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SAUDI ROAD TRIP

Saudi Arabia through one native's eyes

TRAVEL GUIDE

Explore Arabia With Ana Arabian

Explore Arabia through native eyes

Saudi Arabia has been a mysterious place for many people, some of them might know only what the biased news and media says, which is a complete "rubbish" and not even close to the truth. This ebook will give you a glimpse about Saudi, the land of Arabia and the kingdom of civilizations has to offer in term of tourism .

This guide will take you to the undiscovered, to places that never been visited by international tourists. You will not only enjoy the scenery of the country, but also enjoy learning about the culture and the history.

There are FIVE treasures to explore, you can choose what you want to discover, and you can explore them all.

Let's enjoy the land of the native Arabian, a land full of history and treasure - don't take this word literally; there is no a physical treasure to look out for lol-, a land that we PROUD to belong to.

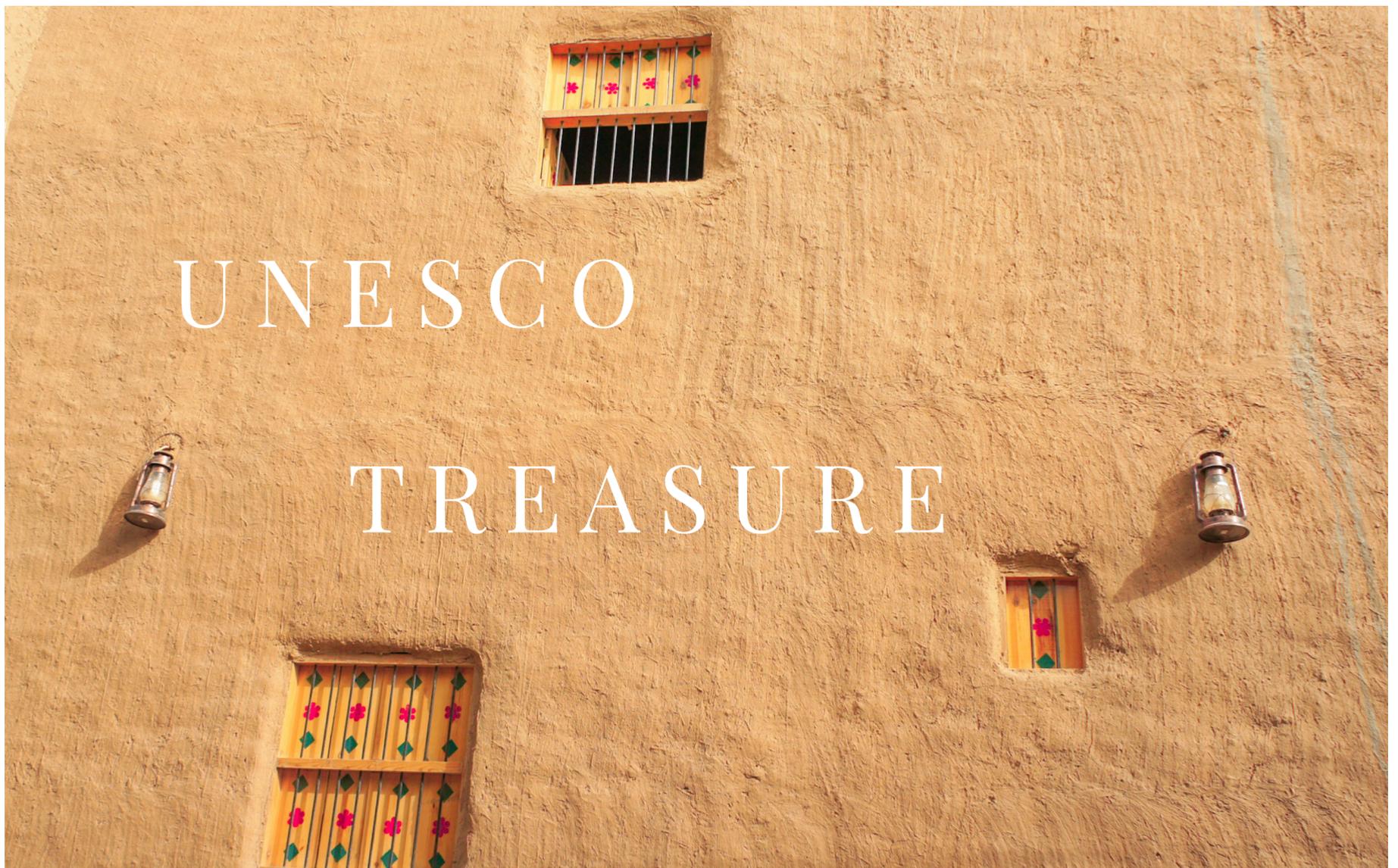
more info www.anaarabian.com

EXPLORE
SAUDI

محمد الشريف

photo by Mohamad Al-shareef @mohamed_5575

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A route that takes you back in time, you will see the old and unique part of Saudi Arabia

Photos by Anaarabian

If you know nothing about Saudi Arabia, then you will definitely be surprised that we have different registered sites. Every stop on your trip around the kingdom will be full of historical treasures.

This route might change in the future as there are many other sites waiting to be registered in UNESCO..



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Location: Al-Ahsa Oasis

3807 Agricultural Areas, Al Hofuf and

Al Mubarraz, 36355 8543,

[https://goo.gl/maps/3DA8P17fZQfeR](https://goo.gl/maps/3DA8P17fZQfeREYa7)

EYa7



Al- hasa Oasis

A site full of nature

Al-hasa is one of the amazing city in Saudi Arabia. There are many things to see and do here. The oasis is not only registered as a world heritage site, but also as the largest Oasis in the world. It has 2.5 million date palms. The oasis has historical building, canals, wells, springs, lake and gardens. The archaeological sites represent the settlement from the Neolithic.

The most thing I like about this place is the combination of mountain and palm tree in the middle of the desert; just across the road you will see this beautiful mountain.

photos by
Abdullah AlSheikh
@alsheikhphoto

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AL- TURIF DISTRICT & HISTORICAL AL-DIR'YAH

Historical Ad-Dir'iyah where Al -turif district located in the north west of the capital and in the heart of the Arabian Peninsula. It is the capital of the first Saudi state. In the past people used to call it Alawja. It is one of the spots you must visit in Saudi, it mixed the old with modern architecture where some buildings are built in the traditional Najdi architect and other in modern one . Trust me, you will feel the both eras.

photos by
anaarabian

Location: At-Turaif, Ad Diriyah 13711
<https://goo.gl/maps/xUPS6H3jKZAIPLo6>

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Al- Turif District was founded in the 15th century, and it is the first capital of our kingdom. Al-turif has many palaces and historical places, for example Omar Bin Saud

Palace (15 houses near to this palace are now reopened for daily rent to experience the traditional Arabian life), Saad Bin Saud palace and mosque, Moudi Mosque, Nasser Bin Saud palace, guest-house and Al-turif Bath, and Al-buraikah Mosque. Next to the district you will see Al-Dir'iyah oasis.

Ad-Dir'iyah has always been a remarkable place in the Arabian Peninsula, not because it has the capital of the Saudi state, but because of the people of this area, the history and the land itself.

