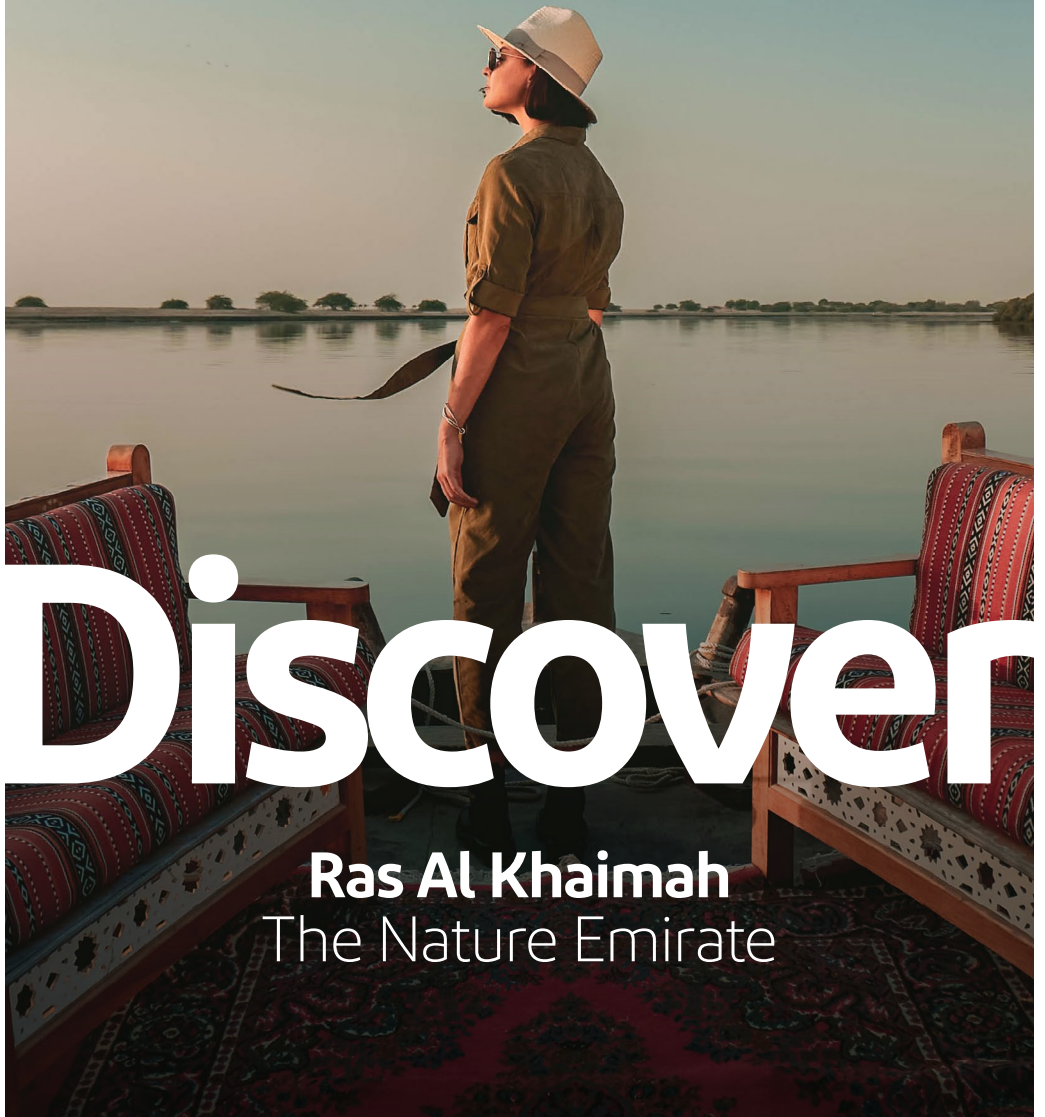




ras al khaimah



Discover

Ras Al Khaimah
The Nature Emirate

Contents

- 1 Welcome to the Nature Emirate**
- 2 Attractions & Activities**
 - 3 Mountain Adventures
 - 6 Desert Experiences
 - 8 Beach & Water Activities
 - 10 Golf
- 12 Culture & Heritage**
 - 13 Cultural Sites
 - 15 Cultural Conservation
- 16 World Class Hospitality**
 - 17 Recently Opened Hotels
 - 17 Upcoming Hotels
 - 18 Pet-friendly Destination
- 19 Events Inspired by Nature**
 - 21 International Conferences
 - 21 Sporting Events
 - 22 Cultural Events
 - 22 Weddings
 - 22 New Year's Eve Celebrations
- 23 Sustainable Tourism**
 - 24 EarthCheck Destination Certification Programme
 - 25 Responsible RAK
 - 25 Barjeel Green Building Regulations
 - 25 Green Hotels Programme
- 26 A Destination of the Future**
 - 27 A Robust Pipeline of Luxury Hotels & Resorts
 - 28 Connecting the World to the Emirate
 - 28 Accessible RAK
 - 29 Enhancing Livability & Cultivating Local Talent
- 30 Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority**
- 32 Media Contacts & Resources**

Welcome to the Nature Emirate

Known as the Nature Emirate for its diverse topography, Ras Al Khaimah captivates travellers with its breathtaking landscapes – from 64km of beaches, to deserts and imposing mountains including the UAE's highest peak at 1,934 metres – Jebel Jais.

With a rich history dating back over 7,000 years, the emirate is a living museum of traditions as diverse as its nature as well as many archaeological sites waiting to be explored, four of which are shortlisted on UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites.

As northernmost of the seven Emirates that make up the UAE, Ras Al Khaimah is conveniently located just a 45-minutes' drive from Dubai International Airport

and served by its own international airport, Ras Al Khaimah International Airport, making it is easily accessible through international hubs, with one-third of the world's population within four hours' flying time.

With year-round sunshine and diverse experiences ranging from luxury retreats to thrilling adventures and everything in between, Ras Al Khaimah is the perfect destination for families, luxury travellers, adventure enthusiasts, and cultural explorers alike.

Featured in Conde Nast Traveller ME's UAE Destination to Watch 2024, CNN Travel's best destinations to visit in 2023 and Time magazine's World's Greatest Places of 2022, Ras Al Khaimah offers the experience of a lifetime where travellers can experience the natural beauty of the emirates across a range of landscapes from the sea and beach to desert and mountain range.

