ready to be blown out by this beautiful journey as we will start with The most famous oases of the 1st millennium BCE the oasis of Dedan, where excavations on extensive archeological sites have revealed the existence of large fortified cities. These kingdoms developed their own culture including a specific language and alphabet, that resulted in a mix of Arabian traditions and strong influences from the surrounding empires.

About 1 kilometer south of the main excavation site of Dedan are two exceptional tombs located some 50 meters above the wadi where the ancient oasis was centred. Those are the only tombs that are decorated with two carved lions each, showing the importance of their owners, being governors or influential people. These sculptures of lions that are an outstanding example of the Mesopotamian influence, and are the proud iconic figures of this ancient oasis.

Jabal Ikma, a mountain near to the ancient city of Dadan, the capital of Dadanite and Lihyanite Kingdoms, has been described as a huge open-air library.



Day 6



Drive to Tabuk - Wadi Dissa - NEOM Edge

Our trip is going to be to Wadi Al Dissa near Tabuk, our first stop on the way will be a short one to take pictures of the Lion Mountain.

After that we will make another stop to see Alshaq Canyon (NEOM Edge), where we will be at an amazing view point at the edge that looks over the mountains then we will continue our way to Wadi Al Dissa.

As we reach the valley we will have our lunch there where our team will be preparing you traditional delicious food. After lunch we will take you on a walking tour inside this gorgeous valley and explore Wadi Dissah which is a 15 kilometer long canyon running through the Jebel Qaraqir, a sandstone massif lying about 80 kilometers south of the city of Tabuk. This natural wonder was for a long time a well-kept secret among explorers, before the road leading to the nearby city of Dissah was built and satellite images were available to the public, which made it quite difficult to find and reach.

Let us tell you a little bit about this valley before we start our hike so you prepare your self and to get astonished ! The first striking feature of this wadi is its dimensions: at the eastern entrance of the canyon the side cliffs are already higher than 100 meters, but at the western entrance the gap between the bottom of the wadi and the tallest cliffs reaches as high as 500 meters! It is there, from the massive rocky peaks, standing on both sides of the canyon, that one can admire the most dramatic scenery of this magical place. The second - and most unexpected - amazing feature of Wadi Qaraqir is a water stream that runs through the western part of the canyon towards the city of Dissah.

While you are exploring Wadi Qaraqir from the eastern entrance will find abundant palm trees growing naturally along the wadi bed. But once half-way through the canyon underground water tops up all year long. As a result, lush vegetation made of 3 meter high grass, numerous palm trees and bushes, flourishes in between the majestic cliffs of the canyon! We head back to Tabuk but with a final stop on our way to have the last look on one of the beautiful view point and then continue to Tabuk. We will have dinner in Tabuk and then to our hotel.



Day 7



Jethro's tombs - Magna-Tayyeb Isim

Our day will start after having breakfast at the hotel as we will be briefing the group about our schedule for today, we will leave our hotel at 9 AM and go on our way to Madian or as they call it now Al Bad', we will have a short stop on the way at Ship Mountain where you will get to see the famous mountain that is shaped exactly like a ship.

We will go to our next stop which is a small local museum on our way, then we keep going till we reach Al Bad', we will have our lunch there.

After lunch we will start our journey in Madian or Al-Bad' which is a small province located 2,5 hours away from Tabuk region, there we will have a closer historical look at the Jethro's cave in the land of Madian or in Arabic "maghayer shu'aib" .a lot of people know Al-Ula but not everyone knows about this collection of Nabatean tombs in Al Bad', These tombs are carved into the rocks, decorated in an artistic way similar to the Nabatean tombs found in Madain Saleh and Petra in Jordan, its an undiscovered gem hidden here in Saudi Arabia that we absolutely recommend visiting. Our next stop will be in Maqna city where we will visit The Well Of Moses and you will find out later why its called that. The final stop for today's tour will be at Tayyeb, It is believed that when later Moses brought the people out of Egypt through the Red Sea they reached the land of Madyan at Tayeb Al-Ism, the reason why it is also called the Valley of Moses.

We will be having a walking tour in one of the magical natural wonders of Saudi Arabia that takes visitors by surprise. This incredible natural feature of Tabuk Province is located on the Gulf of Aqaba, just 15 kilometers north of the coastal town of Maqna. When approaching by the road that runs along the turquoise waters and white beaches of the Gulf of Aqaba, what strikes people first is the imposing shape of the 600-meter-high granite massif of the Tayeb Al-Ism, whose sharp edges fall into the Gulf of Aqaba.

While getting closer to a nice little palm grove ornamenting the bottom of the cliffs, the mountain side that looks towards the Gulf suddenly reveals the stunningly high edges of a narrow canyon whose entrance is just few dozen meters from the sea. There the granite massif looks like it's been torn in two by a supernatural force, the gravel of the first hundred meters of the canyon can be driven by car but some boulders don't let cars get very far. A wooden bridge spanning the rocks allows pedestrians to carry on deeper into the meanders of this massive breach through the mountain.

From the bridge the Tayeb Ism visitors see another marvel, a small stream of crystal clear water than runs through the gravel all year long. As a result, the wadi hosts numerous palm trees and reeds that create little oases surrounding by the vertiginous sides of the canyon.

We will have a chance to see the sunset at this gorgeous valley before we head to have dinner and then off to Tabuk.



Day 8



Departure or extension

Today where we say goodbye to beautiful Saudi , we will be dropping you off to the airport according to your flight schedule

Information & Documents



Price List

Price : 3224 USD/PP (3 Stars hotel - shared rooms)

***Single supplement** : 650 USD



INCLUSION & ECLUSION

Inclusion :

- Airport Pick up/Drop off
- Accommodation in 3 hotels
- Camp for 2 nights in Al Ula (Fully equipped camp site in a farm with a center that offers clean facilities and toilets)
- Daily breakfast - 1 Lunch - 1 Dinner - (Full board in Al Ula)
- Activities as mentioned
- Local guide
- Private transportation in a bus/SUV

Exclusion :

- International flights
- Visa
- Insurance
- Activities and meals other than mentioned
- Personal expenses



Climate

The warmest month is August with an average maximum temperature of 42°C (107°F).

The coldest month is **January** with an average maximum temperature of 20°C (68°F).