



# Qassim

Photo: H1N1/Shutterstock.com



Volodymyr Burdiak / Shutterstock.com

The region of Al-Qassim is a land of palm trees and festivals, the fertile land making agriculture, particularly dates, the cornerstone of the province's economy and culture. The yearly date festival, which takes place in the autumn, is a sight to behold, but don't worry, for no matter what time of year you visit, you are sure to find a festival underway. Rich in nature, heritage and handicrafts, Al-Qassim makes for a wonderful visit, whether you are looking for delicious fruit in the countryside or culture and shopping in the cities.

*NOTE: This Guide has been limited to 20 points of interest per section. For the full guide, please visit [ArrivalGuides.com](http://ArrivalGuides.com)*



shalika Malintha / Flickr



cmonville / Flickr

## QUIZ

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

**TAKE THE QUIZ**

### Top 5



**Al Nakheel Restaurant**  
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**King Abdullah National Park**  
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**Al Qassim Camel Market**  
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**Date Market**  
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## ARRIVALGUIDES FAVOURITES



cmonville / Flickr (image cropped)

From unmissable sights to unforgettable experiences, the most acclaimed restaurants to the cosiest cafes, the very best nightlife to the most unique boutiques, these are our favourite and most highly recommended places and experiences in Qassim.

### Al Nakheel Restaurant



Located on the ninth floor of the luxurious Mövenpick hotel right in downtown Buraidah, this fantastic restaurant offers international cuisine,

specialising in Swiss dishes, as well as breakfast buffets and full international buffets for lunch and dinner, including some scrumptious desserts.

Photo: ShutterOK/Shutterstock.com

Address: King Khaled Road, Buraidah

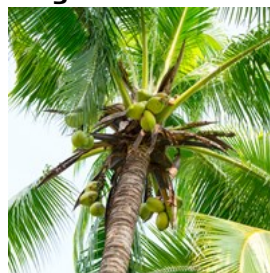
Opening hours: Daily 6:30am-12am

Phone: +966 16 316 9999

Internet: [www.movenpick.com/en/middle-east/saudi-arabia/qassim/hotel-qassim/restaurants/restaurants/al-nakheel-restaurant/](http://www.movenpick.com/en/middle-east/saudi-arabia/qassim/hotel-qassim/restaurants/restaurants/al-nakheel-restaurant/)

Email: [hotel.qassim@moevenpick.com](mailto:hotel.qassim@moevenpick.com)

### King Abdullah National Park



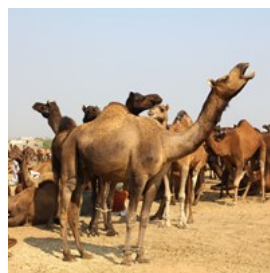
This enormous and beautiful park, which occupies around 50,000 square metres, provides an inviting green space for residents and visitors

to relax and find respite from the bustle of the city. It has fountains and artificial waterfalls, areas for picnics, children's playgrounds, a cafeteria, and much more.

Photo: roroto12p/Shutterstock.com

Address: King Fahd Road, Buraidah

### Al Qassim Camel Market



Every morning at 6am the outskirts of Buraidah are home to the world's largest camel market, where thousands of camels (as well as goats

and sheep) are bought and sold, along with saddles and other accessories. The whole area gets pretty chaotic (and the smell is said to get pretty intense) but a visit to the market is a truly unique Saudi experience.

Photo: Kokhanchikov/Shutterstock.com

Address: Camel Market, Buraidah

### Kooz Cake Bakery



This American style bakery can definitely tickle anyone's sweet tooth. Tiramisu, cheesecake, muffins, cookies, they do it all, and

the results are always exquisite. They even design beautiful cakes to take with you for your special events or birthday celebrations.



Photo: Maslova Valentina/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Uthman Ibn Affan Rd, Al Amn, Buraydah  
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-12am, Sat-Sun 12:30pm-12am  
Phone: +966 9200 09972  
Internet: www.koozcake.com

### Date Market



The Al-Qassim region is known for its agriculture, especially its date production, and the main market in Buraidah offers a spectacular variety of dates year-round, though especially during the Annual Date Festival. Special seasonal dates are available and should not be missed.

