



**Archaeological and heritage sites in
Najaf Governorate: their importance
and potential for tourism development**

A.M. Dr. Alaa Hussein Jassim Al-Lami
University of Kufa / Faculty of Archaeology

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

A.M. Dr. Alaa Hussein Jassim Al-Lami

المخلص

السياحة من الأنشطة الاقتصادية المهمة، إذ إنها تعالج إنتاج وتوزيع موارد الثروة الاقتصادية، وتعود منافعها مباشرة على تعود على المجتمع المضيف، وقد ظهرت العديد من الدراسات التطبيقية في مجال الاستثمار السياحي، وتركز في معظمها على تحليل الموارد الطبيعية والبشرية وسبل تأهيل الخدمات السياحية مثل خدمات الفنادق والمطاعم السياحة في استقبال السياح الوافدين مع زيادة معدلات الإقامة تكرار الزيارة للمواقع السياحية.

ضمت هذه الدراسة أربعة محاور تقسمت حسب توزيع المواقع الأثرية والتراثية في المحافظة واحتوى كل محور منها على المواقع الأثرية والتراثية وطرائق تنميتها وسبل جعلها مواقع ثقافية جذب سياحية وضمت الدراسة أيضا الخطوات التي يجب على الإدارة المحلية في محافظة النجف الاشراف لا تطبيقها للتطوير السياحة الثقافية في المحافظة والاستفادة من الموارد الاقتصادية في تطوير الجانب السياحي.

Keywords : Archaeological tourism, heritage sites, archaeological sites, Land pilgrimage route.

Introduction

Tourism is one of the important economic activities, as it deals with the production and distribution of economic wealth resources, and its benefits are directly related to the host community, and many applied studies have appeared in the field of tourism investment, and most of them focus on the analysis of natural and human resources and ways to qualify services Tourism, such as hotel and restaurant services, tourism in receiving incoming tourists with an increase in accommodation rates, frequent visits to tourist sites, and the purchase of gifts and souvenir goods are all factors that encourage attracting foreign and local funds in the development of tourism investment in Najaf province.

Archaeological tourism is considered the most important for all aspects of learning about cultural heritage, as through it we can convey the authenticity of our civilization that we inherited from our great ancestors, and cultural and heritage tourism is defined as the travel wave towards archaeological and heritage activities , and it is referred to as the tourism markets that are developed towards culture and antiquities, which today is called creative tourism, part of which is the traditional cultural expressions of cultural, archaeological and heritage sites. Therefore, archaeological tourism is considered a good formula

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

for the development of sustainable tourism, not a combination of the three basic pillars of sustainable development (economic, social, and environmental) and it is one of the basic resources of cultural tourism.

The main problem is the following question: Can the local government benefit economically from archaeological tourism? As for the importance of the study, the importance lies in spreading the archaeological tourism culture in Iraq and marketing it internationally in order to achieve economic returns, increase revenues, attract tourists interested in archaeological tourism in Najaf, and raise the awareness of the local and international community about the pioneering role of marketing archaeological tourism by broadcasting community and knowledge ideas about the ancient civilization of the Mesopotamian Valley, encouraging the public and private sectors and directing them towards an attractive environment for archaeological tourism.

The study aims to achieve the study and analysis of tourism investment in Najaf Governorate and compare tourism investment with Arab countries, with a view to the most important results achieved in this field, and to identify the components and challenges of tourism investment in Iraq and Najaf in particular, and finally to spread the culture of dialogue between the civilizations that were in the region by revealing their effects and history to tourists.

Study Themes

Tourism is an activity in which a person moves from one place to another for the purpose of entertainment and getting to know tourist sites, and the person who performs this activity is called a tourist, and tourism is divided into: internal tourism, which is inside the country, and external tourism, which is outside the country by traveling through various means of travel to reach other countries with tourist sites¹.

Tourism is one of the important economic activities, as it deals with the production and distribution of economic wealth resources, and its benefits are directly related to the host community, and many comparative studies have appeared in the field of tourism investment, and most of them focus on the analysis of natural and human resources and ways to qualify tourism services such as the services of tourist hotels and restaurants in receiving incoming tourists with the increase in accommodation rates and visits to tourist sites, and the purchase of gifts and souvenir goods are all factors that encourage the attraction of foreign and local funds In the development of tourism investment in Najaf Governorate.²

The main objective of the study of tourism investment is to discuss the challenges facing investors and the number of completed projects in Najaf Governorate, as well as the availability of natural and human tourist attractions, which contributes effectively and effectively to attracting capital, which is reflected in improving the economic reality of the residents of the province

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

through the development of infrastructure services and increasing the efficiency of their performance, as well as working to create job opportunities for the unemployed, which ultimately leads to achieving economic recovery in general .

The first axis: A survey of archaeological sites in the governorate, and this axis includes four areas.

The first region: Archaeological tourism in the Najaf Sea region and the land pilgrimage route

Najaf Sea Region

This sea is one of the geological phenomena of the prominent city of Najaf, and it is located at the western end of the city and is overlooked by a plateau whose basin extends with an area of (750 km²) and the height of its lowest point is (11 m) above sea level³ .

Historical sources pointed to the historical antiquity of this name, as it was mentioned that Ibrahim al-Khalil (peace be upon him) descended to the land of Banqia as a shepherd of sheep that were called in the Nabataean language (Banqia) and this area remained overlooking the sea, as Khalid bin Al-Walid passed through it and with him Al-Muthanna bin Haritha Al-Shaibani, and they entered it as conquerors, and this name began to lose its importance and the word Najaf overwhelmed the region until the sea was called Najaf.

In the modern era, the Najaf Sea was mentioned by the Portuguese traveler (Taksira) on his trip to Najaf in 1604 AD, where he mentioned that he saw a wide lake when he came from Basra to Najaf in the middle of the desert, which draws its water from the Euphrates River, as it is observed that the water levels increase in the flood season, which is very salty.⁴

The tourist can reach the sea of Najaf from several well-paved roads leading to the sea, which can be reached from the annual road to the city of Najaf, and here it is worth noting that there are no traffic signs indicating these roads that lead to the sea, which makes it difficult for the tourist to reach this important tourist facility

Najaf caves

The geological phenomenal caves (tarat) is archeological that forms the southern and western edges of the Najaf plateau, as the plateau cuts sharply to form a sharp rocky cliff and overlooks the sea, the hills and caves of the tarat are spread west of the city of Najaf, which is one of the prominent archaeological areas overlooking the Najaf Sea or Wadi al-Salam, and through the historical sequence of this area, which dates back to distant historical eras, starting from the flood in the time of the Prophet of God Noah (peace be upon him) and passing through its use as monasteries after the Prophet Isa bin Mary (peace be upon her) ended up taking cemeteries for burying the dead, which is known as Nawawis, the graveyard of the Christians, the carved stone in which the body of

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

the dead is placed, and the area of Najaf is approximately (65 km) and the highest point of elevation is about 100 meters above sea level.⁵

Irregular rocky heights often attract attention when they head towards the Najaf Sea area, which are beautiful in view and the view of the Najaf Sea area today, and there is a phenomenon that should be mentioned, which is the drainage of water from some of the rocky layers of the tires and its explanation is that it is groundwater stored in the Najaf Plateau, its permanent source may be rainwater. These tires with this appearance have an aesthetic importance that attracts tourists to the region, as the tourist can reach the tires from several paved and good roads leading to the tires in the Najaf Sea, which can be reached from the Hawli road to the city of Najaf, and here it is worth noting that there are no traffic signs indicating these roads that lead to them, which makes it difficult for the tourist to reach this important tourist facility.

