



Best of AlUla

03 Nights/ 04 Days



AlUla, with its rich details, is a historical mine people seek from all over the world. On its land cultures met, and many civilizations were built, especially at Hegra, the first Saudi site to enter the UNESCO World Heritage List. In its historical landmarks, you will discover hidden stories, as its rocks are full of obscure symbols, exquisite inscriptions and texts leading back to the first century BC. Its land still uncovers one secret after another leading us to new historical deductions every day. Its inhabitants welcome you with smiles and joy, coming from the generosity of the Arab culture. The restaurants here offer your taste buds a special experience, surprising you with a combination of innovative dishes in front of amazing views. Its unique terrain gives you the chance of living exceptional experiences such as rock climbing, hiking, and camping in the beautiful desert under a starry sky, in addition to seasonal events and musical and cultural activities combining a rich history with a modern taste.

Itinerary

Day 01: Arrival and transfer to the hotel – Harrat Uwayrid (Outlook view)

Welcome to Alula! The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has long been a crossroads of ancient civilisations — a place of deep history, but one that is constantly evolving. AlUla is an extraordinary example of this and you can soon help write the next pages of its history.

Upon arrival at Prince Abdul Majeed Bin Abdulaziz International Airport, you will be met with the local representative and transferred to your hotel.



After freshen-up, proceed to Harrat Uwayrid (Outlook view). AlUla is blessed with numerous lookout points that offer an elevated view of the epic landscape. Scale the black lava stone terrain of Harrat Uwayrid, and you'll be rewarded with views over Dadan, AlUla Old Town, AlUla Fort and the AlUla Oasis. Stand at what feels like the edge of the world, meditate, and reconnect with nature. Arrive before sundown to soak up the sights and sounds of the golden hour, when the sky's orange glow adds a magical touch to everything you see.

Later proceed to OKTO restaurant for dinner. From the white sand beaches of Greece to the black volcanic rock of Harrat Viewpoint, OKTO offers contemporary Greek cuisine with breathtaking views. Developed by one of the top-rated chefs around the world, Chef Ntinos Fotinakis, OKTO's exclusive menu has an all-black theme inspired by the geology of AlUla. Panoramic views overlook the oasis city below and the sprawling desert landscapes that stretch into





the distance. Sit at the bar for sunset and sip one of their signature mocktails, and as the sky fills with stars, make use of the telescopes. Vegan, vegetarian, gluten- or dairy-free options are available.

After the sumptuous meal, return back to your hotel.

Stay overnight at hotel in AlUla.

Day 02: Explore AlUla – Visit Dadan, Jabal Ikmah, Maraya and Elephant Rock



Enjoy breakfast at your hotel. Later, meet with your guide and head towards Winter Park.

Start your day by visiting Dadan – The ancient Kingdom of the Liyanite and Dadanite civilization. One of the most exciting displays at Dadan is more than a dozen tombs cut into the red-rock cliff faces, east of the city. From afar, these look like simple dark rectangles. A closer look reveals skilfully crafted funerary monuments, including the seated lion sculptures that mark the famous Lion Tombs. Lions symbolised power and protection and may have marked the burial of an elite member of society, perhaps even royalty. These tombs are up to 50 metres above ground level, spurring the imagination of how they were carved without modern construction equipment.



Next, take a 10 minutes' drive to Jabal Ikamah, while there are thousands of pre-Arabic inscriptions across numerous sites in the Valley of AlUla, Jabal Ikamah stands out by far as the most important. Etched and carved into its golden stone, its hundreds of centuries-old inscriptions have even earned the site official UNESCO recognition for historical significance with its induction into their Memory of the World Register.

Surrounded by dramatic desert landscape, the largest 'open-air library' in Saudi Arabia sits tucked away in a remote canyon valley. One piece of evidence that shows AlUla was truly a crossroads of civilisations is Jabal Ikamah – a sacred place visited by those wishing to leave their inscriptions and offerings en route through AlUla. Records kept here are in the form of hundreds of inscriptions and carvings that line the cliff faces and rocks, ensuring that Jabal Ikamah would be remembered throughout the ages.

