**DNHG Field trip to Jazirat Al-Hamra on Friday, Nov 19, 2021**

Agnieszka Dolatowska, Senior Archaeologist at Jazirat Al-Hamra Restoration Project, has kindly agreed to lead a trip to one of the most intriguing places of  the UAE: Jazirat Al-Hamra

Until 50 years ago, **Jazirat Al-Hamra** was a lively settlement located on a small island surrounded by the waters of a lagoon located about 20 km SW of Ras Al Khaimah. The village was inhabited by the descendants of pearl divers from the Al Za'ab tribe, who for centuries sailed into the waters of the Persian Gulf in search of these precious gemstones. During the political and social changes accompanying the emergence of today's the United Arab Emirates, the city was practically completely abandoned. Derelict houses fell into ruins, and the lagoon was filled with sand.

Thanks to an unusual coincidence, this settlement, frozen in time, is today one of the few (maybe even the only) example of a traditional pearl divers settlement with all its characteristic elements of old towns such as courtyarded residential compounds, souq, mosques, and remnants of watchtowers and a fort. The buildings located here allow visitors to track changes in the local architecture over the last centuries (as the village was presumably founded at the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries). These changes illustrate the development of architectural ideas and the introduction of new building materials into traditional construction techniques. The unique character of Jazirat Al-Hamra has been emphasized by UNESCO's decision to enter the ruins of the settlement in the Organization's Tentative List (with a good chance of being entered on the World Heritage List).

**Field trip details:**

This will be a half-day trip, starting at 9.30 am in Jazirat Al-Hamra (RAK), approx. 4 hrs walk through the old settlement of Jazirat Al-Hamra, mostly exteriors with not much shade.

Exact meeting location will be sent to participants additionally.

What to bring:

-       Comfortable, closed walking shoes (due to ongoing renovations we will be walking through building sites with uneven terrain, stones, steps and sand).

-       Hat, sunglasses and sun cream - please note that the area is mostly not shaded.

-       Plenty of water – at least 1 liter of water/isotonic drinks per person

**The group is limited to a maximum of 20 people.**

**COVID-19 Protocol:**  
All trips will be organized respecting the current UAE COVID-19 protocols:

* Small groups up to maximum 20 participants
* All participants need to have proof of C19 vaccination (i.e. UAE Green Pass) or PCR test that is not older than 72 hrs. This applies equally to non-vaccinated minors.
* Masks are obligatory, both outdoors and indoors; also obliged in the cars if the passengers are not from the same household
* Social distancing must be observed throughout the field trip