

the middle east

Whether you are seeking an oasis of modern-day Arabian luxury, set on a long deserted beach overlooking the warm, glistening waters of the turquoise Gulf or the magical intimacy of an en-suite Bedouin tent floating in a sea of sand dunes, framed by the rugged beauty of the Hajar mountains, the Middle East – a land of year long sunshine and hospitable people – offers an intoxicating and easily accessible mix of contemporary sophistication and ancient culture.





the middle east

egypt

Egypt has a mystical and timeless appeal that has been attracting travellers from far and wide for many centuries. The crystal clear waters of the Red Sea play host to an aquatic wonderland alive with colourful tropical fish and stunning marine life. At Ras Mohammed National Park, just a short distance from Sharm El Sheikh, immense sandstone mountains spill down to spectacular coral reefs below the sea. With a wide range of luxury 5-star resorts, most of which offer PADI diving courses, Egypt could be the perfect beach destination for starting a long and successful scuba diving career.



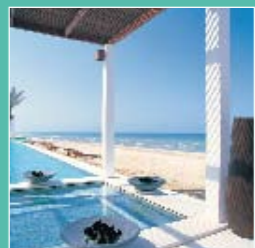
dubai

Dubai grew up as a seafaring settlement along either side of the Creek, a natural harbour for dhow traders, pearl divers and fishermen. Dubai, today, is an east-meets-west phenomenon where white beaches, azure waters and endless deserts stand cheek-to-cheek with towering skyscrapers, domed mosques and haute-couture shops. Combine a few days' relaxation on the beach with a stay, inland, at the exclusive Al Maha Desert Resort, the Gulf's first, and now multi-award winning, eco-tourism project, where sand-skiing and dune driving as well as the more traditional Bedouin activities of falconry, archery, and horse and camel safaris are all available.



oman

Oman is blessed with guaranteed sun, extraordinary natural beauty and a rich cultural heritage. One of the the country's most dramatic features is its spectacular coastline. Here, where the sands of the desert meet the azure seas of the Arabian Gulf are to be found miles of unspoilt beaches and some first class resorts offering a wealth of amenities and watersports. Just a short distance away is Oman's capital city, Muscat, where the winding alleyways of the Muttrah Souq are crammed with hundreds of tiny shops piled high with gold, frankincense, and myrrh - plus the very finest Persian rugs.





The Oberoi, Sahl Hasheesh, Egypt

A member of the 'Leading Small Hotels of the World', this all-suite resort is an exclusive haven of luxury and sophistication on the Red Sea coast. Fronting its own 850-metre stretch of private beach, the resort is set within 48 acres of palm-studded grounds with panoramic views of the brilliant blue sea. The hotel's design is inspired by Arabic Islamic architecture. Inside, there are cool marble colonnades, galleried courtyards and atriums, open to the sky, where fountain pools cascade. Outside, paths meander between the domed private suites, set in green lawns with palms for shade and bougainvillea for colour.

The luxurious accommodation includes 102 Deluxe, Grand and Royal suites. Overlooking a private open-air courtyard, all suites have luxurious glass-walled bathrooms with sunken marble baths and separate shower stalls. A total of 18 suites have private swimming pools, heated in the winter. There are 6 Royal Suites with separate living/dining room and adjoining pantry as well as an open private courtyard with a swimming pool and an elevated dining pavilion.

The main restaurant offers an à la carte menu of international cuisine, served either al fresco or inside. Tegen, an oriental restaurant serves Middle Eastern and Indian fare for dinner. Snacks, light meals as well as cocktails and desserts are served throughout the day at the Pergola, located by the split-level, freshwater swimming pool.

You can play tennis on the resort's floodlit court, enjoy horse riding along the beach or go snorkelling or scuba-diving from the dive centre. There is also a well-equipped gym plus sauna and steam rooms.

Trained Thai therapists at The Oberoi Spa, by Banyan Tree, offer a range of holistic therapies designed to promote a deep sense of relaxation and wellbeing.

accommodation

63 Deluxe and 21 Superior Deluxe Suites,
12 Grand Suites & 6 Royal Suites

access

20 minutes by car from Hurghada Airport
3.5 hours by car from Luxor

children

welcome year-round

7 nights

from £868 p.p. in high-season (£101 p.p.p.n.)
& £764 p.p. in low-season (£84 p.p.p.n.)

meal plan

breakfast included

special offers

available on request

(For details of our pricing / surcharge policy,
please see our booking conditions on page 203)



Hyatt Regency, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

Overlooking 'The Gardens', Sharm El Sheikh's premier dive site on the tip of the Sinai Peninsula, the Hyatt Regency is set amidst 35 hectares of beautifully landscaped gardens, sloping down to the golden-sand beaches and crystal-clear waters of a secluded bay.

