

Street art tours

Dubai is now packed with stylish, graffitied walls. Here are three neighbourhoods with the most impressive collections of street art

KARAMA

Start: Karama Fish Market, 45B Street, Al Karama

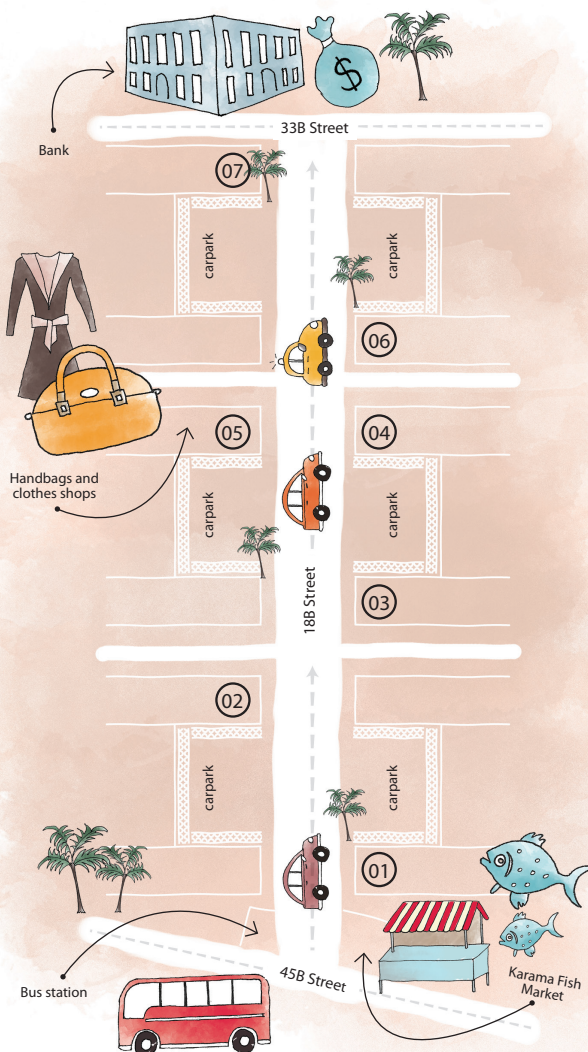
Street art has breathed new life into this neighbourhood with 24 beautiful murals created by a handful of Malaysian artists.

01 Water tanks

First you'll find the impressive murals by Kuala Lumpur-based artist Pakey. His 3D-style water tanks contain a stern-looking stingray and fearsome shark.

02 Colourful beasts

These beautiful beasts are the work of spray paint professional Acit Raman Abdullah, with help from Pakey on the drowsy lion.



03 Parrots

The animal theme continues with vibrant parrots, created by the two graffiti artists Katun and Yumz

04 On the up

Katun and Pakey must have watched some Pixar movies before creating a sky-borne vintage 4x4. The dune-bashing vehicle is one of several nods to UAE heritage.

05 & 06 UAE pearls

More UAE vibes can be seen in the pearl-diving scene and the falcon next to it.

07 Happiness

The road ends with an explosion of colour courtesy of artist Sored (Syafiq Wazer), who tagged it with 'happiness'.



01



02

CITY WALK

Start: The Brass Coffee & Community, City Walk 2, Al Safa Street, Dubai

In the area that has become the poster child for modern living in Dubai, City Walk is the torch bearer for street art in Dubai. The pedestrianised district is now brimming with artwork – and there’s even more in the pipeline. Here are just some of the highlights.



01 Eine
Head for the area resembling a quiet London street. Walk towards the plaza and, up on your right, you’ll spot a bright yellow mural: a tribute to the late David Bowie, by British artist Ben Eine.

02 Eelus
Closer to the fountain you’ll see another UK artist’s work. This mural shows his trademark monotone boy sheltering from a downpour of colour with a leaf rather than his usual umbrella.

03 Blek Le Rat
At the plaza take a left to find The Violinist, by the Frenchman and Godfather Of Street Art, Blek Le Rat. He’s said to be the first artist to use the stencil graffiti style, long before Banksy.

04 Ron English
Walk towards the Burj Khalifa and you’ll find a long wall that’ll change how you view your favourite children’s characters. You have Ron English’s ‘POPaganda’ style to thank for that.

05 The London Police
Around the corner is another long mural, this time by The London Police, (aka UK duo Chaz Barrisson and Bob Gibson), who’ve been creating bright and busy scenes since 1998.

06 Beau Stanto
Artist Beau Stanton has given us three-times the art in this Greek mythology-inspired art. Approach it from different angles to discover all the different images this clever piece holds.

07 Vhils
We don’t know what’s more impressive about this piece from the Portuguese artist Vhils – the portrait itself or the fact that he was allowed to chisel away into a brand new wall.

THREE MORE TO SEE...



