



dream dare do



Our Philosophy

At Dunecrest American School, we believe in fostering compassion and kindness to each other, the world and all its inhabitants. Through experiential learning opportunities our students extend their curricular knowledge outside the classroom through educational and service opportunities within the UAE and beyond. These experiences empower students to discover their talents, pursue their passions, and make a positive impact on their communities and the world beyond.

Learning in the Real World

Activity Options

Dunecrest XL provides students with learning opportunities through three distinct programs that will take them beyond the classroom and enhance their curricular knowledge.

CAS Trips

The International Baccalaureate Organization aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. Dunecrest students participate in trips tailored to achieving the IB Diploma goals around CAS (Creativity, Action, & Service). These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Global Action Program

Students will participate in an International Trip that directly enhances the curricular needs of each grade level. Our trips aim to support curricular learning by providing hands-on experiences that help students make connections and apply their knowledge. These trips have service learning components that prepare students with the attitudes and skills to learn from and be of service to others. Students who participate will:

- Build Resilience
- Cultivate Confidence
- Connect with Other Cultures
- Build Community
- Become Active Social-Changemakers



Activity Options

Explore UAE

This signature program connects students with our local environment, exposing them to a range of cultural, environmental, and service opportunities within the U.A.E. Students have the choice of participating in five day overnight camps or staying within Dubai and completing daily field studies.

Educational Adventure Camps

Students will participate in a five day residential camp located at various locations throughout the U.A.E. They engage in curriculum based activities designed to complement topics being learned in the classroom. Additionally, they are involved in adventure based activities designed to build confidence, improve personal skills, and broaden horizons. Example curriculum themes that are included in the camps are: Ecosystems (Mangroves, Desert, and Wadi), U.A.E Culture and Heritage, Bio-Diversity and Adaptations, Mathematical investigations.



Dubai Field Studies

Students who stay within Dubai participate in various field study experiences throughout the week designed to enhance curricular knowledge. The purpose built program is interdisciplinary, touching on multiple curriculum areas and providing students with hands-on activities to apply their knowledge beyond the classroom.



Objectives & Learning

Our program objectives aim to enhance student learning in the areas of Life Skills, Service, Personal Growth, Cultural Understanding and Curriculum Enrichment.

Curriculum Enrichment

Experiential learning activities allow students the opportunity to forge stronger links between the classroom and the wider world. Each itinerary is tied to learning objectives found within our curriculum, however the type of knowledge or skill varies from activity to activity.

Life Skills

Through the Dunecrest XL program, our students will build the skills necessary for personal growth and maturity. By living, communicating and cooperating with a diverse group, students are encouraged to be open-minded, caring and compassionate towards others.

Service

Service learning helps students learn and care about others and to develop skills and attitudes so they can better contribute as global citizens. Dunecrest XL has a component of service imbedded within it to help our students make a positive impact on their communities and the world beyond. Students participate in service project activities such as animal conservation, building eco-bungalows and assisting sustainability projects.

Personal Growth

Each activity strives to reinforce self-esteem and provide opportunities for self-awareness. Students will be responsible for their choices and actions, as well as learn the importance and relevance of taking responsibility. Trip activities are designed to develop camaraderie, develop student social skills, encourage them to take risks and step outside of comfort zones.

Cultural Understanding

Experiential learning promotes an appreciation for cultural understanding, as students participate in activities that allow them to interact with local residents to learn how life in other countries differ from their own experiences. Students may have opportunities to learn traditional dances, songs or cuisines, as well as visit historical sites that help develop an appreciation for cultural diversity and tolerance.



Trip Providers

Providers chosen for Dunecrest XL are reputable organizations with strong histories and experience in guiding student learning experiences.

Camps International operate a permanent network of international volunteer camps in the heart of rural communities and wildlife conservation areas through our wholly owned operations in Latin America, East Africa and South East Asia. Camps are located where poverty levels are high and there are significant environmental and wildlife conservation challenges.

www.campsinternational.ae

Challenging Adventure is an outdoor adventure company. Challenging Adventure ethos is to use the natural surroundings for activities and to incorporate the unique cultural learning, environmental and project work into the day trips and residential camps. With the beautiful centre, set in the heart of the mountains, but still only 15 minutes from RAK, Challenging Adventure offers the students a very different and worthwhile experience.

