

BAHRAIN BY PASSPORT

An Invitation to Explore the Country's Storied History





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A PASSPORT AS SECURE AS IT IS BEAUTIFUL

The Kingdom of Bahrain has a rich and storied history as unique as its geography. Historically known for its pearl trade and extensive natural beauty, this stunning archipelago in the Arabian Gulf is also a leader in finance, education and such diverse industries as aluminum and Formula 1 racing.

This guide will take you on a tour of the country — and give you a behind-the-scenes peek into the collaborative process undertaken between the TOPPAN Security design team and Ministry of Interior in the Kingdom of Bahrain in the creation of their new passport.

There is a tremendous amount of work, care and expertise required to capture and represent symbols that reflect the spirit of a nation, while also integrating state-of-the-art security features to unequivocally protect the personal data stored within the passport.

Welcome to the journey!



THE LAND OF TWO SEAS

The sea floors surrounding Bahrain are punctuated by natural freshwater springs, creating optimal conditions for oysters — and the pearl industry — to thrive. This combination of saltwater and freshwater is why Bahrain is known as the “land of two seas.” Before the discovery of oil in Bahrain, pearling was central to the nation’s economy, and it continues to draw many people to the country’s picturesque waters.

On the end pages of the new ePassport, you’ll find Bahraini fish and sea life, its capital city skyline and a traditional Dhow pearling boat. The flower of life, a sacred geometric pattern comprised of equally proportioned overlapping circles, is featured prominently on these pages as part of the window feature — as well as in the background design, on the polycarbonate datapage and throughout the passport. This special symbol represents the cycle of life. It’s believed that within this symbol, the most meaningful and sacred patterns are held as a whole.





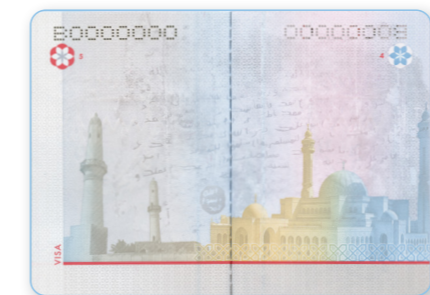
UV Highlight:
The Al Fateh mosque also appears in the UV image chosen for the passport's datapage.

FAITH AND HISTORY

Bahrain's visa pages are made up of ten distinct images, each highlighting a different aspect of Bahraini culture and history.

Faith | Al Khamis and Al Fateh Mosques

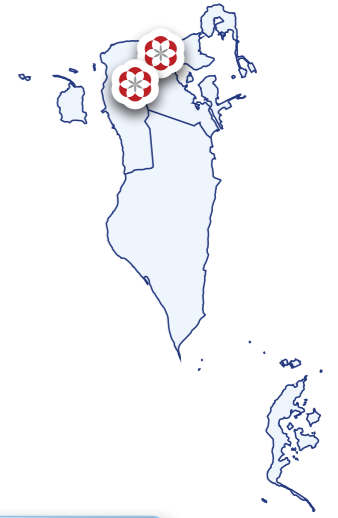
Each visa page design showcases both modern and ancient elements. To represent the first theme, "Faith," the illustration highlights the Al Khamis and Al Fateh mosques. The Al Khamis Mosque is believed to be the first mosque in Bahrain; the Al Fateh Mosque is one of the grandest and largest mosques in the world.



History | Dilmun Burial Mounds & National Theater of Bahrain

Bahrain was once home to the Dilmun people, one of the oldest trading civilizations in the eastern part of the Arabian Peninsula. Spread across 18 square miles, the 170,000 ancient burial mounds they left behind — originally low cylindrical towers constructed between 2,200 and 1,750 BCE — were designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2019.

The National Theater of Bahrain, a more recently constructed architectural gem, opened in 2012. You can find it in the capital city of Manama, part of a waterfront complex that also houses the Bahrain National Museum.





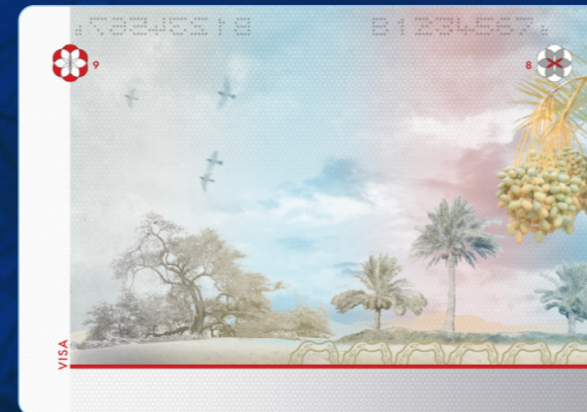
NATURE AND GOVERNANCE

Nature | Tree of Life & Date Palms

Planted in 1582, not far from the highest point in Bahrain, there sits a Prosopis cineraria tree affectionally named the Tree of Life — which continues to thrive in a harsh desert landscape without any visible water source. Over 65,000 people visit this living symbol of wonder and vitality each year. Also pictured on this page are dates and date palms, an abundant agricultural staple in the region for thousands of years and counting.

