ARABIAN GULF EXPLORER

DETAILED ITINERARY

QATAR • KUWAIT • BAHRAIN • SAUDI ARABIA

Mar 11/26

The Arabian Gulf Explorer combines the highlights of 4 countries - Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. Starting in Doha, Qatar enjoy the vibrant souq, museums of art and culture and traditional dhow cruise. In Kuwait, witness the iconic skyline and harbor and visit the island of Failaka with archaeological sites dating back 4,000 years. Our flight takes us to Bahrain with visits to the first oil well, UNESCO Bahrain Fort, National Museum and learn about Islam in the Grand Mosque.

Saudi Arabia is new to tourism and the largest Arab country in the Middle East. From Riyadh, Saudi's modern capital city, we fly to the southwest to enjoy the 900 year old town of Rijal Alma and the scenic caves and mountain villages of Al Baha. In Jeddah, enjoy our snorkeling in the Red Sea. Taking a bullet train to Medina, with its many religious sites. Al Ula is Saudi Arabia's first UNESCO Site! Explore the Old Town, Elephant Rock, and some of the hundreds of rock-carved tombs at Hegra, the second Nabataean city after Petra in Jordan. We continue to Wadi Al Disah in 4x4's to explore it's stunning landscape. We

FACTS & HIGHLIGHTS

• 28 land days • Maximum 16 travelers • Starts in Doha, Qatar and finish in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • All meals included • 4 internal flights included • In Qatar, enjoy a traditional dhow cruise and it's lively, traditional souq • In Kuwait, visit the remote island of Failaka & explore architectural sites 4000 years old • In Bahrain, visit A'Ali Burial Mounds (UNESCO), the Grand Mosque & Bahrain Fort (UNESCO) • In Al Ula (UNESCO), visit Elephant Rock & ancient tombs of Hegra • Explore the 900 year old village of Rijal Almaa • Hike to Caves of Shadar & the mountain village of Dhee Ayn • Snorkel in the Red Sea • Search for Nubian Ibex, Arabian Oryx, Idmi Gazelle, Rhim Gazelle, and ostriches in Bajdah Wildlife Reserve • In Saudi Arabia, enjoy museums, fortresses and palaces in Riyadh & Jeddah • Visit Wadi Al Disah, Moses Mountain and Saudi's Grand Canyon • Take a bullet train to the holy city of Medina • Be in awe as the sun goes down at the Edge of the World

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICE

Jan 06 - Feb 02, 2027 - $16995

Activity Level: 2

Comfort Level:

Some long drives.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We stay in comfortable accommodations with private bath.

continue to Tabuk enjoying Saudi's Grand Canyon, Moses Mountain, Tomb of Jethro and Bajdah Wildlife Reserve, home to Arabian Oryx, ostriches, gazelles and a variety of other wildlife. Visit a 2000 year old well in Tayma; Explore the UNESCO site of Jubbah with thousands of petroglyphs, some as old as 10,000 years! Visit the hilltop fort in Ha'il; Meander through the world's largest camel market in Qassim. Stroll through the lanes of old Ushaiqer, one of Saudi's most beautiful heritage villages. Visit the dramatic cliffs known as "the Edge of the World" with its uninterrupted view of the horizon in all directions. Our tour ends back in Riyadh for our farewell dinner. The intrigue and mystique of the Arabian Gulf awaits you!

Riyadh

DAY 1 ARRIVE IN DOHA, QATAR

Meet your local representative on arrival at Hamad International Airport and transfer to your hotel. Remainder of the day is at leisure, until meeting your fellow travelers, and your tour leader at the welcome dinner at the hotel this evening.

Overnight in Doha.

DAY 2 DOHA SITES

This morning we visit the Msheireb museums. This collection of museums, comprising of four different buildings, showcases not just the history of Qatar and Doha, but also family and cultural life and architectural innovation and development in the country. A short walk will take us to Souq Waqif where we will enjoy a lunch at one of the many exotic restaurants. After lunch another short walk will bring us to the Museum of Islamic Art. Located on the Doha Corniche, it is home to the largest collection of Islamic art in the world. The museum was designed by I.M. Pei (the architect behind The Louvre).

In the late afternoon we will enjoy a traditional dhow cruise around the Doha waterfront. Afterwards, we will visit the National Museum of Qatar. Dinner in our hotel in the evening.

Overnight in Doha.

DAY 3 FLIGHT TO KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT

This morning we will visit the Katara Cultural Village, where we'll see the mosque, the amphitheater and the sculptures. We'll head to The Pearl, an iconic and luxurious man-made island, where we'll enjoy a panoramic drive before heading to an early lunch. Afterwards, we transfer to the airport for a short flight to Kuwait City.