Just a ten minute drive from Sharm El Sheikh airport, the hotel has a total of 439 well-appointed rooms. Standard rooms all feature air-conditioning and balcony or terrace with sea views, while the Regency Club's suites and villas, offering the uncompromising luxury of 'a hotel within a hotel', share their own private lounge, swimming pool and gardens.

Public facilities are extensive and include five restaurants including 'The Souk' – a gallery offering a vast array of shops, bars and a restaurant – which between them offer a wide choice of cuisines, anything from Thai and Middle Eastern to International and Italian. The Club Olympus features an indoor gym and aerobics studio, five massage and aromatherapy rooms plus a spa with sauna, steam bath, whirlpool and plunge pool. The three-pool complex includes an 80-metre corkscrew slide, a 'lazy river', waterfalls, grottos and whirlpools. Diving, snorkelling, and night diving are available at the Water Sports Centre and there are tennis and squash courts plus a basketball court at the Racquet Centre. Fun and educational activities for children are organised by the Oasis Kids' Club.

A number of excursions can be arranged to places of interest including the Monastery of St. Catherine and Ras Mohammed, the first designated marine park in the country, just 30 kilometres to the south of Sharm El Sheikh.

accommodation

439 rooms, suites & villas

access

10 minutes drive from Sharm El Sheikh's
international airport

children

welcome year-round, dedicated club

7 nights

from £799 p.p. in high-season (£71 p.p.p.n.)
& £683 p.p. in low-season (£63 p.p.p.n.)

meal plan

breakfast included

special offers

available on request

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Four Seasons Resort, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

An oasis of rare quality on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula where the endless sands of the desert meet the clear waters of one of the world's great diving arenas, the Four Seasons Resort at Sharm El Sheikh is set amidst lushly landscaped gardens overlooking the Gulf of Aqaba.

The resort has been imaginatively designed to resemble an ancient Egyptian village with elegant one and two storey villas and shaded courtyards linked by a series of colonnaded walkways, while 200 lavishly appointed rooms and suites feature all the usual trappings of any Four Seasons property.

The main restaurant, Arabesque, offers indoor and al fresco dining. Specialities include Middle Eastern mezzah plus fresh seafood and there is an open kitchen with a wood-fired oven for pizzas. You can enjoy Italian regional cuisine at the more intimate Il Frantoio whilst the informal Reef Grill, located on the coastal strip near the beach, serves local specialities, grills and barbecues.

The hotel's Beauty and Wellness Spa offers a comprehensive range of natural treatments and massages, individually designed to meet the personal needs of each guest. Facilities include 13 treatment rooms, one of which is a couple's treatment room, sauna, steam room, relaxation area, lap pool and gym.

Golden sand beaches and secluded palm gardens may encourage a blissful, and well-deserved, indolence. For those in need of a little more activity, there are swimming pools, floodlit tennis courts, golf at the nearby championship course of Jolie Ville and shipwreck diving. There is a fully supervised Kids For All Seasons Centre for children aged 5 to 12.

accommodation

109 rooms, 27 suites & 64 family suites

access

10 minutes by car from Sharm El Sheikh's international airport

children

welcome year-round, dedicated club, childrens pool

7 nights

from £1,088 p.p. in high-season (£121 p.p.p.n.)
& £930 p.p. in low-season (£98 p.p.p.n.)

meal plan

breakfast included

special offers

available on request

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One&Only Royal Mirage, Dubai

One&Only Royal Mirage is a truly impressive resort that sits on its own kilometre-long private beach on the edge of the Arabian Gulf. Amidst its 60-acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, three different properties await, The Palace, Arabian Court and Residence & Spa.

A wide range of recreational facilities are available. There are three flood-lit tennis courts, putting greens, petanque, volleyball and basketball. Scuba-diving, desert safaris and golf on one of the Dubai's quality courses can easily be arranged. The various temperature-controlled swimming pools are supplemented by the waters of the Arabian Gulf, ideal for swimming or water sports such as sailing, kayaking, windsurfing, water skiing and fishing.

