

Bahrain Builds Surf Culture



Waves to welcome first-time riders

- Park targets new surfers
- Bilaj zone under transformation
- Local youth to benefit

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama

A new generation of residents of Bahrain may soon find their rhythm not on asphalt or sand, but on rolling waves.

Construction has officially begun on the Kingdom's first surf park, a 52,000-square-metre development at Bilaj Al Jazayer, designed to bring world-class surfing to a country better known for its deserts than its breakers.

The project, known as the 'Bahrain Surf Park - Club Hawaii Experience', was launched by Edamah and GFH Financial Group during a groundbreaking ceremony attended by key officials yesterday.

But beyond the fanfare, the



Edamah and GFH Financial Group key officials attend the groundbreaking ceremony

vision is to introduce surfing as an accessible sport and lifestyle to Bahrain's youth, families, and tourists alike.

Wave for everyone

Unlike traditional beach destinations where surfing remains niche or elite, Bahrain Surf Park aims to open its wave pool and surf academy to everyone, from first-time riders to professional athletes.

The facility will use Spain's Wavegarden Cove technology to produce up to 1,000 programmable waves per hour, allowing up to 90 surfers in the lagoon

at once.

Instructors at the Club Hawaii Experience Academy will offer training suited for all levels, making surfing a realistic goal for school groups, families, and aspiring athletes in the region.

"This is more than just a water park," said His Excellency Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, CEO of Mumtalakat and Chairman of Edamah. "It's a landmark initiative that reflects Bahrain's vision to enhance the quality of life through innovation and community investment."

Bilaj revival

The surf park is part of the larger 1.3 million-square-metre Bilaj Al Jazayer masterplan, a coastal revitalisation project aiming to transform Bahrain's southwest shoreline into a bustling hub for entertainment and recreation.

Edamah CEO Khalid Abdulrahman Al Majed said the park would offer activities beyond surfing, including food outlets, cabanas, retail

stores, and entertainment areas designed for corporate and school use.

"This project will create new

spaces for families and youth to connect," he said. "It also supports Bahrain's broader goals of economic diversification and

national talent development."

Ride-ready future

The project also carries a sustainability promise, with its wave-making system ranked among the world's most energy-efficient. But what might make the biggest waves is its cultural impact, as it fosters Bahrain's surf identity where none previously existed.

"This is a chance to rewrite what recreation looks like here," said Victoria Williams, General Manager of Bahrain Surf Park. "It's not just about catching waves, it's about creating moments, movements, and memories."

The surf park is expected to open in 2026.



Whether young or old, the wave promises pure joy

Grassroots Peacekeepers Drive Coexistence

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama

Grassroots champions of peace in Bahrain have been recognised for reinforcing the Kingdom's global image as a beacon of interfaith harmony.

The Bahrain Society for Tolerance and Interfaith Coexistence, or Ta'ayush, earned praise from His Excellency Salman bin Isa bin Hindi Al-Mannai, Governor of Muharraq Governorate, for its work in nurturing dialogue and coexistence across communities.

Promoting dialogue

The recognition came during a visit by Ta'ayush officials led by Chairman Yousef Mohammed Bozboun, who presented the Governor with a copy of the Society's newly released book,



Ta'ayush Chairman Yousef Mohammed Bozboun presents H.E. Governor Salman bin Isa bin Hindi Al-Mannai with a copy of the book, In the Hospitality of the King of Peace, in the presence of officials

In the Hospitality of the King of Peace.

The publication documents the landmark visit to Bahrain by His Holiness Pope Francis and His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, underscoring the country's growing role in fostering global interfaith dialogue.

H.E. Al-Mannai described the Society's work as both "qualita-

tive" and "distinguished," noting that its programmes offer a local lens into Bahrain's broader vision for peaceful coexistence and mutual respect.

He said the book offers clear testimony to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's efforts to position Bahrain as a space of religious understanding and openness.



kangaroo kids
INTERNATIONAL PRESCHOOL



Splash Into Summer With Us

Starts from
29th June 2025
Age 2 - 6 years

Contact
36102177 ☎ 17253444 📧