On arrival transfer and check-in to our hotel. After, take a leisurely walk along the Kuwait City Corniche. The scenic thoroughfare offers extraordinary views of the Arabian Gulf. Watch the sunset and enjoy the cool breeze. Unwind at Marina Crescent, a popular waterfront lined with restaurants and cafes serving both local and international cuisine's. Tonight we will enjoy a delightful dinner while savoring the stunning views.

Overnight in Kuwait.

DAY 4 KUWAIT CITY SIGHTSEEING

Today we have a full day tour exploring Kuwait City. We will begin with one of Kuwait's most famous landmarks, the Kuwait Towers, an iconic landmark on Kuwait's skyline.

We also visit the Tareq Rajab Museum, a private collection of the Rajab family. The museum deals with calligraphy, pottery, metalwork, glass, wood, ivory and jade carvings of the Islamic world. Early calligraphy is presented in a separate small room, showing pages from the Holy Qur'an, dating back to the first three centuries of the Islamic period. There are also displays of costumes, textiles, embroideries and jewelry of the Islamic world. We'll visit a local souk in Kuwait to wander the stalls and get a feel for everyday life and local culture. Lunch at Kuwaiti local restaurant.

We also visit the Bayt Al Othman Museum, with a vast display of popular Kuwaiti culture and history in a large traditional complex of inter-connected ancient houses and courtyards as well as a visit to admire the very photogenic dhow harbor and fish market.

Overnight in Kuwait.

Bahrain World Trade Center

DAY 5 FAILAKA ISLAND

Today we will take a ferry approximately 20 kilometres (12 miles) to the island of Failaka, a remote island in the northern Persian Gulf with a history stretching back more than 4,000 years. Its strategic location near the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers made it important throughout history. In more recent times, the island played a role during the Iraqi invasion of 1990, and evidence of that brief conflict remains visible today in the form of scattered tanks and armoured vehicles.

Our tour will explore Failaka's rich layers of history, including archaeological ruins from the Dilmun civilization and the Greek period, some of which are still under excavation. We will visit the Heritage Village, a reconstructed settlement showcasing life in Kuwait before oil, as well as the Tank Graveyard and the National Bank of Kuwait building that was never opened due to the invasion. Additional highlights include a camel farm, a Hellenistic fortress dating to the 3rd century BCE, an almost complete Bronze Age temple, and a number of war-stricken and abandoned structures across the island.

We will enjoy lunch on the island and some spare time to visit a local zoo, and horse stables before our return to Kuwait City.

Overnight in Kuwait City.

Kuwait Towers

DAY 6 FLY TO MANAMA, BAHRAIN

We will transfer to the airport to board our flight to Bahrain. Upon arrival, we'll check in to our hotel and enjoy lunch before setting out on our local excursions. Deserts are often perceived as barren and uneventful landscapes, where the passage of time is marked only by shifting sands. Bahrain's desert, however, tells a very different story. Blending the allure of Arabian Nights with rich historical sites and a touch of adventure, the Sakhir desert is one of the most engaging desert landscapes you'll experience. Our local guide will lead the way, sharing routes and stories that reveal the area's depth and intrigue.

We begin with a visit to the Royal Camel Farm, followed by a stop at Bahrain's first oil well. Later, we'll explore Riffa Fort and the A'Ali Burial Mounds, a UNESCO World Heritage site comprising more than 100,000 burial mounds dating back over 4,000 years

Doha

Bahrain Castle (UNESCO)

to the Dilmun era. Our day concludes with a visit to the Tree of Life, a 400-year-old tree standing alone in the desert without any visible source of water. Illuminated at night, its survival feels all the more mysterious.

Overnight in Manama, Bahrain.

DAY 7 BAHRAIN SIGHTSEEING

Today will be spent further exploring this small island state, beginning with a visit to the Bahrain National Museum. Here we will trace the archaeological development of the region through sculpture and ceramics, reconstructed burial mounds, Arabic calligraphy, and illuminated Korans, all of which present the different periods of Bahrain's history.

We will then visit Bahrain Fort, where the earliest dwellings are believed to date back to around 2800 BC. Over time, the site was overlaid by a series of fortified settlements, the last of which was built in the early 16th century to defend Portugal's newly acquired islands. For this reason, it is also known locally as the Portuguese Fort.

Our exploration continues with a visit to the Al Fateh Grand Mosque, Bahrain's largest mosque and an outstanding example of Islamic architecture. On the island of Muharraq, we will visit Sheikh Isa House in the old town, once home to Sheikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, the great-grandfather of the Amir. The house is a fine example of traditional 19th-century local architecture, featuring wall carvings, latticework, and a distinctive wind tower. Built 5–6 metres (16–20 feet) above the house and open on all four sides, this early form of air conditioning channels cooling breezes into the living spaces while allowing hot air to escape. Lunch will be enjoyed at a local restaurant.

