



SAUDI ARABIA THE UNSEEN KINGDOM

February 10 - February 23, 2025
Led by Tour Lecturer, Ian Shearer

As the birthplace of Islam, Saudi Arabia has been shielding itself from the eyes of the west for a long time, but time has come now that the Kingdom is moving in huge steps towards modernization and openness. However, this is also a land with a vibrant cultural pedigree, aside from its glitzy oil-rich modern cities. Amongst the rock-hewn splendors of Hegra, you will explore Nabatean heritage equal to what Petra offers. Most of the great empires of the ancient world traded with the Arabian Kingdoms that commanded the important spice trade routes in the peninsula. Colorful markets, desert landscapes, coral reefs, rock engravings, ancient monuments, traditional mud-brick cities, and imposing fortresses are abundant in a country that has so much to offer to those who choose to venture in it & explore its enigmatic and intriguing side.

Ihab Zaki
Managing Director

Monday, February 10

Arrive in Riyadh (SAUDI ARABIA)



Upon arrival Riyadh, meet and transfer to *Rosh Rayhaan* by *Rotana Hotel* or similar for check-in and overnight.

Note: Standard check-in time is 3:00 pm. If you arrive on February 09 or in the early morning of February 10, an extra Hotel night needs to be booked.

Tuesday, February 11

Riyadh



After breakfast, begin our tour, that is dedicated to discovering the Saudi capital of **Riyadh** and the nearby UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Diriyah**, where the story of the Saudi Kingdom began. Characterized by gleaming skyscrapers and multi-lane highways, the Saudi capital sprawls across the **Najdi plain** and has a very modern face, but it is also home to history, museums, art, and culture.

A thirty-minute drive from the center of **Riyadh** will bring us to **Wadi Hanifa**, which is northwest of the Saudi capital. Upon arrival, step back in time and discover **Diriyah's** historic **At-Turaif** district, where we will see stunning examples of traditional Najdi mudbrick architecture and get a sense of the way of life in the first Saudi capital some two hundred years ago. This beautifully preserved site was the capital of the first Saudi State until its destruction in 1818 by an Egyptian army. Within At-Turaif's distractive mudbrick walls, discover sites including the imposing **royal Salwa Palace** with its **madrasa** and administrative units and four small and beautifully presented museums (Diriyah Museum, Arabian Horse Museum, Military Museum, Daily Life Museum). The site commands fine views looking over the oasis of Wadi Hanifa towards Riyadh's skyscrapers.

After browsing the on-site souq, we will sample some of Saudi Arabia's delicious cuisine at a restaurant built in the traditional Najdi architectural style. We will then learn about Saudi history at the **National Museum**, where the galleries are laid out chronologically from prehistoric times and will take you on a journey from the dawn of human civilization in Arabia until the unification of the Kingdom in the 1930s.

Sightseeing continues at **Al Masmak Fortress** in the heart of old Riyadh. Built-in 1865, this mudbrick citadel turned museum witnessed the birth of the third Saudi State in 1902 when **King Abdulaziz** captured the fortress and took control of Riyadh (his ancestral home) after living in exile in Kuwait. Abdulaziz Al Saud conquered and united the different provinces that make up the Saudi nation as we know it today from this fortress. A short stroll will take us past the **Qasr Al Hoqm** (Palace of Judgement) and the **Imam Turki bin Abdullah Mosque** to the bustling **Souq Al Zal & Bisht souq**, where we can shop for rugs, traditional Saudi robes and headscarves, incense, and bric-a-brac while witnessing a way of life that has been unchanged for centuries. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Wednesday, February 12

Riyadh - Ushaiger - Unaizah (3 hrs. 30 min.)



After breakfast, begin the drive northwest through the desert, and the red sands will bring us to the oasis of **Ushaiger**. This stunning example of traditional mudbrick Najdi architecture was once a stopping point on the Hajj pilgrim route. Upon arrival, stroll through the beautifully restored winding lanes of the village on foot and explore some of the renovated houses that have been turned into museums. Outside the village walls is a peaceful oasis of fields and date palms.

