

Location

Jumeirah Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa is located in the midst of the desert, close to the Dubai International Endurance City, yet is just a 35-minute drive from its sister properties Burj Al Arab, The Jumeirah Beach Hotel and Madinat Jumeirah and 45 minutes from Dubai International Airport.

History

Architects, Godwin Austen Johnson and Chartered Architects, worked together with landscape architects, Desert Leisure Dubai, to create the 'Gateway to the Sun' (the literal translation of Bab Al Shams). The resort took nine months to be completed and was opened in 2004.

Structure and Exterior Design

Jumeirah Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa is an exclusive low-rise resort, a unique retreat in the desert surrounded by natural desert landscape. The resort is an architectural wonder that seems to come to life in the middle of the shifting sands of ancient Arabia, providing a unique and traditional desert experience that is true to the culture and heritage of Dubai and the UAE.

The resort was designed to resemble a fortified rural Arab village in the desert built in and around an oasis. Inside the walls, shaded courtyards, walkways and water features provide cool shelter from the harsh sunlight and desert winds, and maintain the unique ambience and atmosphere of a traditional village in the desert. Just as with a trip to an old village in the desert, a walk around the hotel is meant to be filled with adventure and discovery, with the desert outside retaining the natural beauty of untouched rolling dunes.

Guest Rooms and Suites

Jumeirah Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa features 115 rooms, including 10 suites, in 16 double-storied exclusively designed individual buildings, featuring traditional Gulf décor that is emphasized by the use of natural stones, dark wood and Arabian glasswork.

In-room features include high-speed internet connection, 24-hour in-room dining and beautifully appointed bathrooms with rain showers.

The stunning choice of 113 rooms and suites includes:

- 60 Deluxe Rooms (King)
- 43 Superior Rooms (King)
- 4 Royal Suites
- 2 Deluxe Suites
- 4 Junior Suites

Restaurants and Bars

Jumeirah Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa features a wide variety of restaurants and bars, including the region's first authentic open-air Arabic desert restaurant, as well as fine dining, combined with live Arabic entertainment.

Al Forsan Restaurant

At the heart of the resort, Al Forsan has a warm and family-friendly décor with a traditional Arabian theme. The all-day restaurant features indoor and outdoor

seating, which allows guests to choice of sitting inside the restaurant with views of the desert or putting green, or at the al fresco terrace which overlooks luscious gardens, the putting green and the swimming pool. Al Forsan features delicious international and Arabic cuisine with an extensive a la carte menu and buffet option available, several appetizing live cooking stations and a cocktail bar.

Al Sarab Rooftop Lounge

Al Sarab is a relaxing and comfortable two storey open-air rooftop lounge located at the heart of the resort, offering a breathtaking view of the Arabian Desert, particularly at sunset, and perfect for pre and post-dinner drinks. The menu features an extensive list of international beverages, cocktails and mocktails, as well as light snacks and an exquisite collection of Shisha and cigars. It is also an ideal venue to enjoy the spectacular daily falcon show.

Al Hadheerah Desert Restaurant

The resort's signature restaurant, Al Hadheerah is an open-air traditional Arabic desert restaurant offering diners a unique and magical experience with scenes straight out of an Arabian legend, featuring belly dancers, henna artists, live bands and singers and a falcon display, all set in the wide expanse of desert.

The décor recreates the magic of an Arabian fort with natural stone, rock walls and a sunken seating area, located 300m from the resort and nestled amongst the sand dunes. The ambience is further enhanced with a visit to the heritage village and souk section of the restaurant and by the presence of Bedouin Arab horsemen and a camel caravan on the dunes overlooking the restaurant. Camel and horse rides are available at the heritage village as well as Arabian handicrafts.

The restaurant features ethnic cuisine from the Middle East, offering guests a tantalizing and extensive selection of hot and cold mezze, served with bread from our Arabic bread ovens, as well as live cooking stations where a choice of seafood, fish, beef, chicken and lamb are cooked in a variety of traditional methods that include wood-fired ovens, charcoal grills and spit roasts.

Pool Bar

An ideal place to unwind during the day, the swim-up pool bar serves an a la carte menu offering a wide variety of snacks, cocktails, light meals and beverages and a spectacular panoramic view of the desert.

Ya Hala Lobby Lounge

Located in the hotel lobby, Ya Hala reflects the traditional Arabian culture of comfort, charm and hospitality. Afternoon tea, as well as a variety of other drinks and snacks from the a la carte menu, can be enjoyed amidst the saddles and charming wooden furniture of the lounge, on the intimate terrace overlooking the water well, or from the courtyard.

Masala

Located in the heart of the hotel, Masala offers an exquisite menu of beautifully prepared and authentic Indian dishes slow-cooked in traditional style, with the ambience of traditional Indian background music and live tandoor cooking station. Guests can also choose to sit outside in the courtyard in the midst of lush gardens.

Pizzeria Le Dune

Pizzeria Le Dune boasts a magical fusion of Arabic and Italian décor that offers a delightfully warm and vibrant ambience, from the aged wooden furniture shipped from Italy and the traditional terracotta flooring, to the Arabic lanterns. Freshly homemade pizza is on offer as well as an exquisite antipasti buffet which reflects the finest selection of the region's specialties.

Conference and Banqueting Facilities

A variety of private banqueting and meeting facilities are available for boardroom style meetings in the 5 Falcon Meeting Rooms and Heritage Majlis, which range from 35m²-155m² and provide a professional service and state of the art audiovisual equipment to ensure that every business requirement can be met. Functions can also be arranged outside, under the stars.

For larger functions, the neighbouring Dubai International Endurance City can cater for up to 5,000 guests, with 2 media centres, 14 meeting rooms, 2 dining areas, 5 VIP majlises and a large outdoor function area.

Satori Spa

The word 'Satori' denotes a state of sudden spiritual enlightenment and conjures up feelings of joy, peace and tranquillity occurring suddenly and unexpectedly.

Satori Spa features a selection of 4 indoor treatment rooms, as well as a steam room and sauna that can be privately booked. The spa has an exquisite array of treatments, from exotic facials to holistic and sensational total body massages.

Leisure Facilities

The infinity pool is one of the most magical features of the resort, and unwinding beside it is the most popular activity in the resort. Covering a space of 1,400m², the temperature controlled 3 pool complex features 2 infinity pools, each with shaded areas and a children's play pool, also with shaded areas, and all providing an outstanding view of the desert. The pools themselves contain waterfalls and water fountains and a poolside rain shower.

Desert activities include horse-riding across the dunes on magnificent Arabian ex-racehorses, touring the desert as part of an authentic camel caravan, or cruising the dunes in the resort's own 4x4 Jeep Defender in the company of local guides and visiting a gazelle and oryx watchtower. Camel rides and falcon hunting displays are also freely available to guests throughout the day.

Jumeirah Bab Al Shams offers guests a well-equipped gymnasium as well as a specially-designed archery centre and facilities are available for table tennis, croquet, petanque and golf putting.

Sinbad's Kids Club

Sinbad's Kids Club offers a varied daily programme of activities for children aged 2-12 years old, under the supervision of highly trained and qualified staff. Other facilities for children include a playground and activity room, trampolines, a sand play area, a shaded children's pool. A babysitting service and children's movies and play station games are also available.