

Master Arts Management AA 15/16

TOURISM SITE DEVELOPMENT

Roma, 09/11/2016

Master Arts Management AA 15/16

Case Study

MEZYAD DESERT PARK





The roles



09/11/2016 Master Arts Management AA15/16

Role Playing

- 3 4 groups
- Elaborate developing strategy for the Mezyad Desert Park
- Use the business canvass model+ other marketing tools
- Prepare Power Point presentation (for 12/13 December)





The area



09/11/2016 Master Arts Management AA15/16

5

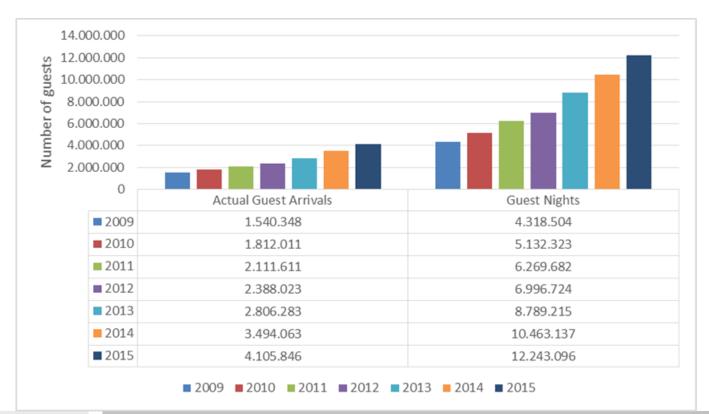
The geographic area



09/11/2016 Master Arts Management AA15/16

The Country – Abu Dhabi Emirate (UAE)

- ✓ Strong increase of tourism arrivals
- ✓ Guest arrivals in hotel establishment increased to 4.1 million in 2015 up from 1,54 in 2009
- ✓ Average lenght of stay is 3 days in 2015

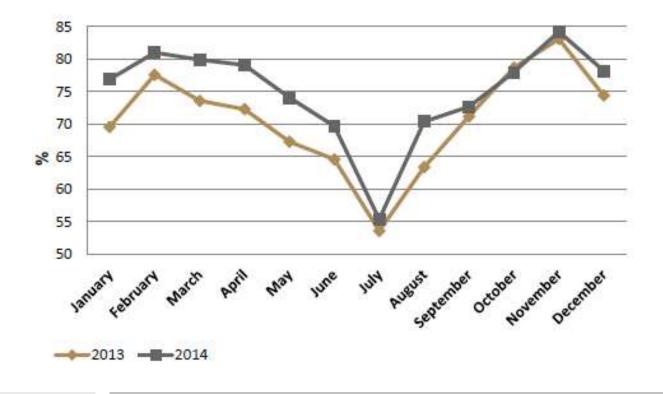




09/11/2016 Master Arts Management AA15/16

Seasonality, Abu Dhabi 2013-2014

- Occupancy rate (and therefore revenues) show a **relevant seasonality**
- Demand falls particularly in July, whilst it is higher from October through April



09/11/2016 Master Arts Management AA15/16

Guest nights nationality, Abu Dhabi 2015

- About one-third (30.9%) are from UAE
- 8.1% are from India and 7.8% from UK, which precedes USA (5.7%), Germany (5.1%)

Nationality	Percentage
UAE	30,9%
India	8,1%
UK	7,8%
USA	5,7%
Germany	5,1%
Egypt	2,9%
Saudi Arabia	2,5%
Philippines	2,4%
China	2,2%
Italy	2,2%
Jordan	1,9%
France	1,7%



