



ARKANSAS
ALUMNI



DESERT DREAMS

2025 YOUNG ALUMNI JOURNEY

US DEPARTURE DATE: **MAY 3, 2025**

LAND TOUR START DATE: **MAY 4, 2025**

RETURN DATE: **MAY 10, 2025**

LAND PACKAGE FROM: **\$2,865**

Visit our website www.aesu.com/uark for more details and to book.

START YOUR ADVENTURE

Dear Young Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow University of Arkansas young alumni?

The Arkansas Alumni Association young alumni travel program, designed for recent grads ages 22 – 35, offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with individuals in the same age range, with similar backgrounds and experiences, while enriching you on well-designed, hassle-free tours of the world.

These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning enrichment and enjoying a connection back to the University of Arkansas. Our journeys are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 48 years of experience in the young travel market.

In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates and pricing.

If you have any questions about this tour, please contact our tour operator, AESU Alumni World Travel, by calling 800-638-7640 or email alumni@aesu.com.

To make an online booking, please visit our young alumni tour landing page www.aesu.com/uark and select this tour to be directed to the tour web site.

We are looking forward to traveling with you this coming season.

Sincerely,

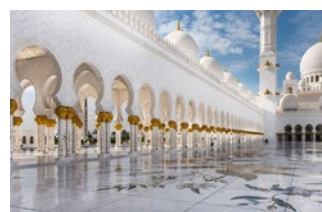
Brandy Cox Jackson

Brandy Cox Jackson
Associate Vice Chancellor & Executive Director
Arkansas Alumni Association

Travel insurance is compulsory. Some schools or alumni associations may offer travel insurance to you at a reduced rate. If not, AESU also offers group travel insurance. Ask our reservations agent for details or visit this link: <https://www.generalitravelinsurance.com/get-a-quote.html?partner=AESU3922>

“ IT WAS MY DREAM COME TRUE AND I COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR A BETTER TRIP. ”

FORMER TRAVELER



DESERT DREAMS

8 DAY TOUR IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES FOR LUXURY TRAVELERS

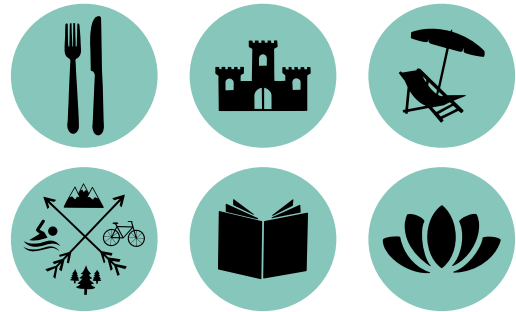
PLACES VISITED

DUBAI, UAE
ABU DHABI, UAE



PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS

This trip has been carefully designed to feature these fantastic inclusions and highlights:



For a glossary of these experiences, visit:
www.aesu.com/aspects-awt



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE

For more details, please visit:
<https://www.aesu.com/activity-levels-awt/>

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

8-Day Land Package Transportation and Lodging

- 3 nights at a 5-star hotel located in Dubai city, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
- 3 nights at a 5-star hotel on Jumeirah beach, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
- Airport transfers with purchase of AESU group airfare
- Ground transportation by private motor coach or jeeps as per itinerary

Meals

- 12 meals: 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches | 3 dinners

Tour Highlights

Welcome Orientation * Arabian 'dhow' evening cruise * Dubai city tour guided by local English-speaking historian * Burj Al Arab * Jumeirah Mosque * Observation deck at Burj Khalifa, tallest building in the world * Al Bastakiya, Old Dubai * Spice market and 'Gold Souk' * Desert safari * Belly dancing * Dune surfing * Henna tattoos * Jumeirah Beach * 5-Star hotel accommodations * Abu Dhabi * Sheik Zahed Mosque * Heritage Village * Louvre Museum

