

#### Dear friends,

As we continue through the first quarter of 2018, laying the foundations for what we hope will be another record-setting twelve months, I am pleased to share with you February's Hotel Establishments' Performance Report which, as you will immediately see, has surpassed our January figures.

This month, we can report a 15.2% increase in the number of hotel guests staying in Abu Dhabi compared with the same period in 2017, more than doubling our increases compared to January, which posted a 7.4% increase. In total, 405,849 hotel guests stayed in the emirates 161 hotels and hotel apartments. This represents an increase of more than 53,432 compared to February 2017.

The latest figures also show that the impressive February arrivals are down in no small part to a marked rise in guests from China, with a significant 83.6% increase. This performance in part reflects the positive impact of our targeted digital campaign in China. This campaign, which began in December 2017, has meant that we have seen a 50-fold increase in the traffic to the Chinese language version of our Visit Abu Dhabi website over the last three months, with *visitabudhabi.cn* receiving more than 2.5 million visits in that timeframe.

Visitor numbers were also in healthy territory for our other key markets, with the UK posting a 31% increase, India 29.1%, Germany 23.1%, and the United States a 16.2% growth.

Visitors from France were also prominent, at +27.2%, likely boosted by sustained interest in Louvre Abu Dhabi.

As we look at the three regions that make up our emirate, we can report that the metrics were in positive territory; Abu Dhabi up by 16.3%, Al Ain Region up by 2.4% and Al Dhafra Region up by an impressive 20.4%.

However, as a continuing note of caution, Occupancy Rates fell in February in both Al Ain (by more than 11%) and Al Dhafra (by 13%), with only Abu Dhabi posting an increase (3.2%). The Average Length of Stay declined in all three regions as well, in Abu Dhabi by 4.4%, by 2.8% in Al Ain, and by 22.4% in Al Dhafra.

As we go into March, and seek to maintain the momentum, we expect local events such as the popular Mother of the Nation Festival, as well as overseas promotional tours to China, India, Oman and Kuwait and further high-profile initiatives in Russia and Germany, to have a further positive impact on figures.

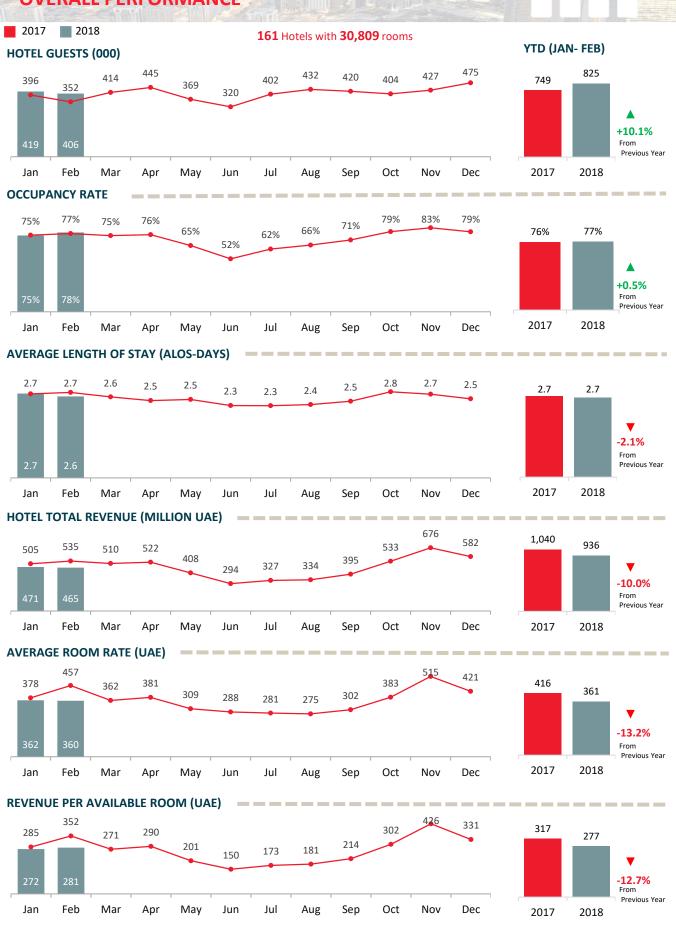
As ever, we look forward to keeping you updated over the coming months. Yours sincerely,