Land pilgrimage route

The ancient Hajj, which is the Hajj route between Kufa and Mecca, is the most important of the seven land pilgrimage routes that connect the Hijaz to the Islamic world, the history of this route dates back to the time of the Babylonian Empire, then it became the trade route between Al-Hira and Mecca, then it was known since the beginning of the emergence of the Islamic Arab State, and its fame was widely spread and its news was distributed in various sources and references, and there is no doubt that the accuracy of its route, directions and stations, in addition to the great care of its affairs in the years of the Arab-Islamic Caliphate, was one of the reasons for the spread of its news in Islamic history, and its peak of prosperity was in the first Abbasid era, but in the last ten years, there has been a renewed talk about this road, which is about 1400 km long, and it is considered one of the most famous archaeological roads in the world, and its remains and monuments still tell humanity about a superior engineering and human effort, and because of the excitement of the sign to this day, it was the reason for the project of the road to be elevated to the World Heritage List in the UNESCO World Heritage Organization. Due to the importance of the land pilgrimage route, which will be one of the archaeological sites declared on the World Heritage List, many foreign, Arab and local tourists will want to visit this archaeological route that is unique to the province of Najaf.

The tourist can reach the land Hajj Road today from several paved and good roads leading to the Hawli road to the city of Najaf, and here it is worth mentioning that there are no traffic signs indicating these roads that lead to the land Hajj Road, in addition to the fact that today the Hajj Road has been repaved, which makes it difficult for the tourist to reach this important tourist facility. As for the security situation of this road, it is not good, so it requires the local government to put protection points for the road in order to protect the

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

arrivals from tourists on the road, and this applies to all the stations of the road that we will mention later.

Khan Al Rahba Station

It is one of the commercial stations and the rest house for travelers to and from Najaf, and it is located south of the city of Najaf, at a distance of (35 km) on the edge of the southern desert, and it was a khan and a city where people live in the center of it, and the houses are still standing in it to the present day, and the khan is considered one of the distinctive architectural style in terms of the method of construction and the presence of beautiful arches and contracts, so it is one of the most beautiful heritage khans in the city of Najaf . However, it suffers from severe neglect and the construction of the khan may be damaged due to neglect and obsolescence on it.

The land pilgrimage route, which was reopened in 1936, used to pass through it, and it was the first point at which the pilgrim stood to check his passports, and that was one of the golden days when the economy of Al-Rahba was revived, and its eyes were the most important of which is Ain Al-Rahba, which is the source of life in it, and it is half a kilometer away from the village.

Barakat Atheeb Al-Haganat Station (Barakat Zubaydah)

This station is currently located within the administrative borders of Najaf Governorate, and it is about (45 km) to the southwest of the center of the province, and this station was mentioned by Ibn Rustah and Ibn Khurdadhiba, and Ibn Rustah mentions that Al-Atheeb comes after Al-Qadisiyyah by six miles (i.e. 12 km), and between Al-Athib and Al-Qadisiyyah are two walls connected on their sides by palm trees, and after Al-Atheeb comes the wilderness (which means the desert), and he also points out that It was the place of a Persian armed force at the edge of the desert, and if the traveler came out of it, he entered Al-Mufazah, and Ibn Khurdadhab mentioned the same thing as Ibn Rustah, and they see it as representing the second house of the stations of the land pilgrimage route (Darb Zubaydah), as the road starts from Qadisiyyah and then Al-Athib, and this station was mentioned by Al-Hamawi: Al-Athib: Reducing Al-Athib, which is the good water, which is water between Al-Qadisiyyah and Al-Mughitha. between it and Al-Qadisiyyah (8 km) and about (64 km).⁶

The architectural layout of the pond was characterized by a circular layout and close to the shape of a "water bottle", as it consists of two parts, the first is the circular one, which was with a diameter of (32.5 m), and the rest is from the height of its walls(1 m) and the thickness of the walls (0.90 m), and this thickness gives it a supporting force to resist the flow of drifting water, and at the inner southern wall of the circular part of the pond, the remains of a ladder appear, of which we were able to determine four steps of the length of each of them (12 m). Its width is (0.80 m) and height (0.20 m) and this ladder leads to

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

the bottom of the pool, and it seems that the purpose of its existence is to go down to the bottom of the pond and clean it from time to time from the silt and plankton that accompany the flow of water, and the steps of the ladder have been covered with plaster material, as the remains of a thick layer of plaster amounting to (0.04 m) can be observed, and we could not know the depth of the pond due to the large accumulation of sand in it, and it is observed on the walls surrounding a pond The effects of moisture and damage caused by the water stored in this pond

At the inner northern wall of the circular part, there is a crater opening with a width of (2 m) on both sides of it two pillars to strengthen its dimensions (0.50×0.50 m), and this opening is connected to a channel with a width of (1 m) and the channel extends in a wavy manner, as its length at the point of its meeting with the crater is (12 m) and then turns towards the north for a distance of (10 m). Then it returns to the western direction at a distance of (6 m) and it seems that this channel was connected to a water well to supply the pond with water, but it is currently being studied and it must be a hill higher than the level of the pond.

The pond and its channel were constructed of local limestone that is not renovated and available in the environment surrounding the pond, and the stones of the pond walls were connected to the bonding material, which is plaster, which was taken from the local quarries located near the station or the pond, and the effects of demolition, vandalism and neglect that affected many of its parts were observed, which made it more difficult to distinguish the rest of its parts⁷

Wadi al-Sabaa Station

It is currently located within the governorate of Najaf, and is about (52 km) southwest of the city of Najaf, and 13 km away⁸, (Plate No. 7) (towards the southwest of the pool of Atheeb al-Haganat).

Historical sources mention that Imam Hussein (peace be upon him) came to him with the news of the death of Muslim Ibn Aqeel (peace be upon him) when he landed at this station, and he also met the army sent by the governor of Kufa before Yazid, where Ibn Qutaybah says in this regard: "The army threw him on their horses in the valley of the Saba', and they threw them and they did not have water, and they said, 'O son of the daughter of the Messenger of Allah, give us water.'⁹

The architectural planning of the pond, near which there are the remains of a palace at the southeast direction of the palace, and it is rectangular in shape, its dimensions are (50 × 70 m) built in order to collect rainwater and make maximum use of it without the irrigation of humans and animals in this arid desert (Plate No. 8), and the fact of the current state of this pond is that most of its walls are demolished due to the factors of time and neglect, the walls of the pond were built of local stone and in different sizes and in the method of

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

solution, tension, and the bonding material is plaster, and that the rest The maximum height of these walls is (1.5 m), while the thickness of the outer walls of the pond is about (1 m), and there is a wall inside this pond that extends with a depth of (20 m) and a thickness of (0.70 m), and it divides it into two unequal parts, and this wall is supported at its end by a circular pillar with a diameter of about (1 m), and it seems that the construction of this wall may be in order to filter and purify the water to be more suitable for drinking.

We believe that this pond has a canal connected to it on its northern side, and this canal has an opening capacity of (1 m), and the canal in turn ends in a square pond or basin whose dimensions are (3 × 3 m) and the thickness of its walls is the same as the walls of the large pond, and the length of this canal, i.e. the distance between the large and small canals, was (2 m), and this main pond may have contained internal stairs on a certain side of the pond or perhaps two sides in order to facilitate the process of obtaining the water collected in these pools. The pond or for the purpose of cleaning it of mud and plankton, it has been found in this station that the remains of the building unit represent a palace called in the area Zubaydah Winter Palace.