Enjoy lunch, and then the journey continues to **Unaizah** in neighboring **Al-Qassim** province, a verdant area of central Saudi Arabia noted for its conservatism, extensive groves of date palms, and attractive vernacular architecture. For Saudis, Al Qassim is indelibly associated with the legendary love story of **Antarah Bin Shaddad and his cousin Abla Bint Malik** - an Arabian Romeo & Juliet - as well as being the home to both the world's largest date festival and camel market.

In Unaizah, admire the stunning traditional architecture of the **Souq Musawkaf** and wander through its two main squares with shops selling food, handicrafts, clothes, and tea and coffee. The souq comes into its own after 4:00 pm and is a popular place for Qassimis to meet friends and socialize. Continue the drive to **Malfa Hotel** - a property inspired by the local Qassimi architecture and set

amongst the palms of a working date plantation. The restaurant at the *Malfa Hotel* is noted for its traditional Qassimi dishes that local ladies prepare. Overnight at the *Hotel*.

(B,L,D)

Thursday, February 13

Unaizah - Hail (2 hrs. 45min.)



Enjoy an early breakfast and then start the day by driving to the nearby **Buraidah** to witness one of Saudi Arabia's most colorful and photogenic spectacles, the **Buraidah Camel Market**, which is the largest in the world, where some 700 animals are traded daily (swelling to two thousand animals on Saturdays). The noise and theatre as dealers attract eager huddles of merchants and auction camels that can reach as much as one million US\$ is incredible! Baby camels (called ga'oud) charm the hearts of all who spy on them. **Buraidah** is also known for its beautifully manicured date gardens,

Upon arrival in **Buraidah**, visit the **Aloqilat museum house**, which is a beautiful example of traditional Qassimi architecture and holds a collection of some 10,000 rare documents related to the first people who lived in the region, as well as commercial maps used to navigate the surrounding area. Another must-stop on any tour of Buraidah is the grounds where the city's famous date festival is held every summer. During the 35-day economic carnival that is the annual Buraidah Date Festival (mid-August to mid-September), farmers and traders offer more than 45 varieties of Qassimi dates for sale - the produce of 8 million date palms - amidst an atmosphere of incredible excitement.

After lunch in a date garden, leave Al-Qassim behind and enter **Ha'il Province**. En route, stop to see the scant ruins of the oasis city of **Fayd**, a settlement once an essential stop on the Hajj caravan route from Baghdad to Mecca known as the **Darb Zubaydah**. The great Moroccan traveler **Ibn Battuta** visited Fayd in AD 1327 & described it as a large fortress in a simple land. It is surrounded by a wall, and the Arabs live there along with the pilgrims thanks to the trade.'

A drive along minor country roads across a stony desert will bring us to **Tabah** in the **Salma Mountains**, where we will turn off the asphalt road to see the **Hutaymah Crater**. This hugely impressive vast cavity in the ground is known as a **maar crater**' in geological terms and was formed millions of years ago by an enormous underground explosion caused by water coming into contact with molten rock. The final leg of today's drive brings us through the picturesque landscape of the **Jabal Aja to Ha'il**, cradled by the rugged mountains of the Jabal Shammar and was once the capital of an independent emirate that, under its Ibn Rashid leaders, vied for power with Ibn Saud for control of the Arabian Peninsula. Transfer to *Holiday Villa Hotel* or similar for check-in, dinner, and overnight.**(B,L,D)**

Friday, February 14

Ha'il - Jubbah - Sakaka (5 hrs. 33 min.)



After breakfast, our first stop will be a photo opportunity outside **Ha'il's Qishlah Fortress** (closed), an enormous mudbrick structure with eight distinctive square-sided towers once used as barracks by the forces loyal to **Abdul Aziz ibn Saud**. Also, view Ha'il's other notable fortification, the mudbrick **A'arif castle** (closed), which sits on a great stone rock with a commanding view over the city.

