



0208 819 1111

Grand Tour Of Saudi History

6 Nights/7 Days

Tour Highlights:

- Visit Al Masmak Palace Museum and the National Museum in Riyadh
- Experience breathtaking panoramic views of Riyadh from the Sky Bridge atop the Kingdom Tower
- Discover the stunning Ashar Valley and the world-famous Elephant Rock in AlUla
- Take a guided tour of Hegra, Saudi Arabia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Wander through the historic district of Al Balad in Jeddah

From £1490 per person

Overview:

Set out on a remarkable adventure across Saudi Arabia, beginning with Riyadh, where tradition and innovation blend seamlessly. Your journey kicks off at the Al Masmak Palace, a historic fortress that showcases the kingdom's rich past. Delve into Saudi Arabia's cultural narrative at the National Museum, which offers a comprehensive exploration of the country's history and artifacts. For a modern twist, head to the Kingdom Tower's Sky Bridge for sweeping views of Riyadh's expansive urban landscape.

Next, journey to AlUla, a region renowned for its stunning natural wonders and ancient heritage. Start by admiring the majestic Elephant Rock, a natural rock formation resembling an elephant that stands as a testament to the region's geological beauty. Marvel at the Maraya Concert Hall, an architectural marvel with a reflective facade that seamlessly integrates with the desert surroundings. Explore the ancient city of Hegra, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where you'll encounter fascinating Nabatean tombs and rock-carved monuments. Don't miss the serene Ashar Valley, known for its dramatic rock formations and lush, green oasis that offer a peaceful retreat.

Conclude your journey in Jeddah, where the city's vibrant waterfront and historic charm come to life. Stroll along the Corniche, a picturesque promenade along the Red Sea that provides stunning sea views and lively atmosphere. Visit the Floating Mosque, an architectural wonder that appears to rise from the water. Dive into Jeddah's rich history by exploring Al Balad, the city's historic district filled with traditional buildings and bustling markets that reflect its cultural heritage.

Itinerary:

Day 1: Riyadh

Arrive Riyadh and transfer to Four Points by Sheraton Hotel (4*). Overnight at the hotel.

Day 2: Riyadh

Morning visit historical city of Diriyah, Musmak Fort and DiraSouq. Lunch at local restaurant. Afternoon visit National Museum followed by visit to Kingdom Tower Bridge for a panoramic view of Riyadh. Dinner and Overnight at the hotel.

The old city of Dirriyyah is located about 20km from the main city center of Riyadh. It is one of the most important archaeological sites from where the history of Saudi Dynasty begins. It is situated in the eastern part of the so-called Najd area in the valley known as Wadi Hanifa. The meaning of Najid is the high plateau, which forms the central part of Saudi Arabia. It is recorded by the chronicles that one of the person known as Ibn Dir, who was also the chief of al-Dir clan of Duru, which was belonging to Bani Hanifa tribe, was ruling this area. He had a vast fertile land in the valley, which he was not able to utilize completely due to lack of thin population of his clan. Therefore, he invited another clan of the same Banu Hanifa tribe to settle down on the fertile area of the Hanifa valley. Therefore, the clan named Murdah comes under the leadership of Mani Al-Muraydi in 1446 A.D in Wadi Hanifa. Ibn Dir gave land for the cultivation to the clan in the Wadi Hanifa and the clan settled down. They were the ancestors of the Al-Saud family who established their first rule at Dirriyya.

The Musmak Fort is one of the most important monuments in Saudi Arabia from where the modern Saudi History begins. It is an important historic landmark in the city of Riyadh. This palace was built during the reign of Abdullah bin Rashid in the year 1895 A.D. The reason for building this historic palace was to serve as military garrison for the Abdullah bin Rashid army who was operating under a Governor in Riyadh from the Hail. His Majesty King Abdulaziz on 15th January 1902 captured the fort.

Dira Souq is famous for its variety of old copper and brass objects including silver daggers, silver Beduins Jewelry and dresses. While entering from main access, one always smells sandal wood fragrance.

DiraSouq is worth buying antique carpets and other useful Saudi heritage antiques.

