



Al-Jawf

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One of Saudi Arabia's northernmost regions, Al-Jawf (also spelled Al-Jouf) is a treasure ground of historic artifacts and natural beauty. The province's two major tourist routes lie through its rural capital of Sakakah and the ancient town of Dumat Al-Jandal, where most of Al-Jawf's ruins and ancient relics are concentrated. Endless opportunity for exploration, rich cultural heritage and exotic desert adventures await visitors to Al-Jawf at every turn.

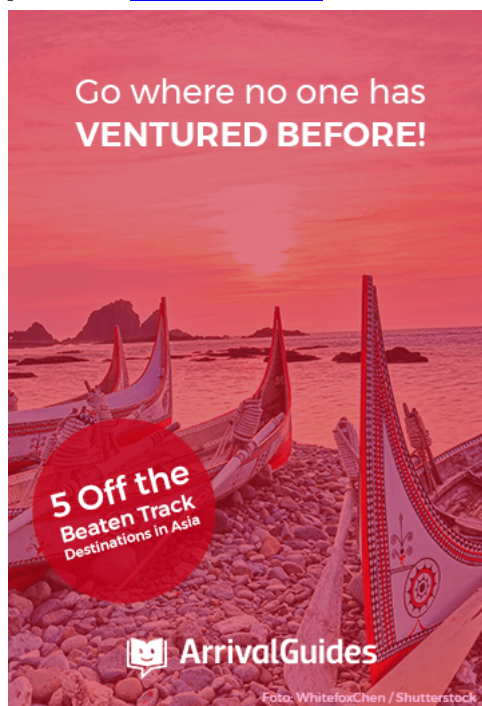
NOTE: This Guide has been limited to 20 points of interest per section. For the full guide, please visit ArrivalGuides.com



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Top 5

Sakakah City

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Dumat Al-Jandal

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Al-Rajajil Site

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Za'abal Castle

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Kaf Village

Located in a sulfur-rich area, the village of Kaf draws travelers seeking to make use of the healing properties of sulfur spri...



THE REGION



Mjakhro

Much of the province's territory is used for olive and date farming; the Wadi Sarhan area in particular is known for its high concentration of fertile farmlands. Lush greenery starts to disperse the closer one travels towards the An Nafud desert, where an abundance of activities awaits - from camping out in the sands to catching the morning rays of the rising sun to engaging in exotic desert sports such as sand surfing and duning, riding camels and jeep racing.

Among the most sought-after historic sights of Al-Jawf are the Za'abal Castle and Al-Dhel' quarter of Sakakah, as well as the open-air ruins of Dumat Al-Jandal and the mysterious rocks of Al-Rajajil, whose original designation remains unknown to this day.

Those looking to explore the region's fauna may find the Hurrat Al Hurrah Reserve of particular interest - located on migratory birds' natural migration path, the area is a real find for bird-watchers.

DO & SEE



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The province's two major cities of interest are conveniently located only a few kilometers away from each other. Sakakah, the capital, borders on Dumat Al-Jandal (an ancient open-air town of ruins) in the north-west. In Sakakah, do not miss the panoramic views from atop Za'abal Castle, and possibly make time for a trip to Dumat Al-Jandal lake located nearby.

Sakakah City

Compact rural Sakaka is cut through by its main street that's hard to miss. The street is lined with shops and government offices; the authentic Al-Nusl Hotel is also located here. In the town's north, the ancient fort of Qasr Za'abel is perched atop a scenic cliff; east from here is Jabal Burnus rock with carvings dating back to the 6th century BC.

Address: Sakakah, Al-Jawf

Dumat Al-Jandal

The ancient town of Dumat Al-Jandal breathes history, and is basically one large open-air archaeological site. Its first mentions date back to as early as 10th century BC. Explore the remains of Al Dar'i Quarter, the ruins of Omar Bin Al Khattab Mosque and the Mard Castle in Dumah.

