

FALAJ WATCHTOWERS

Several falaj watchtowers are still in existence in Al Ain. They are usually located close to the point where the falaj enters the oasis and on high ground. Falaj security was paramount. The towers enabled at least some of the route of the falaj to be watched at times of disturbance whilst still being able to alert the local community.

Examples can be found at Hili, Qattara and Jimi. They are simple round or rectangular towers constructed of mud brick and some stone. The entrance was usually at second storey level in common with many other fortified towers in the Emirates. Access was by means of a rope thrown down the side of the tower and footholds in the tower surface. These can clearly be seen on the Jimi tower.



Jimi falaj watchtower