GO AHEAD TOURS



United Arab Emirates: Dubai & Abu Dhabi

10 days | 13 days with Oman extension

As the wealthiest country in the Middle East, the United Arab Emirates is often associated with glamour and opulence, and the centers of Dubai and Abu Dhabi live up to the reputation. Be dazzled by these cosmopolitan cities, both meccas of culture, finance, and innovation. Then, set off into the desert to discover how civilizations lived for centuries, long before skyscrapers rose to reach the clouds.



Your tour package includes

7 nights in handpicked hotels
7 breakfasts
1 lunch
3 dinners, select meals with beer or wine
1 tasting
5 sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

Dubai Creek cruise
Sheikh Mohammed Centre
The Burj Khalifa
Sharjah Heritage Museum
Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital
Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque
Al Ain Oasis

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including unpaved roads and desert paths, with some hills and stairs.

Group size

15–35

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day
Board your overnight flight to Dubai today.

Dubai → 4 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Dubai
Welcome to the United Arab Emirates! Take tonight to get settled in to your hotel.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Dubai
Included meals: breakfast, lunch, welcome dinner
Discover both Dubai's traditional and ultramodern sides on today's guided sightseeing tour.

- Walk through the Dubai souk, a traditional marketplace that sells everything from jewelry to textiles
- Hop aboard an *abra*, a traditional water taxi, for a cruise along Dubai Creek
- Get a taste of Emirati cuisine during lunch at the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding
- Drive down Sheikh Zayed Road to New Dubai and admire the Burj Khalifa, the tallest tower in the world
- Travel along the coastline, stopping to snap photos at Burj Al Arab, the iconic sail-shaped hotel, and the man-made island of Palm Jumeirah

Tonight, gather with your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner.

Day 4: Sightseeing tour of Sharjah
Included meals: breakfast
Travel to the neighboring Emirate of Sharjah, the UNESCO-named "cultural capital of the Arab world."

- Visit the Sharjah Heritage Museum in the neighborhood of Old Sharjah
- View the Faisal Mosque, the largest of 600 mosques in the emirate
- Pass by the Souk al Markazi, called the "Blue Souk"
- Make a photo stop at the Al Noor Mosque

Later, enjoy a free evening in Dubai or add an excursion.
+ Burj Khalifa Observation Deck & Dinner

Day 5: Free day in Dubai
Included meals: breakfast
Spend a free day getting to know Dubai at your leisure or add an excursion.
+ Desert Safari & Bedouin Camp Dinner

Abu Dhabi → 2 nights

Day 6: Abu Dhabi via Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
On your way to Abu Dhabi, stop at the Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital to learn about rehabilitation efforts and enjoy a demonstration of the ancient hunting technique of falconry. Continue on to Abu Dhabi and sit down for an included dinner.

Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Abu Dhabi
Included meals: breakfast
Set out to explore Abu Dhabi on a guided tour.

- Pass by Saadiyat Island cultural district
- Pass the Emirates Palace and the Corniche, a five-mile waterfront walkway with incredible views of the Persian Gulf
- Enter the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, one of the largest in the world, and marvel at its detailed marble work and magnificent interiors

Then, spend a free afternoon in Abu Dhabi or add an excursion.
+ Louvre Abu Dhabi

Al Ain → 1 night

Day 8: Transfer to Al Ain & sightseeing tour
Included meals: breakfast, tasting, farewell dinner
Travel through the desert to serene Al Ain. When you arrive, get to know the "Garden City" on a guided sightseeing tour.

- Stop at the Al Ain Oasis to enjoy the lush greenery of the surrounding date palm plantations and farms
- Visit a date palmery where you'll learn about the irrigation, production and growth of local foods followed by a date tasting
- Enter the Sheikh Zayed Palace Museum and Al Jahili Fort, which was built to protect the city in 1891

Tonight, celebrate your trip with your fellow travelers at a farewell dinner.

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 9: Transfer to Dubai & departure
Included meals: breakfast
Head to Dubai this morning to relax in a dayroom before boarding your flight home late tonight or early tomorrow morning.
If you are continuing on the tour extension to Oman, you'll travel to Muscat, Oman where you'll spend the night.

