

JEDDAH THRIVES AS SAUDI RESORT CITY



ROCHELLE LASH
Hotel Intel

The breezy, picturesque Corniche runs for 30 kilometres along a magnificent seashore that is lined with extravagant condos and resort hotels.

Is it Miami Beach? Or perhaps Santa Monica? Maybe Cannes on the French Riviera?

It's none of the above. This is Jeddah, a fascinating city of nearly five million located on the hot, sunny coast of the Red Sea in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. If you look beyond the swaying palm trees, the promenade and the pier, you'll notice the differences that make this a resort city, Saudi style.

Clothing stands out. You are not likely to see short shorts and camisoles. Visitors usually wear loose, covered-up attire, respecting Muslim values of modest clothing. Many locals are cloaked head-to-toe in long, traditional robes. It's usually white thobe for men and black abaya for women, but with Barbie playing at Jeddah's AMC's cinema, there is a blooming of bright pink.

Along Jeddah's waterfront, minarets ring out five times daily for Islamic worship and everyone stops picnicking and playing soccer to grab a prayer mat from a beachside bin. For refreshments, the fast-food kiosks dish out turkey hotdogs — Muslims do not eat pork — and “a cold one” refers to iced coffee, not beer, in a country that does not serve alcohol.

In the news: Saudi Arabia's me-



The Corniche promenade of the resort city of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, borders the Red Sea. The Moon Sculpture obelisk is at centre and the white Al Jazeera Waterfront Mosque is at rear. SAUDI ARABIA MINISTRY OF TOURISM

dia coverage internationally has been about human rights and petro power, but the once-closed kingdom also is increasingly in the spotlight for its meteoric progress in entertainment, architecture and especially tourism. Beefing up its connection to Canada, Saudia, the national airline, will fly Boeing 787 Dreamliners six times weekly between Jeddah and Toronto, starting on Dec. 2.

“The world in the 1920s came to Saudi for oil, now the world will come in the 2020s for tourism. Tourism is the new oil,” Saudi Tourism Authority CEO Fahd Hamidaddin told a conference recently.

The buzz has been building for about a decade. In 2023, a documentary about The Line, a futuristic megacity being built in the northwest, aired on the Discovery Channel and YouTube.

IF YOU GO

Saudi tourism: visitsaudi.com
Saudia flights: saudia.com
World Travel & Tourism Council: wttc.org

In 2022, CN Traveler (Condé Nast) dished about a cruise on the Red Sea and Bloomberg News announced: “Saudi Arabia's Booming and This Time It Isn't Only About Oil.” In 2019, the Wall Street Journal heralded the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hegra.

What was I doing there? I attended a major conference of the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) in the country's capital, Riyadh, and took a side jaunt to Jeddah for a look at leisure. **Jeddah:** Balancing Islamic prin-

ciples and modern mores, Saudi Arabia is a land of contrasts. You'll find old-school desert competitions like falconry and camel racing as well as the glamorous, high-octane Saudi Arabian Grand Prix Formula 1. LIV Golf almost dominates the pro tour, in part due to CEO Greg Norman and competitors Phil Mickelson and Sergio Garcia.

Visitors to Jeddah include pilgrims heading for Mecca and party people going to the annual International Red Sea Film Festival, which has screened LGBTQ+ movies and welcomed Oliver Stone, Guy Ritchie, Spike Lee, Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Sharon Stone. The next event will be in November and December.

Originally developed as a fishing village and a commercial seaport, Jeddah has morphed

into a resort town. Families flock here for the seaside air and the made-for-kids attractions like the Al Shallal Theme Park, the Fakieh Aquarium and the Children's Water Park.

Some only-in-Jeddah attractions include the impressive Al Rahma mosque — a.k.a. the Floating Mosque, — the Al Jazeera Waterfront Mosque, and Al Balad, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of vintage houses.

Hotels: Jeddah has 'em all, including Ritz-Carlton, Radisson Blu, Rosewood, Shangri-La, InterContinental and the upcoming Edition (an upscale Marriott brand), which will be a chic getaway facing the Jeddah Yacht Club & Marina and the Formula One racetrack. A new Four Seasons probably will anchor the residential commercial complex in the upcoming Jeddah Tower, poised to become the world's tallest structure at more than 1,000 m high.

If you're looking forward to swimming in a hot climate, note that many hotels with pools, such as the Ritz-Carlton Jeddah, reserve this amenity for men, or split the hours between men and women. Some establishments have two pools and often the women's pools are indoors for privacy.

The Venue Jeddah Corniche is a popular family hotel, with buffet meals and a seafood night, as well as Mediterranean, Arabic and Asian food. The Venue has separate spas and separate pools for women (indoors) and men (outdoors).