Governance | Riffa Fort & National Charter Monument

Built during the reign of Sheikh Salman Bin Ahmed Al Fateh, Riffa Fort was Bahrain's seat of government until 1869. In 1993, it opened to visitors wanting to explore a classic example of Bahraini fortification via extensive raised walkways and interactive spaces. The National Charter Monument building houses the National Action Charter of Bahrain, an agreement between the King and the people of Bahrain, enacted by national referendum in 2021.





EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY

Education | First School & Modern University

The Kingdom of Bahrain was the first country in the Arabian Gulf to establish a public education system. Pictured on this page is the Al Hidayah Al Khalifa Boys school, constructed on the island of Muharraq in 1919. Also depicted is one of the buildings of the University of Bahrain.

Industry | First Oil Pump & Modern Refinery

Another first for Bahrain was that it was the first of the Arabian Gulf countries to discover oil — an event that forever changed the entire region's economy and well-being. Pictured here on the left is the original 1932 oil pump, which is contrasted on the right by one of the country's many sophisticated modern refineries.



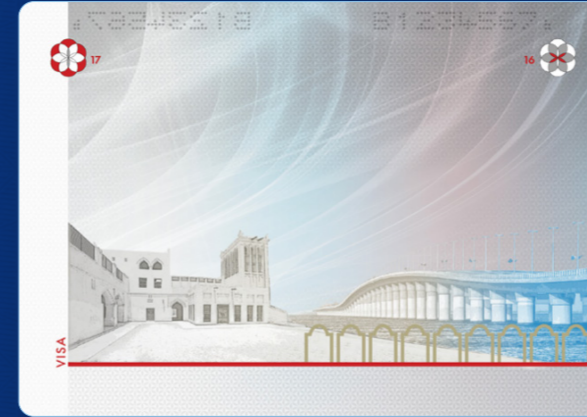
INNOVATION AND TRANSPORT

Innovation | Wind Catchers & King Fahd Causeway

Before there was air conditioning, ingenious architects designed buildings with "wind catcher" towers, creating natural and renewable ventilation to cool their interiors. This spirit of innovation lives on in the King Fahd Causeway, a stunning 15-mile series of bridges and causeways linking mainland Saudi Arabia to Al Jasra, Bahrain.

Transport | Early Seaport & International Airport

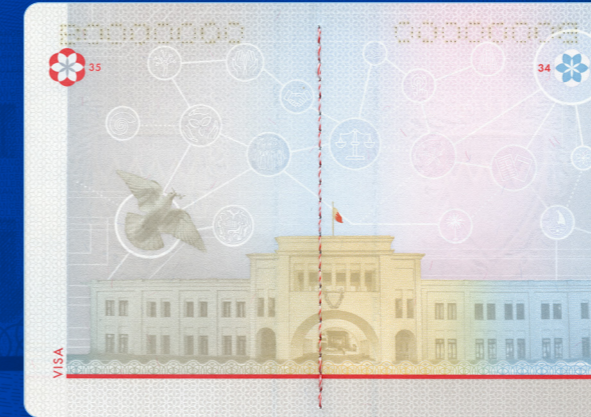
Transportation has always been an invaluable part of Bahrain's cultural fabric. This visa illustration shows one of the early ports and traditional Dhows central to the pearling trade. On the right is one of the stunning new terminals at Bahrain International Airport, capable of servicing up to 14 million passengers a year.





