

Shop.

High end designer brands
and mega-malls galore

Pamper.

Luxurious spa treatments
and traditional massage

Dine.

Some of the world's best
chefs and restaurants

Party.

Champagne brunches and
a thriving nightlife

Explore.

Markets, local culture and
desert adventures

The Girls' Guide to... Dubai



Travel

DUBAI



JUMEIRAH ZABEEL SARAY



LETTER FROM THE
Editor

Welcome to the *Girls' Guide to Dubai* produced by *Luxury Travel* magazine on behalf of Dubai Tourism. The city of Dubai, the second largest city and emirate of the United Arab Emirates, is a luxurious playground for the discerning traveller. While shopping might be one of the first activities that comes to mind, there is a myriad of experiences and adventures for ladies to enjoy in this glamorous, safe and easy-to-navigate destination.

Dubai offers activities of interest to suit all moods – from adventurous dune buggy riding or camel polo in the desert; to animal encounters with dolphins and penguins. Decadent high teas, long, leisurely champagne brunches or poolside cocktails can all be enjoyed by over 21-year-olds at the numerous hotels, lounge bars and restaurants around the city. Food-lovers will be enticed by the wide-ranging cuisine from world-class Michelin-starred chefs and month-long food festivals.

A burgeoning arts and cultural scene in Dubai sees a number of impressive galleries and spaces exhibiting

works of both well-known and emerging artists. Music and arts festivals each year continue to attract some of the world's biggest names in entertainment.

For those wanting to absorb some of the local culture and customs, the cultural centre teaches local traditions. For a spot of pampering, take advantage of the many relaxing spa treatments and traditional activities such as hammam massage and ottoman spa indulgences.

Not to forget a girls' best friend, retail-therapy, Dubai is home to the world's largest shopping mall, shoe store and several fashion festivals. Personal stylists and shoppers, purchasing from catwalk collections, Skyping with European designers and custom tailoring are all offered within the city's top boutiques and ateliers. A visit to the traditional souk markets where gold and spices abound is another highlight.

Whether it's an action-packed and bustling stay you seek with girlfriends or a chilled, restorative exotic escape, the luxury lady traveller is sure to find what she's looking for in Dubai.

KATRINA HOLDEN, EDITOR.

FOUR SEASONS JUMEIRAH BEACH



EDITOR
Katrina Holden

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
Belinda Craigie

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Blair Pagan, Sonia Blaskovic

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
Jacquie Puddick
jpuddick@luxurytravelmag.com.au
Telephone +61 2 8204 1018
Fax +61 2 9281 7529

EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES
Katrina Holden
kholden@luxurytravelmag.com.au

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Madeleine Stratton

PRODUCED AND PUBLISHED BY
MAGNESIUM MEDIA ABN 86 066 598 427
Level 1, 579 Harris Street, Ultimo, NSW, 2007 Australia
Telephone +61 2 8204 1000 Fax +61 2 9281 7529

A *Luxury Travel* magazine special project published by
Magnesium Media

COVER IMAGE COURTESY OF FOUR SEASONS
RESORT DUBAI AT JUMEIRAH BEACH

Contents



Girls' Guide to Dubai

4

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Travel tips to ensure a smooth and safe visit to Dubai.

6

BEACH LOVERS

The most beautiful beaches and sandy escapes to kick back and enjoy outdoors.

8

PAMPER TIME

Indulge in some of the world-leading and traditional spa treatments.

12

LADIES WHO BRUNCH

Champagne brunches and where to head for buzzing or relaxed drinking.

14

ADRENALINE JUNKIES

Thrill-seeking adventures in Dubai including camel and dune rides and skydiving.

18

NATURE LOVERS

Animal encounters to enjoy in Dubai including penguins and dolphins.

20

FOODIE LADIES

The best chefs, restaurants and fine dining experiences in Dubai.

24

I LOVE THE NIGHT LIFE

Where to head in Dubai when the lights go down for the best experiences.

28

LUXE LADIES

The most decadent accommodation options for the discerning traveller.

34

SHOPPING HAVEN

From traditional souks to the world's biggest shopping malls.

40

ART LOVERS

Dubai's leading art galleries featuring an exciting range of art.

44

CULTURAL FIX

Immerse yourself in the local traditions and learn about the Emirati way of life.

46 New developments coming soon to Dubai/ 48 Dubai's best festivals and events



Know before you go

FROM CLOTHING AND CURRENCY TO TAXIS AND TIPPING, HERE'S THE LOWDOWN ON DUBAI



DID YOU KNOW?

Getting around

While Dubai does have some pleasant pedestrianised areas, footpaths are not its strong point so getting around on foot is not always easy (the perfect excuse to pack another pair of heels, we say!). The good news is taxis are plentiful and inexpensive. Flag one down on the street, or book via phone (+971 4 2080808) or the RTA

Smart Taxi app (available on iTunes or Google Play; for standard taxis only). You'll also find luxury cars out the front of most five-star hotels, although these cost more than a standard or ladies' taxi. Alternatively, you could download the 'Uber' app (uber.com/cities/dubai) and order a car to your doorstep. Dubai has an excellent metro system too, which covers most of the city (including Dubai International Airport),

THE MIDDLE EAST WEEKEND FALLS ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

plus a shiny new tram system is set to open in November 2014, connecting Dubai Marina to the Al Sufouh area. You'll need to buy a Nol smartcard first (available at metro stations), which can be used on the metro, tram and bus network. All three have a separate section or carriage reserved just for women and families.



FAST FACTS

Money matters
The local currency is the dirham (Dhs or AED), which is divided into 100 fils.

Street smart
Dubai is safe compared with other large cities across the globe. Street crime is rare and walking around on your own is very safe.

Language low-down
English is so widely spoken that you won't get much of a chance to try Arabic.

Smartphone sense
Buy a pre-paid local SIM card with a data package from mobile providers Etisalat or Du (you'll find stores in the airports and malls).

Tipping talk
Leave 10-15 per cent in a restaurant (some add a service charge to the bill, so check first) and round up a taxi fare to the nearest note.



DID YOU KNOW?

ALCOHOL IS AVAILABLE IN LICENSED BARS, CLUBS AND RESTAURANTS. THE LEGAL DRINKING AGE IN DUBAI IS 21 YEARS OF AGE.

Touching down

Dubai is now home to two mega airports: Dubai International Airport, where most international flights land and Dubai World Central - Al Maktoum International Airport. Australians get a 30-day visit visa on arrival and surprisingly generous Duty Free allowances of alcohol, cigarettes and perfume (check these when you buy in Australia or Dubai). The easiest way to get into town is by cab, either a standard Dubai Taxi, or a Pink Taxi, driven by women and exclusively for female passengers.

What to wear

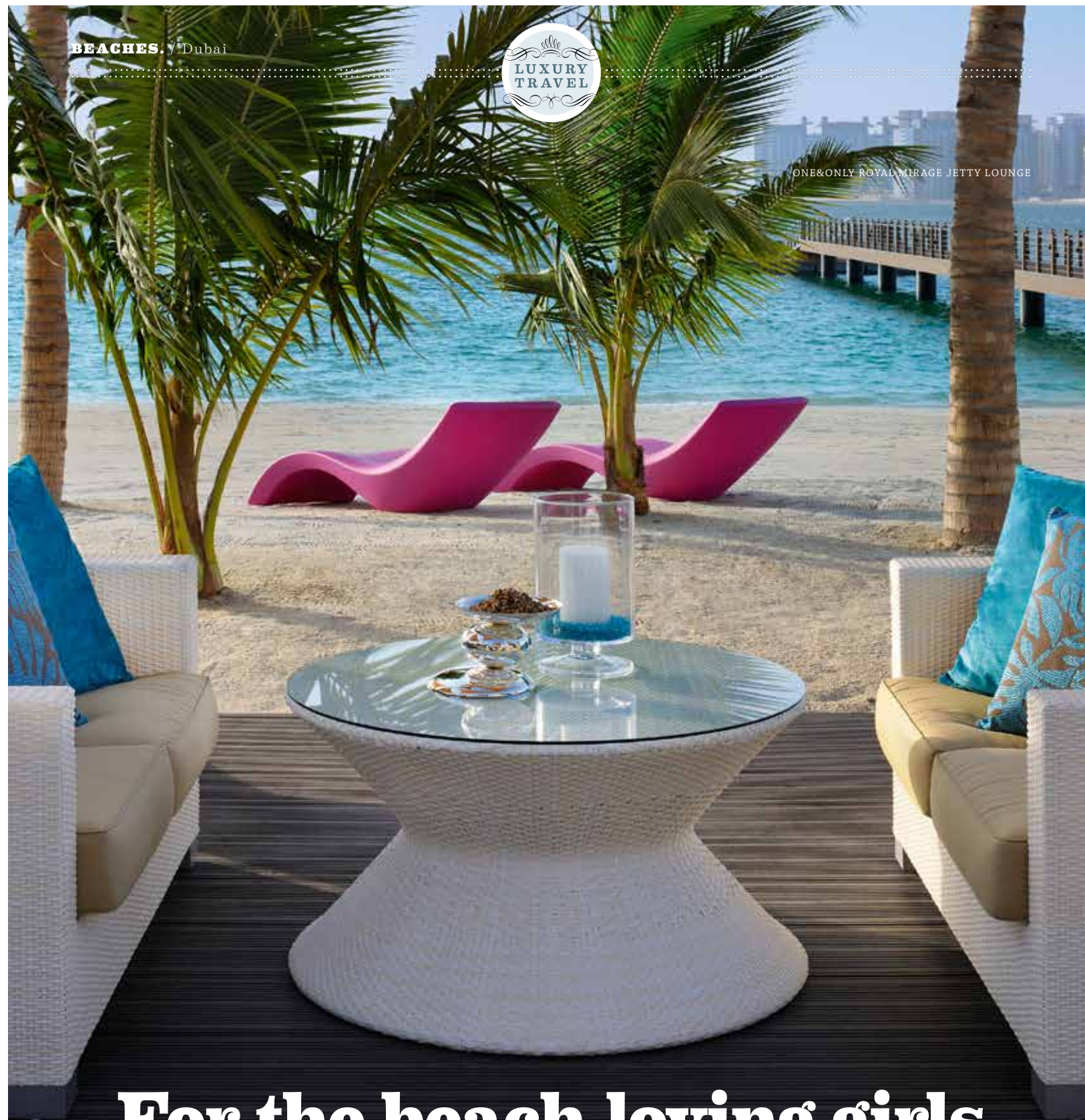
Pack a bikini as Dubai is one of the more relaxed Middle East destinations. It is a Muslim city though, so respect the local culture by dressing modestly. This means that shorts and t-shirts are fine in many places, but short shorts, low-cut dresses and skimpy tops are not appropriate for public places such as the malls. Cover your shoulders and legs in more conservative areas like old Dubai (around Dubai Creek). If in doubt, take a pashmina – it certainly helps in the chilly air-conditioned restaurants and malls too. Showing a bit more skin in a bar or club is acceptable and wearing your swimmers on the beach and around the pool is perfectly fine.

