



INFO SHEET

Adventure in Dubai

Dubai may be a modern metropolis, but just outside Dubai's city centre is expansive red desert and rugged mountains.

Off-road driving in the dunes, camping under the stars, camel riding, skydiving over The Palm, and sandboarding are all exciting ways to experience this unique environment. Even around the city itself you can go indoor skiing or ice skating, kitesurfing or diving among wrecks in the warm Gulf waters. Some of the adventure activities include:

Desert safaris

Leave the air-conditioned shopping malls and hotel swimming pools behind – Dubai's biggest adventure is outside the city limits in the sea of sand that encompasses the deserts of the UAE. Local tour companies have sturdy 4WDs and superior sand-driving skills and can take you out into the dunes. Tours often include some 'dune bashing', a sunset camel ride and a night in a Bedouin-style camp complete with Arabian barbecue dinner. Businesses that run these activities are Arabian Adventures and Platinum Heritage.

Wadis

Many visitors to Dubai are surprised that, in addition to the rolling sand dunes and world-class beaches, the city is just a short drive away from the impressive Hajar Mountains. These mountains play host to one of the locals' favourite past times – 'wadi bashing'. 'Wadi' is the Arabic word for valleys or dry riverbeds formed by streams that flow through the mountain range. A bumpy 4x4 drive through the wadis (or 'wadi bashing') is great fun - and isolated rock pools filled with fresh mountain water provide the perfect place to cool off. Hiking through the Wadi's is a great way to get some exercise while taking in Dubai's nature.

These terrains are best for adrenaline seekers who can enjoy exhilarating drives and a range of action-adventure activities. The landscape is also ideal for exploration through trekking, mountain biking, abseiling or rock climbing.

Sand-boarding

There are some decent-sized dunes out in the Arabian Desert and what better way to get from top to bottom? Sand-boarding and sand skiing are very similar to snowboarding and skiing, only slower, hotter and scratchier. There are plenty of local operators in Dubai that will get you out on the sand.



INFO SHEET

Adventure in Dubai

Camping

Is there anything better than a night under the stars? Many locals, expats and travellers camp freely in the desert, and if you've got a 4WD, the possibilities are fantastic. You can head to the windswept sand dunes of Al Faqa the wadis near Hatta, the mountains of Ras al-Khaimah or the East Coast beaches around Dibba. If you don't have a 4WD, you can still find some beautiful spots within walking distance of well-paved roads, or you can organise a camping trip with a tour company.

Ski Dubai

The city's most incongruous attraction, Ski Dubai is a faux-winter wonderland built right into the gargantuan Mall of the Emirates. It comes complete with ice sculptures, a tiny sledding hill, five ski runs (the longest being 400m) and a Freestyle Zone with jumps and rails. Visitors are fascinated by this snowy display, especially the Snow Park with its igloo filled with carved-ice penguins and dragons. Skiers and boarders whiz down a forking slope, which at 60m may be an ant hill compared with a real ski mountain, but if you've never skied or boarded before, it's a good place to learn the basics – and at -1°C, it's a great place to escape the desert heat!

Gulf diving

Dive into the warm Gulf waters and you can nose around shipwrecks submerged on the sandy seabed at a depth of between 10m and 35m and encounter clownfish, sea snakes, Arabian angelfish and possibly even rays and barracuda. Dubai has plenty of dive operators that are ready and willing to get you out in the water.

Water sports

With calm waters and predictable winds, Dubai has a huge range of fabulous water sports. Water lovers can water ski, jet-ski, parasail, kite surf, wakeboard, wind surf, scuba dive, snorkel, or go deep sea fishing. For a waterborne adrenaline rush, you can try your hand at kite surfing off Kite Beach, water-skiing at the Dubai Marina or sailing aboard a skippered yacht from the Dubai Creek Golf & Yacht Club.

