“All you’ve got to do is decide to go and the hardest part is over. So go!”

TONY WHEELER, COFOUNDER – LONELY PLANET
(left) Spice Souq, Deira p53 Local spices are on sale at this working souq.

(above) Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi p135 A cultural hub of the city.

(right) Gold Souq, Deira p52 A dazzling display of gold.
Dubai & Abu Dhabi’s Top 10
1 Slicing through the slipstream of the sky’s superhighways, there is no more potent a symbol of Dubai’s aspiration to position itself as a major global player than its phalanx of futuristic skyscrapers. Above them all looms the Burj Khalifa, shaped like a deep-space rocket and at 828m the world’s tallest building. Clad in 28,000 glass panels, it also lays claim to several more superlatives, including the highest outdoor observation deck, the most floors, the highest occupied floor and a lift (elevator) with the longest travel distance.

2 Abu Dhabi’s snow-white landmark mosque was conceived by Sheikh Zayed, the country’s ‘founding father’. It has truly impressive dimensions with 80 marble domes held aloft by 1000 pillars and space for 50,000 worshippers. Open to non-Muslims, the main prayer hall is a visual extravaganza drenched in gold leaf and boasting massive crystal chandeliers, the world’s largest handwoven carpet and pillars adorned with intricate semiprecious stones and floral marble inlays.
The much anticipated, Jean Nouvel–designed Louvre Abu Dhabi finally opened to great fanfare in late 2017. Sunlight filters through its huge perforated dome onto a cluster of 23 galleries sheltering 600 priceless works that illustrate our shared humanity across time, ethnicity and geography. Highlights include a Da Vinci painting, a Chinese Buddha and a bronze statue from Benin. The dome pays homage to desert-palm shading – its geometric openings represent the interlaced palm leaves used in traditional roofing – and creates a cinematic ‘rain of light’ as the sun’s rays pass throughout the day.

Louvre Abu Dhabi (p156)

Shopping (p37)

Shopping malls represent an integral part of the culture and lifestyle in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Not merely places for maxing out your credit cards on fashion, electronics or gourmet foods, malls are also where locals go to socialise in cafes and restaurants, to catch a movie in a state-of-the-art multiplex or to get adrenaline kicks in an indoor theme park or game arcade. The best and biggest of the bunch is Dubai Mall, which features not only 1200 shops but also a giant aquarium, an indoor ice rink and a genuine dinosaur skeleton. DUBAI MALL (P82)

Exotic Souqs (p52)

For a dose of Arabian Nights flair, head to Dubai’s historic core and plunge headlong into its charmingly chaotic warren of souqs. There are sections for spices and perfume, but the headliner is the dazzling Gold Souq. Even if you don’t have a thing for bling, a walk through here will feel like you’ve entered a giant Aladdin’s Cave. It’s fun to just watch the action, especially in the evening. If you’re buying, sharpen your haggling skills no matter whether shopping for teensy earrings, an engagement ring or a dowry-worthy necklace.

SPICE SOUK (P53)

Deira
**Al Fahidi Historic District (p67)**

Wandering around this restored heritage area in Bur Dubai provides a tangible sense of historic Middle Eastern architecture and culture. Low-lying traditional courtyard buildings flank this quiet labyrinth of lanes, many of them featuring arabesque windows, decorative gypsum screens and wind towers. Some contain craft shops, small heritage museums, art galleries, artsy guesthouses or cafes serving local fare, including Arabic breakfasts and camel milk smoothies. The Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding leads guided tours of the quarter.

**Burj Al Arab (p97)**

This landmark luxe hotel, with its dramatic design that mimics the billowing sail of a ship, floats on its own artificial island and has become the iconic symbol of Dubai’s boom years. The interior is all about impact, drama and unapologetic bling, with dancing fountains, gold fittings, shiny marble and whirlpool baths your butler can fill with champagne if you so wish. If a stay exceeds your budget, you can still partake in the opulence by making reservations for cocktails, afternoon tea or dinner in the underwater restaurant.

