

ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

January 9-25, 2024
(17 days | 16 guests)
with archaeologist Barbara A. Porter



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

Archaeology-focused tours for the curious to the connoisseur

Archaeological Institute of America Lecturer & Host



Barbara A. Porter is an independent scholar who lives in Washington D.C. She resided in Jordan from 2006 to 2020 when she was the Director of the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR, now called

the American Center of Research). In this position, she was integrally involved with the heritage of Jordan and particularly Petra, the ancient capital of the Nabataeans. Barbara's interest in the archaeology of the Middle East started when she lived in Lebanon with her family from 1965 to 1970. She received her A.B. from Bryn Mawr College and her graduate degrees (M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.) from Columbia University. From 1978 to 1983, she was on the curatorial staff of the Egyptian Department at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and from 1983 to 1986 she was an assistant curator in Ancient Near Eastern art there. In the ten years before she moved to Jordan, Barbara led tours from Algeria to Iran for a number of organizations, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Smithsonian. In her years as ACOR Director, she was involved in films on Petra and responsible for the publication of several major monographs on the site. Since leaving Jordan in 2020, she has led several tours to Saudi Arabia and many of her photos are included in this brochure.

(Cover): Dumat al Jandal Mosque (Sakaka); right (from top) Unayzah Women's Market, Fayd, Ushaiger

© Barbara A. Porter Photos



Join archaeologist Barbara A. Porter and a small group of fellow travelers for this in-depth travel experience in Saudi Arabia. This will be Dr. Porter's fourth tour of the country, and you will also be accompanied by local guides and a tour manager.

This tour opportunity allows us to see, experience, and learn about Saudi Arabia's long history and rich culture, and how both were influenced by its dramatic geography; and to become familiar with some of the archaeological research and sites that are being uncovered and shared with the world. Following historic trade and pilgrimage routes, we will cross vast deserts, see irrigated lands teeming with agriculture, and enjoy scenic views with striking mountains and landscapes along the way.

Highlights:

- Visit four of the country's six UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the spectacular petroglyphs at Jubbah; the stunning, carved stone, Nabataean tombs at Hegra (Madain Saleh); Al Balad, the historic center of the city of Jeddah; and the Al Turaif District of Diriyah, whose restored citadel and palaces are now an open-air museum.
- Marvel at the 6,000-year-old Rajajil Standing Stones; the Sakaka Rock Carvings, which were just discovered in 2018; and the necropolis of Mughair Shuwayb at Madyan, which was built into the hillside by the ancient Nabataeans.
- Wander the alleys and streets of Ushaiger Heritage Village, with Ushaiger itself being one of the oldest settlements in the region and often considered Saudi Arabia's most beautiful village.
- Stroll through Al Ula's Old Town, whose town walls encircle some 900 mudbrick homes, 400 shops, a restored Friday Mosque, and the 10th-century Musa bin Nusayr Castle.
- Experience the holy city of Medina, a major Islamic pilgrimage site; and marvel at the capital city of Riyadh, which transformed from a mud-walled town to a metropolis of 7+ million people in the span of a century.
- Explore bustling markets such as the Unayzah Women's Market (where the shopkeepers are all women, but all customers are welcome); Buraydah's camel market, perhaps the largest camel market in the world; and Riyadh's Dira Souq, where we learn about traditional Saudi clothing.

ITINERARY

(B)=Breakfast, (L)=Lunch, (D)=Dinner

Tuesday, January 9, 2024: Depart home

Wednesday, January 10: Arrive Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Upon arrival in Riyadh at King Khalid International Airport (RUH), clear Saudi customs and immigration. You will be transferred to our hotel, and have the balance of the day at leisure. *Overnight at the 4-star [Centro Olaya](#) for two nights.*

Thursday, January 11: Riyadh city tour: National Museum, Masmak Fortress, Dira Souq | Diriyah | Riyadh | Welcome dinner