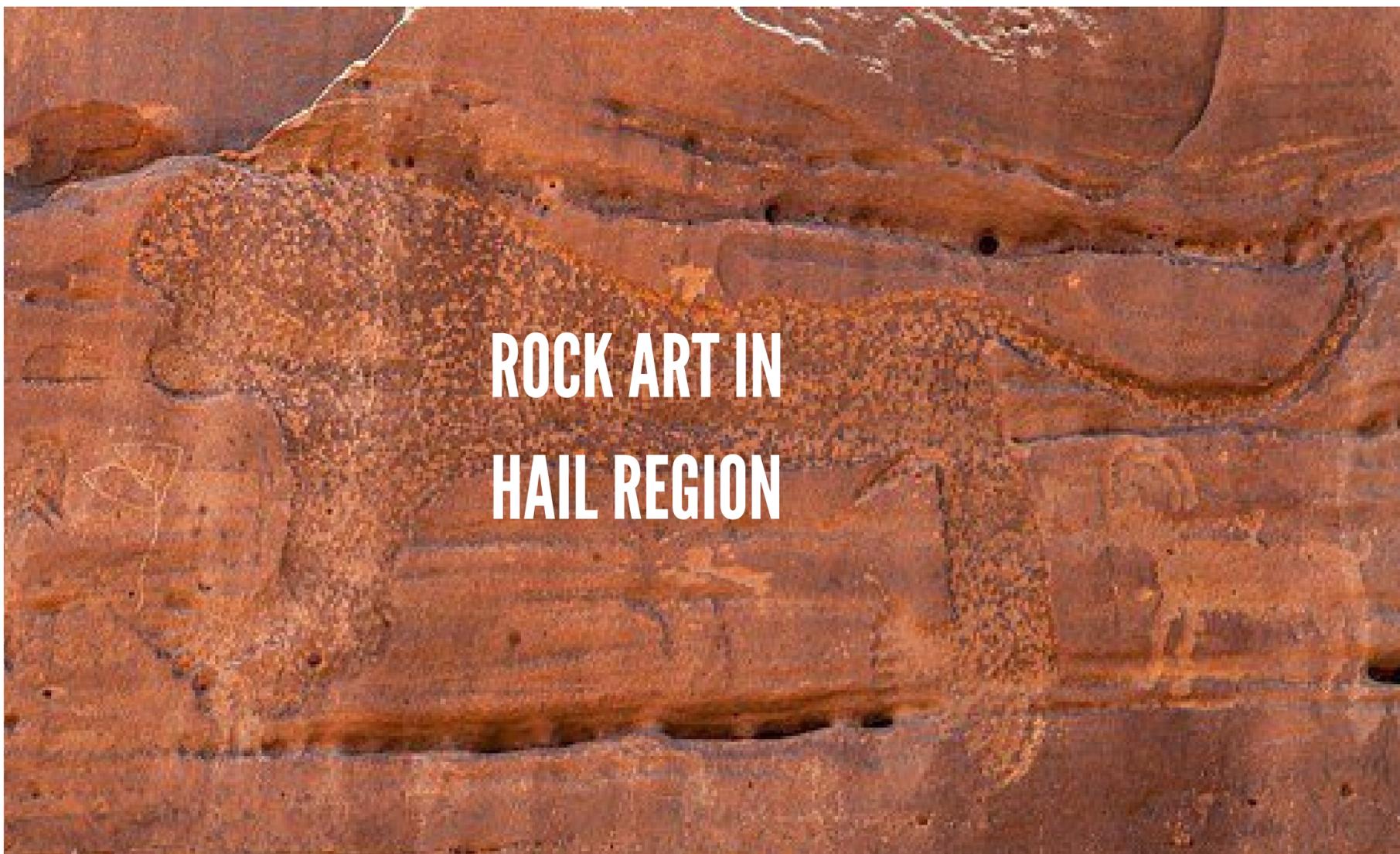
Your experience in this beautiful historic site is going to be extraordinary and unforgettable.

photos by anaarabian



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image by Abdullelah Al-Fares (@abdullelahalfars)



ROCK ART IN HAIL REGION

687 kms/ 320 miles away from the capital of Saudi Arabia, Jubbah city is located. It is 90 km/56 miles north-west of Hail city. Jubbah has Jabal Umm Sinman (Jabal is an Arabian word of mountain) that contains many petroglyphs and inscriptions, the area used to have a lake of fresh water that people and animals in Al- Nafoud desert uses it.

330 km away from Jubbah, Al-Shuwaymis village is located, this area has two famous mountain Jabal Al-Manjor and AL-Raat, both were located in the Wadi aka valley in English which become a desert- we have to blame global warming, I think! Anyway, those two mountains show a figure of humans and animal dated back to 10000 years.

A tip from a native: if you planning to visit in the winter, you must camp in the desert, these two areas in Hail are the perfect place for camping. Experience an authentic native Arab tradition –yes, we still do camp in the desert, and we don't do that in summer because it is HOT. Enjoy!



Location: Jabal Umm Sinman 55672

<https://goo.gl/maps/q3FFApxhi2TZMBPv6>

Raata and Al-Manjor 57938

<https://goo.gl/maps/zP1iJ6saNejMuo5Z7>

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AL-HIJR

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Al Hijr site (Mada'in Saleh), was the first archaeological site in Saudi Arabia to join the UNESCO's World Heritage List. Mada'in Saleh or as it's known in the Arabian land Al-Hijr, is the second largest city of Al-Anbat empire after Al-Petra in Jordan. It's located in wadi Al-qura between Madinah and Tabuk, 22 Km from the city of Al-ula in Al- Madinah region.

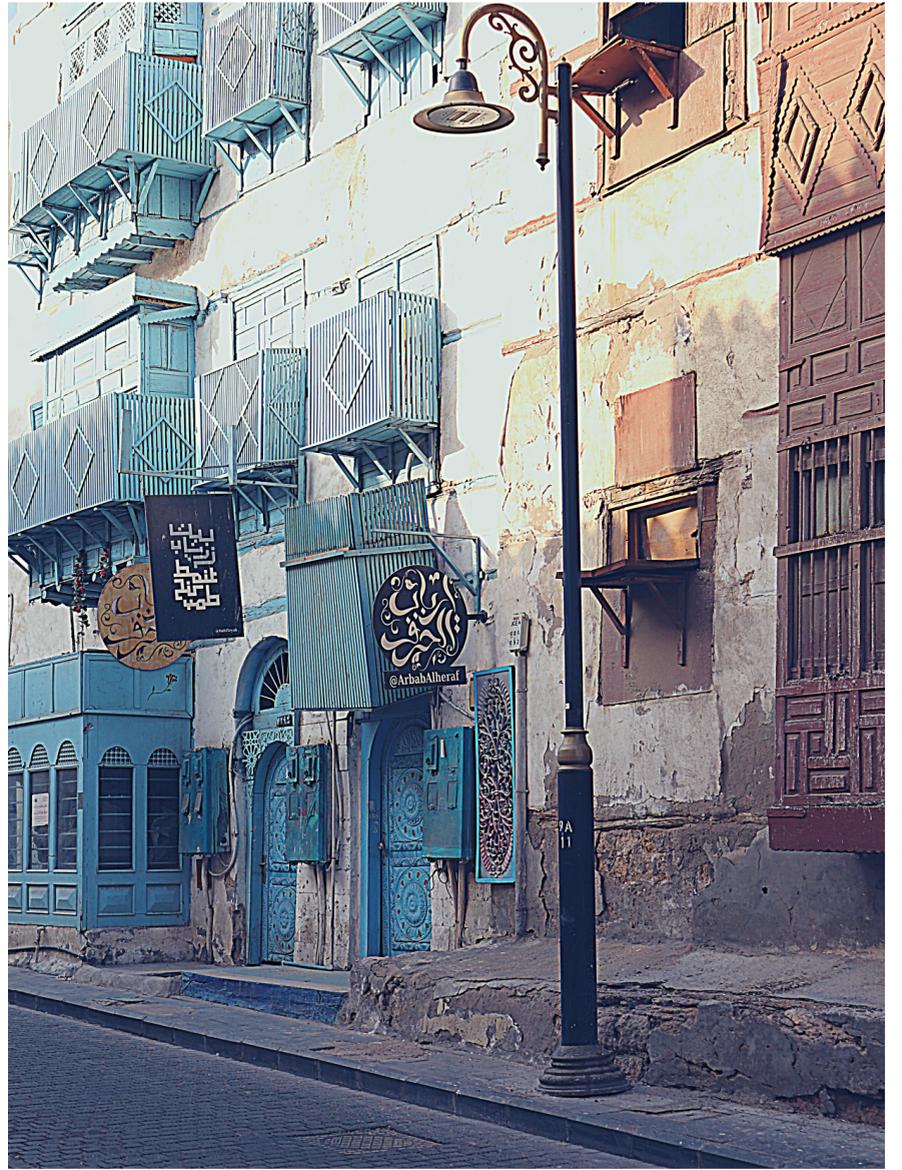


Al-Hijr was inhabited by Thamod people in the third millennium BC, followed by Lehanyans in the ninth century BC, and then their state was overthrown by the Nabateans. They took Al- Hijr houses to be a grave and temple inhabited by them. According to the latest evidence found by the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage Authority from the inscriptions in the area of Hijr, the Nabataeans attributed to themselves the construction of the city of Hijr. However, the remaining Antiquities in and around Hijr area is Lehanyans antiquities dating back to 1700BC.

