

حمل تطبيق "الشارقة" السياحي  
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Government of Sharjah

هيئة الإنماء التجاري  
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Sharjah Commerce & Tourism  
Development Authority



# Sharjah for Art Lovers



## Itinerary

## Sharjah for Art Lovers

Half day tour with highlights on best places to visit.

### **Visit Heart of Sharjah: Sharjah Art Spaces, Calligraphy Museum**

The Heart of Sharjah is a prominent model of traditional human settlement in the United Arab Emirates and the Arabian Gulf where historical components of the city are still visible.

In this rich cultural milieu, the narrow alleyways, old school buildings, the market places and traditional homes take on a meaning beyond the merely physical. They reflect every social, political, military and cultural aspect of life, and all forms of creative art left behind by the forefathers, shining a light on significant stages of the Emirati cultural history.

In Heart of Sharjah Area, you will see handcrafted works of art and objects that date back to a time when local people relied solely on fishing and pearling. Trace the development of education, currency and the early postal system. Discover the traditional skills and crafts relating to jewellery, costumes, herbal medicine, music and folklore.

#### Sharjah Art Spaces

With approximately 20,000 square feet of interior space, connected by open-air courtyards and roof-top terraces, these spaces provide venues for Sharjah Art Foundation's growing activities and the increasing needs of its community.

For visitors, these exhibition buildings provide a range of interiors to experience art along with a variety of exterior spaces.

The buildings are located in Heart of Sharjah, which is characterized by clusters of courtyard buildings with windowless, peripheral walls that form narrow alleys. Many of the existent buildings in these areas are former traditional Emirati family homes which have been preserved or restored over the past 50 years.

#### Sharjah Calligraphy Museum

This museum showcases fascinating masterpieces and creative paintings by local and international artists and calligraphers.

It also hosts exhibitions on a regular basis, aiming to instill the love of Arabic calligraphy in every visitor, to preserve the cultural heritage, to introduce the visitors to the Arab artists' marvelous artworks and to set new standards both locally and internationally.

The artworks displayed highlight the masterly talents of local and international artists and calligraphers; their paintings, meticulously created, carry a deep meaning and a valuable historical background.

## Sharjah for Art Lovers

### **Walk through Souk Al Shanasiyah to Bait Al Shamsi and Sharjah Art Museum**

#### Souk Al Shanasiyah

One of the oldest and most vibrant souks in the whole region, the renovated souk covers an area of 5,872 square metres with 18 varied stores retailing heritage products, including handicrafts, traditional costumes, souvenirs, Islamic prayer beads, antiques, incense, perfumes, dates, and traditional sweets.

#### Bait Al Shamsi

Bait Al Shamsi reflects Arabic Islamic Architecture and echoes the absolute spirit of Sharjah. On two levels, it holds 16 rooms, three of which are upstairs. There are also the parlors, the extensions and the stairs, as well as the distinctive top ventilation-structures wind-towers known as 'Barjeel'.

#### Sharjah Art Museum

Explore a three-story museum dedicated to showcasing artistic creations and collections of more than 500 artworks of various mediums and techniques, featuring a range of expressive techniques that will spur your imagination.

Throughout the year, the museum holds a variety of temporary exhibitions and art events. The Art Library consists of over 4000 titles in Arabic, English and other languages, along with visual and audio materials.

### **Visit Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization**

The Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization holds thousands of rare and important Islamic artifacts, here; you can admire the timeless achievements of Islamic civilization and its universality, learn about aspects of Islamic faith, science, discoveries and culture, and cherish the beauty of Islamic art.

The Museum houses more than five thousand exquisite Islamic artefacts from all over the Islamic World, arranged according to themes over seven spacious galleries and display areas.

### **Visit Al Noor Island**

Sharjah's newest leisure attraction has been designed and developed to inspire the senses with spacious landscaped areas, innovative architecture and multi-media experiences.

A number of art installations from around the world provide further inspiration for visitors, including the 'OVO', 'Torus' and various light paintings visible after dark.

## Sharjah for Art Lovers

Al Noor Island's new Butterfly House is expected to provide a big draw for residents and visitors to Sharjah. With ornamentally perforated shadow roof inspired by ornate Arab windows (mashrabiya), the aviary will house as many as 500 exotic butterflies native to a variety of countries. Butterfly species include the African Monarch (*Danaus chrysippus*), the Autumn Leaf (*Doleschallia bisaltide*) from India and the Common Rose swallow-tail butterfly (*Pachliopta aristolochiae*) which is found across South East Asia.

### **Visit Maraya Art Centre at Al Qasba**

Established in 2006, Maraya Art Centre is a three-storey non-profit creative space located in Sharjah, UAE. Since its inception, Maraya has offered the public an innovative exhibitions programme, showcasing the work of leading Middle Eastern and international artists.

The centre also boasts multi-media facilities, a video archive, an art library and a regular public programme of workshops and events designed by its in-house team and guest curators.

Outside of the main building, Maraya also has several public park art sites within its local vicinity that feature interactive projects and sculptures.

### **Lunch at Al Qasba**

This unique waterfront destination offers a range of trendy restaurants and cafés serving cuisines from around the world.

Please avoid mid day hours when planning outdoor activities during hot days.  
For more information about Sharjah visit [www.sharjahmydestination.ae](http://www.sharjahmydestination.ae)