Saif Saeed Ghobash
Director General, Department of Culture & Tourism

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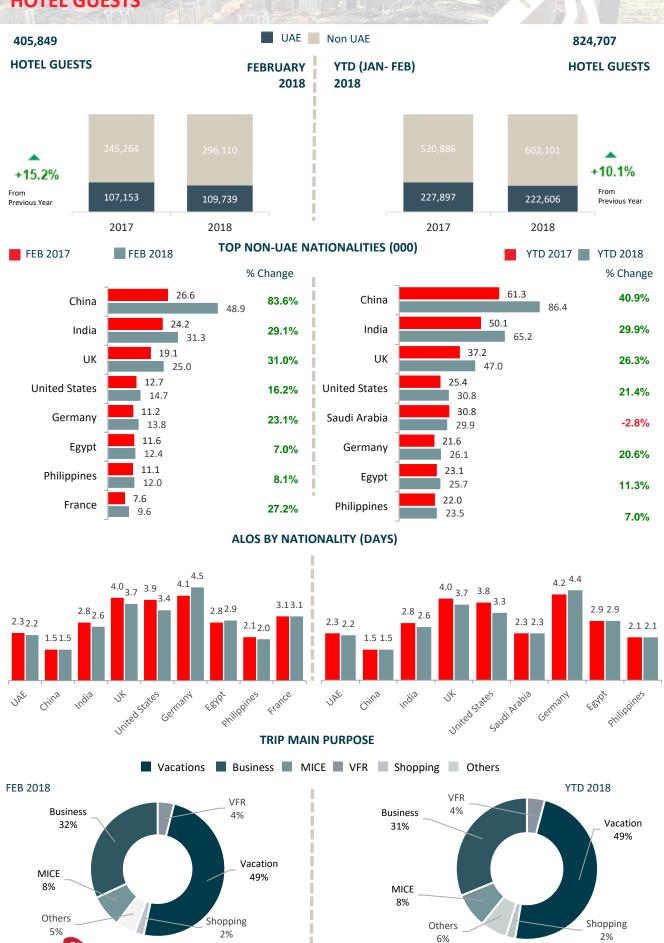


#### **OVERALL PERFORMANCE**

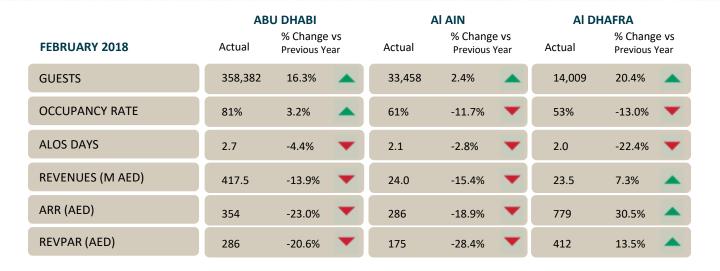


#### **HOTEL GUESTS**

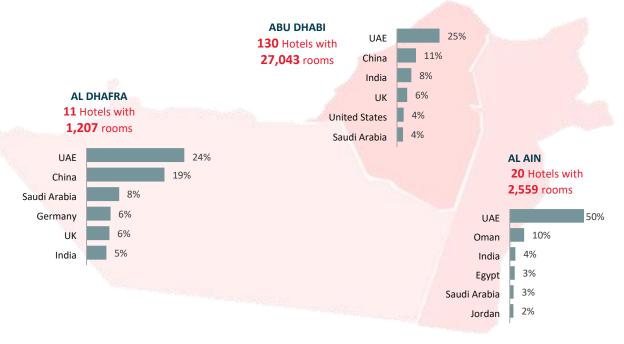
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### **PERFORMANCE BY REGION**



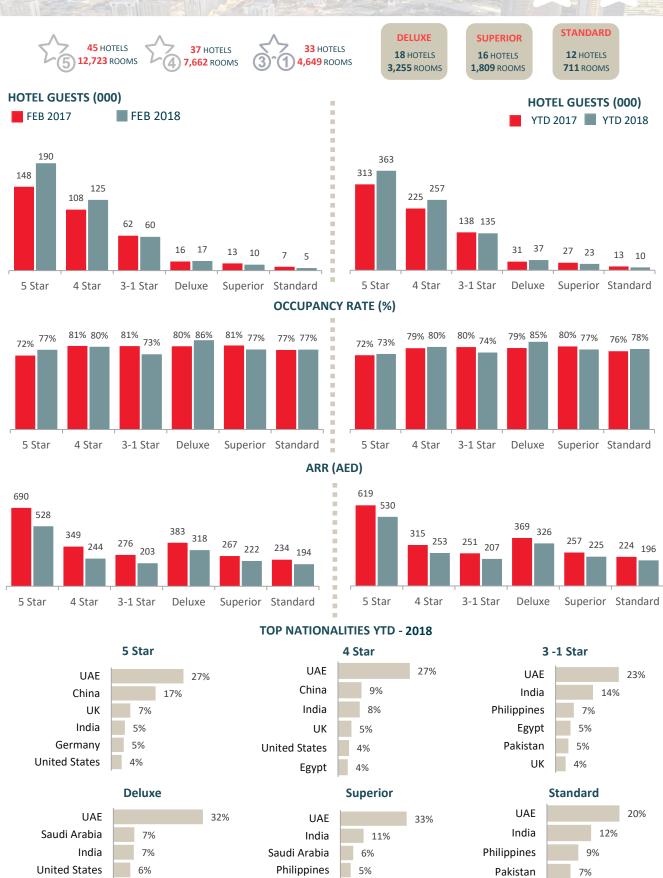
#### **SUPPLY AND TOP NATIONALITIES - YTD 2018**



