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Yevgen Kotyukh/Shutterstock.com

Though it might get overlooked in favour of larger, more glamorous cities, like Riyadh or nearby Doha, the discerning traveller will not want to pass up the opportunity to visit Dammam. As if the stunning desert scenery alone was not enough to enchant visitors, the city also offers heaps of fine dining, great shopping and some of the most pleasant green spaces, parks and seaside walkways you're likely to find at a desert destination.

NOTE: This Guide has been limited to 20 points of interest per section. For the full guide, please visit ArrivalGuides.com



mmuenzl/Shutterstock.com



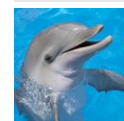
Salem Alforaih/Shutterstock.com

QUIZ

*What Type of Traveller
Are You Based on
Your Travel IQ?*

TAKE THE QUIZ

Top 5



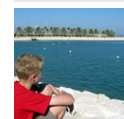
Dolphin Village

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Corniche

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King Fahd Park

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THE CITY



Afsal S/Shutterstock.com

Though it might take the backseat to the more popular destination in the region, like Riyadh, Jeddah or the nearby Bahrain and Qatar, Dammam still has plenty to offer, not least in the stunning desert scenery that surrounds the city. The city itself also offers fantastic shopping opportunities and an increasing number of high-end international restaurants, making it a great place for business and pleasure. There is also a surprising amount of parks and green spaces where visitors and locals alike can find tranquility and enjoy the evening breeze.

The Dammam metropolitan area is actually a conglomeration of three cities: Dammam, Dhahran and Khobar, and also includes nearby areas such as Tarout Island. Tourists tend to prefer the Khobar area, as its seaside location, abundance of pedestrian walkways and amenities make it generally more pleasant than its neighbours, the Corniche being the highlight of the area. Restrictions on women (in terms of wearing a hijab) tend to be more relaxed there, as well.

DO & SEE



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While the Dammam area offers many interesting and beautiful historical and cultural sights and museums (and be sure not to miss great monuments like the Tarout Castle), the city's wonderful outdoor life is what makes it stand out as a destination. With tons of parks and green spaces, it is a city to experience out in the open, when the sometimes stifling weather permits. Walk along the Corniche and breathe in the fresh sea air to understand what the city is all about.

Dolphin Village



This amusement park and entertainment village, located at the entrance to Coral Island, houses rides, swimming pools, daily sea animal shows and occasionally a circus, as well. Dolphins and seals will delight young visitors with their coordination and tricks.

Photo: Pannochka/Shutterstock.com

Address: Cornish Road, Dammam

Phone: +966 13 8315771

Internet: www.dolphinvillage360.com

King Abdulaziz Centre for World Culture



A cultural hub with the objective of inspiring and empowering creative minds, the King Abdulaziz Centre is located in the nearby city of Dhahran.

Their library is a free-entry facility, spanning four floors and housing more than 240,000 volumes and audiobooks in Arabic and English. Here you'll also find a cinema, a theatre and a museum, for which guided tours are available.

Photo: Billion Photos/Shutterstock.com

Address: 8386 Ring Rd, Gharb Al Dhahran, Az Zahran

Opening hours: Mon-Wed 9am-9pm, Thu 9am-10pm, Fri 1pm-10pm, Sat 9am-9pm

Phone: Saudi Arabia: 8001221224 International: +966138169799

Internet: www.ithra.com/en

Email: info@ithra.com

Corniche



Dammam's new corniche stretches along 4 kilometres of sublime coast, providing the city and its people with wonderful stretches of

walkways, running paths, relaxed park seating and green areas. It is the perfect place for a picnic and some people watching, especially in the early evenings, when the weather is best.

Photo: Peter Dowley (image cropped)

Address: Corniche, Khobar

Tarout Castle



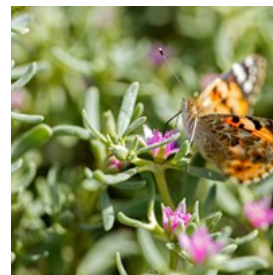
Just east of the area of Al Qatif is Tarout, a small island containing a number of fascinating historical sights. Chief among them is beautiful

Tarout Castle, which dates back to the 16th century. Interestingly, no one is sure whether it was built by locals to defend themselves from Portuguese attacks, or whether it was the Portuguese who built it to defend themselves from Turkish attacks.

