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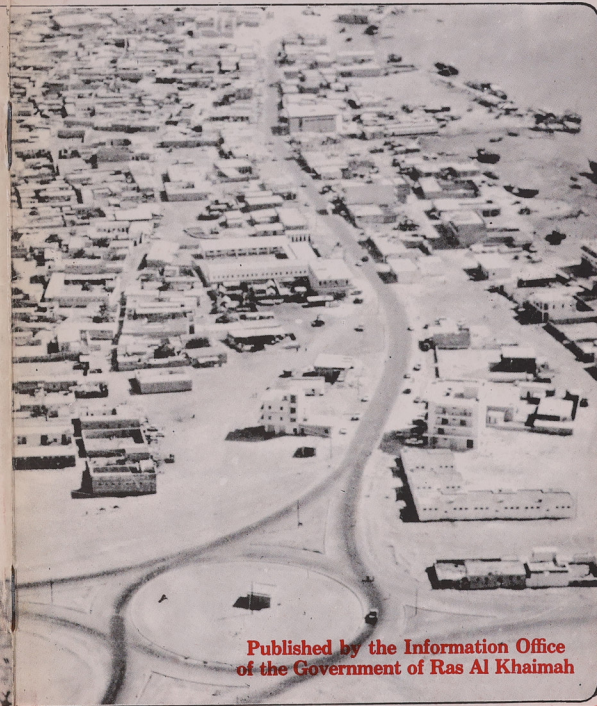
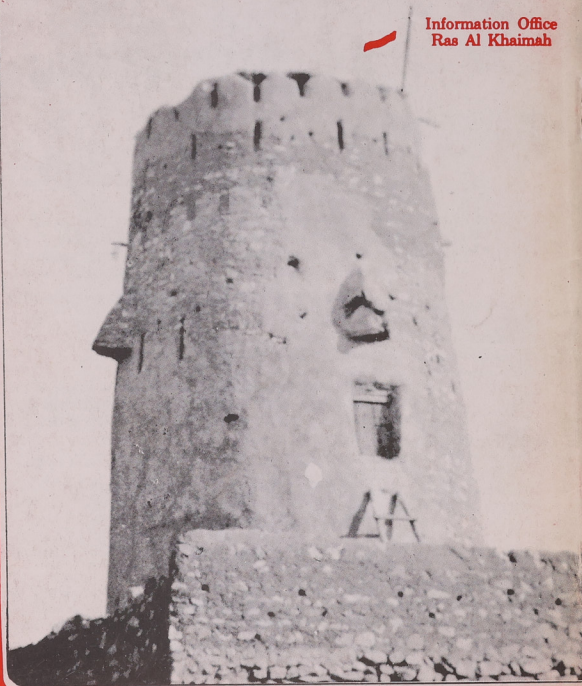
This is a brief resume about Ras al Khaimah State which may throw a beam of light on the historical position of this ancient Arab country and its continued efforts for human welfare and a better future.

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ights On The State Of

# Ras Al Khaimah

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RAS AL KHAIMAH

SPOTLIGHTS  
On The State of Ras Al Khaimah

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**THE STATE OF RAS AL KHAIMAH**

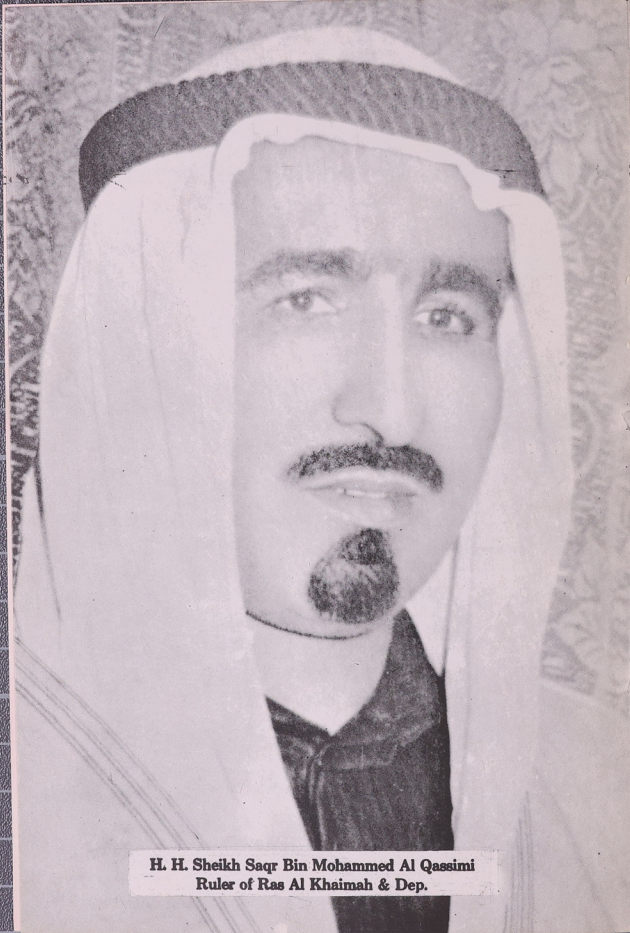
Ras al Khaimah is the first State at the Eastern end of the Arab World; it falls between 25° and 26° latitudes north and 55 — 60 longitudes East overlooking the Arabian Gulf entrance and the Bab Assalam Strait (Hormuz).

