What to check before booking desert safari tours in Dubai

Desert safari tours in Dubai: what to check before you book

Dubai's desert offers a mix of adventure, culture, and natural beauty that draws many visitors. A desert safari can include dune bashing, camel trekking, sandboarding, and a BBQ dinner under the stars. But not all tours are the same, and what looks good online may not match what you get in the desert. Knowing what to verify before booking saves time, money, and disappointment.

This article covers the main points to check when choosing desert safari tours in Dubai. Whether you are looking for a family-friendly evening or a high-adrenaline morning ride, these checks help you pick a tour that fits your expectations.

Check the inclusions and exclusions

Many tour packages list a long set of activities, but the fine print matters. A standard evening safari often includes dune bashing, a camel ride, sandboarding, a BBQ dinner, and a cultural show. Some packages, however, list these as optional extras that cost more at the site. Check whether the price covers all listed activities or only a few. Also look for what is excluded: pickup from certain areas, drinks during dinner, or photography passes. A clear breakdown of what is included and what costs extra gives you a true picture of the total price.

One local option is Buggy Ride Dubai - Quad Bike ATV & Dune Buggy Tours official site. This is a good place to start comparing package details.

View the location on Google Maps

Verify the vehicle safety and condition

Dune bashing is a core part of many desert safaris. The vehicle used for this activity is usually a 4x4, often a modified SUV. Check what vehicle the tour operator uses and whether it is well-maintained. Older vehicles without proper roll cages, seat belts, or sand-proof air filters can make the ride less safe and less comfortable. Ask if the vehicle has a working seat belt for every passenger and if the driver is trained for desert driving. A reputable operator should be transparent about their fleet and maintenance schedule.



Review the pickup and drop-off details

Pickup and drop-off logistics vary widely between tour operators. Some include hotel pickup from any area in Dubai, while others charge extra for certain districts. Check the pickup time and whether it fits your schedule. Also confirm the drop-off location after the tour ends. Some tours drop you back at your hotel, while others stop at a central meeting point. If you have a late flight or a dinner reservation after the tour, knowing the exact return window helps you plan the rest of your evening.

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

Look at the activity timings and duration

Desert safari tours come in different formats: morning, evening, and overnight. Each has a different focus. Morning safaris are shorter and focus on dune bashing and sandboarding. Evening safaris include sunset viewing, a BBQ dinner, and entertainment. Overnight tours add stargazing and sometimes henna painting. Check the actual time spent on each activity. Some tours advertise a six-hour evening safari, but the drive to and from the desert may take two hours each way, leaving only two hours of activities. A clear itinerary with timings for each segment helps you decide if the tour matches your interests.

Check the cancellation and refund policy

Plans change, especially when travelling. A flexible cancellation policy protects your money. Look for the operator's terms on cancellations, rescheduling, and refunds. Some operators offer a full refund if you cancel 48 hours in advance, while others charge a fee. Also check what happens if the tour is cancelled due to weather or other reasons. A clear policy shows that the operator is organised and treats customers fairly. If the policy is not displayed on the website or booking page, contact the operator directly to ask before paying.

Read recent reviews from verified guests

Reviews give a real-world picture of what a tour is like. Look for reviews that mention the specific activities you care about. For example, if you want a good BBQ dinner, look for comments about the food quality and variety. If dune bashing is your priority, look for feedback on the driver's skill and the vehicle's condition. Pay attention to recent reviews, as operators change their vehicles, staff, and menus over time. A pattern of complaints about cleanliness, punctuality, or safety is a red flag. Genuine reviews are often detailed and mention specific dates or guides, while generic five-star reviews may be less reliable.



The Buggy Ride Dubai - Quad Bike ATV & Dune Buggy Tours official site provides clear information about their tours and policies, making it easier to compare options before booking.

Consider the group size and vehicle capacity

Group size affects the quality of the experience. A small group means more personal attention from the guide, shorter waiting times for activities, and a more comfortable ride. Large groups

can feel crowded, especially during the BBQ dinner and cultural show. Check how many people are in a typical group for the tour you are considering. Some operators run multiple vehicles in the same tour, which can still feel like a big group. If you prefer a quieter experience, ask about private or small-group options.

Ask about dietary requirements

If the tour includes a meal, check whether the operator can accommodate dietary restrictions. Common requirements include vegetarian, vegan, halal, or gluten-free options. Some operators offer a fixed menu with no alternatives, while others allow you to request specific dishes in advance. Because the dinner is often a BBQ buffet, cross-contamination can be a concern for those with allergies. Contact the operator before booking to confirm they can meet your needs. A positive response shows they are attentive to guest needs.

Final checks before you confirm

Before you finalise your booking, confirm the following: the exact price in your currency, the payment method accepted, and whether any deposit is required. Also ask about the dress code. While there is no strict dress code for desert tours, light, comfortable clothing and closed-toe shoes are recommended for activities like quad biking and sandboarding. If the tour includes a cultural show, you may want to bring a light jacket for the evening.



Booking a desert safari in Dubai can be straightforward when you know what to ask. By checking the inclusions, vehicle safety, pickup logistics, activity timings, cancellation policy,

reviews, group size, and dietary options, you can choose a tour that matches your expectations and budget. Once you have all the information, you can book with confidence.

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.