Abu Dhabi is a place that welcomes and shares all that it has with visitors, inviting them to discover experiences at their own pace.
Explore this guide

Welcome to Abu Dhabi

Explore Abu Dhabi
  - Abu Dhabi City
  - Al Ain
  - Al Dhafra

Experience Abu Dhabi
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  - Feel restored
  - Get inspired
  - Dining
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Welcome to Abu Dhabi

Located in the heart of Arabia, Abu Dhabi is a vibrant destination filled with enriching activities and attractions for your perfect stay. Beyond the dynamic city, majestic desert landscapes and lush green oases are ready to be explored. Available minutes apart and throughout the year, you can enjoy moments that excite, inspire and restore, all at your own pace.
Everything within reach

Abu Dhabi International Airport is...

20 mins to Abu Dhabi Island
1 Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque
2 Qasr Al Watan
3 Qasr Al Hosn
4 Al Qana
5 Eastern Mangroves Park

15 mins to Saadiyat Island
6 Louvre Abu Dhabi
7 Mamsha Al Saadiyat
8 Manarat Al Saadiyat

5 mins to Yas Island
9 Warner Bros. World™ Abu Dhabi
10 Yas Waterworld
11 Ferrari World Abu Dhabi
12 Yas Marina Circuit
13 Etihad Arena

Abu Dhabi City
The capital of the United Arab Emirates

Al Dhafr Region
71% of the emirate’s total area

Al Ain
≈160 km from Abu Dhabi International Airport
The city of

Abu Dhabi

Whether it’s a fun-filled family holiday or a romantic getaway, you’ll find experiences to match your pace across Downtown Abu Dhabi, Yas Island and Saadiyat Island. Feel at home with welcoming Emirati hospitality while you explore museums, dine at award-winning restaurants, or simply soak in the sunshine by the pool.
Translating to 'The Spring', this garden city offers visitors a range of archaeological sites, historic buildings and cultural attractions. Just a short drive from Abu Dhabi City, the Cultural Sites of Al Ain are the UAE’s only UNESCO-designated heritage sites - including Al Ain Oasis, Bida bint Saud, Jebel Hafit, and Hili Archaeological Park.
Also known as the Western Region, Al Dhafra is Abu Dhabi’s largest and most sparsely populated area. Covering two-thirds of the emirate, the vast expanse features stunning beaches, dramatic scenery and ancient forts, as well as the historic oasis of Liwa, the gateway to the sprawling Empty Quarter desert.
Be Excited

Warner Bros. World™ Abu Dhabi
Ferrari World Abu Dhabi
Al Ain Zoo
Yas Bay
Yas Marina Circuit
CLYMB Abu Dhabi
Heritage Village
Jebel Hafit Desert Park
Etihad Arena
Zayed Sports City
Wadi Adventure
The National Aquarium
Al Qana
The biggest indoor theme park in the world, featuring family-friendly hero-themed rides

Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi

The biggest indoor theme park in the world, featuring family-friendly hero-themed rides

Discover more
Ferrari World Abu Dhabi

A thrilling theme park and home to Formula Rossa, the world’s fastest roller coaster

Discover more
Take a safari through this 400-hectare zoo featuring more than 4,000 animals, including big cats.
Yas Bay
Day-to-night entertainment with over 20 waterfront restaurants, cafés and bars
Discover more
Test your driving skills at the home of the annual Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

Discover more
An adventure hub featuring indoor skydiving and the region’s tallest indoor climbing wall
Heritage Village
Visit a reconstruction of a traditional desert village with a regular roster of events
Discover more
Jebel Hafit Desert Park
A tranquil nature park featuring archaeological remains and activities such as hiking, cycling and horse riding
Discover more
Etihad Arena
The UAE’s largest multi-purpose indoor arena, hosting the biggest names in sports and entertainment
Discover more
Zayed Sports City

A sprawling multi-sport venue featuring multiple pitches and courts, plus a cricket stadium and a bowling alley

Discover more
Home to the Middle East’s first man-made white water rafting channel

Wadi Adventure

Discover more
The National Aquarium
The largest aquarium in the Middle East, featuring over 46,000 animals from more than 300 unique species
Discover more
A unique waterfront destination bringing a new definition of dining and entertainment to Abu Dhabi