Challenging adventure offer a number of destinations and trips that provide real "learning outside the classroom", where students can become more culturally and globally aware, gain key life-skills such as independence, problem solving, resilience and learn to empathise with global issues from a first-hand perspective.

www.challengingadventure.com

Ecoventure is a leading provider of outdoor education in the G.C.C region, offering both curriculum-based Field Studies and Adventure Based programs for students of all ages, families, and corporate groups. With qualified and experienced staff across multiple centres in the UAE providing UAE-based as well as international excursions, Ecoventure offers a safe and exciting avenue for experiential learning and personal development.

Ecoventure works with schools to tailor programs that challenge students mentally and physically, opening their eyes to a new world, providing adventure, learning, self-development, team building and more than a little fun.

www.ecoventureme.com

Club Europe is a school travel operator since 1980, who has built up an unrivalled reputation for high quality educational tours for both UK and International students. They create multi-destination enrichment tours for International groups that combine an academic focus with a wider cultural

Trip Providers

engagement for students. Over the years, Club Europe have developed a strong and loyal network of partners and agents around the world, allowing them to create unique and bespoke experiences for students.

https://club-europe.co.uk/international-school-travel/

CAS Trips is an educational tour operator. We tackle the <u>UN SDGs</u> whilst engaging in volunteer projects inspired by the notions of Creativity, Activity and Service. Together with schools, we aim to make a genuine, sustainable impact by taking students on a customized school trip.

CAS stands for Creativity, Activity and Service and is derived from the IB curriculum. 5,000 students from over 70 schools from around the world have traveled with CAS Trips. Together we have completed over 25,000 service hours with local charities and NGOs in various destinations.

Al Boom Diving is the leading diving and watersports specialist in the U.A.E. with the longest established Program for Schools. We are proud to teach scuba diving to the students of the most prestigious schools in the Emirates. Teaching is conducted at our purpose built Jumeriah Dive Center on Al Wasl Road. Boat dives run from our 5 Star Dive Center at Le Meridien Al Aqah to the stunning reefs off the Fujairah Coast. Al Boom Diving offers transport on dedicated buses and access to all necessary dive equipment.

https://www.alboomdiving.com/

SCAFA Dubai's School of Culinary And Finishing Arts is a full-service culinary arts training institute offering the complete spectrum of culinary arts courses. We have full-time education programmes for students aspiring to become professional chefs and advanced programmes for chefs looking to upskill their abilities. With world-class culinary, finishing and etiquette arts training, SCAFA students learn the skills they need to deliver style, excellence in quality and sophistication.

http://www.scafa.ae/home

CAS Trips



CAS Trips

Grade 11

Prague

This trip is a unique gathering of 13 to 18-year-old students from all over the world. Over an incredible 10-day program in Prague, Czech Republic, students from different cultures and backgrounds work collaboratively on a wide range of creativity, activity and service projects.

Set in one of the world's most beautiful ancient cities, this once in a lifetime experience is open to all students- both as a group and individually. From street art to bobsleigh and charity service challenges, the thrilling itinerary has been designed by teachers to educate, challenge and inspire students. The history of Prague is one of a kind and provides an incredible backdrop for on-site educational travel – from learning about The Celts to The Habsburgs, Kings and Queens, Nazism and Communism, to World War I and World War II. The city has a plethora of options to inspire and motivate students to delve deeper into the true meaning of CAS.

This Service Learning program in Prague includes planning, preparing and cooking a meal for in excess of 70 homeless people in cooperation with local charities, and is guaranteed to be an eye-opening and deeply rewarding school trip.

Date: March 16 - 27 Cost of Activity: 8,500 AED

Length of Activity: 10 days / 9 nights

Global Action Program

Global Action Program

Grade 6 & 7

Oman

Visit a wonderful land that's enveloped with beautiful beaches, picturesque mountains and golden desert sands. Oman, a small country located in the far southeastern part of the Arab Peninsula, is full of marvellous natural wonders, architectural beauty, and authentic culture.

This trip will provide students with the opportunity to experience the culture, adventure and nature offered by Oman. It aims to push students out of their comfort zone and achieve goals in an organic setting.

Throughout the exploration of Oman, students will explore the natural wonders of the Hoota Caves & Jebel Shams. They will understand traditional Omani culture through visits to famous cultural heritage sites across the nation. Finally they will study & experience the great biodiversity found in the Gulf of Oman.

Date: March 22 - 26 Cost of Activity: 5,500 AED

Length of Activity: 5 Days / 4 Nights





Global Action Program

Grade 8 - 10

Kenya

Vast savannahs peppered with immense herds of wildlife. Snow-capped mountains on the equator. Traditional people who bring soul and colour to the earth. Welcome to Kenya.