The neighbouring Jeddah Hilton and Waldorf Astoria Jeddah — Qasr Al Sharq (Palace of the East) share an outdoor pool for men and women have an indoor pool at the Waldorf Astoria Spa. rochellelash@gmail.com

TV TIMES TONIGHT - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

	B	W	E	V	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	MOVIES	SPORTS	TALK	
2	SRC	10	4	4	2	En direct de l'univers (N)	Comptine mortelle (N)	Miss Scarlet, détective privée (N)	Le téléjournal (N)	Doc humanité				
3	CBS	282	21	21	87	Channel 3 News (N)	InvestigateTV (N)	NCIS: Hawai'i	48 Hours (N)	48 Hours (N)				
5	NBC	280	23	18	84	Big Ten Countdown	College Football Michigan at Michigan State (N)							
6	CBC	206	13	13	6	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at Tampa Bay Lightning (N)						NHL Hockey		
8	CJOH	229	-	-	10	*** Avengers: Endgame ('19, Act) Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr.. (P)								
9	MATV	-	9	9	9	À l'heure du	Horizon & culture	Endorphine	La tournée	Fierté d'ici	Stagiaire d'un jour	Paroles d'auteurs	LeZarts Montréal	
10	TVA	115	7	7	4	6:30 ★ Dolittle ('20) Antonio Banderas, Robert Downey Jr.. (P)	25	*** L'homme invisible ('20, Hor) Oliver Jackson-Cohen, Elisabeth Moss. (P)	55	TVA Nouvelles (N)				
12	TV	70	11	11	7	*** Avengers: Endgame ('19, Act) Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr.. (P)								
17	TQc	138	8	8	3	James Herriot	Pour une fois (N)	Belle et Bum (N)	05	** Hannibal ('01) Anthony Hopkins.				
22	ABC	281	22	22	86	Coll. Football (N)	College Football Duke at Florida State (N)							
33	PBS	-	57	-	88	My Hero	Upstart Crow	Sister Boniface Mysteries	Doc Martin	Marriage				
35	Noovo	114	5	5	5	6:30 Kaamelott: premier volet ('21, Com) Lionnel Astier, Alexandre Astier. (P)	05	** La cité des ténèbres: la coupe mortelle ('13) Lily Collins. (P)						
44	FOX	283	46	36	85	4:00 College Football Update	College Football Utah at USC (N)							
46	GBL	234	3	3	8	The New Reality (N)	Crime Beat (N)	Robyn Hood	Departure	48 Hours (N)				
57	PBS	-	24	40	89	Mountain Lake	New York Now	Midsomer Murders	Agatha Christie's Poirot	Little Bird				
62	CITY	207	14	14	14	NHL Hockey Washington Capitals at Montreal Canadiens (N)						Hudson & Rex		
A&E	615	39	-	90		The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48					
AMC	293	-	-	209		** Halloween H20: 20 Years Later ('98, Hor) Adam Arkin, Jamie Lee Curtis.	*	Halloween: Resurrection ('02, Hor) Brad Loree, Jamie Lee Curtis.						
APTN	23	10	58	16		The Power Was With Us: Idle No More								
CBCNN	502	48	48	18		The Fifth Estate	The Nature of Things The Musical Animal	CBC News Network	Marketplace	The Nature of Things The Musical Animal				
CD	129	20	20	36		Tout sauf la maison	L'histoire extraord	Biographies WWE Wrestlemania 1 (N)		** Tremors ('90) Kevin Bacon. (P)				
CNN	500	36	27	81		CNN Newsroom With Jim Acosta (N)	The Whole Story With Anderson Cooper	CNN Special Program	CNN Special Program					
CRVM1	300	-	-	211	10	** DC League of Super-Pets ('22, Ani) Voices of Kevin Hart, Dwayne Johnson.	*	The Machine ('23, Com) Mark Hamill. (P)						
CTVDR	30	34	-	92		Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D.					
CTVSc	90	32	-	101	6:45	** Life ('17, Sci-Fi) Rebecca Ferguson, Jake Gyllenhaal.	**	It: Chapter Two ('19, Hor) James McAvoy, Jessica Chastain.						
CV	135	44	35	44		Flip ultra payant	Mariage à l'aveugle	La famille est	Bienvenue chez les Derrico					
DISC	636	37	37	102		Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds					
FAM	556	-	-	64		Goosebumps	Goosebumps	*** Ghostbusters ('84, Com) Dan Aykroyd, Bill Murray.	Goosebumps	Goosebumps				
HBO1	306	-	-	215	15	Summer With Hope ('22, Dra) Mahdi Ghorbani, Leili Rashidi.	Flag Means	Los Espookys	05	Los Espookys	35	Los Espookys		