Continue the journey north through the red sands of the Great **Nefud Desert** to reach the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Jubbah**. On the surface of **Jabal Umm Sinman**, the finely accomplished rock art may be as much as 11,000 years old and sheds light on human activities, hairstyles, and clothing during the Paleolithic period. Lady **Anne Blunt**, one of the first Europeans to witness Jubbah's rock art, wrote in 1879: '*Jubbah is one of the most curious places in the world, and to my mind one of the most beautiful.*'

After lunch, under the palm trees of the **Al Eydah Farm**, see a traditional 'swanee' camel-drawn water well and view the whitewashed 150-year-old buildings. The scenic drive continues through the vast expanse of the **Nefud** - the second-largest sandy expanse in the Arabian Desert - to **Sakaka**. Transfer to the *Al Nusl Hotel* or similar for check-in, dinner, and overnight.

(B,L,D)

Note: The rock art sites at Jubbah are spread out and require walking between them. Accessing some rock art sites requires ascending as many as 70 steps via steel walkways, which may be difficult for anyone with mobility.

Saturday, February 15

Sakaka (Al Jawf)



Today's destination will be the remote oasis of **Al Jawf** (Al Jouf), one of Saudi Arabia's most significant archaeological treasures. Located at the crossroads of one of the Middle East's oldest trade routes, Al Jawf is the Kingdom's most fertile region and has been inhabited for at least 750,000 years.

After breakfast, a short drive will take us to Sakaka's imposing mudbrick **Qasr Al Za'abal**—a castle built during the Ottoman period on a tall rock with vertical sides in the city's center. Climb the castle to admire the view, visit the small local museum, and see the Nabataean period **Sisra Well**. Our sightseeing continues a little way outside town, where we will discover the standing stones of **Al Rajajil**— Saudi Arabia's 'Stonehenge.' This 6,000-year-old stele carved from sandstone - some of which are as tall as three meters and weigh as much as five tons - is an enigma to archaeologists—speculation concerning its use ranges from a temple to a meeting place and an astronomical function. Continue to the '**Camel Site**' where three outcrops of rock depict at least 20 camels of unprecedented size that were carved in both high and low relief some 2,000 years ago.

In the afternoon, head to visit the **Al Majidia Horse Farm** and learn about this region's famed Arabian horse breeds. With a distinctive head shape and high tail carriage, the Arabian horse is one of the world's most easily recognizable horse breeds. The highly prized Arabian horse developed in the deserts of Arabia and was selectively bred by the Bedouin. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight.

(B,L,D)

Sunday, February 16
Sakaka - Tabuk (5 hrs.)



After breakfast, begin the day with a drive to **Domat Al Jandal**, an outstanding example of an early Islamic town already an important commercial center in the 9th century BC when referred to in Assyrian texts as '*Adummatu*.' **Domat Al Jandal** is dominated by the **Al Marid castle**, a vast circular walled fortress with foundations dating back to the 1st century AD. The castle is said to have once been connected by a tunnel to the 7th century Umar Ibn al-Khattab Mosque - one of the oldest intact mosques in the world - that may resemble the Prophet's Mosque in Medina in its early stages. Explore the well-preserved **Al-Der** residential quarter with its long alleys and impressive stone architecture to see a rare early example of town planning.

A short distance away, stretch your legs at **Domat Al Jandal Lake**, a picturesque shimmering body of blue water surrounded by the yellow sands of the Nefud, where locals come to picnic at weekends. Continue the long drive past the olive farms and along the northern edge of the Nefud desert to the important northern center of **Tabuk**. Upon arrival, transfer to *Swiss Inn Hotel* or *similar* for check-in, dinner, and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Monday, February 17
Tabuk (Moses Trail & Neom)



Begin the day with a full day excursion to the **Gulf of Aqaba** and into the biblical land of Midian and follow in the footsteps of Moses. Drive through the coastal mountains to the Gulf of Aqaba. This virgin region is the future location for **Neom**, the US\$500 billion utopian project that may include a vast artificial moon, beaches that glow in the dark, and flying drone-powered taxis. Upon arrival, head to visit the Springs of Moses at the pretty seaside village of Magna. An oasis of palm trees surrounds the natural springs at this local beauty spot and overlooks the Red Sea with a stunning view!

