

Section 10

Abu Dhabi: Iconic Landmarks

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The Founder's Memorial



The Founder's Memorial is a permanent national tribute dedicated to commemorating, celebrating and reflecting on the life, legacy and values of the late Sheikh Zayed as a man and a leader. The space serves as a place of gathering that instills pride and purpose in the UAE community.

Through a series of personal encounters with Sheikh Zayed, the man and the leader, The Founder's Memorial invites visitors to embark on a journey of discovery through his life and legacy, enriching understanding of his character, the causes he championed, and the values he voiced to the UAE and the world. The space also features a range of experiences designed to reveal aspects of the broader social, cultural and environmental heritage of the UAE, including art, stories, exhibitions and an array of local trees and plants.

The Constellation

Housed in a 30-metre-high pavilion, The Constellation is a dynamic, three-dimensional portrait of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan that can be experienced differently from multiple viewing points around the memorial and from other vantage points.

Artist Ralph Helmick created the portrait of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan through an impressive constellation of 1,327 hanging shapes, known as platonic solids, which are suspended through the use of 1,110 cables.

Platonic solids are special three-dimensional symmetrical shapes with unique mathematical properties. There are only five platonic solids and each one is made up of a series of identical faces and corners. Renowned for their beauty, these shapes have inspired artists and scientists for millennia.

The five platonic solids are:

- Tetrahedron (Four faces)
- Cube (Six faces)
- Octahedron (Eight faces)
- Dodecahedron (Twelve faces)
- Icosahedron (Twenty faces)

Also referred to as 'cosmic figures,' these shapes were used by Helmick to create The Constellation. This depicts Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan as a celestial constellation and as our guiding light. The shapes come together to reveal Sheikh Zayed's image, watching over the Emirati people and the nation that he loved.

The Heritage Garden

This intriguing garden features just some of the plants traditionally used by the Bedouin people of the Arabian Peninsula. They were ingenious in their use of the natural environment. Many of these remedies are still in use today. There are a total of 188 trees throughout the memorial's landscaping which encompasses 3.3 hectares of public space. The Sanctuary Garden which is located in the public plaza that surrounds The Constellation, is planted with groves of Ghaf and Sidr trees that provide natural shade from the sun. A series of Falaj water channels are set into the landscape which reflects Sheikh Zayed's lifelong project to 'green' the Emirates.

Within the Heritage Garden you can find:

- Desert Cotton

Traditionally used to pad saddles and cushions, desert cotton was also thought to reduce swelling, heal wounds, and combat aches and pains.

- Henna

Still used to dye hair and apply intricate patterns to hands and feet, henna also has antibacterial properties.

- Toothbrush Tree

The twigs from this tree have antiseptic properties, making them ideal for cleaning your teeth. Traditionally, its leaves were also used to soothe blisters and scorpion bites.

- Alkali Weed

Traditionally used by the Bedouin to settle the stomach, alkali weed was also thought to relieve coughs.

- Caralluma

Brewed as a tea, caralluma was traditionally used to treat liver complaints and relieve pain.

- Harmal

The Bedouin traditionally applied the seeds of the harmal plant to the skin to remove moisture and cool the body. The seeds are also believed to ease stomach complaints.

- Tree Species - Fitneh (Also known as the Sweet Acacia)

The soft, feathery leaves and highly fragrant yellow flowers of the fitneh tree are a striking contrast to its rough, thorny bark. All parts of this remarkable tree – bark, leaves and roots – are known for their astringent properties and were traditionally used to treat wounds, skin diseases and inflammation. The bark was also used to soothe ailments such as rheumatism, blood disease, bronchitis and ulcers.

- Tree Species - Samr (Also known as the Umbrella Thorn)

Small and wiry, the samr tree is easily identified by its contorted seed-pods and distinctive thorns. A hardy species, the samr thrives on gravel and sand plains, along wadi banks and on the slopes of mountains, where it provides grazing for camels, goats and local wildlife. The wood of the samr was traditionally used as fuel and for making tools, while the edible gum from the tree was eaten to combat infections.

- Tree Species - Sidr

Mentioned in the Holy Quran as a blessed plant of paradise, the sidr tree is held in high esteem throughout the Islamic world. In the Emirates, its leaves were traditionally dried and ground to a powder that could be added to water to create a natural shampoo. The fruit, leaves, roots and bark were also used for various treatments, including disinfecting wounds and healing skin diseases. Today, honey from the sidr is highly prized.

The Walkway

This elevated walkway runs round the perimeter of the Sanctuary Garden. From here you can look in to the garden and towards The Constellation, built as a memorial to Sheikh Zayed.

But from this walkway you can also look outwards to the skyline of the City of Abu Dhabi, which is also surely a living memorial to Sheikh Zayed. He was the one that had a clear vision for this world-class city, and he was the one who made it happen. The pathway running behind the memorial artwork gives visitors insight into the causes and beliefs that Sheikh Zayed held. As they walk along the raised path, visitors are invited to read these words by Sheikh Zayed:

“I have always had big dreams for this country, the land of our ancestors. I dreamt that, one-day, we would equal other countries that were ahead of us in development and progress.”

“Nothing is more valuable to me than the homeland and its citizens. I shall fight to raise and uphold the status of this country and to make the citizens happy.”

“The greatest piece of advice that I give to my sons is not to be overly proud. I believe that it neither belittles nor undermines the powerful to behave with humility and respect.”

“The nation’s true wealth is to be found in serious, honest work which benefits people and society, for the fruit of such labour endures and gives value to people and the state.”

The Welcome Centre

Visitors will have the opportunity to engage with the man and the leader through rarely-seen footage, personal stories, articles and interviews with those who knew and loved Sheikh Zayed. This state-of-the-art multimedia experience also features a number of screened 'Sheikh Zayed Encounters', that give visitors the chance to hear from the late leader in his own words.

Tours & Opening Hours

Complimentary tours led by our trained Cultural Tour Guides are available to guide visitors. The Cultural Tours are available in English and Arabic from 9am to 10pm and last around 30 minutes. Visitors can book a tour by sending an email to visit@thefoundersmemorial.ae or at the Welcome Centre on arrival. Space is limited, and that is why bookings are recommended.

Further your knowledge

The official website of The Founder's Memorial

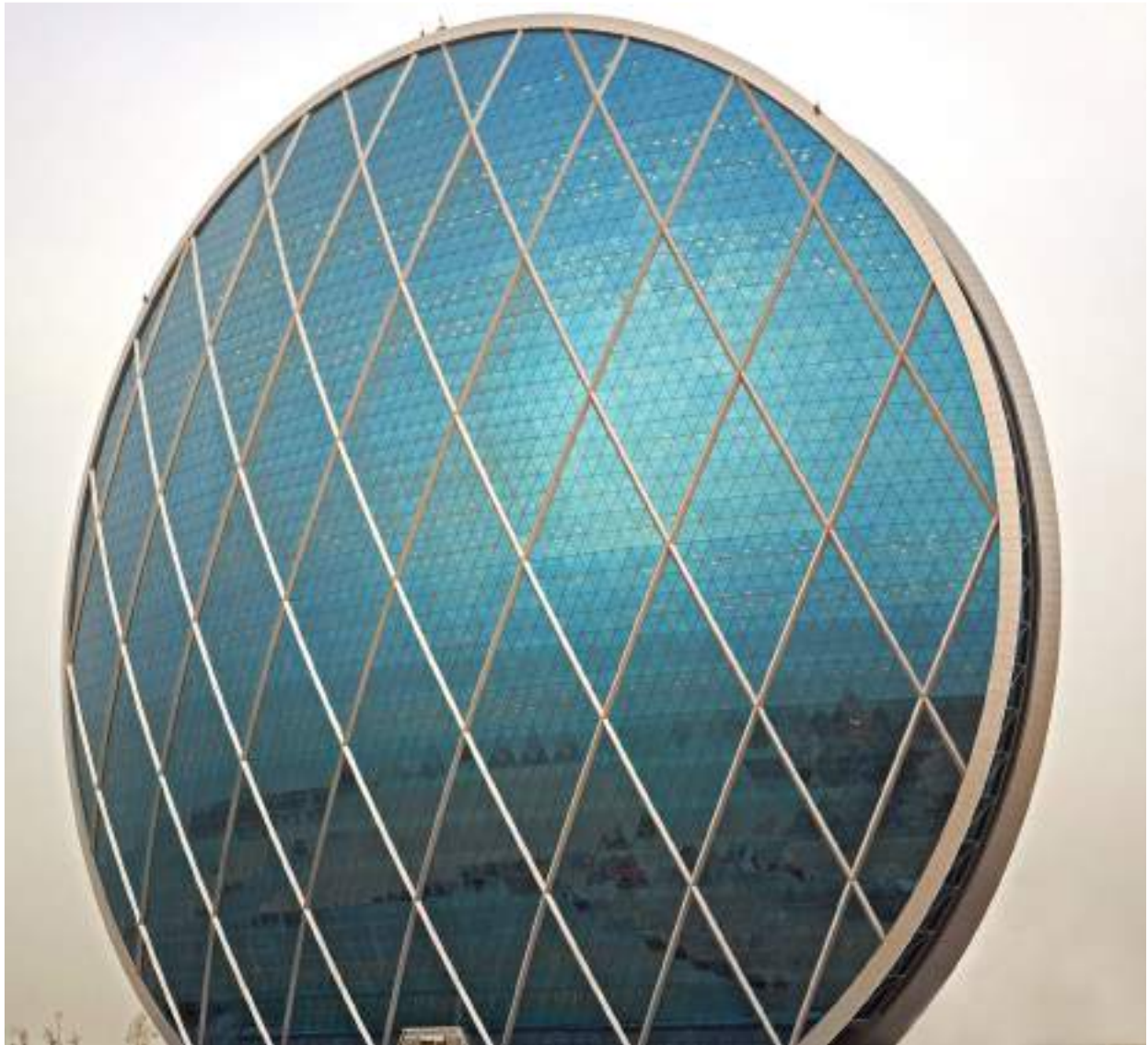
<http://www.thefoundersmemorial.ae/en/>

Knowledge Bank: The Founder's Memorial

Overview

- The Founder's Memorial is a permanent national tribute dedicated to commemorating and reflecting on the legacy and values of the late Sheikh Zayed as a man and a leader.
- The Constellation is housed in a 30-metre-high pavilion, and has a dynamic, three-dimensional portrait of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.
- The Constellation can be experienced differently from multiple viewing points around the memorial and from other vantage points.
- Platonic solids are the special three-dimensional symmetrical shapes with unique mathematical properties which helps creating the portrait of Sheikh Zayed.
- Artist Ralph Helmick created the portrait of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan through an impressive constellation of 1,327 hanging shapes which are suspended through the use of 1,110 cables.
- The Sanctuary Garden is planted with groves of Ghaf and Sidr trees that provide natural shade from the sun.
- A series of Falaj water channels are set into the landscape which reflects Sheikh Zayed's lifelong project to 'green' the Emirates.
- The Heritage Garden has plants traditionally used by the Bedouin like Samr, Sidr, palm tress, Alkali Weed, Desert Cotton, Harmal, Caralluma, Toothbrush Tree, Fitneh, and Henna.
- The Walkway gives the visitors the chance to look out to the skyline of the City of Abu Dhabi, and along the path, words of Sheikh Zayed are inscribed which give insight into the causes and beliefs that Sheikh Zayed held.
- The Welcome Centre houses rarely-seen footage, personal stories, articles and interviews with those who knew and loved Sheikh Zayed. Also, visitors can enjoy the multimedia experience that features a number of screened 'Sheikh Zayed Encounters', which give visitors the chance to hear from the late leader in his own words.

Aldar HQ



Aldar HQ is the head office of Abu Dhabi property developers, Aldar, and was completed in 2010. It was designed by Marwan Zgheib, founder of MZ Architects, and is located in the prestigious Al Dana business district on Al Raha Beach Development.

Inspired by the shape of a clam shell which hints at the area's historical pearl harvesting past, the circular structure's curved glass exterior glistens with the reflection of sunrise on the building's eastern side and sunset on the west. Resembling a pearl resting at the ocean's edge, it has become one of Abu Dhabi's iconic landmarks.

The building represents a number of impressive 'firsts' for the region and is recognised as:

- the Middle East's first round skyscraper
- being the first UAE building to use the 'diagrid' - an external, diagonal, steel grid with diamond-shaped glass panels - similar to that used for London's iconic Landmark London office development, commonly known as the Gherkin
- housing Abu Dhabi's first underground waste disposal system, which feeds waste from the building straight through to a recycling and treatment plant.

Adding to its green credentials, this eco-friendly building is not only made of recyclable materials, it hosts a cooling mechanism as well as energy-efficient water and lighting systems. On each floor, meeting rooms and offices along the edges of the building make the most of the natural light which floods in through the glass façade. With such initiatives, Aldar HQ has more than earned its 82% efficiency rating and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver rating award¹ by the US Green Building Council.

At just 23 floors and 121 metres high, the circular headquarters provides a considerable 62,000m² office space normally only found in much taller constructions. This is thanks to the building's unique circular design which means that there are fewer internal support columns taking up valuable space. The two spheres are joined by a roof made from a singular glass and structural strip. It is the building's diagrid, also subsequently used in Abu Dhabi's Capital Gate Tower, which gives it its curved shape, together with stability and flexibility

The internationally-acclaimed Aldar HQ was awarded the title 'Best Futuristic Design' at the Building Exchange Conference (BEX) in 2008 as well as being named as one of 'The World's Most Spectacular Corporate Headquarters'² by Emporis in 2013.

¹ See: <https://www.usgbc.org/leed>

² Source: <https://www.thenational.ae/uae/aldar-s-disc-hq-in-abu-dhabi-ranked-among-the-world-s-most-spectacular-offices-1.365331>

Knowledge Bank: Aldar HQ

Overview

- The architect of Aldar HQ was Marwan Zgheib
- Marwan Zgheib is the founder of MZ Architects who have offices in Abu Dhabi
- Aldar HQ is circular in design
- It is the headquarters of property developer Aldar of Abu Dhabi
- The building is located on Al Raha Beach
- Alder HQ is 121 metres high
- There is 62,000m² of office space over 23 floors

Design

- The circular building is the first of its kind in the Middle East
- The building is positioned on an east/west axis so the sunset and sunrise is reflected in the glass façade
- Aldar HQ has a unique and complex curved glass curtain wall façade
- An external triangular steel 'diagrid' gives the building stability and flexibility
- The roof structure is made from a continuous glass and structural band forming the building's spine

Sustainability

- The design of Aldar HQ was developed in line with the US Green Building Council LEED rating system
- The circular glass façade optimises natural light
- The building features its own waste collection vacuum system, a cooling plant and sustainable lighting and water systems
- Aldar HQ is rated as 82% efficient

Awards

- Best Futuristic Design award - the Building Exchange Conference (BEX) 2008
- One of 16 of 'The World's Most Spectacular Corporate Headquarters' - Emporis in 2013
- Silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating from Green Building Council (USA)

Capital Gate



Capital Gate is also known as The Leaning Tower of Abu Dhabi. It was designed by British architects, RMJM (Robert Matthew Johnson Marshall), and is owned and developed by Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC).

The tower was designed to tilt 18° westwards, four times more than Italy's Leaning Tower of Pisa. Work began on the 35-floor skyscraper in 2007 and was completed in 2011. This iconic building was certified by the Guinness World Records in 2010 as the 'World's Farthest Manmade Leaning Building.'¹

The tilt was achieved by constructing a solid, concrete core with a curve that bent in the opposite direction to the way the building leaned. It was rooted into the ground with 500 pile foundations driven nearly 30 metres deep.

An external, diagonal, steel grid with diamond-shaped glass panels or 'diagrid', similar to that used in the construction of Aldar HQ, gives the building its stability and flexibility. The heat-reflective, glass panels were hand-made to fit the structure.

Located between Zayed Sports City and the Zayed Military hospital on Al Khaleej Al Arabi Street, (30th Street) and standing at 160 metres tall, the impressive building is now the centrepiece and signature tower of the Capital Centre/Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.

Capital Gate connects to the grandstand of the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) with a wave-like structure known as 'the Splash'. At 133,000m² ADNEC is the largest conference and exhibition venue in the Middle East.

The building is environmentally-friendly as well as iconic in its design. Its green credentials include:

- External, energy-efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights which minimise light pollution
- The Splash structure which acts as a sun shade and protects the floor inside from 30% of the sun's rays
- A double façade on the building's upper floors, made of special anti-glare glass which reduces heat entering the building by 5%

Capital Gate houses office space on the lower half and Andaz Capital Gate - on the higher floors. The five-star hotel features 189 guest rooms and 22 suites.

The hotel includes an outside pool deck on top of the Splash, a glass atrium and a tea lounge which overhangs the building, suspended 80m above the ground. It is a popular hotel for golf enthusiasts as it is located 15 minutes away from Abu Dhabi Golf Club and also with business travellers due to its 15-minute drive from Abu Dhabi International Airport.

¹ Source: <http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/farthest-manmade-leaning-building>

Knowledge Bank: Capital Gate

Overview

- Capital Gate is located between Zayed Sports City and the Zayed Military Hospital on Al Khaleej Al Arabi Street, (30th Street)
- The building is owned and was developed by Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC)
- The building is 160 metres tall and 35 floors high
- It is the centrepiece and signature tower of the Capital Centre/ADNEC
- The building is connected to ADNEC with a wave-like structure known as 'the Splash'
- ADNEC is the largest conference and exhibition venue in the Middle East at 133,000m²

Architecture

- Capital Gate was designed by architectural firm RMJM (Robert Matthew Johnson Marshall)
- The building was started in 2007 and completed in 2011
- The tower tilts 18° westwards meaning that Capital Gate leans four times as much as the Leaning Tower of Pisa
- Capital Gate was named the 'World's Farthest Manmade Leaning Building' by Guinness World Records in 2010
- The building sits on nearly 500 pile foundations, drilled 30 metres into the ground to support the building's lean
- The central concrete core leans in the opposite direction to the building to help stabilise it
- The building has a steel façade known as a diagrid
- The diagrid is glazed with heat-reflective glass panels that had to be handmade to fit

Environmental impact

- The outer structure known as 'the Splash' protects the floor inside from 30% of the sun's rays
- The upper floors of Capital Gate have a double façade made of special anti-glare glass which reduces heat entering the building by 5%

Andaz Capital Gate Abu Dhabi

- The five-star hotel features 189 guest rooms and 22 suites
- The hotel has unique features such as an outside pool deck on top of 'the Splash', a glass atrium and a suspended tea lounge
- The hotel is popular with golf enthusiasts as it is located 15 minutes away from Abu Dhabi Golf Club
- Business-travellers also use the hotel as it is a 15-minute drive from Abu Dhabi International Airport and attached to the ADNEC

World Trade Centre Souk & Mall/Central Market



The new World Trade Centre Souk & Mall in Abu Dhabi is located on the original site of the city's Old Souk on the intersection of 2nd and 3rd Streets, next to the Lake Park and the Corniche at the northern tip of the island. It was designed by British architects, Foster and Partners.

The Old Souk was built in the early 1970s and was one of the first projects to be completed under HH Sheikh Zayed's masterplan for the reshaping of Abu Dhabi city after oil was discovered.

The souk had nearly 200 small, family-run stores and was a vibrant social hub where residents would buy clothes, shoes, electrical equipment, and even gold. Currencies and news were also exchanged there. HH Sheikh Zayed himself was fond of visiting the souk during Eid and would spend time talking with shopkeepers in their stores.

A series of fires in 2003 completely destroyed the Old Souk and its remains were finally demolished in 2005. The shopkeepers had to relocate around the city and, as a result, Abu Dhabi centre lost a vital piece of its cultural heritage.

In 2006, Abu Dhabi's property developer Aldar Properties approached architects Foster and Partners to design a modern interpretation of the Old Souk on the original site, creating a new 'city within a city'. This was to be the ambitious World Trade Centre Abu Dhabi project.

Foster wanted to reflect Abu Dhabi's past and so used aspects from traditional Arabian architecture in the redesign of the market space. The World Trade Centre Abu Dhabi development was completed in 2014 and now hosts one of the largest Arabic markets in the world. The Mall at World Trade Centre Abu Dhabi hosts the top brands, shops, fine dining options and cinema. On the other side, The Souk at World Trade Centre Abu Dhabi has everything from traditional artefacts, Arabic perfumes, henna and spices to jewellery.

The project's traditional features include:

- courtyards, squares and narrow alleyways
- integrated balconies and walkways
- blue and yellow ornate glass windows that filter light into the market
- panelling with traditional Islamic perforations and octagonal geometric panels based on traditional *zellij* tiles

The market site also has modern features such as a retractable roof section which closes in hotter months to keep the temperature cool. Visitors can relax and dine in the roof gardens that cover the low-rise retail halls, called podiums.

Rising above the retail halls, market space and roof gardens are two striking, blade-shaped towers that make up the rest of the World Trade Centre Abu Dhabi project:

- **Commercial Tower:** Also known as World Trade Centre Abu Dhabi¹ - The Offices and more recently the Arabtec Tower
- **Residential Tower:** Known as the Burj Mohammed Bin Rashid. The building is Abu Dhabi's highest at 381 metres with 93 floors²
- Courtyard by Marriott Hotel is perfectly positioned adjacent to the city's The Mall at World Trade Center, and the tallest tower in Abu Dhabi, the Burj Mohammed Bin Rashid

Both of the towers are angled at a sharp 50 degrees at the top and carry custom-made solar panels designed to receive as much sunlight as possible as the sun tracks from east to west during the course of the day. The panelled roofs are the most complicated of their kind ever built.³

DID YOU KNOW? Perching on the top of the Residential Tower within the World Trade Centre development is one of the world's highest swimming pools!⁴

Further your knowledge

Foster and Partners' webpage on the development:

<http://www.fosterandpartners.com/projects/world-trade-center-souk/>

'MegaStructure' documentary on Central Market:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ig-1EPEZMo>

¹ Source: <https://www.skyscrapercenter.com/building/world-trade-center-abu-dhabi-the-offices/653>

² Source: <https://www.skyscrapercenter.com/building/burj-mohammed-bin-rashid/259>

³ Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNrZ9ZYxSE>

⁴ Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNrZ9ZYxSE>

Knowledge Bank: World Trade Centre Souk & Mall

Souk/Central Market

Overview

- World Trade Centre Abu Dhabi is located on the original site of the city's Old Souk on the intersection of 2nd and 3rd Streets
- The Old Souk was built in the early 1970s and housed around 200 small stores selling clothes, shoes, electrical goods and gold
- The original souk was destroyed by fire in 2003
- The developer Aldar Properties approached architects Foster and Partners to rebuild the souk in 2006
- The development was completed in 2014
- The World Trade Centre Souk & Mall is one of the largest Arabic markets in the world

Architecture and design

- Foster used aspects from traditional (vernacular) architecture such as courtyards and narrow alleyways, balconies and walkways, decorative glass windows and Islamic panels
- Modern features include a retractable roof section for climate control, low-rise retail halls called podiums with green roof gardens
- The World Trade Centre Souk & Mall is topped with two blade-shape towers
- The Commercial Tower is known as the World Trade Centre Abu Dhabi or the Arabtec Tower
- The Residential Tower is known as the Burj Mohammed Bin Rashid and is the highest building in Abu Dhabi
- The Burj Mohammed Bin Rashid is 381 metres high with 93 floors. It features one of the world's highest swimming pools
- The hotel Courtyard by Marriott is located adjacent to the city's The Mall at World Trade Center, and the Burj Mohammed Bin Rashid

Etihad Park



Yas Island's custom-built open-air venue is now known as Etihad Park as part of a larger partnership deal announced between Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, and Flash Entertainment, the region's leading entertainment company.

The Etihad Park, formerly du Arena, is the largest outdoor venue in the Middle East with a capacity of over 40,000 people. The venue has welcomed over 1.5 million fans since 2009, and hosted some of the biggest international A-list stars during events such as the Yasalam After-Race Concerts held over the Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Formula 1 Grand Prix weekend.

This custom-built, open-air venue has won multiple awards since its launch in 2009. A state-of-the-art platform, it is kitted out with the most advanced facilities and VIP experiences, making it a go-to choice for premium sport and music events.

The Etihad Park is a flexible space, which can accommodate a range of seating and standing layouts and has hosted a variety of events including:

- concerts by top international artists such as Bon Jovi, Calvin Harris, Coldplay, Justin Timberlake, Madonna, Metallica, Rod Stewart and the Rolling Stones
- Yasalam after-race concerts during the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix in November
- the Taste of Abu Dhabi food festival in November
- Abu Dhabi Pet Festival in February

As well as having disabled access and refreshments available on site, the venue offers a number of VIP areas with direct and clear views of performances and VIP parking spaces with separate entry to, and exit from, the venue.

Optional Activity: What events bring visitors to Etihad Park?

Take a look at the Etihad Park Link and make a note of the concerts and events that are due to take place in each venue.

<https://www.yasisland.ae/en/attractions/etihad-park>

DID YOU KNOW? <https://www.yasisland.ae/en/attractions/etihad-park>

Knowledge Bank: Etihad Park

Etihad Park

Venue capacities and features:

- Etihad Park is an outdoor entertainment venue located on Yas Island. It is the largest of its kind in the Middle East
- It opened in 2009
- Etihad Park can hold a total of 50,000 people
- The space inside the venue is flexible. It can be arranged with various seating and standing layouts
- There are dedicated VIP areas and the venue also has wheelchair access
- Etihad Park features 'tree house' suites for VIPs which give guests direct and clear views of performances
- Food and drink is available to purchase on-site
- There is free on-site parking for 5,000 cars
- There is a reserved VIP parking area for 250 cars. VIP parking has its own entrance and exit to and from the venue
- Inside the gates to the entrance of du Arena there is a large 'village' area with spaces that can be rented by food and drink companies

Functions and events at Etihad Park

- Concerts featuring international performers and DJs such as Pink, Rod Stewart, Bon Jovi, The Rolling Stones, Madonna, Coldplay, Justin Timberlake, Metallica and Calvin Harris
- Yasalam After-Race Concerts (for ticket holders of the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix in November)
- Taste of Abu Dhabi Food festival
- Abu Dhabi Pet Festival

Emirates Palace Hotel



The Emirates Palace Hotel is a five-star hotel located on the western tip of Abu Dhabi's promenade, known as the Corniche. Built between 2001 and 2005, it is owned by the Government of Abu Dhabi and managed by Mandarin Oriental as their flagship hotel in the Middle East.

Its exterior was designed by architect, John Elliott of Wimberley, Allison, Tong and Goo (WATG), international specialists in resort design. (You will find out more about the design of the hotel in Section 12, Architectural Styles in Abu Dhabi.) WATG was responsible for the design of many well-known hotels such as MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Atlantis the Palm in neighbouring Dubai and the interior refurbishment of Claridge's, London.

Kongsak Yuktasevi of KY&A designed the interior of Emirates Palace over a period of four years and with an unlimited budget. KY&A are interior design specialists for spas and hotels worldwide.

Over 12,000 workers were involved in the hotel's construction before it opened its doors in November 2005. It now employs over 2,000 staff, including 170 chefs, from around 50 different countries.

Outside, the hotel is based on traditional Arabian architecture, using colours to reflect the desert sand. The building's central Grand Atrium dome is 42m wide and made of silver- and gold-coloured glass with a gold top or finial. A further 114 smaller domes top other parts of the main and outbuildings.

Inside, the hotel is just as luxurious, featuring gold, mother of pearl, glittering crystals and polished marble floors. Suspended from the ceilings are 1,002 chandeliers - the largest weighing 2.5 tonnes - made from Swarovski's superior quality, Strauss crystals. Two decorative carpets, depicting the hotel and weighing a tonne each, hang on its walls.

The hotel has 394 guest rooms and 92 suites. It acts as the official guest palace for Abu Dhabi's Government, with the top floor hosting suites for UAE royal families. Spanning one kilometre from the east to west wing and with grounds covering an expanse of over 1 million square metres, guests benefit from:

- a 1.6km long private beach, with sand imported from overseas and private harbour
- two swimming pools
- 15 restaurants including Lebanese, Arabic and Italian cuisine as well as Chinese at the award-winning Hakkasan Abu Dhabi, which opened in 2010. Mezlai is the Emirati award-winning restaurant with menu steeped in the heritage and geography of the UAE
- A Moroccan-inspired spa with hammam, jacuzzis, steam rooms and an ice cave

Non-residents are also able to visit the hotel, but a strict dress code applies.