Location: Mada'in Saleh, Alula

<https://goo.gl/maps/srBARj2TgoKaDBS56>

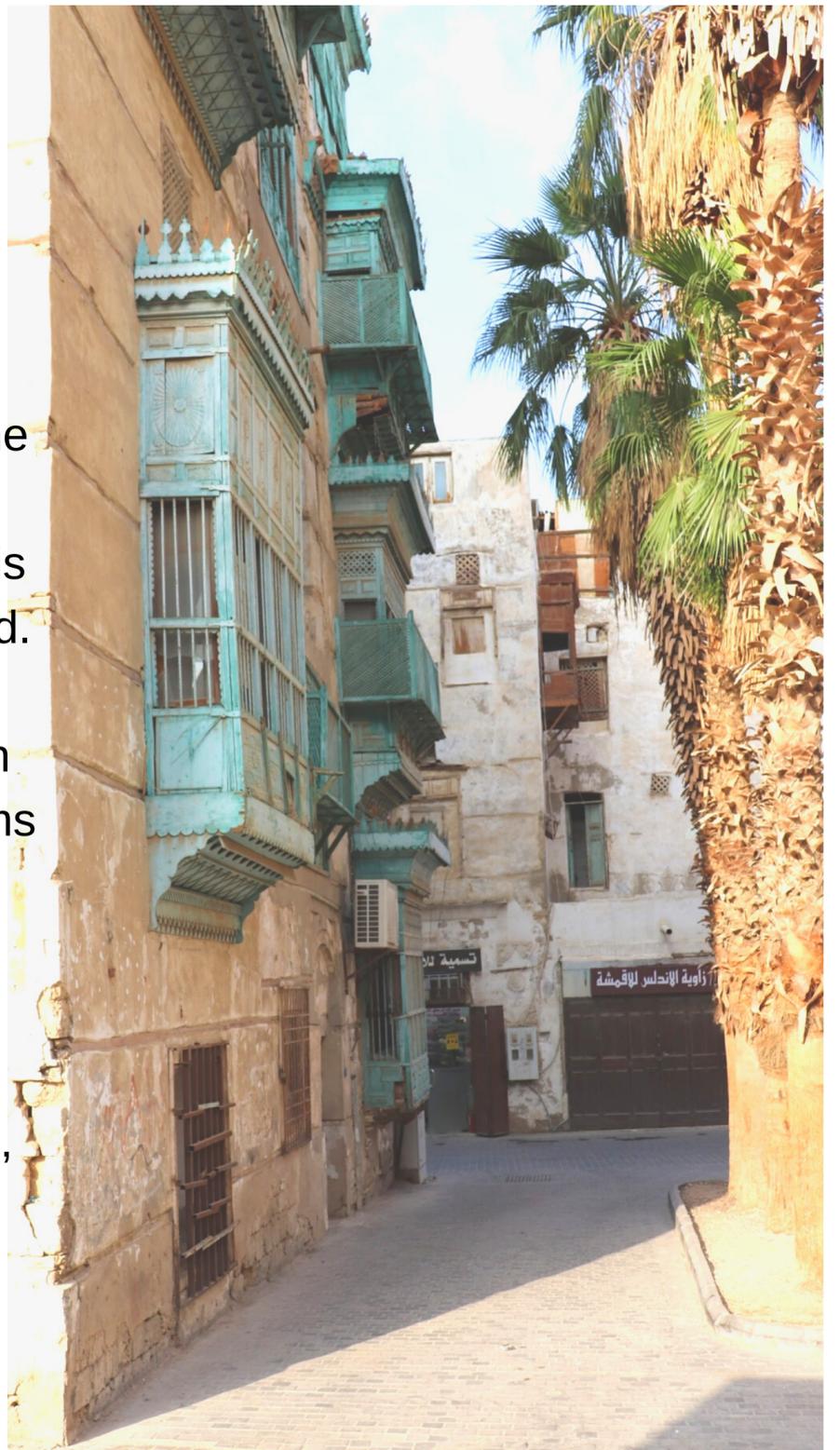
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HISTORICAL

JEDDAH:

In Makkah region and 710 km away from Madain Saleh, this place was built by our ancestors (native Arabian tribes) back to the 7th century Ad or even earlier. Despite how it looks today, this place has brought bad and good to our land. We use it for both religious and commercial purposes, back in time our ancestors used to welcome pilgrims to Makkah who arrived by sea and also receiving goods to our city Makkah. Btw, this place dated way back more before Islam. Many migrants now live in this place, so it has zero native spirit, unfortunately; except the historical buildings .



Location : 3315, Al-Balad , Jeddah 22236
<https://goo.gl/maps/4dhfGSAgjrJqSe2Z9>

photos by anaarabian

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photo credit Abeer Alqahtani
twit: Ab_Qhtn

Have you heard about the tulip field in Holland, we've got something similar here, however, it is not a man-made. This road trip will contain 4 stops only as far as I know, and the best time to do such trip is in spring season - March, April.

The first stop: southern region Al-Bark city in Assir region. It has this amazing purple field (not lavender though), it called Gharir flowers.

location :

<https://goo.gl/maps/4zj7N5m9cY6w1F2f9>

hurrat Albark, Assir region, 63525

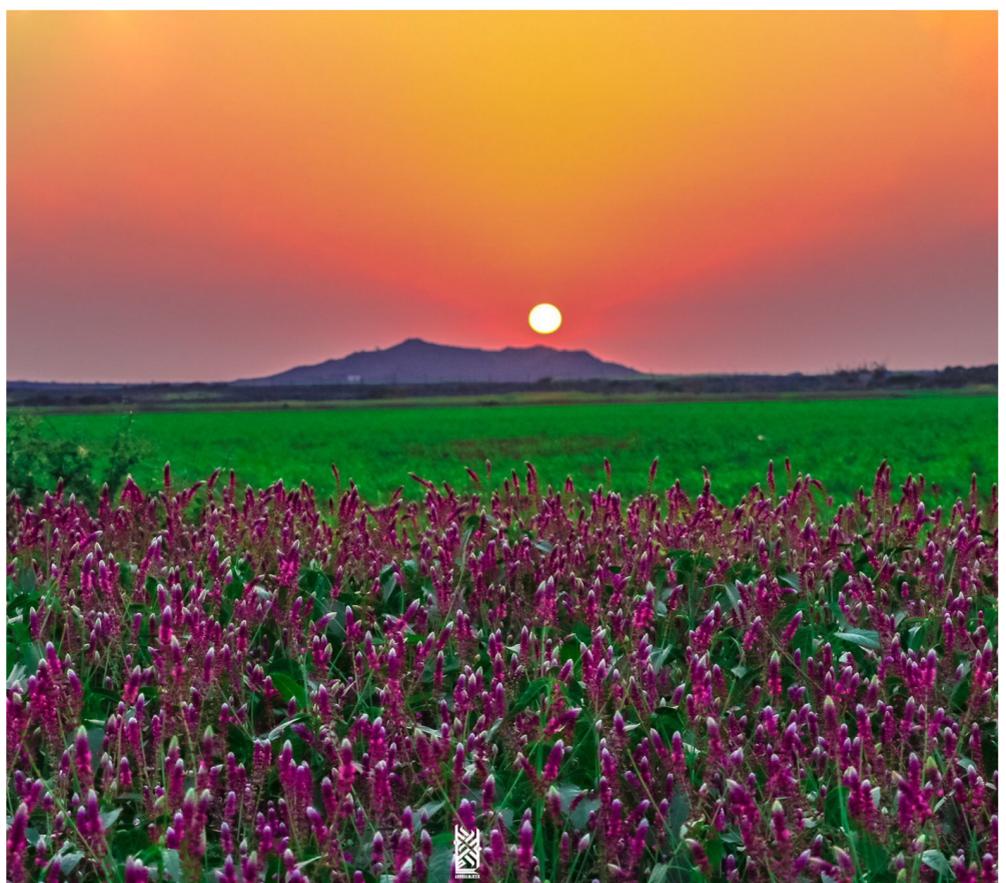


photo credit Abdalmajeed
Alasiri
insta: mjo5557

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The second stop: Altaif city, Al-shafa and Al-hada to enjoy Taif's roses. Btw, there are several products extracted from these roses.

