



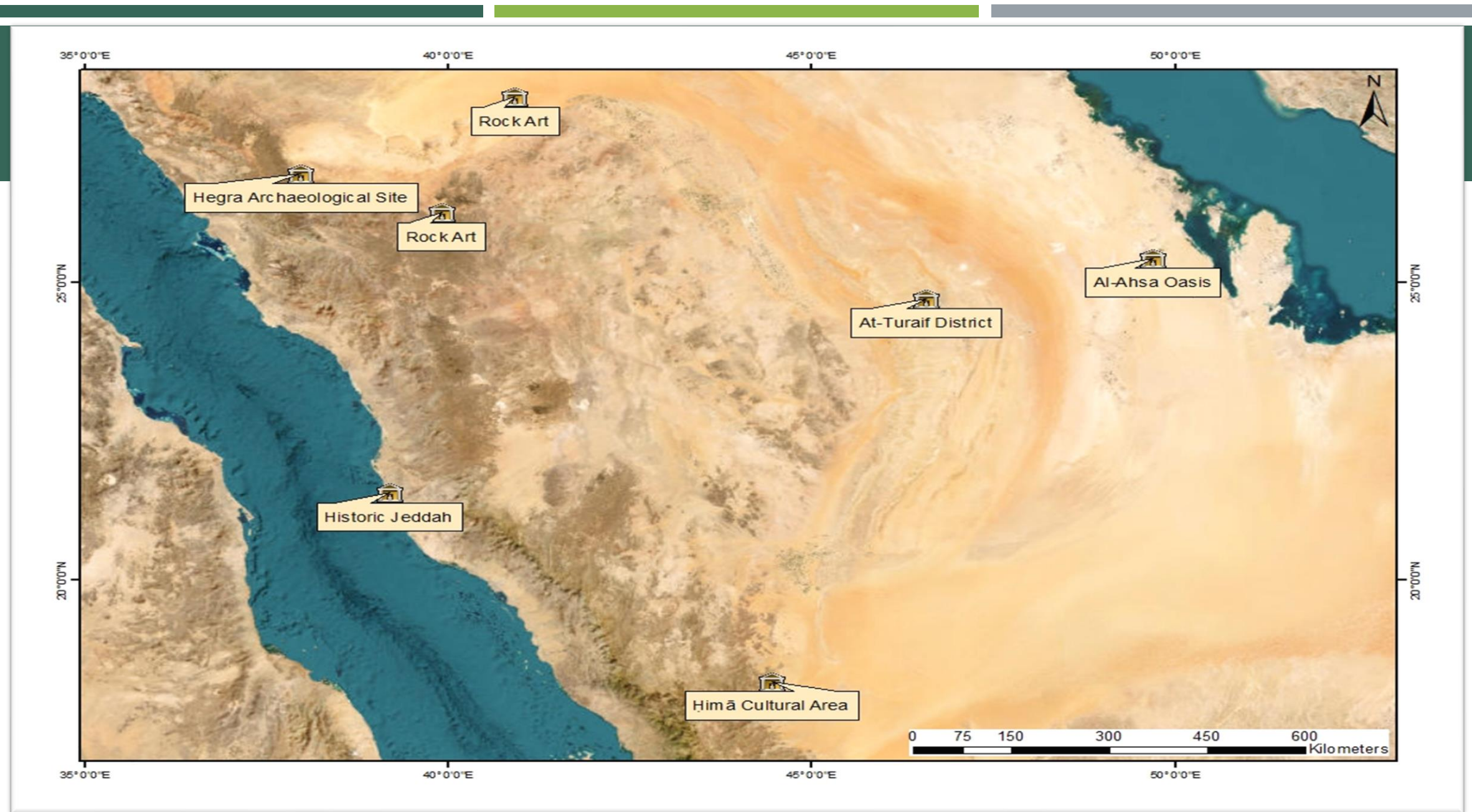
# **GEOGRAPHIC NAMES AND UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN SAUDI ARABIA**



# INTRODUCTION

Saudi Arabia has an impressive six UNESCO World Heritage sites that reflect, both, on the vast and diverse history of the country. This study has focused on UNESCO World Heritage Sites from a historical, geographical perspective, and an overview of its toponyms.

It can be realized from the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites that their locations are scattered in different directions of the country. This is to confirmed that Saudi Arabia has a geostrategic location for many civilizations that flourished within the area, and its land was an important trade corridor and a peaceful route for other civilizations caravans.