The general plan of the palace or building is square in shape with dimensions (26× 26 m), and consists of one floor and consists of a central square surrounded by the rest of the facilities of the palace or building, the palace was constructed with the material of stones and the plaster was used as a bonding material, the palace consists of a solid outer wall built of stones, and the rest is of its height (6 m) and thickness (1 m), the four corners of the palace were supported from the outside by cylindrical corner towers representing three quarters of the circle, and it has a wide base with a diameter of (2.5 m). The body of the cylindrical tower rests on it, which gradually narrows as we rise towards the top of the tower to reach a diameter of about (1.5 m) at the top of the remaining height of its peak, and these towers are solid, their rows of stones have been stacked randomly, but they are wrapped from the outside with rows of stones of different sizes and measurements in the form of a row containing large stones, followed by another row with smaller stones to fill and level the rows, and plaster was used as a binding material. In one of the towers of this corner palace, It was found that the tower was not connected to the outer wall of the palace, that is, the traditional method of construction was not used, which is the method of dissolving and tensioning, and perhaps this tower was built in a later period of time, and through some remains that were found on the four outer sides of the palace, we believe that there are other towers built between the corner towers, which are eight other semi-cylindrical towers with two towers on each side of the palace, but they are smaller than the corner towers. From the rest of the parts of these two towers at the southern side of the palace, we can describe that one of them has a cylindrical pyramidal base, i.e. it is wide from the bottom with a diameter

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

of (1.5 m), and this base narrows as we go upwards to reach a diameter of (1 m), and the base rises by about (1.5 m) on which the body of the tower rests, which is less than the cylindrical base of the rest of its height (3 m), while its body has reached a diameter of (0.80 m). (Approximately, the other tower is devoid of a pyramidal base and the same measurements as a cylindrical tower.

The palace has one main entrance, which may be located on the northern side, but it is demolished due to the collapse of most parts of the outer wall of this side, which we could not take measurements and description, as for the interior plan of the palace, it consists of the central square, which is rectangular in shape with dimensions (13 × 17 m) overlooking the four sides of the palace, and the rest of its facilities, which had an entrance overlooking the central square with a pointed knot, the capacity of one of which was opened. 0.80 m (1 m) high and this stone has different sizes and shapes, including square and rectangular. The western side of the palace contained three rectangular stones (similar in shape and measurement in dimensions (5 × 5 m).

There are two square-shaped wells located west of the palace, the first is (3 × 3 m), which is the closest to the palace, and the second is the farthest one, which is (4 × 4 m), and these two wells are deep, and their depth may reach fifty meters, knowing that we have not been able to take accurate measurements of the depth of the well due to the lack of laser measuring devices and also This is also due to the difficulty and danger of approaching the opening of these wells.

These wells were built in a wonderful engineering way and took into account the geological nature that surrounds these wells by monitoring the Iraqi architecture and taking into account the thickness of the surface top layer, which is usually made of the brittle soil that is rapidly destructive, which has always affected the wells and buried them when heavy rains and swept away torrents at times, and the frequent use of the well is incorrect by travelers may lead to damage and disappearance of the wells, so it was necessary The Iraqi architect paved the upper part of the well with several rows of engineered stones of different sizes and shapes to reduce the effects of backfilling as well as help stabilize the surface of the soil in which the well is located, while the lower part of the well down to its bottom was carved with shovels and arms of the sophisticated building because its geological nature is from sandstone that is easy to carve, and to the southwest of the palace and at a distance of (200 m) There are almost the remains of two knots buried in the ground, of which only the upper part remains, and they are opposite each other with a distance of (3 m), the node farther to the palace has great traces of damage and the rest are traces of the wage with which the front of the knot was built longitudinally, while the other nook that is closer to the palace is better than the other and we note that the wage is in good condition in it and this wage is of the large type and probably of a measure of (6 × 34 × 34 m) if it is true This may be due to an

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

earlier period of time, and the dimensions of these building blocks were also used in the buildings of the Abbasid era, and between these two arches there are remains of traces of the obvious steps, including three steps with a height (0.15 m) and a width ranging from (20 to 25 cm)..

This building is unique and important and opens many horizons for us and gives us several questions that we cannot answer with certainty now or determine what it is, the function of this building unit, and the reason behind its presence in this place, but through the study and field survey, we believe that this building, represented by the two opposite contracts, may have carried an arch or an irrigation bridge a connection between the two ends of a small stream that was here and has been eroded over the years as a result of the factors of the dry and hot climate that this region enjoys, and perhaps the excavation shovels in the near future will answer this and determine for us the function and date of the construction of this architectural edifice.

The Minaret of um al-Qaroun:

It is located within the administrative borders of Najaf Governorate and is 50 km away from the center of the province towards the southwest of Tablet No. (9), and it is also about (2 km) northwest of the palace at Wadi Al-Sabaa station,¹⁰ and as a result of its proximity to Wadi Al-Saba'a, we considered it a part of this station, and it is believed that it is named after the Sultan of Jalal al-Dawla King Shah Alb Arslan, who died in 485 AH 1127 AD.¹¹ He went out of Kufa himself in one year to bid farewell to the pilgrims, and when he reached the seventh day near Al-Waqsa, he built a lighthouse in which he left the antlers of the antelopes and the hooves of zebras that he hunted on his way. The wage rings, octagonal and square, are exquisite shapes, and it is strange that they are majestic, all with deer horns attached to them, waving like the back of a sheep... Near this lighthouse is a palace with a bridge, and next to it is a factory (which means the great well) and it is found filled with water¹².

The general description of this lighthouse is that it has a cylindrical body carried on a stepped base, and it is currently an abyss on the ground where the east, and it is a single building to which no building unit is connected, and it seems from the reality of the lighthouse that this lighthouse has a square-shaped base that is almost completely destroyed, except for the presence of a small part of it that remains, through which we can infer that this base was gradual, and this is confirmed by Al-Azzawi as he described to us the base of the lighthouse, which is square-shaped. Its dimensions are about (7 × 7 meters) and its height is (3.5 meters) and it is built in a graded form of four steps and from the four sides.

The method of building the listed base of the minaret is for a structural purpose, because the function of the gradient in the base aims to distribute the weight of the high-rise minaret, as the minaret is similar to the minaret of the mosque of the single type, as it represents a large building block that needs a

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

strong base that bears the weight and height of the minaret, in addition to taking into account the nature of the generation and the nature of the land on which the minaret is built and its base.

The base of the lighthouse has disappeared and its features have been destroyed, and we could not distinguish the gradient that Al-Azzawi referred to, which made it difficult for us to take the correct dimensions of this base, as for the hull, it is above the base, cylindrical in shape, and the rest of this hull rises from the base by about (1.5 m). As for the fallen part of the hull, the rest of it 5 م (we have not been able to know the exact measurement of the height of this lighthouse due to the demolition and disappearance of much of its body, especially at its top, and the diameter of the hull is the same 3 م as that of a solid structure built in two stages, i.e. built from two overlapping cylinders, the smaller inner one is wrapped in rows of bricks This inner cylinder is covered by another larger cylinder built of unreinforced stones and encased on the outside with bricks with dimensions (5×25×25 cm).

