

#MyDubai COMPETITION INVITES RESIDENTS TO SHOWCASE THE BEST OF DUBAI TO THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

#MyDubai competition winners share their top picks of the city's best spots to help friends and family explore Dubai in 72 hours

Dubai, UAE; 17 January 2019: Following the launch of the #MyDubai social media competition by Dubai's Department of Tourism & Commerce Marketing (Dubai Tourism), residents across the city have been uploading inspirational images onto their social media platforms to be in with a chance of winning two Emirates return flights for their friends and family to visit them. With a host of unique experiences for all ages, what better way to immerse yourself in the dynamic life of the city than by taking in the sights of Dubai's famous Downtown district, embarking on a thrilling ride at Dubai Parks & Resort, or getting a taste of the emirate's culinary hot-spots at a variety of world renowned eateries.



If looking to design the perfect itinerary to entertain your visitors, here's some inspiration for friends and family spending 72 hours in Dubai:



DAY 1:

BREAKFAST

- **Breakfast by the waves at Kite Beach**

Foodies will be spoilt for choice by the selection of restaurants, cafés and unique food concepts, all just a stone's throw from the clear waters of the Arabian Gulf. [Kite Beach's](#) promenade boasts a variety of picturesque spots to relax and tuck into tasty fare while feeling the sand between your toes – including Park House, The Surf Café and Al Ijza Cafeteria, which serves up old-school classics to grab and go.

MORNING ACTIVITY

- **A morning exploring Dubai's oldest neighbourhoods**

A visit to [Al Fahidi Neighbourhood](#) offers a great opportunity to get acquainted with Dubai's old way of life, reflected in the traditional buildings featuring wind towers (Barajeel) built out of stone, gypsum, teak, sandal wood, fronds and palm wood. Wander through the narrow alleys, pathways and public squares, and discover the beauty of old Dubai. Don't miss the area's various art exhibitions, specialised museums, cultural centres and quaint cafés, restaurants and guesthouses.

LUNCH

- **Lunch at Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding**

Located in Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood, one of the oldest in Dubai, the [Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding](#) (SMCCU) serves traditional Emirati lunch in the ambience of a beautifully restored wind-tower house where visitors can enjoy a meal with local flair while chatting with an Emirati host about UAE culture and customs.

AFTERNOON ACTIVITY

- **Afternoon Stroll Through Dubai's Oldest Souks**

Discover Dubai's shopping heritage at [Dubai's souqs](#), with lavish gold jewellery, hand-woven fabrics, traditional oud fragrances and quirky knick-knacks. A wander through one of Dubai's bustling souks is an essential experience for both visitors and local hosts. The shopkeepers are friendly and chatty, and more than happy to introduce lesser-known spices. Remember, haggling is not only accepted, it's encouraged!

EVENING ACTIVITY

- **Visit the Viewing Deck of Burj Khalifa**

No visit to Dubai is complete without a visit to the top of [Burj Khalifa](#), the world's tallest building – offering unobstructed, 360-degree views of the city, desert and ocean through a floor-to-ceiling glass-walled perimeter. The open-air terrace features digitally powered telescopes that provide virtual time travel with real-time views of the past and the future.

- **Embark on Virtual Reality Escapades at VR Park**

[VR Park](#), The Dubai Mall's newest attraction, combines augmented and virtual reality to stunning effect. Try the fantastic Burj Drop experience, where you'll propel down the side of the record-breaking Burj Khalifa. If that's too tame for the teens, try and survive a zombie attack at The Walking Dead Outbreak VR game, or navigate a spaceship to safety. Younger children and families also have plenty to enjoy, making VR Park a treat for all ages.

DINNER

- **Dinner by the Dancing Fountains**

Watch the mesmerising Dubai Fountains from a number of dining options in Downtown Dubai. Whether you opt for the French feel at Madeleine Café & Boulangerie, the relaxing ambience at Thai eatery [Thiptara](#), or delicious Italian dishes enjoyed on the outdoor terrace at [Serafina](#),

the picturesque settings are prime spots to take in the beauty and charm of Dubai's most popular *son-et-lumière* show.



DAY 2:

BREAKFAST

- **Breakfast at Arabian Tea House**

Start the day unwinding at an oasis of quiet and calm at [Arabian Tea House](#). Set in the historic Al Fahidi district on the Bur Dubai side of the Creek, the tea house offers everything from delectable breakfast platters, healthy sandwiches, salads and dips, to pastries, refreshing mint lemonades and more than 100 types of tea – including a house special blend of black tea with fruit and herbs.

MORNING ACTIVITY

- **Cool Off at Aquaventure**

[Aquaventure](#) at Atlantis, The Palm offers the perfect splash-filled break for the entire family. Choose from record-breaking rides and slides, close encounters with sharks and rays, or simply relax on 700 metres of private beach.

