



Abu Dhabi
travellers welcome:



Welcome to Abu Dhabi, where beautiful desert landscapes and traditional Arabian culture come together to create a memorable holiday experience like no other. A vibrant emirate rich with history and heritage is reflected in the variety of visitor activities available. Visit one of the emirate's old forts, ride the dunes on an exhilarating desert safari or attend an international art exhibition.



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Crystal clear turquoise waters and one of the world's largest sand deserts make Al Gharbia an adventurer's playground. Prepare for the most exciting of desert, coast and island activities and simply terrific scenery.



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Set among lush oases and towering palm plantations, Al Ain is a city which exudes history, culture and nature. Through its museums, restored forts and palaces, souks and archaeological sites dating back to the Stone Age, Al Ain, where archaeological and cultural sites have now been inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites listing, gives visitors an insight into a desert way of life which has helped form the resilient and hospitable character of Abu Dhabi emirate.

Ten things to know about Abu Dhabi

1. For over 50 years, Abu Dhabi has been transformed from little more than empty desert inhabited by nomadic tribes into a thriving 21st century society.
2. Abu Dhabi is at the heart of one of the world's most advancing regions. Abu Dhabi city is easily accessible from key European, Asian, African, American and Australian business centres.
3. Abu Dhabi city is the capital of the United Arab Emirates. The wider Abu Dhabi emirate occupies over 80% of the country's total landmass.
4. Unknown to most, Abu Dhabi is archipelagic with nearly 200 islands dotted along its coast - island-hopping is a popular pastime.
5. Abu Dhabi is on its way to becoming a global cultural centre with the creation of the Cultural District on Saadiyat Island. This 27 square kilometre island lying 500 metres offshore the UAE capital is being transformed into a signature cultural, leisure and residential destination. The island will be home to the largest single concentration of premier cultural institutions including the Zayed National Museum, the Louvre Abu Dhabi and the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi all designed by award-winning international architects.
6. Emirates Palace is one of the world's most majestic and opulent hotels. Often mistaken as the presidential palace, Emirates Palace is decorated with gold-leaf, marble and hung with almost 1,000 Swarovski crystal chandeliers. Abu Dhabi has an expanding range of other fabulous hotels and iconic buildings including The Yas Hotel, the only one in the world straddling a Formula 1™ race track and the Hyatt Capital Gate.
7. Abu Dhabi offers fantastic leisure activities. Choose from fascinating city tours, desert safaris and tours of our stunning Yas Marina Circuit Formula 1™ track or try your hand at driving it. Play a round of golf on one of three championship-ready, all-grass golf courses or visit the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque – the UAE's most imposing religious and national landmark. Opt for a range of watersports in Abu Dhabi's warm, calm waters or take a trip to Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, the world's largest indoor theme park, and board Formula Rossa – the world's fastest roller-coaster.
8. Visitors can experience an authentic taste of Arabian culture and heritage.
9. Abu Dhabi enjoys a subtropical climate with sunshine almost every day.
10. Abu Dhabi is home to the annual Formula 1® Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. This international headline race joins an impressive line-up of world-class events which have enabled the emirate to emerge as a major global events contender. These include the annual Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship, the Gourmet Abu Dhabi gastronomic festival, the Abu Dhabi International Triathlon, Abu Dhabi Arts and the Al Ain Aerobatics Show.

Ten things to know about Al Gharbia

1. Al Gharbia makes up over two thirds of the UAE and is home to Liwa, an historic oasis town which sits at the entry to the Rub Al Khali – Empty Quarter – the world's largest sand desert.
2. Al Gharbia's history is encompassed in the myriad of ancient forts which dot the landscape. Together they present a snapshot of this region's fascinating history – and all set against dramatic landscapes.
3. The picturesque harbour town of Al Mirfa boasts a stunning coastline and a four-star hotel.
4. Moreeb Hill in the Liwa desert is, at 300 metres, one of the world's tallest sand dunes. With a 50 degree incline to the top it is the pinnacle for desert driving enthusiasts.
5. Delma Island was once a prominent pearl fishing community with a strong maritime heritage.
6. Sir Bani Yas Island, a former Royal nature reserve, hosts the Arabian Wildlife Park with free-roaming animals including a 400-plus strong herd of Arabian Oryx (gazelles) - one of the world's largest.
7. Sir Bani Yas Island is home to the boutique Desert Islands Resort & Spa which provides guests with a range of adventure activities. Choose from kayaking through mangrove forests, snorkelling in immaculately clean waters, mountain biking and hiking over ancient salt domes or 4x4 guided tours of the Arabian Wildlife Park.
8. The Liwa Date Festival, held every July, explores the intricacies of date production and the varied products now emanating from this valued desert fruit.
9. Al Dhafrah Camel Festival, held each December in Al Gharbia's capital of Madinat Zayed, celebrates the importance of the cherished 'ship of the desert.' The festival includes the world's only camel beauty contest.
10. The Al Gharbia Watersports Festival, held yearly in Al Mirfa, is a wonderworld of watersports. Participate in, or just watch, kiteboards and surf ski kayaks in the waves, relax at chilled-out camps and concerts onshore, this is the UAE's wettest and wildest week.

Visit www.visitabudhabi.ae, email info@tcaabudhabi.ae or call from inside UAE 800 555 From outside UAE +9712 666 4442 to discover more about one of the world's most intriguing destinations.

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Ten things to know about the Oasis City of Al Ain

1. The name Al Ain means spring, and is very apt as the city is fed by natural springs originating in the rocky heights which surround it. Al Ain was once a vital oasis on the caravan route from the UAE to Oman.
2. The Al Ain Palace Museum was once the home of the late UAE founder Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan and was a hub of political life. The palace is now a museum with a large collection of material about the ruling family.
3. The towering Jebel Hafeet heights, rising 1,240 metres, affords an impressive view over Al Ain.
4. The Al Ain Oasis in the heart of the city abounds with palm plantations, and cool, shady walkways. It has eight separate entrances. Many of the oasis farms have working examples of falaj, the traditional irrigation system which has been used for centuries to tap into underground wells.
5. The Al Ain Wildlife Park & Resort is the most progressive facility of its kind in the region, and is home to over 4,000 animals including the indigenous Arabian oryx and sand gazelle; at least 30% of the 180 species in the park are considered endangered.
6. At Al Ain Equestrian, Shooting and Golf Club, there's an 18-hole, all-grass golf course under the shadow of Jebel Hafeet. Alternatively opt for the thrill of the kart track at the state-of-the-art Al Ain Raceway.
7. Al Ain Central Market combines the camel market and livestock souk and is the last of its kind in the UAE. You can see camels up close, and see and hear the traders discussing the price and merits of their animals
8. The picturesque Al Jahili Fort is one of the UAE's most historic buildings. It has been carefully restored and houses a permanent exhibition of the work of British adventurer Sir Wilfred Thesiger – whom the locals affectionately refer to as Mubarak Bin London – and who famously crossed the Rub Al Khali - Empty Quarter - in the 1940s.
9. Al Ain National Museum was built in 1910 and is now a popular attraction for people wanting to know more about Al Ain, Abu Dhabi and the UAE's heritage and culture.
10. The Al Ain Aerobatic Show is held at Al Ain International Airport every year. It features crack aerobatics teams and performers from around the world and attracts up to 150,000 spectators.

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