



Aspiration Group  
*Aspire more...*

WHERE LUXURY  
LIVING MEETS  
ISLAND  
LIFESTYLE

OUT OF  
THE BOX  
& OUT OF  
THIS  
WORLD

Artisans  
of Leisure

THE TRUE ESSENCE OF ARABIA

# CONTENTS

## IT'S A GOLD RUSH

---

05  
GOLD RUSH

09  
VIP  
EXPERIENCE

11  
OUR  
COLLECTION

17  
REST EASY

## SPOTLIGHT

---

21  
TOP 5 FAMILY FRIENDLY  
ACCOMMODATION

23  
ARTISANS  
OF LEISURE

29  
SUMMER  
FLING

33  
DINING  
HOTSPOTS

35  
CHEFS SPOTLIGHT  
IN DUBAI

37  
VIP  
SHOPPING

# EXPANDING HORIZONS

United Arab Emirates





# GOLD RUSH

The United Arab Emirates weaves its past, present and future with thrilling results



It's hardly an exaggeration to describe the United Arab Emirates as one of the most fascinating places on Earth. For starters, its Eden-esque landscape of bone-dry mountains and swirling desert, coastal plains and teeming wetlands is the millennial backdrop for a regional powerhouse that punches far above its weight category - its entire breadth is only slightly smaller than Portugal.

And yet, the UAE was formed only in 1971 as a federation of seven emirates - Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al-Quwain,

Fujairah and Ras al-Khaimah. Set on the southern edge of the fabled Persian Gulf and Arabian Peninsula, the UAE owes its outsized profile to huge cash reserves and spending power which are harnessed by a liberated masterplan that entwines commerce and tourism.

The result is a booming economy with a GDP of \$640b, with travel and tourism contributing \$43b, an already impressive number that's projected to hit a jaw-dropping \$72b by 2027. The recent World Expo boosted the economy by awarding nearly \$2b of contracts

**“IT'S EASY TO SEE THE ATTRACTION. FOR STARTERS, ABU DHABI AND DUBAI FEATURE A GLITTERING SKYLINE OF TOWERING STEEL AND GLASS ARCHITECTURE, A FUTURISTIC TOUR DE FORCE THAT IS STARKLY CONTRASTED BY ITS SHIMMERING PAST AND CULTURAL DIVERSIONS.**

to SMEs, two-thirds of which were UAE-based, whilst hotel occupancy in Dubai hit a 15-year-high of 96% in the final week of the six-month event.

It's easy to see the attraction. For starters, Abu Dhabi and Dubai feature a glittering skyline of towering steel and glass architecture, a futuristic tour de force that is starkly contrasted by its shimmering past and cultural diversions.

In the old souks, men and women dressed in the traditional dishdasha

and hooded abaya drift by bags of spices, precious oils and herbs from every corner of Asia and Arabia; overlaid dhow jostle for space with bijoux abra water-taxis on Dubai Creek. Meanwhile, just a short drive away, amidst the looming sand dunes and the solitude of the desert, it is easy to fancy yourself as one of the ancient Bedouins who once plied the sands with their camels.

And in the sun-drenched waters of the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, water enthusiasts can trawl the cool ocean depths for

sharks, rays and shipwrecks. The more adventurous can take to the deep seas to fish for barracuda and the prized hamour and sail fish, whilst closer to shore, the warm waters and excellent wind and surf conditions are ideal for water-skiing, sailing and windsurfing.

And all this doesn't yet account for the world-class restaurants whose kitchens are helmed by extraordinarily talented chefs; or the equally stellar retail excursions in glittering, marbled malls.

In other words, what's not to love about the UAE?



## VIP SERVICE

### It's all in the journey

Because the power of remarkable journeys lies in exceptional, seamless service. Our transfer services ensure an unrivaled travel experience, from touchdown to take-off.

### Always at hand

A dedicated VIP team ensures no need goes unmet, no desire unfulfilled; an incomparable UAE experience. With reliable local knowledge and expertise, our professional team allow you to make the decisions and leave the details up to us.

### Travel made simple

From family escapes in the city to getaways with friends in the desert, we've got it covered with VIP group handling. From multiple arrivals to numerous accommodation bookings, we're experts in managing VIP groups, while still delivering a service tailored to the individual.

### Come fly with us

Private jet charters get you where you need to be, from safari to sea and beyond, in the utmost luxury. Each aircraft is fitted with every convenience and amenity you could desire, with bespoke itineraries that make the UAE - and the world - your oyster.

## EXPERIENCES

### Weddings & Celebrations

We recognise the meaning held in important life events, such as weddings and landmark celebrations. From the grandest of occasions to intimate moments, we oversee every detail to make even the wildest of dreams a reality. From skyline sunset marriage proposals, discreet honeymoon getaways, exquisite local feasts to cocktail-infused sunsets, glamorous art exhibitions and poolside family reunions, we go beyond to deliver memories that will last a lifetime.

### Bespoke Experiences

*For unforgettable custom built travel experiences.*

Whether you are looking for a relaxing spa escape, a lively summer adventure, a romantic getaway or family time together, our specialists will ensure your itinerary is truly unique.

We believe that pairing travelers with the ideal property is all about chemistry. Our mission is to curate the very best experiences the United Arab Emirates can provide, surpassing your expectations. From a surprise, lantern-lit desert dinner to a helicopter ride over the city, with our concierge-style service, nothing is impossible.



“  
**OUR MISSION IS TO CURATE THE VERY BEST EXPERIENCES THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES CAN PROVIDE, SURPASSING YOUR EXPECTATIONS.**



# OUR UAE *collection*

From some of the finest shopping in the world to rooftop restaurants and suites surrounded by aquariums, the UAE offers opulence in every way imaginable. Amongst its myriad of 5-star accommodation, we have carefully curated a collection that celebrates lavish living in this world-renowned destination. In their respective ways, each property highlights iconic attractions, the unmistakable city skyline, Arabian culture and the exquisite Arabian Gulf.

## OUR UAE *collection*

### ADDRESS BEACH RESORT, DUBAI

Home to the highest outdoor infinity pool, this resort literally raises the bar of most sensational views. One can immerse in cool waters, sip on a cocktail and take in the city skyline as well as the Burj Khalifa, tallest building in the world.

**Best for: Panoramic Views & Big City Vibe**

### ATLANTIS THE PALM, DUBAI

A city in its own right with the Aquaventure Waterpark, Lost Chambers Aquarium and a myriad of luxury shops and restaurants of all types and tastes. Underwater suites transport you to new worlds held by the colours and characters of marine life.

**Best for: Gastronomy & World's Largest Waterpark**

### BVLGARI RESORT, DUBAI

This seahorse-shaped island holds two distinct characters; a quiet stretch of beach lined with villas and a vibrant marina filled with restaurants and the Bulgari Yacht Club, bringing Mediterranean charm to the coast of Dubai.

**Best for: Romance**

### BURJ AL ARAB JUMEIRAH, DUBAI

This iconic sail-shaped hotel emanates Arabian luxury at its finest, claiming elusive '7-star' status. Helicopter transfers, Lamborghini rentals, gold-plated ipads in each room and Michelin star chefs are but a few of the opulent amenities available.

**Best for: Iconic Dubai**

### CAESARS PALACE, DUBAI

A modern take on the Roman Empire, Caesars Palace Dubai is furnished with a Pantheon-style theatre that radiates Vegas glamour, a restaurant by Gordon Ramsey and direct access to the world's tallest observation wheel, the Ain Dubai.

**Best for: Luxury for Less**

### EMIRATES PALACE, ABU DHABI

Located in the heart of Abu Dhabi and holding the hearts of travellers worldwide, this Arabesque-style hotel is a jewel of the United Arab Emirates. From 24-karat gold facials to on-yacht dining in the private marina as well as access to an exclusive beach, one truly feels like royalty.

