1

**BEAUTY OF THE VARIETY OF HUMAN CULTURE**

Passing through this region, traders often left behind traces of their culture, enabling the Crossroad of Civilizations Museums to highlight the positive values that reigned throughout history. Values such as tolerance and mutual respect represented by different civilizations that crossed paths here over several centuries.

In the midst of the contemporary scientific and technological advancement and the eagerness of future generations to keep pace with development, nowadays, a big part of youth lack the interest in acknowledging and appreciating the importance of the historical dimensions of civilizations where principles and values of humanity develop. These values encompass the aesthetic and positive aspects of peoples and civilizations, who historically left their fingerprints and artistic marks that witness their contribution to the course of human progress.

Therefore, Crossroad of Civilizations Museums seek to bring everyone together by emphasizing on the importance of positive historical relationships among peoples so as to provide an opportunity for future generations to explore and discover the beauty of tolerance, regardless of the differences in perspectives and priorities. The three of Crossroad of Civilizations Museums are based in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where values and principles such as tolerance, mutual respects and positive thinking are rooted in the ideology, norms, law and culture of its leaders and people.

The positive outcomes of such values, with the vision of the leadership as well as ambition of its people, are reflected in having the UAE hosting the busiest multicultural platform on earth that hosts more than 200 nationalities which makes it a contemporary successful story of multiculturalism.

**Crossroad of Civilizations Museums**

**CCM**’**s**, through its three historical museums, say everything about the legacy of Dubai and the UAE. As a crossroad of global trade routes between Europe, Africa and Asia. Dubai has witnessed a magnificent interplay of almost all the world’s civilizations.

The dynamic interaction of these civilizations leads to a flourishing culture of humanity; Museums through art, literature and cultural dimensions, reflect the historical beauties of civilizations. Therefore, the Crossroad of Civilizations Museum highlights the beauty of the variety of these human cultures that contributed to the progress of humanity throughout ages.

CCM emphasizes on the positive historical relationships between these civilizations and art, it provides an opportunity for future generations to reflect on the beauty of the difference and to see the positive side of the other, hoping to bring all together.

**2**

**OUR VISION**

Bringing people together through positive historical relationships.

**OUR MISSION**

Emphasizing on the importance of the universal values such as tolerance and respect, by demonstrating the essential roles such values play in the flourishment and progress of humanity.

**INTRODUCTION**

Dubai and the UAE has been at the crossroads of global trade routes since circa 3,000 BC. Passing through this region, traders often left behind traces of their cultures. The CCMs capture that essence of cultural exchanges, representing different civilizations whose paths crossed here over several centuries.

Civilizations across time were able to see positive values and the beauties in one another by highlighting the beauty of the variety of these human cultures. The CCMs promote the achievements and contributions by these civilizations to humanity as a result of peace, harmony, coexistence, and the creation of positive values since time immemorial.

The CCM group of museums reflects the values that made all traders and travelers invest in positive relationships that empowered them to establish mutual interests between one another.

Moreover, it shows that there was some sort of regulation and assurance that encouraged others to bring their goods to pass through Dubai. In addition, the current vision, multiculturalism and progress in Dubai stems from its culture that welcomed all ancient civilizations to settle and/or to travel through the city.

Working with academia, the Crossroad of Civilization Museums provide an educational platform for researchers and institutions.

**3**

**Galleries & Collections of the Three Museums**

The CCM consists of specialized galleries and highlights from different parts of the world.

**GALLERIES**

The galleries are categorized in an innovative way; by hosting rarest civilizational highlights that range from artifacts, manuscripts, kings and explorers and travelers autographs, letters and Military Generals and sultans Decrees and Orders.

The three museums for instance has hot permanent galleries such as:

* **Local History Gallery**
* **Historical Royal Gallery**
* **Explorers and Travelers Gallery**
* **Palestine and the Holy land**
* **Multi faiths**
* **Highlight from the Islamic world**
* **Old Books and Prints Gallery (Before the 19th Century)**
* **Historical Manuscripts Gallery**
* **Swords and Daggers Gallery**
* **Old and Traditional Guns**

In addition to Local historical documents as well as historical and traditional Jewelries.

**COLLECTIONS**

The collections, consists of the following:

1. **GLASS COLLECTION**

You find beautiful glass items that reflect the arts of different civilizations.

1. **CERAMIC COLLECTION**

This includes innovations in craft techniques and art forms that range over a period spanning up to 3,000 BC years.

The collections include a Hercules vase, which dates from the period just before Alexander the Great’s rise to power.

1. **STONES**

You will find statues, sculptures, ancient Roman armors and messages carved on stones.

1. **COINS**

There is a rich collection of historical coins. Here, one can read the history through coins that have been in circulation for thousands of years. These coins represent different civilizations; Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic.

1. **SITARAH (CURTAIN) OF THE DOOR OF THE KAABA**

A 1543 AD Sitarah of the door of the Kaaba sent to Mecca by Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, the great patron of art and culture.

Enjoy beauties of different civilizations by visiting the above hosted galleries in the Crossroad of Civilization Museums (CCMs).

4

**Manuscript, Old Book and Print Museum**

This museum contains a group of valuable old books, prints, autographs and rare manuscripts which document the most important events in the world.