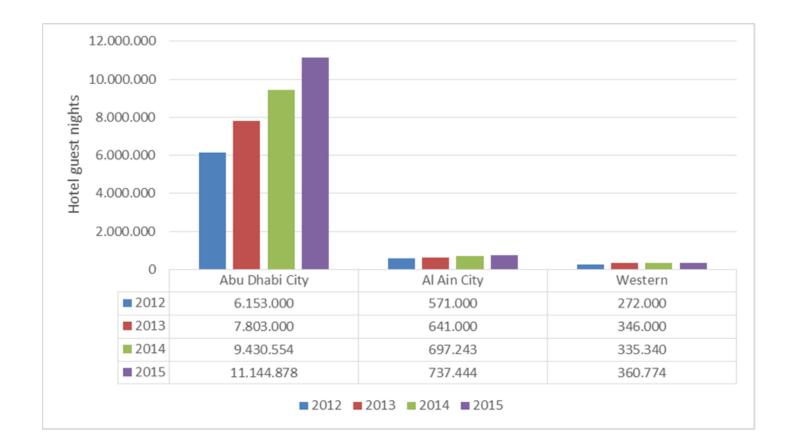
Hotel establishments supply in different Abu Dhabi locations. 2015

 Abu Dhabi city provides 88.5% of hotel establishments' rooms and 93.4% of those of hotel apartments

Location	Hotel establishments		Hotel apartments			
	Number	Rooms	%	Number	Rooms	%
Abu Dhabi City	86	20,418	88,5%	54	6,252	93,4%
Al Ain City	12	1,465	6,4%	5	445	6,6%
Western	11	1,180	5,1%	0	0	0,0%
Total	109	23,063	100,0%	59	6,697	100,0%



Guest Nights at Different Abu Dhabi locations. 2012-2015



Visitors to cultural sites

- The index of the number of visitors to the cultural sites and events for each 1,000 inhabitants decreased from 1,848 in 2006 to 1,577 in 2014
- Such index includes public parks and zoo. If only "cultural" attractions are considered attendance is also much lower
- Al Ain Museum, Al Ain Palace Museum, Dalma Museum and Al Jahili Fort Museum as a whole accounted for 237,620 visits in 2014 (up from 109,672 in 2006 when Dalma Museum and Al Jahili Fort Museum were not available)
- The figure equals 5.7% of total visits to cultural sites and events
- The index of the number of visitors to such attractions for each 1,000 inhabitants stood at 90 in 2014 (it was 77 in 2006)
- This means that **the increase of cultural supply has not been accompanied by a proportional increase of visitor demand**, which stands low compared to that to leisure-oriented sites



Visitors to leisure attractions

ltem	2006	2013	2014	2015
Total	2,628,486	3,058, <mark>6</mark> 12	4,179,728	2,606,494
Zoo	619,042	999,174	9 <mark>66,530</mark>	890,774
Hili Fun city	235,132	238,046	240,024	ŝ.
Public Parks	1,664,640	1,624,630	2,735,554	1,469,054*
Al Ain Museum	53,110	49,281	54,702	50,834
Al Ain Palace Museum	56,562	120,906	146,039	151,611
Dalma Museum**		2,297	2,960	2,875
Al Jahili Fort Museum***		24,278	33,919	41,346



The UNESCO site

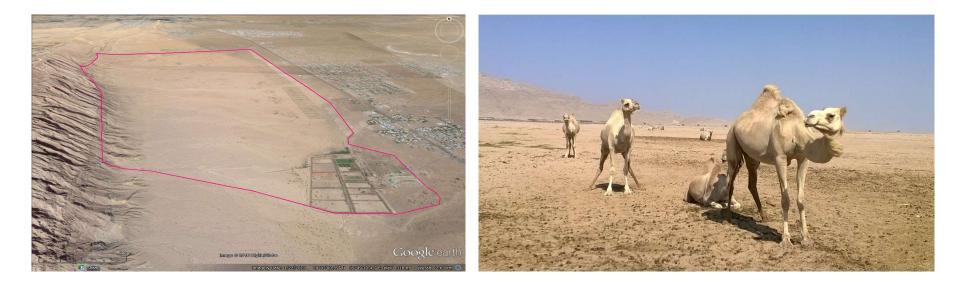
- A 4th millennium funerary landscape cluttered with tombs
- Mysterious dome-shaped tombs, known as Hafeet tombs
- Are the earliest tombs of the Bronze Age in the UAE and defined a period known as "the Hafeet period", which dates from 3200BC to 2700BC
- About 500 of these 5,000-year-old tombs lay scattered at the bottom of Jebel Hafeet mountain