Where: Al Bastakiya, Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood, Bur Dubai

Ruben Sanchez left his mark in one of Dubai’s oldest districts with this colourful Bedouin image. The Spanish artist used a mix of geometric patterns and freehand. q.iamrubensanchez.com



Where: Lake level, Cluster V, JLT, Dubai

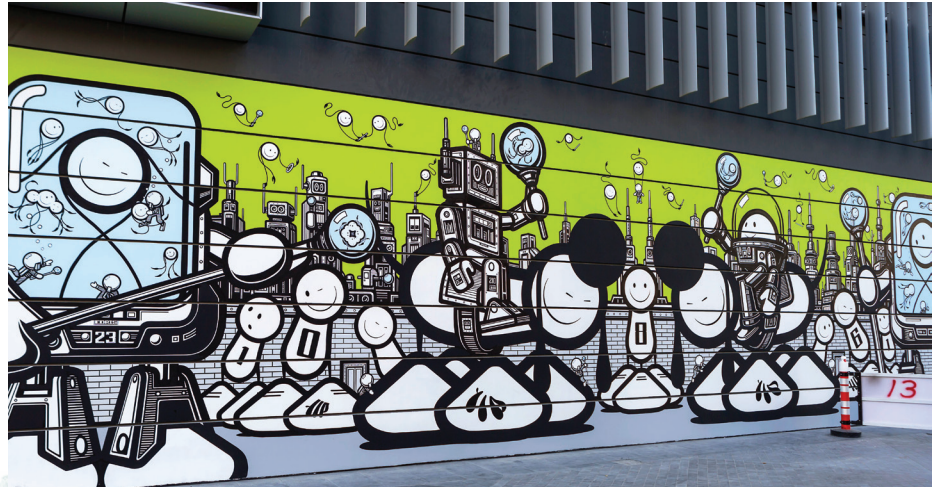
The mighty JLT mural has appeared in many an Instagram snap since Sanchez painted it in 2015. Apparently it was commissioned by a local resident who wished for a better view from work. q.iamrubensanchez.com



Where: Al Ghurair Centre, Al Rigga Street, Deira, Dubai

About a year before painting his JBR piece, the Brazilian artist Eduardo Kobra produced this vibrant portrait, called O Beduino or The Bedouin. q.eduardokobra.com

04



05

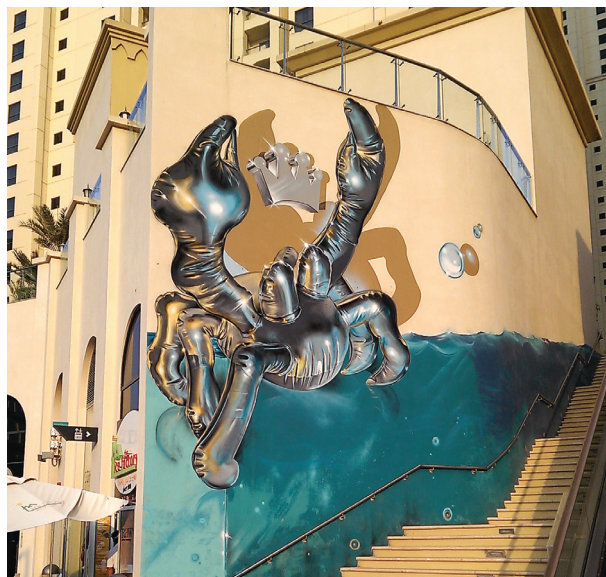


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THE WALK JBR

Start: Café Bateel,
in front of Sadaf,
JBR, Dubai

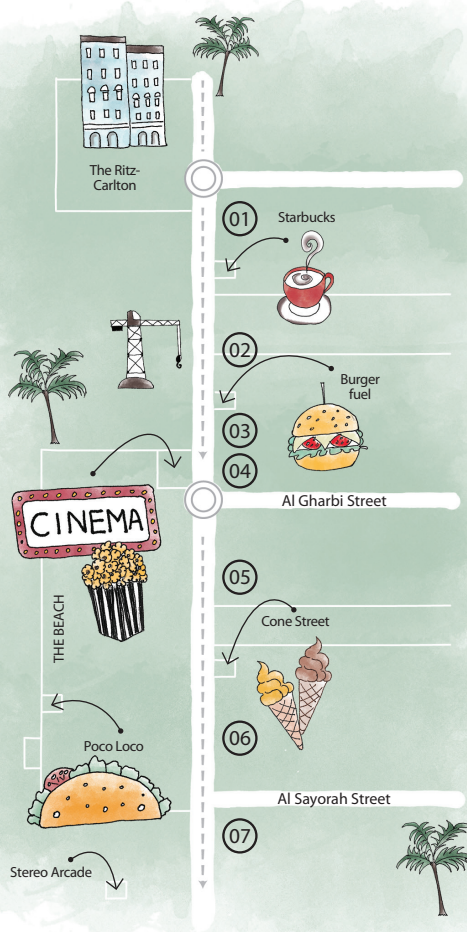
Strolling down JBR, it's easy to miss the clever pieces of 3D street art along the way. They're a result of The Dubai Canvas Festival, which saw international artists bring their skills the beachside in.

01 Giraffe

Keep your eyes left and you'll find a family of inquisitive giraffes. It's one of the best 3D-effect pieces on the walk and the curious animals are the work of the art collective Planet Streetpainting XL.

02 Falcon

Inspired by Dubai's Bedouin heritage, this wall has a high-flying falcon that looks as if it's preparing to land – maybe it's peckish for some Tim Hortons?



03 Dolls

A little further along and you'll find the work of Dutch artist Leon Keer, who's created two rag dolls on either side of the stairs. While one's in traditional Dutch dress, the other is in more Arabic clothes.

04 Balloon crabs

Similar to the style of graffiti now in Karama, London street artist Fanakapan has left his mark on the centre of JBR with a painting of a crab balloon.

05 Jazzy horses

This horse scene is opposite The Beach on the stairs leading to JBR's residential towers. It's by Brazilian artist Eduardo Kobra.

06 Water tanks

Move onto the next stairwell below Amwaj and you'll discover that it's been turned into a leaking aquarium.

07 Rubbish bins

Keep an eye out for this subtle artwork outside JA Ocean View which look like a growing pile of rubbish bags.