Fourth: Al-Mughhaitha Station

It is located 74 km southwest of the city center of Najaf, and is within the administrative boundaries of Najaf Governorate¹³. Plate No. (10)

Al-Mughhaitha: station for the pilgrim between al-Qadisiyyah and al-Qara'a, and between the mineral of al-Nuqrah, a station (in which there is a lot of rainwater and the distance between it and al-athayb is fourteen miles¹⁴, and Yaqut mentioned it (al-Mughhaitha is a house on the road to Makkah after al-Athayb from the side of Makkah, which is for the Banu Nabhan from Tay).¹⁵

The general layout of this station is a rectangular pond with dimensions (50 × 100 m) and its apparent depth is currently 2 m, and we do not exclude that it is deeper than that because its bottom has been buried with sand as a result of the factors of time, and its walls are built of stones and plaster bond, and the pond is divided into two square sections, the first square located on the northern side is centered on the inside of its northern side by two degrees of length (7.5 m) and the width of the degree is (75 cm) and its height is (50 cm), and it seems that the stairs continue to the end of the bottom of the pond in order to clean the basin from dirt, mud and plankton, we observe the effect of time factors on most of its walls, while the southern part of the main pond has its walls Graded from the inside on its four sides, the visible indicator is four degrees, each degree is 0.50 m high, and its width is (0.75 m). We also note the presence of the remains of the foundations of the towers integrated with the semi-cylindrical wall that support the walls of the pond from the outside at the southern sides of the pond, except for the tower (1.5 m) in diameter, with a square base with a side length of (2.5 m) and the rest of the height of these towers from the outside is about (0.30 m). There are remains of foundations, which may be a channel connected to this pond at its northeast corner, and by tracing the foundations of this part of the

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

canal, we notice that it is not on the same straight, as it tilts slightly towards the east whenever we ascend north towards the first well, which is located at the northeast of the main large pond and is about (40 m) away from it, and the width of this channel is (1 m) and there is another small pond located on the southern side of the main pond is in the distance of (4 m.) It is rectangular in shape with dimensions (8 × 5 m) and its walls are built of engineered stones of different sizes and the material is a plaster tie, and in the middle of the wall of this small pond on its eastern side is an opening with a capacity of (1 m), which may represent an opening for a channel connected to the pond to collect the water of the well which we will describe later, where there are remains of the walls.

This canal is connected to the opening of the small pond from the east, and its length reached about 4 meters, and then it turns at a right angle towards the north, but unfortunately the walls of this canal have disappeared due to the factors of time.

The northeastern well is square in shape with dimensions of (5 × 5 m) and a depth of more than (50 m), the top of the well has been encased from the top by rows of engineered stones of different sizes and sizes and a depth of about (10 m), and it is noted that the well has lost a large part of the engineered stones that used to envelop its top due to the factors of time, neglect and lack of maintenance on it because it was abandoned a long time ago.

The second well, which is located on the western side of the large pond, which is about 20 m away, is also square in shape with dimensions of 5 × 5 m, and its opening is covered with rows of stones built to a depth of (10 m), while its depth to the bottom may reach more than (50 m). Like the first well, it was demolished and neglected due to climatic conditions and the factors of time, and it seems that both wells were equipped with a neck above the soil surface of stones, i.e., a curtain or stone barrier in order to protect and prevent those who use the well from falling into the abyss.

Finally, we can increase the number of tourist stations in this axis after tourism develops and the number of foreign, Arab and Iraqi arrivals increases, and it becomes economically feasible, because tourism in the desert is one of the most desirable types of tourism nowadays.

The second region: Archaeological tourism in the area of Al-Hira (southwest of Najaf)

The historical site of the city of Al-Hira, as the city of Al-Hira, located south of Najaf, was a spiritual capital for Christians and a destination for monks for more than 500 years before the entry of Islam into Iraq.

As for the origin of al-Hira, there is a difference of opinion among historians about its history, some of them say that it was established during the reign of the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar, but the situation did not continue with it, as it

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

was destroyed after his death and remained so until the Arab tribes came down to it at the beginning of the third century AD or before that date¹⁶.

This city started as a small town, like the rest of the cities that flourished over the days during the reign of Al-Nasr Al-Lakhmiyyah. Al-Hira appeared politically at the beginning of the third century AD, and this city formed a political dimension for the Arab tribes present in this region, as it played an effective role in the development of events, especially in the east and west.¹⁷

The state of Al-Manathira and its king, Al-Numan bin Al-Mundhir, were famous for caring for silos and their monks. The city of Al-Hira was called "the City of the Lord" because of the many monasteries and churches in addition to its famous palaces such as Al-Khurang and Al-Sudair, and about the most important Christian monuments there, he pointed out that there are more than (33) monasteries between Najaf and Kufa of the remnants of Christianity, some of which were discovered in the Najaf region, where the Kingdom of Al-Hira was under the rule of Al-Manathira before the Islamic conquest in the seventh century AD¹⁸.

The Christian crosses were found in the city of Al-Manadhira, Al-Hira, a historical city where Christians and Jews lived before Islam, and it was a city of religious coexistence, which was followed by the German expeditions in 1932 and another American in 1957, which discovered during its excavations the palace of um Arif in that area. Our local experts also excavated in that area and found the largest historical Christian cemetery dating back to the era of the Al-Manadhira state, in the area between Najaf International Airport and the Al-Hira area. Recently, the remains of a Christian monastery were also found in which the name of the owner of the monastery (Abd al-Masih)¹⁹ was found.

The tourist can reach the archaeological sites of the archaeological city of Al-Hira today from several paved and good roads leading from the city center, and here it is worth noting that there are no traffic signs indicating these roads that lead to the archaeological site, in addition to the fact that today many main roads in the governorate have been redeveloped and covered, and this makes it easier for the tourist to reach this important tourist facility of the archaeological city of Al-Hira. As for the security situation of this road, it is not good, so it requires the local government to make an agreement with Najaf International Airport, because most of the sites of this axis are located inside the airport, which are sites that date back to the time of Al-Hira's entry into the Christian religion, which makes them very important for the dialogue between religions and civilizations in the province of Najaf, as Christian confusion accompanied the Islamic city of Kufa to the fourth century AH, and there was peace and coexistence between the peoples of the two cities.

The most important landmarks of the archaeological area are:

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

First: The remains of monasteries and churches located between Najaf airport and the power plant

The urban and service expansion in Iraqi cities in general, including the province of Najaf, has caused great damage to the cultural heritage of Mesopotamia, as some of these urban expansions and the expansion of civil services have made some archaeological sites vulnerable to vandalism, so Iraqi missions commissioned by the General Authority for Antiquities have done a great job of It is known that Najaf Al-Ashraf Airport was built on the archaeological hill of Kneidra, which includes in its interior many of the remains of the city of Al-Hira, so the expansion of the runways and the possibility of its impact on the adjacent hills of the remains of the ruins of Al-Hira was the main motivation behind Assign a rescue excavation mission, and as a way to draw attention to the protection of those archaeological sites.

Some of the wall marks were visible on the southern slope of the hill and it was the starting point for the excavation work in the southeastern corner of it, and the excavation work resulted in the discovery of a large building of a large area consisting of (46) architectural units of different sizes, including large halls, including small stone, and medium-sized mats, and porches overlooking large open courtyards.

Al-Hira encompasses sixty-six monasteries and churches as mentioned by history, and it was discovered by the General Authority for Antiquities and Heritage a messianic home near the gas station that contains architectural decorations and also stumbles on Christian crosses, and the excavation missions that learned inside the Najaf Al-Ashraf International Airport discovered four monasteries and three churches that contained Christian architecture that bears the decorations of a beautiful building, and also discovered about Christian crosses in excavations²⁰.