Stay in one of the 250 rooms at The Palace and you can treat yourself to Gold Club rooms, spacious suites and two opulent Royal Suites. Its restaurants offer Mediterranean, Moroccan and Middle Eastern cuisine whilst the alfresco Beach Bar & Grill specialises in seafood and grills. The Kasbar, the resort's vibrant nightclub, is open into the small hours.

The Arabian Court's 172 luxurious guest rooms include 'Falcon' Executive Suites and two 'Prince' Suites. Its grand dining room, serving eclectic Indo-European dishes and contemporary cuisine with an Asian twist, boasts a romantic courtyard terrace and open veranda.

The more intimate Residence & Spa is for those seeking greater personal attention. It features just 492 rooms, junior and executive suites, as well as one garden villa, its Dining Room a charming and stylish venue only open to the guests of this hotel. An impressive Health and Beauty Institute, showcasing a Givenchy Spa, a traditional Oriental Hamman and a Fitness Centre, is also available.

accommodation

The Palace: 250 rooms & suites
Arabian Court: 172 rooms & suites
Residence & Spa: 49 rooms & suites

children

welcome year-round, with their own facilities

7 nights

The Palace: from £2,004 p.p. in high-season
& from £1,259 p.p. in low-season
Arabian Court: from £2,142 p.p. in high season
& from £1,334 p.p. in low season
Residence & Spa: from £2,701 p.p. in high-season
& from £1,472 p.p. in low-season

meal plan

breakfast included

special offers

available on request

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The Ritz-Carlton, Dubai

The Ritz-Carlton, Dubai adds a definite touch of class to the fashionable Jumeirah Beach area. Outside it is a Mediterranean-style resort with terracotta roofs and salmon-coloured walls; inside it blends timeless elegance with subtle hints of exotic Arabian decor.

With just 138 deluxe rooms and suites it also ranks as one of the city's most intimate luxury hotels, the 350 multi-lingual staff members all doing what the Ritz-Carlton people do best – pandering to their guests' every whim. Not that anything has been forgotten in the guest rooms; fully-stocked honour bars, complimentary fruit baskets, bathrobes and slippers combining with all the usual amenities to ensure total guest satisfaction. Those fancying a little additional pampering, however, should perhaps take one of the Club rooms, with their stunning sea views, 20-hour lounge and six different menu presentations daily.

Of course, every meal here is a celebration, from afternoon tea in The Lobby Lounge to the Italian specialities in the Splendido and the progressive European cuisine in La Baie. Lunches tend to be more casual affairs enjoyed in the alfresco Gulf Pavilion overlooking the pool.

And what a pool it is, comprising three different sections, water slides, cascading waterfalls and swim-up bars. The tennis courts, squash courts and Balinese-style spa also reflect Ritz-Carlton's exemplary standards, with the 1,000-feet of white sand encouraging relaxation or early-morning walks, as the mood suits.

accommodation

138 rooms & suites

children

welcome year-round with their own club and pool

7 nights

from £2,067 p.p. in high-season (£209 p.p.p.n.)
and £1,197 p.p. in low-season (£112 p.p.p.n.)

meal plan

breakfast included; optional half-board

special offers

available on request

(For details of our pricing / surcharge policy, please see our booking conditions on page 203)





Jumeirah Beach Hotel, Dubai

The award-winning Jumeirah Beach Hotel is an architectural icon, its breathtaking construction in the shape of a breaking wave providing a dramatic contrast to its setting on the shores of the Arabian Gulf. This is an extensive resort for those who like their beach life to come with plenty of sporting and dining options - its 598 guest rooms, suites and villas complemented by twenty two restaurants and bars, as well as recreational facilities for all members of the family.

These include 900-metres of private beach, five swimming pools, watersports, a PADI dive centre (with National Geographic status), a Peter Burwash International tennis facility and the Pavilion Marina and Sports Club complete with gymnasium and fitness classes. Younger guests can also take advantage of the family adventure playground, the Wild Wadi Water Park and the organised activities of Sinbad's Kid's Club. And when it comes to dining, everyone is equally sure to find something to their liking. The restaurants have taken their inspiration from the famous cuisines of Mexico, France, Germany, Argentina, Italy, Lebanon, Indonesia and Asia, with other enticing venues specialising in seafood, international and health-conscious dishes.

