

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 Arabian cuisine at **Amaseena** in the Ritz. 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: 7 star pampering views and pampering

Travel agenda: Wake up with breakfast and specialty coffee at **Roseleaf Café**. Head to **Summersalt Beach** and purchase a day pass for access to the pools, beach and showers, plus full-service drinks and food and activity options. At 2pm, make your way to the only 7-star hotel in the world for afternoon tea at the **Skyview Bar in the Burj Al Arab Jumeirah**.

In the evening, it's time to get pampered at the **One & Only Royal Mirage Spa** which offers a full **Moroccan Hamman** ritual treatment! Now that you're officially stress-free, 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 ground around the Dubai fountains. Your spot for lunch, **Asado**, will have sophisticated dining and the best terrace 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! For cocktails later, opt to head back to the Burj Khalifa because **At.mosphere** serves up great beverages and a mind-blowing view to match.

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 **Heritage Desert Safari** includes a ride on a vintage land rover with stops for native wildlife and an authentic Bedouin camp home-base. Learn how to make Arabic coffee and bread, partake in henna painting, camel rides and traditional performances before the four-course dinner and shisha under the stars.

DAY 5

At a glimpse: 1.5-hour taxi to **Abu Dhabi** with a focus on grandiosity

Travel Agenda: 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? 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 spend the rest of the day on **Zayana Island**, a paradise with five-star service, amenities and food. It's essentially tying up the trip in a nice little bow!