

**UAE'S LARGEST
HERITAGE MUSEUM**

INTRODUCTION

Al Shindagha Museum is a world-class museum committed to celebrating, exploring, and educating people about the Emirati cultural heritage. Set along the iconic waters of Dubai Creek, it tells the story of the emirate's rich legacy and dramatic transformation from a fisherman's village to an ultra-modern metropolis.

The museum boasts 22 carefully curated pavilions spread over 80 houses within the district, each regularly offering public and educational programmes for families, students, and private groups. Amongst these houses is the Al Maktoum Residence, one of the most prominent heritage sites that explores the erstwhile royal residence of His Highness Sheikh Saeed Bin Maktoum Al Maktoum, the former Ruler of Dubai.

Featuring interactive technology installations, the museum also brings history and artefacts to life through an immersive multimedia experience. Its team of local and multilingual cultural guides reflects the warm Emirati hospitality by welcoming visitors from all over the world.

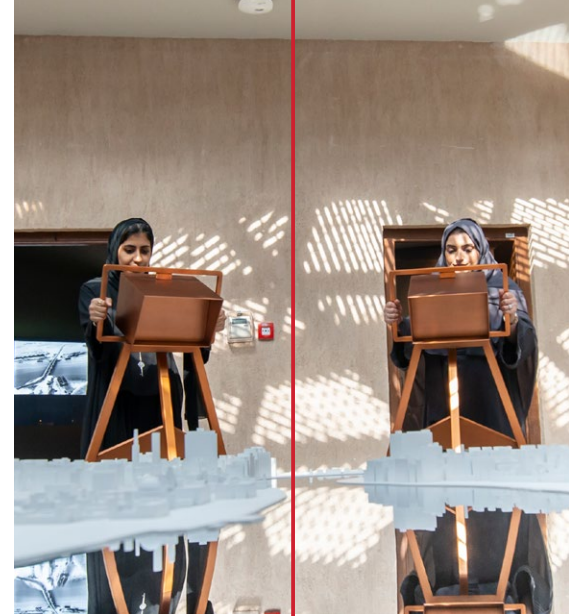


DUBAI CREEK: BIRTH OF A CITY

“Set a sail across the centuries to a time when Dubai’s modern society was beginning to take shape on the shimmering blue waters of its famous creek.”

The birth of Dubai’s trading industry is deeply rooted in its people’s ingenuity and hospitality, which attracted visitors and traders worldwide. From a small fishing community with historical buildings to a crossroad of the world, Dubai Creek: Birth of a City tells the tale of the city’s growth.

Learn more about the creek’s geography, the past generations who settled in old Dubai, and the emirate’s rapid transformation along with the people who dwelled in it. You can also witness the dramatic development of the city narrated through a state-of-the-art and immersive multimedia experience.





PERFUME HOUSE

“Allow all your senses to be stimulated and delighted in the realm of exotic Emirati fragrances while delving into the skills that bring them to life.”

Formerly the home of the late Sheikha Shaikha Bint Saeed Bin Maktoum Al Maktoum, a well-known perfume-maker and the aunt of Dubai's current ruler Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Perfume House explores the longstanding role of perfume-making in the Emirati culture.

