

Media Fact File

Burj Al Arab –The World’s Most Luxurious Hotel

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Location

Dubai is the prosperous star of the United Arab Emirates. It is hailed as one of the fastest growing cities in the world and is home to a culturally diverse, dynamic community. Historically, the city evolved around Dubai Creek and it continues to expand ever outwards with groundbreaking new developments. It is one of the world’s top holiday destinations due to the perennial sunshine, a combination of world-class leisure facilities, first-class hotels and the dramatic shoreline, where white sands meet the Arabian Gulf.

The icon of Dubai, Burj Al Arab rises out of its own man-made island 280 metres from the Jumeirah coast, 15km south of the city and 25km from Dubai International Airport. Visible from almost everywhere in the city, it is linked to the shore by a slender, gently curving causeway.

History

In 1993, architect Tom Wright of WS Atkins took on the challenge of creating this groundbreaking superstructure. From the very beginning Burj Al Arab was planned and designed to become the icon of Dubai. It was to be extravagant and luxurious, a reflection of its Arabic heritage and traditions of hospitality, a beacon to light the city’s future.

Construction began in 1994 and involved 3000 companies and contractors; 250 designers from the UK, USA and Dubai; and 3500 workmen on site at any given time. It took two years to reclaim the island in the shore waters of the Arabian Gulf, and a further three years to erect the magnificent landmark. Burj Al Arab’s doors officially opened on 1 December 1999

Structure and Exterior Design

Height

At 321 metres above sea level, Burj Al Arab is the tallest all-suite hotel in the world. It stands proud as one of the tallest buildings in the world and the tallest single structure on a man-made island, taller than the Eiffel Tower and a mere 60 metres shorter than the Empire State Building.

Design

Designed in the shape of a billowing Arabian dhow sail, Burj Al Arab represents a significant tribute to the nation's seafaring heritage. Burj Al Arab continues the nautical theme established by its sister hotel, Jumeirah Beach Hotel and the Wild Wadi Water park.

The Sail

The sail was a considerable technical challenge, featuring a double-skinned, Teflon-coated woven glass fibre screen across its ribbed belly. It is the first time such technology has been used vertically in such form and extent in any building worldwide. It is dazzling white by day and transformed to display a spectrum of colour at night, vibrant and alive against the skyline.

The Helipad

Located 212 metres above the sea level, the helipad provides an opportunity to arrive or depart from Burj Al Arab by helicopter and admire the city from a different perspective.

Structure

An incredible 70,000 cubic metres of concrete and more than 9,000 tons of steel were employed in the construction of the tower.

The Island

Burj Al Arab stands on a man-made island 280 metres offshore, connected to the mainland by a slender, gently curving causeway. The building is supported by 250 columns that go 45 metres under the sea and is held in place by the friction of the sand.

The Ellipse Fountain

20,000 litres of water, combined with bursts of fire, are orchestrated into the most unique and dramatic visual symphony at the entrance of the iconic hotel. This taming of the elements has never been achieved anywhere else in the world and was developed by Wet Design.

Fire Display

Each of the four towers located in front of the hotel, propels fireballs into the air, created by releasing a controlled amount of non-toxic propane gas. The result is a spectacular optical illusion, with the flames reflecting in the hotel's glass exterior.

Interior Design

Khuan Chew, of KCA International, drew the inspiration for the interiors from the land, its people and culture. Once a desert with nomadic people, it has been transformed into an emblem of new prosperity. Burj Al Arab is a symbol of this change, designed in impressive palatial proportions.

A robust and vibrant colour palette was derived from the elements; earth, air, fire, water. The layout incorporated ancient and revered traditions of hospitality, particular to Arabic nations.

Cascade Waterfall

Situated between the escalators leading to Sahn Eddar, this waterfall combines finely atomised water with fibre optics to produce a unique kaleidoscope effect. As water and fog flow downward through its glass, stone-filled steps, water arches elegantly in choreographed movement.

Aquarium

There are three aquariums in Burj Al Arab hotel, two situated on each side of the main hotel lobby and the circular tank in Al Mahara restaurant, with approximately 50 species of fish kept in the tanks.

