# What to Check Before Booking a Desert Safari in Dubai: Morning and Evening Dune Buggy & ATV Quad Biking Tours

Dubai's desert offers a thrilling playground for adventure seekers, and a desert safari is often the highlight of any visit. Whether you are a first-time visitor or a returning traveler, the choice between a morning and an evening tour, and the type of vehicle you ride, can shape your entire experience. Before you confirm a booking, it pays to know what to look for, what questions to ask, and how to match the tour to your expectations. This guide walks through the key points to check so you can enjoy your time in the dunes without surprises.

## Understand the Two Main Safari Timings

Desert safaris in Dubai generally fall into two categories: morning and evening. Each has a distinct character, and the right choice depends on what you want from the trip. A morning safari typically starts early, around sunrise, and lasts a few hours. The desert is cooler at that time, and the light is soft and golden, which makes for excellent photography. Activities are usually focused on the ride itself, with fewer add-ons like dinner or cultural shows.

An evening safari, by contrast, begins in the late afternoon and extends into the night. You get the sunset over the dunes, followed by a barbecue dinner and entertainment such as belly dancing or a tanoura show. These tours are longer and more social, but they also mean you will be out in the desert during the warmer part of the day. If you are sensitive to heat, a morning tour might be more comfortable. If you want the full desert experience with dinner and performances, an evening safari is the one to pick.

## Vehicle Choice: Dune Buggy vs. ATV Quad Bike

Most desert safari operators offer a choice between a dune buggy and an ATV quad bike. The two vehicles handle differently, and your preference should guide your decision. A dune buggy has a seatbelt, a roll cage, and often a steering wheel. It feels more like a small car and offers protection from the elements. It is a good option if you are nervous about riding an open vehicle or if you want to share the experience with a passenger, as some buggies have two seats.

View the location on Google Maps

An ATV quad bike is more exposed. You straddle it like a motorcycle and steer with handlebars. It is lighter and more agile on the sand, and many riders enjoy the direct feel of controlling the machine with their body weight. However, it requires a bit more balance and confidence. If you

have never ridden an ATV before, ask the operator whether they provide a brief training session before you head out. Some tours also allow you to switch between both vehicles during the same trip, but that is less common.



## Check the Tour Inclusions and Exclusions

Not all desert safari packages are the same. One operator might include hotel pickup and drop-off, while another expects you to reach a meeting point. Some tours provide helmets and goggles, others charge extra for them. Before you book, read the inclusions list carefully. Look for items such as:

- Pickup and drop-off within Dubai city limits
- Safety gear (helmet, goggles, gloves)
- Refreshments or meals (especially for evening tours)
- Photography or videography services
- Additional activities like sandboarding or camel rides

If something is not listed, ask the operator directly. A common surprise is that the "dune bashing" portion in a larger vehicle, such as a 4x4, is sometimes separate from the buggy or ATV ride. Some tours include both, others only one. Clarifying this upfront prevents disappointment on the day.

## Safety Briefings and Equipment Condition

Driving a motorised vehicle over sand dunes carries inherent risks. Reputable operators give a safety briefing before the ride. They explain how to handle the vehicle on loose sand, how to avoid tipping, and what to do if you get stuck. If the operator does not offer a briefing, consider that a red flag. Also inspect the equipment. The vehicle should have functioning brakes, a working horn, and proper tires for sand use. Do not hesitate to ask when the vehicle was last serviced. A well-maintained machine is less likely to break down mid-desert.

## Group Size and Solo vs. Shared Tours

Some tours are private, meaning only your group rides together. Others are shared, where you join a group of strangers. Shared tours are cheaper but come with less flexibility. You have to follow the group's pace, wait for slower riders, and stick to a fixed itinerary. Private tours cost more but let you set your own speed, stop for photos whenever you like, and avoid waiting around. If you are booking for a special occasion or are a confident rider, a private tour often gives a better experience.

## Duration and Distance Covered

How long you actually spend riding matters. Some tours advertise a 4-hour safari, but that includes transfer time, waiting, and breaks. The actual driving time might be only 45 minutes to an hour. Ask the operator for a rough breakdown: how long is the drive to the dunes, how long is the ride itself, and how long is spent on other activities. If you are a keen rider, look for tours that offer longer ride times, sometimes called "extended" or "premium" packages, which can give you up to two hours on the dunes.



## What to Wear and Bring

The desert environment is dusty and bright. Loose, long-sleeved clothing protects your skin from the sun and from sand spray. Closed-toe shoes are essential, as the sand can get hot. Sunglasses and a scarf or bandana to cover your mouth and nose are also useful. If you are doing an evening tour, bring a light jacket because the temperature drops quickly after sunset. Most operators provide helmets and goggles, but if you wear prescription glasses, check whether the goggles fit over them. Some riders prefer to bring their own goggles for comfort.

## Health and Fitness Considerations

Riding a dune buggy or ATV requires some physical effort. You need to brace yourself during bumps and turns, and your arms and shoulders get a workout from steering. If you have a back or neck condition, the jolting might be uncomfortable. Pregnant women and people with recent injuries are usually advised against these rides. Children are often allowed as passengers in buggies, but age and height restrictions vary. Check the operator's policy before booking, especially if you plan to bring young children.

## Weather and Season

Dubai's summer months, from June to September, are extremely hot. Even a morning safari can be uncomfortable when temperatures exceed 40°C. If you visit during this period, an early morning tour is the better choice. Evening tours in summer can still be hot until the sun fully sets, and the sand retains heat well into the night. The best season for desert safaris is from

October to April, when temperatures are milder. Regardless of the season, always check the weather forecast. Strong winds can reduce visibility and make the ride less enjoyable. Some operators cancel tours in unsafe conditions, so ask about their cancellation and refund policy.

## Environmental and Cultural Respect

The Dubai desert is a fragile ecosystem. Off-road driving can damage the desert crust and disturb wildlife. Choose an operator that follows designated tracks and does not allow reckless driving. Also be mindful of local customs. Evening tours often include cultural performances, and modest dress is appreciated during any interaction with local entertainers. It is also worth noting that alcohol is not always included in evening tours, and some operators do not serve it at all. If that matters to you, check in advance.



One local option that covers both morning and evening tours with dune buggy and ATV options is Desert Safari Dubai - Morning & Evening Dune Buggy ATV Quad Biking Tours. As with any operator, it is worth confirming the exact inclusions, vehicle availability, and safety procedures before you book.

Desert Safari Dubai - Morning & Evening Dune Buggy ATV Quad Biking Tours is located at Al Fahad Tower 1 - Office 315 Hessa St - near media Rotana - Al Thanyah First - Al Barsha - Dubai - United Arab Emirates.

Desert Safari Dubai - Morning & Evening Dune Buggy ATV Quad Biking Tours is also on Pinterest.