LUNCH

- **Discover Versatility at Kaleidoscope**

In a city like Dubai, where a multitude of communities and cultures come together to share memories of their homeland, [Kaleidoscope](#) gives you the opportunity to visit the world through food. Located in the [Atlantis, The Palm](#) on Palm Jumeirah, the restaurant is popular for its action-packed buffet atmosphere, with live cooking stations and alternating themed nights that serve Arabic, Indian, Mediterranean and other various international culinary specialties. It's the perfect venue for catching up with friends.

AFTERNOON ACTIVITY

- **Enter the World of Action and Animation at Dubai Parks & Resorts**

[Dubai Parks and Resorts](#) offers children and the young at heart an amazing array of mega theme parks like Motiongate, Bollywood Parks and Legoland Dubai. Featuring more than 100 incredible indoor and outdoor rides and attractions, this labyrinth of fun will keep guests enthralled. You can even take a rest in Riverland Dubai's entertainment and dining boulevard, which offers an array of options for the whole family.

EVENING ACTIVITY & DINNER

- **Embark on a Desert Adventure**

For a quintessentially Arabian experience, book yourself a desert safari that highlights the local Emirati culture and heritage set amidst an ultra-luxury desert landscape. Complete your Dubai experience with a traditional feast and eclectic performances as the sunset brings in a sky of a thousand stars. You can even catch a glimpse of native desert animals including gazelles and Arabian Oryx, or you can trace your way through the desert on a traditional camel convoy. Whether it's sandboarding, camel or horseback riding or going on a desert safari, this is one adventure the kids will love.



DAY 3:

SUNRISE ACTIVITY

- **Sunrise Hot Air Balloon Ride Over the Desert**

Take in the sunrise and see the golden hues of the desert as you drift 1,200 metres above the dunes, over emerald-green oases with oryx, gazelles and wandering camels in their natural habitat below. Soar the skies with the teams at [Balloon Adventures](#), [Sindbad Balloons](#) or [Platinum Heritage](#) for a mesmerising sky-high tour, from pick-up to take-off.

BREAKFAST

- **Start your Day with Some Cocoa**

Start your day inspired at Dubai's famous breakfast-only destination, [Cocoa Room](#), which you'll find in the Galleria Mall at Jumeirah 1. A haven for chocolate lovers where even the décor is delicious, everything has been considered, from the seating to the dark auburn tiles shaped like blocks of chocolate which cover the ceiling. The same stroke of elegance transcends to the drink's menu with gourmet beverages such as Mayan Hot Chocolates.

MORNING ACTIVITY

- **Dubai Miracle Garden**

Visit the floral paradise at [Dubai Miracle Garden](#). Located in Al Barsha South, the 72,000sqm garden is home to the region's biggest flower garden with more than 50 million blooming flowers. Feast your eyes on blooming pyramids, stars, igloos and hearts, take in the record-breaking wall of flowers, or enjoy a stroll under a ceiling of colourful umbrellas.

LUNCH

- **Grab a Bite in The Heart of The City**

Take a stroll into Dubai's exciting urban precinct – [City Walk](#), artfully combining shopping with entertainment, a cinema and a year-round calendar of events. Families will enjoy the European-style pedestrianised boulevards, stretching several blocks from the city towards Jumeirah. Popular dining options include the modern-Indian restaurant [Farzi Cafe](#), French fare at [Aubaine](#), Emirati fusion spot [Sikka Cafe](#), and [Cocoa Kitchen](#) for the sweets lovers – to name a few.

AFTERNOON ACTIVITY

- **Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary**

Translated as 'Cape of the Creek', [Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary](#) sits at the mouth of the Dubai Creek and is among the few protected urban areas in the world – a critical staging ground for the wintering birds of the East African to West Asian Flyway. This wildlife haven covers an area of 6 sq km and features a combination of salt flats, intertidal mudflats, mangroves and lagoons, supporting over 20,000 water birds and 67 species. The site is also home to more than 500 species of flora and fauna and is one of the best-managed arid wetland zones in the region.

EVENING ACTIVITY & DINNER

- **Evening at Global Village**

[Global Village](#) is Dubai's leading family entertainment and cultural attraction offering a unique shopping experience from over 70 participating countries presented in over 36 pavilions, each representing a different country. Offering a collection of 22 international dining options along with thrilling rides, this annual entertainment and shopping destination is open from November through to April.

The #MyDubai competition will continue to select two winners each week until 31 January 2019. Visit <https://www.visitdubai.com/en/vfr-competition-terms-and-condition> for all terms and conditions.

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About Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (Dubai Tourism)

With the ultimate vision of positioning Dubai as the world's leading tourism destination and commercial hub, Dubai Tourism's mission is to increase the awareness of Dubai among global audiences and to attract tourists and inward investment into the emirate. Dubai Tourism is the principal authority for the planning, supervision, development and marketing of Dubai's tourism sector. It markets and promotes the Emirate's commerce sector and is responsible for the licensing and classification of all tourism services, including hotels, tour operators and travel agents. Brands and departments within the Dubai Tourism portfolio include Dubai Business Events, Dubai Calendar, and Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment.

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