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Srikaanth Sekar

Though Jizan (Jazan, Gizan or Gazan) may be the smallest province of Saudi Arabia, it boasts an astounding natural and geographical diversity that few other regions can match. From scorching desert sands to deep green forests, grassy plains to rocky mountain tops, fertile land to tropical islands and colourful coral reefs, Jizan has it all. But the province is not limited to natural beauty, for it also boasts interesting archaeological sites, a historic harbour that bustles with life, and a huge variety of tropical fruit.



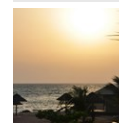
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Jazan Heritage Village

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Beesh Beach

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THE REGION



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Despite being the smallest province in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Jizan boasts huge geographic diversity and beauty, featuring desert expanses, fertile plains, forests and the green Faifa Mountains with their captivating rock formations and enticing hot springs. It is one of the country's most important agricultural areas, producing everything from coffee and wheat to an enormous variety of delicious tropical fruits.

The province also has over a hundred small islands just a short distance from the coast, including the much beloved Farasan Island, which houses a natural reserve and beautiful wildlife, including seabirds and the Farasan Island gazelle. Additionally, the city of Jizan is a very important port in the Red Sea and boasts a wonderful harbour, where traditional wooden fishing boats called chows can be admired.

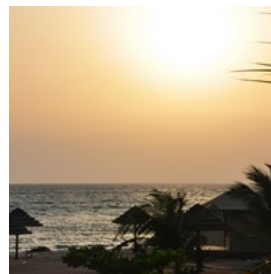
DO & SEE



Rich Carey/Shutterstock.com

Jizan's mesmerising natural beauty is doubtlessly the biggest draw for travellers. From desolate sandscapes to lush mountains, idyllic beaches to natural hot springs, tropical islands to coral reefs, there is plenty here to keep everyone busy, whether you are looking to relax on the beach, hike in the mountains, dive in the Red Sea or take a dip in the hot volcanic waters.

Farasan Island



Idyllic Farasan Island, located about 50 kilometres off the coast of Jazan, is without a doubt the area's biggest draw for travelers. The Farasan

Island Marine Sanctuary was created to protect the island's biodiversity, but visitors can still admire the coral reefs, dive and snorkel in the area. Free ferries regularly make the trip to the island from Jazan.

Photo: Wajahat Mahmood(image cropped)

Address: Farasan Island, Jizan

Faifa Mountains

Reaching elevations of over 3,000 metres, the lush Faifa Mountains loom over Jizan's sandy expanses, providing a beautiful backdrop. They are a hotbed for geological tourism, providing unparalleled hiking paths and nature watching.

Explorers are sure to come across ancient fortresses and natural hot springs as well.

Address: Faifa Mountains, Jizan

Hot Springs

Located about 75 kilometres outside of the city of Jazan there are several geological spots with wonderful hot springs, including Al-Khoubah and Bani Malik. At temperatures reaching 45 degrees Celcius, it is a relaxing experience like few others, and the numerous minerals found in the water are said to have all manner of health benefits.

Jazan Heritage Village

The Jazan Heritage Village captures and preserves the heritage, lifestyle, and cultural and culinary history of the whole of the Jazan province. Visitors can experience it all in numerous exhibits and interactive areas. There are also excellent handicraft displays that showcase a variety of items made with traditional handmade techniques.

Address: King Abdullah Rd, As Suways, Jazan

Beesh Beach

Savvy explorers will be sure to visit the Golden Beach, a somewhat secluded area popular among hikers and swimmers, as well as wildlife enthusiasts. Some of the best coral reefs in the Red Sea can be found in this area, so divers and snorkelers can also be found here admiring the depths.

Address: Beesh Beach, Jizan

DINING



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The cuisine in the province of Jizan is quite varied, with diverse sources of food from both the sea and the land. Many main ingredients come from the water, while meat and ghee are brought from the nearby mountains, and produce and grains from the surrounding area's agriculture, all of which makes the local dishes a combination of flavours and sensations.

Happy Times



Happy Times has been called by many the best seafood restaurant in Jizan, and that's saying a lot. Located right by the beach with breezy

outdoor seating, locals flock here for their grilled prawns, fried fish, and countless other seafood specialities.

Photo: Maria Labanda/Unsplash

Address: 3795 King Fahd Rd, Alqal'a, Jazan

Opening hours: Daily 1pm-1am

Phone: +966 55 776 7712

India Gate



Located near the North Corniche Park, India Gate offers the very best of Indian cuisine in a prime setting. The decor is elaborate and beautiful, and the food is authentic and delicious. Try the Paneer Masala Veg or the biryani with chicken for a meal you won't soon forget.

Photo: Lai YuChing/Unsplash

Address: Prince Muhammad Bin Nasser Street, Jizan

Opening hours: Daily 12pm-2am

Phone: +966 53 326 3657

Tako Hut



Without a doubt, this is the best place to get Mexican food in the area. Tako Hut offers all the typical Mexican specialities with a Saudi twist. Options include tacos, burritos, fajitas, salads in a hard shell, desserts, Mexican beverages, and their famous Black Angus beef burgers.

