

# Abu Dhabi

— YOUR EXTRAORDINARY STORY —

Mohamed Somji

Big, bold and out of this world, Abu Dhabi blends a rich history with a modern culture and a plethora of must-see attractions.

From the brand new uber-luxe Louvre Abu Dhabi to the Al Dhafra Festival, the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, and the soon-to-be opened Warner Bros. World™ Abu Dhabi and CLYMB, this destination is bursting at the seams with unique experiences and once-in-a-lifetime opportunities.

Whether you're travelling solo, with friends or on a family adventure, this guide to Abu Dhabi's best attractions has it all!

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**FIND OUT MORE** 



# CLYMB

## **i** ABOUT CLYMB

Opening in 2018, CLYMB is an experience travellers won't want to miss. Boasting the world's widest flight chamber and tallest indoor climbing wall, it's certainly one for the adventure seeker and for those who, well, love to climb!

A futuristic experience, the flight chamber is 9.75 metres wide and acts as a wind tunnel where visitors will be able to mimic the experience of skydiving without having to physically jump out of a plane - great for those with a fear of heights but have always wanted to experience that adrenaline rush.

If rock climbing is more your style, CLYMB has the choice of four walls to scale, all with varying degrees of difficulty, from beginners to intermediates and experts. The wall will stretch to a height of 43 metres, however only those at an expert level will have the chance to reach the very top – but hey, who doesn't love a challenge!

When it comes time to plant your feet firmly on the ground, a variety of retailers and food and beverage outlets are also on offer that will easily curb the hunger brought on by an adventure-filled day.

Located on Yas Island and nestled between Ferrari World Abu Dhabi and Yas Mall, CLYMB will offer easy access to the mall, giving visitors an endless supply of fun activities and shopping experiences to enjoy – it's the perfect place for a day out with the whole family.

As well as CLYMB, Abu Dhabi is bursting at the seams with a variety of fun activities to take part in, including Yas Waterworld, Bounce Abu Dhabi and the Al Ain Zoo.

## INSIDER TIP

Along with CLYMB, Yas Island is also home to Yas Links Abu Dhabi, one of the most beautiful golf courses in the world, as well as Yas Beach and Yas Marina where visitors can take part in a variety of water activities and family-friendly fun.

## **🕒** WHEN TO GO

All CLYMB activities are located indoors, which makes it the perfect destination all year round, but Yas Island is also equipped with air-conditioning and plenty of shaded areas. During winter and spring, temperatures sit at around 23 degrees, and reach approximately 45 degrees in summer.

## **🎫** TICKETING & COSTS

CLYMB will be opening its doors in 2018, so visit [www.visitabudhabi.ae](http://www.visitabudhabi.ae) to stay up to date on the latest information and ticketing costs.

## **📍** HOW TO GET THERE

Yas Island is accessible by boat, car and taxi, and is a short 15-minute drive from Abu Dhabi International Airport and a 30-minute drive from Abu Dhabi city.

If arriving by bus, take the 190 bus route to Yas Island, where a bikeshare system is also on offer for visitors. The bikes can be rented and dropped off all over the city's network.

## **🏨** WHERE TO STAY

Crowne Plaza Abu Dhabi Yas Island

★★★★☆

Access the best attractions on Yas Island, alongside a world-class golf course, restaurants and outdoor pools.



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# LOUVRE ABU DHABI

## **i** ABOUT LOUVRE ABU DHABI

Opening its doors on November 11 2017, Louvre Abu Dhabi is a melting pot of creative genius that encompasses cultural achievements and works of art from prehistory to the present day.

An iconic 180-metre wide geometric lattice dome created by award-winning French architect Jean Nouvel is the centrepiece. The dome's design forms a tapestry of 7,850 stars and weighs more than 7,500 tonnes and is surrounded by a number of pools, giving the illusion that it is floating. When sunlight filters through, it creates a moving 'rain of light' beneath the dome.

