

# Abu Dhabi

## AL AIN PALACE MUSEUM

EXPERIENCE THE CULTURE OF THE UAE.  
CELEBRATE THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE PAST  
AND ENJOY THE HOSPITALITY OF THE PRESENT.

### AL AIN PALACE MUSEUM

Located on the western edge of Al Ain Oasis, the palace was built in 1937. It was converted to a museum in 1998 and opened to the public in 2001.

### HOSPITALITY

Reception rooms for international delegations reflect the hospitality which Sheikh Zayed and his family were known for. The outdoor yard includes a coffee room.

### SHEIKH ZAYED

The palace pays homage to the heritage of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The tent which Sheikh Zayed used to host guests during the winter has been set up in the palace grounds.

### OPENING HOURS

Sunday - Wednesday: 8.30am - 7.30pm  
Thursdays and Fridays: 3pm - 10pm

### BUILDING DESIGN

The design of the palace is typical of historical buildings in the UAE, which are constructed with ventilation structures to stay cool in the summer.

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## CULTURAL TOURISM AT ITS BEST

**For more information:**

**[www.visitalainpalacemuseum.ae](http://www.visitalainpalacemuseum.ae)**

**Phone: +971 3 751 7755**

**LOCATION:** Al Jahili area, Hessa Bint Mohammed Street, Al Ain Oasis

## Text 2: Reem's Gift

### Reem's Gift

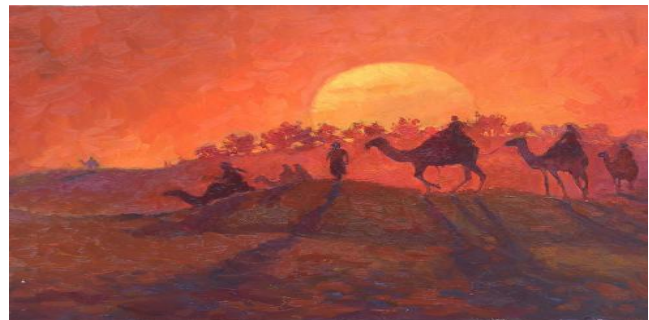
A century ago, there lived a talented tailor, who was well known for making wonderful clothes. He lived with his wife and two daughters, called Reem and Sara. At that time, the tailoring business was slow, so he did not earn a lot of money, and, although he loved both of his daughters dearly, he could only afford to send his eldest daughter, Sara, to school. This broke the tailor's heart, as his youngest daughter Reem was lively, astute, and loved to learn. If Reem had the choice, she would have attended school every day.

Reem passed her days in the garden, studying nature. At other times, she would pester her mother to tell her stories. Patiently, her mother would sit by her side, in the shade of a tree, and recount wonderful stories from her ancestors' past. Stories of pearl divers, fishermen, ancient dhows, and journeys across silvery blue seas. She spoke of history; the lands of their forefathers. Lands of golden sands, mountainous dunes, ancient palms, and oases.

At the end of each of her mother's stories, Reem closed her eyes. In her mind, Reem began to imagine scenes from the past; her mother's descriptions of ancient worlds and forgotten lands unfolded before her once again. She saw green fertile oases in the desert, surrounded by ancient springs. She saw the red sands reflecting the sun at the end of the day. The silhouettes of the camels grazing, as the sun set over the dunes. Echoing in her ears, she heard the cries of the pearl divers, as they burst from the surface of the waves; excited by the jeweled shells in their net bags. She could smell the salty seas and hear the calls of the seagulls. She could feel the old trade winds tussle her hair. Reem's mind began to flourish, under her mother's tuition; the images were food for her thoughts.

The next day, during one of her nature studies, Reem examined some red and green berries which had fallen from the garden tree. Intrigued, she took them to the kitchen, placed them in an old bowl, added a few drops of water, and mashed them into a thick paste. She took some plain parchment from a drawer, then returned to the garden with the paper and paste to search for a suitable stick. Using the stick as a paintbrush, and the paste as paint, Reem closed her eyes and pictured the red sands from the ancient worlds; and on the paper in front of her she painted those ancient scenes.

