



منارة MANARAT
السعديات AL SAADIYAT

13-15
DECEMBER | 20
ديسمبر 25



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ARABIAN DAYS FESTIVAL 2025

منارة السعديات
MANARAT AL SAADIYAT

13-15
دسمبر
DECEMBER | 20
25

Launched in 2023, Arabian Days Festival is an annual cultural initiative organized by the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre at the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi to celebrate the Arabic language and its ever-evolving identity. Bringing together language, art, music, literature, and technology, the festival offers an immersive experience that highlights the beauty of Arabic and its power to inspire creativity and connection across generations.

Through performances, workshops, and interactive sessions, the festival opens new pathways for expression and belonging, affirming Arabic as a bridge between heritage and innovation, and positioning Abu Dhabi as a global hub for cultural dialogue and creative exchange. In 2025, the festival received the Mohammed bin Rashid Arabic Language Award (9th cycle) for Best Initiative Promoting a Reading Culture and Knowledge Society, recognizing its impact in strengthening the role of Arabic in today's cultural landscape.



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MYSTICAL SCENTS OF ARABIA

Discover the rich heritage of traditional Arabic perfumes of musk, amber, and oud, and their deep connection to Arabic poetry, intertwined with the everyday traditions of authentic Arab life.

EXPERIENCES & ACTIVATIONS

ART EXHIBITION

An exhibition showcasing the winning artworks of the "Kanz Al Jeel" award, highlighting the expressions of Nabati poetry in visual arts. The award, which takes its name from the poems of Sheikh Zayed, creates a space that blends artistic creativity with the authenticity of the Arabic language.



IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE ROOM

A unique experience that will immerse you in a magical world of sound and light, surrounding you with an artistic narrative celebrating the Arabic language and its authenticity.

CNN ARABIC BOOTCAMP

As part of its mission to empower emerging Arab media talent, CNN Arabic is hosting a special “Storytelling Bootcamp” for content creators during the festival. The training provides practical tools and industry insights to help participants elevate their content and build sustainable, independent careers across major media platforms.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES



YOUTH WORKSHOPS:

- * Photography masterclass by “AnalogTheRoom”
- * Two social media workshops with director Samy Chaffai; one of the leading creators of content and short films.
- * Two fashion and jewelry workshops by “TrainSquare”

YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

Enjoy a special time with your friends through a variety of fun activities combining games, music, arts, and more.

BONFIRE STORYTELLING:

The “Bonfire Storytelling” sessions revive the traditions of Arab folk heritage, where ancient tales meet contemporary storytelling in an engaging atmosphere, led by singer and composer Fayez Al Saeed, poet Ali Al Khawar, and writer Maryam Al Zaabi.





PUPPET SHOWS

An interactive theatrical storytelling of children's tales, combining live music performances with puppet theatre.

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

A variety of creative workshops for children, including crafts, painting, and music, blending fun with learning while encouraging discovery and innovation.



CONCERTS

The space where lights meet rhythm and moments become memories. Artists including Fouad Abdelwahed, Cairokee, Lena Chamamyan, and Rima Khcheich perform live, bringing contemporary Arabic voices together in passionate, audience-close shows that make every night unmissable.



FOUAD ABDELWAHED



RAHMA RIAD



CAIROKEE



RIMA KHCHEICH



LENA CHAMAMYAN



ZENA EMAD

CINEMA SCREENING

A selection of Arab films by creative regional filmmakers, presented by Arab Film Studio, one of the initiatives offered by Creative Lab, the talent development arm of the Creative Media Authority in Abu Dhabi.



AI IN ARABIC LANGUAGE TEACHING CONFERENCE

جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي

 NYU ABU DHABI

This two-day conference explores how artificial intelligence is reshaping the teaching of Arabic. Sessions highlight new ideas for the future of education and language learning, best practices, and innovative approaches that merge technology with pedagogy. The conference is led by Dr. Attia Youseif from Indiana University Bloomington, United States, alongside leading experts in the field.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

These discussions offer a space to share ideas, stories, and creative perspectives, featuring speakers such as singer and songwriter Lena Chamamyan, professor Mahdi Mansour, composer Ihab Darwish, poet Abdulrahman Al Humairi, Dr. Maryam Al Hashmi, and emerging talents from the Arab Film Studio including Nada Jahed and Majed Al Zubaidi. Sessions are moderated by experts including Dr. Nizar Qbilat, Nour Al Helou, and Zeinab AlShkeili.



OUR PARTNERS

We extend our sincere gratitude to our partners and supporters of
“Arabian Days” in Abu Dhabi.