Fast Facts





Attractions & Activities

Mountain Adventures

At an imposing 1934 meters above sea level, Ras Al Khaimah's Jebel Jais is the highest mountain in the UAE. It is known as the adventure hub of the Middle East, offering exhilarating hiking and mountain biking opportunities for all abilities. It is the perfect destination for those seeking adrenaline-fuelled adventures or simply looking to escape city life. At its peaks, temperatures are around 10 degrees lower than sea level, making it ideal escape for hiking, camping or simply enjoying a meal with a view even during the warmer summer months. Jebel Jais is home to a multitude of thrilling attractions:

Jais Flight

Launched in 2018 and attracting around 50,000 adventurers annually, Jais Flight offers an unparalleled thrill for visitors, who soar across jagged mountain peaks and swoop through deep ravines at hair-raising speeds of up to 160 kmph. Spanning 2.83 km, equivalent to over 28 soccer fields, it holds the title of the longest zipline in the world. This three-minute adrenaline-pumping adventure, set 1,680m above the Arabian Gulf, delivers a once-in-a-lifetime experience, offering an unforgettable sense of flying.

Jais Sky Tour

The region's longest zipline tour comprises six ziplines high above the grand cliffs and canyons of Jebel Jais, connected by seven platforms and a sky bridge that floats at 1,250m above sea level and 300m above the

ground – the highest of its kind in the UAE. Jais Sky Tour takes brave-hearted explorers through a complex route of six ziplines that range from just 33m to well over 1km. The ziplines gives brave adventurers an extraordinary bird's-eye view as they fly 5km through the towering Hajar Mountain range wearing a specially fitted harness, travelling at an average speed of 60kmph.

Jais Sledder

The region's longest toboggan ride reaches up to 40km per hour as it hurtles down the mountain, swerving through glorious panoramas. The total ride takes about eight minutes sliding over 1,840m of exhilarating hairpin curves and undulating waves.

Jais Viewing Deck Park

Perched 1,250m above sea level and nestled nearly 30km within the heart of the mountains, the Jais Viewing Deck Park boasts breathtaking vistas across seven viewing decks equipped with 12 powerful binoculars to provide 360-degree views of the Hajar Mountains, including Jais Flight on one side, a zig-zagging road, swooping valleys and cloud-piercing peaks and on the other, date wadis, villages and the Arabian Gulf. Car parking facilities and food trucks are available

1484 by Puro

Located high in the Hajar Mountains 1484m above sea level, 1484 by Puro stands as the UAE's highest restaurant, offering diners an unparalleled experience with international dishes, modern interiors and an expansive outdoor terrace with impressive mountain views. Complementing this extraordinary venue is The View by 1484, a rooftop lounge where guests can enjoy quick bites and refreshing drinks while soaking in the breathtaking scenery – perfect for both casual visits and special occasions.



Hiking

Launched in 2018 and attracting around Ras Al Khaimah is home to the UAE's longest network of hiking trails, spanning an impressive 95km. The network features a mix of accessible front-country trails and more demanding back-country routes, catering to everyone from casual hikers to seasoned trekkers. Its standout trail is the Jebel Jais Rim Trail, stretching 40km and offering the country's longest balcony walk and ridge trail, with breathtaking panoramic views of coastal mangroves and the majestic Hajar Mountains.

Bolstering Ras Al Khaimah's reputation as a leading hiking destination in the region is HIGHLANDER, an annual, multi-day hiking event set amidst the stunning landscapes of the Hajar Mountains in Ras Al Khaimah. Organized by HIGHLANDER, the world's largest international hiking association, this event offers participants an immersive experience combining physical challenge with cultural exploration. With every detail - safety, food, water and entertainment - expertly taken care of by the organizers, participants focus entirely on the journey and the stunning landscapes surrounding them.

The 2025 edition of HIGHLANDER Ras Al Khaimah featured three signature hiking challenges. HIGHLANDER Pegasus was a 40km, three-day backpacking adventure, while HIGHLANDER Orion covered 25km over two days. Both required participants to carry all essential camping, hiking, and cooking gear, fully immersing themselves in Ras Al Khaimah's mountainous terrain and camping under the stars. New for 2025, HIGHLANDER Lyra was a 20km single-day hike, allowing participants to complete the challenge with only essential day-hiking gear. This format provided an accessible entry point for those looking to build confidence, skills, and stamina for longer hikes.

Bear Grylls Explorers Camp

The Bear Grylls Explorers Camp offers a unique adventure experience as the world's first Bear Grylls-branded accommodation, set amidst rugged mountain landscapes. The camp consists of 16 eco-friendly cabins made from repurposed containers, each designed to accommodate up to three guests. These air-conditioned cabins come equipped with bunk beds, en-suite shower rooms, private barbecue facilities, and seating areas, providing a balance of sustainability and comfort. The camp caters to both adventure seekers and those looking for a tranquil mountain retreat, with basic amenities such as towels and bedding provided, while guests are responsible for their toiletries and personal gear. Meals can be pre-ordered from 1484 by Puro and delivered to the camp, and a tuck shop on-site offers snacks, drinks, and other essentials.

Beyond accommodation, the camp offers hands-on survival training led by highly skilled instructors, following courses designed by the renowned adventurer and survival expert, Bear Grylls, and his team. These include the 24-hour Primal Survival Course, the 6-hour Wild Survival Course, and the 4-hour Essential Survival Course, catering to families, schools, and corporate groups. No prior technical knowledge or fitness level is required, as participants learn key survival skills such as natural navigation, shelter building, water filtration, fire lighting, and more. In addition to survival courses, the camp offers a variety of outdoor activities, including mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing, abseiling, archery, and a high ropes course featuring multiple challenge levels. The camp is also an excellent choice for corporate and school groups seeking team-building experiences, with customizable itineraries tailored to specific learning goals. Whether visitors

seek an adrenaline-fueled adventure or a simple mountain getaway, the Bear Grylls Explorers Camp provides an unforgettable experience in the heart of Jebel Jais.

