



41ST ASIAN
RACING CONFERENCE
RIYADH
2026

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA
9 – 14 February 2026

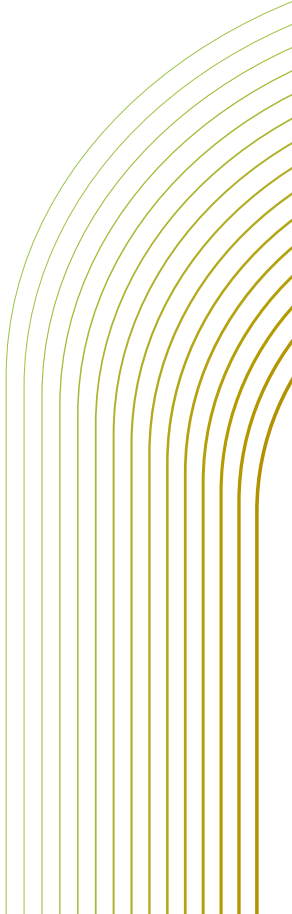
Honouring Tradition, Shaping the Future



نادي سباقات الخيل
JOCKEY CLUB OF SAUDI ARABIA

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MESSAGE FROM THE ARF

WINFRIED
ENGELBRECHT-BRESGES

On behalf of the Asian Racing Federation (ARF) Executive Council, it gives me great pleasure to invite you to the 41st Asian Racing Conference (ARC) to be hosted in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 9 – 14 February 2026.



Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges
Chair
Asian Racing Federation



This occasion marks a significant milestone in the history of the ARC, as the Conference is being staged for the first time in Saudi Arabia, a jurisdiction undergoing transformative developments that showcase the Kingdom as a leading sports destination. The G1 Saudi Cup — the world’s most valuable race — stands as a testament to the Kingdom’s dedication to the advancement of racing in the region, having quickly established its place on the international racing calendar in just a few short years.

In an era where global collaboration is increasingly critical, the challenges that we as an industry face can only be addressed effectively through our collective efforts. With this at its forefront, the 41st ARC will further build on the

strong foundations laid by its predecessors and provide a platform for racing stakeholders to come together to exchange ideas, share best practices and forge new connections for the betterment of racing.

Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, combines the Kingdom’s rich history and tradition with extensive modernisation and futuristic urban growth. The city’s dynamic atmosphere, together with its ambitious vision for the future, makes it an excellent venue for our diverse gathering of stakeholders. Conference attendees will have the unique opportunity to experience the vibrant cultural tapestry of Riyadh whilst engaging in meaningful discussions with colleagues and friends from around the world.

The theme for the 41st ARC, ‘Honouring Tradition, Shaping the Future’, will serve as the foundation for an engaging Business Programme that convenes leaders and experts from racing and other sports, marketing and communications, technology and government to delve into the latest trends, obstacles and opportunities for our sport. I am deeply grateful to the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia for their partnership and support, as we work together to curate a programme featuring the very best of Saudi Arabian racing, hospitality and culture.

Let us unite once again in our shared passion for racing and work together to make a positive impact on the future of our sport. I look forward to welcoming you to Riyadh in February 2026.

MESSAGE FROM JCSA

HRH PRINCE BANDAR
BIN KHALID AL FAISAL

As Chairman of the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia it is my immense pleasure to welcome friends and colleagues from all over the world to the 41st Asian Racing Conference (ARC) in Riyadh.



HRH Prince Bandar Bin Khalid Al Faisal
Chairman
Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia



Saudi Arabia is a nation with a proud equestrian history and having overseen the accelerated development of The Saudi Cup race meeting since its inauguration in 2020, it is fitting that the theme for this year’s ARC is ‘Honouring Tradition, Shaping the Future’.

I invite all delegates to experience our rich cultural heritage during your time in Saudi Arabia, and join us during conference week as we build towards The Saudi Cup 2026, held at King Abdulaziz Racecourse on 14 February.

We are honoured for Saudi Arabia to be first-time hosts, nearly 20 years since its last visit to the region, courtesy of the UAE in 2007. We thank the Asian Racing Federation for this

opportunity and we plan to give this prestigious event the platform it deserves.

