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## It pays to watch NYE fireworks in the UAE

**DUBAI**  
BY DONA CHERIAN  
Assistant Online Editor

Residents and visitors are gearing up for an epic New Year's Eve fireworks extravaganza in the UAE, and in proof of how popular the country's celebrations are, even the more expensive packages are either sold out or selling fast.

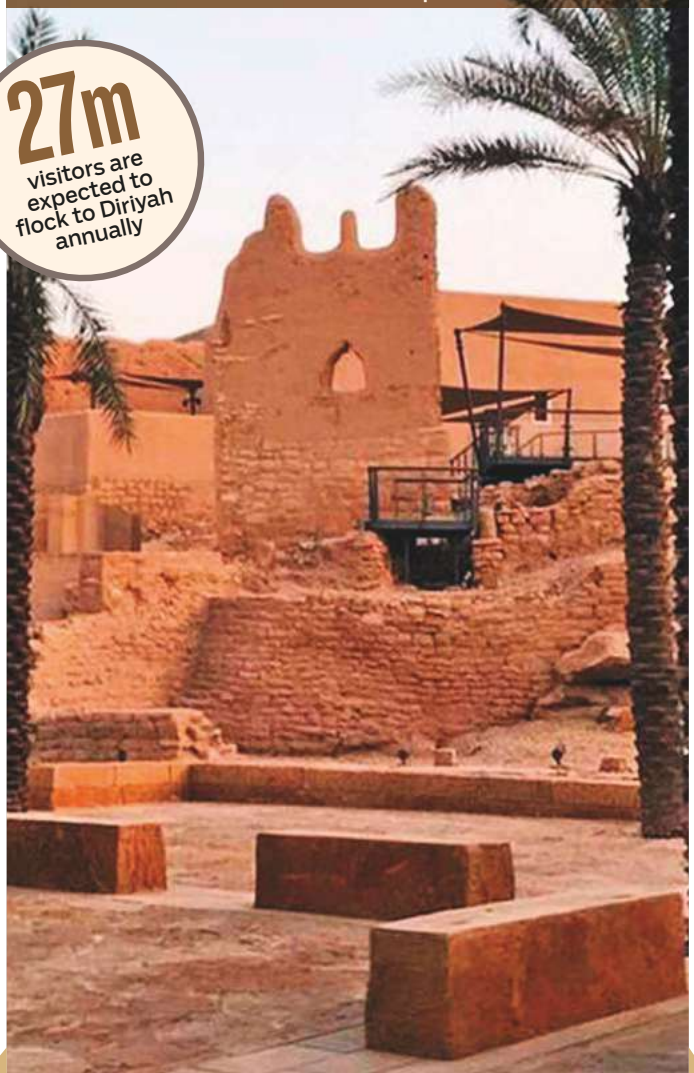
Burj Park tickets (Dh300 per person for just entry) to watch the iconic Burj Khalifa fireworks sold out in the first week of December. While most of the venues hosting fireworks shows are free to enter, restaurants and hotels boasting views of the shows are pricing dinner packages anywhere from Dh400 in Abu Dhabi to over Dh15,000 in Dubai. However, for those who want to watch for free, it is all about finding a good vantage point as there is no dearth of options. In Dubai alone, 32 locations have received permits for fireworks displays — over 45 of them on the last day of the year.

### World records

In Abu Dhabi and Ras Al Khaimah, the fireworks displays are set to break world records. Revellers can enjoy a 60-minute-long display at Shaikh Zayed Festival in Abu Dhabi — one of 10 displays planned in the emirate — while Ras Al Khaimah's 8-minute long display is set to become the longest chain of aquatic floating fireworks in the world. **SEE ALSO P2,3**

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**27m**  
visitors are expected to flock to Diriyah annually



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Famed for its centuries-old heritage and captivating architecture, the historic town of Diriyah is set to emerge as global culture, tourist spot | P9

Abdul Hamid Ahmad/Gulf News

## UAE-bound airfares to fall 50% in Jan '24

LONG-HAUL ROUTES WILL EXPERIENCE PRICE ABATEMENT AFTER PEAK DEMAND

**DUBAI**  
BY DHANUSHA GOKULAN  
Chief Reporter

UAE-bound airfares from long-haul destinations, including the US, UK, European cities, and the Philippines, are expected to drop by 50 to 60 per cent by mid-January 2024. And this is the case even for travellers choosing to book last-minute tickets, said Malou Prado, CEO and Owner of MPQ Travel and Tourism.

