

WorldDenver Presents:

STAYCATIONS

a new way to travel the world without leaving your home

DESSERT IN DUBAI

You say hello, we say Dubai! Known for glittering skyscrapers rising from the desert and palm frond-shaped beaches, Dubai was once a bustling port on the trade route between Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley until the 1830s when the emirate began its transformation from a small pearl diving village to a modern metropolis.

CULTURE

Today, Dubai is a modern air-conditioned oasis and the most populous city of the United Arab Emirates - modern in every way, but still holding steadfast to its rich history through museums, temples, and sports such as falconry. Falcons have long been associated with Emirati culture, and for good reason. These majestic birds have been a crucial asset to the Bedouin for thousands of years and have been trained to hunt for prey in the isolated desert. Over more recent years falconry has become so popular in Dubai that the city has a hospital dedicated to falcons and they are also the only birds allowed to travel inside planes. Take a [bird's-eye view tour](#) of Dubai and explore at your leisure!

CUISINE

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic lunar calendar, when Muslims around the world fast from sunrise to sunset for 30 days. Every evening during Ramadan, the booming sound of cannons can be heard across the UAE at sunset. Dubai Police operate the special cannons with blanks at popular tourist spots as curious visitors gather to witness the spectacle. Some historians say the custom began in 10th-century Egypt to let people know it was time to break their fast. In Dubai, it dates back to the 1960s, when there were no speaker systems in mosques to announce that it was time to break the day's fast. The cannons are believed to have been manufactured in Britain back in 1945. Closely monitored and managed by Dubai Police, each cannon is fired twice in a row to announce the start of Ramadan and once every day to announce Iftar. On the occasion of Eid Al Fitr, which signals the end of Ramadan (May 23rd, 2020), cannons are fired twice in a row to announce the start of the festival, and twice again on Eid morning. To join in the celebration, try your hand at making [Ghraybeh cookies](#)!

COCKTAIL

According to most sources, alcohol is generally forbidden in Dubai, as it is only allowed in areas approved by the sheikh. Hotels are often permitted, with bars and clubs offering alcohol tucked inside. Residents are free to drink in their own homes as long as they have an alcohol license issued by the municipality. In honor of Ramadan, we will not be providing a cocktail recipe for this iteration of Staycations, and instead have a cooling yogurt drink called [Laban](#) to celebrate Eid and refresh you as we transition into summer!

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