Aqabawi: works to develop and enhance the traditional tourism sector in the south of Jordan by providing new and different touristic experiences that highlight the local culture, environment, and cuisine. Aqabawi aims to promote pride and enthusiasm for Jordanian heritage - culture, history and cuisine - and showcase the country's high-quality hospitality services. In doing this, Aqabawi also provides opportunities for local vendors and service professionals to benefit economically and become more competitive by establishing a sustainable business model and marketing platform.

Vision: Developing the tourism sector through new, exciting tourist services that highlight the local cultural, environmental, and heritage resources as main attractions in the Southern region of Jordan, with the goal of increasing the income and competitiveness of local communities.

Mission: To provide the visitors of Aqaba with unique experiences related to local cultural heritage, in order to increase employment and enhance cultural exchange.

Currently, most visitors come to Aqaba only for traditional beach and resort tourism. Typically, visitors do not know much about the culture or history of the area, due to the present lack of tourist products and services that allow them to experience and learn about the local customs and culture of Aqaba.

Our original visitors’ activities aim first to prepare interactive cultural encounters based on the concept of experiential experience.

The city of Aqaba has been a gathering place for many civilizations throughout history, due to its location between the Red Sea and a range of mountains that serve as a defensive barrier. Despite the recent increase of tourism in Jordan, there remains a lack of activities and services for visitors to the south of Jordan that highlight the historical and cultural identity of Aqaba or the traditions of its people.

On the one hand, we raise awareness and educate the local community about such activities, as well as the overall concept of interactive tourism. On the other hand, we connect visitors both from within Jordan and from other countries with these authentic cultural experiences, enabling a direct, positive interaction between the visitor and the local community. This will maximize the cultural knowledge of both parties and bring greater economic benefits to the groups and individuals working within this sector.

We focus on creating job opportunities for recent graduates in this project, each according to his or her specialization. All of our activities are exceptional and aim to teach visitors how to live like a local within the Aqabawi culture through making historical handicrafts, cooking and tasting local food, and learning about local customs and traditions.

Aqabawi was founded in 2018 with the support of the USAID Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP). USAID SCHEP is a cooperative agreement between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR). The project takes a community-first approach to promoting the sustainable preservation, management, and promotion of Jordan's cultural heritage resources. Aqabawi is one of four micro- to small-scale enterprises supported by SCHEP with the aim of helping members of local communities manage and benefit from their cultural heritage.
SEA GLASS JEWELRY MAKING EXPERIENCE

INTRODUCTION
Sea glass is a physically and chemically weathered glass found on beaches along bodies of saltwater. These weathering processes produce natural frosted glass. "Genuine sea glass" can be collected as a hobby and is used for decoration, most commonly in jewelry. Sea glass can be found here in Aqaba, where it is collected to craft unique pieces of jewelry.

WHAT YOU WILL DO
You will work with a local artisan to create beautiful pieces of jewelry out of sea glass from Aqaba’s beaches.

COST: 40 JD

PROGRAM
Participants will arrive at the Green Creations building and will be welcomed with traditional Arabic coffee or tea followed by introductions. They will be given a tour of the design studio, including the history of GC and an explanation of the materials they will be using by a craftswoman who will also teach them about the piece of jewelry they will be making: the wire wrap pendant necklace. Participants then choose the piece of glass they would like to have as their own pendant. The craftswoman will then demonstrate how a wire wrap pendant is made with practice glass and practice wire along with the participants until they feel that they have the skills to use the real materials. The craftswoman will assist as needed. The participants will be given a chain and a bag to take their pendant with them. Attendees can ask any additional questions about Green Creations during this time and they can shop/look at the other products in the studio.

DURATION: 90 MINUTES

** see last page for individual and group pricing details
INTRODUCTION
The city of Aqaba is home to this unique art since the early 1920s. It has housed dozens of shops for visitors to purchase the colorful creations.

WHAT YOU WILL DO
You will learn how sand bottle art is made and get the chance to create your own bottle design with the guidance of a local professional sand artist.