Address: Dumat Al-Jandal, Al-Jawf

Al-Rajajil Site

The mysterious constellation of upright stones (whose origins remain unexplained to-date) at the Al-Rajajil archaeological site are one of the region's most popular attractions. Some theories suggest the structures had been used for worship and/or keeping time, but visitors are still left to ponder their true designation.

Address: Sakaka, Al-Jawf

Za'abal Castle

The ancient fort of Za'abal isn't just an attraction in itself, but provides bird's eye views of Sakakah city spread out below. From here, travelers will be able to take in the cityscape dominated by low-rise buildings and palm trees, as well as the historic quarter of Al-Dhel' below.

Address: Sakakah, Al-Jawf

Kaf Village

Located in a sulfur-rich area, the village of Kaf draws travelers seeking to make use of the healing properties of sulfur springs abundant in its surroundings. Located around here is the limestone Kaf Palace, the Al-Sa'eedi Castle and a historic stone mosque.

Address: Kaf, Al-Jawf

DINING



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Grains such as wheat or rice and meats (such as lamb) constitute the bulk of Saudi cuisine (pork is normally not served in the country, as its consumption is forbidden by Islam). Milk is often used in local cooking, and dates constitute a dessert staple. Another local specialty is the desert truffle, collected by Bedouins and served as dessert. Exotic treats of Al-Jawf include desert lizard ("dobb"), wild rabbits and birds.

Soufragy

Soufragy (or Sofraje) Restaurant serves Egyptian cuisine with a heavy emphasis on seafood. The grill menu options enjoy special popularity.

Address: Main Street, Sakakah, Al-Jawf

Phone: +966 4 625 5000

Al Tazaj

The fast casual restaurant chain of Al Tazaj enjoys presence in a number of countries of the Middle East, and serves primarily chicken and kofta (meatballs) with sides of pite bread, rice or corn. Their specialty is marinated grilled chicken filled with butter.

Address: King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Road, Sakakah, Al-Jawf

Internet: www.tazauae.com

Gulinar

Gulinar is the main restaurant at Al-Nusl Hotel,

the city's top accommodation pick. Offering daily local and international buffet lunches, the restaurant entices also with its themed dinners, during which one country's (or region's) cuisine is given special emphasis.

Address: King Abdulaziz Street, Sakakah, Al-Jawf
Phone: +966 4 624 5992
More Info: At the Al Nusl Hotel

Pizza Hut

When it comes to dining in Sakakah, Pizza Hut is a safe bet. This world-wide chain serving multiple varieties of pizza is a family-friendly establishment that might not carry as much authentic flair as some of the other local eateries, but delivers consistently good Western-style mains and desserts.

Address: King Abdulaziz Street, Sakakah, Al-Jawf
Internet: www.pizzahut.com.sa
More Info: Opposite Al Nusl Hotel

CAFÉS



Sophie James/Shutterstock.com

Escape the heat by visiting one of the cafés dotting the region's towns. 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.

Meshkal Diwaniyah

Meshkal Diwaniyah is an authentic café frequented by locals, that serves hot and cold

drinks (try the traditional tea served in tall metal pots) and a selection of sweet treats for dessert. Both in- and outdoor seating is available, and sports are often streamed live.

Address: King Khalid Street, Sakakah, Al-Jawf

Natalia

Natalia is the place to be for sampling of the most decadent desserts in town. Crepes topped with chocolate sauce and vanilla ice-cream, banana and strawberry chunks with marshmallows and fruit chocolate fondue are only some of the menu items guaranteed to make your mouth water.

Address: Sakakah, Al-Jawf
More Info: Located in Aljouf Plaza

Al Daidhan

Along with Gulinar, Al Daidhan is a finer establishment located on Al Nusl Hotel premises. The tea room boasts authentic decor with a modern feel. Served here are primarily snack foods, desserts and various beverages.

Address: King Abdulaziz Street, Sakakah, Al-Jawf
Phone: +966 4 624 5992

Kudu

This Saudi-wide fast food chain has gained popularity as a breakfast spot thanks to its relatively wide selection of options - ranging from omelettes to toast to hash browns and sausages. Foods often ordered later in the day include sandwiches and wraps.