DID YOU KNOW? At one time, in the lobby of the Emirates Palace Hotel, visitors could find a gold vending machine 'Gold to Go'. It dispensed gold bars featuring the Emirates Palace Hotel's logo.¹

¹ Source: <https://www.thenational.ae/business/travel-and-tourism/emirates-palace-atm-worth-its-weight-in-gold-1.413371>

Knowledge Bank: Emirates Palace Hotel

Overview

- The five-star hotel is located on the western end of the Corniche in Abu Dhabi City
- Construction of the hotel started in 2001 and it opened in November 2005
- It is operated by Mandarin Oriental but owned by the Government of Abu Dhabi
- Emirates Palace is Mandarin Oriental Middle East flagship hotel
- It has 394 guest rooms and 92 suites
- It took 12,000 workers to construct the hotel
- The distance from the east wing to the west wing of the hotel is 1km
- The hotel's grounds and beach spread over one million square metres; Emirates Palace has its own 1.6 km private beach and harbour
- The hotel features two pools, 15 restaurants including the award-winning Chinese restaurant, Hakkasan Abu Dhabi, which opened in June 2010, the Emirati restaurant Mezlai and Lebanese, Arabic and Italian cuisine
- Other features include a Moroccan-inspired spa with hammam, jacuzzis and steam rooms and an ice cave

Exterior architecture and design

- The architect for the exterior design was John Elliott, architect at Wimberly Allison Tong & Goo (WATG). WATG have designed the Mansion at MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Atlantis, the Palm Dubai and were responsible for the interior refurbishment of Claridge's, London, amongst others
- The Palace's external design is based on traditional Arabian architecture featuring a traditional grand dome with smaller domes repeated over the main and additional buildings
- The central dome is known as the Grand Atrium dome. It is 42m wide and features silver- and gold-coloured glass with a gold finial
- The colours that were used in the building reflect the colours of the desert sand

Interior architecture and design

- The interior of Emirates Palace was designed by Kongsak Yuktasevi of KY&A, specialists in designing the interiors of resorts and spas worldwide
- Yuktasevi took four years to complete the interior design and had a limitless budget
- The interior is lavish in design and features gold, mother of pearl and countless crystals
- The hotel has a collection of 1,002 chandeliers made from Swarovski's premier Strauss crystals. The largest chandelier weighs 2.5 tonnes
- The hotel also features two one-tonne display carpets. Their design shows the hotel itself

Etihad Towers



Etihad Towers is a development located on Corniche West Street. The Towers are opposite the Emirates Palace Hotel and can be reached by car from the airport in just 30 minutes.

Close to Abu Dhabi's business hub, the site is near to the Central Bank, the Foreign Ministry and the headquarters of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

Designed by Australian architects, DBI Design, the Towers are owned by influential businessman and member of Abu Dhabi's ruling family, HH Sheikh Suroor Bin Mohammed Al Nahyan.

Completed in 2011, the complex consists of five separate towers and a multi-level podium at their base. It offers a mix of residential and office space, a five-star hotel and shopping and eating outlets. Altogether the site spans over 500,000m².

With futuristic and sculpted forms, the Towers were inspired by symbols of local culture and heritage such as sails, swords and falconry.¹

Tower 1 houses Conrad Abu Dhabi Etihad Towers, a five-star hotel which offers 382 rooms and suites, together with 199 serviced apartments across 69 floors.²

Guests at the hotel benefit from a private beach, three swimming pools and the Talise Spa. Diners can choose from 12 restaurants and a range of international cuisines such as French, Italian and Lebanese. The restaurants are all based in The Podium at the base of the Towers.

At 277m high, the Conrad hosts Abu Dhabi's highest public viewing point, the 'Observation Deck at 300' at the 74th floor in Tower 2 with spectacular views of the Presidential Palace and Emirates Palace Hotel.

Tower 3, is slightly lower than the hotel building at 260 metres high and contains 45,000m² of office space spread over 54 floors.³

Businesses benefit from a private car park, managed reception desks, concierge service and round-the-clock security.

¹ Source: www.archello.com/en/project/etihad-towers/1948096

² Source: <https://web.archive.org/web/20130801075610/http://skyscrapercenter.com/abu-dhabi/etihad-towers-t1/>

³ Source: <https://web.archive.org/web/20130819142134/http://skyscrapercenter.com/abu-dhabi/etihad-towers-t3/5241/>

The remaining three towers provide a range of residential accommodation with a total of 885 apartments of between one and five bedrooms.

Tower 2 is the tallest of the five skyscrapers at 305 metres high and 74 floors.⁴ Towers 4 and 5 are the two smallest at 234 metres high with 61 floors and 218 metres high with 55 floors respectively.⁵

The three residential towers each have their own leisure facilities including:

- swimming pool
- sauna
- gymnasium
- bars, cafes and restaurants

At the very base of the complex, the Podium contains The Avenue - two floors of luxury boutiques, many of which have private rooms for VIP shopping. It is here that the Jumeirah at Etihad Towers' lobby can be accessed, along with the hotel's public spaces including a fitness and well-being centre, a state-of-the-art convention centre, and the grand ballroom.

DID YOU KNOW? Vin Diesel's movie, 'Fast and Furious 7' features a famous car jump stunt that was filmed at the Jumeirah Etihad Towers.

⁴ Source: <https://web.archive.org/web/20130820201602/http://www.skyscrapercenter.com/abu-dhabi/etihad-towers-t2/5194/>

⁵ Source: <https://web.archive.org/web/20130819164512/http://skyscrapercenter.com/abu-dhabi/etihad-towers-t4/5218/>
<https://web.archive.org/web/20130819181448/http://skyscrapercenter.com/abu-dhabi/etihad-towers-t5/5233/>

Knowledge Bank: Etihad Towers

Overview

- Etihad Towers are part of a mixed-use development containing residential apartments, offices, a five-star hotel and shopping and dining facilities
- The construction of the towers was completed in 2011
- There are five separate towers and a multi-level podium
- The development is located on Corniche West Street, opposite the Emirates Palace Hotel and a 30 minute drive from Abu Dhabi International Airport
- The development site spreads over 500,000m²
- The Towers are located close to the central business district of Abu Dhabi, as well as the Central Bank, the Foreign Ministry and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) headquarters
- The Towers are owned by HH Sheikh Suroor Bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, a senior member of Abu Dhabi's ruling family and an influential businessman

Architecture and design

- Etihad Towers were designed by Australian architects, DBI Design
- The design of the Towers is futuristic and sculpted in form
- The shape of the Towers is based on symbols such as sails, swords and falconry, which are a part of Abu Dhabi's culture and heritage

Tower 1: Conrad Abu Dhabi Etihad Towers

- Conrad Abu Dhabi Etihad Towers is a five-star luxury hotel
- It has 382 rooms and suites and 199 serviced apartments
- The hotel features the Talise Spa, a private beach and three swimming pools
- The hotel offers 12 international restaurants including Japanese, Italian, French and Lebanese cuisine
- The entire Tower is 277 metres in height and has 69 floors
- The hotel stars in Vin Diesel's famous car jump stunt in the movie 'Fast and Furious 7'

Towers 2, 4 and 5: Residential apartments

- The 885 residential apartments and penthouses within Towers 2,4 and 5 have one to five bedrooms
- Each residential tower has its own gymnasium, sauna and pool, bars, cafés and restaurants
- Tower 2 is 305 metres in height and has 74 floors
- Tower 4 is 234 metres in height and has 61 floors
- Tower 5 is 218 metres in height and has 55 floors
- The hotel's 'Observation Deck at 300' at the 74th floor is the highest public viewing point in Abu Dhabi and looks out over the Presidential Palace and the Emirates Palace Hotel

Tower 3: Offices

- The tower has 54 floors and 45,000m² of office space
- It features a dedicated car park, managed reception desks, a concierge service and security 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- The entire tower is 260 metres high and has 54 floors

The Podium

- Located at the base of the towers, The Podium features:
 - The Avenue, two floors of high-end luxury boutiques. Many of the boutiques have luxurious private rooms for private, VIP shopping
 - public spaces of the Jumeirah at Etihad Towers including a state-of-the-art convention centre, a grand ballroom, a fitness club and wellness centre, the hotel's 12 themed restaurants and cafes and the hotel lobby.

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque



Overview

The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque is one of the most important sites in the whole of Abu Dhabi. This magnificent structure stands at the entry to Abu Dhabi City. It was built nine metres higher than ground level so that it could be admired from a distance. It is considered to be one of the finest examples of Islamic architecture in the world. The mosque is located on 5th Street, off Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Street. Opposite the Grand Mosque stands the Wahat Al Karama (the Oasis of Dignity), a tribute to those who have given their lives for the UAE.

This is the UAE's official and largest mosque and is believed to be the eighth largest in the world. It can hold 50,000 worshippers (20,000 inside and over 30,000 in the courtyard outside). In total, the complex covers an area of 555,000 square metres (55.5 hectares). Abu Dhabi Municipality led the project with more than 38 contracting companies, while Halcrow Ltd., an engineering company based in the United Kingdom, took charge of the concrete construction.

Friday is, of course, the mosque's busiest day when thousands of male and female worshippers gather to hear the *khut'ba* sermon that takes place before the midday prayer. Outside prayer time, visitors are very welcome and complimentary guided tours are available.

Plans to build the mosque began in the late 1980s, construction began on November 5th 1996 and it opened for worship in time for Eid al-Adha (The Feast of Sacrifice) in 2007. The mosque was named after the founding father of the UAE and the first president of the union, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

HH Sheikh Zayed

Sheikh Zayed was involved in all aspects of the design and structure of the mosque and chose to have the building covered entirely in white marble as a symbol of purity and peace. He wanted the mosque to be not only a place of worship but also a cultural and educational centre to promote communication, cultural understanding and tolerance.

Unfortunately, Sheikh Zayed passed away in 2004 before the mosque was completed and his son, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, became president and oversaw completion. Sheikh Zayed's mausoleum is located beside the north side of the mosque. The live 24/7 recitations of the Quran from the mausoleum that are spread throughout the mosque increase the spirituality and beauty of this architecture. The mosque is currently under the supervision of HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs.

External features of the mosque

This impressive mosque is a stunning building which contains 82 domes, approximately 1,000 columns, four minarets, 24 carat gold-plated chandeliers and the world's largest knotted carpet.

The outer surfaces of the mosque, including the walls, domes and minarets, are covered in flawless SIVEC marble from Macedonia;- more than 165,000 square metres of marble was needed. In the courtyard (the *Sahan*) the floor is covered with 30 different types of coloured marble tiles from Italy, India, Greece and China.

The courtyard

A *Sahan* or courtyard area is found in other large grand mosques, as well as the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. It is an outside space used for worship at important religious times of the year such as during Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr (The Feast of Breaking the Fast) at the end of Ramadan and Eid al-Adha. This area can accommodate up to 30,000 worshippers when full.

The floor of the courtyard was designed by British artist, Kevin Dean, who created a floral design with lilies, irises and tulips set on multi-coloured marble tiles. Dean also worked on the decoration of four internal arches, the floor and walls of the main prayer hall and the floors of the northern and southern entrances. In the book, *The Moon and the Minaret*,¹ Dean described how he wanted the designs to have a theme to link them together whilst representing Islam as an international faith. He cleverly used flowers from countries in the northern hemisphere in the northern entrance and plants and flowers from the southern hemisphere in the southern entrance. Flowers from the Arab Gulf region were used in the designs in the main prayer hall.

The rest of the courtyard is inlaid with thousands of small pieces of white marble and this may well be the largest marble mosaic in the world.

Exterior columns

Around the edge of the *Sahan* runs an outdoor arcade with more than 1,000 six-sided columns. These are covered with white marble and inlaid with floral patterns of semi-precious stones such as lapis lazuli, red agate, amethyst and, in the centre of the flowers, mother of pearl. Each piece of the marble was carved and positioned by hand and the overall design of the columns is based on the trunk of the date palm which has historical, cultural and economic importance for Abu Dhabi. This ancient Italian inlay technique, *pietra dura*, has been found in different historical landmarks like Taj Mahal in India.



¹ *The Moon and the Minaret* was published in 2011 by the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque Centre

Minarets

At each corner of the courtyard is a 106 metre tall minaret. One of the original uses of a minaret was to provide a high place for the *mu'athin* (caller of the prayer) to summon Muslims to prayer. The word minaret derives from the Arabic word of *Manara*, which means lighthouse, or place of enlightenment.

It is therefore fitting that the mosque's library is located on the third floor at the base of one of the minarets. This is the only library in a minaret in the world. The Adhan (call to prayer) is centrally called in the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque and is broadcast to all the mosques throughout the main island of Abu Dhabi City.

The domes

The largest of the 82 domes is positioned over the centre of the main prayer hall and is 84m high and 36.2m across. On top of this dome is a crescent-shaped finial in gold-glass mosaic, and arched windows are located lower down to let in natural light. The insides of these domes are covered in verses from the Holy Quran. The crowns of the domes are of a Moghul design, which resembles the the shape of an onion and are covered in white marble. In addition to the white domes, a green glass dome can be found above the separate washing (ablution or *wadu*) facilities for men and women.

Reflective pools

Around the perimeter of the mosque, there is a series of rectangular, blue-tiled reflective pools which extend to a total of nearly 7,000 square metres. They are a traditional feature of Islamic architecture and gardens, and the pools cool the bright shimmer of the white marble.

At night, the pools enhance the effect of the 'lunar' lighting. This clever lighting system was designed by lighting architects, Jonathon Speirs and Major, and mimics the moon's phases. As the moon becomes fuller, the lighting increases in brightness to project a blue colour onto the white marble of the mosque.

Interior features of the mosque

Foyers

The main entrances to the mosque building itself are from the courtyard (*Sahan*) via foyers or hallways which give access to the main prayer hall. At the entrance to each of the four foyers, there is a blue chandelier, the largest of which is located in the main foyer (East Entrance) measuring 4.5m across, 6.5m high and weighs two tonnes.

All seven chandeliers in the mosque were designed by the German lighting designer, Faustig. Gold-plated (gilded) steel and Italian glass with a total of 40 million Swarovski crystals were used in the making of all the chandeliers in the mosque.

The walls and floors of the foyers were also designed by British artist, Kevin Dean, and are designed to look like gardens with floral vines climbing the walls. Above the main foyer is one of the largest domes which, like the others, is decorated internally with calligraphy of verses from the Holy Quran.

Floors, doors and walls

Throughout the external area of the mosque, there are wall panels of traditional Turkish 'Iznik' tiles. These are floral in design and are decorated with calligraphy of verses from the Holy Quran that were designed by Hasan Celebi (1937), a famous Turkish calligrapher. Iznik is a town in the Bursa Province of western Turkey.

All of the glass doors in the mosque are made of three separate sheets of Italian Murano glass. The inner and outer panes are clear but sandwiched between them is a central pane which is a beautiful floral design made using mosaic, cut and sandblasting techniques. These glass doors bring light into the interior, lighting the walls, floors and domes.

Main prayer hall

The main prayer hall, which can accommodate 7,800 worshippers, is entered from the four foyers. This is mainly used when there are large groups of worshippers during Eid, Ramadan and Friday sermons. For the daily five prayers, there is a south prayer hall for men and a north prayer hall for women with capacities of 1,200 and 1,700 respectively.

The main prayer hall is symmetrical in design with almost everything repeated on either side of the centre, which is a feature of Islamic design. There are 96 vertical columns placed in groups of four to support the structure and domes. Each column is covered in Italian marble inlaid with mother-of-pearl vines, and topped with golden coloured palm fronds. The interior walls are covered with patterned Italian Lasa marble and Bianco P marble.

Covering the entire floor of the main prayer hall is a huge and intricately designed Islamic carpet of wool and cotton which was designed, hand-knotted and woven over a period of two years by 1,200 craftspeople. It is designed with a traditional Islamic medallion and floral pattern with raised lines to show worshippers where to stand. The carpet covers a total of 5,400 square metres and weighs 35 tonnes. In 2007 it was officially recognised as the world's largest hand-knotted carpet by the Guinness Book of World Records.

Qibla wall

Like most mosques, there is a *Qibla* wall to indicate the direction of *Makkah* (Mecca) in Saudi Arabia and the location of the *Ka'abah*, the cubic-shaped building in Makkah towards which Muslims must face when praying. The designs on the *Qibla* wall feature 99 attributes of Allah designed in flower shapes and written in a *Fatimid Kufic* script by the Emirati calligrapher, Mohammed Al Tamimi. At the top centre is a large circle with 'Allah' (God Almighty) written inside.

In the middle of the *Qibla* wall is a semi-circular niche or *Mihrab*, an important part of a mosque where an Imam (prayer leader) stands to lead the worshippers in prayer. Before the microphone was used, the shape would help to project the Imam's voice so all could hear him. The main hall has three chandeliers of varying sizes, all with a design based on the date palm tree. The largest of these is 10 metres across, 15.5 metres high and weighs 12 tonnes. Inside the chandeliers are spiral staircases to enable maintenance and cleaning of their upper parts.

Slightly to the right of the *Mihrab* is the wooden *Minbar*, a type of pulpit where the Imam stands to deliver sermons. This is one of the earliest features of mosque architecture and from here, the Imam delivers the *khut'ba* sermon before Friday prayers.

Clocks

There are 11 clocks in Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. They were all made in the United Kingdom from steel inlaid with mother-of-pearl and shaped like a flower with six petals. Daily prayers are based on the movement of the sun, so the five prayer times change each day, and the clocks are designed to reflect this.

In the inner circle of the clock, the hands tell the minute and hour.

On each of the petals, digital displays mark the divisions of the day and run clockwise:

- The top petal indicates true dawn *Fajr*
- The second petal indicates sunrise and the *Shorouq* which is the end of dawn prayers
- The third petal indicates the noon prayer *Dhuhr* which is performed between noon and mid-afternoon
- The fourth petal shows the afternoon prayer *Asr* which is performed between mid-afternoon and sunset
- The fifth petal shows the sunset Prayer *Maghrib* which is performed between sunset and darkness
- The sixth petal indicates the late evening prayer *Isha*

Finally, there are two other digital displays:

- The display at the top of the clock's inner circle shows the date according to the Gregorian, or Western, calendar
- The display at the bottom of the clock's inner circle is the date according to the Islamic or *Hijri* calendar

Tours

Complimentary one-hour guided tours run:

- 10am, 11am and 5pm Sunday - Thursday
- 5pm and 7pm Fridays
- 10am, 11am, 2pm, 5pm and 7pm Saturdays

Audio guides are free for visitors and are available in 11 languages: Arabic, English, German, French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Urdu, Mandarin, Japanese and Russian. To make use of this service, visitors should go to the Visitor Service desk with a valid ID card.

Knowledge Bank: Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque

Overview

- The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque is located on 5th Street off Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Street, opposite Wahat Al Karama in the capital of Abu Dhabi
- It stands at the entrance to Abu Dhabi City and was built nine metres higher than street level so that it could be visible from a distance
- The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque is the UAE's official mosque
- It is one of the finest examples of modern Islamic architecture worldwide
- It is the UAE's largest mosque and the eighth largest in the world with a capacity for more than 50,000 worshippers (20,000 inside and 30,000+ outside)
- It covers an area of 555,000m²
- The concrete structures were built by Halcrow Ltd., an engineering company based in the United Kingdom
- The mosque is named after the founding father of the UAE and the first president of the union, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan
- Construction started in 1996 and was completed in 2007 in time for *Eid al-Adha* (The Feast of Sacrifice)

HH Sheikh Zayed

- HH Sheikh Zayed was involved in all aspects of the design and construction of the mosque
- When HH Sheikh Zayed passed away in 2004, his son Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan became President and completed construction
- HH Sheikh Zayed elected to have the mosque constructed in white marble as a symbol of purity and peace
- HH Sheikh Zayed wanted the mosque to be a place of worship as well as a cultural and educational centre to promote communication, cultural understanding and tolerance
- Sheikh Zayed's mausoleum is located beside the north side of the mosque where the live Quran recitation is 24/7 nonstop by 24 reciters (each one will recite for one hour)

Features of the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque

- The mosque features:
 - 82 domes
 - approximately 1,000 columns
 - 24-carat gold plated chandeliers
 - the world's largest hand-knotted carpet

Friday is, of course, the busiest day in the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque when thousands of male and female worshippers gather to listen to the *khut'ba* sermon that takes place before the midday prayers.

The marble

- The outer surfaces of the mosque are covered in flawless SIVEC marble from Macedonia
- The SIVEC marble covers the:
 - domes
 - minarets
 - walls
- The design of the mosque required more than 165,000 m² of SIVEC marble
- The mosque's courtyard (the *Sahan*) is covered with thousands of marble tiles from Italy, India, Greece and China, with more than 30 different types of coloured marble
- In the main prayer hall, Italian marble has been used on the columns and the *Qibla* wall

The courtyard (*Sahan*)

- The *Sahan* or outside courtyard area is unique to grand mosques
- It is an outside space used for worship at important religious times of the year such as *Eid al-Fitr* (The Feast of Breaking the Fast) and *Eid al-Adha* (The Feast of Sacrifice) prayers and during the Holy Month of Ramadan
- The *Sahan* can accommodate up to 31,000 worshippers when full
- British artist, Kevin Dean, created a floral design for the floor of the *Sahan* with flowers such as lilies and irises; the rest of the floor is set with tiny pieces of white marble. Possibly the largest marble mosaic in the world

Exterior columns

- The mosque has more than 1,000 white columns which are decorated in a floral design made from semi-precious stones, and mother-of-pearl at the centre of flowers
- Each piece of marble for the columns was carved and inlaid by hand using the Italian technique called *pietra dura*
- The design of the columns is based on the trunk of the date palm which has historical, cultural and economic importance for Abu Dhabi

Minarets

- The minarets are a significant feature of the mosque and rise over 100 metres from each corner of the courtyard
- Minaret in Arabic is '*Manara*', which means lighthouse or place of enlightenment
- Originally minarets were used for the *mu'athin* to call worshippers to prayer
- There is a library located in one of the minarets; this is the only library in the world inside a minaret
- The *Adhan* (call to prayer) is centrally called in the Mosque and is broadcast to all mosques throughout the main island of Abu Dhabi City

The domes

- The largest dome in the mosque is 84 metres high and 36.2 metres across
- It is located over the centre of the main prayer hall
- The crowns of the domes are in Moghul style and shaped like onions and are covered in white marble
- On top of the largest dome sits a crescent-shaped finial in gold-glass mosaic
- The domes feature arched windows at the bottom to let natural light through
- The insides of the domes are covered in verses from the Holy Quran
- As well as white domes, green glass domes can be found above the separate washing (ablution or *wadu*) facilities for men and women

Reflective pools

- Rectangular blue-tiled reflective pools run around the perimeter of the mosque
- Reflective pools are a traditional feature of Islamic architecture and gardens
- The spectacular lighting of the mosque at night projects the blue colour from the pools onto the white marble of the mosque

Lunar lighting

- The clever lighting system at the mosque was designed by lighting architects, Jonathon Speirs and Major
- There are 22 light towers and each contain ten – 13 projectors
- The lighting mimics the moon's phases; as the moon becomes fuller, the lighting increases in brightness

Internal features of the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque

Iznik tiles

- The mosque features traditional Turkish Iznik tiles
- The tiles are floral in design and are decorated with calligraphy of verses from the Holy Quran
- The calligraphy tiles were designed by Hasan Celebi who is a famous Turkish calligrapher
- Iznik is a town in Bursa Province in the west of Turkey

The foyers

- The foyers of the mosque are the main prayer hall entrances
- The walls and the floors of the foyers were also designed by Kevin Dean, a British artist and designer, to look like gardens
- At the centre of the central foyer (the main foyer) is a large blue crystal chandelier (it is in fact the smallest of seven chandeliers created for the mosque)
- Four blue chandeliers can be found at the entrances of the foyers
- The largest of the blue chandeliers is 4.5m across, 6.5m high and weighs two tonnes located at the central foyer (the main foyer)
- All the mosque's chandeliers were designed by the German lighting designer, Faustig
- They are made from gold-plated (gilded) steel and Italian glass with a total of 40 million Swarovski crystals used in all seven chandeliers
- The central foyer features its own dome. It is one of the largest in the mosque and like the others is decorated on the inside with calligraphy of the verses of the Holy Quran

Glass designs

- The mosque features Italian Murano glass doors throughout to bring light into the inside of the mosque
- The glass doors have a three-paned design. The external clear panes sandwich an intricate floral design in the centre

The main prayer hall

- The main prayer hall can accommodate around 7,800 worshippers
- The hall is mainly used when there are large groups of worshippers during Eid, Ramadan and Friday Sermons
- The prayer hall is symmetrical in design which is a feature of Islamic architecture
- The hall has 96 vertical columns placed in groups of four to support the mosque's structure
- The columns have a vine design which is made out of mother-of-pearl
- At the top of the columns there are gold-coloured palm fronds

Interior walls

- The interior walls of the mosque are covered with patterned Italian marble

Qibla wall

- The main prayer hall has a special wall named the *Qibla* wall
- The *Qibla* wall points towards *Ka'abah*, a building of special significance in the holy city of Makkah, Saudi Arabia, that Muslims face when praying
- The *Qibla* wall is lit and covered in Italian marble, designed in a Fatimid Kufic style featuring flowers with five petals
- The *Qibla* wall calligraphy was designed by Emirati, Mohammed Mandi Al Tamimi
- At the centre of the *Qibla* wall is a large circle with 'Allah' (God Almighty) written inside

The *Mihrab* (niche)

- The *Mihrab* is an important part of a mosque and in the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque is found in the middle of the *Qibla* wall
- The semi-circular *Mihrab* is the place where an Imam (prayer leader) stands to speak to and lead the worshippers into prayer
- The *Mihrab* is traditionally semi-circular in design, and used to help project the Imam's voice so all worshippers could hear him

The *Minbar*

- The *Minbar* is a type of pulpit where the Imam stands to deliver the sermons
- It is one of the earliest Islamic architectural features
- In the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque the *Minbar* can be found on the right of the *Mihrab*
- On Fridays, the Imam addresses worshippers directly from the *Minbar* to deliver the *khut'ba* sermon

The carpet

- Covering the floor of the main prayer hall is a huge and intricately designed Islamic carpet
- The carpet was pronounced as the world's largest hand-knotted carpet by Guinness World Records in 2007
- 1,200 craftspeople hand-knotted and wove the carpet together over 2 years
- The carpet covers the entire floor-area of the main prayer hall
- The wool and cotton carpet is 5,400 m² and weighs 35 tonnes
- The carpet features raised lines to show worshippers where to stand to pray
- The carpet is designed with a traditional Islamic medallion and floral pattern

Chandeliers in the main prayer hall

- The main prayer hall has three identically-designed chandeliers of varying sizes
- The largest chandelier is found in the middle of the hall and is 10m across, 15.5m high and weighs around 12 tonnes
- It is considered to be the largest chandelier in any mosque worldwide
- The design of the chandeliers is based on the date palm tree

Nation Towers



Winner of an international design competition, this mixed-use hotel complex is located on Abu Dhabi's Corniche. The sculptured two towers are 52 and 64-storeys tall, with the roof of the base pavilions, representing the evocative imagery of waves, sand and water to create a powerful architectural statement. Nation Towers is established as a premier retail, residential and hospitality address in Abu Dhabi.

The St. Regis Abu Dhabi Hotel is a business and social hub for Arabian royalty, corporate executives and leisure guests from all over the world. Located between the 33rd and 50th floors on Tower 2, the hotel's 283 luxuriously appointed guestrooms and suites offer captivating views of the Arabian Gulf. The St. Regis Abu Dhabi offers an array of leisure facilities, including the region's first Remède Spa and the Nation Riviera Beach Club, and 11 distinctive food and beverage venues, including a restaurant by the Michelin-starred chef Gary Rhodes. The complex is connected to the beach, the Nation Riviera Beach Club and pool pavilion across the Corniche, by way of a tunnel that passes under the wide waterfront boulevard. The complex also includes luxury retail space in the podium called Nation Galleria, featuring different dining options (Middle Eastern, Indian and Mexican food), and a cinema and luxury brand outlets.

DID YOU KNOW? The bridge connects the towers at a height of 202m which is 30 metres higher than the sky bridge of the Petronas Tower in Malaysia. Also, it is the world's highest interconnecting presidential St. Regis Hotel suite which is housed on both 48th and 49th floor. This steel bridge weighs over 400 tonnes.

Knowledge Bank: Nation Towers

Overview

- Nation Towers is a mixed-use hotel complex located on Abu Dhabi's Corniche
- There are two towers; Tower 1 as a residence has 64 stories, and Tower 2 has the offices and hotel and has 52 stories
- The roof of the base pavilions, represents the image of waves of both sand and water to create a powerful architectural statement.
- The St. Regis Abu Dhabi Hotel is located between the 33rd and 50th floors on Tower 2
- The hotel offers an array of leisure facilities, including the region's first Remède Spa and the Nation Riviera Beach Club, and 11 distinctive food and beverage venues, including a restaurant by the Michelin-starred chef Gary Rhodes.
- The complex is connected to the beach, Nation Riviera Beach Club and pool pavilion across the Corniche by way of a tunnel that passes under the wide waterfront boulevard.
- The pavilion podium has a luxury retail space called Nation Galleria which has different dining options (Middle Eastern, Indian, Mexican), and a cinema and luxury brand outlets.

The sky bridge:

- It connects the towers at a height of 202m which is 30 metres higher than the sky bridge of the Petronas Tower in Malaysia.
- It accommodates the world's highest interconnecting presidential St. Regis Hotel suite which is housed on both 48th and 49th floor.
- The weight of the bridge is over 400 tonnes.



W Abu Dhabi



This five-star hotel is the centrepiece of the Yas Island Marina complex and was developed by Aldar Properties. Construction started in 2007 and the hotel opened in November 2009, just before the first Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

The hotel is very well located, being only 10 minutes' drive from the airport. The city centre can also be reached in just 15 to 20 minutes. It is also close to the many family attractions on Yas Island, such as Yas Waterworld, Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Yas Marina and Yas Mall.

The hotel was designed by New York architects, Hani Rashid and Lise Anne Couture of Asymptote Architecture, who worked closely with designers, Jestico + Whiles and Richardson Sadeki, to create its stunning design.

The hotel has two buildings of 12 floors each, one on land and one on water, linked by a steel and glass bridge which spans the racing circuit. With one building within the circuit and one in Yas Marina, guests in some of the rooms and suites can watch races from their balcony.