The State embraces a number of towns and villages on the coast line, and at the foot or at the top of the chain of Oman mountains. No official census has been made but the population is estimated to be 50,000 approximately.

There are many gardens and farms in Ras al Khaimah and plenty of wild trees which give the area a look of natural beauty; added to this the old watch towers with their round or conical shapes atop the sand dunes which reflect the glory of the past on the base of the State's present development in the fields of agriculture, industry, commerce and buildings.

Ras al Khaimah with this beautiful nature attracts the inhabitants of the coastal towns and other neighbouring areas who arrive here all the year round to enjoy sight-seeing. Visitors generally spread over the gardens and the attractive beach of Sha'am and Ghalila, the gardens of Kharran and Digdaga, and they also enjoy the hot mineral springs of Khatt.

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**H. H. Sheikh Saqr Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi**  
Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah & Dep.

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## THE STATE'S REGIME

The State is Ruled by H. H. Sheikh Saqr Bin Mohammed Bin Salim Al Qassimi, the grandson of Al Qawassim who built up a great State in this area which in the past reached to the East Africa, the Red Sea and the Indian Coasts.

Sheikh Saqr is a courageous man, good-hearted, very intelligent, still adopting the traditional Arab customs, beloved by everybody in the State and feared as well. He is serious and straight forward, fair and wise, and displays a calm nerve in times of crisis; always he is look forward to the development of all aspects of life in the State.

He is married and has several sons, the oldest being H. H. Sheikh Khalid, the Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler.

## THE CROWN PRINCE & DEPUTY RULER

H. H. Sheikh Khalid Bin Saqr al-Qassimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler, is an educated young man who gained from his father the fair personality of the Ruler and the courage of a virtuous man; he is married and has two sons.

He looks to the prosperous future of the State, touching on all its sides, especially with the expected increase of its income when oil is found.



H. H. Sheikh Khalid Bin Saqr

## RAS AL KHAIMAH TOWN

Ras al Khaimah town is favoured with an important location on the Oman Coast naturally and geographically; it is divided by a deep creek which is used as a natural harbour for ships and fishing boats where ships can anchor along side the jetty where the Customs Department has its



warehouse and loading off-loading equipment. The western part of the town is known as Ras al Khaimah where the old town and the old fort are surrounded by a series of old watch towers. The East side is known as Al-Nakhel, the main districts of which are Al-Araibi, Al-Hudaiba, Al-Ma'amoura, where the Ruler's Palace and a number of the Government Departments are situated together with a residential quarter for the key personalities in the State, and Al-Ma'areed a popular residential quarter.

Only a few years ago development found its way to this town with its two sides where schools, buildings, modern several storeyed buildings and wide paved roads and market places and shops were constructed; the modern town plan ensures proper public gardens, squares, public services and communications and also a project for a bridge to link the two sides of the town, in addition to the long length of road surrounding the creek and the ferry boat service.



#### AN HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Ras al Khaimah lived a glorious past when the Arab Qawassim family ruled the country; they were great seamen and had a wide range of activities, political and commercial. The State of Al-Qawassim owned a fleet of sixty three warships, armed with hundreds of guns and eight-hundred ships and light boats which carried twenty thousand warriors.

The State of Al-Qawassim covered a large area of Oman in addition to a great number of islands and coastal ships and harbours on the eastern side on the Arabian Gulf.

After the occupation of Ras al Khaimah by the forces of the Bombay Government and the East Indian Co. , the area was attached to Britain through treaties of protection and agreements which have continued until 1971, when the withdrawal of the British troops will be completed and the treaties invalidated.



#### TOURIST AREAS

There are several towns in Ras al Khaimah that have a special feature of their own where the simple, easy and quiet life can be enjoyed.

Sha'am is a small town 30 Km north of Ras al Khaimah, the road between Ras al Khaimah and Sha'am now being half asphalted. It lies on an elevation overlooking the Gulf waters, surrounded by gardens and mountains with plenty of fresh and health giving water.