GATEWAY TO DIVERSITY

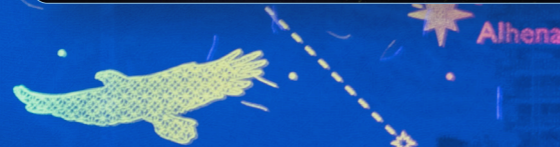
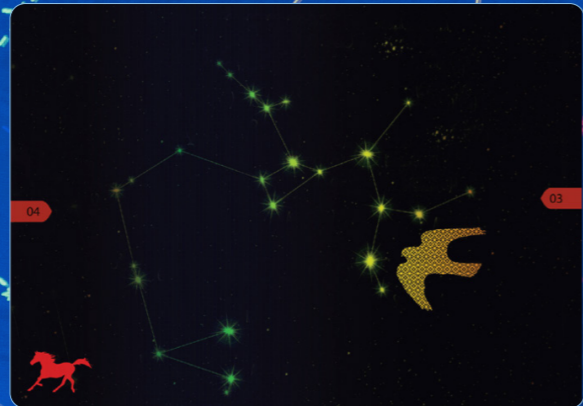
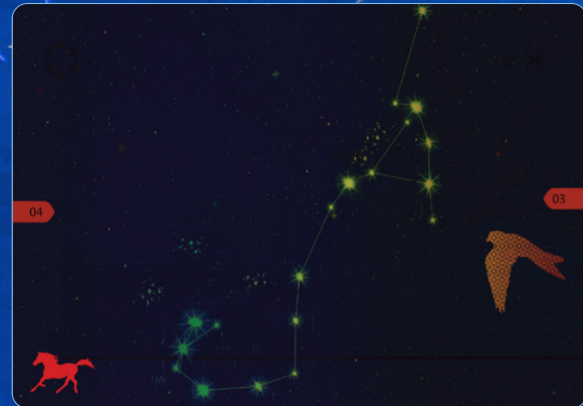
The Bab Al Bahrain, also known as the City Gate, is a building standing at the entrance to Manama's souk, or open-air market. Bahrain chose this symbol as a nod to their country's desire to embrace people from all nations and all faiths. Also depicted on this page are many symbols of tolerance, diversity and harmony.





Libra الميزان

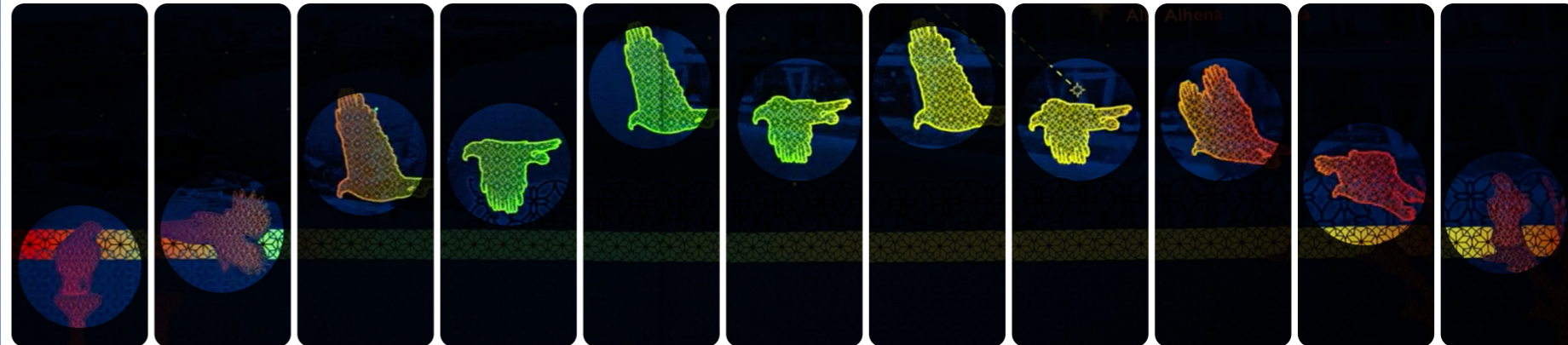
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Alhena

VISA

KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN



ANIMATED NIGHTSCAPES COME TO LIFE IN UV LIGHT

In addition to the many cultural and historical monuments the Bahraini passport depicts, every page in the booklet also has a beautiful overlay — unseen until the pages are flashed in ultraviolet (UV) light. As you flip through the booklet under the right UV lighting conditions, you can also follow a stallion and peregrine falcon as they gallop and fly across the pages.

TOPPAN
TOPPAN Security

THANK YOU FOR VISITING!

We hope you enjoyed this exploration of Bahrain's natural beauty, culture and history by way of its passport.

We also hope you were able to appreciate some of the thoughtful details we had the honor of integrating into its secure design. It was an honor to collaborate with representatives from the Kingdom of Bahrain on such an ambitious project!

To learn more about how TOPPAN Security works with countries to create secure identity solutions, visit: www.toppansecurity.com