COST: 35 JD

PROGRAM
Participants will be picked up from their hotels or hostels by Aqabawi staff. They will be welcomed at the studio by the sand artist, who will serve attendees an Arabian coffee and give a brief introduction to the history of colored sand art.
Participants will learn by watching the sand artist demonstrate how to fill the bottle with colored sand. They will then have the experience of making their own colored sand bottles, getting the chance to try this 3 times under the guidance of the professional sand artist. Then, participants will have the opportunity to ask the artist for their own custom-made sand art.

DURATION: 90 MINUTES

** see last page for individual and group pricing details
Introduction
Arabic holiday cookies are one of the most important recipes all of the countries of the Arab world. There is barely a celebration of the holidays without fresh local cookies. Some of these treats are made with flour, and others with semolina, while the filling may vary between dates, cinnamon, and chopped pistachios.

What You Will Do
You will learn through this experience how to bake local Arabic cookies that are eaten during Eid holidays. You will also have the chance to bake your own fresh and tasty local Arabic bread using traditional techniques.

Cost: 35 JD
Duration: 2 hours

Program
Participants will be picked up from their hotels or hostels by Aqabawi staff. They will be taken to the kitchen, where they will be welcomed with an Arabic coffee and receive an introduction to the local cookies, how they are made, and when they are eaten.

Participants will don gloves and an apron to set up the kitchen and begin the baking experience. A local chef will guide and lead the process of making the local cookies step by step.

After the final product is finished, the participants will taste the cookies and have the opportunity to bring them home. Finally, they will enjoy a local herbal tea with the chef's family.

See last page for individual and group pricing details.
AQABA KANAANI DOG SHELTER EXPERIENCE

INTRODUCTION
RSNAP is a nonprofit organization, established for the sole purpose of generating compassionate and conscientious conduct towards nature and animals and improving the local community’s relationship with its surrounding environment. The Aqaba dog shelter needs the help of volunteers to clean the local dogs’ caves in the mountains.

WHAT YOU WILL DO
You will help in feeding, bathing, and playing with these dogs who need love and affection to make them feel better.

COST: 10 JD

PROGRAM
Participants will be picked up from their hotels or hostels by Aqabawi staff. After arriving at the shelter, participants will be welcomed by the RSNAP team and given an introduction to the local Kanaani dog that RSNAP works with.

Participants will then be instructed about how to feed the dogs in the shelter, as well as how to bathe the local Kanaani dogs. They will then have the opportunity to play and take photos with the dogs at the shelter, which houses multiple different breeds.

DURATION: 90 MINUTES

**see last page for individual and group pricing details**
HENNA AND KOHL
DRAWINGS EXPERIENCE

INTRODUCTION
Henna has been used and known since ancient times, and it has a special role in many cultures. Henna is widely used in cosmetics, thanks to its ability to dye hair and skin with a long-lasting pigment. Kohl is considered one of the oldest types of cosmetics, and it was used by a number of ancient cultures to emphasize the beauty of the eyes of both men and women.

WHAT YOU WILL DO
You will learn about the history and practice of ancient Bedouin beauty techniques.

COST: 25 JD

PROGRAM
Participants will be picked up from their hotels or hostels by Aqabawi staff. They will then meet with the Henna artist and be welcomed with coffee and introduced to the history of Henna and Kohl. Participants will choose from many different existing Henna drawings or ask the artist to draw a specific design. After the artist finishes the Henna drawing, she will explain how best to maintain the design for a long period of time.

DURATION: 60 MINUTES

*See last page for individual and group pricing details.
LOCAL SAYADIA MAKING EXPERIENCE

INTRODUCTION
Sayadia and Bokhari are two of the most famous local food dishes in Aqaba and are made up of many different spices. The people of Aqaba typically make these dishes on official occasions and events.

WHAT YOU WILL DO
You will learn how to make the traditional Aqaba Sayadia dish instructed by a chef, and then enjoy eating the creations of your own hands.

COST: 35 JD per person

PROGRAM
Participants will be picked up from their hotels or hostels by Aqabawi staff. After arriving to the kitchen, participants will be welcomed with an Arabian coffee and receive an introduction to the Aqabawi Sayadia dish. Participants will don gloves and an apron to set up the kitchen and begin the cooking experience. A local chef will guide and lead the process of making the Sayadia step by step. After the final product is ready, the participants will enjoy eating the food that they themselves helped make. Finally, they will enjoy a local herbal tea with the local chef’s family.

