experience abu dhabi

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Abu Dhabi is a place that welcomes and shares all that it has with visitors, inviting them to discover experiences at their own pace.

Explore this guide

Where is Abu Dhabi?

Explore Abu Dhabi

- Abu Dhabi City
- Al Ain
- Al Dhafra

Experience Abu Dhabi

- Be Excited
- Feel Restored
- Get Inspired
- Dining
- Nightlife
- Shopping

Find Your Way

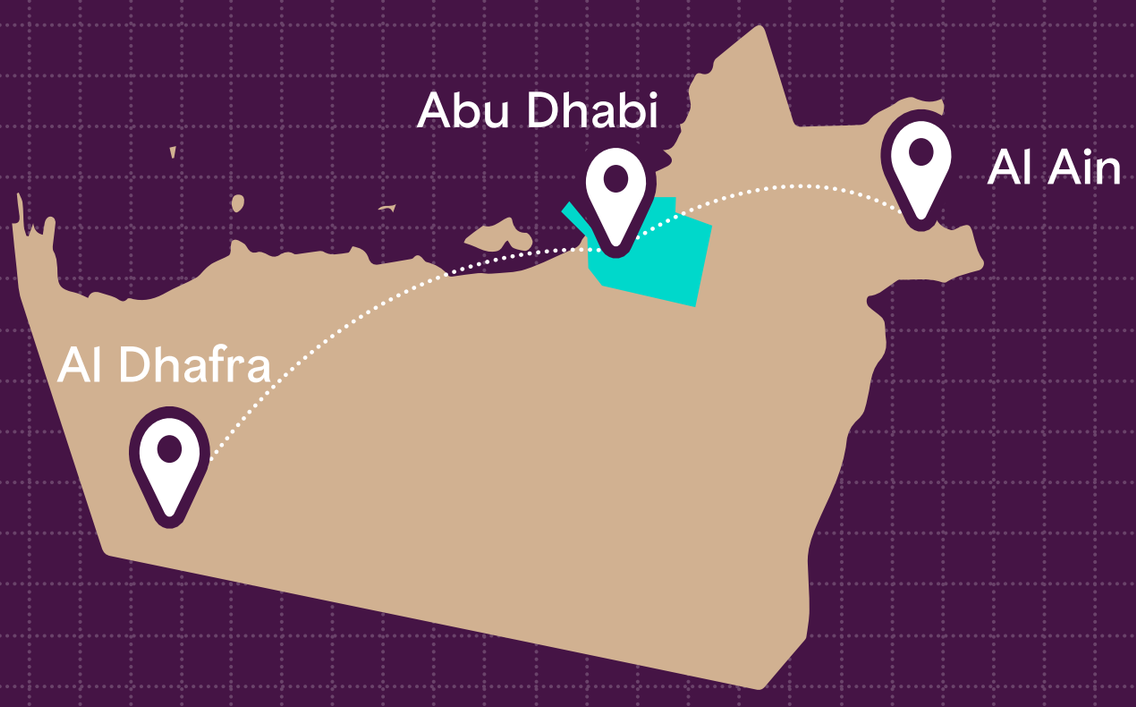
- Hotels
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Where is Abu Dhabi

Located in the heart of the Arabian Peninsula, where East meets West, Abu Dhabi is the largest emirate and the capital of the UAE. Abu Dhabi translates to Father of "Dhabi" (gazelle) - a name that was passed down through poetry and legend for hundreds of years.

