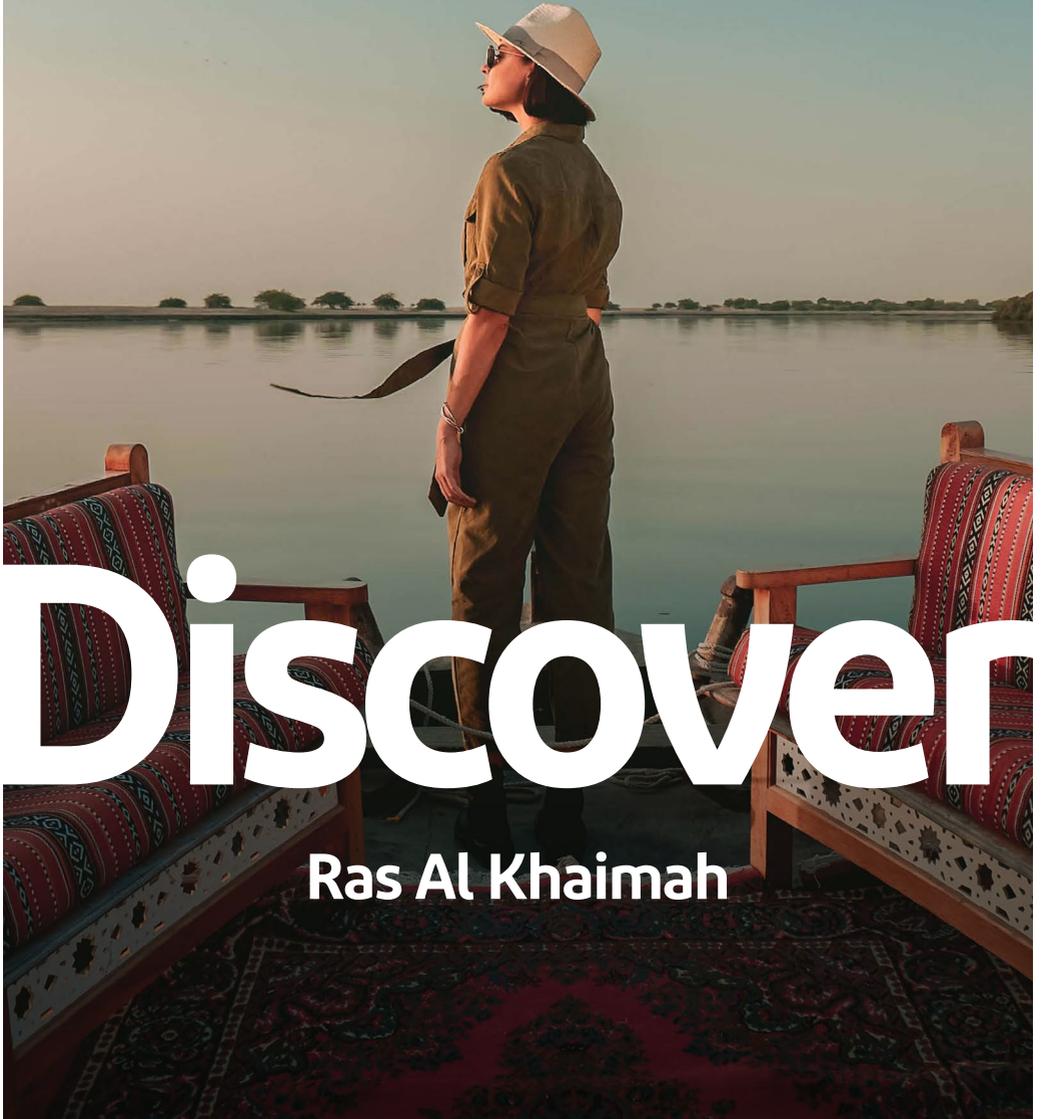




ras al khaimah



Discover

Ras Al Khaimah

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Ras Al Khaimah

Known for its diverse topography, Ras Al Khaimah captivates travellers with its breathtaking natural landscapes – from 68km of beaches, to deserts and imposing mountains, including Jebel Jais – the UAE's highest peak at 1,934 metres.

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 the 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 emirate across a range of landscapes from the sea and beach to desert and mountain range.