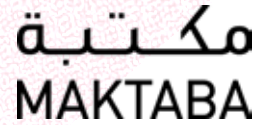


**AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT**
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCES
Sheikh Zayed Chair for Arabic
& Islamic Studies

جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي



NYU ABU DHABI



Media Partner



Thanks to your support and dedication, we continue to celebrate our
authentic identity and culture.

TIME	CONCERT	GARDEN	YOUTH HUB	ARABIAN MARKET	THEATRE	AUDITORIUM	GALLERY A	ATRIUM
12.00 PM							12:00–4:00pm AI in Arabic Language Teaching Conference, in partnership with NYU Abu Dhabi	
1.00 PM							This two-day conference explores how artificial intelligence is reshaping the teaching of Arabic. Sessions highlight new ideas for the future of education and language learning, best practices, and innovative approaches that merge technology with pedagogy. The conference is led by Dr. Attia Youseif from Indiana University, United States, alongside leading experts in the field.	
2.00 PM								
3.00 PM				4:30–5:30pm Lego Bridge (all ages) Basics of bridge structures by building LEGO bridges and test their strength to see which is the strongest.		3:00–5:00pm CNN Bootcamp As part of its mission to empower emerging Arab media talent, CNN Arabic is hosting a special “Storytelling Bootcamp” for content creators during the festival. The training provides practical tools and industry insights to help participants elevate their content and build sustainable, independent careers across major media platforms		
4.00 PM		All day Board Games Arabic Beats Lab	All day Photo Booth Interactive Graffiti Wall	4:30–5:30pm Feel Your Brain at Work (all ages) A hands-on session designed to boost attention and processing speed through interactive group activities, individual exercises, and fun brain facts—complete with engaging giveaways for all ages.	All day Gallery A gallery that traces the evolution of the Arabic language and culture over time.			All day Mystical Scents of Arabia A sensory exploration of the region’s perfume heritage; spotlighting musk, oud, amber, and how they are crafted, celebrated, and preserved across poetry and tradition.
5.00 PM		5:00–6:00pm Puppet Show Different Together A heartwarming story about friendship, inclusion, and celebrating what makes us unique. English: 5:00–5:30 Arabic: 5:30–6:00	4:30–6:00pm Fashion Workshop: Provider: Trainsquare A workshop about Arab culture heritage and how it can shape a modern, expressive personal style.	5:30–6:30pm Stop–Motion Graphics (ages 8+) Explore how stop-motion graphics are made and create your own story using arts and crafts, acting it out and recording it in stop-motion.	Immersive Experience Room A fully immersive multisensory experience. Visitors engage with dynamic visuals and soundscapes that offer an interactive journey of discovery.			
6.00 PM		6:00–7:00pm Disney Musical Performance Tale As Old As Time A live musical theatre performance bringing together some of Disney’s most loved songs. English: 6:00–6:30 Arabic: 6:30–7:00	6:30–7:30pm Samy Chaffai: How Social Media Helped me with my Film Career A motivational storytelling workshop on how content creation and personal branding launched a successful filmmaking career, without industry access.			5:30–5:40pm Opening Speech		Art Gallery Showcasing winning artworks and Nabati poems from the Kanz Al Jeel Award, an initiative by the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre inspired by the poetry of H. H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The exhibition brings together creativity and cultural memory through visual and literary expression.
7.00 PM	7:30pm Doors Open	6:00–7:00pm IMIG Lecture about influences of Arabic and Western music instruments		Mandoos Box (all ages) Children decorate a small wooden box in the style of a Mandoos (a traditional Emirati treasure chest) using acrylic paints and decorative touches.		5:40–6:30pm Panel Discussion: Melody and Poetry: Heritage as a Source of Contemporary Creativity. Speakers: Lena Chamamy Dr. Mahdi Mansour Moderator: Rowane El Helou		
8.00 PM	8:30–10:00pm Rahma Riad Singer and actress with music that blends modern Arabic pop with emotive vocals and catchy contemporary melodies	7:00–8:00pm Bonfire: Musical Tales: Sung Poetry Speakers: Fayez Al Saeed Ali Al Khawar Oud Artist	5:00–8:00pm Coffee Party Live DJ Sets ADF Over-ink: Temporary Tattoos	6:30–7:30pm Maze Solver (ages 8+) Build and program robots with two age-specific hardware setups to successfully navigate a maze.				
9.00 PM		Arab Film Studio A powerful selection of short films, documentaries, and cinematic pieces by the official cinema partner Arab Film Studio.		Decoden Art (all ages) Participants design and personalize their own phone case using art supplies and creative techniques, turning everyday items into unique, expressive pieces.				
10.00 PM	10:00–11:30pm Fouad AbdelWahed Singer and musician known for his work in the Gulf music scene	Films: Ummi Umm Salama The Matchmaker Bundle of Joy Umah Luminary		7:30–8:30pm Modelling Arabic Architecture (ages 8+) Learn the basics of Arabic architectural design and use TinkerCAD to 3D-model your own culturally inspired structure				
11.00 PM								
12.00 AM								