**Best for: Arabian Essence**

### FOUR SEASONS RESORT AT JUMEIRAH BEACH, DUBAI

Flanked by the waters of the Arabian Gulf on one side and the cityscape on the other, the Four Seasons is a holiday oasis on the outskirts of bustling city streets. Passionate experts custom design your experience of the Emirates, from desert escapes, balloon tours, alfresco dining and indoor theme parks; adventures are endless.

**Best for: Best of the Best**

### JUMEIRAH AT SAADIYAT ISLAND, ABU DHABI

Barefoot luxury awaits at this island-style resort, where modern design meets Middle Eastern warmth. Indulge in a variety of flavours from Arabian breakfasts to Italian seaside restaurants, poolside bars or burgers at the sports bar; the island caters to all.

**Best for: Beach**

### JUMEIRAH ZABEEL SARAY, DUBAI

This Ottoman-inspired resort is the definition of palatial elegance. Sip on afternoon tea in the Sultan's Lounge, chill out in the spa's private snow room or feast at an array of international dining options, from French cuisine to Asian flavours or outstanding Mediterranean cuisine.

**Best for: Spa Experiences**

### JUMEIRAH DAR AL MASYAF, DUBAI

Boutique-style Arabian summer houses await upon the water's edge; your personal oasis with access to a private beach and Wild Wadi Waterpark. Embark on a private Abra tour, meandering through the waterways of Dubai, best paired with champagne and chocolate-dipped strawberries.

**Best for: Big City Vibe**

### JUMEIRAH AL NASEEM, DUBAI

Exceptional comfort and sophisticated style welcome guests to this contemporary beachside retreat. For ultimate luxury, the Royal Suite boasts a movie room, gym, landscaped gardens and private pools for your leisure.

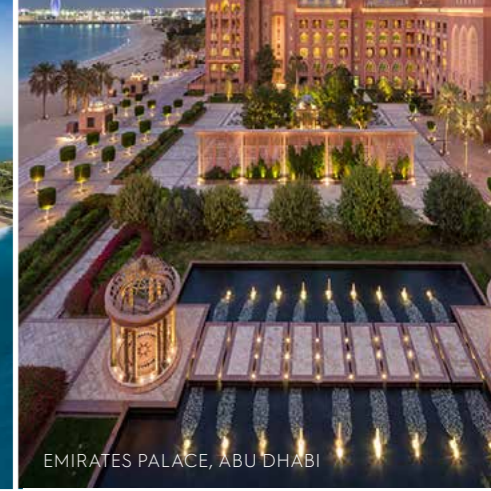
**Best for: Beach**



CAESARS PALACE, DUBAI



ATLANTIS THE PALM, DUBAI



EMIRATES PALACE, ABU DHABI



BVLGARI RESORT, DUBAI



JUMEIRAH DAR AL MASYAF, DUBAI



ADDRESS BEACH RESORT, DUBAI



FOUR SEASONS RESORT AT JUMEIRAH BEACH, DUBAI



JUMEIRAH ZABEEL SARAY, DUBAI



BURJ AL ARAB JUMEIRAH, DUBAI



JUMEIRAH AT SAADIYAT ISLAND, ABU DHABI



JUMEIRAH DAR AL MASYAF, DUBAI



OUR COLLECTION



JUMEIRAH AL QASR, DUBAI



THE RITZ-CARLTON, RAS AL KHAIMAH, AL HAMRA BEACH



RAFFLES THE PALM, DUBAI



THE OBEROI BEACH RESORT, AL ZORAH, AJMAN



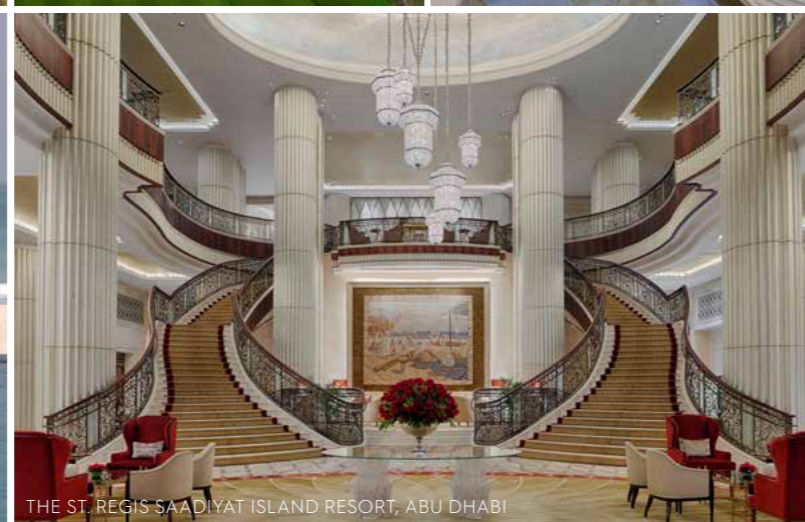
THE RITZ-CARLTON, DUBAI



THE ST. REGIS DUBAI, THE PALMS



JUMEIRAH MINA A' SALAM, DUBAI



THE ST. REGIS SAADIYAT ISLAND RESORT, ABU DHABI



MANDARIN ORIENTAL JUMEIRAH, DUBAI



WALDORF ASTORIA PALM JUMEIRAH, DUBAI



THE RITZ-CARLTON RAS AL KHAIMAH, AL WADI DESERT

OUR UAE *collection*

**JUMEIRAH MINA A' SALAM, DUBAI**

Built around Venetian-style waterways and views of the Arabian Gulf, this family-friendly beachfront resort sits at the heart of the Madinat Jumeirah complex. Traditional in design yet abundant in amenities, the hotel is the perfect mix of old Arabia and modern luxury.

**Best for: Beach**

**JUMEIRAH AL QASR, DUBAI**

Abra boats ferry guests between attractions and facilities, which include a water park, theatre and indoor souk. Dine at the multi-award-winning Italian restaurant on the hotel's private pier, overlooking the Arabian Gulf and the iconic Burj Al Arab.

**Best for: Family**

**MANDARIN ORIENTAL JUMEIRAH, DUBAI**

This stylish urban resort is spacious and sleek with uninterrupted views of the skyline. Book your seat at Sublimotion, embarking on a multi-sensory food journey where innovation, art and technology combine to create culinary delights.

**Best for: Couples**

**THE OBEROI BEACH RESORT, AL ZORAH, AJMAN**

Unlock the natural secrets of the UAE and experience the Oberoi Beach Resort surrounded by mangroves, beaches, and lagoons. Spend your time on the golf course, kayaking the mangroves or learning the art of falconry.

**Best for: Luxury for Less**

**RAFFLES THE PALM, DUBAI**

A fairytale world awaits at Raffles The Palm, its palatial design elegant and charming in every way. Enjoy a cocktail at the Sola Jazz Bar while listening to world-renowned musicians or dine at Matagi; a theatrical contemporary Japanese restaurant.

**Best for: Arabian Essence**

**THE ST. REGIS SAADIYAT ISLAND RESORT, ABU DHABI**

Mediterranean-style architecture welcomes guests to this regal resort. The St Regis butler service provides uncompromised attention to detail, from morning coffee, to unpacking your luggage, pressing selected garments and a butler service desk contactable at any hour for any request.

**Best for: Nature**

**THE ST. REGIS DUBAI THE PALM, DUBAI**

Discreet, elegant and excellently placed on Palm Jumeirah, this hotel is every shopper's dream destination with an internal ramp connected to Nakheel Mall. Gold-dipped interiors stretch to the top of the Palm Tower where guests may access The View at The Palm; a 360-degree observation deck over the world-famous man-made island.

**Best for: Big City Vibe**

**THE RITZ-CARLTON, RAS AL KHAIMAH, AL HAMRA BEACH**

Located on a private beach, this resort is where luxury living meets island lifestyle. Out-the-box and out-of-this-world activities are on offer, from archery to full moon camel rides to floating dinners upon Arabian waters.