No visit to Bahrain would be complete without time in the Old Souq, a lively maze of colors, sounds, and aromas. Located in the heart of the old town near the Bab al-Bahrain gateway, the souq retains its traditional street layout and division of trades. Here, everything is for sale—from textiles and gold jewelry to spices and local produce.

Overnight in Manama, Bahrain.

Al Fateh Grand Mosque

DAY 8 FLY TO RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA; ANCIENT DIRIYEH

After breakfast, we'll transfer to the airport for our flight to Riyadh. On arrival, we'll check in to our hotel with time to freshen up and relax. Later, we'll head out to experience some of Riyadh's highlights.

Our first stop will be the Kingdom Sky Bridge, located 300 metres (1,000 feet) above the city. As the tallest building in Riyadh, it offers spectacular views of the city. We'll then continue on to explore historic Diriyah, the original home of the Saudi royal family and a key site in the heart of the Arabian Peninsula.

Overnight in Riyadh.

DAY 9 FLY TO ABHA; DRIVE TO THE 900 YEAR OLD TOWN OF RIJAL ALMAA

Today we will catch a flight to the southwest of Saudi Arabia to the mountain city of Abha. From there, we'll drive along stunning mountain roads before arriving at the 900-year-old living museum of Rijal Almaa, a tentative UNESCO World Heritage site. Our hotel is a renovated historic property located directly across from scenic views of the old town. This evening, enjoy dinner followed by some free time to wander through the town center.

Overnight in Rijal Almaa.

DAY 10 RIJAL ALMAA MUSEUM

Today we will explore Rijal Almaa, a village expected to soon become a UNESCO World Heritage site. Just a one minute walk from our hotel, we'll discover this remarkable village on foot while learning about its distinctive architectural style and what life was like here 900 years ago. The stone-built buildings and narrow pathways create a wonderfully atmospheric setting. After the guided visit, you'll have time to explore on your own and soak up the charm of this picturesque town.

We'll enjoy lunch at a local home, followed by a demonstration of the traditional artwork known as Al Qatt Al Asiri. This region is also famous for its honey, and we'll stop at a local honey cottage to sample a variety of types. Time permitting, we may visit a small mosque on the outskirts of town and take in views of another abandoned ancient village nearby.

Overnight in Rijal Almaa.

DAY 11 TO AL BAHA; CAVES OF SHADA

Today we depart for Al Baha. Upon arrival, we'll check in to our accommodations before setting out to explore the Caves of Shada. Jabal Shada is a dramatic, cavernous landscape believed to date back many thousands of years. Inside the caves, drawings and engravings have been discovered that geologists believe may be the work of the Thamudites, a tribal civilization thought to have existed as early as the 8th century BC.

We'll enjoy lunch in the area, with time for further exploration during the afternoon. Later, we return to Al Baha, stopping along the way at the ancient mountain village of Dhee Ayn, beautifully illuminated at night.

Overnight in Al Baha.

DAY 12 HIKE TO ANCIENT MOUNTAIN VILLAGE OF DHEE AYN; TO JEDDAH

We will enjoy a hike to the beautiful, abandoned mountain village of Dhee Ayn, also known as the "Marble Village." Located about 30 km from Al Baha, the drive there takes us along a road with 25 tunnels and numerous switchbacks. Dee Ayn (or Thee Ain) is an ancient fortified village built near a spring (Ain). From a distance, it is an imposing sight, and up close, it offers a fascinating place to explore. The village is surrounded by trees and a stream flowing through rocky outcrops, creating stunning scenery.

Failaka Island-Kuwait
Remnants of the Iraq Kuwait War,
the tank, not our tour leader David Roth

Doha

Rijal Almaa

Dhee Ayn

Al Tayebat International City Museum

Please note that there are many stone stairs, both ascending and descending, within the village.

After our hike, we continue our drive to Jeddah, stopping for lunch in the mountain city of Taif.

Upon arrival in Jeddah we will visit the beautiful Al Taybat museum which has thousands of cultural, historical and religious artifacts as well as exhibits on the many cultural groups from Jeddah and all over Saudi Arabia. We will also enjoy a scenic drive along the Corniche before checking in to our hotel.

Overnight in Jeddah.

DAY 13 YACHT ADVENTURE ON THE RED SEA FOR LUNCH AND SNORKELING

Today we set out on a full-day yacht adventure to snorkel in the Red Sea, teeming with coral and marine life. We'll sail to our snorkeling site, with lunch served onboard, making for a leisurely and scenic day on the water.
This excursion provides a striking contrast to much of our trip, offering the chance to enjoy Saudi Arabia's stunning coastal scenery and dramatic rock formations along the western shore. It's a perfect opportunity to appreciate the underwater beauty of the Red Sea. Snorkeling equipment will be provided. After our day on the water, we return to the hotel to freshen up before heading into town for dinner.
Overnight in Jeddah.

