

Subject: Coming to the UAE!!

Hi Aisha

I can't wait for you to come and visit. There's so much to do here and I know you're really interested in history so I thought we could go to the Dubai Heritage Village first. It's a brilliant museum which shows you what life was like in Dubai in the past. There are people dressed in clothes based on traditional designs and doing jobs we don't do anymore. It's also got historic buildings that come from all over the country which you can go and look at. There's a market where you can buy traditional sweets, pottery and souvenirs made from palm and sometimes you can hear people singing old folk songs. The museum is visited by tourists from all over the world and I think it appeals to everyone because you can really understand our heritage and what it was like to live here in the past.

Then there's Dubai Fort which is part of the heritage village and was built in 1787 and opened as a museum in 1971. In the middle of the fort is a courtyard and it's got a display of boats and bamboo houses with their traditional furniture. In 1995, an underground museum was added to the museum but I've never been there – maybe we can get a guide to show us around. What do you think?

Another museum we can visit is the Sharjah Art Museum. It has a permanent collection of contemporary and modern art and sculptures by artists from the UAE and other Middle Eastern countries. I'm not sure what temporary exhibits will be there, but we should visit the permanent collection donated by HH Sheikh Dr Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qasimi.

You can also see the new branch of the Louvre in Abu Dhabi. I think it's an amazing piece of modern architecture which was designed by Jean Nouvel and is located on Saadiyat Island. There have already been two exhibitions. I went to one last year – it was brilliant. I really liked a little Chinese statue that I saw there and I think the exhibits I saw have been loaned to our government so I'll be able to see it again when the Louvre properly opens here.

Send me your flight details so I can meet you at the airport.

Dana

WORKBOOK PAGE 31: Find words in Dana's email in your coursebook which mean ...

- 1 the history and traditions of a country heritage
- 2 a person whose job is to show you a place
- 3 artwork of a person or object made by carving wood, stone or metal
- 4 objects that are shown in a museum
- 5 for a very long time or forever
- 6 to lend something which must be returned