After breakfast at our hotel, gather for an introductory meeting and then set out with our local guide to explore the city. Riyadh, meaning “The Gardens” in Arabic, is Saudi Arabia’s capital and primary business hub. Over the past century, the city has transformed from a mud-walled town of 20,000 inhabitants into one of the Middle East’s great metropolises, with a population now numbering more than 7.6 million. Much of the traditional architecture once found in Riyadh has been lost to development, but traces still remain, especially around Masmak Fort and Diriyah (a historic town just outside the city limits that we might visit later today). After a view of the exterior of the 99-story Kingdom Centre, Riyadh’s most iconic skyscraper, we visit the National Museum of Saudi Arabia, featuring eight halls focusing on topics such as pre-Islamic Arabia, the Prophet Muhammad, the Hajj pilgrimage, and the history of the modern Saudi state. Next we drive to Masmak Fortress, built in 1865 to serve as a military garrison for the army of the House of Rasheed, the main rivals of the Al Sauds. It was captured by King Abdulaziz Ibn Saud in 1902, marking the birth of the Third Saudi Kingdom, which continues to rule today.

After lunch at a local restaurant we visit the Dira Souq, where we will be introduced to traditional Saudi clothing, including how the pieces are made and the occasions for which each piece is suitable. If it is open to visitors at the time, we will drive to Diriyah, a historic town in Riyadh’s northwestern outskirts. Its central Al Turaif District, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was the original seat of power of the Al Saud dynasty. The citadel and surrounding palaces, built in the Najdi architectural style characteristic of the central Arabian Peninsula, have undergone an extensive restoration, transforming them into an open-air museum. In Riyadh, we gather for a welcome dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

Friday, January 12: Ushaiger | Unayzah Women’s Market | Buraydah

This morning we set out on a scenic drive to Buraydah, stopping along the way in Ushaiger. Located about 2.5 hours west of Riyadh, Ushaiger is one of the oldest settlements in a desert region dotted with oases, and it is frequently cited as Saudi Arabia’s most beautiful village. The slow-paced, small-town way of life here has remained much the same for centuries, making Ushaiger a window into the past—and a striking contrast to Riyadh. Preserved and protected away from the more modern side of town, the Ushaiger Heritage Village is the star attraction here. Wander the alleys and streets of the well-preserved village, marveling at the traditional architecture, and have a chance to meet local villagers along the way. After lunch at a local restaurant we continue on to Unayzah, an agricultural area that produces wheat and barley of various strains, as well as grapes, grapefruits, lemons, leeks, mandarins, oranges, pomegranates, and dates. Experience firsthand its friendly, welcoming population as you wander the alleys of the Unayzah



Diriyah



Masmak Fort, Riyadh



Ushaiger



Buraydah Camel Market



© Barbara A. Porter

Elephant Rock (Jebel al Fil)

Women's Market, featuring handicrafts, handspun wool textiles, spices, tea, and sweets. The shopkeepers here are all women, but all customers are welcome. We continue on to Buraydah, which was historically an oasis town famous for its fruit. Today, agriculture is still important to the city, with wheat and citrus both major crops. Buraydah is also a center of trade for two quintessential Arabian commodities: dates and camels. Check-in to our hotel and then gather for dinner. *Overnight at the 4-star [Radisson Blu Buraydah](#).* (B,L,D)

Saturday, January 13: Buraydah: Camel market | Fayd | Hail

Enjoy an early morning visit to Buraydah's camel market, perhaps the largest on Earth, featuring thousands of camels as well as goats and sheep. Stroll through, admiring the animals, marketgoers, and traditions on display. Next we head northwest across the desert to Hail, stopping along the way at Fayd. A major archaeological site located at the halfway point between Baghdad and Mecca, Fayd was for over 500 years perhaps the most important oasis on the major pilgrimage route in the Muslim world. It has a massive citadel, cisterns where pilgrims replenished their water supplies, a mosque, and many houses and shops. Also on our drive we will see the Shammar Mountains, comprising two imposing ranges in the deserts between Buraydah and Hail, which make for a spectacular sight due to their extreme ruggedness and the contrast they provide to the flat deserts around them. Arrive in Hail, an agricultural city with a population of approximately 600,000. The wheat produced in surrounding irrigated lands is important to the kingdom and a significant source of revenue for the city. In times past, Hail was a major rest stop and trading center for pilgrims on the way to Mecca. Check-in to our hotel, and then gather for dinner. Schedule permitting, we may be joined at dinner by a local guest with archaeological connections. *Overnight at the 5-star [Millennium Hotel](#).* (B,L,D)