After experiencing a surge of over 50 to 60 per cent compared to September-October levels, local and international airlines have enjoyed a prosperous winter season due to heightened travel demand to the Emirates during the peak winter season.

"The winter season, the festivities in Dubai attracted huge crowds from all over the world. The demand has been exceptional, especially from large tour groups," Malou said.

In the second and third weeks of January, long-haul international routes will experience the most price reduction after peak winter travel demand, she said. And as a big chunk of the winter festivities end with the New Year celebrations in the country, pleasant weather and quieter business activity will keep demand and prices stable until March 10, said Afi Ahmed, Chairman of Smart

### COMPARATIVE FARES

- London Heathrow Airport to Dubai International: Dh2,410 vs. Dh5,135 (one-way)
- New York to Dubai: Dh3,519 vs. Dh6,487
- San Francisco to Dubai: Dh5,943 vs. Dh7,600
- Manila to Dubai: Dh2,000 vs. Dh5,000
- Boston to Dubai: Dh4,276 vs. Dh6,921
- Paris to Abu Dhabi: Dh2,722 vs. Dh6,390
- Amsterdam to Abu Dhabi: Dh3,005 vs. Dh7,314

**Dh2,410**

Mid-January fare from London to Dubai, down from Dh5,135

Travels. "There won't be much travel demand from families with school-going children and business travel during this time, bringing about a much-needed respite from high airfares," said Ahmed. Overall, travel will remain a top priority for residents in the UAE and elsewhere. **SEE ALSO P6**

### MIDDLE EAST

Israeli strikes across Gaza kill dozens, even in largely emptied north | P12

### NATION

All you need to know about the new labour complaints process | P4

### WORLD

Rivers remain high in parts of northern and central Europe after rains | P13



### ENTERTAINMENT

Top 10 films and shows to watch during the last weekend of the year | P17

## Know the 7 deadly habits that take a toll on your well-being

Adopting positive habits key to building strength and resilience

**DUBAI**  
BY JAY HILOTIN  
Senior Assistant Editor

There are good habits, and then there are bad ones. Either way, they shape our lives: some serve as pillars of strength, while others are treacherous roads leading to self-sabotage and toxicity. Let's focus the seven insidious habits that, if left unchecked, can cast a dark shadow over our well-being.

Firstly, constant lack of sleep. The perilous journey of insufficient sleep unveils a cascade of health issues, from heart disease to cognitive derailment. In a world fixated on success, neglecting proper rest becomes a dangerous norm. Second, the absence of discipline — fueled by distractions and the siren call of pleasure — wreaks havoc across academic, professional, and personal realms. They lead to untold consequences, diminishing productivity, breeding underachievement.



Third, the disregard for health as our paramount asset is another malevolent habit. In the pursuit of wealth and ego massage, health is sometimes neglected. Yet, it is in the gym, in the mindful consumption of water, and the rejection of processed drinks that true vitality resides. Not working hard, or refusing to toil diligently and negative self-talk act as silent saboteurs.

There's more.

Clinging to the past, a habit akin to carrying a burden through life, and an unwillingness to forgive — whether others or oneself — as well as waiting for the "perfect time", not only heighten stress levels but act as silent saboteurs. The illusion of a perfect time stands as a key barrier to being fully alive. Waiting for the opportune moment becomes a convenient excuse for inaction.

In the battleground of habits, the choice is ours: to be ensnared by self-destructive tendencies or to break free, forging a path to a life of purpose, resilience, and fulfilment.

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**OCCASIONS**  
SWEET MEMORIES

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DUBAI: Al Nahda, Al Barsha, Business Bay, Bur Dubai, Discovery Gardens, Dubai Marina, Dubai Silicon Oasis, Karama & Dubai Motor City

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