

## **RAS AL KHAIMAH MARKS FIVE YEARS OF EPIC ADVENTURE WITH THE RETURN OF HIGHLANDER LONG-DISTANCE HIKING CHALLENGE**



[Images](#)

**From 6 – 8 February 2026, Middle East’s leading hiking event will offer hikers and adventurers the chance to traverse the UAE’s longest and highest hiking trails.**

**Registration is open on the HIGHLANDER Ras Al Khaimah 2026 [website](#)**

**Participants can use the promo code “RAKHL20” to avail 20% discount on all individual registrations**

**Ras Al Khaimah, UAE – 18 December 2025:** The Middle East’s premier long-distance hiking event, HIGHLANDER, returns to Ras Al Khaimah for its fifth anniversary edition from 6-8 February 2026, inviting adventurers from across the globe to take on the UAE’s most breathtaking trails on Jebel Jais, the UAE’s highest peak, exploring rugged beauty, rich heritage, and the spirit of outdoor adventure that defines Ras Al Khaimah.

Organized by HIGHLANDER Adventure, the world’s largest international hiking series, and supported by Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA), the 2026 edition promises a once-in-a-lifetime experience combining endurance, nature, and culture. Participants will journey through the UAE’s most extensively developed hiking network, spanning 94 kilometres across dramatic Hajar Mountains.

With the growing global demand for adventure travel, hosting a long-distance hiking and backpacking event as a mass-participation sport reinforces the Ras Al Khaimah’s as a leading adventure tourism destination in the region. The event encourages deeper engagement, blending adventure with cultural discovery, sustainability, and community spirit.

Participants will experience a curated journey through Ras Al Khaimah’s storied mountain landscapes. Along the carefully selected trails, hikers will pass through mountain settlements that reflect the enduring history, traditions, and daily life of the tribes who once thrived in these rugged areas. These living remnants of the past offer participants a rare glimpse into the mountain tribe’s cultural fabric and the resilience of its people. Beyond the trail, HIGHLANDER’s signature camp programmes further deepen the destination experience. Participants will enjoy live cooking stations featuring local cuisine, providing a direct and personal interaction with the mountain communities



who proudly share their culinary traditions. The camp experience will also include special wildlife sessions led by renowned wildlife photographer Bachar Bouka, introducing hikers to the diverse species that inhabit the Hajar Mountains.

**Phillipa Harrison, CEO of Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority**, said: “Hosting HIGHLANDER for the fifth consecutive year underlines our commitment to promoting wellness, experiential travel and connection with nature. The event perfectly aligns with our vision for engaging the local community and positioning Ras Al Khaimah as a must-visit destination for outdoor enthusiasts.”

**Fadi Hachicho, Managing Director of HIGHLANDER Adventure UAE and Founder of Adventurati Outdoor**, added: “With more than 250 participants, last year’s edition successfully positioned Ras Al Khaimah on the global adventure tourism stage, attracting hikers from 35 countries who travelled from around the world to take part in this adventure of a lifetime. We remain committed to showcasing the rich heritage and culture of Ras Al Khaimah through every event we organize, while continuously enhancing our camp experiences with more entertainment and wellness initiatives.”

### **Three Challenges for Every Adventurer**

Building on the success of previous years, the 2025 edition of HIGHLANDER Ras Al Khaimah will offer participants unparalleled hiking adventures across three signature formats:

- **HIGHLANDER Pegasus: 3-Day format cover 37 km from 6-8 February 2026**

Taking place Named after the winged horse of Greek mythology and its constellation visible in the northern sky, this flagship format marks the 5th anniversary of HIGHLANDER Ras Al Khaimah and returns to where it all began — on the north face of Jebel Jais. Participants will have the option to tackle one of the two most iconic and challenging trails in the UAE: the Wadi Latibah Trail (Stairway to Heaven) or the Wadi Ghalilah Trail.

- **HIGHLANDER Orion: 2-Day format covering 25 km from 7-8 February 2026**

Named after the Orion constellation, a prominent set of stars visible in the winter sky, this format offers a true multi-day backpacking experience. Participants carry all their essential gear—including camping, hiking, and cooking equipment—throughout the journey, camping under the stars each night and immersing themselves in the raw beauty of Ras Al Khaimah’s mountain landscapes.

- **HIGHLANDER Lyra: 1-Day format covering 13 km on 8 February 2026**

Featuring a new trail designed to be more accessible while still offering a rewarding challenge for first-time HIGHLANDERS, this format allows participants to connect with fellow hikers from the other categories, culminating together at the shared finish and celebration point. Named after Lyra, the lyre of Greek mythology and one of the smallest yet brightest constellations, this format offers a harmonious balance of challenge and tranquillity. Participants carry only the essential gear for a day hike, without the need for camping or cooking equipment—making it an ideal introduction for those looking to build confidence, skills, and stamina before taking on the longer HIGHLANDER adventures.



Aligned with Ras Al Khaimah's vision for sustainable tourism, HIGHLANDER Adventure inspires participants to embrace the great outdoors while minimising their environmental impact. The event actively promotes "Leave No Trace" principles through on-ground activations and participant communication, reinforcing the importance of responsible travel and environmental stewardship. By encouraging hikers to respect and protect the landscape, HIGHLANDER underscores the nature-driven essence of adventure tourism and the need to preserve both the natural environment and rich cultural heritage of the Emirate.

Registrations for the 2026 HIGHLANDER Adventure are now open on this [website](#). Participants can take advantage of the promo code "RAKHL20" to avail 20% discount on all individual registrations across all 3 formats.

Participants who complete the full trail will receive a HIGHLANDER Adventure finisher badge and certificate, ID, Bib number, map and access to an exclusive finish point celebration.

For further details, please visit the HIGHLANDER Ras Al Khaimah [website](#) or the HIGHLANDER UAE [Instagram](#) page.

Discover more outdoor experiences in Ras Al Khaimah at [visitrasalkhaimah.com](https://www.visitrasalkhaimah.com) and [visitjebeljais.com](https://www.visitjebeljais.com) or [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

**- ENDS -**

#### **Notes to Editors:**

##### **[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.

[www.visitrasalkhaimah.com](https://www.visitrasalkhaimah.com) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#)

**Hashtag:** [#VisitRasAlKhaimah](#)

**For any media enquiries, please contact:** [news@raktda.com](mailto:news@raktda.com)