Photo: Jeswin Thomas/Unsplash

Address: Prince Mohammad Bin Nasser Rd, Ash Shati, Jazan

Internet: www.takohut.com

More Info: Al Rashid Mall

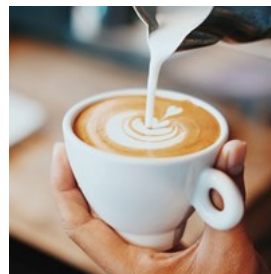
CAFES



Zadorozhnyi Viktor/Shutterstock.com

A stop at a local coffee house is a great way to escape the sweltering heat of a Jizan afternoon, and the city has some great ones for you to visit. Many of them have ideal locations right on the beach or on the Corniche, and all of them have high-quality and expertly prepared drinks. Many places roast their own beans and offer great desserts, as well.

Figaro Coffee



Figaro is conveniently located in the Al Rashid Mall and is one of the best and most frequented coffee houses in the city, with modern and sleek facilities. They use beans imported from the Philippines, which gives their coffee a unique taste and makes Figaro stand out among local cafes.

Photo: Fahmi Fakhruddin/Unsplash

Address: Riyadh Rd, Alrashid Mall, Jazan

Opening hours: Sat-Wed 10am-12am, Thu-Fri 10am-1am

Phone: +966 54 181 9901

Internet: www.figarocoffee.com

Email: marketing@figarocoffee.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



iravgustin/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 a strong cup of Arabic coffee.

SHOPPING



Zurijeta/Shutterstock.com

Much of Saudi Arabia's social life revolves around shopping, an activity where everyone can participate. It is very common for families to visit one of the many large shopping centres and spend the whole day browsing, enjoying some refreshments and escaping the intense heat in the air-conditioned malls. But be sure to head to some of the smaller markets for more traditional and authentic shopping experiences, as well.

Kadi Mall



With a prime location just a stone's throw away from the Red Sea and directly south of the North Corniche Park, Kadi Mall is one of the most popular shopping centres in the city, offering plenty of options for clothes, accessories, electronics, and much more.

Photo: Denisse Leon/Unsplash

Address: Corniche Rd, Ash Shati, Jazan

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 9:30am-1am, Fri 1pm-1am

Phone: +966 9200 09467

eXtra



eXtra is by far the best electronics shop in the city. Housed in a huge store, it has everything a traveller could need, from digital cameras and camcorders to mobile phones, tablets and personal items, as well as accessories and gaming merchandise for the whole family.

Photo: Daniel Romero/Unsplash

Address: 11 B Street, Prince Mohammad Bin Nasser Rd, Jazan

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 9am-12pm, 4:30-11:30pm, Fri 4:30pm-12am

Phone: +966 9200 04123

Internet: www.extra.com/en-sa/

Jarir Bookstore



This large chain of bookstores has locations all around the Arab world, in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates. It is the best resource in town for books, e-readers,

accessories, and office supplies. They also have the city's widest selection of English language books.

Photo: Jessica Ruscello/Unsplash

Address: Corniche Rd, Ash Shati, Jazan

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 9am-11pm, Fri 4:30-11pm

Phone: +966 9200 00089

Internet: www.jarir.com/sa-en/

Al Rashid Mall



Visitors to Al Rashid Mall can not only find all the shops, restaurants, and entertainment one might expect to find at a modern shopping centre,

including department stores and supermarkets, but it also houses the very elegant Courtyard Marriott Hotel within the complex.

Photo: Pexels/Pixabay

Address: Prince Mohammad Bin Nasser Rd, Ash Shati, Jazan

Opening hours: Daily 8am-12:30am

Phone: +966 13 899 4466

TOURIST INFORMATION



Dragon Images/Shutterstock.com

Saudi Arabia eVisa



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: TukTukDesign/Shutterstock.com

Internet: <https://visa.visitsaudi.com>

Jizan Regional Airport



The Jizan Regional Airport (GIZ) or King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Airport is conveniently located very close to the city centre. It serves

flights within Saudi Arabia, to the Emirates and to Egypt. The most convenient ways to get to the city from the airport are by taxi, car rental or pre-arranging a shuttle service. If you decide to take a taxi, be sure to agree on a price with the driver before getting in.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Faisal Bin Fahad Rd, Jazan

Phone: +966 17 322 1313

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: aalbedouin/Shutterstock.com

Post

Saudi Post



Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: King Fahd Road, Jizan

Phone: +966 17 322 1587

Internet: www.sp.com.sa

Pharmacy

Green Apple Pharmacy



Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: Prince Mohammad bin Nasser Road, Jizan

Telephone

Country code: +966 Area code: 7



Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity

125/215 Volts AC,
50/60Hz



Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

319,119 (2021)

1.5 million within metropolitan area

Currency

1 riyal (SAR) = 100 halalas

Opening hours

The working week is generally 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