

Snow Skiing In the Desert!

Not Impossible In Dubai

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Photos- Dubai Department of
Tourism and Commerce Marketing

The third largest indoor ski resort in the world, Ski Dubai, which opened its doors on December 2, 2005, became the star of Dubai's 'Mall of the Emirates' - the largest shopping center outside the U.S.

Unbelievably, when people enter Ski Dubai, they walk into a polar bear world of ice and snow in a country where in summer the temperature, at times, reaches over 50° C. While skiers relish the snow on the inside, others outside will be trying to hide from the searing heat. Both the inhabitants and visitors to Dubai have a new way to keep cool, especially during the hot summer months.

Ski Dubai Snow Park Resort, the first alpine themed all inclusive indoor ski resort with the third longest indoor slopes in the world, has brought this sport of the north to a desert land where 35 years ago no one had ever seen snow. The largest and first complete in-door mountain snow playground in the world, Ski Dubai provides a unique experience on the edge of one of the hottest deserts on the globe. The technological innovations being utilized have placed Dubai at the forefront of indoor winter sports facilities in the Middle East and beyond.

There has been re-created at the Mall of the Emirates, the most exciting retail and leisure complex in the Arab world, an authentic mountain environment with frozen waterfalls, rocky outcrops, tree formations and other features found in northern mountains. Amid these re-created replicas, there is a 3,000 sq m indoor snow play area – the world's largest - and long ski slopes, the size of three football fields, with varying terrain, featuring five different ski runs, snow covered hills and a chair lift - a perfect arena for foreign tourists to snap souvenir pictures of Gulf nationals walking on



The sea

البحر



The Snow

تزلج دبي



Overhead trains

قطارات معلّقة

snow with their Arab headdresses and traditional white robes

Ski Dubai boasts special features such as a 400m ski run with a fall of over 60 m. Fresh snow is to be made daily to ensure ideal skiing. Over 6,000 tons of snow at any one time will cover the Snow Park, which can accommodate up to 1,500 guests.

Besides skiing, Ski Dubai offers visitors a whole series of other activities such as snowboarding, tobogganing and twin tract bobsled racing. As well, the Snow Park features a snowball shooting gallery, a dedicated learners area and a snowboard stunt-park. The first of its kind in the Middle East, Ski Dubai gives the children of the region a chance to experience snow for the first time. Both young and old now have a chance to just romp in real snow – an opportunity to enjoy a total snow experience. For those who just wish to relax and enjoy the cool air, Ski Dubai has a large observation tower, offering a view of the resort and its activities. However, if one prefers, at a

mountainside cafe visitors can sit in comfort with family and friends and watch sport enthusiasts cheer their heroes on the slopes.

Anyone in the world with a far out idea finds willing ears in this city of the future whose achievements have often found their way into 'Ripley's Believe it or Not' collection of strange ideas. Without doubt, Ski Dubai Snow Park, developed by Majid Al Futtaim Investments, fits well into Dubai's world of fantasy. It is the epitome of the many exciting sites and activities visitors will find in this city where dreams come true. Now as visitors gaze on Ski Dubai Snow Park, they will no doubt be thrilled about this unique northern experience in a once desert land. They will see with their own eyes that what had been a fairytale idea has become a living fact of life. Like many other projects in Dubai which literally come to life overnight, what some had thought to be an impossibility has become a reality and Dubai once again, as it has many times before, created a 'first' in the world of Ripley. ■