* see last page for individual and group pricing details
DATE MOLASSES MAKING EXPERIENCE

INTRODUCTION
Date molasses is another term for date syrup, which is frequently called molasses since it has the dark color and thick consistency of sugar molasses. It is frequently used as a sweetener in Middle Eastern recipes.

WHAT YOU WILL DO
You will learn the process of making the Aqabawi date molasses and the traditional way of eating it.

PROGRAM
Participants will be picked up from their hotels or hostels by Aqabawi staff. Once they arrive in the kitchen, the participants will be welcomed with an Arabian coffee and a brief introduction to date molasses. A local chef will guide and lead the process of making the date molasses, step by step. After the final product is complete, the participants will taste the date molasses and will have the opportunity to take it home with them. Finally, the attendees will enjoy tasting a local herbal tea with the chef’s family.

COST: 35 JD per person
DURATION: 90 MINUTES

** see last page for individual and group pricing details
FISHING WITH A LOCAL FISHERMAN EXPERIENCE

INTRODUCTION
The Gulf of Aqaba contains more than 500 species of fish out of 1400 species that live in the waters of the Red Sea. These fish belong to 13 families of fish cartilage and 78 families of fish bone. More than 85 percent live close to the seabed while 15 percent live in open water.

WHAT YOU WILL DO
You will be welcomed on board a boat by a local fisherman who will guide and lead a fishing tour, food making, and a snorkeling tour in the sea, and then enjoy a scenic way back to the shore.

PROGRAM
The fishing trip will take off from the middle shore towards the southern shore, so you can do fishing the traction method. The boat will then stop near the beach for fishing for another hour. After that, the boat will go to the beach to swim and then prepare and eat a local meal from the fish that they caught and enjoy the golden sun and sand on the beach. Finally, the boat will move to the last stage to see the coral from the King Abdullah marine reserve and swim over the cedar pride wreck ship and then head back to Aqaba.

COST: 60 JD
DURATION: 5 HOURS
MINIMUM: 4 PERSONS
AQABA’S HOOH SWEETS MAKING EXPERIENCE

INTRODUCTION
Aqaba’s traditional sweet dish, called Hooh, consists of several layers of dough interspersed with nuts, butter, honey, condensed milk, molasses, and cream.

WHAT YOU WILL DO
You will have the unique experience of learning how to make one of the original sweets of Aqaba, and then getting to eat it fresh!

PROGRAM
Participants will be picked up from their hotels or hostels by Aqabawi staff. After arriving at the kitchen, participants will be welcomed with an Arabian coffee and be briefed about what Hooh is, its significance, and how it is made. Participants will then don gloves and an apron to set up the kitchen and begin the baking experience. A local chef will guide and lead the process of making Hooh step by step. After the final product is finished, the participants will taste the Hooh and will have the chance to take it home with them. Finally, they will enjoy drinking a local herbal tea with the chef’s family.

COST: 35 JD
DURATION: 90 MINUTES

* See last page for individual and group pricing details
COLORFUL DOT ART EXPERIENCE

INTRODUCTION
This type of decorative art entered Arab culture recently and is similar to stippling or pointillism. Colorful patterns or images are created by placing small dots or points of color together, rather than using solid lines or brush strokes. This technique can be used to decorate books, stones, pottery, or home furniture.

PROGRAM
Participants will be picked up from their hotels or hostels by Aqabawi staff. Once they arrive at the studio, participants will be welcomed with an Arabic coffee and receive a brief introduction to dot art. A local artist will lead the participants through the process of making colorful patterns on wooden coasters using the dotting technique, step by step. After the final product is complete, the participants will get to take it home with them. Finally, they will enjoy drinking a local herbal tea with an Aqaba family.

WHAT YOU WILL DO
You will learn through this experience how to apply Arabic patterns and designs on stones or flat wooden coasters using the dot art technique.

COST: 35 JD
DURATION: 90 MINUTES

**see last page for individual and group pricing details**
SESAME BARS AND ROASTING ARABIC COFFEE

INTRODUCTION
Sesame bars are one of the easiest ancient Arabic recipes you can make, and one that is still eaten by Arabs all over the world. They are a great snack to start off your day or enjoy with a cup of tea in the afternoon. The seeds of the coffee berry, also known as coffee beans, contain high levels of nutrients and antioxidants. Arab cultures were the first to roast these seeds and use them to make a warm, caffeinated beverage. Today, Bedouin tribes still have their own methods for roasting coffee beans, producing a coffee drink with a distinctive taste.

