

museum of islamic civilization sharjah

Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah stands as a beacon of cultural heritage, showcasing the rich history, art, and scientific contributions of the Islamic world. Located in the vibrant city of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, this museum offers visitors an immersive journey through centuries of Islamic civilization, highlighting its influence on art, science, architecture, and culture. Whether you're a history enthusiast, an art lover, or a curious traveler, the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah provides an enlightening experience that bridges the past with the present.

Overview of the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah

The Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah was established in 2008 and has since become a prominent cultural landmark in the UAE. The museum is situated in a historic building that was once a traditional Islamic souk, blending architectural heritage with modern museography. It aims to preserve and promote the Islamic civilization's contributions to humanity, making it a key destination for both locals and tourists.

Key Highlights:

- Extensive collection of Islamic art, artifacts, and manuscripts
- Interactive exhibits and multimedia presentations
- Architectural beauty combining traditional Islamic design with contemporary elements
- Educational programs and cultural events

Historical Background and Architecture

The building housing the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah dates back to the early 20th century. Its strategic location in the heart of Sharjah's heritage district adds to its cultural significance. The architecture features traditional Islamic motifs, intricate tile work, and wooden lattice screens, offering visitors a glimpse into historic Islamic design aesthetics.

Architectural Features:

- Traditional Islamic arches and domes
- Courtyards with lush gardens
- Decorative tile mosaics depicting geometric and floral patterns
- Restoration efforts that preserve the building's historic integrity

This harmonious blend of architecture provides an authentic ambiance, enriching the visitor

experience and emphasizing the museum's cultural authenticity.

Collections and Exhibits of the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah

The core of the museum is its diverse collection, which spans over a thousand years of Islamic history. Its exhibits are thoughtfully curated to highlight various aspects of Islamic civilization, including science, art, religion, and daily life.

Key Collections:

1. Islamic Art and Calligraphy
 - Manuscripts and Quranic texts
 - Decorative calligraphy artworks
 - Ceramics, textiles, and metalwork
2. Scientific Instruments and Discoveries
 - Astrolabes, globes, and telescopes
 - Medical tools and pharmaceutical containers
 - Mathematical and astronomical instruments
3. Historical Artifacts
 - Coins and currency used across different Islamic eras
 - Traditional clothing and textiles
 - Architectural models and archaeological finds
4. Religious Artifacts
 - Islamic religious objects and relics
 - Miniature mosques models
 - Items used in Islamic rituals

Special Exhibitions:

The museum hosts temporary exhibitions focusing on specific themes, such as Islamic astronomy, medieval Islamic manuscripts, or the Islamic influence on world art. These exhibitions are often complemented by lectures, workshops, and cultural performances.

Educational and Cultural Programs

The Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah plays a vital role in community education and cultural exchange. It offers a variety of programs designed for different age groups and interests.

Programs Offered:

- Guided tours and interactive workshops for students
- Lectures by scholars on Islamic history and science
- Cultural festivals celebrating Islamic art and music
- Art and calligraphy classes for beginners and advanced learners

These initiatives aim to deepen understanding of Islamic civilization, dispel misconceptions, and foster intercultural dialogue.

Visiting the Museum: Practical Information

For visitors planning a trip to the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah, here are some practical details:

Opening Hours:

- Saturday to Thursday: 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM
- Friday: 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Admission Fees:

- Adults: Approximately AED 20
- Children under 12: Free
- Students and seniors: Discounted rates

Location:

- Al Majaz Waterfront, Sharjah, UAE
- Easily accessible via public transportation and car

Tips for Visitors:

- Allocate at least 2-3 hours for a comprehensive visit
- Join a guided tour for in-depth insights
- Check the museum's schedule for temporary exhibitions and events

Why Visit the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah?

Visiting the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah offers numerous benefits:

Educational Enrichment: Gain a deeper understanding of Islamic contributions to science, art, and culture.

Cultural Appreciation: Experience authentic Islamic architecture and design elements.

Family-Friendly Activities: Engage children with interactive exhibits and educational

programs.

Cultural Preservation: Support efforts to preserve Islamic heritage and promote intercultural understanding.