Sunday, January 14: Jubbah | Sakaka

This morning we drive overland to Sakaka, stopping along the way in Jubbah to view its spectacular prehistoric petroglyphs, which are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Large sandstone outcroppings are covered with carved images depicting more than 4,000 human and animal figures, dating as far back as 6000 B.C. They are astonishing both for their skillful execution—including the use of perspective—and for the scenes they portray. One notable phenomenon they reveal is the range of wildlife that flourished in the wetter climate of the time. The area was the site of a lake that attracted lion, ibex, gazelle, camel, wolf, and auroch (wild ancestor of domesticated cattle) of ancient times. After lunch, we drive through Al Nufud Al Kabir, also known as Al Nefud, one of the Arabian Peninsula's most picturesque deserts. Its great crescents of red sand occupy a giant oval depression 180 miles long and 140 miles wide. Arrive in Sakaka, just north of Al Nefud and just south of the Iraqi and Jordanian borders. Olives and dates are grown around the town, but the main highlights here are the archaeological sites surrounding it, many of which we will visit over the next two days. Check-in to our hotel, and then gather for dinner. *Overnight at the 3-star [Al Nusl Hotel](#) for two nights.* (B,L,D)

"We had researched well over 20 companies and individual tours before selecting this one from AIA. We don't think we could have made a better selection."

- James & Linda, Michigan



© Barbara A. Porter

Jubbah petroglyphs



Musa bin Nusayr Castle, Al Ula



© Barbara A. Porter

Well, Tayma

*"[A] trip of a lifetime.
Thank you for this
incredible experience."*

- Linda, Vermont

Monday, January 15: Sakaka's environs: Rajajil Standing Stones, Sakaka Rock Carvings, Majidia Horse Farm | Sakaka

Spend the day exploring the archaeological sites around Sakaka, beginning with the Rajajil Standing Stones, where 6,000 years ago a group of people inhabiting the Arabian Peninsula erected a series of approximately 50 heavy stone columns. The groups of stones are arranged in a roughly circular pattern and, while their original purpose and appearance have been lost to time, it is likely they were used in religious ceremonies of some sort. After lunch at a local restaurant we continue on to the Sakaka Rock Carvings, ancient carvings in sandstone rocks that were discovered in 2018 by researchers. Our last visit of the day is to the Majidia Horse Farm to learn more about Saudi equestrianism and the role of horses in local culture. Though famous for its camels, Saudi Arabia also has a long history of horsemanship and horses are a hugely important animal here. Return to our hotel in Sakaka and gather for dinner. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, January 16: Sakaka's environs: Za'abal Castle, Dumat al Jandal | Tabuk

Explore more of the history around Sakaka before we head overland to Tabuk. Za'abal Castle is scenically perched atop a rocky hill just outside of Sakaka. Most of the castle dates to around 400 years ago, but the site has been used since at least Nabataean times, millennia ago. Date palms and old neighborhoods ring the castle. Dumat al Jandal is a series of ruins surrounding an oasis in the desert not far from Sakaka. There is evidence of settlements here stretching back as far as 1000 B.C. A few of the main sights here include the 7th-century Umar Mosque, the imposing Marid Castle, and the historical neighborhood known as the Al Dar'i Quarter. The latter is a relatively well-preserved example of an Arabian town's residential areas in the 15th century. After lunch at a local restaurant we continue on to the city of Tabuk, not far from the Jordanian border in the far northwest of Saudi Arabia. Its northerly location gives the city some of Saudi Arabia's coolest winters, and it occasionally even snows in the nearby mountains. The city played an important role in the early Islamic era, and later on it served as an important stop on the Ottoman Hejaz Railway. Check-in to our hotel, and then gather for dinner.