Weather & climate

The emirate has a sub-tropical desert climate, which means blue skies and beach weather in winter (Dec-Jan) and hot and humid summers (Jun-Aug). The best time to visit is from October to April when temperatures are in the mid-20°Cs to low-30°Cs. July and August are the hottest months as the mercury rarely dips below 40°C, still the city accommodates this with indoor attractions and air-conditioned facilities everywhere.

DID YOU KNOW?

DUBAI IS ONE OF SEVEN EMIRATES THAT MAKE UP THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)



For the beach-loving girls

WITH THE WARM WATERS OF THE ARABIAN GULF CALLING YOUR NAME, IT'S TIME TO GRAB YOUR BEACH BAG, PACK THE SUNSCREEN AND HIT THE SAND.

If you're staying in a city hotel or just fancy checking out a different beachside resort, Dubai has a number of beach clubs you can visit for the day. Meydan Beach Club meydanbeach.com at JBR is a super-luxe spot with three infinity pools overlooking a 100-metre stretch of private beach, with poolside bar service, spa and salon, as well as beach volleyball and ping pong. New to JBR is The Beach, a low-level mall with a number of casual eats, such as Fratelli la Bufala and Sushi Art, that are perfect for a bite to eat in between swimming and sunbathing, as well as some beachwear boutiques and La Playa Lounge laplayalounge.com, an outdoor cinema and shisha (water pipe) lounge that is well worth a visit after sunset.

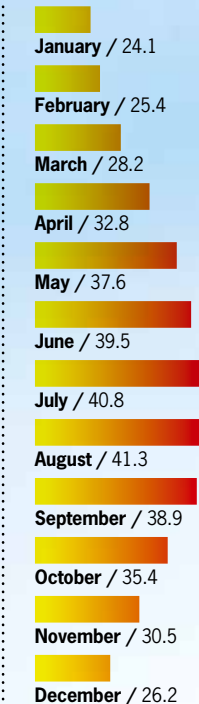
Just around from here is The Habtoor Grand Beach Resort and Spa grandjumeirah.habtoorhotels.com, with three swimming pools, including an infinity pool at Horizon Lounge that has DJ's playing Balearic beats, sushi stations, champagne lounge and mojito station. There's also a beach volleyball court and activities such as banana boating and parasailing if you're feeling energetic. A stone's throw from here is Zero Gravity facebook.com/Zero.Gravity.Dubai, a new beach club and bar next to Skydive Dubai's drop zone. A day pass here gives you access to plush day beds where you can spend the day topping up your tan and watching daredevils land. A day-to-night venue, the place transforms into a vibrant venue with resident DJs and a

relaxed, fairly young crowd.

Further down the Marina, Club Mina lemeridien-minaseyahi.com at Le Meridien & The Westin Mina Seyahi Beach Resort westinminaseyahi.com combines the pools, swim-up bars and private beach areas of both hotels, as well as their gardens and grassy areas, making for a pleasant place where you can settle in for the day. The club is popular with families, so the best spot for a group of girls is the northern end of the Westin pool, where it's adults only.

Meanwhile, over on the Palm, you can visit Nasimi Beach at Atlantis The Palm atlantisthepalm.com as a day guest. This adults-only venue on the shores of the man-made island makes for a sophisticated day at the beach, with sun loungers, posh day beds and private cabanas (best to book these in advance) and a DJ spinning chilled tunes. There's beach volleyball, sushi to snack on and a boutique with designer bikinis and beachwear. Daytrippers are also welcome at Fairmont The Palm fairmont.com, which has a 450-metre beach plus four pools (including one just for grown-ups), a poolside bar with light snacks and comfy two-person cabanas. You'll need to book your day pass in advance though. Finally, Riva Beach Club riva-beach.com is the Palm's first beach club not attached to a hotel. It has more than 300 luxury sun loungers and day beds, a climate-controlled pool, a gazebo bar, al-fresco restaurant and activities including kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding.

WHAT'S THE WEATHER LIKE?



SUNDOWNERS ON THE SAND

Head to these beach bars for a sunset cocktail.

The Jetty Lounge at the One&Only Royal Mirage

With the bar right on the beach, you can feel the sand beneath your toes while you toast to yet another great day with the girls.

Shimmers at Madinat Jumeirah

A deluxe beach shack with wooden floor, slatted roof; come sunset the furniture is moved onto the sand to enjoy magic views over Burj Al Arab.

101 Dining Lounge and Bar at the One&Only The Palm

Looking back to the Dubai skyline from the crescent of the Palm, this chic waterside lounge bar is a cool spot to chill out.





For the pamper-loving girls

DUBAI IS AWASH WITH SENSATIONAL SPAS OFFERING HEAVENLY TREATMENTS FROM HAMMAMS TO FOUR-HAND MASSAGES. GET READY TO RELAX.

With a dazzling array of international and home-grown spa brands, in magnificent and luxurious surroundings, you're truly spoilt for choice when it comes to pampering. Dubai is famous for its ultra-indulgent treatments – 24-carat gold facial, anyone? Its spas are regularly voted the world's best. Here are some of the city's stars.



TALISE OTTOMAN SPA,
JUMEIRAH ZABEEL SARAY, THE PALM

TALISE SPA
Madinat Jumeirah Dubai

Set among tropical gardens, this Arabian-themed spa has 26 treatment rooms, steam rooms, plunge pools, swanky relaxation rooms and a lovely outdoor pool. There's a wide collection of facials by Sodashi and Margie Lombard, pampering spa treatments and homeopathic, Ayurvedic and wellness therapies.

MUST-TRY TREATMENT: Margy's Hyaluron Collagen Facial, an intensive hydration treatment that promises to plump skin in 90 minutes. jumeirah.com

TALISE OTTOMAN SPA
Jumeirah Zabeel Saray,
The Palm

At the heart of this spa – the largest and most luxurious in the Middle East – is a spectacular Turkish hammam decorated with mosaics and murals. There are 42 therapy rooms and over 50 treatments, including Dubai's most expensive: a 24-carat gold facial from skincare expert to the stars, Margie Lombard (Dhs25,000 or A\$7,346).

MUST-TRY TREATMENT: The Coffee Peeling Hammam, an hour-long treatment that involves a full body exfoliation, foam massage and peel using Turkish coffee. jumeirah.com

AMARA SPA AT PARK HYATT
DUBAI, Deira

This Moorish-style gem has an impressive menu of therapies by Natura Bissé, Anne Semonin and Aromatherapy Associates, along with exotic rituals using the powers of sapphires, rubies, emeralds and diamonds to revitalise, detox, relax and energise.

MUST-TRY TREATMENT: The Diamond Enrich Body Scrub, with mineral salts, coffee, frankincense and grapefruit oils, promises to revive dull skin in 45 minutes. dubai.park.hyatt.com

ARMANI/SPA
Armani Hotel Dubai,
Downtown Dubai

You can't help but feel good in the super sleek Armani Spa. At this spa, you don't book a treatment, you book a time, and depending on how you feel on the day, you can choose your method of pampering. As you would expect, the design is understated and beautiful.

MUST-TRY TREATMENT: The ARMANI/SPA Signature treatment combines Japanese Shiatsu, Thai, traditional and acupressure techniques. Hot and cold stones are used (on face, or body) before you're wrapped in luxurious Armani black silk. dubaiarmanihotels.com



ONE&ONLY PRIVATE SPA
One&Only The Palm

Surrounded by fountains and courtyards, this plush sanctuary features a hammam, steam rooms, hot tubs and 12 therapy rooms. Face and body treatments to unwind, restore and elevate are by ESPA, plus there's Bastien Gonzalez hand and foot treatments and a hair salon.

MUST-TRY TREATMENT: Bastien's Duo Treatment, a 75-minute manicure and pedicure with two therapists working in tandem. thepalm.oneandonlyresorts.com



AMRITA SPA
Raffles Dubai, Oud Metha

This striking pyramid-shaped hotel is one of the city's best-loved landmarks. The full-service spa has seven treatment rooms, with a good range of beauty and body therapies and spa packages, and a lush tropical garden for chilling out after your treatment.
MUST-TRY TREATMENT: The Signature Caviar Facial, a 90-minute anti-aging ritual that uses antioxidant-rich caviar, glycolics and a peel off masque. raffles.com

ASSAWAN SPA
Burj Al Arab, Jumeirah

On the 18th floor of Dubai's iconic hotel are saunas, steam rooms, plunge and infinity pools, plus treatment rooms overlooking the ocean. There's a comprehensive menu of treatments from top brands including La Prairie and Thémaé, plus grooming services such as eyelash extensions and threading.
MUST-TRY TREATMENT: The 75-minute Signature Massage combines traditional shiatsu, Thai, Swedish and Balinese techniques. jumeirah.com

WALDORF ASTORIA SPA
Waldorf Astoria Dubai, The Palm

This newcomer to Dubai's spa scene has herbal steam rooms, saunas, hot tubs, and an ice fountain. On the menu are close to 50 treatments, including hand and feet treats from chiropodist to the stars, Margaret Dabbs.
MUST-TRY TREATMENT: The 40-minute Margaret Dabbs Total Pedicure will leave your feet feeling super-soft and ready for strappy sandals. waldorfastoria3.hilton.com

CARACALLA SPA
Le Royal Meridien Beach Resort & Spa, Dubai Marina

Spread over three floors, this Roman spa complex has a series of hammams, saunas, steam rooms and Jacuzzis. There is a broad range of beauty and body treatments by Elemis and Pevonia, including facials, massage and reflexology.
MUST-TRY TREATMENT: Moroccan Rassoul Body Wrap, a 75-minute treatment that sees you slathered in warm, mineral-rich Rassoul mud to purify and hydrate skin. caracallaspa.com

ASSAWAN SPA, BURJ AL ARAB



TALISE SPA, MADINAT JUMEIRAH



THE SPA AT THE ADDRESS
The Address Downtown, Downtown Dubai

This sleek city spa has steam and aroma rooms, an ice-cave and rain-dance shower. It specialises in massages, with an exquisite Oriental Room for Thai and Shiatsu-inspired treatments, plus ten more rooms for face and body treatments such as purifying body wraps and mani-pedis.
MUST-TRY TREATMENT: The hour-long Four Hands Massage uses the hands and techniques of two therapists at once, leaving you ultra-relaxed. theaddress.com

SARAY SPA
JW Marriott Marquis Dubai, Business Bay

One of the city's newest spas, the Saray Spa is at the heart of the tallest hotel in the world. All products are locally sourced from natural ingredients.
MUST-TRY TREATMENT: The Saray Golden Hammam which combines a traditional Hammam with Gold oil infused with 24 karat gold leaf, followed by a golden clay body wrap. marriott.com

SHUIQI SPA & FITNESS
Atlantis, The Palm

Spread over two floors and with 27 treatment rooms, this award-winning spa has face and body treatments from skin care gurus Shiseido and Aromatherapy Associates, foot treatments from Bastien Gonzalez, and medi-spa services from teeth whitening to botox.
MUST-TRY TREATMENT: The four-hour Japanese Ritual that includes a rose petal footbath, full body Qi massage, Shiseido facial and scalp massage. atlantis.thepalm.com