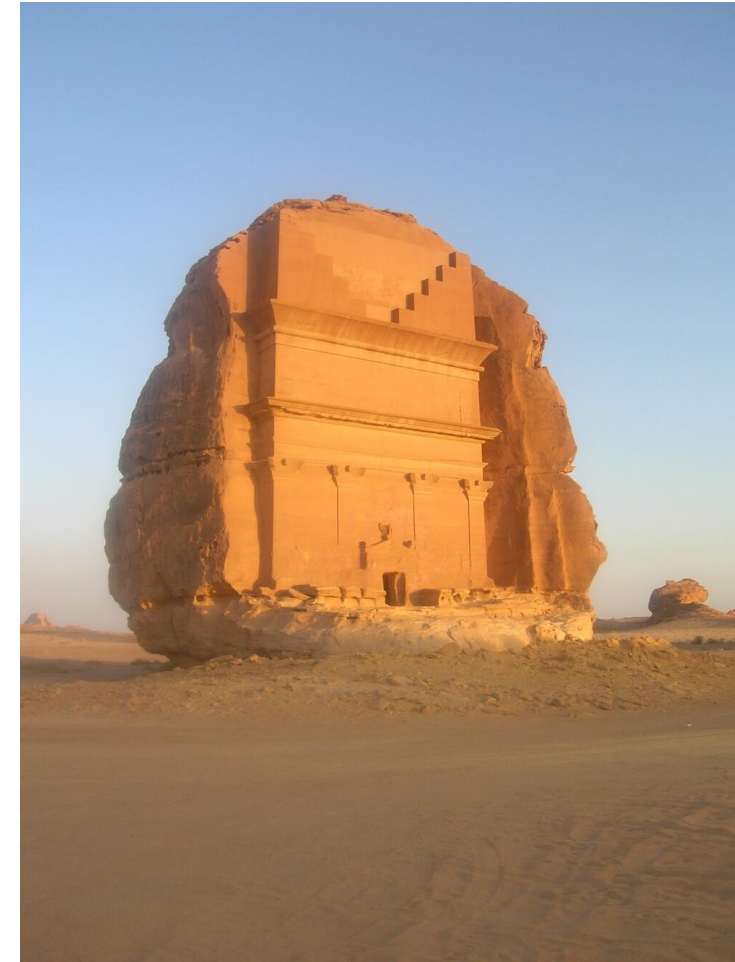


	Name	Date of inscription	Location	Description	X,Y	Arabic name	Romanized name
1	Hegra Archaeological Site	2008	Al Ula govenate	Archaeological area	26°48'14.55"N 37°57'26.03"E	الحجر	Al Hjr
2	At-Turaif District	2010	ad-Dir'iyah city	Historical district	24°44'3.09"N 46°34'32.35"E	طريف	T_ryf
3	Historic Jeddah	2014	Jeddah city	The Gate to Makkah	21°29'15.17"N 39°11'10.86"E	جدة التاريخية	Jdh At Tārykhyh
4	Rock Art	2015	Hail Region	10,000 years of history	28° 0'13.18"N 40°55'47.71"E	الفن الصخري	Al Fn As_ S_khry
5	Al-Ahsa Oasis	2018	Al-Ahsa Oasis	An Evolving Cultural Landscape	25°24'39.58"N 49°41'36.60"E	واحة الأحساء	Wāh_h Al Ah_ṣāʿ
6	Ḥimā Cultural Area	2021	Najran region	7000 years of history	18°14'58.04"N 44°27'8.38"E	حمى الثقافية	H_mā Ath Thqāfyh

# HEGRA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Hegra Archaeological Site which is known as Al Hjr in Arabic language. The name of Hegra was referenced by Strabo - a Greek geographer and philosopher - (64 BC) for the Nabatean site.

Al Hjr is still the official name of the site in Saudi Arabia. In addition, the area is also called Madā' in Ṣāliḥ since the Abbasid Caliphate (750 CE) where (Mada in) refers to a couple of towns and the name of (Ṣaliḥ) is a great man in that area called Ṣāliḥ.