Atrium

The world's tallest atrium is over 180 metres in height. It is abundant in warm, natural light, flanked by golden columns, with a beautiful central fountain where water arches dance in sudden bursts over 42 metres into the air.

Lights

There are over 28,000 light fixtures in Burj Al Arab.

Materials

The finest and most exclusive materials were sourced for finishing the interiors of Burj Al Arab. Amongst the fine items brought in to create the magical interiors were custom-made carpets and rugs from South Africa and India; marble from Brazil and Italy; wooden doors from Dubai and chandeliers from the UK.

Marble

The rarest Statuario marble was used in walls and flooring. This is the same marble that was used by Michelangelo when creating his masterpiece sculptures. Over 30 different types were used throughout the entire hotel, covering nearly 24,000 square metres: 10,000 square metres of smooth marble flooring in suites and lift lobbies and 13,000 square metres in public areas.

Gold Leaf

Approximately 1,790 square metres of 24-carat gold leaf was used to embellish the interior.

Glass

43,446 square metres was used to embellish the interior.

Suites

Burj Al Arab is an all-suite hotel that comprises 28 double stories to contain the 202 luxury duplexes of superior standard.

Room Specifications

The collection of duplex suites ranges from 170 square metres (1,830 square feet) to an incredible 780 square metres (8,396 square feet).

142 One Bedroom Deluxe Suites

28 Two Bedroom Deluxe Suites

18 Panoramic Suites

4 Club Suites

6 Diplomatic Suites

2 Presidential Suites

2 Royal Suites

Royal Suite – the Height of Luxury

Spanning the entire 25th floor, the two regally appointed Royal Suites are the absolute must for visiting VVIPs. The grand entrance door of the suite leads to the magnificent hall and the fascinating marble and gold staircase invites guests to the upper level.

Palatial surroundings surpass home comforts with a private elevator between the two levels of the suite, a private cinema, four poster rotating canopy bed and a stunning Majlis area for entertaining guests. This is in addition to a sumptuous dressing room which is larger than the average hotel room and the study is equipped with the latest business technology.

Features

In-suite technology is intuitive and programmed to suit the needs of every discerning guest. It includes 93 cable television channels, two in-house television channels, a vast array of DVDs screened on 42" plasma screens with surround sound, a business desk with iMacs, scanner, complimentary broadband wireless internet connection and private facsimile.

Floor-to-ceiling windows offer each guest their own breathtaking view of the Arabian Gulf and curtains are electronically controlled. In fact, the entire in-suite electronic system is designed to allow guests to fine tune their environment at the touch of a button.

Every suite benefits from a range of unique first-class flourishes, including an extensive selection of complimentary Hermès amenities and a pillow menu with 17 options, including some for children, and a special bath menu.

A sophisticated private dining menu is served 24 hours. Alternatively, guests are able to coordinate with the Executive Chef and Private Dining Manager to create a personalised menu for a romantic dinner or a party to be served in the intimate opulence of a private suite.

Telecommunications

All suites feature iMacs with wireless internet access, videos on demand and a 42" plasma television screen. Guests also have the ability to view and allow entry to visitors through their television. Every suite has a minimum of 14 phones (27 phones in both the Royal Suites). The guests are also offered the 24-carat gold iPads upon check-in, which serve as the "virtual concierge."

Service

The unrivalled personalised service is a signature of Burj Al Arab. For the comfort and convenience of guests, there is a dedicated reception on each floor with check-in conducted in the privacy of the individual suite. Butlers are in attendance 24 hours a day to address the needs of each guest. There are around 1,600 colleagues, which makes the staff-to-suite ratio 8:1 – one of the highest ratios in the world.

Royal Arrival

Burj Al Arab boasts one of the world's largest fleet of Rolls Royces available for guests' transfers to the airport or around Dubai. Exclusive helicopter transfers to and from Dubai International Airport can be arranged, as well as scenic tours around the city and the man-made islands. The Marhaba Welcome is the epitome of true Arabian hospitality, offering guests rose water, refreshing cold towels, dates, Bakhoor and authentic Arabic coffee upon arrival to the hotel.