Where is Abu Dhabi

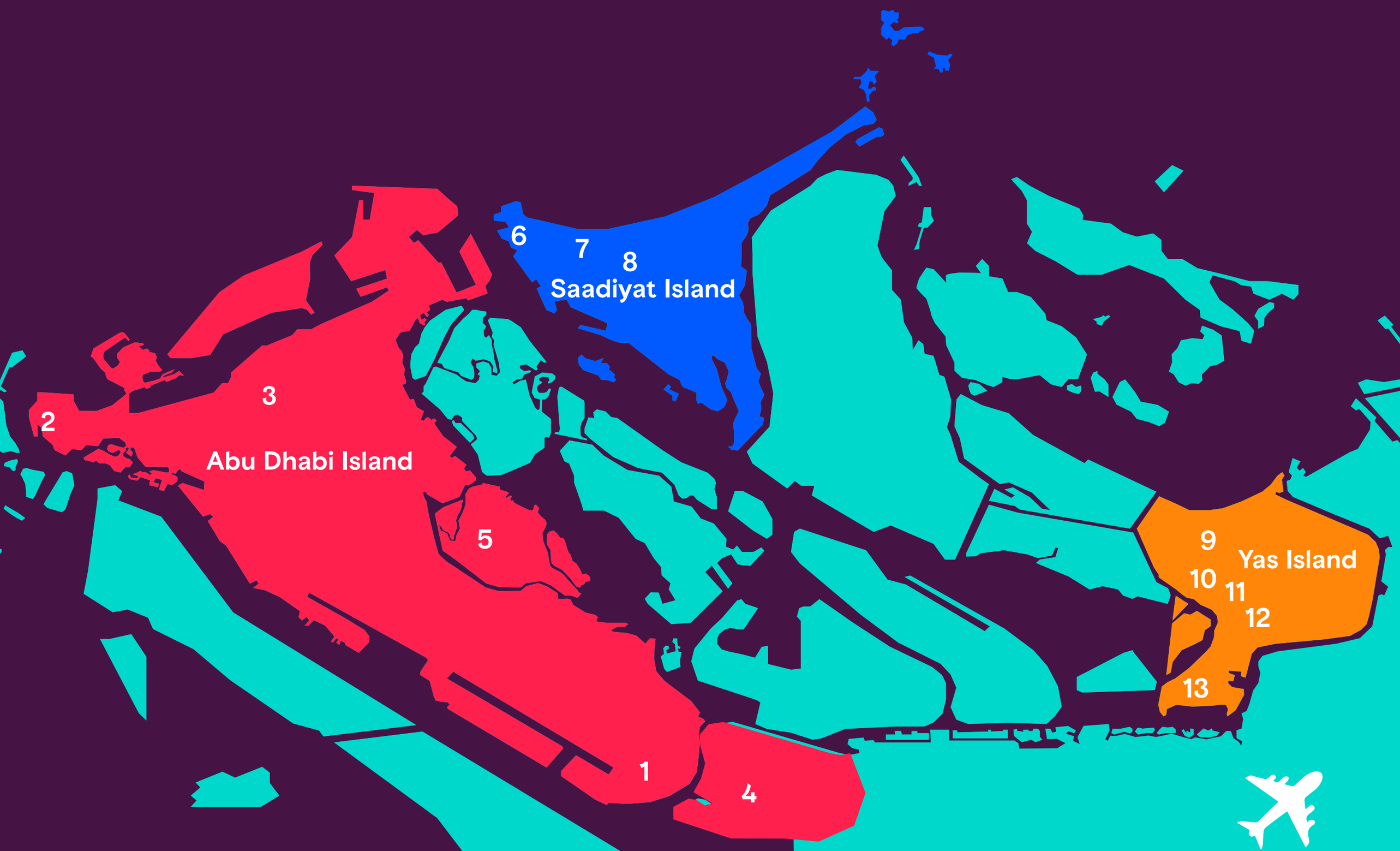
Discover a variety of memorable and enriching experiences – all just minutes apart and throughout the year.



Abu Dhabi City
The capital of the United Arab Emirates

Al Dhafra Region
71% of the emirate's total area

Al Ain
≈ 160 km from Abu Dhabi International Airport



Abu Dhabi International Airport is...

20 mins
to Abu Dhabi Island

1 Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque
2 Qasr Al Watan
3 Qasr Al Hosn
4 Al Qana
5 Eastern Mangroves Park

15 mins
to Saadiyat Island

6 Louvre Abu Dhabi
7 Mamsha Al Saadiyat
8 Manarat Al Saadiyat

5 mins
to Yas Island

9 Warner Bros. World™ Abu Dhabi
10 Yas Waterworld
11 Ferrari World Abu Dhabi
12 Yas Marina Circuit
13 Etihad Arena

The city of

Abu Dhabi

This coastal city is the birthplace of the emirate, with offshore islands that feature remains of settlements dating back 8,500 years. The area comprises Abu Dhabi Island, Saadiyat Island, Yas Island and many other neighbourhoods - packed with business, leisure and entertainment areas. It also boasts Al Hosn, Abu Dhabi's oldest remaining structure, featuring a watchtower that dates back to the late 1700s.

