



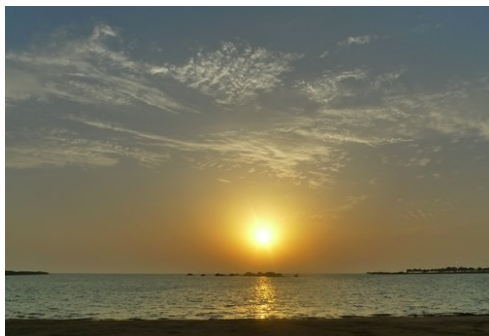
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Farhan Artist/Shutterstock.com



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Yanbu has long been known as little more than an industrial centre with a busy port, but with some of the country's best diving spots and ever more luxury resorts in the area, it is quickly transforming into a coveted vacation destination. The desert beaches are beautiful, captivating, and solitary enough to make your visit a unique experience. There has never been a better time to visit, as the crowds have not yet caught on to this emerging city, and travellers can still have huge expanses of pristine beaches all to themselves.

Featured

Top 5



Yanbu Lakes

The name might be a bit deceiving, since the Lakes aren't really lakes, but ...



Diving

Yanbu is known for its beautiful beaches on the Red Sea and the great scuba ...



Yanbu Beaches

Touted as being some of the best in all of Saudi Arabia, Yanbu's beaches wel...



Royal Commission Corniche

This beautiful corniche stretches along the coast, providing a serene refuge...

Historic Quarter

Yanbu's small historic district, with its traditional scenes and views, is located northwest of the city centre, now



THE CITY



ali/Flickr (image cropped)

The city of Yanbu is divided into two large areas, separated by a short and sparsely populated expanse of desert. To the south is the industrial city and the royal commission, home to many expats working in the petrochemical industry. In the northern part, which is largely untouched by the large industry just a short distance away, are the downtown area, the port, the airport and many beaches. A traveler's instincts might be to avoid the southern area, but that could be a big mistake, as it features some interesting urban developments, ample green spaces and plenty of high-end establishments for fine dining and classy shopping not to be missed. The north, however, showcases the old city's charm and the wonderful scuba diving that draws so many savvy visitors in search of adventure.

DO & SEE



Sergiy Zavgorodny/Shutterstock.com

Being a largely industrial city, one would perhaps be surprised by the abundance of serene parks and relaxing beach-side walkways. The people of Yanbu really take advantage of the outstanding city planning that has accompanied the city's rapid growth, well aware of just how special their beaches and green spaces are. Yanbu's beaches are the city's greatest draw, boasting some of the best dive spots in the country.

Yanbu Lakes



The name might be a bit deceiving, since the Lakes aren't really lakes, but a lush green expanse, perfect for kicking back and enjoying the evening breeze and the sunset. Locals really take advantage of this space, and it is uncommon not to find children playing and families picnicking at any hour.

Photo: Venera Salman/Shutterstock.com

Address: Almenaa St, Yanbu

Diving



Yanbu is known for its beautiful beaches on the Red Sea and the great scuba diving opportunities in the area. Saudi Diving Center is one of the city's most reputable dive centres, offering scuba and snorkeling equipment rentals as well as diving courses for the uninitiated.

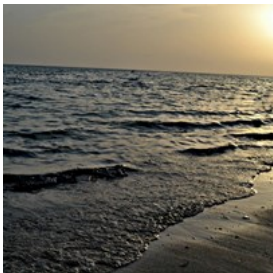
Photo: Rich Carey/Shutterstock.com

Address: Alhizam Alhizam, Yanbu Al Sinaiyah, Yanbu

Phone: +966 58 388 8301

Internet: www.instagram.com/sdc.ksa

Yanbu Beaches



Touted as being some of the best in all of Saudi Arabia, Yanbu's beaches welcome people from all walks of life who gather to swim, relax on the golden sand and take advantage of the phenomenal diving spots along the reef. The nearby areas also have restaurants and cafes in abundance. They can be a lovely escape from the industrial city.

Photo: Danyal saeed(image cropped)

Address: Yanbu Al-Bahr Beach, Yanbu

Royal Commission Corniche



This beautiful corniche stretches along the coast, providing a serene refuge from the industrial city of Yanbu. Lined with rows of palm trees on either side, it gathers visitors and locals alike, who flock here to enjoy long walks and to indulge in the nearby restaurants and shops.

Photo: roroto12p/Shutterstock.com

Address: Corniche, Yanbu

Historic Quarter

Yanbu's small historic district, with its traditional scenes and views, is located northwest of the city centre, now separated from the sea by the port. The 19th century buildings in the area may be a bit run down, but the Lawrence residence and historic wall stand out as memorable highlights.

Address: Historic Quarter , Yanbu

DINING



Momen Khaiti/Shutterstock.com

Eating out is a favourite pastime in Saudi Arabia, and they certainly know how to indulge. Yanbu is home to a huge variety of cuisines, ranging from local specialties to Chinese and Indian dishes and even some Mexican options. Fresh local ingredients are often used to make tasty and very filling meals with wide varieties of flavours.