Camp 1770

Camp 1770, the UAE's highest campsite at 1,770m above sea level, offers panoramic views of the Hajar Mountain range and a unique blend of adventure and tranquillity. Operated by Adventurati Outdoor, it serves as an ideal base for exploring nearby trails. Beyond its stunning scenery, the campsite provides an enriching experience with authentic Emirati culinary offerings, meditation sessions, sound healing and yoga, creating a serene retreat for relaxation and rejuvenation. The firm favourite is the camp's signature adventure programme called the Summit Series, which is designed to give mountaineers a replica experience of summiting a high-altitude mountain such as Mount Kilimanjaro by summiting Jebel Jais at an altitude of 1,934m in the middle of the night in freezing temperatures.

Upcoming Mountain Attractions

Jais Wings (Launching in 2025)

Get ready for an unforgettable adventure as Jais Wings, the region's first dedicated paragliding site, takes off in 2025. Nestled atop the stunning Jebel Jais, the UAE's highest peak, this exhilarating new attraction invites participants to soar above the breathtaking landscapes of the Hajar Mountains and experience the thrill of free flight like never before. Jais Wings promises an unparalleled aerial adventure that will leave paragliders breathless.

Saij Mountain Lodge by Mantis (Opening in 2025)

Featuring 70 eco-luxury lodges designed to provide an immersive, nature-connected retreat on Jebel Jais, this resort will be an exceptional place to experience mindful activities and guided treks, true to the Mantis mantra when it opens soon.

Hiking at Jebel Jais



Desert Experiences

Ras Al Khaimah's deserts offer a breathtaking expanse of terracotta dunes and rich biodiversity. A land where Bedouin traditions meet modern luxury, it offers a captivating blend of adventure, serenity, and cultural heritage. From the protected wilderness of Al Wadi Nature Reserve to the exhilarating experiences of dune-bashing and hot air ballooning, the desert of Ras Al Khaimah invites travellers to immerse themselves in its timeless beauty and discover the magic of the Arabian sands.

Al Wadi Nature Reserve

A sanctuary of natural beauty, the Al Wadi Nature Reserve is an expansive 1,235-acre protected desert. Home to over 50 species, including Arabian Oryx, gazelles, and desert foxes, it thrives as a haven for wildlife and conservation enthusiasts, offering a unique glimpse into the region's rich biodiversity and natural heritage.

Nestled within the protected Al Wadi Nature Reserve, The Ritz-Carlton Al Wadi Desert is a tranquil retreat with 101 luxurious villas, allowing guests to experience authentic desert living in luxury. The Arabian desert provides the perfect backdrop for this exceptional resort that combines its renowned five-star service with traditional Emirati-inspired hospitality. For added exploration, desert bicycles are thoughtfully placed throughout the resort, offering guests a unique way to connect with the stunning surroundings.

Located within The Ritz-Carlton Al Wadi Desert, the Al Wadi Equestrian Centre is a luxurious and quintessential Arabian stable offering a variety of cultural and equestrian experiences. Visitors can immerse themselves in the region's heritage with a camel ride or an evening caravan experience, while also learning about the cultural and historical significance of horses in Arabian traditions. For equestrian enthusiasts, the centre provides riding lessons for all levels and scenic rides through the horse-walking arena. Younger children can delight in a pony encounter, where they can groom, wash, walk, and ride ponies, creating unforgettable memories.

Desert Camps

Found within the grounds of Al Wadi Nature Reserve, Sonara Camp is a stunning hideaway in the heart of the Arabian wilderness. Here, visitors seeking decadence can enjoy luxurious dining and entertainment under the stars, with herds of Oryx and gazelles as dinner companions. There is also a range of activities to suit all tastes, including camel rides, sandboarding, and a mesmerising sunset falcon show, plus a kids' menu, so the little ones can enjoy tasty treats as they watch a movie under the stars.

Visitors can also immerse themselves in the magic of the Arabian desert at several desert camps, including, Bassata Village, Bedouin Oasis, and The Dunes – each thrilling activities that bring the vast rolling dunes to life. Experience the adrenaline rush as expert drivers navigate the dunes or take control and racing across the desert on a quad bike. For a more traditional adventure, enjoy the serene rhythm of camel treks or the elegance, offering a closer connection to the Emirate's timeless landscapes. After dark, the camps come alive with music and performances by the belly and tanoura dancers.

ActionFlight Hot Air Balloon

An unforgettable adventure soaring high above Ras Al Khaimah in a 450,000-cubic-foot hot air balloon, this unique experience provides breathtaking panoramic views of the Emirate's stunning landscapes, from rugged mountains to golden deserts. With a bit of luck, the views might even include indigenous wildlife, adding a touch of magic to this special experience.

Jazirah Aviation Club Microlight Flight

Take to the sky with an exhilarating microlight aircraft experience, where adventure meets breathtaking views. Guided by skilled pilots, these light, agile aircrafts provide an unmatched sense of freedom and adventure soaring over the Emirate's unique natural beauty, with its rolling dunes, rugged mountains, and shimmering coastline stretching into the horizon.

ActionFlight Hot Air Balloon





Beach & Water Activities

With 64 kilometres of natural coastline, Ras Al Khaimah boasts an abundance of pristine sandy beaches, where the warm waters of the Arabian Gulf create the perfect setting for a relaxing getaway. Along the coastline, there are lush green coastal plains and dense mangroves that teem with life, including pink flamingos.

Water Sports

The vibrant aquatic activities of Ras Al Khaimah cater to every type of adventurer from the thrill of parasailing and jet skiing to speed boat tours. For those seeking a closer connection to the tranquil surroundings, kayaking or paddleboarding provides the perfect opportunity to glide across calm seas or explore the serene beauty of the Emirate's mangroves.

