

SKY-HIGH STYLE

Step inside the St Regis Abu Dhabi's superlative suspended suite. It's the epitome of grandeur.





EXTRAVAGANCE. THIS WAS EVIDENTLY THE AIM OF internationally acclaimed design firm HBA/Hirsch Bedner Associates when conceptualising the interiors of the world’s highest suspended hotel suite at the St Regis Abu Dhabi. And exploring this lofty abode, I quickly agree with HBA’s associate designer, Josh Mason, that it is indeed “a grand expression of engineering and beyond luxury.”

Named the Abu Dhabi Suite, this two-storey affair, which is suspended between the Nation Towers’ 48th and 49th floors, hovers more than 200 metres above the ground and offers spectacular views of the UAE’s burgeoning capital city and the turquoise waters of the Arabian Gulf.

A sprawling, double-height *majlis* (or grand salon) with a Gilded Age atmosphere, floor-to-ceiling windows and Art Deco inspired furniture fills the suspended section, while the suite’s three bedrooms, four and a half bathrooms and additional rooms are located over the two floors. The master bedroom is reached by a curved bronze staircase and has its own lounge, en suite bathroom and spacious walk-in wardrobe.

In addition to staff quarters, a 14-seat dining room, kitchen, private library, four-seat cinema and fitness area, the suite features a sky-high private spa with a sauna, steam room, Jacuzzi and a two-bed treatment room.

Throughout, subtle 24-karat gold leaf accents; velvet upholstered walls in jewel-toned colours such as ruby, turquoise and amber; glass mosaics; and cascading crystal chandeliers designed by Czech company Lasvit, enhance the suite’s regal air.

PREVIOUS PAGE:
The Abu Dhabi Suite straddles the 48th and 49th floors of the Nation Towers.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The spacious *majlis*; a curved bronze staircase takes you to the master suite; all three bedrooms have their own distinctive look and feel; the Abu Dhabi Suite offers unrivalled panoramic views; a private spa with two treatment beds, sauna, steam room and Jacuzzi is just one of the amazing features of the suite.

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And that’s not all. More than 135 kinds of marble from around the world have been used in the suite, including Ivory Travertine from Turkey, Spanish crema classico, Grenada gold and chocolate truffle. Subtle sprinklings of semi-precious stones add to the magnificence too. Think Tiger’s Eye from India, rose quartz from Brazil and much more.

The sheer scale, concept and unrivalled views are all “wow” factors of the suite, but it is the continual element of surprise at every turn which is most impressive. And, while it is the epitome of grandeur, the suite’s furnishings have been realised with finesse and sophistication that ensures its magnificence is neither overpowering nor loud.

So land your helicopter on the helipad atop the Nation Towers, take the private elevator to the Abu Dhabi Suite, pull up a plush chair in the *majlis* and enjoy the St Regis’ legendary high tea. Savouring delicate finger sandwiches, assorted pastries and bespoke tea blends while floating above the city in the lap of luxury is an experience that must be tried. 🍵

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