

## RAS AL KHAIMAH DESTINATION FACT SHEET



[Images](#)

### A Nature Driven Destination of Sprawling Deserts, Beaches and Stunning Mountain Landscapes

Included in Time magazine's World's Greatest Places of 2022 and CNN Travel's best destinations to visit in 2023, Ras Al Khaimah offers an experience of a lifetime where travellers can feel the Emirate's beating heart across a range of landscapes from the sea and beach, desert and mountain range.

With over 7,000 years of fascinating history, traditions and culture, Ras Al Khaimah promises an authentic and easily accessible Arabian experience. A haven of year-round sunshine, the Emirate features pristine beaches, lush mangrove trees and terracotta dunes, as well as fertile, green oases and the dramatic, awe-inspiring vistas of the majestic Hajar mountains, including the UAE's highest mountain peak – Jebel Jais – where temperatures are around 10 degrees lower than sea level.

Ras Al Khaimah's popularity also comes from the increasing ease of accessibility. Located a few short hours by flight from various key European hubs, the Emirate is just a 45-minute drive from Dubai International Airport.

#### **MOUNTAIN**

The highest mountain in the UAE – Jebel Jais – is known as the adventure hub of the Middle East, offering numerous hiking and mountain biking opportunities for all levels and ages. The mountain is home to the Jais Adventure Park, a gateway to attractions such as **Jais Viewing Deck Park**, located 1,250 metres above sea level to watch the sun rise and set over the mountain range; **Jais Flight**, the world's longest zipline; **Jais Sky Tour**, a series of six exhilarating ziplines stretching 5km; and **Jais Sledder**, the region's longest toboggan ride. The highest restaurant in the UAE – **1484 by Puro** – serves up a delectable menu and features an expansive terrace with awe-inspiring views of the Hajar mountains. The rooftop lounge, **The View by 1484**, offers quick bites and drinks with equally breath-taking views, and can even be exclusively booked for private events and gatherings.

The **Bear Grylls Explorers Camp** made its regional debut on Jebel Jais as the world's first Bear Grylls branded accommodation. The camp offers courses of varying lengths, putting participants face-to-face with some of the toughest terrains in the wilderness. They receive hands-on practical training and extreme survival techniques.



The camp also features sixteen recycled and sustainable cabins, the first branded Bear Grylls accommodation in the world, where guests can spend the night and try their hand at mountain biking, hiking and climbing.

Jebel Jais is also home to UAE's highest campsite, **Camp 1770**, boasting scenic mountain views - the perfect camping spot when hiking across the Emirate's numerous mountain trails. Visitors also have the opportunity to experience Emirati cooking from the local mountain tribes and enjoy meditation and yoga.

### **DESERT & LAND**

Those looking to experience Ras Al Khaimah's unique terracotta desert, the **Al Wadi Nature Reserve** boasts the stunning Ritz Carlton resort, offering private villas with breath-taking views, plus desert treks on camels and horseback riding at **Al Wadi Equestrian Center**, private archery lessons and a falcon show. Visitors seeking decadent dining under the stars can enjoy **Sonara Camp**, a luxurious dining and entertainment experience set in the beauty of Al Wadi desert, with herds of Oryx and Gazelles as dinner companions.

Explorers looking to get a bird's eye view of Ras Al Khaimah can experience **Action Flight's brand-new hot-air balloon experience** featuring awe-inspiring views of the Emirate's breath-taking natural landscapes. Set afloat in the Al Wadi desert during sunrise, guests can marvel at the illuminated desert dunes, majestic Hajar mountains and glistening coastline and - if they're lucky - spot special appearances from the indigenous wildlife.

### **SEA**

With a wide choice of accommodation, from ultra-luxurious beach resorts managed by some of the most notable names in the business, to family-friendly and affordable hotels – Ras Al Khaimah offers its visitors the best in hospitality. World-class hotels and resorts include properties such as **Waldorf Astoria, Hilton, Rixos, Rotana, Ritz-Carlton, Radisson** as well as the world's largest **Hampton Resort by Hilton**. Opened in 2022, **InterContinental Mina Al Arab** offers island living amongst the exquisite landscapes and hospitality of modern Arabia, and **Mövenpick Resort Al Marjan Island**, located on a 300-metre stretch of golden shoreline is home to the largest floating water park in Ras Al Khaimah.

