

Accommodation Information Sheet

Where to stay for the smoothest conference experience

● **RECOMMENDED**

AL KHOZAMA HOTEL

Book at Al Khozama

Bay La Sun / The Views

KAEC

Book at Bay La Sun

Book at The Views

City options

JEDDAH HOTELS

Book at Booking.com

Commute Time

BEST

Minimal — located directly within the immediate KAUST vicinity, a quick trip to venues each morning.

FAIR

Moderate — a 30–35 minute drive each way, depending on traffic and gate clearance.

HARDEST

Very high — a 1–1.5 hour drive each way, heavily dependent on highway traffic.

Airport Transfer & Logistics

BEST

Dedicated support — the hotel team coordinates airport transfers via Hanco (paid service).

FAIR

Limited — Hanco can be requested, but priority is reserved for KAUST residents (paid service).

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Transportation Logistics

BEST

Effortless — seamless access to dedicated event shuttles; no long-distance rides to coordinate.

FAIR

Complex — daily medium-distance private drivers (limited) and rental cars; no public transport into KAUST.

HARDEST

Difficult — extensive highway travel, private drivers (limited) and rental cars; no public transport in.

Unregistered Vehicle Contingency

BEST

Park & Ride — free shuttles every 20 min from the Visitor Center to the hotel and Olayan Building.

FAIR

Park & Ride — park at the Visitor Center; free shuttles every 20 min to the Olayan Building.

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Gate & Security Access

BEST

Streamlined — the hotel arranges smooth access through KAUST checkpoints as a registered guest.

FAIR

Daily checks — repetitive, time-consuming verification at the campus gates each morning.

HARDEST

Daily checks — repetitive screening after an already long commute.

Networking & Socializing

BEST

Maximum exposure — fully immersed with delegates; easy to join evening dinners and chats.

FAIR

Isolated — early departures needed; miss casual evening connections and dinners.

HARDEST

Highly isolated — late returns to Jeddah make post-conference social programs impractical.

Schedule Flexibility

BEST

Excellent — return to your room at midday to rest, change, or take urgent calls.

FAIR

Poor — once on campus you must stay until evening, with no place to rest between sessions.

HARDEST

Very poor — a 2+ hour round trip makes returning to your room during the day impossible.

Free shuttle buses run every 20 minutes from the Visitor Center to the Al Khozama Hotel and the event venue (Olayan Building).

● Strongly recommended:

Book the Al Khozama Hotel — directly within the KAUST vicinity. External hotels mean daily gate checks, long commutes, and missed evening networking.

Hanco Transport — campus transfers (all options)

Email: HancoTransport@kaust.edu.sa · Phone: +966 12 808 5647 / +966 12 808 5604

Rental cars must be pre-registered in the KAUST security system (valid registration + driver's licence) for direct gate access. KAEC & Jeddah: availability reserved primarily for KAUST residents.