The journey continues along a stunning cliff-girt coastal road to **Wadi Tayyib Al Ism** (*visit subject to permission*) - one of Saudi Arabia's great natural wonders. Carved into the granite and sedimentary rock over millions of years, the narrow chasm winds through an ancient mountain range that plunges into the sea. The best way to appreciate **Wadi Tayyib Al Ism** is to walk through its palm tree-lined mouth and explore deeper into the canyon, where we will find a spring-fed stream flowing year-round. Some people believe this is where Moses and

the Israelites landed, having escaped from the Egyptian armies, and crossed the Red Sea.

Continue the drive to **Al Bad** and visit the site of the necropolis of **Mughair Shuaib**. The weathered rock-cut tombs here date back to Nabataean times and have similarities with those of Hegra in Al Ula. Some scholars believe that this is the site of the ancient town of **Midian**, a settlement where Moses is said to have lived for ten years before he became a prophet of God. Drive back to Tabuk through **Wadi Zeeta**, which is incredibly scenic. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Tuesday, February 18
Tabuk - Qalaat Muaza'am - Al Ula (3 hrs. 20 min.)



After breakfast, leave Tabuk and follow the route of the former **Hijaz Railway** south towards Al Ula, traveling through a landscape that contrasts the utter desolation of a waterless desert with the stark natural beauty of sun-scorched mountains and rocky crags. Stop en route to see the extensive buildings of the former Ottoman Railway Station at **Qalaat Muazzam** (fenced) with its administration buildings, water tower, and fort. A walk of a few hundred feet to the west of the road will take us to a splendid pilgrim castle built in 1622. The British explorer **Charles Doughty** passed by in 1876 & described the structure as 'the fairest and greatest in the entire road, with the greatest cistern; a benefaction of the same Sultan Salim.' Continue the drive to **Al Ula**, an oasis called one of the world's great natural masterpieces. This historically rich valley at the crossroads of the Silk Road and the Incense Route is one of the world's largest living museums and is a place of extraordinary beauty.

The discovery of Al Ula's heritage starts with a tour of the archaeological site of **Dadan**, where we will join a '*rawi*' (*storyteller*) on a shared excursion to see the famous **Lion Tombs** that are chiseled into the cliff face. The ancient Kingdom of Dadan was one of the most developed in the Arabian Peninsula during the 1st millennium BC. This site was the capital of the **Dadanite** & then the **Lihyanite** kingdoms and one of the most important centers of the caravan trade. Across the valley at **Jabal Ikmah**, see the rock art that tells the stories of travelers we have passed by the spot for millennia.

As the sun nears the horizon, the day's sightseeing will conclude at **Elephant Rock**, where we will take a comfortable sunken seat and sit back to enjoy the sight of Al Ula's, the most famous geological rock formation, as it looms over us. An on-site café offers delicious sweets and warm beverages. Transfer to *Shaden Camp Resort* or *similar* for check-in, dinner, and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Wednesday, February 19
Al Ula (Madakhil Desert & Hegra "Madain Saleh")



After breakfast, a 4WD morning adventure awaits us through the desert canyons and magnificently weathered terracotta-hued mountains of the north **Madakhil** region. The incredible scenery will present panoramic vistas at

almost every turn and includes the great span of the **Madakhil Rock Arch** (also known as the 'Rainbow Arch'). Upon returning to Al Ula, the yellows and browns of the desert are contrasted with the almost Elysian fields-like greens and shade provided by the tens of thousands of date palms that form the life-giving oasis. A healthy lunch will be provided at Pink Camel, a casual restaurant tucked away among date palms and citrus trees.

