

Mangroves tours to Tubli Bay launched



Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa

BTEA in collaboration with the Supreme Council for Environment, announced the launch of mangrove tours to Tubli Bay yesterday



The Tubli Bay is known for its unique ecological blend of mangroves, seagrass and corals



Tours will depart from Sitra Park between 8am and 4pm.



A view of the mangrove forest

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Mohammed Zafran

Public can now visit and enjoy a view of the mangrove forest and marine biotope at Tubli Bay as Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) has launched tours to the eco-tourism spot.

BTEA in collaboration with the Supreme Council for Environment, announced the launch of mangrove tours to Tubli Bay yesterday.

According to the BTEA, the area offers exotic sights unlike anywhere else in Bahrain.

"Tubli Bay features a beautiful mix of well-protected green mangrove forests and Bahrain skyline. It's a one-of-a-kind eco-tour to explore Bahrain's natural mangrove forest," BTEA stated about the

area. The Tubli Bay is known for its unique ecological blend of mangroves, seagrass and corals. A variety of migratory and resident birds are also some of the attractions to the area.

"Tours will depart from Sitra Park between 8 am and 4 pm. Participants can choose one of two locations, either a tour in Tubli Bay, which covers an area of 100 square kilometres and is priced at BD20 for 4 people or the mangrove tours which feature a beautiful mix of well-protected green mangrove forests and Bahrain's skyline, priced at BD 5 per passenger. Both trips aim to provide visitors with the opportunity to discover the Kingdom's nature offerings," BTEA stated. The mangrove tour boat trip lasts 40 minutes and the Tubli sightseeing boat

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BAHRAIN TOURISM AND EXHIBITIONS AUTHORITY

trip lasts 30 minutes.

"This comes in line with the BTEA's plans to attract visitors by offering unique and unfor-

gettable experiences, further developing the Kingdom's tourism sector and strengthening its position as an ideal tourist destination " the authority stated.

"It gives us great pleasure to announce the launch of mangrove tours in Tubli Bay in collaboration with the Supreme Council for Environment. We aim to provide all visitors with unique experiences through the various attractions and activities offered in the Kingdom. This comes as part of the BTEA's long-term strategy to further develop the Kingdom's tourism sector under the slogan 'Ours.Yours.', which contributes towards the Kingdom's economy and the Economic Vision 2030," said the Chief Executive Officer of BTEA, Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa.

Al Fateh Mosque need more staff to welcome tourists: Official

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Bahrain's largest mosque need facilities and more staff members to be able to welcome with the increasing number of tourists and guests visiting there, according to a senior Mosque official.

The Al Fateh Grand Mosque has been receiving a huge number of tourists in recent years, up to 40,000 a year. The number of guests has increased dramatically since 1999 when only 2000 tourists visited.

Ahmed Al-Fateh Islamic Centre coordinator Farahat Al-Kindy told The Tribune that the centre hopes that the authorities would grant it more facilities and staff to deal with the increasing number of visitors.

"We are certainly happy to welcome so many people to the mosque. But our concern is about providing everyone with a smooth experience and not having to keep anyone waiting.



The Al Fateh Grand Mosque

Currently, we are managing with the existing staff and facilities, but when the crew ship season begins it becomes very difficult because we will be having a lot more visitors. This is why we hope more staff can be hired and

more facilities can be arranged," said Al-Kindy. "The main issue is the lack of official staff, we have 100 volunteers but we only have six full-time employees. We are thankful to the volunteers but we still need more full-time staff.



The Al Fateh Grand Mosque has been receiving a huge number of tourists in recent years, upto 40,000 a year. The number of guests have increased dramatically since 1999 when only 2000 tourists visited

Even part-time staff would be helpful," he said.

"The crew ship season will begin in November and last year we struggled, many people had to wait in long queues, there were a lack of not only staff to deal with it but also resources



Farahat Al-Kindy

such as Abaya and traditional clothes the guests needed to wear," he said

"We used to do a lot of advertising before but now we do not do much advertising anymore for many of our events because we do not want an overload. Also, when the tour agencies offer to send 50 to 60 buses of tourists a day, we have to decline because we are unable to deal with that. At current capacity we are only able to deal with about 30 buses a day," he said

Our concern is about providing everyone a smooth experience and not having to keep anyone waiting. Currently we are managing with the existing staff, but when the crew ship season begins it becomes very difficult because we will be having a lot more visitors

FARAHAT AL-KINDY

"We want to expand our capacity so that we can welcome more visitors. Al Fateh mosque is one of the largest tourist attractions in Bahrain, expanding the facilities will help further boost the tourism of the country," he added.