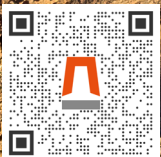


RAS AL KHAIMAH

INFORMATION KIT 2022

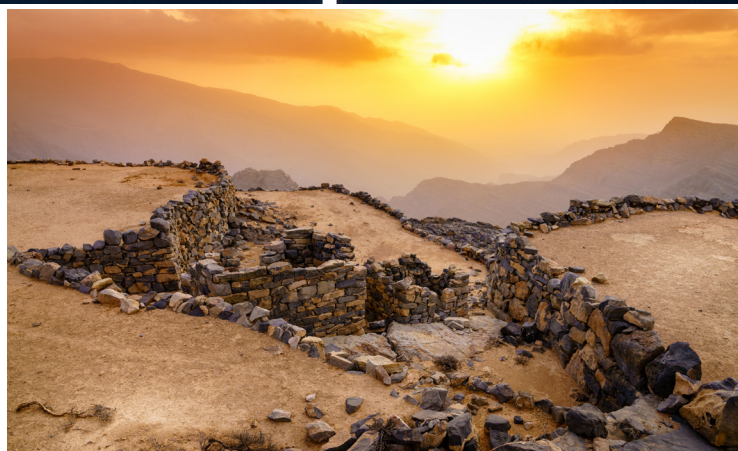
KEY FACTS AND FIGURES



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INTRODUCTION

Reliably sourced data is a fundamental tool in the decision-making process and an invaluable resource when it comes to research, journalism and conducting due diligence.

With this in mind, and as a means to provide a trusted source of facts and figures, Ras Al Khaimah Government Media Office (RAKGMO) partnered with various entities across the Emirate to create the Ras Al Khaimah Information Kit, a comprehensive and continuously updated digital and print document that highlights key data related to all facets of life in Ras Al Khaimah.

The aim of the Ras Al Khaimah Information Kit is to provide accurate and reliable information to anyone who seeks knowledge on Ras Al Khaimah, whether journalists, academics, or just curious individuals, on the various sectors that contribute to making the Emirate a great place to live, work and play.

As the entity tasked with spearheading the communications of Ras Al Khaimah and His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, UAE Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, RAKGMO is perfectly placed to coordinate with all Government entities, institutions and private sector companies to deliver the most up-to-date facts and figures about all aspects of the Emirate.

We hope you enjoy accessing the wealth of information we have collected for the Ras Al Khaimah Information Kit, which aims to show exactly why Ras Al Khaimah is one of the most promising, ambitious and dynamic places in the world.

FAST FACTS

- ▶ In terms of land mass, Ras Al Khaimah is the 4th largest of the 7 Emirates that make up the UAE.
- ▶ Ras Al Khaimah has an estimated population of 0.4 million and a GDP of about USD11 billion. Per capita GDP, meanwhile, is USD28,500.
- ▶ The Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah is His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, who is a member of the UAE Supreme Council, the highest constitutional authority in the country, comprising the Rulers of the 7 Emirates.
- ▶ Ras Al Khaimah has a long track record of political and social stability, which aids the development of a suitable environment for policymaking and setting ambitious growth strategies for multiple sectors.
- ▶ Ras Al Khaimah uses the UAE dirham currency.
- ▶ Ras Al Khaimah is within 4 hours' flying time of one third of the world's population, making it a strategic location for foreign investment.
- ▶ Ras Al Khaimah offers 100% foreign ownership and profit repatriation with zero income and corporate taxation to investors.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Ras Al Khaimah (RAK) is the northernmost of the 7 Emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates. It is known for its rich history, dating back 7,000 years, and diverse landscape, from 64km of pristine beaches, to terracotta deserts and an imposing mountain backdrop.

The Emirate is home to the highest peak in the UAE, Jebel Jais, standing at 1,934 meters and featuring the world's longest zip line, Jebel Jais Flight, at 2.83km, as well as the Jais Ropes Course, a 10-meter-high suspended obstacle course; the Jais Sky Tour zip-lining experience; Bear Grylls Explorers Camp; and the highest restaurant in the UAE, 1484 by Puro.