Photo: Umkehrer/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Date Market, As Sabbakh, Buraidah  
Phone: +968 9328 8130

### THE REGION



Suliman Al-Kurishan / Flickr (image cropped)

Located right in the very heart of the Arabian peninsula, Al-Qassim is quite lush in comparison with the rest of the country, and as such it is the richest region and the agricultural centre of the Kingdom, known as the "alimental basket" of Saudi Arabia. It is home to more than eight million palm trees and is thus one of the world's largest producers of dates, as well as oranges, lemons and other fruit. Every autumn, thousands gather for the yearly date festival, where over

200,000 tons of dates are put on display and sold to eager and hungry visitors.

The region's capital and largest city is Buraidah, where approximately half of the province's 1.2 million inhabitants reside. It is the financial and cultural centre of the region, and holds most of the points of interest for tourists, including interesting museums, green parks and excellent markets. Unaizah is the second city in the region and also provides plenty of attractions and entertainment for visitors. The cities' surrounding rural areas are also worth visiting for a peek into the fascinating world of desert agriculture.

### TOP EXPERIENCES



josto / Shutterstock.com

The Al-Qassim region is quite unique in Saudi Arabia for green areas and agricultural prowess. The areas around Buraidah and Unaizah have some fascinating places to visit, from farms, orchards and palm tree plantations to the world's largest camel market. But the cities themselves also offer travelers plenty of museums, parks and interesting sights, as well as heaps of entertainment in the form of excellent eating and shopping.

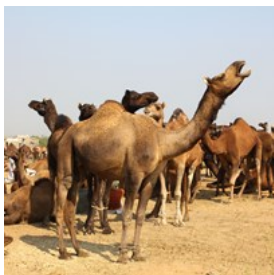
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Photo: Kokhanchikov/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Camel Market, Buraidah

### Farms and Orchards



The Al-Qassim region is perhaps the lushest part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, responsible for much of the country's agriculture. The area around Buraidah is rich in farms, orchards and palm trees that are free for tourists to visit and admire. You can also buy produce directly from the farmers.

Photo: Melissa Hillier (image cropped)  
Address: Buraidah

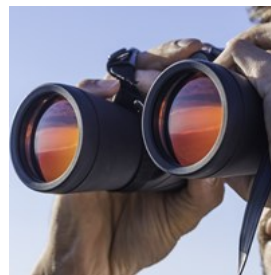
### Buraidah Museum



The fascinating history of the city of Buraidah is on display in this interesting museum. It showcases a number of well-preserved artifacts and pieces of art, including a pavillion containing collections that once belonged to King Abdul-Aziz himself.

Photo: Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com  
Address: King Abdulaziz Rd, As Safra, Buraydah

### Buraidah Water Tower



The Buraidah Water Tower is a popular landmark in the city, especially during the summer, when visitors can climb to the top of the tower to take in the spectacular views of the surrounding area. If you should be so lucky to be visiting during the water festival, be sure not to miss the chance to watch and partake.

Photo: valeriiarnaud/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Water Tower, Buraidah

## DINING



mo3esa / Shutterstock.com

Dining out is one of the favourite pastimes in Riyadh. The typical Saudi diet consists of a range of pulses such as rice, bulgur wheat, lentils or chickpeas (hummus) served with grilled/barbecued meats such as lamb or chicken and the obligatory pita bread. But there are plenty of fine international restaurants in the region, as well, offering a great selection for all tastes.

