

ABU DHABI

YOUR EXTRAORDINARY STORY



Abu Dhabi 

visitabudhabi.ae



Where will you start your extraordinary Abu Dhabi story?

With three diverse destinations in just one Emirate, Abu Dhabi is a truly extraordinary destination. It is a destination where respect for the past informs the present and shapes the future. This is a diverse emirate with deserts, oases, mountain heights, fabulous beaches, warm, clear waters, desert islands, an ancient heritage city and a modern, cosmopolitan capital city. It's a destination of historic buildings, thrilling headline attractions, engaging tours and a packed calendar of headline events covering the arts, culture, sports, concerts and trade shows. Abu Dhabi is an extraordinary destination which will exceed your expectations.



ABU DHABI

A cosmopolitan capital

Abu Dhabi is a destination of near year-round blue skies and stunning white sand beaches. Not-to-be-missed attractions such as the awe-inspiring Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, the theme park and entertainment venues of Yas Island, and the recently opened Louvre Abu Dhabi in Saadiyat Island's cultural district are complemented by a diverse selection of headline-grabbing events, luxurious island getaways, unique lifestyle experiences and a selection of magnificent hotels and resorts. With state-of-the-art conference facilities, a permanent cruise terminal and world-class infrastructure, there is plenty to see and do in Abu Dhabi.

AL AIN REGION

Our heritage heartland

Al Ain - the Oasis City - is the emirate's heritage heartland and one of the world's oldest continually inhabited settlements. It is home to UNESCO-inscribed World Heritage sites, a wealth of forts, oases, historic buildings and archaeological sites, and is a showcase of the country's unique heritage and history. Set among mountain heights, lush oases and towering palm plantations, the city also boasts a range of accommodation and conference options, an adventure water park and an award-winning zoo and wildlife park.

AL DHAFRA REGION

The desert meets the sea

Al Dhafra is blessed with geographic diversity and natural desert, beach, oasis and island landscapes. Rich in wildlife and safari experiences, Sir Bani Yas Island is the emirate's 'nature' destination and is popular for escape-from-it-all retreats and with cruise passengers, who can call at the Arabian Gulf's only dedicated cruise beach. Head inland and you'll find some of our luxurious desert resorts nestled between some of the world's highest dunes in the vast Rub Al Khali desert, which welcome guests to one of the most stunning settings on Earth.

DESTINATION ABU DHABI

Abu Dhabi abounds with a surprising range of landscapes, with activities for every kind of traveller, from the adventurer to the culture vulture. From its majestic dunes to its lush mangroves, from islands in the blue of the sea to islands of green in the desert. Along the way there is a world revealed that is still undiscovered, with all the stories that lie there, waiting to be told.

Abu Dhabi is also steeped in history, with evidence of human settlement in our lands stretching back 7,000 years and UNESCO World Heritage sites of our Oasis City of Al Ain to explore. With an emphasis on conservation and heritage preservation, the culture and traditions of the emirate are an integral chapter in our story.

Abu Dhabi is where stunning desert landscapes and traditional Arabian culture merge to create a memorable visitor experience. Abu Dhabi is blessed with distinct diversity of terrain, peoples and traditions and has 700 kilometres of stunning coastline, beautiful natural islands, awe-inspiring deserts, bountiful oases, towering mountains and vibrant cities for you to explore.

A vibrant emirate rich with history and heritage is reflected in the variety of activities available on land and at sea. Visit one of the emirate's old forts, ride the dunes on an exhilarating desert safari, take a boat tour of the mangroves, or attend an international art exhibition or major sporting event.

Abu Dhabi is a year-round destination. It offers a rich programme of events and entertainment throughout the year stretching across Abu Dhabi city, our heritage heartland of Al Ain and Al Dhafra Region.

The emirate also has an expanding range of fabulous hotels and iconic buildings including Emirates Palace, one of the world's most majestic and opulent hotels, the signature Yas Viceroy Abu Dhabi, the only hotel in the world straddling a Formula 1 race track and Capital Gate Tower – the world's furthest leaning tower which houses the five-star Hyatt Capital Gate.

Yas Island – the emirate's entertainment destination – is home to an array of fabulous visitor experiences such as Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Yas WaterWorld, Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi, world-class facilities of Yas Marina, seven hotels, a Championship-ready links golf course, and in Yas Mall, the emirate's largest mega-mall.

The stunning development of the emirate supports its evolution into a world-class, sustainable destination. And yet, the Emirate is rich in historical sites, forts and museums which chart the diversity of the nation's cultural heritage.

While preserving the past, this is a place which shapes the future. The emirate's commitment to culture is epitomised in the planned Saadiyat Island Cultural District. This will be home to the world's largest single concentration of premier cultural assets – including the recently opened Louvre Abu Dhabi.