If Japan is where the Asian Racing Conference was given life, then the Arabian Peninsula is where the roots of the modern-day racehorse were established, hundreds of years ago, through the foundation sires. This deep connection to the sport of horseracing is part of our national identity. The legacy of the horse, its place in our history and the will to safeguard its role in our future, is deeply embedded in Saudi culture and heritage.

We launched The Saudi Cup from a standing start six years ago and nurtured a global event which has produced winners from America,

Japan, the UK and Saudi Arabia. Now we plan to share our vision for the future of Saudi racing and our ambition to foster international relations through the events of the 41st ARC.

Under the patronage of our leadership, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and The Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia is proud to welcome the delegates for the 41st ARC to our country.

I wish all attendees a highly productive week, set against the backdrop of the very best of Saudi Arabian racing, hospitality and culture.

ASIAN RACING FEDERATION OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE ARF

The ARF is a regional federation comprising 28 national racing authorities and racing-related organisations from across Asia, Oceania, Africa and the Middle East.

The ARF is formally linked with the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA).

ARF ACTIVITIES

The purpose of the ARF is to promote the sustainable growth of thoroughbred racing and breeding within the ARF footprint and positively contribute to the sport’s global development by supporting its members to achieve the highest consistent standards of integrity, welfare and quality control, and provide enduring benefits for their stakeholders and broader society.

Please refer to the [ARF Charter](#) for details about the ARF’s objectives.



ABOUT THE ASIAN RACING CONFERENCE

The first ARC was held in Tokyo in 1960. Since then, the ARC has become a major event on the international racing calendar, attracting and engaging the foremost leaders and greatest minds in racing and sports, along with other influential stakeholders.

17 Full Members

4 Associate Members

7 Affiliate Members



ARF Members

Australia | Hong Kong China | India | Japan
Kingdom of Bahrain | Korea | Malaysia
New Zealand | Oman | Pakistan | Qatar
Saudi Arabia | South Africa | Thailand
Türkiye | United Arab Emirates | Vietnam
China | Mauritius | Mongolia | Philippines
Indonesia | Kuwait

JCSA OVERVIEW

Founded in 1965, the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia (JCSA) is the official governing body responsible for regulating, organising and developing horseracing across The Kingdom. The Club manages race operations at King Abdulaziz Racecourse in Riyadh and King Khalid Racecourse in Taif and is committed to positioning Saudi Arabia as a leading player in the global equestrian arena.

The JCSA is pursuing a long-term strategy to rise from its status as a Part II country to a Part I country in the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities’ Blue Book. Chaired by HRH Prince Bandar Bin Khalid Al Faisal, the JCSA is charged with building a world-class horseracing industry that has a positive impact on the country’s sporting, cultural and economic

sectors, while promoting Saudi Arabia internationally and strengthening racing across the GCC.

The JCSA runs over 110 race nights each year across Riyadh and Taif, with their annual highlight The Saudi Cup (Group 1), which carries a purse of USD 20 million and is the world’s richest race.

JCSA MISSION

To advance the sport of horseracing by creating an innovative, transparent and empowering environment, supported by advanced technologies and strengthened through impactful local and international partnerships.

JCSA VISION

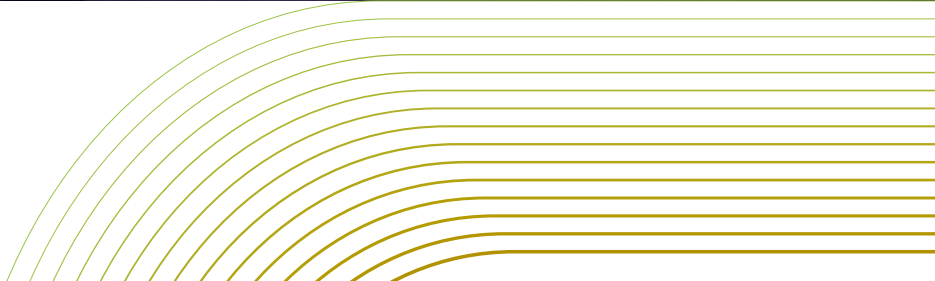
To achieve global leadership in the organisation and development of horseracing, defined by excellence and professionalism.

