AL-REHLA | Issue 1336
Tourism | Daily | Digital
13 November 2026

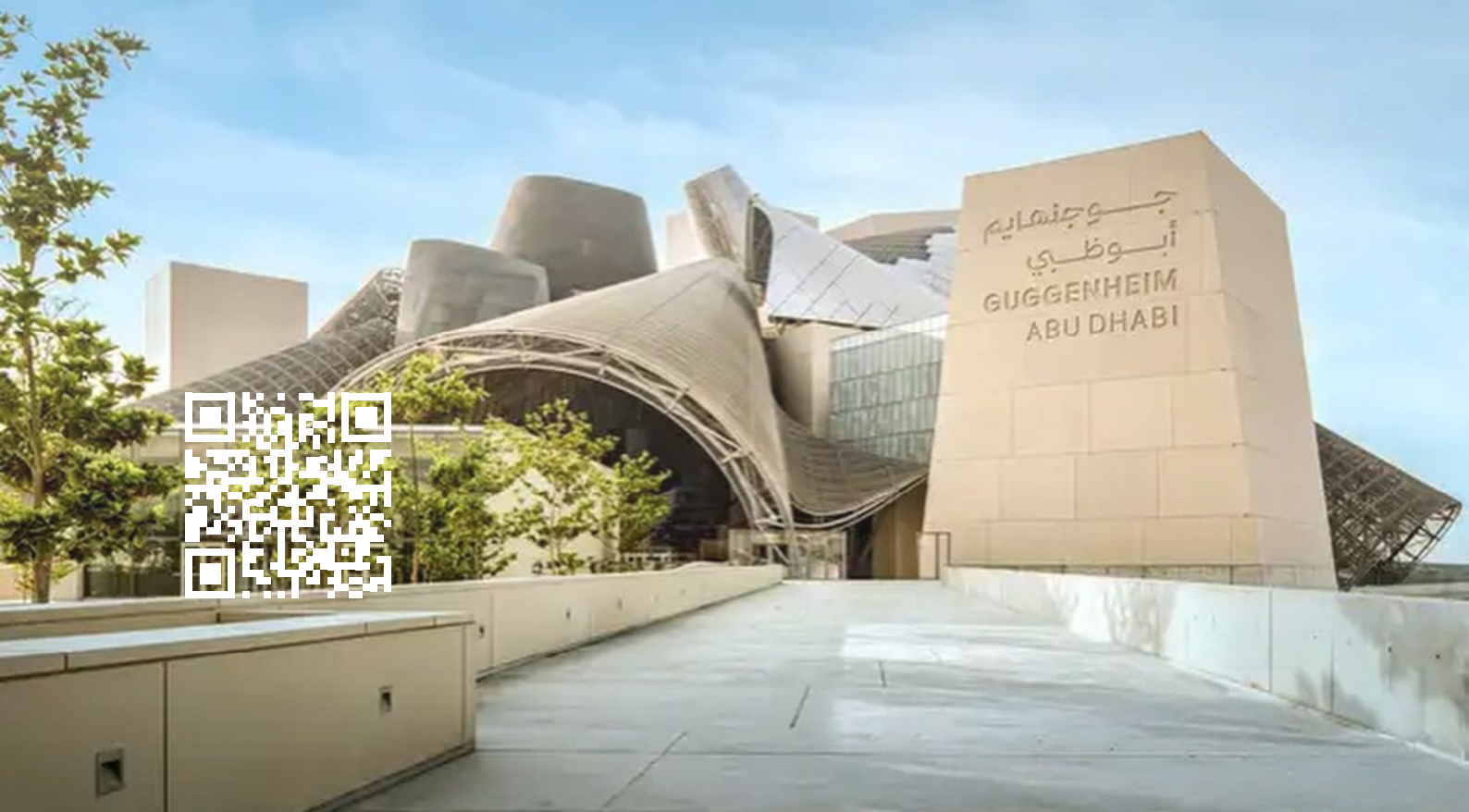
Winner of the "Most Influential Tourism Newspaper in the Arab World 2026" Award by AFUSU

Guggenheim Honours Mohamed Al Mubarak at Annual Gala in New York

Accor Signs Two Hotel Agreements in Egypt, Expanding Its Presence in New Mansoura and Ain Sokhna

Bahrain Duty Free Profits Fall 31.7% to BHD 3.21 Million in Nine Months

MAS Engineering Wins SAR 589 Million Contract to Build Riyadh Complex Featuring 345-Room Hotel



Kuwait's Safir Hotels & Resorts Signs Management Agreement for New Hotel on Egypt's North Coast, Set to Open in 2029



Agreement with Apache and Toledo Real Estate Development strengthens the group's presence in Egypt, with additional hotel openings planned in Sohag, Kuwait, and Erbil in 2027.

Cairo – Egypt | Al-Rehla

Kuwait-based Safir Hotels & Resorts, a subsidiary of Kuwait Hotels Company, has signed a management and operating agreement with Apache and Toledo Real Estate Development for the new Safir Mercy North Coast Hotel in Egypt, further strengthening its presence in the country's hospitality sector.

Located at kilometer 76 along Egypt's North Coast, the hotel is scheduled to begin construction in early 2027, with operations expected to commence in early 2029.

Egypt Leads the Group's Hotel Portfolio

The agreement builds on Safir's established presence in Egypt, which represents one of its key markets in terms of hotel portfolio diversity.

The company currently manages four hotels and resorts in the country, including Safir Cairo, Safir Sharm Waterfalls, Safir Dahab, and Safir Marsa Matrouh.

Safir is also preparing to open Safir Sohag in 2027 as part of its strategy to expand its operational portfolio across Egyptian destinations.

Abdulrahman Al-Musallam, a member of the company's Board of Directors, highlighted the North Coast's growing importance as a promising regional tourism destination.

He indicated that the expansion aims to deliver a hospitality experience combining international standards with authentic Arabian character, while enhancing investment returns for property owners and development partners.

Regional Expansion Across Three Markets

Beyond Egypt, Safir's expansion plans include new hotel openings in Kuwait and Iraq during 2027, including Safir Sea View and Safir Erbil.

The company is also exploring additional opportunities in Saudi Arabia and Oman as part of its broader regional growth strategy.

Established in 1993, Safir Hotels & Resorts manages hospitality properties across several Arab markets, focusing on hotel operations, management services, and performance optimization.



Al-Rehla Perspective | Egypt's North Coast Attracts Arab Hotel Management Companies

The agreement reflects growing interest among Arab hospitality operators in expanding along Egypt's North Coast through hotel management contracts with real estate developers rather than direct property ownership.

This business model enables developers to benefit from established hospitality brands, operational expertise, and distribution networks, while allowing hotel management companies to expand their portfolios without bearing the full capital costs of property development.



From a tourism investment perspective, the project could contribute additional professionally managed accommodation capacity to Egypt's North Coast, supporting the destination's efforts to diversify its hospitality offering.

However, its long-term economic contribution will depend on sustainable occupancy levels, the ability to attract visitors beyond the peak summer season, and the destination's broader tourism infrastructure.
The project's investment value and financial terms of the management agreement have not been disclosed, making it premature to assess the potential financial contribution to Safir's portfolio.

Guggenheim Honours Mohamed Al Mubarak at Annual Gala in New York



The recognition highlights his role in supporting arts and culture and his partnership in developing the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, scheduled to open next December.

New York – Al-Rehla

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation honoured Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi, at its annual gala in New York, in recognition of his role in supporting arts and culture and his partnership in developing the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, scheduled to open next December.

Held on 10 November at the Guggenheim Museum, the event, titled "Under the Dome: Celebrating Visionaries", also honoured American artist Alex Katz. The programme included a tour of an exhibition by artist Taryn Simon, followed by a dinner and artistic performance. It also featured a tribute to the late architect Frank Gehry, who designed the Abu Dhabi museum.

