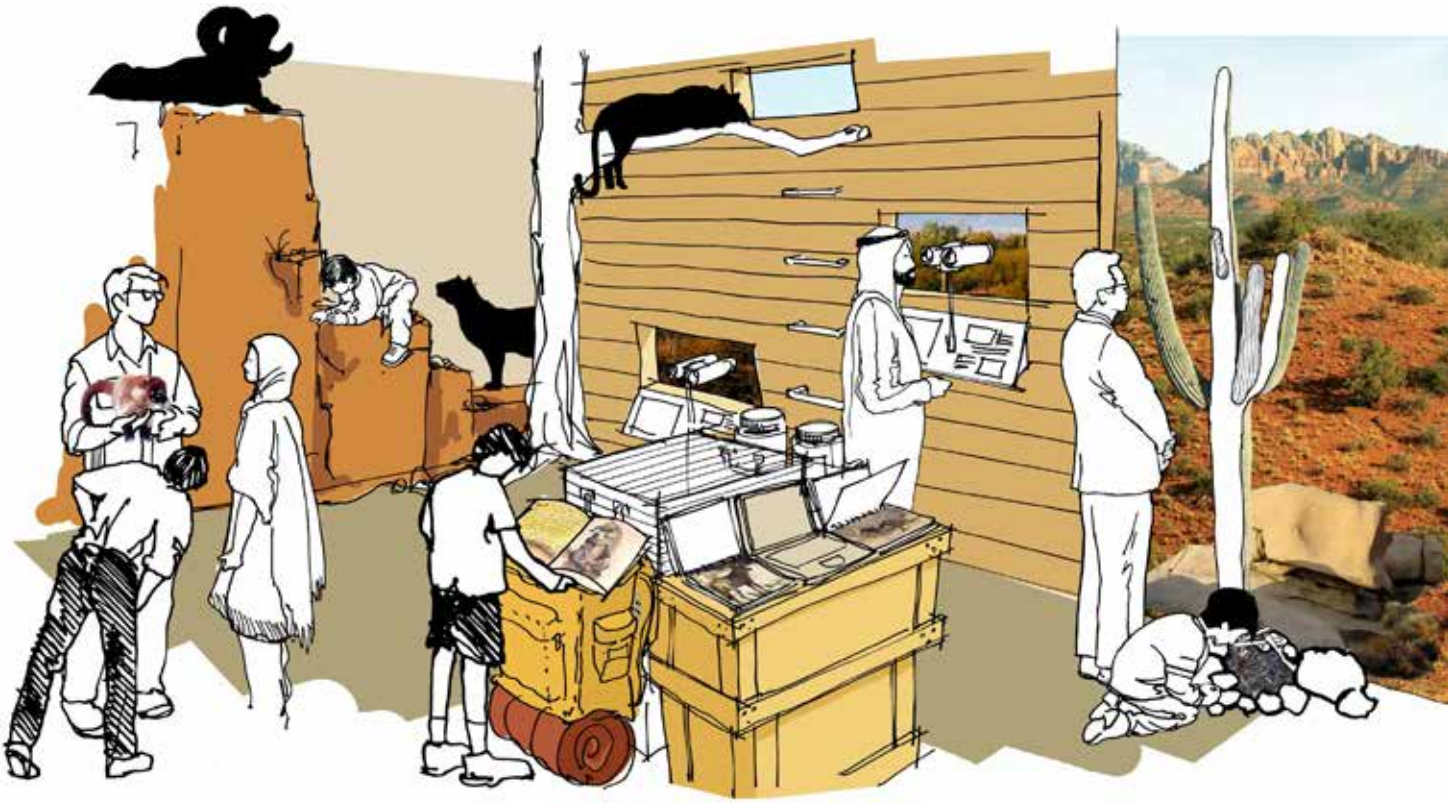
Al Ain Wildlife Park and Resort

Al Ain, United Arab Emirates



Wildlife encounters in the desert

The United Arab Emirates founded the Al Ain Zoo in 1968 to celebrate their nation's desert heritage. The zoo protected local wildlife populations and provided up-close experiences with animals. The zoo eventually evolved into the internationally respected Al Ain Wildlife Park & Resort (AWPR). AWPR wanted to create a new park that featured a unique combination of experiences, including desert conservation, education and leisure. APA worked with an international team to execute this vision.

Guided by AWPR's mandate, the design focused on immersive, authentic experiences that foster local pride in the desert. Exhibits uncover resilient desert communities and wildlife. APA's interpretive scope encompassed the full site, which included the zoo, a children's area, retail spaces, residences, safaris, parks and pavilions modeled on the world's deserts.

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