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Eco-friendly, luxury ‘nest’ hospitality project opening in the desert

By Shane McGinley | May 11, 2022



Dubai's Nara Desert Escapes is a new eco-friendly and luxury hospitality offering

Dubai's Nara Desert Escapes, the team behind the luxury dining brand Sonara Camp, has launched a new eco-friendly desert hospitality offering known as 'The Nest' by Sonara. The company is already looking at expansion overseas ahead of its opening later this year.

Designed by Italian architect and designer Gianni Ranaulo, the high-end project consists of just 14 nests designed to blend into the Arabian sand dunes. Located close to the Dubai Conservation Reserve, 'The Nest' by Sonara will open in late September 2022.

Each nest, which will be priced from dhs3000 (\$816) per night, sleep up to four people in a bedroom area, and include a private en-suite bathroom, and an outdoor majlis area. Guests will be offered welcome drinks on arrival, followed by a curated tapas menu from chef Franck Sanna.

"It's 100 percent eco-friendly because the big difficulty for us constructing the nest is that we're [using] 100 percent solar panels... we don't even have a generator," Stephanie Reichenbach, founder of Nara Desert Escapes, told AGBI.

A former private banker, Reichenbach said the funding for the project came from her own savings and earnings from the popular Nara and Sonara brands, but she already has big plans for expansion outside the UAE.

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The Nest by Sonara launches intimate overnight stays in the Dubai desert

► The eco-friendly camp is set to open this year



The structures feature a bedroom, private en-suite bathroom and outdoor majlis for sunset-watching. Photo: The Nest by Sonara



Selina Denman
May 06, 2022



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Nara Desert Escapes, the team behind [Dubai's popular Sonara Camp](#), is set to launch a new overnight desert experience this year.

The Nest by Sonara is an exclusive eco-friendly camp consisting of 14 structures that blend into the dunes of the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve. Designed by architect Gianni Ranaudo, the "nests" feature a bedroom, private en-suite bathroom and outdoor majlis for sunset-watching. Each structure comes with a dedicated attendant.

Given that the original Sonara Camp was created to offer a unique desert dining experience, with cosy seating areas, hammocks, atmospheric lighting, a bar, live entertainment and a menu created by French chef Franck Sanna, it is fitting that The Nest also offers curated dining options.



Eco retreats set to open across the Emirates

The idea of an eco retreat is to provide a place where you can enjoy nature and relax in a natural setting, with a focus on sustainability and environmental friendliness.

In the UAE, there are several eco retreats that offer a unique experience. These retreats are designed to be environmentally friendly and provide a peaceful escape from the city.

1. The Green Wing, Ras Al Khaima

The Green Wing is a luxury eco retreat located in Ras Al Khaima. It features a range of eco-friendly amenities and a focus on sustainability.

The retreat is set in a beautiful natural setting and offers a range of activities for guests to enjoy. It is a perfect place to relax and recharge.

The Green Wing is a luxury eco retreat located in Ras Al Khaima. It features a range of eco-friendly amenities and a focus on sustainability.

2. The Blue Wing, Ras Al Khaima

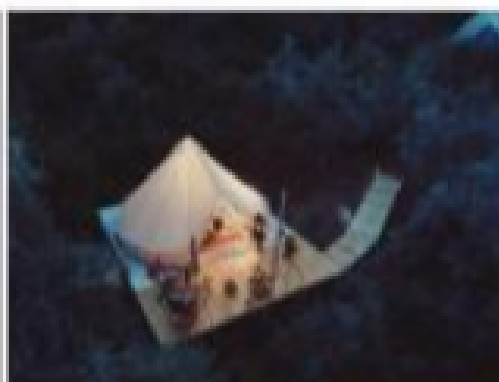
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3. The Red Wing, Ras Al Khaima

The Red Wing is a luxury eco retreat located in Ras Al Khaima. It features a range of eco-friendly amenities and a focus on sustainability.

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The Red Wing is a luxury eco retreat located in Ras Al Khaima. It features a range of eco-friendly amenities and a focus on sustainability.

