

I was there:  
Abu Dhabi, or One Thousand and One Nights

The noise ... almost unbearable. The sound of giant, frightened insects rising in the white sky and torpor of Abu Dhabi. Sounds fighting against the unusual sight of racing cars speeding along the longest circuit of the world. A mirage in the desert. And I am here. This is the Abu Dhabi Formula 1 Grand Prix, the place to be. Jeremy Irons, Richard Branson ... the crème de la crème inevitably tagging along. Naomi Campbell in all her glory. The excitement of sportsmen returning to their childhood dreams. The choreography of helicopters ... And I am here. In Abu Dhabi, the Emirati capital and the capital of dreams come true. That of Sheikh Zayed, the visionary and former Bedouin who designed and created a true State out of a desert, in continuous construction since 1971. This "must be" destination for businessmen has seen the recent inauguration of five hotels, including the Fairmont Palace. In 2010-2011, culture will make its debut here with major projects: the Guggenheim Museum, then the Louvre, with a project directed by Jean Nouvel. They follow the creation and installation of the Sorbonne, initiated by Pascal Renouard de Vallière from France. Today, Abu Dhabi is also home to traditional tourism. Events like the Formula 1 Grand Prix are a pretext to attract travelers. Other visits of Emirati jewels include the Grand Mosque, one of the largest in the world. Finally, in the heart of the Liwa desert, which extends to Yemen, Qasr Al Sarab, 150 km from the capital, a two kilometer-long town located on some of the world's most exceptional high dunes. This hotel-museum, a symbol of traditional Emirati culture, is home to 2,500 exceptional ancient objects, including rugs and jewelry. A site worthy of the One Thousand and One Nights.

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