

# DUBAI + THE MALDIVES



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# THE ITINERARIES

	Dubai	
	Monday, December 27 <sup>th</sup>	
	Arrive in Dubai	
3:00 PM	Check In Begins	

	Tuesday, December 28th		
11:30 AM	Black & Gold Host Lunch		
1:00 PM	Depart for Miracle Garden		
4:00 PM	Depart for Global Village		
12:00 AM	Return to Hotel		

	Wednesday, Do	ecember 29 <sup>th</sup>
8:00 AM	Depart for Dubai City Tour w/ Lunch	
	Burj al Arab	
	Burj Khalifa	
	Dubai Museum	
	Gold Souk/Spice Souk	
5:00 PM	Return to Hotel	
	Dinner in The Sky	
8:15 PM	Depart for Dinner in the Sky Reservation	Free Time
10:30 PM	Return to Hotel	

	Thursday, December 30 <sup>th</sup>
2:00 PM	Depart for Desert Safari
11:00 PM	Return to Hotel

	Friday, Dece	ember 31 <sup>st</sup>
	Yacht Tour	
11:00 AM	Depart for Yacht Tour	
4:00 PM	Return to Hotel	
	NYE Party	Free Time
8:00 PM	Depart for NYE Party at Dubai White	
1:00 AM	Return to Hotel	

	Saturday, Ja	anuary 1 <sup>st</sup>	
	Skydive Dubai		
8:00 AM	Depart for Skydive Dubai	Free Time	
12:00 PM	Return to Hotel		
4:00 PM	Depart for <b>Abu Dhabi</b>		1h 30m Drive
5:30 PM	Arrive at Sheikh Zayed Mosque		
9:00 PM	Farewell Dinner		
10:30 PM	Return to Dubai		1h 30m Drive
12:00 PM	Arrive at Hotel		

	Sunday, Ja	nuary 2 <sup>nd</sup>
	World Expo	
9:00 AM	Depart for World Expo	Free Time
5:00 PM	Return to The Hotel	Tree time

	Monday, January 3 <sup>rd</sup>
12:00 PM	Checkout of Hotel
	Transfer to Airport

# Maldives Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> Free Time

	Tuesday, January 4 <sup>th</sup>	
6:00 AM	Checkout of Hotel/Transfer to Airport	
10:10 AM	Depart for The Maldives via Emirates Flight No EK660	4h 15m Flight
3:25 PM	Arrive in The Maldives/Boat Ride to the Resort	1h Boat Ride
5:00 PM	Arrive at the Resort	

		Wednesday, January 5 <sup>th</sup>
12:00 PM	Depart for Local Island Tour	
4:00 PM	Return to Hotel	

Thursday, January 6 <sup>th</sup>
Free Time

Friday, January 7 <sup>th</sup>	
12:00 PM	Checkout of Hotel
4:00 PM	Transfer to Airport

# THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

#### DUBAI

#### **Entry Requirements**

Citizens of the USA, Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom are not required to have a visa for stays of less than 30 days. They will be granted a free-of-charge One Entry Visit Visa upon arrival, and can extend for up to a total stay of 60 days for AED 620. A penalty of AED 100 per day is charged to visitors who overstay. For longer stays, travelers must obtain a visa before arrival in the U.A.E.

#### Currency

The monetary unit of the U.A.E. is the dirham (designated as Dhs or AED, which stands for Arab Emirate Dirham), which is divided into 100 *fils*. Bills come in the following denominations: 5 (brown note), 10 (green), 20 (light blue), 50 (purple), 100 (pink), 500 (blue), and 1,000 (burgundy).

#### **Language and Religion**

**The Language** - English is widely spoken in Dubai and most public information is written in English as well as Arabic. There are many people from Iran and South Asia here speaking Persian, Hindi, Urdu, and Pashto, as well.

The Religion - Islam is the official religion of the U.A.E. and is integral to the local culture

#### **Appropriate Clothing**

Contrary to popular opinion, Dubai is very inviting to westerners and their way of dressing. Unless you are going to a Mosque you are welcome to wear the attire you would normally wear here in the states.

If you are going to a Mosque, it is expected that you wear the typical Muslim attire(Thobe for Men/Abaya for women). This can be purchased in the souks in Dubai.

