

# Things to do this month

Get out your diary and pencil in our pick of the best January action!

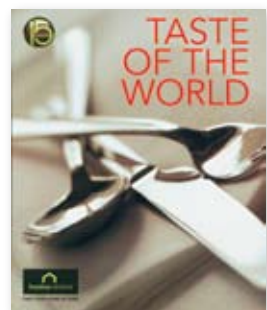


**1 Seal a fashion deal...**  
**AT DUBAI FROCK EXCHANGE**  
**What:** Clothes swapping is all the rage in Europe – and now it has come to Dubai. The Dubai Frock Exchange makes recycling fashionable. All you need to do is bring five items in good condition from your wardrobe, and trade it for five other fashion finds from someone else's.  
**How:** Participation is limited to a maximum of 100 ladies, Dh50 for registration including refreshments. This month's event is at Premier Inn, Dubai Investments Park on January 8, 3-5pm. Visit [www.dubaifrockexchange.net](http://www.dubaifrockexchange.net) to find out more.

**2 Learn a new skill...**  
**AT A PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP**  
**What:** The Anantara Qasr al Sarab resort is hosting a photography weekend from January 20-22. Renowned *National Geographic* photographer Ira Block will be conducting interactive workshops sharing expert techniques, tips and tricks, in the stunning natural setting of the Empty Quarter desert.  
**How:** Prices for Click and Stay packages including the two-day photography course and two-night full-board stay start at Dh6,172. Call 02-8862088.

**3 Enjoy a family day out...**  
**AT THE POLO**  
**What:** Polo season is back, and with that, so is the annual UAE Nations Cup, with international teams from Great Britain, the UAE, Pakistan and Hungary participating. Head down to Desert Palm Dubai to catch the matches – plus a polo-themed art exhibition, *Into the Gold* – from January 10-15, and soak up the chic atmosphere.  
**How:** Daily matches are held at 3.15pm and 4.15pm, entry is free. Call 04-3238888 for more.

**4 Plan a shopping spree...**  
**AND GET A FREE COOK BOOK**  
**What:** Home Centre is celebrating its 15th anniversary, and to help you join in the celebrations they are giving away a special, limited edition cookery book, *Taste of the World*, to shoppers. The easy-to-use book contains 45 recipes from different global cuisines, as well as a variety of handy tips.  
**How:** Spend Dh250 or more at a Home Centre store this month, and get the book free.



**5 Bag a bargain...**  
**AT WWW.COBONE.COM**  
**What:** [www.cobone.com](http://www.cobone.com) is the latest discount shopping website offering lifestyle deals on everything from shopping and sports, to restaurants and spas. Daily deals are offered, with whopping discounts of to 90 per cent. Get your friends to join, in order to make the group deals come through faster.  
**How:** Log on and register at [www.cobone.com](http://www.cobone.com).



**9 Support a good cause...**  
**WITH A NEW YEAR GIFT**  
**What:** The Dhaka Project 2011 Calendar, an initiative of CSPR group and Pink Pepper photography, features inspirational photographs of the Bangladeshi slum children the charity looks after – and all proceeds from sales go directly to the Dhaka Project.  
**How:** Dh75, available at Virgin stores. [www.thedhakaproject.org](http://www.thedhakaproject.org).

**6 Gather your girlfriends...**  
**AND GO SHOPPING**  
**What:** Every Wednesday is Women's Day Out at Oasis Centre, which means women enjoy exclusive discounts at a whole range of stores, free fitness, spa and beauty consultations and more.  
**How:** Women's Day out takes place every Wednesday, call 04-5154000 for more information.



**7 Get the skinny...**  
**ON WEIGHT LOSS**  
**What:** The Weight Loss Show is your one-stop destination for all things related to getting fit and living healthy. The exhibition will showcase the latest weight-loss innovations and fitness equipment, offer free nutrition consultations, plus exercise demos and fitness games.  
**How:** The weekend event is on January 28 and January 29 and is being held at the Hayya! Health Club in Meadows Village, entry is free. Visit [www.weightlossshow.ae](http://www.weightlossshow.ae) for more info.

**8 Upgrade your tech...**  
**WITH MOTOROLA FLIPOUT**  
**What:** The new Motorola Flipout is making chic waves in the Android phone market. Its compact square design ensures it fits into the smallest handbag, and interchangeable colours make it the perfect fashion accessory – hi-tech features are a given!  
**How:** Dh1,399, at leading electronics stores.



**10 Get the blues...**  
**ON THE ROOFTOP**  
**What:** Top international Blues band Going Back to the Crossroads will be performing one night only at Blues in the Park, at Wafi Rooftop Gardens, on February 1. Book early for an evening of brilliant music and outdoor chilling.  
**How:** Dh145 per person, including a Cajun-style food basket to share. Call 04-3244100 for more information.

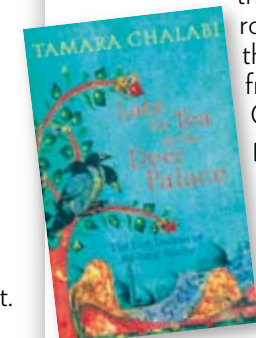
Get your CULTURE FIX



**Visit...** Art Lounge at Grand Hyatt Dubai to check out Canadian artist Daria Blizhenskaya's exhibition of vibrant abstract art, resonating with the influence of Russian cultural icons like Dostoevsky and Tolstoy. The exhibition is on until January 31, call 050-9126271 for more info.

**Watch...** your favourite classics at home, cosy on the couch, without even having to step out to buy them. The website [www.aido.com](http://www.aido.com) offers a wide variety of Hollywood and Bollywood movies, as well as games, entertainment gadgets and books at prices starting from Dh15.

**Read...** *Late for Tea at the Deer Palace* by Tamara Chalabi (Harper Press). An autobiography, historical novel and sociological comment all rolled into one, this book offers a rare insight into the true Iraq – beyond the cliches of a war-weary people, or a romanticised Arabia. *Deer Palace* traces the history of author Chalabi's family, from as far back as the days of the Ottoman empire, through to the modern post-war era. As an Iraqi who first visits her homeland in 2003, she weaves political observations into fascinating stories of a rich, graceful culture to make for a thought-provoking and relevant read. Dh140, available at Books Plus.



**Book tickets for...** The World Orchestra for Peace concert, the inaugural performance of the Abu Dhabi Festival featuring 62 international from 30 countries. January 4, at Emirates Palace, ticket prices start at Dh195. Visit [www.abudhabifestival.ae](http://www.abudhabifestival.ae) for more information.

**Listen to...** *Master Blaster Hole*, the debut album of local punk rock band Sandwash, and do your bit to support local performers. Consisting of 12 original tracks, the album showcases raw talent with some interesting melodies and catchy rhythms! Available at Virgin Megastores. 📻