DAY 14 JEDDAH SITES; BULLET TRAIN TO MEDINA

Today we will visit the Floating Mosque and the Formula One racetrack along the Jeddah Corniche. Afterwards, we'll explore "Old Jeddah," known for its distinctive architectural style. Walking through this historic area offers a fascinating contrast to the city's modern developments.

Later in the afternoon, we'll take a bullet train to Medina, the second holiest city in Saudi Arabia. While Mecca is off-limits to non-Muslims, Medina is open to visitors.

Upon arrival, we'll check in to our hotel and enjoy dinner.

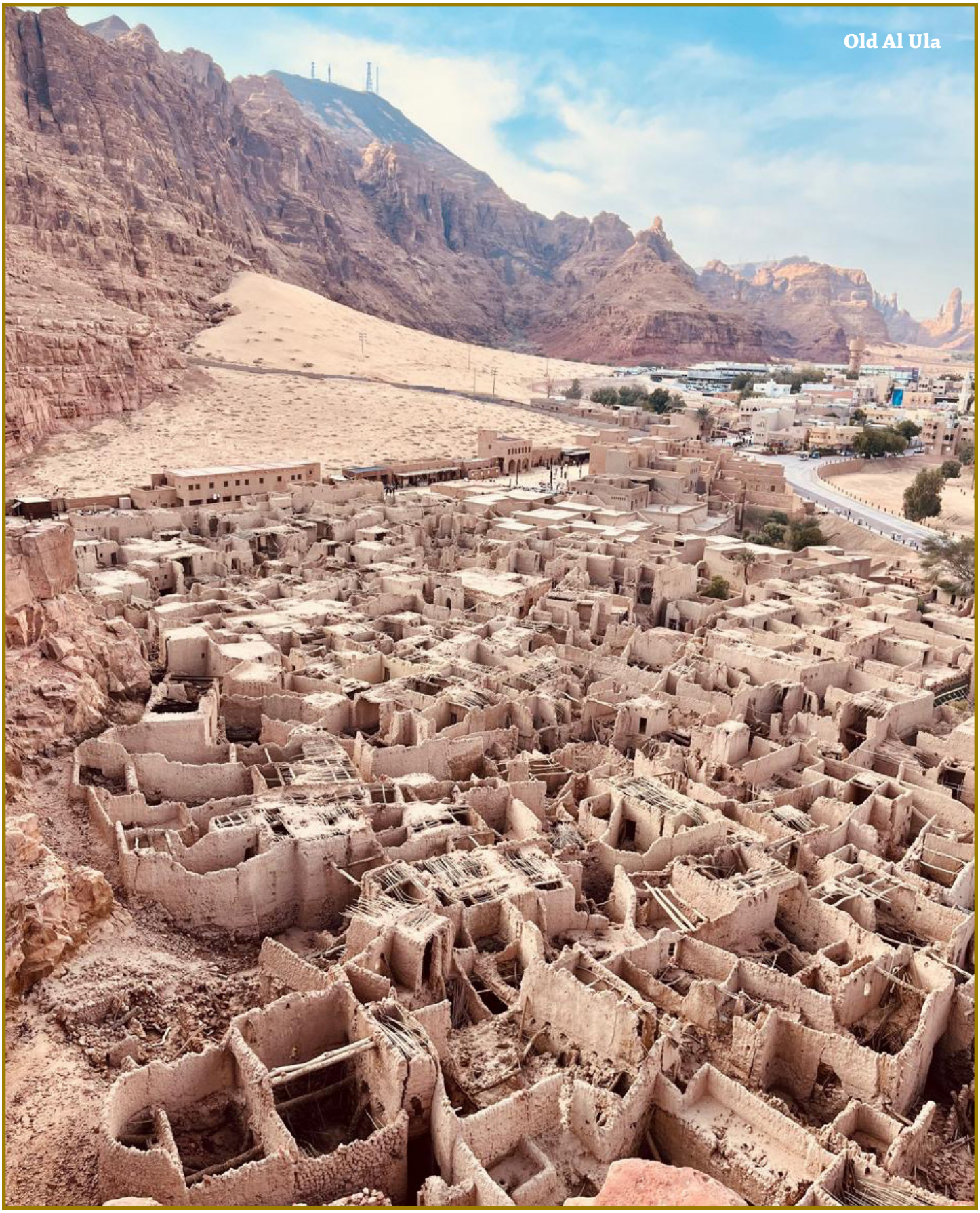
Overnight in Medina.