HGTV	83	29	-	97		Good Bones	No Demo Reno	No Demo Reno	No Demo Reno					
HIST	84	47	-	107		NCIS: Los Angeles	NCIS: Los Angeles	S.W.A.T.	S.W.A.T.					
MAX	142	48	32	32	6:00	Une infirmière dangereuse ('14)	**	Lui c'est moi ('11, Com) Jason Bateman, Ryan Reynolds.	**	Le dernier jour de ma vie ('17)				
MUCH	570	35	-	112		** The Curse of La Llorona ('19, Hor) Roman Christou, Linda Cardellini.	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons				
OWN	526	-	-	94		The Oprah Winfrey Show	The Oprah Winfrey Show	Ready to Love (N)	Love & Marriage: Huntsville					
PEACH	294	-	-	218	6:30	College Football Virginia at North Carolina (N)			Atlanta News First Saturday at 10pm (N)					
RDI	126	19	19	19	6:30	Découverte (N)	Le national (N)	Report. Laissez-nous raconter: la réparation	Le téléjournal (N)	La facture (N)	Le téléjournal (N)	Le national (N)		
RDS	123	33	33	25		Sports 30 (N)	Sport-liberté	Baseball MLB Phillies de Philadelphie c. Diamondbacks de l'Arizona (N)						
SC	73	205	205	205	15	** Kin ('18, Sci-Fi) Jack Reynor, Myles Truitt.	Force of Nature ('20, Act) Emile Hirsch, Mel Gibson. (P)	35	Pursuit ('22)					
SE	180	-	-	201		Cinéma	25	Jour de merde ('23, Com) Réal Bossé, Valerie Blais. (P)	*	La machine ('23, Com) Mark Hamill. (P)				
SHOW	616	40	-	105	6:00	*** Wonder Woman ('17, Act) Chris Pine, Gal Gadot.	**	Justice League ('17, Act) Henry Cavill, Ben Affleck.						
SLICE	27	-	-	99	6:00	*** EMMA. ('20, Rom) Johnny Flynn, Anya Taylor-Joy.	**	Greta ('18, Thril) Chloë Grace Moretz, Isabelle Huppert.						
SN1	418	-	-	184		NLCS in 30	MLB Central (N)	MLB Baseball Philadelphia Phillies at Arizona Diamondbacks (N)						
SNE	406	38	38	179		NHL Hockey Washington Capitals at Montreal Canadiens (N)						NHL Hockey		
STARZ1	304	55	-	216	10	*** Hail, Caesar! ('16, Com) George Clooney, Josh Brolin.	****	Pulp Fiction ('94, Cri) Samuel L. Jackson, John Travolta. (P)						
TCM	292	-	-	219	6:30	** Side Street ('50) Farley Granger.	***	The Long, Long Trailer ('54, Com) Desi Arnaz, Lucille Ball.	***	Lost in America ('85)				
TLC	521	27	39	91		90 Day Fiancé: The Other Way	Welcome to Plathville	Welcome to Plathville	Welcome to Plathville					
TLN	700	-	-	250		Cook Like an Italian Mexican	David Rocco's Dolce	David Rocco's	***	This Is the End ('13, Com)				
TOONE	85	49	-	57		Scooby-Doo! Moon Monster Madness ('15, Ani)	45	Transylvania	Batman: Animated	Superman: The	My Adventures with	Young Justice		
TOONF	87	45	34	53		Teen/15 Teen	Teen/45 Teen	American Dad	Les Simpson	Red Ketchup	American Dad!	Family Guy		
TSN2	401	-	-	187		College Football Ole Miss at Auburn (N)						College Football (N)		
TSN5	404	28	28	190	5:55	FI Racing	CFL Football Edmonton Elks at Winnipeg Blue Bombers (N)				SportsCentre (N)			
TV5	145	15	15	29		Lycée Toulouse Lautrec (N)	Embarquement Immédiat - Bienvenue en Corse avec Patrick Fiori (P)	15	30 ans d'humour (N)					
TVAS	193	-	-	23		Hockey LNH Capitals de Washington c. Canadiens de Montréal (N)	45	L'après-match LNH (N)	45	Dave Morissette				
TVO	22	-	-	71		Toughest Job (N)	55	Ontario Hubs	World's Most	50	Ontario Hubs	Picture My Face: The Story of Teenage Head	Beautiful Scars	
VISN	65	-	-	159	6:00	Endeavour	Sardari		Aikam	Journey of Healing	Waqt 4 U			
WGN	295	-	-	222	6:30	College Football Virginia at North Carolina (N)					WGN Weekend News at Nine (N)			
WSBK	296	-	-	223		Big Bang	Big Bang	*	Jack and Jill ('11, Com) Katie Holmes, Adam Sandler.	Two and a Half Men	Frasier: Inside			
YTV	25	-	-	65	6:00	** Hotel Transylvania ('12)	**	Hotel Transylvania 2 ('15, Ani) Voices of Andy Samberg, Adam Sandler.	The Hardy Boys					

B - Bell TV; W - Vidéotron West Montréal; E - Vidéotron East Montréal; V - Vidéotron Illico