Abu Dhabi is an extraordinary destination which will exceed your aspirations and give you more than you expected. Where will you start your extraordinary Abu Dhabi story?

Discover more at [visitabudhabi.ae](https://www.visitabudhabi.ae) or follow [@visitabudhabi](https://www.instagram.com/visitabudhabi)

10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT ABU DHABI

- 1** In just over 50 years, Abu Dhabi has been transformed from little more than empty desert inhabited by nomadic tribes into a thriving 21st century society, which remains strongly attached to its culture and roots.
- 2** Abu Dhabi is at the heart of one of the world's most advancing regions and is easily accessible from key European, Asian, African, American and Australian business centres.
- 3** Abu Dhabi city is the capital of the United Arab Emirates. The wider Abu Dhabi emirate occupies over 80% of the country's landmass.
- 4** Abu Dhabi has nearly 200 islands dotted along its coast.
- 5** Abu Dhabi is becoming a global cultural centre with the creation of the Cultural District on Saadiyat Island home to Louvre Abu Dhabi and soon to Zayed National Museum and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi.
- 6** Prior to the 1930s, pearling was Abu Dhabi's most important industry and primary source of income.
- 7** Abu Dhabi offers fantastic leisure activities. Choose from fascinating city tours, desert safaris and sporting endeavours or visit the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque – the UAE's most imposing religious and national landmark. Take a trip to Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, or immerse yourself in the exhilarating Arabian-themed Yas Waterworld.
- 8** Visitors can experience authentic Arabian culture and heritage, and explore the UNESCO World Heritage sites of the Oasis City of Al Ain.
- 9** Abu Dhabi enjoys a subtropical climate with sunshine almost every day.
- 10** Abu Dhabi hosts an impressive line-up of world-class events including the annual Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship, Abu Dhabi Classics, the culinary delights of the Abu Dhabi Food Festival, Abu Dhabi International Triathlon, F1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, Abu Dhabi Art, and the Mubadala World Tennis Championship.



CULTURAL ENLIGHTENMENT

ABU DHABI PEARL JOURNEY

This 90-minute cruise aboard a traditional wooden dhow through the city's natural mangroves is the perfect mix of history, culture and relaxation. Not only will you be taught about the history of diving for pearls in Abu Dhabi, you'll also get the chance to shuck your own oysters, continuing until you find a genuine pearl inside, which you'll get to keep as a souvenir.

abudhabipearljourney.com

SAADIYAT ISLAND CULTURAL DISTRICT

With three landmark museums, Saadiyat Island Cultural District is arguably the most ambitious cultural project ever conceived. The recently opened Louvre Abu Dhabi will be followed by Zayed National Museum, which will explore the emirate's history and culture. Completing the trio is Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, which when finished will be the largest Guggenheim museum in the world.

saadiyatculturaldistrict.ae



BEST THINGS TO EXPERIENCE AN AUTHENTIC ABU DHABI

THE EMIRATE ABOUNDS WITH COMPELLING HERITAGE SITES, ENGAGING CULTURAL AND MODERN-DAY ATTRACTIONS AND IDYLIC TOUCHES OF LUXURY. WHY NOT SAMPLE SOME OF THE EMIRATE'S CULTURAL, HISTORIC, FAMILY, ADVENTURE AND LUXURY ACTIVITIES DURING YOUR STAY

SHEIKH ZAYED GRAND MOSQUE

Easily one of the largest and most beautiful religious buildings in the world, the stunning Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque – second most popular landmark attraction in TripAdvisor's list of the world's top 25 landmarks – is able to accommodate more than 40,000 worshippers, many of whom kneel to pray on the world's largest handmade carpet. The mosque sits just across from the equally spectacular Ritz-Carlton Abu Dhabi, Grand Canal. Guided tours are offered daily.

szgmc.ae

MANARAT AL SAADIYAT

This purpose-built art, culture and social centre in the heart of the Saadiyat Cultural District is home to international exhibitions, home-grown innovative art, inclusive talks, seminars, screenings, art classes and production facilities for professionals and amateurs alike. Visitors can enjoy picturesque outdoor facilities as well as an onsite café at Abu Dhabi's leading regional and international hub for art and culture.

manaratalsaadiyat.ae

LOUVRE ABU DHABI

Open since November 11, 2017, Louvre Abu Dhabi was born by an agreement between the governments of Abu Dhabi and France. The museum, designed by Jean Nouvel and inspired by the UAE's palm groves, display art, manuscripts and objects of historical, cultural and sociological significance. Spanning millennia, the items on display originate from societies and cultures all over the world, but universal themes and common influences are highlighted to illustrate similarities arising from shared human experience transcending geography, nationality and history.