Al Ain

Translating to ‘The Spring”, this garden city is an inland oasis. Al Ain offers a range of archaeological sites, historical buildings and cultural attractions. Just a short drive from Abu Dhabi City, the Cultural Sites of Al Ain are the UAE’s only UNESCO-designated heritage sites - including Al Ain Oasis, Bida bint Saud, Jebel Hafit, and Hili Archaeological Park.

Al Dhafra

Also known as the Western Region, Al Dhafra is Abu Dhabi's largest and most sparsely populated area. Covering two-thirds of the emirate, the vast expanse features stunning beaches, dramatic scenery and ancient forts, as well as the historic oasis of Liwa, the gateway to the sprawling Empty Quarter desert.

Be Excited

SeaWorld Abu Dhabi

Warner Bros. World™ Abu Dhabi

Ferrari World Abu Dhabi

Al Ain Zoo

Yas Bay

Yas Marina Circuit

CLYMB Abu Dhabi

Heritage Village

Jebel Hafit Desert Park

Etihad Arena

Zayed Sports City

Wadi Adventure

The National Aquarium

Al Qana

SeaWorld Abu Dhabi

Marine life theme park and animal research, rescue and rehabilitation centre

Discover more

Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi

Biggest indoor theme park in the world, featuring family-friendly cartoon-themed rides

Discover more

Ferrari World Abu Dhabi

Thrilling theme park featuring Formula Rossa, the world’s fastest roller coaster

Discover more

Al Ain Zoo

Take a safari through this 400-hectare zoo featuring more than 4,000 animals, including Big Cats

Discover more

Yas Bay

Day-to-night entertainment with over
20 waterfront restaurants, cafés and bars

Discover more

Yas Marina Circuit

Test your driving skills at the home of the annual Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

Discover more

CLYMB Abu Dhabi

Adventure hub featuring indoor skydiving and the region’s tallest indoor climbing wall

Discover more

Heritage Village

Reconstruction of a traditional desert village with a regular roster of events

Discover more

Jebel Hafit Desert Park

Nature park featuring archaeological remains and activities from hiking and cycling to horse riding

Discover more

Etihad Arena

The UAE’s largest multi-purpose indoor arena, hosting some of the biggest names in sport and entertainment

Discover more

Zayed Sports City

Sprawling multi-sport venue featuring multiple pitches and courts, plus a cricket stadium and a bowling alley

Discover more

Wadi Adventure

Home to the Middle East’s first man-made white water rafting channel

Discover more



The National Aquarium

The largest aquarium in the Middle East, featuring over 46,000 animals from more than 300 unique species

Discover more

Al Qana

A unique waterfront destination bringing a new definition of dining and entertainment to the UAE capital

Discover more

Feel Restored

Emirates Palace

Saadiyat Island

Al Ain Oasis

Jubail Mangrove Park

Marina Island

Sir Bani Yas Island

Saadiyat Beach Club

Qasr Al Sarab

Al Wathba Fossil Dunes

Al Wathba Salt Lake

Emirates Palace

Iconic hotel blending Arabian splendour with unrivalled luxury to create a magical experience.

Discover more

Saadiyat Island

Abu Dhabi’s cultural hub is home to world-class art and architecture as well as luxury hotels and leisure attractions.

Discover more

Al Ain Oasis

Shaded pathways meander through lush vegetation at this sprawling, ancient plantation in the centre of Abu Dhabi’s Garden City.

Discover more

Jubail Mangrove Park

Wooden boardwalks traverse the lush mangrove forest, allowing visitors to explore this unique haven for marine and avian wildlife.

Discover more

Marina Island

A fun-packed area that’s home to Marina Mall, the Marina Eye Ferris wheel and Heritage Village.

Discover more

Sir Bani Yas Island

The nature-based destination is home to stunning wildlife, adventure activities, boutique hotels and historical sites.