Combining French design with Arabic heritage, visitors are invited to explore the 55 detached buildings, which have been designed to emulate a microcity, with 23 of these buildings devoted to galleries that house works of art from a variety of eras and cultures through 12 incredible chapters.

The new museum is an independent institution and the first of its kind in the UAE, putting Abu Dhabi on the cultural map. Its artworks currently include da Vinci's portrait of an Unknown Woman (La Belle Ferronnière), as well as Whistler's Mother and David's Napoleon Crossing the Alps. Louvre Abu Dhabi will also play host to four temporary exhibitions each year.

A Children's Museum is located across two floors and features interactive workshops in both Arabic and English, where children from the ages of 6 – 12 can learn about artistic techniques and ideas, and express their creativity.

A restaurant, boutique gift shop and a cafe are also on offer, making it perfect for a day out with the whole family.

### INSIDER TIP

Louvre Abu Dhabi is currently housing 300 loans from 13 leading French museums, including the Pompidou, the Musée d'Orsay and Versailles. It will also use the Musée du Louvre's name for 30 years.

## **🕒** WHEN TO GO

Louvre Abu Dhabi is open from 10am – 8pm on Sat/Sun/Tues/Wed, and from 10am – 10pm on Thurs/Fri.

## **🎫** TICKETING & COSTS

General admission: 60 AED (approximately \$21 AUD / \$22.50 NZD)  
Aged between 13 – 22 years: 30 AED (approximately \$11 AUD / \$11.25 NZD)  
Children under 13 years receive complimentary entry.  
Buy tickets online at [www.louvreabudhabi.ae](http://www.louvreabudhabi.ae) for quick admission.

## **📍** HOW TO GET THERE

Louvre Abu Dhabi is easily accessible by car, bus, taxi, bike or boat. If travelling from Abu Dhabi, take the Sheikh Khalifa Bridge to Saadiyat Island and follow the signs to the Cultural District. Free parking is available, along with a valet service. If arriving by bus, take route 94.

Louvre Abu Dhabi is also equipped with its own marina for private yachts to dock, and a jetty for the soon-to-be launched water taxi service.

## **🏨** WHERE TO STAY

Park Hyatt Abu Dhabi Hotel & Villas  
★★★★★

Enjoy a luxurious stay on the shores of Saadiyat Island at the Park Hyatt, just a short drive from the Cultural District.



# ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX

## ABOUT ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX

One of the jewels in Abu Dhabi's crown, the now iconic Yas Marina Circuit is home to the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, the last race of the F1 season.

Held in November each year, the Abu Dhabi race on Yas Island is the world's only twilight race and boasts a stunning waterfront setting that easily rivals the likes of Monaco and Singapore.

Designed with racing in mind, the 5.55 kilometre circuit runs alongside the island's spectacular marina and passes under the 5-star Yas Viceroy Abu Dhabi hotel. It features 9 right turns and 12 left turns, with a total of 55 laps, and is one of the few circuits to run in an anti-clockwise direction. Expect to see top speeds of 325km/h, with average speeds of 190km/h – Sebastian Vettel currently holds the fastest lap recorded!

With a number of tight corners, twists, turns and high-speed sections, including one of the longest straights on the F1 calendar, close and competitive racing is guaranteed. And being the last race of the season, it often decides who will take out the prestigious title.

Along with a good dose of racing action, visitors will also be treated to a packed entertainment programme featuring public areas with a wide range of exhibitions, challenges and games that the whole family can enjoy, as well as post-race concerts featuring some of the world's biggest acts. Stars like Pink, Calvin Harris and J. Cole have performed in previous years.

## INSIDER TIP

The Yas Viceroy is the only hotel in the world that overlooks a Formula 1 racing track, so be sure to book a room for unbeatable views and world-class service.

## WHEN TO GO

The Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix is held each year in November. The action runs from Thursday to Sunday, with the race beginning in the late afternoon.

## TICKETING & COSTS

Prices range from 1313 AED (approx \$455 AUD / \$490 NZD) to 2080 AED (approx \$720 AUD / \$776 NZD).

