

WHV - International Camp for Voluntary Work

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

Cultural property inscribed on the List of
World Heritage since 2005

17/11/2017 –
27/11/2017



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 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 at enhancing the role of Bahrain Fort as one of the most important historical places in the region. Further objectives are to educate the local population on the importance of historical heritage and its protection. It also aims at encouraging young people from all over the world to visit the site through the development of youth programmes.

Project activities:

The volunteers will be involved in different hands-on activities, such as planting trees and flowers, a cleaning campaign at the historical site and birdwatching. With the support of specialists, the volunteers will participate in maintenance works such as excavating, cleaning and recording artifacts from the site. They will also take part in a seminar on the history of the site and its cultural role in the region.

Partners:

Bahrain Authority for Culture & Antiquities, Ministry of Social Development, Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage

GWS

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