Activities & Admissions

- Half-day Dubai city tour with local English-speaking guide
- Half-day shopping tour
- Observation deck 124th floor at Burj Khalifa, tallest building in the world
- Desert Safari including:
Transfer by land cruisers | camel ride | dune surfing | belly dancing | beverages (unlimited soft drinks, tea, coffee, water) | Henna painting | Arabic coffee and fresh Arabic dates | Traditional costumes (Qandora) | Gourmet buffet dinner
- Dhow dinner cruise
- Cultural experience at the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding
- Excursion to Abu Dhabi including:
Abu Dhabi city tour with local English-speaking guide | Sheikh Zahed Mosque | Lunch at local restaurant | Louvre Abu Dhabi

Optional Excursions

(not included in land package price):

- Day 5 – Dubai harbor cruise



DESERT DREAMS ITINERARY

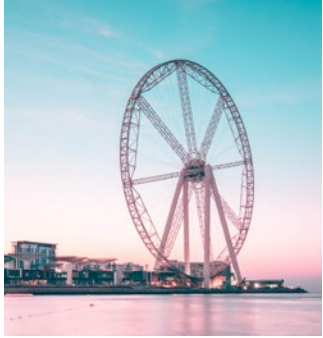
About the Trip!

Imagine Dubai: futuristic skyscrapers against the desert and sea, Burj Khalifa and ancient mosques side by side. Dive into vibrant “souk” markets for gold and spices, then hit the dunes for a desert safari, camel rides, sand surfing, and starlit feasts with belly dancing. Abu Dhabi offers the spellbinding Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque and a captivating fusion of tradition and innovation. Dubai’s blend of old and new, combined with Abu Dhabi’s wonders, promises an unforgettable journey– are you in?

- **DAY 1 TRAVEL TO DUBAI**
Embark on your overnight flight to begin your UAE experience.
Meals: In-flight
- **DAY 2 TOUR START DAY: DUBAI**
If you booked group airfare with AESU, you will be met and transferred to the hotel. Tonight, meet in the hotel lobby for a welcome cocktail and brief orientation with your tour director.
Meals: In-flight | Welcome cocktail
Inclusions: Transfer from airport to hotel included with purchased AESU group airfare | Welcome cocktail and brief orientation with tour director
- **DAY 3 DUBAI**
Our local guide introduces us to both the new and the old Dubai on our city tour. On this scenic route we make photo stops at Burj Al Arab, the famous 7-star hotel and Jumeirah Mosque, the only Mosque allowing non-Muslims to enter. Visit the breathtaking observation deck at Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world and a magnificent centerpiece of downtown Dubai. We pass the Sheik’s stunning palace, travel along Dubai Creek, the lifeline and pulse of the city, before taking a stroll through the narrow lanes of Al Bastakiya, the old Dubai.

We participate in a traditional Emirati cultural experience at the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding. Enjoy lunch with local flair while chatting with your Emirati host about UAE culture, customs, and religion. Board a water taxi, called ‘Abra’ to cross the lagoon to see the spice market and visit one of Dubai’s famous landmarks, the Gold Souk.

Tonight, join a traditional Arabian ‘dhow’ for an evening cruise. Enjoy a sumptuous welcome feast of Arabic and International cuisine while gently gliding past illuminated souks and palaces.
Meals: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner
Inclusions: Half-day city tour guided by a local English-speaking historian | Admission to Burj Khalifa, 124th floor observation deck | Abra boat ride | Dubai’s Souk markets | Traditional Arabian dhow cruise | Cultural experience at the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding



DAY 4 DUBAI

Land cruisers pick us up at the hotel for an excursion across the red dune desert of Dubai. There are several photo stops during this exciting drive across the dunes. Upon arrival at the camp, experience the beauty of the Arabian Desert as it was meant to be seen– on the back of a camel! For adrenaline junkies, no trip to Dubai is complete without at least one slide down a sand dune.

Take advantage of the opportunity to experience the exhilaration of one of the most popular sports in the desert - sandboarding!

If you prefer a more relaxing activity, try Arabic coffee and dates, have your hands or feet painted with henna or try a typical shisha while watching belly dancers perform by starlight after witnessing a magnificent desert sunset.