**Best for: Dubai Desert Exploration**

**THE RITZ-CARLTON RAS AL KHAIMAH, AL WADI DESERT**

Connect with nature and culture within this protected desert reserve. Amidst a range of outdoor activities such as falconry, desert-biking and fishing, guests are encouraged to embark upon a Rainforest Journey in the spa; a combination of European hydrothermal culture with Middle Eastern bathing rituals.

**Best for: Nature**

**THE RITZ-CARLTON, DUBAI**

Contemporary comforts are found in abundance in this colonial-style hotel. Its 8 restaurants satisfy dining options, whether guests nestle in bedouin-style tents at Arabian Amaseena, chocolate pairings at the Library Bar or enjoy a taste of British culture on Fridays at the London Social.

**Best for: Big City Vibe**

**WALDORF ASTORIA PALM JUMEIRAH, DUBAI**

A private beach and watersports centre satisfy adventure cravings, whereas convenient access to unparalleled shopping, glamorous nightlife and Dubai's iconic attractions satiate cultural curiosity.

**Best for: Classic European charm with Arabesque flair**



JUMEIRAH AT SAADIYAT ISLAND RESORT

IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG TO REALISE THAT HOTELIERS IN THE UAE - ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE LUXURY CATEGORY - TAKE THEIR JOBS SERIOUSLY. OPULENCE AND GRANDEUR ARE A GIVEN, BUT LAYERED OVER THIS IS A SEEMINGLY UNIVERSAL COMMITMENT TO WHISPER-QUIET SERVICE; AN OBSESSIVE NEED TO ORIENT EVERY SPACE - WHETHER A BEDROOM, A POOLSIDE LOUNGE, A READING NOOK OR A DINING TABLE - TOWARDS THE BEST VIEW OF THE SEA, SKY, GARDEN OR ENDLESS HORIZON; AND AN INFINITE ARRAY OF THOUGHTFUL BESPOKE TOUCHES, EACH CAREFULLY CALIBRATED TO SPECIFIC TASTES AND MOODS.



BUDDHA BAR

# REST EASY

Checking into the UAE's top hotels and resorts



ST. REGIS SAADIYAT ISLAND RESORT



SAADIYAT BEACH GOLF COURSE



JUMEIRAH AL NASEEM



JUMEIRAH AL NASEEM

To take a few random examples. If you're looking to disconnect in a tranquil getaway or to celebrate an anniversary, **Jumeirah Al Naseem** offers a dedicated yoga garden, light healing rituals and two kilometres of private beach, alongside adults-only pools and rooms. But if an immersive nature retreat is key to your successful vacation, the 11 eco-friendly villas at **Jumeirah at Saadiyat Island Resort** have on the menu not just ocean views,

beach access and temperature controlled pools, but also immersive expeditions to see turtles and dolphins.

For culture vultures with a taste for the good life and art, neighbouring **St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resort** combines a soft-sanded beach and an outpost of the legendary **Buddha Bar** with easy access to the **Saadiyat Beach Golf Course**, the **Louvre**, and an in-the-works **Guggenheim**.

“**OPULENCE AND GRANDEUR ARE A GIVEN, BUT LAYERED OVER THIS IS A SEEMINGLY UNIVERSAL COMMITMENT TO WHISPER-QUIET SERVICE.**”

# REST EASY

Checking into the UAE's top hotels and resorts

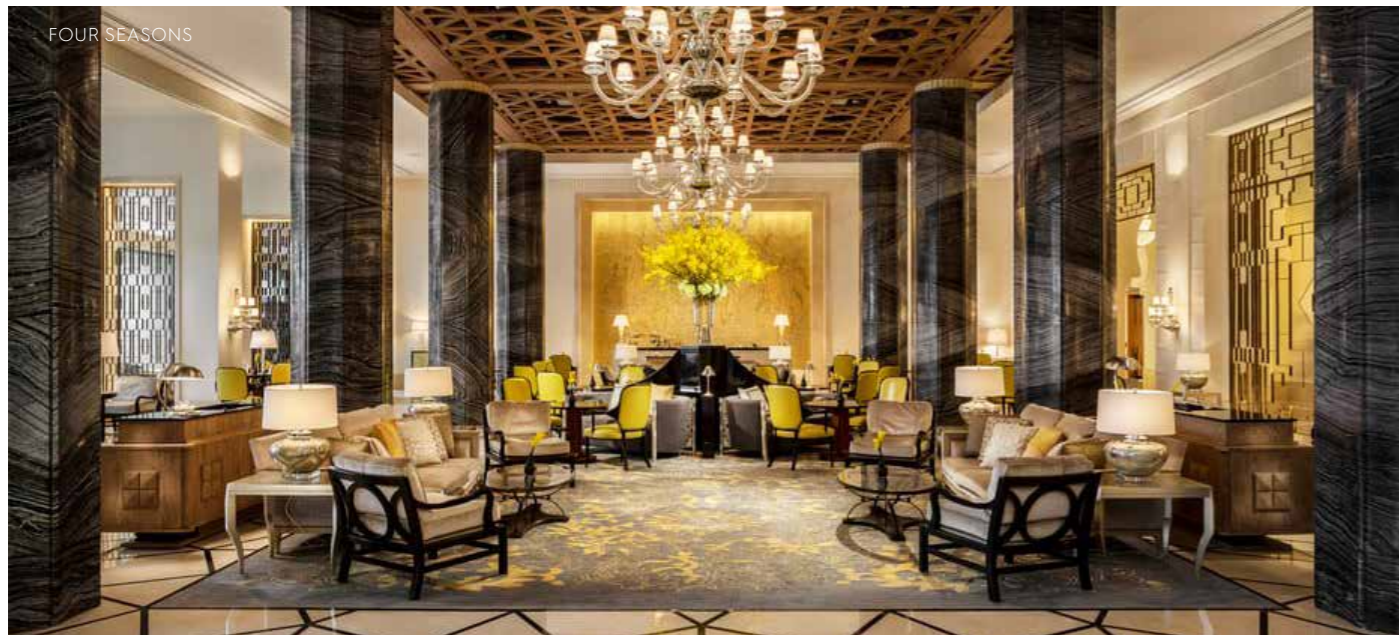
City slickers may prefer to check into the **Mandarin Oriental Jumeira**, an artfully slick urban resort that somehow manages to blend tranquil views of the Arabian Gulf with a jaw-dropping futuristic skyline starring the **Burj Khalifa**, the world's tallest skyscraper and set-piece for Tom Cruise's hi-jinks in 'Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol'.

Not to be outdone, the ever thoughtful **Four Seasons** serves up two options for its multitasking guests. Its resort at the International Financial Centre is all primed for jetsetters with business and shopping on their minds (Dubai Mall and Burj Khalifa are a five minute sprint away), whilst the outpost at Jumeirah Beach doesn't hold back with rooftop cocktails, Sodashi spa treatments, and desert excursions.



MANDARIN ORIENTAL JUMEIRA,

*To shamelessly paraphrase Miguel Brown's 1983 hit song, so many hotels, so little time.*



FOUR SEASONS

# Wow Villas

The **Jumeirah Dar Al Masyaf** features seven Malakiya villas, each equipped with a plunge pool, butler, and kitchen. Privacy is a given, even though the villas connect directly to the resort's Venetian-inspired waterways and the Wild Wadi Waterpark is just next door.



Sister property **Jumeirah Zabeel Saray Residences on Palm Jumeirah**, rolls out the 38-villa Royal Residences. A private entrance opens out into an Arabian fantasy framed by a lagoon and lush tropical gardens, and villas adorned in Turkish marble, ivory and gold accents, ornate staircases and sun terraces.

Upping the luxury ante with a vengeance, **Raffles The Palm Dubai** tempts with the 950sqm Raffles Royal Villa and the 1,050sqm Imperial Villa. Both are set jewel-like into a private beach and gardens, their dazzling interiors - which include a spa and garage for visits into town - swathed in gold, pink marble and Swarovski chandeliers.