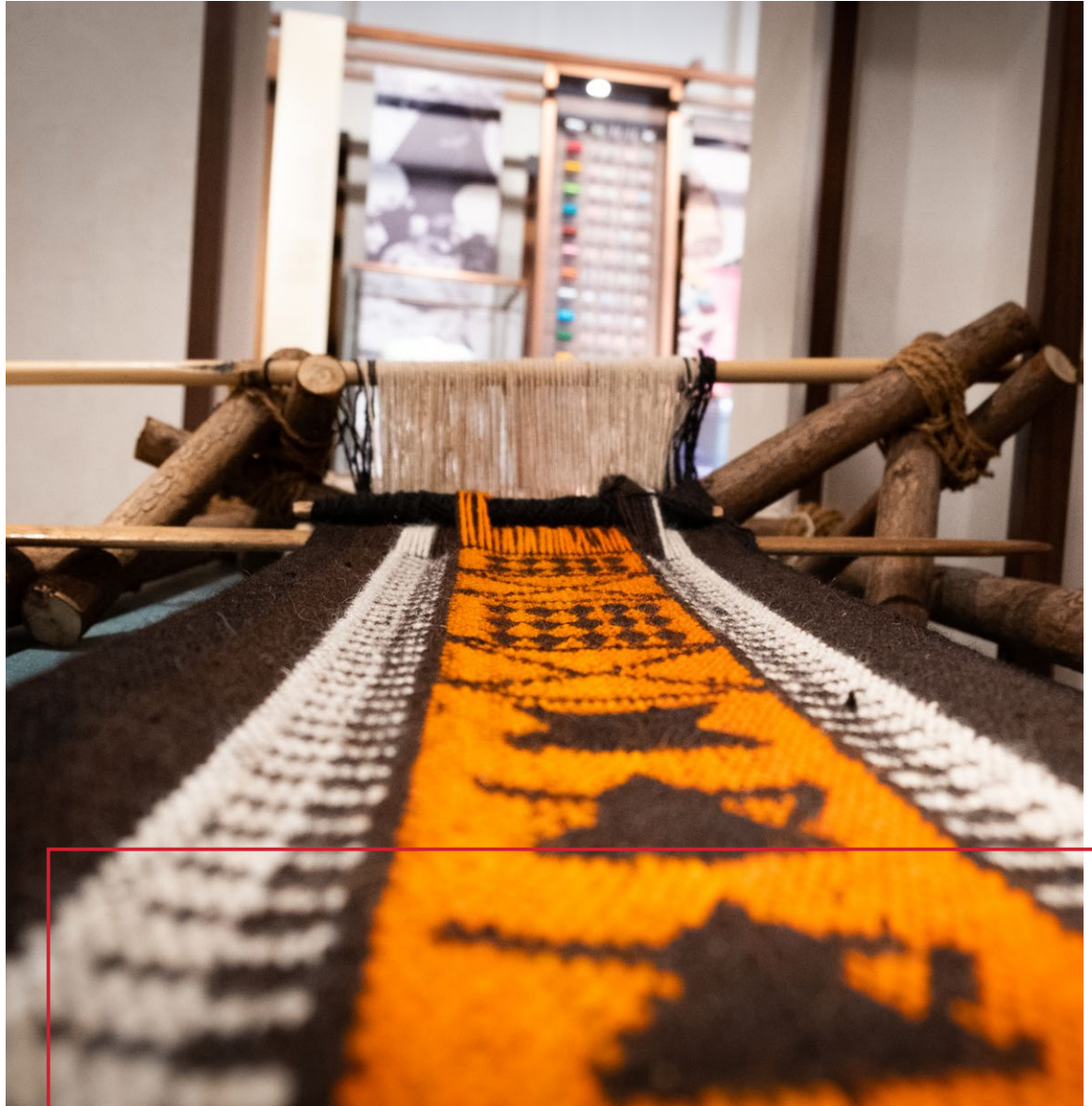
Your visit will entail a discovery of traditional methods of perfume-making and the continuity of this tradition in the modern world. You will also get a chance to see the most expensive preserved piece of Oud weighing 28kg.

TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

“This House celebrates the diverse crafts traditions of the UAE and the spirit of ingenuity they embody.”

Explore the UAE’s rich heritage in traditional crafts, which reflect social identities and the Emiratis’ relationship with their environment. Learn how people preserved their creativity and artistic expressions, which became an integral part of the country’s contemporary culture.

Every part of the date palm, called the Tree of Life, was used to create beautiful and ingenious objects. The coastal, mountain, and desert communities were also skilled artisans, working with metal, clay, wood, and embroidery. See the masterpieces of these early artisans using traditional materials.



BEAUTY AND ADORNMENT

“This House celebrates traditional Emirati garments and all their dazzling colours and patterns, revealing a vibrant picture of the lives led by women, men, and children.”

The Beauty and Adornment House is an essential and symbolic part of the UAE's rich culture. It showcases the unique techniques and styles that characterise traditional Emirati beauty standards. Moreover, it takes you on a cultural exploration to see how the jobs, social status, and personal taste of people influenced what they wore as part of their daily lives.

Be inspired by the traditional methods used to create Emirati products. Discover stunning examples of local garments such as the kandura, the abaya, and other traditional clothes that have developed from merely practical attire to gorgeous, expressive outerwear items.





TRADITIONAL JEWELLERY

“Discover the materials, styles, and shapes of traditional jewellery.”