Location: Alhada,26584 , Tuairiq
<https://g.page/wardsalman?share>

The third: the capital city of Saudi , Riyadh.

Rowdat kuraim will cover with white and yellow flowers in the spring.

Location: 15862 Rimah, Almorouj, Al-Riyadh

<https://goo.gl/maps/CPmkWXWXQ1Z3V9JE7>

The fourth: the northern region in the kingdom (known as the northern border), Arar, and Al-Jawf. The red flower you will see, it grows after heavy raining in the winter. The flower called Al-Daidhan locally, however, the official Arabian name is Shaqa'eq Al-Noman.

Location: 73741, Shuaib Al-waiziah, Arar

<https://goo.gl/maps/pNcRdKffUfobU4nj7>



Photo credit:

Top right: Abdullah Albarqash twit: @algnobe2000
2 Bottom by Megren Alharbi insta:megrenalharbi

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HIKING

TREASURE



There are many hiking routes you can choose from, each one will blow your mind with its beauty. Not to mention, how historical is these stops.

Here I am going to mention my top routes, for more you can check my blog post about hiking (anaarabian.com/hiking-in-saudi-arabia)



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Waba crater (locally magla'a tamiah):

Around 255 km northeast of Taif and 714 km west of Riyadh. The crater is 3 km wide and 250 meters deep with saltpan at the bottom centre of the crater. It is a perfect place for camping, hiking and trekking. It is best to hike there either early or late in the day and during the cooler winter months, although it is near Al-taif city, it is hot in the summer.

location

<https://goo.gl/maps/2tosgLk2TrwqGW2z9>



photo by Ahmad Aljuaed @AHMAD_ALJUAED

Al-Sdarah:

Al-Sdarah is a village located in southwest Al-Madinah, around 65 km. It is a beautiful place to hike or camp to in the winter where you can enjoy the scenery of falling water between the mountains, one of the famous waterfalls there is Al-Msaibid. So, winter and autumn are the perfect time for hiking in Al-Sdarah.

location

<https://goo.gl/maps/L82Rv9TzNkmA6Mm76>



Al-Sadarah by Osamah Al-Harbi twitt: @osamafilm

Jabal Abyad and Jabal Bayda

Al- Jabal Al-Abyad (the white mountain, “abyad” meaning white in Arabic in the word’s masculine form) , it’s also known as Al-Ras Al-Abyad (the white head) located in Khaybar, Al-Madinah. It is 2092 m high, and it’s actually a lava field (“harrats” in Arabic), are you surprised ?! . It is the Kingdom’s highest volcano, and close by stands Jabal Baydah (the feminine form of white), its sister white ash cone. Hiking to there is difficult though not impossible if you’re properly equipped and physically fit. You Can climb, but you should take precaution as it has dangerous surroundings. The area is an ancient and have a lot of historical events that dated back to prehistoric inhabitants. Another fascinating information is whenever it is hot is Al-Madinah, Al-Jabal Al- Abyad is cold.

location

<https://goo.gl/maps/nT7WPWYYwQWua7Ba6>

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Jabal Qidr:

In the same area of Al- Jabal Al-Abyad and Al-bayda, Jabal Al-Qidr located. In contrast to Al-Jabal Al-Abyad, Jabal Al-Qidr has the deep dark lava. These lavas along with the lava of Al-Jabal Al-Abyad created fantastic patterns of shades on the ground in between the craters. Hiking in this place will make you feel you are walking in a painting.

location:

<https://goo.gl/maps/FkjMK8TgvMiMXF3bA>

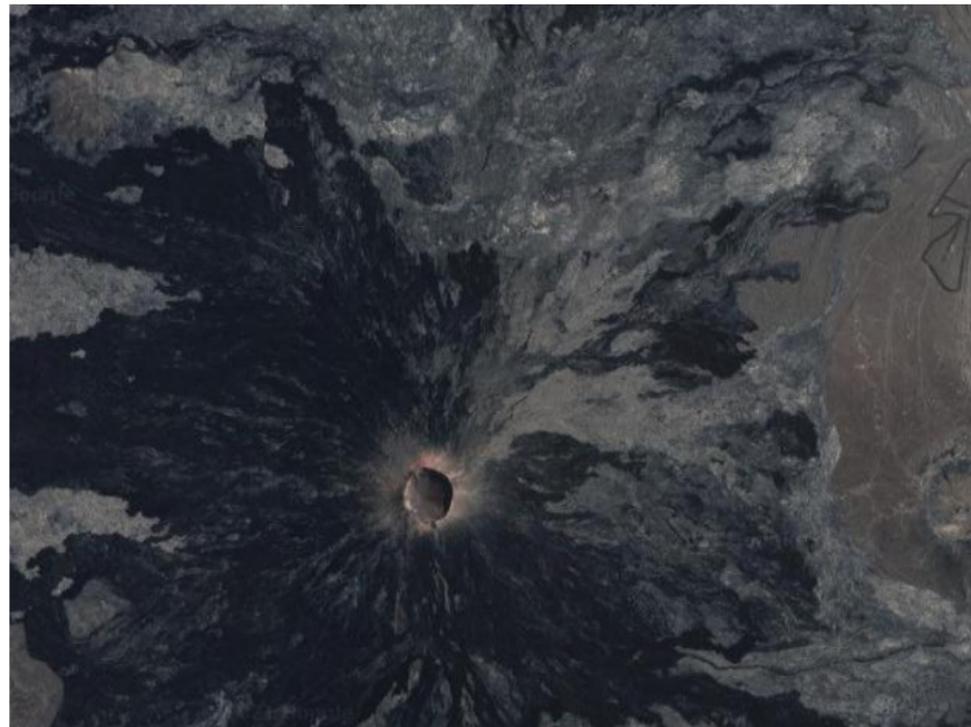


photo from google map

Wadi Al-Gomod aka Mystery Valley

This place could be the best place to visit. The mountain structure is just unbelievable, I have a deep believe that this place was a sea area back in time.

location:

