

# 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											MOVIES	SPORTS	TALK			
	B	W	E	V	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30				
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	CTV	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								
48	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.											
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	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	Family Guy	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	F1 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