Second: The cemetery of "um Khsham"

It is one of the major Christian cemeteries located in the Al-Hira area in the south of Najaf Governorate, it has a wide extension from Najaf Governorate to Al-Manadhira area to Al-Hasiya area, on the Najaf-Ghamas road. According to observers, a third of this area was settled by displaced people from the marshes from southern Iraq, and there are buffalo breeders and Bedouins, so this area was affected and removed and stolen, and its time age exceeds 1800 years, that "this cemetery is one of the largest Christian cemeteries in Iraq and the region, which was a center for the gathering of Christians at the time of the Kingdom of Al-Hira", noting that "this cemetery was excavated and stolen, and the process is still ongoing because the cemetery is not fenced", because the graves are not marked and are underground. The excavation and theft began after 2003, and the people of the area believe that there are treasures buried underground in graves.

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

The tourist can reach the archaeological sites of the city of Al-Hira today from several well-paved and well-paved roads leading to it from the city center, and here it is worth noting that there are no traffic signs indicating these roads that lead to the archaeological site.

Third: Al-Khornak Palace

It is a palace that was in the outskirts [of Iraq](#) that is believed to have existed near what is now called the Abu [Sakhir](#) district in southern [Iraq](#), built by [al-Nu'man ibn al-Mundhir](#) [in the fourth century AD](#), and it has been mentioned in [the hadiths](#) and poems of the Arabs, [in addition to](#) the palace of al-Sudair [which was built by the Lakhmiyyatal-Munather](#) as well, and it is said that it witnessed one of the most important conferences in [Arab history](#) before [Islam](#). In this "conference", the Lakhmi king tried to unify the word [of the Arabs](#), in order to limit the influence [of the Sassanid state](#). The story of al-Khourang is also related to the story of his construction [by Senmar](#), a Roman engineer, so the palace was a great building and it took sixty years to build it, in which Sinmar worked for two or three years and was absent for five years, so when the construction of the palace was finished, he told Nu'man ibn al-Mundhir that there was a brick in the palace whose bricks had been removed, and that the whole palace would have fallen, and that no one else knows its whereabouts, so that he would not tell anyone about that rent, so he gave the proverb "the reward of Sinmar." He The palace lasted for more than eight hundred years²¹

It is worth mentioning that the first excavation expeditions that tried to find the ruins of this palace were [headed by Wright Enkid](#) from the University [of Oxford in the United Kingdom](#) in 1931. Then, in 1938, an [Iraqi expedition](#) headed by Professor [Taha Baqir](#) followed it, where it uncovered a mud-brick wall 110 meters wide, surrounded by [round and square towers, which the mission suggested was a fortress](#) of a [large building, and it was believed at the time that](#) the fort [belonged to one of the two palaces](#)

In 2001, Iraqi newspapers published a news that the Iraqi archaeological mission at the archaeological site of Abu Sakhir had reached important results in its search for the site of Al-Khourang Palace, and found 467 artifacts stored in the Iraqi Museum in Baghdad, revealing mysterious secrets related to the Kingdom of Al-Manadhira, its capital Al-Hira, and Al-Khourang Palace, and the location of the palace was confirmed through the presence of the cemetery called Al-Mundhir Cemetery, which is the tomb of the royal family, and is located within the prohibitions of Al-Khourang Palace.²²

This area does not currently have any tourism elements because most of this area has been demolished and vandalized by thieves and the community surrounding the archaeological sites, in addition to a large part of it is located inside the wall of the international airport of the city of Najaf, which in turn has

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

also vandalized and wasted many Christian sites within its walls by excavating them in previous years and leaving them exposed to the nakedness and weather conditions that caused the damage of the archaeological sites. It is in fact a beautiful tourist area if it is not affected by vandalism, demolition and excavation of sites in it, and today this area needs great efforts to rehabilitate it as a tourist destination.

Region III: Archaeological Tourism in the City of Kufa

The location of the city of Kufa is characterized by great historical depth because it is close to the city of Al-Hira, the capital of the Arabs and the same Christian religion, which was the site of their month and their heroics against the Sassanids, in addition to many cities that date back to the Sassanid era and before it, such as the city of Paniqia and the Persians, and we returned to the cities that were close to Kufa²³.

The location of Kufa is also characterized by its proximity to the Euphrates River and the fertility of its land and the nature of its air, so its geographical location was abundant with fresh water and good pastures, which were the conditions of the second Caliph on choosing the place, in addition to the lack of a natural barrier such as the river and the sea between the chosen city and Madinah, the capital of the state, and it was the second city of Egypt outside the Arabian Peninsula by the Arab Muslim leader Sa'd bin Abi Waqqas (17 AH / 638 AD).²⁴

The city of Kufa did not have any religious impact before its settlement, but the situation changed after the city was built and its mosque (Kufa Mosque) was built, which took on more importance after the fourth Caliph Imam Ali (peace be upon him) took it as the seat of his caliphate, so the mosque was the vital place in the city, the five prayers were held, and in its courtyard people gathered to listen to the sermons of Imam Ali (peace be upon him). After the martyrdom of Imam Ali in the year forty AH, following a blow in the mihrab of the mosque, the mosque took a different position and was sanctified and blessed²⁵.

The current planning of the city of Kufa dates back to the Ottoman era, where a group of municipal departments was established in and in the cities affiliated to it, in addition to the departments concerned with health and cleaning affairs, but the reality of the situation of these departments was limited to collecting fees and duties, paying salaries, and guarding the employees of those departments, as the city developed, especially in the years when the British occupied Iraq, during that period the previous municipal departments were abolished, and their tasks were limited to widening some streets and filling potholes. Drinking water and roofing Some markets and some parks are provided. Some of them relied on their own budget, having previously relied on central funding²⁶.

The first department for urban planning was formed in the Directorate of Municipalities. The General Authority of the Ministry of Interior in the late

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

thirties was responsible for the development of urban and rural urban communities in the past, the planning of cities during the royal era and until the fifties of the last century did not exceed in preparing plans for public roads in the city and defining their taboos, with the preparation of land within a simple general structure of the city, many of the facilities of the city of Kufa belong to the two eras during the British occupation of Iraq and the royal era²⁷.

Tour Route in Kufa Heritage Area

The tour route starts from Corniche Street in Kufa, the main street adjacent to the Kufa River, and after that, you enter the Sikka Street, which was so named because it contained the tramway track in the Ottoman era, seeing the heritage buildings that date back to the Ottoman and Iraqi royal eras, all the way to Al-Oula Square, and then entering the old market street to see the heritage buildings, markets, handicrafts shops for the number and the manufacture of boats as well, and back to the Corniche Street to go from it to the river tour in the Euphrates River. It is considered a holy river in many religions, including Judaism and Christianity.

River Tourist Route in the Kufa River

Organizing river boat tours to introduce tourists to the most important monuments and cultural and civilizational heritage sites on the banks of the Euphrates River in Najaf, the first of which is the guest palace and the khans on the side of Corniche Street and Alhambra Mosque as well, and by advancing the tour north to farms on the banks of the river, to implement a project idea, we need to build an office or a kiosk on the Euphrates River marina in the city of Kufa, they can be in the place of the river boat marina in the Corniche of Kufa today.

To provide tourism services for the project such as receiving tourists, cutting tickets, distributing tour guides or posters, exhibition or selling souvenirs of artifacts and heritage artifacts, besides this, this office arranges visits by pre-booking through a specialized website or social media sites, within the boats that work in taking tourists on tours in the river until today Note we will accompany the project file with the study.