**Jumeirah**
Dubai Museum (p66)

Housed in Bur Dubai’s Al Fahidi Fort, the city’s oldest surviving structure, this museum provides a well-laid-out introduction to the history of Dubai. Marvel at the turbo-evolution of this city from simple desert settlement to futuristic metropolis in just a third of a century. Dioramas recreate traditional scenes in a souq, at home and in the mosque, while other galleries focus on life at sea and in the desert. An archaeological exhibition illustrates the ancient history of the region with a display of items unearthed during excavations at local digs.

Bur Dubai
**IMG Worlds of Adventure (p91)**

In 2016, Dubai added four theme parks to its stable of attractions, including IMG Worlds of Adventure, the world’s largest indoor theme park. Daredevils can join the Avengers in battling the evil Ultron, get pummelled by Thor in a lunch-losing top-spin ride, pose for selfies with a walking dinosaur and feel like a cannonball when going from zero to 100 in 2.5 seconds on the Velociraptor coaster. Little kids, meanwhile, will be enchanted by Ben 10, Gumball and the Powerpuff Girls in the Cartoon Network wing.

**Downtown Dubai & Business Bay**

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**Emirates Palace (p135)**

One of the most expensive hotels ever built, Emirates Palace allegedly came at a price tag of a cool US$3.5 billion. Surrounded by carefully manicured fountain-laden gardens, it has its own marina, helipad and 1.3km-long sandy beach. The interior is an opulent feast decked out in marble, gold and mother of pearl, hundreds of palm trees and 1000 Swarovski crystal chandeliers. The exterior looks especially magical when illuminated at night.

**Abu Dhabi**
Behind the Scenes

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ABBREVIATIONS
AA    Al Ain
AD    Abu Dhabi
EC    UAE East Coast
SH    Sharjah

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Dubai Maps

Sights
- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours
- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping
- Sleeping
- Camping
- Hut/Shelter

Eating
- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife
- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment
- Entertainment

Shopping
- Shopping

Information
- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic
- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population
- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport
- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes
- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries
- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography
- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas
- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book.
DEIRA & EASTERN CREEK NORTH  
Map on p244

**Top Sights** (p52)
1. Gold Souq ........................................ B1
2. Al Ahmadiya School .......................... A1
3. Covered Souq ................................ B2
4. Dhow Wharfage ................................. B2
5. Heritage House ................................. A1
6. Museum of the Poet Al Oqaili ............. A1
7. Naif Market ...................................... D3
9. Perfume Souq .................................. C2
10. Spice Souq ..................................... B2
11. Women’s Museum ............................. C1

**Sights** (p53)
22. Spice Island .................................. G7
23. Sumibiya ....................................... C4
24. Xiao Wei Yang Hotpot ..................... C4
25. Issimo ......................................... (see 31)
26. Ku-Bu .......................................... C5
27. Al Ghurair Centre .......................... D5
28. Gift Village ................................... C3
29. Polyglot Language Institute ............... C4
30. Coral Dubai Deira Hotel .................... F7
31. Hilton Dubai Creek ......................... C7
32. Landmark Hotel Baniyas .................. C3
33. Marco Polo Hotel ......................... C3
34. Radisson Blu Hotel ........................ C5
35. Riviera Hotel ................................ C4
36. Sheraton Dubai Creek Hotel & Towers .... C6

**Drinking & Nightlife** (p59)
22. Yum! ........................................... (see 23)
25. Juice World .................................. E7
26. Ku-Bu .......................................... C5

**Shopping** (p60)
27. Al Ghurair Centre .......................... D5
28. Gift Village ................................... C3

**Eating** (p55)
12. Afghan Khorasan Kabab ................... C2
13. Al Dawaar ...................................... E1
14. Al Mansour Dhow ............................ C5
15. Aroos Damascus .............................. E6
16. Aseelah ....................................... C5
17. Ashwaq Cafeteria ............................. C2
18. Bateaux Dubai ............................... C6
19. Miyako ......................................... E1
20. Qwaider Al Nabulsi ......................... E7
21. Sadaf Iranian Sweets ....................... D7
22. Shabestan ................................. (see 34)
23. Table 9 ........................................ (see 31)

