

## RAS AL KHAIMAH JOINS TOP WEDDING DESTINATIONS FOR EASE OF CIVIL MARRIAGE



*New wedding planner certification programme makes it quicker and easier than ever to arrange civil marriage ceremonies in Ras Al Khaimah.*

*Images can be found in [here](#).*

**Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023:** Ras Al Khaimah will soon top the list of popular global wedding destinations including, the Seychelles, Thailand, and Cyprus, with the Emirate offering couples from around the world the opportunity to wed via a civil marriage ceremony. One of the most diverse and beautiful destinations in the region, the nature Emirate is the new setting for romance that is sure to have couples and newly-weds in high spirits and toasting to a happy future together.

### **A Wedding Planner's Paradise – Fast Track Legal Process**

After the introduction of the new laws regulating civil marriage in the country earlier this year, the Authority set up a new certification programme that enables wedding planners to facilitate the legal process of civil marriages with ease. Never has a destination introduced such ease and flexibility for both domestic and internationally based wedding planners, with access to an e-learning platform where they can gain a deeper understanding of the UAE's civil marriage and a suite of resources to help them confidently navigate through the process. Wedding planners who successfully complete the e-learning programme and acquire the certification will be able to obtain fast-tracked permits and orchestrate ceremonies at truly unique venues available in Ras Al Khaimah.

### **A Couples' Paradise – DIY Wedding**

For couples looking to arrange their own special day without the assistance of a certified wedding planner, the process is equally swift and simple. A dedicated online portal accessed via the Government of Ras Al Khaimah website (<https://www.rak.ae/wps/portal>) features an easy-to-use interface where applicants simply submit the relevant documentation and get notified via email upon approval. The couple can also opt to have the marriage official at one



of the unique locations in the Emirate as an alternative to appearing in court. Couples can refer to this friendly [video guide](#).

“Ras Al Khaimah is known for its stunning natural landscapes and world-class hospitality which makes it the ideal choice for a truly special destination wedding. As one of the most innovative destinations in the world and a trailblazer in the region, the introduction of our new Wedding Planners Certification Programme underscores the Authority’s commitment to increasing tourism in the Emirate and diversifying the experiences available. By creating a simplified process that serves wedding planners and couples alike, we are confident that Ras Al Khaimah will become a leading wedding destination where couples can plan their wedding with absolute ease,” said **Raki Phillips, CEO of Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority**.

### **The Perfect Wedding Backdrop**

Home to an array of 50 properties and over 8,000 rooms and suites spanning world-class beachfront hotels and luxury desert resorts, Ras Al Khaimah provides a diverse portfolio of wedding venues suiting every budget and vision. Doubling the pipeline, Ras Al Khaimah is set to welcome global hospitality brands such as Anantara, Wynn, Nobu, Sofitel, Nikki Beach, and JW Marriott over the next few years. Ideally located between East and West, with close proximity to Europe, Asia and Africa, Ras Al Khaimah is easily accessible via direct or in-direct short-haul flights for couples and their wedding guests.

The Emirate also boasts a portfolio of unique venues that provide breathtaking locations for bespoke celebrations. **Al Jazeera Al Hamra** - the last surviving pearl diving and seafaring town, and **Dhayah Fort** - the only hilltop fort still in existence in the UAE - offer couples the once in a lifetime opportunity to host their celebrations amid sites on the UNESCO’s tentative list of Global Heritage Sites. For the more adventurous bride and groom, the **Jebel Jais Viewing Deck**, located 1,250 metres above sea level with awe-inspiring vistas across the Hajar Mountains and Arabian Gulf, is the perfect venue for an unforgettable celebration.

Rich in history yet forward-looking, Ras Al Khaimah has something for everyone, from the couple who likes to strap on a pair of hiking boots and get adventurous through kayaking, ziplining, camping under the stars and water sports, to those that are looking to venture through local souks and delve into the rich culture at one of kind attractions such as **Suwaidi Pearls**, the only pearl farm in the UAE. Be it a relaxing approach or an all pistons blazing adventure you are in search of, Ras Al Khaimah welcomes couples to enjoy their honeymoon across its sprawling deserts, picturesque mountains, sun-kissed beaches and bustling metropolitan districts.

Having witnessed a 330% increase in revenue from weddings between January and October 2023 comparing to same time last year, RAKTDA is marking significant progress in establishing the Emirate as a unique and attractive wedding destination. The Authority has also recently introduced a series of new incentive packages for wedding planners aimed at enhancing their journey on every step of the way - from rental fee waiver to complimentary services at hotels.



### **[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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