Honouring a Cultural Partnership

Al Mubarak said the recognition reflects a shared belief in the value of art and its ability to broaden horizons, foster understanding and bring people together. He added: "In Abu Dhabi, we have sought to build cultural institutions rooted in our identity, open to the world and designed to serve future generations."

He noted that Guggenheim Abu Dhabi embodies this vision, providing a space where artists and audiences from diverse backgrounds can come together and exchange ideas.

The recognition comes just weeks ahead of the museum's opening in the Saadiyat Cultural District, marking a new milestone in the partnership between Abu Dhabi and the Guggenheim Foundation. The museum will feature 28 indoor galleries spanning a total area of 11,600 square metres, alongside outdoor exhibition spaces covering up to 23,000 square metres. It will showcase modern and contemporary artworks from diverse regions and cultures.

The Museum in the Cultural District

Guggenheim Abu Dhabi is scheduled to open on 11 December 2026. It will join a number of cultural institutions on Saadiyat Island, including Louvre Abu Dhabi, Zayed National Museum and the Natural History Museum, as part of a district bringing together art, history, science and heritage.

The foundation's annual gala is one of its major fundraising events, with proceeds dedicated to supporting exhibitions, educational programmes and the preservation of its art collection.



“The recognition reflects a shared belief in the value of art and its ability to broaden horizons, foster understanding and bring people together. In Abu Dhabi, we have sought to build cultural institutions rooted in our identity, open to the world and designed to serve future generations.”

Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak
Chairman of the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi





Scraps of a Traveller

Travel... but Travel Right

BY:
Ali Al-Saad
Travel writer

Twelve centuries ago, Imam Al-Shafi'i, a traveler who moved between Makkah, Madinah, Yemen and Baghdad before settling in Egypt, urged us to travel, counting five benefits: relief from worry, a livelihood, knowledge, good manners, and noble company.

I searched that verse for a sixth benefit called "the Instagram story." It isn't there. He never imagined we would travel to post rather than to see.

After 94 destinations on five continents, I say it confidently: travel, but travel right. I once saw a traveler arrive knowing nothing about a country, then wonder why locals didn't act like his neighbors. Another raised his voice in a hushed museum as if at a family majlis. A third memorized the malls' hours but forgot the city's name; a fourth collects countries like stamps, counting every airport layover as one!

The clearest lesson came from Boracay, in the Philippines, whose white sand looks like milled flour.

Standing on that beach, I could hardly believe this very paradise was closed to tourists for six months, April to October 2018, after then-President Rodrigo Duterte called it a "cesspool," worn down by crowds and by sewage pumped into its waters. It reopened with conditions: no parties, bonfires or barbecues on the beach, a cap of 19,215 tourists at a time, and even sandcastles came under regulation.

Imagine your sandcastle needing a rulebook!

Traveling right is simple: read before you pack, learn what to wear and what is off-limits, respect the queue, and learn "thank you" in the local language; it opens hearts faster than any visa. Leave places cleaner than you found them.

The Emirati passport has topped the global Passport Index since 2018, opening over 180 destinations without a prior visa. Don't let your behavior be weaker than your passport. When one of us slips up abroad, nobody says "that man erred." They say "the Emirati erred."

Good travel isn't measured in passport stamps or phone photos, but in what a traveler leaves behind: a clean beach, a smile for a stranger, a fond memory for a small restaurant owner, a country remembered kindly. And Al-Shafi'i's fifth benefit, noble company, belongs only to those who travel nobly.



MAS Engineering Wins SAR 589 Million Contract to Build Riyadh Complex Featuring 345-Room Hotel



Al Ajlan Real Estate is developing the Limar project, with nearly 135,000 square metres of built-up area, including a five-star hotel, 10 office buildings and more than 50 retail units.



Riyadh – Saudi Arabia | Al Rehla

Saudi-based MAS Engineering & Construction has secured a SAR 589 million contract to develop the Limar Commercial Complex, a mixed-use project in Riyadh, for Mohammed Saad Al Ajlan Real Estate, according to information published in the contractor's official company profile.

The development will feature a five-star hotel with 345 rooms, alongside office buildings, retail outlets and landscaped outdoor areas, within a complex covering a total built-up area of 134,642 square metres.

The project brings together hospitality, business and retail facilities within a single integrated development.

A 22-Storey Hotel Within a Mixed-Use Complex

The hotel will form one of the main components of the Limar project, rising 22 storeys and offering 345 guest rooms.

The development will also include 10 office buildings, more than 50 retail units, open spaces and outdoor facilities.

MAS Engineering & Construction has identified InterContinental as the hotel's operator in its corporate profile. However, no details have been announced regarding the hotel management agreement, operating arrangements or expected opening date.



SAR 589 Million Construction Contract

MAS Engineering & Construction, headquartered in Dammam, announced the contract award on November 9, 2026, adding another major project to its portfolio of hospitality and commercial developments.

According to information published by the company, Zuhair Fayez Partnership and Cracknell are involved in the project's design, while Khatib & Alami is among the consulting firms associated with the development.

The SAR 589 million contract reflects the scale of the construction works but does not necessarily represent the project's total investment value.

The overall development cost may also include land acquisition, hotel furnishings and equipment, financing expenses and other components not covered by the announced contract.

The developer has not disclosed the construction schedule, expected completion date or planned opening timeline.

Al Rehla Perspective | 345 Additional Rooms for Riyadh's Hospitality Market

The tourism significance of the Limar project lies primarily in its hotel component, which is expected to add 345 five-star rooms to Riyadh's accommodation supply upon completion.

By combining hospitality with offices and retail facilities, the development creates an environment where hotel guests can access business and commercial services within the same complex.

This model may be particularly relevant to business travellers, corporate visitors and guests attending meetings or commercial activities in the Saudi capital.

From an investment perspective, integrating a hotel with office and retail properties provides the development with several potential revenue streams.

However, such projects also require coordinated management of shared facilities, visitor circulation, operational services and the different requirements of hotel guests, office tenants and retail customers.

The identity of the hotel operator, the terms of the management agreement and the opening schedule will be important factors in assessing the property's future position within Riyadh's hospitality market.

Actual demand, room rates and occupancy levels will become clearer only after operations begin.

At this stage, the project's confirmed significance lies in the award of its construction contract and the announced scale of its hospitality and commercial components. No sufficient data have been released to estimate investment returns or measure its eventual impact on Riyadh's hotel market.

Accor Signs Two Hotel Agreements in Egypt, Expanding Its Presence in New Mansoura and Ain Sokhna



Mövenpick New Mansoura to feature 200 rooms, with opening targeted for 2030, while an existing 104-room beachfront hotel in Ain Sokhna will be converted into Mercure Ain Sokhna, scheduled to open in 2028.

Cairo – Egypt | Al Rehla

Accor has announced the signing of two new hotel agreements in Egypt, adding Mövenpick New Mansoura and Mercure Ain Sokhna to its growing portfolio. The agreements strengthen the group's presence along the Mediterranean and Red Sea coastlines, reinforcing its continued expansion in Egypt's hospitality sector. The announcement was made during the Future Hospitality Summit (FHS) Egypt 2026.

The first agreement involves the development of Mövenpick New Mansoura in partnership with El Borolosy Group. The 200-room hotel will be located directly on the Mediterranean coast, with its opening targeted for 2030.

According to Accor, the property will feature restaurants, meeting and event facilities, a swimming pool, a fitness centre, and a spa.

The second agreement covers the redevelopment of an existing beachfront hotel under the Mercure Ain Sokhna brand, offering 104 rooms.

The project is being developed in partnership with Egyptian Canadian Marinas Company, a joint venture with Inventure Group, alongside Suez Urban Development, which owns the project land.