<https://goo.gl/maps/qAFMsMxZLBVrvU5XA>

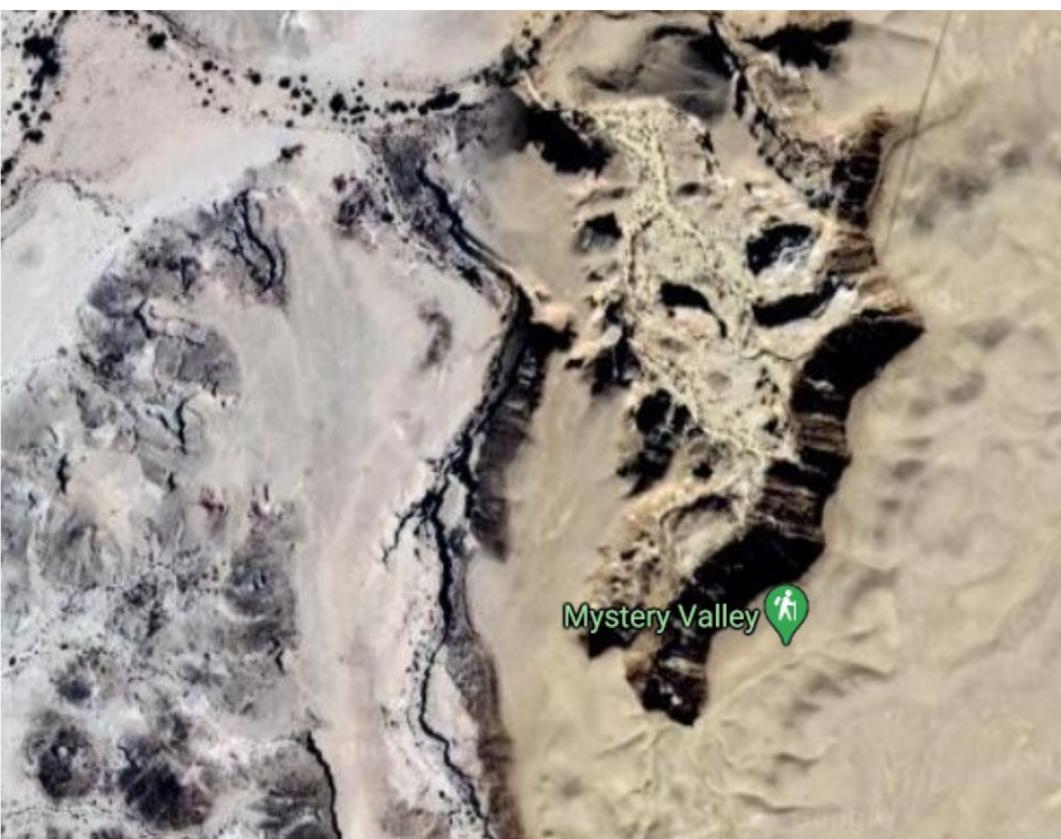


photo from google map

Heet cave (Dahl Heet):

It is located 30 km southeast Riyadh, close to Al-Karj city. Located in mount Al Jubayl in Wadi AL- Sulay in a small village called Heet in Riyadh. The site is dated back to thousands of years ago, where a star rocked this place, and then it became a location for groundwater. Ain heet (spring of heet) depth is 390 meters, and can be recognized by an old and desolated pump house.

Location:

<https://goo.gl/maps/cAnPB7GBdu1uKerJA>

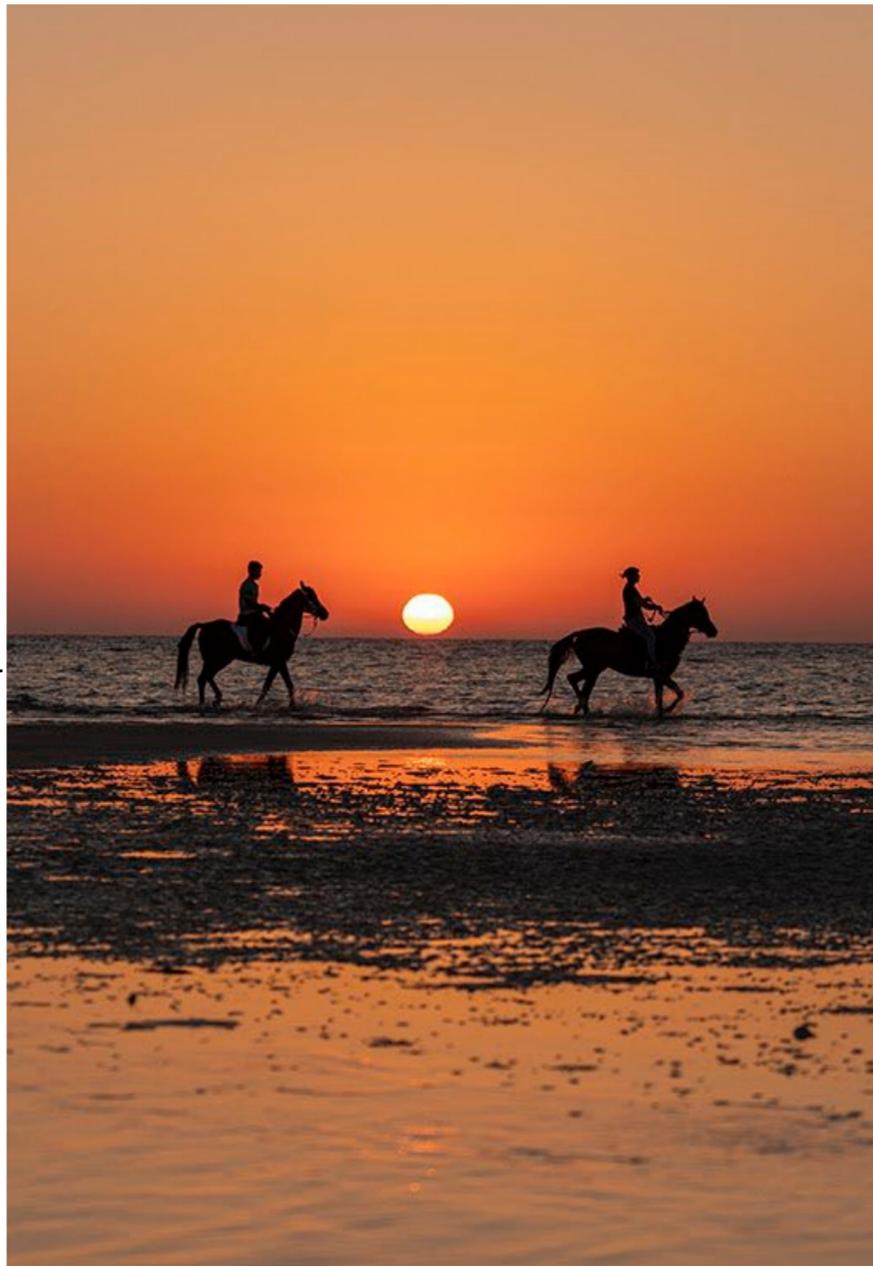
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Who does not like the sea or the wave sounds? Just imagine waking up in the morning hearing the waves, seeing the sunrise, or enjoying walking on the beach during the sunset.. Isn't beautiful?

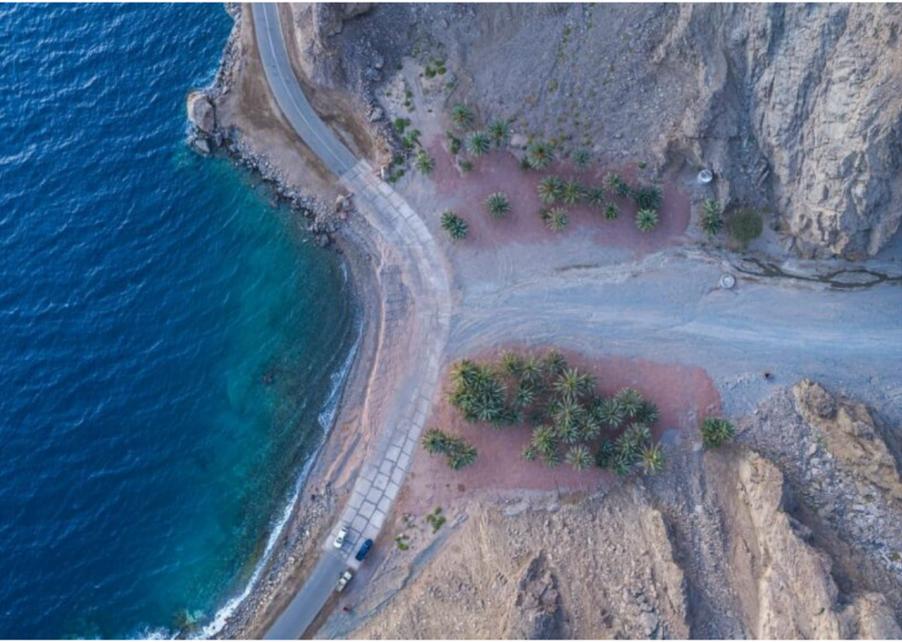
Saudi Arabia has the clearest sea you will ever see in your life. I might be biased though, but honestly, we have a very clear water. Nothing will be better than a road trip along the Red Sea - or even better camping there! (After taking a permission of course)-. This road trip will start from the north part of the kingdom Tabuk Region and will end in Jazan Region. You can do a short cut and take a cruise, but I'm not sure if it will be open all year around, and btw it is expensive- at least for me-.

Are you ready to enjoy some (sea) scenes?