A similarly wide choice awaits when it comes to the accommodation, although each room is approximately fifty square metres and comes complete with luxury walk-in showers, handcrafted furnishings and unhindered views of the sea through floor-to-ceiling windows. Rooms with balconies, suites with private terraces and access to executive lounges with food and drinks presentations are all available, although those seeking a little more privacy and tranquillity may like to focus upon one of the Arabian-style villas of exclusive Beit Al Bahar.

accommodation
598 rooms, suites & villas

children
welcome year-round with a children's club

7 nights
from £1,949 p.p. in high-season (£192 p.p.p.n.)
& £1,219 p.p. in low-season (£116 p.p.p.n.)

meal plan
breakfast included. optional half-board

special offers
available on request

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Al Maha Desert Resort & Spa, Dubai

Luxurious and romantic, this intimate escape is set amidst a 25km² desert conservation reserve just forty-five minutes drive from Dubai city. There is neither a palm-fringed beach nor a manicured golf course anywhere in sight, yet that is the very essence of Al Maha's appeal; its suites offer the kind of opulent sanctuaries Rudolph Valentino would have felt at home in; its activities the type Lawrence of Arabia would have found just up his street.

Indeed, this is an unmissable opportunity to experience the life, culture and traditions of the Dubai desert; falconry, horse-riding, camel trekking, 4x4 dune drives and nature walks are on the menu by day; rolling desert landscapes and star-filled skies setting the mood in the evenings. But behind Al Maha's subtle eco-tourism is a commitment to five-star luxury, its spa with single and double massage rooms, as well as its infinity-edge swimming pool and hydrotherapy treatments, reflecting its awareness of current trends.

Accommodation is provided in thirty-seven Bedouin Suites, each one boasting tented ceilings, rich fabrics, hand-crafted furnishings and self-indulgent stone bathrooms. Modern comforts include mini-bars, TVs and DVD players, not to mention expansive decks and private swimming pools measuring 7.5 metres by 6.5 metres. Those seeking even more space and grandeur should opt for one of the Royal Suites, Emirates Suites or the Presidential Suite, which at 175, 375 and 530 square metres respectively, are the last word in Arabian opulence. Simple, but significant additions in all suites are the binoculars, paper and easels that encourage guests to view or paint the desert scenery according to their skills - the horned oryx is a particularly popular subject.

All meals are included in stays here, the gourmet Mediterranean and Arabic cuisine served either in the exotic surroundings of the main dining room or in the privacy of guest suites, the evenings low-key and conducive to conversation and maybe even a spot of soul searching!

accommodation
37 Bedouin Suites, 2 Royal Suites,
2 Emirates Suites & 1 Presidential Suite

children
welcome over 12 years of age

5 nights
from £2,318 p.p. in high-season (£331 p.p.p.n.)
& £1,602 p.p. in low-season (£256 p.p.p.n.)

meal plan
full board

special offers
available on request

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Al Bustan Palace, Oman

The Al Bustan Palace, one of the Middle East's most famous resorts, re-opened in late 2008 after a major refurbishment that will undoubtedly guarantee the preservation of its enviable reputation and long list of international awards.

Set in 200 acres of lush green beachfront gardens against a dramatic mountainous backdrop overlooking the Gulf of Oman, the Al Bustan sits in splendid isolation though the fascinating fortresses, city walls, palaces, mosques and souks of Muscat lie just a ten-minute drive away.

Its 250 rooms and suites all have balconies, most of them enjoying spectacular views over the water. Luxuriously appointed, they combine Arabian influences with every modern comfort including satellite television, DVD players and personal bars. 24-hour room, laundry and valet service epitomise the high standards of personal service and attention guests can anticipate here.

The Al Bustan's four restaurants showcase the world's finest cuisines. The Al Khiran Terrace serves Asian, French and Italian dishes, whilst China Mood prepares authentic dishes from around China. Seblat Al Bustan offers authentic Omani dishes and The Beach Pavilion serves light and healthy dishes during the day, and an extensive à la carte menu in the evening. The Al Maha Piano Bar serves cocktails accompanied by live piano music.

