

WHV – Al-Ahsa Deserves it

Al-Ahsa Oasis, an Evolving Cultural Landscape, Saudi Arabia

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the
World Heritage List (2018)

15 – 30 November 2025

THE SITE - In the eastern Arabian Peninsula, the Al-Ahsa Oasis is a serial property comprising gardens, canals, springs, wells and a drainage lake, as well as historical buildings, urban fabric and archaeological sites. They represent traces of continued human settlement in the Gulf region from the Neolithic to the present, as can be seen from remaining historic fortresses, mosques, wells, canals and other water management systems. With its 2.5 million date palms, it is the largest oasis in the world.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims at contributing to the conservation and preservation of the oasis's natural landscape. It also focuses on training and empowering youth by developing their skills in irrigation and agriculture, drawing on both local and international expertise. Additionally, the project seeks to rejuvenate the oasis by cleaning and raising awareness of the agricultural irrigation canals while supporting the local community in preserving the site's Outstanding Universal Value.

ACTIVITIES - The project will include both awareness-raising and hands-on activities. Awareness-raising activities will primarily involve public awareness campaigns using social media, local media outreach, and interactive community events to showcase Al-Ahsa's heritage and conservation needs. Hands-on activities will focus on site preservation needs, such as cleaning and preserving irrigation canals and rehabilitating agricultural water systems. The volunteers will be involved in removing debris and clearing vegetation from irrigation canals and inspecting and cleaning water management systems.

PARTNERS – Saudi Red Crescent Authority; Al-Ahsa Municipality; Al-Ahsa Development Authority (AHDA); Saudi Irrigation Organization; King Faisal University.

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<https://whc.unesco.org/en/whvolunteers>