



MUSEUMS IN DUBAI AND OTHER EMIRATES

If you are in Dubai or other emirates, here are some more places you could get your culture immersion.

Dubai Museum and Al Fahidi Fort

The Dubai Museum is housed at the Al Fahidi Fort in Deira Creek. Built in 1787, it is the oldest existing building in Dubai. The museum opened in 1971, the year the federation was formed and was inaugurated by the then ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum. The museum has antiques on display like pottery, weapons along with audio and video media that talks about life in the emirate. There are also several wings that recreate different atmospheres like the souqs of 1950s, pearl diving, traditional homes and a lot more. The museum also offers a peek into the journey of Dubai into modernism and a comparison between old and present day Dubai.



Photo courtesy: visitdubai.ae

Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood, Dubai

Ever wondered what it is like to live in traditional buildings made of materials like gypsum, teak or stone with high air towers or *Barajeel*? Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood gives you a chance to explore the traditional way of life in the UAE with a variety of artistic and cultural activities like specialized museums on coins or coffee, artistic societies, exhibits and cozy cafes. The neighbourhood is also home to the Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Centre for Cultural Understanding (read more about it below). The area spans 31,000 square meters and is open round the clock to visitors for a walk.

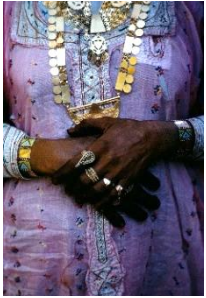


Photo courtesy: alshindagha.dubaiculture.gov.ae

Al Shindagha Museum, Dubai

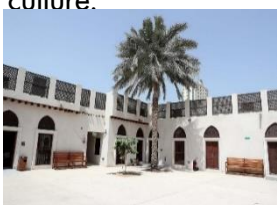
The Al Shindagha Museum is situated in the Dubai Creek area and takes visitors across centuries to a time when Dubai's society was just taking shape. The museum takes a look at the area's development of trade step by step – the first bank, the first police house, the first produce market etc. There are various collections of artefacts and jewellery that highlight the creativity of artisans of the days gone by. You can also experience the story of the Creek through a state of the art multimedia experience or indulge at the Perfume House to learn about Emirati perfume making. A look at the 'Emiratis of the past' tells visitors about what it took to grow a business and raise a family in the olden days. If you are lucky, you can catch a performance of the *Al Rafza* - the traditional art performed by men during social occasions.

Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding, Dubai

The Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding (SMCCU) offers visitors to take part in heritage tours, guided mosque tours and Arabic classes amongst many other activities. The centre also hosts visitors for traditional Emirati breakfast, lunch or dinner in Bedouin style sittings and also offer a chance to interact with Emirati hosts and talk about life in the emirate. The centre's motto is Open Doors, Open minds and their tours offer an authentic experience and a look into Emirati culture.



Photo courtesy: cultures.ae



Bait Al Naboodah, Sharjah
Photo courtesy: thenational.ae

Museums in Sharjah and other emirates

The neighbouring emirates of Sharjah and Al Ain offer some great museums where you could explore and learn about the heritage of the UAE. In Sharjah you could visit the Sharjah fort, Calligraphy museum, Bait Al Naboodah, Heritage Museum, Maritime Museum, Archeology Museum and many more. In Al Ain, there is the Al Ain Museum, the Al Jahili Fort, Al Ain National Museum, Qaryat Al Torath Heritage Village and Qasr Al Muwaiji amongst others. Fujairah is also home to the Al Hail Fort, Fujairah Fort, Awhlah Fort and Al Bithna Fort open for visitors to explore. Take your pick and drive down to soak in the cultural heritage in these neighbouring emirates.