

United Arab Emirates

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
for Solo Travelers

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The University of North Carolina
General Alumni Association
February 20-29, 2024



A World of Discovery



Your next adventure begins in the United Arab Emirates, where old and new have coalesced in a magical alchemy that both fascinates and surprises. Whether it's your first visit or a return to explore more deeply, relish a multifaceted, immersive experience amid desert grandeur and warm gulf breezes. Explore dynamic Dubai and Abu Dhabi, and watch a lovely sunset over the desert landscape!

Top: Abra water taxis, Dubai Creek

Above: Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding

Cover: Madinat Jumeirah and Burj Al Arab, Dubai

Mail panel: Qasr Al Watan, Palace of the Nation, Abu Dhabi

Inspiring Moments



- Expand your understanding of the UAE's history, culture and religion during an open discussion with a scholar at Dubai's **Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding**.
- Delight in a **magical night at a desert resort** with food, music and belly dancing.
- Witness the juxtaposition of **traditional and modern Dubai** on engaging tours.
- Delve into the cultural heritage of the UAE's **glittering capital, Abu Dhabi**.
 - Tour the magnificent **Louvre Abu Dhabi**.
 - Learn why falcons are revered by the Emirati people at a **falcon hospital**.





Dear Carolina Alumni and Friends,

Join fellow Tar Heels and friends on an eight-night journey to the United Arab Emirates and discover a tantalizing fusion of ancient and modern, framed by golden desert dunes and sparkling gulf waters. This is an outstanding opportunity to explore this intriguing country, perfect for those with an interest in the modern Middle East visiting for the first time or those who've stayed briefly looking to return for a more in-depth experience.

In the care of a dedicated Travel Director and in the company of curious travelers like yourself, you'll marvel at the forward-looking cities of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, chat with Emiratis during an enriching cultural exchange and head into the Arabian Desert for an unforgettable stay at a desert resort.

This thoughtfully crafted, culturally immersive program features a wonderful mix of engaging, guided excursions and lectures, deluxe and first-class hotels, plus the security and camaraderie of group travel. Make plans today to delve more deeply into the United Arab Emirates! Space is limited to 28 travelers so don't miss out and make your reservation now.

Yours at Carolina,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas".

Douglas S. Dibbert '70

President

The University of North Carolina General Alumni Association

Tour participants who are not members of the General Alumni Association must join the Association (\$50 for singles, \$60 for couples) to participate. Please contact the Tar Heels Travel Office at 877-962-3980 to join.



Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Abu Dhabi



Burj Khalifa, Dubai skyline

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Dubai, United Arab Emirates. 🌐

Day 2 | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Upon arrival, transfer 🚗 to the Sheraton Grand Hotel, Dubai.

Day 3 | Dubai

Traditional Dubai. Dubai began as a fishing village and later prospered due to its pearl diving industry. Examine this rich history at the Al Shindagha Museum. Then, stroll through the Al Fahidi Historic Neighborhood to see the well-preserved homes with *barjeels*, or wind towers, an ancient ventilation method.

🌐 **AHI Connects | UAE Cultural Exchange.**

Guided by its motto, “Open Doors, Open Minds,” the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding seeks to spread tolerance. Enjoy an insightful talk by a scholar and engage in a discussion about Emirati traditions, values and religion, where no question is off limits. After, share a delicious meal of classic Emirati dishes. Next, cross Dubai Creek on an *abra* water taxi and explore the Gold and Spice Souks, bustling bazaars packed with glittering jewelry and the fragrant aromas of ginger, chili and cinnamon. Tonight, get better acquainted with your fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 4 | Dubai

Modern Dubai. In the 1960s, the discovery of oil triggered explosive growth in the region, and by 1972, seven Gulf sheikdoms had joined in federation as the United Arab Emirates. Today, discover modern Dubai, a cosmopolitan,

international center of commerce and finance dominated by soaring skyscrapers. See the grand Zabeel Palace and take in spectacular views from the skydeck of the iconic Dubai Frame. Admire the sleek Burj Al Arab and visit Palm Jumeirah, a man-made archipelago. After lunch in the Dubai Marina, spend some time at the Dubai Mall, famous for its retail shops and the Dubai Aquarium and Underwater Zoo. While in the area, crane your neck for a look at nearby Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building!

Day 5 | Dubai

Free Time: Craft your own agenda today. You can also choose to join this morning's Elective Activity and return to Dubai for leisure time later.

🌐 **Elective | Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve.** Head into the Arabian Desert for a guided drive within this protected desert

Spice Souk, Old Dubai





habitat to see indigenous plants and wildlife like the recently reintroduced Arabian Oryx.

Enrichment: The Emirates.

Join your group for dinner at a restaurant.

Day 6 | Abu Dhabi

Check out of the hotel. Depart for Abu Dhabi.

Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital & Qasr Al

Watan. Used for centuries by the Bedouins for hunting in the desert, falcons are revered throughout the Middle East for their beauty and speed. Learn about these majestic creatures and see them up close at a hospital for UAE's national bird. After lunch on your own, tour Qasr Al Watan, or Palace of the Nation, a modern, working presidential palace exquisitely crafted in homage to traditional Arabian artistry.

Check in to the Le Royal Méridien Abu Dhabi.

Dubai Frame



Day 7 | Abu Dhabi

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque & Abu Dhabi.

Take a tour of one of the world's largest mosques, which welcomes people of all faiths. Marvel at the courtyard adorned with marble mosaics, columns inlaid with amethyst and jasper, reflective pools and more. After lunch, admire Abu Dhabi's scenic gulf views and famous landmarks, including the Corniche waterfront area, Emirates Palace and Etihad Towers. Settled in 1761 by the Bedouins of the Bani Yas tribe, Abu Dhabi has matured into one of the world's richest cities. Visit its oldest heritage site, the gleaming Qasr Al Hosn, a former fortress and palace.

Day 8 | Abu Dhabi

Heritage Village & Louvre Abu Dhabi.

Explore Abu Dhabi's roots at Heritage Village, which brings to life Bedouin traditions within

Louvre Abu Dhabi | Photography Roland Halbe





a replica of a traditional oasis community. Journey later to the Louvre Abu Dhabi by architect Jean Nouvel, which features an impressive silver dome that appears to float over the complex and creates an enchanting, dappled light below. Enjoy a guided tour within the art galleries.

Free Time: Spend your afternoon at leisure.

Enrichment: *Arabian Desert Life.*



Day 9 | Arabian Desert

Depart for the Arabian Desert and check in to the Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa.



Free Time: Relax by the pool for the day or enjoy optional activities (at an additional cost), such as spa treatments, falconry, archery, camel rides and desert dune drives in 4x4 vehicles.

Arabian Nights. Begin this festive evening with a Farewell Reception at the rooftop lounge and savor a Farewell Dinner beneath starry desert skies featuring delectable cuisine, live music and belly dancing!

Day 10 | In Transit

Transfer  to the airport in Dubai for the return flight  to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

 Flights and  transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

 Elective experiences available at an additional cost.

Note About Activity Levels

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this itinerary require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats

Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **4 nights** in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, at the first-class Sheraton Grand Hotel, Dubai.
- **3 nights** in Abu Dhabi at the deluxe Le Royal Méridien Abu Dhabi.
- **1 night** in the Arabian Desert at the deluxe Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa

Transfers (with baggage handling)

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program.

Extensive Meal Program

- 8 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **AHI Travel Assurance plan** covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
-  **Electives** and free time to pursue your individual interests.
-  **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
-  **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
 - Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
 - A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
 - Tipping of guides and drivers.
 - Complimentary travel mementos.

Arabian Desert



Accommodations

Our travel experts have carefully selected these deluxe and first-class properties for their prime locations. They are ideally situated for exploring the UAE's renowned landmarks while also providing opportunities for you to immerse yourself in local life. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of their services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to enjoy your stay fully.



Sheraton Grand Hotel, Dubai | Dubai



Le Royal Méridien Abu Dhabi | Abu Dhabi



Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa | Arabian Desert



Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,
please call our AHI Travel Experts
at **877-962-3980** or
visit **norcar.ahitravel.com**.

Program Dates

Travel dates †

February 20-29, 2024

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates*

February 21-29, 2024

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Land Program

Full Price	\$4,245
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Special Savings	\$250
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Special Price*	\$3,995
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*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.
VAT is an additional \$395 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single supplement waived for solo travelers! This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://norcar.ahitravel.com/destinations/1815A?schoolId=114>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

AHI FlexAir

Let us arrange your flights

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays



Palm Jumeirah, Dubai

AHI Travel Expertise



From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

Before you go:

Travel Consultants stand ready to answer your questions as they guide you through the reservation process.

Passenger Service Representative offers personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

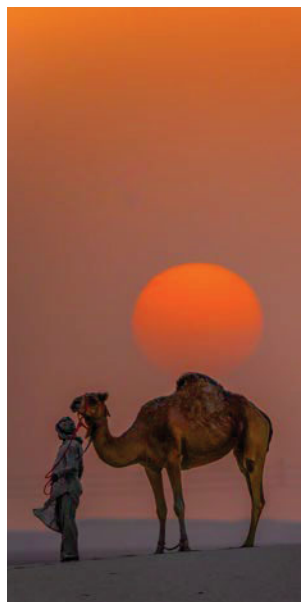
Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

Once you arrive:

Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

Handpicked Expert Guides offer fascinating insights and share their passion for their country with you.

Knowledgeable Lecturers deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



Arabian Desert



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 General Alumni Association
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SMALL GROUP
 Maximum of
 28 Travelers



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Vibrant Emirati culture, rich history and modern wonders!

AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational, educational and cultural programs that delight travelers.

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- Safety and security.



Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and prices.

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