

7 DAYS THE STUNNING EMPTY QUARTER DESERT SAFARI TOUR



Day 1. Riyadh – Briefing & Depart for the Empty Quarter

Assemble in Riyadh for the pre-expedition briefing: safety protocols, desert driving techniques, equipment checks and route overview. The Rub al-Khali (Empty Quarter) is the world's largest sand desert – 650,000 km² of towering dunes with almost no permanent inhabitants. Depart in a convoy of 4x4 vehicles south from Riyadh. Camp overnight on the edge of the great dunes.

Day 2. Deep Desert Entry – Uruq Bani Ma'aradh

Enter the heart of the Empty Quarter through the Oroug Bani Ma'aradh protected wildlife sanctuary – one of the last refuges of the Arabian oryx, sand gazelle and houbara bustard. Camp among the great dunes as the stars of the Arabian night reveal themselves in one of the darkest, most unpolluted skies on Earth. Overnight desert camp.

Day 3. Great Dune Systems

Full day navigating the extraordinary mega-dune systems of the central Empty Quarter – individual dunes rising over 250 metres, the highest sand dunes in the world. Sand-boarding, dune photography and desert wildlife tracking. Overnight camp.

Day 4. Desert Crossings & Ancient Caravan Routes

Cross vast salt flats (sabkhas) and ancient caravan routes that once connected the incense-trading kingdoms of southern Arabia with the markets of the Mediterranean. Overnight camp.

Day 5. Ghadah Al Hosan

Arrive at Ghadah Al Hosan – a dramatic grouping of giant dune formations in the heart of the Empty Quarter, one of the most photographed landscapes in all of Arabia. The sunset turns the dunes from gold to deep crimson. Overnight camp.

Day 6. Return Journey

Begin the return journey through the southern Empty Quarter, following a different route to reveal new dune landscapes and desert terrain. Overnight camp on the return leg.

Day 7. Return to Riyadh & Departure

Final desert morning before driving back to Riyadh. Transfer to King Khalid International Airport for onward travel.

Must see ATTRACTIONS



The Rub al-Khali (Empty Quarter)



The Oroug Bani M'aradh Wildlife Sanctuary



Empty Quarter Camp



Empty Quarter Dune Systems



Sand-boarding in the Empty Quarter



Sabkhas, the Empty Quarter



Caravan Routes, the Empty Quarter



Ghadah Al Hosan



Sunset at Ghadah Al Hosan

ACCOMMODATION

Options

Riyadh



Four Seasons Hotel Riyadh at Kingdom Centre
The Ritz-Carlton Riyadh
Waldorf Astoria Riyadh Ithra



JW Marriott Hotel Riyadh
Crowne Plaza Riyadh Palace
Sheraton Riyadh Hotel & Towers



Novotel Riyadh Al Anoud
ibis Riyadh Olaya
Citymax Hotel Riyadh



Must try FOOD



Mathloutha

A traditional layered heritage dish made by stacking a base of jareesh (crushed wheat), a middle layer of cooked vegetables or bread and a top layer of rice, finished with tender meat like lamb or chicken; it is often served at special gatherings and celebrations rather than as an everyday meal.



Haneeth

A slow-roasted lamb dish originally from Yemen; it is cooked in a tannour oven with a spice rub at a low temperature to ensure the meat is succulent and tender; the dish is usually served on a plate of rice.



Areekah

A sweet dish and breakfast staple, it features crumbled wheat flatbread blended with soft, pitted dates; ghee, fresh cream, condensed milk and warm spices are added, together with toppings of drizzled honey, slivered almonds, nuts, black sesame seeds or sometimes, grated cheese.

RESTAURANT

Options

Halal Certified

Riyadh

1. Najd Village – Traditional Saudi Najdi cuisine served in a heritage setting, authentic experience
2. Al-Orjowan at The Ritz-Carlton – Arabic fine dining, rooftop terrace, panoramic city views
3. Bab Al-Yemen – Traditional Yemeni and Arabic food, highly popular local institution
4. Gaucho Riyadh – Premium Argentinian steakhouse with Saudi-certified halal meats
5. Nusret Riyadh – International steakhouse (Salt Bae brand), extravagant presentation, prime cuts