Explore the world of traditional Emirati jewellery craftsmanship and discover a collection of exquisite ornaments at the Traditional Jewellery house. Here, you will learn how creating, wearing, and trading jewellery has been a longstanding part of Dubai's history. You will also realise its significance in expressing individuality, culture, and social status.



TRADITIONAL HEALTHCARE

“Traditional Healthcare explores the role of traditional healers and medical innovators in the UAE and the wider region.”

The Golden Age of Islamic Science and the knowledge around traditional healthcare has gloriously evolved over the past centuries. This can be traced back to the age-old healthcare practices in the UAE and the wider region.

This house showcases how traditional healers used local plants to treat many diseases. During your visit, you will uncover how herbs and plants such as saffron, anise, nutmeg, lemongrass, and ginger were used to cure various ailments. You will also have a mind-blowing discovery of the role that the Atar and Hawaj (healers) play in these treatments.

Delve into the intriguing world of traditional Emirati remedies and how Dubai became a world-leading medical treatment hub.

EMERGING CITY

“Follow the fascinating evolution of Dubai’s environment and take in the development of its architecture and urban landscape.”

The Emerging City explores the vision and foresight of Dubai’s founding fathers, as well as the culture and lifestyle of its people. It houses the legacy of Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, the father of the current ruler, who ruled from 1958 to 1990.

Step into an exciting discovery of pearls, trade & oil, the souq culture, and the emirate’s growth. Find out how life in the city changed, paving the way for new experiences and opportunities in the modern world.



PEOPLE & FAITH

“Discover how Islam shaped the Emirati culture and made the UAE a place known for its respect, tolerance, and acceptance of others.”

Islam is a faith of positive action, a way of living, and a belief system of integrity and community. It offers guidance on trade, banking, education, and how people socialise.

Built on the Islamic spirit and principles, the People and Faith highlights how religion shaped every aspect of Dubai's development. It also features a room that explores Hajj, an important pilgrimage to Mecca that many Muslim men and women undertake during their lives.



LIFE ON LAND

“Dubai is a land of awe-inspiring sights, where modernity coexists in harmony with natural beauty.”

Life on Land explores the different landscapes of Dubai and how people connect with them. In this house, you will get a chance to indulge in immersive audio-visual experiences portraying the emirate's topography and how inhabitants made sense of them.

Learn about the storytelling traditions of the Bedouins as they travelled through the deserts at night, the rock art of the ancient mountain communities, and the trade that people of the coast excelled at.



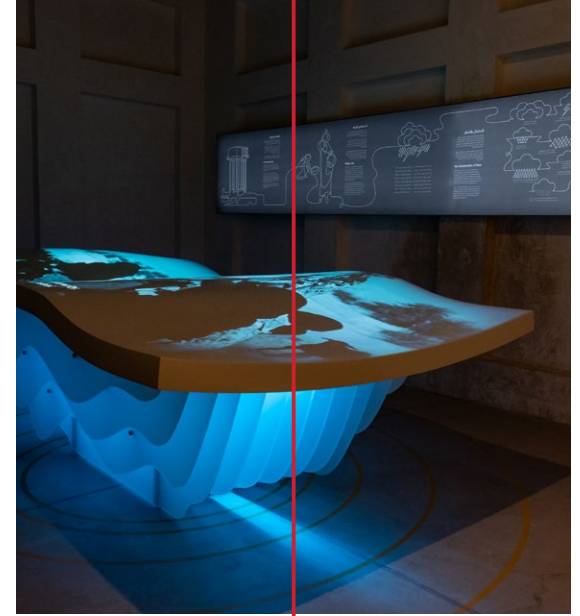
LIFE ON LAND: WATER, FLORA, AND FAUNA

“Explore these houses to learn more about the natural resources of Dubai.”

This house exhibits how wildlife and people adapted, survived, and thrived in Dubai’s natural environments.

The Flora & Fauna section showcases the diverse wildlife across the emirate. It also emphasises how humans have learned to live alongside nature and use it to meet their needs, from food to traditional medicines, as well as materials for crafts, building, and trading.

Meanwhile, the Water Zone highlights the necessity of water for life, which is particularly cherished in a country such as the UAE with low rainfall. It also tells the tale of how the early communities gained knowledge and skills to find, collect, and store water, which was an integral part of people’s daily lives.