In the afternoon, head to visit the remarkable rock-hewn tombs of ancient **Hegra** (*formerly known as Madain Saleh*). Once 'lost' to the world until **Charles Montagu Doughty's** 'rediscovery' in 1876, Hegra's tombs are Saudi Arabia's premier cultural tourist attraction today. The guide will drop us at the Hegra Welcome Center, where we will join the shared 2-hour-long coach tour around the site. Built by the Nabataean Arabs as their southernmost city, Hegra is set in a spectacular desert landscape studded with sandstone monoliths a short drive from modern Al Ula. The town was constructed around the 1st century AD to protect the Nabataean's lucrative long-distance camel caravans, bringing precious trade goods from south Arabia to their capital of Petra (in Jordan). This magical UNESCO World Heritage site has 111 monumental tombs (94 of which are decorated) carved into its perpendicular cliffs.

The Hegra tour starts at the **Railway Station** on the Ottoman-built Hijaz Railway, where we will see a German-built steam locomotive and numerous buildings that date to the early 20th century. Like Doughty, our first sight of ancient Hegra's tombs will be a breathtaking panoramic view of the rock outcrop called Qasr Al-Bint, where two of the site's finest tombs are located. Reach Jebel Ithlib, where the cave-like Diwan (*a cult center*) is situated next to a narrow gorge (Siq) leading to a magnificent amphitheater of rock. Continue the journey of discovery at *Jabal Al Ahmar*, home to 18 tombs, some of which have been recently excavated. The name refers to the unique red color of the rock. The tour's last stop is the monolithic Tomb of Lihyan Son of Kuza, Hegra's largest tomb, measuring about 72 feet tall. Left unfinished, with rough, unsmoothed chisel marks skirting its lower third, it is at times referred to as Qasr al-Farid by the locals, meaning the "*Lonely Castle*" in English, because of its distant position from the other tombs. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight.

(B,L,D)

Note: The Royal Commission manages the heritage sites in Al Ula for Al Ula (RCU). Visits to the RCU sites have fixed timings. Independent visits with a private guide are not permitted. The RCU 'rawis' have room for improvement. The tour is offered on a hop-on, hop-off basis, with regular shuttles traveling between the drop-off points. A local 'rawi' will meet the shuttle at each stop and lead the visitors on a short, guided tour.

Thursday, February 20

Al Ula - Al Medina (3 hrs. 40 min.)



After breakfast, continue Al Ula sightseeing with visits to the giant mirrored cube at the **Maraya Concert Hall** (permission required). View this spectacular 500-seat venue that reflects the surrounding desertscape and is the largest mirror-clad building in the world. Maraya, meaning "mirror" or "reflection" in Arabic, celebrates Al Ula's significant role in history as a crossroad of cultures for centuries.

Continue to Old **Al Ula** village and join a shared tour with a '**rawi**' guide. Old Al Ula was founded before the 12th century AD and was occupied until the early 1980s. Its atmospheric mudbrick ruins comprise over 900 houses, 500 shops, five town squares, and a fortified citadel with over a thousand years old ruins. During the hour-long walking tour, visit **Tantora Square**, climb up the castle, and learn about the Old Town's settlers and pilgrims and their motives and methods in the settlement's construction.

After lunch in Al Ula Old Town, have an opportunity to browse the shops that line the former main street. Drive south through a landscape of desert and mountains to **Al Medina**, and upon arrival, transfer to *Meridien Hotel* or similar for check-in, dinner, and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Friday, February 21

Al Medina - Jeddah (4 hrs.)



After breakfast, explore Medina and tease the secrets of Islam's second-most holy city. Anciently known as **Yathrib**, the city was renamed Al Medina by the Prophet Mohammad after he and his followers were welcomed following their flight from Mecca—an event known as the '**Hijrah**.' Pilgrims recreate this journey every year as part of the *Hajj*. Non-Muslims are not permitted to enter the city's mosques, but they can now visit some of the central 'Haram' area, where the main places of pilgrimage are located.

Head to visit the early battlefield site of **Jabal Uhud**, view the **Qiblatain Mosque**, see the location of the '**Battle of the Trench**,' and visit Medina's attractive **Ottoman Railway Station** (currently closed) to see the Hijaz Railway memorabilia and early 20th century locomotives. A highlight of the Medina sightseeing will be lunch at a hotel with a view of the exterior of the vast **Masjid al-Nabawi** (*The Prophet's Mosque*), where the tombs of the Prophet, as well as his daughter Fatima, and the first caliph Abu Bakr, are to be found.