SO SPA
Sofitel The Palm, Dubai

This huge, ground-floor spa has a wide range of treatments using Hei Poa and Anne Semonin products, and French and Polynesian-themed spa experiences. There are 28 therapy rooms, as well as steam rooms and plunge pool.
MUST-TRY TREATMENT: Shirodhara, a 45-minute Ayurvedic treatment where warmed oil is slowly poured over the forehead to calm and clear the mind. sofitel.com



THE ATLANTIS

LIVE MUSIC
THE IVY, EMIRATES TOWERS,
NEAR DIFC

Like its sister venue in London, the Dubai outpost oozes old-school English glamour, with racing-green leather banquettes, dark wood panelling and starched linen tablecloths. Its sophisticated brunch harks back to the Jazz Age, with live music from the region's most talented jazz artists. The eight-course degustation menu features classic French and British dishes, such as roasted duck breast with buttered savoy and celeriac, served with Moët & Chandon Brut Impérial NV or paired fine wines. Fridays, noon – 4pm, [theyivy.ae](#)

UTTER EXTRAVAGANCE
IMPERIUM, JUMEIRAH ZABEEL
SARAY, THE PALM

Resplendent with chandeliers and columns, this lavish restaurant will certainly impress. Alongside the Sovereign brunch buffet featuring free-flowing Laurent Perrier and French brasserie-style favourites, there's also Dubai's most extravagant offering: the Royale Brunch. With your own private dining room and butler, there's Dom Pérignon champagne and Beluga caviar, as well as a la carte options and seafood and grills from live cooking stations. The experience doesn't come cheap, though. Be prepared to part with a cool Dhs2,500 each. Fridays, 1pm – 4pm. [jumeirah.com](#)

FRENCH CUISINE
TRAITEUR, PARK HYATT DUBAI,
DEIRA

With brilliantly executed cuisine, tasteful surroundings and top-notch service, it's no wonder Traiteur is widely regarded as one of Dubai's best brunches. Diners make their way through the open kitchen, helping themselves to a large selection of appetisers, such as freshly shucked oysters and tuna tartar, and lamb and lobster from the grill, served with Besserat de Bellefon champagne. Dessert includes a mouthwatering selection of crêpes and classics like crème brûlée, as well as a dazzling array of French cheese. Fridays, 12:30pm – 4pm, [dubai.park.hyatt.com](#)

SUBLIME SEAFOOD
PIERCHIC, MADINAT JUMEIRAH,
JUMEIRAH BEACH

Perched at the end of pier with the Burj Al Arab on one side and Atlantis in the distance, Pierchic is one of the city's most romantic settings. But brunch attracts as many groups of glamorous girls as canoodling couples, who all flock here for its superb seafood and fine champagne. It's a mix of buffet and a la carte, with scallop and foie gras stations; main courses such as sautéed tiger prawns and pan-fired sea bass; and sinful desserts. Fridays, 12:30pm – 3:30pm, [jumeirah.com](#)

HIGH BRUNCH
NOBU, ATLANTIS,
THE PALM

Renowned across the globe for its outstanding Japanese cuisine, the atmospheric Nobu Dubai doesn't disappoint. The High Brunch is a suitably reverential affair, with small servings of Nobu favourites served at your table, such as yellowtail sashimi and their signature black cod, along with sake and Perrier Jouët champagne. Brunch begins with salted edamame and a variety of salads, followed by sushi, sashimi and strips of beef, and ends at the overflowing dessert counter. Fridays, 12pm – 4pm. [atlantis.thepalm.com](#)

CHILLED VIBES
URBAN PICNIC, VIDA HOTEL,
DOWNTOWN DUBAI

After grabbing a basket and a bottle of wine, brunchers pull up a patch of grass or grab a cabana by the pool while the DJ plays summer tunes. Inside the light and airy restaurant there's a buffet brimming with fresh salads, as well as wood-fired pizza and stir-fried noodles. A platter of grilled seafood and meats is brought to you, while the cheese and dessert counters are full of baked goodies like pecan pie. Fridays, 1pm – 5pm. [vida-hotels.com](#)

A BIT OF EVERYTHING
AL QASR, MADINAT JUMEIRAH,
JUMEIRAH BEACH

You'll be spoilt for choice at this brunch! With food stations that cover food from all corners of the globe (think Indian, Arabic, Chinese, Malaysian, Japanese, Spanish, seafood, cheese, dessert...and anything else you can think of!) this is one of Dubai's largest brunches. While away the afternoon, sipping on bubbly, and sitting on the beautiful terrace that overlooks Madinat Jumeirah's waterways. Fridays, 12.30pm-4pm. [Jumeirah.com](#)

BUZZY ATMOSPHERE
BUBBALICIOUS, THE WESTIN
DUBAI MINA SEYAH, JUMEIRAH BEACH

Often booked well in advance, this lively brunch is spread across three restaurants, with live music and acrobats to boot. Despite its size, it remains a classy affair and is renowned for its cheese (there are over 100 types to choose from) and specialist charcuterie. The buffets and live cooking stations cover most cuisines and range from salads and foie gras to steak and lobster, plus there's a huge dessert section with a dedicated chocolate table. Fridays, 1pm – 4pm. [westinminaseyah.com](#)



BUBBALICIOUS, THE WESTIN DUBAI MINA SEYAH



LATINO LUNCHEON
CALABAR, THE ADDRESS
DOWNTOWN DUBAI

Latin-inspired Calabar lounge bar serves up South American dishes at live cooking stations. Try oysters, tacos and quesadillas, sliders or even indulge at the live churros station – yummy! Cocktails and a Latin band help to get the party started at this Friday brunch. Fridays, 12pm-4pm. [theaddress.com](#)



URBAN PICNIC, VIDA HOTEL

DECADENT DESSERTS
SANABEL, SHERATON DUBAI
MALL OF THE EMIRATES HOTEL,
AL BARSHA

If you love chocolate and shopping (let's face it, who doesn't?), this brunch is for you. With contemporary décor and a relaxed atmosphere, there's a buffet of sushi and salads, live cooking stations, and main courses ranging from roasts to Indian curries. But dessert is undoubtedly the highlight, with a separate room dedicated to petite chocolate puddings and patisserie cakes. Then it's herbal tea with billowing dry ice, post-brunch drinks on the terrace and a spot of retail therapy downstairs. Fridays, 12.30pm – 4pm, [sheratondubaimalloftheemirates.com](#)

IS DUBAI DRY?

There is no shortage of bars, lounges, clubs and restaurants that serve alcohol in Dubai. Alcohol is available in licensed venues which are usually attached to hotels. You can also, as a non-Muslim visitor aged 21 or over, buy Duty Free alcohol when you arrive at the airport. When you're out in bars and restaurants, it's important to remember that Dubai is a Muslim city, so you need to behave modestly.

MISSED FRIDAY?

You may have been too busy enjoying one of Dubai's many other attractions to have realised you missed Friday! Fear not... some savvy establishments have introduced a Saturday brunch. Try:

- Al Badia Golf Club picnic brunch at InterContinental Dubai Festival City. Saturdays, 12pm-4pm, [albadiaclub.ae](#)
- Souk Al Bahars' The Mango Tree share platters. Saturdays, 12.30pm-3.45pm, [soukalbahar.ae](#)
- Laid back beach vibe at Atlantis' Nasimi Beach. Saturdays, 1pm-4pm, [atlantis.thepalm.com](#)
- Le Classique club house at Emirates Golf Club. Saturdays, 12pm-3pm, [dubaigolf.com/emirates-golf-club](#)
- Spanish Saturdays at El Sur in the Westin Dubai. Saturdays, 12.30pm-3.30pm, [elsurdubai.com](#)
- Relax and unwind at the Jazzy Café Belges brunch in the Ritz-Carlton DIFC. Saturdays, 12.30pm-4.30pm, [ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/Dubai/FC/Dining/Cafe_Belge](#)



For adventure-loving girls

FROM SKYDIVING TO SKIING, PARASAILING TO POLO, DUBAI REALLY DOES HAVE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE. HERE'S OUR PICK OF THE BEST HEART-POUNDING ACTIVITIES...



IN THE AIR

What better way to celebrate your girly getaway than by jumping out of a plane at 15,000 feet? Skydive Dubai (skydivedubai.ae) offers tandem jumps over The Palm or the desert, providing you with amazing birds' eye views (and the ultimate adrenaline rush). Plus, you'll all get a good giggle at the

video of your wobbly cheeks and terrified shrieks. If you'd rather see the sights at a more leisurely pace, how about a helicopter joy flight? Departing from Atlantis, The Palm (atlantisthepalm.com), the chopper will cruise above the coast and past the world's tallest building.

Meanwhile Seawings seawings.ae offers scenic seaplane tours over the city and surrounds in a nine-seat Cessna. There are a handful of 40-minute round-trips taking off and landing at Dubai Creek or Jebel Ali, or you can arrange a bespoke tour or private charter. And if your girlfriends are

earlybirds, they'll love a hot air balloon ride as dawn breaks over the desert. After a 4:30am start, Balloon Adventures Emirates ballooning.ae will take you up, up and away in a large group or private charter (it's best to wear trousers, as you'll need to clamber into the basket).





BY THE BEACH

Dubai is blessed with year-round sunshine, making waterborne activities its specialty. Relive your childhood at one of two world-class waterparks: Wild Wadi jumeirah.com, in front of the Burj Al Arab, and Aquaventure at the Atlantis resort atlantisthepalm.com. Both parks have private cabanas so you can sunbathe between turns on gravity-defying speedslides, twisting waterslides and lazy river rapids. The Atlantis waterpark also has a zipline that whips around a

500 metre circuit with great views back over the Palm.

Marina Beach at JBR has all manner of waterborne fun, starting with the Arabian Water Park arabianwaterparks.com, a 50m inflatable playground made up of trampolines, slides and climbing walls. Trust us, you'll have more fun on this than the kids. Beachside hotels have everything from windsurfing, waterskiing and wakeboarding to parasailing and banana boat rides. Just ask at the

hotel's sports centre.

Nearby at Umm Suqeim beach, Dukite dukite.com offers introductory kitesurfing lessons, as does Kitesurf Club Dubai kitesurf.ae. Equally extreme is flyboarding. Attached to a board with powerful water jets, and with optional jets strapped to your forearms, you're propelled into the air where you 'fly' above the water, dive like a dolphin or attempt some tricks. Try it with Searide Dubai searide-dubai.com, who also

runs jet-ski tours from Jumeirah Fishing Harbour out to the Burj Al Arab and back (60mins) or a two hour round trip to the Palm.

If you'd rather be under the water, sign up for a PADI-certified scuba diving course with Pavilion Dive Centre at Jumeirah Beach Hotel or Al Boom Diving alboomdiving.com, while more experienced divers can explore some good wrecks several miles offshore.