Al Baik

Roasted chicken may not be the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Saudi cuisine, but it would be a mistake to skip Al Baik, as the throngs of local patrons could attest to. Make sure you're not in a hurry when you come, though, because there tends to be a crowd waiting to get their hands on some of these

delicious and very affordable fried treats.

Address: Al-Jabriah, Yanbu
Opening hours: Daily 9am-1:30am
Phone: +966 59 653 2918
Internet: www.albaik.com/en
Email: info@albaik.com

Tako Hut

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

Address: Al-Aziziah, Yanbu
Opening hours: Daily 12:30pm-12am
Phone: +966 9200 00129
Internet: www.takohut.com

Shaheen Restaurant

Shaheen gathers cuisines from across the Asian continent, offering dishes ranging from Indian and Pakistani to Chinese and Middle Eastern. It is largely frequented both by locals and by numbers of Indian and Pakistani expats who confirm the authenticity and quality of its food.

Address: Aj Jayyid St, Yanbu
Opening hours: Sat-Thu 11am-12am, Fri 1pm-12am
Phone: +966 14 325 7776

CAFES



Sophie James/Shutterstock.com

Escape the oppressive heat of the industrial Yanbu by visiting one of the many modern and sleek cafes spread out throughout the city. They are a great way to relax and people watch while enjoying some hot coffee or tea. Many places roast their own beans and offer great desserts, as well.

Barn's

Barn's is Saudi Arabia's first fully home-grown quality coffee brand. Not only do they sell a wide array of high-quality coffee beverages, as well as delicious and fresh baked goods, but they also produce their own coffee beans. You can pick up different varieties to take home with you.

Address: King Abdulaziz Rd Yanbu Al Sinaiyah, Yanbu
Opening hours: 24/7
Phone: +966 9200 06843
Internet: barns.com.sa/en
Email: info@barncafe.com.sa

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



JOAT/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 cafes whilst indulging in a delicious mocktail (a mix of fresh fruit juices) or a strong cup of Arabic coffee.

SHOPPING



Tatyana Vyc/Shutterstock.com

Much of Saudi Arabia's social life revolves around shopping as a family, 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.

Yanbu Mall

As one of the largest and best equipped shopping centres in the city, Yanbu Mall is a family favourite among locals to come and enjoy the day, with its great shopping options, plentiful eating alternatives and multiple entertainment facilities for all ages.

Address: Ali Bin Abi Talib Rd, Yanbu

Dana Mall

Perhaps the city's premier shopping spot, Dana Mall gathers major brand names with small boutiques, along with great opportunities to get some interesting accessories. There are plenty of restaurants and cafes, as well as a gym and some other entertainment options.

Address: Al Azizia, Yanbu Al Sinaiyah, Yanbu

Phone: +966 43923499

Yanbu Fish Market

For a more traditional Yanbu experience, head to the Fish Market, an area near the beach where the day's freshest catches are auctioned off in loud and attention-grabbing fashion. Locals can purchase small samples at retail stalls to enjoy the full experience.

Address: Fish Market, Yanbu

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

Address: Ali Bin Abi Talib Road, Yanbu

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

4:30pm-11pm

Phone: +966 9200 00089

Internet: www.jarir.com/sa-en

TOURIST INFORMATION



Joe El Naggar/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: *TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com*

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

Prince Abdul Mohsin Bin-Abdulaziz Airport



Yanbu's Prince Abdul Mohsin Bin-Abdulaziz Airport (YNB), located about 10 km north of the city, has international services to some major

destinations in the Arab world, as well as to Turkey. The most convenient way to get to the city from the airport is by taxi, which should take about 20-30 minutes depending on traffic.

Photo: *Juan Garces*

Address: Airport Perimeter Rd, Yanbu

Phone: +966 14 322 5753

Public Transport



Public transport in Yanbu is almost non-existent. There are a few buses that go to some important areas and shopping centres, but it is best and

easiest to take taxis to get around or hire a car.

Photo: *Pierre-Luc Auclair*

Taxi



Majestic: +966 4 325 6064
Al Sharif: +966 4 321 1223
Dubaisi: +966 4 392 6064

Photo: *ArrivalGuides*

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: Al Khayl Rd, Yanbu Al Sinaiyah, Yanbu

Opening hours: Daily 7:30am-9:30pm

Pharmacy

Al Ansari Pharmacy



Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: Umm Al Qura Road, Yanbu Al Sinaiyah, Yanbu

Telephone

Country code: +966 Area code: 4



Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity

125/215 Volts AC, 50/60Hz



Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

222,360 (2020)

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 4p–8pm.

Newspapers

Saudi Gazette

Emergency numbers

Police: 999

Fire: 998

Ambulance: 997