

# Regulations of Tourist Destinations

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### Article One

In these Regulations, the following terms and phrases shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context requires otherwise:

- ▶ **Ministry:** Ministry of Tourism.
- ▶ **Minister:** Minister of Tourism.
- ▶ **Law:** Tourism Law.
- ▶ **Tourist Destination:** Any geographical area or location where tourism activities are practiced or targeted, or which contains tourism resources, as prescribed by Article Six of the Law.
- ▶ **Tourism Resources:** Any natural or material resources of attractive value to tourism, including natural landmarks and destinations, sites, and buildings of historical or archaeological importance, and the like.
- ▶ **Supervising Authority:** The government agency supervising a tourist destination or a tourism resource.
- ▶ **Competent Authority:** The government agency that provides investment or commercial services, services related to infrastructure, support services, or the protection of the environment and its resources at a tourist destination.
- ▶ **Specialized Tourism Activities:** Activities targeting a specific category of tourists and are regulated by other government agencies than the Ministry, such as health tourism, sports tourism, exhibition tourism, festival tourism, and the like.
- ▶ **Complementary Tourism Activities:** Any activity practiced by a natural or legal person, resulting in the provision of a service or product to tourists for a fee and directly affecting their experience, including activities related to the tourism sector such as restaurants, gardens, theme parks, movie theatres, traditional and folk industries, transportation and car rental services.



### Article Two

These Regulations aim to set out requirements for identifying tourist destinations, and the procedures related thereto.

### Article Three

Without prejudice to the provision of paragraph (1) of Article Six of the Law, the following requirements shall be met upon proposing a tourist destination:

1. A list of the tourism resources in the proposed tourist destination, in addition to the qualitative value of these resources, such as beach tourism, adventures and the like;
2. A statement of the population density ranges in the proposed tourist destination;
3. A list of the target categories of tourists and the qualitative value of the proposed tourist destination, based on the two agglomeration factors of the targeted sites to be visited and the population density;
4. Identification of infrastructure development requirements to upgrade the readiness of the proposed destination and of the gaps in the tourism supply, such as the need for tourist accommodation facilities;
5. A list of State-owned property or property allocated to government agencies, in coordination with the State Properties General Authority (SPGA); the Ministry shall coordinate with the agencies which own such properties or to which they are allocated, to provide them with all necessary and relevant data;
6. A list of the duties, competencies and powers that the Ministry proposes to participate in or transfer to within the limits of the proposed tourist destination;
7. Necessary requirements to protect the environment within the proposed tourist destination, in coordination with the National Center for Environmental Compliance and other relevant agencies; and
8. Requirements for urban planning in the proposed tourist destination, in accordance with the tourism use targeted by the Ministry.



### Article Four

1. A tourist destination may not be designated except in coordination with the Ministry.
2. The Ministry may – when required – form a committee to be chaired thereby and to have in its membership whatever supervisory and competent authorities that the Ministry deems appropriate. This committee shall study any proposal for designating a tourist destination and shall submit its findings in this respect to the Minister.
3. The working mechanism of the committee referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article shall be determined by a decision of the Minister.

### Article Five

The Minister when submitting a proposal to designate a tourist destination to the Council of Ministers for approval; request to allocate the same for tourism use.

### Article Six

The Ministry shall:

1. Determine the tourism uses of tourist destinations in the Kingdom;
2. Conduct a periodic review of tourist destinations and decide on the need to update their plans, qualitative value, or uses, and report any matters requiring legal action in relation thereto;
3. Determine additional criteria and requirements for issuing licenses, permits and approvals necessary for the exercise of complementary and specialized tourism activities in tourist destinations; and
4. Set a coordination mechanism with the agencies in charge of planning to ensure, prior to approving any projects or setting any plans while planning cities and villages, that tourist destinations or tourism resources be not affected, whether on a temporary or permanent basis, in accordance with paragraph (3) of Article Seven of the Law.



### Article Seven

1. The Ministry shall, in coordination with the relevant agencies, issue “Rules for investment of tourist destinations” and provision of the necessary facilities for this purpose, subject to the following:
  - a. Determine the appropriate area for and duration of investment, pursuant to the objectives of the National Tourism Strategy and the approved tourism use in the tourist destination;
  - b. Develop a mechanism for addressing investors’ requests related to the tourist destination; and
  - c. Set incentives for investors in accordance with the relevant laws and statutes.

The Ministry shall refer the proposal to the committee stipulated in Article Four of these Regulations, in the event of its formation, to take its opinion thereon, in order to submit the same to the Minister.

2. The Ministry shall provide the supervising and competent authorities – as the case may be – with the “Rules for investment of tourist destinations”, upon approval thereof by the Minister, to act in accordance therewith.
3. The Ministry shall propose any amendments to the investment mechanisms, controls, conditions and classifications approved by the supervisory or competent authorities – as the case may be – pertaining to the tourist destination.
4. The Ministry shall collaborate with the competent and supervising authorities to provide the Ministry with all investment opportunities in tourist destinations through the investment platforms specified by the Ministry.
5. The Ministry shall collaborate with the competent and supervising authorities to provide the Ministry with data related to tourist destination investment, including the type of investment project, the size of investment, investors’ data, areas of development resulting from investment, and the like.



### Article Eight

These Regulations shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall enter into force as of the effective date of the Law.



وزارة السياحة  
Ministry of Tourism