Fast Facts



Attractions & Activities

Mountain Adventures

At an imposing 1934m 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. 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 an ideal escape for hiking, camping, or simply enjoying a meal with a view even during the 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. Jais Sky Tour takes brave-hearted explorers through a complex route of six ziplines totalling 5km across the Hajar Mountain range while travelling at an average speed of 60kmph.

Jais Sledder - Temporarily closed

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 swooping valleys, cloud-piercing peaks, date wadis, villages and the Arabian Gulf.

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.

Red Rock BBQ

An elevated dining experience perched on the dramatic slopes of Jebel Jais, Red Rock BBQ blends rugged mountain vistas with refined open-fire cooking, offering a menu centred on open-flame-grilled meats, locally inspired ingredients, creative drinks and bold smoky flavours.

Hiking

Launched in 2018 and attracting around 100,000 hikers, Ras Al Khaimah is home to the UAE's longest network of hiking trails, spanning more than 90km. 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 2026 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. 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

Saij Mountain Lodge by Mantis (Opening in 2026)

Featuring 70 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.



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 with 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 breathtaking landscapes, from rolling dunes and rugged mountains to the shimmering coastline stretching into the horizon.





Beach & Water Activities

With 68km 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 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 events 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.

Al Hamra Golf Club

Located in the Al Hamra area, Al Hamra Golf Club features stunning views of the Arabian Gulf and the 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, make their way out and away from the Clubhouse, whilst the back nine, measuring 3,747 yards return 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 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.

