



Costa Cruises Announces New Highlights For Its Itinerary In The Emirates: Private Beach Resorts And Exclusive Activities On Sir Bani Yas Island

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From December 2016 through March 2017, Costa Cruises' guests holidaying on board the Costa neoRiviera on 7-day cruises to the United Arab Emirates and Oman will be able to spend a relaxing day on the beach of Sir Bani Yas Island, which will be reserved for their calls exclusive use.

Genoa – June 27, 2016 – Costa Cruises (www.costacruise.com) has announced important news for its 2016/2017 winter season in the UAE: the Italian cruise company is enhancing its "**Jewels of the Emirates**" itinerary, with weekly departures out of Dubai from December 16, 2016 through March 17, 2017, by adding a stopover at **Sir Bani Yas Island, a stunningly beautiful natural paradise with private beach, located off the southwest coast of the western region in Abu Dhabi Emirate.**

Thanks to this exclusive innovation, Costa's cruise guests will have a whole day to discover the wonders of one of the finest islands in the Arabian Gulf, featuring the **Arabian Wildlife Park**, a wildlife sanctuary for more than 13,000 animals. **Crystal clear water, white sand, private beach, safari parks, sea turtles and dolphins** near the coast await and will make this a getaway with a difference.

Costa's cruisers will be able to relax on the **pristine white sandy beach**, with **full amenities** and **exclusive access**, thanks to special VIP areas equipped with *cabanas* and affording total comfort and privacy. Families with small children will love it here: kids can frolic on the beach, play on inflatable slides and swim in total safety in the very shallow water. **Costa's excellent service and facilities extend to the guest experience ashore**, with great hospitality, bars and buffets managed by Costa's own staff and serving a vast range of fresh food. On top of that, there are a stack of activities to choose from: you can opt for sun and sand, try the thrill of a jeep safari in the island's wildlife park, go kayaking, snorkeling and lots more besides.

This major innovation adds a further exclusive touch to the 7-day "**Jewels of the Emirates**" itinerary, perfect for a winter break calling at truly magical destinations. In addition to the summery feel of Sir Bani Yas Island, the Costa neoRiviera will take her guests on a journey of discovery to **Dubai** (homeport for the cruise, with special flights from Italy* for Costa's guests), **Muscat** and **Abu Dhabi**, where the longer stopovers allow cruisers to really get to know each destination.

The Costa "**neoCollection**" **itineraries** are synonymous with slow cruising: a more leisurely and relaxing vacation with more flexibility on board and ashore, and authentic experiences in the heart of each destination, including visits to attractions that have been declared UNESCO World Heritage sites. These holidays are perfect for more experienced cruisers who are looking for places off the beaten track and "premium" experiences, just like those on offer on the "**Jewels of the Emirates**" itinerary.

To make the experience even more unique and memorable, Costa Cruises also offers a large variety of shore tours to suit everyone's tastes and preferences.

In **Muscat**, for example, guests on the Costa neoRiviera can choose a four-wheel drive adventure to explore the rugged natural beauty of *Wadi Al Arbeieen* canyon, with its crystal-clear ponds of dazzling turquoise water made by

the rivers, followed by a visit to a traditional local village. In **Abu Dhabi**, the attractions include the *Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque*, one of the biggest in the world and the largest in the UAE, a desert safari by jeep and camel, and the *Ferrari World* theme park. Alternatively, you can opt for an unforgettable **overnight tour** to the famous *Arabian Nights Village*, a desert retreat in the middle of nowhere where you can gaze into the night sky and observe the crystal-clear view of the constellations, before returning the next day to Dubai. Last but not least, in **Dubai** Costa offers unique experiences that will make the whole cruise live long in the memory, like an **exciting seaplane tour**, a **helicopter scenic tour** of the city, a chance to swim with dolphins or a tour around Dubai's incredible skyscrapers, with iconic landmarks like the billowing sail design of the Hotel *Burj Al Arab*.