This English Section appears bi-weekly Edited by: Wendy Y.C. Yeh

Profile

A-19

Ancient Capital of the Nabataeans Empire: Petra, Jordan (2)



The city of Aqaba in Jordan is the Middle East investment hub on the Red Sea. Aqaba borders with Egypt and Israel. It offers

investment opportunities in a world class business environment ranging from tourism to recreational services.

Aqaba has something for everyone. Whether you are staying in Aqaba for a relaxing short break, business, or a visit with friends and family, there is so much to see and do here.

Jordan's first 18-hole championship golf course is located near the Gulf of Aqaba. Many golfers like the tranquil view of the Red Sea and the sound of ocean waves. A masterpiece in its own right, this golf course is for experienced players and people new to the game.

The new Wibit water park, Jordan's first and largest inflatable water park, adds a great entertainment element for the visitors. Moreover, the opening of a rustic beach club provides a perfect place to spend a day under Aqaba's shining sun.

Before sunset, I walked to the Fishermen Harbour and watched the Aqabawi fishermen coming back from their fishing trips with the catch of the day. I enjoyed the chance to explore the culture of seaside living on the Red Sea.

It was wonderful to savor the sound of Aqaba's traditional simsimiya music. The five-stringed simsimiya instrument is popular among fishermen, who play it on their fishing boats to entertain themselves during long days of fishing. They also play it at sunset when they return to shore as a way to celebrate their day of hard work.

In Aqaba, the sands of time are poured elegantly into small bottles to form desert scenes. I watched how a person's name is created in English or Arabic in the colors of that person's choosing. These are unique souvenirs anyone will be happy to own.

Arab women have used the henna plant in hair and skin treatments for centuries. Even

today, many use it alongside modern cosmetics. In the past, the Henna Night prior to a wedding served as a chance for the bride and her female friends to celebrate with songs and dances while the bride was beautified with elaborate henna tattoos on her hands and feet. Some tourists stopped by an Aqaba beauty salon for stunning non-permanent henna tattoos of their own.

Souk by the Sea in Aqaba, Jordan, is a weekly street market. It is a community revenue-generating initiative. It is usually held on Fridays. It promotes handicrafts and goods produced by the residents of Aqaba. I browsed through the market and enjoyed authentic Jordanian food and entertainment.

When I was planning my trip to Aqaba, Jordan, I did not know in advance how the trip was going to turn out. I was so glad that it turned out to be an extraordinary experience. This is the reason why I like to play the lottery, not because I think I can win, but because for the day or so until the drawing it gives me a chance to plan out how

I will spend the jackpot.



▲ visiting the splendid Aqaba Grand Mosque in Jordan



▲ proudly holding Jordan's national flag



▲riding the bright red City Sightseeing Bus to visit

Agaba in Jordan



▲ enjoying a panoramic view of the beautiful city of Aqaba in Jordan

英态壁 张麗 **

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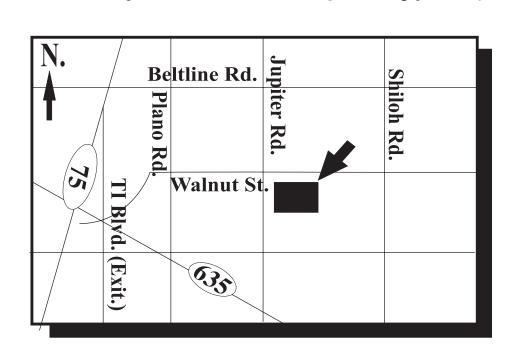
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