



*Celebrating the Sands of Time*

## **"Caravan Focus" – News from Orient Tours**

### **EVENTS**

- UAE DESERT CHALLENGE, from 29<sup>th</sup> October to 02<sup>nd</sup> November 2007
- DUBAI RUGBY 7S, from 29<sup>th</sup> November to 01<sup>st</sup> December 2007
- DUBAI SHOPPING FESTIVAL (DSF), from 24<sup>th</sup> January to 24 February 2008
- MUSCAT FESTIVAL, from 25<sup>th</sup> January to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2008
- DUBAI MARATHON on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2008
- DUBAI DESERT CLASSIC (DDC), from 31<sup>st</sup> January to 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2008
- DUBAI WORLD CUP (DWC), on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2008

### **EXHIBITIONS AND ROADSHOWS**

- World Travel Market (WTM), London, United Kingdom, from 12 to 15 November 2007. Meet Orient Tours at the Dubai Tourism Stand and Sharjah Tourism Stand.
- Meet Orient Tours at India International Travel Mart (IITM), Pune, India from 30 November to 02 December 2007.

### **ORIENT TOURS CELEBRATES 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

	<p><b>Orient Tours LLC (1982-2007)</b></p> <p><i>Message from His Excellency Sheikh Faisal Al Qasimi, President, Orient Tours LLC</i></p> <p>We are celebrating "The Sands of Time" with the achievement of our 25 years in the tourism industry. Our vision in 1982 was to see a positive change in the way Arabian Gulf is conceived overseas by the West and to open doors for cultural exchange. While celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I am very proud to state that through innovation, a lot of hard work and offering a quality product, we have succeeded in making our vision a reality.</p> <p>On this occasion, I deeply express my sincere gratitude to all our international &amp; local partners, and those who have contributed to our growth over the years.</p> <p>I congratulate my team for achieving this "silver excellence" and I am looking forward to seeing our golden era.</p>
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*"Celebrating the Sands of Time"*



*Celebrating the Sands of Time*



*"Golden Memories with a Silver Lining. And 25 years of Excellence"*

### **Orient Tours LLC (1982 – 2007)**

*Message from Inger Rasmussen, CEO, Orient Tours LLC*

In celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Orient Tours, we wish to assure our partners worldwide of our continued commitment to the highest level of quality service. We thank you for your trust and support to our destination.

We are proud and grateful to our entire staff, who are dedicated to a personal touch that has become Orient Tours' trademark over the years.

We look forward to many years of continued cooperation with all our partners locally and worldwide, whilst we strive for continued successes and constant advances to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead.

A sincere thank you to our Owner and President, H.E Sheikh Faisal, without his constant support and dedication to the vision of quality in tourism development, Orient Tours would not have been where it is today.

## **NEW CAMP-SITE**

### **Orient Tours' New Hospitality Camp in the Desert**

We have recently inaugurated our new hospitality desert camp in Dubai.

This new campsite offers various facilities including 9 big Majlis and has a capacity to accommodate approx. 1200 guests.



## **NEW PRODUCTS**

**Orient Tours is proud to announce, that starting 01<sup>st</sup> November 2007, we will offer the following new tours to our guests:**



### **Dubai Development Tour (Half Day - PM)**

Join an exciting tour to witness first-hand, the painstakingly planned growth of the multi-cultural metropolis of Dubai. Our first stop is the prestigious **Jumeirah** area, home to the upscale **Jumeirah Beach Residence** as well as the world's largest artificially created Marina. Visit the Sales Office of '**Nakheel**', developers of the fascinating **Palm Islands**. Take a close look at the scale models of this astounding project; unofficially named as the '**Eighth wonder of the world**'.



Drive next to **souk Madinat Jumeirah**, an Arabian-themed marketplace where the history and heritage of the region comes alive. Continue to Emirates Hills, boasting opulent villas, lakes and **The Montgomerie** – a world class golf course. Before driving to your hotel, make a last stop at **Ski Dubai**, the first indoor **ski resort** in the Middle East, offering an amazing snow setting to enjoy skiing, snowboarding and tobogganing or just playing in the snow all year round.

**Days of Operation: Sundays**

### Jumana – Secret of the Desert Show (Evening)



**Venue:** Al Sahara Desert Resort, the unique eco-tourism resort, which is part of Dubailand.

**Jumana – ‘Secrets of the Desert’** is an Arabian love story that celebrates the Middle Eastern region’s rich history and culture, weaving the rich fabric of fables and folkloric themes into a spellbinding fantasy. Performed by **dozens of** dancers and acrobats, mainly from the region, and using magnificent audio-visual, pyrotechnics, water and laser effects, some of them never seen here before, this **65-minute display of passion**, skill and creativity will hold you spellbound till the very end.

