

RAS AL KHAIMAH KEY FACTS AND FIGURES



INFORMATION KIT 2024

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Media Office's Information Kit



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RAS AL KHAIMAH GOVERNMENT MEDIA OFFICE



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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 explore.

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

- ▶ Ras Al Khaimah is the fourth largest of the seven Emirates that make up the UAE, in terms of land mass.
- ▶ Ras Al Khaimah has a population of 0.4 million and a GDP of about USD11.5 billion.
- ▶ 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 seven 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 Economic Zone offers 100% foreign ownership and profit repatriation.





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 mountain in the UAE, Jebel Jais, standing at 1,934 meters and featuring the world's longest zip line, 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; the highest restaurant in the UAE, 1484 by Puro; and a 65km network of hiking trails.

Further developments at Jebel Jais are on the horizon, with an eco-based pop-up hotel concept, luxury mountain lodges and an additional 35km 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

and 2022 by the Gulf Cooperation Council, 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.

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, with a 'very high' Safety Index rating of 84.33 on Numbeo, the online global database for quality of life.

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 has repeatedly made history with its astounding New Year's Eve celebrations, setting multiple Guinness World Records over several years. These records include the 'Longest chain of fireworks' and the 'Longest straight line of fireworks' in 2019; the 'Longest Fireworks Waterfall,' in 2020; the 'Highest Altitude Multirotor/Drone Firework Display in 2022; two records in 2023 - the 'Most Remote Operated Multirotors/Drones Launching Fireworks Simultaneously' and the 'Largest Aerial Sentence Formed by Multirotors/Drones'; and two records in 2024 – the 'Longest Chain of Aquatic Floating Fireworks' and the 'Longest Straight-Line Drone Display'.

ECONOMY

For more than 15 years, 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 USD11.5 billion. The Emirate has a diverse economic profile in which the largest segment is manufacturing, making up about 30% of GDP. Tourism accounts for about 5% of GDP and is the fastest-growing sector.

Underlying Ras Al Khaimah Government's positive fiscal, economic and institutional trends is the Emirate's long history of political and social stability, which provides policy-making stability and predictability and affords an enabling environment for planning and implementing reforms and long-term development strategies.



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 is a Public Joint Stock Company listed on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange. Today, RAKBANK is a multi-award-winning bank with a growing group of businesses spanning a full range of Personal, Business and Wholesale banking services. It is also the largest small business bank in the country, with a focus on providing personalized and relevant customer experiences for each client.
- ▶ RAK International Corporate Centre (RAK ICC) is one of the fastest-growing international corporate registries, with an excellent reputation for compliance and professional services. RAK ICC entities are best suited for investment and international trade, holding purposes, international tax planning, wealth management, securitization, asset protection and succession planning. It has more than 30,000 International Business Companies registered, with shareholders from 168+ countries.
- ▶ 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 is 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 25,000 companies from more than 100 countries covering over 50 diverse economic fields, making it one of the largest economic zones in the region, and 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.
- ▶ RAK Digital Assets Oasis is the world's first free zone dedicated to digital and virtual assets companies, offering entrepreneurs a space where imagination and creativity thrive and an ecosystem already inclusive of big players, such as Binance and Tencent Cloud, among many others.
- ▶ Julphar is one of the largest pharmaceutical manufacturers in the Middle East and Africa, employing about 2,500 people and distributing products to more than 50 countries across the globe. It produces about 1 million boxes of medicines each day from its 12 accredited manufacturing facilities in the UAE. In 2022, Julphar launched 13 new products and 22 SKUs to the market and announced a strategy to take the company forward until 2030.
- ▶ RAK Ceramics is one of the largest ceramics manufacturers in the world. With annual turnovers of approximately \$1 billion, it produces 118 million square meters of tiles, 5.7 million pieces of sanitaryware, 36 million pieces of porcelain tableware and 2.6 million pieces of faucets 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, established Exploration and Production Sharing Agreements (EPSA) with Italian oil and gas company Eni for 2 blocks in Ras Al Khaimah (onshore and offshore). RAKPA also signed an EPSA with Poland's largest hydrocarbon company, PKN Orlen, for 1 block, with RAK Gas as a partner in all agreements.
- ▶ Ras Al Khaimah has seen 3 exploration wells drilled in 2023-2024: 2 wells by Eni and 1 by PKN Orlen. These wells have provided valuable data about hydrocarbon activity, which is currently under review.
- ▶ Internationally, RAKGAS continues to pursue oil and gas exploration and production opportunities, with advancing strategic discussions focused on Somaliland.