Tickets go on sale April 26, with early-bird discounts applicable.

Visit [www.yasmarinacircuit.com](http://www.yasmarinacircuit.com) to stay up-to-date on the latest info!

## HOW TO GET THERE

The airport lies adjacent to Yas Island, making the track easily accessible by car or taxi. The track is a 30-minute drive from Abu Dhabi city. Bus routes 170, 180, 185 and 190 run from the city centre to Yas Island. Several hotels also offer their own complimentary shuttle service for race weekend.

## WHERE TO STAY

Yas Viceroy  
★★★★★

You can't stay closer to the F1 action than this luxurious hotel that is actually built into the Grand Prix circuit.



# WARNER BROS. WORLD

## i ABOUT WARNER BROS. WORLD

Set to open in July/August 2018, Warner Bros. World™ Abu Dhabi is a one-of-a-kind theme park that will bring all your favourite Warner Bros. characters to life – from Batman to Bugs Bunny, Superman, Scooby-Doo, Wonder Woman and everyone in between.

Covering 15 hectares, the park will feature 6 immersive lands, including Metropolis and Gotham City, both of which are inspired by the DC Superheroes and villains; Cartoon Junction, Bedrock and Dynamite Gulch, which are based on the popular Looney Tunes and Hanna-Barbera series; and Warner Bros. Plaza, which is reminiscent of Old Hollywood.

Step through the portal to Metropolis and have your photo published on the front of the legendary Daily Planet; jump in the Batmobile in Gotham City and ride through the dark skies of Gotham; take a spin with Tom & Jerry and cause havoc in their house in Cartoon Junction; indulge in a dino-sized burger under a cartoon sky in Bedrock; grab a Wile E. Coyote and Road Runner souvenir at the authentic service station in Dynamite Gulch; or treat your sweet tooth at Celebrity Scoop, an American-style diner in Warner Bros. Plaza, the centre of the theme park.

With 29 state-of-the-art rides on offer, all with varying thrill levels, plus a variety of family-friendly attractions, live entertainment and shopping opportunities, as well as grab 'n go to full service restaurants, the park has something for everyone!

## INSIDER TIP

Jump on board the Yas Express, a complimentary island shuttle service that connects Warner Bros. World™ Abu Dhabi with all the major attractions on Yas Island, including Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Yas Mall, Yas Waterworld, Yas Marina and Yas Links.

## 🕒 WHEN TO GO

Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi is one of the world's largest fully air-conditioned indoor theme parks. Open all year-round, it is an ideal family destination no matter the season or the weather.

## 🎫 TICKETING & COSTS

A range of ticketing and annual pass options will be available.

Visit [www.wbworldabudhabi.com/en/faq](http://www.wbworldabudhabi.com/en/faq) to stay up to date on the latest information.

## 📍 HOW TO GET THERE

Just 7-minutes from Abu Dhabi Airport, and 25 minutes from Abu Dhabi city, Warner Bros. World™ Abu Dhabi is easily accessible for all local and international visitors via car and taxi. Travelling by bus? Take the 190 bus route via Abu Dhabi bus station. There is also a Bikeshare station where visitors can rent and return bikes.

## 🏠 WHERE TO STAY

Radisson Blu Yas Island



Enjoy access to Warner Bros. World and the many attractions on Yas Island, or the onsite infinity pool, tennis courts and day spa.

# AL DHAFRA FESTIVAL

## **i** ABOUT AL DHAFRA FESTIVAL

Encompassing the spirit and heritage of desert-living, Al Dhafra Festival is the greatest showcase of Bedouin life.

Held just south of Madinat Zayed in the Empty Quarter Desert, the largest sand mass in the world, the Al Dhafra Festival is a 15-day cultural extravaganza that is not to be missed.

Signalling the start of the cooler months, the festival sees over 20,000 camels descend on the desert each year where they are treated like celebrities and paraded down Millions Street decorated with flags, glittering beads and strings of coins.