Discover more

Saadiyat Beach Club

Nestling on the shores of the Arabian Gulf, Saadiyat Beach Club is the perfect spot to unwind for the day.

Discover more

Qasr Al Sarab

This secluded luxury hotel offers breathtaking panoramas over the golden dunes of the Liwa Desert.

Discover more

Al Wathba Fossil Dunes

An unmissable natural marvel with 1,700 sandstone structures carved out over hundreds of thousands of years by desert winds.

Discover more

Al Wathba Salt Lake

A mesmerising desert lake where giant salt pads create alluring stepping stones over emerald-green waters.

Discover more

Get Inspired

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque

Manarat Al Saadiyat

Louvre Abu Dhabi

Al Ain Museum

Zayed National Museum

Qasr Al Watan

Qasr Al Muwaiji

Al Jahili Fort

Bait Mohammed bin Khalifa

Al Qattara Arts Centre

The Founders Memorial

Umsiyat

Sounds of the UAE

Sir Bani Yas Island Church and Monastery

Traditional Handicrafts Festival

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque

One of the world's largest and most beautiful mosques

Discover more

Manarat Al Saadiyat

Saadiyat Island’s premier art, cultural activity and community events centre

Discover more



Louvre Abu Dhabi

The first universal museum in the Arab world and an architectural icon

Discover more

Al Ain Museum

The oldest museum in the UAE tells the story of the nation’s ancient history

Discover more

Zayed National Museum

Will showcase the legacy of the UAE’s Founding Father and recount the country’s history

Discover more

Qasr Al Watan

A working Presidential palace and a majestic cultural landmark

Discover more

Qasr Al Muwaiji

The more than 100-year-old fort was a home and administrative base for the late Sheikh Zayed

Discover more

Al Jahili Fort

Built in the 1890s, historic Al Jahili Fort has long been a focal point for the community

Discover more

Bait Mohammed bin Khalifa

This historic former home has been transformed into a community centre

Discover more

Al Qattara Arts Centre

Provides a place for the Al Ain community to both see and create art

Discover more

The Founders Memorial

Unique cultural attraction celebrating the life and values of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

Discover more



Umsiyat

Annual concert series showcasing
Arabic and global music

Discover more

Sounds of the UAE

Music series featuring performances by talented Emirati and Arab artists

Discover more

Sir Bani Yas Island

Church and Monastery

A church and monastery discovered in the early 1990s illuminate the evidence of early Christianity in the region

Discover more

Traditional Handicrafts Festival

An annual event which promotes and preserves traditional Emirati handicrafts and supports their practitioners

Discover more

Dining

Dine your way around the world with a wide variety of international and local flavours, from homegrown concepts to celebrated culinary favourites.

Alba Terrace

COYA Abu Dhab

Buddha Bar Beach

Café Milano

Cipriani

Mare Mare

Shang Palace

Fouquet’s Abu Dhabi

LPM Restaurant & Bar

Oak Room

Nusr-Et

Tean

Sontaya

Zuma

Marco Pierre White Steakhouse & Grill

Alba Terrace

The finest organic coffees, biodynamic wines, light lunches and sharing plates.

Discover more

COYA Abu Dhabi

Enjoy authentic Latin American food and flair at COYA at The Galleria at Al Maryah Island.

Discover more

Buddha Bar Beach

An unforgettable combination of exotic food, impressive interiors and trademark music.

Discover more

Café Milano

Great food that embodies the Italian tradition of authenticity, simplicity, and refinement.

Discover more

Cipriani

Signature dishes from Harry's Bar in Venice and classic Italian favourites, overlooking the stunning Yas Marina.

Discover more

Mare Mare

The home-style poolside restaurant effortlessly brings together the coastal flavours of Italy.

Discover more

Shang Palace

Authentic Chinese cuisine, specialising in steamy dim sum and other traditional dishes.

Discover more

Fouquet’s Abu Dhabi

A renowned Parisian brasserie at Louvre Abu Dhabi that promises an exceptional culinary journey.

Discover more

LPM Restaurant & Bar

A homage to the French Riviera with unforgettable food and a refined atmosphere.