The hotel also offers one of the most comprehensive lists of recreational facilities in the Gulf region. These include a 1km-long private beach, a temperature-controlled swimming pool, a tennis club with well equipped fitness centre, and a wide variety of water sports. Scuba-diving is available at the Oman Dive Centre just 10km away and numerous excursions such as dolphin watching may be arranged.



accommodation
250 rooms & suites

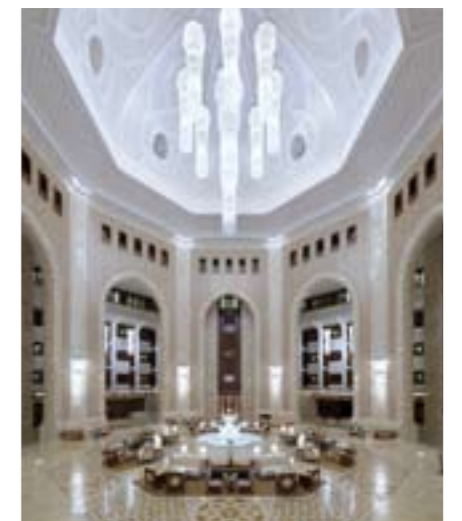
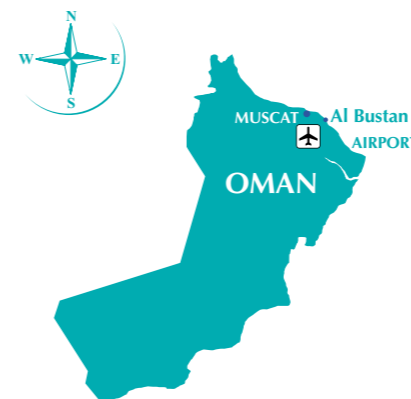
children
welcome year-round

7 nights
from £1,925 p.p. in high-season (£193 p.p.p.n.)
& £1,255 p.p. in low-season (£148 p.p.p.n.)

meal plan
breakfast included

special offers
available on request

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Barr Al Jissah Resort & Spa, Oman

Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts' Barr Al Jissah Resort and Spa is the first three-hotel luxury resort in the Sultanate of Oman. It boasts a prime setting in 124-acres of gardens, with a 580-metre beach front and a back drop of rugged mountains. The historic city of Muscat lies a convenient 20-minute drive away, though the resort's facilities ensure no one wants to leave for very long.

The 680 rooms and suites are spread over three distinctive properties - the family-orientated Al Waha, the five-star Al Bandar and the exclusive six-star Al Husn. Shared facilities include a yacht marina, a PADI dive centre, a unique Heritage Village with an amphitheatre, and a CHI Spa Village with the most spacious spa suites in Oman. Guests can float between Al Waha and Al Bandar along the 250-metre Lazy River.

Al Waha ('The Oasis') ranks as the development's largest hotel. Its 302 balconied guest rooms are a minimum of 37- square-metres in size, its architecture is in traditional Omani style and its central swimming pool creatively styled after a desert oasis. On-site restaurants include a South American all-day dining venue, a high quality fast-food restaurant and a pool bar for light snacks and refreshments.

Al Bandar ('The Town') is definitely the resort's focal point. The architectural style of the deluxe 198-room hotel was inspired by old Muscat, and the balconied guest rooms are at least 45-square-metres in size. There is a choice of eight restaurants and bars, as well as a nightclub and a magnificent oversized swimming pool, complete with fixed tiled sun beds half-immersed in water.

Al Husn ('The Castle'), which offers unparalleled service, enjoys a prime setting on a headland, its architecture reminiscent of ancient Omani forts. All 180 bedrooms are at least 56-square-metres in size, and guests here have exclusive use of a private gym, an infinity swimming pool and a private beach. The Moroccan and international restaurants are complemented by a cigar lounge and pool bar.

accommodation

Al Waha: 302 rooms & suites
Al Bandar: 198 rooms & suites
Al Husn: 180 rooms & suites

children

welcome year-round at Al Waha
dedicated club and pools

7 nights

Al Waha: in high-season from £1,671 p.p.
& in low-season from £1,101 p.p.
Al Bandar: in high-season from £1,879 p.p.
& in low-season from £1,245 p.p.
Al Husn: in high-season from £2,405 p.p.
& in low-season from £1,605 p.p.