#### **Prohibited Items**

Pornographic material of any kind; non-Islamic material for the purpose of distributing to others, weapons, laser pens, ivory.

#### **Drugs in Dubai**

DON'T DO IT! Penalties are severe, and with any proof in your bloodstream constitutes an offence of trafficking

#### Alcohol in Dubai

Liquor is readily available in clubs and hotels. But there are no stores that sell liquor to take with. We recommend you purchase your liquor at the duty free upon landing in Dubai or packing it with you.

#### **Homosexuality in Dubai**

Although Homosexuality does exist on the ground in the UAE, it is actually illegal, and so it is best not to declare that you are gay. Penalties for homosexuality are up to 10 years in jail However, if you do not flaunt your sexuality you should be fine

#### **Are There Any Safety Concerns**

The UAE Is probably one of the safest places in the world. Considering that most people living there are expatriates there to make more money, no one wants to jeopardize their income generating potential, so crime is low! However, both Dubai and Abu Dhabi are notorious for car accidents, so be careful when crossing the streets.

#### **US Embassy Location**

The **United States Embassy** is at Al Khaleej Al Arabi Street, at 30th Street, Abu Dhabi. The U.S. Consulate General in Dubai is in the World Trade Centre off Sheikh Zayed Road (tel. **04-311-6000**; dubai.usconsulate.gov).

#### **Emergencies**

The **Dubai Municipality Emergency Number** is tel. **04-223-2323.** For police or an ambulance, dial tel. **999.** In case of fire, dial tel. **997** 

#### **Tipping**

Many restaurants include a service charge, which will be clearly identified on your checks; for those that do not, a tip of 10% to 15% is appropriate.

#### **Tap Water**

Tap water is desalinated from the Gulf and is generally safe to drink, but most visitors prefer bottled mineral water, which is offered in most Dubai hotels and restaurants.

#### THE MALDIVES

#### **Entry Requirements**

A valid passport, along with an onward/return ticket and sufficient funds, is required for entry. A no-cost visitor visa valid for 30 days is issued upon arrival

#### **Tipping**

Tipping is not compulsory in the Maldives as 10% service charge is added to everything - but given the low salaries earned by the staff and the level of service generally offered as being excellent it is a nice gesture to help the staff of resorts to earn some extra money - It is also not entirely certain that the 10% service charge is passed onto the islands staff.

#### **Religion and Etiquette**

Muslim is the predominant religion in the Maldives and although dress is casual to very casual on the islands, beachwear is not acceptable in the restaurant(s) on resort or away from the resorts. According to religious values, locals do not eat pork and alcohol is only available to foreigners within resorts, this included importing alcohol. Topless sunbathing is against the law, but is seen from time to time from ignorant tourists.

#### Currency

The Maldivian Rufiyaa is the currency of Maldives (Maldive Islands) (MVR), although the USD is more than accepted.

#### **Liquor Laws**

Legally, if you're 18 and not a Muslim, you can buy and drink alcohol. However, since the Maldives are an Islamic nation, alcohol is effectively banned for the local population. Nearly all resorts (including ours) and liveaboard boats are licensed to serve alcohol, usually with a steep markup.

# DUBAI

#### Miracle Garden



The garden was launched on Valentine's Day in 2013. The garden occupies over 72,000 square metres, making it the world's largest natural flower garden featuring over 50 million flowers and 250 million plants. Each year Dubai Miracle Garden reinvents itself, as they bring a whole new concept and design experience to their visitors.

## The Global Village

Global Village Dubai is a leading family entertainment and cultural attraction in the region that offers a unique shopping experience with its 30 pavilions, each representing a different country. Global Village offers several dining, shopping, and entertainment options for visitors to choose from. As far as family entertainment is concerned, Global village offers the best with shows ranging from stunt/thrill shows, bespoke shows, street performances, and cultural shows from across the world, packing every minute full of entertainment.



