BY ANGELA SHAH PHOTOGRAPHS BY JASPER JAMES

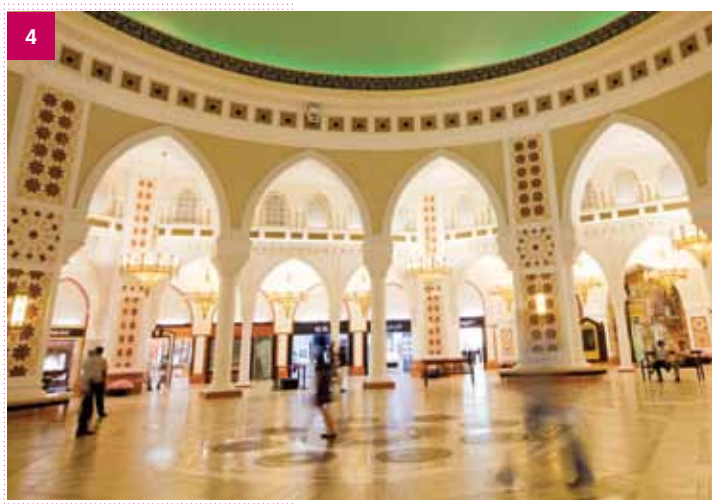
DUBAI

THIS CITY OF SUPERLATIVES LIKES TO DO THINGS BIG — FROM THE WORLD'S TALLEST TOWER TO ITS LARGEST MALL, TO ENTICING SHOPPERS FROM POINTS NEAR AND FAR WITH AN INCREDIBLE SELECTION OF HIGH-END COUTURE AND SIMPLE SOUK TREASURES









1. MARINA

The high-rises of the Jumeirah Beach Residence tower above "The Walk," a popular coastal promenade of choice shops and sidewalk cafés.

COTTAGE CHIC
THE WALK AT JBR
971-4-438-0473
COTTAGECHIC.AE

A bird-song door chime sets the mood: Turkish-American proprietress Berna Ramey scours antique fairs and exhibits worldwide to create this rare outpost of French country décor. Jumeirah mothers especially love the children's furniture.

MARZAN FURS
JBR PROMENADE AT MURJAN 2
971-4-437-0120

A furrier might seem out of place in such a warm climate, but Dubai denizens love baubles denoting the glamorous life, and the city's Russian expatriates appreciate nabbing a coat and hat without the 4.5-hour flight.

2. BOUTIQUE 1
THE WALK AT JBR
971-4-425-7888
BOUTIQUE1.COM

This three-floor flagship has everything you could possibly lust for, from an exclusive DVF gown to a Gaia & Gino abstract vase. They also offer in-room shopping to guests of The Ritz-Carlton, Dubai, which is located opposite the shop.

GALLERY ONE
THE WALK AT JBR
971-4-4231987
G-1.COM

The limited-edition prints and posters depicting dunescapes and souks is a welcome visual connection to region's past.

PANTERA
MARINA MALL, SHEIKH ZAYED ROAD
971-4-434-2634
BUGATTI.AE

Sandwiched between haute couture outposts, this youthful and edgy women's clothing boutique features less-familiar designers and an extensive selection of designer jeans.

ASCOTS & CHAPELS
MARINA MALL, SHEIKH ZAYED ROAD
971-4-427-0124

Here at its only storefront outside of Britain, this 140-year-old master tailorshop measures not only shape but posture for top-of-the-line bespoke men's suits and shirts.

3. DUBAI MALL

The world's largest mall. Period. Fashion Avenue alone takes up 440,000 square feet. It has an indoor ice rink and aquarium. Outside, the world's largest dancing fountain sprays water 50 stories high.



S*UCE
DUBAI MALL
971-4-339-9696
SHOPATSAUCE.COM

Pronounced "sauce," this was among the first Dubai boutiques that featured local designers. The winner of this year's annual design competition was 25-year-old Hamda Al Fahim, whose glitzy evening dresses made their debut here.