Scheduled to open in 2028, the hotel will be located approximately one hour from Cairo and will offer direct beach access, a rooftop restaurant, a swimming pool, and meeting and event spaces.

Maya Ziadeh, Chief Development Officer for the Premium, Midscale and Economy division across the Middle East, Africa and Türkiye at Accor, said Egypt remains a cornerstone of the group's regional growth.

She noted that Accor signed agreements for 12 new properties in Egypt during 2026, representing more than 2,600 rooms, while also introducing four new hotel brands to the Egyptian market during the year.





"Egypt represents a key pillar of the group's growth in the region. In 2026, Accor signed 12 new projects in the country, comprising more than 2,600 rooms, while also introducing four new brands to the Egyptian market during the same year."

Maya Ziade
Chief Development Officer, Premium, Midscale & Economy Hotels, Middle East, Africa & Türkiye, Accor

Accor currently operates more than 38 hotels in Egypt, representing over 15,000 rooms, alongside a development pipeline exceeding 20 projects with more than 7,000 rooms. These figures highlight the group's established presence in one of the Arab world's largest hospitality markets.

Al-Rehla Perspective | Why Do These Agreements Matter?

The significance of the two agreements extends beyond the addition of new hotel properties. They highlight two emerging trends in Egypt's hospitality sector.

The first is the growing integration of newly developed cities, such as New Mansoura, into the international hotel landscape. The second is the continued investment in coastal destinations within easy reach of Cairo, particularly Ain Sokhna, to capture demand for short breaks and domestic leisure travel.

The agreements also reflect two distinct hospitality investment models: developing an entirely new hotel in New Mansoura and repositioning an existing beachfront property in Ain Sokhna under an internationally recognised brand.

Both approaches offer investors opportunities to enhance the value of hospitality assets while benefiting from the expertise, distribution networks, and operational standards of established international hotel operators.

However, the ultimate economic impact of these developments will depend on project execution, actual market demand, and each destination's ability to maintain sustainable occupancy levels after opening.

Istanbul to Host 2027 Spanish Super Cup as Ticket Sales Begin



Four Spanish clubs will compete in three matches from 2 to 6 February, across the home grounds of Fenerbahçe, Beşiktaş and Galatasaray.

Istanbul – Türkiye | Al Rehla

Istanbul will host the Spanish Super Cup 2027 for the first time in Türkiye, with ticket sales now underway for the tournament, which will take place from 2 to 6 February and feature Barcelona, Atlético Madrid, Real Sociedad and Real Madrid. The three matches will be played at stadiums across the city, with tickets available through the competition's official website.

Three Matches Across Three Stadiums

La Liga champions Barcelona will kick off the competition against Copa del Rey runners-up Atlético Madrid on 2 February at Chobani Stadium, part of the Fenerbahçe Şükrü Saracoğlu Sports Complex. The following day, Copa del Rey winners Real Sociedad will face league runners-up Real Madrid at Tüpraş Stadium, home of Beşiktaş. The two winners will advance to the final, scheduled for 6 February at Rams Park, home of Galatasaray. All matches will kick off at 10 pm local time.

The tournament follows a knockout format, bringing together the league champions and runners-up, alongside the two finalists of the Copa del Rey. The semi-final results will determine the finalists.

The matches will be spread across three stadiums with varying capacities: around 48,000 seats at Fenerbahçe's stadium, more than 42,000 at Tüpraş Stadium and over 53,000 at Rams Park. Fenerbahçe's stadium is located on Istanbul's Asian side, while the Beşiktaş and Galatasaray venues are on the European side. Organisers expect total attendance to exceed 150,000 across the three matches.

A Key Addition to Istanbul's Sporting Calendar

The tournament forms part of Istanbul's international sporting calendar for 2027, alongside the Turkish Grand Prix in Formula 1 and the European Games. The city also draws on its track record of hosting major football finals, including the UEFA Champions League finals in 2005 and 2023, and the UEFA Europa League final in 2026.

The matches will also give visitors an opportunity to extend their stay and explore Istanbul's historic landmarks, take cruises along the Bosphorus, and discover its neighbourhoods across both the European and Asian sides, as well as its markets and restaurants. The city is home to restaurants featured in the Michelin Guide and offers a year-round programme of arts and cultural events, giving football fans plenty to enjoy beyond the stadiums during the tournament.



JOIN US AT ITB ASIA 2026

ASIA'S LARGEST TRAVEL TRADE SHOW

21 - 23 OCTOBER 2026

SANDS EXPO & CONVENTION CENTRE, SINGAPORE

ITB Asia 2026, Asia's largest travel trade show, is an annual three-day B2B event that brings together key players from across the global travel industry.

The show connects international exhibitors and buyers across the MICE, leisure, and corporate travel segments, providing a focused platform to build new partnerships, strengthen business relationships, and explore opportunities across Asia's travel market.

ITB Asia 2026 will take place from 21-23 October 2026 at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore, and is organised by Messe Berlin Asia Pacific.

1,000+ Exhibiting Brands

1,500+ Quality Buyers

18,000+ Attendees

60,000+ Business Appointments

4,500+ Conference Minutes

For more information, visit itb-asia.com

REGISTER TO VISIT

REGISTER TO VISIT

For more information,
visit itb-asia.com

Bosra Welcomes Over 10,000 Visitors as Heritage Restoration Continues: How Is the 2,000-Year-Old City Recovering?

Visitor numbers reach 10,831, up from 4,530 in the comparable period, as restoration progresses at the Roman Theatre, citadel and Abu Al-Fida School, alongside plans to revive tourism services in the UNESCO-listed city.





Daraa – Syria | Al Rehla

The ancient city of Bosra in southern Syria is gradually regaining its tourism momentum, with figures released by the Directorate of Antiquities showing 10,831 visitors during a reporting period announced in September 2026, compared with 4,530 during the corresponding period in 2025, representing an increase of approximately 139%. The recovery comes alongside ongoing restoration projects and improvements to public services and infrastructure surrounding the city's historic landmarks.

These figures reflect renewed interest in one of Syria's most significant archaeological cities, which served as an important commercial and cultural center for centuries and features a distinctive architectural heritage combining Roman, Nabataean, Byzantine, and Islamic influences.

A Roman Theatre Bringing History Back to Life

Bosra is renowned for its Roman Theatre, built in the second century AD and considered one of the best-preserved Roman theatres in the region.

The monument is distinguished by its monumental stone seating and the fortress constructed around it during the Islamic period. Beyond the theatre, the city features the Al-Omari Mosque, an ancient cathedral, historic markets, and stone gateways that reflect successive chapters of its long history.

UNESCO inscribed the Ancient City of Bosra on the World Heritage List in 1980 in recognition of its exceptional historical and architectural significance.

Restoring Monuments and Improving Infrastructure

Alaa Al-Salah, Director of Bosra's Antiquities Department, said restoration work had been undertaken in cooperation with international organizations, covering the Roman Theatre, the citadel, and the Ayyubid-era Abu Al-Fida School.
Plans also include rehabilitating additional archaeological sites and incorporating them into organized visitor routes.

The city has witnessed improvements to roads and public facilities, including the installation of more than 250 solar-powered streetlights, alongside maintenance, landscaping, and the rehabilitation of parks and public spaces.
In October, local authorities reported progress in restoring the citadel and its surroundings, while work on Abu Al-Fida School was approaching its final stages.





Tourism Services Prepare for a Return

The Daraa Tourism Directorate is working to reactivate the tourist information center at the entrance to the historic city.

The initiative aims to provide visitors with reliable information, organize group visits, and offer educational materials highlighting Bosra's archaeological attractions.

Additional plans include rehabilitating Bosra Hotel and its facilities, training tourism professionals, and recruiting qualified personnel.