**Sports & Activities** (p61)

**Sleeping** (p183)
30. Coral Dubai Deira Hotel .................... F7
31. Hilton Dubai Creek ......................... C7
32. Landmark Hotel Baniyas .................. C3
33. Marco Polo Hotel ......................... C3
34. Radisson Blu Hotel ........................ C5
35. Riviera Hotel ................................ C4
36. Sheraton Dubai Creek Hotel & Towers .... C6
DEIRA & EASTERN CREEK SOUTH

Eating (p55)
1 Al Tawasol ............................................. D2
2 Thai Kitchen .......................................... A5
3 Yalumba .................................................. D6

Drinking & Nightlife (p59)
4 Cielo Sky Lounge ...................................... A4
5 Dubliner’s ................................................ C6
6 Irish Village .............................................. B6
7 QDs .......................................................... A4
8 Terrace ...................................................... A5

Shopping (p60)
9 Damas ...................................................... B4
10 Deira City Centre ..................................... B4
11 Mikyajy .................................................. B4
   Women’s Secret ...................................... (see 11)

Sports & Activities (p61)
12 Dubai Creek Golf & Yacht Club ................. A5

Sleeping (p183)
13 Park Hyatt Dubai ..................................... A5
14 Roda Al Bustan ......................................... C6
15 Rove City Centre ...................................... C3
BUR DUBAI & WESTERN CREEK NORTH  Map on p248

Top Sights  (p66)
1 Dubai Museum ....................................... G4

Sights  (p67)
2 Al Fahidi Historic District.......................... H4
3 Alserkal Cultural Foundation .................... H4
4 Bur Dubai Souq ....................................... G3
5 Coffee Museum ....................................... H4
6 Coin Museum ........................................ H4
7 Crossroads of Civilizations
   Museum ................................................. G1
8 Diwan Mosque .......................................... H4
9 Grand Mosque ......................................... G3
10 Hindi Lane ........................................... H3
11 Majlis Gallery ....................................... H4
12 Saruq Al Hadid Archaeology
   Museum ................................................ G1
13 Sheikh Mohammed Centre for
   Cultural Understanding .............................. H4
14 Sheikh Saeed Al Maktoum House .............. G1
15 Shindagha Historic District ...................... G1

Eating  (p70)
16 Al Ustad Special Kabab............................ F5
   Antique Bazaar ...................................... (see 38)
17 Arabian Tea House .................................. H4
18 Bait Al Wakeel ....................................... G3
19 Creekside Cafe ...................................... H3
20 Kabul Darbar .......................................... F3
21 Nepali Village Restaurant ......................... E5
22 Nepali Village Restaurant ......................... F3
23 Saravana Bhavan .................................. G2
24 Sind Punjab .......................................... F3
25 Vaibhav ............................................... F3

Drinking & Nightlife  (p73)
26 George & Dragon .................................. F2
27 Rock Bottom Café .................................. F7

Shopping  (p75)
28 Ajmal .................................................. (see 28)
29 Bateel ............................................... (see 28)
28 BurJuman ............................................ F7
29 City Centre Al Shindagha ......................... F1
30 Computer Plaza .................................... F5
31 Dream Girl Tailors ................................ F4
32 Fabindia ............................................. B4
33 Hollywood Tailors ................................ F4
34 Royal Saffron ....................................... H4

Sports & Activities  (p69)
35 Dubai Ferry Cruises ................................. G2

Sleeping  (p184)
36 Arabian Courtyard Hotel & Spa ............... G4
37 Barjeel Heritage Guest House ................... G1
38 Four Points by Sheraton Bur
   Dubai .................................................. F5
39 Four Points by Sheraton
   Downtown Dubai .................................... D5
40 Golden Sands Hotel Apartments ............... D5
41 Majestic Hotel Tower ............................. D5
42 Orient Guest House ................................. H4
43 Rainbow Hotel ...................................... F5
44 Savoy Central Hotel Apartments ............. E4
45 XVA Hotel .......................................... H4