Top Reasons to Visit:

- Rich collection of Islamic art and artifacts
- Unique architectural heritage
- Insight into centuries of Islamic scientific achievements
- Engaging cultural programs and workshops
- Central location within Sharjah's heritage district

How the Museum Contributes to Islamic Heritage Preservation

The Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah plays a critical role in safeguarding Islamic heritage by:

- Collecting and conserving priceless artifacts
- Promoting research and scholarly studies
- Organizing exhibitions and cultural events
- Collaborating with international museums and cultural institutions

Its efforts help ensure that future generations can appreciate the profound achievements of Islamic civilization and its enduring legacy.

Conclusion: A Must-Visit Cultural Destination in Sharjah

The Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah is much more than an exhibition space; it is a vibrant hub of knowledge, history, and culture. It beautifully encapsulates the grandeur of Islamic civilization and its vital role in shaping human history. Whether you are exploring Islamic science, admiring exquisite calligraphy, or simply seeking to immerse yourself in diverse cultures, this museum provides an enriching experience that leaves visitors inspired and informed.

Plan your visit today and discover the enduring legacy of Islamic civilization at the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah—a true cultural gem in the UAE.

Keywords for SEO Optimization:

- Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah
- Islamic history UAE
- Islamic art collection Sharjah
- Islamic science exhibits
- Sharjah cultural attractions
- Islamic heritage preservation
- Visit Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah
- Islamic civilization exhibition
- Sharjah museums and galleries
- Islamic calligraphy and artifacts

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the main attractions at the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah?

The Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah features a vast collection of Islamic art, artifacts, manuscripts, ceramics, textiles, and historical objects that showcase the rich cultural heritage of the Islamic world.

When was the Museum of Islamic Civilization in Sharjah established?

The Museum of Islamic Civilization in Sharjah was officially opened to the public in 2008, aiming to promote Islamic culture and history.

What are the opening hours of the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah?

The museum is generally open from Saturday to Thursday, from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, and on Fridays from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. However, it is recommended to check their official website for the latest timings.

Is the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah suitable for children?

Yes, the museum offers educational programs and exhibits designed to engage children and families, providing an enriching experience about Islamic history and culture.

Does the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah host special exhibitions or events?

Yes, the museum regularly hosts temporary exhibitions, cultural events, workshops, and lectures focused on various aspects of Islamic civilization and history.

Are there guided tours available at the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah?

Yes, guided tours are available, often led by knowledgeable staff or experts, providing visitors with in-depth insights into the exhibits and the museum's history.

What is the significance of the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah in promoting Islamic culture?

The museum plays a vital role in preserving, showcasing, and promoting Islamic heritage, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and educating visitors about the contributions of Islamic civilization to world history.

Is there an entrance fee for visiting the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah?

Yes, the museum charges an entrance fee, which is typically affordable, with discounts available for students, seniors, and groups. Free entry may be offered on certain days or for specific visitors, so it's best to check in advance.

Can I purchase souvenirs or Islamic art at the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah?

Yes, the museum has a gift shop where visitors can buy souvenirs, Islamic art replicas, books, and other cultural items.

How does the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah contribute to cultural tourism in the UAE?

The museum attracts both local and international tourists by showcasing Islamic heritage, offering educational experiences, and enhancing Sharjah's reputation as a cultural hub in the UAE.

Additional Resources

Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah

The Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah stands as a remarkable testament to the rich cultural, scientific, and artistic heritage of the Islamic world. Located in the vibrant city of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, this museum offers visitors a profound journey through centuries of Islamic history, showcasing invaluable artifacts, intricate artworks, and innovative exhibitions. As one of the most significant cultural landmarks in the region, it serves both as an educational hub and a celebration of Islamic civilization's contributions to global heritage.

Overview of the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah

Established in 2008, the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah is strategically housed in a historic building that was once the former Central Souk of Sharjah. Its architecture seamlessly blends traditional Islamic design elements with modern aesthetics, creating an inviting environment for visitors. The museum's primary mission is to preserve, showcase, and educate the public on the diverse facets of Islamic culture, history, and science.

