

## The Telegraph

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### An art lover's guide to Dubai in 24 hours

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<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/explore-dubai/art-lovers-guide/>

Dubai's arts and culture scene has grown tenfold in recent years. In March, it will host the 13th Art Dubai, which attracts hundreds of artists from around the globe. Along with the arrival of the contemporary Dubai Opera and La Perle, the region's first permanent performance art show, this dazzling modern city is set to be an art hub.

Stay overnight in the XVA Art Hotel in Bur Dubai. Hidden away in the Al Fahidi Historical District, this upscale boutique hotel housed in a century-old heritage building has just 14 rooms, each brimming with original artwork. There's also a small contemporary art gallery – open 24-hours for guests – and a lovely, shady courtyard cafe.

9am

After breakfast in the courtyard, it's a short taxi ride to d3, the Dubai Design District designed by Norman Foster's firm, Foster + Partners which was built in 2013 as a hub for the city's artists and designers. It now has a growing number of cool art galleries, studios and modern boutiques to browse.

Grab a coffee from the extensive list at stylish Espresso Lab – Building 7 – which was started by Emirati entrepreneur Ibrahim Al Malhoui and prides itself on roasting its own beans from coffee sourced all over the world. Then wander over to Sconci – Building 8, 1st floor – a gallery which features Middle Eastern painters as well as contemporary artists.

11am

It's a brief six-minute cab ride to City Walk and Dubai Walls, a collaboration by 16 of the world's top street artists including Rone, Blek Le Rat, and Ron English – the US artist who created the iconic portrait Abraham Obama – who have produced some fantastic scenes at City Walk.

Stop for brunch at SIKKA Café in City Walk. This signature brand serves Emirati food with Indian and Persian influences. Their signature breakfast includes Arabian cheeses, dates, spiced chickpeas, falafel and pancakes with date syrup, cream cheese or honey.

1pm

**From here, take a taxi to Alserkal Avenue, located in Al Quoz, an industrial district in Dubai. This vibrant art and culture hub set in warehouses, offers more than 20 different galleries and studios including Ayyam Gallery – founded in 2006 – Green Art Gallery, a key marker in Dubai's art scene, and the acclaimed Carbon 12, which features rolling exhibitions from international artists.**

4pm

Visit the spacious Jameel Arts Centre on Jaddaf Waterfront. Opened in late 2018, it specialises in contemporary art and entry is free. Or take a taxi back to Bur Dubai, explore the Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood or seek out the Textile Souk or Spice Souk for a spot of shopping.

6pm

Head back towards Downtown Dubai and the Dubai Opera for dinner in its slick rooftop restaurant The Loft, which serves modern-style food and includes a Chef's Table experience. An added bonus is its spectacular front-row views of the Burj Khalifa. And finish your cultural day in the beautiful dhow-shaped Dubai Opera with an evening of opera, ballet, music or a play. Or for contrast visit La Perle by Dragone, the spectacular performance art show featuring aerial feats, which has a permanent home in Al Habtoor City in the centre of Dubai.

Broaden your horizons in Dubai

In Dubai, you'll find all the right ingredients for a sun-soaked trip. The sophisticated metropolis by the sea provides unforgettable experiences, from serene safaris in the desert to dining in the world's tallest building. Broaden your horizons with a trip that takes in its exhilarating mix of record-breaking architecture, traditional neighbourhoods and white sand beaches. You'll return home with plenty of tales to share.