The Fourth Region: Archaeological Tourism in the Khanates of Najaf and its Walls (Old City)

Tourists can reach this area today from several well-paved roads leading to it, as it is located in the center of the city, and here it is worth mentioning that there are traffic signs indicating these roads that lead to it, but there is a negative of this area as it is located within the security perimeter of the old city in Al-Ashraf Governorate and not all expatriates can enter it because it is a fortified area.

First: The walls of the city of Najaf:

The history of the construction of walls in the city of Najaf dates back to the third century AH, and some consider that the number of walls built around the

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

city of Najaf is six walls, while some consider it to be five, as the first wall that was mentioned to be built around the holy shrine by Muhammad bin Zaid the Alawite da'i in 285 AH, as when the dome was old, the age of the walls Najaf received special attention from the Alawite preacher of Tabaristan, who ordered the sending of funds from Tabaristan for the construction of the holy shrines in Najaf, Karbala and Medina, during the caliphate of the Abbasid Mu'ta'id in the year (259-289 AH).²⁸

However, there is another text that states that Sultan Mas'ud bin Buyah Al-Daylami ordered the construction of the wall of Mashhad Al-Najaf ("When he finished building the Dome of the Holy Dome and plastering inside and outside it, as he sat in its courtyard and kissed its heels, and Abu Abdullah Al-Hussein bin Al-Hajjaj (who died in 396 AH) stood up"), and that the first wall that surrounded the city of Najaf was in 400 AH, and that Abu Muhammad Al-Hussein bin Fadl Sahlan carried out its construction by his order after he made a vow to see if he was cured of an illness that afflicted him, he built this wall, and when he was healed, he ordered it to be built, and it was Abu Ishaq Al-Arjani, and the length of this wall was set at 1250 meters²⁹.

The last wall, the sixth wall, was built by the order of the Ottoman vizier Suleiman Pasha in 1788 AD, and it remains tall until the sixth decade of the fourteenth century AH – the twentieth century AD³⁰.

The remaining part of the wall of Najaf is located in the area called Al-Sudair Street in the Old City, towards the eastern part of it in the Old City, which is the remaining part of the sixth wall, if we consider that the wall of the courtyard represents the first wall as we know it. After standing on this part of the wall, it appeared to us that it represents a straight wall about 12.5 meters high and 2 meters wide.

Second: The Grand Market (Roofed Market)

The Grand Bazaar in Najaf is a cultural landmark and a main market, because it has a large area and sells a large number of commercial items, and there are a large number of shops for different crafts, and it is characterized by its proximity to the shrine of Imam Ali (may Allah bless him and grant him peace).

The market is characterized by being similar to the Ottoman souks, as its roof is roofed with metal panels, and it has a wooden structure, and it was last renovated in the 1980s, as new metal strips were placed for the roof.

At present, there are various shops along the Grand Bazaar, as there are goldsmiths' shops, in addition to shops selling electrical appliances, leather industries, mobile phones, men's and women's fabrics, luxuries, perfume shops, shops selling fat, and shops selling silver such as rings, rings, rings, and precious jars, in addition to the presence of exchange shops specialized in selling and buying currency, as it is needed by visitors to the market who visit the holy shrine of Imam Ali and then go to visit the market.

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

A number of changes have taken place in the square of the square, the most important of which is the construction of a tunnel so that cars can reach the Grand Market, and a parking garage was also created, but in 2003 the tunnel was removed and converted into a square with gardens that advances the entrance to the Grand Market.

Third: The Holy Alawite Shrine

It is a [religious shrine](#) and mosque located in the city [of Najaf](#) in [Iraq](#), and it is one of the holy places for Muslims, as many sources mention that most of them belong to historians that it was built on the grave of Imam [Ali bin Abi Talib](#) (peace be upon him), the fourth of [the Rightly Guided Caliphs](#) after the Prophet [Muhammad](#), may God bless him and grant him peace.

The history of the construction of the Holy Shrine today dates back to Shah Safi, the grandson of Shah Abbas I Safavid, who built the building since the seventeenth century AD, and due to the durability of the building and its good construction method, it continued to stand to this day, and the shrine was renewed several times and in different stages, and later the dome above it was re-gilded and a new courtyard was added under the name of the recently Fatima Al-Zahra Courtyard, and the library of Al-Rawda Al-Haydaria was attached to the shrine, which includes many precious and archaeological manuscripts.

Fourth, Khan Al-Sherilyn and some religious and governmental schools

It is one of the important heritage khans in the old city (the beginning of Al-Sadiq Street) [in Najaf Al-Ashraf Governorate](#), and it has been rehabilitated [as a heritage museum of the Twentieth Revolution](#) and the heritage of the city [of Najaf](#), and the building consists of two floors [and a basement](#), and its total area is estimated at about 2000 m² and its height is (12 m.).

The khan includes a variety of heritage collections of weapons, ornaments and brass household [utensils, and contains a special hall](#) (panorama) that embodies the battle [of the Twentieth Revolution](#), and the building was a camp for the army [of the Ottoman Empire](#), and after the [Twentieth Revolution](#) on June 30, [1920](#), it became a detention center for English prisoners who fell into the hands of the revolutionaries.

Khan al-Shilan was built and built at the end [of the Ottoman Empire](#) in 1899 in order to host visitors coming to the city [of Najaf](#), but it did not fulfill the purpose for which it was built due to the British army's control of it and its headquarters in 1914.

Religious Schools in the Old Area

There are many schools that are famous for their beautiful and wonderful architecture that have been preserved to this day, which expatriates of tourists can see on their tour inside the old city and get to know its beautiful heritage buildings that carry features that you cannot see in other places such as its crypts that contain a number of floors due to the geological nature of the land of Najaf,

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

and we will mention a model of it (Al-Yazdi Grand School). This school is one of the most famous religious schools in Najaf, architecture, decoration and luxury, and it was considered the largest school in Najaf located inside the wall, as it is located at the end of the hall in the alley leading to Al-Rasool Street from the east and to the Al-Huwish market from the west, unparalleled in the luxury of the building, the capacity and the abundance of rooms, and it was built exquisite and in a wonderful architecture that was at the time and is still a proverbial beater (and its floor was tiled with glazed marble and its walls were covered with panels Al-Qashani Al-Badi, in which the art of engineering and leadership made it the focus of the attention of tourists and visitors, and the area of the school is estimated (750 meters) and the school has a library full of sources and manuscripts. It has endowments, buildings and buildings to spend on it. The person who was responsible for its construction and the seeker in its management and organization was Mr. Muhammad Al-Yazdi, the son of Al-Hajjah, Sayyid Muhammad Kazem Al-Yazdi³¹.

As for its establishment, the credit for this is due to Imam Sayyid Muhammad Kazim al-Tabataba'i al-Yazdi, who died in 1337 AH, where he started to establish the school in the month of Safar in the year (1325 AH / 1904 AD), and it was built in (1327 AH / 1906 AD), and its construction was dated after its completion by some writers and history books in al-Qashani on the side of the door³².

Old Town Tour Route

The path starts from the square of the square and then to the roofed market to see this heritage market, then visit the Al-Rawda Al-Haidariyya Al-Sharifa from outside and some religious schools in the old area, then return from Imam Al-Sadiq Street (peace be upon him) Al-Khan Al-Sheilan Heritage and its museum, and finally return to the Blister of Prevention in Al-Meydan Square.

