



Saudi Arabia: Riyadh and AlUla

Qatar: Doha

January 29 - February 5, 2026 (8 days | 7 nights)

Desert X invites its most devoted supporters on an extraordinary journey to Saudi Arabia and Qatar for Desert X AlUla 2026. Over several days, guests will enjoy privileged access to the region's most compelling art and culture, beginning in Riyadh with private visits to leading museums, galleries, and artist studios. We will then spend a day in Diriyah for the opening of the Diriyah Contemporary Art Biennale 2026 in the JAX District, curated by Nora Razian and Sabih Ahmed.

See AlUla through the eyes of international contemporary artists participating in Desert X AlUla and their site specific installations that transform the desert landscape. Additionally, visitors will enjoy curated tours of historic heritage sites, including Hegra, Dadan, and Jabal Ikmah.

The journey concludes in Doha just in time for the VIP days of the inaugural Art Basel Qatar under the artistic direction of Wael Shawky. A special half-day desert excursion will include a trip to Richard Serra's monumental East-West/West-East steel sculpture at the Brouq Nature Reserve, a powerful installation spanning over a kilometer in the desert that commands the surrounding landscape and is considered one of Serra's most fulfilling works. The Doha portion of the trip is optional.

This refined program offers rare access to the Middle East's most exciting cultural capitals at a pivotal moment in their artistic renaissance.



RIYADH

Riyadh

January 29 - February 1, 2026 (3 nights)

Accommodation at the Fairmont Riyadh

The word Riyadh is derived from the Arabic word rawdah which means 'gardens' or 'meadows'. This is in reference to the immense fertility and lush green gardens of the area. The city of Riyadh is not only the administrative and political capital of the country but is also referred to as the cultural capital of Saudi Arabia due to the various cultural centers in the city like the King Abdulaziz Historical Center (National Museum).

MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Private guided tours of museums and cultural institutions such as the <u>Al Masmak Palace Museum</u>, <u>ATHR Gallery</u>, <u>Lakum Art Space</u>, <u>Naila Art Gallery</u> and <u>Misk Art</u>.

DIRIYAH CONTEMPORARY ART BIENNALE

Diriyah, just outside Riyadh, is Saudi Arabia's historic cultural heart and the site of the Diriyah Contemporary Art Biennale. This international art event, curated by Nora Razian and Sabih Ahmed, will bring together visionary artists from Saudi Arabia and around the world. We will be attending the VIP opening of the biennale and will have a curator-led tour of the Biennale.

ARTIST STUDIO VISITS

A curated selection of studio visits of the most relevant artists in the contemporary art scene in Saudi Arabia such as <u>Maha Malluh</u>, <u>Ahmed Mater</u>, <u>Muhannad Shono</u>, <u>Rashel AlShashi</u>, <u>Filwa Nazer</u> and <u>Hmoud Al Attawi</u>.

CULINARY EXPERIENCES

Meals at some of the most popular restaurants such as <u>Mamo</u>, <u>Roka</u>, <u>LPM</u>, <u>Suhail</u>, <u>Lusin</u> and <u>Cipriani</u>.



ALULA

AlUla

February 1-3, 2026 (2 nights)

Accommodation at Habitas AlUla

From Hegra's well-preserved tombs to the historic alleys of the Old Town, AlUla has become a hallmark of heritage preservation in the Middle East. Beyond history, AlUla is being transformed into a thriving cultural hub where art, music, and creativity converge against the backdrop of its natural beauty. This unique fusion of artistic expression, heritage, and nature makes AlUla an inspiring destination for travelers and art enthusiasts alike.

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Special visit of Desert X and its site-specific installations by acclaimed international artists. Private visits and guided tours of <u>Wadi AlFann</u>, <u>Dadan</u>, <u>Jabal Ikmah</u>, and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of <u>Hegra</u>.

CULINARY EXPERIENCES

During our visit to AlUla, we will enjoy meals at some of the most popular restaurants such as <u>Okto</u>, <u>Maraya Social</u>, <u>Pink Camel</u>, <u>Annabel's Restaurant</u>, <u>Asfar</u>, and <u>Somewhere</u>.



DOHA

Doha
February 3-5, 2026 (2 nights)
Accommodation at The Ned

Doha stands as a rapidly emerging cultural capital in the Middle East, hosting the inaugural Art Basel Qatar in 2026. This dynamic city offers a compelling blend of world-class museums, vibrant artist communities, exceptional culinary offerings, and landmark cultural experiences that make it an essential destination on the contemporary art circuit.

MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Private guided tours of internationally acclaimed institutions such as the <u>Museum of Islamic Art</u>, and the <u>National Museum of Qatar</u>, both renowned for their stunning architecture and extensive collections. We will also visit <u>Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art</u>, which houses one of the world's most significant collections of modern and contemporary art from the Arab world.

ART BASEL QATAR

The fair's first edition presents a new format, focusing on a curated approach where around 50 galleries show solo or thematic projects. Egyptian artist Wael Shawky serves as Artistic Director, shaping the experience around a strong curatorial vision that highlights art from the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, and beyond. The tour includes VIP acces to the fair.

CULINARY EXPERIENCES

Doha's cuisine reflects its cosmopolitan spirit and deep regional roots, we will have meals at some of the most celebrated dining insitutions such as Morimoto Doha, Yasmine Palace, Gaia Doha and Saffron Doha.

OTHER CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Unique half-day 4x4 desert excursion to Brouq Nature Reserve to experience Richard Serra's monumental <u>East-West/West-East</u> sculpture, a striking installation of four massive steel plates extending across over a kilometer of desert landscape.



DESERT X



Saudi Arabia & Qatar

January 29 - February 5, 2026 (8 days | 7 nights)

Double occupancy cost: \$16,590 USD per person* **Single occupancy cost:** \$19,700 USD per person*

Saudi Arabia (without Qatar)

January 29 - February 3, 2026 (6 days | 5 nights)

Double occupancy cost: \$13,500 USD per person* **Single occupancy cost:** \$15,900 USD per person*

*The price includes a \$1,000 USD donation to the Desert X nonprofit

Included:

- Accommodations at luxury hotels
- 8-day exclusive program of activities (6 days if only doing the Saudi Arabia itinerary)
- Personal private airport transportation to & from hotels
- Private luxury ground transportation to all activities included in the itinerary
- All meals and culinary experiences included in the itinerary
- Guests' trip gifts & housewarming gifts for all hosts (when visiting private collections)
- Private guided tours to cultural sites, museums, artists studios, private collections, among others
- Liaisons staff providing guidance to group at all times
- All taxes and gratuities
- Local flights: flights from Riyadh to AlUla and AlUla to Doha for those participating in the full itinerary

Not included:

- International air travel from USA to Riyadh and from Doha to USA
- Travel insurance
- Hotel room upgrades
- Early check-in/late check-out
- Personal items and expenses, such as telephone, laundry and dry cleaning, minibar
- Any other item not specifically included in the program

Please note that the deadline to sign up for the trip is September 30.

The trip cost is subject to change, the trip may be cancelled if the minimum number of 8 participants is not met.

For any questions and/or to register please contact Lou Malta at lou@liaisonscorporation.com