One day, a wealthy lady passed by and saw Reem there, under the tree. She saw Reem's talent unfold. Reem's gift was her ability to tell a story in pictures - paintings full of the wonders and lives of the ancient worlds. The lady stopped and asked Reem if she could purchase the picture, as it reminded her of her ancestors' past. Gladly, Reem sold her the painting.



Amazed at her success, Reem closed her eyes, and pictured different scenes from the stories of the past. Then, she began to paint again. As the weeks passed by, and her art became famous, Reem sold a lot of her art work. The amount of money which she made from selling her art work began to grow. Finally, the day arrived, when Reem had enough money. So, she went to speak to her father and asked his permission to go to school. And the next day, his heart brimming with pride, the tailor waved goodbye, as Reem and Sara went to school together, for the first time.

### Text 3: Sheikh Salih Bin Kalut Al Rashidai Al Kathiri

## Sheikh Salih Bin Kalut Al Rashidai Al Kathiri

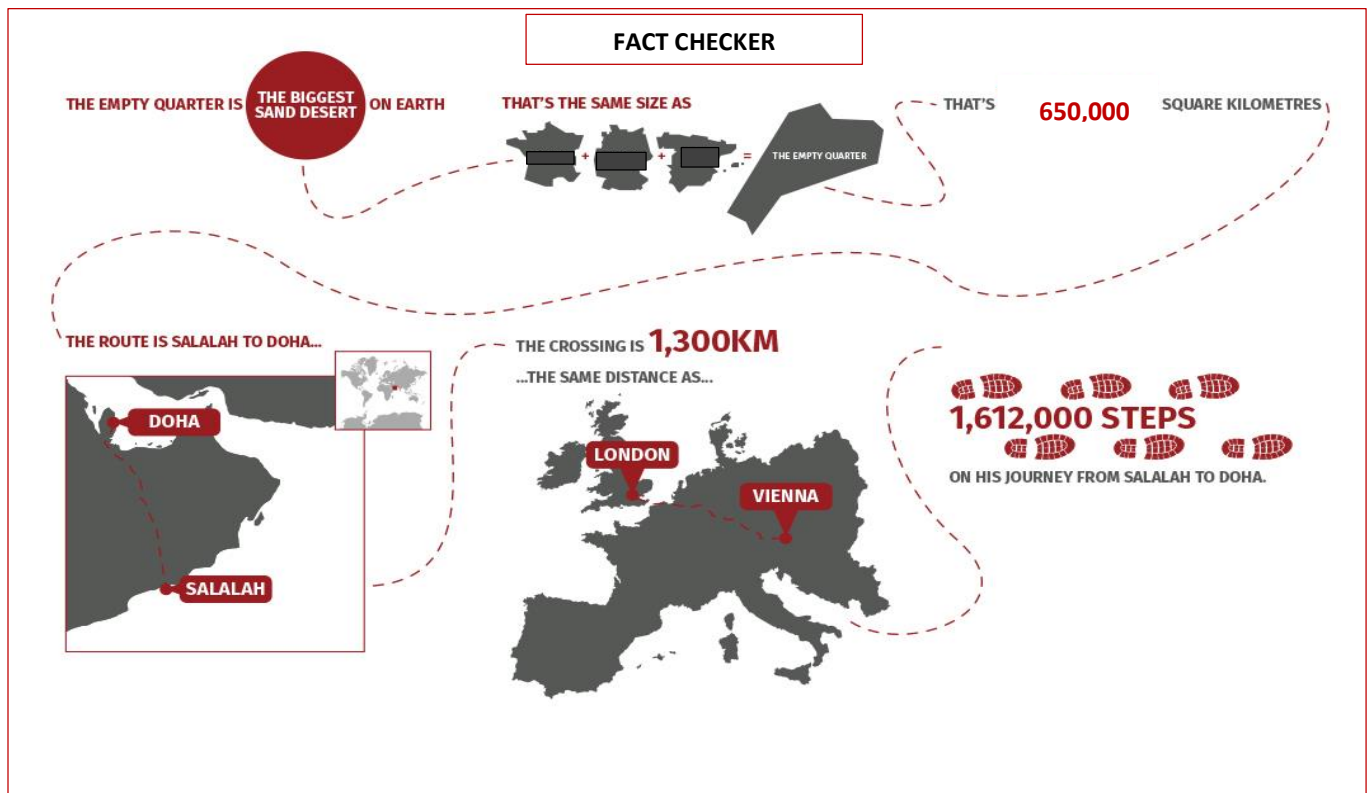
Sheikh Salih bin Kalut Al Rashidi al Kathiri was an explorer, who made the first ever crossing of the largest sand desert in the world - known as the Empty Quarter. Sheikh Salih was a brave man about whom stories are still told. Out of the whole exploration team, he was the only person who completed the entire journey, from Salalah to Doha, on foot.