# Top 5

## FAMILY FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATION

**1. ATLANTIS, THE PALM:**  
PARADISE PLAYGROUND  
Staying at Atlantis, The Palm unlocks a world of wonder for families. Each of The Suites are perfect for time away together, spacious yet connected for options of privacy or entertainment. Guests receive unlimited access to the **Aquaventure Waterpark**, a paradise playground with record-breaking water slides, a tidal wave pool, and a private beach: endless fun for all ages. **The Lost Chambers Aquarium** and **Ambassador Lagoon** are equally captivating with marine exhibitions, diving opportunities and shark safaris to embark upon!

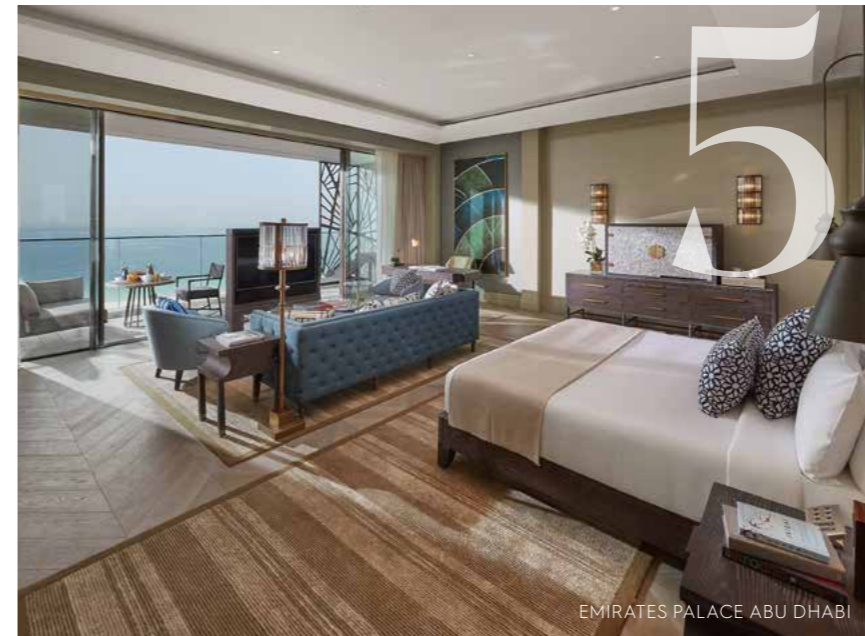


**4. CAESARS PALACE, DUBAI:**  
FOOD, FUN, FESTIVITY  
Located on Bluewaters Island, Caesars Palace has access to a myriad of festive family outings. Spend time at the **Tr88house**, a food and funhouse with a **Skyfall Trampoline**, glow-in-the-dark mini-golf and **Laser Rush** set in a bioluminescent jungle. The Julius Family Room at the hotel has two ensuite interleading rooms so parents and children can remain connected, as well as take advantage of downtime.

**2. RITZ CARLTON DUBAI:**  
ADVENTURES IN NATURE  
Family Fun is an outdoor affair at the Ritz Carlton Dubai. Quad biking, water sports, yoga classes and bird watching are but a few of the activities for all to participate in. With family suites, lush gardens and multiple pools to choose from, the hotel provides space and exclusivity for quality time together.



**3. JUMEIRAH MINA A' SALAM, DUBAI:**  
A TICKET TO UNLIMITED FUN  
The two-bedroom family deluxe rooms are interconnected and intimate family quarters. The two balconies, private bathrooms and wide-screen interactive TV offer space together, as well as time apart. Guests receive **Wild Wadi Waterpark** entries; a guaranteed ticket to unlimited fun. **The Sinbad's Kids Club** provides supervised interactive gaming stations, aquarobics, a climbing wall and craft activities. The Abra transfers along Venetian-style waterways are a fun family ferry ride.



**5. EMIRATES PALACE ABU DHABI:**  
RISE TO THE OCCASION  
Emirates Palace Abu Dhabi welcomes family like Royalty, with special treatment for all ages. The kids club offers pampering sessions, whereas the older children have access to kayaking, windsurfing and sailing. The Three Bedroom Palace Suite has interconnecting rooms to ensure privacy as well as accessibility to one another.

# ARTISANS OF LEISURE

## Top tips

BEYOND THE GLIMMER OF THE SKYLINE AND THE GOLD HUES OF THE DESERT, THE UAE OFFERS SOME UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES. AS ARTISANS OF LEISURE, WE HAVE COMPILED A LIST OF LESSER-KNOWN YET HIGHLY RECOMMENDED OUTINGS DURING ONE'S STAY IN THE UAE. FROM RIDING THE ROADS IN A FERRARI TO RIDING THE WIND IN A HOT AIR BALLOON, OUR TOP TIPS TAKE ADVENTURE TO ANOTHER LEVEL; BEYOND THE IMAGINATION.

### DINNER IN THE SKY DUBAI

Indulge in unique scenery as well as fine dining in this suspended restaurant above Dubai. Listed as one of the 10 most unusual restaurants in the world by Forbes, it truly is out of the ordinary. A three-course meal is prepared by a chef in the middle of the platform, served by efficient staff with the breathtaking backdrop of the city skyline and Arabian Gulf.

### GREEN PLANET EXCURSION

Green Planet is a tropical indoor rainforest that offers unique experiences such as swimming with piranhas, simulated thunderstorms, and nocturnal safaris. This enchanting bio-dome sustains over 3000 plants and animals; a world of wonder waiting to be discovered.



GREEN PLANET EXCURSION

### EXPERIENCE ARAB MARKETS

Dubai souks are legendary, and essential to explore to get under the skin of this desert city. Add a private souk tour into the shopping itinerary, delving into authentic Dubai culture. Located on the Deira side of Dubai Creek, the Gold Souk, Spice Souk and Perfume Souk are all within close proximity, with the Textile Souk a short boat ride away.

### HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES

Rise with the sun and float above the desert at dawn in a Hot Air Balloon. Witness the wonder of wildlife below, over the rolling sand dunes and the Hajar Mountains. When booked privately, one may experience the world's only in-flight falcon show, sharing the sky with the wings of these magnificent birds.

### LUXURY DESERT SAFARI

Discover the dunes during a luxurious desert safari, led by a private guide who will reveal the secrets of the Lahbab Desert. Driven in an ultra-premium Land Cruiser, arrive for sunset at your destination to a Shisha corner, henna painting as well as traditional costumes to wear. Feast on fine dining beneath the stars accompanied by captivating entertainment of fire throwing, belly dancing and a Tanoura dance show.



DINNER IN THE SKY DUBAI



EXPERIENCE ARAB MARKETS



HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES



LUXURY DESERT SAFARI



FERRARI WORLD ABU DHABI



SKYDIVE OVER THE PALM

**SKYDIVE OVER THE PALM:** Fall for Dubai at 10 000 ft in the sky, soaring above the Dubai Palm - the premier skydiving location in the city. Feel the rush and take in the sights of the ocean, the Dubai skyline, the Burj Al Arab and land at the Palm Drop Zone. A once-in-a-lifetime experience waiting to take your breath away!

**FERRARI WORLD ABU DHABI:** Check-in, buckle up, and drive around Yas Island roads in a Ferrari. Accompanied by a Ferrari-trained instructor, take the wheel of adventure into your own hands, turning your dreams into realities at Ferrari World Abu Dhabi.

**SUBLIMATION DINING:** Under the reign of double Michelin star chef Paco Roncero, this dining experience is a multi-sensory explosion. A combination of food, art, technology and choreography creates a culinary concept that resonates beyond the palate.



SUBLIMATION DINING



SONARA EXPERIENCE

# ARTISANS OF LEISURE

*Top tips*

**PRIVATE CHARTER ABRA TOUR:** Take a private charter on a traditional abra (wooden boat) and gently cruise along the waterways of Dubai, seeing the city from a different perspective. These tours allow one to sample a piece of the country's rich history, and a whole new world of waterfront wonders to discover. Get up close and personal to some of the area's world-renowned architecture; floating past landmarks such as the Burj Al Arab, Ain Dubai, Atlantis The Palm, and the towers of Dubai Marina.



