

Saudi Arabia plans luxury beach resorts

Saudi Arabia is planning to turn hundreds of kilometres of its Red Sea coastline into a “semi-autonomous” luxury travel destination in an effort to boost the economy and reduce its reliance on oil



JORDAN
Petra

IRAQ

EGYPT

Madain
Saleh

Riyadh

Medina

Mecca

SAUDI
ARABIA

SUDAN

400km
250 miles

RED SEA PROJECT

■ Part of reform plan spearheaded by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, new heir to Saudi throne

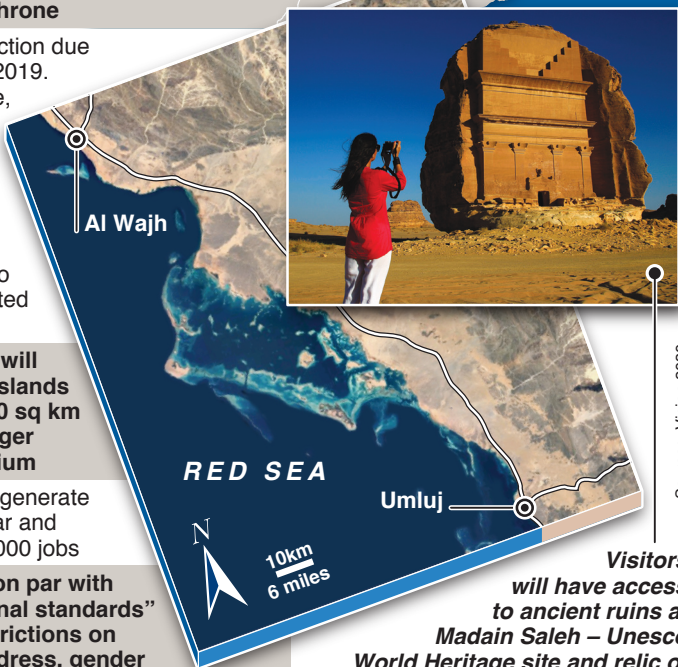
■ Construction due to start in 2019.

First phase, including new airport, luxury hotels and housing, expected to be completed in 2022

■ Project will cover 50 islands and 34,000 sq km – area bigger than Belgium

■ Aims to generate \$4bn a year and create 35,000 jobs

■ Laws “on par with international standards” mean restrictions on women’s dress, gender segregation and other conservative norms could be waived



Visitors will have access to ancient ruins at Madain Saleh – Unesco World Heritage site and relic of same civilization that built city of Petra in Jordan

Sources: Vision 2030