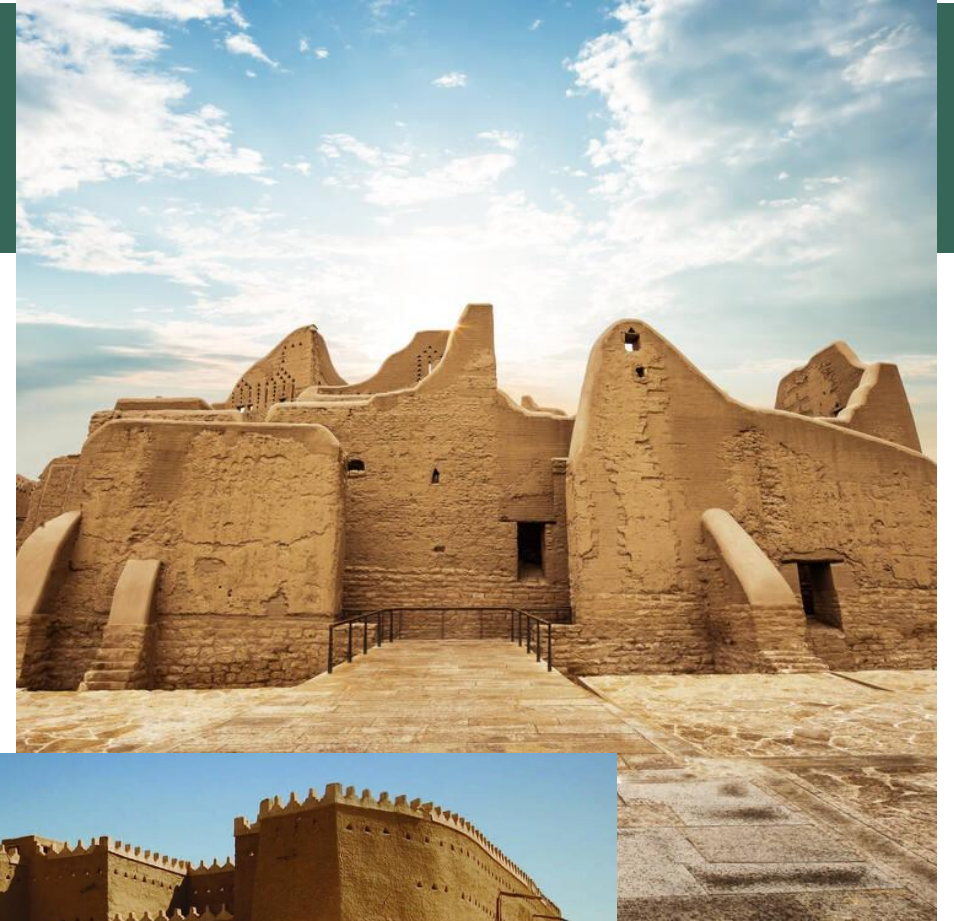
# INDIVIDUAL SCATTERED AREOLOGICAL SITES IN AL ULA.

	Arabic name	Romanized name	Description	X,Y
1	قصر الفريد	Qsr Al Fryd	(Nabataean Kingdom) tombs	26°46'26.18"N 37°57'40.06"E
2	قصر البنت	Qsr Al Bnt	(Nabataean Kingdom) tombs	26°47'18.27"N 37°57'35.51"E
3	الديوان	Ad Dywān	(Nabataean Kingdom) tombs	26°47'30.74"N 37°57'49.53"E
4	جبل البنات	Jbl Al Bnāt	(Nabataean Kingdom) tombs	26°47'18.27"N 37°57'35.51"E
5	مدافن الخريمات	Mdaḥn Al Khrymāt	(Nabataean Kingdom) tombs	26°47'6.97"N 37°56'9.81"E
6	محلّب الناقة	Mhḷb An Nāqh	Large stone basin	26°39'20.53"N 37°54'46.72"E
7	الخريبة	Al Khrybh	Area of Archeological sites	26°39'19.08"N 37°54'48.42"E
8	مقابر الأسود	Mqābr Al Aswd	Carved lions tombs (DADAN)	26°38'49.58"N 37°54'57.92"E
9	جبل عكمه	Jbl 'Kmh	A petroglyph (Dadan and others)	26°41'8.33"N 37°54'10.37"E
10	المابيات	Al Mābyāt	Area of Archeological Islamic sites	26°30'12.30"N 38° 3'11.23"E

# AT - TURAIF DISTRICT

The name of Ad-Dir'iyah was known as Ghussaibah, Al-Mulaybeed and later on the At-Turaif was settled (UNESCO site). These three areas changed their names to Ad-Dir'iyah referring to the name of Ad Drw' Tribe.

