

DESTINATION ITINERARY

Dubai + Abu Dhabi

6-7 Days

From INR 56,000 per person

Best: Jan, Feb, Mar, Nov, Dec

This route links the United Arab Emirates' two largest cities, roughly ninety minutes apart on a straight desert motorway. Dubai is the busier of the pair - a trading port turned high-rise city of malls, marinas and engineered spectacle - while Abu Dhabi, the federal capital, is...

FEATURED IN THIS JOURNEY

Burj Khalifa



Dubai Mall and Fountain



Palm Jumeirah

INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAY PLANNING BRIEF

Destination overview

This route links the United Arab Emirates' two largest cities, roughly ninety minutes apart on a straight desert motorway. Dubai is the busier of the pair - a trading port turned high-rise city of malls, marinas and engineered spectacle - while Abu Dhabi, the federal capital, is quieter, greener and more institutional, its landmarks spread along a corniche and out on Saadiyat and Yas islands. Taking both gives a trip more range than Dubai alone: the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque and Louvre Abu Dhabi bring architecture and collections the Dubai circuit does not, while Yas Island answers the demand for theme parks. Direct and connecting flights from major Indian cities make the two-city route practical for a first trip abroad. It suits families, multi-generational groups and travellers who want city sightseeing with dependable transport and familiar food.

PACKAGE DURATION

6-7 Days

STARTING PRICE

From INR 56,000 per person

BEST TIME

 Peak: Jan, Feb, Mar, Nov, Dec | Shoulder: Apr, Oct |
 Avoid: May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep

TRIP TYPES

beach, heritage, honeymoon

10 APPROVED SUBLOCATIONS

Places you'll visit

01

Burj Khalifa

SKYSCRAPER | 2-3 HOURS

The world's tallest building, a tapering steel-and-glass tower at the centre of Downtown Dubai. Lifts run to observation decks on the upper floors, where floor-to-ceiling glass looks out over the Gulf, the artificial islands and the desert beyond. Entry runs on timed slots, and sunset is the most sought after.



Dubai Mall and Fountain

MARKET | HALF DAY

One of the world's largest shopping centres, holding an aquarium tunnel, an indoor ice rink and hundreds of shops. Outside, on the lake between the mall and Burj Khalifa, choreographed fountain jets run to music through the evening at short intervals, watched free from the promenade and the bridge.



Palm Jumeirah

ISLAND | HALF DAY

A palm-shaped artificial island reclaimed off the Jumeirah coast and laid out as a trunk, fronds and a curving breakwater. A monorail runs its length to the Atlantis resort at the tip, and visitors come for the beaches along the trunk, waterfront restaurants and views back at the mainland skyline.



Dubai Marina

SKYSCRAPER | HALF DAY

A dense district of residential towers built around an artificial canal cut inland from the Gulf. A paved promenade runs its full length past cafes and moored yachts; dhow dinner cruises and speedboat tours depart from here, and the JBR beach strip is a short walk away.



Desert Safari

NATURE RESERVE | HALF DAY

An excursion into the dunes inland from the city, normally by four-wheel drive with a spell of dune driving before a camp stop. Camps offer camel rides, sandboarding, henna, a barbecue dinner and folk performances. Afternoon departures avoid the worst heat and finish after dark.



Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque

MOSQUE | 2-3 HOURS

Abu Dhabi's principal mosque, finished in white marble with inlaid floral stonework, reflecting pools and a vast open courtyard. Inside are a hand-knotted carpet and chandeliers of coloured glass. It opens to non-Muslim visitors outside prayer times, under strict dress rules, with abayas lent at the entrance.



Louvre Abu Dhabi

MUSEUM | HALF DAY

A museum on Saadiyat Island beneath a low latticed dome that filters daylight into shifting patterns across the plaza below. The galleries are arranged chronologically rather than by country, setting objects from different civilisations side by side, and include works loaned from French national collections.



Yas Island (Ferrari World)

THEME PARK | FULL DAY

A purpose-built leisure island holding Ferrari World, a waterpark, a Warner Bros. park and the Yas Marina racing circuit. Ferrari World is largely indoors and air-conditioned, with a roller coaster that accelerates to very high speed alongside far gentler rides suited to younger children.