Photo: Hugo Brizard - YouGoPhoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: Tarout Castle, Tarout

King Fahd Park



King Fahd Park is one of the largest and lushest parks in the Eastern Province, and its beautiful waterways and lakes, including

numerous waterfalls and bridges, makes this one of the most serene places in Dammam. It also houses some amusement rides and restaurants, making it a great place for the whole family to spend an afternoon.

Photo: Manu M Nair/Shutterstock.com

Address: Prince Mohammed Bin Fahd Road, Al Basatin, Dammam

Al-Marjan Island (Coral Island)



Coral Island is an artificial island connected to Dammam by a bridge. The tiny island contains a wonderful park, where locals and tourists enjoy

spending time, taking advantage of the top-class

facilities, green areas and children's playgrounds. Ferry rides, which include a meal, can be taken to and from the island.

Photo: Natali Glado/Shutterstock.com

Address: Cornish Rd, Dammam

Dammam Regional Museum



Located in the very pleasant Sea Front area, this fantastic new museum takes visitors on a detailed trip through the fascinating

archeological history of the Dammam region, from prehistoric times all the way to the present day in the museum's six exhibition halls.

Photo: Iakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com

Opening hours: Sat-Wed 8am-12pm and 4pm-7pm

Phone: +966 13 8266056

DINING



diplmedia/Shutterstock.com

There are plenty of places in Dammam to enjoy some of the typical foods of the country and region, and favourites like shawarmas and falafel. But the city also offers an impressive selection of fine-dining options and international restaurants, and you are sure to find whatever kind of food tickles your fancy.

Steakhouse Dammam

This great chain of restaurants now has twelve locations in Saudi Arabia, including this one in Dammam. It has become a crowd favourite for its delectable meat offerings, which include juicy steaks and hearty burgers, as well as pot roast and meatloaf.

Address: Prince Mohammad Bin Fahad Street(1st Street) Al Shaati Quarter, Dammam

Opening hours: Sat-Wed 11am-12pm, Thu 11am-1am, Fri 1pm-1am

Phone: +966 13 8335468

Internet: www.steakhouse.com.sa

Heritage Village

Heritage Village is located in a building meant to resemble a traditional Saudi castle, fit with different sized rooms for families within. It serves traditional Saudi delicacies prepared fresh. There is a museum attached to the restaurant which can be visited after your meal.

Address: Prince Mohammed Bin Fahd Road, Dammam

Phone: +966 13 8090000

Internet: www.heritage-village.com.sa

Red Dragon

The Red Dragon is a favourite among local fans of authentic Chinese cuisine for its intimate ambiance and the huge selection of dishes. The seafood options are very popular, particularly the varieties of shrimp, but you can't really go wrong with whatever you choose.

Address: Al Bandariyah, Al Khobar

Phone: +966 13 882 1882

Abu Nawas

Abu Nawas is a very popular chain of restaurants that serves just about anything you can think of, from traditional regional dishes and grilled chicken to smaller snacks like soups, sandwiches, and even desserts and pastries.

Don't miss the chance to try a fresh fruit juice.

Address: Prince Mohammed Bin Fahd Road, Al Badi,
Dammam
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 12:30pm-1am, Fri 12:30pm-12am
Phone: +966 13 833 0880
Internet: www.abunawas.com.sa

Fayrouz Lebanese Restaurant

Located in the Sheraton Hotel and Convention Centre, this Lebanese restaurant consistently impresses for the quality of the food, the relaxed environment and the attentive and friendly service. Guests can take a break from their meal and relax by the pool.