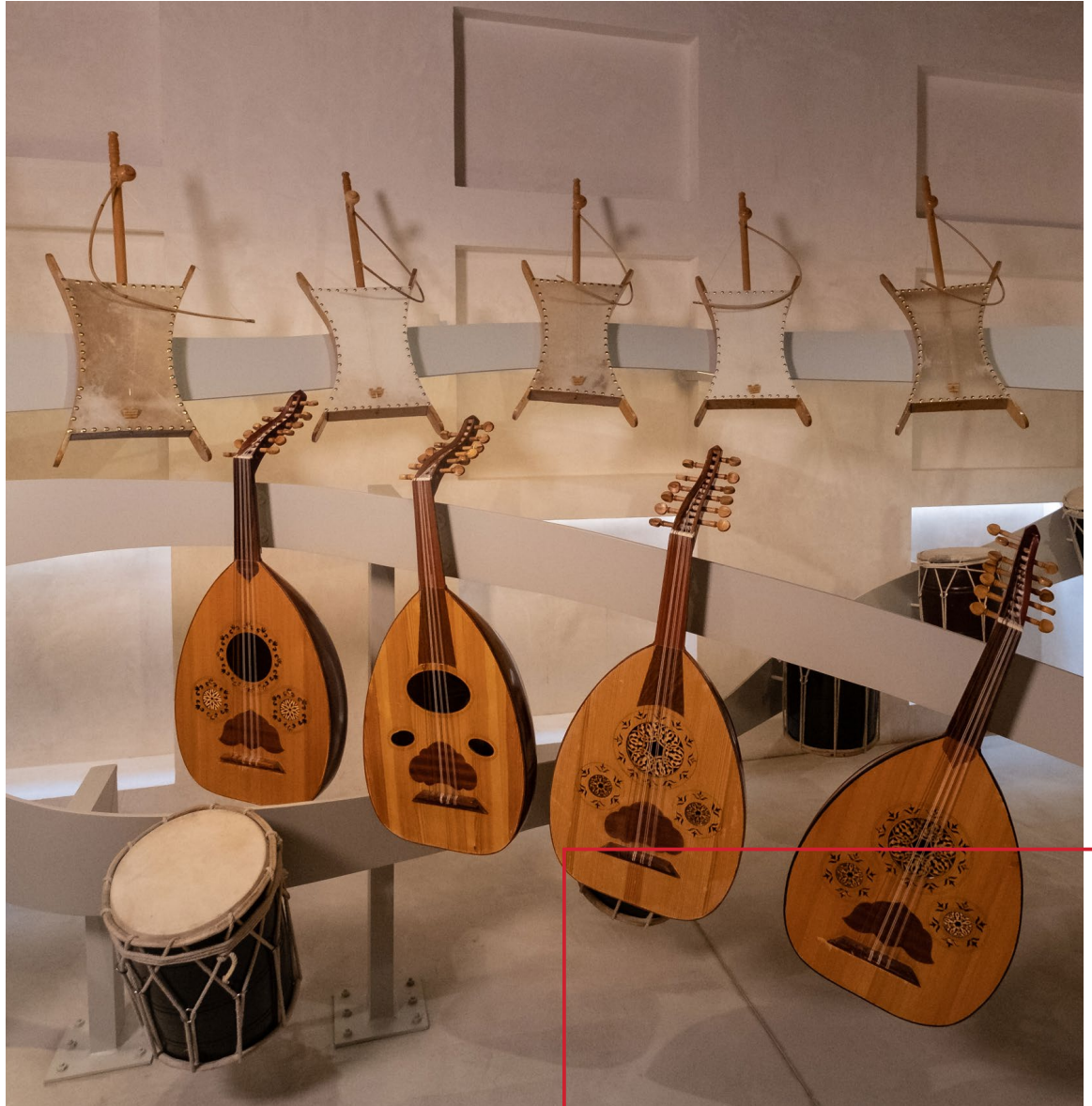


LIFE ON LAND: EXPRESSIONS

“Dubai is a source of inspiration; the natural world finds its way into the local people’s creative expression.”

This house explores the importance of oral traditions in Dubai. Creative expressions are communicated through various forms, such as music, poetry, performance, and folktales. These are woven into everyday life and passed down from generation to generation.

The interactive displays and audio-visual installations narrate oral traditions inspired by nature and landscapes. These also recount how performances help children learn about community values, morals, and familial love.



