

Al-Muhdar Mosque (Arabic: **مَسْجِدُ الْمُحْدَارِ**, romanized: Masjid Al-Muḥḍār) or Al-Mihdar Mosque (Arabic: **مَسْجِدُ الْمِحْدَارِ**, romanized: Masjid Al-Miḥḍār) is one of the historical mosques in the ancient city of Tarim, in the Yemeni province of Hadramaut. It is attributed to Omar Al-Mihdar bin Abdul-Rahman Al-Saqqaf (Arabic: **عُمَرُ الْمِحْدَارِ بْنِ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ السَّقَّافِ**, romanized: ‘Umar al-Miḥḍār bin ‘Abd Ar-Raḥmān As-Saqqāf), a Muslim leader who lived in the city during the 15th-century.[2][3]

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Architecture[edit]

The building is characterized by Islamic geometric design. Its layout consists of an open courtyard surrounded by four corridors, the biggest of which contains the qiblah, which is adorned with three exquisite frescoes decorated with geometric, floral and scriptural motifs. In the center of the qibla corridor, there is the iconic minaret, which at about 50 metres (160 feet) high is the highest mudbrick structure on Earth. It is square-shaped and there is a staircase reaching to the top inside. It was built around 1914 CE (1333 AH), and is built of adobe. This minaret was designed by the architect 'Awad Salman 'Afif al-Tarimi (Arabic: **عَوَاضُ سَلْمَانَ عَفِيفِ التَّرِيمِيِّ**, romanized: ‘Awad Salmān ‘Afif At-Tarīmī), who had already carried out many designs and constructions of clay lattices and domes, and the maintenance and supervision were conducted by Abu Bakr bin Shihab (d. 1345 AH). It is considered one of the most important architectural sites and destinations for visitors and researchers of the city of Tarim.[1][4]

Al-Ahqaf Library[edit]

Al-Ahqaf Library occupies the ground floor of the mosque building, which was built to accommodate the need to store the large number of manuscripts in the city of Tarim and neighboring cities. Tarim has been considered a distinguished Islamic scientific center since the 10th-century in Wadi Hadramaut region.[5][6]

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