After the tour, proceed to Diamumah Restaurant for lunch. located near the western entrance of this particularly picturesque part of the Oasis. Take a seat on the shaded deck surrounding a trio of citrus trees, and choose from an eclectic menu of local flavours and international favourites. With shareable starters, mouth-watering mains and a palette-cleansing selection of sorbets, it's a wonderful spot to stop and have a bite in this magical part of AlUla.



After the refreshments, proceed to AlUla Oasis. The Oasis is part of the AlUla Old Town Village, awarded title of Best Tourism Village by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

Ancient civilisations have cultivated this spring-fed oasis for millennia, and today it remains a lush and fertile plain with sustainable farming at its core.



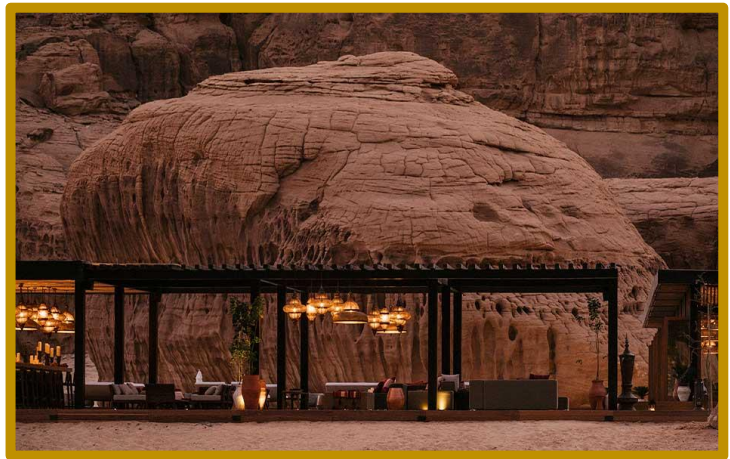
Later drive towards Maraya (from outside). Maraya is a stunning piece of art set in the desert canyon of Ashar Valley. Designed to blend into the surrounding landscape, it rises from the sand



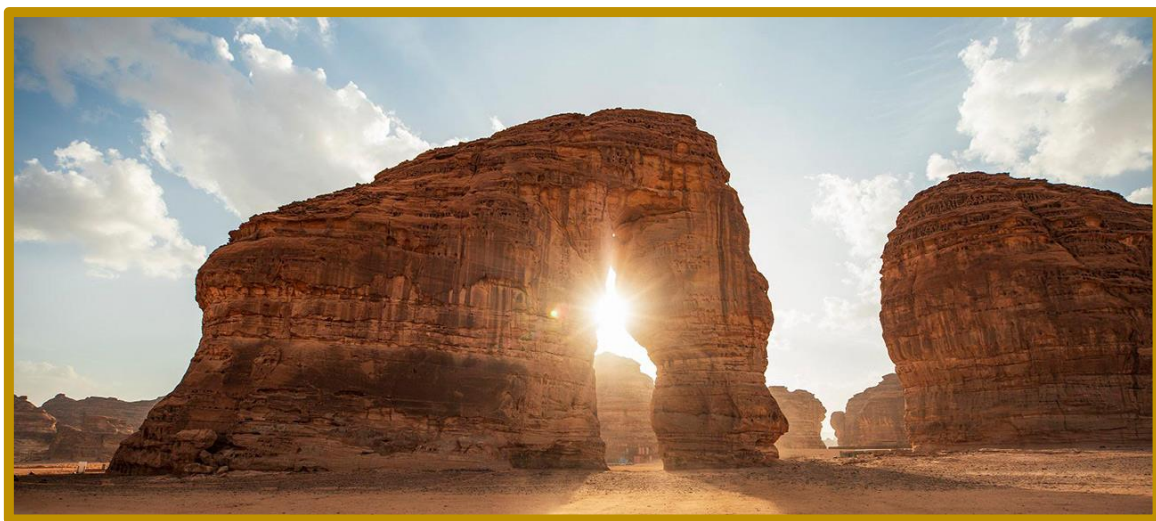
like a mirage. The state-of-the-art structure is covered in 9,740 mirrored panels reflecting AIUla's beauty, making it the largest mirrored building in the world, according to Guinness World Records.

