



Photo: Rahul D'silva/Shutterstock.com



Gimas/Shutterstock.com



drpyan/Shutterstock.com



urosr/Shutterstock.com

For centuries, Jeddah has been a meeting point for traders, travellers, and pilgrims in the Red Sea. It is a major port, an important commercial centre and the second-largest city in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — famous for its wealth of restaurants, cafes and shopping districts, as well as for its comparatively liberal social life. But to many, the city is more important because it is a gateway for millions of pilgrims on their way to the holiest places in Islam: Mecca and Medina. It is a grand city with history, personality, and tons of opportunity.

### Featured



#### Abdul Raouf Khalil Museum

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#### City Gates

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#### Central Fish Market

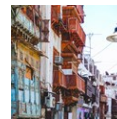
Seafood lovers will not want to skip Jeddah's famous fish market. It can get...

### Top 5



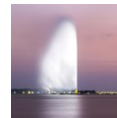
#### Corniche

The constant buzz of life on the 35km-long Corniche is a microcosm for the w...



#### Al-Balad

The city of Jeddah dates back to the 7th century, when it was founded by fis...



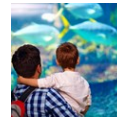
#### King Fahd's Fountain

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#### Al-Rahma Mosque (Floating ...

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#### Fakieh Aquarium

For a look at the rich sea life in the area and around the world, check out ...



## THE CITY

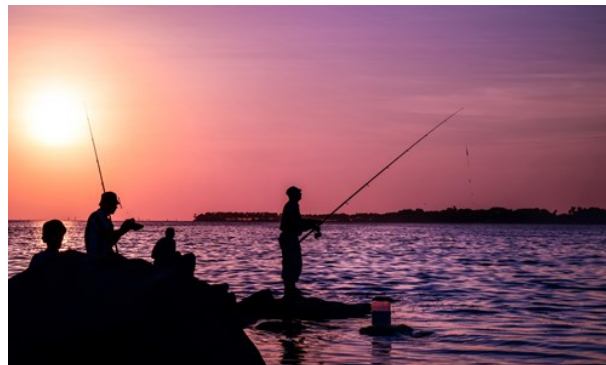


*Joe El Naggar/Shutterstock.com*

With a population of over four million inhabitants, Jeddah is the second-largest city in Saudi Arabia, and its long history as a major port and important commercial centre is clearly palpable in the cosmopolitan mix of its people. Gathering millions of Muslim pilgrims on their way to Mecca and Medina throughout its history, the city has become an amalgamation of people and cultures, flavours and aromas, customs and traditions. Nowhere is this tradition more evident than in Al-Balad, the old town, which showcases the city's architectural past with its white coral buildings, narrow alleyway souks, and old city gates.

But it is also a city of fun and entertainment, as it is of fine dining, elegant cafes, and great shopping. It is a place where the country's wealthy come to enjoy and indulge in the city's famous seafood and liberal attitude. The fabulous Corniche is the very essence of leisure, with friends and families enjoying pleasant strolls along the water, sunset picnics on the grass or parties at the hotels and beach resorts all along the 35 kilometres of the walkway.

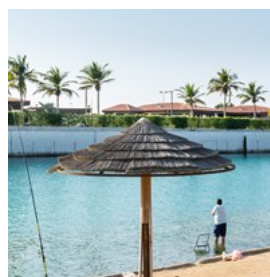
## DO & SEE



*Joe El Naggar/Shutterstock.com*

Many of the city's attractions and entertainment can be found along the corniche, from bizarre sculptures and a record-breaking fountain to parks, restaurants and museums. But savvy travelers will also want to stray a bit from there to discover the old town with its white coral buildings and historic city gates, or visit some of the city's fantastic museums. There are also mosques, markets and a top-notch aquarium to explore, so visitors to Jeddah are sure to have a full itinerary.

### Corniche

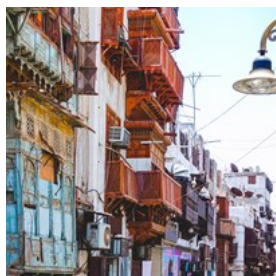


The constant buzz of life on the 35km-long Corniche is a microcosm for the whole city. There is no better place in the city for people-watching, as throngs of students, lovers, families and elderly couples stroll along the coast or enjoy a picnic and the sea breeze.