LIFE ON LAND: TRADE AND JOURNEY

“Across the history of Dubai, trade and journeys are intertwined and closely connected—both to each other and the land.”

In the early days, trade involved the exchange of products and financial transactions evolved much later. Travels were also driven by the need to transport goods.

Through state-of-art technological installations, the house highlights how trade and journeys were entwined and the role they played in shaping modern Dubai.

Part of the house is the Trade section, which explores the goods that were traded, their role in people's daily lives, and the different currencies used over time.

The other section is the Journeys, which showcases the purpose of different voyages, including daily trips to the souq, seasonal migrations, and pilgrimages. It also highlights the risks involved in longer journeys and the equipment required.



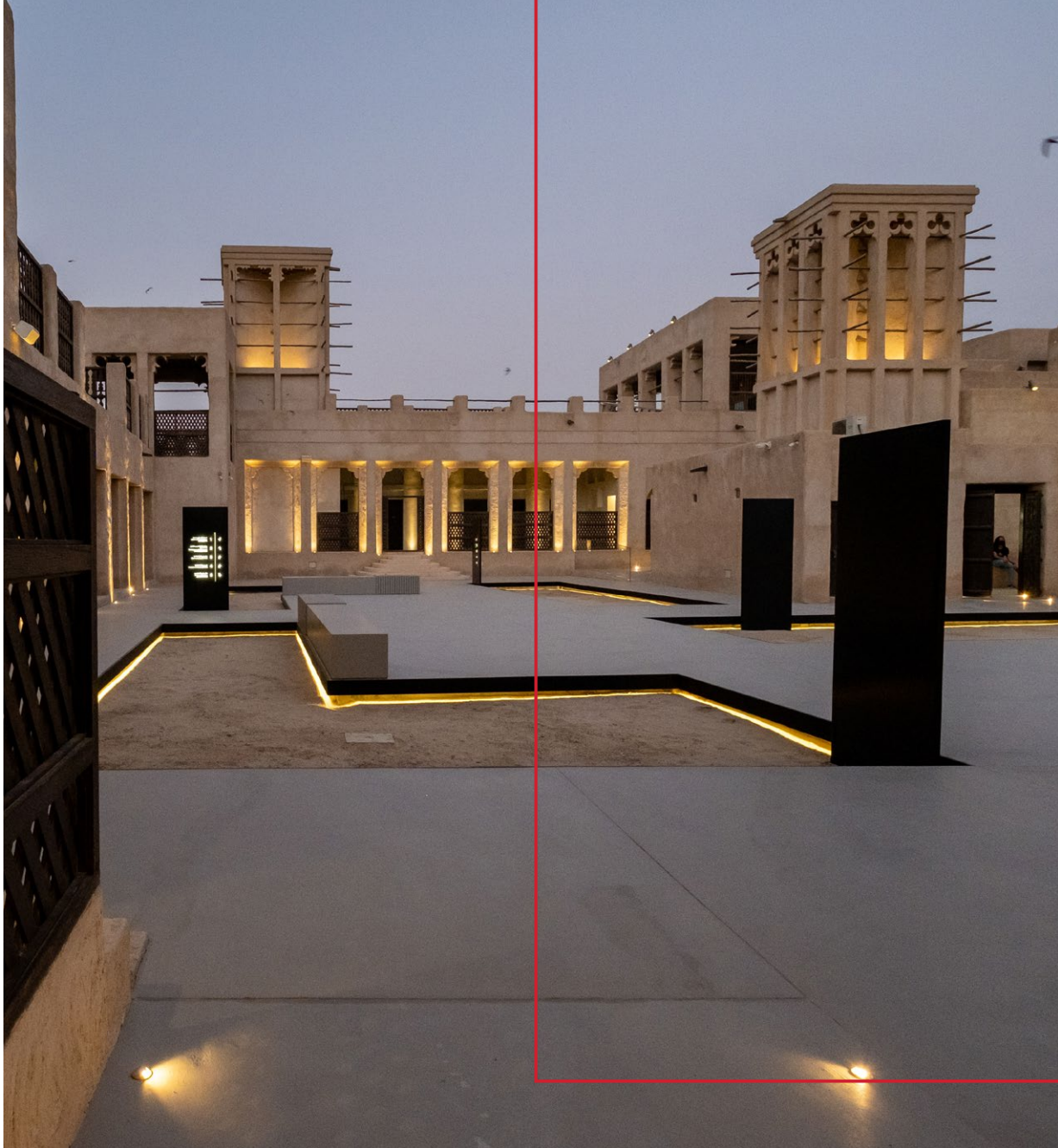
AL MAKTOUM RESIDENCE

“The story that will be told here is not one of the nation’s building but a humble narrative of a family.”