TOUR OPERATORS

Arabian Adventures
arabian-adventures.com
Gulf Ventures
gulfventures.com
Gulf Dunes
gulfdunes.com
Platinum Heritage
platinum-heritage.com
1001 Events
1001events.com
Gulf Dunes
gulfdunes.com
SNTTA Emir Tours
snttaemirtours.com
Travco Dubai
travcotravel.ae
Desert Adventures
desertadventures.com
Meeting Point UAE
meeting-point.com/
meeting-point-dubai
Royal Arabian Tours
royalarabian.com



ON DRY LAND

A 4WD desert safari is a must-do in Dubai. Go for a private tour with one of the many tour companies so you can pick 'n' mix what you want to do, from gentle off-roading across the dunes – or more vigorous dune-bashing – to henna painting, belly dancing and camel rides at an authentic Bedouin camp, topped off with a Middle Eastern meal under the stars. You can even try sand-boarding while you're there.

You might not expect it, but Dubai also has a mountain range just a short drive away from the city. 'Wadi bashing' – a bumpy 4x4 drive through the wadis (dry riverbeds) is great fun - and isolated rock pools fill with fresh mountain water in the winter

months. If you're feeling really adventurous, camping under the mountain stars will make you feel at one with nature! Alternatively, you could try a more glamorous approach to camping. Some tour companies can arrange private desert experiences or camping overnight.

Want to get behind the wheel yourself? Take a spin around Dubai Autodrome's dubaiautodrome.com indoor and outdoor go-karting tracks – the latter has a bridge, tunnel and 17 corners to navigate. You could even give it a go in a F1 style single seater car! Or try desert driving in a dune buggy or on a quad-bike with Dune Buggy Dubai dunebuggydubai.com. For something a bit more off-the-wall,

camel polo is a truly hilarious experience. The Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club poloclubdubai.com will teach you how to swing a polo mallet and ride and steer your new four-legged friend, before you mount up for a match.

Finally, if the girls are into golf, Dubai is a fantastic place to tee off. Emirates Golf Club dubaigolf.com boasts two 18-hole courses: the Majlis, a challenging par 72, 7301-yard championship course, and the

Faldo, which offers "nightclubbing" (floodlit golf). Al Badia Golf Club albadia golfclub.ae, meanwhile, is good for a group of mixed abilities. Four sets of tees are provided on each hole, so the course can be played from 7,303 yards for experienced golfers or down to 5,398 yards for newer players. Both clubs have spas where you can unwind after a round – or just head straight to the 19th hole for some bubbles!

At the mall

There's so much more than just retail therapy...

- The Dubai Mall has cage snorkelling and shark diving at Dubai Aquarium & Underwater Zoo, plus ice-skating thedubaimall.com
- Mall of the Emirates has skiing, snowboarding and zip-lining at Ski Dubai, a 22,500-square-metre indoor ski area malloftheemirates.com
- Mirdif City Centre has indoor skydiving at iFly Dubai, which sees you hovering mid-air in a simulated wind tunnel theplaymania.com



For the nature-loving girls

FROM SEA TO SAND, DUBAI OFFERS SOME EXHILARATING ANIMAL EXPERIENCES. HERE ARE FIVE OF OUR FAVOURITES.

WATCH A FALCONRY DISPLAY

Relied upon by the nomadic Bedouin for their hunting prowess, falcons are revered in Arab culture. Today, falconry is a local sport that shows off the skill of both bird and handler. To learn more about the history of falconry and watch these magnificent birds of prey in full flight, head to the desert resorts of Bab al Shams meydanhôtels.com or Al Maha al-maha.com or join a desert safari where a falconry display is usually part of the programme.

SWIM WITH DOLPHINS AND SEA LIONS

If you've always dreamed of splashing about with Flipper, you can do just that at the legendary Atlantis, The Palm resort. Dolphin encounters range from standing in shallow water to swimming, or even scuba diving, alongside these charismatic creatures. You can also wade into waist-high water for an up-close encounter with the resort's super-cute fur seals. You don't need to be a hotel guest, but you will need to book in advance. atlantis.thepalm.com

MAKE LIKE CARRIE ON A CAMEL

Gather the girls and have your own 'Sex and the City' moment during a camel ride through the rolling desert dunes. Once the region's 'ships of the desert' transporting Bedouin from oasis to oasis, camels have been superseded by 4WDs, but are nevertheless still much admired in the local culture. For an unforgettable experience, combine a sunset camel ride with dinner under the stars in traditional Bedouin-style camp.

SPOT GAZELLES ON SAFARI

If you're keen on spotting some indigenous animals, a desert wildlife drive in a luxury 4WD is just the ticket. Spot free-roaming herds of Arabian oryx and gazelles, as well as lizards, birds and sand cats among the flora and fauna of the reddish-gold desert sands of the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve, the UAE's first national park. Book a day-trip with one of the many Dubai based tour companies.

GO HORSE RIDING IN THE DESERT

Horses are a big part of Emirati culture, from the prized Arabian horses of desert tribes to the million-dollar thoroughbreds that race in the 'Sport of Kings', one of Dubai's most popular pastimes. One of the best places to ride an Arabian horse is in the desert. Experienced horsewomen can head out with a guide to watch the sun rise over the dunes and put the horse, renowned for its speed, endurance and intelligence, through its paces. poloclubdubai.com/en



Where to find...

...sea creatures and crocs

Marvel at 85 species of sea life, including over 400 sharks and rays, at this 10-million-litre aquarium at Dubai Mall. You can even cage-snorkel or scuba dive with them, or just say hello to the newest residents: King Croc, a five-metre-long saltwater crocodile, and a Giant Pacific octopus. thedubaiaquarium.com

...penguins and snow

Only in Dubai could you personally meet penguins at an indoor ski slope in a shopping mall! Haven't you always wanted to give a cute penguin a cuddle? You also get to play games and get your snap with them. Head to Ski Dubai at the Mall of the Emirates, then don a snowsuit and watch King and Gentoo penguins as they waddle across the ice and play in the underwater viewing area. skidubaipenguins.com

..endangered sea turtles

Before being released into the wild, sick and injured Hawksbill sea turtles spend the final stage of their recuperation at two outdoor enclosures at Mina A'Salam hotel at Madinat Jumeirah. It's free to visit anytime and there are scheduled feedings at 11am on Wednesdays and 1pm on Fridays. jumeirah.com

....flamingos

At the mouth of the Dubai creek, hundreds of pretty pink flamingos can be seen nibbling on the salt flats. This beautiful site can be seen in the cooler winter months. www.wildlife.ae

For the foodie girls

WITH MORE THAN 5,400 EATERIES, DUBAI IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE REGION'S CULINARY CAPITAL. WHATEVER YOUR FANCY, THE CITY IS READY TO TAKE YOUR ORDER.



I

For a city that is home to over 200 nationalities, it is little wonder that Dubai dishes up a veritable smorgasbord of outstanding world cuisine. With new restaurants being added to the menu every month, Dubai is increasingly capturing the attention of global gastronomes.

In fact, two of Dubai's best-loved restaurants made it onto 2014's 'The World's 50 Best Restaurants' list for the third year running: Zuma, who does contemporary Japanese izakaya-style sharing plates like no other, and La Petite Maison, whose outstanding French Mediterranean cuisine has won it a loyal army of fans. You'll find both in DIFC, the heart of Dubai's fine-dining scene. Also nearby is Argentinean steakhouse Gaucho Grill, as well-known for its chic cow-inspired décor as its butter-soft steaks, and Roberto's, one of the city's best Italian restaurants (go for a table on the balcony with views of the Burj Khalifa).

Over the road from here is famous London export, The Ivy, which serves up faultless British and French-inspired classics in a private members' club atmosphere, and Hakkasan, which serves sophisticated contemporary

MIDNIGHT FEASTS.

Feeling peckish on your way home? Dubai has some fantastic late night eateries. Try a traditional shawarma (grilled meat) sandwich from one of the many stalls across the city, or visit the Lebanese Bakery for a cheesy bread pie!



Chinese cuisine and has a wonderfully knowledgeable head sommelier to recommend matched wines (not always easy with Chinese). Near the Dubai World Trade Centre, OKKU at The H Hotel Dubai, is another contemporary Asian gem, this time serving Japanese. Celebrity chef Marco Pierre White has also opened his latest culinary venture, Marco Pierre White Grill, at the Conrad Hotel close by. While over at Wafi Mall, Qbara, has set the standard for contemporary Arabic dining in one of the city's most stunning new venues. Don't leave Dubai without booking a table here.

Heading across the Creek, three-Michelin-starred French chef Pierre Gagniere's Reflets par Pierre Gagnaire at InterContinental Dubai Festival City will not disappoint even the most demanding food connoisseur. And for an elegant dinner experience afloat, book a table

at Bateaux Dubai, a fine dining dinner cruise that lives up to expectations.

Over on the Palm, three Michelin-starred chef Heinz Beck is making waves with his new 'deformalised fine-dining' restaurant, Social by Heinz Beck. The perfectly executed Mediterranean menu and sophisticated dining room at the Waldorf Astoria Dubai Palm Jumeirah is fast gathering a fanbase. For a totally different take on Med cooking, try Ossiano, an outstanding fine-dining seafood restaurant at Atlantis, The Palm with views of sharks

HIDDEN GEMS. There is an abundance of choice in Dubai - before you leave Dubai, be sure to discover some of the city's street food. In Deira or Satwa you will find delicious freshly-cooked Indian curries; or dine on the freshest fish at Dubai's beach shacks along Jumeirah Beach Road; and don't forget to try some authentic Emirati food.

and marine-life drifting past as you dine. For scrumptious looking desserts and sublime French staples, look no further than STAY by Yannick Alléno at the One&Only The Palm.

A welcome addition to the Dubai Marina dining scene meanwhile, is Geales at Le Royal Méridien Beach Resort and Spa Dubai Marina. Established in 1939 in London, this upmarket seafood spot has amazing platters (and don't miss the caviar with blinis). At nearby Grosvenor House Dubai, take your pick from Michelin-starred chef Gary Rhodes' playful take on British classics at Rhodes Mezzanine or divine Indian cuisine at Indego by Vineet. And leave room for contemporary Spanish cuisine from chef Juan Carlos González Hernández, a protégé of Ferran Adrià, at the Westin Dubai Mina Seyahi Beach Resort next door.



TEN TOP HIGH TEAS

1 RAFFLES SALON
Raffles Dubai Hotel
Fashionistas flock here for the 'Fashion High Tea', with savouries and sweets inspired by the season's latest fashions, along with 20 tea blends.

2 FORTNUM & MASON
Downtown Dubai
This quintessentially English experience features tiered trays of sandwiches, scones and delicate cakes and an impressive tea menu.

3 MASHRABIYA LOUNGE
Fairmont The Palm
A tea sommelier will help you choose your brew, then indulge in British favourites like warm scones with clotted cream and strawberry jam.

4 BATEAUX DUBAI
Cruise down the Creek on this glass-walled boat as you take tea (or Champagne) and nibble on sweet treats.

5 THE SAMOVAR LOUNGE
One&Only Royal Mirage
Nibble sandwiches, scones and macaroons on the beautiful balcony terrace overlooking the gardens and Gulf and choose from 16 types of tea.

6 THE LOUNGE AT AT.MOSPHERE
Burj Khalifa
The highest 'high tea' of all takes place 122 floors up, with delectable treats and aromatic tea (or a glass of bubbly!).