Hot-air ballooning

Drift high above the Arabian Desert and Dubai itself on a dawn balloon ride. The tranquillity is a sharp contrast to the chaotic city and the views are amazing.



INFO SHEET

Adventure in Dubai

Dune Buggy

Head off-road with Dune Buggy Dubai to discover the thrills of the desert. There are many ways to navigate the dunes, from a 4WD Range Rover to individual quad bikes, many experiences come with a night of food and entertainment with the experience. Arabian Adventures offers a truly exhilarating adventure driving across the dunes in the latest, fully automatic, four-seater, off-road dune buggies.

Sky diving

What better way of seeing Dubai but from Above! Thrill seekers are able to see the Dubai landscape from a birds eye view, experience a tandem skydive over the Dubai desert or The Palm with Skydive Dubai.

Indoor Skydiving

For those who don't think they can handle the heights and adrenalin of actual skydiving but still want the experience, indoor skydiving is for you! Powered by two 3 metre fans, you step into the 10 metre tall wind tunnel with an instructor and start flying.

Karting

The Dubai Kartdrome operates an INDOOR and OUTDOOR circuit with a fleet of leisure karts that deliver an excellent racing experience, while ensuring high safety, in a range of specifications to satisfy those aged 7 and up. The outdoor 1.2km International Circuit at the Dubai Kartdrome features 17 corners to test a driver's skills, as well as a tunnel and bridge to add to the excitement. The Indoor Circuit is geared toward younger drivers who want to combine some of the other activities on offer at the venue such the Laserdrome, Playstation Alley, RaceRoom Sim Racing and billiards.

Racing Car Experiences

At the Dubai Autodrome you are able to choose from a variety of driving experiences, such as driving a race car around the race circuit, riding passenger with a professional racer in an oped door car and more!



INFO SHEET

Adventure in Dubai

Paintball

If you're looking for a thrilling game of paintball, Pursuit Games are the one for you. They offer varying packages and types of paintball game. Practice your C.I.A. skills in President, a game where you must escort an unarmed team player to the other side unscathed. Or Spy, a mind-bending game where well-placed moles lurk on every team.

Scuba Diving

Scuba diving is an activity that can be done in many places around Dubai. There are many shipwrecks along Dubai's coastline that are a hotspot for more advanced divers, however there are opportunities for the less skilled or first time diver in the various aquariums around Dubai. Atlantis, The Palm offers many different kinds of diving experiences from diving in their large aquarium, swimming with their dolphins or in their Ambassador lagoon.

Seaplane Tour Over Dubai

Immerse yourself in the iconic wonders of the UAE with a unique seaplane tour. From desert mirage to architectural marvels, the scenic tours provide the finest views of the country's renowned wonders. It's an experience that imbues the intimate charm and exquisite detail of the UAE's iconic attractions. And it fully showcases the splendour of cities that are surrounded by scorched desert and shimmering sea.

Jetskiing

Join a Jetski tour of Dubai's coastline, SeaRide Dubai offers a fun, tour where you will see the Dubai skyline and skyscrapers, and an adventure tour where you will go around the Burj Al Arab and The Palm Jumeirah, past Atlantis.

Flyboarding

Flyboarding is a newer watersport where you 'hover' over water by strapping onto a board that uses the force of water flow to propel you into the air. Searide Dubai offers a flyboard experience as well as a hoverboard experience which is similar to the flyboard.



INFO SHEET

Adventure in Dubai

Camel Polo

An Arabian twist on the traditional sport of kings, Camel Polo is a unique, memorable and often hilarious experience. It's perfect for a fun-filled day out for a group of at least eight people. Trained camels and professional staff make this easy and safe. Each camel will have one participant and one trainer to allow the player to focus on the game. The trainer will steer the camel, as you focus on the game

Gyrocopter

Witness Dubai from a new perspective and giving you the best visibility possible, the Skyhub Gyrocopters brings you the beauty of Dubai with the unique one on one airborne experience.