Address: First Street, Dammam
Opening hours: Daily 6am-11:30pm
Phone: +966 138345555
Internet: www.sheratondammam.com

Brasa de Brasil Churrascaria

A true international delight in Dammam, Brasa de Brasil Churrascaria is a Brazilian style barbecue with a dizzying variety of cuts of tender and delicious meat. They even have vegetarian options, a gourmet salad bar, and a fantastic selection of cheeses and breads.

Address: Corniche Road, Dammam
Opening hours: Sat-Tue 12pm-12am, Wed-Thu 12pm-1am, Fri 1pm-12am
Phone: +966 13 881 4884
Internet: www.brasadebrazil.com
Email: brasakhobar@brasadebrazil.com

CAFES



saschanti17/Shutterstock.com

Though traditionally preferring tea, Saudis have increasingly been embracing coffee and coffee culture. Dammam is now home to many Western style cafes and coffee houses, and visitors will not lack for inviting places to relax, kick back, escape from the oppressive heat and enjoy a delicious cup of fine roast coffee.

Vitamin Palace

There's nothing like a fresh fruit juice to quench the thirst that comes with sightseeing in the desert. The Vitamin Palace can make its guests over 150 combinations of fruit juice, all from fresh ingredients. The juices can be accompanied by small snacks and meals.

Address: Abu Bakr Alsiddiq St, Khwarizmi Road, Dammam
Phone: +966 562165116

Arabia Coffee

A pleasant, hip cafe and coffee shop that serves a wide selection of masterfully crafted caffeinated drinks and sweet treats ranging from cakes to waffles.

Address: Khobar Mall, Al Khobar
Phone: +966 13 889 2229

Cacao Sampaka

Cacao Sampaka is definitely one of the top cafes in the city. Famed for its relaxed vibe, great coffee drinks and unbeatable desserts (be sure to

try the cookie lava with vanilla ice cream), it keeps locals coming back time and time again, and never fails to impress visitors.

Address: King Faisal Coastal Road (Between Najran Kohler & Aramex), Al Khobar

Opening hours: Sat-Tue 10am-10:30pm, Wed-Thu

10:30am-12am, Fri 4pm-10:30pm

Phone: +966 13 8494040

Internet: www.cacaosampaka.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Natalia Klenova/Shutterstock.com

The cultural environment in Saudi Arabia is highly conservative. Religious law forbids the sale or consumption of alcohol throughout Saudi Arabia, so there are no bars or nightclubs. Instead evening social activities are centred on shopping or dining out in one of the city's many restaurants or cafés whilst indulging in a delicious mocktail (a mix of fresh fruit juices) or strong Arabic coffee.

SHOPPING



edward musiak/Flickr (image cropped)

Shoppers will rejoice in Dammam. With its perfect combination of old-style markets and modern shopping centres, there's nothing a determined visitor can't find. From luxury items and brand name stores to handmade crafts and traditional garments and souvenirs, Dammam is one of the country's prime retail centres.

Share Al-Hob Traditional Market (Love Market)

This traditional style market houses countless stalls and vendors peddling their colourful products. From clothing and perfumes to gold and jewellery, all the products found here are authentic Saudi goods and make for some of the most memorable souvenirs and gifts available.

Address: Share Al-Hob Traditional Market, Dammam

Mall of Dhahran

This enormous mall has everything an avid shopper could possibly want. It boasts a wide selection of the world's leading brands, as well as books, sports and leisure equipment, home furnishings and entertainment. There are also countless options for food and refreshments to break up a day of shopping.

