departures

WORTH A TRIP

The Height of LUXURY

nce referred to as the Middle East's playground,

Dubai has moved from mirage to "must see" on
tourism's hot list. Located on the northeast
coast of the United Arab Emirates, the city lies north of
Abu Dhabi and adjacent to the Persian Gulf.

Dubai leaves even the seasoned traveler awestruck, particularly those staying in the Burj Al Arab, an extravagant all-suite hotel that occupies its own little island and commands the world's only seven-star hotel rating.

It is not just its claim as the world's tallest hotel (at some 1,053 feet) or its emblematic sailboat structure that leaves visitors riveted. According to John Dekker, who visited as part of Carlson Wagonlit Travel owners' International Summit in May, the service is unparalleled. "[Burj Al Arab is] a must to experience at least once in your life," he says. "It offers opulent luxury and service beyond service."

From its signature restaurant serving spectacular Gulf views at 656 feet above sea level, to a chauffeured Rolls-Royce shopping experience, the Burj Al Arab provides the ultimate luxury getaway. —Ginger Taggart

