

Bahrain



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# Bahrain

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Your guide for things to do in Bahrain.  
This book will take you through Bahrain's favourite activities.

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## Bahrain Fort Site Museum





Known as Dilmun in ancient times, Bahrain's rich trading history is reflected in numerous archaeological sites, the most fascinating of which is the Bahrain Fort site that is registered as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The fort is located atop a 17.5 hectare artificial hill that has been built over more than 4000 years of continuous occupation. It is the site of the former capital of Dilmun and one of the most archaeological sites in the Arabian Gulf. The excavations over the past 50 years have revealed residential, public, commercial and military structures that testify to the importance of the site over the centuries. These findings are brought to life by an audio guide available at the site museum. The site museum display area consists of 5 exhibition halls organized around a massive Tell Wall. With 500 artefacts showcased, the long settlement history of the site is evoked to the unique backdrop of the wall. The seaside café of the museum offers a stunning view of the fort and the surrounding palm groves.

Daily 8am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)











## Bahrain International Circuit





Even if you are not a motor racing fan you will be caught up in the thrill and excitement of the planet's biggest racing event, Formula One, that has been an annual part of Bahrain's sporting scene since April 2004. Bahrain's Grand Prix made history as the first Formula One Grand Prix to be held in the Middle East and was awarded the "Best Organized Grand Prix" by FIA.

Even when Formula One is not taking center stage at the Bahrain International Circuit, visitors can take the wheel themselves on its state-of-the-art karting track or enjoy a thrilling ride in the passenger seat of a Hummer on its Extreme 4x4 course. Of course, a visit to the circuit is a must so as not to miss the opportunity to test drive a race car on the track itself.

**Bahrain National Museum / Bahrain National Theatre**











The Bahrain National Museum is the crowning achievement of the Kingdom of Bahrain's ongoing efforts to preserve the nation's heritage and history; Efforts which began in 1957 when the first exhibition of the artefacts discovered by the Danish archaeological expedition was held at Al-Hidaya Al-Khalifiya in Muharraq. Built on a central location between Manama and Muharraq.

Daily 8 am to 8 pm

Bahrain National Theater opened in November 2012 under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. The theater hosted a number of global performances from some of the world's foremost artists, such as the Orchestra of the 21st Century of Russia, legendary composer Yanni, Spanish opera superstar Placido Domingo, the Bolshoi and Mariinsky Ballets from Russia, and Il Divo.

Wednesday to Monday 10am to 6pm (Tuesday closed)

## Bab Al Bahrain





Bab Al Bahrain is located at the entrance to the Manama Souq in Bahrain's capital city Manama. Built in 1949 by Shaikh Salman Bin Ahmed Al Fateh, it once housed the government's administrative offices and overlooked the sea. Behind Bab Al Bahrain is the old Manama Souq. The souq is a vibrant collection of shops offering a wide range of goods from textiles, spices, incense, perfumes, handicrafts and souvenirs, as well as more modern products from all over the world. There are also a number of traditional coffee shops. The Manama Souq is a must visit while in Bahrain that visitors will be sure to enjoy.

Post office Museum: Daily 9am-5pm (Closed on Fridays)

مخبرات الامبراطور  
Emperor Jewellers

مفاتيح علي بابا للمتفحص والسجاد  
Ali Baba Key Antiques & Carpets

سيد حسن القطري  
Sayed Hussain Al-Qatari



















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## Pearling Path





The heritage site "Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy" relates the exciting story of Bahrain's pearling era through historic places ranging from urban heritage elements and a well-preserved authentic seashore to pearl-producing oyster beds. Conservation works have been ongoing in the site since 2011. As of today, the conservation works of Qal'at Bu Maher, Al Ghus House and Nukhidhah House are completed and the buildings are open to public visits. You are strongly encouraged to start your visit with the Bu Maher Fort and Bu Maher Interpretative Centre to get an overall idea of the World Heritage Site components. Please be informed that the visits to Bu Maher Fort, Bu Maher seashore and the interpretative centre is possible from the National Museum of Bahrain via boat leaving every half hour between the hours of 8.00 am to 5.00pm.

Al Ghus House is open to visit since 2015 with an exhibition that sheds light on the daily life of low-income actors of the pearling economy, pearl divers and haulers. Nukhidhah House is a must visit to experience the living space of the captain's profession.

Currently, the remaining urban components of the World Heritage Site of Pearling are included in a conservation and urban revival project. The project is proceeding in a multifaceted way consisting of three major interventions in the areas of conservation, urban renewal and visitor facilities. A set of mobility and traffic arrangements are encompassed in the scope of the project as well.

