ANCIENT AND MODERN TOUR

Duration: About 5 hrs

Board your air-conditioned motor coach and arrive at Al Fateh Grand Mosque in Juffair, a district of Manama. The famous Al Fateh Mosque was constructed in the year 1990, one of the largest mosques in the world and the most visited Tourist Attraction in Bahrain. The mosque, fitted with the world's largest fiberglass dome, can accommodate about 7000 worshippers at a time. Entry is open to visitors of all religions. Bahrain's National Library is near to the Mosque.

Go forward to Bahrain's World Trade Center - an Eye-popping green architecture - located in the city of Manama, for a Photo Stop. The 50-story complex contains twin towers that rise over 240 meters in height. The sail-shaped buildings with three wind turbines were seen as the first skyscraper in the world to incorporate wind turbines into its design.

Drive to the Bahrain or Portuguese Fort – which used to be the capital of the Dilmun civilization. It has been described as "an artificial mound created by many successive layers of human occupation". The Portuguese reinforced the perimeter and built new stone towers later. The wonderful architecture and the historical significance attached to the edifice of Bahrain Fort made it a World Heritage Site and an indispensable part of sightseeing in Bahrain.

Continue to a more recent part of Bahrain's history and culture, a camel farm owned by members of the Bahrain Royal family. Camels reveal the cultural connection with the nomadic tribe of Arabs from the past and are venerated as a sacred symbol of life. Grab a camera and pose with camels, ride or just watch more than hundreds of camels. Drive through the desert paths having petroleum resources.

Bahrain's flagship National museum, our final destination, showcases an amazing collection of archaeological finds from the Dilmun civilization. Historic tombs, an actual burial mound and burial pots still containing the skeletons are a not to miss sight. It also outlines the history of pearl fishing. The wax tableau's give us a glimpse of a typical Bahrain souk. Old Quran manuscripts, notes on astronomy and historical documents are also exhibited.

The motor coach is ready to return to the ship.

Tour details

Your tour includes a tour guide, air-conditioned coach, site entrance fees and bottled drinking water. Additional refreshments will be supplied depending on time and duration of excursion. In case a multilingual guide who speaks your language is not available, you will be guided in English.

Dress: Comfortable clothing and walking shoes are recommended during summer. Sunglasses, a hat and sunscreen are advisable.

Restrictions: Only light walking and you may need to climb a few steps. Modest dress is required while visiting the Grand Mosque. It is necessary to cover shoulder and knees for both men and women. Women are required to cover their heads. Scarves will be provided. Footwear will not be allowed inside the Grand Mosque.
CULTURAL, HERITAGE & CRAFTS TOUR

Duration: About 5 hrs

Bahrain Fort - capital of Dilmun civilization - a World Heritage Site

The arab culture and folklore at a camel farm

Al Jasra Handicrafts Centre
The traditional crafts & cultural products

Al Jasra House
Traditional Bahraini architecture

Burial Mounds
Necropolis dating back to the Dilmun

Your exciting heritage tour begins when you board the air-conditioned coach to the Bahrain World Trade Center, for a Photo Stop. A modern architectural icon that symbolises contemporary Bahrain. Keep your cameras ready for the world's first skyscraper to have wind turbines built into its design.

Now we move on to Bahrain Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage that was once the capital of the ancient Dilmun civilization. More recently it served as the Portuguese Fort and throughout history has been occupied by the settlers of the Dilmun civilization. A true delight for all archeology enthusiasts!

Our next destination will be the camel farm at Al-Janabiya. Across millennia camels have been a central part of the Arabian way of life. In the Arabic language alone, there are 160 different words for 'camel'. Here you can enjoy a camel ride or a relaxed stroll in the tranquil bush land setting while taking photographs of the various activities at the farm.

The next attraction will be the Al Jasra Handicraft Center; located in Al Jasra Village on Bahrain's west coast and built around a beautiful garden. The center is divided into a number of small rooms for pottery, basket weaving, embroidery and sculpting. You will be invited to sit and chat with the craftsmen or simply watch them work. A wide variety of traditional handcrafted souvenirs are available here for purchase.

A short distance from the Handicraft Center is the Al-Jasra House. Built in 1907, Al-Jasra House is a perfect example of traditional Bahraini architecture. It was the birthplace of the former Emir of Bahrain and was used as a summer residence for the Royal family. The house was constructed from coral, gypsum and palm tree trunks. It consists of several rooms, all of which are traditionally furnished.

Our final stop will be at the Burial Mounds, where the ancient people of Dilmun civilization rest in peace. It is one of the rare archaeological burial mounds that date back to the Dilmun era. After exploring the world's largest ancient cemetery, you can board the coach, sit back & relax while reminiscing the wonders of Bahrain.