The National Museum which opened in Riyadh in 1999 to celebrate the centenary of Saudi unification, was the result of an international design competition. The primary custodian of the Saudi national heritage and culture, the Museum is a place of learning and discovery, designed to sing out with quiet excitement and inspiration, to kindle pride in the Arab heritage and reverence for Islam. This national Landmark is composed of eight galleries telling the complete story of Arabian History from the creation of the universe to our modern era.

Day 3: Riyadh – Al Ula

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport for your flight SV 1574 (0910-1055) to Al Ula. Arrive and transfer to tent village. Lunch at the local restaurant. Visit old houses. Dinner and overnight at Tent Village.

Day 4: Al Ula / Madain Saleh

Breakfast at the tent village. Today proceed for a full day excursion to magnificent Nabatean sites of Madain Saleh which includes QasrBint, Diwan, Qasr Farid etc. Lunch at local restaurant. Afternoon visit underground city, Lihyan etc. Dinner and overnight at tent village.

Wadi Al Ula, gateway to Madain Saleh is known for its Lion of the Lihyanites-predecessors of the Natateans (100 to 500 BC). Madain Saleh is the prime tourist attraction of the Kingdom. It was known as “Al Hijr” in the ancient times and served as a stopover on a very prosperous trade route. The cities lie on 9 square Km in an area of isolation about 845 Km from Jeddah in the northwestern part of Saudi Arabia between Tabouk and Madinah.

Qasr Bint means “Palace of Daughters”. This is the largest tomb at Madain Saleh sites. It is raised above ground level. An inscription plaque is indicated on the doorway. There are many archaeological inscription on the sand rocks which are considered by archaeologists to be Lihyanite script on top of the Athleb

Mountain These inscriptions dateback to the 3rd–2nd century.

Day 5: Al Ula – Jeddah

Breakfast at tent village. Transfer to the airport for your flight SV 1631 (1215-1330) to Jeddah. Arrive Jeddah and transfer to Prime Al Hamra Hotel (4*)

Lunch at the hotel. Afternoon proceed for visit to open Museum etc. Dinner and Overnight at the hotel.

Day 6: Jeddah

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit Hijaz Construction's old houses, Nasif House, Bughdadi House. Jamjom House, Noor Wali House, Matboli House, Almaemar Mosque, Old Gold Market in Bagel Street, Ain Farel Yuser, Shafei & Ukash Mosque. Lunch at local restaurant. Afternoon Visit Al Rahmah Mosque and Jeddah Aquarium. Visit Open Jeddah Museum and King Fahd Fountain. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Historical Houses were constructed from coral and reinforced with wood so that beams criss-cross the interior walls. Wooden balconies and casement windows are a special feature of Jeddah's style, with elaborate casements decorating the facades of the old houses - normally there is a small balcony fronting every window. Doors and windows shutters are intricately carved. Some are painted and some remain simply wood with varnish.

The Nasif House was built during the 1850s by the well-known Nasif Family, one of the most influential trading families in the long history of Jeddah. In the 19th and early 20th centuries the house was one of the most important building in Jeddah. It was here that King Abdul Aziz spent his first night in Jeddah, as the guest of Mohammed Nasif, after he lead his victorious army into the capital of the Western Province. The Municipality of Jeddah recognized the architectural and historic value of the house and in 1964 it was converted into a museum and put under Government care.

The corniche of Jeddah is one of the most important achievements of the city and is a major attraction for visitors to Jeddah. As Jeddah's Red Sea coast extends for more than 80 km, the Municipality has made use of this long expanse of waterfront and turned it into place of fresh air for the city.

Day 7: Jeddah

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

Inclusions:

- Full board meals starting from breakfast on day 2 till dinner on day 06
- Air conditioned transport
- Porters at airport and Hotels
- Value added tax (15%)
- English speaking local guide

Exclusions:

- Optional: Jeep Safari at Al Ula / Madain Saleh.
- Domestic airfares
- Entrance fees
- Items of personal nature like telephone calls
- laundry bills, tipping etc.



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