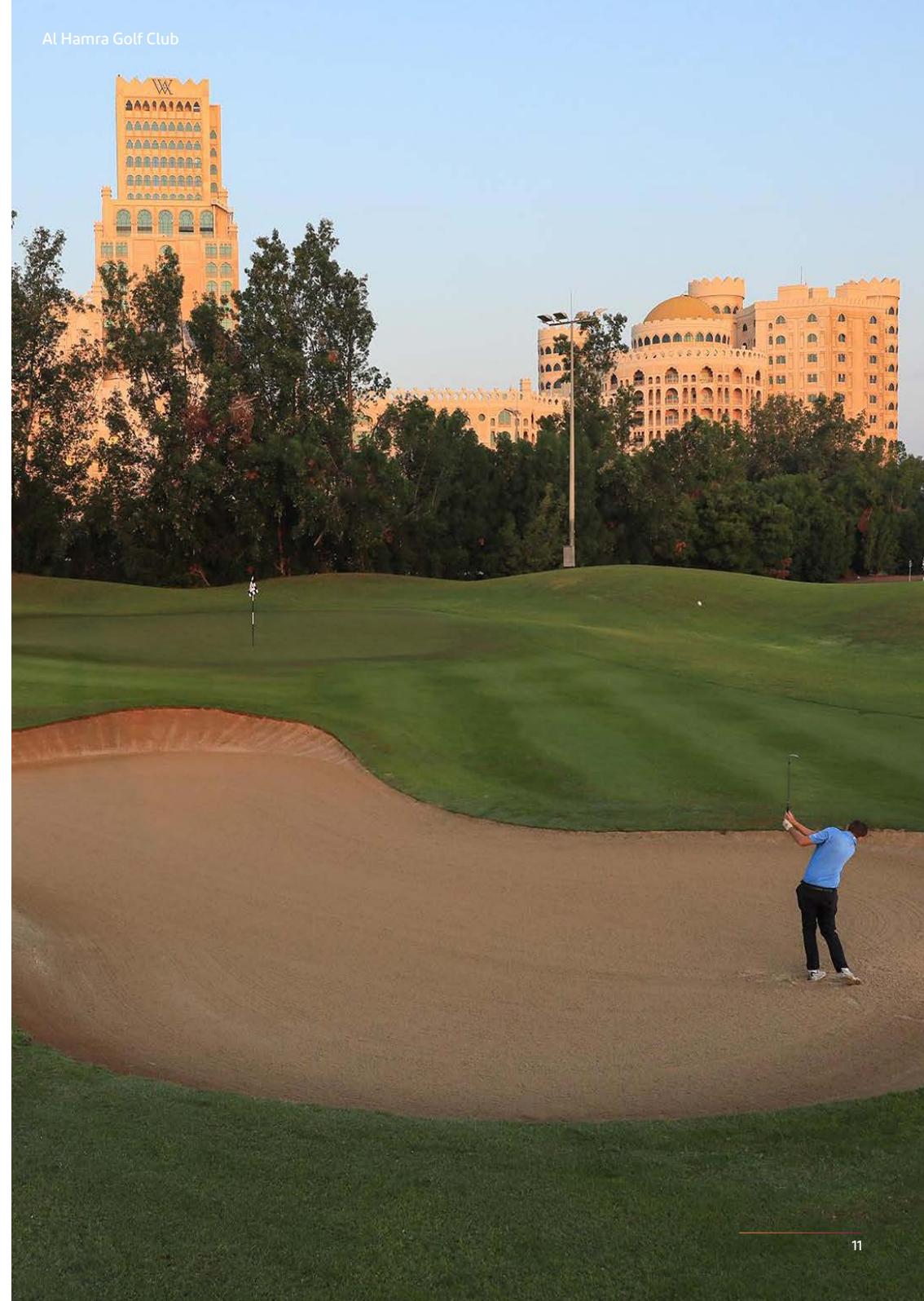
Tower Links Golf Club

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 levels, and 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, which has the longest private beach in the Emirate, stretching 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 the 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 of preserving the history of the 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 for having 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

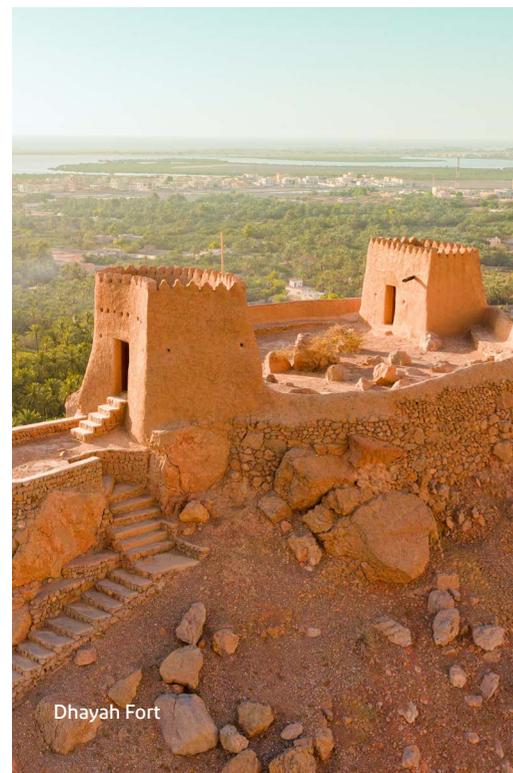
In the 'old' city, visitors can also explore the Mohammad Bin Salem Mosque, Ras Al Khaimah's oldest place of worship and the only mosque in the Emirate without a minaret. The mosque has a surviving 'prayer call platform' from which its imam would call Muslims of the nearby village to pray. After several 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 Preservation

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, and Al Qasimi Foundation, 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 over 50 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 over 8,700 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.

Recently Opened Hotels

Rove Al Marjan Island

Opened in April 2025, 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.

SO/ Ras Al Khaimah

Opened in November 2025, the resort features 257 sea-facing rooms and suites, showcasing bold, fashion-inspired design. With five distinctive restaurants, a rooftop cocktail bar, a wellness centre and a private beach club, the property sets a new benchmark for all-inclusive luxury in Ras Al Khaimah.

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. New hotels scheduled to open in 2026 include:

Rotana Mangrove Hotel

Set along the tranquil mangroves of Ras Al Khaimah, this upscale property featuring 258 rooms and suites, blending contemporary design with serene mangrove views.

Sajj Mountain Lodge by Mantis

Featuring 70 lodges surrounded by the natural contours of Ras Al Khaimah's highest peak, Sajj is a place for those who seek stillness with depth and meaning in their escape through thoughtful design, quiet rituals and experiences rooted in the land itself.

SO/ Ras Al Khaimah





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 and beaches.

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 emerging as one of the region's most dynamic destinations 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 2025, the Emirate experienced a remarkable 25% growth in MICE and weddings revenues, reinforcing its status as a premier MICE destination.

Whether you're planning 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 venues, make it the perfect destination for events of all types and sizes.