Discover more
Feel Restored

Emirates Palace
Saadiyat Island
Al Ain Oasis
Jubail Mangrove Park
Marina Island
Sir Bani Yas Island
Saadiyat Beach Club
Qasr Al Sarab
Al Wathba Fossil Dunes
Al Wathba Salt Lake
Emirates Palace
An iconic hotel that blends Arabian splendour with unrivalled luxury to create a magical experience
Discover more
Saadiyat Island

Abu Dhabi’s cultural hub is home to world-class art and architecture as well as luxury hotels and leisure attractions

Discover more
Al Ain Oasis
Shaded pathways meander through lush, green vegetation in Abu Dhabi’s garden city

Discover more
Jubail Mangrove Park

Wooden boardwalks traverse the sprawling mangrove forest – a unique haven for marine and bird wildlife

Discover more
Marina Island
A fun-packed area that’s home to Marina Mall, the Marina Eye Ferris wheel and Heritage Village

Discover more
Sir Bani Yas Island
The nature-based destination is home to stunning wildlife, adventure activities, hotels and heritage sites

Discover more
Saadiyat Beach Club
Nestled on the shores of the Arabian Gulf, Saadiyat Beach Club is the perfect spot to unwind for the day

Discover more
Qasr Al Sarab

This secluded luxury hotel offers a breathtaking panorama over the golden Liwa dunes

Discover more
An unmissable natural marvel that features 1,700 sandstone structures carved by desert winds over thousands of years

Al Wathba Fossil Dunes

Discover more
Al Wathba Salt Lake
A mesmerising desert lake where giant salt pads create alluring stepping stones over emerald-green waters
Discover more
Get Inspired

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque
Manarat Al Saadiyat
Louvre Abu Dhabi
Al Ain Museum
Qasr Al Watan
Qasr Al Muwaiji
Al Jahili Fort
Bait Mohammed bin Khalifa
Al Qattara Arts Centre
The Founders Memorial
Sir Bani Yas Island Church and Monastery
Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque
One of the world’s largest and most beautiful mosques

Discover more
Manarat Al Saadiyat
Saadiyat Island’s premier art, cultural activity and community events centre

Discover more
Louvre Abu Dhabi

The first universal museum in the Arab world and an architectural icon

Discover more
Al Ain Museum
The oldest museum in the UAE tells the story of the nation’s ancient history

Discover more
Qasr Al Watan
A working Presidential palace and a majestic cultural landmark
Discover more
Qasr Al Muwaiji
The more than 100-year-old fort was a home and administrative base for the late Sheikh Zayed

Discover more
Built in the 1890s, the historic Al Jahili Fort has long been a focal point for the community.
This historic former home has been transformed into a community centre.

Bait Mohammed bin Khalifa
This historic former home has been transformed into a community centre

Discover more
Al Qattara Arts Centre
A place for both visitors and the Al Ain community to see and create art
Discover more
The Founder's Memorial
A unique cultural attraction celebrating the life and values of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

Discover more
Sir Bani Yas Island Church and Monastery

Discovered in the early 1990s, illuminating the evidence of early Christianity in the region.

Discover more
Dining

Dine your way around the world with a wide variety of international and local flavours, from homegrown concepts to celebrated culinary favourites. Highlights include:

- Alba Terrace
- COYA Abu Dhabi
- Buddha-Bar Beach
- Café Milano
- Cipriani
- Mare Mare
- Shang Palace
- Fouquet’s Abu Dhabi
- LPM Restaurant & Bar
- Oak Room
- Nusr-Et
- Tean
- Sontaya
- Zuma
- Marco Pierre White Steakhouse & Grill
Alba Terrace
The finest organic coffees, biodynamic drinks, light lunches and sharing plates
Discover more
COYA Abu Dhabi
Enjoy authentic Latin American food and flair at COYA at The Galleria at Al Maryah Island
Discover more
Buddha-Bar Beach
An unforgettable combination of exotic food, impressive interiors and trademark music
Discover more
Café Milano

Great food that embodies the Italian tradition of authenticity, simplicity, and refinement