**Days of Operation:** Daily, except Sundays & Mondays.

### From 01<sup>st</sup> November 2007, Emirates Mountains (East Coast & Hatta Sightseeing) will be operated as a Full Day Tour.

#### Tour Description:

Experience a visit to UAE’s fabulous **East Coast** and **Hatta**. Our first stop is the magnificent **Lehab** sand dunes. We proceed to **Hatta** to pay a visit to the **Heritage Village**. Entering the UAE’s longest **tunnel** carved straight through the mountain, we reach the coastal village of **Kalba**. In Kalba, we stop at **Khor Kalba**, a reserved area famous for its **mangrove marsh**. We then proceed to visit **Sheikh Saeed House** that bears witness to an exciting past.

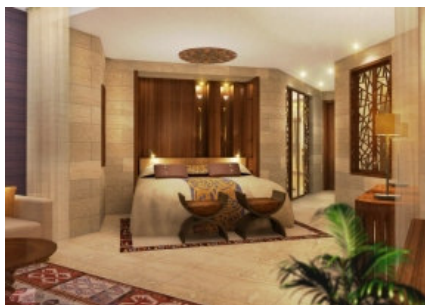
In **Fujairah** stop at the renovated 17<sup>th</sup> century **Fort** built on a hilltop overlooking the old village of Fujairah. On our return, we stop to browse around the lively **“Friday Market”** set in the midst of the mountain landscape.



## NEWS FROM DUBAI

### Raffles Dubai

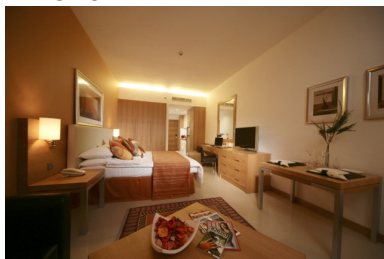
**Location:** Wafi City on Sheikh Rashid Road  
**Soft-Opening:** Mid October 2007  
**Category:** 5-star deluxe  
**Guestrooms:** 248 guestrooms including suites



**Guestroom Amenities:** all guestrooms have private balconies with views across the city, large LCD TV, espresso machine, hi-fi system with CD player etc.  
**Food & Beverage outlets:** 11 outlets including an all day dining restaurant, Chinese restaurant, cocktail bar, seafood & steak grill, champagne bar, Far East cuisine restaurant, pool bar & restaurant, health bar etc.  
**Leisure facilities:** Raffles Amrita Spa, the spectacular Raffles Sky Garden, fully equipped gym, swimming pool etc.  
**Other facilities:** Wafi City Shopping Mall which features 200 premium retailers and various dining outlets.  
**Conference & Banqueting Facilities:** a ballroom to accommodate approx 600 people and 9 meeting rooms.  
**Future facilities:** The Legend of Khan Murjan, the traditional art & craft souk, a place where you can buy one of history’s forgotten jewels.

### Four Points by Sheraton Downtown, Dubai

**Location:** Bur Dubai  
**Soft-Opening:** Mid October 2007  
**Category:** 4-star deluxe



**Guestrooms:** 252 guestrooms including suites  
**Guestroom Amenities:** LCD TV, wireless internet, Four Points comfort bed, safety deposit box, coffee/tea making facilities etc.  
**Food & Beverage outlets:** all day dining restaurant, lobby lounge, café, traditional pub and roof top pool bar.  
**Leisure facilities:** health club, roof-top swimming pool, Jacuzzi, gym, sauna etc.  
**Conference & Banqueting Facilities:** 2 meeting rooms each one has a capacity to accommodate approx. 15 persons.  
**Other facilities:** complimentary shuttle service to Jumeirah Beach Park.

### The Palace – The Old Town (a Sofitel Hotel)

**Location:** The Old Town premises of Burj Dubai  
**Soft-Opening:** Early October 2007  
**Category:** 5-star deluxe  
**Guestrooms:** 242 guestrooms including suites  
**Guestrooms Amenities:** all guestrooms have balconies facing the Burj Dubai lake or the Old Town Dubai, wireless internet, flat screen television, music system/DVD player, digital deposit box, ipod connectivity etc.  
**Food & Beverage Outlets:** Thiptara, the Thai restaurant beside the Burj Dubai lake, Ewaan, the all day dining restaurant, Asado, the Argentinean grill and the lobby lounge.  
**Leisure Facilities:** Spa with various treatment rooms, outdoor swimming pool, beauty saloon etc.  
**Future facilities:** dining and shopping facilities to be offered by the Old Town Island, Souk Al Bahar and Burj Dubai Shopping Complex will be easily accessible from the hotel.