Photo: Victor Jiang/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al-Kournaish Rd, Jeddah

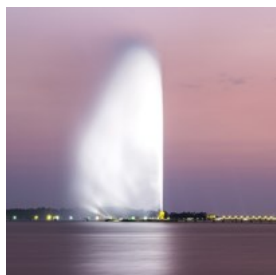
### Al-Balad



The city of Jeddah dates back to the 7th century, when it was founded by fishermen in what is now the Al-Balad neighborhood. The area still retains its ancient feel, boasting some of the oldest and most beautiful buildings in the city, made of traditional coral stones and wood.

Photo: lam\_Autumshine/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Al-Balad, Jeddah

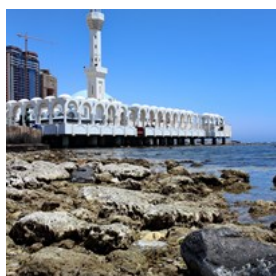
### King Fahd's Fountain



Located just off the Corniche in the waters of the Red Sea, King Fahd's Fountain is the tallest of its kind in the world. The water reaches a dizzying height of almost 300 metres. No walk along the Corniche would be complete without stopping to admire it.

Photo: Andrew V Marcus/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Corniche, Jeddah

### Al-Rahma Mosque (Floating Mosque)



Also known as the White Mosque because of its beautiful white marble exterior, this impressive architectural feat juts out over the water, creating the illusion that it is floating, particularly when lit up at night. Pilgrims on their way to Mecca often make a point to stop here to admire the building and worship.

Photo: Mohd Nawi/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Corniche Rd, Ash Shati, Jeddah  
Internet:

[www.tenthousandstrangers.com/jeddah-floating-mosque/](http://www.tenthousandstrangers.com/jeddah-floating-mosque/)

### Fakieh Aquarium



For a look at the rich sea life in the area and around the world, check out the Fakieh Aquarium. It showcases a wide range of aquatic species, including turtles, sharks, an array of colourful fish and many more forms of marine life. There are also some entertainment options for children and a buffet restaurant in the complex. The dolphin show should not to be missed.

Photo: Olesia Bilkei/Shutterstock.com  
Address: N Corniche, Jeddah  
Opening hours: 10.00am-11.00pm Sun-Thur;  
01.30pm-11.00pm Fri; 01.00pm-11.00pm Sat  
Phone: +966 12-6066144  
Internet: [www.fakiehaquarium.com/](http://www.fakiehaquarium.com/)

### City Gates



Jeddah's massive old walls were built to protect the city from Portuguese attacks coming from the Red Sea. Although the wall no longer stands, the six impressive gates and towers can still be admired throughout the city. The gates are attractively illuminated after dark, so a nighttime stroll through the old town in search of the gates is a great way to explore Jeddah.

Photo: HansMusa/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Jeddah

### Central Fish Market



Seafood lovers will not want to skip Jeddah's famous fish market. It can get a bit hectic (not to mention smelly), especially during the morning's catch sale which takes place every day, where the absolute freshest specimens can be bought. Even if you end up not buying anything, the market is a unique experience.

Photo: Johanna K M Nilsson/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al Kurnaysh Rd, Al-Baghdadiyah Al-Gharbiyah, Jeddah

Opening hours: Daily 05.00am-09.00pm

### Abdul Raouf Khalil Museum



The nearly 2,500-year old history of the Jeddah area is showcased in this superb museum, which has exhibitions on everything from pre-islamic history, though pre-modern civilizations, to the rich Islamic cultural heritage of the city. The complex also contains a mosque and the facade of an old castle.

Photo: Yousefmadari/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Address: Al Madani, Al Andalus, Jeddah

Opening hours: Daily 08.00am-12.00am / 05.00pm-09.00pm

## DINING



*Anna\_Pustynnikova/Shutterstock.com*

Pilgrims, traders, and voyageurs have been coming to Jeddah for centuries, bringing with them delicacies from their lands and cultures. As a result, Jeddah's dining scene today is rich in variety and quality. The city boasts a wealth of fine international restaurants, bringing together flavours from around the world, which are then combined with local ingredients to create truly unique dishes.

### Chennai Darbar Restaurant



This restaurant represents the ultimate combination of Indian, Indo-Chinese, Arabian and Tandoori flavours. It offers classical dishes

from the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The authentic taste and atmosphere may make you feel like you are on an exciting tour of South Indian culinary hot spots. The modest rates will make you want to come again.

