

## Fact File

### Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa

#### **About the Resort**

Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa is an exclusive low-rise resort, a unique retreat in the desert surrounded by rolling dunes and natural desert landscape. The resort provides a unique and traditional desert experience that is true to the culture and heritage of Dubai and the UAE.

Translated from Arabic as 'Gateway to the Sun', Bab Al Shams was designed to resemble a fortified rural Arab village in the desert built in and around an oasis. Inside the walls, shaded courtyards, walkways and water features provide cool shelter and maintain the unique ambience and atmosphere.

Godwin Austen Johnson and Chartered Architects worked together with landscape architects - Desert Leisure Dubai to design Bab Al Shams. The resort took nine months to build and opened in 2004.

#### **Location**

Nestled in the dunes of Dubai, Bab Al Shams is the ultimate luxury retreat. The resort is located in the heart of the desert, adjacent to Dubai International Endurance City, only a 40 minute drive from the city center of Dubai and Dubai International Airport and a 20 minute drive from its sister property They Meydan hotel.

#### **Rooms & Suites**

Bab Al Shams offers 113 exquisitely appointed rooms in a rustic Arabic style, located in charming clusters of sixteen double storey buildings.

Room categories include:

60 Deluxe Rooms (King)

43 Superior Rooms (King)

4 Royal Suites

2 Deluxe Suites

4 Junior Suites

The size of each room is 47m<sup>2</sup>, with suites ranging from 50.9m<sup>2</sup> to 68.4m<sup>2</sup>.

Each room features traditional Gulf décor that is emphasized by the use of natural stones, dark wood and Arabian glasswork. In room facilities include high-speed internet connection, 24-hour in-room dining and beautifully appointed bathrooms with rain showers.

## **Dining & Lounges**

### Al Hadheerah Desert Restaurant

The resort's signature restaurant, Al Hadheerah is the region's first authentic open-air desert restaurant, featuring belly dancers, henna artists, a live band, singers, dancers and a horse and camel show, all set in the wide expanse of desert.

The décor recreates the magic of an Arabian fort with natural stone, rock walls and a sunken seating area, located 300m from the resort and nestled amongst the sand dunes. The ambience is further enhanced by the adjacent heritage village with souk and by the presence of Bedouin Arab horsemen and a camel caravan on the dunes overlooking the restaurant. Camel and horse rides are available at the heritage village, as well as Arabian handicrafts.

The restaurant features authentic cuisine from the Middle East, served with bread from Arabic bread ovens; at live cooking stations food is prepared and cooked in a variety of traditional methods that include wood-fired ovens, charcoal grills and spit roasts.

### Masala

Masala, the Indian restaurant at Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa offers authentic Indian dishes, slow-cooked in traditional style of live tandoor cooking stations. Guests can also enjoy outside sitting in the courtyard in the midst of lush gardens.

### Al Forsan Restaurant

At the heart of the resort and overlooking the Arabian Desert, Al Forsan restaurant is warm and family-friendly place with a traditional Arabian theme. The all-day restaurant offers indoor and outdoor seating and features delicious international and Arabic cuisine with an extensive a la carte menu, buffet, live cooking stations and a cocktail bar.

### Pizzeria Le Dune

Pizzeria Le Dune boasts a fusion of Arabic and Italian décor that offers a delightfully warm and vibrant ambience, from the aged wooden furniture shipped from Italy and the traditional terracotta flooring, to the Arabic lanterns. Freshly-made pizza is on offer as well as an antipasti buffet which reflects the finest selection of the region's specialties.

### Al Sarab Rooftop Lounge

Overlooking the Arabian Desert, this two-storey open-air rooftop lounge offers a breathtaking view that boasts amazing vistas during sunset. Al Sarab is perfect for evening drinks and an ideal venue to enjoy the daily falcon show. The menu also features light snacks and an exquisite collection of Shisha and cigars.

### Al Shurouq Rooftop Terrace

Al Shurouq Rooftop terrace, located right above Al Forsan restaurant and beside Le Dune, is the ideal place to relax in the majlis seating areas while admiring stunning views of the boundless Arabian Desert. Al Shurouq offers a delicious mix of light bites, bar snacks, pizzas and more.

### Ya Hala Lobby Lounge

Located in the hotel lobby, Ya Hala is the perfect place to enjoy afternoon tea, drinks and snacks in the ambience of saddles and charming wooden furniture, surrounded by an intimate terrace overlooking a water well and a courtyard.

### Pool Bar

Cool off and chill out at the resort's swim-up pool bar. An ideal place to unwind during the day, the Pool Bar serves a selection of beverages around the pool area and offers a panoramic view of the desert.

### **Meetings & Events**

Boardroom style meetings can be accommodated in one of five Falcon Meeting Rooms (which range from 35m<sup>2</sup>-155m<sup>2</sup>) or in the Heritage Majilis. Each venue contains state of the art audiovisual equipment to ensure that every business requirement can be met. Functions can also be arranged outside, under the stars.

For larger functions, the neighbouring Dubai International Endurance City can cater for up to 5,000 guests, with two media centres, 14 meeting rooms, two dining areas, five VIP majlises and a large outdoor function area.

### **Activities**

The infinity pool is one of the most magical features of the resort. Covering a space of 1,400sqm, the temperature controlled three-pool complex features two infinity pools and a children's play pool, all with shaded areas, and all providing spectacular views of the desert. The pools themselves contain waterfalls and water fountains. A poolside rain shower is also conveniently located at the site.

Desert activities on offer at the resort include horse-riding across the dunes on magnificent Arabian ex-racehorses, touring the desert as part of an authentic camel caravan, or cruising the dunes in the resort's own 4x4 Jeep Defender in the company of local guides to visit a gazelle and oryx watchtower. Camel rides and falcon hunting displays are also available throughout the day.

In addition, the resort contains of a well-equipped gymnasium as well as a specially-designed archery centre and facilities are available for table tennis, croquet, petanque and golf putting.

## Satori Spa

The word 'Satori' denotes a state of sudden spiritual enlightenment and conjures up feelings of joy, peace and tranquillity occurring suddenly and unexpectedly.

Satori Spa features a selection of four indoor treatment rooms, as well as a steam room and sauna that can be privately booked. The spa has an exquisite array of treatments, from exotic facials to holistic and body massages.

## Kids Club

The Kids Club at Bab Al Shams offers a varied daily program of activities for our younger guests aged 2-12 years, under the supervision of highly trained and qualified staff. Other facilities for children include a playground and activity room, trampolines, a sand play area and a shaded children's pool. A babysitting service and children's movies and play station games are also available.

## **About Meydan Hotels**

Translated from Arabic, *Meydan* means 'a meeting place'. Meydan Hotels, through its collection of luxury hotels & resorts, provides its guests and customers with a myriad of unique and iconic places to meet.

Whether it is a meeting of minds at a board meeting or a meeting of hearts at a wedding reception, Meydan Hotels has unrivalled venues that make its properties the place to meet.

Meydan Hotels not only personifies warm, authentic yet modern Arabian hospitality; it also represents luxury, elegance, space, style, action and serenity.

With its home in Meydan City, a prestigious new business, sporting and lifestyle destination in Dubai, Meydan Hotels is ideally situated at the epicenter of one of the world's most exhilarating destinations. Its portfolio currently includes The Meydan Hotel and Bab Al Shams Desert Resort and Spa in Dubai.

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*Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa is a Meydan Hotels Experience  
Your Treat. Our Retreat.*