The buildings are covered with a unique 'gridshell' architectural feature made of steel and glass which spans 219 metres and contains 5,096 diamond-shaped glass panels. These panels are fitted with Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) which produce a beautiful effect at night. This 'gridshell' shape and structure resembles a veil covering the hotel when seen from a distance. The exterior of the hotel was designed to represent speed and traditional Islamic arts and crafts at the same time.

Inside the hotel, the lobby walls are based on a modern version of a classical Arabic feature called a *mashrabiya* - a type of window which has latticework carved from wood and often contains stained glass. The rest of the interior has a modern design.

There are a total of 499 guest rooms and 75 suites within the two buildings. As well as access to Yas beach for guests to relax in the sun, the hotel features a grand ballroom, a library, a fitness centre, a luxury spa (ESPA at W Abu Dhabi) with a steam room and rooftop pools which provide great views at sunset. There are also six international restaurants providing Italian, Indian, Middle Eastern, Japanese and Asian food.

DID YOU KNOW? The hotel's 'gridshell' covering is based on the design of a traditional Emirati fishing net.

Knowledge Bank: W Abu Dhabi

Overview

- W Abu Dhabi is a five-star hotel and the centrepiece of the Yas Island Marina complex
- The hotel was developed by Aldar Properties
- Construction of the hotel started in 2007 and it opened in November 2009 in time for the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix of that year
- Abu Dhabi International Airport is a 10-minute drive away. It takes 15 to 20 minutes to drive to the city centre
- The hotel is well-positioned for visitors to access some of the family attractions on Yas Island such as Yas Waterworld, Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Yas Marina and Yas Mall
- The hotel has 499 guest rooms and 75 suites
- The hotel sits on both sides of the Yas Marina Circuit, Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix racetrack and is linked by a bridge
- It is built half on land, half on water
- In some rooms, visitors can watch a car race from their balcony or relax beachside in the sun
- The hotel features: access to Yas Beach, a grand ballroom, a library, a fitness centre, a luxury spa (ESPA at W Abu Dhabi Abu Dhabi) with steam room and rooftop pools with great views at sunset
- For dining options, the hotel boasts six international restaurants that include Italian, Indian, Middle Eastern, Japanese and Asian cuisine

Architecture and design

- The hotel was designed by Hani Rashid and Lise Anne Couture of Asymptote Architecture, New York who worked with Jestico + Whiles and Richardson Sadeki to create the hotel's design
- W Abu Dhabi is made up of two hotel towers of 12 floors each. One of the towers is actually within the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 1 race circuit and the other in Yas Marina
- The hotel towers are linked together by a steel and glass bridge
- The hotel is covered in a unique 'gridshell' structure represents a traditional Emirati fishing net and from a distance this looks like a veil covering the hotel
- The gridshell is made up of a steel and glass covering spanning 219 metres and fitted with 5,096 diamond shaped glass panels
- The glass panels are fitted with LED lighting which produces a beautiful effect at night
- The hotel was designed to represent speed (the racetrack) and traditional Islamic arts and crafts at the same time
- Inside, the hotel's lobby walls are based on a modern version of a traditional Arabic feature called a *mashrabiya*, a type of window which features carved wood latticework and is often inset with stained glass
- The rest of the interior décor is contemporary in design

Section 10

Abu Dhabi: Culture and Heritage Sites

GRASP | ABSORB | APPRECIATE



UAE Currency Museum at the Central Bank



The UAE Currency Museum is located on the ground floor of the Central Bank, near Al Bateen Wharf in Abu Dhabi City. The museum explains the history of currency in the region, including the introduction of the dirham in 1973.

It was opened in 2013 to mark 40 years of the UAE Central Bank, and a commemorative coin was released to celebrate the anniversary. Within the museum is part of the Central Bank's collections of currency notes and coins, commemorative coins, and samples of various issues of UAE currency notes. It also includes coins and currencies from other countries, cash counting and sorting machines used by the Central Bank in the past.

Old note shredders are on display. These were used to make holes in the security features of recalled notes and could process 100 notes at a time. The museum also has processing machines which would check authenticity and sort the real from the counterfeit at a rate of eight notes per second.

Collectors can pay tens of thousands of dirhams for pristine examples of first-issue notes. Visitors to the museum will learn about a time when Abu Dhabi had its own currency, different to the one used by Dubai and the northern Emirates.

The first dirham notes, introduced in 1973, were in denominations of AED 1, 5, 10, 20 and 100. Three years later the AED 1,000 note was released, the first issue being the most valuable note to collect at the museum. The first notes issued had both Arabic and English lettering, with various Emirates landmarks printed on them, similar to those in circulation today.

The UAE Currency Museum at the Central Bank is open daily from 9am to 3pm and is free to enter. Tours may be booked in advance, for a maximum number of 15 to 20 people.

DID YOU KNOW? The Dirham was put into circulation for the first time on May 19, 1973.

Knowledge Bank: UAE Currency Museum at the Central Bank

Overview

- The UAE Currency Museum is located on the ground floor of the Central Bank, near Al Bateen Wharf in Abu Dhabi City
- The museum explains the history of currency in the region, including the introduction of the dirham in 1973
- It includes a part of the Central Bank's collections of:
 - currency notes
 - currency coins
 - commemorative coins
 - samples of issues of UAE currency notes
 - currency from other countries
 - cash counting and sorting machines used by the Central Bank in the past
 - gifts
- The museum opened in 2013 to mark 40 years of the UAE Central Bank
- A commemorative coin was released to mark the 40th anniversary of the bank
- Visitors will be able to see old cash-counting machines and cash-sorting machines
- Old note shredders are also on display, which were used to make holes in the security features of recalled notes. These machines could process 100 notes at a time
- The museum has processing machines which could check for authenticity at a rate of eight notes per second
- Visitors to the museum will learn about a time when Abu Dhabi had its own currency, different to that used by Dubai and the northern Emirates
- Collectors can pay tens of thousands of dirhams for pristine examples of first-issue notes
- The first issue AED 1,000 note is the most valuable to collect
- The first notes issued had both Arabic and English lettering, with various Emirates landmarks printed on them, similar to those in circulation today
- The first dirham notes were in denominations of AED 1, 5, 10, 50 and 100. Three years later, the AED 1,000 note was released

Opening hours

9am - 3pm daily

Charges

Free

Tour size

Maximum 15-20 persons (booking in advance is required)

Manarat Al Saadiyat



Manarat Al Saadiyat is a 15,400m² arts and culture centre located on Saadiyat Island. It houses three major gallery spaces, a central events gallery, and a 250-seat theatre. Visitors to the culture centre can see a large model of the island's developments including cultural, residential and leisure buildings. The site is dedicated to developing arts and culture in Abu Dhabi and is located within the Saadiyat Cultural District currently taking shape.

The galleries showcase art from all over the world and are also used for regular exhibitions and lectures. The Abu Dhabi Art Fair is hosted there every November.

Manarat Al Saadiyat is free to enter and is open from 10am until 8pm every day, except during Ramadan when the opening hours are 9am to 2pm and 8.30pm to 11.30pm.

DID YOU KNOW? Manarat Al Saadiyat means 'a place that provides enlightenment' in Arabic – quite fitting really!

Knowledge Bank: Manarat Al Saadiyat

Overview

- Manarat Al Saadiyat is located on Saadiyat Island
- It consists of a 15,400m² arts and culture centre
- It has three major gallery spaces, a central events gallery, and a 250-seat theatre
- The gallery exhibits art from all over the world
- The centre hosts regular exhibitions and lectures, and the Abu Dhabi Art Fair every November

Opening hours

Open daily from 10am - 8pm except during Ramadan

Charges

Entry is free

Qasr al Hosn



Al Hosn, located in downtown Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates, is the original historic urban block of the city, a witness to the evolution of the city from a traditional pearling settlement to a modern global metropolis. Today, it is home to a vast cultural experience including Qasr Al Hosn, Cultural Foundation, House of Artisans, Bait Al Gahwa, in addition to a selection of restaurants and cafes. Like, Mirzam, The Espresso Lab and Wild and The Moon.

In addition to that Al Hosn site, houses Al Hosn Musallah, which is a world class award winning architectural ensemble which has been internationally recognised by Architects, Critics and Academics alike. The building acclaimed the title of Best Completed Religion Building at the World Architectural Festival 2019 and was consequently shortlisted for World Building of the Year at the WAF awards in Amsterdam in 2019.

Al Hosn is a host to a variety of activations and events, taking place within the different venues onsite, ranging from festivals to traditional performances and demonstrations, performances, plays, workshops, and many more around the year.

A museum telling the story of Abu Dhabi and its people, Qasr Al Hosn includes Abu Dhabi's first permanent structure, a coral and sea stone watchtower, built to protect the settlement of Abu Dhabi established on the island in the 1760s. Over the centuries, it has been home to the ruling family, the seat of government, a consultative council and a national archive; it now stands as the nation's living memorial and the narrator of Abu Dhabi's history through objects, artifacts, and archival material.

Cultural Foundation

The Cultural Foundation was conceived in 1981 by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan founding father of the United Arab Emirates; a public institution with a mandate to foster and nurture cultural consciousness for all citizens. This building fundamentally represented a new outlook on the role of culture in the modern UAE, with the introduction of the first National Library, a theatre and a multi-purpose exhibition hall.

Cultural Foundation quickly established itself not only as a beloved community gathering space, but also as a home of debate and exchange for artists, poets, and intellectuals.

Abu Dhabi Children's Library at the Cultural Foundation

Join us at the Abu Dhabi Children's Library, where stories come to life. Dive into the magic of children's books at this new creative hub in the Cultural Foundation. Explore the intergenerational interactive activities and programmes designed to promote literacy, learning and creative thinking.

House of Artisans

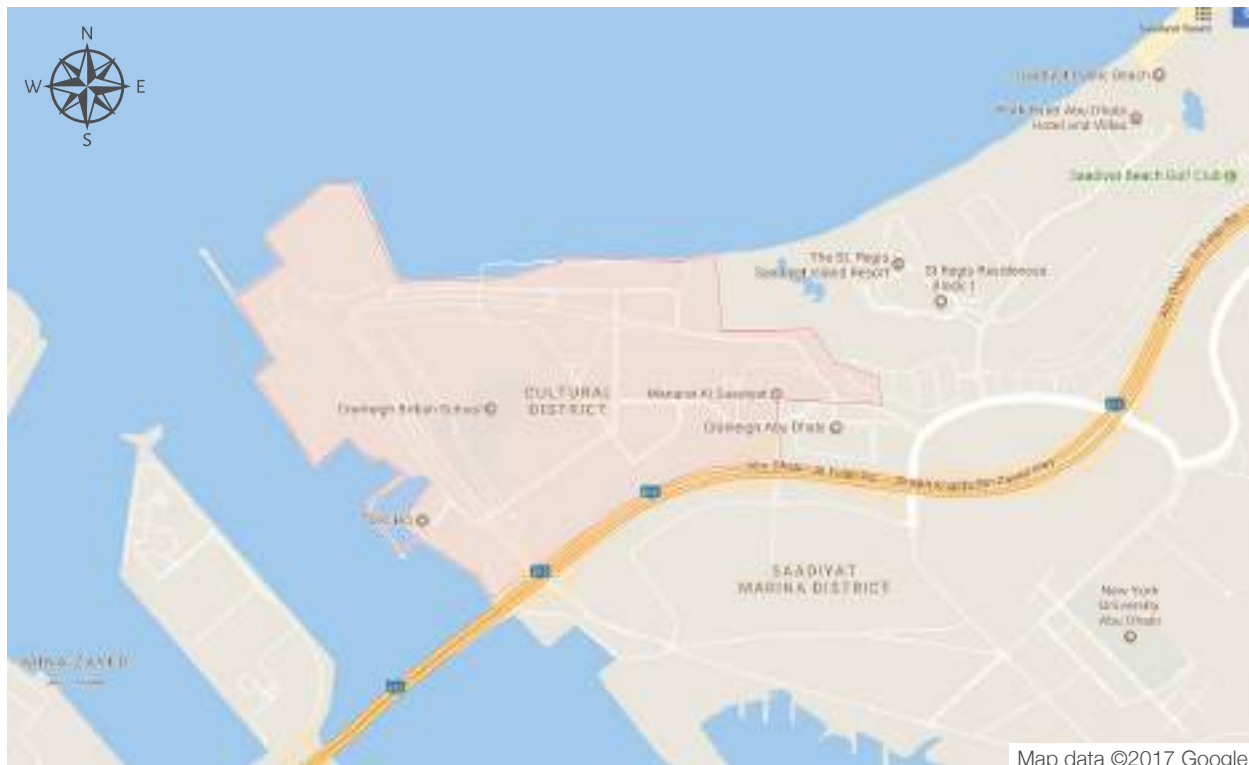
A Focal Point for UAE's Intangible Heritage

Bringing the traditional crafts of the past to the heart of contemporary culture, House of Artisans serves as a visible and practical means of not only preserving and displaying the traditional crafts of the UAE but enabling the all-important transmission of knowledge and skills around these crafts, ensuring their future survival. It's a platform where traditional Emirati artisans can interact and exchange skills with the community, through training courses, educational workshops and a range of artisanal focused public events.

Bait Al Gahwa

The Tradition of Hospitality and Generosity. Bait Al Gahwa is a space where the traditional ceremony of Emirati coffee making comes to life. A cultural experience involving the traditional preparation and presentation of Gahwa, or Arabic coffee, it through an in-depth exploration of Arabic coffee, Bait Al Gahwa presents each stage of preparing Gahwa from roasting, cooling, grinding, to brewing the coffee. Each stage, including the serving phase, has a distinctive technique, traditional tools, and unique etiquette to the UAE.

Saadiyat Cultural District



The Saadiyat Cultural District is an area of Saadiyat Island which has been dedicated to culture and the arts and aims to draw in visitors from across the globe. Located on the upper west area of Saadiyat Island, the cultural district has a land area of 2,800,000 square metres, and consists of key buildings, still under construction:- Louvre Abu Dhabi, Zayed National Museum, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and UAE Pavilion.

The featured buildings will sit alongside a top-end retail destination called The District, as well as exclusive residences, hotels, and educational facilities. The District will have 550 units featuring luxury and fashion brands, restaurants, galleries and entertainment venues. There will be four distinct zones: Luxury Street, for luxury fashion brands; The Canal Zone, a boardwalk featuring many restaurants and beverage outlets; High Street, for flagship fashion brands; and The Crescent Arcade, with three levels featuring entertainment venues alongside fashion stores and restaurants.

Knowledge Bank: Saadiyat Cultural District

Overview

- The Cultural District is located on the upper west area of Saadiyat Island
- The district is an area of Saadiyat Island which has been dedicated to culture and the arts, which aims to draw visitors from across the globe
- The Cultural District has a land area of 2,800,000m²
- The Cultural District comprises key buildings:
 - Louvre Abu Dhabi
 - Zayed National Museum
 - Guggenheim Abu Dhabi
 - UAE Pavilion

The District

- The featured buildings will sit alongside an upscale retail destination called The District, as well as exclusive residences, hotels, and educational facilities
- The District has 550 units featuring luxury and fashion brands, restaurants, galleries and entertainment venues
- The District has four distinct zones:
 - **Luxury Street** – for luxury fashion brands
 - **The Canal Zone** – a boardwalk featuring many restaurants and beverage outlets
 - **High Street** – for flagship fashion brands
 - **The Crescent Arcade** – three levels featuring entertainment venues alongside fashion stores and restaurants

Louvre Abu Dhabi



Louvre Abu Dhabi is a place to share and celebrate stories of cultural connections and help visitors realise that we have more in common than we know.

Located in Abu Dhabi's cultural district on Saadiyat Island, and designed by Pritzker Prize-winning French architect Jean Nouvel, it was inaugurated in a special ceremony in November 2017 by Emmanuel Macron, French President, HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, HE Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of the Department of Culture and Tourism- Abu Dhabi and other world leaders. Anchored in the Middle East and enriched by the diversity of its surroundings, Louvre Abu Dhabi aims to shape new perspectives on the global history of art and tell much-needed tales of exchange and tolerance in a connected world.

Through its innovative curatorial approach, the museum shows artworks from different cultures side by side, and builds understanding across cultures through stories of human creativity that transcend civilisations, geographies and times. The permanent collection, together with important loaned artworks from prestigious partners allow visitors to journey from pre-history to the present day, and discover connections, points of exchange and differences. Louvre Abu Dhabi hosts several international exhibitions each year. A Children's Museum nurtures curiosity and discovery through its themed exhibitions and workshops that are designed to engage children and their families. In addition, Louvre Abu Dhabi offers tailored Educational and Cultural programs for schools, universities, adults, and family groups.

Since opening in 2017, Louvre Abu Dhabi has become a unique space that brings people together. Welcoming over two million visitors from around the world who have come to enjoy the museum's rich cross-cultural collection, iconic dome, ground-breaking international exhibitions and a range of cultural programmes for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Visitors can enjoy a short break at the Museum's Café, or dine at Fouquet's, an elegant fine dining French

brasserie style restaurant, while enjoying the magnificent views. For those who love to shop, the museum's boutique features a selection of art books, souvenirs, postcards, and designer items.

Museum hours are:

Tuesday - Sunday | 10:00 am – 6:30 pm

The museum is closed on Monday

Last entry time slot is 5.30pm, visitors must depart at 6.30pm

General admission tickets are AED 63 (including VAT). Reduced ticket rates are available for UAE school teachers, college lecturers and university faculty members, UAE military, auditorium/workshop ticket holders. Admission is free for those who are under the age of 18, UAE senior Emiratis and residents, People of Determination with one companion, Louvre Abu Dhabi Art Club members with one guest, Youth and Teacher Pass holders, ICOM/ICOMS Card holders, journalists and their companions.

<https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/en/buy-ticket>

DID YOU KNOW? The domed roof of Louvre Abu Dhabi is constructed from 7,850 unique stars and angels, repeated in different sizes on each of its 8 steel layers. These pierced-steel stars form unique patterns allowing sunlight to pass through to the spaces below, forming a 'rain of light' effect that changes as the sun moves across the sky during the day. The dome weighs approx. 7,500 tons, equal in weight to the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

Zayed National Museum



The Zayed National Museum, designed by another Pritzker Prize-winning architect, Lord Norman Foster, will be the national museum of the UAE. The site is located on the eastern edge of the Saadiyat Cultural District. The museum will tell the story of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan and explore the history of the UAE.

The museum will include a landscaped garden, forming a key part of the visitors' experience. The main gallery will be about Sheikh Zayed and will include photographs and personal belongings of the Sheikh.

Visitors to the museum will learn about the changing culture of the UAE, Sheikh Zayed's love of the natural world, and how Arabic culture and inventions have influenced the rest of the world.

Opening times and entry prices are still to be announced.

DID YOU KNOW? The building's towers were designed to invoke the image of a falcon's wings, a cultural icon of the UAE!

Further your knowledge

The museum's website:

www.zayednationalmuseum.ae

A video highlighting the life of Sheikh Zayed and the inspiration behind the museum:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtTuBof2tRw

Information on the architectural design of the area:

<http://www.fosterandpartners.com/projects/zayed-national-museum>

Knowledge Bank: Zayed National Museum

Overview

- The museum site is located on the eastern edge of the Saadiyat Cultural District
- It will be the national museum of the UAE
- The museum will tell the story of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan and explore the history of the UAE
- It was designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect, Lord Norman Foster
- The museum site will include a landscaped garden, which will form a key part of the visitors' experience
- Visitors to the museum will learn about the changing culture of the UAE, Sheikh Zayed's love of the natural world, and how Arabic culture and inventions have influenced the rest of the world

Opening hours:

Opening soon - no details on opening hours or cost available yet.

Guggenheim Abu Dhabi



Guggenheim Abu Dhabi will be located on a peninsula at the north-western tip of Saadiyat Island. The museum offers a transcultural perspective on art history – with a dedicated focus on art from West Asia, North Africa and South Asia (WANASA). Guggenheim Abu Dhabi's collection aims to contribute to a more inclusive and expansive view of modern and contemporary art.

Designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect, Frank Gehry, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi will be the largest of the Guggenheim museums. The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation's constellation of museums – including the Guggenheim Museum in New York designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and the Guggenheim Bilbao designed by Frank Gehry – are each designed to be a statement of architecture. The architecture mimics the traditional Arabic “barjeel”, or wind tower, and references how the original inhabitants of the UAE adapted to the land and thrived – a connection point to the history of the UAE.

Visitors will view a collection of modern and contemporary art from the 1960s to the present day, composed of a variety of media, including works especially created for the site. Guggenheim Abu Dhabi's collection will contribute to a more inclusive view of art history by emphasising the convergence of local, regional and international sources of creative inspiration. Guggenheim Abu Dhabi is committed to supporting artists in the region and has been doing so through acquisitions, exhibitions, publications and public programmes in Abu Dhabi.

Opening times and prices are still to be announced.

Knowledge Bank: Guggenheim Abu Dhabi

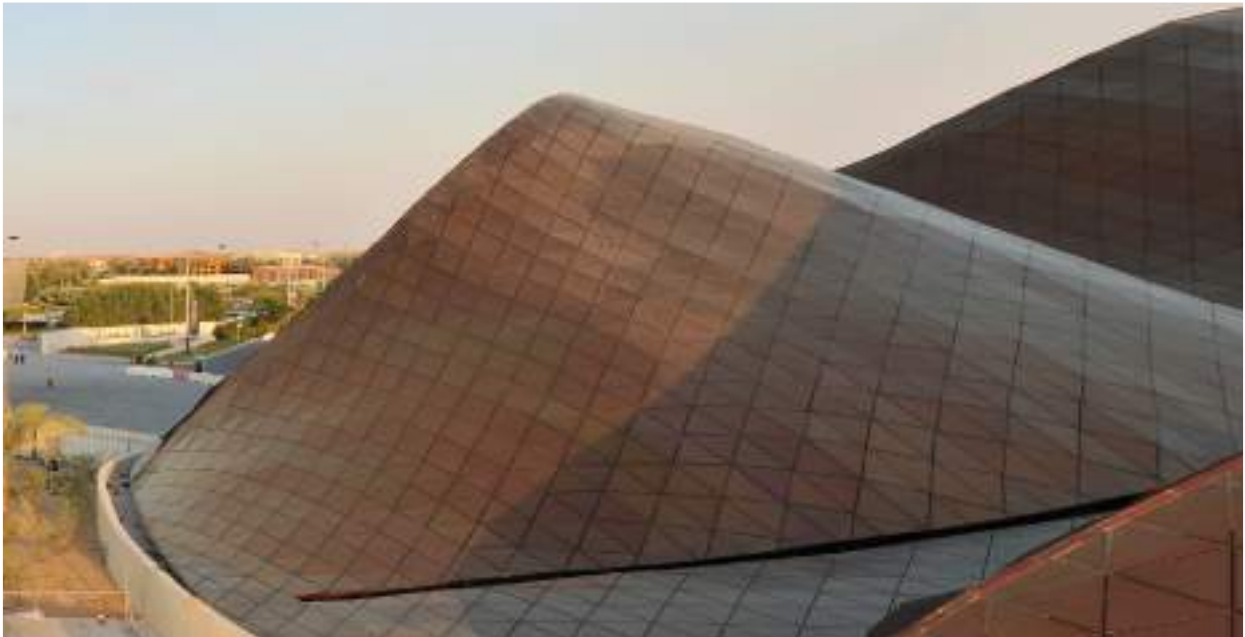
Overview

- The museum will be located on a peninsula at the north-western tip of Saadiyat Island
- The Guggenheim will aim to show the history of art across cultures
- Exhibitions will rotate and explore how art has developed in similar ways over time, in different locations
- Visitors will view a collection from the 1960s to the present day composed of a variety of media, including work that has been specially created for the site
- The building was designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect, Frank Gehry
- Gehry has stated that the design is “intentionally ‘messy’, moving into clarity.” The cones of the building were inspired by ancient wind-towers ‘barjeel’. These cones help provide the building with ventilation and shade the gardens
- The galleries are connected by a central catwalk, and vary in height and shape. This gives greater flexibility for the building’s curators
- The building will be the largest of the Guggenheim locations
- The site will include a large theatre, capable of seating 350 people, as well as shops, a research centre and a library

Opening hours:

Construction is not yet complete on this site. There is no estimated date of completion.

UAE Pavilion



The UAE Pavilion was inspired by the sand dunes of the UAE and was designed by Foster and Partners. It was originally built for the 2010 Shanghai Expo, which had the theme 'Better Cities, Better Lives'. The building was designed to be easily dismantled to make relocation possible when the Expo ended. It has since made a lengthy journey to reach Abu Dhabi to become the UAE Pavilion. The construction of the building in Saadiyat was completed in 2011 when it opened to the public.

The Shanghai Expo showcased environmentally-friendly projects such as Masdar City, a carbon-neutral, zero-waste community in Abu Dhabi. The pavilion had nearly two million visitors while located at the Shanghai Expo and was one of the largest structures on display.

Located next to the Manarat Al Saadiyat building, the UAE Pavilion is over 20 metres high and has total footprint of 3,452m². The components of the building filled over 50 containers, with some of the largest parts being transported as open-sea freight due to their weight of almost 60 tonnes.

Berklee Abu Dhabi is located in the UAE Pavilion. The pavilion was newly renovated with 42,000-square-foot arts education center on Saadiyat Island. It is the first Middle East outpost of Berklee College of Music: the preeminent institute of contemporary music and the performing arts.

Berklee Abu Dhabi offers world-class educational experiences through workshops, masterclasses, courses, ensembles, and labs led by world-renowned artists and instructors. It also host live performances from students, alumni and global artists. It has a performance space, a recording studio, rehearsal studios, practice rooms, ensemble rooms and a multimedia tech lab.

DID YOU KNOW? The UAE Pavilion's trip from the banks of Huangpu River to Saadiyat Island was a long one by any measure - more than 6,500 kilometres, or equivalent to eight and a half hours by jet, or a month at sea on a slow boat!

Further your knowledge

Architect's webpage:

<http://www.fosterandpartners.com/projects/uae-pavilion-shanghai-expo-2010/>

<https://berkleeabudhabi.ae/en/about-us>

Knowledge Bank: UAE Pavilion

Overview

- The UAE Pavilion is located next to the Manarat Al Saadiyat building
- The Pavilion was originally designed by Foster and Partners and built for the 2010 Shanghai Expo, which had the theme 'Better Cities, Better Lives'
- At the Shanghai Expo, the building showcased environmentally-friendly projects such as Masdar City, a carbon-neutral, zero-waste community in Abu Dhabi
- The Pavilion had nearly two million visitors while located at the Shanghai Expo and was one of the largest structures on display
- The building design was inspired by the sand dunes that are common across the UAE
- The building is over 20 metres high and has total footprint of 3,452m²
- The building was designed to be easily dismantled to make relocation possible when the Expo ended
- After the Expo ended, the building made a lengthy journey to reach Abu Dhabi
- The components of the building filled over 50 containers, with some of the largest parts being transported as open-sea freight due to their weight of almost 60 tonnes
- The construction of the building in Saadiyat was completed in 2011 when it opened to the public

Berklee Abu Dhabi:

- Berklee Abu Dhabi is located in the newly renovated pavilion.
- It is the first Middle East branch of Berklee College of Music.
- It offers workshops, masterclasses, courses, ensembles, and labs led by world-renowned artists and instructors.
- Live performances from students, alumni and global artists are hosted in the college.
- It accommodates a performance space, a recording studio, rehearsal studios, practice rooms, ensemble rooms and a multimedia tech lab.

Union Square



Union Square is located near the Qasr Al Hosn in Abu Dhabi city centre. In an area once considered the very heart of the city, this is an iconic and truly stunning square which now embodies modern Emirati culture, following a makeover. It is also known as Culture Square, or Etihad Square (sometimes spelled as Al Ittihad Square).

There was a large cannon sculpture on display in the square, which also gave it the nickname, Cannon Square. However the cannon sculpture was replaced with traditional symbolic monuments as part of recent renovations.

Now with five white statues which glisten in the sun between two lanes of traffic, the square is an important tourist attraction. These statues represent national symbols of Abu Dhabi's traditions and hospitality.

Recreated in white stone, the statues include a traditional Arabic coffee pot - *dallah*, an incense burner - *mabkhara*, and a traditional Arabic rosewater sprinkler, *marrash*. There are also statues of a fort representing strength and power, and a food cover made from palm fronds - *mechabba*, signifying the UAE's heritage.

This area was also where Abu Dhabi's original souk was located, and also contained the city's first bus station, clocktower and one of its most elaborate mosques, Al Fahimi.

DID YOU KNOW? The square is often used as a filming location for local and international movies!

Knowledge Bank: Union Square

Overview

- Union Square is located near the Qasr Al Hosn in Abu Dhabi city centre
- It is also known as Etihad Square (sometimes spelt as Al Ittihad Square) or Culture Square
- The area was once considered the heart of the city
- The area also contained the original souk, the city's first bus station and clocktower as well as the Al Fahimi mosque
- There used to be a large cannon sculpture on display in the square, giving it the nickname Cannon Square
- The cannon sculpture was replaced with traditional symbolic monuments as part of recent renovations
- National symbols of Abu Dhabi's traditions and hospitality are displayed here:
 - **coffee pot**, or *dallah*, for hospitality
 - **incense burner**, *mabkhara*, for hospitality
 - **rosewater sprinkler**, *marrash* for hospitality
 - **fort**, for strength and power
 - **food cover made from palm fronds**, *mechabba*, for heritage

Wahat Al Karama



“Our martyrs will remain our source of pride at all times. Their heroic deeds go down in the annals of history as a source of inspiration for all sincere deeds made to ensure our country’s glory, stability and progress toward a brighter future”

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces.