Further developments at Jebel Jais are on the horizon, with a 47-room luxury mountain camp and 65 kilometers of hiking and mountain biking trails among the attractions planned. In light of its array of premium tourist offerings, Ras Al Khaimah was named the Gulf Tourism Capital for 2021 by the Gulf Cooperation Council - a title it won for the second consecutive year - while in recognition of its safe environment for visitors, the Emirate became the first city in the world to be certified as 'safe' by Bureau Veritas amid the Covid-19 pandemic and the first Emirate to receive the World Travel And Tourism Council (WTTC) 'safe travels' stamp.

Ras Al Khaimah is also centrally located at the modern crossroads between Europe, Asia and Africa, with one third of the world's population within 4 hours' flying time, making it an ideal location for businesses to expand into the UAE, the Middle East and Africa region and beyond.

Ras Al Khaimah has a modern roads infrastructure that includes the 311 and 611 highways connecting the Emirate to Dubai, Abu Dhabi and the other Emirates of the UAE, as well as a city bypass road that redirects heavy industry traffic away from the city center.

Ras Al Khaimah is a cultural melting pot, with an estimated population of 0.4 million people. It is considered an extremely safe place to live, consistently ranked highly in global surveys.

With year-round sunshine, straightforward business set-up and a competitive and affordable cost of living, Ras Al Khaimah is an informed choice for business, lifestyle and travel.

Ras Al Khaimah currently holds several world records, including 6 fireworks records achieved during the scintillating New Year's Eve displays at Al Marjan Island. In 2018, the Emirate broke the world record for the 'Largest Aerial Shell', before following up in 2019 with records for the 'Longest Chain of Fireworks', 'Longest Straight Line of Fireworks' and, in 2020, the 'Longest Fireworks Waterfall'. In 2022, the Emirate was yet again breaking fireworks records, with the 'Most Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for Launching Fireworks Simultaneously' and the 'Highest Altitude Multirotor/ Drone Fireworks Display', with drones operating at 1,000 meters up in the sky to herald the New Year.



ECONOMY

For more than a decade, Ras Al Khaimah has been consistently rated in the 'A' range by international rating agencies (Fitch and Standard & Poor's).

The Emirate is home to more than 38,000 businesses from 100 countries, representing over 50 economic fields, making Ras Al Khaimah one of the most diverse economies in the UAE.

Ras Al Khaimah's GDP is about USD11 billion. The Emirate has a diverse economic profile in which the largest segment is manufacturing, making up about 26% of GDP. Tourism accounts for about 5% of GDP and is the fastest-growing sector.

Ras Al Khaimah Government adopts an institutional approach to governance and business procedures, to reduce red tape and improve the ease of doing business.

BUSINESS

Ras Al Khaimah is committed to creating a strong business sector that can be a firm foundation for its long-term sustainable development. Playing an important role in underpinning the Emirate's growth are Ras Al Khaimah's national brands and business amenities, many of which have helped put Ras Al Khaimah firmly on the map.

The following are some of the Emirate's key government-owned and affiliated brands that have become household names:

- ▶ RAKBANK, also known as the National Bank of Ras Al Khaimah, is a public joint stock company focused on Personal and Business banking, operating branches across the UAE. A member of the UAE Banking Federation, it is the largest small business bank in the country.
- ▶ RAK Ports operates 4 hubs across Ras Al Khaimah, including Saqr Port, the biggest bulk handling port in the region, and RAK Maritime City, the only free zone in the region to have direct quayside access. Imports and exports through Saqr Port have doubled in the past five years, and RAK Ports now handles over 75 million tons of cargo annually. An expansion in 2019 added two deep-water Capesize berths at Saqr Port, increasing overall annual capacity to 95 million tons and placing it among the largest dry bulk ports in the world. RAK Ports' advanced facilities also handle a wide range of other commodities, including breakbulk, general cargo and containers, making it the partner of choice for cargo flows in and out of the UAE.
- ▶ Stevin Rock and RAK Rock combined are among the largest quarrying companies in the world, with a production capacity of over 80 million tons per year, providing high-quality rock products to the construction, cement, steel, chemical, glass and mining industries in the UAE, Gulf region and beyond.
- ▶ Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) is a powerhouse business and industrial hub, which offers wide-ranging customizable solutions to global investors. It currently houses over 15,000 companies from more than 100 countries covering over 50 diverse economic fields, making it one



of the largest economic zones in the region. With designated free zone and non-free zone areas in its specialized zones around Ras Al Khaimah, RAKEZ connects investors to growing markets in the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Asia.