DAY 15 MEDINA SITES; QUBA MOSQUE - FIRST MOSQUE OF ISLAM; MASJID-E-NABAWI MOSQUE - MOHAMMED'S TOMB

Today is a full day to visit the many sites of Medina, starting with the massive and impressive Masjid-e-Nabawi. It is considered the second most sacred place in Islam. The Prophet is buried in the Sacred Chamber, directly under the green dome. The Prophet is buried along with two of his most faithful companions and the first two caliphs of Islam, Abu Bakr al-Siddiq and Umar ibn al-Khattab. The Sacred Chamber was once the house (hujra) of his wife Aisha – the house in which he was staying in at the time of his physical demise. Today, it forms part of the Masjid Nabawi complex and is arguably the most venerated tomb in the world. The graves are surrounded by several walls which have no windows or doors. Please note: Non-Muslims cannot venture inside the gates of the Prophet's Mosque so we are confined to seeing this from outside the gates. We will visit a museum with an explanation of Islam, including it's history and the prophets Islam shares with Judaism and Christianity.

We visit Quba Mosque, which is the first mosque of Islam. visitors (including non-Muslims) are welcome to go inside. There are many sites that one can see in Medina. We will see as many as we can which may include Jannat al-Baqi (cemetery), Old Railway station, Medina Bazaar, Al Fash Mosque,Mount Uhud, and Quba Castle depending on time. We will prioritize seeing the most important sites as there are too many do to all in one day.

Old Jeddah


Old Al Ula

Hegra

Hegra

Al Ula - Hegra

Al Ula - Hegra

Al Ula - Hegra

Al Ula - Hegra

Tonight we will have dinner at an outdoor restaurant with a beautiful setting.

Overnight in Medina

DAY 16 TO AL ULA (UNESCO)

After breakfast we depart Medina by coach. Our first stop is at the oasis of Khaybar and the site of the ancient Jewish mountain fortress of Qamos. Considered to be the "Masada" of Arabia, and once home to a Jewish Tribe known as the Band Nadir. This mountain site was the scene of an epic battle in the 7th century. Afterwards, we continue on to the Radwan viewpoint for a scenic view. (At this time, Khaybar is closed and off limits. We will visit this site once it is open again. In the meantime, we will visit White Mountain, an impressive dormant volcano).

We continue on to Al Ula. On arrival in Al Ula we will transfer to our hotel in a beautiful setting.

Overnight in Al Ula

DAY 17 AL ULA SITES

Today we begin our exploration of Al Ula Old Town, a place where pilgrims, travelers, and permanent settlers have gathered through the ages. Wander through the maze of remaining adobe buildings and take in views of Al Ula Castle, which dates back to the 10th century. Stroll along Old Market Street to discover a variety of shops featuring local artisans, entrepreneurs, and cafes. Guests can enjoy cultural experiences, browse handicrafts, and sample local specialty foods, all offering insight into the unique heritage of Al Ula.

Next, we visit the Hijaz Railway station (subject to public access). Al Ula has long been a hub of travel and exploration. Construction of the railway began in 1900, reaching Medina in 1908 and opening to Damascus in 1913. Due to World War I, the full planned 1,300 kilometres were never completed, but the station remains an important historical landmark.

We conclude our day at the Harrat viewpoint to enjoy sunset over the old town of Al Ula, a stunning perspective of this historic city.

Overnight in Al Ula.

DAY 18 VISIT TO MADAIN SALEH, HEGRA (UNESCO)

This morning we transfer to the Hegra, also known as Madain Saleh, or Al-Hijr, which is an archaeological site located in the area of Al Ula within Al Madinah region in the Hejaz, Saudi Arabia. A majority of the remains date from the Nabatean Kingdom. The site constitutes the Kingdom's southernmost and largest settlement after Petra, its capital.

The archaeological site of Al-Hijr (Madain Saleh) is the first World Heritage property to be inscribed in Saudi Arabia. Formerly known as Hegra, it is the largest conserved site of the civilization of the Nabataeans south of Petra in Jordan. It features well-preserved monumental tombs with decorated facades dating from the 1st century BC to the 1st century AD. The site also features some 50 inscriptions of the pre-Nabataean period and some cave drawings. Al-Hijr bears a unique testimony to the Nabataean civilization. With its 111 monumental tombs, 94 of which are decorated, and water wells, the site is an outstanding example of the Nabataeans' architectural accomplishment and hydraulic expertise.

This afternoon we enjoy a visit to Elephant Rock. This spectacular rock formation resembles an elephant with its trunk touching the ground. It is but one of the many geomorphological wonders common to this area, and an iconic landmark in Al Ula.