The Al Maktoum Residence tells the stories of the Rulers of Dubai and the house they built on the shore of Dubai Creek.

The house introduces Dubai’s ten rulers, the values and skills they were known for, and some of the key events and achievements during their reigns. You will learn about the early eras of Dubai’s establishment and development as a trade port through a series of treaties with its neighbours and the British Empire.

It also highlights the life of Sheikh Saeed Bin Maktoum and Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed and how they guided Dubai through the turbulent times of the early 20th century and transformed it into a modern international city.





TRADITIONAL FOOD HOUSE

“Traditional food is central to Emirati cultural heritage and offers a window into Emirati values, religion, social life, and geography.”

Food is embedded in the social fabric of life, be it through traditional recipes passed down through generations, homemade medicinal remedies, or feasts prepared for special celebrations.

The Emirati cuisine is deeply intertwined with the people's community life, as well as their social and religious values. It evolved through years of trade and exchange between the UAE and other nations.

The Traditional Food House explores the role food has played and continues to play in Emirati culture. It showcases customs and rituals surrounding Emirati hospitality, including ingenious food preservation methods developed by communities in different environments.

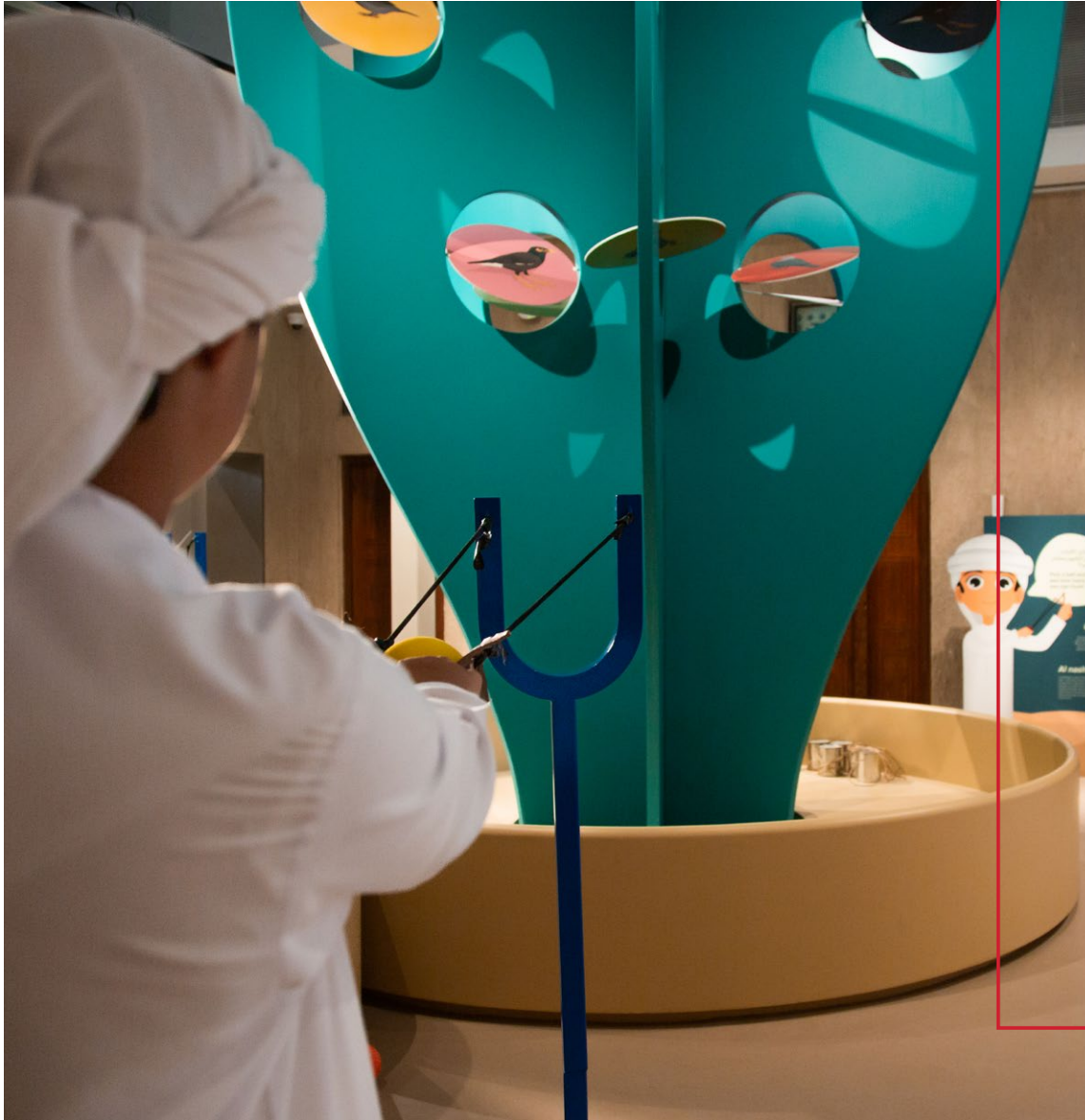
CULTURE OF THE SEA PAVILION

“The history of Dubai has been shaped by its relationship with the sea.”

The Culture of the Sea Pavilion explores how Dubai's relationship with the sea shaped its history. It also narrates how the emirate's maritime heritage facilitated the exchange of knowledge and culture between countries in the region.

It displays the distinct aspects of Dubai's geographical location and marine biodiversity, dhows, fishing, pearling, maritime trade, and life of people on the coast. Through audio-visual and Virtual Reality experiences, it highlights the important role the sea has played for the people of Dubai for centuries.





CHILDREN'S PAVILION

“The Children's Pavilion portrays the Emirati culture in an interactive and hands-on learning atmosphere designed to captivate and educate young minds.”