Corniche Abu Dhabi

BEACH | 2-3 HOURS

A landscaped waterfront running for several kilometres along Abu Dhabi's northern shore, with cycle tracks, shaded lawns and a public beach of calm, shallow water. Evenings bring walkers and families out; the city skyline rises behind and there are views across to Lulu Island.



Qasr Al Watan

PALACE | 2-3 HOURS

A working presidential palace on the Abu Dhabi mainland, part of which opens to visitors. Rooms include a vast domed great hall, a library on Arab scholarship and displays of state gifts. Panels explain governance and Emirati heritage, and an evening light show is projected onto the facade.

6 DAYS

Suggested day-by-day plan

01

DAY 1

Burj Khalifa and Louvre Abu Dhabi

Visit Burj Khalifa, Louvre Abu Dhabi.

02

DAY 2

Dubai Mall and Fountain and Yas Island (Ferrari World)

Visit Dubai Mall and Fountain, Yas Island (Ferrari World).

03

DAY 3

Palm Jumeirah and Corniche Abu Dhabi

Visit Palm Jumeirah, Corniche Abu Dhabi.

04

DAY 4

Dubai Marina and Qasr Al Watan

Visit Dubai Marina, Qasr Al Watan.

05

DAY 5

Desert Safari

Visit Desert Safari.

06

DAY 6

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque

Visit Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Travel essentials

CURRENCY

The UAE dirham is used in both emirates. Cards are accepted almost everywhere, with small notes useful for taxis, souks and desert-camp extras.

LANGUAGE

Arabic is the official language, while English is used routinely for business and tourism. Hindi and Urdu are widely spoken across both cities.

TIME DIFFERENCE

The UAE is 1 hour 30 minutes behind Indian Standard Time (IST).

WEATHER

A desert climate shared by both emirates: very hot, humid summers and mild winters ideal for beaches, desert safaris and outdoor sightseeing.

CONNECTIVITY

Roaming works reliably and tourist SIMs or eSIMs are sold at both airports. Wi-Fi is widely available in hotels, malls and museums.

VISA AND PERMITS

Indian ordinary-passport holders should arrange the correct UAE entry permission or eVisa unless they meet a current conditional exemption. The same federal entry rules apply whether the itinerary begins in Dubai or Abu Dhabi.

Food and culture

Dubai and Abu Dhabi offer international dining alongside Emirati machboos, harees and date sweets. Meat is generally halal, while vegetarian and Jain travellers have dedicated Indian options. Cover shoulders and knees at major Abu Dhabi landmarks, and avoid public daytime eating during Ramadan.

AIR, RAIL AND ROAD

Getting there from India

AIR

Dubai International and Zayed International are the main gateways. Direct and connecting flights operate from several Indian cities.

RAIL

There is no passenger railway between India and the UAE. Urban rail is limited to Dubai; the two cities are connected by road.

ROAD

Dubai and Abu Dhabi are linked by motorway and scheduled buses or private transfers. Confirm the correct airport and intercity transfer before booking.

Official guidance: UAE Government visa guidance -

<https://u.ae/en/information-and-services/visa-and-emirates-id/Visa-information/do-you-need-an-entry-permit-or-a-visa-to-enter-the-uae>
(checked 2026-08-30)

FROM OUR PLANNERS

Practical notes

- One currency, the UAE dirham, covers both cities, and there are no border formalities on the road between them.
- The Dubai to Abu Dhabi motorway takes roughly ninety minutes each way, so treat Abu Dhabi as a full day or an overnight rather than an afternoon add-on.
- Abu Dhabi enforces mosque dress rules strictly: ankle-length clothing and covered shoulders for everyone, and hair covered for women.
- Traffic drives on the right and speed cameras are used heavily; self-drivers normally need an International Driving Permit alongside the Indian licence.
- Abu Dhabi has no metro network to match Dubai's, so budget for taxis or a hired car there while using the Nol card and metro in Dubai.
- October to April is the practical window; through summer the Corniche and desert camps are only bearable early in the morning or after sunset.

**PLAN WITH ORBITZ HOLIDAYS**

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Explore
Experience
Remember

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