

Fact Sheet

Dubai - a city break sanctuary for couples

A growing number of couples are heading to Dubai to experience all that the emirate has to offer - from shopping, to world-class spas, the finest hotels in the world and top gourmet dining experiences. With breathtaking sights and unsurpassed facilities, Dubai is now rivaling more traditional city break hot spots, such as New York or Paris, as a destination where couples really can expect the best. And, with the beach and desert at such close quarters to the city there is something to suit everyone's taste.

Hotels for the happy couple

Dubai boasts some of the world's finest hotels and hotel apartments, and the emirate's city district features an array of luxury hotel developments for couples to enjoy:

Hilton Dubai Creek

The Hilton Dubai Creek is a boutique city-centre hotel conveniently located just 10 minutes from the airport. Couples can relax by the rooftop pool while taking in the spectacular views over the Creek and city. Gordon Ramsay's Verre is the hotel's signature restaurant and there is also the hotel's modern brasserie restaurant Glasshouse overlooking the Creek and the sleek and modern Issimo Bar. www.hilton.co.uk/dubaicreek

Grosvenor House West Marina Beach by Le Méridien

Grosvenor House is a stunning 45-storey tower overlooking the exclusive Dubai Marina. An innovative architectural structure, the hotel is a landmark of luxury and perfection. This exclusive address boasts 422 guest rooms, suites and private apartments, offering the pinnacle of sophisticated luxury. Grosvenor House also features an outdoor pool, restaurants, many bars including the world famous Buddha Bar, and a spa.

www.grosvenorhouse-dubai.com

Fairmont Dubai

Fairmont Dubai is located at the heart of Dubai's city on Sheikh Zayed Road. This iconic hotel is a unique blend of contemporary design and urban chic, and is architecturally inspired by a traditional Arabic wind tower. The 34 storey property features 394 guestrooms (including 128 suites and penthouses) as well as ten contemporary dining and entertainment venues, including the recently opened Japanese restaurant Kitsune, and the luxurious Willow Stream Spa in Romanesque surroundings. www.fairmont.com/Dubai

Ritz Carlton



Located in the heart of Dubai Marina on Jumeirah Beach, the Ritz Carlton is an intimate retreat for couples visiting the emirate. This Mediterranean style resort includes 138 guestrooms and 350 metres of landscaped beach with surrounding gardens and pools. www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/Dubai/Default.htm

Desert Palm Dubai

Set amid green fields and the palm trees of a lush polo estate, Per Aquum's boutique Desert Palm is the perfect retreat for couples wanting to get away from it all and escape the buzz of Dubai's city life. This chic and elegant hotel features 24 'naturally modern' guest suites and pool villas, exquisite bars and restaurants and the Lime Spa offering an integrated wellness approach. www.desertpalm.ae

Shop 'til you drop

Dubai is a world-leading shopping destination with well over 50 shopping malls, boasting a variety of retail outlets selling tax free items. With everything from high-street stores such as Boots, Debenhams, and H&M to a range of local stores and designer boutiques including a branch of Harvey Nichols, shopping in Dubai has something to offer everyone.

The Dubai Mall

The Dubai Mall became one of the world's largest shopping malls when it opened in November 2008. It is the centrepiece of the region's most prestigious urban development to date, Downtown Dubai, home to the world's tallest building. The size of 50 football pitches, Dubai Mall features some 1,200 stores and 150 food and beverage outlets. It also includes a huge indoor aquarium, the world's largest fountain and indoor gold souk, an Olympic-size ice rink and the region's first SEGA indoor theme park. www.thedubaimall.com

The Mall of the Emirates

One of the largest shopping malls outside of North America, The Mall of the Emirates includes Ski Dubai, a 400m indoor ski slope and snow park (www.skidxb.com). The mall itself has an ornate high-glazed dome that stands at some 18m high. The mall houses a wide range of shops: from Boots to Debenhams and even a Harvey Nichols alongside shops selling traditional Arabian delights. www.malloftheemirates.com

Souk Al Bahar

Souk Al Bahar is an Arabesque shopping mall and entertainment destination located in the heart of the prestigious Downtown Dubai. It features over 130 shops in an eclectic retail mix that includes over 20

restaurants, cafés and lounges framing the souk's extensive waterfront promenade.

www.emaar.com/index.aspx?page=souk-al-bahar



Dubai Outlet Mall

Dubai Outlet Mall launched at the end of 2007, and promotes value-shopping by retailing big brands such as Calvin Klein and Guess at discounted prices. It is the first 'outlet' concept mall in the Middle East and is a great attraction for international visitors to the emirate. www.dubaioutletmall.com

