



## On The Traces of History (#20994)

**Note:** Price printed on this PDF is valid until **23-07-2025** and is subject to change without notice due to Partner changes and currency fluctuations

### Trip Highlights

Jeddah-Taif-Medina-Al Ula-Ha'il-Buraydah-Riyadh

### Detailed Itinerary

#### Day 01

#### Day 01: Jeddah Arrival

Arrival at JEDDAH International airport, after formalities, you will be able to direct yourself to the Car rental area at the BUDGET car rental counter, or just pick up your car in BUDGET outlet downtown JEDDAH. After the car formalities are done, you will receive the keys , and you will be ready to discover the region. Drive to your hotel.. Check in at hotel . Overnight in JEDDAH.

**Meal:** No Meal



## Day 02

### Day 02: Jeddah

Breakfast at your hotel. We will start our tour with the visit of Abdul Raouf Khalil Museum that presents the local and Arabian heritage. A unique site . We will then hit old Jeddah .We will enjoy a wonderful walking in Al-Balad , the old part of the city .This walk tour of the old Town will take you along all the less known must-see local spots: Old Market hidden gems, Old Jeddah hidden galleries, local Jeddah food only for locals... While visiting Al-Balad, visitors will be taken to see Beit Nassif, one of the prominent renovated structures in the old city, which dates back to the mid 1800's. The five-story building provides a rare opportunity for the visitors to experience the blend of traditional architecture with modernity .We will see also the Baghdadi house . We will visit also the Old gold market in Gabel street and the Ukash Mosque. We will pass by the Al Rahmah Mosque. After that, we will visit The Floating Mosque, this single domed architectural marvel that sits literally on the sea, symbolizes Jeddah's bold storm into the modern age. Sitting on an enviable location, the mosque's courtyard offers unencumbered views of the Red Sea. Our tour will end with the Jeddah Corniche which is the 30 km coastal resort area of the city of Jeddah. Located along the Red Sea, the corniche features a coastal road, recreation areas, pavilions and large-scale civic sculptures as well as King Fahd's Fountain, the highest fountain in the world. Overnight in Jeddah .

**Meal:** Breakfast

## Day 03

### Day 03: Jeddah-Al Hada-Taif (180 Kms)

Breakfast at the hotel. We will start our journey to the mountains of TAIIF located over the Hada Mountains above Mecca and on the Eastern slopes of the Al-Sarawat mountains .The city of Taif, has a cool and green Summer People travel to TAIIF for its Green nature and its weather , its beautiful scenery and the town's relaxed atmosphere. Our tour will start with a drive enjoying the majestic panoramic view of al Hada mountain. We will pass by a Rose Farm/factory. We will then reach the Sharif Museum before we enjoy a traditional lunch in the mountains. In the afternoon, after enjoying the view of mountains, the old stone paths, cars that passing though the road from Alhada Cable car. Then check in in our hotel. Overnight in TAIIF .

**Meal:** Breakfast

## Day 04

### Day 04: Ta'if-Medina (480 Kms)

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning we set off early driving through the open desert to the spectacular Al Waba Crater, a dramatic volcano formation with a salt field at its centre. Here there is the option to circumnavigate part of the crater or you may opt for the more challenging steep climb down to the basin and then back up again (approx. 2.5hrs return). After our



exploration we will enjoy the crater's edge taking in this awesome natural wonder. In the afternoon we make our way to the outskirts of the holy city of Medina. In the city centre, the vast Al-Masjid an-Nabawi (Prophet's Mosque) is a major Islamic pilgrimage site. Its striking Green Dome rises above the tombs of the Prophet Muhammad and early Islamic leaders Abu Bakr and Umar. The Masjid al-Qiblatain (Qiblatain Mosque) is known as the site where the Prophet Muhammad received the command to change the direction of prayer to Mecca. We will visit the outskirts of the city ONLY, except the holy pilgrimage areas and we conclude the day with a short hike up Mount Uhud to enjoy the sunset over the city. Check in hotel. Overnight in Medina.

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 05

### Day 05: Medina-Al Ula (330 Kms)

Breakfast at the hotel. We will head this morning to the ancient town of Al Ula was an important staging post on the frankincense trade route to Oman and Egypt. We will follow the same route than the historic Hijaz Railway. We will stop at the abandoned Buwayr & Muduraj train stations both of which offer an eerie reminder of a turbulent and bloody past. The Hijaz Railway, which connected Medina with Damascus and eventually Istanbul was built by the Ottomans in the early 20th century to speed up the journey to Mecca during the pilgrimage season, but the railway was only in use for a short period. During WWI, Lawrence of Arabia and his Arab allies blew up the railway in their revolt against the Ottoman Empire. We will visit the ancient city of Khaybar. This is probably the best-preserved ancient oasis of Saudi Arabia as it is built in a natural depression that can be flooded, reason why the modern city was built further away. It is mention in a Neo-Babylonian text that tell its conquest in 552 BCE by Nabonidus, the last King of Babylon. It became in the year 7 of Islam an important battle place between the Muslim and the Jews that saw the troops of Mohamed (PBUH) and Ali victorious. Arrival in Al Ula area at the end of the afternoon. Check in in our camp. Overnight in Al'Ula.