4. GOLD SOUK
DUBAI MALL

This trove of nearly 50 jewelry stores in the newly built "gold souk" literally dazzles with nearly every type of ornament designed, Eastern or Western, whether ruby-encrusted Indian necklace-and-earring sets or modern cuffs set with diamonds.

OPERA GALLERY
DUBAI MALL
971-4-323-0909
OPERAGALLERY.COM

The Gulf's preeminent art dealer features works by Dali and Gauguin, as well as by acclaimed Indian painter M.F. Husain and Feng Zhengjie, the Chinese painter known for his Warhol-like "Portraits of China" series.

ZADIG & VOLTAIRE
DUBAI MALL
971-4-339-9186
ZADIG-ET-VOLTAIRE.COM

Never mind the casual look: The cashmere fabrics and heavy studded detailing in the Dubai branch of this French boutique give downtown streetwear its luxury bonafides.

BATEEL
DUBAI MALL
971-4-885-8737
BATEEL.COM

It is believed that the humble date fruit has been cultivated in the Arabian peninsula for nearly 4,500 years — this jam-and-chocolate purveyor elevates it to haute cuisine.





ZUHAIR MURAD
DUBAI MALL
971-4-351-5551
ZUHAIRMURAD.COM

The Lebanese-born designer has become a favorite of the glitterati, with his beaded, ultra-feminine gowns. Snag yours — or opt for a less formal cocktail dress — at his Dubai flagship store.

THE PAPER ROOM
DUBAI MALL
971-4-339-8875

Vera Wang's line is popular at this high-end stationery store. Take a seat at its antique writing desk and discuss printing and engraving options with its knowledgeable staff.

MALL OF THE EMIRATES

Don't let the world's only indoor ski slope distract you. From electronics to groceries to haute couture, it can all be found at MOE. (And then you can always treat yourself to après-ski Dubai-style.)

UTERQUE
MALL OF THE EMIRATES
971-4-341-0331
UTERQUE.COM

The slightly funkier older sister of mass fashion brand Zara, Uterque taps into the late '70s and early '80s with color-block cardigans, plaid trousers, and a wide selection of clutches, handbags, sunglasses and chunky jewelry.

5. ASALA ANTIQUES
MALL OF THE EMIRATES
971-4-341-1993

You'll feel as if you stumbled into a mini-Arabian souk: embroidered dresses, Moroccan glass lamps, carved wooden sideboards inlaid with mother-of-pearl — and at your feet, every variety of hookah pipe.

LUXURY ARCADE
MALL OF THE EMIRATES

Time-pressed shoppers might enjoy the ease of having all their favorite houses on one block: Emporio Armani, Dolce & Gabbana, and others line a faux streetscape under a glass-and-steel arcade.

ALMAZ
MALL OF THE EMIRATES, INSIDE HARVEY NICHOLS
971-4-409-8877

It's worth the effort to track down this Moroccan-themed café tucked away on the top floor of a British department store for the Arabian art, urban architecture and cinema books.

BOOM & MELLOW
MALL OF THE EMIRATES
971-4-341-3993
BOOMANDMELLOW.COM

The accessories boutique calls itself "a life-sized jewelry box," and it's easy to see why. Vintage dressing tables and glass-enclosed curio cabinets display all manner of accessories, funky and refined.

HABAYEB
MALL OF THE EMIRATES
971-4-341-3223

Islamic fashion can be mysterious to non-Muslims, but expat women in Dubai swear by this boutique's top-notch service and selection for those occasions requiring the proper shayla/abaya combo. Each garment is tailored in-store for a fast turnaround.

ABDUL SAMED AL QURASHI
MALL OF THE EMIRATES
971-4-347-5589
ASQGRP.COM

Arabia's distinctive smell comes from oud, the intense perfume made from oud wood, sandalwood, amber, and musk or rose. These master blenders offer a variety of oils, sprays and blends in modern spray bottles or hand-crafted vials, from which only a drop is necessary to fill a room.