PRIVATE CHARTER ABRA TOUR

**SONARA EXPERIENCE:** Venture into the heart of the Arabian Desert to dine beneath the stars in the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve. A Sonara sunset and dinner experience invites you to try your hand at archery, embark on a camel ride, enjoy live music and feast on a seasonal menu prepared by the Resident Chef.

## INSIDER

## Nicola Chilton

In summer, in the very early mornings, I love going to Sunrise Beach

Based in Dubai since 2015, Nicola Chilton is a multi-hyphenate writer and creative communications consultant. An inveterate traveller, she has lived and worked in six countries, leading tours into the Mexican jungle, coordinating the Japanese government's international education programme, and working in tourism and hospitality communications. Here, she gives us an insider's peek - beyond the modern skyscrapers and glitzy malls - into the fascinating world of the UAE.

**You moved to Dubai from Bangkok. Was it a culture shock?**

I moved to Dubai to head up PR and Content for Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts in Europe, Middle East and Africa. Initially, I wasn't particularly thrilled at the idea. After many years living in Japan, Hong Kong and Thailand, I had somehow believed the naysayers who insisted that Dubai was just shopping malls and hotels.

**But that changed?** Within a couple of weeks of moving here, and taking time to explore the city properly, I became a convert. I love it now. There's so much more to Dubai and the UAE as a whole than most people realise.

**Such as?** People continue to insist that there's no culture in Dubai, even though it's patently untrue. They just don't make the effort to explore it.

**So, what are some of the places they need to explore?** I'd suggest a visit to the Mleiha Archaeological Centre in the deserts of Sharjah, the emirate immediately to the north of Dubai. It's a fascinating place with an excellent small museum that charts archaeological discoveries in the area that date back 125,000 years. You can also explore the surrounding desert by Unimog, dune buggy, or horse.

**125,000 years? That's a lot of history!** Right? If that piques your interest for more history, right in the heart of Dubai's Jumeirah neighbourhood is the Jumeirah Archaeological Site which has the remains of a thousand-year-old caravanserai, an interesting visitor centre, and the lovely Arabian Tea House. It's a completely underrated experience that most people seem to know nothing about.

**What is the one touristy thing that actually lives up to the hype?**

Taking one of the little abra boats across Dubai Creek in the oldest part of the city. It costs one Dirham (\$0.27) and you just hop on a waiting boat to go from one side to the other.

**Where is your happy place?**

There are so many! It very much depends on the time of year, though. In summer, in the very early mornings, I love going to Sunrise Beach. It's the only beach in Dubai that faces the land, so you get an incredible view of the sun rising behind the city's extraordinary skyline with the Burj Khalifa right in the centre. In winter, I love going out to the desert. It gets cold out there, so you need to wrap up.

**Where is your go-to place for a weekend getaway?** Jumeirah Dar Al Masyaf is a theme park for adults - and I mean that in the best possible way. The Arabesque design is the stuff of fantasy, the gardens lush and green, filled with flowers, birdsong and wandering peacocks. The beach is an extraordinary expanse of white sand with what must be the bluest waters in Dubai. The staff are superb, and the food is exceptional.

**If you had to recommend one hotel to stay in, where would it be?** I would say that Jumeirah Al Naseem's location on one of the country's

“PEOPLE CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT THERE'S NO CULTURE IN DUBAI, EVEN THOUGH IT'S PATENTLY UNTRUE. THEY JUST DON'T MAKE THE EFFORT TO EXPLORE IT.”



best strips of beach is reason enough to stay there, never mind the great views of the Burj Al Arab and its fantastic on-site restaurants. But there's something else that they do that can make a stay even more special. The hotel is home to the Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Project that rescues turtles from across the country. Since the project's launch in 2004, they've rehabilitated and released more than 2,000 turtles from the waters around the UAE.

Follow Nicola on Instagram at @nicolachilton to see her stories from around the world.

# SUMMER FLING

*Staying cool whilst having fun*



WILD WADI

THERE IS NO WAY TO SUGAR COAT THIS, BUT SUMMER IN THE UAE IS HOT. DESERT HOT. WHICH IS NOT TO SAY THAT ONE NEEDS TO BE CONFINED INDOORS FOR THE ENTIRE SEASON. BY DAY, A BIT OF AIR-CONDITIONED ACTIVITY IS PROBABLY A GOOD IDEA, BUT IN THE EVENINGS, AS THE AIR COOLS, THERE ARE PLENTY OF AL FRESCO ACTIVITIES ON OFFER.



COVE BEACH



COVE BEACH



COVE BEACH



GHANTOOT MARINA



WILD WADI

Needless to say, anything to do with water will hit all the right spots. Beach clubs are hot ticket items in summer; so, snag a poolside deck chair or a beachside cabana at **Cove Beach** at Caesars Palace on Bluewaters Island, or the 100m lagoon pool at Twigg. And if children are in tow, they'll be thrilled by the sprawling fantasy waterparks at **Wild Wadi** and Aquaventure.

For more au naturel settings, head for **Ghantoot Marina** in Abu Dhabi for a morning session of wakeboarding and wakesurfing; though, if you're missing snow, then **Ski Dubai's** 22,500sqm indoor resort comes complete with bona fide snow-clad ski slopes and penguins.



SKI DUBAI



# SUMMER FLING

*Staying cool whilst having fun*



JEBEL JAIS



Alternatively, visit **Abdulla Al Sawaidi's floating pearl farm** in nearby Ras Al Khaimah for some cool Gulf breezes and history lesson on the region's ancient pearl divers.

Savvy Emiratis prefer to sit out the heat with a day's outing up to **Jebel Jais**. The UAE's highest mountain features not just considerably cooler temperatures, but also dramatic mountain views which are best taken in speeding along on the world's longest zipline or, more sedately, on the Viewing Deck Park.

Meanwhile, the head-turning **Museum of the Future** is an all-seasons destination, not least for its completely immersive glimpse into 2071, but also for its wonderfully curated gift shop and outdoor park.



JEBEL JAIS



MUSEUM OF THE FUTURE



JEBEL JAIS

# EAT UP: 5 DINING HOT SPOTS

AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR COMMERCIAL CROSSROADS, IS IT ANY WONDER THAT THE UAE ALSO OFFERS SOME OF THE BEST DINING EXPERIENCES THIS SIDE OF NEW YORK, LONDON AND SINGAPORE? WHETHER A RELAXING CUP OF LOCAL KARAK TEA ON A COMMANDING PERCH OVERLOOKING DUBAI CREEK, OR A FIVE-STAR MEAL IN A FANTASTICAL SKYSCRAPER SETTING, THE RANGE OF GASTRONOMICAL OFFERINGS IS BEWILDERING IN ITS CULTURAL SWEEP.



ST. REGIS ABU DHABI SUNSET SUPPER

**1** Every month, the **St. Regis Abu Dhabi** stages a sunset supper on its helipad. If the spread of champagne, hors d'oeuvres, cheese and drinks doesn't thrill - in some months, it's an afternoon tea of scones and bubbly - then perhaps the wraparound view of the city, a dizzying 225m up in the air, just might.



ST. REGIS ABU DHABI SUNSET SUPPER

**3** It seems only natural that **Atlantis Dubai** should have its own underwater restaurant. A wall of double-height windows frames a gorgeous surreal view of **Ossiano's** centrepiece - an 11,000-litre aquarium teeming with sharks, stingrays and rainbow-hued fish. Yes, seafood is at the heart of the restaurant's menu, though it pays dividends to inspect the seasonal turf-based offerings such as Wagyu poached in Bordelaise and foie gras parfait paired with beetroot jelly.



OSSIANO'S

OSSIANO'S

**4** Sustainability is the bedrock of **Trèsind Studio's** exquisite modern Indian tasting menu. Chef Himanshu Saini transforms ingredients sourced from organic and sustainable farms in the UAE into reimagined classics, whether curry leaf tempura and morel pulao, or Assam tea dash and wood-apple pans puri.