The images by Mohamad Al-shareef
@mohamed_5575

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Haql

<https://goo.gl/maps/zg1NRNCU5qtVPkRHA>

Magna

<https://goo.gl/maps/YZitBunMJ3qUhHbt7>

Ras Al-Shaikh Hamid

<https://goo.gl/maps/HGdJ2vfE8Aoaxqq98>

The images on the left by Mohamad

Al-shareef @mohamed_5575

The right image by Mohamdad

Alhothaly @al_hothaly



Tabuk Region

Most of your road trip - for sea treasure - is located within the Tabuk region, each and every location is unique although it is literally the same Red Sea.

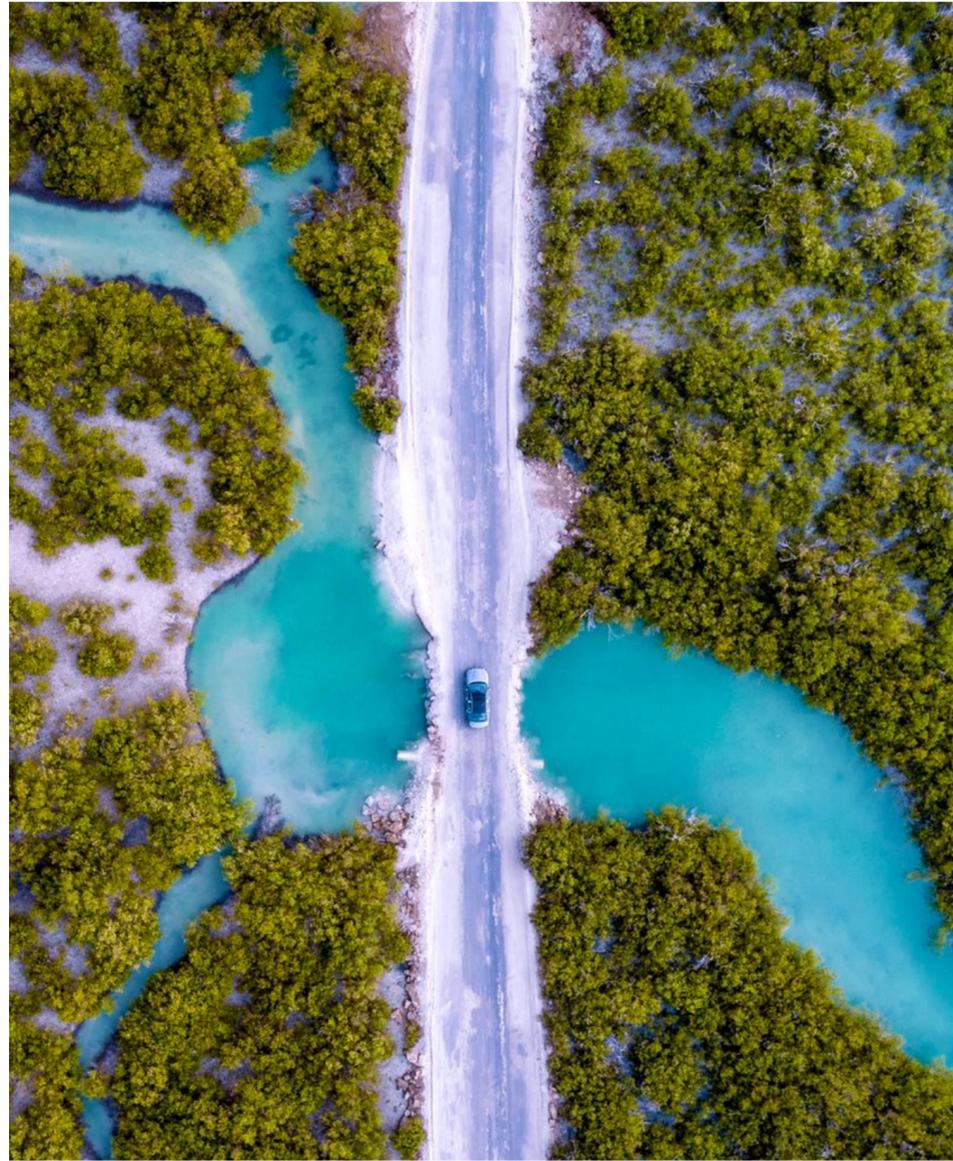
NOTE : most of these destinations are within the new national project NEOM and the Red sea development.

From top right this is a shipwreck (Georgios G) in **Haql** city the first destination in our Sea treasure, 231 km (2,5 hours) from prince Sultan international airport.

The next stop is **Magna**, which is the image on the top left.

Half an hour away from Magna (39.4 km), **Ras Al-Shaik Hamid** is located . It has an amazing coast , a golden sand met with turquoise water. The perfect place for diving and exploring the red sea, and it has Catarina (plane wreck), so there is some treasure lol.

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Tabuk & Jazan Region

Tabuk will never stop amaze you, your route in this region will take you to **Al-Wajh** (the top left) and then you are going to stop in the best and clearest water in this area **Umluj** (the top right), Umluj has many islands and each one of these islands is a breathtaking .

Jazan region has the iconic last stop in your sea treasure, **Farasan Island** (the 2 images on the right). You are not only going to boat between the islands, but also going to drive and to be honest, this is the best part (I mean look at these photos, isn't beautiful?)

Top left and top right image by Mohamad Al-shareef @mohamed_5575

The 2 right images by Khaled Zaroq @kzaroq1

Al-Wajh:

<https://goo.gl/maps/gv4fppPFCbyJHoT37>

Umluj:

<https://goo.gl/maps/e6P3RGnpFijnBXxX8>

Farasan Island:

