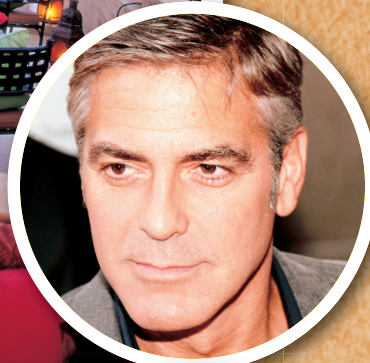


Travel

ROMANTIC



Bab Al Shams

WHERE?

This beautiful oasis in the desert is located only 40 minutes outside of Dubai, close to Endurance City.

WHY GO?

Bab Al Shams takes you back in time with its camel-print pathways, fountains and beautiful Bedouin-style seating areas. The weather is perfect – hot, not humid with a cooling early evening breeze, during which you can watch the spectacular sunset over the desert from the Al Sarab Rooftop Lounge. From there you can move to one of the many restaurants where the food is prepared by some of the world's leading chefs. If you're lucky enough to get Chef Sundeep Kumar on a night, he will even prepare your favourite dish (if it's not already on the menu). In your room is probably the most comfortable bed you will ever sleep in and you won't awake to any noisy building works – just birds and the breeze blowing among the palm trees.

STAR FACTOR:

What better way to start the next day than a swift 4WD trip across the desert to the stables. If you're lucky enough to meet Beauty and Joy (Joy is the guide), they will take you on a surprising and romantic ride across the sand dunes, which even as a novice, is enjoyable. Rabbits, lizards and gazelles dart about in the distance. Head back to a well-earned breakfast and the Bab Al Shams home-made muesli, fresh fruit, honeycombs, pastries and eggs any way you want them. After so much hard work so early in the morning, you deserve to sit beside one of the number of pools, against a backdrop of water features, where you can enjoy complimentary freshly-cut fruit kebabs and ice lollies. The only worthwhile interruption to your day can be found at the Satori Spa. OK! recommends the Desert Deluxe Duo – arguably one of the best facials in the region, combined with foot reflexology. For a bit of action, go and meet Thomas down at the archery and games area. With his friendly enthusiasm, he explains the sport and kindly retrieves arrows from where ever they've happened to land. Exhausted, at the end of the day, there is still time to catch another Bab Al Shams spectacular sunset from the rooftop bar. Even when you leave this paradise, Bab Al Shams does not let you walk away empty-handed. A smiling member of staff (who also knows your name) hands you an ice-cold bottle of Bab Al Shams water and waves you goodbye – the perfect end to the perfect weekend.

EID CELEBRATIONS: There is a real sense of celebration and festivity here and the lobby is filled with balloons and big pots of chocolates for guests.

Bab al Shams Desert Resort & Spa, Al Quadra Road,
Dubai, UAE
Tel: +971 (0) 4 809 6100, Fax: +971 (0) 4 832 6698
Email: JBASReservations@jumeirah.com
Website: www.jumeirah.com



Above: George Clooney, Paris Hilton and Sharon Stone have all visited Bab Al Shams.

NTIC ia BREAKS

Ziggy Bay

WHERE?

The Six Senses Hideaway at Ziggy Bay is only a 90-minute drive from Dubai International Airport. This award-winning resort is nestled between two rugged mountains in Musandam, the northern Peninsula of Oman and is nicknamed the Norway of the Middle East due to the spectacular interconnecting fjords. Just getting to the secluded retreat is an adventure, you can either take a scenic speedboat trip, a winding 4 by 4 drive over the hilltops or you can opt for a James Bond-esque arrival by paragliding onto the beach outside the hotel.

WHY GO?

This luxurious eco-friendly resort is perfect for couples looking to unwind and escape from the hustle and bustle of Dubai. Due to Ziggy Bay's exclusivity, romantic ambiance and personalised service, many couples also come here on their honeymoon. Here the rustic-chic villas – think Omani meets Armani – facing the private white sandy beach each have oversized bathtub, private outdoor showers, an infinity-edged pool as well as a 24-hour butler service. The cuisine is divine – think tasty organic salads, fresh seafood, tender steak and delicacies from all around the world. OK! loves the delicious home-made sorbets at the Deli restaurant. For those wanting to de-stress, head over to the world-renowned Six Senses grotto-style spa which offers an enticing menu of treatments. OK! recommends the Signature Holistic Massage and the Detoxifying Abdominal Massage & De-stress Head Therapy with Health & Wellness Consultant, Alison Potter. Expect your mind and body to feel rejuvenated afterwards.

STAR FACTOR:

Ziggy Bay Hideaway really is an exclusive A-list style retreat. For a truly stunning dining experience, head to Sense on the Edge for dinner – sitting indoors by candlelight you have stunning views of the mountains and can whisper sweet nothings to your loved one or if you are in the mood for something totally different, staff can arrange for you to eat your meal perched on top of the mountain – this is where several marriage proposals have taken place.

EID CELEBRATIONS: Guests can enjoy special rates and promotional packages. Please quote Eid Al Fitr when booking.

To book call + 968 26735 555 or email reservations-ziggy@sixsenses.com.
For more information check out www.sixsenses.com



Glenn Close and Rowan Atkinson are just two of the celebrities who have been spotted staying at Ziggy Bay.