In the late afternoon, Transfer to Medina's **Haramain High-Speed Train Station**, where we will travel to Jeddah on the Red Sea coast. Upon arrival at Jeddah's Central Railway Station, meet assist and transfer to *Intercontinental Hotel* (overlooking the Red Sea on Jeddah's famous cornice) or similar for check-in, dinner, and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Note: The ability for non-Muslims to visit the center of Medina is still very new. Guests are reminded that this holy city is a place of prayer and pilgrimage for Muslims. We request that guests dress 'modestly' today. We suggest a headscarf along with long skirts or loose trousers and a blouse with full-length sleeves for ladies and trousers and a shirt with full-length sleeves for men.

Saturday, February 22

Jeddah



After breakfast, explore the city of **Jeddah**, the 'bride of the Red Sea'; a historic town that has been a gateway for the annual Hajj pilgrimage for centuries. This buzzing hub of commerce and a melting pot of peoples, where Eve is buried according to local lore, is one of the most liberal cities in Saudi Arabia and has a notably different tempo from the rest of the country. As the city's motto proclaims: "Jeddah *ghair*", or "Jeddah is different."

Start with a visit to the **Tayebat Museum**, a landmark building built in the traditional Hijazi (western Saudi Arabia) architectural style that houses a vast, eclectic collection of ethnographic items. Enjoy a stroll along Jeddah's beautiful manicured modern seafront Corniche before arriving at Jeddah's much-photographed **Al Rahma 'floating' Mosque**. After lunch, view the partially built Jeddah Tower, which is expected to be the tallest building in the world, then continue to the city's UNESCO World Heritage-listed Old Town of **Al Balad**, which we will discover on foot.

Upon passing through the Mecca Gate into Al Balad, we will be immersed by the lively incense-scented souqs, multi-story houses built of coral stone with their distinctive '**Roshan**' wooden windows, art galleries, and antique mosques that include the **Shafi Masjid** - the oldest in Jeddah. There is nothing quite like it in Saudi Arabia! Al Balad was founded in the 7th century AD and is considered one of the finest surviving Old Towns in the Middle East. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Sunday, February 23

Jeddah - USA



Transfer in the early morning to the airport for your flight back to the US. **(B)**

Note: Standard check out time is 11:00 AM, In the event of a late departure, you can either leave your luggage at the concierge or alternatively you can reserve a day-use room until your scheduled transfer to the airport (cost is separate).

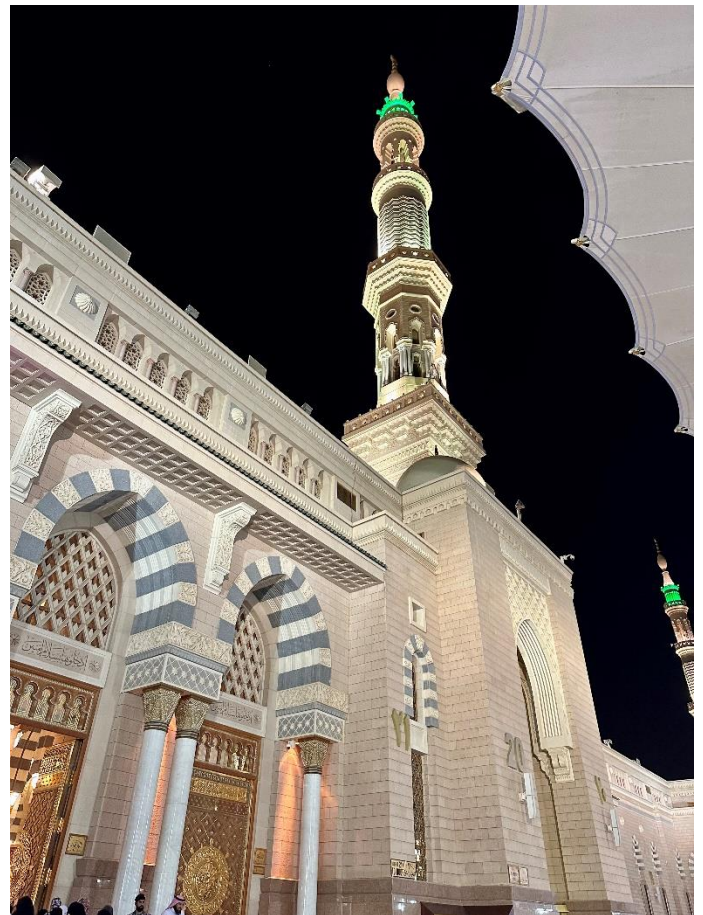
"We reserve the right to change the order of activities/visits or sites due to unexpected events such as flight cancellations or changes of schedule, or any other reasons beyond our control. We will do our best