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 30% 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 25,000 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 markets around the world. STREIT has been a leader in defense technology for over three decades. Providing solutions for land, sea, and air, the company operates globally and is dedicated to saving lives with advanced systems and expertise.
- ▶ 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, gypsum board 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 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 be distributed 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 policymaking.

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 by 2030. These include organizing global warming conferences; a 'green ports' initiative; the 'Green Lung' initiative, which

helps reduce the Emirate's carbon footprint, increasing green spaces and replacing invasive flora with indigenous alternatives. This initiative is supported by a decision to replace environmental penalties with tree planting. Other initiatives include projects to ensure children are educated 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. 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 mangroves, flamingos and the critically endangered green turtle. The site contains more than 112 species of terrestrial and marine plants, with a nursery for mangrove tree seedlings, to ensure the reserve's ongoing sustainability.



TOURISM

Ras Al Khaimah's vision for the tourism sector is to become a regional leader in sustainable tourism by 2025 and to attract 3.5 million tourists and visitors each year by 2030. Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority is spearheading this strategy and is seeking to nurture a tourism industry that is economically, environmentally and socially sustainable, while improving quality of life for residents and enhancing our unique environment.

2023 saw Ras Al Khaimah record its highest-ever visitor numbers, with over 1.22 million people visiting the Emirate – up 8% on 2022, with over 24% growth in international visitors.

The rise of Ras Al Khaimah's tourism and hospitality sector has been impressive, with the Emirate now home to 12 5-star hotels offering unique experiences on the shores of the Arabian Gulf. A total of 53 hospitality establishments across all areas of the Emirate deliver options to suit every budget, with 7,787 rooms available at the last count.

With its array of premium tourist offerings, Ras Al Khaimah was named the Gulf Tourism Capital for 2021 and again for 2022 by the Gulf Cooperation Council, 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 mountain, 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 mountain coaster, which can reach speeds of up to 40kph.

Upcoming attractions on Jebel Jais include an eco-based pop-up hotel concept, luxury mountain lodges, glamping units made from sustainable materials, a food and beverage village and the region's first dedicated paragliding experience, Jais Wings.

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.



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.

Spanning an area of 77 million square feet, Al Hamra Village offers a unique blend of local heritage and modern architecture in a safe gated community. The development features upwards of 4,000 villas and apartments and is home to more than 10,000 residents. Nestled between an 18-hole championship golf course and surrounded by 1.5km of pristine sandy beaches, a 200-berth marina, luxury hotels and resorts, a two-story shopping mall, a British school and medical facilities, Al Hamra Village is truly an integrated destination that provides unique lifestyle experiences for residents and visitors alike.

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 home to the

InterContinental Ras Al Khaimah Resort and Spa and the Maldives-themed Anantara Mina Al Arab Ras Al Khaimah Resort.

Al Marjan Island by Marjan is a destination offering unique lifestyle experiences, with sandy beaches stretching over 7.8km and a 23km waterfront. The island is home to more than 3,000 hotel rooms, including at Hampton by Hilton Marjan Island, Mövenpick Resort Al Marjan Island, Rixos Bab Al Bahr, DoubleTree by Hilton Resort & Spa Marjan Island and Pullman Resort Al Marjan Island.

Al Marjan Island is the flagship project of Marjan, where residential villas, luxurious hotels and an integrated resort by high-end hotel operator Wynn Resorts are upcoming and will put Ras Al Khaimah on the map globally as a leisure tourism destination. Marjan is targeting 8,000 hotel keys, 12,000 residential units and 600 holiday villas on Al Marjan Island in the coming years. The island extends around 4.5km into the Arabian Gulf and covers an area of around 2.7 million square meters.

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), as well as a number of international campuses of foreign universities, such as the University of Bolton and the University of Stirling (both from the UK).

