

SAUDI ARABIA Past & Present

January 16-25, 2023
10 Days / 8 Nights

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ITINERARY

DAY 1	Leave USA for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
DAY 2	Arrive in Jeddah / Jeddah
DAY 3	Old Jeddah sightseeing / Jeddah
DAY 4	Jeddah sightseeing and meetings / Jeddah
DAY 5	Fly to AIUla - sightseeing / AIUla
DAY 6	Mada'in Saleh sightseeing - desert experience / AIUla
DAY 7	Fly to Riyadh - possible meetings / Riyadh
DAY 8	Riyadh sightseeing / Riyadh
DAY 9	Riyadh possible meetings / Riyadh
DAY 10	Departure

SAUDI ARABIA

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MAP TRAJECTORY





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HIGHLIGHTS

Old Jeddah walking tour, tasting Arabic coffee or tea

Jeddah outdoor sculptures

Mada'in Saleh: Nabateans of Northern Arabian peninsula

Desert experience in 4x4s

The Elephant Rock

AlUla: visit an oasis with history and date palms

Visit Hejaz Railway: where Lawrence of Arabia was

Murabba Palace in Riyadh

Masmak Fort in Riyadh

Naila Art Gallery featuring contemporary art in Saudi Arabia

Briefing at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh (based on conditions.)

Visit the world's largest all-female university, Princess Noura bint Abdulrahman University



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INCLUDED

Visa fee

All accommodations based on double occupancy in hotels as listed.

**Economy class domestic flights: Jeddah to Al Ula
and Al Ula to Riyadh.**

Meals as listed with bottled water.

Bottled water on the bus.

Transportation in a deluxe motor-coach with air-conditioning.

All sightseeing, excursions and entrances as listed.

All special events as listed, subject to people's availability.

English speaking guide throughout.

All tips Included.

Trip photo book following return home.

NOT INCLUDED

International airfare.

Excess luggage charges.

Any drinks for meals, other than tea or coffee for breakfast.

Travel insurance.

Any items not listed.

SAUDI ARABIA

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SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

Suggested flights are on Turkish Airlines:

16 January Houston to Istanbul

TK 34 dep: 8:40 pm / arr: 5:20 pm on 17 January

17 January Istanbul to Jeddah

TK 94 dep: 9:10 pm / arr: 12:55 am on 18 January

25 January Riyadh to Istanbul

TK 145 dep: 6:55 am / arr: 11:30 am

25 January Istanbul to Houston

TK 33 dep: 2:30 pm / arr: 7:00 pm

Economy class fare \$1006

Business class fare \$4378

including taxes, surcharges and fees as of June 17, 2022. Fares can change based on availability.

SAUDI ARABIA

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10 Days / 8 Nights

DAY 3

Wed, January 18 - Jeddah

Enjoy a morning walking tour through old Jeddah with its unique, centuries-old, multi-storied white urban dwellings. The wooden ornamentation on the sides of these houses has been designed to let in the sea breezes and at the same time shield residents, particularly females, from the eyes of passers-by. Our expert guide will walk us in the maze of the old city and tell us about Hejazi architecture which has been described as a melting pot of several forms of Islamic design. End the morning with a chance to wander through Jeddah's many souks.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we will visit one of the old merchant houses to see the way of life in the 19th and 20th centuries. We will have tea or coffee in one of the traditional houses that was converted into a tea house. We may have a chance to socialize with local families.

Continue on to the Al Tayebat private museum, housed in a restored complex of traditional buildings. The museum has several floors of in-depth exhibits covering history and cultural heritage of Arabian peninsula, Saudi Arabia and Islam.

Return to the hotel passing by more modern parts of the city, including the Corniche which runs for 45 miles along the Red Sea. There are about 400 outdoor sculptures in and around the corniche.

Enjoy a lovely dinner this evening at a nice local restaurant frequented by Jeddah families.

Overnight in Jeddah

Meals B-L-D

SAUDI ARABIA

Past & Present

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10 Days / 8 Nights

DAY 4

Thu, January 19 - Jeddah

Our second day in Jeddah. We will have opportunities for various visits and meetings to learn and witness the recent changes in the country.

We will visit King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, which is a private university founded in 2009. It is the first mixed-gender university campus in Saudi Arabia.

We will also visit an art gallery founded by a well-known female artist.

Overnight in Jeddah

Meals B-L-D



SAUDI ARABIA

Past & Present

January 16-25, 2023
10 Days / 8 Nights



DAY 5

Fri, January 20 - Jeddah - Al Ula

Early in the morning we will take the domestic flight from Jeddah to Al Ula.

After having lunch, we will start our program visiting Al Ula local museum, Elephant rock and various sandstone formations at the edge of the desert.