louvreabudhabi.ae



ABU DHABI'S HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS

FOR AN AUTHENTIC TASTE OF ABU DHABI'S HERITAGE, LEAVE THE SKYSCRAPERS BEHIND AND DISCOVER THE EMIRATES SYMBOLIC BIRTHPLACE IN THE CENTRE OF ABU DHABI CITY, AND THEN MAKE FOR THE RUSTIC CHARMS OF AL AIN. ABOUT 90 MINUTES FROM ABU DHABI, THE EMIRATE'S UNESCO-INSCRIBED HERITAGE HEARTLAND IS ONE OF THE OLDEST PERMANENTLY INHABITED SETTLEMENTS

QASR AL HOSN

Abu Dhabi's symbolic birthplace, Qasr al Hosn is the emirate's first permanent structure, which was home to the emirate's ruling Al Nahyan family. A permanent exhibition at the Qasr al Hosn Centre tells the story of Abu Dhabi and its people through the city's oldest building.

qasralhosn.ae

QASR AL MUWAIJI

The newly-opened Qasr Al Muwaiji is a state-of-the-art museum and exhibition celebrating the life of UAE President, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The ancient fort has been restored to its former glory and reopened to the public as a museum and permanent exhibition.

qasralmuwaiji.ae

AL JAHILI FORT

The picturesque Al Jahili Fort is one of the UAE's most historic buildings. Built in 1891 to defend the city's palm groves, the fort hosts regular exhibitions and is set in beautifully landscaped gardens which visitors are encouraged to explore.

visitalain.ae

AL AIN OASIS

Wander the shady walkways of the Al Ain Oasis, the UAE's first curated UNESCO World Heritage site visitor experience, which introduces visitors to the delicate oasis eco-system, its 3,000-year-old irrigation system and the importance it has played in the development of the emirate.

visitabudhabi.ae

AL AIN PALACE MUSEUM

Tour the private rooms of the nation's founding father at the Al Ain Palace Museum located on the western edge of Al Ain Oasis. The Palace of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was built in 1937 and is typical of historic buildings of the UAE.

visitalain.ae

FAMILY ADVENTURES

BLESSED WITH NEAR YEAR-ROUND SUNSHINE, GLORIOUS BEACHES AND SOME OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST THEME PARKS, ABU DHABI IS TRULY A DESTINATION THE WHOLE FAMILY CAN ENJOY

WARNER BROS. WORLD ABU DHABI

Packed with some of the most famous and iconic characters in the world, Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi features six immersive lands including DC's Metropolis and Gotham City, as well as Cartoon Junction, Bedrock, Dynamite Gulch and Warner Bros. Plaza.

The sprawling theme park boasts 29 state-of-the-art thrill rides, interactive family-friendly attractions and unique live entertainment, as well as a variety of dining and shopping outlets; guaranteed fun for fans of Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, Bugs Bunny, Wile E. Coyote, the Flintstones and Scooby-Doo, who will come to life in the most brilliant and awe-inspiring ways.

www.wbworld.com

FERRARI WORLD ABU DHABI

There's fast and furious fun for all ages at Ferrari World Abu Dhabi on Yas Island. The expansive indoor theme park is home to more than 20 exhilarating rides and attractions, including Formula Rossa, the world's fastest roller-coaster, which reaches speeds of up to 240kmph. Younger kids can practise their racing skills at the Karting Academy, or make a pit stop at the Junior Training Academy, a fantastic new play area with climbing walls, slides, suspension bridges, trapezes and soft play structures.

ferrariworldabudhabi.com

YAS WATERWORLD

Splash down in Abu Dhabi with a trip to Yas Waterworld, a water park with 45 rides, slides and attractions. Parents can relax while younger kids enjoy the biggest children's play area in Arabia. While teens and the young-at-

heart can surf the world's largest sheet wave, Bubble's Barrel; drop through a 20-metre-high funnel in a six-person raft on Dawama; or soak up Arabia's longest suspended roller-coaster, the Bandit Bomber.

yaswaterworld.com

OBSERVATION DECK AT 300

Give new meaning to the term 'high tea' at Observation Deck at 300, the highest vantage point in the city, on the 74th floor of Jumeirah at Etihad Towers. Light bites and 'mocktails' are also available.

jumeirah.com

BEACH BLISS

Abu Dhabi's Corniche beachfront has been awarded coveted Blue Flag status - the internationally renowned eco-label for beaches and marinas that guarantees clean and safe bathing water. Saadiyat Island's 9km pristine beachfront was recently named the 'Middle East's Leading Beach Destination' at the World Travel Awards. The Saadiyat Public Beach provides all-day access to the crystal clear Arabian Gulf waters.

bakeuae.com

ARABIAN WILDLIFE PARK

On Sir Bani Yas Island, the Arabian Wildlife Park is home to more than 10,000 free-roaming animals and takes up more than half of the island. Guests at the boutique Desert Islands Resort & Spa by Anantara can take 4x4 Nature & Wildlife Drives of the park in specially made vehicles accompanied by expert staff.