- ▶ Julphar is one of the largest pharmaceutical manufacturers in the Middle East and Africa, employing 2,500 people and distributing products to more than 50 countries across the globe. It produces about 150,000 boxes of medicines each day from its 13 accredited manufacturing facilities in the Middle East and Africa. Through a partnership agreement with the UAE Government, Julphar is now manufacturing the Hayat-Vax in Ras Al Khaimah – the first indigenous COVID-19 vaccine in the region, with a production capacity of 24 million vaccine doses per year.
- ▶ RAK Ceramics is one of the largest ceramics manufacturers in the world. With annual turnovers of about \$1 billion, it produces 123 million square meters of tiles and 5 million pieces of sanitaryware each year. The company has worked on signature projects such as the Burj Al Arab in Dubai, Ferrari World Abu Dhabi and the O2 Arena in London, in addition to supplying real estate developer Emaar, Dubai Airports and many more.
- ▶ RAK Petroleum Authority (RAKPA), the petroleum sector regulator in the Emirate, has oil and gas Exploration and Production Sharing agreements for blocks in Ras Al Khaimah with Italian oil and gas giant Eni and Poland's largest hydrocarbon company, PGNiG, with RAK Gas acting as partner in the agreements. Following acquisition of significant new 3D seismic data, both onshore and offshore, RAKPA reports that the Emirate will see 2 new exploration wells drilled during 2022.
- ▶ In October 2018, RAK Gas signed an oil and gas Production Sharing Agreement with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, Tanzania, and the Zanzibar Petroleum Development Company Limited, becoming the semi-autonomous region's first contractor under such an agreement. In both Zanzibar and Somaliland, RAK Gas's international affiliates have identified drillable exploration targets with potential for economic success.

INDUSTRY

Ras Al Khaimah is a center of industry, located at the modern crossroad between Europe, Asia and Africa, with one third of the world's population within 4 hours' flying time. This makes it an ideal location for businesses to expand into the UAE, the Middle East and Africa region and beyond.

Manufacturing is the largest contributor to the Emirate's GDP composition, amounting to about 26% of what is a truly diversified economic environment.

Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) is the driving force behind the Emirate's industrial landscape, serving over 15,000 companies from more than 100 countries.

One of the many reasons international companies choose Ras Al Khaimah as an ideal business destination is the first-class support services offered in a one-stop shop solution, including company set-up, licensing, visa, customs, construction permits and others. International companies are also offered 100% foreign ownership in Ras Al Khaimah's mainland to operate in various booming sectors including industrial, commercial, construction, education, real estate, information and communications, and many more, making Ras Al Khaimah's investment landscape more dynamic and welcoming to investors from all over the world. They also enjoy 100% repatriation of capital and profits, lower costs of operating a business than the regional average, with the ever-growing infrastructure including warehouses, land for development and workforce accommodation.

From large multinationals to SMEs and startups, thousands of companies are benefiting from Ras Al Khaimah's ease of doing business. Here is a small selection of companies that have found success in the Emirate:

- ▶ Indian commercial vehicles giant Ashok Leyland drives the construction industry in the UAE, producing almost 2,000 buses each year from its factory in Ras Al Khaimah.
- ▶ Streit Group and Mahindra Emirates Vehicle Armouring build armored vehicles in Ras Al Khaimah for global markets. Streit is the largest armored car manufacturer in the world, with a production capacity of over 400 vehicles a month - a figure that will double when a \$100 million, 100,000-square-meter expansion is completed at its factory.
- ▶ Italfood, a cheesemaker founded in Italy, produces a variety of Italian cheeses, including burrata and ricotta, for many of the major hotel chains across the UAE, including Jumeirah Group, Hilton and Atlantis The Palm.
- ▶ Knauf, a major international player in the manufacture of plaster, gypsumboard and drywall systems, stations its Middle East operations in Ras Al Khaimah.
- ▶ Peikko is a world leader in the supply of concrete connections and composite structures and it headquarters its Gulf operations on an 11,000 square meter site at Al Hamra Industrial Zone.
- ▶ Dabur Dabur is one of the largest consumer goods companies in India and its main manufacturing hub for international operations is in Ras Al Khaimah. From its huge Al Hamra production facility, Dabur produces 13 million units a month of shampoos, conditioners, hair oils, styling gels, toothpastes, lotions and more to over 60 countries.