Address: Dhahran Street, Prince Faisal bin Fahd Al Qishleh Intersection, Khobar

Opening hours: Daily 9:30am-11:30pm

Phone: +966 13 8684440

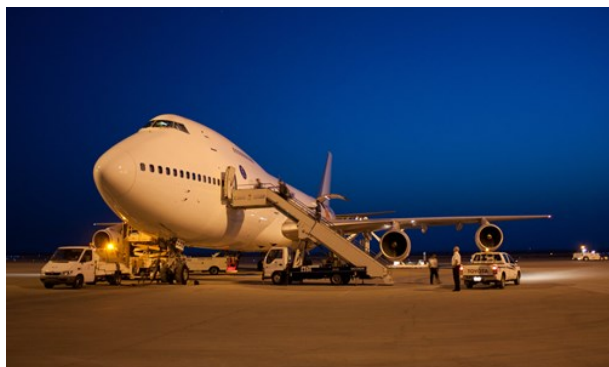
Internet: www.dhahranmall.com

The Central Vegetable Market

For an authentic local shopping experience, be sure to check out the Central Vegetable Market. With more than 1,100 shops and stalls selling fresh fruit, vegetables and meat, as well as wholesale foodstuffs. You can find the best and freshest produce here at the best prices.

Address: Prince Nayef Bin Abdulaziz Rd, Al Anud, Dammam

TOURIST INFORMATION



Herbst Derek (image cropped)

Saudi Arabia eVisa



Saudi Arabia introduced a new eVisa system in October 2019, dramatically simplifying visa applications for citizens of multiple world

countries, including the USA, Canada, China, Japan, Australia, and much of Europe. The new multiple-entry visa will be processed within record time (as quickly as 30 minutes), issued for one year, and will allow visitors to stay in the country for up to 90 days during its validity period. This marks a watershed moment in the country's history, as Saudi Arabia has historically been off limits to non-Muslim tourists, with visas notoriously difficult to secure.

Citizens of countries not covered by the eVisa program will still need to turn to their nearest consulate to obtain a visa.

Photo: [TukTukDesign/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com)

Internet: <https://visa.visitsaudi.com>

King Fahd International Airport



The King Fahd International Airport (DMM) is located about 40 km northwest of the city of Dammam. Taxis from the airport to

central Dammam or Khobar take about 30-45 minutes, depending on traffic. Since they are seldom metered, drivers tend to charge way more than the ride is worth, so be sure to try to negotiate a better price before getting in. Alternatively, visitors can take a much more economical bus to the city, but this can take longer.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: King Fahd Road, Dammam

Phone: +966 13 883 1000

Public Transport



Public transportation in Dammam consists of buses, taxis and dubbabs. Buses are cheap, but can be confusing, unless you know exactly how to get

where you're going. Most travelers choose to take taxis within the city or rent a car.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Taxi



Taxis a very common and affordable way to get around the city. One taxi company operating in Dammam is Fahad Al Fahd Taxi Group.

Photo: ArrivalGuides
Phone: +966 13 32866601

Cultural Norms



When strolling and exploring the city please make sure you wear the appropriate attire. Women should be covered from neck to

ankle and in certain areas scarves are used to cover the face and head. Shorts and tank tops should not be worn outside of your accommodation by women. For men, loose clothing is recommended and shorts are prohibited.

When visiting, please make sure you respect and abide by the laws and culture of the country.

Photo: ClkerFreeVectorImages

Post Office

Saudi Post



Photo: Andy Fuchs
Address: 7781 9th Street, Dammam
Opening hours: Sat-Wed 7am-3pm
Phone: +966 13 825 9209

Pharmacy

Al Dawaa Pharmacy



Photo: Gemma Garner
Address: Fatema Al Zahra St, Iskan Dammam, Dammam
Phone: +966 13 8581771
Internet: www.al-dawaa.com/en/Company-Structure/Al-Dawaa-Pharmacies.html
Email: info@al-dawaa.com

Telephone

Country Code: +966 Area code: 13



Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity

Voltage: 127/220 V
Frequency: 60 Hz Power sockets: type A / B / F / G



Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population
1,000,000

Currency
1 riyal (SAR) = 100 halalas

Opening hours
The working week is generally from Sun-Thu with some businesses open Sat morning. Government offices: 7:30am-2:30pm. Banks: 9:30am-4:30pm. Private businesses: 8am-12pm and 4pm-8pm.

Newspapers

Saudi Gazette

Emergency numbers

Police: 999

Fire: 998

Ambulance: 997

Tourist information

The Supreme Commission for Tourism

Kindi Centre, D.Q

Open Sat-Wed 08.00-15.00

+966 11 880 8855