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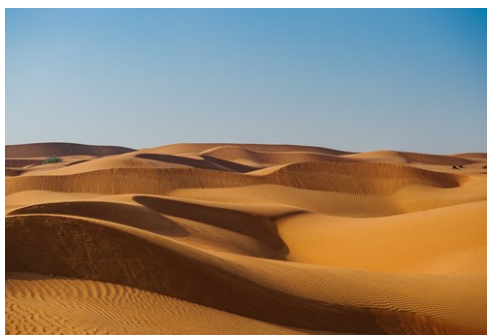


JOAT/Shutterstock.com

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. The province is not limited to natural beauty — it also boasts significant archaeological sites, a historic harbour that bustles with life, and a huge variety of tropical fruit.



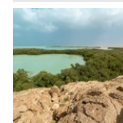
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Featured

Top 5



Farasan Island

The idyllic Farasan Island, located about 50 kilometres off the coast of Jaz...



Faifa Mountains

Reaching elevations of over 3,000 metres, the lush Faifa Mountains loom over...



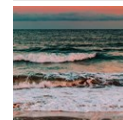
Hot Springs

Located about 75 kilometres outside of the city of Jizan, there are several ...



Jizan Heritage Village

The Jizan Heritage Village captures and preserves the heritage, lifestyle, a...



Golden Beach

Savvy explorers will be sure to visit the Golden Beach, a somewhat secluded ...

THE REGION



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Despite being the smallest province in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Jizan offers a remarkable range of geographic diversity and natural beauty, from vast desert landscapes and fertile plains to lush forests and the green Faifa Mountains, known for their unique rock formations and rejuvenating hot springs. It is one of the country's most significant agricultural regions, producing a wide variety of crops, including coffee, wheat, and an abundance of tropical fruits.

The province also features over a hundred small islands just off the coast, including the popular Farasan Island, home to a natural reserve that protects diverse wildlife, such as seabirds and the Farasan Island gazelle. Additionally, the city of Jizan is a key port on the Red Sea, where traditional wooden fishing boats, known as dhows, can be admired at the vibrant harbour.

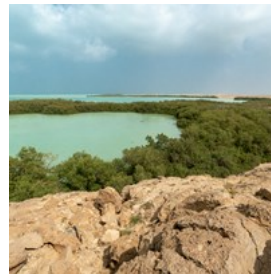
DO & SEE



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



The idyllic Farasan Island, located about 50 kilometres off the coast of Jazan, is without a doubt the area's biggest draw for travellers. 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. Ferries regularly make the trip to the island from Jazan.

Photo: Felix Friebe/shutterstock

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.

Photo: Hyserb/shutterstock
Address: Faifa Mountains, Jizan

Hot Springs



Located about 75 kilometres outside of the city of Jizan, there are several geological spots with wonderful warm sulfur hot springs, including Al-Khoubah and Bani Malik. At temperatures reaching 45 degrees Celsius, 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.

Photo: Nesru Markmedia/shutterstock

Jizan Heritage Village



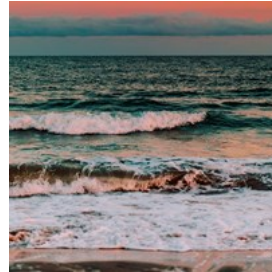
The Jizan Heritage Village captures and preserves the heritage, lifestyle, and cultural and culinary history of the whole of the Jazan province. Visitors can experience it all in numerous exhibits and interactive areas. There are also excellent handicraft displays that showcase a variety of items made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

Photo: H1N1/shutterstock

Address: 4232, Industrial Area, 6394, Jizan

Internet: www.visitsaudi.com/en/jazan/attraction/the-heritage-village-in-jazan

Golden 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.

Photo: Ryan Loughlin/unsplash
Address: Golden Beach, Jizan

DINING



Rus S/Shutterstock.com

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.

Ocean Basket



Ocean Basket, located by the Jizan Marina, offers Mediterranean-inspired seafood dishes. Known for its fresh, delicious fare, including sushi, calamari, and seafood platters, with friendly, attentive staff.

Photo: Sea Wave/shutterstock

Address: Corniche Road, Down Town Center, Jizan

Phone: +966 17 323 2685

Internet: saudiarabia.oceanbasket.com

Tamarind Restaurant Jizan



Tamarind Restaurant offers a cosy setting with a menu rich in Indian flavours. Popular dishes include hot and sour soup, egg noodles, and Punjabi curry, complemented by a refreshing watermelon cooler.

Photo: Rangwaali/shutterstock

Address: As Suways, Jizan

Phone: +966 17 334 0011

Internet: tamarindjizan.com/en

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 Road, Alqal'a, Jizan

Phone: +966 55 776 7712

Internet: www.instagram.com/hhrgroup

Hareed Restaurant



Located near the North Corniche Park, Hareed Restaurant 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 noon-2am

Phone: +966 53 326 3657

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.

