

PRESS RELEASE

Qasr Al Sarab Desert Resort by Anantara Unveils Ezba: A cultural oasis celebrating the Bedouin legacy

Guests are invited to discover the essence of the United Arab Emirates through History, Culture, Nature, and Experiences

Qasr Al Sarab Desert Resort by Anantara invites guests to explore Ezba, a new educational and interactive space that pays homage to Bedouin traditions and Emirati heritage, centered around four key pillars: history, culture, nature, and experiences.

Nestled within the resort's enchanting golden dunes, this new cultural centre offers a unique opportunity for visitors to immerse themselves in the local habitat and journey back in time.

Ezba has been thoughtfully designed to provide insights into the traditional hospitality that has profoundly influenced the identity and way of life of the United Arab Emirates. It showcases a deep reverence for the customs and history that continue to be integral to Emirati life today.

Culture & History

Guests will arrive to the Ezba Culture and Heritage Centre, where fascinating exhibits depict the history of the Liwa area. Expert tour guides will be giving in-depth details about the site and the tribes who once inhabited the land.

Through displays of ancient practices such as weaving and embroidery, guests can witness crafts that have been passed down through generations, which remain integral to the nation's identity.

On a seasonal basis, visitors can anticipate live presentations by local residents from the Liwa regions, demonstrating Khoos, Sadu and Burqa weaving, as well as Talli embroidery techniques. These demonstrations showcase the age-old skills that women have used for centuries to create exquisite textiles and garments, which are not only deeply valued in the UAE but also hold significance beyond its borders to this day.

Pottery is also an important part of the Emirati culture, which has been practiced for centuries. At Ezba, guests can read how Emirati potters created an array of vessels, ranging from simple cooking pots to decorated ceremonial pieces. These designs are still highly valued for their distinctive beauty and are an important part of the country's artistic legacy.

Visitors will then proceed to the Ezba Majlis, a cherished tradition that remains a central part of Emirati homes. As they enter, they are greeted in the customary Emirati manner, with aromatic Arabic coffee and sweet dates, as well as the sounds of traditional Arabic music, including the Oud, based on a seasonal schedule.

Nature & Experiences

Stepping outside, visitors will encounter a remarkable Falaj water supply system – an ancient form of irrigation made up of underground tunnels, often dug by hand to channel water over long distances, providing supply to tribes such as those living in Liwa.

Moreover, Ezba offers an exciting opportunity to get up close with the animals which call the desert their home, including camels, saluki dogs, gazelles, and horses, and the UAE national bird, the falcon. Educational presentations will both enthrall and educate visitors as they learn about the vital roles these animals used to play in Bedouin life, and their importance within UAE culture.

Falconry is one of the UAE's most treasured sports, with a heritage dating back generations to a time when falcons were utilised by Bedouin tribes for hunting. Ezba guests can witness this noble practice first-hand and learn about the different breeds of falcons from the Liwa area.

A display of Arabian wildlife would be incomplete without a camel encounter. Ezba provides a unique opportunity to meet these magnificent creatures, and discover their rich social, economic, and historical significance.

By the end of this year, the resort will introduce the national animal of the UAE, the Arabian Oryx to its desert habitat, adding another fascinating dimension to the experience. Guests will learn how the Arabian Oryx was brought back from 'extinct in the wild' status thanks to highly successful captive breeding and release programme, illustrating its treasured status.

Sustainability is a key thread in all activities at the site, reflecting the aim of Qasr Al Sarab Desert Resort by Anantara to become the greenest desert resort in the world. Ezba is home to a nursery and greenhouse, where guests can hear about how the setup is maintained to grow plants and produce more than 150kg of crops used at the resort each month.

Outside, guests will find towering Ghaf trees, the national tree of the UAE. Drought tolerant, the Ghaf tree symbolizes stability and peace in the desert environment. Adjacent to them are date palms, which surround the Ezba oasis, the source of life in the desert. Guests will learn how Ezba sources its water and learn about Liwa's history of being one of the major suppliers of fresh dates.

Jean-Paul Dantil, General Manager of Qasr Al Sarab Desert Resort by Anantara comments on the opening and says, "A celebration of local legacy, Ezba has been created to bring traditional life to visitors. The land on which the secluded desert oasis now sits was once used by local families to raise sheep, goats, and camels, passing their

skills to younger generations. Now, Ezba will ensure the continuity of this Bedouin legacy, helping to preserve the culture and natural habitat of the United Arab Emirates right here within our resort.”

Visitors can take a piece of Emirati heritage home with them from the Ezba souk, where a wide selection of items is available for purchase such as local dates, Arabic coffee, natural honey, handcrafts from local artisans of Khoos, Sadu & Talli Crafts, and ghutras.

The destination will be overseen by Mark David Penfield, a Conservation and Wildlife Specialist who has been appointed as Cluster Conservation Manager at Qasr Al Sarab Desert Resort by Anantara as well as Ashton Ballakistan, Assistant Manager for Activities at Qasr Al Sarab Desert Resort by Anantara who will be on-site daily to manage operations.

Ezba warmly welcomes both in-house and external guests, making it an inclusive destination suitable for all ages. Admission is priced at AED 250 for adults, and AED 200 for children, with children aged 2 and under enjoying free entry.

Daily tours are available in the morning and afternoon, each lasting 60 to 75 minutes. Advance booking is required.

For bookings, please visit <https://www.anantara.com/en/qasr-al-sarab-abu-dhabi/ezba>, contact Anantara’s Central Reservations Office at +971 (0) 2 895 8700, or visit the resort’s [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) channels.

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About Anantara Hotels & Resorts

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Anantara is part of global hospitality group Minor Hotels and a member of the GHA DISCOVERY loyalty programme.

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Minor Hotels is a proud member of the Global Hotel Alliance (GHA), the world's largest alliance of independent hotel brands, and participates in the GHA DISCOVERY loyalty programme.

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