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 06

### Day 06: Al Ula

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning we propose to discover Al-Ula which is an ancient oasis that is inhabited for the last 7000 years. During the 1st millennium BCE the city of Dedan develops thanks to its strategic location on the frankincense trade road to become one of the oldest Arabian kingdoms that ruled over most of what is today Tabuk and Madinah provinces. Continue to Jebel Ikmah that, with its amazing and numerous rock inscriptions, looks an open-air museum. We continue then to the Old city of Al-Ula that became at the beginning of the Islamic era an important staging post along the pilgrimage route to Mecca. Then we will visit the ancient sites of Ekma and Abu 'Aoud where the people of the oasis wrote





texts in ancient scripts that we will decipher for you. We can finish this special day on top of the Harrat Al-Uwayrid for an amazing viewpoint of the oasis of Al-Ula. At the end of the afternoon, drive to hotel. Accommodation in Al-Ula.

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 07

### Day 07: Al Ula-Mada'in Saleh-Al Ula

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we will start our journey with the visit of the famous Hegra (Madain Saleh). We will be exploring the first UNESCO World, heritage site of the Saudi Kingdom , the monolith of Mada'in Saleh , also known as “ Southern Petra “ , dating from the Nabateans period ( 100-500 BC Our visit will be followed towards Jibal Al-Rukkab & Leopard trail . We will then visit Jebel Al- Fil the “Elephant mountain”. The visits are exciting and full of emotions . At the end of the day , we go back to our camp. Overnight in Al Ula.

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 08

### Day 08: Al Ula-Jubbah-Ha'il (577 Kms)

Breakfast at the Camp. This morning we will start our journey to Jubbah that lies on an ancient lake. Several archaeological sites of human settlement from the Middle Paleolithic period were found around the margin of the paleolake. Jubbah is surrounded by large sandstone outcrops that are filled with ancient petroglyphs and inscriptions on the rock face. Jubbah benefited from past humid phases that turned the arid Arabian Peninsula into a savannah similar to what is found today in Africa. During the last humid period that took place from the 10th to the 6th millennium BCE the African monsoon rains filled rivers and lakes where wildlife thrived. If the animals that used to live there became extinct because of the desertification that started during the 6th millennium BCE, some men fixed forever their presence in Jubbah thanks to carvings of aurochs, cheetahs, lions...Those drawings are still visible today in the sides of several sandstone outcrops located on the western side of the paleolake like the Jebel Umm Sanman. Jubbah, the other major carving site of Hail Province, where listed as UNESCO World Heritage in 2015 for their numerous petroglyph panels and rich. We will pass through the famous desert of Nefuda Al Kabir or Al-Nefud , it is occupying a great oval depression. It is 290 kilometres long and 225 kilometres wide, with an area of 103,600 square kilometre. After this visit, we continue our route to the famous city of Ha'il. Renowned for its hospitable people, Hail is traditionally the home of Saudi Arabia's poets and writers. An interesting point about Hail, most of the early European explorers passed by this city during the 19th century (Charles Doughty, Lady Blunt, Charles Huber, Julius Euting...Upon arrival , we will transfer to our hotel. Overnight in Ha'il.

**Meal:** Breakfast



### Day 09

### Day 09: Ha'il-Buraydah (280 Kms)

Breakfast at the hotel. We will start our day with the visit of Al Ha'il, we will visit the A' Arif Fort and the nearby heritage museum. Then we will have a walk at the traditional market where we will find the local delicacies. We will pass also by the Hail Regional Museum, and if it is open, we will drop there to admire its collection. Then we start our way to Buraydah, we will pass the imposing Shammar mountain range, we will stop at a major historical site on our road called Fayd. It is the most important pilgrimage city that thrived during the golden age of Baghdad as it is located half way between Baghdad and Mecca. We will visit a small museum and a large archaeological site that has been restored. Buraydah is the capital of Al-Qassim Region in North central Saudi Arabia in the heart of the Arabian Peninsula, and it is considered being the most conservative city of Saudi Arabia. On arrival, quick orientation of the city before we check-in at hotel. Overnight in Buraydah.