However, no confirmed completion dates or reopening schedules have been announced for these projects.

UNESCO: Recovery Does Not Eliminate Conservation Challenges

Despite the gradual return of tourism activity, Bosra remains on UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger, where it has been listed since 2013. In its 2026 decision, the World Heritage Committee reiterated concerns over illegal excavations, damage to archaeological sites, and limited financial and technical resources for heritage protection.

The committee called for comprehensive documentation of damage, urgent conservation measures, and the development of an integrated strategy to safeguard and manage the historic city.

Cultural Tourism and Opportunities for Local Communities

The return of visitors presents potential opportunities for traditional craftspeople, restaurants, and local tourism businesses, particularly as family trips and organized group visits gradually resume.

Developing visitor routes connecting the Roman Theatre with historic markets and lesser-known monuments could encourage tourists to explore more of the city and support businesses beyond its principal archaeological attractions.

Nevertheless, Bosra's sustainable tourism recovery will depend on protecting its cultural heritage, completing infrastructure improvements, strengthening visitor services, and preserving the distinctive historic character that has defined the city for more than two millennia.



Tourist Stops

Bahrain and Armenia: A New Air Link to Boost Tourism, Investment and Cultural Exchange

BY:
Mahmood Al Nasheet
Tourism Media Consultant

Al Bayan Travel and Tourism launched its first direct flights from Bahrain International Airport to Armenia earlier this month, strengthening tourism and economic ties between the two countries. The new service marks an important step in bilateral relations and creates fresh opportunities for travel, cultural exchange and trade.

The value of the connection goes beyond shorter journey times. It could encourage more two-way tourism, introducing Bahraini travellers to Armenia's distinctive natural, historical and cultural attractions, while giving Armenian visitors an easier way to discover Bahrain's rich heritage, modern destinations and renowned Gulf hospitality.

Armenia offers a compelling mix of mountain scenery, lakes, historic monasteries and lively cities, led by its capital, Yerevan—a gateway to a civilisation with deep historical roots. Bahrain, meanwhile, combines beaches and luxury resorts with archaeological sites, shopping destinations, and a calendar of cultural and entertainment events.

The figures point to room for further growth. Armenia welcomed about 2.26 million international visitors in 2025, up from 2.21 million in 2024, an increase of 2.5%. Available 2024 figures record 7,539 visitors from the UAE, 2,235 from Oman, 600 from Saudi Arabia and 297 from Qatar. Together, these markets accounted for 10,671 visits, or around 0.48% of Armenia's international arrivals.

That share suggests an opportunity to attract more travellers from the Gulf, particularly through direct air links and targeted promotion. Armenia could appeal to families, leisure travellers and visitors seeking a luxury experience.

The flights also give travellers in both countries greater choice and flexibility. They could support joint holiday packages and closer partnerships among travel companies, hotels and tour operators, helping attract new visitors and increase tourism spending. Stronger links between the travel and hospitality sectors may also open the door to wider commercial and investment opportunities.

The route is more than an addition to the flight network. It is a bridge for human and cultural exchange, and a practical step towards more active two-way tourism. The inaugural flight carried 180 passengers, including Bahrainis and Saudi visitors. Between Bahrain and Armenia, the new connection does more than shorten the distance: it opens new paths for discovery and cooperation, bringing two peoples and cultures closer through travel.


ITINERARY

Palm Village Opens in Al Ahsa for Winter Season Running Until February 2027



More than 50 attractions and experiences, restaurants, cafés, date markets and traditional crafts offer visitors a glimpse into Saudi Arabia's rural heritage amid the palm groves of Al Ahsa Oasis.

Al Ahsa – Saudi Arabia | Al Rehla

The new season of Palm Village officially opened in Saudi Arabia's Al Ahsa Governorate on November 11, 2026, welcoming visitors through February 28, 2027, with a tourism experience combining agricultural heritage, local cuisine, traditional handicrafts and cultural activities in one of the region's most renowned palm-growing oases.

Located in the Muhairis district of Al Mubarraz, Palm Village has expanded over previous seasons to cover approximately 90,000 square metres, offering visitors an opportunity to discover products derived from date palms and explore their significance in Al Ahsa's economic and social history.

Experiences Among Palm Groves and Traditional Markets

The new season features more than 50 attractions and activities, over 20 restaurants and cafés, and more than 15 new experiences, according to promotional announcements by the Al Ahsa Development Authority.

Activities include shops selling Saudi dates and date-based products, traditional handicraft stalls, local food experiences and opportunities to learn about rural lifestyles.

Palm-frond weaving and other traditional crafts form part of the visitor experience, highlighting the longstanding relationship between agriculture and local craftsmanship.

Palm Museum and Traditional Performances

The village features cultural attractions, including the Palm Museum, which explores the history of date palm cultivation and different varieties of dates.

Other attractions include an interactive theatre, traditional performances and cultural spaces dedicated to local arts, literature and heritage.

Together, these activities provide families with an opportunity to discover Al Ahsa's agricultural traditions through an experience that combines education, entertainment and shopping.

Al Rehla Perspective | Turning Agricultural Heritage into a Bookable Tourism Experience

Palm Village's significance lies in transforming one of Al Ahsa's most distinctive cultural symbols—the date palm—into an organized tourism experience accessible to visitors without requiring private farm visits or individually arranged itineraries.

The destination also provides commercial opportunities for date producers, artisans and local food businesses, allowing them to engage directly with visitors and showcase their products.

With the season running until the end of February, travellers have an extended opportunity to include Palm Village in their Al Ahsa itineraries, alongside the region's historic markets, natural attractions and cultural landmarks.

The experience illustrates how agricultural heritage can become a tourism product while maintaining its connection to local communities and traditional industries.

Visiting Hours and Ticket Information

Admission tickets are available through the official booking platform, with prices starting at SAR 10 from Sunday to Wednesday and SAR 15 from Thursday to Saturday.

Children under five are admitted free of charge, as are visitors with disabilities, subject to the organizer's conditions.

Visitors are advised to book in advance and check the official platform for updated opening hours and activity schedules, as operating times and programs may vary throughout the season.





Egypt Welcomes Over 1.25 Million Polish Tourists as 10 Air Routes Strengthen Red Sea Connectivity



Poland's tourism market expands its presence in Egyptian resorts as Wizz Air launches direct services from five Polish airports to Hurghada, Marsa Alam and Sharm El Sheikh.

Cairo – Egypt | Al Rehla

Egypt welcomed more than 1.25 million Polish tourists in 2025, according to Poland's Ambassador to Cairo, Michał Murkociński, highlighting Poland's growing importance as a European source market for Egyptian tourism, particularly Red Sea resorts.

In statements published on November 11, 2026, the ambassador noted that Egypt had become one of the preferred destinations for Polish travellers, pointing to the continued expansion of direct air connections between the two countries, improving access to Egypt's coastal resorts.

10 Direct Routes from Five Polish Airports

Air connectivity between Egypt and Poland expanded significantly in October, with Wizz Air launching 10 scheduled routes connecting five Polish airports with Egyptian holiday destinations.

The new services began operating between October 25 and 27, 2026, linking Warsaw Modlin, Katowice, Gdańsk, Kraków and Wrocław with Hurghada, Marsa Alam and Sharm El Sheikh.

These flights complement existing charter services operated by Polish holiday companies, as well as scheduled flights connecting Warsaw and Cairo through LOT Polish Airlines.

Red Sea Resorts Lead Travel Demand

Egypt's Red Sea resorts remain particularly attractive to Polish holidaymakers, offering beach holidays, diving, marine activities and opportunities to travel during the European winter season.

According to data from the Polish Chamber of Tourism, Egypt ranked third among organized outbound holiday destinations during summer 2026, accounting for 13.6% of



bookings covered by the report, behind Türkiye and Greece.