Photo: Yesudeep Mangalapilly/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: Al Aziziyah, Jeddah

Opening hours: Daily 07.30-12.30

Phone: +966 12 287 0475

Internet: [www.chennaidarbar.com](http://www.chennaidarbar.com)

Email: [info@chennaidarbar.com](mailto:info@chennaidarbar.com)

### Section B



Section B is a great burger bar that welcomes its guests with a familiar atmosphere. Food is made entirely of the finest and fresh

ingredients. Having the caramelised onions topping with your burger is absolutely essential. Cold drinks are served old-school, and their tasty desserts will leave you wanting more.

Photo: BlueJules/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: Hira Street, Jeddah

Opening hours: Daily 01:00 pm-12:00pm

Phone: +966 56 118 0005

Internet: [www.sectionb-sa.com](http://www.sectionb-sa.com)

Email: [b@sectionb-sa.com](mailto:b@sectionb-sa.com)

More Info: Behind Jeddah Hilton

### Sakura Japanese Restaurant



Sakura Japanese Restaurant is located at the ground floor of the luxurious Crowne Plaza Hotel. Open seven days a week, it offers high

quality Japanese dishes prepared by Sakura head chef and his team. Enjoy a variety of food and drink options throughout the day, from fine dining to lighter meals and relax in the comfortable and bright dining rooms.

Photo: Grant Slater / Flickr(image cropped)

Address: Al Ma'adi Road, Jeddah

Opening hours: Daily 01.00-04.00 / 07.00-11.30

Phone: +966 12 661 1000

Internet: [www.ihg.com/crowneplaza](http://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza)

More Info: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Jeddah

### Dar Al Qamar



The Belajio Resort's premiere dining option, Dar El Qamar offers a huge and varied selection of cuisine styles, ranging from Italian to Indian to Lebanese. Take advantage of the outside seating among the lush gardens that surround the area or the terrace with an enchanting sea view.

Photo: Shaiith/Shutterstock.com

Address: Belajio, Ash Shati, Jeddah

Opening hours: Daily 10.00am-12.00am

Phone: +966 92 000 3409

Internet: [www.belajio.com/website/qamar.php](http://www.belajio.com/website/qamar.php)

Email: [info@belajio.com](mailto:info@belajio.com)

### Yildizlar



Serving up Turkish and Lebanese dishes, Yildizlar has been a local favourite for some time now.

Crowds throng here for lunch, and getting a table can be difficult, so it is best to arrive early to be able to savour the world-class grill dishes or the lighter options such as soup or salad.

Photo: Luisa Leal Photography/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al Andalus Street, Jeddah

Opening hours: Daily 01.00am-01.00pm

Phone: +966 2 2 653 1150

### Asia Restaurant



Another local favourite, Asia serves East and Southeast Asian speciality dishes that keep guests coming back time and time again. The

Thai dishes are particularly popular, none more so than the Tom Yum Kung, which regulars claim

is the best in the world.

Photo: Eldred Lim/Shutterstock.com

Address: Sary Street, Jeddah

Opening hours: Daily 1pm-12am

Phone: +966 53 906 7677

## CAFES



Sophie James/Shutterstock.com

Jeddah has a long history with coffee and tea, as traders and travellers often brought different and exotic varieties of beans and leaves. Today, visiting cafes is one of the city's most beloved pastimes. Friends and families gather at the numerous Arabic and Western-style cafes to enjoy hot cappuccinos, fresh teas, and fruity shishas.

### Caffe Aroma



In a city dominated by Lebanese-style cafes, Caffe Aroma offers a slightly different experience. Emulating the Italian cafe culture,

the cafe decor will transport you to the Tuscan countryside, and the Mediterranean dishes and fresh coffee will leave you more than satisfied.

Photo: Gang Liu/Shutterstock.com

Address: Kurnaysh Road, Hamraa' District, Jeddah

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 8am-3am, Fri 1pm-3am

Phone: +966 9200 10163

Internet: [caffearoma.com](http://caffearoma.com)

Email: [info@caffearoma.com](mailto:info@caffearoma.com)

### Titanium Café



Titanium Café not only serves coffee and tea, along with some snacks and comfort food, but it is primarily a shisha café. Groups of friends gather

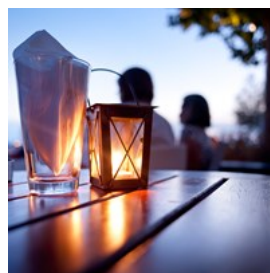
here to spend an evening together around a hookah, enjoying the interesting flavours offered, the favourite of which is the special double apple, which uses ice to keep the smoke cool.