Discover more
Signature dishes from Harry’s Bar in Venice and classic Italian favourites, overlooking the stunning Yas Marina

Discover more
Mare Mare

The home-style poolside restaurant effortlessly brings together the coastal flavours of Italy

Discover more
Shang Palace
Authentic Chinese cuisine, specialising in steamy dim sum and other traditional dishes

Discover more
Fouquet’s Abu Dhabi
A renowned Parisian brasserie at Louvre Abu Dhabi that promises an exceptional culinary journey

Discover more
LPM Restaurant & Bar
A tribute to the French Riviera with unforgettable food and a refined atmosphere

Discover more
Michelin-starred chef Tom Aikens curates a menu with the very best produce and ingredients.
This world-famous steakhouse will have the perfect cut for your palette – with a Salt Bae twist

Discover more
Immerse yourself in the flavours of the region, and experience Levantine dining culture

Discover more
Sontaya
Unique Asian dishes, amid floating pavilions that overlook shimmering pools

Discover more
Enjoy Japanese izakaya-style dining, with dishes that can be shared at the table or enjoyed individually.
Marco Pierre White Steakhouse & Grill
Find your perfect dish, with classic English favourites and speciality grilled cuisine
Discover more
Nightlife

Vibrant music and good vibes are available all year round. Abu Dhabi has a dynamic party scene to elevate any get-together or celebration. Including:

- Mamsha Al Saadiyat
- Saadiyat Beach Club
- Yas Bay Waterfront
- WHITE Abu Dhabi
- Buddha-Bar Beach
- Iris Yas Island
Mamsha Al Saadiyat
Breezy beach bites on an island filled with cultural wonders, just 15 minutes from Downtown Abu Dhabi

Discover more
Luxury meets simplicity in one of Abu Dhabi's most exclusive destinations, with quality service and magnificent views.

Saadiyat Beach Club

Discover more
Plunge into a coastal promenade packed with mouth-watering options, including the elegant Café Del Mar beach club.

Discover more
WHITE Abu Dhabi

The region's number one nightclub where you can dance the night away to the biggest hip hop, R&B and urban hits
Buddha-Bar Beach
Exotic food, chic interiors and trademark music packaged in an unforgettable experience

Discover more
Iris Yas Island
Vibrant evenings with tasty beverages, lounge music and sunset views, set against the picturesque backdrop of Yas Marina

Discover more
Shopping

Whether you’re after the biggest fashion labels or traditional Arabian artefacts, Abu Dhabi has something for every type of shopper. Including:

- Abu Dhabi Mall
- The Galleria Al Maryah Island Yas Mall
- Delma Mall
- Al Wahda Mall
- Nation Towers Mall
- Yas Mall
- Marina Mall
- The Mall at World Trade Center
Abu Dhabi Mall
Located in the heart of the city, Abu Dhabi Mall features more than 200 shops
Discover more
The Galleria Al Maryah Island

Home to over 400 stores and 100 food options, The Galleria is a fun, family-friendly retail space

Discover more
Delma Mall
An out-of-town shopping destination with the latest fashion brands and entertainment facilities

Discover more
Al Wahda Mall

A conveniently located and spacious mall with direct access to the nearby Grand Millennium Hotel

Discover more
Nestled at the foot of the twin Nation Towers, a high-end retail spot with unique brands and restaurants

Discover more
Abu Dhabi’s biggest mall offers an impressive array of stores, including international retailers and eateries and a 20-screen cinema.

Yas Mall

Abu Dhabi’s biggest mall offers an impressive array of stores, including international retailers and eateries and a 20-screen cinema.