Discover more

Oak Room

Michelin-star chef, Tom Aikens, curates an menu with the very best produce and ingredients.

Discover more

Nusr-Et

The world-famous steakhouse will have the perfect cut for your palette – with a Salt Bae twist.

Discover more

Tean

Immerse yourself in the flavours of the region,
and experience Levantine dining culture.

Discover more

Sontaya

Unique Asian dishes, amid floating pavilions that overlook shimmering pools.

Discover more

Zuma

Japanese izakaya-style dining, with dishes designed to be shared at the table or enjoyed individually.

Discover more

Marco Pierre White Steakhouse & Grill

Find your perfect cut, with classic English dishes and speciality grilled cuisine.

Discover more

Nightlife

Good music and good vibes are available all year round. Abu Dhabi has a dynamic party seen to elevate any get-together or celebration.

Mamsha Al Saadiyat

Saadiyat Beach Club

Yas Bay Waterfront

WHITE Abu Dhabi

Buddha-Bar Beach

Iris Yas Island

Mamsha Al Saadiyat

Breezy beach bites on an island filled with cultural wonder, just 15 minutes from Abu Dhabi city.

Discover more

Saadiyat Beach Club

Luxury meets simplicity in one of Abu Dhabi’s most exclusive destinations, with quality service and magnificent views.

Discover more

Yas Bay Waterfront

Plunge into a coastal promenade packed with mouth-watering options, including the elegant new Café Del Mar beach club.

Discover more

WHITE Abu Dhabi

The region's number one nightclub where you can dance the night away to the biggest hip hop, R&B and urban anthems.

Discover more

Buddha-Bar Beach

Exotic food, over-the-top interiors and trademark music packaged in an unforgettable experience.

Discover more

Iris Yas Island

Chic hangouts with tasty beverages, lounge music and sunset views, set against the picturesque backdrop of Yas Marina.

Discover more

Shopping

Whether you're after the chicest fashion labels or traditional Arabian artefacts, Abu Dhabi has something for every type of shopper.

Abu Dhabi Mall

The Galleria Al Maryah Island Yas Mall

Delma Mall

Reem Mall

Al Wahda Mall

Nation Towers Mall

Yas Mall

Marina Mall

The Mall at World Trade Center

Abu Dhabi Mall

Located in the heart of the city, Abu Dhabi Mall features more than 200 shops.

Discover more

The Galleria Al Maryah Island

Home to over 400 stores and 100 food options,
The Galleria is a fun, family-friendly retail space.

Discover more



Delma Mall

An out-of-town shopping destination with the latest fashion brands and entertainment facilities.

Discover more

Reem Mall

Abu Dhabi’s newest mall is home to an indoor snow park as well as signature retail, leisure and dining options.

Discover more



Al Wahda Mall

A conveniently located and spacious mall with direct access to the nearby Grand Millennium Hotel.

Discover more

Nation Towers Mall

Nestled at the foot of the twin Nation Towers, a high-end retail spot with unique brands and restaurants.

Discover more

Yas Mall

Abu Dhabi’s biggest mall offers an impressive array of stores, including international retailers and eateries and a 20-screen cinema.

Discover more

Marina Mall

Located on the picturesque Breakwater, Marina Mall is home to a bowling alley, nine-screen cinema and children's entertainment zone.

Discover more

The Mall at World Trade Centre

A contemporary interpretation
of an old-style Arabian market,
featuring a modern mall connected
to a traditional souk.

Discover more

Hotels

The WB Abu Dhabi

Emirates Palace

Rixos Premium Saadiyat Island

Jumeirah Hotels and Resorts

W Abu Dhabi – Yas Island

Qasr al Sarab Desert Resort
by Anantara

Pura Eco Retreat

Aloft Abu Dhabi Hotel

Zaya Nurai Island Resort

The Abu Dhabi Edition

The WB Abu Dhabi

The world’s first Warner Brothers-themed hotel. Enjoy access to the theme park as part of your stay.

Discover more

Emirates Palace

Abu Dhabi’s ultimate luxury hotel resort.
Since its opening,
the hotel has hosted VIP guests,
celebrities, heads of state, and royal
families from around the world.

