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BITES of the BAY

The food trucks of
San Francisco

ALL THAT JAZZ

Exploring the scene
in *SHANGHAI*

Indo the

blue

Riding waves in the *Mentawai Islands*

[REST YOUR HEAD]

AMONG THE DUNES

Several hours' drive into the legendary sands of the Empty Quarter, Qasr Al Sarab appears as a mirage among vast sand dunes.

BY KATY MORRISON

THE FIRST-TIME visitor to Qasr Al Sarab may not quite believe what they are seeing. That there is a resort of any kind in the middle of the legendary Rub'Al Khali, or Empty Quarter, seems almost miraculous, but this mighty Anantara property is not just any resort.

With over 200 rooms, suites and villas, Qasr Al Sarab is many things to many people: the royal suites offer the highest of high-end holidays, while the main resort is perfect for families.

Whichever room you end up taking, though, there's no ignoring the incredible setting. Nestled within a network of ochreous dunes five or six storeys high, it gives the impression of being a city or palace, surrounded by great, sandy walls. To make the most of this dramatic backdrop, Anantara offers dozens of activities, from archery to fat-biking, from dune-bashing to sand-surfing.

If you prefer something more docile, there's always the award-winning Anantara spa as well as a huge swimming pool and seven different dining choices. For guests staying in the private villas, this includes the option to have your own personal barbeque, cooked by a chef and served by your own butler. ♦

qasralsarab.anantara.com