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1.00 PM							This two-day conference explores how artificial intelligence is reshaping the teaching of Arabic. Sessions highlight new ideas for the future of education and language learning, best practices, and innovative approaches that merge technology with pedagogy. The conference is led by Dr. Attia Youseif from Indiana University, United States, alongside leading experts in the field.	
2.00 PM		All day Board Games Arabic Beats Lab						
3.00 PM		5:00-6:00pm Puppet Show Little Red Riding Hood A young girl ventures through the forest to visit her grandmother, only to encounter a cunning wolf with a plan to trick her English: 5:00-5:30 Arabic: 5:30-6:00		4:30-5:30pm Speed Car (ages 7+) Build and program your own race car, learn Arabic terms for speed and motion, and compete to see which car is the fastest!			3:00-6:00pm CNN Bootcamp	
4.00 PM		6:00-7:00pm Disney Musical Performance Tale As Old As Time A live musical theatre performance bringing together some of Disney's most loved songs. English: 6:00-6:30 Arabic: 6:30-7:00	All day Photo Booth Interactive Graffiti Wall	Doll Making (all ages) Children will create an Emirati handmade doll from fabric and yarn. Encouraging positive engagement with traditional handicrafts and creative expression.	All day Gallery A gallery that traces the evolution of the Arabic language and culture over time.		As part of its mission to empower emerging Arab media talent, CNN Arabic is hosting a special "Storytelling Bootcamp" for content creators during the festival. The training provides practical tools and industry insights to help participants elevate their content and build sustainable, independent careers across major media platforms	
5.00 PM			4:30-6:00pm Jewelry Workshop: Arab Gems A workshop exploring Arab jewelry traditions and teaching participants how to style cultural pieces with modern outfits through demos and hands-on practice..	5:30-6:30pm Robotic Hand (ages 10+) Use Spike Prime robotic kit to build and program a robotic hand, learning about physical disabilities and how prosthetics can help.	Immersive Experience Room A fully immersive multisensory experience. Visitors engage with dynamic visuals and soundscapes that offer an interactive journey of discovery.			
6.00 PM		7:15-7:30pm Hind Khleifat Live Art Show: Imprint of Civilization The show embodies the campaign "Stars of the Arabs and the Arabic Language."It merges painting, storytelling, and sound design into one continuous theatrical scene.The concept, created and directed by Hind Khlaifat, transforms the stage into a living artwork where visual, audio, and emotional elements blend seamlessly.	6:30-7:30pm Samy Chaffai: How Social Media Helped me with my Film Career A motivational storytelling workshop on how content creation and personal branding launched a successful filmmaking career, without industry access.	Abu Dhabi Landscape Painting (any ages) Using Abu Dhabi landscape stencil cutouts, children design their own artwork featuring Abu Dhabi landmarks.		6:30-7:30pm Panel Discussion in collaboration with Arab Film Studio Youth and the creation of Arabic Content Speakers: Majed Alzubaidi Nada Jahed Moderator: Zainab Alshekeli		
7.00 PM	7:30pm Doors Open		5:00-8:00pm Coffee Party Live DJ Sets ADF Over-ink: Temporary Tattoos	6:30-7:30pm 3D Jewellery Design (ages 8+) Learn the basics of 3D modeling on a user-friendly platform and create 3D-printed Arabic names and phrases, turning them into unique jewelry pieces.				
8.00 PM	8:30-10:00pm Cairokee Rock band formed in 2003, known for its impactful Arabic lyrics that address social issues.	7:30-8:30pm Bonfire Emirati Folktales A contemporary retelling of Arab folk traditions. Classic tales meet modern storytelling and poetry in an intimate setting that reconnects audiences with shared memory and heritage. The sessions are led by a distinguished group of speakers and artists Speaker: Maryam Al Zaabi Musicians: ABDELAZIZ AL MADANI - Oud NASER AMIR - Nay		Qasr Al-Hosn Model Painting (all ages) Children learn about Abu Dhabi's oldest historical building, Qasr Al Hosn, by creating a 3D wooden artwork representing its iconic features, painted with colors.				
9.00 PM								
10.00 PM								
11.00 PM		Arab Film Studio A powerful selection of short films, documentaries, and cinematic pieces by the official cinema partner Arab Film Studio. Films: Ummi Umm Salama The Matchmaker Bundle of Joy Umah Luminary		6:30-7:30pm Arabic ChatBot AI (ages 8+) Learn to use AI technology to build and customize your own Arabic-language chatbot.				
12.00 AM				Train Your Brain: Memory & Logic (all ages) A, hands-on session designed to strengthen memory and logical thinking through interactive group challenges, individual problem-solving activities, and engaging brain facts.				

