The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS)

JREDS was founded in 1993 by a group of concerned responsible people, aspiring to protect Aqaba’s marine life from further degradation.

In August 1995, JREDS registered under the Ministry of Interior as the first and the specialized Jordanian non-profit, nongovernmental organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the marine ecosystem.

JREDS works to prevent the destruction of the marine life at the Gulf of Aqaba by promoting sustainable management of natural marine resources, raising public awareness, encouraging community participation, and conducting environmental research and monitoring programs.

Therefore, three programs were developed which are the marine conservation, outreach & advocacy and the sustainable development programs.

Our Vision

JREDS is a world-class organization working on marine conservation for future generations in Jordan.

Our Mission

To contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment in Jordan through our conservation program, outreach and advocacy program and the sustainable development program.
"Cultural Routes for Sustainable Social and Economic Development in the Mediterranean (CROSSDEV) - (2019-2022)" is a three-year project co-funded by the European Union through the ENI CBC MED Programme. Total budget: 2.5million Euro; European Union contribution: 2.2million Euro (90%).

Combining the increasing interest towards sustainable tourism with the incommensurable value of environmental, cultural and historical heritage, CROSSDEV intends to bring new hope to local communities and first-rate travel opportunities to conscious tourists. How? Turning less-known places and rural areas into new routes of sustainable tourism, working tightly with the locals to revamp their traditions and cultural heritage and turning them into assets for socio-economic local development.

Through the efforts of 6 partners lead by the Italian CISP (Comitato Italiano per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli), CROSSDEV works in Jordan (Aqaba and Umm Qais), Italy (Via Selinuntina, Sicily), Lebanon (Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve) and Palestine (Extended area along the Palestinian Heritage Trail from Beit Mirsim to Battir).

Lead: Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP). Partners: Ministero Italiano per i Beni e le Attività Culturali e per il Turismo (MIBACT), Società Cooperativa Culture (CoopCulture), The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS), Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), Association for the Protection of Jabal Moussa (APJM), Palestinian Heritage Trail (PHTrail).
The European Union (EU):

The European Union (EU) is a politico-economic union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe. The EU operates through a system of supranational institutions and intergovernmental – negotiated decisions by the member states. The institutions are the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the European Council, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the Parliament. The European Parliament is elected every five years by EU citizens.

ENI CBC Med Programme / Cross-Border Cooperation in the Mediterranean:

The largest Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) initiative implemented by the EU under the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI). The Programme brings together the coastal territories of 14 countries in view of fostering fair, equitable development on both sides of the Mediterranean. Through calls for proposals, ENI CBC Med finances cooperation projects for a more competitive, innovative, inclusive and sustainable Mediterranean area.
The First Inter-Partner Management Committee (IMPC) and Project Kickoff Meetings
22 & 23 October, Rome - Italy
Byzantine Church Ruins: Aqaba Church is a historic 3rd-century church located in Aqaba, Jordan. It was unearthed between 1994 and 2000 by a group of archaeologists and it is considered to be the world's oldest-known purpose-built Christian churches.
Byzantine Church Ruins
Islamic City of Ayla: The Islamic city Ayla is located at K. Hussein St. 26 in Aqaba, between the Movenpick and Kempinski hotels. It is an ancient Islamic city located northwest of the current center of the Aqaba city and it is considered the first Islamic city established outside the Arabian Peninsula.
Despite its relatively small water body, the Gulf of Aqaba, hosts an extraordinary marine diversity with 157 Scleractinia (reef-building) coral species and unknown species of soft coral recorded, some of which are globally endangered.
In Jordan, Aqaba is known for its eclectic cuisine, a lively local scene, as well as for its cultural diversity and significant history. Anyone interested in pristine beaches and vast corals inhabited by hundreds of exotic fish species will discover a perfect escape in Aqaba, as the city boasts a warm climate and sea all year round.
**Aqaba Castle (Aqaba Fortress):** Located near the public beach on the northern coast of Aqaba city. The Aqaba Castle is a fortress built originally by Crusaders in the 12th century. It was the location to a victory of the Arab Revolt in July 1916, when this heavily defended Turkish stronghold fell to an Arab camel charge.
Aqaba Castle (Aqaba Fortress)
Tell Al-Khalifa: Tell Al-Khalifa is located 4 km west of central Aqaba and right on the border of Jordan. The area of Tell Al-Khalifa attests to the fact that Aqaba was inhabited from the first Iron Age to the Persian period (1st century BC).
Cedar Pride Shipwreck: For a good reason, Cedar Pride is described as one of the most photogenic wrecks of the Red Sea. It holds its place on the lists of the best wreck dive sites of the world. In 1985, following a request from King Abdullah, the ill-fated vessel was purposely sunk about 180m offshore as an artificial reef for divers.
Smelling the aroma of spices in the streets and tasting the lovely food, touching the fine sands of the beaches, enjoying the transparency of the seawater and the gentle breeze at sunrise and sunset, getting to know the diversity of the marine life, the uniqueness of its coral reefs, the cleanliness of its streets, the generosity of its people as well as the smile of its kids and the elderly: all of that and much more is what makes Aqaba special.
Underwater Military Museum, Aqaba: This site is newly designed and located at the South Beach in the Aqaba Marine Park (Protected Area). The underwater military museum is considered the first underwater military museum in the world. 21 pieces of hardware were sunk on the 25th of July 2019. The main goal of this location is to reduce the pressure on the natural coral reefs by creating new artificial sites.
Underwater Military Museum, Aqaba
Coral reefs are considered the most diverse and complex of all ecosystems. Ecosystems are providing several goods and services that are vital for human well-being since they contribute to enhancing livelihoods through the provisioning of food and shelter.
CROSSDEV: promoting policies and practices of sustainable tourism as a tool for the socio-economic development of territories while protecting and enhancing their environmental, historical, and cultural heritage.
The project is being implemented in four countries (Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine) through seven partners (International Committee for the Development of Peoples, Culture Cooperative Society, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Association for the Protection of Jabal Moussa, The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan, Palestinian Heritage Trail, and The Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage, Cultural Activities and Tourism).
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