



Photo: Rahul D'silva/shutterstock



Nicola Messana Photos/shutterstock



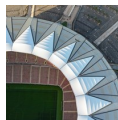
Osama Ahmed Mansour/shutterstock



Mfee/shutterstock

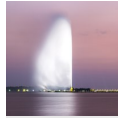
For centuries, Jeddah, where the desert meets the sea, has been a crossroads for traders, travellers and pilgrims in the Red Sea. As Saudi Arabia's second-largest city, it thrives with eclectic dining, bustling shopping districts, and a uniquely liberal social scene. Yet, its true significance lies in its role as the gateway for millions en route to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. Rich in history and brimming with character, Jeddah offers a dynamic blend of tradition and modernity.

Featured



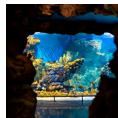
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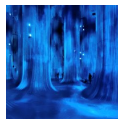
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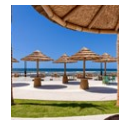
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Corniche

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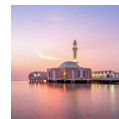
Al-Balad — Jeddah Historic...

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Tayebat Museum offers an extensive overview of Jeddah's history and heritage...

THE CITY



Sainuddeen Alanthi/shutterstock

With a metropolitan area population exceeding four million, Jeddah is Saudi Arabia's second-largest city. Its rich history as a major port and commercial hub is evident in the diverse cosmopolitan mix of its people. Over the centuries, Jeddah has hosted millions of Muslim pilgrims on their way to Mecca and Medina, creating a vibrant blend of cultures, flavours, aromas, customs, and traditions. This melting pot is most vividly represented in Al-Balad, the historic Old Town, with its white coral buildings, winding souks, and ancient city gates.

Jeddah is also a city of enjoyment and luxury, offering fine dining, chic cafés and exceptional shopping. It attracts the country's elite, who come to savour its renowned seafood and embrace its more relaxed lifestyle.

The stunning Corniche embodies leisure, with its 35 kilometres of waterfront walkways where locals and visitors alike can enjoy sunset strolls, picnics on the grass, or lively gatherings at hotels and beach resorts.

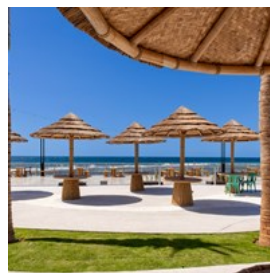
DO & SEE



Artaxerxes Longhand/shutterstock

Many of Jeddah's attractions, from bizarre sculptures and a record-breaking fountain to parks, restaurants and museums, can be found along the Corniche. But savvy travellers 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



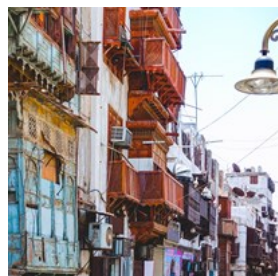
The Jeddah Corniche is a 30-kilometre coastal pathway that functions as a primary public space for the city. It is a popular destination for evening

strolls, with residents and visitors walking along the Red Sea shore. The area includes several public art installations from the Jeddah Open-Air Museum. The King Fahd Fountain, one of the tallest in the world, is a prominent landmark along the waterfront. The atmosphere is particularly lively around sunset, when the light over the water draws larger crowds.

Photo: Osama Ahmed Mansour/shutterstock

Address: Corniche Road, Jeddah

Al-Balad — Jeddah Historic District

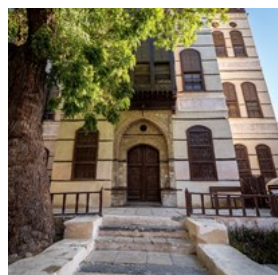


Jeddah's origins trace back to ancient times, with its significant development occurring in the 7th century. It began as a fishing village and grew over the centuries. The Al-Balad neighbourhood, one of the city's oldest areas, retains much of its historic charm. Here, you can find some of Jeddah's oldest and most architecturally significant buildings, many constructed from traditional coral stone and intricately carved wooden elements.

Photo: Zoegraphy/shutterstock

Address: Al-Balad, Jeddah

Beit Nassif Museum



Beit Nassif stands as one of Al-Balad's most significant restored coral houses, a 19th-century merchant's mansion that later served as a royal residence for King Abdulaziz. Its Ottoman-inspired design includes distinctive bay windows and ramps built for camel messengers to access the upper floors. The interior reveals grand rooms and a library, while a 130-year-old neem tree — once Jeddah's only tree — guards the entrance.