Cove Specialty Coffee



Cove Specialty Coffee in Jizan is a modern café known for its expertly crafted espresso-based drinks and drip coffee. Popular for its cortado and honey cake, the café offers a warm ambiance with friendly staff. A great spot for coffee, snacks, and a game of chess.

Photo: darlene/unsplash

Address: Corniche Road, Ash Shati, Jizan

Phone: +966 55 443 6676

Internet: cove.sa

Black & White Specialty Coffee – Corniche



Black & White Specialty Coffee, a small kiosk near The Corniche Park, offers specialty coffee with a view of the Red Sea. Known for its delicious hot chocolate and flat white, it's a convenient spot with ample parking.

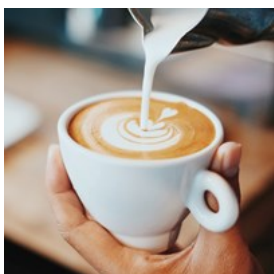
Photo: Airam Dato-on/pexels

Address: King Fahd Road, Alqal'a, Jizan

Phone: +966 53 336 2990

Internet: bwcoffee.sa

Deer Specialty Coffee



Deer Specialty Coffee, located next to the Kadi Mall roundabout, offers a cosy and quiet ambiance. Known for its excellent espresso and chewy

cookies, this café is a pleasant spot for coffee and desserts. The staff are friendly, and the chill music adds to the relaxing environment.

Photo: Fahmi Fakhruddin/unsplash

Address: Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Street, Ash Shati, Jizan

Phone: +966 53 022 0977

Internet: www.instagram.com/deercafe_ksa

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 Road, Ash Shati, Jizan

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

Phone: +966 9200 09467

Internet: kadi-mall.com

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 Road, Jizan

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

Phone: +966 800 124 0900

Internet: www.extra.com/ar-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 Road, Ash Shati, Jizan

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 9am-11pm, Fri 4:30pm-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 elegant Courtyard Marriott Hotel within the complex.

Photo: Pexels/pixabay

Address: Prince Mohammad Bin Nasser Road, Ash Shati, Jizan

Opening hours: Daily 9am-12:30am

Phone: +966 13 899 4466

TOURIST INFORMATION



Dragon Images/Shutterstock.com

Saudi Arabia eVisa

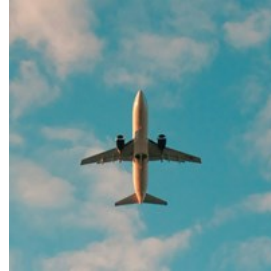


Saudi Arabia introduced a new eVisa system in October 2019, dramatically simplifying visa applications for citizens of multiple world countries, including the USA, Canada, China, Japan, Australia, and much of Europe. The new multiple-entry visa will be processed within record time (as quickly as 30 minutes), 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: mana5280/unsplash
Internet: visa.visitsaudi.com

Jizan Regional Airport (GIZ)



The King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Airport (GIZ) 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: Philip Myrtorp/Unsplash
Phone: +966 800 116 8888
Internet: gaca.gov.sa/web/ar-sa/page/home

Cultural Norms



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

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

Photo: Ali Burhan/unsplash

Post



Saudi Post offices are usually open from Sunday to Thursday 8am–4pm, 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: Ali Bakhtiari/unsplash
Internet: sponline.com.sa/en

Pharmacy



Common medications are readily available over the counter in most pharmacies, which are often located in malls, hospitals, and stand-alone shops. Prescription is needed for more potent medications. Nahdi pharmacy is a well-known chain in Jizan.

Photo: Diana Polekhina/unsplash
Address: Nahdi Pharmacy, Cadi Mall, Corniche Road, Al Shati District, Jizan
Phone: +966 9200 24673
Internet: www.nahdionline.com/en

Telephone



Country code: +966 Area code: (0)17

Photo: Miryam León/unsplash

Electricity



You'll find a variety of electrical sockets in Saudi Arabia. The most common are Type A (two flat parallel pins, commonly used in North and Central America) and Type G (three rectangular prongs in a triangular pattern, used in the UK). Type C, Known as the Europlug, can also be found. Saudi Arabia is one of the few countries in the world that use the dual-distribution voltage 127/220 volts at homes. Standard voltage 127 volts is used for household appliances and the 220 volts for high-load electrical appliances.

Photo: Mike Winkler/unsplash

Population

Jizan City: 173,919
Jizan Province: 1.4 million

Currency

1 Saudi riyal (SAR) = 100 halalas

Opening hours

The working week is generally from Sunday to Thursday, with some businesses open Saturday mornings.

Government offices: 7:30am–2:30pm.

Banks: 9:30am–4:30pm.

Private businesses: 8am–noon and 4am–8pm.

Internet

www.visitsaudi.com/en/jazan

Newspapers

Saudi Gazette: saudigazette.com.sa
Al Jazeera

Emergency numbers

Police: 999

Fire: 998

Ambulance: 997