

Media Fact File **Burj Al Arab**

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Location

Burj Al Arab is situated next to sister properties Jumeirah Beach Hotel, Madinat Jumeirah, and Wild Wadi Waterpark on Jumeirah Beach Road, a leisurely half an hour drive from Dubai International Airport. The World's Most Luxurious Hotel stands on a man-made island 280m offshore, linked to the mainland by a short causeway.

History

In 1993, architect Tom Wright of WS Atkins took on the challenge of creating this groundbreaking superstructure as a luxurious reflection of Arabic heritage and a beacon to light the city's future.

Construction commenced in 1994 and Burj Al Arab's doors officially opened on 1 December 1999. It took two years to reclaim the island in the shore waters of the Arabian Gulf, drilling 250 foundation piles 40m deep into the seabed, and a further three years to complete the magnificent landmark.

Structure and Exterior Design

At 321m high, Burj Al Arab is the world's tallest all-suite deluxe hotel, taller than the Eiffel Tower and only 60m shorter than the Empire State Building. With its helipad on the 28th floor and a restaurant seemingly suspended in mid air, this hotel has become a landmark and icon on the Dubai skyline.

Designed in the shape of a billowing Arabian dhow sail, the façade represented an astonishing technical challenge, featuring a double-skinned Teflon-coated woven glass fibre screen. It is the first time such technology has been used vertically in such form and extent in any building worldwide. It is dazzling white by day and used as a canvas for a rainbow of spectacular light displays at night.

At the entrance, fireballs 2.5m in diameter are propelled 8m into the air from each of the four towers, created by releasing a controlled amount of non-toxic propane gas. The result is a spectacular optical illusion, with the flames reflecting in the hotel's glass exterior.

Bursts of fire are also incorporated into the Ellipse fountain at the hotel entrance, combined with 20,000 litres of water and orchestrated into the most unique and dramatic visual symphony.

Interior Design

Khuan Chew, of KCA International, drew inspiration for the interiors from the land, its people and culture. A robust and vibrant colour palette was derived from the elements;

earth, air, fire, water and approximately 1,590m² of 24-carat gold leaf was used to embellish the interior.

The world's tallest atrium is over 180m in height, flanked by golden columns, with a central fountain where arches of water dance can burst over 42m into the air.

Situated between the escalators leading to Sahn Eddar, the cascade waterfall combines finely atomized water with fibre optics to produce a unique kaleidoscope effect. As water and fog flow downward through its glass, stone-filled steps, water arches elegantly in choreographed movement.

Guest Rooms and Suites

An all-suite deluxe hotel standing 27 double-height storeys high, Burj Al Arab comprises 202 duplex suites. Convenience, luxury and a highly personalized service are available for every traveller, enhanced by private reception desks on every floor, as well as in-suite check-in and a brigade of exclusive butlers that provide around the clock assistance to each and every guest.

The hotel offers a choice of:

142	Deluxe Suites (One Bedroom)
28	Two Bedroom Suites
18	Panoramic Suites (One Bedroom)
6	Three Bedroom Suites
4	Club Suites (One Bedroom)
2	Presidential Suites
2	Royal Suites

Suites range from 170m² to 780m² in floor area, featuring floor to ceiling windows with a breathtaking view of the sea, and all are equipped with the latest technology.

Numerous services and functions can be managed by the television and remote control, including the ability to view any visitors and allow access without moving, and every suite has a minimum of six telephones.

Every suite benefits from a range of unique first-class flourishes, including an extensive selection of complimentary Hermes amenities and a pillow menu with 17 options, including some for children. A special bath menu is also available and the butler will be glad to explain the different options: from the refreshing Mint Bath to the most decadent Extreme Indulgence, including caviar, champagne and strawberries.

Special facilities are available for our younger guests: Sinbad's Kids' Club is located on the 18th floor, and in-suite babysitters can be arranged on request.

The two Royal Suites span the entire 25th floor, where palatial surroundings reach unsurpassed peaks of luxury, including a private elevator, private cinema, rotating beds and Majlis (Arabic meeting room).

Royal Arrival

Burj Al Arab boasts one of the world's largest fleets of Rolls Royce's (including Park Wards, Silver Seraphs and Phantoms) all of which are available for guest transfers. Exclusive helicopter transfers to and from Dubai International Airport can be arranged, as well as scenic tours of the city.

The Marhaba Welcome is the epitome of true Arabian hospitality: guests arriving at Burj Al Arab are welcomed with rose water, refreshing cold towels, dates, Bakhour (Arabic fragrance) and authentic Arabic coffee.

