# How to Choose the Right Desert Safari in Dubai

## Understanding What a Desert Safari Offers

A desert safari in Dubai is more than a quick drive over sand dunes. It is a full evening or morning experience that can include dune bashing, camel trekking, sandboarding, a BBQ dinner, and stargazing. Some tours bundle in quad biking, henna painting, or sunset viewing. With so many options, picking the right tour means matching the activity mix to your group's interests, fitness level, and tolerance for motion.

Before you book, think about who is coming. Families with young children, older adults, and people prone to motion sickness will want a gentler ride. Adventure seekers may want a longer dune bashing session or a chance to drive their own quad bike. The same tour that thrills one person can leave another uncomfortable, so knowing your group is the first step.

## Step 1: Decide on the Safari Type

Most desert safari tours fall into two broad categories: morning and evening. Morning safaris are shorter and focus on activities like dune bashing, sandboarding, and a quick stop for photos. They are a good fit if you have a half-day free and want to avoid the heat of midday. Evening safaris run from late afternoon into the night. They typically include sunset viewing, a BBQ dinner, and cultural entertainment such as henna painting or a tanoura show. Evening tours take longer but offer a fuller experience.

There are also private and group tours. Group tours are more affordable but follow a fixed schedule. Private tours let you set the pace and skip activities that do not interest you. If you are travelling with a large group or want flexibility, a private option may be worth the extra cost.

View the location on Google Maps

## Step 2: Check the Dune Bashing Style

Dune bashing is the main draw for many people. The driver takes a 4x4 vehicle over steep sand dunes, climbing and descending at angles that can feel extreme. The style of bashing matters. Some drivers are aggressive, with sharp turns and fast drops. Others take a smoother approach, especially on tours that cater to families.

If you are unsure, ask about the vehicle. A larger vehicle such as a Land Cruiser tends to feel more stable than a smaller one. Also ask whether the tour includes a "safety stop" before the bashing begins, where the driver adjusts tyre pressure for better grip on sand. This is common, but confirming it can give you peace of mind.

For anyone with back or neck issues, consider a tour that limits dune bashing to a short session or skips it in favour of slower scenic driving. Some tours let you opt out of bashing altogether and join the group later for dinner and activities.



## Step 3: Look at the Activity Mix

Not every safari includes every activity. A tour that markets itself as "full evening safari" may include dune bashing, camel trekking, a BBQ dinner, and entertainment. Another may only offer dune bashing and dinner. Read the itinerary carefully, not just the headline.

Here are common activities and what to watch for:

- **Quad biking**, Usually an add-on, not included in the base price. If you want to ride a quad bike, check the duration and whether the track is in a designated area or out in the open desert.
- **Sandboarding**, A simple activity that requires little skill. Some tours provide boards; others expect you to bring your own. Confirm what is supplied.
- **Henna painting**, Popular with families and groups. The quality and time spent on each design vary. If it matters to you, ask how long the session lasts.
- **Stargazing**, Best on evening tours that stay out after the entertainment ends. Some tours have an astronomy guide; others just let you look up.

Think about what matters most to your group. If you want to do everything, look for a tour that runs four to five hours. If you just want the driving experience, a shorter morning safari may be

enough.

## Step 4: Consider the Dinner and Dietary Needs

BBQ dinner is a standard part of most evening safaris. The quality of the food varies widely between operators. Some serve buffet-style with multiple vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. Others provide a simpler meal. If you have dietary restrictions, check in advance. Most operators can accommodate vegetarians or those who need gluten-free or halal meals, but you may need to notify them at the time of booking.

Ask where the dinner is served. Some tours set up a camp in the desert with seating on carpets and cushions. Others use a more formal dining area. Both can be enjoyable, but the atmosphere differs. If you are travelling with small children, a camp with open seating and entertainment nearby may be more comfortable than a sit-down table service.

## Step 5: Read Reviews for Consistency

Reviews tell you what a tour is like in practice, not just on paper. Look for patterns. If multiple reviews mention a rushed dune bashing session or a cold dinner, take note. Also check reviews for the driver or guide. A skilled driver makes a big difference in how enjoyable and safe the bashing feels.

Pay attention to reviews from people who share your priorities. A family with young children will notice different things than a group of friends looking for adventure. Filter by recent reviews, as operators change their vehicles, menus, and staff over time.

One local resource for researching tours is the Buggy Ride Dubai - Quad Bike ATV & Dune Buggy Tours official site. It provides details on available packages and activities, which can help you compare what is on offer before you decide.




## Step 6: Confirm Inclusions and Exclusions

Tour prices can be misleading. A low price may only cover transport and dune bashing, with everything else as a paid add-on. A higher price may include dinner, soft drinks, and entertainment. Before you book, make a list of what you want and check each item against the tour description.

Common add-ons to look for:

- Quad bike rental
- Photography or videography service
- Private vehicle upgrade
- Pickup and drop-off from your hotel

If the tour includes pickup, ask about the pickup window. Some tours collect guests from a wide area, which can add an hour to the start and end of your trip. A tour that picks up near your hotel saves time.

Buggy Ride Dubai - Quad Bike ATV & Dune Buggy Tours is also on Facebook.

## Step 7: Check Timing and Season

Dubai's desert climate varies significantly by season. From November to March, evening temperatures are pleasant, and a desert safari is comfortable. In the summer months, heat and humidity are intense, making daytime activities less enjoyable. Evening tours still run, but the heat can linger into the night.

Sunset time also affects the schedule. In winter, sunset is around 5:30 PM, so an evening tour that starts at 3:30 PM lets you catch the best light. In summer, sunset is closer to 7 PM, so the tour starts later. Check the timing to ensure you are not sitting in the desert during the hottest part of the afternoon.

## Step 8: Ask About Safety and Insurance

Dune bashing and quad biking carry inherent risks. Reputable operators maintain their vehicles and provide safety briefings. Ask whether the tour operator has insurance that covers participants during activities. This is not always advertised, but a professional operator will be transparent about it.

For quad biking, check whether helmets and protective gear are provided. If you are bringing children, ask about age and height restrictions. Some operators allow children as passengers on quad bikes; others do not. It is worth confirming with whichever business you choose.

The Buggy Ride Dubai - Quad Bike ATV & Dune Buggy Tours official site is another place to look for safety guidelines and requirements before you book.



## Step 9: Trust Your Instincts

After you have checked the itinerary, read reviews, and confirmed the details, trust how you feel about the operator. If communication is slow or vague before you book, it may be slow during the tour. If the operator answers your questions clearly and promptly, that is a good sign.

A desert safari should be a highlight of a Dubai trip. Taking time to choose the right one ensures you spend your time enjoying the dunes rather than wishing you had picked a different tour.

Buggy Ride Dubai - Quad Bike ATV & Dune Buggy Tours is located at The One Tower - Office No. 2513 25th Floor - Al Thanyah First - Barsha Heights - Dubai - United Arab Emirates.