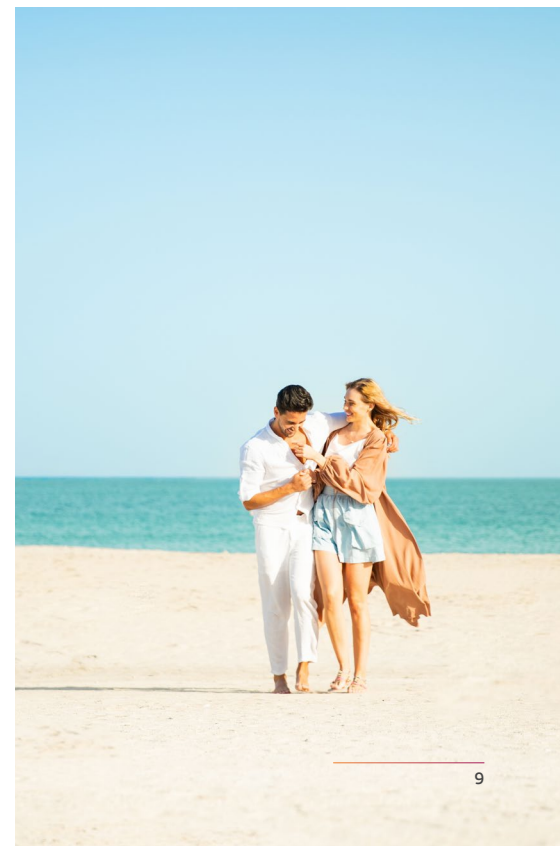
Swimming with Camels

Ras Al Khaimah's offers visitors the unique opportunity to swim with camels. This experience, guided by knowledgeable handlers, not only showcases the camels' surprising agility and comfort in the water but also allows participants to appreciate these fascinating animals in a beautiful setting. This activity benefits the camels as well, enhancing their stamina and overall health.



Beach Glamping

Banan Beach, a glamping resort located near Marjan Island offers a chilled overnight beach getaway featuring tepee tents located around a central firepit, private chalets, family-friendly attractions and barbeque areas. Another beachside glamping experience is the Longbeach Campground which combines a traditional camping ethos with luxurious amenities and engaging activities. Visitors can choose from a variety of elegant tent options, including 11 Panoramic Dome Suite Tents that ensure the ultimate glamping experience. At 7 meters in diameter, they are both spacious and cozy. Each of these tents comes with a queen-size bed, twin bunk beds, a private bathroom, and a private outdoor area with a jacuzzi.



Golf

Ras Al Khaimah is home to two golf courses and has played host to several prestigious regional and international golfing event over the past years, including the Ras Al Khaimah Championship, an international tournament on the DP World Tour, part of the European Tour from 2023 to 2025, where some of the world's biggest golf stars battled it out at the Al Hamra Golf Club. The Ras Al Khaimah Championship which was televised in over 150 countries, further building the emirate's popularity as a premium golfing destination in the region.

Al Hamra Golf Club

The Al Hamra Golf Club, located in the Al Hamra village, features stunning views of the Arabian Gulf and Hajar mountain range that provides a backdrop for the 18-hole championship golf course. This world-class course offers a fun and challenging game to golfers of all levels. The Par-72 Championship course by Peter Harradine has been carefully sculpted to meander around four interconnected open water lagoons merging seamlessly with the water of the Arabian Gulf. The front nine measuring 3,578 yards makes its way out and away from the Clubhouse, whilst the back nine measuring 3,747 yards returns home around the lagoon to the Clubhouse. With five varying tee options on each hole, golfers of all abilities are able to get the most from their golfing experience. The club hosts three teaching academies as well as private lessons for all age groups.

With the short daylight hours, Al Hamra Golf Club uses the latest zero pollution floodlights to offer golfers the ability to play into the night. Using a combination of the front nine and back nine championship courses, a composite 9-hole course is created, providing the perfect option for players after work or for the true golf enthusiast who just can't get enough.

Al Hamra Golf Club is conveniently located in close proximity to a range of world-class hotels including the Waldorf Astoria Ras Al Khaimah, The Ritz-Carlton Al Hamra Beach Resort, Sofitel Al Hamra Beach Resort, and Al Hamra Residences and Village.

Tower Links Golf Club

Tower Links Golf Club, located in the heart of the city, first opened in 2004 and was designed by landscape architect Gerald Williams. The diverse course features a driving range, putting and chipping greens, and a teaching tee. The par 72, 7098 yard, 18-hole course caters to golfers of all standards. The professional course presents four tee boxes and sandy waste areas that allow both amateurs and professional players a more challenging game.

Considered the most natural golf course in the UAE, Tower Links is framed by the spectacular Hajar mountains, nutrient-rich mangroves and terracotta sand dunes. The protected mangrove reserve provides a safe haven for many aquatic and bird species, including the pale pink flamingo synonymous with Ras Al Khaimah. The natural beauty of the surroundings presents unique golfing challenges ensuring players have an unforgettable experience.

Conveniently located nearby are comfortable city hotels including Hilton Garden Inn, Citymax Hotel Ras Al Khaimah and Action Hotel as well as the stunning Rixos Al Mairid Ras Al Khaimah with the longest beach in the Emirate with 1.5 kilometres of sandy shores.

Al Hamra Golf Club



Culture & Heritage

Culture & Heritage

Ras Al Khaimah's rich history dates back 7,000 years to the Bronze Age, making it one of the oldest continuously inhabited regions in the world. A cultural tapestry woven from three distinct Arabian tribal traditions – coast, mountain, and desert – the Emirate is home to over 80 archaeological sites, including ancient ruins and historic forts, as well as the only pearl farm in the United Arab Emirates. Visitors can delve into its extraordinary heritage through cultural experiences and tours, offering a glimpse into the incredible past of the Emirate.



Cultural Sites

Four of Ras Al Khaimah's heritage sites are on the UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites:

1. Al Jazeera Al Hamra

Al Jazeera Al Hamra is the last-surviving pearl fishing village of its kind in the Arabian Gulf comprised approximately 500 houses that were home to Al Zaabi tribe. To this day, it remains mostly untouched, invoking feelings of stepping back in time. A testimony to the architecture and settlement planning of the past, the village includes all of the traditional elements of a former Gulf town, including a fort and watchtowers, mosque, souq and extensive courtyard houses of various designs. There is a mix of dwelling styles – from small, simple houses, courtyard homes, two-storey buildings to a large courtyard residence that belonged to a wealthy pearl merchant. The site has been a favoured filming location for popular Hollywood movies, such as *The War Machine*, starring Brad Pitt and *6 Underground*, starring Ryan Reynolds. As part of the Emirate's cultural conservation strategy, Ras Al Khaimah has invested in a phased restoration programme at Al Jazeera Al Hamra, with the aim to preserve the history of the archaeological site while making it accessible to visitors to discover first-hand accounts of the local culture.