Wafi Mall

Wafi Mall was one of the first shopping malls to open in Dubai and is part of the Egyptian themed Wafi City, which boasts Cleopatra's Spa, Pharaoh's Club including a climbing wall and lazy river, and Khan Murjan - a subterranean artisan's market. Wafi Mall has over 350 shops. www.wafi.com

Dubai Duty Free

Dubai Duty Free at Dubai International Airport ranks among one of the largest duty-free operations in the world. The Sheikh Rashid Terminal contains a total of 5,400 square metres allocated to Dubai Duty Free, with facilities open 24 hours a day. It offers a wide range of top quality merchandise at the best value for money including jewellery, electronics, cosmetics, luxury goods and designer wear. www.dubaiairport.com and www.dubaidutyfree.com

Dubai Shopping Festival and Dubai Summer Surprises

The emirate has created a range of events to celebrate its shopping excellence. Dubai Summer Surprises, which runs in the summer months, and Dubai Shopping Festival which is the largest retailing event in the Middle East (January / February) are host to a variety of activities. Shopping malls are converted into venues for live entertainment, music, dancing, competitions, workshops and interactive programmes. www.mydsf.ae

More information on Dubai's shopping malls and facilities can be found at: www.dubaicityguide.com/shop

Coming soon:

One to look out for in the future is **The Mall of Arabia** which will be one of the largest shopping resorts in the world. The Mall's ancient Middle Eastern exterior will house more than 1,000 retail outlets and the best of international fashion brands, a state-of-the-art stage for theatrical performances, a 15-screen cinema and a bowling alley. Due to open in 2010. www.cityofarabia.ae/mall_of_arabia.htm



Indulge in Dubai's fine dining

Once the shopping is done, couples visiting Dubai can enjoy some of the world's finest restaurants in stunning surroundings. Some of the world's best known chefs, including Gordon Ramsay, Gary Rhodes, Giorgio Locatelli and Nobu Matsuhisa to name but a few have opened restaurants in the emirate.

Gordon Ramsay - Hilton Dubai Creek: Verre

Gordon Ramsay's understated and elegant Verre restaurant at the Hilton Dubai Creek is the epitome of fine dining. The restaurant won the What's On Magazine Awards 2005 award for the "Chefs' Choice 2005" voted for by all the Executive Chefs of five star hotels in Dubai, as their favourite restaurant outside that of their own. Verre has been awarded three-Michelin stars - confirmation that Dubai has arrived as a world-class food destination. www.hilton.co.uk/dubaicreek

Gary Rhodes - Grosvenor House: Mezzanine

Michelin starred British chef Gary Rhodes heads up the Mezzanine Restaurant, bringing an unprecedented yet authentic English dining experience, with a French flair. Located in the Grosvenor House Hotel, this dining venture comprises a restaurant offering Anglo-French cuisine, private dining room, pre-dinner lounge and bar.

www.grosvenorhouse-dubai.com

Pierre Gagnaire - InterContinental Dubai Festival City

Three-Michelin starred chef Pierre Gagnaire made his mark on the global stage when his Parisian restaurant was named third best in the world by Restaurant magazine. To the delight of Dubai locals and visitors, he brings his inimitable style to Reflets by Pierre Gagnaire, located on the hotel promenade. The upscale menu boasts specialties the chef calls "multisensory hits," created by blending unexpected tastes and textures for a truly adventurous dining experience. www.intercontinental.com/dubai

Bateaux Dubai

Couples can enjoy fine dining on Dubai Creek aboard Bateaux Dubai. While taking in the stunning views over the creek you can indulge in freshly prepared gourmet cuisine, an extensive selection of beverages and contemporary classic music played by the Bateaux's resident DJ in elegant surroundings.

www.jebelali-international.com/properties/bateaux_dubai/vessel/overview.html

Nobu



Chef Nobu Matsuhisa's world-famous Japanese restaurant Nobu opened at Atlantis The Palm in September 2008. Nobu has partnered with Robert De Niro to bring this internationally acclaimed new-style Japanese restaurant to the emirate. www.atlantisthepalm.com

Ronda Locatelli

Two-star Michelin chef Giorgio Locatelli, one of London's most talked about Italian chefs, is featuring Ronda Locatelli at Atlantis The Palm.