10am-6pm (Closed on Wednesdays)

## Old Houses of Muharraq





Muharraq, the former capital of Bahrain, is known for its cultural contributions through the many restored traditional Bahraini houses that can be found amidst the narrow lanes and byways. The Sheikh Isa bin Ali House is Bahrain's most impressive example of Gulf Islamic architecture featuring four courtyards, beautifully carved wooden doors, and perforated gypsum panels.

The Shaikh Ebrahim Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa Center for Culture and Research provides an important insight into several particularly interesting aspects of Bahrain's heritage. From embroidery at Kurar House to a splendid showcase of Bahrain's pearling history at the Bin Mattar House, the former home of a renowned pearl merchant, the various houses reflect Shaikh Ebrahim Center's commitment towards preservation of both traditional architect and history.

The collection of houses include the Shaikh Ebrahim Lecture Hall, Iqra Children's Library, Heraf al Diyar, Nukhida House (the first house to be restored along the Pearling Path), Kurar House, Abdullah al Zayed House and Bin Matar House, Bu Zaboon House, Mohammed bin Faris House that all showcase different aspects of Bahrain's rich heritage.

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Maison Jamsheer, another example of the traditional courtyard houses, which is situated a stone's throw away from Shaikh Ebrahim Center.

Shaikh Isa Bin Ali House: Daily 9am-5pm (Closed on Fridays)

Shaikh Ebrahim Centre: Sat -Thur, 9:00am - 1:00pm, 4:00pm- 7:00pm

















## Souq Al Qaisariya



One of the oldest markets of Muharraq market, Al Qaisariya Souq features a range of shops that sell a variety of products and trade goods ranging from pearls to spices and teas. Al Qaisariya Souq is part of the Pearling Path “Pearling, Testimony to an Island Economy” - UNESCO World Heritage Site.



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**Block 338**





Located in the heart of Manama, Block 338 is a charming pedestrian quarter crammed with international restaurants art galleries and boutique shops. As Bahrain's hot dining district, Block 338 offers a wide range of restaurants appealing to all ages and taste, be it for a fancy meal, traditional Bahraini food or just a soothing drink. In addition to this distinguished eating experience, Block 338 has a number of good retail opportunities tucked into its side streets and has grown over the years into a vibrant space for art lovers.









Housed in a building spectacularly engraved with Arabic script, Beit al Quran (House of Quran) showcases a fascinating collection of Quranic manuscripts as well as a library of over 50,000 books written in Arabic, English, and French that center mostly on Islam. Manuscripts dating back to the 7th century as well as Qurans written on parchment, rice, peas, and grains are among the impressive collection. It is claimed to be the only institute in the world devoted to the Quran.

The building also houses a mosque, an auditorium, a madrasa (religious school), a museum, and hosts a variety of art exhibitions.

Area: Off Exhibition Avenue, Diplomatic Area

Saturday- Wednesday 9:00am - 12:00pm, 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Thurs 9:00am-12:00pm





## Shaikh Salman bin Ahmed Al-Fateh Fort / Military Museum





Commonly known as Riffa Fort due to its location, is a historic landmark and stands witness to one of the most important junctures in Bahrain's history. The fort presents a chronological history of the Al Khalifa family and showcases the interior space designed by the French firm, La Meduse and the local engineering firm, PAD, which took its inspiration from the fort's history and people. The fort also houses the Saffron Café, which overlooks the picturesque Al-Haniniya Valley.

Sunday - Wednesday 7:00am - 2:00pm Thursday and Saturday 9:00am - 6:00pm, Friday 3:00 - 6:00pm

The museum features 11 themed halls, houses paintings, documents and photos documenting the history of Bahrain's military and the Defence Force, and also displays the flags and weaponry of various BDF units.

Daily 9am-5pm (Closed on Sundays)

## Al Jasra Handicrafts Centre







The village of Al Jasra offers a look into the traditional arts and crafts that many of the villages in Bahrain have historically produced. Al Jasra Handicrafts Center showcases pottery making, cloth weaving, wood working, basket weaving, and sadow making that are created using the traditional methods.

Located in the village of Al Jasra, Beit Al Jasra (Jasra House) is a traditional style house built in 1907. It was restored in 1986 using original building materials such as coral stones and palm leaf trunks.

Area: Al Jasra

Daily 8am-2pm (Closed on Fridays)









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## Ahmed Al Fateh Grand Mosque







The grand Al Fateh Mosque is both Bahrain's largest place of worship and among one of the largest mosques in the world.

It was built under the patronage of the late Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa in 1987 and was named after Ahmed Al Fateh. The mosque accommodates up to 7000 worshippers and is crowned with the largest fiberglass dome in the world. The walls of the mosque are beautifully ornamented with Kufic calligraphy.

Next to the mosque is the Shaikh Isa Culture Centre & National Library.