Discover more

Rixos Premium Saadiyat Island

Situated on the beachfront of Saadiyat Island, the first all-inclusive/all-exclusive concept in Abu Dhabi.

Discover more

Jumeirah Hotels and Resorts

Three swimming pools, 400-metre natural beach, tennis court, spa, gym and leisure facilities, and a Kids and Teens club. Watersports and golf at the nearby Saadiyat Island course.

Discover more

W Abu Dhabi – Yas Island

Unique hotel straddling the Formula 1 track at Yas Marina Circuit. Selected rooms offer racetrack views. Rooftop terrace with 2 pools and a bar.

Discover more

Qasr al Sarab Desert Resort by Anantara

Set in Abu Dhabi's Empty Quarter in the Rub'Al Khali desert, this palatial luxury resort offers elegant rooms, several international eateries, a steakhouse and a rooftop lounge.

Discover more

Pura Eco Retreat

Unique eco-friendly glamping experience that occupies a nine-kilometre stretch at the base of Jebel Hafit. Eight skylight domes, five sky bubbles, ten heritage tents and a ten-spot public campsite are available.

Discover more

Aloft Abu Dhabi Hotel

Set in the ADNEC complex, this functional, ultramodern guest experience offers 408 rooms.

Discover more

Zaya Nurai Island Resort

Exclusive island resort situated along the Arabian Gulf in Abu Dhabi, a 12-minute boat ride from Saadiyat Island. Each villa comes with an outdoor terrace, a private temperature-controlled pool, and floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the Arabian Sea.

Discover more

The Abu Dhabi Edition

Impressive boutique hotels situated on Al Bateen Marina. The edgy, design-led hotel promises a different experience from the capital's usual plush hotel properties.

Discover more

Getting around

Abu Dhabi Taxis

Flashes of silver and yellow at every turn, Abu Dhabi's fleet of taxis keep the city moving

On-demand services

Ride-hailing apps like Uber and Careem are available in Abu Dhabi, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Public buses

An incredibly inexpensive way to traverse the city, as well as the wider emirate – just use the Hafilat Smart Card.



Pedal power

Explore, exercise and have a bit of fun with find-and-hire bikes. The Careem Bike app will allow you to unlock two-wheeled transport across Abu Dhabi.



On the water

What better way to admire the cityscape than from the water? Jalboot offers a range of boat tours, cruises and excursions, tailored to your needs.



Self-guided walking

Truly set your own pace with guided audio tours from VoiceMap – your very own personal tour guide in your pocket. You can even download the tour and explore offline.

Practical information

Planning the journey

Curate your journey using DARB, the official source of information for public transport.

Currency

The local currency is the UAE dirham (AED or Dhs), which is divided into 100 fils and is pegged against the US dollar (US $ 1 = AED 3.6725). Credit cards, debit cards and mobile payment services are widely accepted.

Visas

An Abu Dhabi visit visa is free of charge upon arrival at Abu Dhabi International Airport for citizens of dozens of countries (for the full list, see the Visit Abu Dhabi website), and for GCC citizens, a visa is not required to enter the UAE.

Citizens of all other countries will need to apply for an Abu Dhabi tourist visa, transit visa or visit visa prior to their trip.

Apply for a visa with hotels

Some five, four and three-star hotels can apply for visas on behalf of guests who have booked a stay with them. Make sure you check with your preferred hotel if they offer this service.

While the airline, travel agency and hotel can apply for your visa, please make sure you give yourself enough time for it to be approved, and note that they do not take responsibility if the visa is declined.

Dress Code

Abu Dhabi is a destination with almost year-round sunshine, little rainfall and near-perfect winter temperatures. Lightweight summer clothing is suitable for most of the year, but something slightly warmer may be needed for the winter months. Although the attitude towards clothing style is fairly liberal throughout the UAE, a healthy amount of respect for local customs doesn't go amiss, especially when shopping or sightseeing.

Language

Abu Dhabi is a multicultural city, with residents speaking a vast variety of world languages. The UAE’s official language is Arabic but English is also widely spoken and understood.

experience

abu dhabi

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