Overnight at the 4-star [Swiss Inn Tabuk](#). (B,L,D)

Wednesday, January 17: Tabuk Castle | Hisma | Sharma

This morning we visit a site in Tabuk before heading toward the Neom region, stopping off at Hisma along the way. The 16th-century Tabuk Castle is one of the main highlights of the city, and it has been preserved and is now a museum open to the public. We continue on to Hisma, admiring its beautiful, monumental landscapes that are composed of sandstone and granite massifs. The area has been inhabited by humans for millennia, a fact attested to by the many prehistoric and early Islamic-period petroglyphs that can be found on the rock walls. Drive onward to Sharma and check-in to our resort, where we gather later for dinner. *Overnight at the 4-star [Royal Tulip Sharma Resort](#). (B,L,D)*

Thursday, January 18: Madyan & Mughair Shuwayb | Ras Al Sheikh Hameed | Tabuk

Along the western shore of Tabuk Province is Madyan, an ancient region with a main city of the same name where, according to the Quran and the Bible, Moses lived in exile for 10 years. Madyan is also noteworthy for at one point being occupied by the ancient Nabataeans, who



Za'abal Castle, Sakaka



Maraya Cultural Center, Al Ula



Dar al Medina Museum, Medina

"I liked that I did not have to worry about anything during the trip. Even when unforeseen events occurred, the tour moved on without a hitch."

- Dean, Washington

built a necropolis, known as Mughair Shuwayb, into a hillside. It is a marvel, with sophisticated architectural elements set in a novel location in the town called al Bad'a within the Neom region project. Continue on to Ras Al Sheikh Hameed, a sandy cape which lies at the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba, at the Straits of Tiran. Aside from the natural beauty and interesting geography, the beach here is also noteworthy for the rusting wreckage of a PBY Catalina (an American patrol plane). In 1960, the plane landed on the beach here, piloted by an American taking his family on a world tour. The family survived and made it out via Jeddah, but their aircraft did not. After lunch at a local restaurant we head back to Tabuk and check-in to our hotel, where we gather later for dinner. *Overnight at the 4-star [Swiss Inn Tabuk](#). (B,L,D)*

Friday, January 19: Tayma | Al Ula | Harrat Al Uwayrid | Al Ula

Set out this morning toward Al Ula, the jewel of Saudi Arabia, stopping at Tayma along the way. The ancient oasis city of Tayma is located on the edge of Al Nufud Al Kabir Desert. Once an important stop on the trade route from the western Arabian coast to the Nile Valley, Tayma has been inhabited since the Bronze Age and has produced significant archaeological finds, including Egyptian hieroglyphs and pre-Islamic palaces. After lunch we continue on to the town of Al Ula, with a present-day population of some 5,500, which has been inhabited for the last 7,000 years as evidenced by carvings found in and around the area. In 2017 the Royal Commission for Al Ula was established by the Saudi government with the goals of investigating, preserving, and developing the many archaeological sites in the area. In the years since, the infrastructure in Al Ula has developed rapidly, allowing travelers to more easily see sites that were until recently practically inaccessible. This evening we head up to volcanic Harrat Al Uwayrid, the region's highest point, which provides a spectacular view of the Al Ula and Dedan oases and the surrounding landscape. The black rocks at the top and the views out over the oases are at their most spectacular as the sun is setting. Return to our hotel in Al Ula and gather for dinner. *Overnight at the 4-star [Shaden Resort](#) for three nights. (B,L,D)*

Saturday, January 20: Hegra | Dadan | Jebel IkmaH Inscriptions | Elephant Rock | Dinner at Maraya Social | Al Ula

Spend a full day exploring the area around Al Ula. From the 2nd century B.C. until Roman conquest in A.D. 106, Hegra (also known as Madain Saleh) was the southernmost city of the Nabataean Kingdom and a thriving center of trade. Like Jordan's famous Nabataean capital of Petra to the north, it was and remains a site of stunning, carved-stone tombs. The more than 100 rock-cut tombs here are fewer in number than what was found in Petra, but by and large they are in better condition and, unlike at Petra, many have inscriptions, providing rare clues about Nabataean life. Hegra was the first location in Saudi Arabia to be designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, but it has only recently become readily accessible to international travelers.

After lunch, we continue on to the ancient city of Dadan, built nearly 3,000 years ago. Its most notable features are the Lion Tombs, hewn from rock high above the desert floor, a remarkable feat even with modern equipment. Carved lions give the tombs their modern names. We visit the nearby gorge at Jebel IkmaH, whose steep walls have been used by locals for thousands of years to write inscriptions in various languages, including Dadanitic, Aramaic, and Thamudic. Some are carved from the stone and others are etched as petroglyphs. The inscriptions have not all been translated, but it is clear that some are as simple as names, akin to ancient graffiti, while others are notes left for travelers and even prayers. View Elephant Rock (Jebel al Fil, in Arabic), an immense, naturally formed, elephant-shaped rock in the desert near Al Ula. Dinner this evening is at Maraya Social, located on the rooftop of the stunning, mirrored Maraya Cultural Center. The region's top dining option, it features locally sourced produce and often also a celebrity chef. (B,L,D)