It was opened in 30 November 2016, and is located between the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque and the General Headquarters of the UAE Armed Forces in Abu Dhabi City.

The name Wahat Al Karama means ‘the oasis of dignity’. The site itself consists of five areas:

- Visitor Centre
- The Memorial Plaza
- The Memorial
- The Pavilion of Honour

The Memorial is made up of 31 huge tablets covered in aluminium which lean on each other. These symbolise the unity, solidarity and mutual support that bind together the leadership and citizens of the UAE with the servicemen and women who protect them.

Quotes and poems from the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashed Al Maktoum are inscribed on the panels. Visitors can also read the Pledge of Allegiance which is engraved on a long spine at the memorial. The spine is actually supporting the other panels which symbolizes the importance of soldiers in protecting and supporting the country.

¹ Source: <http://www.thenational.ae/uae/government/leaders-honour-uae-heroes-at-wahat-al-karama-memorial>

The Pavilion of Honour is an open air geometric building. Its internal walls are covered in aluminium plates, which are inscribed with the name, rank, location, and date of death of each of the UAE's heroes. The illuminated plates are made from reclaimed armoured service vehicles from the UAE Armed Forces. The martyrs are in chronological order where visitors can recognise the first martyr in the UAE.

The roof of the building is constructed from eight slabs, seven of which symbolise the Emirates of the UAE, with the additional slab symbolising the heroes themselves. Seven large transparent glass panels, which also represent the seven Emirates, can be seen at the centre of the Pavilion surrounded by a pool of slowly-moving water. On the front and back of each glass panel is the Pledge of Allegiance of the UAE Armed Forces, legible from whichever side the visitor reads it.

Memorial Plaza and offers clear views of the memorial and the neighbouring Grand Mosque. The plaza includes an amphitheatre which can seat over 1,200 people. A shallow pool in the centre of the Plaza reflects the memorials and provides the perfect location reflecting the Grand Mosque of Sheikh Zayed, and part of the memorial. The Plaza is used annually on 30th November for the Commemoration Day ceremony to remember and honour those who have given their lives for the UAE.

Wahat Al Karama is free to enter. The Visitor Centre is open daily from 9am until 10pm. Opening hours can vary during visits from official delegations, national days and special events. Dress code is strictly 'modest'.

Tours are available in both Arabic and English. These take place at 11am and 5pm each day. Tourists can book tours online and choose their preferred time from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

DID YOU KNOW? The Wahat al Karama Memorial and Pavilion of Honour were designed by the London-based artist, Idris Khan, who was born in Birmingham, United Kingdom, in 1978. Since completing his Master's Degree with Distinction in Research at the Royal College of Art in London in 2004, Idris has received international acclaim for his minimal, yet emotionally charged photographs, videos and sculptures. Wahat Al Karama project went from design approval to delivery within just nine months!

Knowledge Bank: Wahat Al Karama

Overview

- The memorial was opened in 30 November 2016
- The memorial is located between the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque and the General Headquarters of the UAE Armed Forces in Abu Dhabi City
- Wahat Al Karama literally means 'the oasis of dignity'
- The site is a memorial which honours all the heroes of the UAE since the country's birth in 1971
- Wahat al Karma comprises five areas:
 - Visitor Centre
 - The Memorial Plaza
 - The Memorial
 - The Pavilion of Honour
- The Memorial itself is composed of 31 huge aluminium-clad tablets, which lean on each other, symbolising the unity, solidarity and mutual support that bind together leadership and citizens with the servicemen and women who protect them
- Visitors can read the Armed Forces Pledge of Allegiance which is engraved on a long spine at The Memorial
- Quotes and poems from various high-profile figures are inscribed on the panels

The Pavilion of Honour

- The Pavilion is an open-air, geometric building which is clad with aluminium plates on its inner wall
- The name, rank, location, and date of death of each of the UAE's heroes is inscribed on the aluminium plates
- The plates are made from reclaimed armoured service vehicles from the UAE Armed Forces
- The roof of the building is constructed from eight slabs. Seven of these slabs symbolise the Emirates of the UAE, with the additional slab symbolising the heroes themselves
- Seven large transparent glass panels represent the seven Emirates and are surrounded by a pool of slowly-moving water

Memorial Plaza

- The Plaza is over 4,000m²
- The Plaza offers clear views of the memorial and neighbouring mosque
- The Plaza includes an amphitheatre which can seat over 1,200 people
- A shallow pool in the centre of the Plaza reflects the neighbouring memorials and provides a place for reflecting the Grand Mosque of Sheikh Zayed, and part of the memorial

Opening hours:

Wahat Al Karama is free to enter. The Visitor Centre is open daily 9am until 10pm. Opening hours can vary during visits from official delegations, national days and special events.

Tours take place daily in Arabic or English at 11am and 5pm.

Zayed Heritage Centre



Zayed Heritage Centre (also known as Zayed Centre for Studies and Research) is located in the Al Bateen district and is a museum dedicated to Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE. This beautiful, traditional building was opened in 2009, and is housed within an Emirati heritage village (complete with camels). The Centre provides an amazing overview of the history of the region and the Sheikh's vision for his people. It is full of fascinating information about his life and really puts into perspective how quickly the region has changed.

The museum contains a huge collection of memorabilia, giving an insight into the Sheikh's life, and includes more than 200 photographs dating back to the late 1950s. There are personal family memories as well as pictures of the many visiting dignitaries. The gallery allows visitors to see rare pictures of the Sheikh's funeral including the late Ruler wrapped in the national flag while being carried to his resting place.

Visitors can see personal belongings of the Sheikh, learn about his favourite hobbies and view the gifts he received from foreign delegates from all over the world. This includes stuffed lions and cheetahs. A highlight of the museum is a collection of the Sheikh's favourite cars including Sheikh Zayed's favourite blue Mercedes and his Land Rover.

An imposing solid gold and granite mantle clock is on display in the museum. It features a falcon on the top with a child looking at the time. Visitors have the opportunity to take photographs of the Sheikh's personal belongings.

Other rooms within the Zayed Heritage Centre also describe the country's recent history and the legacy of Sheikh Zayed. The Abu Dhabi Police room houses a collection of the uniforms and tools used throughout the years by the local police force. The Emirates Post room contains a collection of stamps spanning decades and from across the Emirates. Another room features a timeline of the history of the Abu Dhabi Company for Onshore Petroleum Operations Limited. The rooms are lit by beautiful stained-glass windows.

The museum is open from Sunday to Thursday from 8am to 3pm. It is closed over the weekend on Fridays and Saturdays.

As a mark of respect, visitors should wear appropriate and respectful clothing.

Guided tours in English and Arabic are available. Prior booking of tours is required.

DID YOU KNOW? The huge portrait of Sheikh Zayed in the museum which looks like a mosaic is actually made of postage stamps!

Knowledge Bank: Zayed Heritage Centre

Overview

- The museum is located in the Al Bateen district
- The museum is dedicated to the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and includes mementoes of his life
- A photo gallery documents the life of the Sheikh and includes photographs of visiting foreign dignitaries
- Over 200 photographs are on display, the earliest is from the late 1950s
- Visitors can see some personal belongings of the Sheikh, learn about his favourite hobbies and view the extravagant gifts he received from all over the world
- A highlight of the museum is a collection of the Sheikh's favourite cars
- The photograph collection includes private photos, such as rarely seen pictures of the Sheikh's funeral. Visitors can see the images of the late Ruler wrapped in the national flag while carried to his resting place
- Visitors can pose and take photographs with one the Sheikh's hunting rifles
- A solid gold and granite mantel clock is on display in the museum
- As a mark of respect, visitors should wear appropriate and respectful clothing and refrain from using offensive language
- One room features a wall detailing the history of the Abu Dhabi Company for Onshore Petroleum Operations Ltd
- The Emirates Post room contains a collection of stamps spanning decades and from across the Emirates. The collection includes a portrait of Sheikh Zayed made from postage stamps
- The Abu Dhabi Police room includes displays of the uniforms and tools used throughout the years by the local police force

Opening hours:

The museum is open from Sunday to Thursday - 8am to 3pm. It is closed on Fridays and Saturdays.

Tours

Guided tours in English and Arabic are available with advance bookings.

Section 10

Abu Dhabi: Family Attractions

GRASP | ABSORB | APPRECIATE



Abu Dhabi Corniche



The Corniche is an 8km pedestrianised walk- and cycle-way that runs alongside Corniche Road (also known as 1st Street). It is one of the best-known areas in Abu Dhabi, is popular with residents and tourists alike and offers water-sports activities including kayaking, jet skis and inflatable rides, as well as football and volleyball on the beach.

The history of the Corniche dates back to the 1960s after the discovery of oil in Abu Dhabi. A number of top hotels – including The Sheraton Hotel and Resort, Al Ain Palace Hotel and the Hilton Abu Dhabi – were built to house the influx of business people, transforming the city from a fishing village to a modern metropolis. Other top hotels located along the Corniche are Emirates Palace, Jumeirah at Etihad Towers, St. Regis and Sofitel.

The current walk- and cycle-way was built on reclaimed land between 2003 and 2004. Before this was built, these buildings sat on the edge of the Arabian Gulf.

The Corniche features children's play areas, separate cycle and pedestrian pathways, cafés and restaurants, and the Corniche beach – a Blue Flag, family-friendly beach park patrolled by lifeguards.

It is especially popular during UAE National Day celebrations on the second of December each year when the walkway fills up with thousands of people, parades, entertainers, concerts and fireworks.

During the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix in November, it hosts the Formula 1 FanZone™ with giant TV screens showing the race as well as concerts and creative workshops to make the most out of this internationally-renowned sporting event.

Those looking for something to eat can choose from an overwhelming range of quick and easy food options just off Corniche beach. Visitors and residents often picnic in the beautiful public parks found along the length of the Corniche. The Khalidiyah area at the west of the Corniche is also a popular place to go out and eat dinner. A large number of restaurants and cafés stay open until 4am on Thursday and Friday nights in this area.

Nation Galleria is a high-end shopping mall located on the west of the Corniche offering a great range of designer shops and an organic supermarket. Other shopping malls located nearby include Marina Mall, Khalidiyah Mall, World Trade Centre Souk and Mall and Abu Dhabi Mall.

There are plenty of *Baqala*, or grocery stores, in the residential streets where visitors can buy water and snacks. Popular supermarkets in the west Corniche area include Spinneys and Abela.

There is a large car park by the Nation Towers skyscrapers on the southern end of the Corniche with free and paid parking spots and an underpass to access the beach.

Alternatively, cycling is a great way to explore the length of the Corniche with plenty of places to hire bikes. The main bike hire location is near to the Hiltonia Beach Club on the west end of the Corniche.

DID YOU KNOW? In days gone by, pearl fishermen lived in this area as it was close to the port.

Knowledge Bank: Abu Dhabi Corniche

Overview

- The Corniche is an 8km pedestrianised walk- and cycle-way than runs alongside Corniche Road (which is also known as 1st Street)
- The Corniche is one of the best-known areas in Abu Dhabi City and is popular with residents and tourists
- In the 1960s, the Corniche was developed after the discovery of oil
- Big hotels such as The Sheraton Hotel and Resort, Al Ain Palace Hotel and the Hilton Abu Dhabi were built for the new influx of business people into Abu Dhabi
- The current footpath and cycleway were built on reclaimed land between 2003 and 2004
- Before 2003, the buildings along the Corniche used to sit at the edge of the Arabian Gulf
- These days the Corniche features children's play areas, separate cycle and pedestrian pathways, cafés and restaurants, and the Corniche beach – a Blue Flag, family-friendly beach park with lifeguards
- The Corniche is also a site used for UAE National Day celebrations when the walkway fills up with thousands of people, parades, entertainers, concerts and fireworks
- The Corniche also hosts the F1 FanZone™. This event takes place at the same time as the Abu Dhabi Formula 1 Grand Prix in November. Giant TV screens show the race live for the public
- The Corniche also hosts after-race concerts and creative workshops to make the most out of the Grand Prix event

Eating out

- There are lots of fast food options in the crescent of outlets by the public Corniche beach
- The Khalidiyah area at the west of the Corniche is a popular place to eat. Restaurants and cafés are open until 4am on Thursday and Friday nights
- Visitors and residents often picnic in the public parks found along the length of the Corniche

Shopping

- Nation Galleria shopping mall, located on the west of the Corniche, has a good range of designer shops and an organic supermarket
- Other shopping malls located near the Corniche include Marina Mall, Khalidiyah Mall, World Trade Centre Souk and Mall and Abu Dhabi Mall
- Popular supermarkets in the west Corniche area include Spinneys and Abela

Transport

- There is a large car park by the Nation Towers skyscrapers on the southern end of the Corniche with free and paid parking spots and an underpass to access the beach
- Cycling along the Corniche is a great way to see the views
- There is a dedicated cycleway and plenty of spots to hire bikes with the main place near to the Hiltonia Beach Club at the west end of the Corniche

Emirates Park Zoo and Resort



Emirates Park Zoo and Resort was the first private zoo in the UAE, having opened in 2008. It is located in Al-Bahia, a north-east suburb approximately 35kms from Abu Dhabi City.

The zoo currently houses an incredible 1,700 animals in a number of different zones including Snake Alley, Flamingo Park and Giraffe Park. Visitors can enjoy feeding camels, ostriches, sheep and goats at the Petting Zoo, while braver visitors may enjoy watching lions, cheetahs and dozens of zebras in the Predators and Wild Animal enclosures.

Monkeys and baboons are on show in Primate Parade while lizards, pythons, geckos, water dragons and tortoises can be seen in the Reptile House. In the Bird Park there are owls, Harris hawks, falcons, eagles, peacocks and parrots.

The Wildlife Park offers a view of elephants, cheetahs, bears, crocodiles, lions, leopards, gazelle, Arabian oryx and tigers – including a pair of rare white tigers.

The Aquarium houses hundreds of magnificent and colourful fish, sharks, damselfish and stingrays. Water-based entertainment is available during daily sea lion shows where three resident sea lions juggle, breakdance and even stand on their flippers!

As well as animals, the zoo has a resident band from Ghana who drum and play African music to get visitors in the mood to enjoy their experience. Visitors can learn even more about the many species on show by visiting the large animal theatre. Both animals and visitors are kept cool all year round thanks to a unique misting system.

Major upgrades to the zoo will soon see the addition of:

- zip lines and tree-top activities
- an indoor marine zone which has four fresh water and 26 salt-water tanks
- playgrounds and gaming zones
- international fast food chains

The zoo is open 9am until 8pm from Sunday to Wednesday and 9am until 9pm Thursday to Saturday.

Entry is free for children under two years old. For up-to-date entry prices and packages, please visit the website at:

<https://live.emiratesparkzooandresort.com/>

The Emirates Park Resort is connected to the zoo and offers 68 air-conditioned rooms and four suites. All accommodation options have balconies overlooking the zoo, cave or garden. It is a traditional Arabic-designed resort suitable for families.

DID YOU KNOW? The zoo is home to a 31-year-old, 300kg-plus Siberian Bear!

Knowledge Bank: Emirates Park Zoo and Resort

Overview

- Emirates Park Zoo and Resort is located in Al-Bahia, a north-east suburb, approximately 35kms from Abu Dhabi City
- The zoo opened in 2008 and was the first private zoo in the UAE
- The entire zoo is kept cool with a misting system for visitors and animals alike
- As well as animals, the zoo has a resident band from Ghana who drum and play African music to get visitors in the mood to enjoy their experience
- The zoo is currently undergoing a major upgrade with additions such as:
 - zip lines and tree top activities
 - an indoor marine zone with 26 salt-water and four fresh-water tanks
 - playgrounds and gaming zones
 - international fast food chains

Animals

- The zoo currently houses 1,700 animals in several different zones:
 - **Petting zoo** – for visitors to pet and feed camels, ostriches, sheep and goats
 - **Bird Park** – featuring owls, Harris hawks, falcons, eagles, peacocks and parrots
 - **Snake Alley**
 - **Flamingo Park**
 - **Giraffe Park**
 - **Wildlife Park** – with elephants, cheetahs, bears, crocodiles, lions, leopards, gazelle, Arabian oryx and tigers including a pair of rare white tigers
 - **Reptile House** - featuring lizards, pythons, geckos, water dragons and tortoises
 - **Primate Parade** – with a variety of monkeys and baboons
 - **The Aquarium** – with hundreds of magnificent and colourful fish, sharks, damselfish and stingrays
 - **Predators and Wild Animals enclosures** – housing lions, cheetahs and dozens of zebras
 - **Animal theatre** – the park features a large animal theatre where the staff educate visitors about the species there
 - **Sea Lion shows** – there is also a sea lion show where the three residents provide daily entertainment by juggling, breakdancing and standing on their flippers!

Emirates Park Resort

- The Emirates Park Resort is connected to the zoo
- It has 68 air-conditioned rooms and four suites
- It is a traditional Arabic-designed resort suitable for families
- All accommodation options have balconies overlooking the zoo, cave or garden

Zoo opening hours

Sunday – Wednesday: 9am-8pm

Thursday – Saturday: 9am-9pm

Ferrari World



Ferrari World is the world's first Ferrari-branded theme park and is open 365 days a year. It is located on Yas Island and covers an incredible 86,000m². The Ferrari story is brought to life by each area and attraction in the Park. An example is Cinema Maranello and its film which captures the speed, power and freedom of a Formula 1 car.

The theme park features rides, attractions, live shows and experiences, all inspired by Ferrari. It was developed over three years between 2007 and 2010. During their trip to the park, visitors can also enjoy shopping at the world's biggest Ferrari store, which sells clothing, toys, souvenirs and everything else Ferrari. Ferrari World Abu Dhabi welcomed 2,000 VIP guests in December 2010. The guests included senior government officials and F1 drivers, Fernando Alonso and Felipe Massa. The VIPs were given a spectacular show which preceded an opening ceremony by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

Roller-coasters on offer include:

- Turbo Track – this is the park's most recent roller-coaster having been built in 2017. It has back-to-back seats, a vertical climb and an amazing zero-gravity fall
- Flying Aces – inspired by Count Francesco Baracca, the 'ace of aces' aviator, this plane-themed roller-coaster was installed in 2016. Riders enter a military biplane and rise up 63 metres at a 51-degree incline. During the ride, they hit speeds of up to 120 kilometres per hour and get to experience the world's highest roller-coaster loop
- Fiorano GT Challenge – this roller-coaster was created in 2010 and allows riders to race each other on a circuit of parallel tracks in a replica of a Ferrari F430 Spider. The circuit is full of twists and turns where riders will reach speeds of up to 95km per hour
- Formula Rossa – this is the world's fastest roller-coaster and was installed in 2010. Riders travel from 0 to 240km per hour in less than five seconds

Other rides include: an interactive motion simulator called Scuderia Challenge; a flight simulator inspired by the legendary open-road endurance Mille Miglia called Viaggio in Italia; a daring 4D ride called Speed of Magic; a Formula 1 virtual simulator called Driving with the Champion; and a 290-metre-long track inspired by the Yas Marina Circuit at the Karting Academy.

Children can also enjoy a whole host of rides and activities, subject to a few age and height restrictions:

- Tyre Twist offers a Formula 1 twist on a traditional teacup ride
- Khalil's Car Wash is an exciting interactive children's playground
- Benno's Great Race, a new family race in which participants help Benno win
- Junior Training Camp, a climbing area
- Ferrari driving school called Junior GT/Junior GP

Other unique attractions include a tour of a traditional Ferrari factory called Made in Maranello, and Bell'Italia which allows visitors to drive a scaled replica of a Ferrari 250 California, circa 1958, and explore a miniature Italy.

As well as rides and tours, Ferrari World has a number of shows to offer visitors. Cinema Maranello is a show about the life and times of Enzo Ferrari. The La Piazza show sees Ferrari World street performers presenting an exciting family variety show. Other shows include live dance performances, BMX biking displays and acrobatics.

There are a number of dining options, from Italian to international cuisine including Mamma Rossella, Officers' Food Quarters, Il Podio, Rosticceria Modena, Ristorante Cavallino and Espresso Rosso.

A unique attraction, Ferrari World won Middle East's Leading Tourist Attraction in both 2015 and 2016.

The popular theme park is open daily from 11am until 8pm. For visitors entering on foot, the park is conveniently located through Yas Shopping Mall.

There are a variety of packages and deals for entrance to Ferrari World. Visitors should check the website for the most-up-to-date prices and deals:

<https://ferrariworldabudhabi.com/ticketing/?!lang=en>

DID YOU KNOW? The Flying Aces roller-coaster only straps ride-goers down by their waists and not by their shoulders!

Further your knowledge

Park map:

https://farahwordpress.blob.core.windows.net/fwad-media/2016/05/FWAD_3D_Map-min.jpg

Knowledge Bank: Ferrari World

Overview

- Ferrari World is located on Yas Island
- It was developed over three years from 2007 – 2010 and covers an area of 86,000m²
- It is the world's first Ferrari-branded theme park and is open 365 days a year
- The theme park features rides, attractions, live shows and experiences all inspired by Ferrari
- Visitors can find the world's biggest Ferrari store inside the park
- The Ferrari logo on the roof, the largest ever created, measures an incredible 65m in length and covers an area of 3,000m²

Experiences, rides attractions and shows

Roller-coasters

| Name | Opened | Details |
|-----------------------------|--------|--|
| Turbo Track | 2017 | The latest ride for thrill-seekers! Back-to-back seats and back-to-back thrills. It takes riders up a vertical climb and releases them at the top for an amazing zero-gravity fall |
| Flying Aces | 2016 | This white-knuckle ride was inspired by Count Francesco Baracca, the 'ace of aces' aviator. Riders enter a military biplane and rise up 63 metres at a 51-degree incline. Riders hit speeds of up to 120 kilometres per hour and get to experience the world's highest roller-coaster loop |
| Fiorano GT Challenge | 2010 | Riders race each other on a circuit of parallel tracks in a replica of a Ferrari F430 Spider. The circuit is full of twists and turns and riders will reach speeds of up to 95km/h |
| Formula Rossa | 2010 | Riders travel from 0 to 240km/h in less than five seconds in the world's fastest roller-coaster! |

Other rides

| Name | Type | Details |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Karting Academy | Go-karts | A 290-metre-long competitive track inspired by the Yas Marina Circuit |
| Scuderia Challenge | Interactive motion simulator | Participants race a variety of Ferraris, solo or in a group, on the virtual Yas Marina Circuit and try to achieve the best lap time |
| Tyre Twist | Teacup ride | Participants sit inside a giant tyre styled like a F1 tyre and twist around and around at speed like a traditional teacup ride |
| Viaggio in Italia | Flight simulator | Participants enter a flight simulator to fly over an Italian landscape inspired by the legendary open-road endurance race Mille Miglia |

| Name | Type | Details |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Speed of Magic | 4D ride | Nello, a Ferrari driver, leads participants through a daring 4D ride complete with simulator technology that changes the temperature, moisture, light and movement along the way |
| Made in Maranello | Tour of the historic Ferrari factory | Participants go on an in-depth tour of the Ferrari factory and discover how a Ferrari GT is made |
| Driving with the Champion | F1 & GT virtual simulation | This is a cinematic motion-based simulator where participants sit alongside a virtual F1 pro to ride the Fiorano track and streets of Maranello, virtually at authentic F1 speeds |
| Bell'Italia | Tour of miniature Italy | Participants board a scaled replica of a Ferrari 250 California, circa 1958 and explore a miniature Italy |
| Junior GT & Junior GP | Junior Pilota's driving and racing school | A Ferrari driving school for children featuring an educational video and some track time with instruction from trained experts. Participants then race against each other |
| Khalil's Car Wash | Children's interactive play area | Children can climb up the grandstand, slide down the carwash and pilot remote-control Ferraris and pedal cars |
| Junior Training Camp | Climbing area | A climbing area for children to practise climbing skills and problem-solve on the Hexagonal Towers and low suspension bridges |
| Benno's Great Race | Interactive dark ride | A new family ride, participants have to help Benno win the race! |

Shows

| Name | Details |
|-------------------------|---|
| Cinema Maranello | A film set in the 1920s about the life and times of Enzo Ferrari |
| La Piazza | The show in La Piazza sees Ferrari World street performers presenting an exciting family variety show |

Dining

Dining options include:

- **Mamma Rossella** - fresh pasta and pizzas made in a traditional wood-burning oven
- **Officers' Food Quarters** – fast food counter service
- **Il Podio** - an international buffet modelled on the real staff refectory at the Ferrari factory
- **Rosticceria Modena** - counter service
- **Ristorante Cavallino** - table service Italian restaurant
- **Espresso Rosso** - Italian ice cream (gelato) and pastries

Awards and acclaim

- Winner of the Middle East's Leading Tourist Attraction in 2015 and 2016

Opening hours

Open daily from 11am - 8pm

For visitors entering on foot, the park is conveniently located through Yas Shopping Mall

Marina Eye



The Marina Eye is located in front of Marina Mall in the Al Marina area of Abu Dhabi City and is one of the most impressive of Abu Dhabi's tourist attractions. The Marina Eye lights up the skyline at night and offers incredible views of many local landmarks across the city.

This popular destination stands 60 metres high and opened to the public in 2015. The wheel has 42 capsules, including special VIP capsules, each seating eight people. The luxury VIP capsules include a number of special features such as a glass floor, leather interior, CD player, refrigerator and tinted windows. All of the capsules are air-conditioned or heated when necessary and all have wireless communication and a panic alarm system.

The capsules' glass walls provide amazing, panoramic views of the Marina area as well as the Corniche Road and the Abu Dhabi skyline. There is also a good view of the Emirates Palace Hotel. The views are particularly spectacular at night when Abu Dhabi City and the wheel itself are lit up.

Rides on the wheel can be taken day or night, summer or winter, thanks to the climate control system in the capsules.

It is open seven days a week. On Thursday to Saturday it is open from 11am to 1am and on Sunday to Wednesday from 11am to 11pm. Tickets can be bought in advance and cost AED 50 for adults and AED 30 for children under 12.

DID YOU KNOW? The VIP capsules on the Marina Eye feature a flat screen TV!

Further your knowledge

Marina Eye promotional video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2CljE_zL4

Knowledge Bank: Marina Eye

Overview

- The Marina Eye is located in front of Marina Mall in the Al Marina area of Abu Dhabi City
- It is a large Ferris wheel with 42 capsules, including special VIP capsules
- The wheel opened to the public in 2015
- The wheel is 60 metres high
- A ride on the wheel takes five minutes
- Visitors can see the Corniche and the Abu Dhabi skyline and a great view of the Emirates Palace Hotel
- The views are particularly spectacular at night when Abu Dhabi City and the wheel itself are lit up

The capsules

- The wheel has 42 air-conditioned and heated capsules with wireless communication and panic alarm system
- Visitors can ride the wheel day or night, summer or winter, as there is climate control

The VIP capsule

- VIP capsules are equipped with:
 - glass floor
 - leather interior
 - DVD player
 - tinted windows
 - cup holder
 - refrigerator

Opening hours:

Open seven days a week

Thursday to Saturday from 11am - 1am

Sunday to Wednesday from 11am - 11pm

Charges

The price of a ride is AED 50 and AED 30 for children under 12

Yas Marina Circuit



Yas Marina Circuit is the United Arab Emirates' most exciting sporting and entertainment multi-purpose venue. Located on Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, the circuit is home to the annual FORMULA 1 ETIHAD AIRWAYS ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX and much more.

In addition to the extensive year-round programme of professional and grassroots motorsport events and experiences, the circuit has emerged as a thriving hub for entertainment and community events in the UAE. As the region's most technologically advanced facility, the circuit is also a leading MICE venue, regularly hosting a diverse range of corporate meetings, conferences and events. Whether you want to experience the thrill of karting at Yas Kartzone, drive an Aston Martin GT4 on the F1® circuit, improve your fitness levels at TrainYas or participate in one of our many sporting events, Yas Marina Circuit truly is The Meeting Place of Champions.

Yas Marina Circuit is dedicated to growing a sustainable motorsport community in the United Arab Emirates. With its state-of-the-art racing facilities, top motorsport instructors, and extensive annual programme of professional and amateur motorsport events, Yas Marina Circuit fosters understanding and interest in the sport by providing a platform for drivers to learn, develop and evolve.

Drivers wanting to try out the circuit themselves can visit the Yas Racing facility which offers visitors driver experiences, passenger experiences, private driving tuition programmes and racing license courses. There is also the Yas Kartzone for those wanting to try a karting challenge.

Yas Marina Circuit is the living, beating heart of health and fitness within Abu Dhabi. Over 200,000 people visit Yas Marina Circuit each year to walk, cycle, run, swim and generally keep fit and healthy. With weekly mixed gender and female-only programmes, as well as annual events to keep people motivated to live a healthy lifestyle, it serves as a meeting place for families, friends, fans of motorsport and athletes alike throughout the year.

For up-to-date information on pricing for all the activities and experiences available at the Yas Marina Circuit, please visit:

<https://www.yasmarinacircuit.com/en/experiences/?tab=openyas>.

DID YOU KNOW? The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix is Formula 1's only twilight race!

