

DAY 1

At a glimpse: A feast for the eyes and stomach in downtown Dubai today

Travel agenda: Jump start your trip with traditional Emirati cooking at **Al Fanar Restaurant & Café** located along the **Dubai Creek** in Festival City (save room for the Leqaimat doughnuts!) From there, take a 20-minute taxi to the **Miracle Garden** (open November-May). Not your average garden, this sanctuary includes 150 million flowers in unique displays of colorful arches, patterns and shapes.

Head back to the hotel to get ready for the evening. Plan on dinner at **Taikun** with East Asian cuisine and izakaya-style dining (ask for a garden-terrace table!) Then paint the town red starting with a performance, options that include **La Pearle**, a theatrical performance of fusion of immersive artistic performances, imagery and technology, or the **Dubai Opera**, worth every penny just to see the architecture and interior design.

DAY 2

At a glimpse: Relax on the beach and get pampered in Dubai

Travel agenda: Wake up with breakfast and specialty coffee at **Roseleaf Café**. Head to the gorgeous public **Kite Beach** for sunbathing and stand up paddle boarding. When the afternoon wind picks up, watch or partake in kitesurfing or wind surfing. For lunch, grab a burger from the fan-favorite **SALT**.

In the evening, it's time to get pampered at the award-winning **SPA** in the **Palazzo Versace Dubai**. Go for the Traditional Hammam massage that include a black soap application, exfoliation and infused shower milk! Now that you're relaxed, head to Japanese restaurant **Tomo** for dinner and out-of-this-world city views.

DAY 3

At a glimpse: Experience the biggest and best in the heart of Dubai

Travel Agenda: Head to breakfast at **Tom & Serg**, a trendy café that's all about good food and coffee. Take a 10-minute taxi to the **Dubai Mall**, the largest mall by total area in the world with over 1,000 shops. For

entertainment, don't miss the Dubai Aquarium, high-tech virtual-reality area called VR Park, the Human Waterfall, and the Dubai Dino in the **Souk area**.

From there, make your way to the **Burj Khalifa**, with the entrance in the mall. Get "At The Top" tickets for views from the 124th and 125th floor. Roam the grounds around the Dubai fountains. Your spot for lunch, **Baker & Spice**, will have views for the 1:00pm and 1:30pm choreographed water performance.

Spend the afternoon relaxing at the hotel pool. For dinner, check out no-frills, local hot spot **AL Ustad Special Kabab**. From there, walk 10 minutes to the **Dubai Creek**. Take a 5-minute abra, or water taxi, for the most authentic way to reach the Souks. Cross Baniyas Road to reach the **Spice Souk** or walk a couple block up Old Baladiya Street to get to the **Gold Souk**, the best place for souvenirs. The quintessential experience and recommended spot for souvenirs. Be prepared to haggle!

DAY 4

At a glimpse: Desert Voyage

Travel Agenda: Start the day with breakfast at **Pots, Pans and Boards**. Then prepare for a desert adventure. Although there are many options, choose a reputable company that includes a camel ride and traditional camp-style dinner.

The **Al Khyama Camp** tour is a 6 hour excursion that features a quad bike ride on the steep dunes of the desert, sand boarding, camel riding situated next to a home base camp that offers a buffet style dinner and a local Tanoura and Belly Dancing performance to end the night.

DAY 5

At a glimpse: Bus to **Abu Dhabi** with a focus on grandiosity

Travel Agenda: From the Al Ghubaiba or Ibn Battuta Stations, hop on a 1.5-hour public bus to Abu Dhabi that leaves every 20 minutes. Once in Abu Dhabi, the first stop is the **Sheikh Zayed Mosque**, one of the most impressive and lavish mosques, large enough to accommodate over

40,000 worshippers. Get there in time to get a free black Abaya and join the 10AM tour.

Post-tour, head to the **Etihad Towers**. Enjoy the 360-degree view of Abu Dhabi and the Arabian Gulf at **Ray's Grill**, a restaurant on the 63rd floor. Post lunch, head to the **Emirates Palace Hotel**. Make sure to stop by the world's first gold-dispensing atm for a brick to bring home (wishful thinking). Get settled at the hotel and then get dinner at Italian restaurant **Cipriani** and a lusciously creamy gelato at **Vasa Vasa**.

DAY 6

At a glimpse: Adventure in Abu Dhabi

Travel Agenda: Breakfast at **Shay Madhboot**, a small café that specializes in serving karak tea and brunch. Then it's off to **Ferrari World**. Don't miss the Formula Rossa, the world's fastest rollercoaster, and the Karting Academy.

Once you've had your highspeed fill, enjoy an afternoon at **Corniche beach**, with lovely sand and sections divided for singles and families. Around sunset, experience the **Louvre Abu Dhabi** from the water on a kayaking tour. Get dinner at **Marakesh**, a Moroccan restaurant with entertainment and performances. Take it all in on your last enchanting evening and toast to your Middle East adventure!