ENVIRONMENT



Ras Al Khaimah offers a relaxed way of life, away from the hustle and bustle of the city. The Government is an ardent supporter of sustainable development and this is reflected in its approach to policy-making.

The Emirate's landmark Energy Efficiency and Renewables Strategy 2040, which was adopted in 2018, aims to cut energy use by 30%, water consumption by 20% and ensure 20% contribution from renewable energy sources. Led by Ras Al Khaimah Municipality's Energy Efficiency and Renewables Office (Reem), the all-encompassing strategy touches upon practically every aspect of government policy and public life, with key programs including Green Building Regulations (Barjeel), Energy Management, and Water Reuse and Efficient Irrigation.

The Environment Protection and Development Authority (EPDA) is leading 27 initiatives to improve the environment in the period until 2030. These include delivering desalinated water to farms; organizing global warming conferences; a 'green ports' initiative; and the 'One Million Trees Initiative', which helps reduce

the Emirate's carbon footprint, increasing green spaces and replacing exotic flora with indigenous alternatives. This initiative is supported by a decision to replace environmental penalties with tree planting. Other initiatives include educational projects to ensure children are schooled in environmental protection and an EPDA-organized international award called 'Feminine Mentoring for Sustainable Environment,' which focuses on women and girls' contribution to environmental work. The award highlights the importance that the authority places on women's empowerment. An app called Estidama has also been developed to advocate for energy-saving practices and to measure the user's carbon and water footprints.

Established by Ruler's decree in October 2018, Khor Mazahmi is the Emirate's first wetland nature reserve, home to flamingos and the critically endangered green turtle.

TOURISM



The rise of Ras Al Khaimah's tourism and hospitality sector has been impressive, with the Emirate now home to nine 5-star luxury hotels offering unique experiences on the shores of the Arabian Gulf. A total of 48 hotels across all areas of the Emirate deliver options to suit every budget, with 7,369 rooms available at the last count.

With its array of premium tourist offerings, Ras Al Khaimah was named the Gulf Tourism Capital for 2021 by the Gulf Cooperation Council - a title it won for the second consecutive year - while in recognition of its safe environment for visitors, the Emirate became the first city in the world to be certified as 'safe' by Bureau Veritas and the first Emirate to receive the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) 'safe travels' stamp.

Jebel Jais Flight, launched in 2018, has been one of the key milestones for Ras

Al Khaimah's tourism sector. It is the longest zip line in the world at 2.83km, positioned near the summit of the UAE's highest peak, Jebel Jais (1,934 meters).

The zipline heralded the start of the expansion of adventure tourism on Jebel Jais. The UAE's highest mountain is now home to a variety of attractions, including the Jais Ropes Course, a self-guided rope course 10 meters above ground with two levels of endless fun for those aged 8 and above; the Jais Sky Tour, which offers thrill-seekers the chance to zip over cliffs and canyons; the first-of-its-kind Bear Grylls Explorers Camp, which allows people of all ages to learn key wilderness survival skills; the highest restaurant in the UAE, 1484 by Puro, where the stunning mountain vistas can be appreciated in a relaxed environment; and the Jais Sledder, the region's longest toboggan ride, which can reach speeds of up to 40kph.



In addition to the mountain attractions, Ras Al Khaimah has a uniquely diverse topography, from the highs of the Hajar mountain range to terracotta deserts, lush mangroves and 64km of white, sandy beaches.