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

DATE	MONDAY, 9 February	TUESDAY, 10 February	WEDNESDAY, 11 February	THURSDAY, 12 February	FRIDAY, 13 February	SATURDAY, 14 February
DAY	Bureau Meetings <i>Crowne Plaza Riyadh RDC</i>			Breakfast At The Track <i>King Abdulaziz Racecourse</i>		
	IFAR Conference <i>Crowne Plaza Riyadh RDC</i>	BUSINESS PROGRAMME <i>Crowne Plaza Riyadh RDC</i>			Desert Camp Experience <i>Edge of the World</i>	 <i>featuring 'The World's Richest Race' King Abdulaziz Racecourse</i>
EVENING	Opening Ceremony <i>Crowne Plaza Riyadh RDC</i>	Chief Delegate Dinner <i>(Invite Only) The Globe</i>	Social and Cultural Evening <i>TBC</i>	Closing Ceremony <i>Crowne Plaza Riyadh RDC</i>		
		Saudi Cup preview <i>TBC</i>				

BUSINESS PROGRAMME

Guided by the conference theme, Honouring Tradition, Shaping the Future, the 41st ARC Business Programme will feature a number of plenary sessions designed to address current and emerging challenges and opportunities for racing. Speakers from diverse fields — ranging from racing and other sports to technology, business, media and broadcasting — will share their insights and engage with audiences through keynote speeches, presentations and panel discussions from Tuesday 10 February to Thursday 12 February.



THE SAUDI CUP 2026

A Unique Opportunity

Delegates will have the opportunity to attend The Saudi Cup race meeting, the JCSA's marquee event, which takes place at King Abdulaziz Racecourse on 14 February 2026. As well as the world's richest race, the weekend features international dirt and turf races of the highest level as well as the Diriyah International Jockeys' Challenge with total prize money across the two days of USD 38.1m.

The Saudi Cup, now in its seventh year, serves to raise the profile of the sport to local communities as well as racing fans and horse connections abroad.

Although horseracing in The Kingdom stretches back more than five decades, ever since the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia was formed in 1965, the sport adopted a more international outlook alongside the inauguration of The Saudi Cup, with the JCSA promoting both domestic racing and forging greater links with the international racing community.



SOCIAL EVENTS

Delegates will have the opportunity to enjoy, relax and network during a memorable itinerary of social events. These events are all included within the Delegate Package with the exception of the Desert Camp Experience (additional USD 50 charge).

We will invite you to select which events you are interested in attending at a later date.



Monday

9

February
2026

Opening Ceremony
(Crowne Plaza Riyadh RDC)

A formal welcome marking the start of the 41st Asian Racing Conference, featuring keynote addresses, cultural performances, and a gathering of global industry leaders. The opening ceremony sets the tone for the days ahead with insight, dialogue, and connection.

Tuesday

10

February
2026

Saudi Cup Preview Reception
(TBC, Diplomatic Quarter)

Unwind after the first day of the Business Programme and connect with key racing connections as we countdown to the weekend's 7th edition of the Saudi Cup.

Chief Delegate Dinner
(The Globe, Al Faisaliah Tower)

Invitation Only - The Chief Delegate Dinner brings together leaders of ARF members and key stakeholders at one of the most unique restaurants in Riyadh.

Wednesday

11

February
2026

Social and Cultural Evening
(TBC)

An elegant networking evening featuring traditional cultural entertainment in a heritage-inspired setting. The experience offers guests an opportunity to unwind, connect, and enjoy the richness of Saudi Arabian culture in a uniquely atmospheric environment.

Thursday

12

February
2026

Breakfast at The Track
(King Abdulaziz Racecourse)

An early morning trip to King Abdulaziz Racecourse to watch trackwork and assess the runners ahead of the weekend's Saudi Cup while enjoying a breakfast buffet in the prestigious trackside Al Thuraya Restaurant.

Closing Ceremony
(Crowne Plaza RDC)

The official conclusion of the Asian Racing Conference, the Closing Ceremony gathers all delegates, partners, and key stakeholders for final remarks and reflections on the week's program. The event will feature cultural performances, acknowledgments of key contributors, and a preview of the next edition of the Conference.

Friday

13

February
2026

Desert Camp Experience
(Edge of The World)
(additional USD 50 supplement)

Edge of the World is the name of the 1.1km tall cliff that lies 100 km from Riyadh at the end of the 800 km Tuwaik Mountain range. Enjoy its astonishing sunset views and a starlit sky while overlooking a deep valley and barren desert. The climate in February will be enjoyably cool. Over campfire, you'll enjoy traditional Arabian cuisine and entertainment.