JUMEIRAH

Serious fashionistas flock to this beachfront neighborhood of stately villas anchored by Beach Road, home to one-of-a-kind boutiques and chic lunchtime eateries.

6. BAMBAH
142 JUMEIRAH BEACH ROAD
971-50-674-1754
BAMBAH.COM

In a city focused on the next new thing, a vintage fashion haven that features its own "Little Pink Book" detailing styles from the 1920s to the 1980s (plus care instructions for old-time garments).

MIRAJ ISLAMIC ART CENTRE
582 JUMEIRAH ROAD
971-39-410-8494
MIRAJISLAMICARTCENTRE.COM

A store in museum's clothing: traditionally made Islamic art and handicrafts — metalware, intricate astrolabes, Mughal textiles, Islamic calligraphy — are sourced from the subcontinent.

AND SO TO BED
VILLA 4, JUMEIRAH BEACH ROAD
971-4-394-6832
ANDSOTOBED.CO.UK

This offshoot of the London furniture maker outfits the bedroom: Art Deco wardrobes, hand-caned side chairs, and beautiful lamps, linens and objets d'art for finishing touches.

JYK
AL MINA ROAD, NEAR DUBAI DRY DOCKS
971-50-785-0786

Indian designer and stylist Juhi Yasmeen Khan's flagship store features a catwalk down the middle. Makes sense, as she hosts her own fashion shows there, giving designers of Indian-ethnic clothing and Islamic fashion a platform to strut their stuff.

BULLETS & BUTTERFLIES
MERCATO MALL
971-4-342-2243
BULLETSANDBUTTERFLIES-DUBAI.BLOGSPOT.COM

A glam-rock boutique (spiked stiletto boots, anyone?) founded by Emirati sisters Alia and Hind Bin Kherbash, with designs by Stolen Girlfriends Club and Belle Sauvage, plus men's clothing.

PATCHI
MERCATO MALL, BEACH ROAD
971-4-349-1188

Choose from among an array of Swiss and Belgian chocolates and 54 fillings to build your own custom box of goodies, or try an elaborately themed holiday gift box for Diwali and Ramadan (or any special event).

AYESHA DEPALA
THE VILLAGE MALL, BEACH ROAD
971-4-344-5378

Sought after by both Hollywood and Bollywood, Ayesha Depala's designs are boldly feminine: delicate embroidery, muted colors for day, and flowing fabrics.



6



FROM THE DESK OF THE CONCIERGE

WHERE TO EAT IN DUBAI

BREAKFAST

Rise and Shine Breakfast Tour
Enjoy a Bedouin breakfast in the middle of the vast Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve. After an exhilarating camel ride, savor a meal prepared by an Emirati house that includes *balaleet* (sweet noodles with saffron, cardamom and egg), fresh fruit and Arabic coffee. *Arrange through The Ritz-Carlton, Dubai International Financial Centre, 9714-372-2222*

LUNCH

Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding
Visitors who are interested in learning more about the Emirati way of life can sit in on a cultural breakfast or lunch at the center. *House 26, Al Mussallah Road, Bastakiya; 9714-353-6666*

Blue Rain
Chef de cuisine Sawai Krasian offers a three-course, bento-style Thai lunch. Signature dishes include *Tom Yum Kung Maprao On* (prawns with coconut, lemongrass, coriander, straw mushroom and kaffir lime). *The Ritz-Carlton, Dubai International Financial Centre, 9714-372-2323*

DINNER

Amaseena
The setting is fantastic, with individual Bedouin tents and low seating; the food is a buffet of Middle Eastern classics. Amaseena has also perfected the best flavors for *shisha* (water pipe) — from black molasses to chocolate mint — that make guests go back for more. *The Ritz-Carlton, Dubai; 9714 399 4000*

MELISSA PATHON
CONCIERGE
THE RITZ-CARLTON, DUBAI INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE

ILLUSTRATION: WARD SCHUMAKER