Looking beyond the Covid-19 pandemic, the Emirate plans to build upon its growing reputation, driven by an all-encompassing strategy that seeks to attract 3 million tourists and visitors by the end of 2030.

COMMUNITY



Ras Al Khaimah offers residents the perfect blend of the old and the new, its heritage inspired developments and its projects with a more modern ambience providing state-of-the-art amenities that deliver the very best lifestyles.

Al Hamra Village, covering an area of 7.1 million square meters and boasting 1.5km of pristine beaches, is a scenic gated community built around an 18-hole championship golf course. With 1,194 villas and 2,334 apartments, it is home to about 10,000 residents, several resort hotels and a two-storey entertainment and shopping mall, in addition to a 200-berth marina.

Mina Al Arab is an established waterfront community with luxury villas and apartments set against the emerald waters of the Arabian Gulf and 2 million square meters of protected coastal wetlands, owned by developer RAK Properties. The 4-million-square-meter development has more than 7,000 trees that support migratory bird patterns and create a wonderfully green environment for residents. The development is now home to the InterContinental Ras Al Khaimah Resort and Spa and will soon

host another world-renowned hotel chain via the new Anantara Mina Al Arab Ras Al Khaimah Resort.

Al Marjan Island, Ras Al Khaimah's unique freeholder tourism hub, boasts 23 kilometers of waterfront on more than 2.7 million square meters of reclaimed land. Extending 4.5 kilometers into the Arabian Gulf, freehold residential and commercial plots are available on an island already populated by 5 hotel resorts with more than 2,000 5-star rooms and 3,000+ residential units at Bab Al Bahr, Uniestate Bay Living and the Pacific development.

In the Al Marjan Island pipeline are more than 1,680 hotel rooms under construction by leading global developers and 2,000 hotel, residential and mixed-use units under design review, with the plan to have all of them completed between now and 2025.

Multiple local neighborhoods are well-established and expanding around the city, including Al Rams to the north and Al Dhait to the south. These neighborhoods have been and remain focal points for the local population, playing host to festivals, weddings and many traditional and cultural activities.

EDUCATION

Ras Al Khaimah has a long history of investing in education and is now home to a number of higher education institutions, including the American University of Ras Al Khaimah (AURAK), Ras Al Khaimah Medical and Health Sciences University (RAKMHSU) and the Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT). There are also a number of international campuses of foreign universities, such as the University of Bolton and the University of Stirling (both from the UK).

AURAK started operations in 2009 with just 39 students and now has around 1,000. It is the only 5-star university in the Northern Emirates under the QS Star Rating System and is ranked among the top 10 in the UAE and the top 50 in the Arab region.

RAKMHSU began with just 22 students in 2006 and now trains more than 1,100 aspiring medical professionals from over 50 countries. Currently, about 830 of the university's nursing graduates, of which about 30% are Emiratis, are serving in the UAE healthcare sector. RAKMHSU utilizes all federal hospitals in Ras Al Khaimah and Fujairah for the clinical training of its students through an agreement with the Ministry of Health and Prevention. RAKMHSU is also a significant research university, with more than 440 articles published in various national and international journals.

The Higher Colleges of Technology has both male and female campuses in Ras Al Khaimah, offering programs ranging from engineering technology & science to business and applied media.

There are 111 schools in Ras Al Khaimah, as of 2021 – 76 public and 35 private schools, serving thousands of children from kindergarten to year 12. In addition to the Ministry of Education-led public schools, Ras Al Khaimah has 8 British-style curriculum schools including RAK Academy, which operates 5 campuses across the Emirate, 2 United States curriculum schools and several International Baccalaureate, Indian and Pakistani schools.

RAK Academy has been in operation since 1975 and now welcomes more than 3,100 students from over 90 countries every day.

Ras Al Khaimah is also home to the GEMS Westminster School, which brings the GEMS brand of schools to the Emirate. GEMS teaches more than 119,000 children at schools across the Middle East, Europe, Africa, India, Southeast Asia, and North America.

New schools are always being introduced, including St. Mary's School, which opened in September 2019 in the Khalifa bin Zayed City area of Ras Al Khaimah.