During the journey, Sheikh Salih's skills of organisation, desert navigation, and leadership were critical to the success of the exploration. Even more critical were his skills as a diplomat. As the group travelled from one desert area to another, there was always the potential for problems with local tribes, even the threat of danger. It was thanks to Sheikh Salih's skills of negotiation, navigation, and leadership that the team achieved success, and reached Doha safely.

Sheikh Salih's amazing exploits were such, that, even today, his achievements are remembered. One of the original team members, Mohammed, remembers how he; 'took an immediate liking to Sheikh Salih. He had the most fantastic name of Bin Kalut. Sheikh Salih was a short man, his face open and honest, and his voice slow and thoughtful. He inspired confidence in the rest of the team.'

Wilfred Thesiger, the explorer, described Sheikh Salih as; '...immensely powerful. He rarely spoke, but I noticed that when he did, no one argued.'

Sheikh Salih arrived in Doha on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1931. He passed away in Dubai on December 15, 1953, some twenty two years after his great achievement in leading the first ever team to cross the Empty Quarter.



The **Empty Quarter** is one of the hottest, driest, most inhospitable places on earth. The desert covers some 650,000 square kilometers of the Arabian Peninsula in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen, and the UAE – an area of sand bigger than France, Belgium and the Netherlands combined. It is the biggest sand desert on earth. Temperatures in the Empty Quarter can climb above 50 degrees Celsius in the summer, and drop below zero degrees in the depths of winter. Annual rainfall is less than 30mm, and enormous sand dunes, some of them almost 1,000 feet high, slowly drift across enormous desert plains.

#### **Text 4:** How to Train a Falcon



## **How to Train a Falcon**

Falconry (the skill of flying trained birds) is an ancient sport. A falcon is a bird of prey, which means it hunts other animals for food. Throughout history, humans have trained birds of prey to catch food, such as small birds and rabbits. One of the most thrilling sights is watching a falcon flying down at incredible speed to land on its trainer's gloved hand.

Here are some useful steps on how to train a falcon:

### **Step 1: Keep the Falcon Calm and Relaxed**

First, put a hood over the falcon's head, this will keep it calm and relaxed.

Get the falcon used to you, so that it will be ready to train to receive meat from your hand. Use a falconer's glove. Tie a leash to the ring on your glove. Place the falcon on your glove and remove its hood. Feed it raw meat, until it becomes used to sitting on your glove without its hood on.



### **Step 2: Take the Falcon Outside**

Put the falcon on a perch so that it can hop back to your glove to get a reward of meat. Once the bird is returning to your gloved hand, put its hood back on and take it outside.

Once outside, tie a leash to a ring on one of the falcon's legs. Tie the other end of the leash to your glove. Place the bird on a perch and remove its hood.

### **Step 3: Show the Falcon a Lure**

Show the falcon a 'lure' – this is a leather pad attached to a cord with some meat on it. Throw the lure on the ground in front of the falcon; it should fly down to eat the meat on the lure. Put some more meat on your glove and the falcon should now jump back onto your glove. Your bird is now ready to fly free.



### **Step 4: Fly the Falcon**

Swing the lure in a wide circle above your head. As the falcon flies at the lure, jerk the lure away so that the falcon has to turn and chase the lure again. Regularly swinging the lure for the falcon will keep it fit and healthy. To return the falcon to your gloved hand, place a piece of meat on your glove and call to it. It should hop on and then you can tie it back to your glove and take it home.

The first time you fly your falcon free, it is a good idea to attach an electronic tracking device to make sure you can find it if it flies off.