7 THE JEWEL AFTERNOON TEA, The Desert Palm
Enjoy a classic afternoon tea among the polo pavilions, or watch a match in action, at this desert polo estate.

8 SKYVIEW LOUNGE
Burj Al Arab
Indulge in a glass of Champagne, or choose from 50 types of teas, and a seemingly endless supply of sandwiches, pastries and cakes.

9 AL BAYT
The Palace Downtown
Afternoon tea with an Arabic twist, with goodies like camel milk pistachio crème brûlée, and a good selection of teas.

10 RITZ-CARLTON DUBAI
Get ready to hold up your pinkie finger at this classic afternoon tea. Choose from delicious pastries and more than 20 types of tea.



THE SPECTACULAR DUBAI FOUNTAIN ON THE BURJ KHALIFA LAKE

For the nightlife-loving girls

WITH HUNDREDS OF STYLISH BARS AND CLUBS TO CHOOSE FROM, YOU'RE SPOILT FOR CHOICE WHEN IT COMES TO A GIRLS' NIGHT OUT. HERE'S WHERE TO HEAD WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN.



TAXI TALK

STANDARD DUBAI TAXIS ARE SAFE TO USE AT NIGHT, ALTHOUGH YOU MAY PREFER TO PRE-BOOK A PINK TAXI, DRIVEN BY WOMEN AND EXCLUSIVELY FOR FEMALE PASSENGERS.

SKYVIEW BAR, BURJ AL ARAB

Best for... *sky-high views*

AT.MOSPHERE, BURJ KHALIFA, DOWNTOWN

If pre-dinner drinks at the level-122 lounge bar of the towering Burj Khalifa isn't on your girly getaway bucket list already, add it now. You'll need to book ahead and there's a minimum spend (more for tables by the window), but it's worth it. atmosphereburjkhalifa.com

VAULT, JW MARRIOTT MARQUIS DUBAI, BUSINESS BAY

This vertiginous venue on the 71st and 72nd floors of the world's tallest hotel offers dizzying views of Dubai's famous skyline. With elegant black and gold décor and inventive cocktails, this cool customer attracts a classy clientele. marriott.com

SKYVIEW BAR, BURJ AL ARAB, JUMEIRAH BEACH

Set on the 27th floor and suspended 200 metres above sea level, a tittle at the top of the Burj will not disappoint. The décor is kind of kitsch but, gazing over the Gulf with a cocktail in hand will be something you'll talk about for the rest of your stay. You'll need to book and a minimum spend applies. jumeirah.com

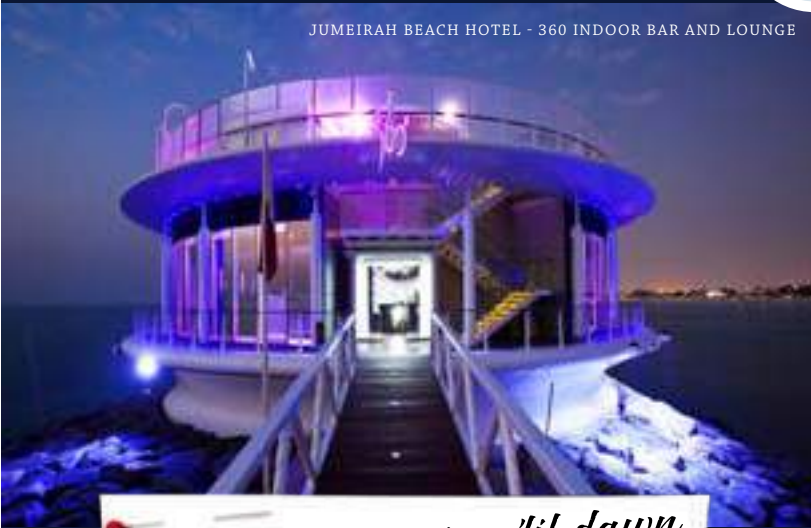
TOP TIP

Remember where you are. Of the millions of people who visit each year, the majority have a trouble-free stay and thoroughly enjoy themselves. Dubai's laws and culture promote respect so offensive language, aggressive behaviour and public displays of affection are not tolerated. You need to be 21 or over to drink legally so take some ID (drivers licence or passport) out with you.

ATMOSPHERE
BURJ KHALIFA



JUMEIRAH BEACH HOTEL - 360 INDOOR BAR AND LOUNGE



Best for... dancing 'til dawn

360°, JUMEIRAH BEACH HOTEL, JUMEIRAH BEACH
Spectacularly located on a jetty one-kilometre out to sea, 360° is considered by many to be Dubai's best nightclub, with visiting international and resident DJs. The crowd are there to see and be seen so make an effort. [jumeirah.com](#)

MAHIKI, JUMEIRAH BEACH HOTEL, JUMEIRAH BEACH
The London original is well-loved by the young aristocratic crowd, and Dubai's own tiki-themed nightclub is a blast too, with pop classics, glitzy outfits and sparkler-topped champagne magnums for the big spenders. [jumeirah.com](#)

PEOPLE BY CRYSTAL, RAFFLES DUBAI, OUD METHA
Located at the top of the Raffles pyramid with enormous windows affording 360-degree views, this glitzy club has spectacularly lit dancefloors, top house music, beautiful people and a hedonistic vibe. [raffles.com](#)

KOUBBA BAR MADINAT JUIMERAH- AL QASR



Best for... creative cocktails

BUDDHA BAR, GROSVENOR HOUSE DUBAI, DUBAI MARINA
The cocktails are as cool as the crowd at this Oriental-styled bar. Blackberry-infused vodkas, expertly crushed with fresh fruit and ice, blend to create the bar's signature berry-themed concoctions. Dress up. [grosvenorhouse-dubai.com](#)

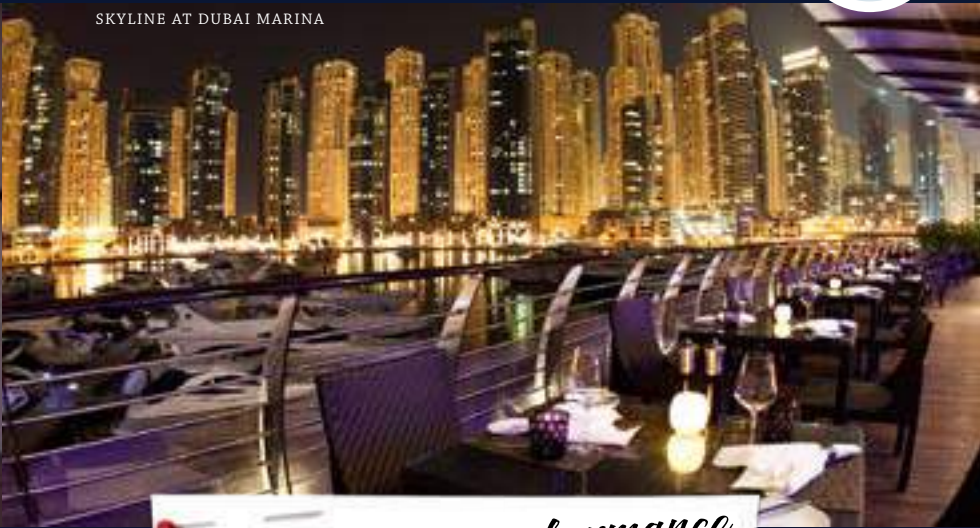
BAHRI BAR, MINA A'SALAM, MADINAT JUMEIRAH
With glam interiors, gorgeous sea views from the terrace, and an award-winning mixologist, Bahri is a great spot to watch the sun go down. Sample the Bubbly Madinat, a mix of peach and Champagne, or the signature gin-based Cool as a Cucumber. [jumeirah.com](#)

KARMA KAFE, SOUK AL BAHAR, DOWNTOWN DUBAI
Buddha Bar's little sister is similarly atmospheric, but has a more intimate vibe. Choose from over 30 intriguing concoctions, include the Popcorn Old Fashioned, vodka or bourbon infused with caramelised salted butter popcorn. A great venue for pre- or post-Dubai Fountain drinks. [karma-kafe.com](#)



OH YES IT'S LADIES' NIGHT! PLAN YOUR ROUTE AND HIT THE TOWN, TUESDAY IS LADIES NIGHT IN MOST BARS ACROSS THE CITY... THINK FREE DRINKS!

SKYLINE AT DUBAI MARINA



Best for... live performance

THE ACT, SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, SHEIKH ZAYED ROAD
Opened last year, this wild and wonderful nightclub combines cabaret-style theatre with imaginative Peruvian cuisine from head chef Roberto Segura. While not as raunchy as the Las Vegas original, it still manages to be edgy and hugely enjoyable. [shangri-la.com](#)

MUSICALL, JUMEIRAH ZABEEL SARAY, THE PALM
Not just a theatre venue and so much more than a club, Beirut's famed music concept landed last year. An eclectic roster of musicians, ranging from rock to Latino, gypsy to jazz, perform live. Expect high-quality performances and a party atmosphere, with sharing plates available. [jumeirah.com](#)

CIRQUE LE SOIR, FAIRMONT HOTEL, SHEIKH ZAYED ROAD
First opened in the heart of London's Mayfair in 2009, this circus-nightclub has since expanded to Dubai and Shanghai. It's certainly an impressive spectacle, combining top-quality circus acts, such as snake charmers, acrobats, and international DJs, against a burlesque backdrop. [cirquelesoir.com](#)

THE BEST LADIES' NIGHTS
Here are three top spots for a Tuesday tipple

Embassy at Grosvenor House Dubai, Dubai Marina
This high-end club overlooking the Marina has a dancefloor that lights up and attracts a glamorous party crowd

Boudoir at Dubai Marine Beach Resort & Spa, Jumeirah
One of the city's most famous girls' nights out, you'll need to dress to impress to get past the door staff at this swanky bar

Pure Sky Lounge at Hilton Dubai JBR, Dubai Marina
Reserve a table at this classy venue – the views from outdoor terrace and free pink bubbles make it popular spot



The Entertainer is a book full of two-for-one deals at cafes, spas, hotels and more. [Theentertainerme.com](#)

What do you enjoy most about living in Dubai?
What's not to love! Dubai has the best of the world all in one place. Living here means being spoilt for choice when it comes to restaurants, nightlife, leisure, spas and shopping. Also, I find Dubai is a very safe environment to bring up my two children, there's so much for them to do here.

What's your top insider's tip for women visiting Dubai? Make sure that you take at least a day off to pamper yourself. This is a city renowned for its luxury and indulgence, so to truly experience Dubai you should spend a day at the spa. Alternatively, shopping is key!

Is there anything that has surprised you or changed your perceptions of Dubai after residing there? What always surprises me is what people outside of Dubai think about it – namely that they think we are all living a very luxurious life with lots of leisure time. While Dubai does excel at luxury, I've found it to be a very hard-working environment. Everyone is here to work and it's very busy, all the time.

Which experiences would you recommend as a must-do to other women visiting Dubai? I think this is the best place to put together a fabulous wardrobe. There are so many international designers here showcasing their latest collections. If you want to create something yourself, you can choose from fabrics and designs from every part of the world, and find bespoke tailors who will flawlessly tailor your creation.