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4.00 PM		All day Board Games Arabic Beats Lab	All day Photo Booth Interactive Graffiti Wall	4:30-5:30pm Fluid Art Painting (all ages) Children will pour bright, flowing paints onto a canvas creating unique and lively abstract paintings as the colors mix and swirl freely	All day Gallery A gallery that traces the evolution of the Arabic language and culture over time.			All day Mystical Scents of Arabia A sensory exploration of the region's perfume heritage; spotlighting musk, oud, amber, and how they are crafted, celebrated, and preserved across poetry and tradition.
5.00 PM		5:00-6:00pm IMIG Arabic Choir Workshop Participants learn and rehearse a popular Arabic song, then perform it together as a choir, sharing the joy of collective music-making.	5:00-8:00pm Analog The Room Film Photography Photowalk and Masterclass: A hands-on masterclass exploring the evolution of photography and analog techniques, combining guided shooting sessions with practical darkroom work.	Slime Making (all ages) A playful and sensory workshop where children create their own colorful slime by mixing vibrant pigments, fragrances and shimmering glitters	Immersive Experience Room A fully immersive multisensory experience. Visitors engage with dynamic visuals and soundscapes that offer an interactive journey of discovery.			
6.00 PM		5:00-6:00pm Puppet Show Different Together A heartwarming story about friendship, inclusion, and celebrating what makes us unique. English: 5:00-5:30 Arabic: 5:30-6:00		5:30-6:30pm Sheikh Zayed 3-D Portrait (all ages) A workshop where children craft a 3D wooden portrait of Sheikh Zayed, painting and decorating it using acrylic colors.		6:30-7:30pm Panel Discussion- In Collaboration with ADMAF Sounds and Aesthetics: Arabic as a Source of Inspiration Speakers: Ihab Darwish Dr. Maryam al hashmi Abdulrahman Alhemeiri Moderator: Professor Nizar Qubailat		Art Gallery Showcasing winning artworks and Nabati poems from the Kanz Al Jeel Award, an initiative by the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre inspired by the poetry of H. H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The exhibition brings together creativity and cultural memory through visual and literary expression.
7.00 PM	7:30pm Doors Open	6:00-7:00pm Arabic Choir A heartwarming performance by IMIG Music Center's children's choir featuring talented young voices.	5:00-8:00pm Coffee Party Live DJ Sets ADF Over-ink: Temporary Tattoos	Alphabet Pattern Painting (all ages) Using Arabic Alphabet stencils, children will be able to create a contemporary Arabic alphabets abstract art.				
8.00 PM	8:00-9:00pm Rima Khceich Prominent singer and educator, acclaimed for her mastery of classical Arabic vocal forms, particularly the Muwashshahat, and her innovative blending of traditional Arab music with contemporary sounds, especially jazz.	7:00-8:00pm The Arabic Horse: A Living Legacy Moderator: Lana Medawar Speaker: Ali Al Ameri		6:30-7:30pm The Recycled Painting (all ages) Children practice recycling by turning egg cartons into adorable turtles, painting them with acrylic colors and decorating them. They'll also use other recycled material to crate fun ladybug themed artworks				
9.00 PM		Arab Film Studio A powerful selection of short films, documentaries, and cinematic pieces by the official cinema partner Arab Film Studio.						
10.00 PM	9:00-10:00pm Lena Chamamy Singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist known for her "Eastern jazz" style, which blends traditional Syrian and Armenian folk music with modern genres like jazz, classical, and world music.	Films: Ummi Umm Salama The Matchmaker Bundle of Joy Umah Luminary		Pottery Painting (all ages) Children will receive a small sized pottery piece (Piggy Banks/ Pencil holder) specially made for them to paint using acrylic colors				
11.00 PM	10:00-11:00pm Zena Emad Rising musician and vocalist known for her soulful voice, modern Arabic sound, and emotionally rich performances.			7:30-8:30pm Enhance Your Language, Broaden your Imagination (all ages) Strengthen language, communication, and visualization skills through group and individual activities, fun brain facts, and engaging hands-on exercises				
12.00 AM								

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Arabian Days Festival...

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السبع | السنديات AL SAADIYAT

Daily from 4:00 PM to 12:00 AM at Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi.



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