

Bilaj Al Jazayer Beach masterplan in Bahrain

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Words and Photography Foster and Partners.



Spanning 3.5 kilometers of beachfront, the walkable mixed-use district provides new homes, hotels and retail, alongside public green spaces and state-of-the-art amenities.

Foster + Partners' Bilaj Al Jazayer Beach masterplan will create a dynamic new destination on Bahrain's southwest coast. Spanning 3.5 kilometers of beachfront, the walkable mixed-use district provides new homes, hotels, retail, public green spaces, and state-of-the-art amenities. Drawing inspiration from Miami's low-rise Art Deco buildings and Bahrain's traditional vernacular, the masterplan takes a multi-layered and human-centric approach to architectural design.

Gerard Evenden, Head of Studio, Foster + Partners, said: "We are creating a green and walkable community on the beach, which offers a range of crafted experiences for residents and visitors. The permeable development features tree-lined streets, shaded courtyards, and a spectacular public park directly connecting with the waterfront. The west-facing district will also offer some of the best sunset views in Bahrain."

The masterplan is organized around three primary axes: Beach Drive, which spans the entire length of the beachfront; Main Boulevard, which is set back and runs parallel; and Bilaj Al Jazayer Avenue, which directly connects the two. Lined with native trees, these green arteries are designed to encourage walking and cycling across the district, with clearly articulated pedestrian walkways and bike lanes.



Lined with native trees, Beach Drive spans the full length of the waterfront.



The masterplan draws inspiration from Miami's low-rise Art Deco buildings and Bahrain's traditional vernacular.



The masterplan puts forward a human-centric approach to architectural design.



The beach connects with a series of piers, which extend into the sea and create protective coves to shield the shoreline.

Human-scale buildings on Beach Drive feature ground-level shops, restaurants, and cafes to provide unobstructed water views and activate the beachfront. Two large hotels and branded residences bookend the site and visually anchor the scheme. Smaller boutique hotels are interspersed at 500- meter intervals across the master plan, with residential communities between them.

Learning from Bahrain's traditional passive design strategies, the mixed-use neighborhoods feature shaded green courtyards and alleyways, which provide cool outdoor spaces for everyone to enjoy. The centerpiece of the master plan is a public surf park, which uses state-of-the- art wave-generating technology to replicate the natural ocean environment on land.

A verdant park is a green buffer between the beachfront and the main road. The beach connects with a series of piers extending into the sea and creating protective coves to shield the shoreline.

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The masterplan framework has been developed for Edamah, a leading real estate investment and development company committed to creating sustainable, high-quality developments that enhance Bahrain's urban landscape.