For the luxe-loving girl

FROM POSH CITY PADS TO LUXURIOUS BEACHFRONT RESORTS, HERE ARE SOME OF DUBAI'S BEST HOTELS



MADINAT JUMEIRAH



FAIRMONT THE PALM



Beach Babes

MADINAT JUMEIRAH

Inspired by traditional Arabic architecture, this lavish honey-coloured hotel complex features latticed archways, oriental lanterns and replica wind-towers. The sprawling complex boasts a two five-star hotels (Al Qasr and Mina A'Salam), summerhouses, villas, an air-conditioned souk and over 40 restaurants and bars linked by man-made waterways lined with bougainvillea. At the foot of the iconic Burj al-Arab this complex is rather lovely and a popular spot for visitors and locals alike. jumeirah.com

JUMEIRAH ZABEEL SARAY

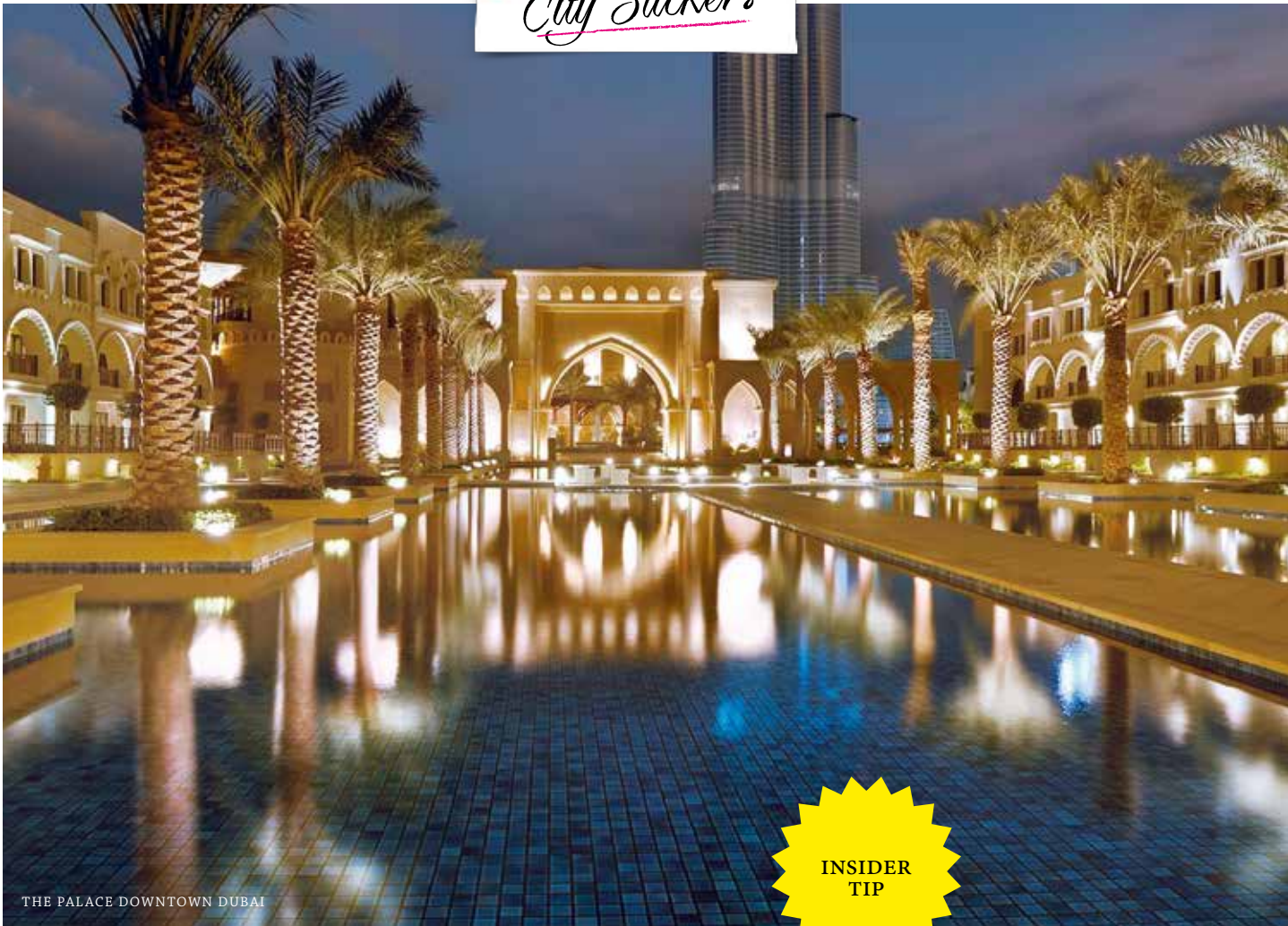
Ottoman opulence best describes this palatial hotel on the west crescent of the Palm. The lobby has jewel-coloured chandeliers and handpainted frescos, while the rooms are equally impressive with silk-draped beds and enormous marble baths. Outside, there's a private beach and a 59-metre infinity pool, but the real draw is the magnificent Talise Ottoman Spa, home to a staggering 42 treatment rooms, three traditional Turkish hammams, steam rooms and saunas. jumeirah.com

ONE&ONLY ROYAL MIRAGE

The magnificent One&Only Royal Mirage, reminiscent of an Arabian palace features beautifully lush palm courtyards, interspersed by intricate arches, domes, and towers. This beautiful beachside hotel overlooking the Palm, is made up of three hotels within the resort (The Palace, Arabian Court and Residence & Spa) and also has a wonderful spa. Pure bliss! royalmirage.oneandonlyresorts.com

FAIRMONT THE PALM

We can't get enough of this top notch beach resort on Dubai's iconic man-made island. With a private beach, four sparkling swimming pools, and a fantastic panorama of the skyscrapers of the 'Middle East Manhattan', you could easily spend your whole holiday here. And did we mention the hotel's great restaurants (we particularly like Ba Restaurant & Lounge's accomplished Chinese cuisine) and the 1,600-square-metre spa with treatment rooms overlooking the Arabian Gulf? fairmont.com



THE PALACE DOWNTOWN DUBAI

INSIDER TIP

VIDA DOWNTOWN DUBAI

This new 'boutique' style hotel, conveniently located in Downtown Dubai, and close to the Dubai Mall, is sleek and modern. This hotel boasts some fantastic restaurants including a Dubai branch of the Sydney based Japanese 'Toko' and French bistro La Serre. [vida-hotels.com](#)

JW MARRIOTT MARQUIS DUBAI

As you can imagine, the views from the world's tallest hotel are pretty spectacular. Located in Business Bay, just a stone's throw from Downtown, this twin-tower hotel has contemporary rooms in muted tones with floor-to-ceiling windows and freestanding tubs. There are 14 restaurants and bars, including succulent steak at Prime 68 and expertly mixed cocktails at Vault on the 72nd floor (don't miss the daily Happy Hour from 5pm - 8pm). The spa is top-notch too. [marriott.com](#)

BOOK YOUR TICKETS FOR 'AT THE TOP' THE BURJ KHALIFA'S 124TH-FLOOR OBSERVATION DECK IN ADVANCE ONLINE - YOU'LL PAY A THIRD OF THE PRICE.

THE PALACE DOWNTOWN DUBAI

Modern meets majestic at The Palace Downtown Dubai. Just a few steps away from the Dubai Mall, and attached to Souk Al Bahar with boutiques, restaurants and bars, The Palace is perfectly located for girls that like to shop until they drop! And, the rooms, or the pool overlooking the Burj Khalifa, are pretty nice to 'drop' into. [theaddress.com/en/hotels/the-palace-downtown-dubai/](#)



ARMANI HOTEL DUBAI

THE ADDRESS DOWNTOWN DUBAI

If you've come to Dubai to shop 'til you drop, this fabulous hotel should be top of your wish list. It has brilliant Burj views, 196 stylish rooms, a plush spa and five-tier infinity pool. There are seven restaurants and bars - we love CUT by Wolfgang Puck, while the lovely outdoor terrace at Calabar is perfect for pre-dinner drinks. Nearby sister hotel, The Address Dubai Mall has direct access to the mega-mall. [theaddress.com](#)

ARMANI HOTEL DUBAI

Want to really wow your girlfriends? A room at Giorgio Armani's first hotel ought to do it. Located in the world's tallest building, 828-metre Burj Khalifa, this super stylish hotel has seven restaurants including an authentic Italian deli with great coffee, a sleek spa, outdoor pool and uber-cool nightclub. The 160 rooms come with king-sized beds, marble bathrooms and Armani goodies, while the staff are easily the best-dressed in town. [dubai.armanihotels.com](#)



THE ADDRESS DOWNTOWN DUBAI





SOFITEL DUBAI DOWNTOWN



PARK HYATT DUBAI

PARK HYATT DUBAI

Closer to the old city, the elegant Park Hyatt Dubai, alongside the Dubai creek is a serene luxury hideaway. There are some excellent restaurants including the signature French brasserie Traiteur (famous for the Friday brunch) and The Terrace, overlooking the Dubai Creek and marina – the perfect spot to watch the sun go down over the water. Not to forget, the luxury Amara Spa, one of the finest Dubai spas. [dubai.park.hyatt.com](#)



WALDORF ASTORIA DUBAI PALM JUMEIRAH

SOFITEL DUBAI DOWNTOWN

Opposite Dubai Mall metro station and connected to the world's largest mall via an air-conditioned walkway, this is another top choice for shopaholics. The 60-metre infinity pool on the 5th-floor terrace has truly breathtaking views of the Burj Khalifa, while The 31, the newly-opened penthouse bar lets you oggle the rest of the city in style. [sofitel.com](#)

WALDORF ASTORIA DUBAI PALM JUMEIRAH

Positioned on the east crescent of the island, the city's first Waldorf Astoria has made quite an impression. The 319 rooms, overlooking the ocean, are some of the prettiest we've seen, with cream and soft turquoise décor and subtle Arabian design flourishes. Spa junkies will love the enormous spa complex, with saunas, steam rooms, ice fountains, floatation lounges and nearly 50 indulgent treatments, plus two pools and ten bars and restaurants. You could also treat yourself to dinner at 'Social', the new restaurant led by 3-star Michelin Chef Heinz Beck. [waldorfastoria3.hilton.com](#)

FOUR SEASONS DUBAI

Set on a pristine beach, the new Four Seasons Resort on Jumeirah Beach blends Arabic design with cool, contemporary style and sophisticated luxury. Set to open in late 2014, the 237room hotel offers views of the Arabian Gulf on one side and Burj Khalifa and the downtown skyline on the other. The hotel will be home to 10 new restaurants, including trendy Japanese restaurant Zuma, and one of the city's most lavish spas. [fourseasons.com/dubaijb](#)

COMING SOON



Georgia Macmillan
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

What do you enjoy most about living in Dubai? I enjoy meeting people from all over the world who, for various reasons, have moved to Dubai. I feel more culturally enriched and aware – I also feel a great sense of community with fellow ex-pats as we all have had to create a new 'family of friends'. Dubai is also an amazing place for our daughter Olivia to grow up. We are exposed to so many different cultures and cuisines, Olivia attends nursery with children from more than 30 different countries, she'll learn about Islamic traditions and how to speak Arabic and French. As a family we have the opportunity to travel throughout the Middle East, Europe, Africa and India. Dubai also happens to be one of the safest cities in the world.