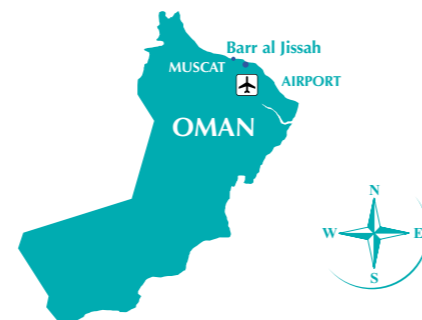
meal plan

breakfast included

special offers

available on request

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The Chedi, Oman

When this exclusive resort first opened its doors in December 2002, it epitomised a more contemporary view of Middle Eastern opulence. A distinguished member of Design Hotels, it can best be described as understated and sleek, yet the original Omani structures that form the basis of its architectural design endow it with a strong sense of place.

The low-rise resort is cradled between the mountains and its own private beach just ten-kilometres from 'old' Muscat, its 156 guest rooms and suites overlooking either the palm gardens, water gardens or Gulf of Oman. Omani minimalism characterises the style of all the luxurious accommodation, the mahogany furnishings and natural-coloured fabrics complemented by satellite TVs, mini-bars and 24-hour room service. The suites also boast the additional comforts of CD players and private terraces or balconies.

This is definitely a resort for stylish relaxation, the private beach complemented by lush palm gardens and two outdoor swimming pools where tempting snacks and cocktails are served at poolside cabanas. For those in the mood for activity, tennis courts, a fitness centre and snorkelling are right on hand, although the rejuvenating treatments of the Orient-inspired spa tend to be close to the top of most people's priorities.

After dark, the mood is equally low-key and sophisticated, many guests beginning their evenings with cocktails in the Lobby Lounge before turning their attention to the enticing menu of the main restaurant, the contemporary Mediterranean, Arabic and Asian-influenced dishes served brasserie-style.

accommodation
156 rooms & suites

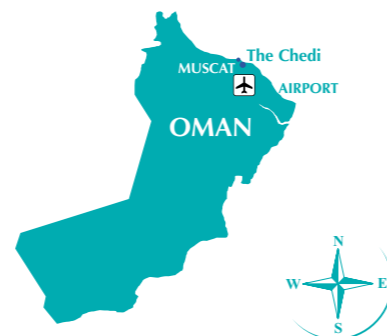
children
welcome year-round

7 nights
from £1,667 p.p. in high-season (£157 p.p.p.n.)
& £1,142 p.p. in low-season (£94 p.p.p.n.)

meal plan
breakfast included

special offers
available on request

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Six Senses Hideaway Zighy Bay, Oman

The Six Senses Hideaway concept is one of intimate boutique hotels with elegant architecture and natural furnishings that compliment the surroundings. This is enhanced by sumptuous accommodation, excellent amenities, unparalleled service and an exclusive ambience. Six Senses Hideaway Zighy Bay is no exception.

The remote location of Zighy Bay on the northern Musandam Peninsula, accessed most easily from Dubai, is dramatic with its rugged mountain backdrop and views over the Gulf of Oman. The beauty of the setting is all too apparent right from arrival, when guests have the choice of a 10-minute speedboat journey across the bay, a drive down from the hilltop overlooking the bay or, at additional cost, flying as a companion passenger to the resort's professional paraglider!

The 82 pool villas, Private Reserve and Private Retreats are built in indigenous Omani village style utilising stone and wood. Beautifully appointed with rustic chic décor, the villas are spacious with separate bedroom and living room, outdoor dining, traditional Arabic summer house and/or outdoor Majlis, private terrace and pool, and other amenities according to the category of accommodation chosen.

A choice of dining includes 'Dining on the Sand', which offers Middle East, pan-Asian and Continental cuisine, 'Dining on the Edge' - a stunning restaurant perched high on the mountains overlooking the bay, and 'Bites' - a seafood restaurant by the hotel's marina. Guests may also dine on the terrace of their villa.

Other amenities include a large central swimming pool, a broad sandy beach, a fully equipped gymnasium and a book, CD and DVD library. Recreational activities such as game fishing, 4WD excursions to the Hajar Mountains or local villages and sights or off-road adventures are on offer, together with a range of non-motorized water sports, paragliding, walking or jogging trails and mountain biking. Last, but not least, the renowned Six Senses Spa offers a wide-ranging menu of regional and signature treatments.

accommodation
82 Pool Villas, Private Retreats & Private Reserve

access
120km by road from Dubai International Airport

children
welcome year-round, dedicated club & children's pool

7 nights
from £2,519 p.p. in high-season (£289 p.p.p.n.)
& £1,842 p.p. in low-season (£229 p.p.p.n.)

meal plan
breakfast included

special offers
available on request

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