Address: Abduelah Bin Abdulaziz Road, Sakakah, Al-Jawf
Phone: +966 9200 06999
Internet: www.kudu.com.sa

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



mama_mia/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 region's many restaurants or cafés whilst indulging in a delicious mocktail (a mix of fresh fruit juices) or strong Arabic coffee.

SHOPPING



Marie Tatiant/Shutterstock.com

Like most Saudi destinations, Al-Jawf Region is home to authentic markets where bargaining is most welcome as well as fixed-price stores and boutiques. When in the area, do not miss Aljouf Plaza located in Sakakah - it is the province's largest shopping center and event venue. Local crafts to shop for include Badu weaving, rugs, carpets, and, of course, olives and products made of olive derivatives.

Arab Street (Baida Market)

This shopping street in Sakakah city is home to clusters of small stores and vendors' selling all manner of local crafts typical of the area, such as Sadu weaving products (made of wool), items of clothing, carpets, kitchen utensils and a variety of knick-knacks.

Address: Al-Arab Street, Sakakah, Al-Jawf

Aljouf Plaza

In addition to being the province's largest shopping center, Aljouf Plaza also serves as event hosting space for prominent happenings in the region. The mall contains over 100 local and international brand stores and boutiques spread out over its two floors.

Address: Sakakah, Al-Jawf

Phone: +966 58 331 9442

Othaim Markets

Othaim Markets is a Saudi-wide chain that sells high-quality foods (including freshly baked bread and pastries, fruit and vegetables), cosmetics, various household items and even electronics.

Address: Sakakah, Al-Jawf

Internet: www.othaimmarkets.com

Al-Romaizan for Gold & Jewelry

High quality gold and silver, rubies, emeralds, sapphires and diamonds - all precious stones and metals imaginable are carefully handled, polished and turned into exquisite wearables sold here, at the Al-Romaizan for Gold & Jewellery center in the heart of Sakakah.

Address: Sakakah, Al-Jawf

Internet: www.alromaizan.com

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



Seleznev Oleg/Shutterstock.com

Al-Jawf Domestic Airport



The region's main airport is located on the road between Sakakah and Dumat Al-Jandal, at a distance of approximately 30km from the former.

Regular connections are offered to Jeddah, Riyadh, Hail and a few other destinations in the Middle East.

It is recommended to pre-arrange transfers; car hire is possible at the airport.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Al-Jawf, Saudi Arabia

Phone: +966 14 624 2766

Public Transport



Transportation in the area is best arranged through your tour operator or hotel. The SAPTCO bus station is located in Sakakah on

Prince Abdulrahman Bin Abdulaziz Road, and inter-city buses to Tabuk, Riyadh and Dammam run from here.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Address: Prince Abdulrahman Bin Abdulaziz Road, Sakakah

Phone: +966 59 008 3567

Internet: www.saptco.com.sa

Taxi



Only a few taxis run in Al-Jawf. Car hire and taxi services are available at the airport and the Al Nusl Hotel only.

Address: Al Nusl Hotel, Sakakah, Al-Jawf

Phone: +966 4 624 5992

Post Office

Saudi Post



Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Sakakah, Al-Jawf

Opening hours: 7.30am-9pm

More Info: Two blocks up from Aljouf Plaza

Pharmacy



A few Al-Dawaa pharmacies are located along the King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Road (these may also be found elsewhere in town).

Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Road, Sakakah, Al-Jawf

Internet: www.al-dawaa.com.sa

Telephone



+966 Saudi Arabia
country code

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



127/220 V, 60 Hz

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Cultural Norms



When strolling and exploring the province 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

Population

440,009 (2010)

Currency

Saudi Riyal

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-noon and 4pm-8pm. Some shops close several times a day for half hour prayers, and often work "split days" closing for a few hours between noon and 4pm.

Newspapers

Saudi Gazette
Al Jazeera

Emergency numbers

Emergency 999

Tourist information

SCTA
King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Road, Sakakah, Saudi Arabia
+966 50 848 4424

Tourism Call Center

19988