What's your top insider's tip for women visiting Dubai? Book a table in advance at the most popular restaurant in Dubai – La Petite Maison – and wear your best little black dress. It will be one of the best dining experiences you can hope for.

Is there anything that has surprised you or changed your perceptions of Dubai after residing there?
The greenery and incredible

landscaping has been a wonderful surprise. Every street and main road is lined with endless rows of brightly coloured petunias, meticulously trimmed hedges and enormous palm trees. I also have great admiration for the Emiratis – they are progressive and have great vision.

Which experiences would you recommend as a must-do to other women visiting Dubai?
At the Dubai Mall, I would make a beeline for Fashion Avenue where you can sip coffee at Armani Café, under the beautiful 'floating butterfly' installation, surrounded by Hermes, Dolce & Gabbana and Chanel. It is such a glamorous, serene environment away from the hustle and bustle of busier more touristy areas of the Mall such the Aquarium. We love to escape the city and lunch at The Farm at Al Barari. The XVA Gallery located in Dubai's oldest and most historic area Bastakiya is a must visit. The chic and eclectic gallery is a hidden gem. It is one of my favourite places to take friends visiting Dubai. I love breakfast and lunch at Tom & Serg – they serve THE best coffee in Dubai, which makes it worth the drive. *Share your experiences online using #MyDubai*



For the shopaholics

HOME TO THE WORLD'S LARGEST SHOPPING MALL AND EVERY LUXURY LABEL YOU CAN IMAGINE, DUBAI IS A FASHION-LOVER'S PARADISE.



Start at the souks

For the quintessential Arabian shopping experience, head to the souks in Bur Dubai and Deira (an abra-ride away from each other across Dubai Creek). In Deira, you'll find the world's largest Gold Souk, said to hold 10 tonnes of gold at any given time. There are hundreds of shops crammed with a dizzying array of bracelets, necklaces, rings and precious gems. Gold is sold by weight, based on international gold rates, so it's only really the craftsmanship you'll be able to bargain down. The more intricate the design, the more you can expect to pay.

It's also worth checking out the small Perfume Souk for Arabian

perfume oils (attars) in gem-encrusted gold and silver bottles. There's also a Spice Souk selling herbs, spices, dried fruits and frankincense, as well as souvenirs. In Bur Dubai, there's the atmospheric Textile Souk, filled with fabrics in vibrant colours and patterns. Pick up some material here – be prepared to haggle – and then visit one of the copy-tailors in Bur Dubai and Satwa, where they'll custom-make your favourite item from a photo or sample. For a more upmarket, less authentic souk experience, visit Souk Al Bahar and Souk Madinat, modern recreations of old-world bazaars and good places to pick up classy souvenirs. >>



BE DAZZLED BY THE GOLD SOUKS



DID YOU KNOW?

...then move to the Malls

First stop for any self-respecting fashionista should be the mother of all malls, the Dubai Mall thedubaimall.com. With 1,200 stores and over 200 food outlets, not to mention an Olympic-sized ice rink, indoor theme parks, massive aquarium and even a 155 million-year-old dinosaur skeleton, it's more like a mini-city than a shopping centre. It's home to legendary New York department store, Bloomingdale's, which has high fashion, jewellery, cosmetics and homewares, as well as French favourite, Galeries Lafayette – a great place to shop for fashion, lingerie, accessories and homewears with a

Parisian feel. If you're flagging, stop for a bite to eat at the upmarket Lafayette Gourmet, or Fortnum & Mason, the venerable British brand's first store outside of the UK. Then head to Fashion Avenue, the largest collection of labels under one roof anywhere in the world. You'll find high-end designer stores such as Armani, Chanel and Louis Vuitton and high street heroes such as Topshop, Zara and Mango. If shoes are your weakness, make a beeline for Level Shoe District, the world's largest luxury shoe store, where you'll find coveted creations from the likes of Christian Louboutin, Giuseppe Zanotti and Marc Jacobs. >>

THE DUBAI MALL WELCOMED OVER 75 MILLION VISITORS IN 2013, MAKING IT THE MOST-VISITED DESTINATION ON THE PLANET

Not to be sniffed at is the Mall of the Emirates malloftheemirates.com, Dubai's second largest with over 450 stores, 85 restaurants, the world's largest indoor ski slope, a 14-cinema complex and two five-star hotels. Earlier this year, it unveiled its own Fashion District with more than 30 stores, including a number of new arrivals to the region such as Halston Heritage, McQ by

Alexander McQueen and Sandro. Other fashionable names include Karen Millen, Ted Baker and Betty Barclay. The mall also has British department stores, Harvey Nichols and Debenhams, as well as high street names like French Connection, Diesel and Gap. Meanwhile BurJuman burjuman.com, has over 300 high-end and high-street brands, including the highest

concentration of couture stores in the city. Here you'll find New York department store, Saks Fifth Avenue, Louis Vuitton, Dior, Hermes, Valentino, Dolce & Gabbana, Versace, Fendi, Cartier, and many more. Finally, the Gold & Diamond Park goldanddiamondpark.com in Al Quoz is the place for jewellery, with around 90 reputable retailers.

INSIDER TIP

THE MALLS ARE BUSIEST ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY EVENINGS, WHEN THEY STAY OPEN UNTIL 1AM (DUBAI MALL OPEN TILL 1AM THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY), SO SHOP OUTSIDE OF THESE TIMES TO AVOID THE CROWDS.

LEVEL SHOE DISTRICT, DUBAI MALL



MALL MANNERS

- DO dress modestly for the mall. That means loose clothes that cover your shoulders and knees.
- DON'T take your lead from other tourists. While you'll see plenty of skimpy outfits, modest dress is a sign of respect.
- DO remember to pack a cardigan or pashmina. Air-conditioned malls can get rather chilly after a while.
- DON'T worry about wearing a headscarf. It's not necessary to cover your hair unless you're visiting a mosque.

THREE BRILLIANT BOUTIQUES

- **West LA Boutique**
Pick up quirky bohemian pieces and brands like House of Harlow at this hipster favourite in Sunset Mall. westlaboutique.com
- **The Cartel**
You'll find avant-garde and one-off fashion pieces at this arty showroom in Al Serkal Avenue. thecartel.me
- **Bambah**
Head to this Jumeirah Beach Road boutique for vintage designer dresses and accessories. bambah.com

FESTIVALS

DUBAI SHOPPING FESTIVAL MYDSF.AE KICKS OFF IN JANUARY AND SEES MONTH-LONG SALES ACROSS THE CITY

For the art-loving girls

DUBAI IS A BLOSSOMING ART HUB, WITH DOZENS OF GALLERIES SHOWCASING OLD AND NEW. HERE'S WHERE TO GET ARTY...

WHAT'S THE ART SCENE LIKE?

The city has a flourishing art scene, with an ever-growing list of galleries and an impressive calendar of events including Art Dubai, an annual art fair held in March that showcases the works of over 500 artists from galleries around the world. The dynamic nature of Dubai means contemporary art is incredibly popular, although traditional art is still admired.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT TO SEE?

Historically, art in the Middle East was based on the twirling strokes of calligraphy, the script of the holy Quran, and intricate geometric patterns called arabesque, and these remain popular among contemporary artists. Alongside artworks from Emirati, Iranian and Lebanese artists, you'll also see pieces from artists across the globe.

WHERE DO I FIND THE GALLERIES?

There are three main art areas in Dubai. In the historic Bastakiya district, you'll find courtyard galleries flanked by bougainvillea, while the financial district of DIFC is home to high-end galleries (and some of Dubai's best restaurants), making it the city's most glamorous arts destination. The industrial area of Al Quoz, meanwhile, has seen some of its warehouses converted into cutting-edge exhibition spaces. It's here you'll find the city's hippest art hub, Alserkal Avenue alserkalavenue.ae.



Must-see spaces

THE MAJLIS GALLERY, BASTAKIYA

Opened in 1989 in a sand-coloured wind-tower house by expat Alison Collins, Majlis is the city's most established gallery. It showcases modern and contemporary art from local and international artists and has an artist-in-residence programme. themajlisgallery.com

XVA GALLERY, BASTAKIYA

Another pioneering gallery in a historic house, XVA was established in 2003 and specialises in contemporary art from the Arab world and Indian subcontinent. It shares its space with a charming boutique hotel and vegetarian café. xvagallery.com

AYYAM GALLERY, DIFC

This Syrian gallery displays contemporary painting, sculpture and photography from Middle Eastern artists. It is one of the region's most influential, with spaces in Beirut, Dubai, Jeddah, and London, along with a second gallery in Al Quoz. ayyamgallery.com

THE EMPTY QUARTER, DIFC

The city's only gallery devoted exclusively to fine art photography showcases works from emerging and established, local and international photographers. Exhibitions range from photojournalism and portraits to abstract and street photography. theemptyquarter.com

INSIDER
TIP

OPERA GALLERY, DIFC

Part of an international group that includes outposts in London and New York, the gallery houses works by 50 modern masters including Picasso, Dali and Monet, plus contemporary greats from China, the Middle East and more. operagallery.com

MEEM GALLERY, AL QUOZ

This warehouse space focuses on modern and contemporary Arab and Iranian art. With access to both the private and public collections of leading artists, and a well-stocked library, this is a great place to learn more about the region's creative leanings. meemartgallery.com

ALSERKAL AVENUE GALLERIES, AL QUOZ

This complex is home to ten contemporary galleries, including Ayyam Gallery, Carbon 12, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Grey Noise and Green Art Gallery, along with creative organisations like Gulf Photo Plus. alserkalavenue.ae

AFTER EXPLORING AL QUOZ, HEAD TO TOM & SERG
FOR DUBAI'S BEST COFFEE. TOMANDSERG.COM



ANYONE FOR OPERA?

An opera house to rival our own will be the centerpiece of the city's new 500-acre cultural district opposite the Burj Khalifa in Downtown Dubai. Styled on the Gulf's iconic dhow sailing boat, the 2,000-seat venue will be used for opera, theatre and art exhibitions. You'll have to wait though – the district is slated to open in 2016.

DUBAI ARTS SEASON

If you're visiting in March, don't miss the month-long Dubai Arts Season. Events include Art Dubai, which attracts over 25,000 art-lovers, SIKKA Art Fair, which showcases Emirati and Dubai-based artists, and Design Days, a furniture and design fair with pieces from over 20 countries.

YOU'VE BEEN FRAMED

A beautiful and unique memento of your visit to Dubai can come by way of your name in Arabic calligraphy framed. Available in the souk area of most malls.

ART CAFES

Pop up style cafes and community spaces such as The Archive in Safa Park thearchivedubai.tumblr.com or The Pavillion in Downtown Dubai pavilion.ae celebrate art, music and culture and provide a hub for local artists.

#MyDubai



Karen McLean
SECRET SQUIRREL FOOD BLOGGER

Australian Karen McLean moved to Dubai a year ago and is the creative mind, photographer and sneaky chef behind her blog, Secret Squirrel Food.