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 10

### Day 10: Buraydah-Ushaiger-Riyadh (390 Kms)

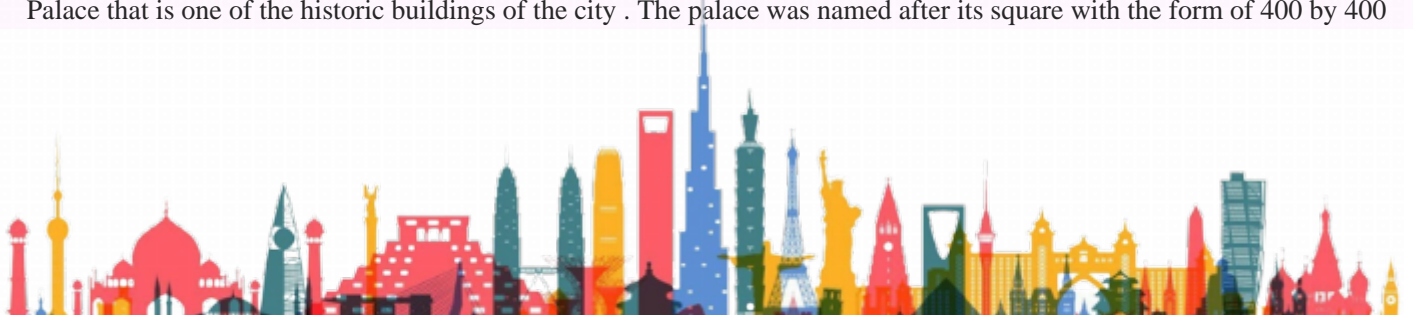
Breakfast at the hotel. Today we need to start early to make the most of a truly unique Saudi experience. Buraydah's lively camel market is located just a short distance outside modern-day Buraydah but the experience may feel like stepping into a distant era of times gone by. This is the world's largest camel market where thousands of camels, goats and sheep are traded every day and this morning is sure to be a feast for the senses. We head back into the city to stroll through the mouth-watering date market to pick some tasty treats before driving towards the capital city of Riyadh. En route we will pass the villages of Mithnab and Al-Ghat, before we reach the highlight of our day the heritage village of Ushaiger, one of the oldest settlements in the region which boasts some stunning traditional Najdi architecture and considered one of the most attractive places in the country. We will reach finally Riyadh the capital at the end of the day. Check in, Overnight in Riyadh.

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 11

### Day 11: Riyadh

Breakfast at the hotel. We will start our tour of mystic Riyadh by visiting the National museum. The National Museum is the primary custodian of the Saudi national heritage and culture, the Museum is a place of learning and discovery, it completes the story of Arabian civilization from the creation of the universe to our modern era. We continue thereafter to the Murabba Palace that is one of the historic buildings of the city. The palace was named after its square with the form of 400 by 400



meters. It is one of the museums in the city . We will continue our drive through the city passing the famous Kingdom tower , the Faisaliah hotel , both a great architectural achievement. We will see also many other landmarks that make the city famous today . Afternoon we will continue our tour of mystic Riyadh by visiting The Masmak Fort, one of the most important monuments in Saudi Arabia from where modern Saudi history start. This Fort is the birthplace of the 3rd Saudi Kingdom, the modern one we live in. The palace was built during the reign of Abdullah bin Rashid in the year 1895 A.D. to serve as military garrison for the Abdullah bin Rashid army. His Majesty King Abdulaziz, the father of the nation today, captured the fort in 1902. We will then visit the Dira Souq famous for buying antique carpets and other useful Saudi heritage antiques, while walking we will always smell sandal wood fragrance. At the end of the afternoon , back to your hotel. Overnight in Riyadh.

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 12

### Day 12: Riyadh Departure

Breakfast at your hotel. Check out at 12h00 noon. Depending on your departure time to Riyadh airport. You can return the car in the airport, go to the car rental RETURN parking, handover your car to the BUDGET team, and direct yourself to the departure area.

**Meal:** Breakfast

## Inclusions

Personalized meet & assist upon arrival at Jeddah airport in English

12 days car rental including CDW insurance and 300km / day

Car category C – Toyota Corolla or similar

Road Book: what to do (ALULA visits need to be prebooked)

Assistance 24 / 24 of our staff

Accommodation in the above-mentioned hotels or same hotel category according to the periods mentioned

Daily Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Local taxes

Drop off charges in Riyadh

## Exclusions



Flights  
Excess Mileage  
Additional Insurance  
Optional excursions  
Porterage & Personal expenses  
Visa fees if needed  
Lunches & Dinners

### Note

Hotel Used or Similar (4 Star)

Jeddah - RUVE HOTEL

Taif - VELAR INN HOTEL

Medina - MERIDIEN HOTEL

Al Ula - SAHARY RESORT

Ha'il - GOLDEN TULIP HOTEL

Buraydah - GOLDEN TULIP HOTEL

Riyadh - CENTRO HOTEL

Supplement for 4x4 Toyota Prado or similar (Per car for all pax) AUD 2708

Arrival dates - Every day until further notice.

RAMADAN 27/02/2025 – 29/03/2025 (Subject to change depending on moon siting).

Pre and Post night at Jeddah available on request.

Optional : Access to Skybridge on Kingdom tower : AUD 61 PP

### Program Touring / Guide

Private touring

### Periodic Departure



**01 May, 2025 to 31 Dec, 2025**

2 pax

AUD 3,586 P P twin share

AVAILABLE

3 pax

AUD 3,995 P P twin share

AVAILABLE

4 pax

AUD 2,996 P P twin share

AVAILABLE