Overnight in Al Ula

Meals: B-L-D

AlUla, which is home to Saudi Arabia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, is located deep in the desert in the northwestern region of the country. It is home to ancient tombs that remain as the legacy of 7,000 years of human civilization and stunning natural rock formations and canyons.

SAUDI ARABIA

Past & Present

January 16-25, 2023

10 Days / 8 Nights

DAY 6

Sat, January 21 - Al Ula

We will start our program in the region early in the morning. First we will proceed to visit the historic site of Mada'in Saleh. Then we will continue with Hejaz railway station No. 21, from pre-First World War era.

We will also visit the AlUla old town and have an off-road excursion, by 4x4s, into the desert and canyon formations.

Overnight in Al Ula

Meals: B-L-D

Mada'in Saleh is an archaeological site located in the area of Al Ula within Medina Province in the Hejaz. A majority of the remains date from the Nabataean Kingdom (1st century AD). The site constitutes the kingdom's southernmost settlement and its second largest city after Petra (now in Jordan), its capital city.

The Hejaz railway was a narrow-gauge railway that ran from Damascus to Medina, through the Hejaz region of modern day Saudi Arabia, with a branch line to Haifa on the Mediterranean Sea. It was a part of the Ottoman railway network and the original goal was to extend the line from the Haydarpaşa

Terminal in Istanbul beyond Damascus to the holy city of Mecca. However, construction was interrupted due to the outbreak of World War I, and it reached up to Medina, 400 kilometers (250 mi) short of Mecca. The completed Damascus to Medina section was 1,300 kilometers (810 mi).

The Hejaz line was repeatedly attacked and damaged, particularly during the Arab Revolt, when Ottoman trains were ambushed by the guerrilla force led by T. E. Lawrence.



SAUDI ARABIA

Past & Present

January 16-25, 2023

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DAY 7

Sun, January 22 - Al Ula - Riyadh

Early in the morning we will fly from Al Ula to Riyadh.

For our day in Riyadh, various meetings will be arranged. On the previous trips, activities included visiting various academic institutions, meeting with the women entrepreneurs, meeting with artists.

Details of the meetings will be available as we get close to trip date.

Overnight in Riyadh

Meals: B-L-D

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia's capital and main financial hub, is on a desert plateau in the country's center. Business district landmarks include the 302m-high Kingdom Centre, with a sky bridge connecting 2 towers, and 267m-high Al Faisaliah Centre, with a glass-globe summit.

The the city center, an area of largely restored, rebuilt and renovated buildings constructed in classic Arabian style. It includes the original area of Riyadh – the enclave fought for by Ibn Saud – which is now the centerpiece of imaginative and extensive redevelopment. The symbolic entrance to this area is the Al Thumairi Gate, a reconstruction of one of the entrances to Riyadh when the city was surrounded by old mud walls.

SAUDI ARABIA

Past & Present

January 16-25, 2023

10 Days / 8 Nights

DAY 8

Mon, January 23 - Riyadh

We will begin at the archaeological site of Diriyyah, whose zenith as capital of most of Arabia came during the reign of Saud the Great who ruled here from 1802 to 1814. What remains of Diriyyah today is remarkably extensive and evocative of traditional settled life in the region. The most impressive ruins are those of Turaif on the north bank. The sparser ruins of Ghasibah on the south bank are older, possibly dating back to the city's foundation in the 15th century.

After lunch at a traditional local restaurant with floor seating, we will visit the city center, spend time in the National Museum with its sweeping, curved wall and Najd architectural design. The museum's eight galleries trace Saudi Arabia's history.

Then we will continue on to the Murabba Palace which has been renovated to reflect the architecture of the original structure. Walk to the Al Masmak Fort, the oldest complete building in Riyadh.

Overnight in Riyadh

Meals: B-L-D

SAUDI ARABIA

Past & Present

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DAY 9

Tue, January 24 - Riyadh

Another full day in Riyadh.

We will continue our sightseeing program with Kingdom Center.

For the rest of the day, various visits and meetings. Possible visit to the campus of the Princess Noura bint Adburrahman University, the world's largest all-female university which opened in 2011. After the announcement to end the ban on female drivers in the kingdom, effective in June 2018, the university announced its plans to establish a driving school for women, the first in the country.

Lunch and dinner at local restaurants.

Overnight in Riyadh

Meals: B-L-D

Kingdom Center is a 41-story, 302.3 m (992 ft) skyscraper in Riyadh. When completed in 2002, it overtook the 267-meter (876 ft) Faisaliyah Tower as the tallest tower in Saudi Arabia. It has since been surpassed and, as of 2021, is the fifth-tallest skyscraper in the country.

There is a 65m skybridge atop the skyscraper.



SAUDI ARABIA

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DAY 10

Wed, January 25 - Departure

After breakfast, we will be transferred to the airport for our return flight.

Meals B

Contact Us

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