What do you enjoy most about living in Dubai? Dubai is always buzzing and there is always something to do, whether it be an event, festival, catching up with friends, beach, shopping, eating at world class restaurants, visiting art galleries, skiing, waterparks, it's endless! What I love is experiencing different cultures and opening my eyes to trying new, different and exciting things. Dubai is very diverse and creates an environment where everyone has an interesting story to tell.

What's your top insider's tip for women visiting Dubai? Always have a light jacket or scarf handy! It can be sometimes very chilly in the shopping malls and when dining inside restaurants. (The scarf is also useful to cover up in more culturally sensitive areas). Many restaurants also have ladies nights during the week, where they offer discounts on food and beverage for women only, so be sure to do some research online. Lastly, visit Dubai with no expectations and enjoy all the great things that Dubai has to offer!

Is there anything that has surprised you or changed your perceptions of Dubai after residing there? What has surprised me the most is how much I love living in Dubai, a city I now proudly and happily call home. Every day, I wake up to one of the most stunning views in the world, Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building. It always reminds me that if you have a vision, then you can make your dreams turn into reality.

Which experiences would you recommend as a must-do to other women visiting Dubai? High Tea at the Burj Al Arab is a must-do! The Talise Ottoman Spa located within the luxurious Jumeirah Sabeel Zaray; Dubai Marina; health-conscious café Comptoir102; Zuma, Japanese restaurant; and shopping at Dubai Mall.

Share your experiences online using #MyDubai



For the culture-loving girls

THERE'S MORE TO DUBAI THAN SHOPPING MALLS AND SKYSCRAPERS. LOOK BEYOND THE BLING AND YOU'LL DISCOVER A RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE.

Gazing at the gleaming skyscrapers of the 'Manhattan of the Middle East', it's easy to forget that Dubai was once little more than a fishing village. Old Dubai sprung up around the Creek in the mid-1800s and became a centre for fishing, pearling and trading. The discovery of 'black gold' in 1966 has meant the emirate has undergone a remarkable transformation in a very short space of time.

Today, Dubai is home to more than 200 nationalities, but it is proud of its rich heritage, which blends Bedouin, Islamic and Emirati culture and traditions. To get a flavour of the old city, slip on your comfy walking shoes and head to Dubai Museum dubaiculture.ae

in the historic Al Fahidi district of Bur Dubai. Housed in the impressive Al Fahidi Fort, built around 1787, making it the oldest building in the city, the museum has fascinating old photographs that show a very different Dubai and a slick multimedia presentation that charts its evolution from tiny trading port to modern metropolis.

Next stop should be the excellent Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding cultures.ae. Established by Dubai's ruler in 1998, the centre offers walking tours through the atmospheric old Bastakiya neighbourhood, home to wind-tower houses (clever structures that were an early form of air conditioning) built by wealthy merchants nearly a century

ago. The centre also hosts cultural meals in a traditional majlis ('place of sitting' in Arabic), with guests seated in a circle on carpets and cushions and a typical Emirati feast laid out before them. A frank and open discussion follows, giving you the chance to ask questions, no matter how sensitive, of your Emirati guide. You can opt for brunch, lunch or dinner; just be sure to book in advance.

In Bastakiya, you will also find small art galleries, shops and cafes tucked away in the breezy courtyards of the beautifully restored houses. It's the perfect spot to reflect on the contrasts of the city and write postcards home!

Then wander around the old souks, synonymous with the Middle East, beginning



Enjoy a local feast at the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding; and chat to local Emirati women about their way of life.



with the Textile Souk, where you can barter for colourful pashminas, and fabrics. Take a wooden abra (wooden water taxi) across the water to Deira, where you'll find aromatic spices, herbs and frankincense in the Spice Souk, over 300 shops in the glitzy Gold Souk, and heady Arabian attars in the Perfume Souk.

You'll no doubt hear the melodic call to prayer echoing across the city at some point during your stay. If you want to learn more about Islamic religion and culture, the centre also hosts visits to Jumeirah Mosque, the only one in Dubai that's open to non-Muslims. The one-hour guided tour allows you to explore the splendid architecture and intricate design and, again, ask plenty of questions. Mosque tours

take place every Saturday to Thursday at 10am. No reservation is required, but you will need to dress modestly (pack a pashmina to cover your hair and wear loose clothing that covers your arms, shoulders and legs).

At the entrance to Dubai Creek you will get a sense of the city's origins as a bustling seaport. Stop at a creek-side café for a lemon

and mint juice or an avocado milkshake and pop into Sheikh Saeed Al Maktoum House in the Al Shindagha 'heritage village' area. Built in 1894, the wind-tower house was the humble adobe of Dubai's ruling family until 1958 and features an excellent collection of photos from the 1940s and 50s.

To delve deeper yet into Dubai's cultural heritage, spend a day pearl diving aboard an authentic wooden dhow.

Jumeirah Beach Hotel jumeirah.com organises day trips with real-life pearl divers that include swimming, snorkelling and a sumptuous lunch – plus, if you're lucky enough to find a lustrous beauty inside an oyster, you are able to keep it. Now if that's not an incentive to get wet, we

Wandering ways

Worried about your sense of direction? Don't be. Guided tours through the labyrinth of lanes can be arranged through one of the many tour companies in Dubai.





Dispatches



DID YOU KNOW?

New Taj hotel to open

A new Taj hotel will open in Dubai's Burj Khalifa downtown area in the last quarter of 2014. Conveniently located near the impressive Dubai Mall and Business Bay, Taj Dubai will comprise of 296 guest rooms, 20 junior and 14 luxury suites. The Taj Group said the new hotel "will be a splendid showcase of Dubai's hospitality and

grandeur". The top floors will feature two themed suites — The Tata Suite and The Maharaja Suite with their own private dining, living areas and panoramic views over Dubai. The Taj Group also has an existing hotel in Dubai, the Taj Palace Hotel in the heart of Deira's commercial and business district. *Tajhotels.com*



Big eye on Dubai

The Bluewaters Island located 500m off the Jumeirah Beach Residence coastline near Dubai Marina includes as its centerpiece the 210m tall Dubai Eye – reported to become the tallest ferris wheel in the world. The Bluewaters Island complex will also offer retail, residential, hospitality and entertainment zones as well as a bespoke 'souq' with a mix of retail, fresh produce and alfresco dining options styled on a traditional market atmosphere. A five-star hotel and residential offerings will also be included at Bluewaters Island.

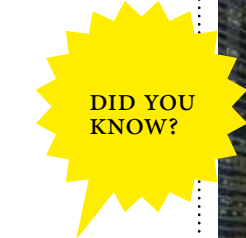
DUBAI OFFERS SUNSHINE ALL YEAR ROUND WITH MORE THAN 300 GUARANTEED BRIGHT DAYS.



Dispatches

Global proportions for Mall of the World

Grand plans for the Mall of the World project were unveiled in July 2014. The new Mall currently under construction will see Dubai lead the world in terms of a retail and mega-tourism related project. Mall of the World will be the world's first temperature-controlled pedestrian city and will feature 80 hotels, the world's largest mall, indoor park, cultural theatres and wellness resorts with the capacity to host more than 180 million visitors each year. During winter, the Mall of the World will be an open-air street mall when its giant glass dome will open for visitors to enjoy the elements in an extended retail street network.



DUBAI IS HOME TO MORE THAN 202 NATIONALITIES - MORE THAN THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED NATIONS.



Premium design for new Dubai Opera House

Dubai's cultural offering is set to excite music lovers with the construction of the Dubai Opera House and Dubai Opera district currently underway. Located in Downtown Dubai close to Burj Khalifa and due for completion in 2016, the Opera House will seat 2,000 guests at a range of opera, theatre, concert, art, orchestra, film and sports events. The design is said to take inspiration from the iconic sail design of the Sydney Opera House, this time styled on the traditional sailing vessels of the Arabian Gulf. The Opera House is part of a wider complex known as the Dubai Opera District, which will feature luxury hotels, serviced apartments, a retail plaza and parks.

Four Seasons Jumeirah

A new Four Seasons hotel Dubai at Jumeirah Beach set to open at the end of 2014 is now taking reservations from 1 December. The new beach resort will feature glamour, style and sophistication for the leisure and business traveller. The 237-room accommodation options includes 49 suites including a Royal Suite, Presidential Suite and Imperial Suite. The hotel has subtle Arabic design details blended with contemporary furnishings. The hotel is set on 5.6 hectares of beachfront sanctuary with 10 restaurants and lounges and three swimming pools. As a special introductory offer, room rates start at Dhs2,204 (A\$645) per night.





FESTIVALS

EVENTS

FESTIVALS

EVENTS

Girls' Guide to Dubai



VIP

January

DUBAI SHOPPING FESTIVAL

A month-long festival celebrating its 20th year in 2015. Runs across the city with over 2,300 participating retailers.
Mydsf.ae

OMEGA DUBAI DESERT CLASSIC

Major golf championship which celebrated its 25th year in 2014.
dubaidesertclassic.com

February

EMIRATES AIRLINE DUBAI JAZZ FESTIVAL

Hosted at Festival Park, Dubai Festival City, a week-long jazz festival featuring some of the world's most successful acts.
Dubaijazzfest.com

DUBAI FOOD FESTIVAL

This is a foodie-lovers dream running over 23 days featuring international chefs.
Dubaifoodfestival.com

DUBAI DUTY FREE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Owned and operated by Dubai Duty Free, featuring men's and women's tennis championships.
dubaidutyfreetennischampionships.com

March

EMIRATES AIRLINE FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE

The Middle East's largest celebration of the written and spoken word. emirateslitfest.com

ART DUBAI

Leading international arts festival in the Middle East and South Asia takes place at various galleries.
Artdubai.ae

DUBAI WORLD CUP

Dubai's premier horseracing cup and events. dubaiworldcup.com

TASTE OF DUBAI

The region's favourite food, drink and music festival.
tasteofdubai festival.com

June

RAMADAN NIGHT MARKETS

An 11-day shopping fiesta at Za'abeel Hall, Dubai World Trade Centre. World Trade Centre
www.ramadannightmarket.com

August

DUBAI SUMMER SURPRISES

(DSS) runs for one month and five days starting at the beginning of August. It's the highlight of the city's summer calendar, with lots of child-friendly activities.
www.summerisdubai.com/en

September

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL

A weekend of social latin dancing with people from all over the globe.
Dubaidancefestival.com

October

SENSATION

The world's leading dance festival.
Sensation.com/dubai/en

FASHION FORWARD

The definitive fashion platform for the Middle East featuring international designers.
fashionforward.ae

December

OMEGA DUBAI LADIES MASTERS

The first full ladies European golf tour event ever held in the Middle East.
Dubailadiesmasters.com

NEW YEAR DUBAI

New Year's Eve in Dubai is a city-wide celebration with the largest fireworks display in the world.
Dubaicalendar.ae



MADINAT JUMEIRAH

LUXURY

Travel

The Girls' Guide to... Dubai

ONE&ONLY ROYAL MIRAGE

DUBAI