

Saudi Arabia Cultural Week

September 16-20



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Open for the public
September 16 | 13:00

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TIME: 13:00-20:00

PALACE OF CONGRESS, TIRANA



CULTURAL EXCHANGE PAVILION

The Cultural Exchange Pavilion offers an interactive experience that takes visitors on a sensory journey combining sound, touch, and sight. The activation highlights the cultural intersections between Saudi and Albanian art, showcasing how traditions connect and reflect shared identities.



TRADITIONAL TENT

The traditional Saudi Majlis recognized and registered by UNESCO for its historical and cultural significance where visitors are welcomed in the heritage tent at the Saudi Cultural Week in Albania with dates and Saudi coffee, where they can enjoy an authentic Saudi atmosphere, in addition to taking memorable photos.



CULINARY ARTS

During the Saudi Cultural Week in Albania, traditional Saudi cuisine offers visitors a taste of the Kingdom's culinary heritage from all 13 of its regions. Various dishes will be served, including Jareesh, Haneeth, Vegetable Mutabaq, Kleija, Kobaibat Hail, as well as characteristic beverages such as Hibiscus - Loomi Mocktail and Taif Rose Lemonade.

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HANDICRAFTS CORNERS

The Saudi artisans' area serves as an interactive space where Saudi craftsmen showcase their skills to the Albanian audience. Visitors have the opportunity to observe the creative process up close, learn about traditional techniques, and gain an understanding of the rich cultural heritage conveyed through handcrafted works.

YEAR OF HANDICRAFTS

Handicrafts embody a tangible authenticity passed down through generations, from fathers to grandfathers. They weave a tapestry of stories that bridge the past, present, and future. These crafts express cultural heritage through the skilled hands of artisans who create, weave, spin, and engrave each piece. Every item possesses heritage, artistic, aesthetic, and practical value, intricately linked to our daily lives. The ingenuity of these crafts reflects the creativity and mastery of Saudis, harmonizing with the raw materials and components of their local environment. In recognition of this noble purpose and to preserve the profound meaning of handicrafts while showcasing Saudi culture both locally and globally, 2025 has been designated as The Year of Handicrafts.

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CULTURAL EXHIBITIONS

Replica Antiquities Exhibition

The exhibition showcases replicas that offer visitors a cultural experience to explore the Kingdom's heritage.

Saudi Fashion

The Saudi Fashion Exhibition brings together the leading Saudi designers showcasing the evolution of the fashion industry in the Kingdom.

Rare Arabic Manuscripts

The Rare Arabic Manuscripts pavilion features digital manuscripts providing an interactive screen to explore the treasures of Arabic manuscripts through a blend of tradition and technology.

Musical Instruments

An exhibition of Saudi musical instruments, spanning traditional musical arts to modern innovations, is presented on interactive screens to ensure a rich experience for the Albanian audience.

Saudi Literature Pavilion

A dedicated space showcasing Saudi publications in Arabic and English, including short stories and novels that reflect the development and diversity of Saudi literature. The pavilion also hosts panel discussions with international and local writers, and features a section dedicated to UNESCO's Creative City of Literature – Al Taif.

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ARABIC CALLIGRAPHY PAVILION

A dedicated pavilion celebrating Arabic calligraphy, showcasing traditional tools and live demonstrations by Saudi and Albanian calligraphers.

MUSIC ACTIVATION

A variety of performances and discussions highlight Saudi Arabia's musical heritage and foster cultural exchange with Albania.

Saudi Trouq Meets the World

A cross-cultural performance uniting six Saudi and six Albanian musicians. The ensemble blends Saudi instruments such as the oud, qanun, simsimiyya, and percussion with violin, guitar, flute, double bass, saxophone, and drums. The initiative creates dialogue between traditions, showcasing shared rhythms and distinct qualities of each culture while fostering collaboration through live performances and workshops.

Music Panel Discussion

"Musical Heritage Preservation and Documentation in Saudi Arabia and Albania – Past and Current Efforts." Scheduled for 18 September, the panel will explore music heritage as a vital element of intangible cultural heritage in both countries, including preservation efforts, contemporary initiatives, and the influence of heritage on today's music. Speakers include Omar Ibrahim, moderated by Namar Tarabzoni, with participation from the Albanian side.

The Modern Music Show

Featuring Ana.n7n, an independent band from Jeddah recognised for blending rock music with Arabic lyrics in the vernacular. Founded in 2019, the band has developed a distinctive sound that reflects global influences and Saudi identity. Their contemporary performance highlights the creative energy of Saudi Arabia's modern music scene and offers audiences a fresh perspective.



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THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE

As part of Saudi Cultural Week in Albania, a selection of traditional Saudi performing arts will be presented on stage. These live shows highlight the Kingdom's oral heritage and musical diversity, giving audiences a chance to experience distinctive cultural expressions preserved through generations.

Daq al-Hab

A rhythmic art from farming communities, performed during grain milling with wooden tools, chants, and circular movements.

Al-Heidah

From the Eastern Region, featuring two facing rows led by a poet's verses.

Al-Hand

A traditional art performed by women in the Najd region, marked by swaying hair and body movements in harmony with drums and rhythmic beats.

Al-Fareesa

Dating back to the Abbasid era, where a performer enacts horse-riding inside a palm-frond frame, accompanied by drums and tambourines.

Al-Tanboora

A collective art for men and women, combining the tanboora instrument with the manjūr belt to create distinctive rhythmic sounds.

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SAUDI SHORT FILMS

As part of Saudi Cultural Week in Albania, a selection of Saudi short films will be screened to showcase the Kingdom's growing cinematic creativity and storytelling. The programme features titles including: The Journey, Me & Idros, The Pond, Saleeq, Saeed, Ball, Old School, and Monsters in the Sky. Together, these works highlight the diversity of voices and themes explored by emerging Saudi filmmakers, offering audiences a glimpse into contemporary Saudi cinema.



LITERATURE PANELS

A series of panels will explore Saudi literature in translation and its intersections with Albanian culture. Through discussions and live readings, the sessions highlight the role of translation in bridging societies and bringing Saudi voices to new audiences.

Panels on Saudi Works in Translation

Discussions on the translation process and readings from *I Stopped Crying*, *The Najdi Boy's Journey* (Albanian), *Al-Warfa*, *Man Chased by Crows*, and *The Critical State of Mr. K*.

Bridges of Tales: Intersections of Folk Narratives between the Gulf and the Balkans

Examines parallels between folk narratives in both regions—their structures, characters, and symbolism—while considering their evolution from oral tradition to written literature, and their resonance in contemporary expression.

Experience of Supervising the Translation of Saudi Books into Albanian

Reflects on the process of translating Saudi works into Albanian, the challenges and insights gained, and the reception of these works after publication.