Visiting can be a logistical exercise; access is not always straightforward, and some areas, like the rooftop terrace with its panoramic views, may be closed without notice. It's wise to call ahead to confirm opening times and avoid a fruitless journey.

Photo: Schusterbauer/shutterstock

Address: Al Dhahab Street, Al-Balad, Jeddah

Internet:

www.visitsaudi.com/en/jeddah/attractions/beit-nassif

Al-Rahma Mosque



Often referred to as the Floating Mosque or Masjid Al-Rahmah, this architectural marvel is known for its stunning white marble exterior.

Perched on the edge of the Red Sea, it creates a mesmerising illusion of floating, particularly when lit up at night. This picturesque mosque is not only a popular spot for visitors to admire its beauty but also serves as a significant place of worship for pilgrims travelling to Mecca.

Photo: Osama Ahmed Mansour/shutterstock

Address: Corniche Road, Ash Shati, Jeddah

Al Taybat International City Museum of Science & Information



Taybat Museum offers an extensive overview of Jeddah's history and heritage, covering around 2,500 years. It features exhibits on pre-Islamic history, various pre-modern civilisations, and the rich Islamic cultural heritage of the city. The museum complex also includes a mosque and the façade of a historic castle.

Photo: eyetravelphotos/shutterstock

Address: 3170 Raihanat Al Jazirah, Al Faisaliyyah, District, Jeddah

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 8am-1pm / 5pm-9pm; Fri closed

Internet:

www.visitsaudi.com/en/jeddah/attractions/tayebat-museum

Beit Al-Sharbatly



Beit Al-Sharbatly is a distinguished 1930s mansion in Al-Balad, celebrated for its ornate Hejazi architecture. Its façade is defined by elaborate rawasheen (projecting bay windows) featuring intricate mashrabiya (wooden lattice screens). Completed in 1936, the building first housed the Egyptian Embassy before being acquired by the prominent Al-Sharbatly trading family.

While the house has been restored and is admired for its almost cinematic exterior, public access can be unpredictable. The interior is not consistently open to casual visitors, so it is best appreciated from the outside.

Photo: Khaled Mohamed Anan/shutterstock
Address: Al-Matt'haf Lane, Al-Balad, Jeddah
Phone: +966 56 988 0566
Internet: www.instagram.com/beitalsharbatly

Al-Shafi'i Mosque



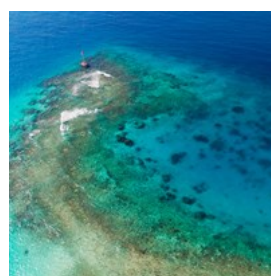
Al-Shafi'i Mosque is one of the oldest mosques in Jeddah, with foundations dating to the earliest centuries of Islam. While much of the current structure reflects 16th-century Ottoman style, its historic mihrab (prayer niche) is believed to be nearly 1,400 years old. The mosque is named after Imam Al-Shafi'i, a foundational scholar of Sunni Islamic jurisprudence.

The building has been carefully restored, revealing intricate carvings and vibrant colour details. Non-Muslim visitors are welcome to enter outside of the five daily prayer times.

Appropriate attire is required, and shoes must be removed before stepping onto the carpeted prayer areas.

Photo: Matyas Rehak/shutterstock
Address: 3214 Souq Al Jami, Al-Balad, Jeddah
Internet:
www.visitsaudi.com/en/jeddah/attractions/al-shafii-mosque

Bayada Islands

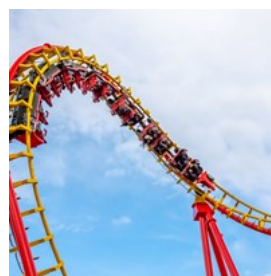


The Bayada Islands form a chain of small coral formations in the Red Sea, roughly a 40-minute boat journey from Jeddah. Known for their clear, shallow turquoise waters and surrounding reefs, they are a popular local destination for snorkelling and diving. Several operators in Jeddah run day trips to the area, typically lasting around six hours and often including opportunities for swimming and water sports.

While the "Maldives of Jeddah" nickname suggests a certain level of tropical splendour, the islands are best appreciated for their accessibility and the chance they offer to experience the Red Sea's marine environment on a half-day excursion.