Photo: VIKTORIIA NOVOKHATSKA/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al Nahdaa, Al-Rawdah, Jeddah

Opening hours: Sat-Fri 8:30am-2am

### Papaya



Papaya has a reputation for being a bit on the expensive side, but once you step inside and order you quickly realise why. The coffee is delicious

and fresh, but the real star here is the food. The selection is huge and varied, and the hearty breakfasts are especially popular.

Photo: solarseven/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ahmad al Attas Street, Jeddah

Opening hours: Tue-Thu & Sat-Mon 8am-1:30am, Fri 1pm-1:30am

Phone: +966 9200 10164

Internet: [www.papaya.com.sa](http://www.papaya.com.sa)

Email: [info@papaya.com.sa](mailto:info@papaya.com.sa)

## BARS & NIGHTLIFE



*Peter Kremzar/Shutterstock.com*

The cultural environment in Saudi Arabia is highly conservative. Religious law forbids the sale or consumption of alcohol throughout Saudi Arabia, so there are no bars or nightclubs. Instead evening social activities are centred on shopping or dining out in one of the city's many restaurants or cafés whilst indulging in a delicious mocktail (a mix of fresh fruit juices) or strong Arabic coffee.

## SHOPPING



*Zhukov Oleg/Shutterstock.com*

Shopping in Jeddah, like the city itself, is a mix of old and new. Centuries-old souks still function as the commercial blood vessels of the city, selling everything from clothing and jewellery to fruit and spices in narrow alleys packed with people, colours and fragrances. At the same time, huge and modern shopping centres offer all manner of international products and entertainment for the whole family.

## Souq Al Alawi



There are few better experiences in Jeddah than strolling through the narrow ways of Souq Al Alawi, getting lost in the vivid colours of the traditional garments and textiles and the enticing scents of the spices and herbs. Browse the countless stalls at the largest souq in the country and go home with a real find in the form of jewellery or art (and be sure to bargain for a better price).

Photo: *images4ever/Shutterstock.com*

Address: Souq Al Alawi, Jeddah

Opening hours: 08.00am-01.00pm / 05.00pm-09.00pm  
Sat-Wed

## Tahlia Shopping Center



The much loved Tahlia Center may not be as large or glamorous as some of the other malls in Jeddah, but it is a favourite in the city, especially for those shopping for beauty products. There are also some designer abaya stores and places to buy fine jewellery and accessories.

Photo: *Nong Mars/Shutterstock.com*

Address: Prince Mohammad Bin Abdulaziz Street, Tahlia, Jeddah

Opening hours: 10.00am-12.00am Sat-Thur;  
04.00pm-12.00am Fri

Phone: +966 22 634 661 / +966 - 022634662

Internet: [www.tahliacenter.com](http://www.tahliacenter.com)

Email: [info@tahliacenter.com](mailto:info@tahliacenter.com)

### Mall of Arabia



As one of the largest shopping centres in the city, Mall of Arabia is a very popular place for shopping, eating and entertainment among locals of Jeddah. With a wealth of restaurants and shops, including international brands and smaller boutiques, it provides everything shoppers need.

Photo: dean bertoncelj/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al-Nuzhah, Jeddah

Opening hours: Daily 09.00am-11.00pm

Phone: +966 12 612 3100

Internet: [www.mallofarabia.com.eg](http://www.mallofarabia.com.eg)

Email: [mallofarabia@arabiancentres.com](mailto:mallofarabia@arabiancentres.com)

### Thanaa Addas



Expert designer Thanaa Addas sells high-quality, custom-made abayas inspired in international fashion and textile traditions. With three locations in Jeddah, Riyadh and Dubai, her designs are much sought after, for buyers know they are getting a truly unique piece.