Tour details

Your tour includes a tour guide, air-conditioned coach, site entrance fees and bottled drinking water. Additional refreshments will be supplied depending on time and duration of excursion. In case a multilingual guide who speaks your language is not available, you will be guided in English.

Dress: Comfortable clothing and walking shoes are recommended during summer. Sunglasses, a hat and sunscreen are advisable.

Restrictions: Only light walking and you may need to climb a few steps.

Notes

Alsharif Tours
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MODERN HIGHLIGHTS & ISLAMIC BAHRAIN

Duration: About 5 hrs

Tour details

King Fahd Causeway, Beit Al Quran, National Museum & Al Fateh Mosque

Board your air-conditioned coach and travel through the Exhibitions Avenue to the Beit Al Quran – an Islamic Museum located in the Hoora district of Manama. The museum accommodates a comprehensive and valuable collection of the historic and priceless Quran and other rare manuscripts. The extraordinary collection of Islamic calligraphy includes calligraphic instruction manuals dating back to the 8th century AD. Artifacts on display include jewellery, ornamental glassware and mosaics. One extraordinarily rare Quran on display here was created in Tunisia on deep blue-colored vellum, inscribed in gold. The Qurans on display include a tiny manuscript measuring a mere 43 millimeters across, which was originally favored by travelers.

From the ancient, now we travel to the most modern: The Bahrain World Trade Center, for a Photo Stop. The Center's twin towers are over 700 feet high and are linked by three sky bridges containing wind turbines. It is the first skyscraper in the world to incorporate wind turbines into its design. The Center boasts to be the second highest building in the Kingdom. The two 50-storey buildings offer spectacular views of the Arabian Gulf and Manama's cityscape.

Now we move to another modern architectural marvel, which is the King Fahd Causeway which connects Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. This spectacular piece of modern engineering consists of a four-lane highway which is 25 mtrs. wide and is about 25kms long. Five bridges with an average length of 40,781 ft. were constructed along the causeway using about 350,000 cubic mtrs. of concrete in addition to 147,000 metric tons of unbreakable steel. The King Fahd Causeway tower has a restaurant and is designed to offer you a beautiful aerial view of the two countries.

From this magnificent road and bridge construction, we proceed to the Bahrain National Museum housed in a fine; post-modern building with landscaping that brings the waterfront location up to the windows. The exhibits range from an ancient desert burial mound to artifacts from the Dilmun civilization. The museum showcases archaeological finds from ancient Dilmun and includes beautiful agate and carnelian beads and earthenware burial jars - used for the body as well as its chattels.

In the last leg of our exciting tour, we move to the imposing Al Fateh Mosque or the Grand Mosque. Completed in 1988, the Mosque is named after Ahmed Al Fateh, the 18th century conqueror of Bahrain and founder of the ruling Al Khalifa Dynasty. Al-Fateh Mosque is the largest building in the country and is capable of holding up to 7000 worshippers. The mosque was built with marble from Italy, glass from Australia and teakwood from India, carved by local Bahraini craftsmen. After an enriching and enlightening tour of the religious edifice you can board your air-conditioned coach back to the ship.

Notes

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Duration: About 5 hrs

**Tour details**

Your air-conditioned coach will take you to the first exciting attraction on the itinerary. **Jebel Al Dukhan** is a hill, which is the highest point in the Kingdom. It stands tall at 134 mtrs. above sea level. The name is Arabic for 'Mountain of Smoke', which is due to the haze that often surrounds it on humid days. A number of indeterminate caves are in the vicinity of the mountain. Jebel is located south of the island’s geographic center and is surrounded by a stony desert environment.

From Jebel Al Dukhan we begin our descent to the nearby **Oil Museum** located near the site where oil was first discovered in Gulf. The Kingdom’s first oil well was drilled way back in 1932. The small museum exhibits a collection of old photographs of petroleum pioneers as well as vintage drilling equipment and a working model of the first well. The museum is ideal for not only learning the history of Bahrain’s oil industry but also for knowing about the history of oil.

From here we move towards Bahrain’s most celebrated natural landmark: the **Tree of Life**. This four-century-old mesquite tree survives in the midst of an unforgiving desert and the mystery behind its survival has made it a living legend. Tourists from all over the world make it a point to visit this place to witness the magic of nature. The tree represents life at a location where there is absolutely no hope for survival.

