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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES | 6DAYS / 5NIGHTS

Route: from and to Dubai

Type of tour: Culture

TOUR OVERVIEW

The United Arab Emirates, sometimes simply called the Emirates or the UAE, is an Arab country in the southeast of the Arabian Peninsula on the Persian Gulf. The UAE is the destination of diversity - an Islamic state full of traditional Arabian culture, a history stretching back thousands of years with traditional Bedouin lifestyle and customs, set alongside the DJs' turntables that stop spinning just before the muezzin's morning call to prayer. From rampant consumerism to the world's tallest building, the world's largest man-made islands and some of the world's finest shopping, the UAE is a country to discover. In this tour, guests will experience the unique atmosphere of Dubai, the amazing turquoise waters of Abu Dhabi and the cultural legacy of Sharjah. Visits of the "mosts" of the Emirates, such as Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world and Burj Al Arab, the most expensive hotel in the world, are organised.

DAY BY DAY

DAY 1 | ARRIVAL DUBAI

Arrival at Dubai Airport with transfer to hotel in Dubai.

- **Overnight stay in Dubai. Dinner included.**

DAY 2 | DUBAI

The day starts with a half-day cultural Dubai tour. The tour visits a variety of interesting and popular attractions in Dubai, including a stop for a photo at the Jumeirah Mosque – a magnificent example of Islamic architecture. The tour will continue on to the Bastakia area – the oldest part of the city for a visit to the Dubai Museum housed in the 150-year-old Al Fahidi Fort. The tour will then take a ride across the famous Dubai creek in an Abra, a local water taxi, here it is possible to see the bustling city from the waterfront before the Abra arrives to the Deira side of Dubai. On arrival, a visit to the aromatic Spice Souq and the glittering Gold Souq will take place. At the Gold Souq, have the opportunity to buy exquisite gold jewellery at prices lower than in Europe. The evening will entail a dhow cruise with dinner, a romantic and relaxing evening cruise along the Dubai Creek. On board the dhow is a two-hour dinner cruise that unites the most captivating sightseeing with a delicious selection of international cuisine.

- **Overnight stay in hotel in Dubai on a half-board basis.**

DAY 3 | DUBAI

The day starts with a half-day modern Dubai tour, starting with a trip after breakfast to see the panoramic views of the iconic marvels and landmarks along the Sheikh Zayed road. Then a drive to the Palm Jumeirah, known as the 8th wonder of world, an artificial island in the shape of a palm tree. The tour will drive across its trunk to take a closer look at its themed boutique hotels, signature villas and apartment buildings. The tour then continues on to the new Dubai Marina, the world's largest master planned waterfront development of its kind. After which is a drive around Emirates Hills, passing by Burj Al Arab, a famous landmark of Dubai built along the coastline, this hotel is considered to be a seven-star hotel. The tour will stop for snapshots of the Burj Al Arab before the final stop located in the Old Town of Burj Khalifa. Here will be a visit to the Souq Al Bahar, a traditional Arabian marketplace and an ideal vantage point to capture dramatic photos of the Burj Khalifa soaring into the skies above. The tour will then move on to the Observation Deck of the Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world. In the evening, depart for a thrilling 4WD tour through the golden yellow sand dunes of the Sharjah Desert. The tour finishes at our Sharjah Campsite. Here will be an opportunity to relax in the calm and silence of the desert under the starlit sky. A sumptuous Arabian style barbecued dinner of various succulent fresh meats and salads will be served before an authentic belly dance around the campfire by starlight.

- **Overnight stay in hotel in Dubai on a half-board basis.**

DAY 4 | DUBAI - SHARJAH - DUBAI

Today's tour starts with a visit to the Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization situated right at the historical heart of Sharjah in Al Majarra area. This fascinating museum started its life as a traditional Middle Eastern souk or indoor market. The building now houses more than 5,000 exquisite artefacts from all over the Islamic World. The next stop on the tour is a visit to the Sharjah Calligraphy Museum. The museum is a fascinating journey of discovery across centuries of Arabian heritage in the form of beautifully written script created by local artists and well-known international calligraphers. Once the visit to the museum is complete, the tour continues on to the Bait Al Naboodah, the former residence of the pearl trading Al Shamsi family. Here, a tour of the Bait Al Naboodah will visit a distinctive culture, passing on to the Arsah Souq which is a traditional souq with shops selling souvenirs and arts and crafts, guests can also stop for a local mint tea at the cafeteria. Next on the tour is the Al Eslah School Museum, the first formal educational institute in Sharjah, founded in 1938. On this visit to the museum the guests can experience school life as it was some 70 years ago while sitting at the

wooden desks in the shaded classrooms. The final stop of the tour will be the Souq Al Markazi, one of the few remaining traditional marketplaces with more than 100 shops selling carpets, gold, silver, antiques, perfumes and clothes.

Note: Optional lunch at a local restaurant in Sharjah.

- **Overnight stay in hotel in Dubai on a half-board basis.**

DAY 5 | DUBAI - ABUDHABI - DUBAI

The tour of Abu Dhabi, the capital of the Emirates and also known as the Arabian Jewel begins with a visit to the Sheikh Zayed Mosque. The Sheikh Zayed Mosque is the largest mosque in the United Arab Emirates and the eighth largest mosque in the world. The Mosque is large enough to accommodate 40,000 worshippers. The main prayer hall can accommodate up to 9,000 worshippers. The tour then continues on to Saadiyat Island to visit the Manarat Saadiyat, the Interactive Guest Experience Centre. This exciting artistic venue houses international exhibitions from around the world. The main galleries of Manarat Al Saadiyat include Abu Dhabi Arts Gallery – a permanent space for a series of exhibitions and educational programmes. On the return trip back to the pier, the tour heads towards the Corniche and then to Emirates Palace for a photo stop of the remarkable architecture and one of the largest hotels in the world. Then on to a short drive to the Heritage Village, which houses a small museum and depicts the daily activities of the Arab community prior to the discovery of oil. Finishing with a transfer to Dubai.

Note: Optional lunch at the Emirates Palace Hotel.

- **Overnight stay in hotel in Dubai on a half-board basis.**

DAY 6 | DEPARTURE FROM DUBAI

Breakfast at the hotel and then transfer to airport.

END OF SERVICES

INCLUDED

TOUR GUIDE:

- Local guides for all excursions

ACCOMMODATION:

- 5 nights' accommodation in hotels of chosen category, including breakfast

ENTRANCE FEES AND ACTIVITIES:

- Fees mentioned

MEALS:

- DESERT SAFARI - Plus barbeque dinner
- DHOW CRUISE - Plus international buffet

NOT INCLUDED

- Tips
- Visa fees
- Personal expenses
- Optional meals and excursions
- Lunch and drinks - can be arranged as an extra option
- Flights - arrival and departure