

Ras Al Jinz Scientific & Visitor Centre

An Introduction:



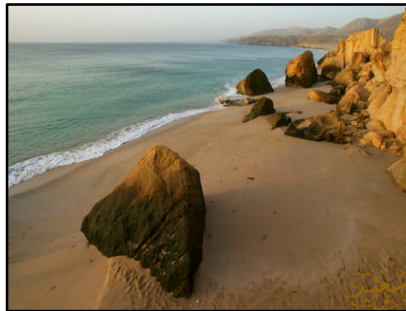
- Ras Al Jinz is part of a 45 km stretch of coastline that was declared a 'Reserve' by a Royal decree in 1996
- Ras Al Jinz Scientific & Visitor Centre is located near Ras Al Hadd town, 48 km from Sur and about 300 km from Muscat.
- It is a world renowned nesting area for Green Turtles (*Chelonia Mydas*), locally called Sul Hafah, Hamas or Shiree .
- Ras Al Jinz Scientific & Visitor Centre was started in 2008 with collaboration between Min. of Tourism and Min. of Environment in addition to a generous donation from Oman LNG company.
- Ras Al Jinz alone experiences over 12,000 turtles every year.
- It promotes awareness, organizes guided turtle tours, houses limited accommodation, dining and souvenir shop and hosts officials from Min. of Environment.

المركز العلمي لخدمات الزوار ومحمية السلاحف برأس الجنز
Ras Al Jinz Scientific & Visitor Centre
Sur, Sultanate of Oman



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As we understand:



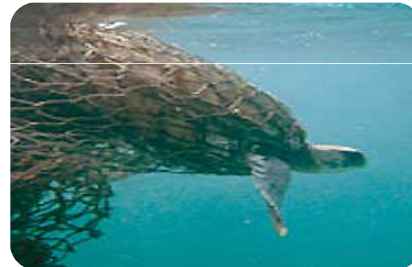
- Minimizes negative economic, environmental and social impacts.
- Generates greater economic benefits for local people and enhances the well being of host communities.
- Improves working conditions and access to the industry.
- Involves local people in decisions that affect their lives and life chances.
- Makes positive contributions to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage embracing diversity.
- Provides more enjoyable experiences for tourists through more meaningful connections with local people, and a greater understanding of local cultural, social and environmental issues.
- Is culturally sensitive, encourages respect between tourists and hosts, and builds local pride and confidence.

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Turtle habitat threats:



Natural threats:

- Flooding of nests by very high tides
- Predation of eggs by foxes, crabs and sea gulls
- Predation of hatchlings by crows, birds, dogs, cats and honey badgers

Human caused threats:

- Accidental entrapment of turtles in fishing nets
- Harvesting of both adults and eggs for food
- Loss of habitat due to human settlements
- Sea and beach pollution
- Vehicle movements on the beach
- Artificial lighting
- Ingestion of plastic and debris by turtles

Ras Al Jinz – Responsible Tourism in Practice

Environment:



Environmentally Responsible:

- Regular turtle beach cleaning by Centre staff
- Regular disposal of dry and wet waste as per Municipal regulations.
- Recycling of paper in administration.
- Use of environment friendly cleaning agents for the Centre premises and laundry cleaning.

Future Plans:

- Plastic bins to be replaced with Omani made clay dispensers.
- Recycling of all products made of paper, plastic, cans and wood in line with Omran corporate standards.
- Development of turtle motifs, information CD's, environment documentaries for local community, turtle tagging scheme, and 'Earthwatch' link-up.

Ras Al Jinz – Responsible Tourism in Practice

Socio-economic:



Socio-economically Responsible:

- Centre has maintained 90% Omanization of staff (Total 52 Omani out of 58 total staff) all staying in the local areas.
- Promoting on-the-job training in many areas such as English language, fire-fighting, housekeeping, reception, Human resources and first-aid to keep professional service standards.
- Only locally sourced handicrafts are displayed and sold at the Centre souvenir shop.
- Promote community contact program to integrate them for awareness and develop local work

Future Plans:

- Teach local community to make bio-degradable hand-made soaps, cloth toys and simple Omani handicrafts to be sold at Centre souvenir shop.

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Cultural & Heritage:



Cultural & Heritage Responsibility:

- Omani delicacies introduced in the in-house restaurant menu.
- All visitor information in the lobby are in Arabic and English.
- Responsible for cleanliness and maintenance of the Ras Al Jinz beach mosque.

Future Plans:

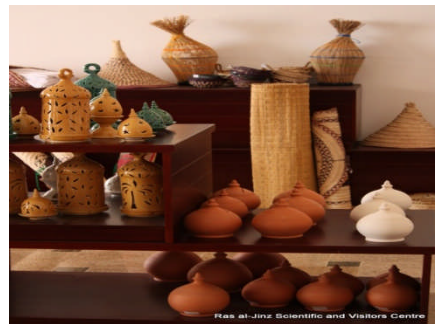
- Development of approved in-house Turtle Gallery (museum) expected by early 2011.
- Development of adjacent area with tented accommodation with Omani interiors and exteriors, expected by early 2011.
- To request relevant authorities for the development of Ras Al Jinz archeology site for tourism.

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Educational:



Educationally Responsible:

- Have started school awareness and interaction program in Sur and Ras Al Hadd area to communicate the Centre's purpose and community role towards a sustained turtle habitat conservation.
- Training Omani staff in the school student interaction program to maintain a constant reach and communication.

Future Plans:

- To organize drawing, handicraft competition amongst students to be exhibited at the Centre.
- To contract with a book trading company, display and sell books related to turtle and tourism in Oman.
- Connect with regional and international turtle conservation organizations for active exchange of development and information.

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