**Conference & Banqueting Facilities:** a conference room to accommodate approx 300 people, two small meeting rooms with latest audio-visual facilities and one pre-function area with outdoor terrace.

### Emirates Marina Hotel & Residence

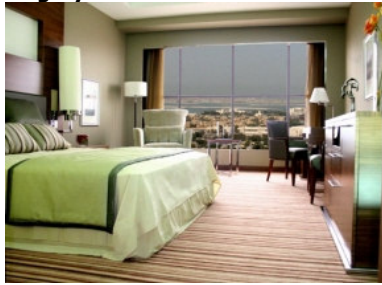
**Location:** Dubai Marina overlooking Palm Jumeirah  
**Soft-Opening:** Early November 2007  
**Category:** 5-star deluxe



**Guestrooms:** 231 one, two or three bedroom apartments, 6 penthouse suites and 24 studio apartments.  
**Guestroom Amenities:** state-of-the-art in room entertainment, spacious living & dining room, well-appointed bathroom, in-room safe, internet, fully equipped kitchen, housekeeping services etc.  
**Food & Beverage Outlets:** coffee shop open 24hours, Mediterranean Spa restaurant serving lunch & dinner, poolside F&B service, signature penthouse restaurant with a view on The World project and 24hours room service.  
**Leisure Facilities:** Timeless Spa with massage & beauty treatment rooms, steam rooms, sauna, Jacuzzi, gymnasium, outdoor pool deck etc.

### Millennium Towers Hotel Dubai

**Location:** On Sheikh Zayed Road, in close proximity to the Mall of the Emirates  
**Opening:** Early December 2007  
**Category:** 5-star



**Guestrooms:** 352 guestrooms including suites  
**Guestroom Amenities:** LCD TV with satellite channels, safety deposit boxes, DVD, wireless internet etc.

**Food & Beverage outlets:** Italian restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating facility, all day dining restaurant, Asian restaurant, lounge bar and Pool bar.

**Leisure facilities:** a fully equipped gym, aerobic studio, Turkish Hamam & Rasoul treatments, 9 massage rooms, Jacuzzi, steam & sauna rooms, outdoor swimming pool, beauty treatments etc.

**Conference & Banqueting Facilities:** a ballroom to accommodate approx. 300 people, a conference room and 3 meeting rooms.

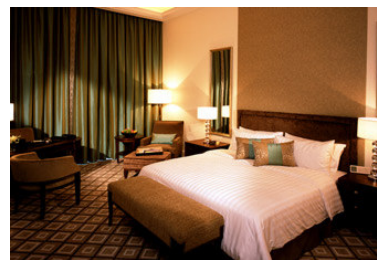
### Westin Dubai Mina Seyahi Beach Resort & Marina

**Location:** Jumeirah (adjacent to Le Meridien Mina Seyahi Beach Resort & Marina)  
**Soft-Opening:** Mid January 2008  
**Category:** 5-star deluxe

**Guestrooms:** 294 guestrooms and suites  
**Guestrooms Amenities:** in-room work desk, LCD television, heavenly bed, voice mail, high speed internet access, refreshment centre, in-room movies, private balcony/terrace in selected rooms.

**Food & Beverage Outlets:** 10 restaurants & bars and 24-hours in-room dining

**Leisure Facilities:** 1200 meter private shoreline, 238-berth marina, Westin kids club, Westin Spa, helipad, 150 metre meandering pool with 4 islands, 2 pool bars, a lap pool, a kids pool, Westin fitness centre, sauna, Jacuzzi, steam room, 4 floodlit tennis courts, water sports etc.



**Conference & Banqueting Facilities:** a function area to accommodate 14 to 5000 guests, a ballroom for up to 1200 guests, a conference centre with 7 state-of-the-art venues, outdoor beachside amphitheatre, lawns and barbeque area for up to 5000 guests.

## NEWS FROM FUJAIRAH

### Iberotel Miramar Al Aqah Beach Resort

**Location:** Fujairah, on Al Aqah Beach front  
**Soft-opening:** Last quarter of 2007 **(Phase I)**  
**Category:** 5-star

**Guestrooms:** 321 guestrooms including 18 suites  
**Guestroom amenities:** balcony or terrace, television with satellite channels, internet etc.



