



## United Arab Emirates: Gardens, wetlands, and wildlife Abu Dhabi – Sir Bani Yas Desert Island – Al Ain – Fujairah - Dubai

4 – 14 December 2017

### **December 4 Abu Dhabi ( D )**

#### **Hotel: [Royal Rose Hotel](#)**

Upon your arrival at Abu Dhabi International Airport, you will be greeted and transferred to the Royal Rose Hotel. For individuals arriving early and wishing to explore, the hotel is conveniently located downtown and is within walking distance of the [Corniche](#). Welcome dinner at a gourmet restaurant.

### **December 5 Al Wathba Wetland Reserve / Mangrove National Park ( B, L, D )**

#### **Hotel: [Royal Rose Hotel](#)**

We will begin our morning with breakfast at the hotel and then head out for a hike at the [Al Wathba Wetland Reserve](#). Known for its stunningly large flamingo population, the reserve is composed of both natural and man-made bodies of water. The reserve serves as home for several endangered species and is home for 37 plant species and over 250 different species of birds.

After our hike we will enjoy a relaxing lunch and then give our legs a chance to rest a bit as we board boats for a several hour exploration of [Mangrove National Park](#). Protected by government order, Mangrove National Park is a dense concentration of mangrove trees in Abu Dhabi and serves as home for several hundred marine animals and birds.

Upon return to the hotel we will have time to rest a bit before dinner.

### **December 6 Sheikh Zayed Mosque / Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital / Emirates Palace ( B, T, D )**

#### **Hotel: [Emirates Palace](#)**

We will meet for breakfast at the hotel and then head to the beautiful [Sheikh Zayed Mosque](#). The Mosque was launched by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nayan who wanted a building that would unite Islamic cultural diversity with historical and modern artistic values. The building of the Mosque utilized artisans from over 14 countries and required more than 3,000 workers and 38 contracting companies. The Mosque is beautifully offset by carefully manicured gardens.

We will then head to the [Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital](#) for a tour. Started by the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, the hospital has cared for over 75,000 falcons since opening its doors in 1999. The hospital began as a veterinary facility and now offers education, advocacy, training, and research for falcons and other animals.

We will forgo a traditional lunch today as we make our way to our hotel for the night, Emirates Palace. Upon arriving at the palace, we will enjoy a delectable afternoon tea service in the Palace's garden.

After the tea you will have time to explore the Palace grounds on your own and we will meet up again for dinner.

## **December 7 Arabian Wildlife Park Sir Bani Yas Desert Island ( B, L, D )**

### **Hotel: [Anantara Sir Bani Yas Island Al Sahel Villas](#)**

After breakfast at the Palace we head to [Sir Bani Yas Desert Island](#) where we will spend the next two days. Sir Bani Yas is a nature reserve founded to protect endangered animals. The Arabian Wildlife Park makes up over half of the island and includes cheetahs, Arabian Rock Hyrax, Beisa Oryx, hyenas, giraffes, and over 13,000 other animals. Upon arrival at the island, we will enjoy a light lunch and then take part in an afternoon nature tour of the park.

Our evening concludes with dinner and then you can retreat to your private villas that are situated within the park giving ample opportunity for up-close animal sightings.

## **December 8 Sir Bani Yas Desert Island ( B, D )**

### **Hotel: [Anantara Sir Bani Yas Island Al Sahel Villas](#)**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and then the remainder of the day is at leisure until dinner.

## **December 9 Al Ain Oasis (B, L, D)**

### **Hotel: [Al Ain Rotana](#)**

After breakfast, we depart Sir Bani Yas and head down to Al Ain, the Garden City. After lunch we will visit the [Al Ain Oasis](#), a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Oasis boasts over 147,000 date palms and up to 100 different varieties. Here we will learn about the Oasis' unique eco-system and its use of a shared water supply.

After the walk, a relaxing group dinner awaits.

## **December 10 Al Hefaiyah Mountain Conservation Centre / Fujairah (B, L, D)**

### **Hotel: [Miramar Al Aqah Beach Resort](#)**

After breakfast at the hotel, we depart for the coastal town of Fujairah. En route, we will stop at the [Al Hefaiyah Mountain Conservation Centre](#). The Conservation Centre is at the base of the Hajar Mountains and showcases the flora and fauna of the region.

We will enjoy lunch, check into the resort, and then the rest of the afternoon is at leisure until dinnertime.

## **December 11 Friday Market / Dubai Miracle Garden (B, L, D)**

### **Hotel: [Jumeirah Mina A'Salam - Madinat Jumeirah](#)**

We enjoy breakfast at the resort and then depart for Dubai. Along the way we will stop by the Friday Market, a multi-vendor market boasting local products. We will then drive through picturesque Al Dhaid to view strawberry and palm fields.

Upon arrival in Dubai we will stop at the [Dubai Miracle Garden](#), the world's largest natural flower garden. The Miracle garden boasts over \$100 million flowers and features elaborate displays.

We will then check in to our final hotel and enjoy a delicious dinner.

**December 12 Green Planet / Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve (B, L, D)**

Hotel: [Jumeirah Mina A'Salam - Madinat Jumeirah](#)

We will enjoy breakfast before departing for the [Green Planet](#), a tropical bio-dome.

After lunch and some leisure time, we will depart for the [Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve](#), the UAE's first national park. The Reserve is intended to protect endangered species and conserve the natural desert. We will view the Reserve via a sunset camel trek excursion.

We conclude the evening with dinner together.

**December 13 Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Project / Dubai (B, D)**

Our final full day in the UAE! We will meet up for breakfast and then the remainder of the day is at leisure to explore the city until our farewell dinner. You are welcome to attend an optional excursion to the [Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Project](#) and view the feeding of the turtles.

**December 14 Departure (B)**

Depart Dubai International Airport

**Prices**

- \$5,695 per person (double occupancy)
- +\$1200 single supplement

**Included**

- 10 night accommodations
- Meals as specified
- Private transfers and excursions
- Reservation and entrances

**Not included**

- International flights
- Gratuity for guides
- Travel insurance
- Meals and drinks other than those specified