<https://goo.gl/maps/pRcFsCHLbzUqQjmi6>

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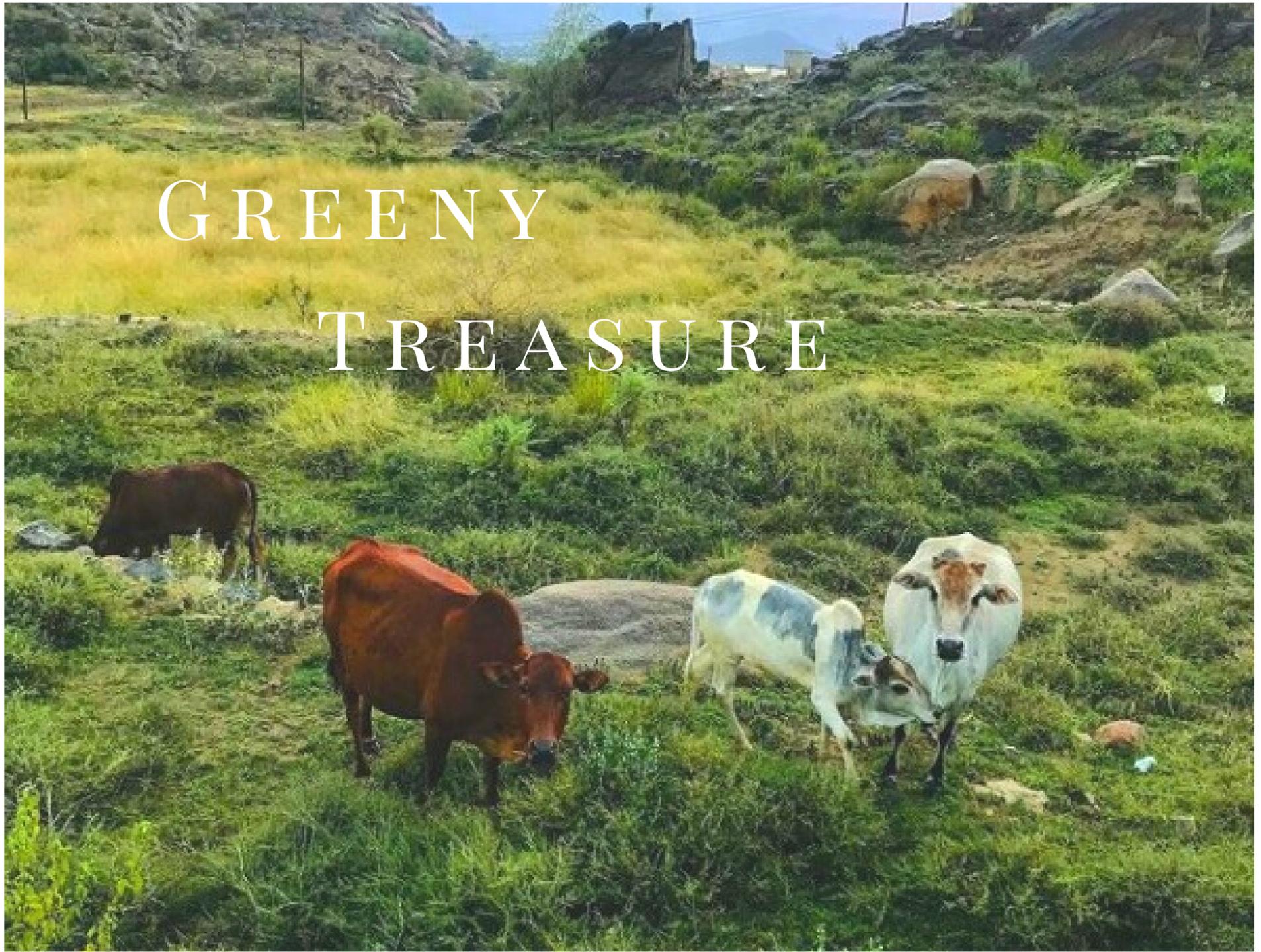
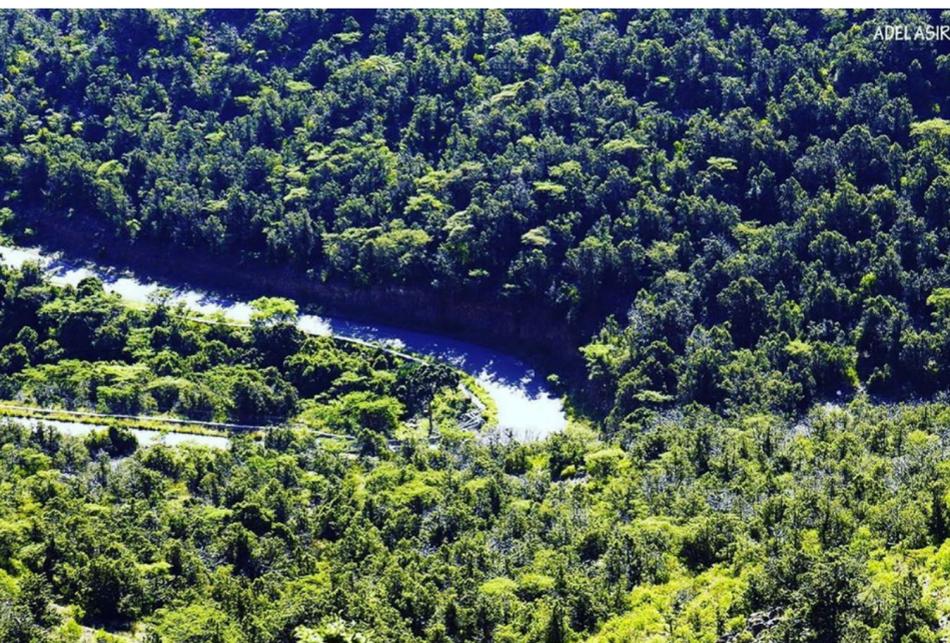


photo by mohammad Abdulrahman (@m_3__a70)

Most of you know that we have a lot of sand. Here is a fact, we do have a green area all around the kingdom if you just open your eyes, and your mind. This road trip route will take you mainly in southern regions of the kingdom and some cities in south-west part of the kingdom aka Makkah region.

Enjoy the green scene, beautiful weather, and high mountains.

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Location : Al-Soudah Mountain

<https://goo.gl/maps/jjFAVMDLLwEexqoN8>

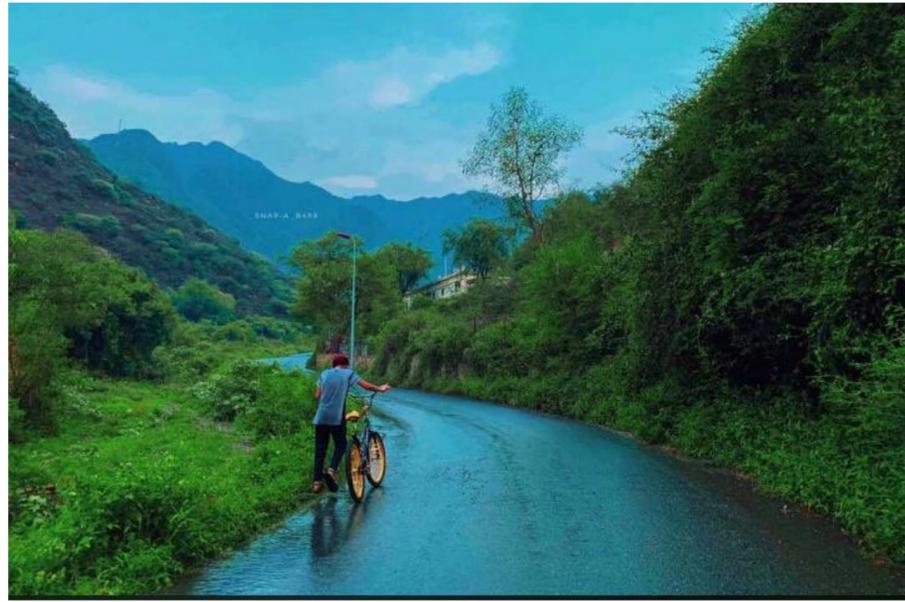
Al-Soudah by Adel Assiri (adel_asiri11)



Assir Region

Assir Region and other southern region have many beautiful places, however, I had to pick a few areas to make your road trip short and to make you enjoy those places in peace. **Abha** is the first stop in this greeny treasure, there many green spots there, but the famous one is **Al-Soudah Mountain**. Al-Soudah mountain is an amazing place to picnic, hike, camping , etc.

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Rijal Al-Alma'a is the second and the final stop in Assir region. This village has more than greeny treasure to offer, it is a village with a rich history and if you are architecture you might learn something from the heritage area there- trust me you are going to like it