The ranking reflects Egypt's strong position among Polish tour operators, although booking shares should be distinguished from actual international visitor arrivals.

Expanding Economic and Cultural Cooperation

The tourism developments coincide with broader economic cooperation between Egypt and Poland, with bilateral trade exceeding $1 billion in 2025, according to the Polish ambassador.

The two countries are preparing to celebrate the centenary of their diplomatic relations in 2027, while also highlighting the long history of Polish archaeological cooperation in Egypt, which dates back to the 1930s.

Al Rehla Perspective | An Important European Market for Egyptian Resorts

The significance of the Polish market lies in its combination of strong demand for organized beach holidays and expanding scheduled low-cost air connectivity.

This diversification creates different channels for reaching Polish travellers, through both traditional tour operators and independent visitors who book their flights and accommodation separately.

For Egyptian hotels, improved air connectivity provides access to additional customer segments. However, increased flight capacity alone does not necessarily indicate higher hotel occupancy or average room rates.
Reliable data on bookings, tourist nights and actual visitor spending will be essential to assessing the economic impact of Poland's growing presence in Egypt during the 2026–2027 winter season.



"Egypt has become one of the preferred destinations for Polish travellers, with the continued expansion of direct air links between the two countries enhancing access to Egypt's beach resorts."

Michał Murkociński
Polish Ambassador

Bahrain Duty Free Profits Fall 31.7% to BHD 3.21 Million in Nine Months



Third-quarter net profit declines 43.7% amid geopolitical challenges, raising questions about travel-related investments and companies' ability to protect profit margins.

Manama – Bahrain | Al Rehla

Bahrain Duty Free Complex reported a 31.7% decline in net profit for the first nine months of 2026, reaching BHD 3.21 million, compared with approximately BHD 4.70 million during the same period last year, amid regional challenges affecting the business environment and travel-related investments.

The company's financial results, disclosed on the Bahrain Bourse, showed that third-quarter net profit fell 43.7% to approximately BHD 961,600, compared with BHD 1.71 million in the corresponding quarter of 2025, reflecting continued pressure on profitability.

Earnings Per Share and Financial Position Decline

Earnings per share fell to 22.56 fils during the nine-month period, compared with 33.01 fils a year earlier, while total comprehensive income decreased 44.3% to BHD 2.86 million.

Total assets stood at BHD 44.23 million at the end of September 2026, down 6% from December 2025, while shareholders' equity declined 5.9% to BHD 44.05 million.

Regional Developments Weigh on Performance

Abdulla Hassan Buhindi, Chairman of Bahrain Duty Free Complex, attributed the company's performance to rapidly evolving geopolitical developments across the region and their impact on the business environment.



Abdulla Hassan Buhindi
Chairman of the Board of Bahrain Duty Free Complex Company

He emphasized the company's continued focus on cost control, expenditure optimization, and operational efficiency.

Buhindi also highlighted ongoing efforts to identify new business opportunities, strengthen sustainable performance, and enhance long-term shareholder value.

Aman Unveils ATMA, a New Wellness and Performance Brand, with Miami as Its First Destination



The new brand brings together a hotel, luxury branded residences and a private members' club, in partnership with Novak Djokovic, in a development expected to be completed in 2031.

Dubai – UAE | Al Rehla

Aman Group has announced the launch of ATMA, its new luxury hospitality brand focused on wellness, sport, nutrition and performance optimisation. The brand will make its debut in Miami through an integrated development combining a hotel, branded residences and a private members' club.

A Partnership with Djokovic

The development of ATMA's programmes is linked to Novak Djokovic, the brand's global partner, who will contribute his expertise in longevity, nutrition, racquet sports and wellness. In a statement marking the launch, Djokovic said his career had taught him that true performance depends on balancing training, recovery, nutrition and mental wellbeing. He added that the project would feature programmes and facilities inspired by this philosophy.

A 120,000-Square-Foot Wellness Centre

ATMA Miami will be located in the financial district of Brickell, overlooking Biscayne Bay. The development will feature a 1,049-foot tower designed by SHoP Architects, with interiors by Studio Paolo Ferrari. It will include a 120,000-square-foot wellness and spa centre, indoor tennis and padel courts, fitness and training facilities, a medical wellness centre and dedicated recovery spaces.

The development will also feature restaurants and bars, event spaces, a private marina and direct access to the waterfront. Residential options will range from one-bedroom units to apartments with five or more bedrooms, as well as six-bedroom penthouses. Owners will enjoy access to private facilities and priority nomination for membership in the invitation-only ATMA Club.

Project Expected to Be Completed in 2031

ATMA Miami is being developed by OKO Group and Oak Row Equities, with completion scheduled for 2031. The project marks the first expression of the new brand, whose name means "soul" or "true self" in Sanskrit. It also expands Aman's hospitality concept to include experiences centred on wellness and performance, alongside accommodation and hotel services.

Dubai Taxi Reports AED 735.5 Million in Quarterly Revenue as Market Share Reaches 59%



Revenue rises 25.7% while net profit declines 25.3%; the company reports a gradual recovery in demand and plans to begin repaying acquisition-related debt in 2027.

Dubai – UAE | Al Rehla

Dubai Taxi Company reported revenue of AED 735.5 million for the third quarter of 2026, representing a 25.7% year-on-year increase, supported by the consolidation of National Taxi's financial results following the completion of its acquisition in July.

The company also reported a gradual improvement in demand for mobility services across Dubai.

According to financial results released on November 9, 2026, net profit declined by 25.3% to AED 57.1 million, reflecting higher financing costs and pressure on operating profitability despite revenue growth.

Market Share Reaches 59% as Fleet Exceeds 9,500 Vehicles

Dubai Taxi strengthened its position in the UAE mobility market following its acquisition of National Taxi in a transaction valued at approximately AED 1.45 billion, completed on July 8, 2026.

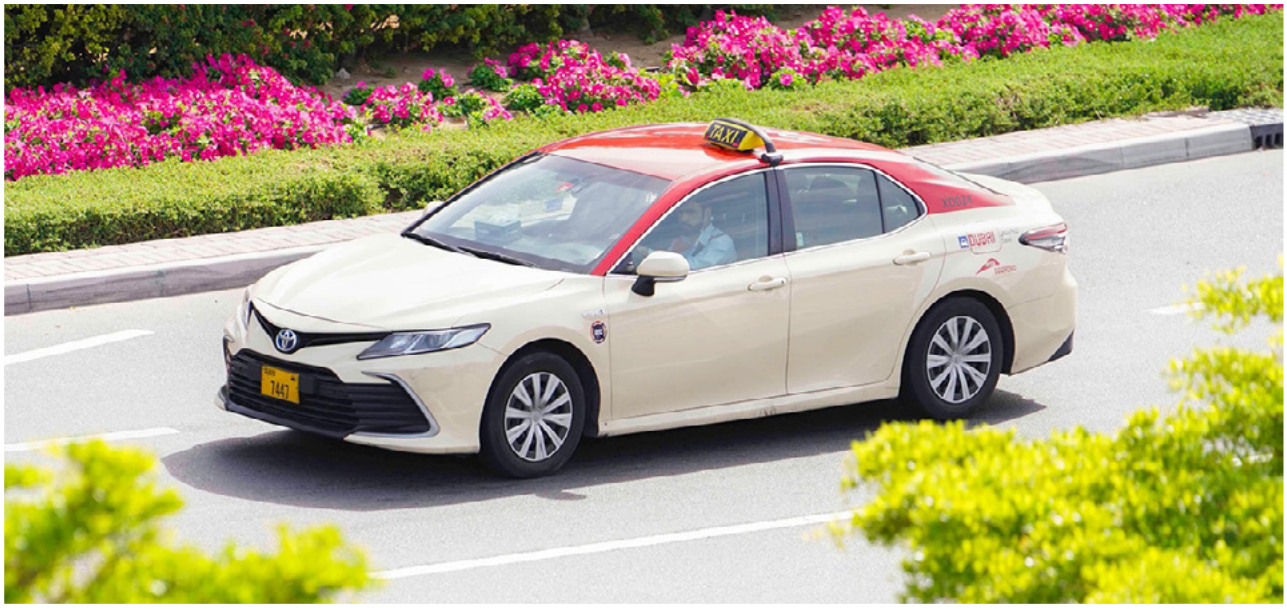
The acquisition increased the group's market share in Dubai from 47% to approximately 59%, while establishing a presence in Abu Dhabi with an estimated 12% market share.