2. Dhayah Fort

An 18th-century fortification and archaeological site, Dhayah Fort is the only remaining hilltop fort in the UAE. The fort encapsulates the different systems of land and sea use, which were typical for the northern part of the Oman Peninsula in the past. It dates to the Late Bronze Age (1600 – 1300 BC) when locals used it for settlement and fortification.

The twin-peaked golden mud-brick fortress, built during the 19th century and restored in the late 1990s, was where the 1819 battle between British troops and local Qawasim tribes took place. The restored fort has reopened to the public with a new ticketing centre, information boards, and new illuminated wooden handrails installed for enhanced safety. The surrounding Dhayah area has been settled for thousands of years, resulting in its immense local historical significance. Its diverse landscapes include a lagoon protected by a sandbar, with an early Islamic harbour settlement, palm gardens and fort, mountain villages, terraced field systems, hill fort, gravel plain and prehistoric tombs.

3. Shimal

A Bronze Age settlement with significant archaeological findings, including 100 prehistoric tombs, settlements, and a medieval palace. Its archaeological remains are outstanding for the Wadi Suq Period (2000-1600 BC), the Late Bronze Age Culture (1600-1300 BC) and the Middle Islamic Period (13th-16th century AD). Shimal comprises the largest prehistoric cemetery of megalithic tombs in Southeast Arabia. Its monumental burial structures of the Wadi Suq period are not only unique for their size, but also include a variety of architectural types not found outside of the Emirate.

4. Julfar

An old port city, situated beside the outwash wadi fans of Wadi Bih and Wadi Haqil. The trading town of Julfar represents one of the very few existing Islamic towns in the Gulf and Southeast Arabia. It stands out for having remained continuously inhabited and historically significant from the beginning of the Islamic period.

The National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah

Brimming with archaeological and ethnological artefacts and antiquities, the National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah houses a collection of documents, manuscripts and treaties as well as traditional weapons belonging to the ruling family. The building was once a former fort and palace of the Al Qasimi ruling family until 1964. Visitors can immerse themselves in the Emirate's cultural heritage through the museum's fascinating displays on architecture, pearl diving, date agriculture, farming, fishing and much more.

Mohammad Bin Salem Mosque

In the 'old' city, visitors can also explore the Mohammad Bin Salem Mosque, Ras Al Khaimah's oldest place of worship and the only mosque in the Emirate without a minaret. The mosque has a surviving 'prayer call platform' from which its imam would call Muslims of the nearby village to pray. After several restorations, the mosque is now open for visitors and tours can be arranged by most local operators and hotels.

Suwaidi Pearls

Visitors can explore the history of pearling in the region at Suwaidi Pearls, the only pearl farm in the UAE. Founded in 2005 by Abdulla Al Suwaidi, the last in a long lineage of traditional pearl divers, the farm was established to revive the country's proud pearl diving tradition. Visitors can learn about the historic significance of pearling, and gain insight into the lives of pearl divers, pearl cultivation and the harvesting process, plus get an opportunity to experience the thrill of opening their own oyster and checking for pearls. The tour starts at the foot of the expansive Al Hajar mountain range in the northern town of Al Rams with visitors boarding a traditional pearling boat for a tranquil journey through verdant mangroves to reach the floating pearl farm.

Cultural Conservation

To preserve Ras Al Khaimah's cultural assets and ensure its heritage remains a cornerstone of the destination's identity and tourism appeal, Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority, in collaboration with the Department of Antiquities and Museums (DAMS), Al Qasimi Foundation, Marjan, is working to develop management and design guidelines for the conservation of 20 priority cultural sites. This conservation project aims to uphold their integrity of the sites, according to UNESCO guidelines.



Dhahah Fort



World-class Hospitality

Ras Al Khaimah's diverse hospitality portfolio boasts 54 hotels and resorts ranging from ultra-luxurious 5-star resorts and family-friendly all-inclusive properties to 4-star, 3-star and glamping options. With a total of 7,800 rooms operated world-class global brands such as Anantara, Sofitel, Hilton, Rixos, Rotana, Ritz-Carlton, Radisson, InterContinental, Mövenpick, and the world's largest Hampton by Hilton resort, the Emirate ensures an unforgettable stay for every traveller. Over 80% of hotels and resorts in Ras Al Khaimah feature spacious, private beaches, making it an ideal beach destination.

Families are especially well-catered to, with family-friendly room categories and amenities such as kids' clubs, children's activities, babysitting services, water parks, and water sports. Meanwhile, adults can enjoy relaxation and wellness activities, making Ras Al Khaimah an ideal retreat for every generation. The Emirate's hospitality offerings also complement its vibrant international dining scene, blending traditional and contemporary cuisine to satisfy every palate.

Additionally, two properties reopened after being rebranded including **Rixos Al Mairid Ras Al Khaimah Resort** and **Pullman Marjan Island**, bringing new experiences to the destination.

Upcoming Hotels

Ras Al Khaimah continues to attract a growing number of visitors from around the world with its diverse offering. To meet this increasing demand, the emirate is focused on expanding its a robust hospitality portfolio over the coming years. In 2025, several new hotels are scheduled to open including:

The Westin Hotel & Hotel Apartments
(257 keys)

Rotana Mangrove Hotel (258 keys)

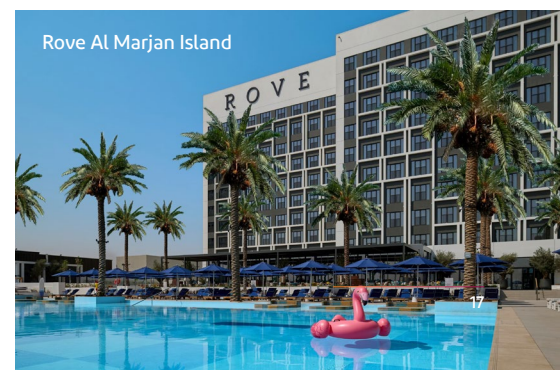
Saij, A Mantis Collection Mountain, featuring 70 eco-luxury lodges designed to provide an immersive, nature-connected retreat.

Recently Opened Hotels

Rove Al Marjan Island

Opened in April 2025, the 3-star Rove Al Marjan Island boasts 441 stylish rooms brimming with the signature charm of the homegrown Rove brand. Guests can choose between island vistas or stunning sea views, with 30% of the rooms interconnecting, making it ideal for families. It provides private beach access and a wide array of dining entertainment options for both adults and children.

