What to check before booking a Khorfakkan tour from Dubai

Planning a trip from Dubai to the east coast city of Khorfakkan can be a refreshing change of scene. The drive alone, passing through the Hajar Mountains backdrop, offers views that feel a world away from the city skyline. But a smooth day depends on a few practical checks before you book. Here is what to look out for.

Understand the travel time and route

The distance from Dubai to Khorfakkan is roughly 130 to 140 kilometres, depending on your starting point. The journey usually takes between one hour and forty minutes and two hours. Most of the drive is on the Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Road, a well-maintained highway that cuts through the Hajar range. The scenic coastal drive along the final stretch is one of the highlights, but it means the total travel time can vary with traffic around Fujairah city. When you look at a tour itinerary, check whether the schedule accounts for the return drive as well. A tour that leaves Dubai at 8 am and returns by 6 pm gives you a solid six to seven hours on site. Anything shorter may feel rushed once you factor in lunch and a rest stop.

Check what is included in the itinerary

Khorfakkan offers a mix of natural and historical attractions, but not every tour covers the same spots. Common stops include the Khorfakkan Corniche, Shark Island (visible from the shore), and the Al Bidya Mosque - a small but historic 15th-century mosque that sits on a hill just outside town. Some tours also include a visit to Fujairah Fort if they take the longer route. Before you confirm, read the itinerary carefully. Does it list specific locations or just say "scenic stops"? A clear schedule helps you decide if the trip matches your interests. If you are keen on snorkeling spots, for instance, check whether the tour allows free time at the beach or at a designated snorkelling area near Shark Island. If history appeals more, make sure the Al Bidya Mosque stop is included.



Look at the transport and group size

The type of vehicle and the number of people in your group can affect the experience. Many tours use air-conditioned coaches, which are comfortable for the drive but can feel less personal if the group is large. Smaller tours often use 4x4s or minibuses, which make it easier to stop for photos along the scenic coastal drive. Ask about the maximum group size before booking. A group of ten to fifteen people tends to be manageable; a group of thirty or more can slow down each stop. If you prefer a quieter pace, look for a tour that caps numbers or offers a private option. The official details are often available on the khorfakkan day Tour official site, where you can compare group sizes and vehicle types directly.

Confirm the pick-up and drop-off points

Most tours from Dubai offer pick-up from central locations such as Deira, Bur Dubai, or near major hotels. Some also serve the Marina and JLT areas, but not all do. Check whether the pick-up point is convenient for you and whether the tour offers a door-to-door service for an extra charge. Drop-off times can be just as important. A tour that returns to Dubai by 5 pm may leave you with the rest of the evening free, while one that returns at 8 pm might mean you miss dinner plans. The itinerary should state both the expected return time and the drop-off location.

Review the cancellation and refund policy

Plans change, and weather conditions along the east coast can be unpredictable. The road through the Hajar Mountains can occasionally close due to fog or heavy rain, though this is rare. A clear cancellation policy gives you peace of mind. Look for a tour that offers a full refund or a credit if cancelled at least 24 to 48 hours before departure. Some operators also allow rescheduling without penalty. The terms are usually listed on the booking page or on the khorfakkan day Tour official site. If the policy is not clearly stated, contact the operator before you pay.



Think about meals and facilities

A full-day tour typically includes lunch, but the style varies. Some tours take you to a restaurant on the Khorfakkan Corniche, where you can eat with a view of the water. Others provide a packed meal or a stop at a local cafeteria. If you have dietary requirements, check whether the operator can accommodate them. It is also worth knowing whether the tour includes water and snacks during the drive. On a hot day, having your own bottle and a small snack can make the difference between a comfortable trip and a tiring one. Restroom breaks are usually scheduled at the Al Bidya Mosque stop or at a fuel station along the highway, but a good itinerary will mention these stops.

Assess the balance of guided time and free time

Some travellers prefer a guide who explains every site, while others want time to explore on their own. A well-planned tour strikes a balance. At the Khorfakkan Corniche, for example, a short guided walk along the waterfront is useful to orient you, followed by free time to take photos or sit at a cafe. At Shark Island, which is best viewed from the shore, a guide might point out the best vantage points and then let you enjoy the view at your own pace. The itinerary should indicate how much time is spent at each stop. If you feel a stop is too short, ask whether the schedule is flexible.

Watch for hidden costs

The listed price may not include everything. Common extras include entrance fees to certain attractions, parking charges, or fees for snorkelling equipment. Some tours advertise a low base rate and then add costs for lunch, water, or a visit to Fujairah Fort. Before you book, ask for a full breakdown of what the price covers. A transparent operator will list inclusions and exclusions clearly. If the tour includes a dhow cruise along the coast, check whether that is part of the standard price or an optional add-on.



Read recent traveller reviews

Reviews from other visitors can reveal details that the official description leaves out. Look for comments about the driver's punctuality, the guide's knowledge, and the condition of the vehicle. Pay attention to reviews that mention the timing of stops or the quality of the lunch. A pattern of complaints about delays or poor organisation is a red flag. Conversely, reviews that

praise the guide's ability to point out dolphin sightings or the best snorkeling spots are a good sign. Cross-check reviews across a couple of platforms to get a balanced picture.