The combined fleet now exceeds 9,500 vehicles.
The company also announced that approximately 30% of the National Taxi integration process had been completed, generating operational savings of AED 3.9 million during the third quarter.

Gradual Demand Recovery Amid Continued Pressure

Mansoor Al Falasi, CEO of Dubai Taxi Company, said in statements published on November 11 that demand for the company's mobility services had begun recovering gradually, supported by aviation activity and the return of major exhibitions and events in Dubai.

He added that October delivered encouraging performance and that preliminary indicators for the fourth



quarter were positive, while the company remained focused on cost control and improving profit margins.

Company data showed that the year-on-year decline in taxi and limousine trips, excluding the newly acquired business, narrowed from 7.8% in July to 1.9% in September, suggesting that demand was approaching the levels recorded a year earlier.

Gradual Debt Repayment Planned for 2027

Dubai Taxi's net debt rose to approximately AED 2 billion at the end of September 2026, compared with AED 930.3 million a year earlier, largely reflecting financing associated with the National Taxi acquisition.

Al Falasi explained that the company plans to begin gradually repaying its debt from early 2027, in coordination with its financing bank.

Dubai Taxi also intends to maintain its dividend policy of distributing at least 85% of annual net profit to shareholders.

Al Rehla Perspective | Tourism Mobility Between Fleet Expansion and Profitability Pressures

Dubai Taxi's financial results highlight the importance of mobility services within the operational infrastructure of a major tourism destination such as Dubai, which accommodates substantial international visitor traffic and hosts exhibitions and events throughout the year.

The group's expansion through acquisition provides greater operational capacity. However, a larger fleet and higher market share do not necessarily translate immediately into improved service quality or shorter passenger waiting times.

The results also reveal an important financial contrast: revenue growth accompanied by declining profits and increased financing costs.

Assessing the expansion's impact on tourism mobility will therefore require monitoring actual trip volumes, vehicle utilization rates, operating expenses and service standards, rather than relying solely on fleet size or market share indicators.



"Demand for the company's services has begun to recover gradually, supported by increased aviation activity and the return of major exhibitions and events in the emirate. October performance was strong, and early indicators for the fourth quarter are encouraging, while the company continues to focus on cost control and improving profit margins."

Mansoor Al Falasi
CEO of Dubai Taxi Company

‘Tasmania Is Not Really for Tourists’: Australian Campaign Unveils 5 Trails Featuring Over 200 Experiences



Tourism Tasmania targets travellers seeking slower, crowd-free holidays, as research reveals that 75% of Australians prefer to describe themselves as “travellers” rather than “tourists”.

Hobart – Australia | Al Rehla

Tourism Tasmania launched an unconventional promotional campaign on Thursday, November 12, 2026, under the slogan “Not Really For Tourists”, targeting travellers seeking authentic, peaceful experiences away from crowded attractions and tightly packed holiday itineraries.

The campaign forms part of the state’s Come Down For Air tourism marketing platform, introduced in 2019, and primarily targets Australia’s domestic travel market until March 31, 2027, through television, digital, cinema and social media advertising.

Five Tourism Trails Featuring Over 200 Experiences

Beyond its advertising message, Tourism Tasmania has introduced five flexible travel itineraries known as De-Tourist Trails, featuring more than 200 attractions, experiences and accommodation options across the island.

The initiative includes four regional trails and a fifth route extending across Tasmania, encouraging visitors to explore lesser-known destinations and engage with local communities beyond established tourism hotspots.

The trails allow travellers to select experiences based on their individual interests rather than follow fixed sightseeing schedules.

A Campaign That Pokes Fun at Tourist Queues

The campaign uses humour to challenge familiar modern travel habits, including waiting in long queues for products made famous on social media and attempting to visit as many attractions as possible within a limited time.

Its main promotional film features a man joining an enormous queue for a world-famous pastry, only to discover that the line stretches across the ocean to Tasmania, where he eventually abandons it in search of a different travel experience.

Tourism Tasmania CEO Sarah Kingston



Clark explained that the campaign is not intended to discourage tourists, but rather to encourage visitors to slow down and develop a deeper connection with the destinations they explore.

75% Prefer Being Called 'Travellers'

The campaign draws on research conducted by Decibel Research, which found that 75% of Australians prefer describing themselves as "travellers" rather than "tourists".

The study also revealed that 82% would rather enjoy fewer, more meaningful experiences than fill their itineraries with numerous activities.

Meanwhile, 86% believe that certain traditional tourist behaviours can negatively affect their holiday experience.

Al Rehla Perspective | A Different Approach to Distributing Tourism Demand

The campaign's significance lies in connecting an unconventional marketing message with a practical tourism offering through five trails designed to encourage visitors to explore beyond the island's best-known attractions.

This approach provides a potential model for nature-based and rural destinations seeking to distribute visitor flows across wider geographical areas while increasing opportunities for local businesses and communities. According to the Tasmanian Government, visitors spend approximately AUD 3.6 billion annually in the state, highlighting the tourism sector's economic importance.

However, the campaign's actual success will need to be assessed through measurable changes in bookings, visitor movements and spending across the regions covered by the new trails, rather than relying solely on advertising reach and engagement figures.



"The message is not about rejecting tourists, but about encouraging them to travel at a slower pace and engage more deeply with the destinations they visit."

Sarah Kingston Clark
CEO of Tourism Tasmania

World Ski Awards 2026 Reveals the World's Best Ski Resorts, Hotels and Travel Companies



France claims the title of World's Best Ski Resort, Switzerland dominates hotel and chalet categories, and Ski Dubai leads indoor ski resorts as winners are recognized across 25 markets.

Dubai – UAE | Al Rehla

The World Ski Awards has announced the winners of its 14th annual edition for 2026, recognizing leading ski resorts, hotels, chalets, tour operators and transport providers across the global winter tourism industry.

Announced on November 10, 2026, the results include international and national awards spanning 25 tourism markets, highlighting the diversity of winter sports experiences across Europe, Asia, the Americas and Oceania.

The winners were selected through a voting process involving ski industry professionals, travellers and consumers of winter tourism services.

France and Switzerland Lead the Global Awards

France's Val Thorens secured the title of World's Best Ski Resort 2026, while Switzerland's LAAX was named World's Best Freestyle Resort.

In the accommodation categories, Switzerland's W Verbier won World's Best Ski Hotel, while Grand Hotel Belvedere received the award for World's Best New Ski Hotel.

Switzerland's rocksresort was recognized as World's Best Green Ski Hotel, while France's Pashmina Le Refuge claimed the title of World's Best Ski Boutique Hotel.

The chalet categories also featured Swiss properties, with Chalet Zermatt Peak named World's Best Ski Chalet and Chez Madeleine receiving the award for World's Best New Ski Chalet.

Ski Dubai Named World's Best Indoor Ski Resort

The United Arab Emirates secured a place among the global winners, with Ski Dubai, located inside Mall of the Emirates, receiving the title of World's Best Indoor Ski Resort 2026.