In 2024, the destination welcomed **Sofitel Al Hamra Beach Resort** with 292 keys and **Anantara Mina Al Arab Resort** with 174 rooms, suites and villas, including the Emirate's first overwater villas.





Pet-friendly Destination

In Ras Al Khaimah, pets are part of the adventure. The Emirate has so many options for those travelling with their pets to explore, from overnight stays in pet-friendly hotels to spectacular mountain hikes to beaches and desert adventures.

Pet-friendly Hotels

- Movenpick Marjan Island Resort
- Sofitel Al Hamra Beach
- Al Hamra Village Hotel
- Al Hamra Residence Hotel
- Jannah Hotel Apartment
- Desert Inn
- Banan Beach

Pet-friendly Experiences

Ras Al Khaimah Animal Welfare offers the largest open-air dog park in the UAE. With over 7,000sqm of landscaped areas for pets to run free off-leash, the park also features a fully equipped Agility Park and dedicated doggy swimming pool, as well as a café area where owners can socialise while their dogs are playing.



Events Inspired by Nature

Ras Al Khaimah is rapidly emerging as one of the region's most dynamic destination for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) with an edge, combining state-of-the-art facilities with stunning al fresco venues spanning forts, mountain viewing decks, desert camps and so much more. In 2024, the Emirate experienced a remarkable 40% year-over-year growth in MICE visitor numbers, reinforcing its status as a premier MICE destination.

Whether you're planning a conference for 4,000 delegates or hosting a corporate gathering or incentive group, Ras Al Khaimah's unspoiled landscapes, coupled with a wide portfolio of hotels, resorts and a diverse selection of aspirational venues, make it the perfect destination for events of all types and sizes.

Scenic Event Venues

Al Hamra International Exhibition & Conference Centre

Al Hamra International Exhibition and Conference Center Boasts over 2700 sqm of flexible event space, accommodating up to 4,000 delegates with state-of-the-art facilities, advanced audiovisual technology, and dedicated support teams to ensure seamless execution.

Al Jazeera Al Hamra

For those seeking a cultural touch, Al Jazeera Al Hamra, the UAE's last remaining Emirati pearling village, provides a stunning and historic backdrop ideal for bespoke events.

Dhayah Fort

As one of the heritage sites on the UNESCO World Heritage, this 19th-century hilltop fort provides an iconic setting for intimate and memorable gatherings of up to 30 guests. Perched on top a 70-meter hill, it offers spectacular 360-degree views spanning palm gardens, dramatic mountains, and serene sea vistas.

Sonara Camp

Home to a refined dining and entertainment experience located in the stunning Al Wadi Nature Reserve of Ras Al Khaimah. The Al Wadi Nature Reserve is home to numerous wildlife species including the Arabian Oryx, Sand and Arabian Gazelles and the Arabian Red Fox.

Jais Panorama

Set at an incredible height of 1,600m above sea level, Jais Panorama is the highest event venue in the United Arab Emirates. This magnificent open-air venue featuring breathtaking views provides the perfect backdrop and for your special occasion for a beyond memorable experience!

International Conferences

Ras Al Khaimah has established itself as a premier destination for world-class events including prestigious conferences such as the Arab Aviation Summit and Global Citizen Forum (for three consecutive years) and the Exotic Wedding Planning Conference. It has also welcomed prominent associations such as the World Travel and Tourism Council, Pacific Asia Travel Association, Deutscher Reiseverband and Schweizer Reiseverband.

Sporting Events

World-class sporting events have also taken centre stage in Ras Al Khaimah, including the **2023 WMF Minifootball World Cup**, which made its debut in the Middle East with 32 participating nations and over 10,000 spectators.

In 2025, the Emirate hosted its third edition of the **Ras Al Khaimah Championship**, an international golf tournament on the DP World Tour at the Al Hamra Golf Club. **The UAE Tour** also saw international cycling teams return to Ras Al Khaimah to tackle two stages including the dramatic Jebel Jais Mountain stage. The **HIGHLANDER** hiking experience was another highlight, with over 500 participants from around the globe completing the 55km and 30km routes during its third edition.

Ras Al Khaimah brings its unique identity to life through a dynamic lineup of signature organised events that sports. Among these is the renowned **Ras Al Khaimah Half Marathon**, now in its 18th edition. Attracting over 5,000 participants annually and broadcast in 180+ countries, the event has firmly established itself as one of the region's most celebrated running events.

New on Ras Al Khaimah's sporting calendar is **Jais Ride**, a cycling challenge set to take place on Jebel Jais, on 12th April 2025. Jais Ride will see cyclists pushed to their limits as they ascend the legendary mountain route of Jebel Jais - often ranked among the most scenic cycling routes in the region and one of the stages of the UAE. With a challenging climb, rewarding summit finish, and spectacular scenery, this 25km course is expected to attract intermediate to advanced cyclists from across the UAE and beyond.



Cultural Events

Building on its cultural legacy, **Ras Al Khaimah Art** has grown significantly since its inception in 2013. Originally a small gathering of 30 locally based artists, it has evolved into the Emirate's premier cultural event. Held at Al Jazeera Al Hamra, the festival transforms this historic village into an open-air gallery that celebrates the creative talents of regional and global artists and captivates local and international visitors.

Looking to the future, Ras Al Khaimah is set to elevate its event offerings with the highly anticipated **Seven Wonders** experiential event series, set to debut in 2025. Following its exclusive launch in October 2024 with a performance by legendary DJ Armin Van Buuren, this groundbreaking series will feature seven world-class artists performing in seven breathtaking locations across seven weeks. Iconic venues such as Jebel Jais, Al Jazeera Al Hamra, Al Wadi Desert, and the Emirate's pristine beaches will provide the perfect backdrop for this fusion of culture, music, and nature, promising an unforgettable celebration of creativity and inspiration.

Ras Al Khaimah Art



Weddings

Ras Al Khaimah offers an enchanting backdrop for unforgettable weddings, blending stunning natural beauty with world-class hospitality. Whether you dream of a romantic beachside ceremony, a lavish ballroom celebration, or an intimate mountaintop vow exchange, this emirate has the perfect venue for your special day. Luxury resorts, such as Waldorf Astoria and The Ritz-Carlton Al Wadi Desert, provide breathtaking settings and personalized services to make your wedding truly magical.