**Food & Beverage outlets:** main restaurant with indoor & outdoor seating facility with 560 seats, lobby bar with terrace, Chinese restaurant, pool restaurant & bar, Italian restaurant, beach bar, fun pub and Shisha corner.

**Leisure facilities:** 200 metre private beach, sauna, steam rooms, Jacuzzis, massage rooms, gym & health club, indoor pool, swimming pool, kids pool, 2 flood lit tennis courts, open air amphitheatre, billiard room, kids club, water sports etc.

**Conference & Banqueting Facilities:** a business centre and a theatre style meeting room to accommodate 150 guests.

**Phase II:** Will consist of Royal Miramar Beach Resort next to the existing hotel. Expected to open in early 2009.

## **NEWS FROM ABU DHABI**

### **Shangri-La Hotel Qaryat Al Beri**

**Location:** 10 minutes drive from Abu Dhabi International airport. Shangri-La Hotel Qaryat Al Beri, the 8.5 hectare property will feature a luxury hotel, serviced apartments and deluxe villas.

**Soft-Opened:** Early September 2007 (*The hotel will start welcoming leisure travelers from 01<sup>st</sup> November 2007*)

**Category:** 5-star deluxe

**Guestrooms (Hotel):** 214 guestroom and suites. Each guestroom has a balcony or a terrace providing an ideal setting for viewing striking Ocean sunsets and traditional Arabic domes and minarets.

**Apartments:** 161 serviced apartments with studio, one, two, three and four bedroom options

**Villas:** 6 four bedroom deluxe villas with a private swimming pool



**Guestroom Amenities:** broadband internet, LCD television, DVD, hairdryer, tea/coffee making facilities, electronic safe, work desk, bathroom with latest amenities, rooms for special needs, non-smoking rooms etc.

**Food & Beverage outlets:** 7 restaurants & bars. Bord Eau, the French restaurant, Hoi An, offering Vietnamese cuisine, Shang Palace, Shangri-La's signature Chinese restaurant, Sofra Bld, the all day dining restaurant offering international cuisine with indoor/outdoor seating facility, poolside bar and the lobby lounge.

**Leisure facilities:** CHI Spa, a health club, two outdoor swimming pools, yoga room, private beach with sport activities, 700 metre long waterway with Abras (water taxi) to transport guests on its meandering pathway through the property and a souk.

**Conference & Banqueting Facilities:** a ballroom, 2 meeting rooms and 2 boardrooms.

## **UPDATES FROM THE UAE**

### **Desert Palm, Dubai**

The hotel has postponed its soft-opening to late December 2007 (for more details on this hotel, please refer our May 2007 newsletter.)

### **InterContinental Abu Dhabi**

The fully renovated hotel opened in August 2007.

### **Sheraton Deira Hotel Dubai**

The hotel is currently renovating its guestrooms. The renovation work is expected to last until the end of October 2007.

### **Al Raha Beach Resort Abu Dhabi**

Sevilla, the all day dining restaurant will be closed for renovation during the Ramadan period (ie. 13 Sep to 13 Oct 2007). Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner is being served in the hotel's ballroom.

**Jebel Ali Golf Resort & Spa**

Ibn Majed Coffee House and the adjoining Sunset Lounge are closed for renovation. Work is expected to be completed by mid December 2007.

**Hatta Fort Hotel**

The hotel has started renovating its guestrooms located in the West Wing. The renovation work is expected to last until end of September 2007.

**UPDATES FROM THE SULTANATE OF OMAN**

**Evason Hideaway & Six Senses Spa at Zighy Bay**

The hotel has postponed the soft-opening date to January 2008 (for more details on this hotel, please refer our May 2007 newsletter).

**Ramada Hotel Muscat**

The hotel is currently closed for a complete renovation. The re-opening of the hotel is expected for the end of October 2007.

**The Chedi Muscat**

After having completed a full renovation due to the impact of the recent cyclone, The Chedi Muscat has been re-opened earlier this month and is now fully operational. The new Beach Restaurant, offering seafood specialties and other dishes, is now open for dinner.

**Sheraton Oman**

The hotel is undergoing a complete renovation. The re-opening is planned for March 2008.

**Al Bustan Palace InterContinental, Muscat**

The renovation of the hotel is progressing. The latest update from the hotel indicates that the re-opening of the hotel has been postponed until Mid-May 2008.



*(Album: Orient Tours' team members, who participated in the Incentive Trip 2007 to Thailand)*

*Next update: January 2008*