Historically, At-Turaif District was founded in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and in the mid of 18<sup>th</sup> century At-Turaif became the capital of the Saudi Dynasty.



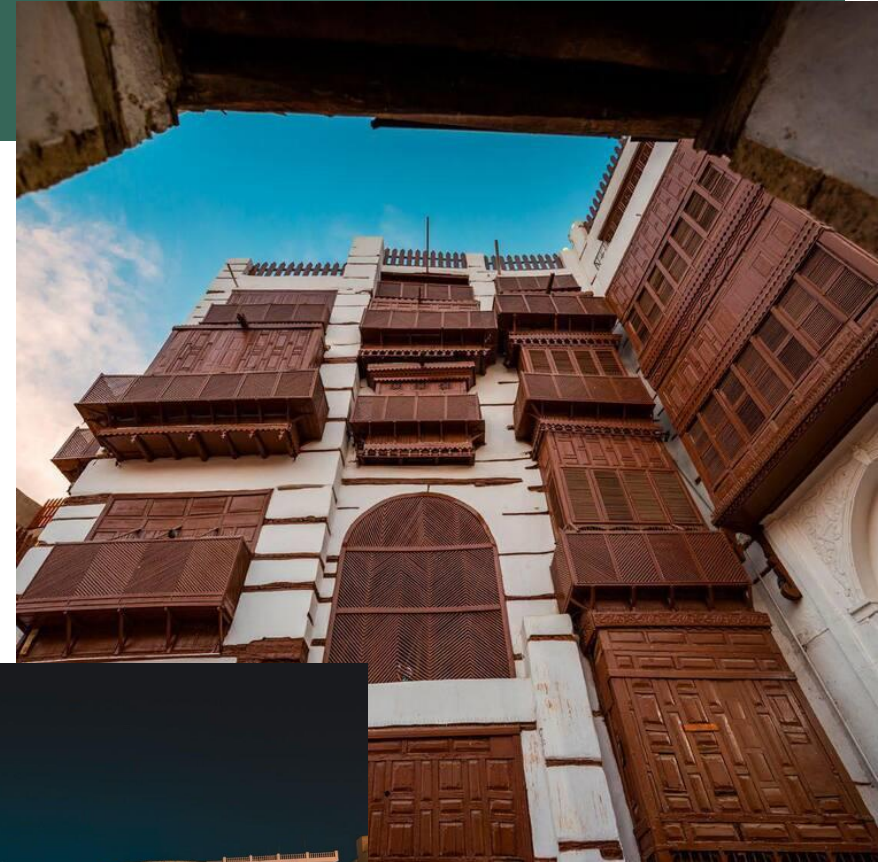
## INDIVIDUAL SITES IN AD-DIR'YAH.

	Arabic name	Romanized name	Description	X,Y
1	حي الطُّريف	Hy At_ Turyf	Historical district	24°43'58.57"N 46°34'32.12"E
2	قصر سلوى	Qsr Slwá	Historical palace	24°44'2.10"N 46°34'32.59"E
3	قصر سعد بن سعود	Qsr S'd Bn S'wd	Historical palace	24°44'2.14"N 46°34'29.97"E
4	وادي حنيفة	Wādy Hnyfh	Natural landmark	24°44'2.87"N 46°34'37.00"E
5	مسجد الامام محمد بن سعود	Msjd Al Amām Mhmd Bn S'wd	Historical mosque	24°44'11.40"N 46°34'28.01"E
6	البيجيري	Al Bjry	Historical district	24°44'9.83"N 46°34'31.82"E
7	غصيبة	Ghsybh	Historical district	24°44'47.44"N 46°33'41.62"E
8	قصر العوجا	Qsr Al 'Wjā	Historical palace	24°44'9.55"N 46°34'4.71"E
9	بيت المال	Byt Al Maī	Historical building	24°43'59.75"N 46°34'34.52"E



# HISTORIC JEDDAH

Jeddah city was named as “Balad Al-Qanasil” during the Islamic era (647 AD) as a major port for entering the city of Makkah. The etymology of Jeddah (romanized Jdh) has different common meaning, for example, it was mentioned that the name of Jeddah comes from the chief of Quda'a tribe (Jeddah Ibn Al-Quda'iy). On the other hand, it was mentioned that the name comes from the Arabic name Jaddah which means grandmother. This is related to the tomb of Eve (the grandmother of humanity) is located in Jeddah city. While Yaqut Al-Hamawi (1179-1229) noted the name of Jeddah reflect the meaning of Sea shore city.