Unravel the history of Emirati heritage told through the eyes of two illustrated characters, the twins Hamad and Hessa, who will guide visitors through the galleries and take them into a magical world of traditions and adventure. The two characters show children the beautiful landscapes of the emirate and accompany them in a time-travel journey to experience life in 'old' Dubai.

The carefully curated house is designed to tell exciting heritage stories to little ones through an engaging and hands-on approach inspired by an interactive storybook for children. The stories appear to leap from the page into the exhibition. The illustrated environment immerses the visitors as if they were stepping into a unique traditional tale in every room.

EVENT SPACES



Visitor Centre



250 PAX



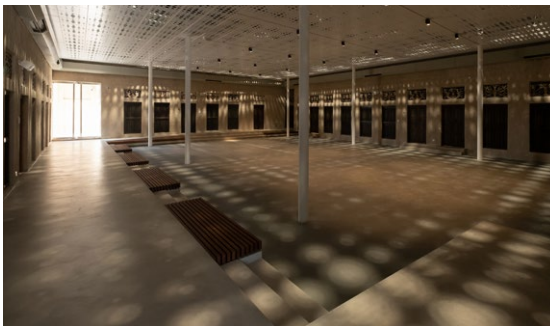
583 sq.m



Free guided tour



POD accessibility



Community Hall



150 PAX



300 sq.m



Free guided tour



POD accessibility



Life on Land



25 PAX



31 sq.m



Free guided tour



POD accessibility

CURATED TOURS

Community and Daily Life

Tour Duration: 30 minutes

Dubai Creek House
Perfume House

Arts of the Emirates

Tour Duration: 90 minutes

Perfume House
Traditional Crafts
Beauty and Adornment
Traditional Jewellery
Traditional Healthcare

Creative Expression

Tour Duration: 30 minutes

Perfume House
Poetry House

The People and the Sea

Tour Duration: 60 minutes

Culture of the Sea
Traditional Food

Community Design

Tour Duration: 60 minutes

Emerging City
People and Faith
Life on Land

Heritage through the Ages

Tour Duration: 60 minutes

Children's Pavilion
Dubai Creek: Birth of a City



WHAT VISITORS SAY ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE?

“The museum is beautiful and full of wonders.”

“An absolute must-visit, captivating themes and tour guides—excellent value.”

“An amazing experience to understand the history of Dubai.”

“You need to visit Al Shindagha museum first.”

“We visited on a weekday. Really enjoyed the visit and found it interesting. The staff are extremely helpful. One of the staff, a young man, was exceptionally helpful to my mother by transporting her and looking after her well-being. Really kind and went the extra mile.”