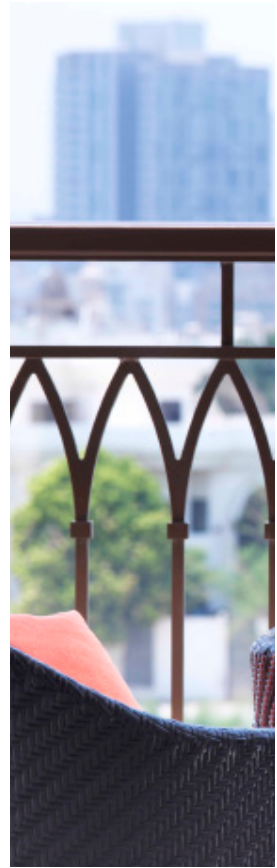




A TRANQUIL RETREAT:  
EASTERN MANGROVES  
HOTEL & SPA BY  
ANANTARA



ENTER THE MAJESTIC EASTERN MANGROVES HOTEL & SPA BY ANANTARA, ABU DHABI, AND YOU'LL FIND AN EXOTIC SCENE MADE UP OF THE BEAUTIFUL MANGROVES SET AGAINST THE TOWERING BACKDROP OF THE CITY SKYLINE. TRADITION AND CULTURE IS AT THE FOREFRONT HERE, WHERE A ROMANTIC WEEKEND AWAY MEANS IMPRESSIVE SURROUNDINGS AND EXCELLENT SERVICE. FACT CHECKED IN TO SEE WHY THIS 5-STAR HOTEL IS THE IDEAL SPOT FOR A GCC GETAWAY THIS VALENTINE'S DAY...



It's often difficult to find a calm and quiet waterfront resort that also happens to be in an urban location, but this is exactly what the *Eastern Mangroves Hotel & Spa by Anantara* does. It brings together the contemporary touches from metropolitan Emirati life with the natural charm of the mangroves and marina – we can confidently say that there's no other hotel setting like it in the entire Gulf region. From its light and airy halls and corridors highlighted with mesmerising Arabian design like arched ceilings and neutral tones, you could easily forget that just a few minutes outside the hotel there's a lively capital city.

Lavish local touches are all around. From the immaculately-dressed and helpful staff to the architecture, the gorgeous Anantara Spa and elegant rooms and suites, never have the terms *Thai hospitality* or *Middle Eastern welcome* been more fitting than they are for this breathtaking property. With so much to explore we make our way to the stunning **Deluxe Mangroves Balcony Room** after a quick and hassle-free check in. Let's get this weekend started...

### KEEP IT DELUXE

Firstly, it's important to point out that no matter which of the 222 rooms and suites you choose from, when you step in through the door to the place you're calling home for the weekend – you're going to be left amazed. We'd highly recommend the *Deluxe Mangroves Balcony Room* for couples visiting for a romantic break. It's a big and beautifully-appointed space (57sqms to be precise) with everything you could ask for in a home away from your own. Take a seat with your special someone on your very own private balcony and marvel the lush mangrove vistas, or admire the views from inside your lovely room, which boasts floor-to-ceiling windows.





Thoughtful Anantara amenities make this accommodation super exclusive and comfortable. A plush king-size bed will assure that you have a good night's sleep whilst the luxury bathroom with rain shower and large tub will allow for some much-needed R+R. Earthy hues with turquoise elements create a relaxed vibe alongside the finest fabric, inspiring artwork and ambient lighting. There's a well-stocked mini bar, a Nespresso machine, an entertainment system that includes numerous channels and viewing pleasure, plus all the mod-cons and extras that make hotel stays so memorable. There's a good chance that all you'll want to do is stay in your room all weekend (and we wouldn't blame you for it!).

### EXQUISITE EATS

Talking of highlights, another guaranteed win will see your taste buds and tummies doing the happy dance for the food at the exquisite Thai restaurant, *Pachaylen*. If you love Thai cuisine, this place will only further that passion, and if you're new to the flavours, get ready to become a fan. The *Tom Yum Kung* is a must; spicy prawns with the traditional Thai ingredients to give a fiery start to your meal – delicious. The *stir-fried Nebraska prime beef tenderloin* with the *vegetable fried rice* is a huge YES for meat lovers who like tender beef cooked with exotic ingredients.





For dessert, it has to be the palate-pleasing *Chiang Rai coconut sticky rice pudding and Thai sweet mango* – you’ve never tasted anything like it, and it’s surely going to be a sweet end to an authentic and elegant meal. If it’s just a snack-style and more lounge-inspired experience you want, the hotel’s sophisticated rooftop venue *Impressions* is a fabulous place to grab a drink and sample a selection of yummy cheese!

## SPA LIKE ROYALTY

You haven’t spa-d until you’ve been to the *Anantara Spa*; get prepared to be blown away. There are 15 luxurious treatment rooms (three are stunning couple’s suites), two Vichy shower rooms, six salon styling units and a mani-pedi room, as well as a *Traditional Turkish Hammam* and sauna and steam rooms. On top of this, *Anantara Spa* uses specialist spa products including the award winning British skincare brand Elemis, Arabian inspired Shiffa products, the signature *Anantara Spa* product range made from highly prized natural ingredients and the leading advance skin care line QMS Medicosmetics. The key here is to go all out! We opted for the *Clinical Skincare Facial* and the 100-minute *Anantara Signature Hammam* experience. The first was a much-needed refreshing boost for our face – treating our pores and getting rid of uneven skin tone – we saw and felt a visibly brighter and tighter complexion, respectively, which lasted for days afterwards. For the ultimate in side-by-side indulgence, the hammam experience will leave you in awe. This six-step ritual combines



traditional Turkish elements and incorporates an array of organic, detoxifying body treatments to leave you feeling cleansed and nourished. Our favourite part was the Kесе mitt exfoliation which tackled dead skin cells and the coffee body polish which will leave your skin feeling baby-soft and glowing, too. You can also enhance your signature hammam with a massage incorporating Rose and Sandal infused Argan oil – how blissful does that sound?

The range of treatments, the attentive and professional service and the *Anantara Spa* itself will definitely make for one of the biggest highlights of any couple's visit together.

A magical infinity pool and terrace, a state-of-the-art workout room, business centre and retail shops with keepsakes all add an element of decadence to your stay. Right on the doorstep of the hotel is everything from kayaking, bird watching, donut boats, and many other leisurely activities that can be arranged through the concierge or a on a stroll to the *Eastern Mangroves Promenade*. One thing's for sure; *Eastern Mangroves Hotel & Spa by Anantara* does an incredible job of staying true to its ideals of Thai hospitality whilst celebrating the traditions of Arabian culture – serenity is what you'll find on your romance-filled escape. It's time for a treat! ❖

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