Photo: Evannovostro/shutterstock
Internet:
www.visitsaudi.com/en/jeddah/attractions/bayada-island

Al-Shallal Theme Park



Al-Shallal Theme Park is a large amusement centre along Jeddah's North Corniche. The park is divided into indoor and outdoor sections, with a mix of attractions that include an ice-skating

rink, a boat ride through a simulated rainforest, and various electronic game arcades. Its outdoor area has several thrill rides, including a prominent rollercoaster, a free-fall tower and a slingshot.

A notable feature is a zero-gravity simulation ride. The park also houses a small space-themed exhibit. As a popular local destination for families and groups, it offers a range of activities from gentle rides and a toddler play area to more intense attractions.

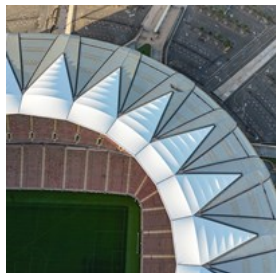
Photo: Cornel Pop/shutterstock

Address: Al Kurnaysh Br Road (Corniche), Ash Shati, Jeddah

Phone: +966 50 880 2206

Internet: alshallal.com.sa

King Abdullah Sports City Stadium



King Abdullah Sports City Stadium, often called "The Shining Jewel", is Saudi Arabia's largest stadium, with a capacity for over 60,000

spectators. Located north of Jeddah, it serves as the home ground for the prominent Al-Ittihad and Al-Ahli football clubs and is designed to host major international events. Its architecture incorporates geometric Islamic patterns and functions like a modern mashrabiya, providing shade and ventilation in the coastal climate.

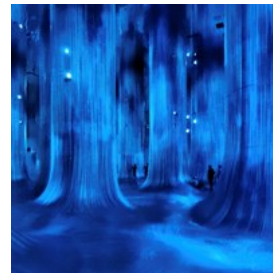
The stadium is the centrepiece of a larger sports city that includes an indoor arena, practice pitches and tennis courts. While primarily a sports venue, it has also hosted international wrestling and music concerts, establishing itself as a key multipurpose arena.

Photo: Ayman Zaid/shutterstock

Internet: www.visitsaudi.com/en/jeddah/attractions/aljawhara

-international-stadium

TeamLab Borderless Jeddah



TeamLab Borderless in Jeddah is a digital art museum where projected artworks extend beyond individual rooms, creating a continuous, immersive environment. Created by the international art collective teamLab, the exhibition features interactive installations that respond to the presence of visitors, with light and imagery flowing seamlessly from one space to another.

The experience is designed for exploration without a set path. The second floor is particularly geared towards younger visitors, with physical, climbable structures. As the displays shift and evolve, no two visits are precisely the same, encouraging guests to wander and discover the connections between the works.

Photo: Me Karim 1983/shutterstock

Address: Hamzah Shehatah Street, Al-Balad, Jeddah

Internet: www.teamlab.art/e/jeddah

Red Sea International Film Festival



The Red Sea International Film Festival (RSIFF) is an annual event, established to support the development of a film industry in Saudi Arabia. Launched in 2019, its primary focus is on new storytelling and emerging talent from Saudi Arabia, the Arab world, Asia and Africa. The festival's main initiatives include the Red Sea Fund for financing projects and the Red Sea Souk, a dedicated

industry market.

Held in the historic Al Balad district, the festival presents a programme of international and regional films. It functions as a key platform for connecting local filmmakers with the global industry.

Photo: Yasser Mutwakil/unsplash

Address: Al-Balad, Jeddah

Opening hours: December

Internet: redseafilmfest.com/en

Darat Safeya Binzagr



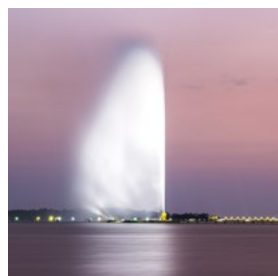
Darat Safeya Binzagr is a distinctive cultural institution in Jeddah, founded in 2000 by the pioneering Saudi artist.

Housed within her former family home, the museum offers an intimate glimpse into her five-decade career, showcasing paintings that vividly document a vanishing Saudi heritage. The collection extends beyond her artwork to include historical artefacts, traditional costumes, and a private library. More than a gallery, the Darat functions as an active cultural platform, hosting workshops, lectures and events designed to inspire new generations of artists and preserve the nation's visual history.

Photo: GBJSTOCK/shutterstock

Internet: daratsb.com

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 an

impressive height of 312 metres. No walk along

the Corniche would be complete without stopping to admire it.