Further your knowledge

Official website:

www.yasmarinacircuit.com

Google Street View of the race track:

<http://visitabudhabi.ae/en/explore/islands/yas.island/behind.the.scenes.at.yas.marina.circuit.aspx>

- Click on the Google Street View icon at the top right-hand of the webpage

Formula 1™ weekend highlights:

<http://visitabudhabi.ae/en/see.and.do/plan.your.f1/f1.race.info/f1.weekend.highlights.aspx>

Formula 1™ off-track action:

<http://visitabudhabi.ae/en/see.and.do/plan.your.f1/f1.race.info/off.track.action.aspx>

Knowledge Bank: Yas Marina Circuit

Overview

- Yas Marina Circuit is located on the Yas Marina site in the heart of Yas Island
- Circuit Length: 5.554kms
- Race Distance: 305.470 km
- Number of Laps: 55
- Lap Record: 1:40.279, set by Sebastian Vettel in 2009
- Circuit Turns: 21
- Circuit Direction: counter-clockwise
- Stadium Capacity: 60,000

DRIVER/PASSENGER EXPERIENCES

- Yas Marina Circuit offers a number of unforgettable driver and passenger experiences in a choice of cars including an Aston Martin GT4, Caterham Seven, Formula Yas 3000 and Ferrari 458 GT.
- Before jumping into the vehicle, drivers receive a technical briefing from a racing coach. They then get into the driver's seat, learn the correct racing line and practice handling the complex turns of the circuit. The Passenger experience consists of being driven by an expert Yas Racing School professional racing driver, so you can relax and enjoy the ultimate in driving excellence.

YAS KARTZONE POWERED BY ADNOC

Boasting a 1km track, with three separate configurations, Yas Kartzone powered by ADNOC is the perfect place to visit for a high-energy, fun session behind the wheel as guests compete against friends and family to see who will cross the finish line first. The venue is also available to host birthday parties, group and corporate events.

YAS IN SCHOOLS

Yas in Schools presented by ADNOC, aims to inspire and develop "The Engineers of the Future" by ensuring they are equipped with 21st Century skills and developing their passion for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects.

Working together in small enterprising teams, students design, innovate, manufacture, test and race small-scale model cars to take part in competitions.

The challenge provides a platform for youngsters to learn new skills, get creative and develop both individually and as part of a team.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Yas Marina Circuit is the living, beating heart of health and fitness within Abu Dhabi. Over 200,000 people visit Yas Marina Circuit each year to walk, cycle, run, swim and generally keep fit and healthy. With weekly mixed gender and female-only programmes, as well as annual events to keep people motivated to live a healthy lifestyle, it serves as a meeting place for families, friends, fans of motorsport and athletes alike throughout the year.

ComYAS Programmes include:

ADNOC TrainYas Ladies presented by Abu Dhabi Sports Council

ADNOC TrainYas Ladies presented by Abu Dhabi Sports Council, which takes place at Yas Marina Circuit every Monday, is an initiative for ladies to engage in fun and healthy fitness activities on the world-famous Formula 1 track. All fitness levels are welcome, regardless of whether you want to do an intense workout or simply take a leisurely stroll.

ADNOC TrainYAS presented by Abu Dhabi Sports Council

Taking place on Sunday and Tuesday evenings, ADNOC TrainYAS presented by Abu Dhabi Sports Council gives members of the local community an opportunity to run, walk or cycle on the Formula 1 track. Males and females of all ages and fitness levels are invited to come along and work on their personal fitness goals in unique surroundings.

Train AM by Abu Dhabi Cycling Club

TrainAM by Abu Dhabi Cycling Club is a platform for cyclists who are up at the crack of dawn, and open to all cyclists who are members of Abu Dhabi Cycling Club.

TriYAS

ADNOC TriYAS presented by Abu Dhabi Sports Council is a community triathlon held annually at Yas Marina Circuit. The 2020 event was the 10th instalment and saw the highest number of Emirati competitors to date.

ESPORTS

In 2020, Abu Dhabi Motorsports Management, in conjunction with Gfinity, launched YAS HEAT, its very own esports racing team.

The team, made up of top-tier talent from around the world and UAE esports racing stars of the future, compete in a number of virtual racing competitions, including the V 10 R-League, where they go up against motorsport powerhouses such as BMW, McLaren and Red Bull Racing.

The YAS HEAT Academy, meanwhile, provides a platform for aspiring esports racing talent from the MENA region to hone and develop their skills with the long-term aim of competing in global competitions for the team.

Charges

Visitors should check the website for the most up-to-date charges for all activities and experiences at Yas Marina Circuit:

<https://www.yasmarinacircuit.com/en/experiences/?tab=openyas>

Yas Waterworld



Yas Waterworld is located on Yas Island, just to the west of Ferrari World Abu Dhabi. Yas Waterworld is a water park which covers an area the size of approximately 15 football pitches and houses 43 rides, slides and attractions including five one-of-a-kind rides which can only be found at this location. The design of the park is inspired by the local tradition of barjeel 'wind towers' and pearl diving.

The unique water park first opened in 2013 and has a 'Legend of the Lost Pearl' theme based on the culture and heritage of Abu Dhabi. The rides and attractions tell the story of a young Emirati girl, Dana, on a mission to find a legendary pearl.

The rides are categorised under four thrill levels: Shaheen's Adrenaline Rush, Sultan's Young Fun, Dhabi's Exciting Adventure and Hamloom's Moving & Grooving.

Shaheen's Adrenaline Rush includes the world's first and largest hydromagnetic-powered waterslide at over 235 metres long, called Dawwama. Other rides within this thrill level include a flow-boarding ride called Rush Rider, a six-person water coaster ride called Falcon's Falaj, a free-fall speed slide called Jebel Drop and the world's largest surfable sheet of water with three-metre high waves for flow-boards and body-boards called Bubbles' Barrel.

Sultan's Young Fun area offers family pool play areas and slides especially for very young children.

Abu Dhabi's Exciting Adventure houses another world first for the water park. Bandit Bomber is an interactive, 550-metre water roller-coaster with on-board water and laser effects. Other rides on offer include water slides and a fast-flowing wave river ride called Yadi Yas.

Hamloom's Moving & Grooving features a family river ride, a gentle wave pool as well as dedicated spray cannon and water balloon areas.

Visitors can also enjoy shopping at the souq or learn more at the exhibitions about pearl-diving. Dining options include: ice cream venues; Salma's Snack Shack for juices and smoothies; Dana's Diner for quick eats; Chubby's kitchen for a sit-down meal; and Al Wa'Ha Cabanas for VIP service for four or six guests.

The park is open daily with seasonal opening hours as listed below:

- November to March: 10am - 6pm
- April to May: 10am - 7pm
- June to August: 10am - 8pm
- September to October: 10am - 7pm

On Thursdays, the park is open from 10am until 5pm and reopens from 6pm until 11pm for Ladies' Night. During Ramadan, the park is open from 10am to 6pm and Ladies' Nights on Thursdays are suspended.

For more information, please visit: www.yaswaterworld.com

DID YOU KNOW? Yas Waterworld is the only Emirati-themed water park in the world.

Further your knowledge

Yas Waterworld's site map:

https://farahwordpress.blob.core.windows.net/yww-media/2016/08/YAS_Waterpark_Map-min.jpg

Knowledge Bank: Yas Waterworld

Overview

- Yas Waterworld is located on Yas Island to the west of Ferrari World Abu Dhabi
- Yas Waterworld is a water park that covers an area the size of approximately 15 football pitches
- It opened in 2013
- The park draws on Abu Dhabi's heritage and has 'The Legend of the Lost Pearl' as its theme
- Visitors follow the story of a young Emirati girl, Dana, on a mission to find a legendary pearl as they make their way around the attractions
- As well as the water rides, there is a souq and exhibitions about pearl-diving

Rides and attractions

- The park features 45 rides, slides and attractions – five of which are one-of-a-kind
- The rides are categorised within four 'thrill' levels
- **Shaheen's Adrenaline Rush** rides include:
 - **Rush Rider** – a flowboarding ride
 - **Dawwama** - A 20-metre high funnel with six people in a raft. The world's first and largest hydromagnetic-powered waterslide at over 235 metres long!
 - **Falcon's Falaj** - A six-person water coaster ride
 - **Bubbles' Barrel** – the world's largest surfable sheet of water with three-metre high waves for flowboards and bodyboards
 - **Jebel Drop** - a free fall speed slide
- **Sultan's Young Fun**, featuring:
 - Family pool play areas
- **Dhabi's Exciting Adventure**, featuring:
 - **Bandit Bomber** - an interactive 550-metre water rollercoaster with on-board water and laser effects, another world first!
 - Water slides
 - Fast-flowing wave river ride called Yadi Yas
- **Hamlool's Moving & Grooving** featuring:
 - Lazy river family ride
 - Wave pool
 - Dedicated spray cannon and water balloon areas

Dining

- Options include:
 - Salma's Snack Shack for juices and smoothies
 - Ice cream venues
 - Dana's Diner for quick eats
 - Chubby's kitchen for a sit down meal
 - Al Wa'Ha Cabanas for VIP service in two sizes for four or six guests

Opening hours

- November to March: 10am - 6pm
- April to May: 10am - 7pm*
- June to August: 10am - 8pm*
- September to October: 10am - 7pm
- Every Thursday from 9th March: 10am - 5pm and to reopen from 6pm - 11pm for Ladies' Night*

*Whole period of Ramadan: 10am - 6pm. No Ladies Night on Thursdays

Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi



Located on Yas Island on the North-East side of Abu Dhabi's mainland; the park is 10 minutes from Abu Dhabi International Airport, 20 minutes from the city of Abu Dhabi, and 40 minutes from Dubai. The park is adjacent to Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Yas Waterworld Abu Dhabi, CLYMB™ Abu Dhabi and the Yas Marina Circuit, which hosts the Formula 1® Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The first ever Warner Bros. branded indoor theme park spans 1.65 million square feet.

Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi is the world's first ever Warner Bros. branded indoor theme park, located on Yas Island, the UAE's premier family destination for entertainment & leisure. The park brings to life fan-favorite DC Super Heroes like Batman, Superman and Wonder Woman, alongside beloved Animation characters from Looney Tunes and Hanna-Barbera like Tom and Jerry, Bugs Bunny, Scooby-Doo and The Flintstones, all under one roof for the first time in the region.

At Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi, guests are transported to six immersive lands, including Warner Bros. Plaza, DC Entertainment's Metropolis and Gotham City, as well as Warner Bros. Animation's Cartoon Junction, Bedrock, and Dynamite Gulch. The Park features a total of 29 state-of-the-art exhilarating rides, interactive family-friendly attractions and unique live entertainment, for an unparalleled one-of-a-kind experience.

Quick Facts

- 29 Exhilarating rides and attractions
- 6 shows and over 35 DC and Animation live characters
- 20 distinctive dining experiences
- 22 shopping experiences

Dining

- The park offers a wide variety of themed dining experiences for its guests. There are several restaurants and kiosks ranging from sit down to grab and go.

Shopping

- Guests can take home a part of the experience when they visit one of the many authentically themed shops that feature souvenirs and keepsakes inspired by the characters at Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi.

Lands

- Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi is divided into six immersive lands:
 - **Warner Bros. Plaza**
 - **Metropolis**
 - **Gotham City**
 - **Cartoon Junction**
 - **Dynamite Gulch**
 - **Bedrock**

Warner Bros. Plaza

- The Art-Deco inspired architecture of Warner Bros. Plaza celebrates the Golden Age of Hollywood and all things Warner Bros. acting as the portal to the rest of the park. The streets of the Plaza are lined with restaurants, cafes and one-of-a-kind themed shopping outlets.

Attractions:

- Warner Bros. Cinema Spectacular - Theatrical lighting transforms the Plaza from daytime into evening for the Warner Bros. Cinema Spectacular, a majestic symphonic celebration that uses projection mapping technology to bring the Warner Bros. film library to life. Hosted by no other than the infamous Bugs Bunny, this show is entertaining for the whole family.

Dining:

- Guests in the mood for celebrity character-spotting can dine in style at The Starlight and look forward to a personal visit from all their favorite Warner Bros. and DC characters!
- For an authentic taste of Italy, guests can head to Hollywood Trattoria.
- Interested in visiting the Golden Age of Hollywood? Pop into Celebrity Scoop for a sweet indulgence.
- Guests on-the-go can grab quick treats at Beverly Hills Boulangerie and Plaza Snacks.

Shopping:

- Guests can shop at Warner Bros. Studio Store and Superstar Souvenirs for an exclusive range of Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi products including apparel, collectibles, and stationery.
- Fans can pick-up t-shirts, accessories, and souvenirs featuring the world's greatest Super Heroes and Super-Villains at DC Super Heroes Store.
- Those in the mood for fine art can visit Treasures of Hollywood – a gallery featuring works from various DC and Looney Tunes artists, as well as prop replicas, jewelry, watches and stationery.

Metropolis

- Known as the City of Tomorrow, Metropolis is a bright, bustling, modern urban center evoking shining idealism through a blend of flowing, majestic lines, soaring structures and inspiring color palettes. The Manhattan-like skyscraper city mixes 1930s Streamline Modern styling with 21st Century state-of-the-art materials. The resulting rich, layered environment creates a persistent sense that the surroundings are simultaneously well-worn and brand new — a place that's always looking forward, but also in constant need of a helping hand.
- Stepping through the southwest transition tunnel from Warner Bros. Plaza, guests get their first glimpse of the majestic skyline of Metropolis silhouetted against the eternal sunset sky. The Avenue of Tomorrow curves ahead, lined with shining building facades that stretch up toward the sky. Above and beyond the facades is a sweeping skyline backdrop filled with skyscrapers that bear names such as LexCorp, Queen Industries and S.T.A.R. Labs.
- Soaring instrumental scores fill the space, inspiring guests to breathtaking heights throughout their visit to this gorgeous city. The iconic edifice of the Daily Planet stands directly ahead with a bronze globe that serves as a classic, symbol for the media conglomerate.
- This gleaming urban cityscape is filled with heroic optimism and is kept safe from villainous activity by Superman and the Super Heroes of the Justice League. The Daily Planet is where, Clark Kent, works along with fellow reporter, Lois Lane.

Characters:

- This inspiring city is home to; Superman, Wonder Woman, Aquaman, Green Lantern, The Flash and the Teen Titans

Rides & Attractions:

- **Superman 360:** Battle for Metropolis – 360-degree action spectacular that pits the greatest comic book hero of all time against an alien menace threatening the city. Featuring the Man of Steel, this battle of good versus evil will decide the fate of Metropolis.
- **Justice League:** Warworld Attacks - a thrilling dark ride featuring immersive theatre experience and special effects which will rapidly dart, swoop, and spin guests amid a colossal clash that teams them with the Justice League in an all-out battle to save the planet.
- **Green Lantern:** Galactic Odyssey - an awe-inspiring “flying theatre” experience that transports guests across the cosmos to extraordinary worlds, enriched with special and visual effects.
- **Teen Titans Training Academy** - a multi-level play area featuring a Zip Coaster and other physical activities that invites up-and-coming heroes to showcase their skills alongside the legendary Teen Titans. Requires climbing, crawling, and navigating uneven walkways.

Dining:

- Guests can dine at Big Belly Burger, Ace O' Clubs, as well as Park Ridge Market.

Shops:

- Guests can shop a wide range of souvenirs from Zatanna Books & Magical Curiosities and Justice League Hero Supply Co., feast on savory snacks from the Daily Planet Newsstand and visit Front Page Photos to appear on the front-page of the famed publication.

Cartoon Junction

- Animations are where all childhood memories come to life. Warner Bros. most iconic characters and animated worlds can be discovered here.
- Home to animated stars like Bugs Bunny, Tom and Jerry and Scooby-Doo, this bright and exciting area of Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi is filled with color and year-round “sunny skies” created through unique overhead lighting “clouds” in a stylized cartoon sky. Cartoon Junction offers something for everyone, from spinning roller coasters to amazing interactive dark rides with each new attraction putting them “in the cartoons” in fun and inventive new ways.
- If you’re looking for a game of cat and mouse, then journey into Cartoon Junction. Here you will spot Tom and Jerry up to their usual hijinks. Take a ride on Tom and Jerry’s Swiss Cheese Spin and you’ll be right in the middle of their epic chase. If mystery is your thing, then follow Scooby-Doo and the gang – Shaggy, Fred, Velma and Daphne – as they seek out clues and solve mysteries in Scooby-Doo The Museum of Mysteries ride. There is so much to experience in here and we’re sure you’ll love every minute of it.

Characters:

- This land is home to: Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Tweety, Sylvester, Tasmanian Devil (Taz), Pepe Le Pew, Elmer Fudd, Scooby-Doo, Shaggy, Velma, Daphne, Fred, Tom and Jerry and Spike and Tyke.

Rides & Attractions:

- **Ani-Mayhem** – a visually immersive and interactive dark ride that takes guests on a rollicking mission to deliver their own cartoon chaos. Aim your “barcode scanners” to deliver ACME packages and accumulate the most points to become ACME Employee of the Month.
- **ACME Factory** - features three kid-friendly rides like Daffy Jet-Propelled Pogo Stick, Ricochet Racin’ With Taz, and Tweety Wild Wockets.
- **Meet Bugs! (And Daffy)** - Guests can immerse themselves in a one-of-a-kind walkthrough attraction and join Bugs Bunny on stage.
- **Tom and Jerry Swiss Cheese Spin** - a family-friendly spinning coaster that careens guests throughout their house on a fast-moving chase full of twists and turns (and cheese)!
- **Scooby-Doo The Museum of Mysteries**– a family-friendly dark ride that follows Scooby-Doo and the gang in search for clues through a spooky museum filled with laughs and frights.
- **Cartoon Junction Carousel** - a colorful twist on a classic carousel that allows guests to ride along with their favorite Looney Tunes and Hanna-Barbera characters.
- **Daffy Jet-Propelled Pogo Stick** - a vertical “jump” tower that bounces guests up and down with Daffy Duck as he tests ACME’s latest invention.
- **Tweety Wild Wockets** - Tweety Wild Wockets lets kids spin “around and around” as they try to avoid Sylvester, that “bad ol’ puddy tat”.
- **Ricochet Racin’ with Taz** - a giggle-inducing children’s car ride that whips racers around the track at Tasmanian Devil-like speeds.

Dining:

- Guests can dig in at a variety of places in Cartoon Junction like the ACME Commissary where quick service food is served with ACME flair. Those in the mood for a sweet treat can frequent Huckleberry Hound Pies and Penelope Pitstop Cotton Candy, or cool off with a cone at Yogi Bear and Boo Boo Ice Cream.

Shopping:

- Fans of beloved animated characters such as Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck will want to visit ACME Company Store, while C.J. Mercantile, located in the town’s emporium, provides souvenirs from the wacky to the classic for all of Cartoon Junction’s colorful characters. Guests can shop at the Hare Salon for variety of hats, and fashion accessories, and Fudd Hardware for Looney Tunes toys, accessories and stationery. Guests can also enjoy sweet treats create their own jelly candy at a using the ACME Candy Creator at Daffy Snacks.

Gotham City

- Gotham City is home to its favorite billionaire Batman, who has vowed to crush the sinister criminal underworld that lurks deep beneath this legendary urban landscape. The Caped Crusader has taken matters into his own hands after the unfortunate death of his parents many years ago. Today, he devotes his entire family inheritance to stopping all of Gotham City's bad guys.

Characters:

- This land is home to; Batman, The Riddler, The Joker, Catwoman, Harley Quinn, Mr. Freeze, and The Penguin.

Rides & Attractions:

- **Batman: Knight Flight** – a highly exhilarating dark ride where guests help Batman patrol the skies of Gotham City in a one-of-a-kind robotically controlled flying Batwing vehicle capable of sudden maneuvers including drops, climbs, spins, and rolls. This ride combines a high-tech flight simulator with immersive scenery and state-of-the-art special effects for a thrillingly unforgettable experience.
- **The Riddler Revolution** – a thrillingly roundabout ride where supervillain Edward Nigma lures guests into a run-down shipping warehouse for a thrilling nightmare. This rocking, spinning rollercoaster features dizzying movements as guests are caught at this fiendish contraption designed by The Riddler.
- **The Joker's Funhouse** – a villainous twist on the classic carnival walk-through experience featuring a series of physical and mental challenges conjured up by Batman's biggest foes. The Joker's Funhouse includes

a hall of mirrors, a shrinking corridor, a labyrinth, a hallucination hallway and moving carpets— among many other memorable encounters.

- **Rogues Gallery Games** – a host of delightfully puzzling games also await park guests at Rogues Gallery Games. Ranging from the Hi-Striker, the Whac-A-Bat, and the Get-Away Car, to the Toxic Blast and the Bazooka Blast, guests will have a chance to use their skills to reclaim Gotham Pier— a once peaceful landmark now held hostage by The Joker and his henchmen.
- **Scarecrow Scare Raid** – an unmatched thrilling ride where guests will twist and soar through the skies as the diabolical ride creates an exhilarating experience with mind-spinning, upside-down maneuvers. Brave-hearted riders of the Scarecrow Scare Raid will ascend a central column that rotates in a clockwise motion, while the ride's arms rotate in a 360-degree motion for a truly "twisted" time!

Dining:

- Hungry, law-abiding citizens can make their way to Gotham City's Finest – Gotham City's Police Department's local watering hole. Those choosing to dine with the 'who's who' of the underworld can do so at the Hall of Doom, and finally, guests can satisfy their sweet tooth with an ice-cold dessert at Mr. Freeze Ice Cream Truck.

Shopping:

- Guests can commemorate their visit to Gotham City from souvenir shops filled to the brim with mementos and memorabilia from Park Row Pawn Shop and Monarch Theater Gifts. At Harlequin Confections by Harley Quinn, guests can indulge in upscale chocolate and confectionery. Cat's Eye Jewelry offers ladies accessories and a perfect selection of shiny bobbles! The men of Gotham City can shop the finest in haberdashery at Cobblepott Formal Wear.

Dynamite Gulch

- Dynamite Gulch is an animated storyland where guests will encounter the famed duo Wile E. Coyote and the Road Runner. Guests can experience Wile E. Coyote and the Road Runner's dizzying dash firsthand, when they hop aboard the thrilling Fast and Furry-ous roller coaster.

Characters:

- This land is home to; Wile E. Coyote, Road Runner, Marvin The Martian, Yosemite Sam, and The Jetsons.

Rides & Attractions:

- **Fast & Furry-ous** - this premier attraction invites passengers to climb onto Wile E. Coyote latest gadget – the ACME Road Rocket 9000 – for an exciting journey through the desert cactus and chasms joining Wile E. Coyote on yet another pursuit to catch the Road Runner. Beep! Beep!
- **Jetson's Cosmic Orbiter** - The Jetsons Cosmic allows guests to fly their own futuristic spaceship as they circle a space-age landing pad on a high-energy joyride.
- **Marvin The Martian Crater Crashers** - Marvin the Martian: Crater Crashers - Marvin's new recruits will smash the hovering space-pods together to generate enough kinetic energy to power his broken rocket ship back into orbit —giving a whole new meaning to “kaboom!”

Shopping:

- Guests can fill up on fun, and pick out their favorite cartoon merchandise at Yosemite Sam Rootin' Tootin' Gas; a kitschy, Route 66-themed shop filled with plush toys, drinkware, and ride souvenirs.

Bedrock

- Yabba-Dabba-Doo! This age-old land powered by birds and dinosaurs is home to everyone's modern stone-age family, The Flintstones.
- Take a cruise 'right out of history' on The Flintstones Bedrock River Adventure, where a family –friendly boat ride drops you in the middle of a prehistoric suburbia.

Characters:

- This land is home to; The Flintstones – Fred, Wilma, Pebbles, and The Rubbles –Barney, Betty, Bamm-Bamm, along with Dino and The Great Gazoo.

Rides & Attractions:

- **The Flintstones Bedrock River Adventure** – tucked away in the natural beauty of Bedrock's Stonetrail Park, this star attraction invites passengers to embark on a scenic boat ride through stone-age wetlands, prehistoric neighborhoods and the city's picturesque downtown area taking in the awesome sights and sounds of a day in the life of The Flintstones and The Rubbles. Guests should know that this isn't just any day in Bedrock – it's the town's Centennial Parade! Rumor has it there's Snorkasaurus-sized trouble in store when Dino is set loose to run amuck during the big celebration.

Dining:

- Ravenous park-goers can satisfy their caveman cravings at Bronto Burgers and Ribs, where slabs of ribs and giant-sized Bronto Burgers are served. Guests can just stop for a photo opportunity and eat inside the diner.
- When hunger strikes in downtown Bedrock, guests can choose from a variety of prehistoric pickings. For a quick stone-age snack, guests are invited to grab and go at Mammoth Munchies.

Shopping:

- Guests can take home the perfect memento when they visit Bedrock Boutique where they'll find everything the modern stone-age family could need. Bedrock Candy Company is a must-visit stop for take-home sweets and snacks.

Knowledge Bank: Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi

- Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi is the world's first ever Warner Bros. branded indoor theme park.
- The park brings to life fan-favorite DC Super Heroes like Batman, Superman and Wonder Woman, alongside beloved Animation characters from Looney Tunes and Hanna-Barbera like Tom and Jerry, Bugs Bunny, Scooby-Doo and The Flintstones, all under one roof for the first time in the region.
- World Abu Dhabi, guests are transported to six immersive lands, including Warner Bros. Plaza, DC Entertainment's Metropolis and Gotham City, as well as Warner Bros. Animation's Cartoon Junction, Bedrock, and Dynamite Gulch.
- The Park features a total of 29 state-of-the-art exhilarating rides, interactive family-friendly attractions and unique live entertainment

Opening hours are subject to change, please keep an eye for updates.

www.wbworldabudhabi.com

CLYMB™ Abu Dhabi



Located in the heart of Yas Island, CLYMB™ Abu Dhabi is the world's ultimate adventure hub offering world-class skydiving and climbing experiences. Whether beginners or experienced skydivers and climbers, CLYMB Abu Dhabi offers a first-of-its-kind experience for guests of all ages (with an age limit of three years and above for skydiving and four years and above for climbing).

Guests are guided every step of the way with the help of our highly skilled instructors. Whether conquering a new flying position or tackling the highest wall, CLYMB Abu Dhabi's instructors help guests progress to the next level, taking into consideration their level of experience and comfort.

CLYMB Abu Dhabi houses two record-breaking attractions; the Indoor Skydiving Flight Chamber and the indoor climbing wall The SUMMYT. CLYMB Abu Dhabi houses the World's Largest Indoor Skydiving Flight Chamber at 10 meters (32 feet) in width and 32 meters (104 feet) in height. CLYMB Abu Dhabi is home to the region's tallest indoor climbing wall at 42 meters (138 feet).

CLIMBING EXPERIENCES AT CLYMB ABU DHABI

CLYMB Abu Dhabi has highly trained climbing instructors who can help guests identify the most suitable climbing style, taking into consideration their preference for either bouldering, auto belay, top rope or lead climbing.

Once climbers have been fitted with the necessary equipment and gear, the instructor will share information about important safety measures to be maintained at all times throughout the experience.

CLIMBING WALLS AT CLYMB ABU DHABI

The Boulder – Offers new learners the opportunity to climb a 3-meter (10 feet) wall to begin practicing their skills.

The Warm-up Wall – The perfect wall for those new to climbing or those who are warming up to tackle more challenging levels. At a height of 6 meters (20 feet), this climbing wall is the perfect opportunity to practice belaying or become more familiar with the auto belay device without having too much height to contend with.

The Intermediate – Nearly double the height of The Beginner, this wall offers harder routes for those looking to take on more of a challenge, equipped with auto belay devices.

The Advanced Wall – At 22 meters (72 feet) this wall offers experienced climbers a chance to test their skills where they can practice techniques and top rope climbing in preparation for The SUMMYT.

- **The SUMMYT** – The region's tallest indoor climbing wall reaches up to 42 meters (138 feet), nearly double the height of The Advanced Wall. The SUMMYT is also a top rope wall, where beginners and experts alike can try out their potential. Climbers using The SUMMYT wall will have full access to all the walls that CLYMB Abu Dhabi offers.
- **CLYMB Abu Dhabi** also regularly enhances and adds to its current climbing routes across four of its walls

SKYDIVING EXPERIENCE

- With three levels, CLYMB Abu Dhabi offers experiences for first-time flyers, intermediate flyers and skilled flyers, making the experience accessible to guests of all skill levels.
- CLYMB Abu Dhabi flight instructors will take guests through safety measures and teach them body control techniques to enable them to enjoy the full flight experience.
- The attraction's flight instructors remain with guests at all times within the flight chamber itself.

BASE CAMP BITES™

- This special café has a one-of-a-kind backdrop overlooking The SUMMYT; the region's tallest indoor climbing wall.

ALTITUDE CAFÉ™

- The Altitude Café™ offers guests the chance to relax while watching their family of friends through its spectacular 360-degree view of the World's Largest Indoor Skydiving Flight Chamber.

SHOPPING

CLYMB ABU DHABI SHOP

- CLYMB Abu Dhabi's retail outlet offers guests a variety of merchandise including souvenirs, gifts and mementos.

Knowledge Bank: CLYMB™ Abu Dhabi

- CLYMB™ Abu Dhabi is the world's ultimate adventure hub offering world-class skydiving and climbing experiences.
- CLYMB Abu Dhabi houses two record-breaking attractions; the Indoor Skydiving Flight Chamber and the indoor climbing wall The SUMMYT.
- CLYMB Abu Dhabi houses the World's Largest Indoor Skydiving Flight Chamber at 10 meters (32 feet) in width and 32 meters (104 feet) in height.
- CLYMB Abu Dhabi is home to the region's tallest indoor climbing wall at 42 meters (138 feet).