New Year's Eve Celebrations

Ras Al Khaimah's is one of the most exciting destinations to celebrate the new year. The Emirate's New Year's Eve fireworks and drone display have set multiple GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ titles over the last six years, with the 2025 show breaking the records for 'Largest aerial display of a tree formed by multirotor drones' and 'Largest aerial image of a seashell formed by multirotor drones', with over 100,000 residents and visitors gathered to witness the spectacular show. Dubbed "Our Story in the Sky", the 2025 show delivered an unforgettable tribute to the Emirate's natural and cultural heritage with drone artistry, lasers and synchronised pyrotechnics, setting a new standard for immersive and meaningful new year celebrations.

Sustainable Tourism



Ras Al Khaimah stands out as one of the few destinations with a thoughtful and inclusive sustainable tourism policy. As the region's first destination to earn the EarthCheck Sustainable Destinations Silver Certification, Ras Al Khaimah goes beyond the basics, demonstrating a commitment to comprehensive sustainability practices that set a high standard for the industry and position the Emirate as a leader in sustainable tourism development.

The destination's leadership in sustainable tourism has been recognised on a regional and global scale, with Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority's sustainability programme being named the 'Middle East's Most Sustainable Project' at the Forbes Middle East 2024 Sustainability Leaders' Summit.

Ras Al Khaimah's approach to sustainable tourism integrates economic, environmental, cultural, and social considerations into its core development framework, ensuring a holistic and future-focused strategy. Mapped against the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this strategy underscores the commitment of Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA) to shaping a thriving, sustainable tourism sector for generations to come.

A key pillar of this strategy is a partnership with EarthCheck, a global leader in sustainability certification. Leveraging EarthCheck's scientific framework and expertise, RAKTDA has established robust sustainability benchmarks tailored to Ras Al Khaimah's unique environmental challenges. This partnership not only equips stakeholders with data-driven tools to monitor and improve their sustainability performance but also aligns with growing global demand for eco-conscious tourism experiences.

Key elements of Ras Al Khaimah's sustainable tourism strategy include:

EarthCheck Destination Certification Programme



Created in partnership with EarthCheck, the destination certification programme involves a broad range of stakeholders from government authorities, businesses and community representatives. The certification process is a rigorous evaluation based on scientific criteria, benchmarking, monitoring, and auditing across 10 sustainability indicators, including energy and water conservation, waste management and social impact. In 2023, Ras Al Khaimah became the first in the Middle East to earn EarthCheck's Destination Silver Certification, reporting a better performance than regional averages in key areas such as 23% lower energy consumption, 29% lower greenhouse gas emissions and 61% lower in waste output.

Additionally, RAKTDA's initiatives delivered significant progress in resource conservation across the tourism sector,

achieving a 15% reduction in water usage through the implementation of water-saving technologies and educational campaigns targeting businesses and visitors. Additionally, the sector saw a 30% increase in material re-use, driven by efforts to repurpose construction materials, integrate recycled products into hotel operations, and promote circular economy principles among tourism businesses.

Responsible RAK



Launched in early 2023, Responsible RAK aims to unify the sustainability efforts of all hotels and tourism businesses within the Emirate by setting benchmarks across 10 key sustainability metrics, including energy consumption, waste management, water usage, and social impact. As of 2024, 24 hotels, attractions, and tour operators in Ras Al Khaimah had earned the Responsible RAK Silver Certification, which reflects significant progress in sustainable operations. Across the businesses participating in the Responsible RAK programme, 14 of the operations performed better than the regional average performance.

Barjeel Green Building Regulations



Launched by Ras Al Khaimah Municipality, this is a flagship initiative under the RAK Energy Strategy 2040 which was launched under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, UAE Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah and aims to reduce energy and water consumption in new buildings by 30%. As a tourism authority, RAKTDA is committed to promoting Barjeel's implementation among hotels and other

tourism facilities, recognising the significant impact that sustainable building practices can have on resource conservation and operational efficiencies in the hospitality sector. The key areas of focus include energy resource conservation, leading to long-term savings in hotel operations; water resource conservation, reducing the environmental footprint of high-demand sectors like hospitality; incorporation of renewable energy, supporting greener hotel operations; use of sustainable building materials, reducing construction waste and enhancing building performance; and creating healthier sustainable environments for guests and occupants in the tourism sector.

Green Hotels Programme



RAKTDA has implemented a comprehensive waste management strategy across the Emirate's tourism sector under the Green Hotels programme, in collaboration with the Public Services Department. This initiative monitors waste disposal practices among hotel properties, ensuring proper waste segregation and reduction. Progress is continuously monitored and reported against EarthCheck benchmarks, with key achievements already evident in 2024. These include a partnership with Winnow, a global leader in AI-driven food waste solutions, which has resulted in a 20% reduction in food waste across participating hotel kitchens, significantly reducing the environmental impact of organic waste. Additionally, RAKTDA has encouraged the adoption of digital solutions to minimise paper waste, improving operational efficiency while supporting the Emirate's broader sustainability goals.

A Destination of the Future

With a goal to attract 3.5 million visitors annually and raise tourism's contribution from 5% to one-third of its GDP by 2030, RAKTDA is shaping Ras Al Khaimah as a destination of the future by driving economic growth, creating sustainable tourism and enhancing its offering for visitors and the community.

A Robust Pipeline of Luxury Hotels & Resorts

The number of rooms in the Emirate is set to double over the next few years with a robust pipeline of 21 properties by world-class brands set to deliver over 7,000 keys. A game-changing addition – and a prime example of the Emirate's focus on iconic projects that will set it apart – is Wynn Al Marjan Island, set to open in 2027 as the region's first-ever integrated resort. This iconic development, representing the largest single foreign direct investment in the Emirate's tourism sector at \$5.1 billion, has not only cemented Ras Al Khaimah's position on the global tourism stage but has also stimulated further investment interest. The "Wynn Effect" has already encouraged other big international brands such as Nobu Hotels, W Hotels, JW Marriott, Hilton, Nikki Beach and Ushuaïa under Palladium Hotel Group to plan properties in Ras Al Khaimah. This has impacted all real estate sectors including residential, hospitality, retail, F&B, and office and boosted Ras Al Khaimah's evolution into a diverse tourism hub that appeals to both luxury and experiential travellers.