XVA Café ............................................... (see 45)
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1. Sights (p67)
   - 1 Children’s City ............................................. G6
   - 2 Creek Park ................................................... G6
   - 3 Dubai Frame ................................................ C3
   - 4 Wafi City .................................................... D6
   - 5 Zabeel Park ................................................ C2

2. Drinking & Nightlife (p73)
   - 17 Cooz ............................................................ E7

3. Entertainment (p75)
   - 18 Movies under the Stars .................................. E6

4. Shopping (p75)
   - 19 Dubai Flea Market ......................................... C2
   - 20 Karama Market ............................................. D3
   - 21 Ripe Market ............................................... C2
   - 22 Wafi Mall .................................................... E6

5. Sports & Activities (p78)
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   - 24 Raffles Dubai ............................................... E6

6. Eating (p70)
   - 6 Asha’s ............................................................. E6
   - 7 Awtar ............................................................. E7
   - 8 Eric’s ............................................................. F2
   - 9 Govinda’s ....................................................... F1
   - 10 Hot Fish ....................................................... D2
   - 11 Jaffer Bhai’s ................................................ F2
   - 12 Jambo’s Grill ................................................ F2
   - 13 Karachi Darbar ............................................. E2
   - 14 Khazana ....................................................... E4
   - 15 Lemongrass ............................................... D4
   - 16 Pars ............................................................. A1
   - 19 Dubai Flea Market ......................................... C2
   - 20 Karama Market ............................................. D3
   - 21 Ripe Market ............................................... C2
   - 22 Wafi Mall .................................................... E6

7. Sleeping (p184)
   - 23 Mövenpick Hotel & Apartments Bur Dubai ......... E4
   - 24 Raffles Dubai ............................................... E6
See map p248

See map p244

Floating Bridge (open 6am to 10pm)
Top Sights  (p97)
1 Etihad Museum ............................................. H2
Sights  (p100)
2 2nd December Street .................................... H3
3 Dubai Street Museum ..................................... H3
4 Dubai Walls .................................................. E4
5 Green Planet ............................................... E4
6 Hub Zero .................................................... E4
7 Jumeirah Mosque .......................................... G2
8 La Mer ........................................................ G2
9 Majlis Ghorfat Um Al Sheef .......................... B3
10 Nikki Beach Dubai ........................................ H1
Eating  (p101)
11 3 Fils .......................................................... D2
12 Al Fanar ........................................................ E2
13 Al Mallah ...................................................... H3
14 BookMunch Cafe ........................................ B3
15 Comptoir 102 .............................................. F2
16 Dragonfly by Tim Raue .............................. E4
17 Ka’ak Al Manara ........................................... (see 30)
18 Lime Tree Cafe ........................................... G2
19 Logma .......................................................... D3
20 Majlis Cafe .................................................... (see 7)
21 Operation Falafel ........................................ D3
22 Pantry Cafe .................................................. B3
23 Ravi ............................................................... H3
24 Samad Al Iraqi ............................................. C2
25 THE One Cafe ............................................. G2
Drinking & Nightlife
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- Club Boudoir ...........................................(see 40)
- Grapeskin ............................................... (see 42)
- Provocateur ......................................... C2
- Sho Cho ...................................................(see 40)

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(p107)
- BoxPark .................................................. D3
- City Walk ............................................... E3
- Galleria Mall ......................................... E3
- House of Prose ......................................... G2
- Mercato Shopping Mall ............................. E2
- O Concept ............................................. G2
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- Urbanist .................................................. (see 26)

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- Al Boom Diving ....................................... G3
- Mattel Play! Town ..................................... E4
- Wonder Bus Tours .................................... E2

Sleeping
(p188)
- Al Khooory Executive Hotel ...................... G3
- Beach Hotel Apartment ........................... G2
- Chelsea Plaza Hotel ................................ H3
- Dubai Marine Beach Resort & Spa .......... G2
- Holiday Inn Express ................................ H2
- La Ville Hotel & Suites ............................. E3
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1 Burj Al Arab ........................................... C1
2 Madinat Jumeirah................................. B1