Saturday

14

February
2026

The Saudi Cup Race Night
(King Abdulaziz Racecourse)

This is the pinnacle of Saudi style, sophistication and glamour. Riyadh's social event of the season is a showcase rich in entertainment, cuisine, high fashion, and cultural experiences.

The nine race card is headlined by the World's Richest Race, The Saudi Cup. The race is worth USD 20m and will again attract the finest thoroughbreds and top jockeys from around the globe. Other highlights include the Group 1 Diriyah Obaiya Arabian Classic run by Purebred Arabian horses; the USD 2m Neom Turf Cup; the USD 2.5m Longines Red Sea Turf Handicap and the USD 1.5m Saudi Derby. Off-the-track, delegates will enjoy complimentary food and refreshments from a prestigious trackside location.

THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR THE AFTERCARE OF RACEHORSES (IFAR)

Complimentary for ARC delegates

The 10th International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR) conference is scheduled for 9 February 2026, and will feature a lineup of international speakers who will address a wide range of topics relating to the aftercare of racehorses. Attendance at the IFAR event is complimentary for ARC delegates.

Experts and industry leaders will lead a thought-provoking programme exploring key themes in Thoroughbred aftercare. Through a mix of presentations, panel discussions and networking opportunities, this annual conference will continue to foster global collaboration and encourage practical, forward-thinking approaches to aftercare. It will be a chance for delegates to engage with fresh ideas, share experiences and take away insights that can help strengthen aftercare practices in their own jurisdictions.

The 2026 IFAR conference will be presented in association with, and with the support of, the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia, the host of the 41st ARC. It will also be proudly supported by the Japan Racing Association (JRA), which has entered into a multi-year sponsorship agreement to support IFAR’s activities around the world.

Established in 2016, IFAR is the leading global platform for bringing together thought leaders, advocates and stakeholders to share ideas and advance best practices in this vital area. Aftercare is an increasingly important focus for the global Thoroughbred industry, reflecting a stronger commitment to the lifelong welfare of racehorses.

IFAR works to advocate for the lifetime care of retired racehorses, to increase awareness within the international racing community of this important responsibility, and inform the sport

horse world regarding the versatility of the Thoroughbred horse.

IFAR has a long history of collaboration with the ARC, and this is the fifth time it will be held in conjunction with the event.

For more information on IFAR, visit

 www.internationalracehorseaftercare.com

 [@IFARnews](https://www.instagram.com/IFARnews)



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

DELEGATE PACKAGE	PRICING
Early Bird Until October 16 2025	USD 1,200
Regular October 17 2025 – January 4 2026	USD 1,400
Late From January 5 2026	USD 1,500

Includes attendance at Business Programme, Social Events and all transfers (to / from airport, official hotels and event locations).

Excludes visa and hotel accommodation.

*Please note, additional USD 50 supplement for ‘Edge of the World’ Desert Trip.

[Register here](#)



ACCOMMODATION

Guests can book at one of the official 41st ARC hotels, with rates starting from USD 175 per night, using the links provided. All official hotels include conference transport services to and from the venue and event location.

Please Note: All bookings are subject to 15% VAT and 5% municipality fees.

Crowne Plaza Riyadh RDC Hotel & Convention Centre

The 4-star Crowne Plaza Riyadh RDC is your hub for the 41st Asian Racing Conference.

Located in Riyadh’s vibrant Digital City, the hotel offers seamless access to King Khalid International Airport, King Abdulaziz Racecourse, and all 41st ARC venues.

With world-class amenities, award-winning dining, and 12,000 sqm of event space, including the breathtaking Sultana Ballroom, it’s the perfect place to stay, connect, and unwind during the conference.

For bookings at the Crowne Plaza Riyadh RDC, please email booking@arc Riyadh2026.com. Availability is limited, so early reservations are recommended.

Why Book Here?

- **Official 41st ARC Venue:** Hosts the Opening & Closing Ceremonies and Business Programme
- Modern, spacious rooms designed for comfort and productivity
- International restaurants, café lounges, and in-room dining
- On-site spa, gym, and pool for downtime between events
- **Minutes from U-Walk Mall:** Riyadh’s top spot for shopping and entertainment
- **Driving distance:** 35–45 minutes from airport and racecourse

📍 **Wadi Al Muaydin, Street, Unit 4, Imam Saud Ibn Abdul Aziz Road, Riyadh 12382, Saudi Arabia**

☎ **+966 11 813 1313**



OTHER SUPPORTING HOTELS

Gardino Hotel & Residence

A tranquil urban retreat blending hotel convenience with residential-style living.