The project area

- The site is of approximate 4000 ha, located 20 km to the south of Al Ain
- Limited to the east by the Jebel Hafit Massif, to the west and north with highway and to the south with the international border of the Sultanate of Oman
- It is currently un-exploited, with camel farms





The Neolitic stones





09/11/2016 Master Arts Management AA15/16

The situation

- The client is the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority (TCA)
- There was a previous study conducted by an American consulting company
- It was considered uncomplete as it focused mainly on archaeology, with tourist services limited to a new visitor centre at the entrance of the desert park





The key issues

- TCA asks for different scenarios of interventions (low, medium, high)
- It asks to strenghten tourist services and to look a wide range of tourists, not only strictly "cultural" in order to expand business opportunities



The objectives/deliverables

Stage	Deliverable
Stage 1: Gap assessment	Gap assessment report
Stage 2: Masterplan	 Masterplan report and drawings Site Management Plan Interpretive Plan Business Plan Concept design options
Stage 3: Implementation Plan	Implementation Plan report



The Arab Fort



• Included in the project area

- Close to the international border of the Sultanate of Oman
- Possible location for tourist services



THE BUSINESS CANVASS



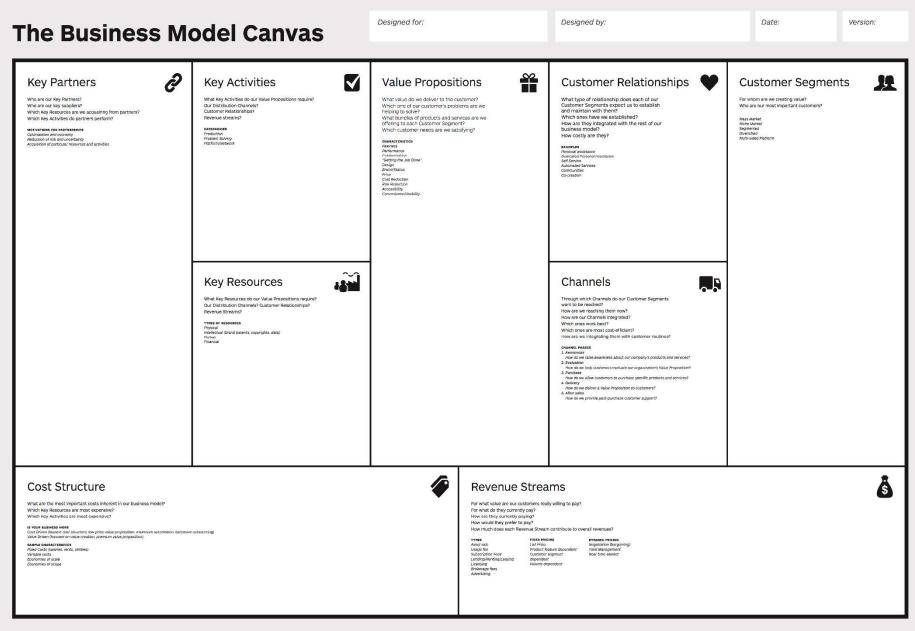


 Image: Construction of the state o



References

- Cooper C. and Hall C.M. (2008). *Contemporary Tourism. An International Approach.* Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann
- Plog S. C. (1974). "Why destination areas rise and fall in popularity". *The Cornell Hotel and Restaurant Administration Quarterly*, 4, 55-58
- UNWTO (2009). Handbook of Destination Branding. Madrid: WTO



Websites

• Cultural Sites of Al Ain (Hafit, Hili, Bidaa Bint Saud and Oases Areas): <u>http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1343/</u>



CONTACT

Roberto Formato

Laurea in Management Engineering, Polytechnic of Milano (I) M.Sc. Tourism Planning and Development, University of Surrey (UK) Executive Master in Public Management, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin (DE) <u>www.robertoformato.it</u> <u>robertoformato@libero.it</u>