Overnight in Al Ula

Al Ula-Jabal Ikmal

DAY 19 TO WADI AL DISAH IN 4 X 4'S AND IT'S BREATHTAKING SCENERY! TO TABUK

Today we will enjoy our scenic drive, which takes us to the breathtaking natural beauty of Wadi Al Disah. We change vehicles and travel in 4 x 4's which is necessary to explore the stunning landscape. Wadi Al Disah is a lush oasis framed by towering cliffs. Be prepared to be overwhelmed by the surreal landscapes you will see today!

After our visit here, we will continue to Tabuk for our overnight.

Overnight in Tabuk

DAY 20 SAUDI'S GRAND CANYON; TABUK FORT

This morning, we will take an adventure to Saudi's Grand Canyon in SUV's with it's spectacular views carved over millions of years of erosion, we can enjoy some small hikes while enjoying the many great views of the canyon.

We continue back to Tabuk where we will visit the historic fort, delightful bazaar and a cultural center for some tea and to learn about the local culture.

Overnight in Tabuk

DAY 21 MOSES MOUNTAIN; TOMB OF JETHRO; SPLIT ROCK

Although controversial, many researchers believe that the real Mount Sinai is Jabal al-Lauz on the border of Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Today we will visit this mountain which many believe to be the real Mount Sinai (Moses Mountain) in the old land of Midian. We will visit the ancient site believed by some to be the burial place of Jethro. The Nabatean tombs here are impressive! We will also drive and hike to the split rock. We will learn about the local-compelling arguments as to why many believe this is the 'Land of the Exodus', in the footsteps of Moses. Any hiking today is optional.

Later in the day, we return back to Tabuk

Overnight in Tabuk

DAY 22 BAJDAH WILDLIFE RESERVE

Today we once again venture out in our 4 x 4's to Bajdah Wildlife Reserve. Today is more than just stunning landscapes as we observe magnificent desert animals such as Deer, Nubian Ibex, Arabian Oryx, Idmi Gazelle, Rhim Gazelle, and Ostriches in their natural habitat.

Overnight in Tabuk

DAY 23 TO TAYMA; 2000 YEAR OLD WELL

Our journey takes a new direction as we leave the northern route behind, venturing south before turning east. Today we arrive in the historic town of Tayma, where we'll explore its rich heritage through ancient mosques, forts, and the famous 2,000-year-old well. We will also visit Tayma Fort, also known as Qasr Al Rumman, a mud-brick fortress originally built in the 8th century, with further additions made in the 18th century.

Overnight in Tayma.

DAY 24 TO PETROGLYPHS OF JUBBAH (UNESCO); A'ARIF FORT; HA'IL SOUK

Today we drive to Jubbah, a UNESCO World Heritage site famed for its thousands of impressive petroglyphs, or "rock art." With so much to see, we will focus on the most important and striking examples.

Next, we continue to the city of Ha'il and visit A'arif Fort, a 17th-century mud-brick fortress perched on a hill overlooking the city. Afterwards, we'll explore the

Arabian Oryx

Ibex

Gazelle

Ostrich

Ha'il Souk, where local craftsmen create items such as incense burners in small, traditional shops.

Overnight in Ha'il.

DAY 25 TO BURAYDAH

This morning we depart for Buraydah. Upon arrival, we'll visit a local museum to learn about the history and culture of the region. Next, we'll explore the bustling date market, where you can see and sample a variety of dates, one of Saudi Arabia's most prized local products. We'll also visit a nearby salt lake, a striking natural feature, before heading to a traditional handicrafts market to browse locally made goods and witness artisans at work.

Overnight in Buraydah.

DAY 26 BURAYDAH - WORLD'S LARGEST CAMEL MARKET; USHAIGUR HISTORIC VILLAGE; SUNSET AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD; TO RIYADH

Today we visit the world's largest camel market. Each week, the Buraydah camel market comes alive as vendors and buyers exchange riyals for camels, sheep, goats, and goods such as saddles and blankets. Thousands of camels are bought and sold daily across a 2-square-mile area, making this likely the most unique and overwhelming camel experience of your life!

Afterwards, we will explore Ushaigur Historical Village, one of the most beautiful traditional villages in all of Saudi Arabia. Meander through its alleys and tunnels, discovering different buildings and squares from the ground, rooftops, and even from the tower, which offers spectacular views of the village and surrounding landscape.

Edge of the World

Later, we will drive to Jebel Fihrayn popularly known as "the Edge of the World", located 120km (75mi) from Riyadh. Standing atop the 1,000-foot high escarpment at Jabal Fihrayn, you find stretching before you an uninterrupted view of the horizon in all directions, leaving you with the impression that you are, indeed, standing at the very edge of the world. The effect on one's body and mind and soul is exhilarating. These cliffs rise dramatically from the desert, stretching toward the sky like a great natural wall. When you stand atop them and looking toward the horizon, you have a prime view of the sky as it seems to melt into the barren earth.