Area: Juffair, Al Fateh Highway

Mosque: Sat-Thu, 9:00am - 4:00pm Closed to non-Muslim Fri

Library: Saturday-Thursday, 8:00am - 2:30pm, Saturday: 8:00am-12.30pm  
Closed on Fridays















## Lost Paradise Of Dilmun Water Park / Wahoo Water Park





Bahrain's first world-class water park features some of the latest water based amusement technology, providing fun for all ages with special facilities and play areas designed to keep children amused for hours on end.

In addition to providing a modern, hi-tech, family recreation facility, The Lost Paradise of Dilmun Water Park has recaptured the ancient history of Bahrain by integrating it into the park's theme. The water park evokes the spirit of ancient times by drawing attention to the beauty of the Dilmun ruins, furthering the enjoyment of this facility by creating an escape into the lost civilization.

Area: Sakhir

March to November: Friday/Saturday 10am-7pm, closed on Tuesdays

Weekdays: 10am-6pm

## Wahoo

The Middle East's first indoor-outdoor waterpark and set over a whopping 15,000 square-meters, Wahoo! guarantees hours of joy and is a major fun destination if looking for things to do in Bahrain.

A multi-level fortress and the toddler pool offers fun for the children, while older kids can rock the tide in the wave pool or lounge in the Lazy River. Wahoo! is mostly indoors, making the water park enjoyable whatever the season. What's more, all the pools are temperature-controlled, meaning that you'll be swimming in water that's a very comfortable at a 30 degrees all year round.

Saturday-Tuesday 11am-8pm, Wednesday 11am-3pm

Thursday-Friday 11 am to 9 pm











Built around 692 AD, Al Khamis Mosque is one of the oldest mosques in the Arab world. The identical twin minarets on this ancient Islamic monument make it easily recognizable. The foundation dates back to the 11th century and has been rebuilt in the 14th and 15th centuries. During this reconstruction the twin minarets were added.

Daily 9am-5pm (Closed on Mondays)





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**Adhari Park**







Adhari Park is an amusement park in the Kingdom of Bahrain based around the historic freshwater spring known as Ain Adari which is located around Zinj area. In 2003, the site was remodeled and it became a major tourist attraction.

Saturday to Sunday 4pm to 12am

Friday 8-11 am, 1pm-1am

## Al Dar Islands / Jarada Island







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**Hawar Islands**











"Hawar Islands- a true nature retreat! It is an archipelago of 16 islands in total with Hawar the main island being the largest Reaching to 52sq2. Located 20kms south of Bahrain. A renowned wildlife reserve of international significance. Home to a variety of species. Hawar Beach Hotel offers recreational eco tours that promote awareness of our diverse flora and fauna via safari, snorkeling, kayaking & mountain biking"

[www.HawarBeachHotel.com](http://www.HawarBeachHotel.com)





## Pearl Diving / Snorkeling







An exciting world-class adventure. For more than 2000 years Bahrain's pearls have been prized as some of the best natural pearls in the world! In the past pearl divers went out to sea for months. They were lowered on weighted ropes and remained underwater for a minute with nothing but a nose peg to control their breathing. Now, we offer you the opportunity to hunt for pearls right here in the pleasant waters of the Gulf.

- Steps:
1. Get a ticket online at [www.btea.bh](http://www.btea.bh)
  2. Attend a briefing workshop
  3. Departure from Ras Rayyah with a licensed company
  4. Collect up to 60 oysters
  5. Open your oysters on the boat and on the return trip
  6. Have your pearls appraised for value and quality.









## Bu Maher Fort







Bu Maher Fort is located in the south of the city of Muharraq, and was first built during the Portuguese occupation of Bahrain. Renovation works on the fort commenced in the 1970's, during which only some of it was rebuilt. In 2010, excavation works carried work at the site uncovered its original foundations and dimensions. The fort represents the first step on Pearling Trail, inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 2012. A dedicated visitor center was established next to the fort which houses an illustrated map of the Pearling Trail and models of the sites that can be found along the way.

Bu Maher Fort shore between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm.

These trips help shed light on part of the story of Bahrain's traditional pearl divers and sailors, and enable people to re-live some of their experiences and sea expeditions.

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Arad Fort





Strategically located as a sea passage, Arad fort is a typical example of Omani military architecture at the end of the 15th and early 16th centuries. This fort was once the site of fierce battles and underwent different construction phases. All though it is not clear when it was constructed it has played a major role in the defense of Bahrain against marauders through the centuries. It was restored in the 1980s using only authentic material. It is nicely illuminated at night and hosts seasonal festivals throughout the year.

Area: Arad

Daily 9am-5pm (Closed on Fridays)









Horses have been a highly respected part of Bahrain's culture for generations, playing an important part in the daily life of the community. The love of horses is seen clearly on Friday afternoons on the northern coast of Bahrain when horses are ridden at Bahrain fort and on the beach of Nuwrana just west of Kurana village.