### Al Nakheel Restaurant



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Photo: ShutterOK/Shutterstock.com

Address: King Khaled Road, Buraidah

Opening hours: Daily 6:30am-12am

Phone: +966 16 316 9999

Internet: [www.movenpick.com/en/middle-east/saudi-arabia/qassim/hotel-qassim/restaurants/restaurants/al-nakheel-restaurant/](http://www.movenpick.com/en/middle-east/saudi-arabia/qassim/hotel-qassim/restaurants/restaurants/al-nakheel-restaurant/)

Email: [hotel.qassim@moevenpick.com](mailto:hotel.qassim@moevenpick.com)

### Bella Roma



A taste of Italy on the Arabian Peninsula, Bella Roma serves all of your favourite Italian specialties, including wonderful pasta dishes, avocado Caesar salads, and of course, high-quality pizza. The staff is also renowned for its friendly and welcoming service.

Photo: thanasarn/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al Iskan, Buraydah

Opening hours: Daily 11:45am-7pm

Phone: +966 16 383 3900

### Burger Avenue



Burger Avenue is without a doubt the best place to get a burger in Unaizah. The menu is packed with great options, such as the double cheeseburger, the more exotic Swiss Cajun chicken burger, chili cheese fries, and even a few salads that will more than leave you satisfied.

Photo: Yuganov Konstantin/Shutterstock.com

Address: King Abdulaziz Rd, Ash Shuraymiyyah, Unaizah

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 7am-12am, Fri 4am-12pm

Phone: +966 16 364 6443



## TOP CAFE PICKS



Sophie James / Shutterstock.com

Escape the oppressive heat of the Qassim region by visiting one of the many modern and sleek cafes spread out throughout the city. They are a great way to relax and people watch while enjoying some hot coffee or tea, with high quality beans and professional roasting and preparation. Most places also offer fantastic desserts and snacks.

### Kooz Cake Bakery

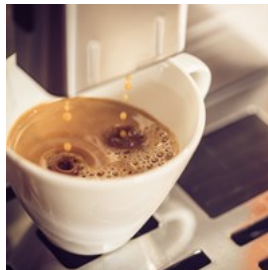


This American style bakery can definitely tickle anyone's sweet tooth. Tiramisu, cheesecake, muffins, cookies, they do it all, and

the results are always exquisite. They even design beautiful cakes to take with you for your special events or birthday celebrations.

Photo: Maslova Valentina/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Uthman Ibn Affan Rd, Al Amn, Buraydah  
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-12am, Sat-Sun 12:30pm-12am  
Phone: +966 9200 09972  
Internet: [www.koozcake.com](http://www.koozcake.com)

### Fan Jan Cafe



Fan Jan Cafe takes its coffee seriously. They use only beans of the highest quality and implement only the finest roasting techniques to ensure that they always get the very best flavour out of their drinks. Add to that a good selection of desserts and pastries, friendly service and a cosy atmosphere, and you have one of the best cafes in the Qassim region.

Photo: YuG/Shutterstock.com  
Address: King Abdullah Rd, As Safra, Buraydah  
Opening hours: Sat-Wed 8am-12pm and 4pm-2am, Thu-Fri 4pm-2am  
Phone: +966 16 324 0080  
Internet: [www.fanjancafe.com](http://www.fanjancafe.com)

### Rhythms Coffee



Rhythms Coffee has everything you want in a cafe. The decor is sleek and stylish, the service is fast and friendly, the food options, which include sandwiches, wraps, burgers and salads, are varied and always fresh, and above all else, the beverages are warm and expertly prepared.

Photo: Valery121283/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Ar Rayan Rd, Alrayan, Buraidah  
Opening hours: Daily 7am-1am  
Phone: +966 16 397 7944

### Vian Cafe



Buraidah is not the only place in the Al-Qassim region to enjoy high-quality coffee. Unaizah also boasts some sleek and modern cafes

that consistently serve up top-notch drinks and snacks. Vian Cafe is one such establishment, and is one of the most beloved in the city, with good reason.

Photo: Zadorozhna Natalia/Shutterstock.com

Address: Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz St, As Sulimaniyah,  
Unaizah

Phone: +966 59 844 6080

## BEST OF 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 cafes whilst indulging in a delicious mocktail (a mix of fresh fruit juices) or strong Arabic coffee.