Photo: Andrew V Marcus/shutterstock

Address: Corniche, Jeddah

Internet: www.visitsaudi.com/en/jeddah/attractions/visit-king-fahd-s-fountain

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 — the dolphin show should not be missed.

Photo: M. Sadoon/shutterstock

Address: Al Kurnaysh Br Road, Al Nawras, Jeddah

Phone: +966 12 606 6144

Internet: www.fakiehaquarium.com

City Gates



Jeddah's historic walls were constructed in the 16th century to protect the city from potential attacks, including those from the Portuguese.

While the majority of the original wall has not survived, several of the impressive gates and watchtowers remain and are notable landmarks within the city. These gates, such as Bab Makkah and Bab Jadid, are particularly striking when illuminated at night.

Photo: Artaxerxes Longhand/shutterstock

Address: Bab Makkah, Old Mecca Al Moukarramah Road, Al-Balad, Jeddah

DINING



ElevenStudio/shutterstock

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



Chennai Darbar 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: Deepal Tamang/unsplash
Address: Sara Sahafa Street, 'Aziziyah Jeddah
Phone: +966 12 287 0475
Internet: www.chennaidarbar.com

Section B



Section B is a great burger bar that welcomes you with a familial atmosphere. Food is made entirely of the finest and freshest 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: Sander Dalhuisen/unsplash
Address: Hira Street, Jeddah
Internet: www.instagram.com/sectionb_sa

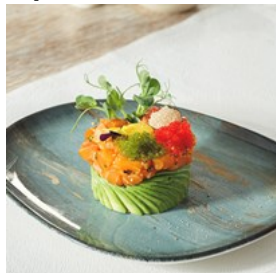
Sakura Japanese Restaurant



Sakura Japanese Restaurant is located on the ground floor of the luxurious Crowne Plaza Hotel. Open seven days a week, it offers high-quality Japanese dishes prepared by Chef Dung Ho, a master of his craft, and his team. Sakura has a lot going for it: the taste of the rice, the quality of fish, the generous portions, the size of the rolls. 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: Stefan Schauburger/unsplash
Address: Crowne Plaza Jeddah by IHG, Al Ma'adi Road, Jeddah
Phone: +966 55 289 3752
Internet: www.instagram.com/sakuracpj

Myazū



Myazū is a highly regarded upscale Japanese restaurant, known for its polished dining experience and modern interpretation of

classic dishes. The sleek, dimly lit interior features an open kitchen and sushi counter where chefs prepare a diverse menu. Standout dishes include lobster rice, Wagyu kushi skewers from the robata grill, and fresh nigiri. With a sophisticated selection of craft mocktails and a reputation that extends beyond the city, it is a definitive destination for a special occasion.

Photo: MADvertise/shutterstock

Address: Al-Basateen Mall, Ar Rawdah, Jeddah

Internet: myazu.com

Yaza



At Yaza, traditional Saudi hospitality begins the experience with gahwa and dates, setting the stage for a menu that thoughtfully reinterprets

regional heritage. Chef Hakim Baqbas presents a modern vision of local cuisine, where classic dishes are refined with contemporary technique. The jareesh is reimagined as a rich risotto with Parmesan, while the murtabak finds new form in a buttery croissant. From a vibrant najel ceviche to a slow-cooked lamb debyaza, flavours are both familiar and entirely new. The elegant, warm-toned dining room provides a fittingly polished backdrop for this ambitious culinary narrative.

Photo: ismishko/shutterstock

Address: 6315 Prince Sultan Road, As Salamah, Jeddah

Internet: www.eatyaza.com

Sorrel at Pleo



At Sorrel, breakfast is treated as a refined European-inspired affair. The menu presents a concise selection of distinctive dishes, where

classic brunch staples are executed with precision. Expect perfectly poached eggs atop toasted sourdough for the Benedict and expertly grilled, herb-infused halloumi. The tranquil, contemporary setting provides a polished backdrop for a leisurely morning meal. While the culinary approach is focused, the service remains attentive and welcoming, making it a favoured spot for those seeking an elevated start to the day in Jeddah.

Photo: Towfiq ahamed barbhuiya/shutterstock

Address: Al-Najdi Street, An Nahdah, Jeddah

Internet: www.nichefoodco.com

Ext. Seventeen



Ext. Seventeen has established itself as a favoured all-day brunch destination with a relaxed, bistro-like atmosphere. The menu

features thoughtfully crafted dishes that blend international brunch classics with subtle local influences, such as spicy fowl with pita dips and a French-twisted take on maasob. Standout options include the perfectly poached eggs with mushrooms and the harissa chicken sandwich. Quality ingredients are a clear focus, extending to a well-regarded selection of specialty coffees. The welcoming service and consistent execution make this female-led venture a reliable choice for a leisurely meal.