Global Village, which has all along provided

a cosmopolitan and diverse shopping experience to millions of visitors. Also, all these years, guests have been entertained with exclusive live performances, delicious international cuisines, thrilling new rides, authentic crafts and merchandise from its worldwide pavilions. Global Village hosts more than 3500 shops, which makes it the ultimate destination for authentic shopping, as it displays a mix of modern and cultural products and unique handmade global items. The retail outlets at Global Village exhibits culturally rooted products like handicrafts, desserts, traditional cuisines, all prepared right in front of visitors, apart from other authentic products, to draw tourists every season. Global Village also includes about 150 different kiosks, offering a unique shopping experience in the form of top art handicrafts, and authentic products from across the world, apart from food and beverages. The International pavilions at Global Village include those from MENA and Far East regions, Europe, America, Africa and South Asia.

# **Dubai City Tour**

### **Burj Al Arab**

The distinctive sail-shaped silhouette of Burj Al Arab Jumeirah is more than just a stunning hotel, it is a symbol of modern Dubai. Yet for all the wonder this stunning structure provides when you finally see it in person, it is the service within that really makes the Burj Al Arab Jumeirah so extraordinary.

Repeatedly voted the world's most luxurious hotel, this magnificent destination offers you the finest service and experiences throughout - right down to an optional chauffeur-driven Rolls-Royce, helicopter trips from an iconic helipad, luxury leisure on a breathtaking terrace with pools and cabanas as well as some of the world's best dining venues, including the highly acclaimed Nathan Outlaw at Al Mahara.



#### **Burj Khalifa Tour**



Look out from the Burj Khalifa's 'At the Top' observation deck with this entrance ticket to the 124th-floor viewing point. Ride the moving sidewalk to the tower as you watch a multimedia presentation on Dubai's history, and take the high-speed elevator up to the observation deck. Then, behold the incredible views over Dubai Marina, the Burj-Al Arab and other sights through the panoramic windows. Use the digital telescopes to view and learn about the landmarks below, and browse the gift store before returning to ground level

#### **Dubai Museum**

The museum was opened by the ruler of Dubai in 1971, with the aim of presenting the traditional way of life in the Emirate of Dubai. It includes local antiquities as well as artifacts from African and Asian countries that traded with Dubai. It also includes several dioramas showing life in the emirate before the advent of oil, in addition to artifacts from recent discoveries as old as 3000 B.C. In 2007, Dubai Museum welcomed 1,800 visitors daily, with a yearly total of 611,840. In March 2008, the Museum had 80,000 visitors. The most popular times are from August to April. The Museum received over 1 Million Visitors in the year 2013.



#### The Gold/Spice Souk



Whether or not you're ready to buy, a stroll through the dazzling <u>Gold Souk</u> is a must. The stores also offer platinum, diamonds and occasionally silver, and the government keeps tight control over the quality of all the merchandise, so rest assured that your purchases will be genuine. If something in the window catches your fancy, be sure to barter — persistent protest capped with a walkaway will get merchants to drop their asking price by as much as half.

Muslim garment(Abaya/Thobe) that you will need if going on the Abu Dhabi Tour.

# **Dinner in The Sky**

Take part in an unforgettable experience in Dubai and dine from a table suspended 50 meters in the sky by special crane. Once you have been lifted above the ground, watch your chef as they start preparing and cooking a 3-course menu live before your eyes.

Join other brave travelers at the shared experience, with a maximum group size of 22 people. Take photos from the suspended table as it rotates slightly as you dine. Marvel at Dubai's vertical monuments and skyscrapers, along with landmark sights such as Palm Jumeirah, Dubai Marina, the Burj Al Arab and much more.



Benefit from a professional supervisor who will happily assist you at the table during your meal for your safety.

#### World Expo



# **Evening Desert Safari**

You will be picked up in an air-conditioned 4WD vehicle from your hotel in Dubai for this Dubai desert safari. An English-speaking guide will accompany you on this tour. Drive past the city and head to either Al-Awir or the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve, as per option chosen. Once you reach the spot, experience the thrill of a life time as your 4WD vehicle takes you over the seemingly endless dunes to reach a Bedouin campsite. Like a roller coaster ride, you twist and turn down, leaving behind a trail on the satiny sands of the dune behind you. Dip low in the deep trenches and rise high on the pinnacle of the dunes. Drive up to the highest dune and take a break to view the spectacular sunset over the horizon.