## BEST OF SHOPPING



zeljkodan / Shutterstock.com

Much of Saudi Arabia's social life revolves around shopping. It is very common for families to visit one of the many large shopping centres and spend the whole day browsing, enjoying some refreshments and escaping the intense heat in the air-conditioned malls. But be sure to head to some of the smaller markets for more traditional and authentic shopping experiences, as well. The date market is an absolute must.

### Al Othaim Mall



As one of the newer malls in the city, Al Othaim gathers a huge array of shops, restaurants and entertainment options under one roof in modern

facilities. Shoppers can find everything from brand name chain stores to unique boutiques, accessories, home goods, electronics, and much more.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al Iskan, Buraydah

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 9:30am-12pm and 4pm-11pm, Fri  
4pm-11pm

Phone: +966 1125 40000

Internet: [www.othaimmalls.com](http://www.othaimmalls.com)

Email: [info@othaimmalls.com](mailto:info@othaimmalls.com)

### Nakheel Mall



Though it may not be quite as large as some of the newer shopping centres in the area, Nakheel Mall is dedicated to creating a vibrant

upscale shopping, dining and entertainment environment, focusing on being accessible and appealing to the whole family, with a wealth of shops and dining options.

Photo: Naufal MQ/Shutterstock.com

Address: Nakheel Mall, Buraidah

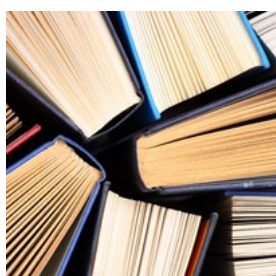
Opening hours: Sun-Wed 9:30am-12pm and 4pm-11pm, Thu and Sat 9:30am-11:30pm, Fri 4pm-11:30pm

Phone: +966 6 385 2504

Internet: [www.nakheelmall.com](http://www.nakheelmall.com)

Email: [alnakheelmall@arabiancentres.com](mailto:alnakheelmall@arabiancentres.com)

### Jarir Bookstore



This large chain of bookstores has locations all around the Arab world, in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. It

is the best resource in town for books, electronics, accessories and office supplies. They also have the area's widest selection of English language books.

Photo: Thinglass/Shutterstock.com

Address: Othman Bin Affan Road, Buraidah

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 9am-12pm and 4pm-11pm, Fri 4pm-11pm

Phone: +966 9200 00089

Internet: [www.jarir.com](http://www.jarir.com)

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Photo: Umkehrer/Shutterstock.com

Address: Date Market, As Sabbakh, Buraidah

Phone: +968 9328 8130

## TOURIST INFORMATION



Martin M303 / Shutterstock.com

### Al-Qassim Regional Airport



The Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz Regional Airport (ELQ), more commonly known as the Al-Qassim Regional Airport or simply Gassim,

serves flights to various destinations around the Arab world, including the Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt and Qatar, and even reaches as far as Istanbul. It is located about 30 kilometres west of the city of Buraidah and about 40 kilometres from Unaizah, and the best way to get to either city from the airport is to take a taxi, but be sure



to agree on a price beforehand.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Al-Qassim Regional Airport, Buraidah

Phone: +966 6 380 0001

### 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: aalbedouin/Shutterstock.com

### Post

Saudi Post



Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Ali Ibn Abi Talib Rd, Al Iskan, Buraydah

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 8am-2pm

Phone: +966 6 385 3071

Internet: www.sp.com.sa

### Pharmacy

Adel Pharmacy



Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: Ali Ibn Abi Talib Rd, Buraydah

Phone: +966 16 384 6693

Internet: www.adelpharma.com

### Telephone

Country code: +966 Area code: 06



Photo: Jardson Almeida

### Electricity

125/215 Volts AC,  
50/60Hz



Photo: Stirling Tschan

### Population

1,200,000

### Currency

1 riyal (SAR) = 100 halalas

### Opening hours

The working week is generally from Sun-Thu with some businesses open Saturday mornings. 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