Beside Quranic Manuscripts, the Museum hosts manuscripts and old prints from different dynasties. It also hosts manuscripts and old prints in early fields of science from Asia, Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

**Collections and highlights of the museum:**

**MUSEUM OF MANUSCRIPTS, OLD BOOKS AND PRINTS**

1. The Hamburg Quran published in Germany (1694) claimed to be the first printed Quran in Arabic.
2. First editions of Carsten Niebuhr ’s books in various languages, (18th century), that are considered one of the main Western references about the Arab Gulf and the surrounding countries. In addition, the CCM hosts his maps, his handwritten letter and a manuscript about his biography written by his son.
3. The first edition of the book (Voyage to the Oriental Indies, 1590 AD) by the Venetian jeweler and merchant Gasparo Balbi. This was the earliest Western printed book mentioning Dubai, Ajman, Ras Al Khaimah, Umm al-Quwain and islands in Abu Dhabi, in their local dialect.
4. 4. Original photograph of Abd al-Qadir, the Algerian freedom fighter (1807-1883), a picture of him with the brother of Napoleon Bonaparte in the opera house, and diplomatic letters written by him that contain Arabic proverbs.
5. Domingo Badia y Leblich (1807) or Ali Bey (a pseudonym in order to enter places forbidden to non-Muslims), the Spanish explorer and spy of the early 19th century. The first edition of Ali Bey’s Atlas of his travels through Arabia. This version of his account belonged to the King of France.
6. Boha-Eddin (Yusuf ibn Rafi’ Ibn Shaddad al-Mausili) / Albert Schultens. Sirat al-Sultan al-Malek al-Nasr Salah al-Din 1st edition.
7. 4th century Hebrew manuscript from the Torah, which is the oldest manuscript in the museum.
8. Italian Cryptology “29 encrypted diplomatic letters from the years 1710 - 1745 AD.”
9. Hodek, Eduard (1874) Bibliography unrecorded series of vintage photographs of European birds of prey conceived by the Viennese zoologist and taxidermist Eduard Hodek.
10. The principal work of the theologian Hottinger presenting the entire body of knowledge about Islamic history and religion available at the time. Hottinger, Johann Heinrich (1659).
11. Manuscripts in medicine and pharmacology that contain colorful illustrations. For example, Ibn Jazla’s manuscript (Taqwim al-Abdan fi Tadbir al-Insan) dating back to the fifteenth century.
12. A manuscript In physics dating back to 1592 AD
13. Manuscripts on the life of the Prophet Mohammad (Pbuh) 1290 AD.
14. Chapters from the Qur’an by a calligrapher from Brunei 1712 AD.
15. A rare facsimile of the first book printed in the world by Johannes Gutenberg in 1454 AD.
16. The first English translation of the Natural History of the World by Gaius Plinius Secundus known as Pliny the Elder, 1601 AD.
17. Local manuscripts, documents and poems from the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, considered as important references for the social, economic and cultural life, especially of different parts in the UAE and the Arabian Gulf countries.
18. The World of Islamic Civilization (1884 AD) by Gustave Le Bon, the father of social psychology.

5

**Manuscripts Exhibition**

Enjoy the beauty of Arabic, Portuguese, Latin, French, etc. calligraphy and inscriptions belonging to authors and calligraphers from different eras, ranging from the East to the West.

**The Documents Center**

This is a special section for researchers, students and academicians. It includes the most important historical scientific, political and military documents, manuscripts, books and rare reports about the region, to mention a few:

* Historical records and maps from different colonial powers in the region including Turkish, Portuguese, Dutch and British.
* WWI diaries and Journals of intelligence officers.
* Official political and legal archives and records from mid 19th century.
* Secret Political officers correspondence and reports.
* WWI and WWII media and intelligence records about rising nations and tribes.
* Last but not least, extensive literature on the evolution from tribalism to modern states.

**The Geography Gallery**

It includes old prints, maps and manuscripts, for example, the original comprehensive edition of the “Description de l’Égypte” (Description of Egypt) which is considered to be best detailed masterpiece about Egypt.

It was published in 22 volumes by the order of Napoleon Bonaparte and kept in a specially-made contemporary cabinet.

It also includes geographical manuscripts of Ibn alBakawi, Omar Al Wardi and others.

6

**Museum of Historical Weapons**

This museum also reflects other ways of cultural communication and documents the time of colonial expansions, instability, wars and the rise and demise of foreign powers in the region. It also displays ceremonial weapons and equestrian sports. Some of the exhibits are as follows:

**THE SWORDS AND DAGGERS GALLERY**

Beside swords and daggers made in the UAE, this gallery includes swords and daggers that are brought from Africa, Europe, the Arabian Peninsula, the Indian subcontinent and Asia. Some of the blades are made of gold, jeweled with precious stones and with handles of different designs.

The gallery also contains helmets and shields of historical value.

**Exhibition of Guns and Saddles**

Different designs reflect the tastes of peoples and individuals at different times.

Examples include:

* French and British rifles from the eighteenth century and earlier.
* Different bayonets from WWI and II, and before.
* Ottoman pistols and guns of the eighteenth century.
* Ancient rifles from Eastern Europe and Central Asia.
* The exhibition also hosts saddles, spears and arrows of historical value.

**CROSSROAD OF CIVILIZATIONS MUSEUM (CCM)**

* In 2015, the CCM was awarded as the best private museum in the UAE and one of the GCC top private museums.
* The Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), awarded the Crossroad of Civilizations Museum a certificate of appreciation “for its role in highlighting and conserving the Gulf heritage as well as connecting future generations to their heritage”.
* Many other recognitions for its participations in the UAE and the region.

**LOCATION**

Overlooking the Arabian Gulf, the three Crossroad of Civilizations Museums are located inside the house of the late Sheikh Hasher bin Maktoum Al Maktoum (1931) and nearby two historical houses (please refer to the map in the last page), these three houses reflect a 19th century architectural masterpieces in the historical Shindagha district, Dubai, UAE.