Opening hours are subject to change, please keep an eye for updates.

www.clymbabudhabi.com

Section 10

Abu Dhabi: Sustainable Tourist Attractions

GRASP | ABSORB | APPRECIATE



Al Wathba Wetland Reserve



Al Wathba Wetland Reserve is a five square kilometre wetland area located 40km south east of Abu Dhabi City, between Musaffah and the Abu Dhabi - Al Ain Truck Road. The reserve was originally established by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in 1998 and has been open since 2014.

It contains a series of shallow, natural lakes and wetlands, sand flats (known as *sabkhas*), and dunes. It is the first site in Abu Dhabi to be protected by law and was declared a Ramsar site in 2013 under the Ramsar Convention to which many countries worldwide have signed up. This recognises the fact that it is a wetland of international importance.

The reserve plays an important role as a home and stop-off point for more than 250 species of birds. There is a resident flamingo population at the reserve all year round. They are joined by more than 4,000 migratory flamingos between autumn and spring each year. An impressive 231 flamingo chicks were hatched at the reserve in 2013.

Other bird life at the reserve includes eagles, the black-winged stilt and the endangered sociable lapwing. You can also spot an assortment of other animals including dragonflies, damselflies, spiny-tailed lizards, white desert gerbils, hedgehogs, hares and foxes.

There is also a vast array of aquatic life in the wetlands alongside 37 different plant species.

Visitors can view the wildlife close up by visiting the specially-made bird hide – a wooden hut with long narrow openings allowing an unrivalled view of the animals in their natural habitat.

Alternatively, there are two self-guided walking trails. Both are well signposted, offering a shorter 1.5km route and a longer 3km route near to the flamingo colonies.

The reserve has a Visitor Experience Centre where visitors can watch a short film about the importance of the reserve and its history. Newly added toilets and visitor parking are also available.

The reserve is free to enter but is only open seasonally from mid-October up until May due to the breeding season. Opening times are available on the website after reopening for the winter.

Free tours around the reserve are available but pre-booking is essential to help minimise the impact on the reserve and preserve the vegetation there. Visitors are advised to wear long-sleeved, light tops and long trousers with a hat or head covering for comfort and practicality while exploring the reserve.

DID YOU KNOW? The greater flamingo chicks are born a grey colour and only turn pink when they are two years old!

Knowledge Bank: Al Wathba Wetland Reserve

Overview

- Al Wathba Wetland Reserve is located 40km south east of Abu Dhabi City, between Musaffah, and the Abu Dhabi-Al Ain Truck Road
- The total area of the reserve is relatively small at five square kilometres
- The reserve was established in 1998 by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan
- It opened for the first time to the public in 2014
- It is a series of shallow natural and manmade lakes and wetlands, sand flats (*sabkhas*) and dunes
- It was the first site in Abu Dhabi to be protected by law and was declared a Ramsar site (a wetland site of international importance) in 2013

Vegetation and wildlife at the reserve

- The reserve is the home and stop-off point for over 250 species of birds as well as dragonflies and damselflies
- There are 37 plant species and vast array of aquatic life
- Over 4,000 migratory flamingos stay at the reserve from autumn until spring each year
- There is a resident flamingo population at the reserve all year when the majority of the migratory birds fly home to South East Asia for the summer
- 231 flamingo chicks were hatched at the Al Wathba reserve in 2013
- The chicks are born a grey colour and only turn pink when they turn two years old!
- Other bird life includes eagles and the endangered sociable lapwing
- Other species found at the reserve are the black-winged stilt, the spiny-tailed lizard, white desert gerbils, hedgehogs, hares and foxes among others

Activities for visitors

- The reserve features a bird hide (a wooden hut with a long, narrow opening) for viewing the wetland birds close up
- There are two self-guided walking trails, one is 1.5km and a longer one of 3km which run close to the flamingo colonies
- Both walking trails have helpful and informative signage

Opening times and prices

- The reserve is closed from May until October due to the breeding season
- Visitors can usually start to access the reserve again by mid-October
- Opening times are Thursdays and Saturdays from 8am - 2pm
- It is free to enter the reserve and the tours are also free although visitors should book in advance
- Long sleeved light tops and long trousers with a hat or head covering are comfortable and practical for exploring the reserve

Visitor information

- The reserve has a Visitor Experience Centre where visitors can watch a short film about the reserve and its importance
- The reserve has recently added visitor toilets and parking
- The reserve encourages visitors to pre-book tours by appointment in order to minimise impact on the reserve and preserve the vegetation there

Mangrove National Park



Mangrove National Park is located just outside Abu Dhabi City centre on Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Street, near the Anantara Hotel. The park is hailed as one of Abu Dhabi's most important ecological features and is protected through a government order by the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD).

It consists of a dense mangrove forest stretching more than 19km². Mangrove, known in Arabic as *qurm*, is a strong shrub or tree that grows in salt water and has adapted to living in severe coastal conditions. Abu Dhabi has approximately 70km² of mangrove along its coast, which accounts for almost 75% of the total mangrove forest area in the UAE.

As well as mangrove forests, the park also has salt marshes, mudflats and a variety of important algae populations. It is home to hundreds of bird, plant and other species.

There are currently more than 60 species of birds feeding and nesting in the park and many types of fish, shellfish and crabs can be found here. The park provides a protected sanctuary for turtles, dolphins and dugongs, a medium-sized marine mammal.

Mangrove National Park offers a calm and quiet escape from the hustle and bustle of Abu Dhabi City.

If visitors wish to explore the mangroves by kayak or boat, they must use an approved, environmentally-friendly tour operator. Information on these operators can be found on the Environment Agency website at:

<https://www.ead.gov.ae/en/experience-green-abu-dhabi/places-to-go/mangrove-national-park>

Knowledge Bank: Mangrove National Park

Overview

- Mangrove National Park is located just outside Abu Dhabi City centre on Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Street, near the Anantara Hotel
- It is a dense mangrove forest stretching more than 19km²
- Abu Dhabi's coastal areas are lined with approximately 70km² of mangrove forests which makes up almost 75% of the total mangrove forest area in the UAE
- Mangrove is strong shrub or tree that grows in salt water and has adapted to living in severe coastal conditions
- In Arabic, mangrove is known as *qurm*
- The Mangrove National Park is protected by the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD) by government order
- It is hailed as one of Abu Dhabi's most important ecological features
- As well as mangrove forests, the park has salt marshes, mudflats and a variety of important algae populations
- Visitors can see hundreds of bird, plant and other species in and around Mangrove National Park
- There are currently more than 60 species of birds feeding and nesting along with fish, shellfish and crabs
- The park also provides a protected sanctuary for turtles, dugongs and dolphins
- Visitors who love nature or the outdoors and want a break from the hustle of Abu Dhabi City will enjoy spending time here

Approved environmentally-friendly tours

If visitors wish to explore the mangroves by kayak or boat, they must use an approved, environmentally-friendly tour operator. A list of these can be found on the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi's webpage:

<https://www.ead.gov.ae/en/experience-green-abu-dhabi/places-to-go/mangrove-national-park>

Masdar City Project



The Masdar City Project is located 17km southeast of Abu Dhabi City next to the International Airport. It is the Emirate's 'city of the future' and aims to become the world's most sustainable eco-city. The project is funded by the Government of Abu Dhabi and is led by Masdar, a subsidiary of the Mubadala Development Company.

The project was conceived in 2006 and construction began in 2008. Construction of the city was delayed by the world economic slump and by 2010, although much of the infrastructure was in place, only six buildings were finished and occupied. The project now aims to be completed by 2030.

The city will be a model for an environmentally-friendly, urban area which will have a variety of residential, commercial and industrial uses. It will show how places can become heavily built-up but, at the same time, dramatically reduce the use of energy and water and also minimise waste. This will lower the city's carbon footprint and increase what is known as its 'greenprint'.

The Masdar Institute of Science and Technology (MIST), part of the Khalifa University of Science & Technology, is located at the centre of the project, and is a graduate research university. The institute works solely on energy and eco-friendly solutions. All businesses that locate within Masdar City will have a focus on protecting the environment.

A number of businesses are already present within the city. These include:

- The Headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
- General Electric
- Mitsubishi
- Schneider Electric
- The Global Green Growth Institute
- General Electric Ecomagination Centre

The city also houses the Middle East headquarters of Siemens, the electrical giant. Their building, which was designed by architects Shepherd Robson, contains a 'wind tunnel' that funnels air up from the plaza below to the rooftop and then directs a cool breeze through the narrow streets and alleys surrounding the building. Each building in Masdar City is constructed with low-carbon cement, utilises aluminium that is 90% drawn from recycled sources, and is designed to reduce energy and water consumption by at least 40%.¹ This eco-friendly structure was one of the first in the region to receive the highest Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) 'Platinum' award.

As well as receiving awards, the city also manages one – the Zayed Future Energy Prize. This is an annual award to recognise excellence in renewable energy and sustainability. The Prize was established by the leadership of the UAE and was launched in 2008. It represents Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan's vision to support environmental, social and economic sustainability as an important part of the UAE.

There are a number of food and retail outlets within Masdar City, offering a range of cuisines to those already living and working there. These include:

- Barbacoa Mexican Cuisine
- Café Il Di Roma
- Caribou Café
- Jim's Kitchen Table
- Osha Gourmet Emirati Cuisine
- Sumo Japanese Cuisine
- F-Mart Supermarket

The British architectural company, Foster and Partners, created the overall concept for the project and continues to work on the individual buildings. It was developed using the planning principles of a traditional Arab settlement but also includes modern technology.

Originally, Masdar City was designed to be completely car-free with Personal Rapid Transport pods (small, unmanned electric vehicles which run along a track, separated from pedestrians) to transport people all around the city and a pilot scheme was built. In 2010, it was decided that being completely car-free was not practical due to the cost. The pods are therefore restricted to the original pilot scheme and instead, driverless electric vehicles will be used for mass transit on the streets of the city.

The city creates clean solar energy from the sun through one of the largest solar farms in the Middle East covering 22 hectares on the edge of the city. This is supplemented by rooftop solar panels on the main buildings.

Construction of the new Masdar Institute Neighbourhood is now well underway. This is a development which includes public, open spaces and buildings which will be used as offices, homes and retail outlets. This neighbourhood will provide Masdar City with more than 100,000m² of new development and is due to be completed in 2020.

Masdar City is very much a work in progress and, as of 2016, only 300,000m² had been developed out of proposed initial 1,000,000m² and fewer than 2,000 people worked there. There were, at that time, only 300 residents, all of them students at the Masdar Institute.

Masdar Park is an outdoor dining destination, with cafés and restaurants, housed inside recycled shipping containers powered by solar panels, as well as a children's playground, music wall, sports facilities and design installations themed on sustainability. Visitors can also enjoy the 2.5km-long Al Mamsha trail which is perfect for running, walking, biking and even fitness sessions, with exercise equipment dotted along the route. A football field and basketball court are also available for bookings. The park's signature design feature is the "Tree of Light", a new attraction, which lights up and changes colour depending on human interaction.

There is no charge to visit Masdar City and its facilities. It is open for visitors from Sunday to Thursday from 8.30am - 4.30pm

¹ Source: http://masdar.ae/assets/downloads/content/270/masdar_city_brochure_jan2017.pdf

Knowledge Bank: Masdar City Project

Overview

- Masdar City is located 17km south east of the city of Abu Dhabi, beside Abu Dhabi International Airport
- The Masdar City project is led by Masdar, a subsidiary of the Mubadala Development Company
- The project is funded by the Government of Abu Dhabi
- Masdar City is Abu Dhabi's 'city of the future' and aims to become the world's most sustainable eco-city
- The city project was initiated in 2006 and construction started in 2008
- Six buildings were completed and occupied by 2010
- The city project aims to be completed by 2030
- Masdar City is a model for an environmentally-friendly mixed-use urban environment
- The City will show how areas can urbanise and still reduce energy, water and waste. This is called its 'greenprint'
- The city project will be set around the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, one of the first buildings completed
- The Masdar Institute of Science and Technology is a graduate research university working solely on energy and sustainability solutions
- All businesses within Masdar City will have to focus on protecting the environment
- The city will eventually accommodate 40,000 residents and 50,000 commuters
- Masdar City manages the Zayed Future Energy Prize
- The Prize is an annual award to recognise excellence in renewable energy and sustainability.
- The award was launched in 2008 and established by the United Arab Emirates leadership
- The prize represents the vision of the Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan, who supported environmental, social and economic sustainability as an important part of the heritage of the UAE

Architecture and green design

- Masdar City was designed by the British architectural firm Foster and Partners
- Each building in Masdar City is constructed with low-carbon cement, utilises aluminium that is 90% drawn from recycled sources, and is designed to reduce energy and water consumption by at least 40%
- The design was of a car-free environment with Personal Rapid Transport (PRT) pods to run along dedicated tracks - small, unmanned cars to transport residents, workers and visitors around the city. Due to cost, the PRT pods were restricted to the original pilot scheme and plans now include the use of electric, driverless vehicles
- The architecture is a combination of modern technology and ancient Arabic architectural techniques
- The building that houses the Middle East headquarters of Siemens has a vertical wind tunnel that distributes a cooling breeze to surrounding streets
- The city creates clean solar energy from the sun with rooftop solar panels and a solar farm on the edge of the city which is one of the largest in the Middle East
- Masdar Park is an outdoor dining destination with cafés and restaurants housed inside recycled shipping containers powered by solar panels as well as a children's playground, music wall, sports facilities and design installations themed on sustainability.

Businesses in Masdar City

- **The current business tenants in Masdar City include:**
 - Masdar Institute of Science and Technology (part of the Khalifa University of Science & Technology)
 - Siemens
 - The headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
 - General Electric
 - Mitsubishi
 - Schneider Electric
 - The Global Green Growth Institute
 - General Electric Ecomagination Centre
- Construction is well underway on the new Masdar Institute Neighbourhood, a major mixed-use development of offices, residential, retail and public open space
- This will provide Masdar City with more than 100,000m² of new development and is due to be completed in 2020
- Restaurants, cafes and supermarkets inside Masdar City include:
 - Barbacoa Mexican Cuisine
 - Café Il Di Roma
 - Caribou Café
 - Jim's Kitchen Table
 - Osha Gourmet Emirati Cuisine
 - Sumo Japanese Cuisine
 - F-Mart Supermarket

Opening hours

- Masdar City is open to visitors from Sunday - Thursday from 8.30am - 4.30pm

Charges

- Admission to Masdar City is free

Jubail Mangrove Park



The stunning Jubail Mangrove Park is the first self-contained educational, nature and leisure destination of its kind in the emirate. Visitors can explore a haven for avian and marine species native to Abu Dhabi at the serene Jubail Mangrove Park, a sanctuary that offers incredible photo opportunities.

The 2.6 km boardwalk navigates through a variety of ecosystems including mangrove habitat, intertidal mudflats, salt marshes, lagoon channels and unique sandstone geological formations (zeugens) in order to discover a nature-rich side to Abu Dhabi and spotting an array of wildlife, from turtles to herons, gazelle and more. Birdwatchers, nature-lovers and photographers will be in their element here.

This experience is further enhanced by a series of attractions, including kayak launch points, floating pontoons, expansive net-structures that allow children to get their feet wet, stepping pads and seating nodes with educational signage. The highlight is undoubtedly the two storey observation tower, which provides spectacular panoramic views throughout the wetland habitats and across to the city. The route then terminates at the visitor centre and café, complete with plaza seating, food van area and an educational terrace for school or group visits.

This one-of-a-kind, family-friendly park aims to enhance awareness, appreciation and understanding of the important ecological function of the city's mangrove habitats, which not only support biodiversity and protect the Abu Dhabi coastline but also help prevent climate change by sucking up carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases and trapping them in their flooded soils for millennia.

Section 10

Abu Dhabi: Sports and Leisure Activities

GRASP | ABSORB | APPRECIATE



Abu Dhabi City Golf Club



Abu Dhabi City Golf Club is located in the Al Mushrif area, on Mussafah Road, at the very heart of the city of Abu Dhabi and is locally known as the 'People's Golf Course'.

It was an 18-hole sand course for 22 years before it became Abu Dhabi's first nine-hole grass course, which was designed by British golf resort designer, Ian Scott Taylor.

The club has a single, par 70, nine-hole course, with a total of 6,307 yards for men and 5,403 yards for ladies, and water hazards at more than half the holes. Night-time lighting means golfers can play well into the evening during the darker, winter months.

As well as being a golf venue, events, banquets and weddings are also held at the facility.

The clubhouse has its own restaurant and bar and the club has a number of other restaurants with a range of cuisines including Japanese sushi and Korean food. A daily barbecue is held on the 'pavilion' terrace.

Golfers who play here benefit from a range of facilities. Golf carts are equipped with GPS systems for easy navigation. Whilst out on the course, players can store their belongings in the locker room.

Those wanting to improve their game can join the golf academy, which has the only two-level driving range in Abu Dhabi, and younger players can join the junior academy. For those interested in other sports, there are three floodlit tennis courts, an outdoor swimming pool with a Jacuzzi and pool bar and a gym. A sauna is available for relaxation afterwards.

The golf course is open from 6am to 8.30pm with 8.30pm being the last tee time for 9 holes. The last tee time for 18 holes is 6.30pm.

Information about green fees is available from the club's website.

DID YOU KNOW? Holes 7–9 are really difficult to play and are known as ‘Amen Corner’ by locals!

Further your knowledge

Club website:

<http://adcitygolf.com>

Knowledge Bank: Abu Dhabi City Golf Club

Overview

- Abu Dhabi City Golf Club is located in the Al Mushrif area on Mussafah Road in the heart of Abu Dhabi city
- It is Abu Dhabi's first nine-hole facility and known as 'The People's Golf Course'
- It was an 18-hole sand course for 22 years before it became Abu Dhabi's first grass course
- The grass course was designed in 1988 by British golf course designer, Ian Scott Taylor
- The course consists of a single, par 70, nine-hole golf course with water hazards at over half the holes
- A total of 6,307 yards for men and 5,403 yards for ladies
- Holes 7-9 are known as 'Amen Corner' by locals as they are so difficult to play
- The golf club caters for events, banquets and weddings
- Golfers can enjoy:
 - a clubhouse with 19th Street bar and restaurant
 - a 'pavilion' terrace with daily barbecue from 5pm
 - a Japanese sushi restaurant
 - a Korean restaurant
 - a golf academy featuring the only two-tiered driving range in Abu Dhabi and junior golf academy
 - three floodlit tennis courts
 - an outdoor pool with Jacuzzi and a pool bar
 - a gym
 - a sauna
 - a floodlit course for after dark golfing
 - GPS-equipped golf carts
 - a locker room

Opening hours

- Tee times/golf course are from 6am – 8.30pm (8.30 is the last tee time for nine holes)
- Last tee time for 18 holes is 6.30pm

Charges

- For the most up-to-date green fees check the website:

<http://adcitygolf.com/golf-information/green-fees/>

Abu Dhabi Golf Club



The award-winning Abu Dhabi Golf Club is located opposite Al Forsan International Sports Resort off the Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Street. The club is a 15-minute drive from the city centre and is 10 minutes from Abu Dhabi International Airport.

Work on the club began in 1992 and it opened in 2006. The distinctive clubhouse was built in the shape of a falcon on top of a golf ball. The club provides one of the most luxurious golf experiences in the Middle East and is described as a 'super course' by the golfing media.

Troon Golf, a famous international golf-resort management organisation, manages the club, which has two golf courses. Both courses were designed by Peter Harradine, a world-class golf-course architect:

- Par 72, an 18-hole championship course with 90 challenging bunkers and seven lakes
- Par 36, a nine-hole garden course which is floodlit for night-time use

In addition to the two courses, there is a driving range and a putting green. Golfers can hire clubs, trolleys and buggies or purchase equipment in the professional golf shop. A locker room for storing valuables is available and golfers can eat in the club's restaurant and make use of the swimming pool.

The club hosts the European Tour Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship, a European PGA Tour event. The resort won the AGM Platinum Award in 2016 and won Best Course in the Middle East Asia Pacific Golf Summit in 2013.

Open daily from 6am to 11.30pm, the club's prices vary according to the time of day, day of the week and time of the year. Prices can be checked via the website's online booking system.

DID YOU KNOW? Although the club officially opened in 2006, the preparation planting of the grounds started back in 1992.

Further your knowledge:

Official website:

www.adgolfclub.com

Knowledge Bank: Abu Dhabi Golf Club

Overview

- Abu Dhabi Golf Club is located just opposite Al Forsan International Sports Resort off the Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Street (E10)
- The club is a 15-minute drive from the city centre and 10 minutes from Abu Dhabi International Airport
- The club opened in October 2006 although preparation started in 1992
- The club is one of the most luxurious golf resort experiences in the Middle East and described as a 'super course' by the golfing media
- It is managed by Troon Golf, a famous international golf-resort management organisation
- The golf club has two golf courses:
 - Par 72, championship, 18-hole championship course with 90 challenging bunkers and seven lakes
 - Par 36, nine-hole garden course which is fully floodlit for night golf
- Both courses were designed by Peter Harradine, a world-class golf-course architect
- Golfers can enjoy:
 - luxurious Falcon Clubhouse built in the shape of a falcon on top of a golf ball
 - restaurant
 - swimming pool
 - pro shop
 - driving range
 - putting green
 - golf clubs, trolleys and buggies for hire
 - locker room

Events

- Abu Dhabi Golf Club is home to the European Tour Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship, a European PGA Tour event

Acclaim and awards

- AGM Platinum Award in 2016
- Winner of the 'Best Course in the Middle East' at the Asia Pacific Golf Summit in 2013

Opening hours

- The club is open daily from 6am –11.30pm

Charges

- The club has a 'dynamic' pricing structure which means fees go up and down according to time of the day, week and year. Visitors should check prices on the online booking system on the website.

Saadiyat Beach Golf Club



This 18-hole golf course is located just off the Sheikh Khalifa Highway (E12) on Saadiyat Island. As the name indicates, it is located next to Saadiyat Beach and is very close to the Park Hyatt Abu Dhabi Hotel and Villas, and St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resort.

It opened in 2010 and it was the region's first beach-front golf course. The course was designed by Gary Player, the world-famous South African golf course architect and player, who won many major tournaments during his golfing career. It is a single 18-hole course of par 72 with many on-course hazards including 60 bunkers, salt water lakes and sand dunes. Golfers may even spot one of the many strolling mountain gazelles as they play.

While playing a round, golfers may also be lucky enough to see dolphins in the sea and protected, critically endangered Hawksbill turtles. The fine restaurant and bar on the golf course is named after the Hawksbill turtle which uses the beaches of Saadiyat Island to lay its eggs.

In addition, the club has a luxurious clubhouse with a terrace, a locker room and a putting green. Golf clubs, trollies and buggies are available for hire. The course has won a number of awards including Best Golf Course in the UAE by World Golf Awards in 2015.

The course hosts regular tournaments including the new professional event, The Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Open named after the wife of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Nahyan, the founder of the UAE. The Saadiyat Beach Classic is a celebrity Pro-Am which involves both professionals and amateurs and is held after the Abu Dhabi Championship.

The golf club is open daily from 7am to midnight and the practice range is available from 7am to 8.30pm. The club has a 'dynamic' pricing structure which means fees go up and down according to time of the day, week and year. Visitors should check prices on the online booking system on the website:

<https://troonabudhabi.com/saadiyat-beach-golf-club/>

DID YOU KNOW? The Saadiyat Beach Golf Club course has been designed with sensitivity to the surrounding natural environment and in compliance with strict environmental guidelines.

Knowledge Bank: Saadiyat Beach Golf Club

Overview

- Saadiyat Beach Golf Club is located just off the Sheikh Khalifa Highway (E12) on Saadiyat Island
- It is situated next to Saadiyat Beach, Park Hyatt Abu Dhabi Hotel and Villas, and St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resort
- It opened in 2010 and is the region's first ocean golf course
- The course was designed by Gary Player, the world-famous golf course architect and player
- The course consists of a single par 72, 18-hole golf course
- On-course hazards include 60 bunkers, salt water lakes and sand dunes
- Golfers can enjoy:
 - Luxurious clubhouse with terrace
 - A putting green
 - Golf clubs, trolleys and buggies for hire
 - A locker room
 - A restaurant and bar

Environmental design

- The course has been designed to strict environmental guidelines in order to minimise impact on the natural environment
- The course makes the most of its surroundings and golfers may get the opportunity to see:
 - strolling mountain gazelles
 - dolphins
 - protected Hawksbill turtles

Events

- The golf course hosts two new professional golfing events:
 - The Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Open
 - Saadiyat Beach Classic is a celebrity Pro-Am, involving both professionals and amateurs, held after the Abu Dhabi Championship

Opening hours

- The practice range is open daily from 7am to 8.30pm
- The golf club is open daily from 7am to midnight

Charges

- The club has a 'dynamic' pricing structure which means fees go up and down according to time of the day, week and year.

Yas Links Golf Club



Yas Links Abu Dhabi represents the first true Links Golf Course in the Middle East region, designed by Kyle Phillips, one of the world's leading golf course designers.

The Championship Links course is located on the west shores of Yas Island, Abu Dhabi's Island of Entertainment, also offering a luxurious clubhouse, gym, swimming pool, male spa and world-class, floodlit practice ranges, now with state of the art Toptracer range technology and Golf Academy. Dining options include our award winning Hickory's restaurant with stunning views over the mangroves and Abu Dhabi skyline, and our Japanese restaurant MATSU.

The Par 72 Championship Links course which has rolling hills and seashore green locations opened on schedule March 2010 and currently ranks 48th in Golf Digest's Top 100 courses in the world, and 60th in the World by Platinum Clubs of the World. Yas Links Abu Dhabi also played host to the golf element of the 2019 Special Olympics World.

The club is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Green fees do vary so it is wise to check up-to-date fees on the Yas Links web site:

<https://www.troonabudhabi.com/yas-links/>

Knowledge Bank: Yas Links Golf Club

Overview

- Par 72 Championship Links Course
- 112 Bunkers
- 300,000 m3 of capped sand
- 1.8 million m3 of Dredged material
- 8 holes play along the coastline, with every hole offering a view of the coastline
- Undulations vary from +1m - + 8m above sea level
- Wall to wall “Paspalum Platinum” grass
- Championship Tees – 7,414 yards
- 18 Hole Championship Course
- 9 Hole Floodlit Par 3 Academy Course
- Floodlit Practice Area
- Spacious Golf Academy with 6 covered hitting bays and 2 indoor swing studios, accompanied by the latest golf instructional instruments including Toptracer Range – Ball tracking technology with 6 in bay screens
- Andalucía style clubhouse
- Lobby reception area
- Golf Shop
- Locker Rooms
- Infinity Swimming Pool
- Spacious Events Lawn
- Anahata For Him – Men’s Spa
- Gymnasium

Awards and acclaim

- 2020 World Golf Awards: United Arab Emirates’s Best Golf Course 2020 and Abu Dhabi’s Best Golf Course
- Ranked 9th in Leading Courses Golf Choice Awards 2020
- 2019 winner – 48th Best Golf Course in the World
- 2018 winner – 44th Best Golf Course in the world
- 2018 winner - 70th Top Golf Course in the World, Golf World
- 2016 winner - Best Golf Course in The Middle East, Asian Golf Monthly
- 2016 winner - Best Golf Course in The Middle East, Golf Digest 2016
- 2014 winner - Middle East Golf Awards – Best Overall Experience (Players Choice)
- 2014 winner - Middle East Golf Awards – General Manager of the Year 2014
- 2013 winner - Voted number 1 Golf Course in the Middle East, Golf Digest
- 2013 winner - Golf Course of the Year (Middle East) Above AED 400, Middle East Golf Awards
- 2013 winner - 2nd best destination to visit in Abu Dhabi, Trip Advisor
- 2011 winner - Best Golf Course, Middle East Golfer Awards
- Ranked 95 in Golf World’s Top 100 Courses 2011
- 2012 winner - Ranked 24th World’s Best Courses Outside of America - Golf Digest USA – 2012 (there are over 30,000 golf courses in the world)

- Best Sporting Club and Best Bar in Abu Dhabi – Ahlan 2012
- 2012 winner - Middle East Sports Talk Golf Awards – Best Course, Best Club, General Manager of the year 2012

Opening hours

- Golf Course – 6:00 am until sunset
- Golf Shop – 5:30 am to 9:30 daily
- Hickory's – 6:30 am – 12:00 am (Midnight)
- Element Fitness – Saturday – Thursday 7:00 am – 10:00 pm / Friday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Toptracer - Sun-Thurs 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm/ Friday and Sat 10:00 am – 9:00 pm

Yas Kartzone



Yas Kartzone is a go-kart venue situated near Gate 20 of the Yas Marina Circuit on Yas Island. Its track is 800m long with many difficult twists and turns. Adults, and children over the age of eight and over 1.3 metres tall, can use the circuit.

Children's sessions last 10 minutes. Those aged eight-12 drive Cadet Karts with those aged 13 and above driving more powerful Senior Karts with eight horsepower.

There are separate adult sessions for drivers over the age of 18 and these can last up to 15 minutes.

An 'Arrive and Drive' option from 2pm to 9.30pm means visitors can just turn up and have a go as long as karts are available, with advance bookings taken for groups of 15 or more. After each race, drivers can view the results on a television screen in the track's reception area. Drivers are also sent a text (SMS) message to inform them how their performance compares to other drivers as well as the best track times of the week and month.