Sunday, January 21: Al Ula: Old Town

This morning we explore Al Ula's Old Town, which thrived as a stop on the pilgrimage route from Damascus to Mecca from the 12th century well into the 20th. Remnants of some 900 mudbrick homes and 400 shops stand within the town's walls, along with a restored Friday mosque where it is believed the Prophet Muhammad once prayed. Towering above it all is Musa bin Nusayr Castle, Al Ula's oldest surviving building, dating from the 10th century. After lunch at a local restaurant, we will either have time at leisure for independent exploration or, schedules permitting, we may have a special meeting or site visit. Gather this evening for dinner at our resort. (B,L,D)

Monday, January 22: Medina: Dar al Medina Museum, Mount Uhud

Set out this morning on a drive to Medina that will take about four hours. The holy city of Medina is a major Islamic pilgrimage site, visited alongside Mecca on the hajj pilgrimage that all Muslims aspire to make. The heart of the city is open only to Muslims, but the power of the place is tangible everywhere. Pilgrims flock to the city, filling scores of high-rise hotels that dominate the downtown skyline. After lunch, we will set out to see Masjid Al Nabawi (Prophet's Mosque), from the exterior only and from a distance. Only Muslims may enter the mosque, but it can be viewed from vantage points across the city. The Mosque houses the tomb of the Prophet Muhammad and can hold as many as a million occupants. Its ten towering minarets are conspicuous throughout Medina—particularly at night, when the mosque is aglow in light. Visit the Dar al Medina Museum, which documents the archaeology, culture, and heritage of the city that stretches back thousands of years. Stop also at Mount Uhud, on the outskirts of the city, which provides an overview of the region and was the site of the Battle of Uhud, a critical event in Islamic history. Return to our hotel and then gather for dinner. *Overnight at the 4-star [Le Méridien Medina](#).* (B,L,D)

Tuesday, January 23: High-Speed Rail to Jeddah | Jeddah: Jeddah Corniche

Transfer to the railway station this morning for a two-hour trip to Jeddah via Saudi Arabia's new high-speed train. Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel to check-in and enjoy a lunch of traditional Saudi favorites before some introductory touring of Jeddah in the afternoon. Jeddah Corniche is a long stretch of coast developed as a recreational area, with walkways, parks, swimming bays, playgrounds, sculpture parks, and cafés. Located along the Jeddah Corniche, King Fahd's Fountain is the tallest fountain in the world. Originally built in the 1980s with a more modestly sized jet, the fountain in its current form reaches a height of over 800 feet and pumps saltwater from the adjacent Red Sea. Enjoy the balance of the day and dinner at leisure. *Overnight at the 4-star [Centro Shaheen Jeddah](#) hotel for two nights.* (B,L)

Wednesday, January 24: Jeddah: Abdul Raouf Khalil Museum, walking tour of Al Balad, Gabel Street Souq | Farewell dinner

Spend our final day in Saudi Arabia exploring Jeddah, beginning with the Abdul Raouf Khalil Museum that is housed in a striking structure incorporating several styles of traditional architecture. Four floors of exhibits include replicas of typical domestic rooms from throughout Arabia; a scale model depicting the pilgrimage route to Mecca; and extensive collections of art, furniture, manuscripts, clothing, and more. Take a walking tour through Jeddah's historic center, Al Balad, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Walk past hidden galleries and classic bazaars, appreciating how much of the architecture preserves the old Hejazi style, striking a contrast with the glitzier areas of the new town. Explore the Gabel Street Souq, a traditional market in the bustling heart of the old town. Vendors sell all sorts of local and regional produce, including spices, dates, handicrafts, honey, gold, and more. You will have time for lunch on your own and to explore, shop, rest, or pack. This evening we gather for a farewell dinner. (B,D)

Thursday, January 25: Fly home

Transfer to Jeddah's King Abdulaziz International Airport (JED) for your flights homeward. (B)



