



# Museums of Saudi Arabia



The King Abdullah Heritage Initiative



الهيئة العامة للسياحة والآثار  
Saudi Commission for Tourism & Antiquities

scta.gov.sa

- Including the museums in the official tourism itinerary of the provinces and governorates
- Helping museums in developing their showcasing and display techniques via the programs organized by the SCTA
- Promoting the museum in all SCTA publications and official websites (information about the museum, photos, address and location coordinates)
- Developing an electronic portal for private museums
- Coordinating with the relative parties for leasing lands to private museums for special prices
- Helping private museum owners in receiving loans from SCTA stakeholders
- Organizing training programs on displaying techniques, and maintaining and preserving antiquities
- Organizing the Private Museums Owners Forum, which aims at bringing together the owners of private museums in the Kingdom with the officials of SCTA and other relevant authorities. This encourages an exchange experiences and opens channels of communication between private museum owners., It also helps to identify closely SCTA's plans for development of private museums in relation to preserving and protecting the heritage elements and proper techniques to display museum exhibits
- Organizing trips for private museum owners to foreign countries with the aim of exchanging experiences in museum display techniques, and increasing safety, security and performance...





The projects that are under development within this program include: the Al-Dwadmy Museum at King Abdulaziz Palace, Madinah Museum at the Hijaz Railway Station, Wadi Al-Dwaser Museum at King Abdulaziz Palace, Dheba Museum at King Abdulaziz Fort, Al-Ghatt Museum at Al-Emmarah Old Palace, Al-Wajh Museum at Al-Souk Fort, Levant Hajj Route Museum at Hejr Fort,

Unizah Museum at Al-Bassam House, Shagra Museum in Al-Sbaiay House, Al-Majmaah Museum at Al-Rbaia House, Al-Qurayat Governorate Museum at Kaf Palace, al-Zulfy Museum at Bait AL-Turath, Ibrahim Palace Museum in Hafouf, Exhibition Halls at Al-Ameriah School in Hafouf, and Al-Mulla House in Hafouf.

## Private Museums

The SCTA's interest in museums is not limited to public ones only; it extends to include private museums as well. There are hundreds of private museums all over the Kingdom (130) which are licensed by the SCTA.

The SCTA supports private museums in accordance with the Quality Performance Criteria of the "Saudi Museum" classification.

The SCTA support to private museums includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Granting operation licenses
- Supporting owners in developing their museums
- Providing technical and administrative support in managing visitors and in displaying, storing and maintaining items

museums; one is the National & Islamic History Museum in Jeddah at Khezam Palace, the second is the Holy Quran Oasis in Madinah. This is in cooperation with the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Call and Guidance and the Emirate of Madinah. The SCTA is also working in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense on developing the Badr Battle Museum and the Islamic History Museum in Al-Meabdah Palaces adjacent to the Holy mosque in Makah.

This is in addition to several other specialized museums, such as the Saqr Aljazeera Aviation Museum, the Currency Museum and the Transportation Museum.



## Developing Existing Museums

In addition to the SCTA work in developing 11 new museums, it is also working on developing existing museums that are in need of expansion or maintenance in terms of equipment and buildings.

The development plan consists of several steps, transforming the museums into sophisticated modern museums in terms of exhibition techniques. This includes adopting interactive methodology and making it more impressive and attractive to visitors, and using new lighting systems inside the halls and galleries. This is to transform the museums into incubators of the most important historical memories of the area.

The development plan is not limited to display techniques; it extends to the employees and officials working in these



museums. Graduates of the King Abdullah Foreign Scholarship Program are invited to join the museum workforce after a one-year internship in one of the international museums that have signed a cooperation agreement with the SCTA.

## Restoring and Utilizing Historic Palaces

The SCTA is conducting a program for restoring historical palaces and utilizing them as cultural centers and museums reflecting the Kingdom's history and civilization. In addition, to the development of these palaces will shed light on the diverse and unique architectural character of the Kingdom.



## National Museum:

The National Museum occupies 17000 square meters from the eastern part of King Abdul-Aziz Historical Center. The Museum's two-story building covers 28000 square meters.

The Museum opened in 1419 H on the centennial celebrations of the Kingdom's unification in 1319H.

It consists of the main hall, eight galleries, two short-term exhibition halls, storage, research centers and labs.

Each one of the eight galleries represents a particular cultural and historic period in the Arabian Peninsula in terms of nature,

humanity, culture, policy and religion. The halls are organized in chronological order from the oldest period of the Islamic era to the modern historic period of Saudi dynasty.

The permanent exhibition halls are Man & Universe, Arab Kingdoms, Pre-Islamic Era, Prophet's Mission, Islam & The Arabian Peninsula, First & Second Saudi State, Kingdom Unification, Hajj & the Two Holy Mosques.

There are over 3700 archeological item displayed in these eight galleries, 211 displaying cases, 900 photos and 45 model.

## New Museums – Under Construction

The SCTA is currently working on developing 11 new regional museums. These museums will reflect the local identity of its province or governorate focusing on its local cultural and urban heritage.

Each museum consists of eight halls. The first hall is the reception hall, the second is the Local Natural History hall, the third is the

Prehistoric Era hall, the fourth is the Pre-Islamic Era hall, the fifth is for the Islamic Era, the sixth is for Modern Ages, the seventh is the Local Traditional Heritage hall, and the eighth hall is designated for short-term exhibitions.

The SCTA is also working on the development of two new specialized



# Museums *of Saudi Arabia*

The Saudi Commission for Tourism & Antiquities (SCTA) believes in the important role played by museums in the preservation of cultural heritage, human identity, memories and civilizations of the Arabian Peninsula. No one can deny that museums are vital to promoting tourism and embracing the history of humanity through their valuable antiquities and archeological items. Thus, the SCTA pays great attention to museums and is keen on developing old museums and creating new ones all over the provinces of the Kingdom.

The SCTA is currently working on a plan for developing 11 museums all over the Kingdom to be added to the existing 30 museums. These museums will reflect the local heritage and traditions of the various provinces and governorates of Saudi Arabia.

## Museums

There are 30 public museums all over the Kingdom, operating under the direction of the SCTA. Professional and well trained employees work in these museums receiving and guiding guests and spectators, two times a day – from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.