Restaurants and Bars

Al Muntaha Restaurant – Sky View Bar

Meaning the “Ultimate” or “Highest” in Arabic, Al Muntaha is suspended on the 27th floor, 200m above the Arabian Gulf, offering unrivalled views of Dubai and the coastline. Accessed by express panoramic lift travelling at 6m per second, the restaurant features seating for up to 120 guests who can enjoy delicious contemporary European cuisine.

The incorporated cocktail area of SkyView Bar is a stylish venue for afternoon tea, sunset cocktails and evening drinks, where an experienced and passionate team of trained Mixologists create personalized cocktails to suit individual tastes and mood.

Al Mahara - Seafood Restaurant

Al Mahara or “The Oyster Shell” is a seafood lover’s paradise. Diners are treated to a truly memorable and exciting experience as they approach the restaurant via a three-minute simulated submarine voyage from the hotel lobby.

Guests can enjoy the most succulent selection of seafood either in the main restaurant area, surrounded by the varied sea-life of the Gulf and illuminated by the glow of enormous seafood aquaria, or choose to be in the privacy of one of three exclusive private dining rooms.

Junsui

The Japanese word for ‘Pure’, Junsui is a contemporary restaurant offering authentic Asian dishes prepared live in opulent surroundings. The family-friendly restaurant is located on the ground mezzanine floor, with stunning views over the Arabian Gulf, and includes an adjacent cocktail lounge.

With 12 live cooking stations in an open kitchen concept and no less than 45 specialized Asian chefs in the culinary team, Junsui offers a mouth-watering union of culinary delights from Japan, China, Thailand, Indonesia and Korea.

Al Iwan Restaurant

The “Royal Dining Hall” is located in the heart of the world’s tallest atrium, flanked by golden columns and adjacent to the main lobby. Al Iwan is an oasis where guests can enjoy a taste of the finest Arabian cuisine whilst impressive interior decor and traditional objects d’art make up the restaurant’s warm ambience, ideal for a relaxed rendezvous.

Bab Al Yam - Poolside Restaurant

Located adjacent to the private outdoor swimming pool and sun-deck at the base of Burj Al Arab, Bab Al Yam, or the ‘Gateway to the Sea’, offers a relaxing, tranquil atmosphere in a beautifully landscaped and green island oasis.

This café restaurant provides informal dining with attractive sea views, alternatively guests can relax at the Pool Bar and enjoy refreshing cold drinks.

Majlis Al Bahar – Beachfront Restaurant

Located on Burj Al Arab’s private beach, Majlis Al Bahar is a sea-facing al fresco restaurant that is welcoming and refreshingly informal. Majlis Al Bahar specializes in Modern Mediterranean and Middle Eastern dishes, with plenty of lighter options. The adjacent bar is perfect for watching the sun set over the Gulf.

Sahn Eddar –Lobby Lounge

The lobby lounge is the perfect meeting area befitting the splendour of Burj Al Arab, ‘The Reception of the House’, Sahn Eddar, is located at the base of the atrium. Warm and welcoming classic tones, mosaic and marble flooring and torch lighting provide the perfect backdrop for guests wishing to linger over morning coffee, individual chocolate fountains or afternoon tea while watching the 42m water column leap.

Conference and Banqueting Facilities

Burj Al Arab offers technologically advanced meeting and conference facilities on the 27th floor. The sumptuous décor of Al Falak Ballroom and the conference suites is inspired by an 18th Century Viennese opera house with an outdoor terrace. Accessible via its atmospheric veranda, the ballroom has marble pillars encompassing a central gold dome, with a dazzling crystal chandelier as a centrepiece.

Complementing the ballroom is a series of five conference suites, each with seating capacities of up to 40 people, all equipped with sophisticated facilities and equipment.

Assawan Spa & Health Club

Located on the 18th floor of Burj Al Arab is Assawan Spa, a lavishly decorated, private health and fitness facility, named after the Assawan stone, which is known for its purity and healing properties. Its unique location allows guests to enjoy a spectacular view from the Jacuzzis, spas and pools as well as the massage, beauty and therapy rooms and even the aerobic room.

Separate ladies and gentlemen's facilities offer complete seclusion for guests seeking relaxing and reviving treatments in the hands of the most highly trained professionals. The extravagant décor is reminiscent of bathing pools used by ancient Middle Eastern civilizations, with a colour scheme representing the UAE national flag.