# GATES IN THE HISTORIC JEDDAH

	Arabic name	Romanized name	Description	X,Y
1	باب مكة	Bāb Mkh	The gate is located in the eastern sector of the wall to facilitate travelers and convoys from Makkah which the gate takes its name. The gate leads to the markets and to provide a passage for funerals heading to the cemetery outside the wall.	21°29'6.91"N 39°11'33.88"E
2	باب شريف	Bāb Shryf	The gate is located in the southern sector of the wall to go outside auctions, and to reach the uphill calls Quoz of Hamala for overlooks pleasant view.	21°28'51.85"N 39°11'14.49"E
3	باب الصبة	Bāb As_ Sbh	The gate is located in the western sector of the wall, and it was accessible to the Market and to go to important government departments and to the court. The gate was known for the imported grain and transfer to the merchants' warehouses. This processed was call As_ Sbh which the gate takes its name.	21°29'3.39"N 39°11'5.14"E
4	باب المغاربة	Bāb Al Mghārbh	The gate is located in the western sector of the wall, and it was the only exit for pilgrims coming by the Red Sea. The gate takes its name from the neighborhood of Mghārbh people (Moroccan).	21°29'6.84"N 39°11'34.22"E
5	باب صريف	Bāb Sryf	The gate is located in the western sector of the wall.	21°29'21.20"N 39°11'10.66"E
6	باب المدينة	Bāb Al Mdynh	The gate is located in the northern sector of the wall, and it was used to reach the military barracks "Al-Qishla", to serve passage of carts laden with stones, and to facilitate travelers and convoys from Makkah and Madinah which the gate took its name.	21°29'25.47"N 39°11'13.06"E
7	باب النافعة	Bāb An Nāf'h	The gate is located in the western sector of the wall, and it was a crossing point for workers in the Red Sea.	21°28'53.90"N 39°10'59.08"E
8	باب جديد	Bāb Jdyd	The gate means a new gate as it was built under the rule of Saudi Arabia, and it is located in the northern sector with design of double gate to accommodates the passage of cars.	21°29'21.68"N 39°11'10.28"E

## ROCK ART

The UNESCO site rock art includes two sites situated in a desert landscape: Jabel Umm Sinman at Jubbah city, located approximately 90 km northwest Hail city, and the Jabal Al-Manjor and wadi Raat at Shuwaymis city, approximately 250 km south of Hail city.



# INDIVIDUAL SCATTERED AREOLOGICAL SITES IN HAIL

	Arabic name	Romanized name	Description	X, Y
1	جبل أم سنمان	Jbl Umm Snmān	It is a mountain and its name means that the shape of the mountain is similar to a two-humped camel stable on the ground.	28° 1'53.76"N 40°55'7.20"E
2	جبال المنجور و راطا	Jbāl Al Mnjwr W Rātā	Heights formed from sedimentary sandstone, dating back to about 14,000 years old, surrounded by the lava area and crossed by a Raat valley.	26° 9'5.22"N 39°53'49.95"E
3	مدينة جبة	Mdynh Jbh	Jubbah city is located 90 km northwest of Hail city. The city lies on an ancient lake bed, and it is completely surrounded by the vast Nefud desert.	28° 0'17.50"N 40°56'31.44"E
4	مدينة الشويمس	Mdynh Ash Shwmys	Shuwaymis city is located 250 km south west of Hail city. This area of 50 km square of art rocks can be counted as one of the largest open-air natural history museums in the world.	26° 9'5.89"N 40°14'34.48"E
5	مدينة حائل	Mdynh Hā'l	Hail city is the capital of Hail province. The city lays on the eastern side of the massive Aja mountain.	27°31'9.23"N 41°42'16.63"E
6	جبال أجا	Jbāl Ajā	The Aja mountain range extends on the north of Hail about 100 kilometers in length, and this chain embraces a number of small villages and springs of water, and the highest peak reaches more than 1350 m.	27°33'24.79"N 41°30'14.91"E
7	جبال سلمى	Jbāl Slmá	The Salma Mountains extends on the south of Hail about 60 km, and the peak is about 1,200 m.	27° 9'6.15"N 42°16'22.70"E

# AL-AHSA OASIS

Al-Ahsa is the largest oasis in the world, with its 2.5 million date palms, which has a unique geocultural landscape and an exceptional example of human interaction with the environment. The etymology of Al-Ahsa refers to a landscape of accumulated sand with an impermeable layer underneath. Whereas, it is also mentioned that Al-Ahsa means springs. In addition, Al-Ahsa was known as Hajer, which includes a group of archaeological sites.