The museum spans multiple floors, each dedicated to different themes such as Islamic arts, sciences, history, and daily life. Its extensive collection comprises over 5,000 artifacts, including manuscripts, textiles, ceramics, jewelry, and scientific instruments. The institution also emphasizes interactive displays, multimedia presentations, and educational programs aimed at engaging visitors of all ages.

Architectural and Design Features

Historical Setting and Architecture

The building itself is a heritage site, originally constructed in the late 19th century. Preserving its historical essence, the architecture features traditional Islamic motifs, including intricate geometric patterns, mashrabiya windows, and decorative tile work. The conversion into a museum was thoughtfully executed to maintain the building's authenticity while integrating modern facilities.

Interior Design and Layout

Inside, the museum is thoughtfully organized to facilitate an immersive experience:

- The ground floor houses introductory exhibits and reception areas.
- The upper floors are dedicated to thematic galleries, including scientific achievements, arts, and cultural practices.
- The use of natural lighting enhances the display of artifacts, while climate control ensures their preservation.
- Interactive zones and multimedia stations are strategically placed to foster engagement.

Pros:

- Preservation of historical architecture.
- Harmonious integration of traditional and modern design elements.
- Spacious, well-lit galleries conducive to exploration.

Cons:

- Some areas may feel crowded during peak times.
- Limited signage in languages other than Arabic and English.

Exhibitions and Collections

Islamic Art and Calligraphy

The museum boasts an impressive collection of Islamic calligraphy, manuscripts, and decorative arts. Visitors can admire:

- Manuscripts of the Quran and other religious texts, some dating back several centuries.
- Calligraphic artworks by renowned Islamic artists.
- Decorative pieces such as intricate ceramics, glassware, and textiles showcasing Islamic motifs.

Features:

- Rotating exhibitions highlight different regions and periods.
- Digital displays explain the significance of various scripts and motifs.

Scientific and Technological Contributions

One of the museum's highlights is its dedicated section on Islamic science and innovation, illustrating the profound impact of Muslim scholars:

- Scientific instruments used historically in astronomy, medicine, and mathematics.
- Models and replicas of inventions such as astrolabes, mechanical clocks, and surgical tools.
- Interactive screens explaining discoveries and inventions during the Islamic Golden Age.

Pros:

- Educational and inspiring for students and researchers.
- Well-curated artifacts that demonstrate scientific ingenuity.

Cons:

- Some exhibits may require additional contextual explanations for lay visitors.
- Limited hands-on interactions for younger audiences.

Daily Life and Cultural Practices

The museum also explores everyday life in various Islamic societies:

- Traditional clothing and textiles.
- Household items and utensils.
- Cultural rituals, festivals, and culinary traditions.

This section provides insight into the social fabric and cultural diversity within the Islamic world.

Educational Programs and Visitor Engagement

The Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah emphasizes education and community involvement through:

- Guided tours led by knowledgeable curators.
- Workshops on Islamic arts, calligraphy, and crafts.
- Lectures and seminars on Islamic history and sciences.
- School programs designed to foster understanding and appreciation among younger generations.

Pros:

- Wide range of activities suitable for children and adults.
- Opportunities for hands-on learning.

Cons:

- Some programs require prior registration.
- Limited availability during peak seasons.

Accessibility and Visitor Facilities

The museum is designed to accommodate diverse visitors:

- Wheelchair accessibility and ramps.
- Rest areas and cafes for relaxation.
- Gift shop offering souvenirs, books, and handicrafts related to Islamic culture.

Pros:

- Thoughtful inclusion of facilities for differently-abled visitors.
- Comfortable amenities enhancing the visitor experience.

Cons:

- Parking may be limited during busy periods.
- Signage in multiple languages could be improved.

Location and Surroundings

Situated in the heart of Sharjah's heritage district, the museum is easily accessible from major city points. Its proximity to other cultural landmarks, such as the Sharjah Heritage Museum and Al Noor Mosque, makes it an ideal starting point for a cultural tour of the city.

The surrounding area is pedestrian-friendly, with traditional markets and cafes nearby, allowing visitors to extend their cultural experience beyond the museum.

Pros and Cons Summary

Pros:

- Rich and diverse collections of Islamic artifacts.
- Preservation of historical architecture combined with modern facilities.
- Educational programs engaging visitors of all ages.
- Interactive and multimedia exhibits enhance understanding.
- Accessible facilities and comfortable amenities.