**Banan Beach**, a glamping resort located on Al Marjan Island, offers a chilled beach getaway featuring tepee tents located around a central firepit, private chalets, family-friendly attractions and barbeque areas. Additionally, **Longbeach Campground** brings together traditional camping ethos with luxurious amenities and engaging activities — creating an immersive glamping experience.

In addition, the New Year's Eve Fireworks show, taking place annually by the sea on Al Marjan Island, has set Guinness World Records in the past four years, appealing to visitors from across the world.

### **CULTURE**

With a rich history dating back 7,000 years to the Bronze Age, Ras Al Khaimah is dotted with historical sites including ruins and forts. Of these, four locations – **Julfar, Shimal, Al Jazeera Al Hamra and Dhayah** – were recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), on its tentative list of Global Heritage Sites. Meanwhile, an immersive trip to **Suwaidi Pearls**, the only pearl farm in the



UAE, provides guests a glimpse into the Emirate's pearling industry. Guests can also take a trip back in time at the **National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah**.

### **BALANCED TOURISM**

Under the all-encompassing banner of **Balanced Tourism**, Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority is shaping tourism in the UAE by placing all aspects of sustainability (environment, culture, conservation and liveability) at the center of its investment and development strategy. This approach to sustainability marks a key milestone in its strategy to drive overall sector growth and become the regional leader in sustainable tourism by 2025. The vision underscores the Emirate's leadership in conscious tourism and aligns with its identity as a nature destination with a desire to progress, grow and evolve.

### **PET FRIENDLY**

Ras Al Khaimah is the perfect getaway for exploring the great outdoors with dogs. From spectacular wadi walks and mountain hikes on Jebel Jais to beachside cafés, desert adventures and overnight stays in pet friendly hotels, there is plenty of experiences on offer across its stunning landscapes – the sea, desert and mountains.

### **MICE**

Ras Al Khaimah has made significant strides in strengthening its MICE offering and has successfully positioned itself as one of the fastest growing destinations in the region.

Major events – such as the first World Travel & Tourism Council **Middle East & North Africa Leaders Forum (WTTC)** and the **Arabian Hotel Investment Conference (AHIC)** – were hosted at **Al Hamra International Exhibition & Conference Center**. The Emirate has hosted several prestigious international and regional events over the past two years. This includes three consecutive editions of the **Arab Aviation Summit** and the acclaimed annual summit of the **Global Citizen Forum**, bringing together over 400 guests from across 32 countries, leading to a three-year partnership with the Forum to host its annual summit until 2024.

Other prestigious events hosted in the Emirate include **Schweizer Reise-Verband's** (Swiss Travel Association) **World Tourism Forum Lucerne's International Start-up Innovation Summit**, **The Association of Tour Operators and Travel Agents of the Czech Republic (ACCKA)** and the **Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA)**, marking the first time that the not-for-profit travel trade association hosted its Annual Summit in the Middle East.

Ideal for business gatherings and in another Jebel Jais-first, the **Sky Room** is the first-of-its-kind highest meeting room in the UAE, ideal for hosting sky high meetings against the backdrop of the majestic Hajar Mountain.

### **SPORTING EVENTS**

The Emirate hosts an increasing number of prestigious global sporting events such as the **Ras Al Khaimah Half Marathon**, the world's fastest half marathon that has been running for 16 editions, the **UAE Cycling Championship** and the **UAE Tour**, all of which play a significant role in boosting sporting tourism in the Emirate.



Multiple editions of **Tough Mudder**, **Spartan Ras Al Khaimah Race** and **Desert Warrior Challenge** have also taken place in Ras Al Khaimah, highlighting the growing popularity of the Emirate as a regional sports destination.