Photo: Naufal MQ/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al Nahdha District, Jeddah

Opening hours: 05.00pm-10.00pm Sat-Thur

Phone: +966 12 622 7213

Internet: [www.thanaaddas.com](http://www.thanaaddas.com)

Email: [thanaaddas@gmail.com](mailto:thanaaddas@gmail.com)

More Info: Closed on Friday

## TOURIST INFORMATION



bagito16/Flickr (image cropped)

### Cultural Norms



When strolling and exploring the city please make sure you wear the appropriate attire. Women should be covered from neck to ankle and in certain areas scarves are used to cover the face and head. Shorts and tank tops should not be worn outside of your accommodation by women. For men, loose clothing is recommended and shorts are prohibited.

When visiting, please make sure you respect and abide by the laws and culture of the country.

Photo: CikerFreeVectorImages

### Passport / Visa



Saudi Arabia introduced a new eVisa system in October 2019, dramatically simplifying visa applications for citizens of multiple world countries, including the USA, Canada, China, Japan, Australia, and much of Europe. The new



multiple-entry visa will be processed within record time (as quickly as 30 minutes), issued for one year, and will allow visitors to stay in the country for up to 90 days during its validity period. This marks a watershed moment in the country's history, as Saudi Arabia has historically been off limits to non-Muslim tourists, with visas notoriously difficult to secure.

Citizens of countries not covered by the eVisa program will still need to turn to their nearest consulate to obtain a visa.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com  
Internet: <https://visa.visitsaudi.com>

### Best Time to Visit



Jeddah is well known for its dry and hot weather but surprisingly it has very pleasant and cool winters. Summers here are extremely hard to

handle, as the temperatures rise over 45 degrees. Jeddah is also known for its dust storms which come from the deserts in the Arabian Peninsula. The best time to visit the city is from late October to March when the weather is not unbearable and temperatures are between 10 and 20 degrees.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

### King Abdulaziz International Airport



King Abdulaziz International Airport (JED) is the largest airport in Saudi Arabia, located about 20 km north of the city of

Jeddah. The famous Hajj terminal is specifically for the use of Muslim pilgrims on their way to

Mecca. The two regular terminals are 8 km apart, and the only way to get between them is by taxi. This is also the best way to get to the city. Be sure to agree on a price with the driver before stepping into the vehicle.

Photo: Juan Garces  
Address: Medina Road, Jeddah  
Phone: +966 9200 11233

### Public Transport



Taxis are by far the most common way to get around the city for tourists. Buses are not commonly used, but they are very cheap and can

be a bit of a cultural experience. Larger buses are government-run and don't follow a schedule. Smaller buses are privately-owned and run and can be a more reliable option. Many chain hotels also have minivan services that take guests from the hotel to some of the commercial areas of the city.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

### Taxi



Taxis are a fast and affordable way to move in Jeddah. There are two types: regular yellow taxis are cheaper, but tend to be quite old and

sometimes dirty. Newer white taxis, known as "limousines" are air-conditioned and in very good shape. There are also unlicensed taxis, but these are illegal and it is not recommended to take them. One reputable taxi company is Makkah Taxi.

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Phone: +966 55 803 0464

### Post Office

Saudi Post - Al-Balad



Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Al-Balad, Jeddah

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 7:30am-9pm

Phone: +966 9200 05700

Internet: [www.sp.com.sa](http://www.sp.com.sa)

### Pharmacy

Outline Pharmacy



Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: Prince Saud Al Faisal, Al-Rawdah, Jeddah

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 10am-12am, Fri 5pm-11pm

Phone: +966 55 647 9032

### Telephone

Country code: +966 Area  
code: 2



Photo: Jardson Almeida

### Electricity



Voltage: 127/220 V

Frequency: 60 Hz Power

sockets: type A / B / F / G

Photo: Stirling Tschan

### Population

4.6 million (2020)

### Currency

1 riyal (SAR) = 100 halalas

### Opening hours

The working week is generally from Sun-Thu with some businesses open Saturday mornings. Government offices: 7:30am-2:30pm. Banks: 9:30am-4:30pm. Private businesses: 8am-12pm and 4-8pm.

### Newspapers

Saudi Gazette

### Emergency numbers

Police: 999

Fire: 998

Ambulance: 997

### Tourist information

Saudi Tourist & Travel Bureau Ltd.

Center Al Madinah, Al-Madinah Al-Munawarah Rd, Mishrifah, Jeddah

+966 2 665 925 1

[info@sttb.com](mailto:info@sttb.com)

Sat-Thu 8am-8:30pm

Closed on Friday