Drivers must observe a number of rules at the track. Sneakers or trainers must be worn, not high heels or sandals. Before they get onto the track, drivers must sign in and change into racing clothes which are provided by the venue. These include helmets, gloves and overalls. All drivers are given a briefing about the rules and how to drive the karts before they set off and anyone under the age of 17 must have an adult present who will sign a disclaimer form on their behalf.

The prices for go-karting are subject to change and visitors should check the venue's website for the latest information. The track is open from 2pm to 9.30pm, every day of the week.

Further your knowledge

Yas Kartzone website:

<https://www.yasmarinacircuit.com/en/kart>

Yas Kartzone video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwb7AFDECEg>

Knowledge Bank: Yas Kartzone

Overview

- Yas Kartzone is located near Gate 20 of the Yas Marina Circuit on Yas Island
- The track is 800m long with lots of dramatic twists and turns
- The karts available include Cadet Karts for drivers aged eight to 12 and Senior Karts of eight horsepower for drivers over 13
- There are separate adult karting sessions for drivers over 18
- Yas Kartzone has an 'Arrive and Drive' option for visitors to turn up and drive and options for groups of 15 or more that can be booked in advance
- Children's karting sessions are 10 minutes long
- Adult drivers have up to 15 minutes' race time
- After the race, drivers can see their results on a television screen at the track's reception area
- Drivers are also sent an SMS message to tell them how well they have done in comparison to other drivers and the best times of the week and month

Kartzone rules

- Drivers must wear sneakers or trainers. No high heels or sandals should be worn
- Drivers must sign in and change into racing gear and receive a briefing before driving a kart
- Drivers under 17 years of age must attend the briefing with an adult. The adult will sign a disclaimer for the driver under 17
- Drivers must be over eight years old and over 1.3 metres tall
- For Arrive and Drive drivers, karts are subject to availability

Opening hours

- Arrive and Drive sessions are daily from 2pm - 9.30pm

Charges

- Prices for karting will be subject to change. Check the website for the most up-to-date prices:

<https://www.yasmarinacircuit.com/en/kart>

Al Forsan International Sports Resort



Al Forsan International Sports Resort is just a 10-minute drive from Abu Dhabi International Airport. The site offers a number of outdoor and indoor facilities for anyone with a keen interest in shooting.

Outdoor activities include sporting clays and archery, while indoor activities available include handgun ranges, rifle ranges and laser simulators.

Visitors can enjoy 18 sporting clay ranges, each with four different traps, for shooters of all abilities. Four luxury air-conditioned pavilions and a multi-level veranda give visitors variety and comfort when shooting.

Three automatic ball-trap ranges offer beginners the opportunity to use state-of-the-art voice control to decide when to release their clays. More experienced shooters may benefit from three Olympic/double trap fields with similar high-tech voice control options.

The resort also includes six skeet (clay shooting) fields which have been built to the high standards demanded by the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF). Visitors can rent a large range of high-calibre firearms at the resort.

The indoor 25m and 50m handgun ranges are available for shooting. Each range has 10 lanes, catering for everyone from complete beginners looking to shoot for enjoyment up to Olympic shooters. The ranges also offer the opportunity to fire small-calibre firearms such as a Glock, Sig Sauer or Beretta Pistol.

Shooters can take advantage of a 300m indoor rifle range featuring an in-built LOMAH system (Location of Miss and Hit). This allows visitors to keep track of their shots on a monitor which updates in real-time. Two indoor laser simulators allow people of all ages to practise the art of shooting.

Also offering archery, the resort has 10 lanes, giving archers the option to fire arrows from as close as five metres from the target to as far away as 60m. High-quality equipment, including recurve bows, is available to hire on site. All archers will be supplied with safety and protective equipment such as tabs, arm guards and releases.

The resort is open daily between 2pm and 11pm. All shooters are required to show identification documents to use the facilities. Valid identification includes: a driver's licence, an original passport or a copy. Visitors under the age of 18 must provide personal identification as well as identification for the parent or legal guardian who has signed the disclaimer form to allow them to shoot.

Knowledge Bank: Al Forsan International Sports Resort

Overview

- Al Forsan International Sports Resort is located in Khalifa City, a 10-minute drive from the Abu Dhabi International airport
- The resort is the first in the Gulf to offer both Olympic disciplines and clay pigeon shooting along with shooting ranges

Outdoor facilities

Sporting clays

- 18 sporting clay ranges each with four different traps, for shooters of all levels
- Four luxury air-conditioned pavilions and a veranda on five levels to shoot from
- Three Olympic or double trap fields with voice control to release the clays for advanced shooters
- Three Auto Ball Trap ranges with voice control to release the clays; particularly suitable for beginners
- Six skeet fields built to the high standards demanded by the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF)
- Shotgun rental with a good range of high-calibre firearms

Archery

- 10 lanes are available for archers to fire from 5m to 60m
- High-quality equipment is available to hire including recurve bows
- Archers are supplied with safety and protective equipment such as tabs, arm guards and releases

Indoor facilities

Handgun ranges

- 25m and 50m indoor ranges are available to shoot handguns
- Each of the ranges has 10 lanes
- The ranges cater for those who have Olympic-standard shooting experience through to providing an enjoyable entry-level experience for visitors
- Shooters can also use the ranges for shooting small-calibre handguns such as a Glock, Sig Sauer or Beretta Pistol

Rifle ranges

- There is a 300m rifle range featuring LOMAH systems (Location of Miss and Hit)
- The LOMAH system tracks all shots and display them on monitors

Laser simulators

- Al Forsan has two indoor laser simulators
- The simulators are designed to practise the art of shooting for all ages

Resort requirements

- Visitors wishing to shoot at the resort must bring the following documents:
 - Valid identification document
 - Driver's licence
 - Original passport or passport copy
- Shooters under the age of 18 must provide:
 - Parent or legal guardian's identification
 - Personal identification
 - Disclaimer signed by the parent or guardian who supplied the identification document

Opening hours

Daily from 2pm - 11pm

Caracal Shooting Club



The Caracal Shooting Club was the first commercial shooting club in Abu Dhabi and is located in the grounds of the Armed Forces Officers Club in the Al Maqta area of Abu Dhabi City. It opened to the public in 2008.

The club revives the Islamic art of shooting and marksmanship using state-of-the-art equipment. Alongside the shooting ranges and lanes for both beginners and experts, a number of other sports facilities are available as well as indoor and outdoor lounge areas and a coffee shop.

The modern 25m indoor shooting range offers visitors:

- The choice to fire from 10m, 15m, 20m or 25m away from the target
- An overhead retractable target system
- Rotating targets
- A variety of paper target models
- Adjustable target zones for increased accuracy
- An electronic target system which instantly displays hits on a monitor at the shooting line

One-to-one lessons, lasting an hour, are available for beginners and experienced shooters looking to improve their technique.

Other indoor facilities available at the club include a gym fitted with cardiovascular machines, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, squash courts, an aerobic hall and a bowling alley. Table tennis, billiard and snooker tables are also available. A multi-purpose hall offers the opportunity to enjoy a game of basketball, football, volleyball or tennis indoors.

Outdoor facilities include four tennis courts, three football courts, a cage football court, a paintball field and an all-terrain motor vehicle (ATV) course.

The shooting club is open daily from 12 noon until 9.30pm, except on Fridays when it is open between 2pm and 9.30pm. Charges are subject to change. It is worth visiting the club's website for up-to-date prices and opening times:

http://www.caracalsc.ae/content.php?active_menu=8.

All beginners receive a gun safety briefing and advice on the basics of marksmanship by club staff before they are allowed to shoot. All visitors wishing to shoot at the resort must bring either their driver's licence or passport (original or copy).

DID YOU KNOW? Anyone can shoot at the club as long as they are over 12 years old and have the necessary documents.

Further your knowledge

The club website:

www.caracalsc.ae

Watch a short video (in Arabic) to see people shooting on one of the ranges:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hOZWgr-nqI>

Read an article about Time Out's visit to the shooting club:

<http://www.timeoutabudhabi.com/sportandoutdoor/features/20340-caracal-shooting-club>

Knowledge Bank: Caracal Shooting Club

Overview

- Located in the grounds of the Armed Forces Officers Club in the Al Maqta area of Abu Dhabi City
- Caracal is the first commercial shooting club in Abu Dhabi
- It has been open to the public since 2008
- The facility features state-of-the-art equipment and, at the same time, revives the Islamic art of shooting and marksmanship
- The club features indoor and outdoor lounge areas and a coffee shop
- One-hour, one-to-one lessons are available for beginners and experienced shooters

Indoor facilities

- The club offers a 25m range with:
 - an overhead retractable target system
 - shooting distances from 10m, 15m, 20m and 25m
 - adjustable target zones for increased accuracy
 - rotating targets
 - a variety of paper target models
 - an electronic target system with hits instantly displayed on a monitor at the shooting line
- Other indoor facilities available at the club:
 - Gymnasium
 - Cardiovascular machines
 - 50m indoor pool
 - Squash courts
 - Aerobic hall
 - Bowling
 - Billiards and snooker
 - Table tennis
 - Indoor multi-purpose hall (basketball, football, volleyball and tennis)

Outdoor facilities available at the club:

- Three football courts
- Four tennis courts
- Paintball field
- An all-terrain motor vehicle circuit
- Cage football

Club requirements

- All beginners receive a gun safety briefing and advice on the basics of marksmanship by club staff before they are allowed to shoot
- Visitors wishing to shoot at the resort must bring one of the following identification documents:
 - Driver's licence
 - Original passport or passport copy

Opening hours

- Saturday to Thursday: 12pm - 9.30pm
- Friday: 2pm - 9.30pm

Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club



The Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club was established in 1978. It is one of the region's most impressive venues for horse racing and show-jumping events, where visitors can view Arabian horses in the Emirate. The club hosts numerous races annually, including The President's Cup, National Cup Day and the Emirates Championship.

Flat racing is a form of horse racing which is run on a level racecourse. It is run over a predetermined distance from two furlongs (402m) up to three miles (4,828m) and is either a test of speed, stamina or both, whilst the skill of the jockey is determined by his ability to restrain the horse or impel it. Flat racing does not require horses to jump over any obstacles. In many countries, flat racing is the most common form of horse racing. Since 1991 horse racing has taken place at Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club following international standards with slight adjustments to meet local requirements.

Endurance riding is an equestrian sport based on controlled long-distance races. It is one of the international competitions recognised by The International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI). Although endurance riding is a relatively new sport in the UAE, it has enjoyed rapid success and growth, and is currently the fastest-growing equestrian sport in the Emirate. It enjoys the longest season of any equestrian discipline, from early November until the following May, usually concluding with the popular night rides held in the Emirates International Endurance Village.

Show jumping, also known as 'stadium jumping', 'open jumping', or simply 'jumping', is a part of a group of English riding equestrian events which also includes dressage, hunters, and equitation. Jumping classes are commonly seen at horse shows throughout the world. Since the establishment of the Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club, show jumping, which was once a very small part of the club and activities, has developed into one of its main equestrian disciplines.

A wide range of horses and ponies are available for lessons; stable management and specialised training courses by qualified instructors are available.

Contact the Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club for more details:

<http://adec-web.com/main/contact-us/>

Al Wathba Cycle Track



Al Wathba Cycle Track is one of the best and most scenic cycling destinations in the UAE. Surrounded by miles and miles of desert, this area's ethereal landscape played a starring role in the film *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, with a cycle here promising picturesque vistas, especially during sunrise and sunset.

The illuminated track can be broken down into several routes. Beginner cyclists can ride the 8-kilometre or 16-kilometre routes, while expert cyclists can take on the 20-kilometre, 22-kilometre or full 30-kilometre routes.

You'll find this unique track near the Camel Race Track, approximately a 40 to 50-minute drive from Abu Dhabi.

Section 10

Abu Dhabi: Sea and Water

GRASP | ABSORB | APPRECIATE



Abu Dhabi Pearl Journey



The Abu Dhabi Pearl Journey is located at the Eastern Mangroves Hotel & Spa. It is the first cultural and tourism experience of its kind in Abu Dhabi. It offers a unique, educational but entertaining boat trip, giving visitors the history of gathering pearls in the Arabian Gulf.

You will have learned in Section 8: Traditional Industries, that pearl-diving was very tiring and difficult work. Divers would be pulled to the bottom of the ocean by lead weights and brought up to the surface by a pulley system. The pearling industry was once very competitive, with divers often swallowing their most precious pearls to keep them safe.

On the Abu Dhabi Pearl Journey experience, a *jalboot*, a type of boat traditionally used for pearl diving in the Arabian Gulf Region, takes guests across the sea. Whilst on board, guests sit on the boat's deck on traditional Arabian floor cushions.

These traditional *jalboats* could spend months at sea each time they set sail and guests will learn about how pearl divers would sing traditional songs to keep their spirits up as 'hoyamal' music is played throughout the trip.

Tourists will get a demonstration of pearl-diving and how to open an oyster, before getting the opportunity to find their own pearl, from oysters opened up by the crew, which they can take away with them.

The voyage will also offer the chance to see local wildlife among the mangroves. Those interested in bird-watching may get to see herons, gulls and even flamingos on occasion. Dolphins often swim alongside the boat.

Tours normally last one hour unless the boat is full, in which case an additional half hour will be required. There is a maximum of 10-15 people per tour.

The Abu Dhabi Pearl Journey is open from 9am to 7pm and booking is essential.

Refreshments including water, Arabic coffee and dates are provided.

The tour costs AED 500 per person. Children under three are free of charge. For groups of 10 or more, a discounted rate of AED 450 per person is available.

DID YOU KNOW? During this experience, visitors witness the traditional way of opening a living, natural oyster.

Further your knowledge

Official website:

<http://adpearljourney.com/>

Knowledge Bank: Abu Dhabi Pearl Journey

Overview

- The Abu Dhabi Pearl Journey is located at the Eastern Mangroves Hotel & Spa
- It is the first cultural and tourism product of its kind in Abu Dhabi
- A unique 'edutainment' (education + entertainment) experience gives visitors information on the history of the pearling industry in the Arabian Gulf
- Each tour takes approximately one hour, however if the boat is full it will take around 90 minutes
- Every guest will go away with a pearl they have discovered themselves. Everyone gets the chance to search for a pearl in oysters that are opened for them by the team
- Refreshments of water, Arabic coffee and dates are offered to all guests
- Guests will sail across the water on a traditional '*jalboot*' that was used for pearl-diving in the Arabian Gulf region
- Avid bird watchers may spot herons, gulls and, if they are lucky, flamingos during the tour
- Dolphins have been known to join the tour and swim alongside the boat
- During the tour, guests sit on the deck of the *jalboot* on traditional Arabian floor cushions
- Guests will learn about the traditional songs sung by the divers on board the *jalboots*
- The tour is accompanied by a soundtrack of *hoyamal* music
- The industry used to be very competitive, with divers occasionally swallowing their best finds to keep them safe!
- The *jalboot* can take a maximum of 10-15 guests per tour

What is included in a tour

- Arabian hospitality - water, coffee and dates
- Sail on a traditional *jalboot*
- Mangrove views
- Demonstration of pearl-diving
- Oyster opening demonstration

Opening hours

- Open daily from 9am - 7pm
- Booking is essential

Charges

- AED 500 per person - children under three years old free of charge
- Group bookings of 10+ guests receive a discounted charge of AED 450 per person

Beaches in Abu Dhabi



Overview

Abu Dhabi City has many public and private beaches for visitors to relax on. The city is surrounded by the beautiful warm waters of the Arabian Gulf and visitors can enjoy clean and safe beaches. Some have Blue Flag status, the international award for beaches and marinas that guarantees clean and safe bathing water. All of Abu Dhabi's main beaches have good amenities like public toilets, food and beverage outlets, parking and most have sun loungers and umbrellas. Most beaches are free for visitors although some do charge a small entry fee.

Beachwear should only be worn in the beach areas and not in public or when accessing or exiting beaches, and men and women should cover up when away from the beach areas. Modest western-style swimsuits or bikinis for women are acceptable at all beaches, but visitors should not wear overly revealing swimwear, and topless or nude sunbathing is strictly prohibited. Men should only bare their chests in beach areas.

Knowledge Bank: Beaches in Abu Dhabi

Overview

- Abu Dhabi City is surrounded by the beautiful warm waters of the Arabian Gulf
- There are public and private beaches for visitors to enjoy and relax on
- Abu Dhabi's beaches are clean and safe. Some have Blue Flag status, the international award for beaches and marinas that guarantees clean and safe bathing water
- All of Abu Dhabi's main beaches have good amenities like public toilets, food and beverage outlets, parking and most have sun loungers and umbrellas
- Most beaches are free for visitors although some do charge a small entry fee

Beachwear

- Beachwear should only be worn in the beach areas and not in public or when accessing or exiting beaches
- Modest western-style swimsuits or bikinis for women are acceptable at all beaches
- Visitors should not wear overly-revealing swimwear
- Topless or nude sunbathing is strictly prohibited
- Men and women should cover up when away from the beach areas
- Men should only bare their chests in beach areas

Corniche Beach



Corniche Beach, which has Blue Flag status and plenty of lifeguards, is a safe beach which brings in up to 50,000 visitors per month. There is a public beach plus three other sections. Section one, Al Sahil, is for singles and groups. Section two is denoted as a quiet zone for families and screened off from public view. Section three is also for families and screened off from public view. Visitors can enjoy swimming up to 40 metres away from the shore - the area beyond this is cordoned off with floating fences.

Beach facilities include a children's playground, basketball and football courts, prayer facilities, a beach library, a tourist and community police office, a variety of food and drink outlets including a juice bar and Café Brasileira. Here there is also BAKE, a lifestyle company with various beach locations, providing healthy food and beverage experiences, clothing and beach lines, special events and membership opportunities across UAE beaches. Bathrooms, showers and changing rooms can be found on the beach.

Corniche Beach is located in the middle west section of the Corniche Road walk- and cycle-way. There are more than 1,100 free parking spaces within a five-minute walk of the beach. Weekends are busier so available beach umbrellas may be harder to find.

Al Sahil beach is open from 7am to midnight, while the two family sections are open from 7am to 10pm. Swimming times are from 7am to sunset. Entry to the public beach is free, and entry to the Al Sahil Beach and family sections are AED 10.

A'l Bahar

Opened in 2018, A'L BAHAR is a vibrant beachfront community located on the Abu Dhabi Corniche. The 80,000-sqm mixed-use development has a total of 48 dining, retail and leisure outlets in stylish units along a pristine length of beachfront.

Abu Dhabi visitors and residents can cool off at 'AquaFun', an inflatable waterpark concept new to the capital, as well as access public spaces for concerts and community events throughout the year, with a 500-metre promenade, directly on the shores of the Arabian Gulf.

The beachfront development includes a variety of sports facilities, with basketball and beach volleyball courts, football pitches and an outdoor gym. The health and wellness facilities include Bodytree yoga studio, a brand that has been offering health & wellness to the Abu Dhabi community for over a decade with the emirate's longest running yoga studio.

Knowledge Bank: Corniche Beach

Overview

- Corniche Beach is located in the middle west section of the Corniche Road walk- and cycle-way
- The beach has Blue Flag status and has plenty of lifeguards
- There is a public beach and three other sections:
 - Section one, Al Sahil, is for singles and groups
 - Section two is for families and is denoted as a quiet zone – it is screened off from public view
 - Section three is for families – it is also screened off from public view
- The beach has up to 50,000 visitors per month
- Weekends are busier and free beach umbrellas may be harder to find
- Visitors can enjoy swimming out up to 40 metres away from the shore - the area beyond this is cordoned off with floating fences
- There are more than 1,100 free parking spaces within a five-minute walk of the beach

Beach facilities

- Children's playground
- Volleyball basketball and football courts
- Prayer facilities
- Beach library
- Tourist and community police office
- A variety of food and drink outlets including a juice bar, BAKE and Café Brasileira
- Bathrooms, showers and changing rooms

Beach opening hours

- 7am to midnight for Al Sahil Beach
- 7am to 10pm for the family beaches
- Swimming times are from 7am to sunset

Charges

- Entry to the public beach is free
- AED 10 entry to the family and singles sections

DID YOU KNOW? Before the 1970s, the Corniche Beach was a slim stretch of sand, just enough for dhows and ships to anchor.

Yas Beach



A truly unique Beach Club, lounge and restaurant situated on Yas Island; one of Abu Dhabi's most popular locations. Yas Beach is easily connected to all of the island's extensive range of leisure activities.

Yas Beach is the perfect combination of relaxation, but all the while being vibrant and fun. The family-friendly environment is perfectly suited for all occasions.

Visitors can enjoy a lounge area with an open-air DJ booth, plus a bar, infinity pool and private chalets. A splash-type pool for children which has a waterfall feature is also available. Sport lovers can enjoy a number of activities including beach volleyball, a wide range of motorized and non-motorized sports such as jetski, sailing, kayaking and paddle boarding.

Also, guests can enjoy a wide selection of dining options in our food kiosks from freshly made Italian pizzas to authentic Arabic food, the rich taste of healthy smoothies and refreshing beverages.

Visitors staying at any of Yas Island's hotels can enter the beach for free with a voucher from their hotel reception. Otherwise, entry is AED 60 on weekdays and AED 120 on weekends and public holidays, which includes a day pass and a towel. Children under 12 go free. The beach is open from 10am to 7pm on weekends and weekdays.

Knowledge Bank: Yas Beach

Overview

- Yas beach is located on the southern shores of Yas Island and Yas Island's sites and attractions and easily accessible from the beach
- Set on a majestic stretch of white sand
- Visitors staying at any of Yas Island's hotels can enter the beach for free with a voucher from their hotel reception

Beach facilities

- Beach lounge area with an open-air DJ booth, bar, infinity pool and five private chalets
- Splash pool for children with waterfall feature
- Noukhada water-sports outlet with sailing boats, kayaks, windsurfs, paddle boards and jet skis for hire or for tutored activities
- Volleyball courts
- Yas Beach Store
- Snack shops and The Yas Beach Pizza Oven

Opening hours

- 10am to 7pm on weekdays and weekends

Charges

- Free entrance is provided to all Yas Island hotels' guests
- AED 60 on weekdays and AED 120 on weekends and public holidays for non-guests, which includes a day pass and a towel
- Children under 12 go free

Saadiyat Public Beach



Saadiyat Beach is located on Saadiyat Island and is its first public beach. The 400-metre beach is surrounded by a Dune Protection Zone, prohibiting any development 60 metres from the shoreline. This is to prevent damage to the dunes and to protect the nesting areas of the endangered hawksbill turtles which nest and breed on Saadiyat Island.

The 9km beach is home to Saadiyat Beach Golf Club, Manarat Al Saadiyat exhibition centre, Saadiyat Beach Club and five-star beachfront hotels and resorts operated by St. Regis and Park Hyatt.

Visitors can enjoy eco-friendly water-sports activities such as windsurfing and sailing, weekly beach yoga classes, the beach café and a choice of 300 sun loungers. There is also a towel and locker rental service, showers and changing rooms, a retail shop and 200 car-parking spaces within easy walking distance of the beach.

The beach is open daily from 8am to sunset, and the entry fee for adults is AED 25, while for children over six years old it is AED 15. Children aged five and below enter free. A payment of AED 50 on weekdays and AED 75 on weekends and public holidays includes entry to the beach plus an umbrella and sun lounger.

Knowledge Bank: Saadiyat Public Beach

Overview

- Saadiyat Beach is located on Saadiyat Island and is its first public beach
- The 400-metre public beach is surrounded by a Dune Protection Zone. This prohibits any development 60 metres from the shoreline to prevent damage to the dunes and to protect the nesting areas of the endangered hawksbill turtles which nest and breed on Saadiyat Island
- The 9km stretch of sand incorporates Saadiyat Beach Golf Club, Manarat Al Saadiyat exhibition centre, Saadiyat Beach Club and five-star beachfront hotels and resorts operated by St. Regis and Park Hyatt

Beach facilities

- Eco-friendly water sports activities such as windsurfing and sailing
- Weekly beach yoga classes
- Over 300 sun loungers
- Towel and locker rental service
- Showers and changing rooms
- Retail shop
- Beach café
- 200 car parking spaces within easy walking distance

Opening hours

- Open daily from 8am to sunset

Charges

- Entry is AED 25 for adults
- AED 15 for children over six years old
- Children aged five and below enter free
- An entrance fee of AED 50 on weekdays and AED 75 on weekends and public holidays includes an umbrella and a sun lounger

Al Bateen Beach



Al Bateen is a public beach which overlooks Hudariyat Island and Hudariyat Bridge to the west of Abu Dhabi. Covering 800 metres of waterfront, Al Bateen Beach has been awarded the prestigious Blue Flag sustainability award by the Emirates Wildlife Authority.

The beach has a children's playground, volleyball courts, football pitches, prayer facilities, tourist and community police offices, a restaurant and café, water games rental and sun lounger and umbrella rentals.

The beach's opening hours are from 7am to midnight daily, and swimming times are from 7am to sunset. Al Bateen Public Beach has free entry to everyone.

Knowledge Bank: Al Bateen Beach

Overview

- Al Bateen Beach is a public beach which overlooks Hudariyat Island and Hudariyat Bridge to the west of Abu Dhabi
- The beach covers 800 metres of waterfront
- Al Bateen Beach has been awarded the prestigious Blue Flag sustainability award by the Emirates Wildlife Authority

Beach Facilities

- Children's playground
- Volleyball courts
- Football playgrounds
- Prayer facilities
- Tourist and community police offices
- A restaurant and café
- Water games rental
- Sun lounger and umbrella rental

Opening hours

- 7am to midnight
- Swimming times are from 7am to sunset

Charges

- Entry is free

Al Bateen Beach for Women



Al Bateen Beach has a dedicated and secluded ladies-only section which can accommodate up to 1,100 women and children. Al Bateen Beach, including the women's section, has been awarded the prestigious Blue Flag sustainability award by the Emirates Wildlife Authority.

Women and children are protected with an emphasis on safety and privacy, and high fences and barriers enhance privacy and seclude women and children from public view. An all-female lifeguard crew ensures beach-goers are safe at sea. To protect privacy further, cameras, animals, fishing and camping are not allowed on this part of the beach.

Beach facilities include a children's games hall, volleyball court, prayer facilities, a nursery, sun lounger and umbrella rental, lockers, bathrooms, showers and changing rooms. All staff are female.

The beach is open daily from 10am to 10pm and swimming times are from 10am to sunset. Entry is AED 25 for adults and AED 5 for children aged three to 12. Boys above the age of six are not allowed on the women's beach.

Knowledge Bank: Al Bateen Beach for Women

Overview

- Al Bateen Beach has a dedicated ladies-only section
- This secluded section of beach can accommodate up to 1,100 women and children
- Al Bateen Beach, including the women's section, has been awarded the prestigious Blue Flag sustainability award by the Emirates Wildlife Authority
- Women and children are protected, with an emphasis on safety and privacy
- High fences and barriers enhance privacy and seclude woman and children from public view
- An all-female lifeguard crew ensure beach-goers are safe at sea
- Cameras, animals, fishing and camping are strictly prohibited

Beach facilities

- Children's games hall
- Volleyball court
- Prayer facilities
- Nursery
- Chair and umbrella rental
- Lockers
- Bathrooms, showers and changing rooms
- Female lifeguards and staff

Opening hours

- Open daily from 10am - 10pm
- Swimming times are from 10am - sunset

Charges

- Entry is AED 25 for adults and AED 5 for children aged three to 12
- Boys above the age of six are not permitted

Noukhada



Noukhada is Abu Dhabi's premier watersports centre and is located near Mangrove National Park. It offers a unique opportunity for visitors to practise or try new sports and enjoy the natural environment at the same time. Noukhada's philosophy is based on the '3Es' – education, exercise and environment - and every tour contains all three.

There is a wide variety of activities on offer to visitors, including kayaking, sailing, windsurfing, stand-up paddle boarding and dragon boating. Visitors get the opportunity to take part in these activities in the knowledge they are doing so in a way which will not damage the local environment.

Activities are operated from various locations, including Yas beach. The main activities operate from what is known as the E48 launch point, a location on Al Salam Street in the Al Qurm area of Abu Dhabi, as well as from the Eastern Mangrove Marina.

Kayak tours are available to a number of different destinations around Abu Dhabi, the most popular being a visit to the mangroves. Through the tours, visitors have an environmentally-friendly way of exploring and encountering local wildlife, including dolphins, fish, turtles and birds. Dry bags are available to help visitors keep their belongings and cameras safe.

Visitors can even take a self-guided tour through the mangroves on kayaks. Evening tours are also available, with dinner at a selection of local restaurants included.

One unique opportunity available at Noukhada is an overnight adventure where guests paddle to a desert island. There, they can enjoy their own barbecue, then camp under the stars and paddle back the next day.

Storyteller John Stark also provides workshops for school-age students and helps them to develop ideas to help preserve their environment.

Activities are available daily between 8.30am to 5.30pm. Pre-booking is recommended.

Children aged seven to 16 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Each child aged between three and seven years old must be accompanied by a parent. Children aged under three years old are not allowed on tours.

Costs vary, depending on the chosen activity – see the Noukhada website for details of any available discounts and offers: www.noukhada.ae

DID YOU KNOW? Noukhada Adventure Company set a world record for the fastest journey around Yas Island by sailboat.

