

Heaven on waves



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A truly authentic Abu Dhabi experience, the Al Dhafra Dinner Cruise takes place not just on a boat, but on a traditional dhow. A perfect blend of tradition and elegance, this Abu Dhabi institution has been around for ages and for good reason - she's aging, but gracefully and with plenty of style.

The evening begins on the open air upper deck majlis with fresh juice and dates, taking in the sights of the ancient working dhow fishing boats crowded along the dock. Plenty of visitors will appreciate the fact that no alcohol is served; those who don't won't miss it.

While the view of the Corniche is unique and beautiful, the main focus soon turns to food. The exquisite presentation mirrors the quality of what's served on the fancy, Arabic style tableware. We began with faultless salmon, prawn and quail egg plus a selection of favourites perfect for anyone unfamiliar with Arabic food including hummus, dolmas, kibbah and moutabal topped

with pomegranate seeds.

There's no chance of missing out on everything on the expansive menu - the meal consists of everything on it. We're still dreaming about the lobster thermidor with its creamy cheese and mushroom sauce. The flaky hammour and tender mixed grill - including lamb chops, chicken, shishtawook and jasmine rice - that followed were without compare, but our hearts belong to the lobster.

After a dessert of cut fruit, light cake and a rare Arabic sweet called asida - made from pumpkin, saffron and cardamom - you're allowed to finally relax full stomachs and appreciate the view on the ride back to port. If you're only going to do one floating dinner, you really should make it this one.

What? Al Dhafra Dinner Cruise

Where? The traditional dhow sails from Port Zayed near the fish market

Why? An incredible spread of superb food and the amazing experience of eating on the water

Why not? Tucked away beyond the fish market at the port end of the Corniche, you may have a hard time finding the dock, but its well worth the search

We say: Absolutely not to be missed, either for a romantic date or an unforgettable experience for visitors

Cost: The dinner cruise is a very reasonable AED 225, lunch AED 200, and the sunset cruise - which will be starting soon - a remarkable AED 45

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