

DESTINATION... HOME



Seeing as how this issue's about changing things around, we thought we'd turn travel on its head as well. Who says you have to spend 3 hours getting groped at security? (unless you like that sort of thing). Drop the idea of long-haul flights, quit fussing over how the Euro's going to end up killing you, and play tourist... right here in Dubai. You know you want to.

Resident Tourist

Your apartment building feels like a war zone, right? Frenzied construction to the right, left and seemingly under your bed as well. So here's the plan. Pack a change of clothes, leave the cat with the neighbours, chuck the mobile, and check into a hotel for the weekend.

There's a surreal thrill that comes with becoming a stranger in your own town. Give the regal fussiness of the Burj a miss, escape the bus-loads of orange-faced tourists who'll be thronging any of the major international chains, and opt instead for a cute little boutique hotel with at least an ounce of personality.



A couple of pretty options have sprung up on Jumeirah Beach Road, pick of the bunch being Fusion Bed and Breakfast (info@fusionhotels.com). This beautiful Boudoir B&B blends old world charm, style, hospitality and sophisticated service into one elegant experience.

Wake up to a decadently late breakfast, let someone else take care of worldly concerns like laundry, and be waited on hand and foot as you lay by the hotel's garden-graced swimming pool in the company of some smooth jazz. With rooms starting at AED500/night, it's enough to make you want to stop cribbing about rents. Almost.

Spa-de-da

With your R&R well underway, it's time you turned the relaxation stakes up a notch. What self-respecting tourist would deny himself/herself the luxurious spa treatment?

Satori at Jumeirah Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa (04-8096100), step right up please. Satori's signature **Desert Spa Indulgence Detox Massage** ought to be given a knighthood.



While the **Reflexology** treatment won't do your nerves any harm either. To be duly topped off with a leisurely dip in the resort's **gorgeous infinity pool**.

Treatments range from AED450 - 950, advance booking is essential.

Break the night with Colour

And now, the night awaits. You have little patience for overcrowded chav hotspots, and are way past the point of caring for any club that insists on a members only policy. A little bit of magic is what you're after, and if there's a dash of romance included, all the better.

Which brings us to the Rooftop Bar **atop the Arabian Court, Royal Mirage (04-3999999)**.

Sensual and unforgettable, fulfil some of your silver screen fantasies in the midst of candlelight, deep-set cushions, oriental mezzeh... and the rush of unexpected intimacy.



Leaving you in just the frame of mind to bid your trip goodbye from possibly Dubai's best new bar, the ridiculously well located **China Moon Champagne Bar at Raffles (04-3248888)**. Set within the apex of the hotel's Pyramid-like structure, China Moon lays on the cocktails, wines and jaw-dropping views with equal abandon. How you wish all journeys could end like this.

Dubai Essentials

How to get there: Hey, you're already there | Currency: If you don't know this one, we're a bit worried for you | Languages spoken: Yallah, stop reading this and get on with the trip already!

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