Most recently, Ras Al Khaimah secured a highly competitive bid to stage the prestigious **2023 Minifootball World Cup**, an international football competition held every two years. The tournament will be hosted from 28 October to 4 November 2023, bringing together 24 national teams and thousands of spectators to the Emirate.

Ras Al Khaimah has also played host to leading international golf championships, welcoming the **DP World Tour** (formerly known as the European Tour) for the past few years, where some of the world's biggest golf stars battled it out at the Al Hamra Golf Club.

The Emirate also launched the first ever '**HIGHLANDER**' hiking experience in the GCC. The only certified international hiking association in the world, HIGHLANDER is renowned for its specially curated hiking experiences. It hosted its second edition in November 2022, bringing with it 14 kilometres of newly developed hiking trails, including the new HIGHLANDER trail, which stands as the longest developed hiking trail in the UAE. Intrepid adventurers have two options based on experience and fitness levels: HIGHLANDER55 (55km hike over three days) and HIGHLANDER Experience (30km hike over two days). The Emirate also hosted the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual **Gumball 3000** rally, which saw epic supercar superstars tackle a thrilling 20km hill climb on the penultimate stop of its very first route in the Middle East.

## **UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS**

### **Mountain:**

- **Saij, A Mantis Collection Mountain Lodge**, comprising of 70 luxury lodges, will provide a pure mountain retreat that focuses on nature as well as mind, body and soul with guided treks, mindful pursuits and creative experiences (opening 2024)
- **Cloud7 Camp Jebel Jais**, the ultimate glamping experience with 30 accommodation units built out of sustainable material (opening 2024)
- The **Basecamp Jais** will offer affordable accommodation for outdoor enthusiasts, thrill seekers and nature lovers as well as a range of activities such as yoga and Emirati live cooking – and will serve as a leisure hub at the base of the rugged mountains (opening 2024)
- **Jais Yard**, an F&B Village with food trailers, kiosks, retail containers, vintage truck restaurants, open air cinema and children's play areas will drive further visitation to Jebel Jais (opening 2024)
- **Jais Wings**, calling adventure seekers to take off on a paragliding experience from the top of Jebel Jais, with two options for landing pads near Saraya Islands and Al Rams. It will be the region's first dedicated paragliding site in the GCC (opening 2024)

### **Beachfront & Land:**

- Ras Al Khaimah is also strengthening its hospitality infrastructure with a total of **21 new projects** and over **6,500 additional keys** in the next few years. This indicates a significant 80% growth over current



capacity to meet the rise in demand for accommodation options in the Emirate, as part of its vision to attract 3 million visitors by 2030.

- **Upcoming hotels include:**

- **Wynn Resorts**, a multi-billion-dollar integrated resort development on Al Marjan Island. The new integrated resort will cover an area of almost 250,000 sqm and will feature more than 1,000 rooms, shopping, meeting and convention facilities, a spa, more than 10 restaurants and lounges, extensive entertainment choices, a gaming area and other amenities (opening 2026)
- **Nobu Hotels**, the renowned hospitality brand, will feature 300 keys and a signature Nobu Restaurant on Marjan Island
- **Anantara Mina Al Arab** with 174 rooms (opening 2023)
- **Sofitel Al Hamra Beach Resort** with 300 rooms (opening 2024)
- And an additional 300 rooms, under the **Millennium Brand**, are scheduled to take shape in 2025 as part of the **Danah Bay Project on Al Marjan Island**

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#### **About Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA)**

The Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA) was established in May 2011 under the government of Ras Al Khaimah. RAKTDA aims to develop the Emirate's tourism infrastructure and establish Ras Al Khaimah as a world-class destination for leisure and business travel, creating sustainable investment opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for its residents. In order to achieve its goals, the Authority has a government mandate to license, regulate and monitor the Emirate's tourism and hospitality industry.

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#### **For any media enquiries, please contact:**

Gehan Sidky

Senior Manager, Destinations PR & Communications

+971 (7) 204 4063

[news@raktda.com](mailto:news@raktda.com)