

BTEA sustainable tour to mark World Tourism Day 2025

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) announced that it will operate a tour on Saturday, September 27, 2025, at 3 P.M. to celebrate World Tourism Day, observed this year under the theme “Tourism and Sustainable Transfor-

mation”. The tour is organised in co-operation with the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), and the Executive Office of the National Plan to Promote the Spirit of Belonging to the Nation and Reinforce the Values

of Citizenship (Bahrainouna). The tour will start at the Bahrain National Museum and include visits to some of the Kingdom’s most prominent historical and cultural landmarks, including Bab Al Bahrain and the Kanoo Museum, offering participants the opportunity to explore the heritage of

Manama.

It will also feature a stop at the Al Jasra Handicrafts Centre to discover the creativity of Bahraini artisans.

The programme will conclude with a tour of the Bahrain National Museum galleries, showcasing the Kingdom’s rich history and cultural identity.

The initiative represents the first joint tourism activity designed to promote sustainable tourism by using modern public transport buses as the main means of travel.

This step highlights the role of Bahrain’s public transportation network as a practical option to reduce carbon emissions and

enhance environmental awareness, while offering visitors an authentic cultural experience that combines heritage and sustainability.

A group of Bahraini tourist guides will accompany participants to provide in-depth information on the Kingdom’s historical and cultural sites.

Ethiopian Bonfire Lights Bahrain

● UNESCO-listed Meskel comes to Bahrain

● Bonfire tradition recalls True Cross discovery

● Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Community invites public to join

Mahir Haneef
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Bahrain is set to experience one of Ethiopia’s most treasured cultural traditions as the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church community invites the public to join its annual Meskel Festival tomorrow at Bahrain Beach Bay in Zallaq.

The festival, recognised by UNESCO as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, commemorates the 4th century discovery of the True Cross by Empress Saint Helena. At its heart is the “Demera,” a towering ceremonial bonfire whose flames symbolise the guiding fire that led to the Cross’s revelation.

Ancient roots

According to tradition, Empress Helena was directed in a dream to light a great pyre,



Ethiopian families celebrating the annual Meskel Festival



“Demera” is a towering ceremonial bonfire whose flames symbolise the guiding fire that led to the Cross’s revelation

and the smoke pointed to the site where the Cross lay buried. Today, that moment is remembered through the dramatic lighting of the Demera, often decorated with Meskel daisies, followed by blessings as the faithful mark their foreheads

with ash.

Meskel is more than a religious observance. In Ethiopia, it signals the end of the rainy season and the beginning of a new year, bringing communities together in unity, reconciliation, and joyful spirit. In

Bahrain, the festival reflects the Kingdom’s multicultural ethos, offering residents and visitors a chance to witness Yaredawi hymns, communal expressions of gratitude, and the warmth of Ethiopian hospitality.

Invitation to all

Organisers have extended the invitation beyond their community, calling on Bahrainis and expatriates alike to take part in this rare cultural occasion. The celebration begins at 4:30 pm and will continue till 6:00 pm, with hymns, prayers, and the climactic bonfire.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Community describes Meskel as a living link between history, faith, and culture, an event that not only honours tradition but also builds bridges of understanding in Bahrain’s diverse society.

Joint maritime exercise



The Ministry of Interior confirmed that, as part of strategic plans aimed at enhancing national capabilities in the field of maritime security and ensuring a safe and sustainable maritime environment, the Coast Guard Command carried out the joint maritime exercise (Comprehensive 1) with the participation of the National Guard and Bapco Energy, and with support from a number of security departments at the Ministry of Interior. The exercise also included marine search and rescue operations in the area designated for Bapco Energy’s marine survey project, enhancing full readiness to handle emergencies and protect lives and property. The Coast Guard Command indicated that these joint exercises represent a fundamental pillar for enhancing the efficiency of naval and security units and developing field capabilities to confront security challenges, thus consolidating the Kingdom of Bahrain’s leading role in the field of maritime security and safety.

Safeguarding security and stability



The Capital Governor, Shaikh Khalid bin Hamoud Al Khalifa, visited the Capital Governorate Police Directorate, where he met with the Director-General of the Capital Governorate Police, Brigadier Isa Hassan Al Qattan, along with heads of police stations and several officers, in the presence of the Deputy Capital Governor, Brigadier Ammar Mustafa Al Sayed. The Governor toured various sections of the Directorate and reviewed procedures followed in handling cases, as well as workflow mechanisms. The Capital Governor praised the dedication and continuous follow-up of His Excellency Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa in enhancing the role of security authority in safeguarding security and stability and protecting national achievements. He stressed that such commitment reflects a comprehensive vision to reinforce the principle of community partnership and consolidate public reassurance.

Proposal approved to revive Dilapidated Houses Project

Mohammed Darwish
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The Southern Municipal Council yesterday approved a proposal from member Ahmed Abdullah Al Abdullah to revive the Dilapidated Houses Project under the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, working with municipal councils.

The scheme is intended to secure safe, suitable homes for low-income citizens and raise housing standards across the Kingdom. The file sat with the ministry and the councils from early 2008.

After Cabinet Decision No. 2133/06 of 23 October 2011, it moved to the Ministry of Housing, with the transfer taking effect in 2012.

According to the submission, the project then stalled.

In 2017, Housing set an approach that treated cas-



The proposal points to large numbers of houses built around fifty years ago by the Ministry of Housing in areas such as Isa Town, Riffa and Al Buhair.

es under the same terms as a home-repair loan, which, the proposer argues, shut out many households in need.

The paper says a BD20,000 loan ceiling is too small to cover demolition and a rebuild, while about BD30,000 is near the mark.

ILA’s 25th Dandiya Beats Unites Community in Vibrant Celebration

Pradeep Puravankara
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The Indian Ladies Association (ILA) Bahrain celebrated a milestone with the 25th edition of its annual ILA Dandiya Beats event.

Held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on September 19th, 2025, the event attracted a record-breaking crowd of over 2,500 attendees, solidifying its place as one of the kingdom’s most vibrant cultural celebrations.

The evening, led by ILA President Smitha Jensen, commenced with a traditional welcome for Chief Guest H.E. Undersecretary Faisal Mohammed Al Saleh and other esteemed dignitaries and sponsors.

Performance

The festive tone was set by a



ILA President Smitha Jensen and Chief Guest H.E. Undersecretary Faisal Mohammed Al Saleh with esteemed dignitaries and sponsors

performance from the children of Sneha, ILA’s flagship initiative, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the diya.

The celebration featured a wide range of entertainment and cultural showcases, including traditional dances by ILA groups and the Vibe Tribe Youth Club.

DJ Nitesh from Mumbai provided non-stop music, while hosts Ms. Shipra and Mr. Kailash

kept the energy high throughout the night. Attendees also supported Sneha’s stall, which featured handcrafted creations. Lulu Hypermarket served as the event’s “Powered by” sponsor, providing logistical support and curating the food stalls.

Co-sponsors

The event was also supported by co-sponsors STC Bahrain and Malabar Gold & Diamonds,

as well as platinum and gold sponsors including Ford – Almoayyed Motors, Colors, Kangaroo Kids, and BMMI.

ILA President Smitha Jensen expressed her gratitude, noting that the event was a “testament to Bahrain’s inclusive spirit and the power of community.”

ILA Vice President Fouzia Fareed echoed this sentiment, highlighting that the night “brought generations together.