



Sir Bani Yas Island

Source: IE

A 1,400-year-old **Christian cross** has been unearthed from the ancient monastery on **Sir Bani Yas Island, Abu Dhabi**. Similar artifacts found in **Iraq and Kuwait**, linked to the historic Church of the East, point to the legacy of cultural harmony in the Gulf region.

- **Sir Bani Yas Island:** It is the largest island off the coast of the Al Dhafra Region in Abu Dhabi. It was declared a nature reserve in 1971 and is now the Arabian Wildlife Park, hosting free-roaming animals, breeding programs.
 - Sir Bani Yas Island was **first mentioned in European records in 1590** by Italian merchant **Gasparo Balbi** for its pearls, a trade that remained significant until the early 20th century.



Read more: [India-UAE Ties: From Tradition to Transformation](https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/sir-bani-yas-island)