

Press Release

Anantara Sir Bani Yas Island Al Yamm Villa Resort Opens in Abu Dhabi

Bangkok, July 1st 2013: Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spas, a leading developer and operator of luxury hotels, resorts and spas, is pleased to announce the opening of its fourth property in Abu Dhabi – **Anantara Al Yamm Villa Resort**.

Offering a unique experience that capitalises on the diverse beach and wildlife blend of Sir Bani Yas Island, the new resort offers an alternative stay experience complementing the existing Desert Islands Resort & Spa by Anantara, with five star luxury hospitality service enhanced by an authentic Arabian look and feel.

Sir Bani Yas Island is the largest natural island in the United Arab Emirates and is home to one of the region's largest wildlife reserves which was established in 1971 by the country's late ruler and founder. Thanks to decades of intensive conservation work, the island is now home to thousands of free-roaming animals such as the Arabian oryx, gazelles, giraffes and cheetahs, along with several million trees and plants.

Comprising of 30 luxurious beachfront villas, Al Yamm, meaning 'The Sea', resides on the beautiful eastern shores of Sir Bani Yas Island, set on beaches renowned as the finest on the island. The retreat also offers villas situated on a tranquil lagoon rich with high mangroves, offering guests views of the elegant white and pink flamingos that favour this verdant sanctuary.

21 One Bedroom Villas can be found on the beach overlooking the dazzling Arabian Sea, where guests can benefit from a shoreline position with uninterrupted beachfront vistas, while 7 One Bedroom Pool Villas and 2 Two Bedroom Anantara Pool Villas, each with private plunge pools, feature idyllic views over the beautiful salt-water lagoon.

Guests can dine at the Italian restaurant, Olio, offering all day dining and a lounge bar, or enjoy a gastronomic feast at one of the island's five other restaurants, including the signature seafood restaurant, Samak, or the beachside Amwaj restaurant launched earlier this year. Additional facilities include a beachside swimming pool, a library and an exercise room.

Each villa features a luxurious rainforest shower with large separate bathtub to unwind in, as well as high-definition flat screen TV's and an iPod docking station. Guests can also take advantage of the wide range of adventures available on the island, including a nature and wildlife drive, kayaking amongst the mangroves, horse riding or scuba diving, or can simply relax with a signature treatment in the Anantara Spa. All villa guests will also receive a personal briefing from their own wildlife guide to make the most of the unique and exotic flora and fauna that can be spotted around the island.



Anantara Al Yamm Villa Resort has been thoughtfully developed by Tourism Development & Investment Company (TDIC) with consideration and respect to nature and the environment, using design principles that combine best practice with maximum efficiencies and minimal environmental impact.

Dillip Rajakarier, CEO of Minor Hotel Group, Anantara's owning company, commented *"We are very happy to open our fourth property in Abu Dhabi. Anantara Al Yamm Villa Resort is a great addition to the facilities on Sir Bani Yas Island, perfectly complementing our existing property Desert Islands Resort & Spa by Anantara and offering a great alternative stay option for guests using the recently opened watersports centre and conference centre."*

The new resort is managed by the renowned Thai hospitality group Anantara, which also manages Desert Islands Resort & Spa by Anantara, the only other hotel currently present on the island. The opening is the first of two new developments planned for the expansion of Sir Bani Yas Island, with Anantara Sir Bani Yas Island Al Sahel Villa Resort slated to open at the end of 2013.

In addition to the opening of these unique villa retreats, Desert Islands Conference Centre and Desert Islands WaterSports Centre also launched recently on the island, along with Sir Bani Yas Stables in early 2012.

For bookings and reservations, contact Anantara reservations on +971 2 656 1399 or visit the website: www.al-yamm.anantara.com

Editor's Notes

For hundreds of years throughout Thailand, people would leave a jar of water outside their house to provide refreshment and extend a welcome to the passing traveller. Anantara is taken from an ancient Sanskrit word that means 'without end', symbolising this sharing of water and the heartfelt hospitality that lies at the core of every Anantara experience.

From lush jungles to pristine beaches and legendary deserts to cosmopolitan cities, Anantara currently boasts 23 stunning properties located in Thailand, the Maldives, Bali, Vietnam, China and the United Arab Emirates; with future properties to open in Thailand, China, Laos, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, UAE and Oman.

For more information on Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spas, please visit www.anantara.com.
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