

# Jumeirah & Around

## Neighbourhood Top Five

➊ Stepping into a modern Arabian souq at **Madinat Jumeirah** (p103) with its sumptuous architecture and surrounding network of Venetian-style canals, subtropical vegetation and Burj Al Arab backdrop. Plan to stay a while to browse, explore, snap selfies, enjoy

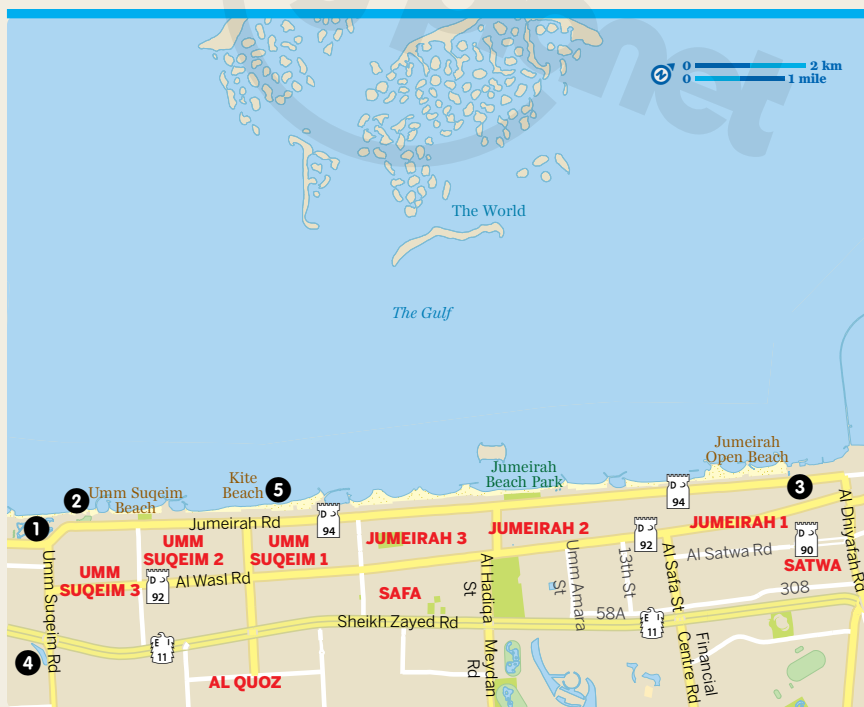
a drink or meal or catch an *abra* (traditional water taxi).

➋ Sipping cocktails at the **Burj Al Arab** (p103) while debating if it's kitsch or class.

➌ Learning about Islamic architecture and religion on a tour of the intricately detailed **Jumeirah Mosque** (p104).

➍ Earning power shopper status while getting lost in the **Mall of the Emirates** (p104).

➎ Kicking back on **Kite Beach** (p114) and grabbing a Wagyu burger from SALT, Dubai's first gourmet food truck.



For more detail of this area, see Map p254 and p256 ➔

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

For the only chance of seeing the inside of a mosque as a non-Muslim in Dubai, show up for the low-cost tours of the Jumeirah Mosque which are operated by the nonprofit Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding. Aside from admiring the grand architecture, you'll also get the opportunity to ask questions about the Islamic faith and Emirati culture.



### Best Places to Eat

- Al Fanar (p106)
- Ravi (p105)
- Pai Thai (p107)
- Samad Al Iraqi (p107)
- Pierchic (p107)

For reviews, see p105. ➡



### Best Places to Drink

- 360° (p108)
- Bahri Bar (p108)
- Casa Latina (p108)

For reviews, see p108. ➡



### Best Beaches

- Kite Beach (p114)
- Sunset Beach (p114)

For reviews, see p114. ➡

## Explore Jumeirah & Around

Hemmed in by the turquoise waters of the Gulf, Jumeirah is practically synonymous with beaches. The neighbourhood extends from just southwest of Port Rashid as far as the Burj Al Arab and the romantically evocative Madinat Jumeirah, a modern take on an Arabian city complete with a souq, high-end resorts and fancy restaurants and bars.

An older part of town, Jumeirah is largely a residential area, dominated by low-rise apartment buildings and handsome villas. The most interesting stretch of its main thoroughfare – Jumeirah Rd – begins just southwest of the Jumeirah Mosque. This is where you'll find designer boutiques, galleries, luxury spas, posh cafes and a smattering of smaller malls like the handsome Mercato Mall. The mosque, incidentally, is the only one in town open to non-Muslims on guided tours.

Jumeirah is poised to undergo major changes in the coming years with the construction of the Dubai Canal, which will link the Dubai Creek with the Gulf. Both Jumeirah Open Beach and Jumeirah Beach Park are closed for the time being as a result, so you'll have to spread your towel further south on Kite Beach and Sunset Beach (which have the added benefit of the Burj Al Arab as a backdrop).

As it stretches for many kilometres, Jumeirah has been officially subdivided into sections Jumeirah 1, 2 and 3 and Umm Suqeim 1, 2, 3. For logistical reasons, we've also included the inland area around the Mall of the Emirates in this chapter.

## Local Life

➤ **Brunch time** Indulge in the time-honoured Dubai tradition of partaking in an opulent brunch at one of the top hotels in Madinat Jumeirah, perhaps paired with free-flowing bubbly.

➤ **Beaching** Head to Kite Beach to swim in the Gulf, get some exercise at the volleyball net, watch the kite surfers and scarf a burger from the SALT food truck.

➤ **Designer shopping** Check out what's humming on local and regional sewing machines on an indie boutique hop along Jumeirah Rd.

## Getting There & Away

➤ **Metro** The closest stop to the Burj Al Arab and Madinat Jumeirah is Mall of the Emirates. For the Jumeirah Mosque, get off at World Trade Centre; for Kite Beach, get off at Noor Bank. You'll still need to catch a taxi to reach your final destination.