Sights (p100)
3 Kite Beach............................................. F1
4 Night Beach......................................... D1
5 Sunset Beach......................................... C1

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6 Bu Qtair................................................. D1
7 Nathan Outlaw at Al Mahara.............. (see 1)
8 Pai Thai................................................. B1
9 Pierchic................................................. B1
10 Rockfish.............................................. C1
11 Salt.................................................. F1

Drinking & Nightlife (p105)
12 360°...................................................... C1
13 Agency................................................ B1
14 Brunswick Sports Club...................... B4
15 Gold on 27.......................................... (see 1)
16 Skyview Bar......................................... (see 1)

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15 Dubai Community Theatre & Arts Centre................................. B3
16 Vox Mall of the Emirates.................. (see 2)
DUBAI MARINA & PALM JUMEIRAH

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1 Ain Dubai .............................................C4
2 Cayan Tower ............................... E5
3 Club Mina ......................................... E5
4 Fairmont The Palm Beach Club ............. F4
5 JBR Beach ........................................ C5
6 Lost Chambers Aquarium ..................... F1
7 Pier 7 .................................................. D5
8 The Beach at JBR .................................. C5
9 The Walk at JBR ..................................... D5

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Al Khaima .......................................... (see 56)
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10 Barracuda ........................................ D5
11 BiCE .................................................. D5
12 Bouchon Bakery ............................... C5
13 Couley ................................................. C6
14 Eauzone ............................................ F5
15 El Chiringuito .................................. G4
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Fumé ................................................... (see 7)
Indigo by Vineet ............................... (see 53)
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17 Maya Modern Mexican Kitchen .......... D5
18 Mythos Kouzina & Grill..................... D6
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Sushi Art ............................................. (see 8)
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19 Toro Toro ........................................ E5
20 Zero Gravity ...................................... D5

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Arabian Courtyard ............................. (see 30)
Atelier M ............................................. (see 7)
Barasti ................................................ (see 64)
21 Bliss Lounge .................................... C5
22 Casa Latina ....................................... H6
23 Dek on 8 ............................................. (see 58)
24 Jetty Lounge ..................................... F5
25 Lucky Voice ..................................... G6
26 N’Dulge ............................................. F1
27 Nola Eatery & Social House ............... D6
28 Observatory ....................................... E5

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35 Jazz@PizzaExpress .......................... C6
36 MusicHall ........................................ E3

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37 Dubai Marina Mall ............................ D5
38 Gallery One ...................................... D5
39 Ibn Battuta Mall ............................... A6

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40 Aqua Fun ........................................ C5
41 Aquaventure Waterpark..................... F1
42 Atlantis Abra Ride ............................. F1
43 Beach Gym ....................................... C5
44 Dhow Cruise ..................................... D5
45 Dubai Ferry Cruises ........................... (see 10)
46 Dubai Marina Water Bus .................... D5
47 Skydive Dubai .................................. E4
48 Splash Pad ....................................... C5
49 Yoga by the Sea ............................... C5

Sleeping (p190)
50 Address Dubai Marina ....................... D5
51 Gloria Hotel ..................................... G6
52 Grand Midwest Tower ......................... G6
53 Grosvenor House ............................. D5
54 Jumeirah Zabeel Saray ...................... D3
55 Le Meridien Mina Seyahi Beach Resort & Marina ........................................... E5
56 Le Royal Meridien Beach Resort & Spa... D5
57 Marina Dream Hostel ......................... C5
58 Media One Hotel ............................... E5
59 One&Only Royal Mirage ..................... E5
60 One&Only The Palm .......................... E4
61 Pearl Marina Hotel Apartments ............. C5
62 Ritz-Carlton Dubai ............................. D5
63 Rixos Premium Dubai ......................... D5
64 Westin Dubai Mina Seyahi Beach Resort & Marina ................................. E5