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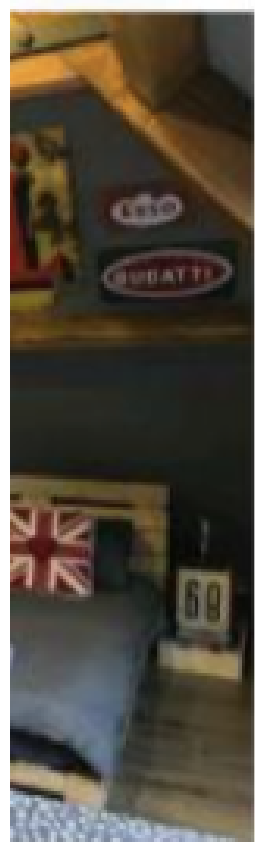
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Chevrolet gets into the Groove with a budget-friendly compact SUV

As a compact SUV, the Chevrolet Equinox is a budget-friendly option for those looking for a reliable and stylish vehicle. It offers a range of features and a comfortable ride.

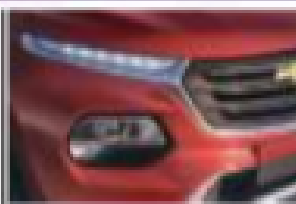
- Price: \$18,000
- Fuel economy: 24 mpg
- Horsepower: 175
- Dimensions: 180" x 72" x 68"
- Weight: 3,500 lbs

The Equinox is a compact SUV that offers a range of features and a comfortable ride. It is a budget-friendly option for those looking for a reliable and stylish vehicle.

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The Equinox has a distinctive appearance.

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WORLD METROPOLIS

DUBAI

From the world's largest picture frame to arts, culture, designer boutiques and food adventures, Dubai offers a wealth of unique experiences

1 MUSEUM OF THE FUTURE

The Museum of the Future is an astonishing marvel: an ethereal, futuristic steel structure covered in a Diaper of flowing Arabic typography with a central void representing the unknown future. (The words are quotes from HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, chief executive of the future.) Located directly adjacent to Jumeirah Emirates Towers, the museum has exhibits exploring space travel, climate change, technology and quantum. Soar your own way to your space – a virtual reality experience on a quantum flat screen in a space station 600m above Earth, and then work your way up through six floors of thought-provoking interactive displays. It has some very creative ideas about the future of humanity, how we will be living and travelling. The top floor is a pillar fire, light-filled rooms open with all the typography visible from inside. Don't miss the viewing platform in the void for a close-up view of the building. Open daily 10am-8pm. AED145 (EO) museumofthefuture.ae

2 DUBAI FRAME

For a slightly different view of the city take the high-speed lift to the 48th floor of what is described as the world's largest picture frame. It's a gleaming golden structure located in Zabeel Park, built to showcase the development of the city from its 150m-high viewing gallery one side across a panoramic view of old Dubai, overlooking Deira, the city's early commercial centre, and to connect the urban side offers a stunning view of new Dubai, the Burj Khalifa, and its futuristic skyline. A glass floor near the viewing gallery for member takes you to a space station 600m above Earth, and then work your way up through six floors of thought-provoking interactive displays. It has some very creative ideas about the future of humanity, how we will be living and travelling. The top floor is a pillar fire, light-filled rooms open with all the typography visible from inside. Don't miss the viewing platform in the void for a close-up view of the building. Open daily 10am-8pm. AED145 (EO) museumofthefuture.ae

3 ART AND CULTURE

Abdullah bin Zayed is the AI Qeen National Museum, a showcase of Emirati culture, art and history. It features regional art in its collection of over 70 contemporary galleries, visual and performing arts

restaurants, designers, crafts and community spaces. Deep into the sands of copper-colored sand of Sand (the Sand of the Middle East), pick up some vinyl records from The Vinyls, try on some handbags, hats and shoes or a designer kimono. You can also find the region's first independent art-house. Open: 10am-8pm. AED100 (EO) www.abudubai.ae

4 SHOPPING

The Dubai Mall has more than 1,200 shops and its Fashion Avenue has

more designer boutiques than any other mall. Be sure to wear comfy shoes as this place is vast – several million square metres, including a huge aquarium and underwater zoo, an Olympic-sized ice rink and a waterpark promenade. After crossing the bridge over the lake, you can enjoy the spectacular Dubai Fountain display, which consists of powerful jets of water synchronized to music. The fountain display takes place every 30 minutes between 6pm and 11pm. The Dubai Mall is open daily 10am-12pm. dubaimall.com