Overnight in Riyadh.

DAY 27 RIYADH SITES; FAREWELL DINNER

This morning, after breakfast, we visit Riyadh's Souq Al-Zal, a shopping trip through time. The market dates back to 1901, to the beginnings of modern Saudi Arabia, and sits just a stone's throw from the Masmak Fortress; the site where, in 1902, a young Ibn Saud and a small band of his trusted soldiers crept up after dawn prayers, captured the governor, and declared the return of the Al Saud family. A treasure trove of traditional Eastern artifacts, the souq is one of Riyadh's major tourist attractions. The word "zal" means "carpet" or "floor rug," referencing the patterned textiles so central to Middle Eastern imagery.

Next, we visit the National Museum of Saudi Arabia, a centerpiece of the King Abdulaziz Historical Center. This impressive museum showcases the history of Saudi Arabia, the royal family, and the formation of the kingdom. Highlights include examples of Arabian and Islamic art and architecture, a prehistoric elephant skeleton, a huge meteor from the Empty Quarter, rock graffiti from the Hejaz region dating back to the pre-Islamic era, a copy of the Rosetta Stone, and a replica of the Mada'in Saleh rock-cut tombs.

After exploring the museum, we enjoy a walk through the outdoor gardens of the National Museum Park. We then continue to the Hall of King Abdulaziz, which houses an extensive collection of historic cars once owned by the King. Our final stop today is Murabba Palace, one of the most important palaces built by King Abdulaziz to accommodate his family. Constructed in the traditional Najdi style using only local materials, it offers a fascinating glimpse into Saudi architectural heritage.

Tonight, we gather for a farewell dinner and reminisce about our journey through Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia.

Overnight in Riyadh.

DAY 28 DEPART RIYADH

Today is the conclusion of our Arabian Gulf Adventure as we transfer to the airport for our flights home.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. HOW BIG ARE THE GROUPS?

Each group is limited to 16 participants. Small groups are an important ingredient in adventure travel. They allow for more interaction and more personalized service throughout the itinerary.

2. WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE?

All accommodations throughout; all meals, starting with dinner on day 1 and finishing with breakfast on departure day (i.e. the last day of the ElderTreks tour); bottled drinking water throughout the trip; all internal transportation; airport transfers on day 1 and departure day (i.e. the last day of the ElderTreks tour); all day trips and entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary; tips for hotels (porterage), bus driver, restaurants, national guides, and spot guides; services of a trip leader.

3. WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE?

International flights, tips to ElderTreks tour leader, alcoholic drinks, visa's and travel insurance.

4. ARE THESE EDUCATIONAL TOURS?

Yes, in the broadest sense of the word, "educational". We visit museums, national parks and reserves and have talks and discussions on many aspects of history, culture and nature. But this is only a portion of the educational experience. We believe that it is equally educational to meet local people on a non-commercial basis, and even try to learn a few words in the native language. Sometimes the most "educational" moments are wandering through the streets of a mountain village.

5. HOW DO WE TRAVEL DURING THE TOUR?

All local transportation is included in the land price of the trip, as well as internal flights. The majority of our travel is by bus or coaster, 4 wheel drives and by train. We will have 3 opportunities to enjoy a tour by traditional dhow, ferry and a yacht/catamaran for snorkeling. We may also ride camels at some point during the trip (optional of course).

6. WHAT ARE OUR ACCOMMODATIONS LIKE?

We stay in comfortable accommodations with private bath. One night in the desert in either lodge rooms with private bath or in tents with cushion/mattress and shared toilette and bathing facilities.

7. WHAT ABOUT THE WEATHER?

The winter months are the best time to visit the Arabian Gulf Countries with cooler average daytime highs of 83°F-77°F (28°C-25°C). In the interior and at nighttime, temperatures could drop to 65°F-55°F (18°C – 12°C).

8. WHEN IS PAYMENT DUE?

A non-refundable deposit of $500 USD (plus insurance if you require it) is due at time of booking and will reserve your place on the tour. Payment of the full land cost is due 120 days before departure. Cancellation charges are applicable and are outlined in the "Terms and Conditions" section of our brochure.

9. IS MEDICAL INSURANCE REQUIRED?

Insurance coverage is not included in the cost of your trip. Please note that medical insurance is not required for this adventure but is recommended. ElderTreks offers comprehensive travel insurance with Manulife for Canadian guests, and John Hancock for American guests. Please CLICK HERE to view and purchase your insurance policy today. If you are purchasing insurance elsewhere, please ensure you provide the details to ElderTreks as soon as possible.

10. WHAT SHOULD I TAKE ON THE TOUR?

There is a detailed "What to Take" list in our Trip Kit, which we will send to you after you have booked the trip.