Camp Tsavo is located at the base of Marungu Hills, in Tsavo region, Kenya. This permanent camp is in the heart of a rural community with stunning panoramic views of the beautiful Sagala and Taita Hills. The camp is the epitome of tranquillity and truly embraces the glorious environment, it is blessed to be within. Camps Tsavo offers so many great opportunities to be completely immersed in community life here, which will leave you with a deep love of Kenya.

Dunecrest students will work collaboratively, purposefully and impactfully with the community they live in on wildlife and environmental conservation projects. Students will also experience the rich culture of the local villagers and interact with natural wildlife in the reserves. When you travel it is easy to seek out people who are just like you but in Camp Tsavo, DAS students will be 100% integrated within the real communities, they will be part of their culture, not on the edge of it.

Date: March 19 - 26
Cost of Activity: 10,500 AED
Length of Activity: 8 days / 7 nights

Global Action Program

Grade 8 - 10 **Spain**

*For Spanish Language Students Only

Spain is a vibrant blend of culture, art, food and fun. Renowned for its variety of attractions, students will have plenty of opportunities to practise their language skills and also enjoy an authentic taste of Spanish culture. Through a comprehensive excursion programme that requires communication in Spanish, students will improve their vocabulary by immersing themselves in Spanish culture and entertainment. Language lessons will directly relate to afternoon activities, giving students genuine opportunities to practise their Spanish. The trip features a Flamenco evening, a cookery class and an opportunity to establish pen pals with local students and meet them at their school while in Madrid.

Sample Activities:

- Cookery Course
- Orienteering & Adventure Games
- Team Building Exercises
- Spanish Music & Flamenco Dance
- El Prado Museum Tour
- Football Stadium Visit

Date: March 19 - 26 Cost of Activity: 11,000 AED

Length of Activity: 8 Days / 7 Nights



Explore UAE

Explore UAE Educational Adventure Camps

Students participating in the educational adventure camps will spend five days at specific camp locations in Ras Al Khaimah, U.A.E. Activities are led by qualified instructors and with specialized safety equipment. The cost of the trips is inclusive of accommodation, transport, food and water, insurance, and specialized instruction.

Each camp experience is tailor-made to enhance the grade level curriculum. Activities provide opportunities for students to apply their knowledge in real world settings and broaden their understanding. Students are encouraged to step outside their comfort zones, take risks, and define new personal boundaries.

Grade 5 - 7

Desert & Marine Discovery Camp

Provider: Ecoventure

Location: Al Bariya Desert Camp & Al Mina Marine Camp (Ras Al Khaimah)

Highlights:

- Survival Skills
- Birds Of Prey Exploration
- Abseiling
- Burrow Study
- Water Sustainability
- Sandboarding
- Wadi Geography and Biology
- Climbing
- Kayaking
- Low Ropes
- Date Palm Orienteering





Explore UAE Educational Adventure Camps

Grade 8 - 10

Wadi Experience Camp

Provider: Challenging Adventure

Location: Jebel Jais

Highlights:

- Traditional Working Majlis Visit
- Cultural Visit with Al Habsi Tribe
- Old Village Cultural Trek
- Mountain Biking
- Wilderness Survival
- Raft Building
- Rock Climbing
- Via Ferrata
- Abseiling
- Giant Paddle Boarding

Cost of Activity: 2,500 AED

Length of Activity: 5 days / 4 nights

Explore UAE Dubai Field Studies

Students participating in the Dubai Field Studies experience will go to school each day and participate in local field study activities both on-campus & off-campus. These activities are not overnight experiences.

Each experience is tailor-made to provide students with an opportunity to have unique experiences, make connections to learning in class, and provide them with a foundational life skill.



Grade 5 - 10 Scuba Dive - PADI Certification Course

Provider: Al Boom Diving

Location: Day Trips to Jumeirah & Fujairah

Students have the opportunity to become PADI certified divers. They will be qualified anywhere in the world. A professional team of multilingual dive instructors will train and teach the students throughout the week. Students will complete their certifications with an open water diving day in Fujairah, where they will also help clean and restore coral reefs in a marine reserve.

Highlights:

- PADI Certification in: Open Water or Advanced Open Water
- Pool Sessions conducted at Al Boom Diving Center, Jumeirah
- Open Water Sessions in Fujairah

Date: March 22 - 26

Cost of Activity: Open Water - 2,300 AED

Advanced Open Water - 1,900 AED

Explore UAE Dubai Field Studies

Grade 5 - 10

Learn, Cook, Share

Provider: SCAFA Culinary School

Location: SCAFA, Dubai

Any exciting opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the Culinary world. Students will learn various culinary techniques and prepare numerous dishes from around the world. They will explore concepts of Food Wastage & the effect of food on our environment and society. Students will plan, prepare, and deliver a fresh meal to over 600+ laborers within Dubai. This experience will help students gather a greater understanding of their ability to impact one's life and provide service to others.