Moving away from the calm of the desert, it’s time for some real adrenaline rush. The location is the **Bahrain International Circuit**, located at Sakhir. BIC is the world’s premier motorsport facility with the most advanced facilities for high-adrenaline racing. The circuit annually hosts the Bahrain Grand Prix as well as other major international races like the Australian V8 Supercars and GP2 Asia Championships. Finally, on the concluding leg of the tour we arrive at **Al Areen Wildlife Park**. The park is a wildlife sanctuary built to protect rare Arabian species including the Oryx, Addax and Reem Gazelle. Hundreds of other animals and bird species inhabit the Wildlife Park. Near the front entrance of the park is a walking area where you can observe birds and other animals on foot. Another surprise in store is a short video about the wildlife in the area and a bus ride through the reserve.

And now, finally after a truly rewarding day of exploring Bahrain, you can board your coach to return to the ship.

**Notes**

Your tour includes a tour guide, air-conditioned coach, site entrance fees and bottled drinking water. Additional refreshments will be supplied depending on time and duration of excursion. In case a multilingual guide who speaks your language is not available, you will be guided in English.

Dress: Comfortable clothing and walking shoes are recommended during summer. Sunglasses, a hat and sunscreen are advisable.

Restrictions: Only light walking and you may need to climb a few steps.
Begin your journey to the twin towers of Bahrain World Trade Centre, for a Photo Stop, located next to the King Faisal Highway, close to popular landmarks such as the towers of BFH, NBB and Abraj Al Lulu. The 50-floor structure is the symbol of modern Bahrain and its towers are linked by three sky bridges sport wind turbines that generate power for them. This building holds the credit for integrating wind turbines to its design for the first time in the world.

The next destination that will enthral you is the Capital Mall, an Arab-styled building with stained-glass windows, next to the highway.

The mall has both traditional handicrafts as well as modern luxury shops. It offers you freedom to choose between the traditional and the modern. Bahrain’s special textiles, basketry and silk weaving as well as imported stuff from the leading brands are available for the visitors.

A trip to the Manama Souq will show you the diversities the Bahrain market has on offer; from gold to spices to clothing. The grand arched gateway of Bab-Al-Bahrain will lead you to the narrow alleys of Manama souq. It is an old bazaar with vendors on both sides of the narrow lane, selling spices, carpets, pearls and cheap electronic goods from other parts of the world. But way forward, the Central Market, close to the bus station, is a modern facility where fresh meat and fish are sold.

A stroll through the Gold City will give you a rare sight of jewelleries ranging from Bahraini pearls and fine gemstones to an array of precious metals. Gold City is a modern souq that has some of the leading jewellers in the Kingdom. Bahrain claims to sell purest gold in the world and exclusive natural pearls.

Following your visit to Gold City, board your motorcoach for the return to ship.

Notes

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Dress: Comfortable clothing and walking shoes are recommended during summer. Sunglasses, a hat and sunscreen are advisable.

Restrictions: Only light walking and you may need to climb a few steps.

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BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT SPECIAL TOUR

Duration: About 5 hrs

Board your air-conditioned coach and travel through outskirts of Bahrain to reach Sakhir. The Bahrain International Circuit is at the leading edge of local and regional race series and annually hosts the Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix, and other international motor races located at Sakhir. The Bahrain International Circuit hosts a number of high profile series, including the FIA Formula One World Championship, the Australian V8 Superca Championship Series, the GP2 Series, GP2 Asia, Chevrolet Lumina Series, Speedcar Series, Thunder Arabia and Radical. Exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of Bahrain International Circuit combines an exploration of the region’s premier Formula One and drag racing venue. Beginning at the landmark eight-storey Sakhir Tower, you will visit the Media Centre, the region’s most advanced global communication centre, stop by at the state-of-the-art Race Control Tower — and even take a lap around Bahrain’s world famous Formula One circuit. Then you can pop into the BIC Pit Shop to find a souvenir of a wonderful trip.

From here we will move to the camel farm at Al-Janabiya. Across millenniums camels have been a central part of the Arabian way of life. In the Arabic language alone, there are 160 different words for ‘camel’. Here you can enjoy a camel ride or a relaxed stroll in the tranquil bush land setting while taking photographs of the various activities at the farm.

The motor coach is ready to return to the ship.

Tour details

Your tour includes a tour guide, air-conditioned coach, site entrance fees and bottled drinking water. Additional refreshments will be supplied depending on time and duration of excursion. In case a multilingual guide who speaks your language is not available, you will be guided in English.

Dress: Comfortable clothing and walking shoes are recommended during summer. Sunglasses, a hat and sunscreen are advisable.

Restrictions: Only light walking and you may need to climb a few steps.

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