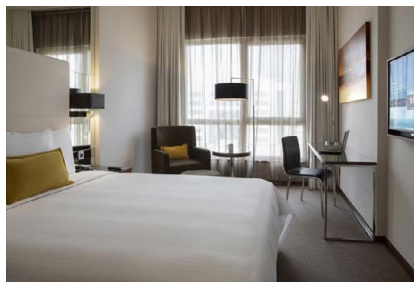
Old Town handicrafts, Al Ula

© Barbara A. Porter

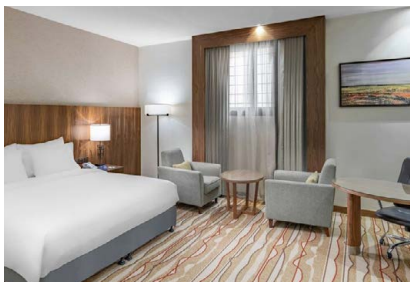
THE AIA & AIA TOURS

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. The AIA seeks to educate people of all ages about the significance of archaeological discovery. For more than a century the AIA has been dedicated to the encouragement and support of archaeological research and publication, and to the protection of the world's archaeological resources and cultural heritage. By traveling on an AIA Tour you directly support the AIA while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA's network of scholars and worldwide contacts.

ACCOMMODATIONS



Riyadh: *Two nights at the 4-star*
[Centro Olaya](#)



Buraydah: *One night at the 4-star*
[Radisson Blu Buraydah](#)



Hail: *One night at the 5-star*
[Millennium Hotel](#)



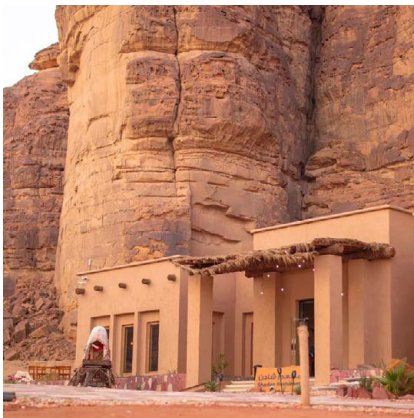
Sakaka: *Two nights at the 3-star*
[Al Nusal Hotel](#)



Tabuk: *Two nights total at the 4-star*
[Swiss Inn Tabuk](#)



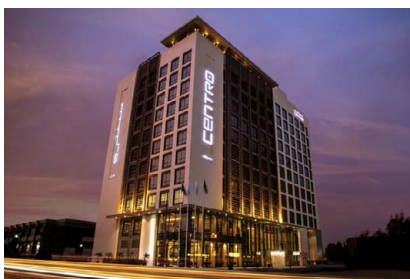
Sharma: *One night at the 4-star*
[Royal Tulip Sharma Resort](#)



Al Ula: *Three nights at the 4-star*
[Shaden Resort](#)



Medina: *One night at the 4-star*
[Le Méridien Medina](#)



Jeddah: *Two nights at the 4-star*
[Centro Shaheen Jeddah](#)

WHAT TO EXPECT



ACTIVE: Must be able to walk three or more miles per day on mostly uneven terrain, and up and down inclines and steps.

This program is strenuous, and you must be in good physical health to participate due to the daily walking involved, steps at many of the sites, length of some bus rides, and overall infrastructure shortcomings. To reap the full rewards of this adventure, travelers must be able to walk at least several miles a day, keeping up with the group. All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions. Participants who are not able to walk or stand unassisted for extended periods are kindly advised not to join this tour. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Sponsors/Operator, local staff, and host country laws. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested, and additional costs may apply. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand, and discuss whether or not the program is appropriate for you.

Flexibility, a sense of humor, a hearty spirit, enjoyment of group travel, and a willingness to accept cultural differences are essential components to the full appreciation of this trip. Local standards of amenities and customer service may not be equal to Western standards, and an extra supply of understanding will come in handy. Accommodations are chosen for their comfort and locations, but in some locations they are very limited. The majority of hotel development pre-dates Saudi Arabia's tourism opening in 2019, and hotels may be located next to very busy roads, making exploration on foot of the neighborhood's limited offerings challenging. Uber and taxis are available. Itinerary changes should be expected, as we explore rarely visited corners of this huge country, and sites may be closed by the Saudi authorities without notice. Your tour manager will keep you updated regarding any changes, in advance whenever possible, and will handle modifications with aplomb and grace, so we ask that all participants receive them in the same manner. During excursions, the availability of Western-style toilets is unreliable in Saudi Arabia. Many public toilets at museums, restaurants, etc. are squat toilets and handrails, in general, may be inadequate. Please be aware that possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is illegal in Saudi Arabia for residents and tourists alike. Modest attire is required on tour, and further information about this will be provided to participants in pre-trip documents.