11. WHAT MEALS ARE INCLUDED?

All meals during the itinerary are included, starting with dinner on day 1 and finishing with breakfast on departure day. We eat a variety of local and international foods prepared in a wide range of settings. In many cases, we simply order a number of dishes and share, allowing you to sample new foods and decide what you enjoy best.

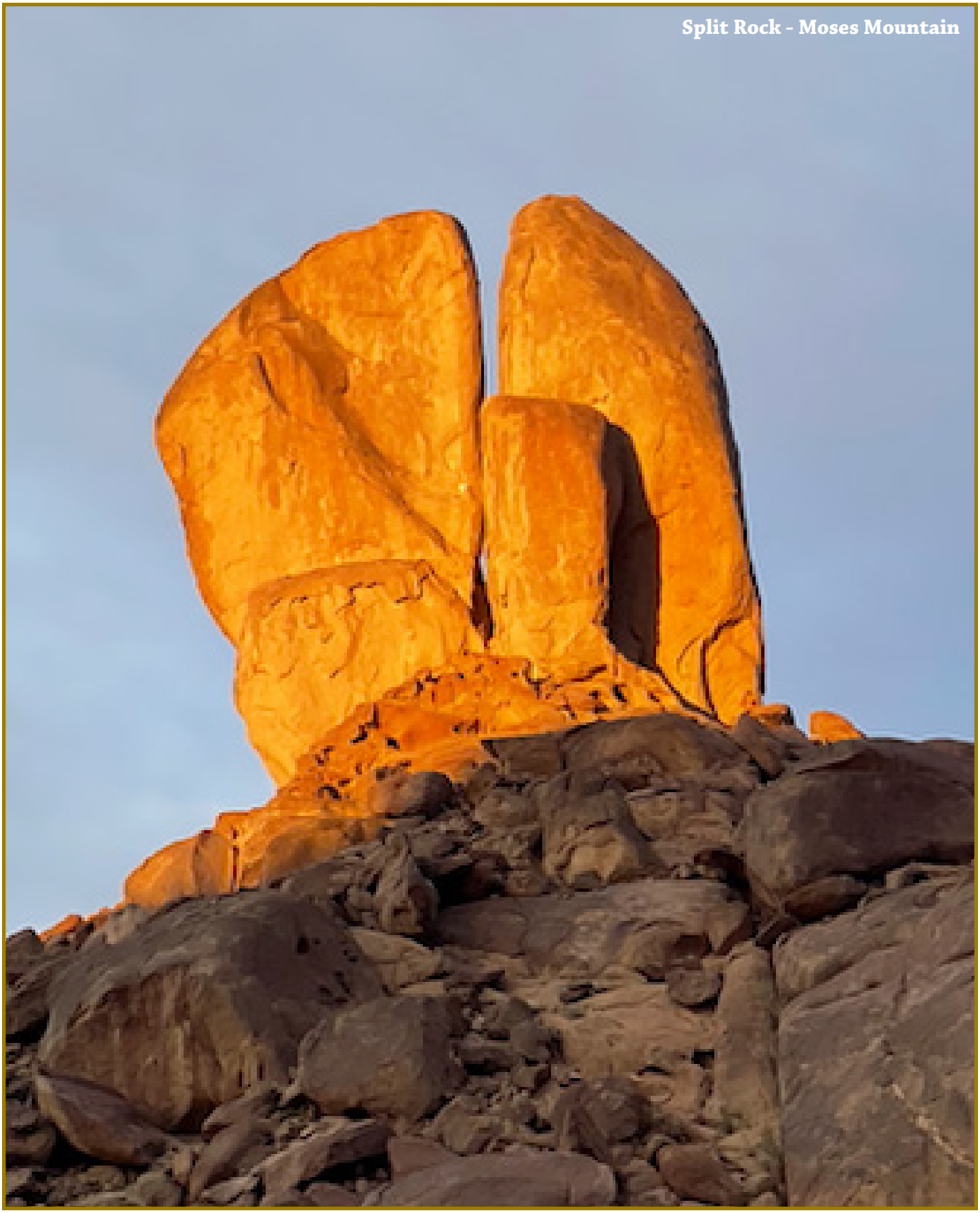
12. CAN YOU ARRANGE MY FLIGHTS?

We would be happy to take care of your air arrangements. ElderTreks offers personalized flight itineraries — not group flights. Stop over en route, come in a few days early, or extend your stay. Call us for a customized itinerary.

13. WHAT IF I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION?

If you have any further questions about the adventure, please call our office for more details. A Trip Specialist will be happy to answer your questions. A Trip Kit containing further details on the destination will be sent to you once you have booked the trip.

Elephant Rock


Split Rock - Moses Mountain

Edge of the World