

WHV – Al Zubarah

Al Zubarah Archaeological Site, Qatar

◆ Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List since 2013

05/11/2016 – 25/11/2016



The walled coastal town of Al Zubarah in the Gulf flourished as a pearling and trading centre in the late 18th century and early 19th centuries, before it was destroyed in 1811 and abandoned in the early 1900s. A layer of sand blown from the desert has protected the remains of the site's palaces, mosques, streets, courtyard houses, and fishermen's huts; its harbor and double



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defensive walls, a canal, walls, and cemeteries. Excavation has only taken place over a small part of the site, which offers an outstanding testimony to an urban trading and pearl-diving tradition which sustained the region's major coastal towns and led to the development of small independent states that flourished outside the control of the Ottoman, European, and Persian empires and eventually led to the emergence of modern day Gulf States.

Project objectives: The project aims at contributing to the archeological studies and researches, and promoting the importance of preservation of the architectural remains in the excavated areas of the property. It also aims to take action for the conservation of Al-Zubarah fort which is part of the property and which needs conservation measures to assure its structural resiliency and aesthetic value particularly against the harsh desert and coastal conditions. Furthermore, it has the objective of giving visibility and better understanding of Qatar's culture and heritage to the volunteers and local communities.

Project activities: The volunteers will be involved in conservation activities at Al Zubarah fort and other parts of the property applying specific conservation techniques for architectural remains, such as how to apply and remove plaster. The project includes also the participation in the construction of a viewing platform in the northwest tower of the fort be a great viewpoint for visitors to get an aerial view of the archaeological site nearby. The volunteers will also learn how to write documentation and conservation reports about the site. They will also take part in



raising awareness events such as storytelling, lecture and competitions involving the local community.

Partners: Qatar Museums, Maersk Oil, and UCL-Q.