

## Dubai

### Overview

Unrecognisable from its early days as a small trading port, Dubai's landscape has risen to dizzying proportions, becoming something of an Arabian Disneyland; a playground for the rich, famous and those seeking a true taste of extravagance.

Dubai is a place unlike any other, where innovation and excess is embraced and great feats of engineering are an everyday occurrence. People flock here to be dazzled – to stand on the observation deck of the world's tallest building, sleep in an underwater hotel or to see how palm trees and whole continents can bloom from the waters of the Persian Gulf.

There is plenty to keep even the most seasoned of travellers entertained. For the Fashionista, nothing beats a trip to one of Dubai's glitzy malls that each offer a unique, if somewhat surreal shopping experience. Alternatively for something a little more authentic, but no less fantastic, hot foot it down to Deira's gold souq that drips with a blinding array of hand crafted jewellery. Culture Vultures can escape to the mud brick streets of the Bastakia Quarter in Bur Dubai or take time out to discover the city's burgeoning arts scene. Thrill seekers on the other hand can stimulate their senses by a hard day dune bashing, sailing, snowboarding or even by donning a suit and giving flying a try.

As would be expected, Dubai offers a wide variety cosmopolitan cuisine, found everywhere from street stalls to award winning restaurants. For the ultimate eating experience, indulge yourself with one of the city's famed "Friday Brunches" where champagne flows freely alongside a myriad of delicious dishes.

### Places to Visit

#### **Burj al Arab**

One of Dubai's most iconic sights has to be its legendary 7 Star hotel – the Burj al Arab. Rising like a sleek sail from a man made island off Jumeirah beach, visitors should be sure not to miss the chance to step inside the hotel's opulent interior and get a true taste of Arabian excess. All entrances require a reservation, so book ahead for afternoon tea, one of the hotel's tastiest highlights.

#### **Desert Safari**

Visitors can not leave Dubai without having first experienced the rolling red sands of its desert. Numerous tour operators offer Desert Safari's and can take visitors on half, one day or even overnight adventures. Thrill seekers can strap themselves into an off road vehicle and get their fix from Dune Bashing at "Big Red" a high speed roller coaster of a drive across a mighty 300 ft high dune.

#### **Ski Dubai**

Touted as the "coolest thing to do in Dubai", Ski Dubai is the Middle East's first indoor ski resort that offers the novelty of all year round sports in a winter wonderland. Visitors can snap on some skis or a snowboard and throw themselves onto a mind boggling 22,000 square metres of snowy slopes. For the serious sportsmen, five runs vary in steepness and difficulty whilst for children, toboggan rides and slides await.

## **iFly Dubai**

More thrills can be found at iFly, Dubai's giant man made wind tunnel, that gives gutsy guests the chance to experience all the action of sky diving from the safety of a simulator. Located at the Mirdif City Centre, instructors offer a 35 minute induction sessions followed by two unforgettable minutes of free flight.

## **Events**

### **January - Dubai Shopping Festival**

Shopaholics can find their fix at this annual shopping extravaganza. Reductions are offered at malls throughout the centre and complimented by a range of lively entertainment.

### **February - Dubai Tennis Championship**

Attracting top players from around the world, the championship offers spectators the thrill of fast paced singles and doubles matches.

### **March - Dubai International Boat Show**

Sailing enthusiasts should be sure not to miss a trip to the annual boat show that showcases some of the world's finest yachts and leisure boats.

### **April - UAE Desert Challenge**

The Desert Challenge brings together some of the best motor racing teams from around the world, that set off to tackle a wild and sandy terrain.

### **May - PhotoWorld Dubai**

A must for enthusiasts, this digital photography and imaging event features hundreds of industry exhibits alongside daily seminars and workshops.

### **June - Dubai Dance Festival**

Slip on your dancing shoes and head down to the Community Theatre & Arts centre for a variety of dance workshops and dynamic performances.

### **July - Dubai Summer Surprises**

July brings Summer Surprises, a month long carnival of family orientated fun. The festival features shopping, children's entertainment and fabulous food.

### **August - Ramadan & Eid Al Fitr**

One of the most important religious events in the Islamic calendar; fasting is followed by days of feasting and festivities.

## **September - Kalimat**

Annual Arts festival that explores the elegance of the Arabic language through a variety of visual work.

## **October - Desert Rhythm Festival**

Guaranteed to get toes tapping, this festival showcases performances by talented international musicians.

## **November - World Championship**

Golf professionals from around the globe battle it out for the chance to win the ultimate prize of several million dollars.

## **December - National Day**

Commemorating Dubai's independence from Britain, events include parachuting shows, parades, parties and spectacular fireworks.

## **Getting Around**

### **Air**

Dubai is served by Dubai International Airport which is located around 4 km east of the main commercial centre. Taxi's can be hailed 24 hours a day from the ground floor of the main terminal, but be sure to use only official vehicles. A number of public buses also run from each terminal taking passengers to destinations around the city. Smartwings fly from Terminal 1 at Dubai Air Port.

### **Buses**

Dubai has established a fairly extensive bus system with services running frequently throughout the day. Expect to pay fares of around Dhs 2-3.50 for a single ride. Long distance buses travel from various bus stations around town to a number of destinations including Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and Fujairah.

### **Trains**

Dubai has recently opened a metro system that stretches for some 75 km around the city. Trains run every few minutes from 6am-11pm and reasonably priced, this is often the best choice for getting from A to B. Fares are between Dhs 2-8.50 depending on the destination.

### **Taxi**

There are many official taxis that operate throughout Dubai, which can be hailed on the street or pre-booked by telephone or via a hotel. Vehicles are usually licensed and fitted with meters, and rates tend to be standard regardless of the taxi firm. Roads can be congested during peak hours and vehicles limited so plan ahead.

### **Rental Car**

Although public transport in Dubai is good, it can often be more convenient to hire your own vehicle and enjoy

the freedom of exploring the emirate at your own pace. A number of well known car hire companies have booths inside of the airport terminal and downtown city centre. Rates are reasonable; and cheaper ones can usually be negotiated for longer term rental.

## Preferred Services

### Apartments

#### **Ivory Grand Hotel Apartments**

Ivory Grand Hotel Apartments offers 215 elegantly designed and spacious apartments that feature a range of modern comforts and amenities overlooking the Mall of the Emirates. All Apartment features a separate living, dining and bedroom area with ensuite bathrooms, along with a fully-equipped kitchen.

Guests can enjoy the recreational facilities on site which includes a temperature controlled roof-top swimming pool with a Jacuzzi, kids pool, sauna, steam and a health club with modern life fitness gym equipments. The games room equipped with a foos-ball table, pool table and X-box facilities is bound to provide the required recreation for adults and children alike.

Multi-cuisine in its facet, coupled with its opulent dining ambiance, describes the in-house, all day dining ELEMENTS RESTAURANT that provides an extensive spectrum of delicacies to suit the most earnest palate and open round the clock.

The rustic Orange Wellness Spa & Saloon promises to provide an indulgent experience to relax, recuperate and reactivate your senses. With separate male and female treatment rooms, the SPA is well equipped to provide a pampering experience.

For more details please contact [booking@ivorygrandhotels.com](mailto:booking@ivorygrandhotels.com) or visit us at [www.ivorygrandhotels.com](http://www.ivorygrandhotels.com)

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