



A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City

Jo Tatchell

[Download now](#)

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City

Jo Tatchell

A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City Jo Tatchell

Jo Tatchell first arrived in the city of Abu Dhabi as a child in 1974, when the discovery of oil was quickly turning a small fishing town into a growing international community. More than thirty years later, change has reached breakneck pace: Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, is becoming a dizzying metropolis of ten-lane highways and overlapping languages, and its riches and emphasis on cultural development have thrust it into the international spotlight. In *A Diamond in the Desert*, Tatchell returns to Abu Dhabi and goes on the hunt for the story behind the headlines—retracing old steps, planting new ones, and searching for clues to mysteries that have never left her. She finds more than she bargained for—a glimpse into a city that, before it meets a patiently waiting world, must first better get to know itself.

Abu Dhabi has a story to hide, and life there carries countless contradictions. The city is a tolerant melting-pot of cultures and faiths, but less than 7,000 of its 800,000 native residents are deemed eligible to vote by the ruling class and the nation's president holds absolute veto power over his advisory boards and councils. The Emirates boast one of the world's highest GDP per capita, but the poor distribution of wealth in its cities is staggering. Abu Dhabi's royal family, worth an estimated \$500 billion, lives off the sweat of the city's migrant workers, who subject themselves to danger and poverty under barely-observed labor laws. But now, the city is making an international splash with a showy investment in tourism, arts and culture, perhaps signaling a change to a more open, tolerant state. A new film studio is sprouting up in Abu Dhabi, and the year 2013 will bring a new branch of the Louvre and a Guggenheim museum designed by Frank Gehry.

But can Abu Dhabi truly commit to a new era of liberty after so many years of control? As this sparkling city surges into the future, it devotes just as much energy to concealing its past. Tatchell's exploration of Abu Dhabi's history takes her to the edge of the Empty Quarter and on a wild goose chase around the city she once thought she knew, and her often-fruitless visits to newspaper archives in search of coverage of an old story reveal the city's desperation to hush up bad news. She seeks out friends old and new, local and expat, and discovers that word of mouth delivers more of the picture than do scattered news clippings. Along the way, she probes unknown aspects of Abu Dhabi history and culture—its ancient system of tribal organization, the condition of the city's million foreign workers, the emergence of women in Emirati society—that might somehow explain the complexity and contradiction of life there.

But Tatchell's journey is nothing if not personal. Every turn she makes in the present conjures experiences from her past: the news that the offshore Saadiyat Island will house the city's new museums evokes childhood camping trips there, while a reunion with a friend reminds her of their younger days partying in nightclubs and apartments dripping with riches. Memories of a young girl's disappearance and a local's gruesome death haunt her, but both mysteries have gone unsolved. Where Abu Dhabi wants to hide its scars, Tatchell can't help but uncover them.

Tatchell takes us on a tour of the city with an outlook that's part native, part critic, part wide-eyed traveler. The result is a truly original collage of perspectives and images, from a regal expatriate whose husband was one of the first Brits to settle in Abu Dhabi to young Emirati artists celebrating their newfound freedom of expression. A compelling piece of history told with an intimate narrative voice, *A Diamond in the Desert* is an eye-opening and often haunting perspective on just how much this fascinating city has changed—and, for

...

 [Download A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Ab ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City Jo Tatchell

From reader reviews:

Paul Hill:

Do you among people who can't read enjoyable if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys this aren't like that. This A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City book is readable simply by you who hate those straight word style. You will find the information here are arrange for enjoyable looking at experience without leaving also decrease the knowledge that want to deliver to you. The writer involving A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City content conveys thinking easily to understand by many people. The printed and e-book are not different in the articles but it just different in the form of it. So , do you still thinking A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

Christopher Sanchez:

Often the book A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City has a lot associated with on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was written by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research just before write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after looking over this book.

Marilyn Calhoun:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book specially book entitled A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a publication then become one web form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get ahead of. The A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City giving you an additional experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful data for your better life on this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Gary Askew:

Reading a book to be new life style in this season; every people loves to learn a book. When you go through a book you can get a wide range of benefit. When you read textbooks, you can improve your knowledge, simply because book has a lot of information in it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your research, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, this kind of us novel, comics, along with soon. The A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City offer you a new experience in examining a book.

**Download and Read Online A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the
Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City Jo Tatchell
#8JBI362KPQ1**

Read A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City by Jo Tatchell for online ebook

A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City by Jo Tatchell Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City by Jo Tatchell books to read online.

Online A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City by Jo Tatchell ebook PDF download

A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City by Jo Tatchell Doc

A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City by Jo Tatchell Mobipocket

A Diamond in the Desert: Behind the Scenes in Abu Dhabi, the World's Richest City by Jo Tatchell EPub