Photo: Elena Eryomenko/shutterstock

Address: Ahmad Al-Attas Street, Al Zahra, Jeddah
Internet: extseventeen.sa

Nora Smash Burger



Nora Smash Burger champions a fiercely focused approach, serving a concise menu of double or triple cheeseburgers to a singular standard. The process involves smashing Wagyu-blend beef patties on the griddle to achieve a notably crisp, caramelised edge, which contrasts with the soft, steamed bun. The classic combination of melted cheese, pickles, onion and a balanced house sauce creates a richly satisfying flavour. Golden, well-salted fries complete the offering. With efficient service and minimal seating, the experience is built around the quality of the burger itself, making it a definitive destination for the style in Jeddah.

Photo: Brent Hofacker/shutterstock
Internet: www.instagram.com/nora.burgerr

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 like soup or salad.

Photo: Luisa Leal Photography/shutterstock
Address: Al Andalus Street, Jeddah
Opening hours: Daily 1pm-12:45am
Phone: +966 2 2 653 1150

Asia Restaurant



Another local favourite, Asia Restaurant 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 swear is the best in the world.

Photo: Eldred Lim/shutterstock
Address: Musa Bin Nusair Street, Al Salamah District, Jeddah
Opening hours: Daily 1pm-11:45pm
Phone: +966 53 906 7677

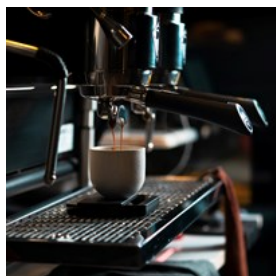
CAFÉS



MAX ZN/shutterstock

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 cafés is one of the city's most beloved pastimes. Friends and families gather at the numerous Arabic and Western-style cafés to enjoy hot cappuccinos, fresh teas and fruity shishas.

Brew92



Brew92 is a Jeddah-based roastery credited with pioneering the city's specialty coffee scene. The name refers to the optimal brewing

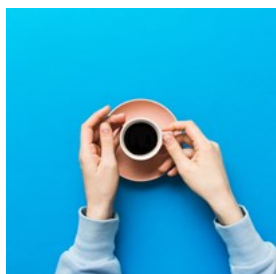
temperature in Celsius, a detail that reflects its serious approach to crafting the perfect cup. Its spacious, industrial-chic branches are popular with students and remote workers, offering an atmosphere that is both focused and relaxed. Beyond excellent flat whites and pour-overs, the café also provides a full menu of brunch dishes and decadent desserts.

Photo: abdulrahman aljeraisy/shutterstock

Address: Atelier La Vie, King Abdulaziz Branch Road, Ash Shati, Jeddah

Internet: www.brew92.com

Locals Café



Locals Café has cemented its role as a beloved neighbourhood haunt in Jeddah's Al-Andalus district. Its consistently full terrace is a testament

to its broad appeal, attracting families and friends throughout the day. The coffee is a particular highlight, served alongside a straightforward menu of sandwiches, pastries and cakes. Whether settling in with a book from the shared shelves or meeting for evening conversation, the café manages to be both a social hub and a personal retreat.

Photo: SNeG17/shutterstock

Address: Ibrahim Al Jaffali Street, Al-Andalus, Jeddah

Internet: www.instagram.com/locals_cafe.sa

AlMokha Café



AlMokha Café is a modern coffee spot in Jeddah's Al Murjan district. It's known for its minimalist, light-filled interior that attracts a

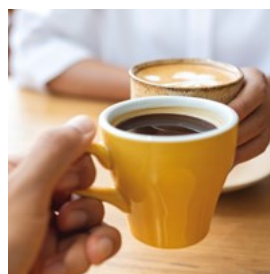
young, energetic crowd. The focus here is on creative, high-quality drinks, from a rich cortado to signature specials like the Black Peach. Its evolving dessert menu features indulgent options such as salted caramel chocolate bites. The two-level space, though compact, provides a bright and comfortable setting for both focused work and casual socialising.