sirbaniyasisland.ae





ACTIVE ABU DHABI

FROM SAND SURFING TO WAKEBOARDING, GOLF TO GO-KARTING AND KAYAKING TO CAMEL TREKKING, ABU DHABI IS A JOY FOR THE ACTIVE TRAVELLER

GOLF IN ABU DHABI

Golf fanatics can tee off at any of Abu Dhabi's fantastic pay-and-play golf courses, all of which have certified PGA professionals on the books. Three championship-standard courses are within a 20-minute drive of Abu Dhabi city, including the award-winning Abu Dhabi Golf Club, home of the annual Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship, a European PGA Tour event; Yas Links on Yas Island, Arabia's only true links golf course; and the Gary Player-designed Saadiyat Beach Golf Club, the first ocean course in the region. Best of all, you can now book everything through one single source thanks to Golf in Abu Dhabi.

golfinabudhabi.ae

DESERT ANTICS

No trip to Abu Dhabi would be complete without having some fun in the desert. Arabian Nights Village offers the full complement of desert activities, including dune bashing in 4x4 vehicles, sand surfing, camel trekking, and cycling through the dunes on specially made 'fat bikes' with five-inch-wide tyres.

arabiannightsvillage.ae

ECO-KAYAKING

The great range of kayak tours available from adventure specialist Noukhada. These include mangrove tours, full-moon night tours, half-day island tours and an overnight adventure where you camp on a desert island.

noukhada.ae

WATER SPORTS

In an emirate comprising around 200 islands, perhaps it's no surprise that water sports are everywhere. Eastern Mangroves Hotel & Spa by Anantara offers kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding through the city's natural mangroves, activities that are also available at Yas Beach. Snorkelers and divers can spot rays and barracuda among various wrecks and reefs. While surfing, wakeboarding and white-water rafting are among the water sports on offer at Wadi Adventure in Al Ain.

noukhada.ae

MOTOR SPORTS & KARTING

Abu Dhabi is a petrol-head's paradise. Book your clients a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yas Marina Circuit, home to the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. Or get them on to the track itself with a driving experience in an Aston Martin or Mercedes AMG. If karting is more their thing, challenge them to beat the lap time set by one of Ferrari's pro drivers at Ferrari World Abu Dhabi's famous Karting Academy.

yasmarinacircuit.com

LUXURY ESCAPES

ZAYA NURAI ISLAND RESORT

Experience a private oasis surrounded by turquoise waters at Nurai Island, ranked by Condé Nast Traveller among the world's most incredible island retreats and just a 12-minute boat ride from Abu Dhabi. Discover a deluxe variety of villa accommodation, the majestic beaches and luscious landscaped gardens. Stay in exquisite villas, lose yourself in mesmerising ocean views, stroll on the most pristine of beaches, enjoy exquisite dining and simply wallow in ultimate luxury.

nurai.com

QASR AL SARAB DESERT RESORT

Almost a fairytale from '1,001 nights', the magnificent Mirage Palace is a luxurious oasis in the midst of the desert. Resembling an old Arabian fortress town nestled in the valley of mountainous dunes, this is actually a five-star resort letting you experience lots of desert activities – dune dawn walks, camel trekking, dune bashing, falconry shows and camp fire barbecues.

qasralsarab.anantara.com

CRUISE

Cruise the Arabian Gulf from Abu Dhabi variety of seven or 15-day cruises every winter from the Abu Dhabi Cruise Terminal. Relax on board with facilities and services suited to UAE travellers or simply spend a day at Sir Bani Yas Island's dedicated cruise beach and experience the best of Abu Dhabi on a pre- or post-cruise stay.

visitabudhabi.ae

EMIRATES PALACE

A real iconic Abu Dhabi landmark, this luxurious hotel blends Arabian splendour with the latest technology to create a magical and memorable experience. During daytime, the hotel's golden-sandy colour contrasts with its fresh green gardens, silvery water fountains and the blue sky. At night, the hotel's lighting changes subtly, featuring a majestic rainbow-changing effect over the main dome. The main Palace building stretches over a kilometre from wing to wing, and its gardens and surroundings spread across 100 hectares, and gold, mother of pearl and crystals dominate the interior.

emiratespalace.com

SHOPPING

Abu Dhabi is home to a plethora of luxury brands including some regional 'firsts'. Explore Nations Galleria's exclusive collection of shops and restaurants, The Galleria on Al Maryah Island – with 130 of the world's most renowned brand outlets or head over to the Avenue at Etihad Towers for an exclusive VIP treatment in one of the world's most exclusive boutique collections.

visitabudhabi.ae