5 FOOD ADVENTURE

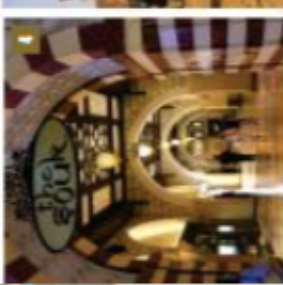
To get a taste of what the locals are eating, Frying Pan Adventures will take you on a walking tour of the

culinary delights in Al Rigga, an area developed in the 1970s and became the workforce of Dubai. Its bustling streets offer fried fish from Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. Learn about spices, traditions and local history in a fun and fascinating way. Frying Pan Adventures Mobile Eatery Food Pilgrimage runs from AED425.25 (DHR) per person and includes three dishes from local restaurants. To book visit www.fryingpanadventures.com

6 DESERT EXPERIENCE

Spend the evening at Saraya Camp accessed via a short Land Rover drive through the dunes. This eco-friendly sustainable restaurant is nestled in a Dubai desert conservation reserve,

and uses ethical products, solar energy and has a zero-waste policy. It's a magical way to try some desert activities, including dune bashing, camel riding and falconry, or just relax and admire the beautiful desert sunset. One hour under the stars enjoying a sunset dining menu, with many dishes cooked on an open fire, and then be entertained by fire-breathing acrobats and a finale of fireworks. Tip: take something warm to wear as desert temperatures drop dramatically at night. During low season (May-September) the sunset and dinner experience runs from AED200 (DHR) for adults and AED120 (DHR) for children aged 6-12. The price includes dinner, desert drive, soft drinks and entertainment. To book visit www.aed.com



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For more information about Dubai visit www.visitdubai.com

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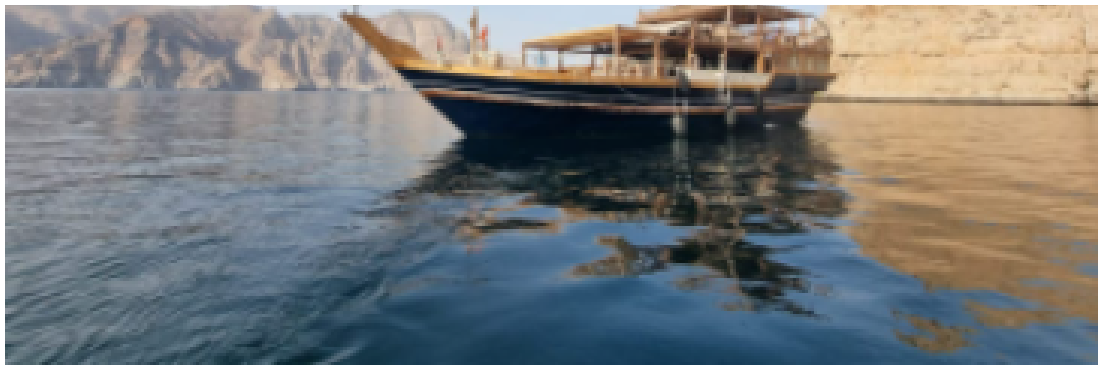


DUBAI'S HOTTEST DINING & NIGHTLIFE DESTINATION

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Nara Desert Escapes Omani dhow cruise launches

The Nara on the Sea cruise sounds like a very special way to sail across the Omani peninsula

By [Time Out Editors](#) May 13, 2022

Eager to go on a [new cruise](#)? There's a new Nara Desert Escapes Omani dhow cruise you can sail away on.

The [GCC has so many gorgeous scenic places](#) to explore, and now a new experience is being added to the mix.

Sounding like one of the most beautiful ways to soak in the sights of the Musandam fjords overlooked by the Al Hajar mountains, Nara on the Sea, the latest passion project from [Nara Desert Escapes'](#) founder Stephanie Reichenbach's, will take guests on a 90-foot traditional Omani dhow cruise.

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THINGS TO DO - FREE ACCESS

First look: The Nest by Sonara coming soon

By  Jassala Kahwaji

 Save to your list

How would you feel dining on wood-oven-cooked pizzas or watching a dreamy sunset amongst the dunes of the Dubai desert?

Launching this September 2022, The Nest by Sonara takes the evolution of camping to glamping to new heights with the eco-friendly overnight nesting concept, respectfully authentic of the surroundings with the luxuries one would come to expect from the Nara brand...



Eco-friendly with accents of luxury, the 14 nests designed by Gianni Ranaolo come