



Fact Sheet

The Red Sea project

The Red Sea project will be a luxury resort destination situated across the islands of a lagoon and steeped in nature and culture. It will set new standards for sustainable development and bring about the next generation of luxury travel to put Saudi Arabia on the international tourism map.

Location and resources

The Red Sea project is located along the Western coast of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, between the cities of Umluj and Al Wajh. The area is characterized by its year-round temperate climate, with average summer temperatures reaching up to 31°C.

Envisioned as an exquisite luxury resort destination established across 50 untouched natural islands in a lagoon that stretches along 200 kilometers of stunning coastline, The Red Sea will be situated on the site of one of the world's last natural hidden treasures.

The project will form an archipelago that is home to environmentally protected coral reefs, mangroves, and several endangered marine species, including the hawksbill sea turtle. It also boasts dormant volcanoes, the most recently active of which has a recorded history of activity dating back to the 17th century AD. In addition, The Red Sea project's nature reserve is inhabited by rare wildlife including Arabian leopards, Arabian wolves, Arabian wildcats, and falcons.

Tourists will also be able to visit the ancient ruins at Mada'in Saleh, which date back thousands of years, and are renowned for their beauty and historical significance. It is also the first heritage location in Saudi Arabia to be classified as UNESCO World Heritage site.

Project Features

The Red Sea will serve as a center of the wellness movement and a showcase for a healthy, engaged, and vibrant society. Visitors to The Red Sea resort will enjoy plenty of sunshine, pristine white sandy beaches, and for the more adventurous, various eco, historical, and cultural excursions, both on land and in the sea.

The resort will also offer popular activities including water sports – with The Red Sea famed for being one of the world’s best dive sites. In addition to extreme sports – parachuting, trekking, and rock climbing – as well as culturally enriching visits to the Arab Heritage Museum and the Archeology Center.

Targeting local, regional, and international tourists, The Red Sea project is projected to welcome one million visitors per annum by 2035, with the yearly number of visitors capped in order to protect the ecosystem and preserve the area’s natural habitat. To achieve this ambitious goal, the newly mapped semi-autonomous area will be governed by laws on par with international standards that will include no visa requirements for most nationalities. In addition, the regulatory framework of this project will set new standards for sustainable development and environmental protection, to ensure the conservation of the Kingdom’s natural environment in accordance with the highest standards of ecological best practice.

Project Timeline

The initial groundbreaking of The Red Sea project is expected in the third quarter of 2019. Completion of phase one of the project is anticipated by the last quarter of 2022, including the development of hotels and luxury residential units, as well as all logistical infrastructure – including air, land, and sea transport hubs.

Socio-economic Impact

With tourism representing the second most important sector in Saudi Arabia, The Red Sea will spearhead the diversification of the Kingdom’s leisure industry. As outlined in Vision 2030, the project also aims to diversify the Kingdom’s tourism offerings to create a year-round hospitality sector, while promoting cultural conservation and economic stimulation through local and international investments and spending. This is projected to achieve a contribution of SAR 15 billion per annum to the Kingdom’s GDP, in addition to creating up to 35,000 jobs, once it is up and running.