

The National Museum

Overview, the story and architecture and design

Overview

The Saudi National Museum summarizes the rich history of the Arabian Peninsula, showcasing its profound human and material influences. It stands as a cultural landmark, embodying the magnificence of the past and the essence of the present. In that regard, through its carefully curated archaeological and multimedia collections, the museum offers a multidimensional cultural experience. The museum spans eight galleries, tracing the chronological progression from the ancient times to the modern era and the Saudi period, aiming to foster the cultural identity and the enduring legacy of civilization across history.

The National Museum Story

In the initial stages, the Saudi National Museum was established under the purview of the Antiquities and Museums Department, as per the decree of the Council of Ministers in ١٣٨٣ AH (١٩٦٤ CE). Its primary purpose was to serve as a repository for archaeological findings and artifacts derived from extensive surveys and excavations. In ١٣٩٨ AH (١٩٧٧ CE), The National Museum was inaugurated at its old headquarters in Al-Shemaysi district, before eventually relocating to its current headquarters at the King Abdulaziz Historical Center in Riyadh in ١٤١٨ AH. The museum earned significant attention from The Custodian of Two Holy Mosques King Salman Abdulaziz- May God protect him- during his tenure as the governor of the Riyadh region .

The Saudi National Museum received consistent attention until its opening in ١٤١٩ AH, led by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd bin Abdulaziz- May God have mercy on him-. Since then, the Saudi National Museum has emerged as a paramount tourist and cultural destination, rich in historical highlights spanning various eras.

Architecture and Design

The construction of the Saudi National Museum was an integral component of the comprehensive development plan for the Al-Murabba district in Riyadh in previous years.

The building was completed within ٢٦ months in the year ١٩٩٩ AD, stretching over the entirety of Al-Murabba Square and the Palace Garden .

The Saudi National Museum's architectural design reflects the essence of Riyadh. Renowned architect Raymond Moriyama drew inspiration from the traditional Najdi structures and the captivating hues and contours of the red sand dunes surrounding the city. Blending modern aesthetics with the Najdi style, the museum features brick construction, while its distinctive walls are crafted from luminous granite and limestone. At sunset, they radiate shades of red, gradually fading as night falls, thus reinforcing the spirit of Riyadh, and evoking its beginning commemoration.

The remarkable design of the Saudi National Museum building played a significant role in UNESCO's recognition of Riyadh as the cultural capital of the Arab world.

