

Walkathon marks 20 years of Bahrain's heritage status

A five-kilometre journey underscores Bahrain's archaeological depth and five decades of France-Bahrain cooperation

● **Event marks UNESCO anniversary**

● **Ambassador Éric Giraud praises Bahrain's heritage**

● **Walkathon connects public to historic sites**

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TDT | Manama

The Northern Governorate, in cooperation with the French Embassy, organised today's "Archaeology Walkathon", a five-kilometre cultural event designed to highlight Bahrain's archaeological significance and promote public engagement with key heritage sites.

Participants assembled at

Qal'at Al Bahrain, where Dr Salman Ahmed Ibrahim Al Mahari, Director General of Antiquities, delivered opening remarks emphasising the importance of safeguarding Bahrain's historic landscape and expanding public awareness of its cultural depth.

French Ambassador to Bahrain Éric Giraud addressed attendees immediately afterwards, reaffirming his strong personal interest in the Kingdom's archaeological sites.

Genuine treasures

In an interview with the Daily Tribune, he described these locations as "genuine treasures", noting that since arriving in Bahrain two years ago, he has developed a deep appreciation for exploring them.

He added that today's walk coincides with the 20th anniversary of Qal'at Al Bahrain's inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List, and highlight-



Cultural walkathon spotlights Bahrain's archaeological heritage through public community engagement



ed 50 years of uninterrupted French-Bahraini archaeological collaboration, a partnership that has produced significant discoveries and reinforced global understanding of Bahrain's ancient civilisations.

Ambassador Giraud also shared a light personal detail,

mentioning his weekly enjoyment of Bahraini tikka.

Guided tours

Two groups — Arabic-speaking and English-speaking — departed on parallel guided tours.

The route began with an over-

view of Qal'at Al Bahrain's layered historical narrative, before continuing through the agricultural areas surrounding Al Qalah village.

Participants then visited a natural spring in Hillat Abdul Saleh, once a source of freshwater but now affected by salinity.

A brief stop in Al Maqsha offered refreshments, including karak, before the groups proceeded to Al Hajar and Abu Saiba, where guides outlined the significance of the ancient burial mounds and the tradition of burying valuable personal items with the deceased in belief of an afterlife.

Traditional food

The walk concluded at the Abu Saiba archaeological zone, where participants were served traditional food such as chickpeas, milk tea, baqşam, and dates.

Buses then transported attendees back to Qal'at Al Bahrain.

Today's walkathon reinforced ongoing national efforts to strengthen public connection with Bahrain's archaeological heritage, while underscoring the depth and continuity of the scientific partnership.

Bahrain to host 93rd UFI Global Congress in 2026

● **EWB showcases Kingdom's global competitiveness in Hong Kong**

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Exhibition World Bahrain (EWB) has successfully concluded its participation at the 92nd UFI Global Congress, held in Hong Kong from 19 to 22 November 2025 — the world's most influential annual gathering of the global exhibitions industry.

During the closing session, the Kingdom of Bahrain formally accepted the honour of hosting the 93rd UFI Global Congress in 2026, affirming Bahrain's readiness to showcase its world-class facilities, dynamic MICE and business events ecosystem, and commitment to advancing the



Exhibition World Bahrain (EWB) team

future of the global exhibitions industry.

On this occasion, Her Excellency Sara Ahmed Buhiji, CEO of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) and Chairperson of Exhibition World Bahrain, commented: "Bahrain's participation at this year's UFI Global Congress carries special significance as we

prepare to welcome the global exhibition community to Bahrain in 2026. Hosting the next UFI Global Congress is both an honour and a testament to the Kingdom's growing influence and credibility on the international stage.

Commitment

"It reflects our commitment to

advancing the MICE sector as a key pillar of Bahrain's economic diversification and tourism strategy. Through this milestone, we reaffirm our vision to make Bahrain a global meeting point for innovation, collaboration, and opportunity."

Throughout the four-day congress in Hong Kong, the EWB team has engaged with event or-

ganisers, industry associations, and global partners to reinforce Bahrain's position as a strategic gateway for international business events and a centre of excellence for world-class exhibitions and conferences.

EWB's active role at the event reinforces its strategic vision to position Bahrain as a global hub for exhibitions.

Two-day forum on ways to combat organised fraud

● **Event held on November 24 and 25**

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The Public Prosecution, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Judicial and Legal Studies Institute, will organise a forum on November 24 and 25 aimed at strengthening national efforts to combat organised fraud.

The event will bring together judges, public prosecutors, specialised law-enforcement officers, representatives of the Central Bank of Bahrain, and officials from banks and financial institutions in the Kingdom.

The forum aims to examine emerging fraud patterns and review best judicial and security practices in combating fraud, particularly organised and electronic fraud.

Crimes

Discussions will also address the role of banks and financial institutions in preventing such crimes, the technological capabilities used to detect and track evidence, and mechanisms for international cooperation in pursuing cross-border fraud networks and tracing illicit proceeds.

The programme will also assess available measures to reduce such crimes.

A group of international experts in legal, security, and financial domains will deliver presentations during the workshop.

'Children of Tomorrow' initiative



Under the patronage of the Director-General of Verdict Enforcement and Alternative Sentencing, His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Rashid Al Khalifa, the directorate organised the "Children of Tomorrow" event for the children of beneficiaries of alternative sentencing programme, in celebration of World Children's Day. The event was held at the Open Prisons Complex. At the outset, the Director-General affirmed that organising this event comes as part of the interest and follow-up of H.E. Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa in strengthening family bonds and supporting children, as they form an essential part of the family stability system for individuals benefiting from alternative sentencing programme. The event witnessed a large turnout of children and their families, with more than 400 attendees of various ages. It featured a range of recreational and educational activities, along with competitions that created a joyful atmosphere and enhanced positive interaction among the children, contributing to achieving the humanitarian and social objectives of the initiative.