TRÉSIND STUDIO'S



TRÉSIND STUDIO'S



BURN 11 WOODFIRE



SEA FU



SEA FU

**2** A pun on the Chinese word for 'chef', **Sea Fu** at the Four Seasons Resort at Jumeirah Beach serves up pre-prandial beachside sundowners and gorgeously plated sushi and Pan-Asian standards. Think yellowtail ceviche and basil ice-cream, oysters splashed with shiso ponzu vinaigrette, Canadian lobster steamed with lemongrass butter, and an otherworldly King Crab gratin blanketed with burnt miso Hollandaise.

**5** **Burn 11 Woodfire** may be located next to a giant mall, but its culinary credentials are impeccable, not least the looming presence of Akmal Anuar, one of the UAE's most celebrated chefs. Here, everything is cooked over an open-flame fed with hickory and hay, from red shrimp hit with pineapple gazpacho, pine-smoked Scottish salmon, and Atlantic sea bass grilled with garlic and Kashmiri chilli, all the way to the show-stopping burnt Basque cheesecake.



BURN 11 WOODFIRE

# Four the Love of Food

## CHEFS SPOTLIGHT IN DUBAI

### CAESARS PALACE:

With a many-a-Michelin-starred restaurant to his name, as well as being a judge on MasterChef, Caesars Palace is honoured to host chef Alvin Leung in his new venture, **'Demon Duck'**. Or perhaps dine like a Caesar at Gordon Ramsey's **'Hell's Kitchen'**, the definition of culinary excellence.

### ATLANTIS, THE PALM

Atlantis, The Palm is home to a buffet of famous chefs, from Giorgio Locatelli's Italian eatery, **'Ronda Locatelli'** to Nobu Matsuhisa's Japanese restaurant, **'Nobu'**, as well as Gordon Ramsey's **'Bread Street Kitchen'**.

### BURJ AL ARAB JUMEIRAH, DUBAI

**'The Sky View Bar & Restaurant'** and the **'Al Muntaha'** boast seven Michelin stars between their two chefs, Kim Joinié-Maurin and Francky Semblat (at their previous establishments).

### WALDORF ASTORIA

World-renowned 3 Michelin star chef, Heinz Beck, is a fearless feature on the Dubai fine-dining scene. His contemporary Italian restaurant, **'Social'** at the Waldorf Astoria is a favourite in the cosmopolitan city.



# VIP SHOPPING

Navigating Dubai's heaving retail scene in luxurious style



All of which means that if you're planning on making even a dent in the shopping list, it makes sense to call in reinforcements. Personal VIP shoppers - such as Billionaire Concierge, **Nina Iskander**, By Appointment, and Your Unique Image - ruthlessly eliminate the guess work and leg work by narrowing down exactly what you want and then planning your shopping schedule. If time is of the essence, they can even bring the retailers directly into your suite, so that you can relax and shop in complete privacy.



FOR EVEN SEASONED SHOPPERS, DUBAI REPRESENTS THE RETAIL EQUIVALENT OF AN IRONMAN COMPETITION. STAMINA, STRATEGIC GUILLE, AGILITY AND SHEER PHYSICAL STRENGTH ARE PREREQUISITES TO TACKLE ALL THE SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES ON OFFER. **THE DUBAI MALL**, ALONE, HAS AROUND 1,200 OUTLETS.



The **Mall of the Emirates** also assigns a personal shopper to guide you through its offerings, whilst your acquisitions are sealed, stored and delivered straight to your hotel or even back home. The Dubai Mall, Bloomingdale's, Galleries Lafayette and Level Shoes offer in-store personal shoppers, stylists, and gourmet snacks and tipples in private VIP lounges.

That said, keep an eye out for unexpected retail finds within the grounds of your hotel. The boutique at **One & Only The Palm**, for instance, offers a very limited edition range of vintage Louis

“**THE MALL OF THE EMIRATES ALSO ASSIGNS A PERSONAL SHOPPER TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH ITS OFFERINGS, WHILST YOUR ACQUISITIONS ARE SEALED, STORED AND DELIVERED STRAIGHT TO YOUR HOTEL OR EVEN BACK HOME.**

Vuitton Keepalls by Jay Ahr that have been custom embroidered by celebrity embroiderer, Jonathan Riss. And in the ultimate act of taking your holiday home with you, **The Ritz-Carlton's** entire bed - from the mattress and box spring through to its 400-thread-count Frette sateen sheets - can be shipped home.



# SAMPLE ITINERARIES

## FAMILY GETAWAY (10 NIGHTS)

A family getaway ensuring fun for all members of the fold

Jumeirah Saadiyat - 3 nights  
Atlantis the Palm - Dubai, 7 nights

## A ROMANTIC ESCAPE (7 NIGHTS)

Relax, Rejuvenate, Reconnect

Bulgari Resort - 4 nights  
The Ritz Carlton Al Wadi Desert - 3 nights

## FOR THE LOVE OF LUXURY (7 NIGHTS)

Discover Dubai's Ultimate Luxury Experiences

Burj Al Arab - 2 nights  
Mandarin Oriental Dubai - 5 nights

## ARABIAN ESSENCE (5 NIGHTS)

Embrace True Arabian spirit

Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi - 2 nights  
Raffles The Palm - 3 nights

## SHORT ESCAPE (3 NIGHTS)

A short but sweet break in Dubai

Four Seasons Resort Jumeirah Beach



ATLANTIS THE PALM



JUMEIRAH SAADIYAT



BULGARI RESORT

## FAMILY GETAWAY (10 NIGHTS)

A family getaway ensuring fun for all members of the fold

**Jumeirah Saadiyat**  
– Abu Dhabi, 3 nights

**Atlantis the Palm**  
– Dubai, 7 nights

### OVERVIEW

#### DAY 1

Private transfer to Jumeirah Saadiyat Island.

#### DAY 2

Private Abu Dhabi Classic 4-hour city tour.

#### DAY 3

Visit Warner Bros, the world’s largest indoor theme park for live-entertainment and great family experiences located on Yas Island. Drive your own Ferrari at Ferrari World.

#### DAY 4

Internal transfer from Jumeirah Saadiyat Island to Atlantis The Palm, Dubai.

#### DAY 5

Explore the world’s largest aquapark; Aquaventure. Optional: Admire the city from ‘The View’ at The Palm and visit the world’s largest fountains at The Pointe.

#### DAY 6

Enjoy a private tour of modern Dubai including the top attractions: Burj Khalifa, Dubai Mall Aquarium and Underwater Zoo.

#### DAY 7

Interact with dolphins or playful sea lions at Aquaventure. In the evening head to enjoy the thrilling aquatic performance at La Perle.

#### DAY 8

Explore the Dubai Park and Resorts - home to three theme parks and one water park.

#### DAY 9

Embark on a desert safari in vintage Land Rovers. (Heritage Dinner Safari Experience)

#### DAY 10

Immerse in a whole new world of exotic flora and fauna in an indoor vertical rain-forest at Green Planet. Free time for shopping in the Mall of Emirates where you could also improve your ski skills and meet the penguins at Ski Dubai.

#### DAY 11

Private transfer to the airport for departure.

## A ROMANTIC ESCAPE (7 NIGHTS)

Relax, Rejuvenate, Reconnect

**Bulgari Resort**  
– 4 nights

**The Ritz Carlton Al Wadi Desert**  
– 3 nights

### OVERVIEW

#### DAY 1

Private transfer to Bulgari Resort.

#### DAY 2

Experience classic Dubai followed by dinner in the world’s tallest restaurant: At.Mosphere.

#### DAY 3

Sail away and indulge in a romantic dinner on a private yacht.

#### DAY 4

Explore Dubai from a private helicopter or greet the sunrise on a hot air balloon. Optional: Shopping tour with a private guide.

#### DAY 5

Internal transfer from Dubai to Ritz Carlton Al Wadi, Ras Al Khaimah to reconnect with nature and local culture.