The highlight of the festival is the famous Mazayna, a beauty contest for camels that celebrates this incredible animal and the huge role it played in sustaining life in the desert before the oil era.

Camels are judged on their leg length and hump shape, and points are even awarded for eyelashes and lips, with their owners winning impressive sums of cash or brand new cars. The most beautiful camel at Al Dhafra officially reaches cult celebrity status, with poets composing anthems in its name and visitors celebrating by marking the head of the camel with a paste made with the expensive and rare Saffron.

The festival offers visitors a chance to let loose and gain an insight into what life was once like in the UAE.

Other cultural experiences on offer year-round in Abu Dhabi include the Al Ain Palace Museum and Heritage Village.

## INSIDER TIP

Along with Mazayna, there are also photography and cooking competitions, a bustling bazaar, Saluki dog races and falconry shows.

## **🕒** WHEN TO GO

Al Dhafra is held in December each year, with events running from 10am – 10pm, although celebrations and preparations happen around the clock. The pleasant warm weather means that there is a lot of fun to be had around the festival's campfires after dark, so it's worth staying the night.

## **🎫** TICKETING & COSTS

The event is free and open to the public.

## **📍** HOW TO GET THERE

The Empty Quarter Desert is just south of Madinat Zayed in the Al Dhafra Region, and a 2-hour drive from Abu Dhabi city. The best way to get to the festival is by car, with plenty of parking available on-site. If travelling from Abu Dhabi, take Tarif Road before turning left onto Tarif – Liwa Road. Signage is limited, so keep on driving through the town of Madinat Zayed. Even if you think you've gone too far, keep going – the steady stream of cars will reassure you that you are going the right way!

## **🏠** WHERE TO STAY

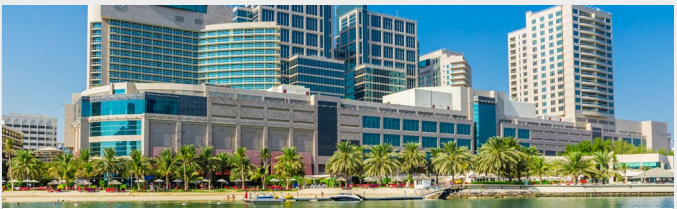
### Tilal Liwa Hotel



Stay amongst the sand dunes at this Arabian-style property that blends tradition with modern comfort.



# ACCOMMODATION



Beach Rotana

★★★★★ 10th Street, Al Zahiya Area



Jumeirah At Etihad Towers Hotel

★★★★★ Etihad Towers, West Corniche



Sofitel Abu Dhabi Corniche

★★★★★ Capital Plaza Complex, Corniche Road East



Tilal Liwa Hotel

★★★★★ Al-Gharbiya, Western Region, Madinat Zayed



The Ritz-Carlton Abu Dhabi, Grand Canal

★★★★★ Al Maqta Area



Anantara Eastern Mangroves Hotel & Spa

★★★★★ Eastern Mangroves, Al Salam Street



# ACTIVITIES



Evening Desert Safari With BBQ Dinner, [Henna Painting, & Camel Ride](#)



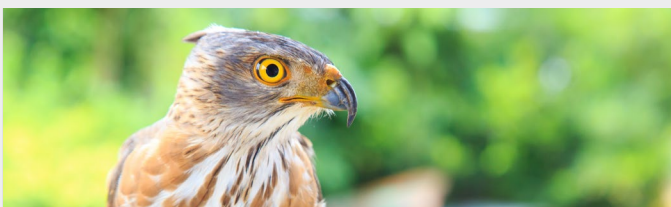
Abu Dhabi Sightseeing Tour: Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque & Heritage Village [Henna Painting, & Camel Ride](#)



Entrance Ticket to Ferrari World in Abu Dhabi [Henna Painting, & Camel Ride](#)



Al Ain Day Trip from Abu Dhabi with Lunch [Henna Painting, & Camel Ride](#)



Falcon Hospital Tour [Henna Painting, & Camel Ride](#)



High Tea at Emirates Palace [Henna Painting, & Camel Ride](#)