Photos by Abdulwahab Al-fay'a
@a_b499

Location: Rijal Al- Alma'a

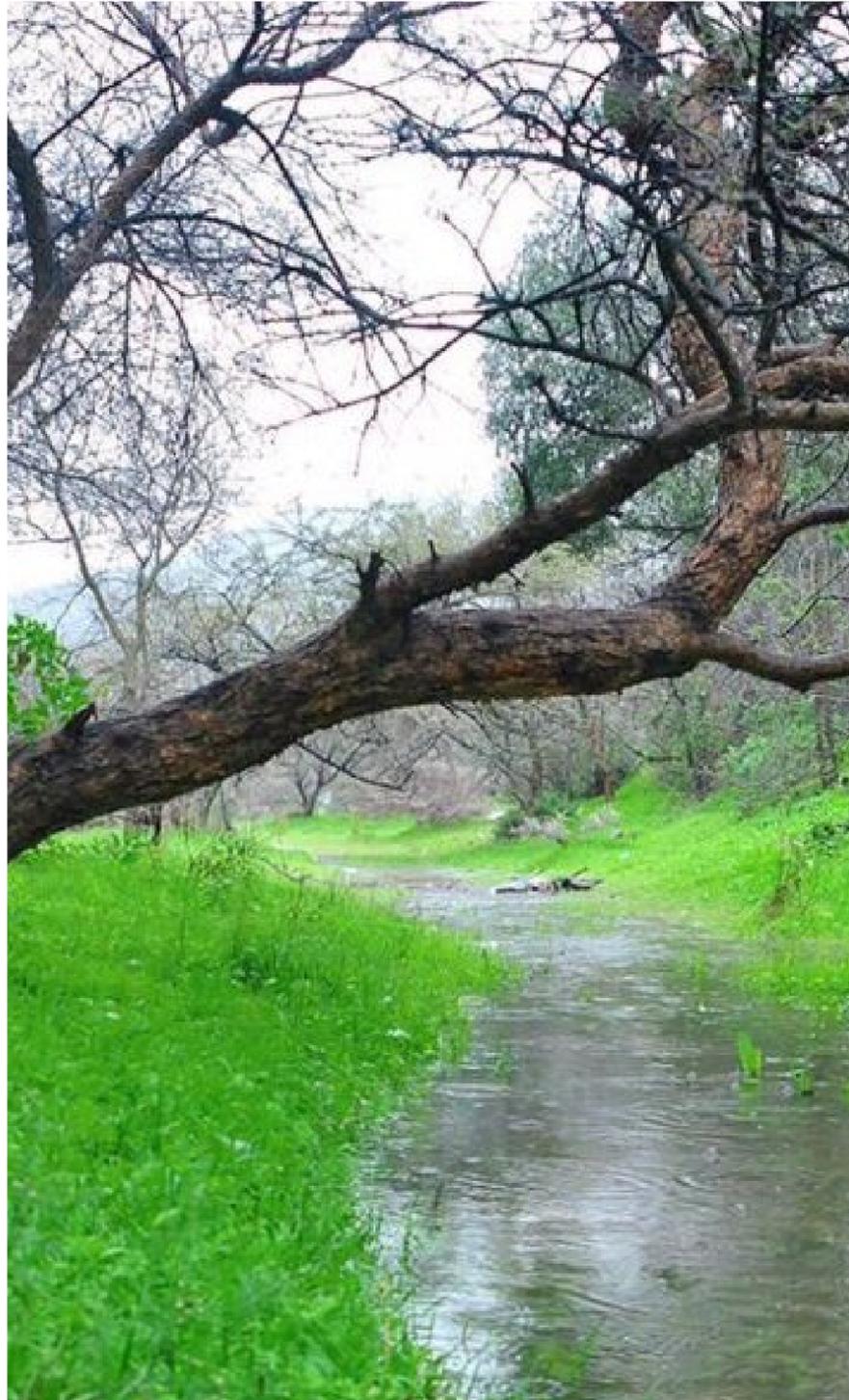
<https://goo.gl/maps/9aM96rEfUQAbbfDCA>

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A-Baha Region

Al-Baha is 5 hours drive from Rijal Al-Alma'a. It is famous for its forests, I think it will rank 1 when it comes to the number of forests . The famous forest there, are Ragdan and Khairah .



images by Abdulelah Al-Fares (@abdulelahalfars)

Location:

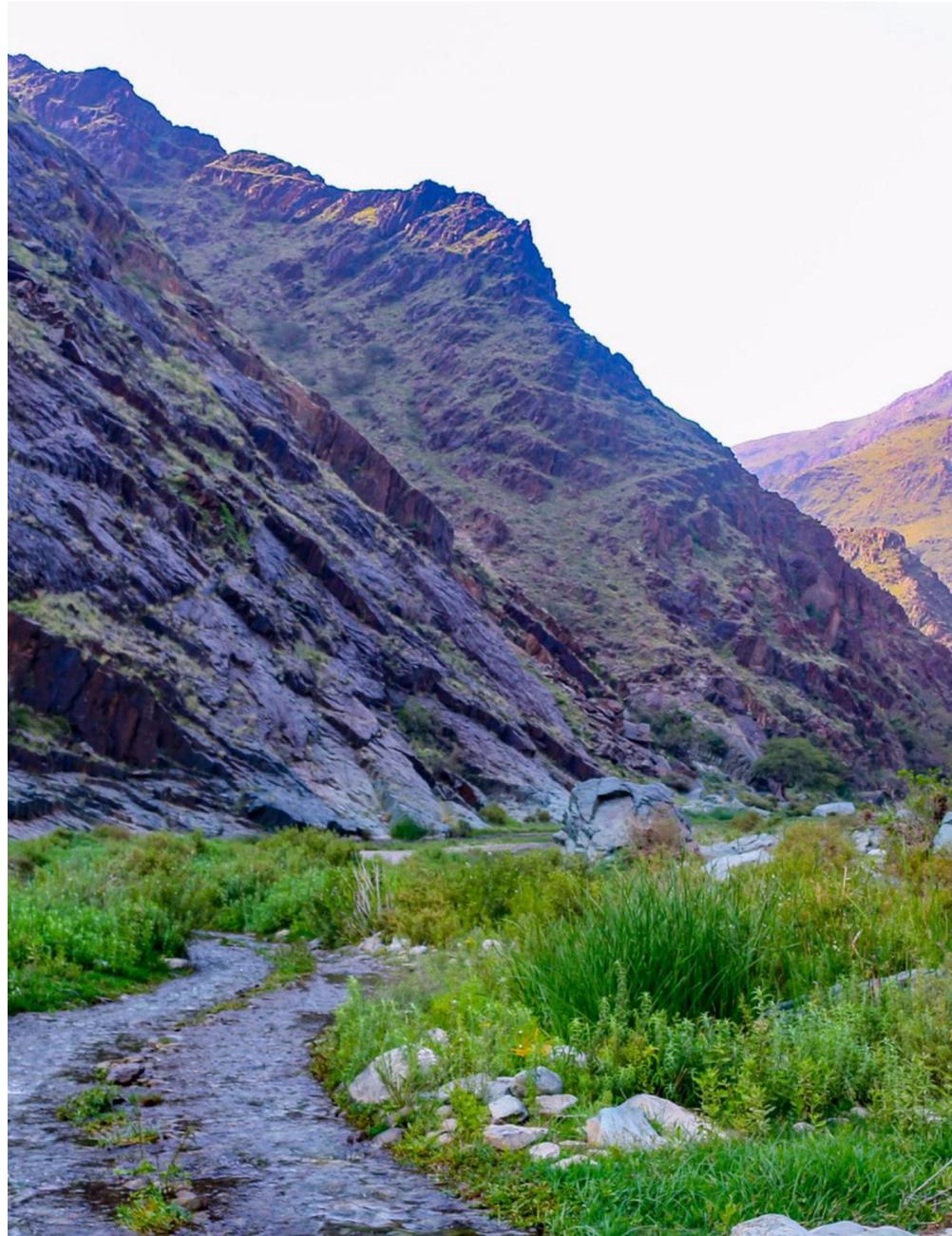
Ragdan

<https://goo.gl/maps/kJr27n4k79Yz4ZZh8>

Khairah

<https://goo.gl/maps/CLwazCvmCDLYMCNS9>

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Makkah Region

Would I be biased if I say this is my favorite region in the kingdom ? yah that's my home region :)

Al- Taif city is one of the famous cities in this region, of course along with its villages/towns, that's because of the cold weather they have compering to other cities. This is our - place to go- whenever the heat wave reached it max. This region has 3 stops, the first one is **Bani Malik** which 2H away from Khaira forest. The place I recommend to visit there is **Kaid Al-khala** valley -the image on the right -.

The next stop is **Al-Shafa**, followed by **Al-Hada** these two stops are my favorite, I have so many childhood memories here. There are forest, local farms and much more.

This is your end of your road trip, hope you all enjoy reading it, and maybe found a new place to explore in my country.

Location:

Kaid alkhala

<https://goo.gl/maps/ZVMxQb88SsyspH1Y8>

Al-Shafa

<https://goo.gl/maps/izYgt18eF1ixXDPQ9>

Alhada

<https://goo.gl/maps/8sgkm9qZt6ERhEBb7>

Left images taken by

Mishal Althoubaiti in Al-shafa twit: i1meshal

Right image by Turki Alharbi

twitt: turkisaleh1

Thanks

Mohammad Al-Shareef

محمد الشريف

Abdulelah Al-Fares

عبدالإله الفارس

Abdullah AlSheikh

عبدالله الشيخ

Osamah Al-Harbi

اسامه الحربي

Abdulmajeed Asiri

عبدالمجيد عسيري

Mishal Althoubaiti

مشعل الثبتي

Khaled Zaroq

خالد زاروق

Mohammad Al-hHothaly

محمد الهذلي

Abdulwahab Al-fay'a

عبدالوهاب آل يافع

Adel Asiri

عادل عسيري

Mohammad Abdulrahman

محمد عبدالرحمن

Turki Al-Harbi

تركي الحربي

Ahmed AlJuaid

أحمد الجعيد

Abdullah Albarqash

عبدالله البرغش

Megren Alharbi

مقرن الحربي

Abeer Alqahtani

عبير القحطاني