# INDIVIDUAL SCATTERED AREOLOGICAL SITES IN AL-AHSA

	Arabic name	Romanized name	Description	X, Y
1	الاحساء	Al Aḥsā'	The oasis is a fertile plain between the Gulf coast and the desert. The main cities of the oasis are Al-Hofuf and Al-Mubarraz.	25°21'57.44"N 49°35'46.32"E
2	جبل القارة	Jbl Al Qārḥ	The mountain contains caves with fairly constant temperatures throughout the year. Jabal Al-Qara takes its name from the town of Al-Qara, and is known as Jabal Al-Shaban, as it is completely surrounded by palm trees.	25°24'42.27"N 49°41'34.15"E
3	قصر صاهود	Qsr Sāḥwd	It is a historic palace which was built between 1790-1800 AD in Al-Mubarraz city.	25°24'50.90"N 49°35'0.61"E
4	سوق القيصرية	Swq Al Qysryh	Al-Qaisariya Market was built in 1822 as one of the oldest and largest traditional markets in the Gulf region.	25°22'36.14"N 49°35'21.33"E
5	مسجد جواثا	Msjd Jwāthā	one of the oldest Islamic mosques after the Prophet's Mohammed Mosque.	25°28'11.33"N 49°40'42.44"E
6	المدرسة الأميرية	Al Mdrsh Al Amyryh	An old school which was built in 1941 in Al-Hofuf city.	25°22'26.90"N 49°35'15.63"E
7	قصر إبراهيم	Qsr Ibrāhym	A historic palace (1871 - 1913), with many military installations. This palace was known as Qubba Palace or Kut Palace.	25°22'44.20"N 49°35'12.44"E

# HIMĀ CULTURAL AREA

Hima Cultural Area lies in a mountainous area and it was on the Arabian Peninsula's ancient caravan routes, where the wells of Bi'r Ḥimā date back at least 3,000 years and still produce fresh water. The area is boasting a substantial collection of rock art images that depict a cultural continuity of hunting, fauna, flora and lifestyles for 7,000 years. In addition, it has inscriptions of different scripts such as Musnad, South-Arabian, Thamudic, Greek and Arabic



## INDIVIDUAL SCATTERED AREOLOGICAL SITES IN HIMA CULTURAL AREA.

	Arabic name	Romanized name	Description	X,Y
1	آبار حى	Aḅār Hīmá	There are more than 13 sites containing drawings of hunting and grazing scenes, human figures painted larger than life size, as well as writings in Thamudic script, the southern Musnad, and Kufic script, dating from 7000 BC to 1000 BC.	18°15'0.97"N 44°27'4.58"E
2	الأخدود	Al Akhdwd	It is located on the southern bank of the Najran Valley (600 BC). Its castle is expected to start from 2-4 meters.	17°26'39.27"N 44° 4'41.47"E
3	وادي نجران	Wādy Njrān	Natural heritage	17°30'43.87"N 44°13'5.21"E
4	قصر العان	Qṣr Al 'Añ	A heritage palace is located on Jabal Al-Aan, built in 1689 of mud on foundations of stone.	17°28'49.47"N 44° 5'45.49"E
5	قلعة رعووم	Ql'h R'wm	A historical castle located on the top of Mount Raoum, Najran.	17°28'8.92"N 44° 5'14.43"E



## CONCLUSION

The toponyms of the UNESCO sites show that most of UNESCO sites are still using their ancient geographic names for example Hegra, Historic Jeddah, At-Turaif. some sites are not a monolithic concept such as the sites of Rock Art and Hima Cultural Area which its name is linked to well knew valley or mountain. these sites are required more research on their ancient history. whereas Al-Ahsa Oasis site has changed its old geographic name Hajer to Al-Ahsa, even though the name of Hajer is still used in the oasis such as Hajer football club.