

DAZZLING DUBAI ITINERARY

DAY 1, October 20 - Depart the USA for Dubai in the United Arab Emirates

Day 2, October 21 - Arrive in Dubai in late evening, the quintessential land of opulence, wealth and astonishing skyscrapers that stand alongside traditional mosques. Transfer to the hotel. (Airport transfers not included.)

DAY 3, October 22 – Spend the day at rest, relax and acclimate to the adrenaline-charged tempo of this city and your new time zone. In the evening, enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a traditional Bedouin Campsite. You'll be welcomed with traditional Arabic coffee. Then, enjoy a specially prepared Traditional Barbecue Dinner, prepared on an open fire. Later, a captivating belly dancer enchants you with her swirling dances under the starlit sky before returning to Dubai.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4, October 24 - A fabulous day awaits you to discover one of the world's most futuristic cities with its dramatic skyline, once a tranquil port of Bedouin traders and pearl divers. Begin with photo stop Dubai's signature landmark, Burj Al-Arab, the celebrated sail-shaped hotel facing the Persian Gulf. Continue the drive on the beach road to the Jumeirah Palm Island. The man-made island, which was built in the shape of a palm tree and houses a lot of residential buildings, villas, and luxury resorts. We drive on until the end of the palm to visit the iconic Atlantis, The Palm Hotel. At the hotel, you'll be surrounded by the astonishing aquarium inhabited by thousands of marine species from around the world. Continue on Shiekh Zayed road for a stop to visit the world's tallest tower Burj Khalifah, No building in modern history has aroused so much curiosity and intrigue as has Burj Khalifa. Free time for lunch in Dubai Mall. After lunch, we drive to the oldest part of the city. The Bastakia Area is where old wind-towered houses of wealthy merchants can still be seen. While in that same area, we visit the Dubai Museum in the Al Fahidi Fort, which has survived for two centuries. We continue our tour through the cloth markets and end up at the Abras, where local water taxis will take you across the Creek to the area of spice and gold souks. Walk through the bustling alleys of these souks and allow the mystical aromas of numerous spices tantalize your senses. The jewelry on sale varies from the traditional to the latest designs at amazingly affordable prices. Evening is at leisure to take advantage of Dubai's nightlife.

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5, October 25 - Morning and afternoon at leisure for further exploration of this vibrant city. Or join the thrilling *optional Desert Safari Tour*. Board a 4X4 vehicle in Dubai and head out towards the highest sand dunes of the surreal surrounding desert. Evening is at leisure to enjoy the many restaurants and shops along Dubai's marina, the largest man-made marina in the world.

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7, October 26 - Today we take an excursion to Abu Dhabi, ultra-sophisticated capital of the United Arab Emirates, often called the "Arabian Jewel". Drive past Jebel Ali, the largest man-made port in the world before arriving at the magnificent Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, iconic symbol of Abu Dhabi. Continue along the city's glamorous Corniche, with blue waters glittering on one side and shimmering skyscrapers lining the other. At the Breakwater, pause to take photos of the city's fabulous skyline. Then, on to Heritage Village, a reconstructed traditional "oasis." Here, we journey to the past and experience life in Abu Dhabi before oil revenues altered the landscape. Many aspects of desert life are attractively displayed in the open-air museum with workshops where craftsmen demonstrate traditional skills while women sit weaving and spinning. After lunch on your own, visit Zayed House for a fascinating peek into the life of the late Sheikh Zayed, "Father of the Nation." Return to Dubai via Yas Island, where the Ferrari World theme park and Formula 1 race track are located

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6, October 26 - Take a leisurely stroll along Dubai's vast coastline this morning or head to the colossal Dubai Mall for shopping and perhaps indoor skiing on the vast slopes. Or, participate in the *optional* tour to Sharjah, cultural center of the Emirates, known for its major museums, distinctive landmarks and elegant mosques. Visit the Islamic Museum, housing over 5000 artifacts from all over the Islamic World and the Heritage Museum depicting Sharjah's rich and diverse heritage. Time to stroll in the unique covered souk and bargain to your heart's content for jewelry, handicrafts, and carpets before returning to Dubai. This evening enjoy a Farewell Dhow Dinner Cruise along Dubai's stunning waterways, while sharing our favorite memories of Dubai with our fellow travelers. Transfer to the airport for our return flight to the USA. (Airport transfers not included.)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7, October 27 – Return home with special memories of our time spent in the United Arab Emirates.