#### DAY 6

Enjoy a day at leisure: relax and rejuvenate with a bespoke SPA experience, watch a falconry show, or take a horse-riding lesson.

#### DAY 7

Relax at the hotel. Optional: For adrenaline-seekers; try a ride on the world’s longest zip line.

#### DAY 8

Private transfer to the airport for departure.



MANDARIN ORIENTAL DUBAI



MANDARIN ORIENTAL DUBAI



EMIRATES PALACE, ABU DHABI

## FOR THE LOVE OF LUXURY (7 NIGHTS)

Discover Dubai's Ultimate Luxury Experiences

**Burj Al Arab**  
- 2 nights

**Mandarin Oriental Dubai**  
- 5 nights

### OVERVIEW

#### DAY 1

Private transfer in a Bentley Continental to the Burj Al Arab.

#### DAY 2

Immerse in the Burj Al Arab Infinity Pool for the day, then dine at El Olivo at Al Mahara restaurant, menu curated by Michelin-star chefs.

#### DAY 3

Admire Dubai from the sky for 25 minutes on a private helicopter. Internal transfer to the Mandarin Oriental Jumeira Hotel.

#### DAY 4

Embark on a private modern Dubai City Tour, which includes a visit to the Burj Khalifa lounge on the 152nd floor - officially the world's tallest lounge. Indulge in an unforgettable dining experience at one of Dubai's iconic restaurants (Zuma, Cipriani, Armani).

#### DAY 5

Enjoy a 3-hour luxury yacht cruise along the city's waterfront. Includes lunch.

#### DAY 6

Partake in a Royal Platinum Desert Experience; an ultra-exclusive excursion in your own private oasis with a gourmet dinner prepared by a personal chef.

#### DAY 7

Relax in the sun, on the beach, and within the hotel facilities. Optional: A 4-hour shopping tour with a personal assistant

#### DAY 8

Private transfer by Bentley Continental to the airport for departure.

## ARABIAN ESSENCE (5 NIGHTS)

Embrace True Arabian Spirit

**Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi** - 2 nights

**Raffles The Palm**  
- 3 nights

### OVERVIEW

#### DAY 1

Private transfer to the epitome of luxury in Abu Dhabi: Emirates Palace.

#### DAY 2

6 hour private tour of Abu Dhabi with a visit to the Grand Mosque and the Abu Dhabi Louvre.

#### DAY 3

Internal transfer from Abu Dhabi to Raffles the Palm.

#### DAY 4

Full day private guided tour including the Jumeriah Mosque, classic and modern Dubai, and 'At the Top' Burj Khalifa visit.

#### DAY 5

Embark on a Platinum Desert Safari experience concluded by an acrobatics and fire dancing show and fine-dining beneath the stars.

#### DAY 6

Private transfer to the airport for departure.

## SHORT ESCAPE (3 NIGHTS)

A Short but Sweet break in Dubai

**Four Seasons Resort Jumeirah Beach**

### OVERVIEW

#### DAY 1

Private transfer to the Four Seasons Resort at Jumeirah beach.

#### DAY 2

Learn about Dubai's journey from a traditional village to modern city with an 'At the Top' Burj Khalifa visit (8-hour tour).

#### DAY 3

Head into the desert for an off-road adventure. Includes a BBQ dinner.

#### DAY 4

Private transfer to the airport for departure.

# EVENTS

## Calendar

NOT ONLY IS THE UAE CULTURALLY, HISTORICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY RICH, IT ALSO HAS THE INCLINATION TO HOST WORLD-CLASS EVENTS; BUCKET-LIST EXPERIENCES SIMPLY NOT TO BE MISSED! FROM ART TO SPORT TO SHOPPING FESTIVALS, THE CITY COMES ALIVE WITH CELEBRATION, INVITING GUESTS TO INDULGE IN ITS GLAMOUR, GLITTER AND GRANDEUR.

### Shopping extravaganza

**DUBAI SUMMER SURPRISES**  
JUNE - SEPTEMBER, 2024

Dubai Summer Surprises is a shopping extravaganza beyond the imagination. Festivities, fireworks and family fun activities fill the city over a 10-week period. This 25th milestone edition is promised to be more fabulous than ever with exclusive deals, competitions, daily jackpots, event tickets, and cars given away to lucky winners.



### Fitness Challenge

**DUBAI FITNESS CHALLENGE**  
28 OCTOBER – 26 NOVEMBER, 2023

This challenge inspires a healthy, active approach to daily life by celebrating and encouraging a fitness-focused lifestyle. For 30 days, where ever you go, fitness activities are in reach; the city becomes your gym. Celebrity coaches supply in-depth tips to reach your target of 30 minutes of exercise a day, from live events around the city to online workout sessions, health is accessible to all.



DUBAI SUMMER SURPRISES

### Art exhibition

**ABU DHABI ART**  
22 - 26 NOVEMBER, 2023

The art exhibition is a highlight of the cultural calendar and a culmination of the year-round arts programme. Manarat Al Saadiyat, meaning 'place of enlightenment' will host the art fair for the 14th time, welcoming spectators to workshops, performances and drop-in art spaces which have been ongoing throughout the year. Local and international galleries have the opportunity to sell their work, showcasing a global perspective of current events.



ABU DHABI ART

### Adrenaline and cars

**FORMULA 1 ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX**  
24 - 26 NOVEMBER, 2023

Adrenaline and cars return to the UAE for the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix in November this year. A new F1 track invites fresh competition at the Yas Marina Circuit, a challenge for the nerves of drivers and spectators alike. After-party events fill the city with entertainment and festivity, ensuring a roaring weekend for all.



FORMULA 1 ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX



EMIRATES AIRLINE DUBAI 7'S

### Sporting event

**EMIRATES AIRLINE DUBAI 7'S**  
29 NOVEMBER - 4 DECEMBER, 2023

A world-famous sporting event that captures the heart and raises its pulse with competition, festivity and music. As the largest sports and entertainment festival in the Middle East, the occasion draws international hype for both male and female rugby players alike. Not to be missed!

### National Holiday

**UAE NATIONAL DAY HOLIDAY**  
2 - 3 DECEMBER, 2023

This year will mark 51 years since the UAE was formed, a cause for celebration throughout the city! Falling on a Friday, the holiday gifts a long weekend with malls, hotels and restaurants offering high-quality experiences and activities.



UAE NATIONAL DAY HOLIDAY



# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## OVERVIEW

The federation of seven emirates is located along the Persian Gulf coast between Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman. The total area is 83 600 sq.m.

## TIME ZONE:

GMT +4

## CURRENCY AND CREDIT CARDS

Local currency is Dirham, AED (1 USD = 3,65 dirham). Currency can be exchanged at the banks or at the hotel. The following credit cards are widely accepted: Visa, MasterCard, and American Express.

## CLIMATE

A dry tropical climate. Average monthly temperatures range from +16 in winter to +35-40 C in summer (maximum temperatures can reach +50 C). In desert areas the temperature can drop to +5C. For recreation and travel the most comfortable period is from October to May.

## LANGUAGE

The official language is Arabic. English is also widely used. Most hotels have multilingual staff.

## RELIGION

Islam is the official religion. It is important to respect local culture. Most of the prohibitions, due to the official religion, are related to the consumption of alcohol. Alcohol can be brought with you (alcohol could be bought in Duty Free on arrival), also it is possible to buy alcohol in bars and restaurants with the appropriate licence, as well as special stores. Selling alcohol in the UAE is prohibited to persons under the age of 21, so it's worth carrying a copy of a passport or other document proving your age. Please note that the Emirate of Sharjah is completely alcohol-free. Drinking alcohol in public places and on the streets is strictly prohibited. Only designated restaurants will serve alcohol.

Ramadan is a month of fasting. Muslims are not permitted to drink, eat or smoke during daylight hours. All the visitors should also refrain from smoking, eating and drinking any beverages in public places during this month. As a mark of respect for non-Muslim tourists, hotel bars and restaurants are open for daytime meals. Ramadan 2022 in the United Arab Emirates will begin in the evening of Saturday, 2 April and ends in the evening of Monday, 2 May. Dates may slightly vary.