WHAT YOU WILL DO
You will learn through this experience how to make sesame bars like those that are shared at many local events. You will also get the chance to roast your own coffee beans in the Bedouin way.

PROGRAM
Participants will be picked up from their hotels or hostels by Aqabawi staff and taken to the kitchen, where they will be welcomed with an Arabic coffee and receive an introduction to the local sesame bars and the Bedouin coffee. Participants will then wear gloves and an apron to prepare the kitchen and begin the experience. A local chef will guide participants step by step through the process of making the local sesame bars. They will have the chance to taste the sesame bars that they made, and to take some home for later. The participants will then go outdoors to prepare the firewood while a local family will lead them through the process of roasting the Bedouin coffee step by step so they can have the chance to roast their own coffee to take back home and enjoy. Finally, they will enjoy drinking a local herbal tea with the family.

COST: 35 JD
DURATION: 90 MINUTES

** see last page for individual and group pricing details
SNORKELING FOR A CLEAN SEA EXPERIENCE

INTRODUCTION
The Aqaba coastline is 27 km long and characterized by beautiful beaches that host many different touristic activities. Unfortunately, many of these activities expose the sea and marine life to the dangers of pollution. The Snorkeling for a Clean Sea experience involves swimming with colored fish and exploring the waters of the Red Sea, all while protecting this environment and its inhabitants by picking up waste that has accumulated among the coral reefs. You can feel satisfied knowing that you have enjoyed the colorful coral and sea life, while also sustaining it by helping to keep it clean.

WHAT YOU WILL DO
You will enjoy snorkeling in the fresh warm water and over spectacular colorful red sea corals and conserving the sea at the same time by picking up any plastic or metal waste in the water.

COST: 35 JD

DURATION: 3-4 HOURS

MINIMUM: 2 PERSONS

PROGRAM
Participants will be picked up from their hotels or hostels by Aqabawi staff. After arriving at the south beach, participants will get a brief introduction to best practices to follow while snorkeling. They will then get their gear ready to enter the water with a snorkeling guide. Participants will take a snorkeling tour for 2-3 hours, observing the beautiful colorful corals and Red Sea marine life and capturing them with underwater photography. After the snorkeling, attendees will be treated to a traditional meal cooked at the beach and served with an Arabian herbal tea. Participants will then be taken back to their hotels.

Minimum: 2 persons.
PHILOGRAPHY
ISLAMIC ART EXPERIENCE

INTRODUCTION
Philography is an old Islamic Ottoman art moved from Turkey to Jordan through the Ottoman era in the region. The Ottomans left behind many of the types of arts that their descendants still seek to preserve from extinction and keep for generations after generation. These include the art of “Philography” or drawing with wires and nails, which some may think is a man’s art because of its tools, which consist of wood, hammers, nails and colored fabric or copper wires. But many women in Turkey have been involved in this art, and there have been artists who apply it in a scientific way and organize workshops to teach it. They also hold exhibitions all over the world, especially in the Arab and Islamic countries, where there are some of the traces left by the Ottomans, as in Jordan.

WHAT YOU WILL DO
You will learn through this experience how to make drawing with wires and nails with the local artist guidance, you will have the chance to create colorful Philography product.

PROGRAM
Participants will be picked up from their hotels or hostels by Aqabawi staff. They will be taken to the Philography workshop, where they will be welcomed with an Arabic coffee and receive an introduction to the Philography art. Participants will then prepare the tools of the experience. The local artist will guide participants step by step through the process of making Philography product. After the final product is complete, participants will then take their product home.

COST: 35 JD
DURATION: 90 MINUTES
* see last page for individual and group pricing details
**Aqabawi is pleased to offer the following pricing offers for individuals and groups:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<th>2-5 Pax</th>
<th>6-10 Pax</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sea Glass Jewelry Making</td>
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<td>Dog Shelter Conservation</td>
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<td>90 Minutes</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<td>90 Minutes</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Sayadia Food making</td>
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<td>Arabian bread and cookies</td>
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