Photo: Sarayut Sridee/shutterstock

Address: Al-Murjan Street, Al-Murjan, Jeddah

Internet: www.instagram.com/almokhacoffee

Cup & Couch Cafe & Roastery



Cup & Couch Cafe and Roastery is a family-run chain known for its spacious, welcoming branches, particularly the flagship in Al-Yamama

Plaza. The interior blends heavy wooden furniture and comfortable couches, creating a relaxed environment illuminated by natural light. It's a popular spot for remote work and study, and in the evenings the cafe often sees groups gathering for board games. As a roastery, its own coffee is a central draw, served alongside a selection of cakes, including a highly recommended cheesecake.

Photo: Farknot Architect/shutterstock

Address: Al-Yamamah Street, As Salamah, Jeddah

Internet: www.instagram.com/cupandcouch

Caffeine Lab



Caffeine Lab is a prominent Jeddah roastery and café chain with several branches across the city. True to its name, it approaches

coffee with a precise, craft-focused ethos, offering a range of its own roasted beans and inventive drinks like the honeycomb iced latte. The modern, sunlit interiors, particularly at the spacious Al-Andalus location, provide a bright and airy setting. It serves as a peaceful retreat for solo visitors and a lively spot for groups, complemented by a selection of freshly baked pastries and a well-considered food menu.

Photo: IceTanutsha/shutterstock

Address: Abdullah Al-Matari Street, Al-Andalus, Jeddah

Internet: caffeinelab.me/pages/roastery

J52 Café



J52 Café successfully bridges the gap between a specialty coffee shop and a relaxed shisha lounge. It is a favoured spot for both its expertly

prepared coffee, including smooth Turkish coffee and precise V60 pour-overs, and its high-quality shisha service. The versatile, casual environment accommodates those seeking to work quietly, socialise with friends, or simply unwind in the evening, all supported by a menu of fresh pastries and light bites.

Photo: Stenko Vlad/shutterstock

Address: Palestine Street, Al-Hamra, Jeddah

Internet: www.instagram.com/j52coffee.sa

Urban Roastery & Coffee Bar



Urban Roastery & Coffee Bar in Al-Hamra is a home-grown venue for serious coffee enthusiasts. Its defining feature is the on-site

roaster, visible through glass, where the team processes its own specialty beans. The modern, relaxed interior and terrace accommodate both focused work and casual socialising. The coffee is the clear highlight, praised for its rich flavour, and is well-paired with snacks like the signature salted Nutella cookie.

Photo: TY Lim/shutterstock

Address: Arafat Street, Al-Hamra, Jeddah

Internet: www.instagram.com/urban.roastery

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

Address: Al Hamraa Center, Kurnaysh Road, Al-Hamraa', Jeddah

Phone: +966 9200 10163

Internet: www.caffearoma.com

Titanium Café



Titanium Café is primarily a shisha café, but they also serve coffee and tea, along with some snacks and comfort food. 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: ViktoriiaNovo/shutterstock

Address: Abdul Majeed Shobokshi Street, Al Andalus, Jeddah

Phone: +966 58 326 9009

Internet: www.instagram.com/titaniumcafee

Papaya



Papaya has a reputation for being a bit on the expensive side, but once you step inside and order, you quickly realise why it's worth the price. 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. All of this presented in a tight embrace of lush greenery under a greenhouse-style domed roof.

Photo: Harriet Vasey/shutterstock

Address: Gold Moor Mall, 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

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Osama Ahmed Mansour/shutterstock

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



oneinchpunch/shutterstock

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 Bab Makkah



Souq Bab Makkah unfurls within Jeddah's historic Al-Balad district, a sprawling open-air market whose history spans centuries. Located near the restored Mecca Gate — the historic pilgrim route to Islam's holiest city — the souq offers a sensory immersion into traditional commerce. Its maze-like alleys are lined with stalls selling fragrant spices, aromatic herbs, traditional cosmetics, and handcrafted goods. The lively atmosphere is defined by friendly haggling and the palpable sense of history.

Photo: Corrado Baratta/shutterstock

Al-Salaam Mall



Al-Salaam Mall is a major three-storey retail destination, offering a comprehensive shopping experience under one roof. Its extensive selection of international brands, including Zara, Sephora and Mango, caters to diverse tastes. Beyond shopping, the mall features a spacious food court, a cinema, and dedicated children's play areas. The environment is consistently noted for its cleanliness and order, with ample parking adding to the convenience.

