



Hadhramaut, formerly part of the Eastern Aden Protectorate, is now the largest of the seventeen provinces of the Republic of Yemen. Despite recent discoveries of oil in small but commercial quantities, it remains one of the most underdeveloped regions of the world and greatly in need of help.

The area is located on the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea, occupying the southeastern part of Yemen. Historically, the name also refers to the former Hadhramaut states, a collective term for the Qu'aiti and Kathiri sultanates. The chief port and city of the region is Mukalla, pictured below.



The Hadhramaut extends c.400 miles (640 km) from east to west. It consists of a narrow, arid coastal plain, a broad plateau averaging 4,500 ft (1,370 m) high, a region of deeply sunk wadis (watercourses), and an escarpment fronting the desert.



The valley has long been famous for its scholars and Terim was the scholastic centre, but Seiyun has now taken its place. Hadhramaut played a key role in the development of multi-storey architecture. Many six or seven-storey houses still survive as the picture above of Shibam shows.

Though Bible dictionaries derive 'Hadhramaut' from Hazarmaveth, a son of Joktan in *Genesis*, the name 'Hadhramaut' actually derives from Greek *hydreumata* or enclosed (and often fortified) 'watering stations' at wadis. A *hydreuma* is a manned and fortified watering hole or way station along a caravan route.

The sedentary population, the Hadramis, live in towns built along the wadis and harvest crops of wheat, corn, millet, dates, coconuts and coffee. On the plateau the Bedouins raise sheep and goats.

During May, the RGBB were pleased to assist in arranging the Summer Charity Fundraiser on behalf of ICING which had nominated the Ghail Bawazir School in the Hadhramaut as the recipient for funds raised during the evening.



Sir Sherard and Lady Cowper-Coles had once again graciously allowed the use of the Residence Gardens for the event and Al Saif Motors kindly agreed a sponsorship fee.

Sultana Al Qu'ati, the treasurer and trustee of 'Friends of the Hadhramaut', a registered UK Charity, was able to attend the event along with her husband, Sultan Ghalib Al Qu'ati.

The evening was wonderfully catered by the Al Faisalia Hotel and ICING has made a donation of SR50,000 as a result of the evenings entertainment. We hope to bring you more details of how the cash is spent in due course.