

# **United Arab Emirates**

# **Inspiring Moments**

- ► Expand your understanding of UAE history, culture and religion during a wide-ranging, open discussion with a scholar at Dubai's Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding.
- ► Relish authentic Emirati cuisine and customs over **lunch at a private home in Abu Dhabi.**
- ▶ Delight in a **magical night at a desert fortress,** complete with traditional Arabian dishes, music and belly dancing.
- Witness the juxtaposition of traditional and modern Dubai on engaging tours.
- ► Delve into the cultural heritage of the UAE's glittering capital, Abu Dhabi.
- ▶ Visit the magnificent Louvre Abu Dhabi.
- ► Learn why falcons are revered by the Emirati people at a **falcon hospital**.



Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Abu Dhabi

Discover a tantalizing fusion of ancient and modern, framed by golden desert dunes and sparkling gulf waters, on this intriguing journey to the UAE. Whether it's your first visit or a return to explore more deeply, enjoy a multifaceted immersion into Emirati history and culture, all while in the care of a dedicated Travel Director and in the company of curious travelers like yourself. Explore Dubai and Abu Dhabi, forward-looking cities grounded in a heritage defined by the desert and sea. Chat with Emiratis during two fascinating cultural exchanges, be awed by sensational architecture and watch a lovely sunset over the desert landscape!

# **Day-by-Day Itinerary**

# Day 1 | In Transit

Depart for Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

## Day 2 | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Transfer to the Canopy by Hilton Dubai Al Seef.

#### Day 3 | **Dubai**

**Discovery:** *Traditional Dubai*. Dubai began as a fishing village and prospered due to its pearl diving industry. Examine this rich history at the Al Shindagha Museum, and stroll afterward in the Al Fahidi Historic Neighborhood to see the well-preserved homes with wind towers, an ancient ventilation method.

by its motto, "Open Doors, Open Minds," the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding seeks to spread tolerance. Enjoy an insightful talk by a scholar and engage in an expansive discussion about Emirati traditions, values and religion, in which no question is off limits. Afterward, share a meal of Emirati dishes. Next, cross Dubai Creek on an abra water taxi and meander amid the colorful, bustling Gold and Spice Souks, traditional bazaars filled with glittering jewelry and the enticing aromas of ginger, chili and cinnamon. Gather for tonight's Welcome Reception and Dinner.

# Day 4 | **Dubai**

**Discovery:** *Modern Dubai*. In 1966, the discovery of oil triggered explosive development, and by 1972, seven Gulf sheikdoms had joined in federation as the United Arab Emirates. Today, discover Dubai's new identity as a cosmopolitan international center of commerce and finance. Take in stunning vistas from the skydeck of the iconic Dubai Frame, see the sleek Burj Al Arab and then visit the man-made archipelago, Palm Jumeirah. After lunch in Dubai Marina, check out Dubai Mall, renowned for its retail shops and the Dubai Aquarium and Underwater Zoo. Crane your neck for a look at nearby Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building!



## Day 5 | Dubai

Free Time: Craft your own plans for the entire day. Maybe you'll ride up to the Burj Khalifa's observation deck on the 124th floor for incredible views! You can also opt to join this morning's Elective Activity and then spend the rest of the day at leisure back in Dubai.

Elective | Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve. Head into the Arabian Desert for a guided drive through this protected desert habitat to see indigenous plants and wildlife like the recently reintroduced Arabian Oryx.

# Enrichment: Arabian Desert Life.

Discovery: Arabian Nights. Tonight, head to a desert fortress for a wonderful dinner beneath starry skies with delectable cuisine, live music and belly dancing.

#### Day 6 | Arabian Desert

This morning, check out of the hotel and travel into the Arabian Desert. Check in to the Al Wathba, a Luxury Collection Desert Resort & Spa.

Free Time: Spend your day in the desert relaxing by the pool or enjoying optional activities such as a camel ride or the resort's spa services.

## Day 7 | Abu Dhabi

Check out of the hotel and depart for Abu Dhabi.

Discovery: Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital & Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. Used for centuries by the Bedouins for hunting in the desert, falcons are revered in the Middle East for their beauty and speed. Learn about these majestic creatures and observe them up close at a special hospital for UAE's national bird. After lunch on your own, take a guided tour of one of the world's largest mosques, which welcomes people of all faiths. This awe-inspiring gem features a radiant courtyard of marble mosaics, columns inlaid with amethyst and jasper, reflective pools and more. Check in to the Le Royal Méridien Abu Dhabi.

# Day 8 | Abu Dhabi

Discovery: Abu Dhabi. Settled in 1761 by Bedouins of the Bani Yas tribe, Abu Dhabi has preserved its heritage while maturing into one of the world's richest cities. See famed landmarks, including the Emirates Palace, Etihad Towers and the Corniche waterfront area, and admire



the gulf views on your way to Qasr al Watan, or Palace of the Nation. Explore this modern, working presidential palace exquisitely crafted in homage to traditional Arabian artistry with your guide.

AHI Connects: Local Emirati House. Delight in a home-cooked lunch, fellowship and warm hospitality. This afternoon, tour the city's oldest heritage site, the gleaming Qasr al Hosn, a former fortress and palace.

#### **Enrichment:** The Emirates.

Free Time: See your Travel Director for dinner options.

### Day 9 | Abu Dhabi

**Discovery:** Louvre Abu Dhabi. Visit this breathtaking museum by architect Jean Nouvel with a remarkable silver dome that appears to float over the complex and creates an enchanting, dappled light below. Enjoy a guided tour within the galleries, and wander on the outer walkways by the water.

**Free Time:** Make your own plans this afternoon. Savor a Farewell Reception and Dinner at the hotel's rooftop restaurant, complemented by skyline views.

## Day 10 | In Transit

Transfer to the airport in Dubai for the return flight to your gateway city.

## **Included Features**

**NO SINGLE** 

for Solo Travelers

## Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- -4 nights in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, at the first-class Canopy by Hilton Dubai Al Seef. SUPPLEMENT
- 1 night in the Arabian Desert at the first-class Al Wathba, A Luxury Collection Desert Resort & Spa.
- 3 nights in Abu Dhabi at the deluxe Le Royal Méridien Abu Dhabi.

#### **Transfers** {with baggage handling}

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program.

#### **Extensive Meal Program**

- -8 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 5 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Opportunities to sample authentic, local cuisine.

## Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- -Small group: Sized just right at 24 guests.
- AHI Travel Assurance plan covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history.
- -Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- Electives to pursue your individual interests.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- -Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- -Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

# **2023 Departures & Pricing**

## **January 31 – February 9, 2023**

Full Price from \$4.045 **Special Savings** \$250

# **Special Price from**

\$3.795\*

\*Special price available for a limited time. Call for details. VAT & port tax supplement are an additional \$395 per person. All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless

Single supplement waived for solo travelers! This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

Program-specific terms and conditions are available at https://ucla. ahitravel.com/destinations/1698A?schoolld=170. You can also request a copy from our travel experts.

Note: Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change. Walking is required on many excursions.

Flights 3 and transfers 2 provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

Electives available at an additional cost.

call us at 310-206-0613 or visit us at alumni.ucla.edu/travel