In January, the weather is pleasant and we are likely to see a wide range of temperatures during our travels. Average daytime temperatures will range from the mid-50s F to the low 80s F depending on our location. Most evening temperatures will be in the 50s F, however in some areas they may dip to the low 40s F. There is a slight possibility of rain, albeit unlikely at the time of our visit, and a chance of snow and/or lower temperatures around Tabuk. *Complete pre-departure details, including up-to-date COVID-related protocols, will be sent to participants.*



Abdul Raouf Khalil Museum, Jeddah



Rajajil Standing Stones



Jeddah

Tour Prices per person (15 nights)

Double Occupancy (12-16 participants)\$12,495

Double Occupancy (10-11 participants)\$12,995

Single Supplement (limited availability)\$2,295

A single supplement will be charged when requested or required.

With fewer than 10 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.

Prices Include:

- **AIA lecturer/host Barbara A. Porter**, plus a professional tour manager and local guides
- **Fifteen nights' accommodations** in best available, 4- and 5-star hotels and one comfortable, ideally located 3-star hotel as indicated in the itinerary
- **Breakfast daily, 13 lunches, and 13 dinners**, as noted in the itinerary (with water, tea, and coffee), including special welcome and farewell dinners
- **Group airport transfers** on program arrival and departure dates
- **Transportation** by private motor coach, 4x4 vehicles, and high-speed train as per itinerary, with bottled water
- **All sightseeing, entrance fees, and cultural events** as per itinerary
- **Gratuities** to drivers, local guides, waiters for included meals, and tour manager
- **Baggage handling** at hotels and airports where available
- Complete **pre-departure materials** including a suggested reading/media guide, luggage tags, and name badge

Flights and Transfers

Airfare from/to home is not included in the tour price. Group airport transfers on arrival in Riyadh at King Khalid International Airport (RUH) and for departure from Jeddah's King Abdulaziz International Airport (JED), on program dates, are included (times TBD). Please contact MIR Corp. at 206-696-7052 or by email at dmitry@mircorp.com for assistance with making your flight arrangements. If you choose to arrange your flights independently, please check with AIA Tours before booking non-refundable airline tickets. Your flight itinerary must be provided to our office prior to departure. *We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.*

Prices Do Not Include: Airfare from/to home; all airport fees and departure taxes; independent transfers; passport and visa fees; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; emergency evacuation costs; transportation of excess baggage; meals or beverages other than indicated; personal tips; items of a personal nature, such as medical expenses, laundry, taxi, telephone, and fax charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour; other items not expressly listed as included.

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to "EOS AIA-SaudiArabia1/24." Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be by check, ACH transfer, or wire transfer only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. By submitting your deposit, you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure or elsewhere published.

Participant Cancellation Fees: All requests by participants for cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Cancellations received at least 180 days (July 13, 2023) prior to departure are fully refunded. Cancellations received from 179 days through 90 days (October 11, 2023) prior to departure are refunded less a cancellation fee of \$250 per person. Cancellations received from 89 through 67 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received 66 days or less prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour cost. *For this and other reasons, participants are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. Information will be provided with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.*

Note: Prices are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of publication and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, and the price of fuel, services, and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices.

Prices, itinerary, accommodations, and leader are subject to change. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate nor to participants who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions will be sent upon confirmation or upon request, and can be viewed online at www.aiatours.org.

