



Jahli Fort, the concentric tower

## FORTS

The layouts of fortified enclosures have ancient pedigrees. A circular strong tower from the third millennium BC was excavated at Hili. Some three kilometres away stands its successor, the concentric fort at Hili, which has been restored and can be visited. The fort at Jahli is another excellent example of this type of fortification.

Al Ain has a particularly rich collection of forts, many now restored and some open to the public. Their locations are shown on the accompanying map together with other traditional buildings in the city. The Sultan or Eastern Fort is next to the Al Ain Museum and is a good example to view. Projecting circular towers at the corners enabled defenders to protect the walls with flanking fire. The main door is original and weather beaten. Internally there are few