Scenic Event Venues

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, Global Citizen Forum, and the Exotic Wedding Planning Conference, which the emirate hosted for multiple editions. 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

Ras Al Khaimah brings its unique identity to life through a lineup of signature sporting events. Among these is the **Ras Al Khaimah Half Marathon**, now in its 19th edition. Attracting thousands of participants annually, the race has firmly established itself as one of the region's most celebrated running events.

The **HIGHLANDER** multi-day hiking challenge is another highlight that attracts hundreds of participants from around the globe.

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 for the 7th consecutive year.

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





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 is one of the most exciting destinations to celebrate the new year. The Emirate's New Year's celebrations have achieved 14 GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ titles over the last seven years with spectacular fireworks and drone displays that continue to set the standard for immersive and meaningful celebrations. Thousands of visitors and residents across Ras Al Khaimah's beachfront resorts and at the annual New Year's Eve Festival are treated to an array of live stage performances and vibrant festivities, making it a truly memorable night for everyone in the Emirate.



New Year's Eve Celebrations

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.



Responsible Tourism

Responsible Tourism

Ras Al Khaimah takes a considered and practical approach to responsible tourism, embedding long-term planning, environmental stewardship and community wellbeing into how the destination develops and operates.

Through collaboration with government entities, industry partners and global organisations such as EarthCheck, the Emirate has established frameworks that support resource efficiency, responsible building practices and consistent standards across the tourism sector.

Initiatives focus on areas such as energy and water use, waste management, sustainable construction and operational best practice, helping ensure that tourism growth remains balanced, resilient and aligned with the needs of residents, businesses and visitors alike.

This approach supports Ras Al Khaimah's broader ambition to grow tourism thoughtfully, safeguarding the qualities that make the destination distinctive while ensuring a positive experience for future generations.

A key pillar of this strategy is a partnership with EarthCheck, a global leader in sustainability certification. Leveraging EarthCheck's scientific framework and expertise, Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA) has established robust sustainability benchmarks tailored to Ras Al Khaimah's unique environmental challenges. This partnership equips stakeholders with data-driven tools to monitor and improve their sustainability performance.

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 energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and waste output.

Responsible RAK



Launched in 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.

Barjeel Green Building Regulations



This flagship initiative part of the the RAK Energy Strategy 2040 was launched by Ras Al Khaimah Municipality 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%.

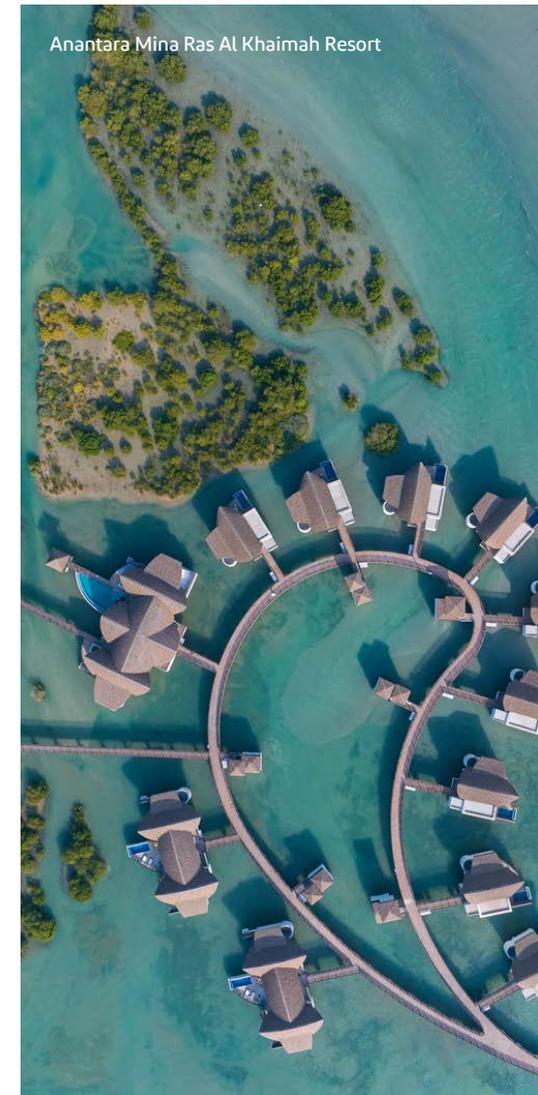
RAKTDA is committed to promoting the programme's implementation among hotels and tourism facilities, recognising the significant impact that sustainable building practices can have on resource conservation and operational efficiencies.

