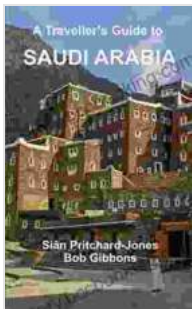


Discover the Enchanting Heritage of Saudi Arabia: Jeddah, Riyadh, Al Ula, Mada'in Saleh, Ha'il, Al Jubbah, Al Jawf, Tabuk, Tayma, and Khaybar

Saudi Arabia, a land of captivating contrasts, beckons travelers with its rich heritage, stunning landscapes, and architectural marvels. From the bustling metropolis of Jeddah to the ancient ruins of Mada'in Saleh, each destination offers a unique glimpse into the kingdom's captivating past and vibrant present.



A Traveller's Guide to Saudi Arabia: Jeddah, Riyadh, Al Ula, Mada'in Salih, Ha'il, Jubbah, Al Jawf, Tabuk, Tayma, Khaybar, Taif, Abha, Najran, Layla (African and Middle Eastern travel guides Book 6) by Sian Pritchard-Jones

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 24194 KB

Screen Reader: Supported

Print length : 367 pages

Lending : Enabled



Jeddah: The Gateway to the Red Sea



Jeddah, the bustling port city on the Red Sea coast, serves as the gateway to Saudi Arabia. Its vibrant streets are a melting pot of cultures, with influences from Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Explore the historic Al-Balad district, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with its charming coral-stone buildings and narrow alleyways. Stroll along the beautiful Jeddah Corniche, a picturesque promenade offering stunning views of the Red Sea.

Riyadh: The Heart of Saudi Arabia



Riyadh, the capital and largest city of Saudi Arabia, is a dynamic metropolis that seamlessly blends tradition and modernity. Visit the imposing Masmak Fortress, a historical landmark that played a pivotal role in the founding of the modern kingdom. Immerse yourself in the vibrant cultural scene at the National Museum of Saudi Arabia, showcasing the nation's rich heritage. Enjoy the bustling atmosphere of the souqs (markets), where you can find everything from traditional handicrafts to modern goods.

Al Ula: A Desert Oasis



Nestled amidst the dramatic desert landscapes of northwestern Saudi Arabia, Al Ula is a UNESCO World Heritage site that has captured the imagination of travelers for centuries. Explore the ancient city of Hegra, once a thriving Nabatean trading center, with its well-preserved tombs carved into towering sandstone cliffs. Discover the mysterious Elephant Rock, a colossal rock formation that resembles an elephant. Hike through the picturesque oasis, where lush greenery contrasts with the surrounding desert.

Mada'in Saleh: The Lost City of the Nabataeans



Mada'in Saleh, located in the desolate Al Ula region, is another UNESCO World Heritage site that showcases the architectural prowess of the ancient Nabataeans. This once-prosperous city, known as Hegra in ancient times, features over 100 elaborately carved tombs, including the iconic Qasr al-Farid ("Lone Castle"), which stands proudly atop a sandstone hill. Wander through the ruins and marvel at the intricate facades and inscriptions that tell the story of this lost civilization.

Ha'il: Oasis of the North



Ha'il, a verdant oasis in the northern region of Saudi Arabia, offers a respite from the surrounding desert. Explore the historic city of Jubbah, where the remains of a fortified palace and a 16th-century mosque stand as a testament to the city's rich past. Visit the Ha'il Museum, which houses a fascinating collection of archaeological artifacts and traditional crafts. Take

a refreshing swim in the crystal-clear waters of Lake Asfar, a popular spot for locals and tourists alike.

Al Jubbah: Desert Gateway to the Arabian Peninsula



Al Jubbah, located in the north-central region of Saudi Arabia, was once a thriving stop on the ancient incense trade route. Explore the ruins of Qasr Marid, a massive fortress built in the 16th century to protect the city from marauding tribes. Visit the nearby rock art sites, where intricate carvings and inscriptions depict scenes from everyday life and ancient rituals. Take a camel ride through the surrounding desert for a truly authentic Arabian experience.

Al Jawf: Oasis of the Empty Quarter

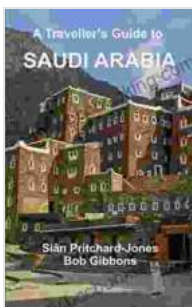


Al Jawf, situated on the edge of the vast Rub' al Khali (Empty Quarter), is a verdant oasis that has been inhabited for centuries. Explore the ancient city of Sakaka, with its traditional mud-brick houses and lively market. Visit the Qara Mountain National Park, home to a diverse array of flora and fauna. Embark on a thrilling desert safari and experience the beauty and tranquility of this remote and awe-inspiring landscape.

Tabuk: Gateway to the North



Tabuk, a picturesque city in northwestern Saudi Arabia, is known for its stunning mountain landscapes and its role as a gateway to neighboring Jordan. Explore the colorful souq, where you can find a wide variety of local crafts and souvenirs. Visit the Tabuk Castle, a historical landmark that offers panoramic views of the city and its surroundings. Take a day



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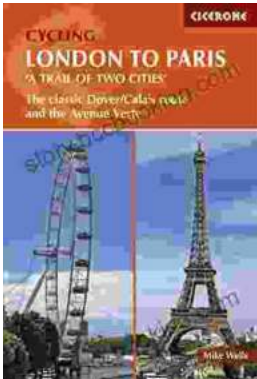
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