Sinbad's Kids' Club

Special facilities and services for younger guests are available in the Sinbad's Kids' Club located on the 18th floor. In-suite babysitting services are also available upon request.

Restaurants and Bars

Al Mahara ('Oyster Shell', accessible from the upper lobby)

Recognised as one of the finest restaurants in the world, Al Mahara serves sumptuous seafood in a wondrous, subterranean setting. The restaurant is accessed by a gold-plated elevator located in the upper lobby. The main, circular dining area and private dining rooms are lit by the glow of enormous seawater aquaria and adorned by the most beautiful table settings. World-class chefs prepare a broad selection of the finest quality seafood with the Eastern and Western accents. A team of professional sommeliers will be delighted to assist with choosing the perfect wine to complement the haute cuisine dishes.

Al Muntaha ('The Highest' or 'The Ultimate', located on the 27th floor)

Al Muntaha restaurant is suspended on the 27th floor, 200 metres above the sea with breathtaking views of the Arabian Gulf, the ever changing coastline and the developing Palm Jumeirah and The World islands. Two express panoramic elevators - travelling six metres per second - transport guests almost instantly to Al Muntaha to enjoy the ultimate dining experience in one of the most unique settings.

Al Iwan ('Royal Dining Hall', located in the upper lobby)

This royal dining hall is exquisitely designed with warm colours, rich fabrics and traditional objects d'art. With spectacular sea views during the day, Al Iwan is transformed into an intimate dining room by night, with sumptuous tables and flickering candles. Adjacent to the spectacular atrium, it serves a delicious Arabic and international buffet.

Junsui ('Pure', located on the ground mezzanine floor)

The Japanese word for 'pure', Junsui, is a new authentic Asian restaurant set within the opulent interiors of Burj Al Arab. With 12 live cooking stations and no less than 45 specialised chefs, Junsui offers a mouth-watering union of culinary delights from Japan, China, Thailand, Indonesia and Korea. Engaging, interactive and sumptuous - Junsui is a pleasurable Asian dining experience. With breathtaking views over the Arabian Gulf and a stylish cocktail lounge for pre- and post - dinner drinks, Junsui guarantees an eating experience of pure delight.

Bab Al Yam ('Gateway to the Sea', located on the ground floor)

Bab Al Yam offers brasserie-style informality wrapped in sensational sea views and tranquility - ideal for long, leisurely breakfasts and lunches. Guests can select from an extravagant selection of international cuisine served buffet-style or à la carte menu and enjoy their meal in the grand dining area or amidst the lush, landscaped gardens of the hotel.

Sahn Eddar ('Reception of the House', located in the upper lobby)

An iconic spot to meet at the base of the world's tallest atrium, Sahn Eddar is a symphony of classical sounds, marble, mosaic and soft torch lighting. Against the backdrop of the magnificent 42 metres high water display, guests can linger over morning coffee or indulge in the delights of a traditional Afternoon Tea.

Skyview Bar (adjacent to Al Muntaha, located on the 27th floor)

This legendary cocktail lounge is recognised as a superior setting to indulge in a sunset cocktail. Extremely popular with the local and international visitors and celebrities alike, the stylish Skyview Bar is a primary choice for Afternoon Tea and pre- or post-dinner drinks in the neighbouring Al Muntaha restaurant. It is the only place in the city to offer mixology, the progressive and unique concept of creating personalised cocktails to suit a guest's tastes and mood. Together with their cocktail, guests receive a card with the unique formulae of their personal drink.

Conference and Banqueting Facilities

Al Falak Ballroom

Set high over the Arabian Gulf, Al Falak's sumptuous décor, is inspired by the 18th century Viennese opera house. It is one of the most impressive venues in the city and provides an unforgettable backdrop for weddings, product launches and gala dinners.

Complementing the ballroom is a series of beautifully appointed and stylishly decorated conference suites, easily adaptable to meet the clients' needs and equipped with the translation booths, video conferencing facilities and wireless internet connection.

Marina Garden

Marina Garden, located beside the hotel, is the perfect open-air venue for cocktails, lunch or dinner, offering stunning views of the Arabian Gulf and Jumeirah Beach Hotel.