Date: March 22 - 26 Cost of Activity: 2,600 AED

Grade 5 - 10

Dunecrest STEAM Project

Provider: Dunecrest Teachers

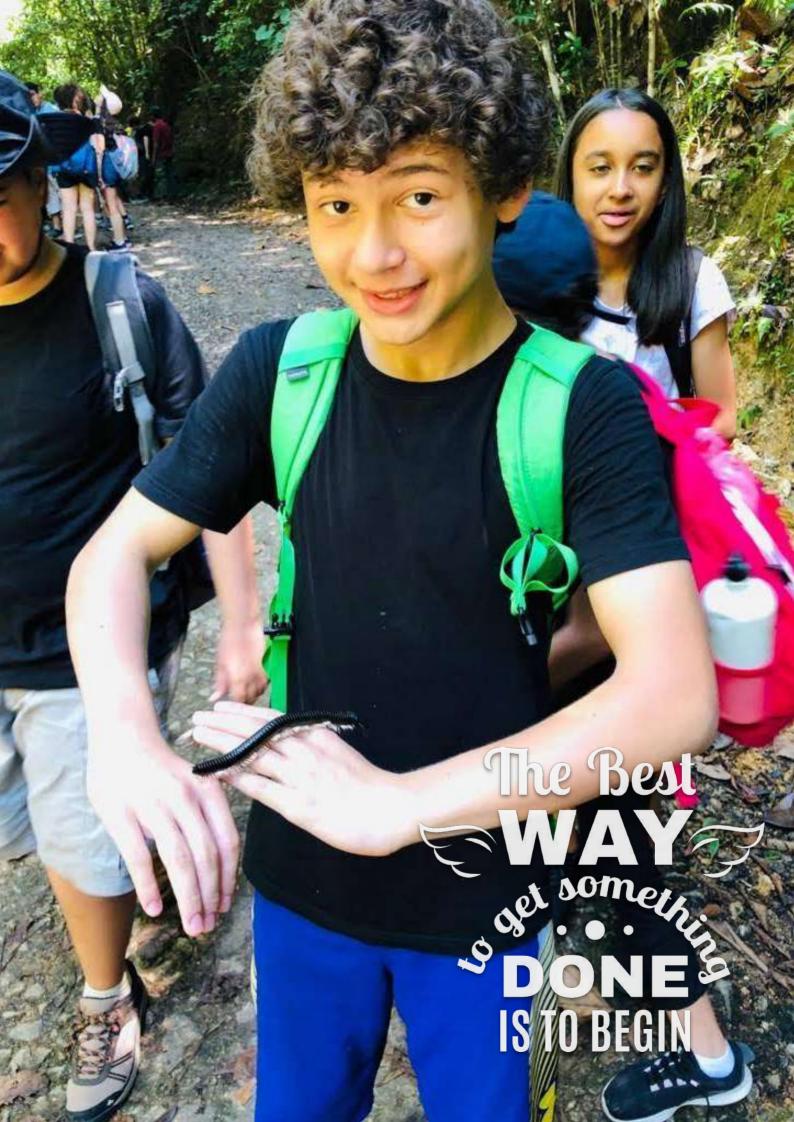
Location: On-Campus

During the week students will work together to complete an immersive STEAM project. Utilizing the design thinking process, students will be challenged with a real world problem and seek to find innovative answers. Through multiple hands-on activities it will that require students put on both creative and analytical hats to solve problems. It is an opportunity to look at a problem from many angles, test out different ideas, and ultimately decide on a solution. The project will teach students to make connections between the subjects they are studying rather than explore them in isolation.

Date: March 22 - 26

Cost of Activity: FREE

Length: Daily Excursions



Important Information

Parental Roles & Responsibilities

For international trips, students must have a passport with at least six months of validity remaining from the return date of their trip. Non Emirati students will also require a valid residency visa.

Depending on nationality, visas will be required for those students travelling internationally. As this cost can vary dramatically between nationalities it has not been included in the cost of the trip. The school will provide as much information as possible for obtaining the necessary visas; however, obtaining visas is ultimately the responsibility of the parent.