|                     | ABU DHABI |                             |   | AI AIN |                             | Al     | AI DHAFRA                   |  |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|---|--------|-----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--|
| YTD (JAN- FEB) 2018 | Actual    | % Change vs<br>Previous YTD |   | Actual | % Change vs<br>Previous YTD | Actual | % Change vs<br>Previous YTD |  |
| GUESTS              | 727,925   | 10.4%                       |   | 70,846 | 4.8%                        | 25,936 | 18.9%                       |  |
| OCCUPANCY RATE      | 79%       | 2.6%                        |   | 60%    | -11.4%                      | 47%    | -29.7%                      |  |
| ALOS DAYS           | 2.7       | -1.1%                       | • | 2.0    | -2.8%                       | 2.0    | -32.1%                      |  |
| REVENUES (M AED)    | 844.8     | -10.2%                      | • | 49.6   | -13.9%                      | 42.0   | 1.5%                        |  |
| ARR (AED)           | 356       | -14.6%                      | • | 294    | -16.1%                      | 763    | 50.3%                       |  |
| REVPAR (AED)        | 282       | -12.4%                      | • | 177    | -25.7%                      | 357    | 5.7%                        |  |



### PERFORMANCE BY STAR RATING



Egypt

Oman

5%

4%

UK

Australia

5%

6%

5%

Egypt

Oman

## FEBRUARY 2018 UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **APRIL 2018**













#### **MAY 2018**













For detailed list of events please check <a href="https://abudhabievents.ae/en/Pages/default.aspx">https://abudhabievents.ae/en/Pages/default.aspx</a>



#### **DCT ABU DHABI NEWS**

**Mother of the Nation Festival:** The Mother of the Nation Festival, regarded as one of the UAE's largest cultural events of its kind, is to return to the capital between  $22^{nd}$  -  $31^{st}$  March.

The third edition of the festival will once again be held on Abu Dhabi Corniche and will be open daily from 4pm until midnight. Last year's edition attracted more than 197,000 visitors over its 10 day-run.

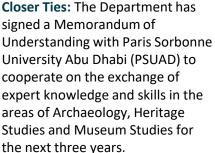
The Festival is dedicated to H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, and Chairwoman of the Supreme Council of Motherhood and Childhood, and is a tribute to her inspirational values while celebrating her vision and tireless contributions to society.





**Culture App:** DCT Abu Dhabi has successfully launched a new digital initiative which acts as a 'one-stop' reference point for all information relating to culture in the Emirate.

The initiative, launched as part of UAE Innovation Month, is called 'Abu Dhabi Culture' and allows users to gain instant access to information on all aspects of cultural life and heritage in the Emirate. 'Abu Dhabi Culture' features a website, a mobile app and supporting social media presence, which will educate culture-seeking locals, expats and tourists and becoming a reference point for researchers.



The agreement means the two entities will work together on several fronts with the ultimate aim being to boost the tourism and cultural sectors in Abu Dhabi as well as promoting Emiratisation.

The MoU will see DCT Abu Dhabi and PSUAD co-ordinate the sharing of knowledge and expertise in a variety of areas, and to help identify and nurture any potential young talent in the cultural field. Under the agreement, initiatives will include arranging and funding workshops for PSUAD students on Archaeology, Heritage Studies and Museum Studies as well as Art Management.



**CultureSummit:** The second annual CultureSummit Abu Dhabi will convene an audience of leaders from every corner of the world to discuss the power of culture to drive positive social change, covering topics as wide-ranging as education to saving the climate, to combating extremism.

The Summit's Steering Committee, chaired by HE Noura Al Kaabi, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development for the UAE, announced the forum would take place from April 8th until 12th, at Manarat Al Saadiyat.

The CultureSummit in 2017 convened more than 450 participants from 80 countries to discuss cultural diplomacy as a catalyst for change for the digital age.





# FEBRUARY 2018 GLOSSARY



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Revenue per Available rooms, calculated by dividing the total

revenues by total rooms in hotel minus out-of-service rooms



Revenue per

available room RevPAR