

# Dubai – Glamour, Culture & Desert Luxury (5 Days)

Curated by Sam Simran Pal – TripsWithSam

Discover Dubai's vibrant skyline, desert adventures, Michelin-starred dining, and timeless Arabian charm — from futuristic architecture to hidden souks.

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## Day 1 – Arrival & The Modern Icons

- Arrive at Dubai International Airport (DXB) — 15 km from Downtown (20 min taxi).
  - Check-in: Address Downtown, a luxury hotel overlooking Burj Khalifa & Dubai Fountain.
  - Visit Downtown Dubai – explore Dubai Mall, Burj Khalifa Observation Deck, and the Fountain Show.
  - Lunch at Armani Ristorante (Michelin-starred Italian, Burj Khalifa).
  - Evening cocktails at Ce La Vi rooftop lounge.
  - Dinner at Trèsind Studio – modern Indian gastronomy (2 Michelin Stars).
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## Day 2 – Old Dubai & Cultural Charms

- Visit Al Fahidi Historical District (Al Bastakiya) – narrow lanes, art galleries & museums.
  - Explore Dubai Creek, take an abra (wooden boat) to Deira Gold & Spice Souks.
  - Lunch at Al Khayma Heritage Restaurant (Emirati cuisine).
  - Visit Etihad Museum & Jumeirah Mosque.
  - Dinner at Zuma Dubai – contemporary Japanese (Michelin Star).
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## Day 3 – Desert & Design

- Morning: Relax at hotel pool or spa.
  - Afternoon: Private Desert Safari – luxury glamping with Platinum Heritage (Land Rover desert drive).
  - Sunset photos in the dunes.
  - Dinner under the stars – gourmet Bedouin experience with traditional music.
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## Day 4 – Marina & Palm Jumeirah

- Visit Dubai Marina & Bluewaters Island.
- Walk along JBR Beach and stop at Ain Dubai (world's largest observation wheel).
- Lunch at The Beach by FIVE Palm Jumeirah.
- Explore Atlantis The Royal – world-class architecture and celebrity dining (Dinner at Dinner by Heston Blumenthal or Milano by Massimo Bottura).

- Evening at Palm Boardwalk for skyline views.
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## **Day 5 – Leisure & Departure**

- Optional morning yacht cruise or brunch at Bulgari Yacht Club.
  - Shopping at Mall of the Emirates or Souk Madinat Jumeirah.
  - Check-out & private transfer to Dubai International Airport (DXB).
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## **Practical Travel Info**

Main Airport:

- Dubai International Airport (DXB) — about 15 km from Downtown / Burj Khalifa.
  - Taxi: ~20–25 min (AED 50–70 depending on traffic).
  - Metro: Red Line connects directly to major city spots (Burj Khalifa, Mall of the Emirates, Dubai Marina).
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## **City Center & Main Areas to Explore:**

- Downtown Dubai: Burj Khalifa, Dubai Mall, Dancing Fountains, luxury hotels.
  - Dubai Marina & JBR (Jumeirah Beach Residence): Beachfront, dining promenades, yacht cruises.
  - Palm Jumeirah: Iconic man-made island — Atlantis, The Royal, private resorts.
  - Old Dubai (Deira & Bur Dubai): Traditional souks, creekside abra rides, cultural vibes.
  - Business Bay: Modern skyscrapers, restaurants, and nightlife near Downtown.
  - Alserkal Avenue: Arts district with galleries and concept cafés.
  - Desert Areas: Dune bashing, camel rides, desert camps (approx. 45 min from city center).
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## **Public Transport & Getting Around:**

- Dubai Metro: Clean, safe, and efficient — ideal for solo and first-time visitors.
  - Red Line: Airport → Downtown → Marina
  - Green Line: Covers older districts (Deira, Creek area)
- Trams: Operate around Dubai Marina and JBR.
- Taxis & Rideshare: Readily available (Careem, Uber) — most convenient for late nights or off-Metro areas.
- Buses: Reliable and air-conditioned, connecting metro gaps.
- Walking: Comfortable around Marina, Downtown, and JBR; avoid midday walks (high heat).

- Boats & Water Taxis: Take an abra across the Creek or Dubai Ferry for scenic coastal rides.
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### **Travel Essentials:**

- Plug type: G (UK 3-pin)
  - Currency: UAE Dirham (AED)
  - Tap water: Safe but most prefer bottled.
  - Language: Arabic & English widely spoken.
  - Safety: Extremely safe — ideal for families and solo travelers alike.
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### **Local Tips:**

- Get a NOL Card for Metro, Tram, and Bus rides (reloadable).
  - Dress modestly in cultural and traditional areas.
  - Avoid public drinking or smoking outside designated zones.
  - Weekends are Saturday–Sunday (Friday is prayer day).
  - Best travel time: October to April for pleasant weather.
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### **Luxury Hotels & Dining Experiences — Dubai**

#### **Where to Stay:**

- Atlantis The Royal (Palm Jumeirah): Dubai's newest ultra-luxury landmark — glass towers, rooftop infinity pool, and 17 restaurants including Dinner by Heston Blumenthal and Nobu by the Beach.
  - Bulgari Resort Dubai (Jumeirah Bay Island): Exclusive, serene, and yacht-lined — with Il Ristorante – Niko Romito (Michelin-starred) and The Bulgari Bar for sunset cocktails.
  - The Lana – Dorchester Collection (Business Bay): Newly opened masterpiece with floor-to-ceiling views of Burj Khalifa and refined minimal interiors.
  - Jumeirah Zabeel Saray (Palm Jumeirah): Ottoman-inspired luxury, famed for its spa and beachside grandeur.
  - Address Sky View (Downtown Dubai): Best for travelers who love skyline views, infinity pools, and walking proximity to Dubai Mall.
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#### **Where to Dine:**

- Trèsind Studio (Michelin 2-Star): A culinary journey redefining modern Indian cuisine. Reservations essential.
- Row on 45 by Jason Atherton: A multi-sensory tasting experience — small, intimate, and avant-garde.
- Ossiano (Atlantis The Palm): Michelin-starred underwater dining with live aquarium views.
- 11 Woodfire (Jumeirah Beach Road): Michelin-starred, laid-back grill house with global flavors.
- Moonrise (on the rooftop of Eden House): Progressive Middle Eastern tasting menu with limited seating.

- Fi'lia (Business Bay): Female-led Italian restaurant — Michelin Bib Gourmand rated.
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### **Evening Hotspots:**

- Ce La Vi Dubai: Rooftop dining with sweeping views and live music.
  - Ling Ling by Hakkasan (Atlantis The Royal): New-age Asian lounge restaurant with curated cocktails.
  - ZETA Seventy Seven: Floating 77 floors up at Address Beach Resort — stunning views of Ain Dubai.
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### **Insider Tips:**

- Reserve fine dining tables 2–3 weeks in advance, especially during weekends.
- Dress code: Smart casual or evening chic.
- Best neighborhoods for dining: Downtown, DIFC, Jumeirah, and Palm Jumeirah.
- For a sunset experience — go for a rooftop dinner between 5:30–6:30 PM.



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