The attraction offers skiing, snowboarding and other winter-themed activities throughout the year, independently of the seasonal weather conditions that determine operations at mountain resorts.

The award highlights the diversity

of the global ski tourism industry, ranging from natural mountain destinations operating during the winter season to indoor facilities welcoming visitors year-round.

Recognition for Ski Resort Groups and Operators

France's Compagnie des Alpes was named World's Best Ski Resort Group for the fifth consecutive year.

Austria's Bergbahn AG Kitzbühel received the award for World's Best Ski Resort Company, recognizing resort operations as a distinct category from individual ski destinations and accommodation providers.

Tour Operators and Transport Companies Among the Winners

The awards also recognized companies specializing in ski holiday planning and travel services.

Sunweb was named World's Best Ski Tour Operator, while Leo Trippi received the title of World's Best Ski Travel Agent.

In the transport category, SkyExpress won World's Best Ski Transfer Operator, while Canada's Northern Escape Heli-Skiing was recognized as World's Best Heli-Ski Operator.

Additional awards acknowledged specialist ski tour operators and travel agencies serving individual destinations, including Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland, Japan, Canada and the United States.

National Winners Across Four Continents

Alongside the global categories, World Ski Awards announced national winners across several established and emerging ski tourism markets.

In Europe, Austria's Kitzbühel, Andorra's Grandvalira, Bulgaria's Bansko and Italy's 3 Zinnen Dolomites were recognized as the best ski resorts in their respective countries.

In Asia and Oceania, winners included APPI Kogen in Japan, Songhua Lake in China and Thredbo in Australia.

Across the Americas, the list featured Deer Valley in the United States, Lake Louise in Canada and Nevados de Chillán in Chile.

The geographical distribution of winners reflects the international reach of ski tourism, with destinations competing across different climates, landscapes and visitor segments.

Industry and Consumer Voting Determines the Winners Established in 2013, World Ski Awards recognizes excellence across the global ski tourism sector through votes cast by industry professionals and the public.

The nominee receiving the highest number of votes in each category is declared the winner.

Sion Rapson, Managing Director of World Ski Awards, said the 2026 results reflect the industry's vitality and the continuing evolution of its tourism products, with growing emphasis on sustainability, innovation and luxury experiences.

Al Rehla Perspective | A Tourism Industry Beyond Mountain Resorts

The 2026 World Ski Awards results highlight the expanding ecosystem of winter tourism, which now extends far beyond mountain ski resorts to include hotels, chalets, resort management groups, specialist tour operators and transport services.

The diversity of winners also reflects different patterns of traveller demand.

Some visitors prioritize extensive ski areas and advanced slopes, while others seek luxury accommodation, family-friendly experiences or indoor winter attractions.

Separate award categories for sustainability, freestyle skiing and new properties further illustrate the range of tourism products competing for international visitors.

For travellers, the awards provide a useful starting point for identifying established destinations and specialist brands. However, they should not replace comparisons of prices, suitability for different skiing abilities, operating seasons and weather conditions.

For tourism and hospitality companies, the results underline the importance of integrating accommodation, transport, travel planning and skiing experiences to create comprehensive winter holiday products.

Middle East Hotel Development Pipeline Hits Record High with 771 Projects and 189,000 Rooms



Project numbers rise 17% year-on-year as Saudi Arabia accounts for 52% of the regional pipeline and Egypt records 47% growth, while more than half of all projects have yet to enter the construction phase.

Middle East – Al Rehla

The Middle East's hotel development pipeline reached a record high at the end of the third quarter of 2026, with 771 projects comprising 188,960 rooms, representing year-on-year increases of 17% in project numbers and 15% in room counts, according to the latest report from Lodging Econometrics.

The figures reflect the continued expansion of planned hotel investment across the region, while also highlighting a significant gap between projects already under construction and those still awaiting implementation.

329 Hotel Projects Under Construction

According to the report, 329 projects comprising 82,594 rooms are currently under construction, representing 43% of the total project pipeline and 44% of planned rooms.

A further 184 projects, accounting for 53,675 rooms, are scheduled to begin construction within the next 12 months.

Meanwhile, 258 projects with a combined 52,691 rooms remain in the early planning stage.

Projects in early planning recorded annual growth of 55% in project numbers and 84% in room counts, indicating an expanding pool of potential future developments.

However, these figures do not guarantee that every project will proceed to construction or open according to its anticipated schedule.

Saudi Arabia Leads the Region as Egypt Records Rapid Growth

Saudi Arabia maintained its dominant position in the Middle East hotel development market, with 401 projects comprising 109,320 rooms.

The Kingdom accounted for 52% of all projects and 58% of planned rooms across the region, recording annual growth of 15% in project numbers and 16% in room counts.

Egypt ranked second with 192 projects and 40,661 rooms, posting a 47% year-on-year increase in project numbers and 42% growth in rooms.

The United Arab Emirates followed in third place with 111 projects and 26,800 rooms.

Oman recorded 27 projects comprising 4,618 rooms, while Iraq had 10 projects totaling 2,331 rooms.

Riyadh Leads by Project Numbers, While Makkah Stands Out for Project Size

At the city level, Riyadh topped the regional rankings with 114 projects and 23,049 rooms.

Cairo followed with 71 projects and 14,663 rooms, while Dubai ranked third with 65 projects and 15,067 rooms.

Jeddah recorded 63 projects comprising 14,384 rooms.

Makkah, meanwhile, had 34 projects totaling 22,109 rooms, highlighting the comparatively large average size of planned hotel developments in the city.

Together, these five cities accounted for 347 projects and 89,281 rooms, representing approximately 45% of the regional project pipeline and 47% of planned rooms.

Luxury Hotels Account for 213 Projects

The report identified 213 luxury hotel projects comprising 47,150 rooms, highlighting the significance of high-end hospitality development across the region.

The upscale segment accounted for 197 projects and 55,307 rooms, while the upper-upscale category included 191 projects comprising 45,677 rooms.

These figures demonstrate the substantial concentration of planned hotel development within premium accommodation segments.

During the third quarter alone, 66 new projects totaling 14,841 rooms were announced.

The region also recorded 95 renovation and brand conversion projects involving 26,052 rooms, reflecting continued investment in repositioning existing hospitality properties alongside new construction.

64 Hotel Openings Expected by the End of 2026

During the first nine months of 2026, 36 new hotels comprising 6,319 rooms opened across the Middle East.

Lodging Econometrics forecasts a further 28 hotel openings with 4,091 rooms during the final quarter, bringing the projected full-year total to 64 hotels and 10,410 rooms.

Looking ahead, the firm expects 94 hotels comprising 14,716 rooms to open in 2027.

In 2028, openings are projected to reach 96 hotels with a combined 22,101 rooms, indicating a potentially larger volume of new accommodation supply entering the market.

Al Rehla Perspective | The Gap Between Development Plans and Actual Hotel Supply

The record-breaking development figures illustrate the scale of planned hospitality expansion across the Middle East. However, they should not be interpreted as accommodation inventory already available for booking or as guaranteed future revenue for hotel operators.

Fewer than half of the projects identified in the report have entered the construction phase, while the majority remain in preparation or planning.

This distinction highlights the importance of monitoring construction starts, project completion rates and actual hotel openings, alongside tourism demand, occupancy levels and average daily room rates in individual markets.

Saudi Arabia's dominance in pipeline size and Egypt's rapid growth also demonstrate the different trajectories of hotel development across the region.

Nevertheless, the ultimate economic impact will depend on each market's capacity to absorb additional rooms while maintaining sustainable operating performance and investment returns.

For investors and hotel operators, the most important indicator will not simply be the number of announced developments, but how many rooms actually reach the market, when they become operational and which hotel segments they serve.