Click [here](#) to book at special rate. Limited availability - early booking recommended.

📍 **Takhassusi Street Al Mohammadiyyah, Riyadh, 12362**

☎ **+966 11 446 6090**

Centro Waha by Rotana

A contemporary 4-star hotel offering stylish comfort and convenience in the Al Murooj district.

Click [here](#) to book at special rate. Limited availability - early booking recommended.

📍 **Olaya St, Al Muruj, Riyadh 11564, Saudi Arabia**

☎ **+966 11 297 5777**

Courtyard Marriott Riyadh

Elevated comfort, with thoughtful amenities and personalised service at an ideally located 4-star hotel.

Click [here](#) to book at special rate. Limited availability - early booking recommended.

📍 **Olaya Street, Al Murooj District, Northern Ring Road, PO Box 4050, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 11491**

☎ **+966 11 521 0000**

TRAVEL GUIDE

Riyadh is endlessly intriguing, hospitable and exciting. Here’s a guide to help guests make their visit as enjoyable as possible.



VISA

Visas are priced between approximately USD 90-130 dependent on nationality. There are several visa options available, so please check at the [Visit Saudi](#) website.

International visitors from 66 eligible countries can apply for an eVisa. The [eVisa](#) is a one-year, multiple entry visa, allowing tourists to spend up to 90 days in the country. Saudi Arabia offers a fast and easy-to-use online portal for all e-visa options.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Dates: 8 – 15 February

- Free shuttles to/from King Khalid International Airport & affiliated hotels
- Airport concierge desk & complimentary service for all ARC delegates
- Alternatives: Uber, Careem, or green metered taxis (ask driver to use Google Maps for your hotel)

WEATHER

- Daytime: 17-23°C
- Evenings: Cooler — bring layers for desert or racetrack
- Rain: Rare, but possible

WHAT TO WEAR

General Guidance:

Riyadh, like much of Saudi Arabia, adheres to a conservative dress code rooted in Islamic traditions. The concept of modesty is central to Saudi culture and this is reflected in the way both men and women dress. Modesty in dress typically means covering the body adequately, avoiding tight or revealing clothing, and choosing garments that do not draw unnecessary attention in public places.

Women are generally expected to avoid wearing tight-fitting or revealing clothing

especially outside of the hotel. While the abaya — a long, black cloak worn over clothing—is often worn by females in public spaces, many visitors choose not to wear one. It is not mandatory. The hijab (a headscarf covering the hair) is also not mandatory.

Male tourists in Riyadh are also expected to dress modestly. This means wearing long trousers and avoiding shorts in public spaces. Shirts should have sleeves, though short sleeves are generally acceptable.

EVENT DRESS CODE

EVENT	RECOMMENDATION
Opening and Closing Ceremonies	Business attire
Business Programme	Business attire
Saudi Cup Preview Reception	Smart casual
Social and Cultural Evening	Smart casual
Desert Camp Experience	Casual, layered and sturdy shoes
Race night	Dress to impress for the ‘World’s Richest Race’. Men: Jacket & shirt Women: Race night attire (hats optional)



ENTERTAINMENT & SHOPPING

- Riyadh Season festival in full swing
- **Visit:** U-Walk Mall, Boulevard City, Boulevard World
- **Dining:** Try Najd Village Restaurant
- **Stadiums nearby:** Catch games from Al Hilal & Al Nassr
- Local Pharmacies & Supermarkets within walking distance of official hotels

TRAVEL BEYOND RIYADH

Extend your trip with unforgettable experiences:

- AlUla
- Jeddah
- Saudi Red Sea

Check out [Visit Saudi](#) for more.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- **Voltage:** 220V, 60Hz
- **Plug Type:** UK (Type G)
- **Currency:** Saudi Riyal (SAR)
- Cards widely accepted
- **Tipping:** Tipping is not routine in Saudi Arabia but it is usual for visitors to tip service staff (porters, housekeepers, taxi drivers, wait staff) USD 2-3.



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