Contact:

Kashta Tours: 32122163 - 39994855

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**Barbar Temple**

The Barbar complex consists of three successive temples built over 5 stages and dating back to the 2nd and 3rd millennium BC. They were built on platforms and organized around a courtyard. A sunken chamber enclosing a fresh water spring constitutes the focus of a cult believed to be associated with the Mesopotamia God of wisdom and sweet water Enki.



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**Camel Farm**

A trip to the Middle East just wouldn't be complete without snapping a selfie with a camel. At Janabiyah Camel Farm (the last exit before Saudi Arabia off King Fahad Causeway) you'll find dromedaries at all stages of life, including adorably gangly baby camels.

Area: Janabiya  
Daily 8am to sunset







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## Jasra House







Located in the village of Al Jasra, Beit Al Jasra (Jasra House) is a traditional style house built in 1907. It was restored in 1986 using traditional building materials such as coral stones and palm leaf trunks.













The Saar settlement features an entire residential quarter comprising well-preserved courtyard houses, a temple and a very unique honeycomb shaped cemetery. The 3rd millennium BC site offers fascinating insights into the daily life of the ancient inhabitants of Bahrain.

Area: Saar Village, off Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Highway  
Open daily, from dawn to sunset



## A'ali Pottery Workshop





You can watch the potters at work at the A'ali Pottery Workshop where traditional methods using ancient kilns in a tradition that has been handed down generation after generation. It's fascinating to watch one of the masters of this craft at work, sitting in a hollow, spinning the clay on a potter's wheel using foot pedal and in a flash creating a pot from slabs of local clay.

Open Daily 6am-6pm

Amongst Bahrain's mysterious ancient remains are the thousands of burial mounds that dominate the landscape north of the Island. Spanning the Dilmun era (3rd to 1st millennium BC) to the Tylos era (200 BC to 300 AD) the burial mounds are unique in terms of sheer number and concentration. The best preserved and most impressive mounds are the royal burial mounds in the village of A'ali.

## Dilmun Burial Mounds

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Bahrain's first indoor skydiving experience awaits you! You can't resist the incredible feeling of a freefall in one of the tallest wind tunnels in the world; with an overall height of 12 meters, constructed with tempered glass. Jump in just like you would from an aircraft, but without a parachute, and even without boarding an airplane in the first place! Everyone can enjoy this bodyflight experience, except for those reluctant to go on a life-changing adventure.

Daily 10am-10pm (Sundays closed)





## Watersports at Bahrain Bay







We are travelers of the sea, living the search, seeking to uncover the hidden beauty surrounding us. each culture's water sports are all natural and non-motorized, therefore they are organic, environmentally friendly, and work with these elements: the sun, the moon, tides, winds and currents.

Daily 6:00AM To Midnight

Contact: +973 7736 3677

[www.beachculture.me](http://www.beachculture.me)

## Cycling Tours





Find the right bike route for you through Bahrain, where you can find many cycle routes to explore. The routes you most commonly find here are of the flat type. Most people get on their bikes to ride here in the months of May and August.

Contact:

Kashta Tours: 32122163 - 39994855

Localppl: 338995054











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## Endurance Horse Riding





The onerous sports of Endurance Racing has seen a revival in Bahrain following the staging of a 120km race for Bahraini and UAE riders in April 2000 under the patronage of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. Since that time, Endurance Racing has featured regularly on the calendar for important sports events in Bahrain and garners wide support from Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa who regularly competes. Endurance events are scheduled between November and April. Check the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation website for upcoming events.

Opened during events

## Oil Museum / First Oil Well





As the name suggests, this is the first oil production well in the Arabian Gulf and is located in Bahrain. The museum showcases the history of the oil industry in Bahrain for over a century. The Oil Museum houses some fascinating exhibits, including drilling equipment, documents, old photographs and a working model of an oil rig.

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Fridays only 10am-5pm.

Other weekdays by prior appointment



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## Royal Golf Course





The Royal Golf Club is home to Bahrain's only 18 hole championship standard golf course and to a par 3 9-hole course, both designed by course architect and golfing legend Colin Montgomerie. The Club is managed by Troon, the leader in upscale golf course management, development and marketing, and was named Troon's 2013 Facility of the Year, the company's top accolade. Additional facilities at the Royal Golf Club include award winning restaurants, a golf academy with full practice facilities, a golf & leisure shop, meeting and conference rooms and a country club.







## Tree of Life





A marvel in the desert, the Tree of Life is famous for surviving for over 100 years despite its existence with no source of water. Visitors can observe this natural beauty from inside the Visitors' Centre, which includes information about the artefacts discovered at the site in addition to a small amphitheater to host outdoor events.

Daily 9am-5pm

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**Marassi Beach**











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