At dusk, proceed towards a Bedouin campsite for a barbeque dinner buffet. At the campsite, you can get yourself henna tattoos and try Arabian traditional dress. Enjoy these activities while sipping on soft drinks, tea or coffee (as per your choice). You also have an option to take a camel ride and try out different flavors of shisha or hubbly bubbly (a traditional tobacco pipe). Sandboarding may also available for an additional fee, please speak to your guide on arrival at the camp. To make the evening even more enchanting, watch the belly dancers perform alongside rhythmic Arabic tunes, while relishing a delicious three-course barbeque buffet dinner. After a memorable evening of desert exploration, you will be dropped back to the starting point of the tour.

#### **Dubai Yacht Tour**

A beautiful ocean right at your feet and there is no end to it – that is what the oceanic Dubai has got to offer. But what you can take apart from the sea blue panorama is the ways and means of enjoying them. Sea is not just about being on the beach and seeing the sun set in the horizon. If you want to enjoy the sea, enjoy to the fullest!

With the right kind of food, services, photography and amazing views of the sea, you are sure you don't want to head back to the land. A silent cruise along the coast to see the 7 star Burj Al Arab, Burj Dubai which is the tallest tower in the world right now, Jumeirah Palm and the three hundred manmade world islands – it is all in here and waiting just for you! Be a part of an experience that you never want to forget!



#### **NYE Party at Dubai White**



Voted World's 20th Club, on DJ MAG Top 100 Clubs, WHITE Dubai has made nightlife history as Dubai's very first outdoor rooftop nightlife experience. WHITE Dubai is a high-tech and ultramodern outdoor rooftop space that is the ultimate go-to destination partv to anyone's evening escapades in the right direction, a night full of energy, thumping music and an overall feel-good vibe. WHITE Dubai's incredible light shows, dance floor energetic and bumping music, all while dancing under the stars

## **Skydive Dubai**

The quickest and easiest way to experience the thrill of freefall at over 120 miles per hour, while securely harnessed to one of our experienced and accomplished instructors. Adrenaline enthusiasts can live this adventure. Get a stunning view of the iconic Palm Jumeirah island from 13,000 ft. You will receive a USB provided by us which contains photographs and our standard edited video of their experience. This can be collected from the on-site Shop, 45 minutes after you complete your skydive.



# Abu Dhabi City Tour

#### **Sheikh Zaved Grand Mosque**

Rising majestically from beautifully manicured gardens and visible from each of the bridges joining Abu Dhabi Island to the mainland, the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque represents an impressive welcome to the city. Conceived by the first president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed, and marking his final resting place, the mosque accommodates 50,000 worshippers and is one of the few in the region open to non-Muslims.





More than 80 marble domes on a roofline held aloft by 1000 pillars and punctuated by four 107m-high minarets, Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque is a masterpiece of modern Islamic architecture and design. More than 100,000 tons of pure white Greek and Macedonian marble were used in its construction. Delicate floral designs inlaid with semi-precious stones, such as lapis lazuli, red agate, amethyst, abalone, jasper and mother-of-pearl, decorate a variety of marbles and contrast with the more traditional geometric ceramic details.

# **ACCOMMODATIONS**

# **Dubai Hotel**



This refined hotel in a modern high-rise is a 4-minute walk from the nearest metro station, and 6 km from both Wild Wadi Water Park and shopping at the Mall of the Emirates.

Polished rooms feature elegant furnishings, and come with Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs and minibars, plus tea and coffeemaking equipment. Upgraded rooms add iPod docks; suites have separate living/dining areas. There's 24/7 room service.

There's an upscale international restaurant, a sleek bar and a 24-hour cafe. Additional amenities include a fitness centre, a sauna and 2 heated pools (1 indoor), plus a poolside bar, a ballroom and a business centre. Meeting space is available.

## **Maldives Hotel**



This refined hotel in a modern high-rise is a 4-minute walk from the nearest metro station, and 6 km from both Wild Wadi Water Park and shopping at the Mall of the Emirates.

Polished rooms feature elegant furnishings, and come with Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs and minibars, plus tea and coffeemaking equipment. Upgraded rooms add iPod docks; suites have separate living/dining areas. There's 24/7 room service.

There's an upscale international restaurant, a sleek bar and a 24-hour cafe. Additional amenities include a fitness centre, a sauna and 2 heated pools (1 indoor), plus a poolside bar, a ballroom and a business centre. Meeting space is available.