**Khatt** is another town 25 Km south of Ras al Khaimah with plenty of palm trees and hot mineral water springs surrounded by gardens.

### THE COUNTRY

There are many villages such as Kharran, Digdaga, Massafi, Rams, Howailat and Khor Khowair each of which enjoys its own beauty.

### ISLANDS

Ras al Khaimah owns a number of islands, the most important of which are :—



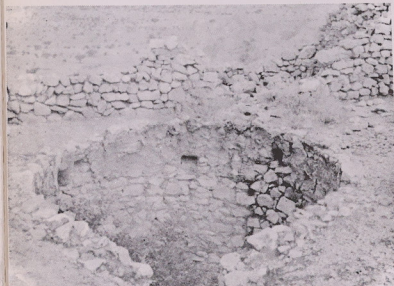
**Great Tunb and small Tunb;** in Great Tunb people enjoy a reasonable standard of living and there is a school and a number of Governmental services.

**Jazeera al-Hamra** which is now attached to the main land by a bridge and paved road.

The main source of income for the residents of these islands is fishing.

### HISTORICAL RUINS

The whole regions of Oman had a great civilization in the past and there is much evidence of this remains from the ancient past thousands of years ago, such as the many strong forts and castles, the high minarets and the ruins of old palaces etc. Ras al Khaimah is full of such monuments such as :—



**Husn Dayah :** A mountain fort east of Rams.

**Qasr Az-zabba :** The ruins of a palace located on top of a mountain with a hand dug channel down to the sea. Elderly people said that this belonged to Queen Az-zabba who ruled this area tens of centuries ago and it was said that her regime was very cruel. The ruins consist of parts of the main wall and a number

of pools and water reservoirs and one of the rooms and halls.

**Watch Towers :** There are many of those scattered all over Ras al Khaimah area especially along the coastal strip these were to watch the coast and the heights inland around the towns, and are generally circular or square, consisting of several storeys floored with wooden planks and mud, accessible through a high opening in the wall which

can be reached only by a ladder; there are many openings or holes in the walls of these towers for firing rifles or arrows.

**Wadi Umm Al Ghaf :** There are many monuments in this wadi which needs study and archeological excavations; there are old writings and carvings on the rocks.

**The Temple and Idol Of Khatt :** At one side of Khatt town, south of Ras al Khaimah there are ruins of an ancient temple and a huge idol which was for one of the old gods. The temple and idol were demolished by the Wahabis during the early days of that movement, but the ruins are still there.

**The Ruins Of Julfar City :** During the wars against Julfar which was adjacent to Ras al Khaimah town, a naval fleets of the invaders were able to destroy the town; the citizens who remained left the ruined town, and it has become buried by the sand; excavations have uncovered many of the features of the buried town, such as water literus and heaps of stones which was a watch tower, etc.

**Al-Mataf :** This was the old creek for the old town of Julfar, where ships used to pass through a narrow entrance which joined the sea to the creek. Nearby lived the Arab Seas Navigation Expert Ahmed bin Majid of whose knowledge the Portugese sailor Vasco de Gama made use of to reach India and the south east of Asia.

#### FISHING AND HUNTING

One can also enjoy fishing where opportunities to catch sharks and other fish are available for those who like skin diving; numerous kinds of fish are generally found in Ras al Khaimah waters.

As for hunting, one can spend unforgettable days hunting doves, bustards, gazelle, foxes, etc. in the plains or in certain mountain area.

#### HOTELS

There are several hotels in Ras Al Khaimah, the most important of which is the new modern first class hotel called "Ras Al Khaimah Hotel".

It was opened for business during the month of July 1971, this hotel consist of 40 airconditioned rooms with full accomodation in addition to several halls for music and conference, gumpling, casino, a swimming pool and bars etc.

In the town, there are other popular hotels with lower standard.

#### CURRENCY AND BANKS

The current coin in Ras Al Khaimah are the "Qatar and Dubai Riyal", One Riyal dividing to one hundred Dirhams, exchange rates to other principle foreign currencies as follows :-

1 US \$ = QDR. 4.80 Approx.      1£ = QDR. 11.50 Approx.

First Bank setted up in Ras Al Khaimah was "THE BRITISH BANK OF THE MIDDLE EAST" in 1964, followed in 1969 "ARAB BANK LTD." and "BANK SADIRAT OF IRAN", in 1970 founded "NATIONAL AND GRANDLAYS BANK LTD.", "HABIB BANK OVERSEAS" and "UNITED BANK LTD."

Sixth Banks in Ras Al Khaimah are transacting in exchange all kind of foreign currencies, which may be Traveller Cheques, Banker Cheques and banknote exchange.

Our Banks welcoming you in RAS AL KHAÏMAH.