DID YOU KNOW? Guests can choose a special overnight trip, allowing them to sleep under the stars on a desert island!

Further your knowledge

Noukhada's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/NoukhadaUAE/>

Knowledge Bank: Noukhada

Overview

- Noukhada is Abu Dhabi's premier watersports centre
- The main activities operate from the E48 launch point and the Eastern Mangrove Marina. However, activities are operated from various locations
- The watersports centres offers a variety of activities including:
 - Kayaking
 - Sailing
 - Windsurfing
 - Stand-up paddle boarding
 - Dragon boating
- Kayak tours are available to a number of different locations around Abu Dhabi, offering an environmentally-friendly way to explore
- Noukhada works with local storyteller John Stark, who provides workshops for school-age students and helps them to develop ideas to help preserve their environment
- Dry bags are available to help keep belongings safe
- Evening tours are available with dinner included at a selection of local restaurants
- Visitors can take a self-guided tour through the mangroves on kayaks
- If guests are lucky, they will see the best of the local wildlife, including dolphins, fish, turtles and birds
- Noukhada offers an opportunity for an overnight adventure. Guests paddle to a desert island where they will cook their own meals on a barbecue, camp under the stars and paddle back the next day
- Noukhada Adventure Company are world-record holders – they set a world record for the fastest circumnavigation of Yas Island by sailboat

Children

- Children younger than three years old are not allowed on tours
- Those aged three to seven years old must be accompanied by one parent per child
- Children aged seven to 16 years old must be accompanied by a nominated adult

Opening hours

- Activities are available daily. The office operates from 8.30am to 5.30pm daily.
- Booking is recommended.

Charges

- Costs vary depending on the chosen activity. Discounts and offers are available on the website.

Yas Marina



Yas Marina is a renowned marina for yachts, located on Yas Island. It offers 227 berths or places where boats can 'park', for which there is an annual charge. It caters for yachts from eight metres up to 90 metres in length and for super-yachts up to 150 metres in length. There are also 'casual berths' which allow visiting yachts to 'park' for up to four hours. Yas Marina also offers a choice of berths with views of the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix track and non-track berths.

A highlight is the annual Grand Prix race week in November when visitors get a unique view of the circuit and visiting super-yachts. Activities and experiences at Yas Marina include physiotherapy, fitness facilities, a children's playground and a musical water fountain. Luxury boat charters, sightseeing tours and an eco-friendly boat tour of the island and surrounding areas are also available. The marina puts on a number of events and promotions throughout the year, so it is worth checking the website in advance of visiting.

A huge range of watersports is on offer including wakeboarding, wake surfing and wake skating, all of which usually involve being towed by a speedboat. Stand-up paddle boarding, kayaking, kitesurfing, tubes or inflatable tow rides, hydrofoil, flyboarding with a water jet pack and sailing lessons are also available. These facilities are located at various points around the marina.

There are many dining options:

- Iris, a sunset lounge serving Mediterranean food
- Aquarium, serving seafood
- Boroughs, a coffee shop offers a variety of aromatic coffees, smoothies and snacks
- Casa de Cuba, a Cuban Bar that give guests an uncompromising authentic Cuban experience
- Diablito, serving Mediterranean and Spanish tapas with live music
- Cipriani, fine-dining Italian cuisine
- Stars N' Bars, an American-themed sports bar
- Mr. Miyagi's, Asian bar and restaurant
- The Scene by Simon Rimmer, serving British Classics

DID YOU KNOW? Yas Marina is renowned for being one of the best super-yacht marinas in the world!

Further your knowledge

Visit the Yas Marina Website to find out what it has to offer:

<https://www.yasmarina.ae/>

The Marina's Facebook page has some great videos and up to date information on events:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/YasMarinaAbuDhabi

Twitter: www.twitter.com/YasMarinaAD

Instagram: www.instagram.com/YasMarinaAbuDhabi

Knowledge Bank: Yas Marina

Overview

DOCK

www.yasmarina.ae/dock

Yas Marina is located at the heart of Yas Island and offers:

- 227 fully serviced wet berths catering for boats from 8 to 175 metres with competitive annual packages, plus track view and non-track view berthing options
- 93 shaded parking slots for boats on trailers ranging from 7 to 12 metres, featuring an onsite petrol station, double slipway, washdown area and maintenance yard.
- Member benefits including a personal concierge service and 24/7 customer service. Annual berth holders receive complimentary access to our Member and Crew benefits program, which includes discounts throughout the year.
- Casual berthing rates available with complimentary visitor berthing for up to 4 hours, allowing boat owners to dock, dine and discover Yas Marina's many outlets.

DINE

www.yasmarina.ae/dine

- **Aquarium**

Famed for its lively atmosphere, sensational seafood dishes and views, Aquarium is an elegant but relaxed restaurant at the heart of Yas Marina. Catering to all guests, the venue offers the freshest ocean catches and has a selection of options for meat-lovers and vegetarians. Those in the mood for sundowners and shisha will discover a wide selection available on the expansive menu. Well-mixed beverages and attentive service make for a relaxed venue for couples, families and groups of friends.

- **Boroughs**

The coffee shop offers a variety of aromatic coffees, smoothies and snacks. Located on Yas Marina promenade, the casual spot welcomes foodies and fitness enthusiasts with post-workout protein shakes, healthy breakfasts, mouth-watering treats and welcoming service.

- **Casa de Cuba**

A Cuban bar like no other, Casa de Cuba was created by the legendary Dinos Constantinides. The venue has been conceptualized to give guests an uncompromising authentic Cuban experience, from décor, hosting floral patterns and raw materials, and scent, coming from fresh flowers, to taste, from Dinos' award-winning food and mixed house beverages.

- **Cipriani Yas Island**

Internationally acclaimed Cipriani Yas Island is Abu Dhabi's top Italian restaurant, offering a truly authentic and individual Italian service, combined with high-class cuisine steeped in Italian traditions and history. The iconic brand is owned by four generations of the Cipriani family and originates with the famed Harry's Bar, which launched in Venice in 1931. The restaurant is renowned for creating simple Italian food cooked to perfection, using the freshest premium produce flown in from Italy.

- **Diablito Food & Music**

Serving authentic Mediterranean cuisine, Spanish tapas, pintxos, homemade pizzas and more, this two-story casual restaurant with a rooftop dining space is the perfect spot to sip on sundowners while watching the sunset and the yachts sail into Yas Marina. The restaurant also creates the perfect platform for business lunches or private occasions.

- **Iris**

Iris Yas Island stands out as a trendy lounge with its chilled vibe, artisan house beverages and great views. As the hours tick by the casual lounge turns into Abu Dhabi's chicest nightlife venue, a well-known post-work hangout for inspired house beverages, flavoursome food, lounge music and sunset views. Set against the picturesque backdrop of Yas Marina, the expansive outdoor terrace overlooks yachts and the striking W Abu Dhabi – Yas Island.

- **Mr. Miyagi's**

Already recognised as an award-winning restaurant for phenomenal food and unbeatable entertainment in Dubai, the infamous Mr. Miyagi's brings its social singing wings to the capital, featuring delicious culinary flavours and flamboyant atmosphere with heel-clicking rhythms. The hotspot showcases themed offerings, including the much-loved Wok & Roll brunch ready to 'wok up' everyone's week.

- **Stars 'N' Bars**

The American award-winning restaurant Stars 'N' Bars offers sports screening, food, house beverages and live entertainment through the week with astounding views of Yas Marina. Expect the best International cuisine in town serving classic burgers, wings, ribs, nachos, fajitas, steaks, salads and more. The varied selections of food are a crowd pleaser for all ages. The à la carte menu offers pre-game nibbles, hearty mains, healthy salads, kid's meals and late-night bites.

- **The Scene by Simon Rimmer**

The Scene's gastronomic kitchen, led by famous UK celebrity chef Simon Rimmer, defines quintessential British fare using seasonal ingredients and innovative flavours. The talented chef and his team offer a true taste of home. The Scene is the ultimate gastropub experience serving British classics with a retro twist, specialist mixed house beverages and infusions.

DISCOVER

LIFESTYLE & FITNESS OUTLETS

www.yasmarina.ae/discover

Vogue Fitness

Raising the bar for fitness in Abu Dhabi, Vogue Fitness offers a multitude of programs ranging from CrossFit and Conditioning to specialty classes including Olympic Weightlifting and Gymnastics. With over 1000 square meters of both indoor and outdoor training space, Vogue Fitness offers a truly world class platform for you to exceed your health and fitness potential.

Bounce Back Physiotherapy

Established with one goal in mind - to provide every patient with an excellent, fully comprehensive personalised physiotherapy service. Ensuring the highest level of professional standards, the physiotherapists utilise new and emerging research and evidence-based treatment underpinned with a combined experience base of 60 years.

Yas Marina Sailing and Rowing Centre

Yas Marina's Sailing and Rowing Centre welcomes guests with premier facilities, shining light on all things sailing and rowing, including courses for adults with passionate instructors and activities for all ages. Sailing and rowing aficionados, as well as newbies embracing these sports can meet fellow water lovers and enjoy the tranquil waterways surrounding Yas Island.

Abu Dhabi Sailing Academy (ADSA)

Discovering the joys of sailing, ADSA offers lessons, team building, charter and racing events. Visitors can explore the Abu Dhabi Sailing Academy with their family, friends and colleagues and sail the Arabian sea for pleasure, fun and fitness. Based in Yas Marina, Abu Dhabi Sailing Academy now offers a range of sailing classes for children and adults with experienced and passionate instructors, many of whom have years of experience at a professional level.

Monty's Rowing Club

Proud to have introduced rowing to the UAE in 1999, Monty's Rowing and Paddle Sports is the UAE's premier rowing club. Featuring Learn-to-Row programmes teaching rowing for all ages as well as coaching and rowing for experienced rowers. Rowing is an ideal sport for all water enthusiasts as you can row all year long.

Eywoa Watersports

Eywoa is an expert in extreme water sports, specialising in wakeboarding, wake surfing and wake foiling with staff who can teach beginners and help experienced riders improve their techniques and tricks. All lessons are given by former pro and/or qualified instructors.

CHARTER COMPANIES

Captain Tony's Charter Cruises

Captain Tony's is the first eco-conscious boat tour operator in Abu Dhabi – by bringing their passengers 'up close and personal' with the unique environment found within the coastal and inland waters of Abu Dhabi. Included in the relaxing sunset cruise, guests will be able to enjoy beverages as the sun sets over the skyline of the city. The trip features educational and insightful knowledge of the local culture and environment, perfect for school trips, families and group of friends.

The Captain's Club

The Captain's Club is the first boat club in Abu Dhabi to provide a boat ownership alternative, where the dream of owning a boat became affordable and with 100 % relief from the boat's cost, parking cost and maintenance cost. Once a member, there will be training conducted to become a captain, and daily unlimited access to all of the boats in the fleet, where the annual cost is less than 10% of the cost of owning and managing your own boat.

Xclusive Boat Club

Xclusive Boat Club is the most recent venture that allows one to be the Captain of a choice of well-maintained fleet. Conceptualized for convenience, it is the easiest way to get on to the waters without the hassle of owning a boat. The fleet owned by Xclusive Boat Club is brand new and includes fishing boats, wakeboarding boats, mini yachts, speed cruisers and many more.

The Nation Riviera Beach Club



The Nation Riviera Beach Club is the exclusive beachfront club adjoining the five-star hotel, The St. Regis Abu Dhabi, with a fabulous view of the Corniche Breakwater and the turquoise bay. The club welcomes hotel guests, members and day guests, and is accessible via a fully air-conditioned walkway/tunnel which runs from the hotel's third floor underneath Corniche Road.

The Club features a 200-metre stretch of private, white sandy beach. Twelve cabanas and sun loungers overlook the temperature-controlled swimming pool complete with a pool bar, an open-air Jacuzzi and the kids' club called 'Pirate Ship Treasure Island' with nanny services available on request. The workout facility is a spacious and naturally-lit area overlooking the Corniche. The Gym is equipped with the latest Technogym equipment, dry sauna and steam rooms.

Beach activities include volleyball, football, rugby, table tennis, Frisbee and Boccia ball. Other recreational facilities are a three-kilometre Corniche run, a one-kilometre sea swim, boot camps, functional training, CrossFit, combat and indoor or beach circuit training.

At the Club's watersports centre, guests can book different water activities, such as: kayaking, sailing, paddle boarding, wake boarding, water skiing and knee boarding or even fishing. The centre also organises speed boat and CraigCat electric catamaran cruises.

The Club's Cabana Bar and Grill, with its picturesque terrace overlooking the beach, has an all-day menu featuring fresh seafood, Peruvian and Mexican-style ceviche. In addition, fine dining outlets are available in two restaurants – the Asian De Cuba and Catch, a Lebanese seafood outlet.

Day pass admissions are AED 300 on weekdays and AED 400 on weekends.

Further your knowledge:

<http://www.nationrivierabeachclub.com/>

Saadiyat Beach Club



Built along the shores of the Arabian Gulf, Saadiyat Beach Club is the perfect place to get away for the day and relax. Surround yourself with natural beauty on the beach, take a cooling dip in the stunning pool and sample the delights the restaurants and lounges have to offer. It's all yours to indulge in – a haven for the day.

This exclusive club presents numerous luxurious leisure services including an outdoor infinity swimming pool, a workout room, a spa, sauna and steam rooms, private cabanas and loungers set on a stunning, white beach. There is a sumptuous selection of restaurants with Mediterranean cuisine at Safina, cool off with a refreshing beverage on the sun-shaded veranda of De La Costa or simply watch the waves roll in and out at Cabana9.

Visitors have the option to use a lounge or cabana on the beach, with a chance to observe dolphins playing in the bay or even Hawksbill turtles, as the club is part of a protected habitat where Hawksbill turtles have nested for countless years. The 9km stretch of beach on Saadiyat Island has been certified with the Blue Flag eco-label since October 2013. Also, the club was awarded the 2015 Ultra Travel Middle East Award for Best Beach Club in the UAE.

Visitors are encouraged to check out the website for membership rates and up-to-date event calendar on:

<http://www.saadiyatbeachclub.ae/>

Section 10

Abu Dhabi: Shopping

GRASP | ABSORB | APPRECIATE



Shopping Malls in Abu Dhabi City



Abu Dhabi has a wide range of malls including some extra special luxury malls. Shopping is a national pastime in Abu Dhabi in the souks (see section 6 for information on souks and traditional shopping) and in the modern air-conditioned malls. Visitors and residents use the malls not only to shop but to catch up with friends and socialise. There are many activities available and a wide variety of eating and drinking options. You can watch a movie, ice-skate or go bowling until late in the evening. During Eid and Ramadan, special events, shows and concerts are regularly held at the malls around the city.

General information about shopping malls can be found on the Visit Abu Dhabi website:

<https://visitabudhabi.ae/en/things-to-do/shopping>

The Galleria

The Galleria is located in the capital's new Central Business District on Al Marayah Island, and is connected with the Rosewood Abu Dhabi, a five-star hotel, through a unique network of climate-controlled corridors.

The Galleria houses over 130 of the world's most renowned luxury brand outlets, including 50 Abu Dhabi 'firsts'. Designer labels and high-end brands now with their first store in The Galleria Mall in Abu Dhabi include Aspinal of London, Celine, Diane von Furstenberg, Jimmy Choo, Marc Jacobs, Mulberry, Paul Smith, Alexander McQueen and Moschino. Restaurants and cafes include Almaz by Momo and Emporio Armani Caffé.

The Galleria is open from Saturday to Wednesday between 10am and 10pm, Thursdays from 10am to midnight and Fridays from 12 noon to midnight. The Galleria's website is:

<http://thegalleria.ae/>

Avenue at Etihad Towers

Located in Etihad Towers on the north west of the island, Avenue at Etihad Towers is one of the world's most expensive and exclusive collections of boutique shops. It is linked to Conrad Abu Dhabi Etihad Towers and set over two floors. Many of the boutiques have luxurious private rooms for VIPs to shop in privacy, with many 'first' luxury brands for Abu Dhabi and the Gulf. These include Chloé, Givenchy, Hermès, Herve Leger, Lanvin, Manolo Blahnik, Tom Ford and Versace. It has the world's first and only Stephane Rolland, Paris, store. There is also a gourmet food store.

The mall is open from Saturday to Thursday from 10am to 10pm, and on Fridays from 3pm to 11pm. More information is available on their website which is:

www.AvenueAtEtihadTowers.ae

Nation Galleria

Located at the foot of the twin Nation Towers on the west of the Corniche, Nation Galleria is a high-end boutique retail destination set out over three floors. Visitors can directly access the mall from Nation Residences, Nation Offices and the St. Regis Hotel.

The mall houses some of the world's most unique and prestigious retail outlets, including Godiva, Leopolds of London, Lamborghini, Porsche Design and Villeroy and Boch.

Nation Galleria is open from Sunday to Wednesday, 10am to 10pm, and from Thursday to Saturday 10am to midnight. Further details are available from their website:

<http://www.nationtowers.ae/#galleria>

Yas Mall

Yas Mall has more than 400 stores to choose from and more than 60 restaurants and cafés over three floors. The mall is located at the heart of Yas Island and also offers family entertainment, including a 20-screen state-of-the-art cinema operated by VOX Cinemas, a family entertainment zone by Fun Works and a direct link to Ferrari World Abu Dhabi. It also houses the capital's only Apple store. Further information is available from:

<https://yasisland.ae/yas-mall/>

Abu Dhabi Mall

Abu Dhabi Mall has 200 shops and an average of 40,000 visitors a day. It is located in the Tourist Club Area, connected to Beach Rotana Hotel, and features a wide range of big brands such as Paris Gallery, Jashanmal, Grand Stores, Carolina Herrera, Zara and H&M and Marina Furniture. The mall also has lots of restaurants and coffee shops, and features a children's play area and a Cineplex.

The mall is open from Saturday to Wednesday, 10am to 10pm, and Thursdays and Fridays between 10am and 11pm. Further information is available from the mall's website:

www.abudhabi-mall.com

Marina Mall

Marina Mall, located in Al Marina district and a three-minute walk from the Corniche, has more than 400 stores over five floors and features a 100m-high viewing platform, ice rink, bowling alley, Cineplex and musical fountains.

A new addition to the mall is CityStore which is the region's first standalone store for Manchester City Football Club. 'Let Hope Shine' is a Marina Mall initiative, organised to improve lives and create opportunities for people around the world.

The mall is open from Saturday to Wednesday, 10am to 10pm, and Thursdays and Fridays from 10am to midnight. Further information is available from the mall's website:

www.marinamall.ae

Khalidiyah Mall

Khalidiyah Mall is located a few minutes away from the Corniche Beach and has traditionally Islamic architecture. The mall has over 160 shops, including the UK department store Debenhams. The mall features many cafés and restaurants, a large food court, an amusement centre with arcade games, a brand new dedicated 3D cinema and a bowling alley.

The mall is open Sunday to Wednesday from 10am to 10pm, and Thursday to Saturday from 10am until 11pm. Further information is available from the mall's website:

<http://www.khalidiyahmall.com/>

Al Wahda Mall

Attracting over 30 million visitors annually, and housing over 350 brands, Al Wahda Mall is located opposite the main bus terminal in the heart of Abu Dhabi. It features a wide range of stores, large and small, local and international, including Lulu Hypermarket, H&M, Mamas & Papas, Pull & Bear, Bershka, Gant, Virgin Mega Store, and Mac. The mall also has over 50 food and beverage outlets.

Al Wahda Mall is open Sunday to Wednesday from 10am to 11pm, and Thursday to Saturday, from 10am to midnight. Further information is available from the mall's website:

<https://www.alwahda-mall.com/>

World Trade Centre Mall

The World Trade Centre Mall is located on the site of the old Central Market, just off 5th Street in Abu Dhabi city centre. It features the region's first House of Fraser, as well as several other Abu Dhabi firsts, including Karen Millen, BCBG and Missoni. There is a wide selection of casual dining options, including Shakespeare & Co and the Asian-themed, American casual restaurant P.F. Chang.

The mall also features an eight-screen cinema, more than 3,000m² of terraces and landscaped rooftop gardens, and two central atriums that sit under a fully retractable roof.

The World Trade Centre Mall is open weekdays from 10am to 10pm, and on weekends from 10am to 11pm. Further information is available from the mall's website:

www.wtcad.ae

Mushrif Mall

Mushrif Mall is a three-floor retail 'megaplex' housing a mix of shopping, dining, leisure and entertainment. Located on 25th Street, Airport Road, Al Mushrif is conveniently close to the Hilton Capital hotel. The mall offers everything from luxury fashion to electronic goods and furniture and Arabia's biggest food court, featuring the first Jimmy's Killer Prawns brand in Abu Dhabi. The mall's features, among many others, are Lulu Hypermarket, The Market – the city's largest indoor fresh market -, more than 200 retail outlets offering mix of luxury fashionable shopping at its best, the expansive food court, restaurants with alfresco dining options, and a cafeteria and coffee shops.

The shops are open Thursday to Saturday 10am to 11pm and Sunday to Wednesday, 10am to 10pm, with extended opening hours for the food court and café - further information is available from the mall's website:

www.mushrifmall.com

Bawabat Al Sharq Mall

Bawabat Al Sharq Mall has become an attractive community hub and hosts an extensive range of top brands, some of which were introduced to the Emirate of Abu Dhabi for the first time here. The mall is part of the Bawabat Al Sharq Project, a mixed use real estate development spanning 108 hectares of land in the Baniyas area. It was developed by Baniyas Investment & Development Company and features a traditional design concept, with vast space and natural lighting covering 62,265m² spread across two floors. The mall opened its doors to the public in October 2011 and it currently features approximately 200 renowned retail stores anchored by Carrefour, Grand Cinemas, Centerpoint, and Wanasa Land. The mall boasts ample parking facilities, and offers a wide variety of food and beverage outlets.

<http://www.bawabatalsharqmall.ae/>

Dalma Mall

Situated in the Mussaffah area, Dalma Mall hosts the latest retail and hospitality outlets under one roof, occupying a total area of 255,000m² with a total gross leasable area of 150,000m². Residing under one roof are 425 retailers, with various experiences in fashion, food and beverage, and entertainment. It is also the home to a fully-fledged hospital. Dalma Mall has parking for 6,300 cars, a 14-screen cinema, and 15 mall entrances.

<https://www.dalmamall.ae/>

Deerfields Mall

Deerfields Mall is a complete shopping and lifestyle destination located in Al Bahia area, at the entrance to Abu Dhabi, off the Dubai-Abu Dhabi Highway (E11) and just a few minutes from Abu Dhabi International Airport. The mall is home to hundreds of shops offering the latest fashion trends, indoor and outdoor dining outlets, a 14-screen cineplex, a Burjeel Medical Centre, and year-round events and festivals. Covering 80,000m², the mall has access and visibility to more than 400,000 passing vehicles per week.

www.deerfieldsmall.com/

Knowledge Bank: Shopping Malls in Abu Dhabi City

Overview

- Shopping is a national pastime in Abu Dhabi in the souks (see Section 6 for information on souks and traditional shopping) and the modern air-conditioned malls
- Abu Dhabi has a wide range of malls including some extra-special luxury malls
- Visitors and residents use the malls not only to shop but to catch up with friends and to watch a movie or go bowling often until late in the night
- During Eid and Ramadan, special events, shows and concerts are often held at the malls around the city

The Galleria

Overview

- The Galleria is located in the capital's new Central Business District on Al Marayah Island
- The Galleria is connected with the Rosewood Abu Dhabi, a five star hotel, through a unique network of climate-controlled corridors
- The Galleria houses over 130 of the world's most renowned brand outlets - including 50 Abu Dhabi 'firsts'
- Designer labels and high-end brands now with their first store in Abu Dhabi include:
 - Aspinal of London
 - Celine
 - Diane von Furstenberg
 - Jimmy Choo
 - Marc Jacobs
 - Mulberry
 - Paul Smith
 - Alexander McQueen
 - Moschino
- Restaurants and cafes, including:
 - Almaz by Momo
 - Emporio Armani Caffé

Opening hours

- Thursday: 10am - midnight
- Friday: 12 noon - midnight
- Saturday to Wednesday: 10am - 10pm

Avenue at Etihad Towers

Overview

- Located in Etihad Towers on the north west of the island and linked to Conrad Abu Dhabi Etihad Towers
- Avenue at Etihad Towers has one of the world's most expensive and exclusive collections of boutique shops
- Many of the boutiques have luxurious private rooms for VIPs to shop in privacy
- Avenue includes 'first' luxury brands for Abu Dhabi and the Gulf including:
 - Chloé
 - Givenchy
 - Hermès
 - Herve Leger
 - Lanvin
 - Manolo Blahnik
 - Tom Ford
 - Versace

Opening hours

- Saturday to Thursday: 10am – 10pm
- Friday: 3pm – 11pm

Nation Galleria

Overview

- Located at the foot of the twin Nation Towers on the west of the Corniche
- Nation Galleria is a high-end boutique retail destination set out over three floors
- The mall houses some of the world's most unique and renowned retail outlets
- Visitors can directly access the mall from Nation Residences, Nation Offices and the St. Regis Hotel
- Some of the key brands at Nation Galleria include:
 - Godiva
 - Leopolds of London
 - Lamborghini
 - Porsche Design
 - Villeroy and Boch

Opening hours

- Sunday to Wednesday: 10am - 10pm
- Thursday to Saturday: 10am - midnight

Yas Mall

Overview

- Yas Mall is located at the heart of Yas Island
- The mall houses over 400 stores and more than 60 restaurants and cafés over three floors
- Yas Mall also offers family entertainment including:
 - 20-screen state-of-the-art cinema operated by VOX Cinemas
 - Family entertainment zone by Fun Works
 - A direct link to Ferrari World Abu Dhabi
- Yas Mall houses the capital's only Apple store

Abu Dhabi Mall

Overview

- Abu Dhabi Mall is located in the Tourist Club Area, connected to Beach Rotana Hotel
- The mall has 200 shops and averages 40,000 visitors a day
- It has a wide variety of restaurants and coffee shops
- It also features a children's play area and a Cineplex
- There are numerous big brands at the mall such as:
 - Paris Gallery
 - Jashanmal
 - Grand Stores
 - Carolina Herrera
 - Zara and H&M (fashion and style)
 - Marina Furniture

Opening hours

- Saturday to Wednesday: 10am - 10pm
- Thursdays and Fridays: 10am - 11pm

Marina Mall

Overview

- Marina Mall is located in Al Marina district and a three-minute walk from the Corniche
- The mall has more than 400 stores over five floors and features:
 - 100m-high viewing platform
 - ice rink
 - bowling alley
 - Cineplex
 - musical fountains
- A new addition to the mall is CityStore, the region's first standalone store for Manchester City Football Club
- 'Let Hope Shine' is a Marina Mall initiative organised to improve lives and create opportunities for people around the world

Opening hours

- Saturday to Wednesday: 10am - 10pm
- Thursdays and Fridays: 10am - midnight

Khalidiyah Mall

Overview

- Khalidiyah Mall is located a few minutes away from the Corniche Beach
- The architecture of the mall is traditionally Islamic
- There are over 160 shops
- Highlights include:
 - UK department store Debenhams
 - many cafés and restaurants
 - a large food court
 - an amusement centre with arcade games
 - a brand new dedicated 3D cinema
 - a bowling alley

Opening hours

- Sunday to Wednesday: 10am - 10pm
- Thursday to Saturday: 10am - 11pm

Al Wahda Mall

Overview

- Al Wahda Mall is located opposite the main bus terminal in the heart of Abu Dhabi
- The mall attracts over 30 million visitors annually and houses 350 brands
- It features a wide range of stores, large and small, local and international including:
 - Lulu Hypermarket
 - H&M
 - Mamas & Papas
 - Pull & Bear
 - Bershka
 - Gant
 - Virgin Mega Store
 - Mac
- The mall has over 50 food and beverage outlets

Opening hours

- Sunday to Wednesday: 10am - 11pm
- Thursday to Saturday: 10am - midnight

World Trade Centre Mall

Overview

- The World Trade Centre Mall is located on the site of the old Central Market, just off 5th Street in Abu Dhabi city centre
- It features the region's first House of Fraser
- Several Abu Dhabi firsts including:
 - Karen Millen
 - BCBG
 - Missoni
- There are a wide selection of casual dining options – including Shakespeare & Co and the Asian-themed, American casual restaurant P.F. Chang
- The mall also features:
 - an eight-screen cinema
 - more than 3,000m² of terraces and landscaped rooftop gardens
 - two central atriums that sit under a fully retractable roof

Opening hours

- Weekdays: 10am to 10pm
- Weekends: 10am to 11pm

Mushrif Mall

Overview

- Mushrif Mall is located on 25th St, Airport Road, Al Mushrif close to the Hilton Capital hotel
- The mall is a three-floor retail 'megaplex' housing a mix of shopping, dining, leisure and entertainment
- The mall offers everything from luxury fashion to electronic goods and furniture and the Arabian Gulf's biggest food court featuring the first Jimmy's Killer Prawns brand in Abu Dhabi
- The mall's features, among many others, are:
 - Lulu Hypermarket
 - The Market – the city's largest indoor fresh market
 - more than 200 retail outlets offering mix of luxury fashionable shopping at its best
 - expansive food court, the biggest in the Middle East
 - restaurants with alfresco dining option
 - cafeteria and coffee shops

Opening hours

- Thursday to Saturday: 10am to 11pm
- Sunday to Wednesday: 10am to 10pm