Ras Al Khaimah Department of Knowledge (DOK) was established in 2023 with the mission to enhance the quality of education in the Emirate through supporting innovation across all educational fields, ensuring students receive high-quality teaching and regulating the sector. Its remit extends across private school education, higher education, vocational training and continuing education programs. DOK is committed to developing an inclusive, world-class education ecosystem that promotes sustainability and innovation, empowers young learners to achieve their full potential and enriches the community's quality of life. This commitment extends to enhancing quality, competitiveness and efficiency while aligning with UAE's vision and

labor market needs and positioning Ras Al Khaimah as a leading education destination.

A parent satisfaction survey conducted by Ras Al Khaimah Department of Knowledge (RAK DOK) in 2024 revealed an overall satisfaction rate of 80% among parents with children enrolled in private schools across Ras Al Khaimah. The survey was conducted independently from private schools to better understand the level of parental satisfaction across all eight curricula offered within the Emirate. It covered key categories including communication, engagement, quality of education, curriculum, personal and social development, wellbeing, participation and parent councils and facilities.

AURAK is the first university in the UAE to be awarded the internationally recognized QS 5 Stars Plus rating, the highest ranking available in the QS Stars ratings system. The university is ranked in the QS Arab Region University Rankings for 2023 at 11th in the UAE and 51st-60th in the Arab region. AURAK started operating in 2009 with just 39 students and, by late 2022, it had more than 1,000 students.

RAKMHSU began with just 22 students in 2006 and now trains more than 1,178 aspiring medical and health sciences professionals from over 50 countries. Currently, about 956 of the university's nursing graduates, 32% of whom 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 735 articles published in various national and international journals.

RAKMHSU in 2024 became the first medical university in the UAE to obtain five stars in the QS Stars International Rating for universities, reinforcing its position as a leading educational institution in the field of medical and health education in the region.

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

There are 107 schools in Ras Al Khaimah – 73 public and 34 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 5 British-style curriculum schools,

including RAK Academy, which operates 3 branches across the Emirate, 3 United States curriculum schools, one International Baccalaureate school and several 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.

RAK Academy is a well-established and highly regarded family of international schools that have served the educational needs of students in the Emirate for close to 50 years. Through its five schools spread throughout Ras Al Khaimah, RAK Academy provides unique learning pathway choices, delivering both IB and British curriculum options.

RAK Academy schools offer students a nurturing, family focused environment, with a strong emphasis on supporting them to thrive and achieve both academically and as global citizens. With an emphasis on attracting the highest quality teaching staff from around the world and with a student population from over 90 countries, RAK Academy students achieve the best results in the Emirate.

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 130,000 children at schools across the Middle East, Europe, Africa, India, Southeast Asia, and North America.

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 in Ras Al Khaimah have been added to the 'UNESCO Tentative List for World Heritage'. In addition, the Department of Antiquities and Museums 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 Neolithic period, making the Emirate one of the oldest places in the world to be continuously settled for over 7,000 years.