Photo: THINK A/shutterstock

Address: King Abdallah Road, As Sulaimaniyah, Jeddah

Internet: centers.cenomi.com/sa-en/malls/salaam-mall

Red Sea Mall



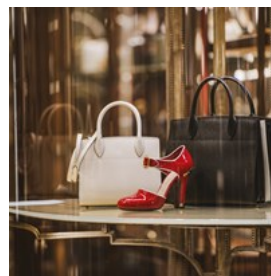
Red Sea Mall stands as one of the largest and most comprehensive shopping centres on Saudi Arabia's west coast. Its vast space houses over 600 stores, featuring a mix of luxury international brands and popular high-street labels. Beyond retail, it is a major leisure destination, anchored by a substantial Vox Cinema with IMAX screens. The diverse culinary offering includes more than 80 restaurants and cafés, spanning international cuisines. Designed with families in mind, the mall's spacious, well-maintained environment, complete with children's play areas, makes it a popular choice for a full day of shopping and entertainment.

Photo: Rawpixel/shutterstock

Address: King Abdulaziz Road, Ash Shati, Jeddah

Internet: redseamall.com

Corniche Commercial Center



The Corniche Commercial Centre is a landmark retail destination in Jeddah's historic Al-Balad district, notable as one of the city's first purpose-built shopping centres. Its multi-storey building houses a diverse collection of shops specialising in perfumes, cosmetics, textiles and accessories, known for offering goods at competitive prices. While its retail mix is practical, the centre's prime location is its main draw; it sits directly adjacent to the Red Sea Corniche.

Photo: Creative Lab/shutterstock

Address: Al-Balad, Jeddah

Internet: azad.com.sa/en/our-properties/corniche-center

BLV Mall



BLV Mall, also known as Jeddah Boulevard, is an open-air luxury destination on King's Road. Its sophisticated, landscaped setting provides an elegant backdrop for a tightly curated selection of high-end fashion houses, including Prada, Gucci and Versace. The experience is designed around leisure, with relaxed cafés and upscale restaurants offering indoor and outdoor seating. More than a shopping centre, it functions as a social venue, particularly in the evenings. The combination of exclusive retail, fine dining, and its modern architectural design makes it a definitive spot for luxury shopping in the city.

Photo: StockCo/shutterstock

Address: 5967 King Abdulaziz Branch Road, Ash Shati, Jeddah

Internet:

www.visitsaudi.com/en/jeddah/attractions/boulevard-jeddah

Central Fish Market



The Central Fish Market is an essential Jeddah experience, offering seafood pulled directly from the Red Sea. The market buzzes with energy, especially in the early morning, as vendors display a vast array of the day's catch, from prawns and crabs to local species like red grouper. The process is straightforward: select your fish, have it cleaned on-site, and either take it home or have it grilled at a market restaurant for a fraction of restaurant prices. This authentic, bustling hub provides a direct and rewarding connection to the city's historic maritime culture.

Photo: Bieszczady Wildlife/shutterstock

Aziz Mall



Cenomi Aziz Mall is a mid-sized shopping centre that provides a convenient and comprehensive retail experience. It hosts a well-chosen selection of popular international brands, covering fashion, accessories and electronics. Beyond shopping, its facilities include a varied food court, a cinema, and dedicated children's play areas, making it a practical choice for families. While not as vast as the city's largest malls, its focus on major brands and essential amenities makes it a reliable and less crowded destination for a straightforward day out.

Photo: Nan Tun Nay/shutterstock

Address: Prince Majid Road, Al-Faisaliyyah, Jeddah

Internet: centers.cenomi.com/sa-en/malls/aziz-mall

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 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

Address: Souq Al Alawi, Jeddah

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: Dusan Petkovic/shutterstock

Address: Prince Mohammad Bin Abdulaziz Street, Tahlia, Jeddah

Phone: +966 12 675 5555

Internet: www.instagram.com/tahliamallksa

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. You can drop off the kids at Kidzania while you shop!

Photo: Dean Bertoncelj/shutterstock

Address: Al-Nuzhah, Jeddah

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 10am-11:30pm, Fri 2pm-11:30pm

Phone: +966 12 612 3100

Internet: www.instagram.com/mallofarabia

TOURIST INFORMATION



AnonymousTraveller/pixabay

King Abdulaziz International Airport (JED)



King Abdulaziz International Airport, the largest airport in Saudi Arabia, is situated about 20 kilometres north of Jeddah. It features a dedicated Hajj terminal for Muslim pilgrims heading to Mecca. Taxis are a convenient option for travel to the city. Be sure to confirm the fare with the driver or use a ride-hailing app for a smooth experience.

