

## **Mountain Breeze Country Club**

Returning to Jordan after a stint of living abroad, Saif Al Saudi was disturbed by the amount of deforestation that had devastated the Gila'ad area. Being a vocal advocate of environmental causes, he decided to take action and purchased a large plot of land in the area. The land, which later became the Mountain Breeze Country Club, was planted with more than 4,300 trees and returned to its former green glory.

Located 32 km north-west of Amman, the Mountain Breeze Country Club first opened its doors in 2007. To be able to secure the cash flow to maintain it, Saif decided he would use part of the land to build and rent out a paintball arena. In a short amount of time, the Club became very popular, which helped Saif to further develop the Club.

With the increasing number of visitors, it became obvious that a restaurant needed to be established to cater to their needs. Saif established his restaurant in a lush part of the property, followed closely by a small inn for overnight stays. After careful consideration, Saif decided to build log cabins to accommodate more visitors. His search for funding took him to the European Union (EU) and Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO).

With the grant he was awarded by JEDCO and the EU, Saif built nine log cabins complete with kitchenettes, bathroom utilities and electricity, and laid the foundation for a tenth. He also created paths between the cabins and landscaped the area to amplify its aesthetic appeal. In addition, JEDCO and the EU provided the project with a promotional website that has since helped increase the number of Mountain Breeze Country Club's visitors and made it into a tourist landmark in the area.

The Club has successfully created work opportunities for the locals, revived Gila'ad by increasing tourist traffic, and attracted students, outdoor enthusiasts and employees participating in team building exercises. Driven by his passion for nature and environmental sustainability, Saif is currently working on using green energy, like solar paneling, to power his cabins, as well as recycling used water from the cabins.

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