Coming soon:

The Ivy and Le Caprice

Britain's foremost entertainment tycoon, Richard Caring, has engineered a deal between his own Caprice Holdings and Tatweer (the developers behind DUBAILAND) to open several of his celebrated brands including the Berkeley Square nightclub, Annabel's and legendary central London eatery Le Caprice. Rivington Grill has already opened to much acclaim and is located in Souk Al Bahar in Downtown Dubai.

Perfect for Pampering

Couples are spoilt for choice with the variety of spas in Dubai, their unique themes, style and concept treatments. Influences are drawn from the East and West and this international feel is evident with spa themes ranging from Egyptian and Thai to contemporary. Spa treatments are equally global with specialists practicing techniques from Bali, Sweden, Thailand, China and beyond. Dubai's spa backdrops include the beach, city, and desert providing the perfect opportunity to relax and unwind:

Beach and City Spas

Assawan Spa - www.burj-al-arab.com/assawan

The Burj Al Arab is not only one of Dubai's most famous landmarks, but its Assawan Spa on the 18th floor boasts a lavishly decorated spa inspired by the ruins of ancient Arabia.

Caracalla Spa & Health Club - www.leroyalmeridien-dubai.com

Le Royal Meridien Beach Resort & Spa has devoted three floors to its baths, taking inspiration from Rome's Antonine Baths with five plunge pools in addition to a plethora of treatments.

Talise Spa – Jumeirah - www.madinatjumeirah.com/spa

Visit Talise where expert therapists will take the best therapies from the oldest cultures combined with a selection of international techniques to treat your individual needs. Be invigorated by hot and cold plunge pools,



relax in the saunas and steam rooms, or simply stroll through the tranquil gardens adjoined by secluded waterways.

The One&Only Spa and Oriental Hammam - www.oneandonlyresorts.com

One&Only Royal Mirage boasts the magnificent Health & Beauty Institute divided over two levels. Housed within its towering domes, carved arches and intricate design is the One&Only Spa with 12 luxury treatment rooms and a traditional Oriental Hammam. An oasis of relaxation and well being.

The Spa at Shangri-La - www.shangri-la.com/dubai

The Shangri-La Dubai takes a holistic approach to vitality and beauty inspired by the art of traditional Chinese medicine. Fragrant oils, aromatic herbs and spices are used for a wide range of treatments, like Touch Therapy; aromatic hand and foot therapy and a treatment called Chi Journeys.

Desert Spas

Satori Spa - www.jumeirahbabalshams.com

Jumeirah Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa offers a luxurious Arabian-style spa with four treatment rooms, both indoor and outdoor. Their property also offers a fully-equipped gymnasium and a desert-side swimming pool with wide desert views.

Timeless Spa - www.al-maha.com

The Emirates Al Maha Desert Resort & Spa has an Arabian-style spa with signature products using local products like frankincense, apricots and dates.

Lime Spa - www.desertpalm.ae

Part of the Desert Palm development, the Per Aquum designed Lime Spa offers six spa suites within a sensual space that offers healing spa therapies, relaxation, fitness and healthy organic cuisine. The boutique offers signature spa rituals for beauty and health, body exotics, massage, facial therapy and wellness services.

Coming soon:

Giorgio Armani Spa - www.armanihotels.com

Scheduled to open in late 2009 and located in Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest tower, The Armani Hotel Dubai will offer 172 guest rooms and suites, restaurants and a spa covering more than 40,000 square metres and will be the flagship for a global collection of Armani designer hotels and resorts.



Let Dubai entertain you

The eclecticism of Dubai's entertainment scene knows no bounds. From music acts and dance through to the city's vibrant nightlife, a visit to the emirate can't fail to impress. So, allow yourself to get carried away in the whirlwind of exciting and awe-inspiring spectacles that Dubai has to offer.

The Skywards International Jazz Festival

The Skywards Dubai International Jazz Festival will run from 10–19 February 2010 at Dubai Media City.
www.dubaijazzfest.com

Dubai Festival City

Spanning 1,300 acres and stretching three kilometres along Dubai Creek, Dubai Festival City offers a rich and vibrant living experience. This vibrant meeting place is the perfect setting for world class exhibitions, entertainment and fashion shows. The upbeat and inviting ambience is complimented by the Creek, Canal Walk and a sidewalk café culture. www.dubaifestivalcity.com

Buddha Bar Dubai

Buddha Bar Dubai is a destination in itself. A gigantic area opens onto views of the Arabian Gulf, on two levels, with three different atmospheres, a restaurant, a bar and a lounge. Situated in the Grosvenor House Hotel complex at Dubai Marina, the Buddha Bar is the place to see and be seen by the Dubai glitterati.
www.buddha-bar.com/new/en/buddha_db.php