Nobu Hotel & Residences Al Marjan Island



Connecting the World to the Emirate

Ras Al Khaimah has several projects in play, including infrastructure enhancements and strategic partnerships, to enhance the accessibility and connectivity of the Emirate and help achieve its 2030 visitor arrivals goals. This includes the expansion of **Ras Al Khaimah International Airport**, which will be pivotal in boosting international tourist numbers by accommodating larger aircrafts and enhancing the overall visitor arrival experience. Strategically, this expansion will increase air traffic through partnerships with airlines and charter operators. In 2024, Ras Al Khaimah International Airport welcomed 661,765 travellers, marking a 28% increase from 2023 and almost double the figures from 2022. This exceptional growth is driven by the increasing international recognition of Ras Al Khaimah, expansion of airline services and the addition of new destinations including direct flights from nine key cities including Moscow, Russia; Bucharest, Romania; Tashkent, Uzbekistan; Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Prague, Czech Republic; Warsaw and Katowice, Poland; Almaty, Kazakhstan; and Hyderabad, India.

Recognising the importance of **cruise tourism** - an industry that is expected to grow by 10.4% between 2022 and 2031 - RAKTDA has been working with RAK Ports to develop the Emirate's burgeoning cruise offering further, with an aim to attract 50 luxury cruise ship calls each season by 2030, and 10,000+ passengers within the next few years. Through the dedicated terminal, which is able to accommodate multiple cruise ships of up to 214m in length docking simultaneously, the Emirate is ensuring a continuation of the service levels luxury cruise passengers expect, featuring cutting-edge terminal security measures such as facial recognition CCTV,

luggage and personal baggage X-ray machines, delivering a seamless, hassle-free experience. Although a relatively small port, Ras Al Khaimah recorded key achievements during the 2022-2023 season, after receiving six calls by four luxury cruises, including Azamara Quest, one of the largest ships ever to arrive in the Emirate, as well as the Emerald Azzurra and super mega-yacht The World (Residences at Sea).

Accessible RAK

For Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority, a key pillar of embracing ESG is accessible tourism. While many tourism businesses in Ras Al Khaimah have already embraced accessibility, the Authority has its eyes set on ensuring Ras Al Khaimah becomes a truly accessible and inclusive destination. As a result, the Authority has engaged with Sage Inclusion, a global accessible travel specialist, to undertake the largest assessment of its kind in the Middle East. This comprehensive 12-week audit covers over 50 hotels, 10 attractions, Ras Al Khaimah International Airport, and ground transportation, evaluating accessibility across five disability categories - allergies, mobility, vision, hearing, and cognitive. The initiative aims to elevate Ras Al Khaimah as a flagship destination for accessible tourism, ensuring that every visitor can fully enjoy and explore the Emirate.

Enhancing Livability & Cultivating Local Talent

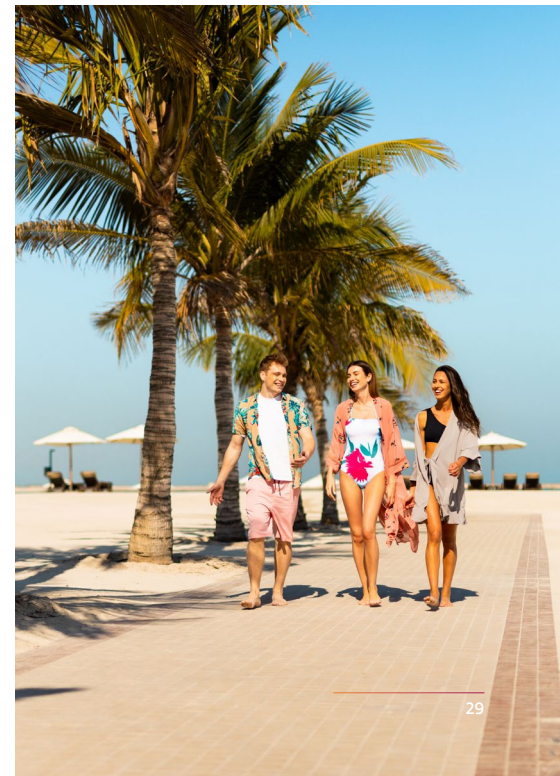
Ras Al Khaimah is among the top ten cities for expats in the InterNations City Ranking 2024. It is also named the world's best city for expats to get started abroad, second for working overseas, and fifth for ease of settling in.

Beyond attracting visitors, Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority is dedicated to enhancing liveability and making the Emirate an exceptional place to live, work, and thrive. The Authority is also ensuring that tourism development benefits local communities. The Emirate's tourism sector currently employs over 6,000 people and is projected to triple by 2030, increasing the workforce to approximately 25,000 employees. Recognizing this, RAKTDA is committed to empowering Emirati talent with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in various roles and prepare them for a successful career in the sector.

One of our its flagship initiatives is the **Emirati Hospitality Programme (EHP)**, implemented in partnership with Career Lab and Les Roches University. The programme aims to equip UAE Nationals with the knowledge and skills to become successful frontliners in Ras Al Khaimah hospitality sectors. The programme supports career growth and provides tailored opportunities for Emirati talent to advance their careers in hospitality. In 2024, EHP created more than 10 work placement opportunities for young Emirati who successfully passed the programme and were integrated successfully in the sector.

Additionally, entities within the tourism sector are actively engaged through training programmes and internships tailored by RAKTDA and participation in career fairs in collaboration. These initiatives not only create awareness about the tourism sector and its opportunities but also offer national talent the chance to network with industry leaders, explore career opportunities, and acquire the skills needed to succeed in the tourism and hospitality sectors.

Further emphasising its commitment to fostering an excellent workplace culture, RAKTDA was certified as a **Great Place to Work®** for the fourth consecutive year in 2024, receiving accolades in categories such as Best Workplaces in the Middle East, Best Workplaces in Hospitality in the GCC, and Best Workplaces for Women in the GCC.



Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority



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.

[visitrasalkhaimah.com](https://www.visitrasalkhaimah.com)

[f](#) [X](#) [@](#) [in](#) [▶](#)
#VisitRasAlKhaimah

Media Contacts & Resources



For media enquiries, please contact:
news@raktda.com



To access the press room and image library
[Click here](#)



visitrasalkhaimah.com