Maraya, meaning mirror or reflection in Arabic, celebrates AIUla's significant role in history as a crossroads of cultures for centuries. The mirrors themselves become a contemporary canvas, reflecting the remarkable heritage of the area. As the perfect modern ode to the past, Maraya is the centrepiece of AIUla's growing cultural scene. From spectacular concerts and thrilling performances to art residency programmes and arthouse films, AIUla is emerging as a cultural centre on a global scale.

Later, proceed to Tama Restaurant at Habitas for your lunch. Meaning 'here and now' in Aramaic, Tama embodies one of Habitas' core brand experiences: the essence of being present and making new connections. The ingredients in Tama's menus are sourced from local farms in communities surrounding AIUla to bring seasonal, fresh flavours to the table. Serving delightful dishes all day, menu highlights include freshly baked bread with local jams or ginger honey, vegan bowls and a moringa ribeye. Decadent desserts infuse the flavours of the oasis, from sticky date cake to traditional Umm Ali.



After the sumptuous lunch, return back to your hotel for some rest and relaxation. Enjoy the various amenities available on-site.



In the evening, you will be picked up and transferred to the most iconic rock formation of AIUla – Elephant Rock. Set among dramatic desert landscape and soaring 52 metres into the sky, Elephant



Rock is AlUla's most iconic geological marvel. The instantly recognisable form, with its distinctive trunk and body, was shaped wind and water erosion over the course of millions of years.

Known in Arabic as Jabal AlFil, this monolithic sandstone formation is a wonder to gaze upon at any time of the day, but dusk is particularly magical. As the sun sets, colours dance in the sky and this epic elephant turns a magnificent shade of red. When night falls, the skies come alive with the twinkling of thousands of stars.

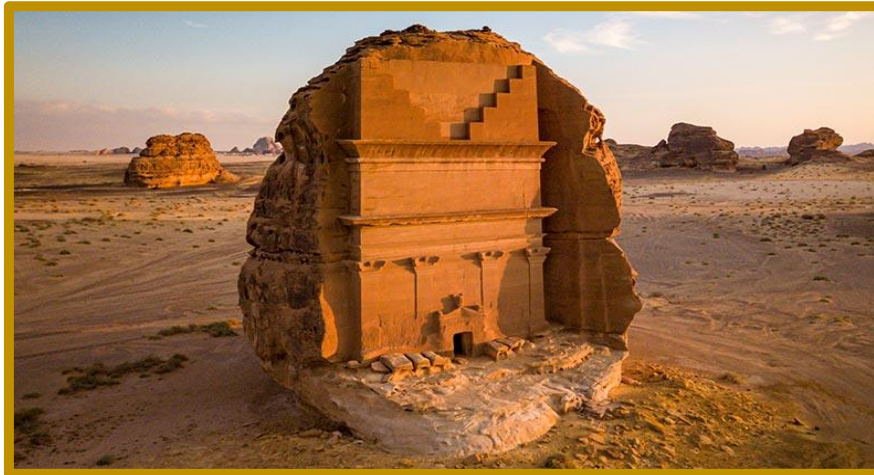


Later, proceed to Saffron Restaurant at Banyan Tree for your dinner. Originating as a simple curry house, Saffron has grown into an award-winning dining experience, well-renowned as the signature Thai restaurant of Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts. The scent of lemongrass and the unmistakable flavours of coconut milk and spices give guests the true taste of Thailand in the heart of the Arabian Peninsula. Every meal is a gastronomical journey, a passionate work of art ensuring that authenticity and the essence of Thai Cuisine are preserved in all dishes.

After the sumptuous meal, return back to your hotel.

Stay overnight at hotel in AlUla.

