What to check before you book a Khorfakkan day trip

Khorfakkan, on the east coast of the UAE, is a place where mountains meet the sea. Its natural harbour, sandy beach, and green surroundings make it a popular choice for a day away from the city. But not every trip goes smoothly. A little planning beforehand can mean the difference between a relaxed outing and one spent sorting out small problems. Here is what to check before you confirm your plans.

Transport and route

The drive from Dubai or Sharjah to Khorfakkan takes roughly ninety minutes to two hours, depending on traffic. The main road is the Sharjah-Khorfakkan road (S113), which winds through the Hajar Mountains. It is a scenic route, but the bends can catch you off guard if you are not used to mountain driving. Check that your vehicle is in good condition, tyres, brakes, and cooling system especially, because the climb puts extra strain on the engine. If you are taking a rental car, confirm that the contract allows travel outside the emirate.

For those who prefer not to drive, there are group tours and private transfers. If you book a tour, ask about pickup and drop-off locations. Some operators offer door-to-door service; others expect you to meet at a central point. Confirm the exact timing and what happens if your return is delayed. A tour that includes a guide can also explain the history of places like Al Bidiya Mosque, which is one of the oldest in the area, and the surrounding area.



Weather and season

Khorfakkan has a subtropical climate. The best months for a day trip are November to March, when temperatures are comfortable enough for walking and sitting on the beach. Between June and September the heat can be intense, and humidity is high. Even in the cooler months, check the forecast a day before you go. A sudden storm can make the mountain roads slippery and spoil outdoor plans. If you are going in winter, pack a light jacket or fleece, the temperature drops quickly after sunset, and the breeze off the sea can feel chilly.

What to bring

This part of the trip is easy to overlook. A few items make the day much better:

- **Sunscreen and a hat.** Even in winter the sun is strong, especially near the water. A wide-brimmed hat and a high-SPF sunscreen will protect you.
- **Comfortable walking shoes.** You will likely walk along the Corniche, around the port, or up to Shees Park. Sandals are fine on the beach but not great for the paved paths near the dam.
- **Swimwear and a towel.** Khorfakkan Beach is clean and has calm water. A quick dip is a highlight of the day.

- **Snacks and plenty of water.** There are cafés and small restaurants near the Corniche, but options are limited at the dam or near the mountain trails. Carry at least one large bottle of water per person.
- **A camera or phone with a good lens.** The view of the dam and the surrounding mountains is spectacular. You will want to capture it.

Check the opening hours of the places you want to visit

Khorfakkan has several attractions, and each has its own schedule. Al Rafisah Dam is open all day and is free to enter. The dam is a popular spot for kayaking and taking photographs. Khorfakkan Beach is open year-round, but the best swimming times are during daylight hours. Shees Park is a green space with play areas and picnic tables; it closes at night, so plan your visit for late afternoon if you want to use the facilities. Khorfakkan Fort, a restored historical fort, is open to visitors most days but may close for private events. Al Bidiya Mosque is a working mosque and is open for visitors outside prayer times. If you want to go inside, check the local prayer timetable and plan around it.

Time your journey to avoid crowds

Weekends, especially Fridays and Saturdays, draw families from all over the northern Emirates. The beach and the Corniche get busy, and the queue at the kayaking rental at Al Rafisah Dam can be long. If you can go on a weekday, you will find the place much quieter. If you have to go on a weekend, arrive early, before 9am, to secure a good spot on the beach or a shaded area near the dam. The crowds usually thin out after 4pm, which is also a good time to visit the fort or the mosque.



Check the activities available on the day

Some activities depend on the tide and weather. Kayaking at Al Rafisah Dam is usually available from mid-morning until sunset, but in strong winds the operators may stop for safety. Snorkelling near the port is possible when the sea is calm; ask at the local dive shops for the latest conditions. If you are travelling with children, check if the water park or the play areas at Shees Park are open. It is worth calling ahead or checking the social media pages of the attraction a day before your trip.

Safety and local rules

Khorfakkan is a safe destination, but a few common-sense rules apply. Swim only at the designated beach areas. The currents near the port can be strong, and there are no lifeguards there. Respect local dress codes, swimwear is fine on the beach, but cover up when you walk along the Corniche or enter shops. Public displays of affection are not appropriate in the UAE. Also, be aware that some areas around the dam and the mountain are protected. Do not climb on the rocks or walk on the dry riverbed. A fine can apply for damaging the natural environment.

Plan your meals

You will find a handful of restaurants on the Corniche serving Arabic, Indian, and Filipino food. The fish is fresh and the prices are reasonable. If you want to eat at a specific place, call ahead to check if it is open on the day of your visit. Some restaurants close in the afternoon between lunch and dinner. If you are travelling with a large group, it is a good idea to reserve a table. For a picnic, buy your supplies in one of the supermarkets in town before heading to the dam or Shees Park. There are plenty of shaded spots with views.

Where to get reliable information

A single source that pulls together all the details, timings, conditions, activities, and local tips, can save you a lot of scrolling. The team behind khorfakkandaytour.com have put together a practical guide that covers exactly these points. It is updated regularly, so you can check it before you leave and avoid any surprises. A quick look at **khorfakkandaytour.com** a day before your trip will give you everything you need to know for a smooth and enjoyable day out.



A day in Khorfakkan is one of those trips that feels effortless when it is well planned. Check the weather, the route, the opening hours, and what you need to bring. Decide on your activities and confirm they are running. Once you have done that, all that remains is to enjoy the drive, the views, and the calm of the east coast. The effort you put into the preparation will repay itself many times over when you are sitting by the water with nothing to worry about.