Talise Spa

It's hard to imagine a more serene and invigorating atmosphere in which to relax the body and soothe the soul than that of Talise Spa located on 18th floor. The extravagant decor is strongly reminiscent of bathing pools used by ancient Middle Eastern civilizations. Green, red, black and white colours dominate in the palette of the spa areas to represent the four colours of the national United Arab Emirates flag.

Talise Spa offers a unique nature based luxury environment to help you unwind. The relaxing ritual of water, steam and rest prepares guests for the pleasure of treatments from world-renowned houses, such as La Prairie, Sundari and THÉMAÉ, applied by a skilled and caring team of therapists. Both ladies and gentlemen's relaxation areas feature an aqua retreat. Separate indoor infinity pools, Jacuzzi and treatment rooms overlooking the Arabian Gulf complement the spa, along with saunas, steam rooms, plunge pools. Additional facilities include a squash court, a fitness centre with aerobic facilities, advanced cardiovascular and resistance training equipment and a hair salon.

Assawan Amphitheatre

Assawan Amphitheatre is a secluded lounge, located on the balcony of the 18th floor between the two sides of the spa. This is a perfect venue to relax and unwind after a treatment while enjoying a herbal tea or light snack from the healthy menu. The area is often utilised for exclusive exhibitions, private events and press conferences.

Diwania Library

The library, located in the mezzanine level of the 18th floor, offers guests a quiet retreat to browse through the collection of books or enjoy a game of snooker.

Other facilities

Swimming Pool

An open-air swimming pool is located on the ground level of Burj Al Arab, next to Bab Al Yam restaurant and Marina Garden. A swim-in pool bar offers a vast selection of refreshing beverages and cocktails in the shade of the palms.

Private Beach

Burj Al Arab guests have access to the private beach, located on the north side of the bridge. Comfortable sun beds on the white sand, mineral water facial sprays, cold towels and light refreshments contribute to creating a sublime, relaxing and enjoyable ambience.

Wild Wadi Water Park

The exhilarating waters of Wild Wadi Water Park attract younger guests and guests young at heart. It comprises 12 acres of Arabian-themed water park offering thrilling themed rides, game zones and fun for families. Burj Al Arab guests enjoy unlimited complimentary access to the park.

Burj Al Arab

Burj Al Arab is managed by Jumeirah Group, the global luxury hospitality company and a member of Dubai Holding.

Burj Al Arab is designed to resemble a billowing sail and stands at a height of 321 metres. It is one of the most photographed structures in the world and has been consistently voted the world's most luxurious hotel, with features including in suite check-in and check-out, reception desks on every floor, round-the-clock private butlers and use of the hotel's Rolls-Royce fleet and private beach. The hotel's 202 luxury suites range from 170 to 780 square metres with a rain shower and a Jacuzzi in each suite, as well as six restaurants and conference and banqueting venues.

Jumeirah

Jumeirah Group, the global luxury hotel company and a member of Dubai Holding, operates a world-class portfolio of hotels and resorts. Jumeirah Hotels & Resorts includes Jumeirah at Etihad Towers in Abu Dhabi; Burj Al Arab Jumeirah, Jumeirah Beach Hotel, Jumeirah Creekside Hotel, Jumeirah Emirates Towers, Jumeirah Zabeel Saray and Madinat Jumeirah in Dubai; Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa in Kuwait; Jumeirah Bilgah Beach Hotel in Baku; Jumeirah Dhevanafushi and Jumeirah Vittaveli in the Maldives; Jumeirah Himalayas Hotel in Shanghai; Jumeirah Frankfurt in Germany; Jumeirah Grand Hotel via Veneto in Rome; Jumeirah Port Soller Hotel & Spa in Mallorca, Spain; Pera Palace Hotel Jumeirah in Istanbul; as well as Jumeirah Carlton Tower and Jumeirah Lowndes Hotel in London. Jumeirah Group also runs the luxury serviced residences brand Jumeirah Living™; the wellness brand Talise; Jumeirah Restaurants; Wild Wadi Waterpark™; The Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management; and Sirius™, its global loyalty programme.

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