



## **Liwa Oasis**

### **United Arab Emirates**

In the sandy tan terrain of the United Arab Emirates, on the northern edge of the Rub' al Khali, an oasis brings green to the desert. The T-shaped, 100-kilometer stretch of date plantations and small towns compose the Liwa Oasis, home to about 20,000 people in the emirate of Abu Dhabi. It is one of the largest oases on the Arabian Peninsula.

Bedouins tapped underground water supplies here at least five centuries ago, and date farms have proliferated. Drip irrigation and greenhouses now help conserve the precious water supply. Since rainfall is scarce in the region, much of the water comes from aquifers full of “fossil” water that accumulated more than 20,000 years ago and is now buried deep under the sand seas and limestone formations.