Cons:

- Limited multilingual signage may restrict understanding for international visitors.
- Crowding during peak hours can diminish the experience.
- Some exhibits might benefit from more detailed explanations for lay audiences.
- Parking limitations during busy times.

Conclusion and Final Thoughts

The Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah is a must-visit for anyone interested in exploring the depth and breadth of Islamic heritage. It offers a comprehensive overview of the

scientific, artistic, and cultural achievements that have shaped civilizations across centuries. Its architectural beauty, coupled with thoughtfully curated exhibits and educational initiatives, makes it a beacon of cultural preservation and enlightenment in the UAE.

While there are areas for improvement, particularly in enhancing language accessibility and visitor flow management, the museum's strengths far outweigh its shortcomings. It provides an enriching experience that fosters understanding and appreciation of Islamic civilization's enduring legacy. Whether you're a history enthusiast, an academic, or a curious traveler, a visit to this museum promises insights that are both educational and inspiring.

In conclusion, the Museum of Islamic Civilization Sharjah stands as a vital cultural institution that bridges past and present, inviting visitors to celebrate the enduring contributions of the Islamic world to global civilization. Its dedication to preservation, education, and engagement makes it a jewel in Sharjah's cultural crown and a vital resource for understanding the diverse tapestry of Islamic history.

Museum Of Islamic Civilization Sharjah

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locations. The book offers innovative insights into heritage as a transnational process, exploring how it operates within local, national and international identity concerns and debates. It will appeal to scholars and students interested in critical heritage studies, museums, tourism, cultural studies and Middle Eastern studies.

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Middle East Studies.

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museum of islamic civilization sharjah: **International Tourism Development and the Gulf Cooperation Council States** Marcus L. Stephenson, Ala Al-Hamarneh, 2017-07-14 This book examines the challenges facing the development of tourism in the six member states of the Gulf

Cooperation Council (GCC): Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This region, which largely comprises the Arabian Peninsula, possesses some of the fastest growing economies in the world and is remarkably unique. It shares similar associations and affinities: tribal histories, royal kinship, political associations, Bedu cultural roots, Islamic heritage, rapid urbanization, oil wealth, rentier dynamics, state capitalist structures, migrant labour, economic diversification policies and institutional restructuring. Therefore, this volume takes the study of tourism away from its normative unit of analysis, where tourism in the region is being examined within the context of the Middle East and the wider Islamic and Arab world, towards an enquiry focusing on a specific geo-political territory and socially defined region. Although international tourism development in the region embodies a range of challenges, complexities and conflicts, which are deeply contextualized in this volume, the approach overall does not endorse the normative 'Gulf bashing' position that has predominated within the critical enquiries in the region. It presents a forward-looking and realistic assessment of international tourism development, examining development potentialities and constructive ways forward for GCC states and the region as a whole. This edited volume provides a real attempt to examine critically ways in which tourism and its development intersect with the socio-cultural, economic, political, environmental and industrial change that is taking place in the region. By doing so, the book provides a theoretically engaged analysis of the social transformations and discourses that shape our contemporary understanding of tourism development within the GCC region. Moreover, it deciphers tourism development's role within the context of the GCC states undergoing rapid transformation, urbanization, ultra-modernization, internationalization and globalization. In addition to state-specific illustrations and destination case studies, the work provides insights into relatable themes associated with international tourism development in the region, such as tourism's relationship with religion, heritage and identity, the environment and sustainability, mobility and cross-border movements, the transport industry, image production and destination branding, mega-development and political stability and instability. The book combines theory with diverse case study illustrations, drawing on disciplinary knowledge from such fields as sociology, political economy and social geography. This timely and original contribution is essential reading for students, researchers and academics in the field of tourism studies and related subject areas, along with those who have regional interests in Middle East studies, including Gulf and Arabian Peninsula studies.

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diverse viewpoints from around the world, *The Contemporary Museum* is a follow-up volume to *Museum Revolutions* and, as such, should be essential reading for students in the fields of museum and heritage studies, cultural studies, communication and media studies, art history and social policy. Academics and museum professionals will also find this book a source of inspiration.

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