

## MIDDLE EAST



COURTESY: AMAAL

An integrative holistic wellness centre is planned

### Amaala Island

#### Saudi Arabia

Opening: 2030

An ultra-luxury, zero-carbon, mixed-use resort destination with a focus on wellness is planned in northwest Saudi Arabia by the Red Sea. The project has tapped some of the top names in the wellness industry for its advisory board, including Sue Harmsworth, founder of ESPA International; Neil Jacobs, CEO of Six Senses; and Ingo Schweder, CEO of GOCO Hospitality. Set in the Prince Mohammed bin Salman Nature Reserve

across three unique communities, Amaala Island is a 3,800sq km (1,460sq miles) year-round destination, and will include 2,500 hotel rooms and more than 800 residential villas, apartments and homes.

Triple Bay, one of the three communities, will be the heart of Amaala, and will include wellness, medical and surgical facilities, as well as an integrative holistic wellness centre, medical wellness resort, wellness village and a wellness research institute. The institute will serve as an on-site centre for wellness scholarship grounded in Arabian culture, knowledge and science, and will facilitate research into ways of combating lifestyle diseases and promoting

preventive health measures. Other plans include a fully integrated sports and entertainment community, an exclusive art community, and an Arabic botanical garden complemented by a collection of sculptural pieces.

The project has received initial seed funding from the Saudi Public Investment Fund and is part of the Vision 2030 Programme, which aims to reduce the Kingdom's dependence on oil. French-Belgian architect Jean-Michel Gathy of Denniston has been named master planner, and has said of the project: "This is truly unique; nothing like it has ever been planned before."

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