Problems and their solutions facing the development of tourism in Najaf Governorate

1. The main problem in the development of tourism in Iraq in general is the lack of cultural awareness about the archaeological sites in Iraq in general and the province of Najaf in particular, despite the fact that Iraq has the oldest civilization known to mankind, not that it is not dominated by the domestic, regional and international media, as any citizen in the world asks about the name of Iraq and may not know where Iraq is located. But if you ask this same person about the Mesopotamian civilization, he will know it quickly because he studies in his study about the civilization that taught humanity civilization, writing and reading, in addition to watching the effects of this civilization in the museums of his country and he pays a sum of money to see this civilization, so it is important to spread the archaeological and heritage culture of tourism in Iraq and market it internationally in order to achieve economic returns and increase revenues

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

through Addressing the masses inside and outside the country objectively and mentally using the factors of attraction in presenting Iraqi antiquities in general and Najaf in particular, with the aim of convincing the public of its benefits for the individual and the state and encouraging them to identify the components of tourism, with the aim of spreading tourism awareness among them, treating tourists well and helping them in what they need by introducing all the natural and historical landmarks that the country contains, with the aim of highlighting the components and tourism possibilities of the city of Najaf, using all media means. modern to disseminate and transfer information that contributes to tourist attractions and with all available technical methods to persuade and influence in order to create tourism awareness among the masses and attract as many individuals as possible for temporary residence away from their home inside or outside the country, and through the development of programs by specialists in the field of tourism marketing in satellite channels and benefiting from the experiences of neighboring countries such as some media in the Kingdom Saudi Arabia offers many archaeological tourism programs, including a Saudi program that promotes tourism in the Kingdom called ((Tour in the Kingdom)) This program promotes and attracts many tourists annually to Saudi Arabia, and this is one example of promotion in the field of archaeological tourism, in addition to improving the services provided to tourists such as the establishment of hotels with high degrees of luxury and hospitality and the establishment of rest stops as we mentioned in remote and desert areas in the form of heritage buildings belonging to the heritage of the region with Providing souvenirs of the local heritage of Najafi that the tourist can buy from his tour, and since the Iraqi civilization represents civilization for all humanity, so the promotion should be in a number of foreign languages such as English, French and German to attract tourists more effective on those who speak these languages, and we mention many experiences of tourism in the city of Najaf, where there are a number of people who put some short films about their experience to reveal the effects of the city, in addition to some tours. For the educated youth of Najaf in the Bahr al-Najaf region, but these were individual experiences and not supported by the local government, so such activities should be supported to be a tourist attraction for expatriates from inside and outside the country, if we know that archaeological tourism in Iraq was of high importance in the seventies of the last century, as in (1973) a delegation to Iraq registered (500 thousand) foreign tourists, which constituted (25%) compared to the percentage of domestic tourism. A report by the "Mail Deal" newspaper confirmed that Iraq was a very popular destination for tourists from different countries such as Japan, France, Germany and Britain, and in 1989 the number of hotels reached (1906) hotels in all of Iraq that could accommodate about (5 million) tourists.

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

2. Attracting tourists interested in archaeological tourism in Iraq by providing a safe environment for archaeological tourism in Iraq in general and Najaf Governorate in particular, as this environment can be provided by rehabilitating archaeological sites to be a tourist village without the stature of expatriates or building model tourism villages in locations close to archaeological sites, and raising awareness of the local and international community about the pioneering role of marketing archaeological tourism by broadcasting community ideas and knowledge about the ancient civilization of the Mesopotamian Valley. Although the province of Najaf is considered one of the safest areas in Iraq and it contains its own airport, it is not far from the political fluctuations in the Iraqi state, for this reason it was chosen to establish typical tourist villages far from the city center, it will provide a safe environment for foreign or local tourists, in addition to providing a tourism environment for the desert and the Bedouins in the desert of Najaf, which is the façade of many tourists of all kinds.
3. The citizen is one of the reasons why Najaf Governorate is not a tourist attraction, as the community surrounding the archaeological sites must have an awareness of the importance of tourism, which is of special importance that benefits the country as a whole and the citizen in particular, such as tourism is an important source of saving money and increasing the national income of the country, as some countries rely mainly on tourism to provide capital and build tourism projects in it. Providing job opportunities for residents and residents and thus reducing the unemployment rate. Exchange of cultures and ideas among tourists As a country's population, tourists coming to the country transmit their culture and developments that have taken place in their country to the host citizens and thus stimulate development and progress within the country. Tourism needs to join the efforts of the citizen with the government to revive and increase the number of tourists visiting the country, because the tourist is considered an ambassador of his country and transfers everything he sees inside the country to his country and expresses his feelings and impressions.
4. The role of the citizen in encouraging tourism is to deal with tourists in a positive and gentle way, and this role can be achieved through the awareness of the citizen and training the citizen by the local government to play his role, as the citizen should be confused with the tourist and help him when he asks for help. Avoid trying to exploit tourists under the pretext that they are coming for tourism, so the merchant raises prices on them, or sells them counterfeit goods as genuine, and Keeping the streets, parks, and tourist sites clean, and

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

using them in good ways so that the tourist can enjoy them, and visit them in the next times. Participating in volunteer work that includes helping and guiding tourists and cleaning tourist sites to preserve tourist sites and gardens from destruction and destruction, and preserving the beauty of the environment surrounding his private home to preserve the beauty of the town in general. Educating children to respect tourists and not disturb them.

5. The role of the local government in not attracting tourists This role can be corrected through the following steps
 - Encouraging tourism: Facilitating the procedures for tourists entering tourist sites and not complicating them. Setting guidelines related to streets, roads, and everything necessary for the tourist to facilitate his access to any place he wishes. Encouraging work in the tourism sector for citizens and facilitating work procedures.
 - Appointing tour guides in tourist areas and tourist offices to help tourists get to know the best tourist areas, well qualify all archaeological sites and the roads leading to them, and make them more comfortable and enjoy them properly. Setting strict laws that protect tourists from exploitation.
 - Paving the streets well to facilitate movement on them, and securing garbage containers and comfortable seats in tourist places for free. Providing the necessary protection for tourists to move freely while not being afraid of attack, theft, or any kind of assault.
6. The private sector and its role in the development of tourism, as to date, this sector has not played any important role in attracting tourists to expatriates, especially for archaeological cultural tourism, so this sector needs government support for investment and sustainable development in cultural and archaeological tourism, such as giving them investment opportunities in the establishment of model tourist villages far from the city center and close to archaeological and cultural sites for foreign or local tourist arrivals or other tourism investments.

¹ Al-Asadi, Bushra Muhammad Sami, Tourism Investment in Iraq: Elements and Challenges (Najaf Governorate as a Model), Kufa Magazine, Issue 54 of 2019, p. 323

² Ibrahim, Muthanna Ma'an, Analysis of the Reality of Tourism Investment in Iraq for the Period from 1980 to 1997 and the Possibilities of its Development, Unpublished Master's Thesis, Faculty of Administration and Economics, Al-Mustansiriya University, 1999, p. 40.

