

Dubai in 5 Days

A Travel Itinerary That Actually Works



5 days / 4 nights

Dubai, UAE

Best: Nov - Mar

Five days in Dubai. This is the itinerary we'd message our own family the night before their flight — big sights, slow breakfasts, and zero pressure.

Quick Stuff Before You Fly

Two things trip people up every single time. One, Dubai is way more spread out than the map makes it look — no plan means half your holiday dies inside a taxi. Two, the summer heat is brutal. May to September, you flip everything: indoors during the day, outdoors after dark.

Grab an eSIM at the airport. Download a cab app. Keep a bit of cash for the old markets, they don't always take cards. That's genuinely the whole prep.

Your 5-Day Itinerary at a Glance

- **Day 1 — New Dubai.** Marina, the Palm, Burj Khalifa at sunset.
- **Day 2 — Old Dubai.** Al Fahidi, an abra across the creek, the souks.
- **Day 3 — Desert safari.** Dune bashing, camel ride, dinner under the stars.
- **Day 4 — Your wildcard day.** Parks, shopping, or doing absolutely nothing.
- **Day 5 — Photos, souvenirs, a farewell dhow cruise.**

Move them around however you like. A good travel itinerary should bend to you, not boss you around.

Day 1: Don't Overdo It (New Dubai)



Dubai Marina waterfront skyline — an easy first afternoon.

You just got off a flight. Take it easy. Start at Dubai Marina: walk the waterfront, find a brunch spot, let the skyline sink in. Afternoon, drag your feet over to The Palm and JBR beach. Sand, sea, a cold drink. Nothing ambitious.



Burj Khalifa at sunset, with the Dubai Fountain show right after.

Then evening comes, and this is your Burj Khalifa moment. Book the sunset slot up top, come down, catch the fountain show. Is it touristy? Totally. Is it still jaw-dropping? Yep.

Day 2: The Real Dubai Nobody Expects to Love



Gold Souk shopfronts in Old Dubai, reached by abra across the creek.

Here's the day people almost skip. Don't — it ends up being everyone's favourite.

Morning, get lost in Al Fahidi: old wind-tower houses, skinny lanes, little coffee shops that feel a hundred years old. Then hop on an abra, a tiny wooden boat, and cross the creek. Costs you one dirham. One. From there it's straight into the Gold Souk and the Spice Souk. Haggle — they expect it, and it's half the fun.

Finish with a proper Emirati dinner somewhere local. This is the bit that shows you what the city was before all the glass towers turned up.

Day 3: Into the Desert



Dune bashing and a camel ride at sunset in the desert outside Dubai.

Keep your afternoon and evening free — this is the day you'll be talking about for months. Here's what you're in for:

- **Dune bashing.** A 4x4 flinging you up and down the sand while you laugh and scream.
- **A camel ride** as the sun drops. Peaceful, and the photos come out unreal.
- **Sandboarding**, if you fancy it.
- **A barbecue dinner under the stars.** Live music, a show, the works.

Rest in the morning or laze by the pool, because the desert night runs late.

Day 4: Your Wildcard Day



Dubai Mall — aquarium, ice rink and enough shopping to eat a whole day.

By now you know what your group actually enjoys, so lean into it. Got kids, or you're a big kid yourself? IMG Worlds or a waterpark like Aquaventure. Live to shop? Dubai Mall eats a whole day easy, aquarium and ice rink included. Completely wiped? Then don't move. Beach, spa, hotel bed. No guilt allowed.

Day 5: Pretty Photos and a Soft Landing



Palm Jumeirah and a dhow dinner cruise to close out the trip.

Last full day — keep it light and Instagram-ready. Mornings are for the photo spots: depending on the season, Miracle Garden (absurd amounts of flowers) or Global Village (the whole world crammed into food stalls and pavilions). Afternoon, grab your last souvenirs and eat somewhere slow.

Then close it out with a dhow dinner cruise along the Marina or the creek. Lights on the water, food on the table, nowhere to rush.

Little Ways to Save Money

- Bundle your attractions instead of buying them one at a time. Almost always cheaper.
- Take the metro for New Dubai. Clean, cheap, fast.

- Eat a few meals in Old Dubai or Karama. Amazing food, half the price.
- Grab combo passes if you're doing several paid spots.

A smart trip itinerary isn't about spending more. It's about spending where it counts.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is 5 days enough for a Dubai trip?

Yeah, easily. Five days is kind of the sweet spot — long enough for the big sights and a desert safari, short enough that you don't run out of stuff. This 5-day plan is built around exactly that, so you see the best of it without dragging by day four.

When's the best time to visit Dubai?

November to March, hands down. Cool, breezy, made for being outside. Going in summer? Just flip it — indoors by day, outdoors after sunset. The itinerary above still works with that one tweak.

How much does a 5-day Dubai trip cost?

Depends a lot on your hotel and how you eat and shop, so there's no one number. Good news: a mid-range trip is very doable. Booking your stay and attractions together usually beats doing it piece by piece.

Do I need to book attractions ahead of time?

The big ones, yes. Burj Khalifa and the desert safari sell out fast in peak season. Book those early and keep the rest flexible.

Can I do this itinerary with kids?

For sure. Day four is basically a park-and-waterpark day, the safari's a hit with every age, and the boat ride plus the aquarium keep the little ones happy.

Want these 5 days booked for you?

Free quote tailored to your dates, hotel preference and group size.

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