HEALTHCARE

Ras Al Khaimah provides its citizens, residents and visitors with the very best healthcare services, with its advanced facilities that operate to international standards attracting medical professionals from around the world.

Founded in 2007 and located in the heart of the city, RAK Hospital is an internationally recognized and accredited healthcare facility in the Emirate that has more than 75 doctors and provides services to about 800-900 outpatients each day. It is owned by Arabian Healthcare Group.

Sheikh Khalifa Specialty Hospital, opened in February 2015 and located in the south of Ras Al Khaimah, is operated by Seoul National University Hospital and specializes in cancer treatment, cardiovascular disease, pediatric disease, emergency medicine, rehabilitation medicine and neurological disorders. Many of the hospital's staff are medical professionals from Korea.

Saqr Hospital is the main Government hospital, dealing with many of the emergency cases that occur, and there are a multitude other public and private clinics and healthcare facilities across the Emirate.



HISTORY & CULTURE



Ras Al Khaimah has about 1,000 archaeological sites and antiquities scattered around the Emirate. Archaeological excavations reveal that advanced trading civilizations have existed in the area since 5000BC.

Four archaeological sites have, in 2020, been added to the 'UNESCO Tentative List for World Heritage'. In addition, the department hosted a UNESCO expert to evaluate these proposed sites, as a preliminary step for them to be added to the global list of UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Known at various times in the past as Julfar, Majan or Al Seer, Ras Al Khaimah's history dates back to the Bronze Age, making the Emirate one of the few places in the world that has been continuously settled for over 7,000 years.

In recent times, citizens of Ras Al Khaimah have put great emphasis on maintaining their culture and traditions, which manifests in folklore, the arts and sports, such as camel racing and horse riding. There are numerous cultural clubs, folk societies, theaters and libraries that ensure the Emirate's traditions are not only preserved but celebrated regularly.

The annual Ras Al Khaimah Fine Arts Festival and the seasonal Turath District attraction are shining examples of how the Emirate seeks to highlight its traditions and make them accessible to all.

The Qawasim (plural for Qasimi) are the historical rulers of both Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah; a powerful maritime force in the region, they have presided over Ras Al Khaimah since the 18th century.

Al Jazirah Al Hamra (The Red Island) is the best-preserved traditional fishing village in the Arabian Gulf. Originally a tidal island, it is made out of coral stones and was abandoned by residents in 1968. The area is currently undergoing a massive restoration project to restore its past splendor and to make it more accessible to visitors.

Other historical attractions include the only hilltop fort still in existence in the UAE, the 19th century Dhayah Fort; as well as Falayah Fort, one of the locations where the General Maritime Treaty of 1820 was signed between local rulers and the British; and the National Museum of



Ras Al Khaimah, which was the residence of the ruling family until the early 1960s.

The renowned maritime navigator Ahmed bin Majid, known as the 'Lion of the Sea', was born here in 1421, in what at the time was known as Julfar.

Ras Al Khaimah's Antiquities and Museums Department is working with the prestigious Palace Museum of Beijing, China, on archaeological sites across the Emirate. Together, they are unearthing trade links between China and this area dating as far back to the Yuan Dynasty of 1271-1368 and pieces found are going on display at an exhibit in the Chinese capital.

Several pieces of rare blue and white porcelain dating from the Yuan Dynasty of 1271-1368 have been found in Ras Al Khaimah, with one Palace Museum professor stating that there are only about 300 complete pieces of this type of porcelain in existence in the world.

A major cooperation between the Antiquities and Museums Department, the University of Southern Alabama and Quinnipiac University, both in the US, enabled the study of 4,000-year-old skeletal remains of homo sapiens from large prehistoric tombs in Shimal.

20,000 artefacts ranging from pottery, currency, combat equipment, and even bones have been recorded in the database of Ras Al Khaimah's Antiquities and Museums Department in the past 20 years. The Department is now working to digitize all the excavation records and documentation over the 3 years from May 2019.

The Antiquities and Museums Department has been strengthening relations with the Louvre Museum Abu Dhabi and has been extending the lending of artefacts to the Museum, with more items expected to be displayed there in the future.