**Al Fahidi Historical District**

# **Info**

The traditional style of life that was prevalent in Dubai from the mid 19th century till the 1970s is reflected at Al-Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood, where buildings with high air towers (Barajeel), built with traditional building materials such as stone, gypsum, teak, sandalwood, fronds and palm wood are aligned side by side, separated by alleys, pathways and public squares, which give the district a natural and beautiful diversity. This district, owing to its strategic location at Dubai Creek (Khor Dubai), played an important role in managing Dubai and organising its commercial relations overseas. Moreover, it is still the district adjacent to His Highness Monarch of Dubai's divan.

A visit to Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood is a great opportunity to get acquainted with the old way of life, which was prevalent in Dubai, with its rich values that can be seen in the design of the buildings and the way they are distributed.

# **What to do**

### Sightseeing

It's easy to get lost among the labyrinth of lanes here, but there are gems all along the way. From some restored cafes and restaurants offering traditional Emirati dishes to art galleries, small museums and mosques, there is plenty to take in.

The buildings of the district are currently used in incubating a number of varied cultural and artistic activities (both public and private) ranging from art exhibits, specialised museums, cultural and artistic societies, ateliers to cultural centres (such as Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Cultural Understanding). The district also hosts a number of seasonal cultural and artistic events such as Sikka Art Fair, Artists-in-Residence Programme, Heritage Week, National Day Events and religious celebrations. Beautiful and cosy cafés, restaurants and motels overflowing with heritage are scattered all over the district.

# **Timings**

You can visit the neighbourhood around the clock, taking into account the official working hours of the museums and official headquarters.