

## WHV – International Camp for Voluntary Work

### *Qal'at al-Bahrain – Ancient Harbour and Capital of Dilmun, Bahrain*

◆ Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List since 2005

10/11/2016 – 20/11/2016



Qal'at al-Bahrain is a typical tell – an artificial mound created by many successive layers of human occupation. The strata of the 300 × 600 m tell testify to continuous human presence from about 2300 BC to the 16th century AD. About 25% of the site has been excavated, revealing structures of different types: residential, public, commercial, religious and military. They testify



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to the importance of the site, a trading port, over the centuries. On the top of the 12 m mound there is the impressive Portuguese fort, which gave the whole site its name, qal'a (fort). The site was the capital of the Dilmun, one of the most important ancient civilizations of the region. It contains the richest remains inventoried of this civilization, which was hitherto only known from written Sumerian references.

**Project objectives:** The project aims to raise awareness among the local young population about the importance of heritage conservation, by focusing on the historical and cultural value of the Qal'a Fort. It also aims to encourage the local community to be involved in the preservation of the site and its promotion.

**Project activities:** The volunteers will take part in a site visit to obtain in-depth information concerning the site. Then they will organise an open seminar with local citizens, representatives of non-governmental organisations and local students in order to share their knowledge and sensitise them to the preservation of the site. The volunteers will conduct several awareness raising events such as media campaign and exhibition of documentary images on the past, present and future of the site. The volunteers will also assist the specialists in the site maintenance processes such as the cleaning and recording the excavated objects.

**Partners:** Bahrain Authority for Culture & Antiquities, Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage, and Heritage and historical societies.

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