Discover more
Marina Mall
On the picturesque Breakwater, Marina Mall is home to a bowling alley, cinema and children’s zone
Discover more
The Mall at World Trade Centre
This old-style Arabian market features a modern mall connected to a traditional souk
Discover more
Hotels

Abu Dhabi offers amazing hotels, luxurious resorts and unique experiences that make for the most memorable getaways. Including:

- The WB Abu Dhabi
- Emirates Palace
- Rixos Premium Saadiyat Island
- Jumeirah Hotels and Resorts
- W Abu Dhabi – Yas Island
- Qasr Al Sarab Desert Resort by Anantara
- Pura Eco Retreat
- Aloft Abu Dhabi Hotel
- Nurai Island Resort
- The Abu Dhabi Edition
The WB Abu Dhabi

The world’s first Warner Brothers-themed hotel, with access to the theme park as part of your stay

Discover more
Emirates Palace

Abu Dhabi’s ultimate luxury hotel resort, hosting VIPs, celebrities, heads of state and royal families from across the world

Discover more
Situated on the beachfront of Saadiyat Island, this is the first all-inclusive and all-exclusive concept in Abu Dhabi.
Enjoy three swimming pools, a 400-metre natural beach, tennis court, spa, gym and leisure facilities, and a Kids and Teens club – and a nearby golf course.

Discover more
A unique hotel straddling the Formula 1 track at Yas Marina Circuit where selected rooms offer racetrack views, along with a rooftop terrace with pools and bars.

Discover more
Set in Abu Dhabi’s Empty Quarter in the Rub’ Al Khali desert, this luxury resort offers elegant rooms, diverse cuisine and a rooftop lounge.

Qasr Al Sarab Desert Resort by Anantara

Discover more
Pura Eco Retreat

These eco-friendly glamping experiences can be found in stunning natural locations, featuring skylight domes and heritage-style tents for unrivalled views.

Discover more
Set in the ADNEC complex, this functional, ultramodern guest experience offers 408 rooms.

Aloft Abu Dhabi Hotel

Discover more
Nurai Island Resort

An exclusive island resort on the Arabian Gulf, just a 12-minute boat ride from Saadiyat Island, offering private villas with temperature-controlled pools.

Discover more
The Abu Dhabi Edition

A boutique design-led hotel on Al Bateen Marina, promising a different, edgy experience from other luxury hotels

Discover more
Getting around

Abu Dhabi Taxis
Flashes of silver and yellow at every turn, Abu Dhabi’s fleet of taxis keep the city moving.

On-demand services
Ride-hailing apps like Uber and Careem are available in Abu Dhabi, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Public buses
An incredibly inexpensive way to traverse the city, as well as the wider emirate – just use the Hafilat Smart Card.

Pedal power
Explore, exercise and have a bit of fun with find-and-hire bikes. The Careem Bike app will allow you to unlock two-wheeled transport across Abu Dhabi.

On the water
What better way to admire the cityscape than from the water? Jalboot offers a range of boat tours, cruises and excursions, tailored to your needs.

Self-guided walking
Truly set your own pace with guided audio tours from VoiceMap – your very own personal tour guide in your pocket. You can even download the tour and explore offline.
Useful information

Planning the journey
Curate your journey using DARB, the official source of information for public transport.

Currency
The local currency is the UAE dirham (AED or Dhs), which is divided into 100 fils and is pegged against the US dollar (US $ 1 = AED 3.6725). Credit cards, debit cards and mobile payment services are widely accepted.

Visas
An Abu Dhabi visit visa is free of charge upon arrival at Abu Dhabi International Airport for citizens of dozens of countries (for the full list, see the Visit Abu Dhabi website), and for GCC citizens, a visa is not required to enter the UAE.

Citizens of all other countries will need to apply for an Abu Dhabi tourist visa, transit visa or visit visa prior to their trip.
Apply for a visa with hotels

Some five, four and three-star hotels can apply for visas on behalf of guests who have booked a stay with them. Make sure you check with your preferred hotel if they offer this service. While the airline, travel agency and hotel can apply for your visa, please make sure you give yourself enough time for it to be approved, and note that they do not take responsibility if the visa is declined.

Dress Code

Abu Dhabi is a destination with almost year-round sunshine, little rainfall and near-perfect winter temperatures. Lightweight summer clothing is suitable for most of the year, but something slightly warmer may be needed for the winter months. Although the attitude towards clothing style is fairly liberal throughout the UAE, a healthy amount of respect for local customs doesn’t go amiss, especially when shopping or sightseeing.

Language

Abu Dhabi is a multicultural city, with residents speaking a vast variety of world languages. The UAE’s official language is Arabic but English is also widely spoken and understood.