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For questions, and to reserve your space, please contact AIA Tours at:

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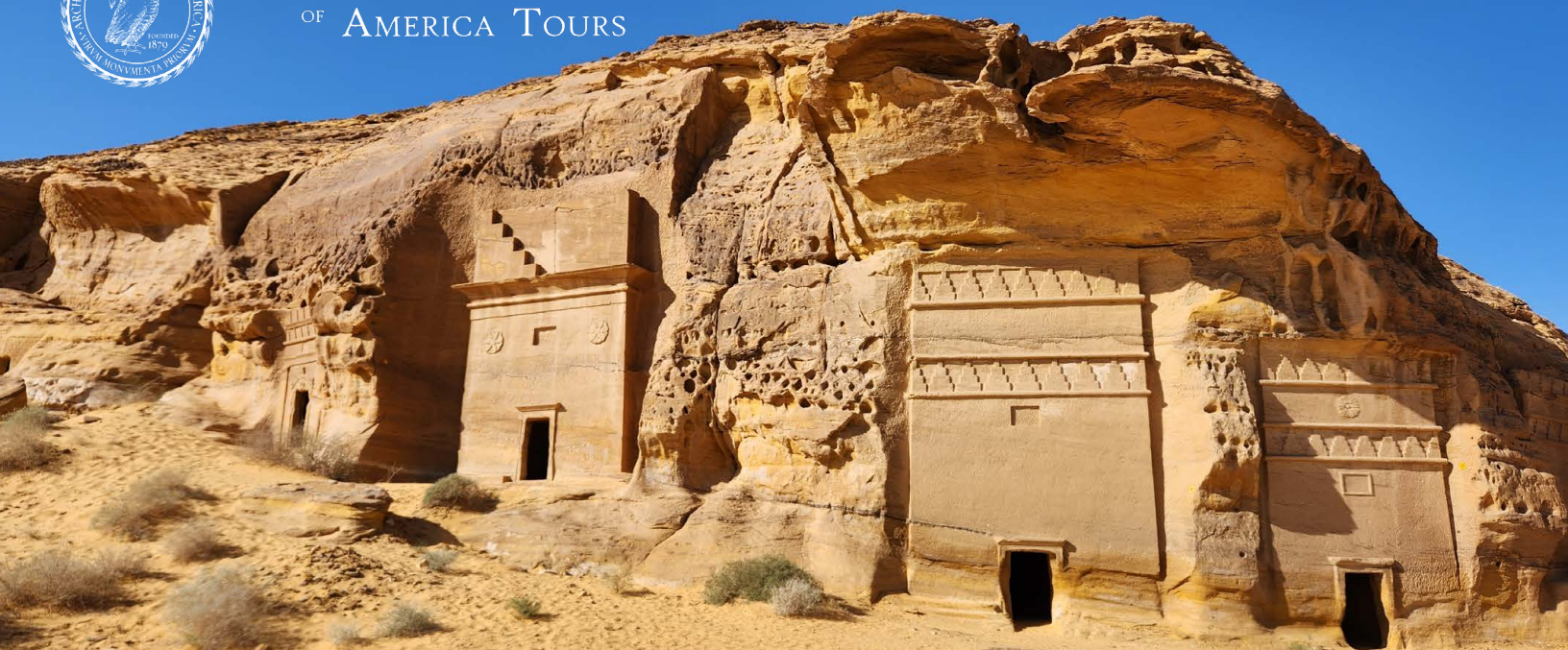
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ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

January 9-25, 2024 (17 days | 16 guests)
with archaeologist Barbara A. Porter



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RESERVATION FORM
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To hold your reservation for seven days while this form and your deposit are in the mail, please contact us at 800-748-6262 or aia@studytours.org.

Name 1
(as it appears on passport)

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Address

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☐ I/We have read the 'What to Expect' section and am/are physically able to participate fully on the program.

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program? Yes, _____

How did you hear about this tour? ☐ eNewsletter ☐ mailing ☐ website ☐ friends/family ☐ other _____

ACCOMMODATIONS:

(Accommodation preferences are not guaranteed.)

☐ Double (one bed) ☐ Twin (two beds) ☐ Single

☐ I will be sharing with: _____ ☐ Share - please assign a roommate (not guaranteed).
☐ Please share my contact information with potential roommate(s).

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT:

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to confirm a reservation. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.
You will receive an invoice for final payment. All prices and payments are in US dollars.

DEPOSIT TYPE (PLEASE CHECK ONE):

☐ Check payable to: EOS AIA-SaudiArabia1/24 ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ American Express ☐ Already paid by phone

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Exp. Date 3- or 4-Digit Code

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By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to all Terms & Conditions delineated throughout.

Signature (participant #1) Date

Signature (participant #2) Date

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