Ajloun Castle Celebrates Olive Harvest Season as 80 Families Showcase Jordan's Rural Heritage



The 12th Ajloun Olive Festival and 29th Handicrafts and Local Products Exhibition bring together traditional crafts, agricultural products and rural shopping experiences at one of Jordan's most prominent historic landmarks.

Ajloun – Jordan | Al Rehla

The 12th Ajloun Olive Festival opened on Thursday, November 12, 2026, in the courtyard of historic Ajloun Castle in northern Jordan, alongside the 29th Handicrafts and Rural Products Exhibition, bringing together approximately 80 producing families, local farmers, artisans and community associations.

The three-day festival offers visitors an experience combining a visit to one of Jordan's most significant historical landmarks with an opportunity to discover the agricultural products and traditional crafts for which Ajloun Governorate is renowned, particularly olive oil and olive-based products.

Olive Oil at the Heart of the Experience

The festival features stalls showcasing locally produced olive oil and olive products, alongside traditional rural foods, handmade crafts and heritage items reflecting the region's longstanding agricultural and artisanal traditions.

Festival coordinator Munther Al-Zghoul said the event enables producing families and farmers to showcase their products and engage directly with visitors, providing a marketing opportunity for small businesses and local producers.

The festival is organized through cooperation between Ajloun Heritage and Culture House, the Ajloun Tourism Directorate, and several local institutions and community associations.

A Festival at a Historic Castle

Hosting the event in the courtyard of Ajloun Castle adds a distinctive tourism dimension, allowing visitors to explore the region's agricultural heritage while discovering the 12th-century Ayyubid fortress.

Ajloun Castle is one of northern Jordan's most important historical attractions, distinguished by its elevated location overlooking the mountainous landscape and surrounding forests.

Firas Al-Khattatbeh, Director of Ajloun Tourism, emphasized that holding the festival at the historic site strengthens the connection between local products and the governorate's cultural and tourism identity.

Turkish Airlines Launches Flights to Chengdu, Gateway to Western China



Three weekly flights via Istanbul connect travellers to a city renowned for Sichuan cuisine and giant panda encounters.

Ankara – Türkiye | Al Rehla

Fourth Chinese Destination on the Airline's Network

Turkish Airlines launched scheduled flights to Chengdu on 11 November, making the city its fourth destination in mainland China, after Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. The new route gives travellers from the region another option for reaching western China via Istanbul aboard Türkiye's national carrier.

Three Weekly Flights to Tianfu International Airport

The airline operates flights between Istanbul and Chengdu Tianfu International Airport on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays under flight number TK226. Return flights operate on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays under flight number TK227. The service is operated by Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft, with a direct flight time of approximately eight and a half hours.

Murat Şeker, Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee of Turkish Airlines, said the company was "continuing to strengthen its flight network in China", expressing his belief that the new route would support trade, cultural and tourism ties between Türkiye and China.

Sichuan Cuisine and the Home of Giant Pandas

Chengdu is the capital of Sichuan Province and is known for its local cuisine, which helped earn the city a place in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network in the field of gastronomy. Visitors can combine the experience of sampling spicy dishes at the city's restaurants and traditional markets with a visit to the Giant Panda Breeding Research Base, which brings together animal conservation, environmental awareness and tourism.

What Arab Travellers Need to Know

Passengers arriving on this route land at Tianfu International Airport, from where public transport connections to the city centre are available. Arab travellers can use Istanbul as a transit hub to reach Chengdu through the airline's network, while checking visa requirements and connecting flight schedules according to their nationality and itinerary.

The airline had previously announced promotional fares starting at $540 for a round trip. However, the booking deadline for the offer was 11 November, so travellers should check current fares through the airline's official channels.

Dubai Aerospace Enterprise Revenue Rises 13.2% to $1.45 Billion as Fleet Reaches 983 Aircraft



A $9 billion acquisition significantly expands the company's fleet, with plans to manage approximately 1,300 aircraft following the completion of additional management mandates.

Dubai – UAE | Al Rehla

Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE) reported a 13.2% increase in revenue to $1.4469 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2026, compared with $1.2777 billion during the same period last year, supported by the expansion of its aircraft leasing business and the completion of its $9 billion acquisition of Macquarie AirFinance.

According to financial results released on November 10, 2026, profit before tax and exceptional items increased by 8.8% to $370.7 million, compared with $340.8 million a year earlier.

Acquisition Adds 290 Aircraft to the Fleet

DAE completed its acquisition of Macquarie AirFinance at the end of July 2026, adding 290 aircraft to its portfolio, including 272 owned aircraft and 18 managed aircraft.

The company's total fleet of owned, managed and committed aircraft reached 983, while its owned fleet increased to 716 aircraft.

Firoz Tarapore, Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Aerospace Enterprise, said the company's fleet had doubled over the past 24 months, making DAE the world's second-largest aircraft lessor by number of owned aircraft.

He added that the completion of previously announced management mandates with Blackstone and Neuberger could increase the combined portfolio of owned, managed, committed and mandated aircraft to approximately 1,300.

195 Leasing Agreements as Operating Cash Flow Declines

During the first nine months of 2026, DAE signed 195 aircraft leasing agreements, extensions and amendments, while selling 58 aircraft.

Despite revenue growth, operating cash flow declined to $1.088 billion from $1.127 billion a year earlier, while the adjusted pre-tax profit margin narrowed from 26.7% to 25.6%.



Total assets increased to $26.83 billion at the end of September, compared with $16.55 billion at the end of December 2025.

Net loans and borrowings stood at $16.75 billion, while available liquidity reached approximately $5.60 billion.

Serving More Than 200 Airlines Worldwide

DAE operates through two principal divisions: DAE Capital, which specializes in aircraft leasing, and DAE Engineering, which provides aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul services.

The group serves more than 200 airlines across over 80 countries.

During the reporting period, its engineering division recorded approximately 900,000 man-hours and completed more than 170 aircraft maintenance checks.

The company also announced a sale-and-leaseback agreement involving four Boeing 777F freighter aircraft with Saudi Arabian Airlines.

Tarapore noted that engineering revenue remained below expectations due to continued airspace closures, although the company maintained a positive outlook for the upcoming Northern Hemisphere winter season.

Al Rehla Perspective | What Does the Expansion of Aircraft Leasing Companies Mean for Airlines?

DAE's financial results highlight the growing role of aircraft leasing companies in financing airline fleets and providing operational flexibility without requiring carriers to purchase every aircraft outright.

The expansion of DAE's portfolio strengthens its ability to serve airlines across multiple markets. However, a larger aircraft portfolio does not necessarily translate immediately into additional flights or greater passenger capacity.

The nine-month results also underline the importance of distinguishing revenue growth generated through acquisitions from underlying operational improvements, particularly when adjusted profit margins and operating cash flow are declining.

Completing the integration of Macquarie AirFinance, managing financing obligations and converting fleet expansion into sustainable operating returns will be among the key indicators to monitor in the coming reporting periods.



"The fleet has doubled in size over the past 24 months, making the company the world's second-largest aircraft lessor by number of owned aircraft."

Firoz Tarapore
CEO of Dubai Aerospace Enterprise

Editor-in-Chief: Mahmoud Al-Jishi
Managing Editor: Safaa Makki
UAE Bureau Chief: Dr. Saleh Al-Makhdoum
Saudi Arabia Bureau Chief: Abdullah Hassan
Egypt Bureau Chief: Dr. Ramadan Youssef
Tunisia Bureau Chief: Leila Bint Atiyat Allah
Syria Bureau Chief: Waleed Adb-Ulkarim
For news submissions: news@seyyaha.com
For contact and advertising: +973 3701 4477

Cityscape Bahrain | 25 YEARS

24-28 November 2026
Exhibition World Bahrain

YOUR GATEWAY TO
BAHRAIN &
THE GCC

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