Arrive Home

Day 10: Arrive at home
Arrive home today.

+ Oman extension

Filled with rich history and stunning landscapes, Oman stands out among its often-flashier neighbors because of its long-standing traditions. Travel to the ancient capital of Muscat, explore Nizwa, and set out over the sand dunes to see a new side of the Arabian Peninsula.

Muscat → 4 nights

Day 9: Transfer to Muscat
Included meals: breakfast, lunch
Cross the border into Oman as you make your way to the capital city of Muscat. En route, sit down for an included lunch and make a photo stop at Nakhal Fort. When you arrive, enjoy an evening guided sightseeing tour.

- Take a panoramic drive through the city, stopping along the Corniche Waterfront for photos
- Stop at the Muttrah Souk and spend free time exploring the traditional market's varied stalls

Day 10: Nizwa & Desert Forts
Included meals: breakfast
Set out into the desert for a full-day excursion.
- Explore the souks in the center of Nizwa, the oldest city in Oman
- Sample locally grown dates at the souk's famous date market
- Enter Nizwa Fort, which dates back to the 1650s
- Visit Jabrin Castle, once an important academic center for students of astronomy, medicine and Islamic law

Day 11: Free day in Muscat
Included meals: breakfast
Spend a free day in Oman or add an excursion.
+ Wahiba Sands

Day 12: Sightseeing tour of Muscat
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Take a closer look at Muscat this morning on a guided sightseeing tour.
- Enter the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, the main mosque in the Sultanate of Oman and marvel at its minarets, intricately decorated interior, and sprawling grounds
- Pass by Fort Al Jalali, Fort Al Mirani and the Al Alam Palace, the ceremonial palace of the Sultan of Oman

This evening, gather with your group for a farewell toast and light dinner.

Flight home

Day 13: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save $10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: **goaheadtours.com/UAE | 1-800-597-0350**

Day 4: Burj Khalifa Observation Deck & Dinner
$159 (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)
Get an unparalleled look at the city of Dubai from the Burj Khalifa, the tallest tower in the world. Soak in the view from observation decks on the 124th and 125th stories, and learn about the engineering and architectural prowess it took to build the Burj Khalifa. Then, head back to ground level to enjoy a walk along the Dubai Mall fountains, followed by dinner. Please note: In accordance with local laws, alcoholic beverages cannot be served at your meal. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 5: Desert Safari & Bedouin Camp Dinner
$85/$95* (7 hours, departs in the afternoon with dinner)
Explore the deserts around Dubai, spotting exotic wildlife as you travel over the dunes in a Land Rover 4x4. Then, learn about traditional desert transportation on a camel trek. You'll end your day with group of modern Bedouins. Taste Arabic coffee and dates, then relax and enjoy activities such as henna painting or hookah, a multi-stemmed tobacco pipe. Sit down to a barbecue dinner with the group at a desert retreat and take in a belly dancing performance after your meal. Please note: The terrain while driving over the sand dunes is bumpy and rough. Take the proper precautions if you experience motion sickness.

Day 7: Louvre Abu Dhabi
$79 (2 hours, departs in the afternoon)
Make your way to Saadiyat Island where you'll pay a visit to the largest museum on the Arabian Peninsula: the Louvre Abu Dhabi. Here, join a local art expert for a guided tour of the museum, which is a partner to the Louvre Museum in Paris and contains art from all over the world. After your guided tour, enjoy free time to continue exploring the museum at your leisure. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Extension excursion options

Day 11: Wahiba Sands
$145 (10 hours, departs in the morning with lunch)
Discover the incredible landscapes and ancient cultures of Oman. Set out over the Western Hajar Mountains in a Jeep 4x4, admiring rock formations that are colored green and red by iron ore. Stop in the town of Al Mudhaireb to see the ruins of ancient watchtowers and villages, then visit Wadi Bani Khalid to enjoy a picnic lunch in the oasis-like valley. Continue on to a dune drive in the stark and stunning Wahiba Sands, where you'll meet a group of Bedouins living as their ancestors have for centuries. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.com/terms