

The Kingdoms Institute

The discoveries and research programmes, under the auspices of the Kingdoms Institute, have already begun

Major scientific research projects to date:

1. HEGRA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT (2002–2022)
2. IDENTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION OF IMMOVABLE HERITAGE ASSETS (IDIHA) (2018–2022)
3. JABAL IKMAH INSCRIPTION AND ROCK ART RESEARCH PROJECT (2019–2021)
4. EXCAVATION OF TELL SALIMIYYAH (2019)
5. DADAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT (2019–2024)
6. ALULA CULTURAL OASIS ASSESSMENT (2019–2024)
7. OLD TOWN AND OASIS FARMS SURVEY AND CONSERVATION (2019–2021)
8. DIGITAL SURVEY OF KEY HERITAGE (2020–2021)
9. OLD TOWN MULTISCALAR DOCUMENTATION FOR URBAN DYNAMICS (2021–2024)

NABATAEAN QUARRY

In an area of quarrying there are diagonal chisel marks on exposed sandstone faces, which are characteristically Nabataean, and a partly roughed-out column segment is still in-situ.



MUSTATILS

Large-scale rectangular structures called mustatils that are more numerous, more complex and more ancient than previously believed



WADI ABU UD

A place of special significance for millennia—with natural pools, rock-cut basins and inscriptions in many languages.



PREHISTORIC "FUNERARY AVENUE"

A "funerary avenue", located on the Harrat Uwayrid. This path developed from foot traffic between two lines of tombs built in late prehistory, and likely have been used for millennia.



EARLY ARABIC INSCRIPTION

A very impressive early Arabic inscription in a Kufic script style. An initial reading is: Mohammad son of Ali trusts in Allah and also the Prophet Mohammad and Ali. The Kufic script style suggests a date near 350 AH (Abbasid period, mid 10th century CE).



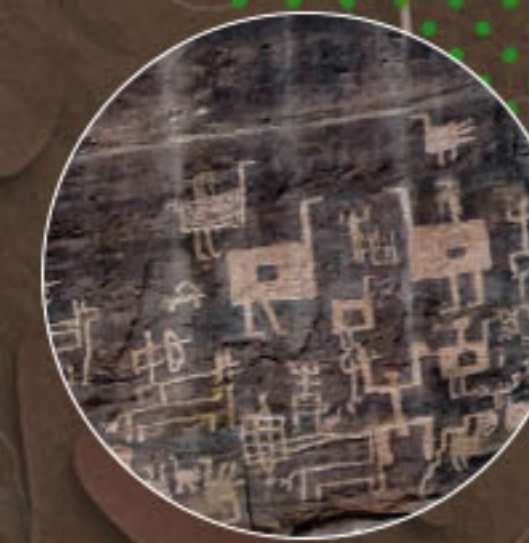
ALULA STATION

To become a focal point for visitors to explore the legacy of the Hijaz Railway, its story in AlUla, and enjoy a cluster of recreational experiences



WADI DANAN

Has one of the largest and most remarkable rock art panels, with usual and unusual motifs, including 'square' ostriches, carpets, and pottery vessels



JABAL IKMAH

HEGRA

Jabal Ithlib

Tomb of Lihyan Son of Kuza

Jabal Al Kharaymat

Tomb of Malkiyan the Diviner

NABATAEAN ROCK-CUT PIT TOMBS

Rectangular graves cut into the top of an outcrop with chisel marks still visible. There are 16 examples recorded in the area surrounding Hegra, and, somewhat surprisingly, even more discovered in South AlUla.



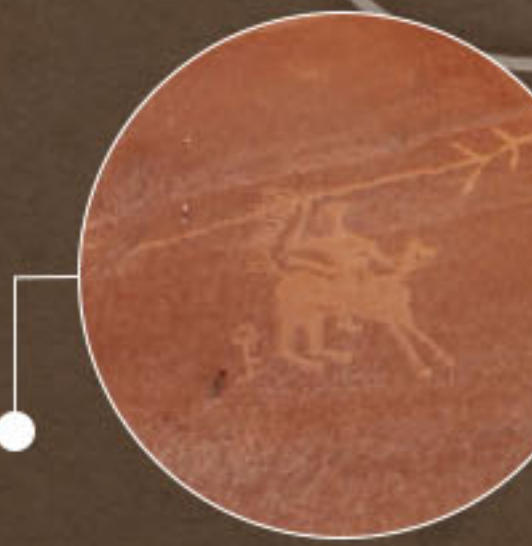
NABATAEAN SHRINES

One of the carved shrines recorded in this area is a "horned altar" (shown in profile and low relief so that only two of the four corners that crown the altar are represented). This is a common altar type to many pre-Islamic religions throughout the region, including the Nabataeans. Note as well the three "brackets" drilled into the cliff above the image: these were probably used to suspend oil lamps or perhaps votive offerings.



ANCIENT HORSE RIDERS

Horse riders are often represented in the rock art of this area of MP1, certainly from Iron Age onwards.



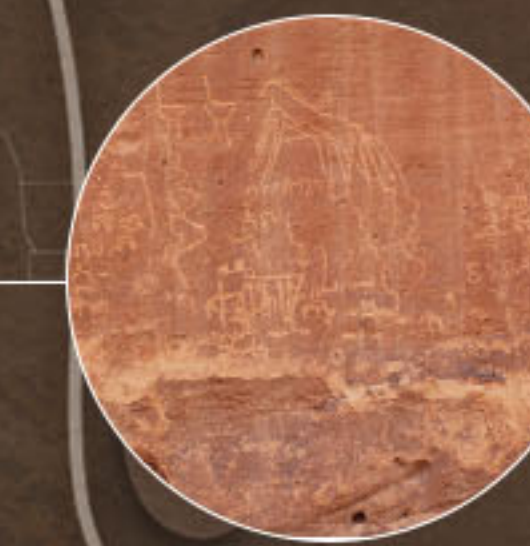
WADI RUM

Hundreds of inscriptions recorded in this canyon are currently under study, complementing the understanding of one, the Early Islamic Zuhayr inscription added to the UNESCO Memory of the World register in 2003.



ANCIENT ARTISTS OF ALFANN

The landscape of Wadi Alfann hosts many significant examples of the rock art and inscriptions of AlUla's ancient peoples, including depictions of an elongated human figure and a human foot, as well as unusual examples of Kufic script.



DADANITIC INSCRIPTIONS

Three beautiful relief Dadanitic inscriptions, one apparently mentioning the name of a king (Han'as) and of a god (Dhu Ghaybah).



DADAN

OLD TOWN

AlUla

AL-THAMID FORTIFICATIONS

A series of fortifications on a mountain top to the east of the AlUla valley. It comprises a 500m long defensive wall, several gun emplacements and a small fort. It overlooks a further southern emplacement and the AlUla railway station