Access to all mosques for non-Muslims is prohibited. The only exceptions are Abu Dhabi Grand Mosque and Jumeirah Mosque. The rules of tourist behaviour in the UAE prohibit men and women from showing their feelings in public. It is advisable to wear clothes that cover your shoulders, chest and legs in public places (shopping malls, museums, etc.).

## ELECTRICITY

220V voltage. English standard socket.

## DEPOSIT UPON CHECK-IN

Hotels have a deposit system upon check-in. The deposit could be used for extra services (such as Spa treatments, restaurants etc). Please check this information with your manager.

## TOURIST TAX

Guests of Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Ras Al Khaimah Emirates pay a Tourist Tax - Tourism Dirham. The amount of the Tourist Tax in Dubai is from 20 AED to 100 AED per room per night and depends on the type of accommodation. The amount of the tax in Abu Dhabi is 15 EAD per room per night. Tax in Ras Al Khaimah is up to 20AED per room per night.

## MEDICAL INSURANCE

We recommend to purchase insurance policies that cover expenses related to COVID -19, flight cancellations and flight or transfers delays for various reasons. It is recommended to indicate \$50,000 or \$100,000.

## CUSTOMS

Cash/Money:  
Passengers travelling out of or entering the UAE with more than AED 100,000 in cash or an amount equivalent to this in any other currencies or other financial instruments will have to declare it at the customs. Passengers arriving in or departing from European Union countries with 10,000 euros or more in cash need to disclose the amount to the customs officer.

Personal goods:

Each traveller is permitted to bring the following with them into the United Arab Emirates (UAE): 4 litres of alcohol or one carton / 24 cans of beer. AED 2,000 worth of cigarettes or 400 sticks of cigarettes. AED 3,000 worth of gifts, including perfume.

Cigarettes and alcohol:

You can import cigarettes and alcohol if: You are above 18 years of age for carrying allowable cigarettes or alcoholic beverages into the country. The amount of alcoholic beverages and beers does not exceed 4 litres or 2 cartons of beer (each consisting of 24 cans, not exceeding 355 ml for each can or its equivalent). The number of cigarettes does not exceed 400; its value does not exceed AED 2000. Value of cigars in possession of passengers does not exceed AED 3000. A broad list of banned items includes (not limited to):

- Controlled/recreational drugs and narcotic substances
- Pirated content
- Counterfeit currency
- Items used in black magic, witchcraft or sorcery
- Publications and artwork that contradict or challenge Islamic teachings and values
- Gambling tools and machines.

## ACCOMMODATION WITH PETS

No pets are allowed in hotels.

## VISA & PASSPORTS

Please be sure your passport is valid at least 6 months from the date of entry in the UAE. Depending on the country of citizenship, different conditions of entry will apply - a free visa on arrival or a visa prior to departure. Lists of countries eligible for visa may vary from time to time; therefore, please check this link before travelling to the UAE.

## Emirates:

Dubai is a city of records, the most progressive metropolis in the world. Dubai is famous for endless kilometers of beaches, the best shopping, world gastronomy, and the most luxurious hotels in the world. The city is constantly changing, so it is hard to keep up with all the news. All the social and entertainment events of the country are concentrated here: golf, yacht clubs, luxury yachts, desert safaris, the famous Dubai World Cup races and even a ski resort. Gourmets will appreciate the luxurious restaurants with world's top chefs and bars with breathtaking views of the city. The list of attractions for children includes IMG Worlds of Adventure park, Dubai Parks and Resorts theme park where you can disappear for a whole day, water parks with the most dizzying water activities, zoos, aquariums and much more.

The largest emirate in the country is Abu Dhabi. The capital of Abu Dhabi is considered one of the most luxurious cities in the world. All conditions for a perfect holiday are created here: luxurious beaches, luxury hotels with the highest level of service and

comfort, parks along with futuristic architecture. Your must-see programme should include a visit to the world's famous and largest mosque of Sheikh Zayed, art and history museum LOUVRE ABU DHABI, theme parks Ferrari World and Warner Bros.

The northernmost and most fertile of the seven emirates with a mild climate is Ras Al Khaimah. Once there was the ancient city of Julfar, known as a thriving centre of the pearl trade. Modern Ras Al Khaimah consists of two parts - the western - old Ras Al Khaimah and the eastern - Al Nakhil area, which are connected by a bridge across the bay. This city is renowned for its beautiful coastline and outstanding nature. Here is the Al Jasirah Aviation Club, where after completing the flight training you can get a pilot's licence. The UAE's highest peak, Jebel Jais, is part of the spectacular Hajar mountain range that was formed over 70 million years ago in the eastern part of Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates and Oman. Towering at 1,934 m above sea level, Jebel Jais boasts breath-taking vistas and thrilling adventures for every visitor.

In Sharjah you will discover the most relaxing vacation. The emirate is faithful to the strict laws of the East, which also applies to foreign tourists. It is the only "dry" state in the UAE. Sharjah is popular with its wide coastline with beautiful lagoons, clear sea, cozy parks, lots of architectural and historical monuments. Ajman is the smallest of all the emirates in the UAE. Tourists come here to enjoy the beaches, beautiful palm trees and cozy atmosphere. There are not many hotels, so tourists come here for a quiet and peaceful holiday. There is no "dry law" in the emirate and here you can find the only place in the country where foreign tourists are allowed to buy imported alcohol without any restrictions. However, it is forbidden to take the alcohol out of the emirate.

Fujairah is the youngest emirate of the UAE. Fujairah is rich with historical monuments: ancient tombs, mosques, towers, museums with ancient artefacts. Scuba diving lovers will appreciate the beauty and variety of underwater flora and fauna of the Gulf of Oman. The quiet emirate of Umm Al Quwain is located on a picturesque coast with lagoons and bays. This emirate might not be one of the UAE's most famous emirates, but it certainly has some hidden gems. In the old part of the city there are many valuable architectural monuments. And the most precious is that can see the real traditional Emirati life and culture.

## General UAE Rules

### ON ARRIVAL

- Disembarkation must be carried out according to the seating arrangement of passengers.
- Face masks should be kept on at all times.
- A distance of at least one meter should be maintained between passengers at all times.
- Hand sanitisers are available throughout the terminal and must be used regularly after coming in contact with commonly touched surfaces or objects.
- When collecting luggage, visitors must ensure that a distance of at least one meter from others is maintained. The area around the conveyor belt has been demarcated to guide visitors.
- Visitors can use trolleys that have been disinfected and located at clearly demarcated areas.
- All visitors will undergo temperature checks and health screening.
- Vaccine and Covid-19 testing requirements vary between emirates and are subject to change without notice.

### AT THE RESORT

- All hotels have set up measures to increase vigilance, enhance hygiene and social and physical distancing. Visitors are required to adhere to all guidelines in place at resorts including wearing of facemasks in common areas.
- In accordance with the changing requirements of the state health authorities, hotels can set their own restrictions, such as the seating arrangements in restaurants, the recommended number of guests in fitness centres. Tourists should inquire about current restrictions and regulations at the hotel during check-in.
- All visitors must continue to observe all health measures such as consistent use of face-masks, maintaining social/physical distancing and practice respiratory and hand hygiene, throughout their travel and stay in UAE.

### BEFORE DEPARTURE

- A PCR test is not required for the return journey from Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, unless it is mandatory for the destination country or airline. Please check the requirement.
- In case a PCR test is required for departure, please inform us or the hotel in advance, so that the hotel can make a reservation at the hospital with sufficient time to receive the results. The tests are done on a fee basis.





Aspiration Group  
*Aspire more...*

To find out more about our collection of unique destinations and products, please contact us.

T: +44 (0)1827 908 362    WhatsApp: +44 (0)7741 260 761

E-mail: [info@theaspirationgroup.com](mailto:info@theaspirationgroup.com)

[www.theaspirationgroup.com](http://www.theaspirationgroup.com)