The programme's 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.

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.



Anantara Mina Ras Al Khaimah Resort



A World-class Destination Built for the Future

With a goal to attracting 3.5 million visitors annually 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.

Transformational Masterplans

A new generation of master-planned developments is catalysing Ras Al Khaimah's shift into a world-class destination to live, invest, and visit. 2025 marked the unveiling of Marjan Beach, the UAE's most ambitious beachfront masterplan. Spanning 85 million sq. ft., it will feature 12,000 hotel keys and 22,000 residential units, with 30% of the area dedicated to open green space and a sustainability-first urban design. Meanwhile, significant milestones were achieved on RAK Central, a new mixed-use commercial district designed to attract global talent, entrepreneurs and investors. All commercial plots were sold out within a year of launch, reflecting strong investor confidence in the Emirate's vision.

A Robust Pipeline of 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 at 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 Ushuaia 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.



Wynn Al Marjan Island

Air Connectivity

Expanding direct air connectivity is key to driving visitor arrivals and achieving the Emirate's tourism 2030 goals. Ras Al Khaimah International Airport is currently undergoing an expansion that includes the development of its arrival halls as well as the construction of a new terminal to accommodate more scheduled and seasonal flights.

Further strengthening its offering, plans were also announced for a new VVIP Terminal, developed in partnership with Falcon Executive Aviation to cater for high-end travellers.

In 2025, Ras Al Khaimah International Airport recorded its highest passenger traffic, surpassing one million passengers for the first time. This marks a 51% increase from 2024, a 14% increase in destinations, and 37% increase in flights. The airport also witnessed a tangible expansion in its flight network, with the number of scheduled international flights and destinations increasing to 16 international destinations, including India, Pakistan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Russia, and the Arab Republic of Egypt. New direct routes were introduced from cities such as Jeddah, Warsaw, Katowice, Bucharest, Moscow, Kazan, Yekaterinburg, Minsk, Tashkent and Prague, supported by enhanced airline partnerships with IndiGo, Air India Express and Air Arabia.

Cruise Tourism

Cruise tourism in Ras Al Khaimah is currently positioned as an experience-focused segment that complements the destination's wider strategy. Over recent years, the sector has developed from occasional calls into a more structured seasonal programme, with Ras Al Khaimah increasingly being featured in premium regional itineraries.

Ras al Khaimah Port houses a brand new, state-of-the-art cruise terminal which can accommodate multiple cruise ships of up to 214m. The modern terminal is equipped with E-gate arrival and departure facilities, ensuring smooth processing of visa clearances and customs inspection for efficient embarkation and disembarkation of passengers.

Ras Al Khaimah's cruise calls have been growing steadily. In the 2022–2023 season, the emirate recorded six cruise calls in from four premium cruise ships, 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). In December 2025, Ras Al Khaimah welcomed Celestyal Discovery, which features weekly calls to Ras Al Khaimah Port across the winter season for the next three years.



Ras Al Khaimah Port Cruise Terminal

Livability & Local Talent

Beyond attracting visitors, Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA) is dedicated to enhancing livability 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, which is projected to increase to 25,000 employees by 2030. In 2025, RAKTDA introduced the BeRAK app, an innovative first-of-its-kind platform created to boost wellbeing and engagement across the tourism workforce.

RAKTDA is also 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 its flagship initiatives is the Emirati Hospitality Programme, 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.

Additionally, entities within the tourism sector are actively engaged through training programmes and internships tailored by RAKTDA. The authority also organises and participates in career fairs to create awareness about opportunities in the tourism sector and offer national talent the chance to network with industry leaders and explore the skills needed to succeed in the tourism and hospitality sectors.

Recognising its commitment to fostering an excellent workplace culture, RAKTDA was named Employer of the Year – Government Sector at the 2025 GCC GOV HR & Youth Awards, highlighting its people-first approach and the belief that outstanding visitor experiences begin with empowered, well-supported teams.

This focus is further reinforced as RAKTDA is certified as a Great Place to Work® for five consecutive years, earning recognition across lists including 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.

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