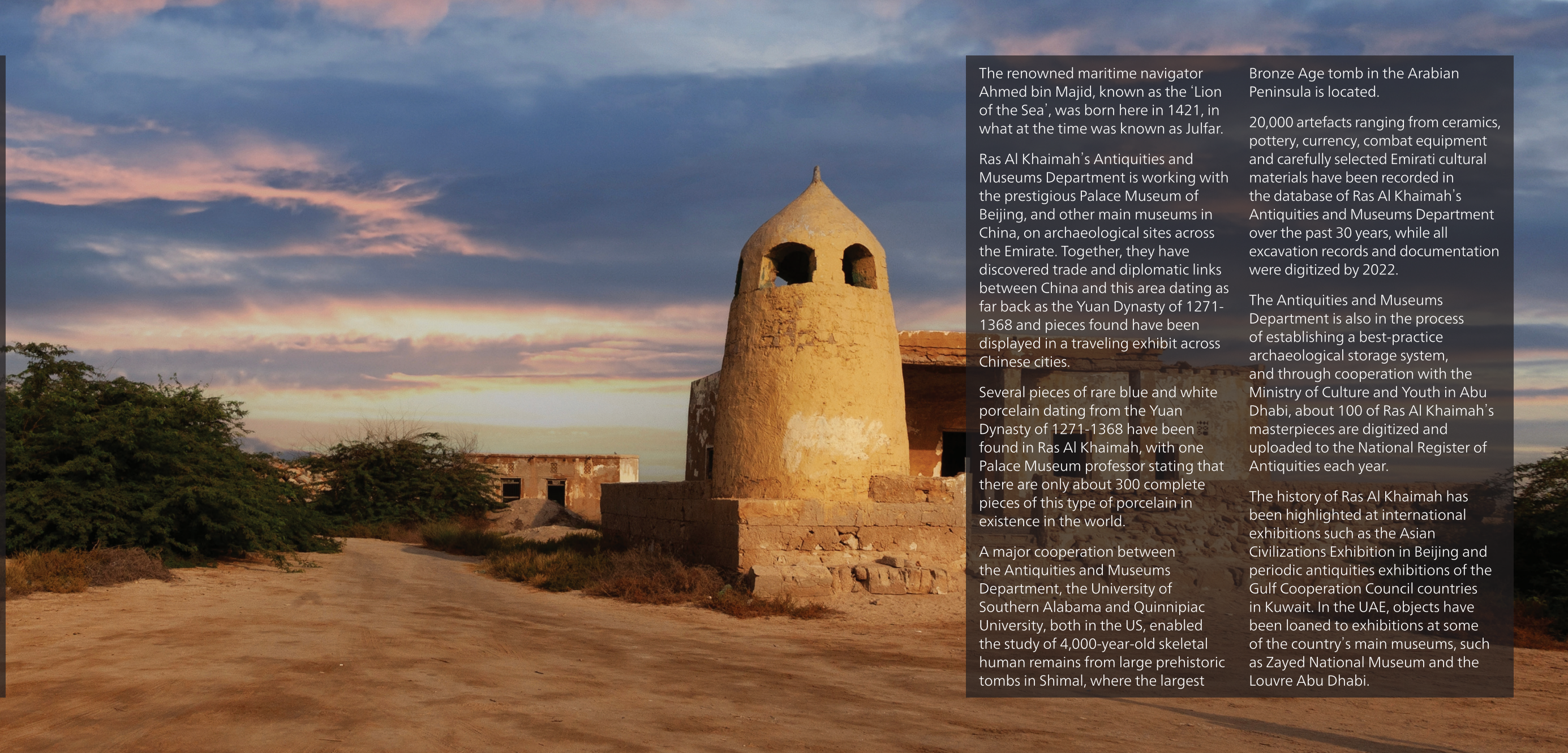
In recent times, citizens of Ras Al Khaimah have put great emphasis on maintaining their culture and traditions, which manifests in folklore, the arts and sports, such as camel racing and horse riding. There are numerous cultural clubs, folk societies, theaters and libraries that ensure the Emirate's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

The annual Ras Al Khaimah Art 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 Jazeera Al Hamra (The Red Island) is the only preserved traditional pearling and fishing village in the Arabian Gulf and it has a rich architectural heritage. Originally a tidal island, its homes are made from coral stones and the area was abandoned by residents in 1968. A massive restoration project has been under way to restore its past splendor and make it more accessible to visitors, with several areas already completed.

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, and other main museums in China, on archaeological sites across the Emirate. Together, they have discovered trade and diplomatic links between China and this area dating as far back as the Yuan Dynasty of 1271-1368 and pieces found have been displayed in a traveling exhibit across Chinese cities.

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 Quinncipiac University, both in the US, enabled the study of 4,000-year-old skeletal human remains from large prehistoric tombs in Shimal, where the largest

Bronze Age tomb in the Arabian Peninsula is located.

20,000 artefacts ranging from ceramics, pottery, currency, combat equipment and carefully selected Emirati cultural materials have been recorded in the database of Ras Al Khaimah's Antiquities and Museums Department over the past 30 years, while all excavation records and documentation were digitized by 2022.

The Antiquities and Museums Department is also in the process of establishing a best-practice archaeological storage system, and through cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Youth in Abu Dhabi, about 100 of Ras Al Khaimah's masterpieces are digitized and uploaded to the National Register of Antiquities each year.

The history of Ras Al Khaimah has been highlighted at international exhibitions such as the Asian Civilizations Exhibition in Beijing and periodic antiquities exhibitions of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in Kuwait. In the UAE, objects have been loaned to exhibitions at some of the country's main museums, such as Zayed National Museum and the Louvre Abu Dhabi.