Day 03: Explore AIUla – Visit Hegra, Helicopter tour, Old Town Market and Al Jadidah
Sunday's recommendation: Stargazing



Enjoy early breakfast at your hotel and proceed towards winter park to visit Hegra. Visit the site of Hegra and explore over 110 astonishingly well-preserved tombs set in stunning desert landscape. You'll also learn about the fascinating ancient people and culture of AIUla.

Evidence for human presence at the Hegra site dates back to beyond the 1st millennium BCE, and was the location of the Nabataean city from the end of the 1st millennium BCE into the 1st millennium CE. Today, Hegra is best known for having more than 110 monumental tombs carved from rock formations, in which the Nabataean elite were laid to rest.



Get ready to view AIUla from above, with this 30-minute helicopter tour with your pilot (guide), an exhilarating flight that takes you over AIUla's seven most famous landmarks and heritage sites. The first of these will be the monumental Jabal AlFil (Elephant Rock), AIUla's most famous natural geological rock formation. Next, we head over to Hegra, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the

southern capital of the Nabatean Civilisation, with its ancient tombs carved deep into the red and golden rocks. There you will get to see one of the last trains of The Hijaz Railway stood in time.



Later proceed to visit Old Town and Old Town Market. The Old Town is part of the AlUla Old Town Village, awarded title of Best Tourism Village by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). Explore its labyrinth of tightly packed streets, hundreds of mudbrick houses and mighty fort, and you feel a palpable sense of its history as a once-thriving settlement on ancient incense-trading routes.

One reason the Old Town evokes such a deep sense of emotion is that it was actually inhabited in the not-so-distant past. Built on a slight elevation, the town is also overlooked by a 45-metre-high fort, a defensive lookout dating back to around the 10th century. In the 12th century, AlUla Old Town became an essential settlement along the pilgrimage route from Damascus to Makkah. The city gradually replaced Qurh, to the south of AlUla, and is favourably mentioned by travellers from the 12th to the 20th centuries, when modern AlUla was constructed nearby.





Later visit the Old Town Market. Walk along Old Town Market Street and follow in the millennia-old footsteps of the merchants who once traversed this ancient trade route. A historic marketplace still thrives here today, where you can browse everything from local handicrafts to elegant antiques, shop for souvenirs or just enjoy a freshly squeezed juice and a pleasant stroll.

Enjoy lunch at a restaurant in the old town market street.



Later, immerse yourself in this buzzing and arty neighbourhood as well as being AIUla's creative centre, AlJadidah Arts District is part of the AIUla Old Town Village, awarded the title of Best Tourism Village by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

The AlJadidah Arts District is AIUla's bustling and burgeoning cultural and creative hub. Beautiful murals add to the colour and creativity of this easily strollable area, which also features the world's largest hand-painted carpet. As well as hosting regular art exhibitions by local and international artists, arty AlJadidah is home to variety of shops, restaurants and galleries.

In the evening, return back to your hotel.



Since, the rest of the evening is free at leisure, we recommend Stargazing at Gharameel. Far from city lights, wide open spaces in remote desert lands create some of the world's clearest dark skies. This makes AIUla an idyllic place for stargazing, with the remote site of Gharameel a particularly magical spot.

Join this stargazing tour and an expert guide will talk you through the constellations while surrounded by spectacular desert landscape. You'll also be treated to a fireside dinner to enjoy under the stars.

Rest the night at your hotel in AIUla.

Day 04: Departure

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel. Check-out and meet with the driver who will transfer you to the airport. Return back with long lasting memories of AIUla only with *Sunday...pure holidays!!!*

~~~END OF TOUR~~~

**Land package cost starting from USD 2,800 per person on twin sharing basis i.e. 2 adults sharing same room**

#### **Inclusions:**

- Accommodation in 4 star hotel
- Transportation as mentioned by SUV vehicle
- Lunch and dinner as per the itinerary
- Entrance fees
- Return airport transfers
- GST

***\*TCS will charged additional as applicable***