Meals: Breakfast | Dinner

Inclusions: Transfer in private 4x4 vehicles | Desert safari including, dune bashing, sand boarding, henna painting, shisha, belly dancer performances | Desert barbeque, Arabic coffee, and dates

DAY 5 DUBAI BEACH

Enjoy some of the best, biggest, most luxurious, elegant, yet affordable malls in the world. The Dubai and Emirate Malls offers more than 1,200 shops and a multitude of restaurants and cafés. Then get ready for paradise at Jumeirah Beach, where sun, sea, and luxury collide against the backdrop of the Arabian Gulf.

Don't miss The Palm, an awe-inspiring man-made island adorned with lavish resorts and an unmistakable palm-tree-shaped layout that redefines extravagance. Later, relax and enjoy an optional cruise onboard a luxurious motorboat.

Take in spectacular views of Dubai's coastline as you sail around Palm Jumeirah, the world's largest man-made island which has doubled the coastline of Dubai.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: | Dubai's famous shopping malls | Jumeirah Beach

Optional activity: Harbor cruise

DAY 6 DUBAI BEACH – ABU DHABI

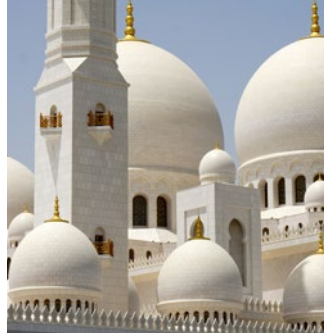
Get set for an exhilarating morning as we set off for Abu Dhabi, the beating heart of the UAE!

Brace yourself for a whirlwind excursion through time as we explore the mesmerizing Sheikh Zayed Mosque, then dive into Abu Dhabi's dual charm on this introductory city tour, where tradition meets innovation.

After lunch, we explore the renowned Louvre Abu Dhabi, a masterpiece of art and culture. Upon our return to Dubai, enjoy the remainder of the evening exploring your hotel or laze on the beach.

Meals: Breakfast | Lunch

Inclusions: Day excursion to Abu Dhabi led by a local English-speaking guide | Sheikh Zayed Mosque visit (proper coverings required) | Guided tour of Abu Dhabi | Louvre Abu Dhabi



DAY 7 DUBAI BEACH

Enjoy idleness and the gentle breeze from the sea at your hotel’s swimming pool or Jacuzzi. The magnificent beach directly in front of your resort offers many watersports facilities.

Take in the sun or shop and sightsee in the downtown area. At tonight’s farewell dinner, watch the chefs prepare your favorite dish with a new twist while you sample a variety of sumptuous international dishes.

Finish your exciting culinary journey with heavenly international desserts.

Meals: Breakfast | Dinner

Inclusions: Beach and pool time

DAY 8 TRAVEL HOME

Travelers who purchased group airfare with AESU will be transferred to the Dubai International Airport. Most flights to the U.S. leave Dubai just after midnight. After check-out, your luggage can be stored at the hotel. You have access to all public hotel facilities until we depart for the airport. We return home with memories of one of the world’s most intriguing destinations and plans for our next young alumni adventure!

Meals: Breakfast | In-flight

Inclusions: Transfer from hotel to airport included with purchased AESU group airfare

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please familiarize yourself with regards to dress code and acceptable behavior.

TOUR DIRECTORS

Your land package tour includes the services of a professional tour director, who knows this is a trip of a lifetime for you. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major universities. They are eager to show you the world through the eyes of an adventurer, sharing with you their vast knowledge, as well as interesting little-known facts.

Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel. We are very proud of our tour directors, therefore it is customary to include gratuity.

Show the tour director and driver your appreciation with a tip. We suggest \$6-7 per person/per day for your tour director and \$4 per person/per day for your driver.

HOTELS

We stay in first-class hotels or better, all with private bathrooms in 2-share rooms. Hotels are centrally located or with easy access to public transportation. They have great extra amenities such as pools, gyms or roof-top bars.

All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room.

You can book a single-room by paying an additional single supplement of \$985. The total single tour package for the 8 day trip is \$3,850.

If you are a solo traveler and don’t want to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If we are unable to arrange a share, the single supplement of \$985 will be added to your invoice.

By booking your trip with AESU, you are agreeing to all the terms and conditions as outlined on our website: <https://www.aesu.com/terms-conditions-awt/> | For details on our payment plan, please visit: <https://www.aesu.com/payment-plan-awt/>