Photo: MAKbaruddin/shutterstock

Address: Mataar Al-Malik Abdulaziz Al-Duwaly, Jeddah

Phone: +966 9200 11233

Internet: www.kaia.sa

Passport & Visa



Nationals from countries like the United States, the UK, Canada, and most European Union member states must apply for an e-visa online in order to enter Jeddah. Certain nationalities, including citizens from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries like the UAE, Bahrain and Kuwait, enjoy visa-free entry. For those not eligible for

e-visas, Saudi Arabia offers a visa-on-arrival option for select nationalities, although this is less common and typically depends on the purpose of the visit.

To secure a visa, travellers can apply through the Saudi Arabian embassy or consulate in their home country, or use the online platform for e-visas.

Photo: Ahmad Faizal/shutterstock

Best Time to Visit



Jeddah is known for its hot and dry climate. Summers can be particularly challenging, with temperatures often exceeding 45°C.

However, winters in Jeddah are quite pleasant and relatively cool, making this period an ideal time for visiting. From late October to March, temperatures typically range from 10°C to 25°C, providing a more comfortable experience compared to the scorching summer months.

Photo: Suhrid/unsplash

Cultural Norms



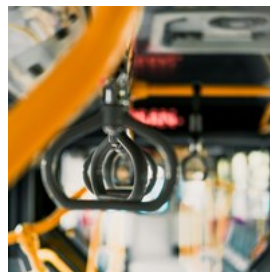
Make sure you wear the appropriate attire when strolling and exploring the city. Women must be covered from neck to ankle, and in certain areas scarves are used to cover the face and head. Shorts and tank tops should not be worn outside of your accommodation by women. For men, loose clothing is recommended,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

When visiting, please make sure you respect and

abide by the laws and culture of the country.

Photo: Ali Burhan/unsplash

Public Transport



Taxis are, by far, the most popular and convenient option for tourists to get around Jeddah. Public buses, while inexpensive, are less commonly used by visitors and don't follow a strict schedule.

Photo: Reinaldo Kevin/unsplash

Taxi



Taxis in Jeddah often do not use meters, so agreeing on the fare before starting your journey is a good idea. Ride-sharing apps like Uber and Careem are widely used and offer a convenient way to navigate the city.

Photo: John Grummitt/shutterstock

Post



In Jeddah, post offices are usually open from 8am to 4pm, Sunday to Thursday, aligning with the standard workweek in Saudi Arabia. Some branches may also be open on Saturdays. Services typically include mailing and parcel delivery, financial transactions and the sale of postal supplies.

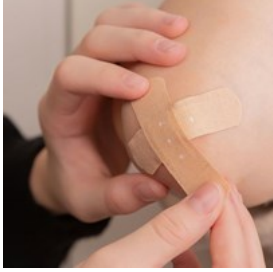
Photo: Yasser Mutwakil/unsplash

Address: Saudi Post Al Balad, King Abdulaziz, Al Balad District, Jeddah

Opening hours: Sun–Thu 8am–8:45pm, Sat & Sun 4pm–9pm

Phone: +966 12 642 3639
Internet: www.splonline.com.sa/en

Pharmacy



In Jeddah, several prominent pharmacy chains cater to various healthcare needs including Al-Dawaa Pharmacies (one of the largest and most well-known chains in Saudi Arabia) and United Pharmacies.

Photo: Diana Polekhina/unsplash
Address: Al-Dawaa Pharmacy, Palestine, Al-Hamra'a, Jeddah
Phone: +966 800 244 4444
Internet: www.al-dawaa.com/en

Telephone



Country code: +966 Area code: (0)12

Photo: Miryam León/unsplash

Electricity



In Saudi Arabia, the plug type used is type G, featuring three rectangular pins in a triangular arrangement. The country operates on a

230V supply voltage and a frequency of 60Hz.

Photo: Hamish Kale/unsplash

Population

3.7 million

Currency

Saudi Riyal (SAR)

Opening hours

The working week is generally from Sunday through Thursday with some businesses open Saturday mornings. Government offices are open 7:30am–2:30pm, banks: 9:30am–4:30pm.

Internet

www.visitsaudi.com/en/jeddah

Newspapers

Saudi Gazette (in English): www.saudigazette.com.sa

Emergency numbers

Police: 999
Fire Department: 998
Ambulance: 997