Financial Responsibility

Parents are responsible for funding their child's Dunecrest XL activity. The cost of each international trip varies depending on location. The cost includes airfare, accommodations, food and trip activities.

The local overnight camps and local day activities range in price from AED 1000 to AED 3000. A 30% deposit is due for all trips and activities with registration in September. The remaining balance should be paid in 2 installments (30% in November & 40% in January).

All fees are paid to the Dunecrest American School Business Office. The Business Office hours are Sunday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 3.30 p.m. Payments are made by cash, cheque, or online (via Schools Buddy).

Timeline of Events

The general timeline associated with the Dunecrest XL program is listed below. Trip specific details are communicated by trip leaders through email, parent meetings and the trip announcement pages.

SEPTEMBER

Sep. 12

Student Information Meeting

Sep. 15

Parent Information Meeting

Sep. 16

Activity Registration Opens

Sep. 29

Registration Closes and 30% Deposit Due

NOVEMBER

Nov 24

Second 30% Payment Deadline

JANUARY

Jan. 26

Activity Final Payment Deadline

FEBRUARY

Pre-Activity Student and Parent Evenings

MARCH

Mar. 22 - 26

Duncrest XL Week

Student Roles & Expectations

Behavior Expectations

Students are expected to behave in a manner that represents the core values of DAS. Positive interactions between students, chaperones, guides and local people are essential. If the conduct of a student is deemed to not have met with this code, or their behavior compromises the safety of the team, then students will be immediately repatriated, at the parent's expense.

Responsibilities

Dunecrest XL is a compulsory component of the Middle and High School curriculum. Students have a responsibility to apply themselves diligently and meet all expectations in order to achieve the personal growth and learning inherent in the program. Student responsibilities specific to Dunecrest XL are:

- Attend all orientations and trip meetings.
- Complete all registration requirements by the due dates.
- Respect project and journal timelines and due dates.
- Act respectfully with peers, trip leaders, chaperones and tour guides.

Student Eligibility

All students in Grades 5 through 11 at Dunecrest American School are expected to participate as part of the DAS curriculum. Each student is required to have a current UAE residency visa and passport that is valid 6 months from the date of travel.

- Any student who has had an out-of-school suspension during any part of the academic year may be ineligible to attend the Dunecrest XL trips.
- If the reasons outlined above result in the removal of a student from a trip, a refund is not guaranteed.
- Students will be expected to fulfill all classroom assignments, quizzes and/or tests prior to departure day.

Trip Numbers

If numbers for a particular trip are too low to warrant the trip proceeding then students will be given the opportunity to choose a different option. Likewise some trips have a maximum number of students that bookings can accommodate. As soon as this maximum number is reached, that particular trip option will no longer be available for selection. It is strongly recommended that families do not leave sign up to the last minute otherwise they risk the chosen option no longer being available.



Frequently Asked Questions

What do I need to know about my passport?

Each student is required to have a current UAE Residency visa and a passport that is valid six months from the date of travel.

Who will book my flight?

All flights will be arranged by DAS through the corresponding trip providers. Parents are responsible for flight costs which are included in the trip costs.

Will someone help me obtain my visa?

Some trips require visas. Although guidance will be provided, it is up to parents and the family to ensure their child obtains the necessary visa.

Will I have to get immunizations in order to travel?

Depending upon the location of your Dunecrest XL activities, you may be advised and/or required to be immunized against certain preventable diseases. Additional details about health and immunizations will be shared via trip leaders and meetings.

What should I pack and what should I leave behind?

No matter your trip or activity, it is highly advised that you pack just what you can comfortably carry. Additionally, it is not recommended to take items of value either monetary or personal. More specific information about what to pack for your trip will be provided by trip leaders.

Can I change trips once I've registered?

Once the trip assignment is finalized, any changes will be considered by the DAS administration. These will be addressed on a case by case basis. It is important to note that availability in other trips/activities may not be possible and that refunds are dependent on the Terms and Conditions of the trip providers.

Do I have to go?

Dunecrest XL is part of our curricular program at the Dunecrest American School. All students are expected to participate. There is a wide range of different activities to match a variety of interests that will meet goals or needs to remain local.

Can I sign up with my friend?

Dunecrest XL allows students to pursue individual interest and passions. Friends who share those same passions may choose some of the same options, however students are encouraged to register for a trip/activity that will maximize their personal growth.

Why isn't the Dunecrest XL program included in tuition?

The program has selected activities with a broad range of appeal to best match student interest and passions. As a result, the costs of the activities vary widely. Keeping the cost separate from tuition allows families to pay the specific and individualized costs of the activities they choose.

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