to ensure that any necessary changes when/if needed to meet the needs of our clients".

Special Trip Remarks:

Saudi Arabia is a dry country. Alcohol is absolutely forbidden (as are narcotics and pornographic materials). Dress is modest and women do not need to cover their heads. The wearing of abayas for ladies has been recently easing up and is no longer mandatory. Be advised that you will be fingerprinted and undergo a retinal scan upon arrival in the country. In addition, sometimes sites can be closed for no foreseen reasons or authorities can also deny visit of certain places without prior notice and we (STS) are not responsible for any such events/acts. Some of the drives can be long and monotonous crossing vast expanses of desert with nothing much to observe along the way but it is necessary to cover the territory. Bus discussions will enliven the drives.

Note: Madain Saleh(Al Hgera) tours are conducted by a third-party government agency rather than by our own guides, and hence we are bound by the decision of what tombs they open for us and how many can be visited, and they rotate the tombs on a regular basis, and we don't have a say to which ones they choose.



Tour Cost (Land Only):

8-9 travelers \$8,995.00

10-14 travelers \$8,495.00

Per person sharing in double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$1,795.00

Price based on group size minimum of 8 participants and maximum of 14 participants

About your Tour Lecturer... Iain Shearer, he has worked as an archaeologist in the UK, Afghanistan, Caucasus, North Africa, the Balkans, Central Asia, China, Pakistan, India, and the Arab Middle East over the last 25 years. Educated and trained at the Institute of Archaeology University College London, he is the former Sackler Scholar for Afghanistan and Iran at The British Museum and made a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland in 2008. Iain has led



lecture tours across the Maghreb, the Arab Middle East, Iran, and Central Asia, and was the author for Lonely Planet guides to Saudi Arabia and Hajj (2009) and to Western and Northeastern Iran (2012) Trips.

Tour Includes:

- All transfers with assistance and luggage portage.
- Transportation within country using A/C motor coach.
- All mentioned accommodations in 4* and 5* hotels.
- All meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- All entrance fees to visited sites as per the itinerary.
- Service of professional English-speaking tour guide along some local guides at various cities and sites.
- Bottled water on bus during touring days.
- Assistance in obtaining visa approval letter.
- Al Medina- Jeddah train ticket.
- Saudi Arabia VAT%15.
- Escort of lecturer (provided minimum number of travelers is reached).
- Gratuities to guide, drivers, and porters (provided minimum number of travelers is reached).

Tour does not include:

- International air USA-Riyadh / Jeddah-USA.
- Saudi Arabia Visa (E-visa \$150.00-subject to change).
- Beverages and drinks with or without meals.
- Items of a personal nature (camera fees, laundry, excess luggage, etc.).
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on tour dates.
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules or misconnections.
- Trip surcharge to operate below required minimum participants.
- Gratuity to your tour manager (optional).
- Travel protection insurance (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED).

Trip Grade:

II Active: Some hikes, slightly more demanding walks at or to sites, few elevations, comfortable but busy schedule and some long rides and extensive drives.

Lodging Level:

****_***** **Superior:** In large cities 5 stars' hotels and in some smaller towns, lodges and hotels with limited amenities, average service, and comfort level acceptable to western standards. (3 or 4 stars).