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

- ³ Ayoub, Aseel Fadel, An Analytical Study of the New City of Najaf Project as a Civilizational Model in Iraq, Journal of Geographical Research, Issue 13, University of Kufa, Faculty of Education for Girls, 2011, p. 463.
- ⁴ Al-Khalili, Ja'far, Encyclopedia of the Holy Shrines, Al-Alami Publications Foundation, 1987, vol. 8, p. 281.
- ⁵ Al-Shadidi, Hussein Ahmed, The Tourist Spatial Environment of Najaf Governorate (Investment Planning Vision), Kufa Magazine, University of Kufa, Issue 57, 2020, p. 371
- ⁶ Al-Rubaie, Saad Golub Mutair ,Rest stations for the ancient land pilgrimage route between the holy desert of Karbala and Najaf Al-Sharaf within theIraqi borders until the first Abbasid era(field study ,(Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Baghdad, 2022, p. 50
- ⁷ Ahmad , Sami Said , Hatra Archaeological curses and tour London , 1972, pp , 103 – 104
- ⁸ Al-Rubaie, Saad Globe, previous source, p. 56.
- ⁹ Al-Dinwari, Abi Muhammad Abdullah bin Muslim Ibn Qutayba Al-Dinwari (d. 276 AH / 898 AD), The Imamate and the Politics known as the History of the Caliphs, Researched by: Ali Shiri, Dar Al-Adwa, Beirut, Lebanon, 1990, Volume 1, p. 11.
- ¹⁰ Al-Rubaie, Saad Globe, previous source, p. 63.
- ¹¹ Ibn Jubayr, Abi Al-Hasan bin Ahmed Jubayr Al-Kinani Al-Andalusi Al-Balsani, (d. 614 AH / 1217 AD), Journey of Ibn Jubayr, 1st Edition, Beirut, 2019, Vol. 1, pp. 186-187
- ¹² Al-Azzawi, Abdul Sattar Jabbar, "The Old Hajj Road / Darb Zubaydah um Al-Qaroon Station", Sumer Magazine - General Authority for Antiquities and Heritage , Baghdad, 1985-1986, Volume 44, Volume 1 and 2, p. 208
- ¹³ Al-Rubaie, Saad Globe, Ibid., p. 68.
- ¹⁴ Al-Hazmi, Al-Hafiz bin Muhammad bin Musa (d. 584/1206 AD), Al-Places (What is agreed upon and his name is separated from the places), Riyadh, 1415 A.H., vol. 1, pp. 850-851.
- ¹⁵ Al-Hamwi , previous source, vol. 7, p. 20
- ¹⁶ Ibn al-Athir, Abu al-Hasan Ali ibn Abi al-Karam, al-Kamil fi al-Tarikh, researched: Abu al-Fida Abdullah al-Qadi, 4th edition, Dar al-Kutub al-Ilmiyyah, 2003, vol. 1, p.22
- ¹⁷ Tohmeh, Thamer Aliwi, The Pottery of the City of Al-Hira (An Archaeological Study), Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Baghdad, 2021, pp. 8-9-10
- ¹⁸ Al-Sarraf, Fatima Abdel Moneim, Al-Hira between the First and Second Centuries AH: A Historical Study, Unpublished Master's Thesis ,University of Kufa, 2007, pp. 22-23.
- ¹⁹ *Martina Müller-Wiener, Martin Gussone, Mohammad Hadi Bidan, Ibrahim Salman, Ulrike Siegel, Burkart Ulrich and Frank Stremke*, Al-Hira Survey Project – Campaigns 2015–2018, SUMER, Baghdad, p87
- ²⁰ General Authority for Antiquities and Heritage, Department of Excavations and Investigations, Department of Excavations, Excavation Mission, p. 5
- ²¹ Al-Hamwi, the previous source, vol. 3, p. 401
- ²² The Important Authority for Antiquities and Heritage, Department of Studies and Research, Department of Scientific Documentation, Qasr Al-Khornak Depository, p. 4
- ²³ Djait, Hisham, Kufa: The Emergence of the Arab-Islamic City, 2nd Edition, Dar Al-Tali'a for Printing and Publishing, 1992, p. 105.
- ²⁴ Al-Janabi, Kadhim, Planning the City of Kufa from Historical and Archaeological Sources, Al-Mustansiriya University, Baghdad, 1967, p. 341.
- ²⁵ O Khalifa, Muhammad Ali, The Princes and Rulers of Kufa, vol. 3, Al-Sadiq Printing and Publishing Foundation, Tehran, 2004, pp. 111-123.

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development

- ²⁶ Murtada Karim Abdul Hussein Majeed, Planning and Architecture of Heritage Buildings in the City of Kufa until the End of the Royal Era (1377 AH / 1958 AD) Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Al-Qadisiya, 2024, p. 41
- ²⁷ Ibid., p. 42.
- ²⁸ Mirza, Maumelle Salim, The Walls of the City of Najaf and its Stages of Development, University of Kufa, Journal of Girls' Education for Humanities, Issue 21 of 2017, p. 333.
- ²⁹ Mahbuba, Sheikh Ja'far, Past and Present of Najaf, Najaf, 1958, vol. 1, p. 211
- ³⁰ Mahbuba, Ibid., p. 213.
- ³¹ Mazra, Muamel Salim, Al-Madar Religious Architecture in Najaf, Najaf Heritage Magazine, First Issue of 1430 A.H., p. 266
- ³² Mazra, Muamel Salim, Ibid., p. 266.

The Figure

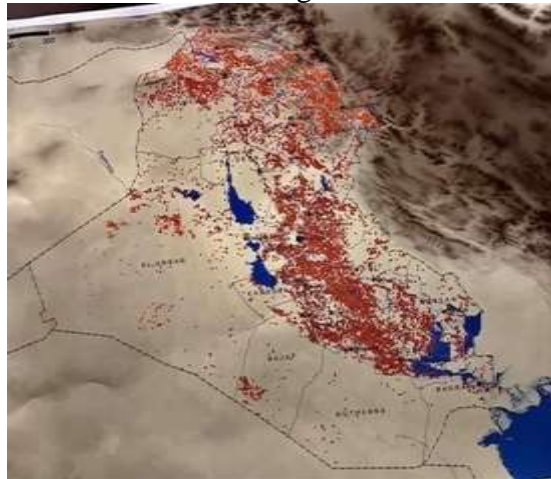


Figure (1) Map of Iraq showing all archaeological sites (General Authority for Antiquities and Heritage)



Figure (2) Map of Iraq showing the location of Najaf Governorate in relation to Iraq)

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development



Figure (3) and (4) Picture of the Najaf Sea in Najaf Governorate



Figure (5) represents a beautiful view of the Najaf Flyers overlooking the Najaf Sea.



Figure (6) Picture of Khan Al-Rahba

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development



Figure (7) Picture of the pond



Figure No. (7) Wadi Al-Sabaa Station in Najaf Al-Ashraf Governorate



Figure No. (8) Minaret of um Al-Qarn in Najaf Governorate



Figure No. (9) Al-Ghaitha station in Najaf Al-Ashraf Governorate

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development



Figure No. (10) The Sound of Christian Antiquities in Abd al-Masih Monastery



Figure No. (11) The sound of Christian antiquities in Abd al-Masih Monastery inside the walls of Najaf Al-Ashraf International Airport



Figure No. (12) The sound of Christian antiquities in Abd al-Masih Monastery inside the walls of Najaf Al-Ashraf International Airport

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development



Figure No. (13) Picture of um Khashm Cemetery today after the theft



Figure No. (14) Al-Khorang Palace in Historical Photographs in Najaf Governorate



Figure No. (15) The remaining part of the wall of Najaf

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development



Figure No. (16) Pictures of the Grand Market in Najaf Governorate



Figure (16) Picture of the upper threshold



Figure No. (17) Picture of Khan Al-Sheilan

Archaeological and heritage sites in Najaf Governorate: their importance and potential for tourism development



Figure No. (18) Picture of Al-Yazdi School