

Why a Can-Am Maverick X3 Rental Beats Standard Dune Buggies in Dubai

When you roll up to the Lahbab red dunes in a standard dune buggy, you get what you pay for. It is fun, it is dusty, and it will bounce you around enough to remind you that your spine still works. But if you have spent any time behind the wheel of a proper side-by-side, you know there is another tier of desert driving entirely. That is where a Can-Am Maverick X3 rental changes the conversation.

The Lahbab desert is not a forgiving place. The dunes rise in sudden, steep faces, and the sand shifts with every gust of wind. A machine that handles well on flat gravel roads can feel sluggish and unstable once the angle tips past thirty degrees. The Maverick X3 was built for this kind of terrain. Its low centre of gravity, aggressive suspension travel, and high horsepower output make it a natural fit for the kind of riding that Dubai's red dunes demand.

What Sets the Maverick X3 Apart

Let's talk about the hardware first. The Maverick X3 is not a converted golf cart or a recreational ATV with a roll cage bolted on. It is a dedicated high-performance side-by-side, designed from the ground up for off-road racing and recreational dune bashing. The suspension alone sets it apart. With sixteen inches of front and rear travel, the X3 absorbs impact that would rattle a standard buggy to pieces. You can hit a dune crest at speed and land without that jarring, bone-shaking jolt that leaves your hands numb after twenty minutes.

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The powertrain is equally serious. Most rental buggies in Dubai run smaller engines, often in the 500 to 800 cc range. The Maverick X3 comes with a 900 cc turbocharged three-cylinder engine that delivers around 120 horsepower. That extra power matters when you are climbing a soft dune face or trying to maintain momentum in deep, loose sand. The machine does not bog down. It keeps pulling, which gives the driver more control and more confidence.

[View the location on Google Maps](#)

Another factor is the steering and handling. The X3 uses a dual A-arm front suspension and a four-link rear setup, paired with power steering. That combination means the vehicle tracks straight through ruts and responds quickly to small corrections. In a standard buggy, you often find yourself fighting the wheel as the front end wanders. In the Maverick X3, you point it where you want to go and it follows your input with very little lag.



Real-World Performance in the Dunes

I spent a morning riding a [Can-Am Maverick X3 rental](#) through the Lahbab conservation area, and the difference was obvious from the first dune. The machine climbs with authority. Where a standard buggy might need a longer run-up or a shallower angle, the X3 can take steeper lines and hold speed better. That matters because the red dunes here are not small. Some of them rise over a hundred metres from base to peak. Getting to the top is only half the challenge; the descent is where you feel the suspension working.

Coming down a steep dune face, the X3 stays planted. The wide wheelbase and low centre of gravity resist the side-to-side rocking that can unnerve less experienced drivers. You can let the machine do the work, leaning into the descent with a light touch on the throttle. The braking system also deserves mention. The Maverick X3 has disc brakes on all four corners, with a robust hydraulic system that does not fade after repeated hard stops. On a long ride, that consistency matters.

Who Should Consider a Maverick X3 Rental

Not everyone needs this level of machine. If you are a first-time visitor who wants a gentle tour through the dunes with photo stops, a standard dune buggy or quad bike is perfectly adequate.

The Can-Am Maverick X3 rental is better suited for experienced riders, groups of friends who want to push the machine harder, or photographers who need a stable platform for shooting in rough terrain. It also works well for taller drivers. The cockpit is roomier than most buggies, with adjustable seats that accommodate people up to about 1.95 metres without feeling cramped.

That said, the X3 demands respect. Its power and speed can get a novice into trouble quickly. If you have never driven a high-performance off-road vehicle, it is worth taking a short orientation ride on a quieter machine first. The reflexes you build on a slower buggy translate directly to better control when you step up to the X3.

What to Look for in a Rental

When you search for a Can-Am Maverick X3 rental, the condition of the vehicle matters more than the model year. A well-maintained 2021 model will outperform a neglected 2023 model every time. Look for obvious signs of care: clean air filters, intact suspension boots, tyres with decent tread depth, and a roll cage that has no cracks or weld repairs. Reputable operators in Dubai keep their fleet in good shape, but it never hurts to check.

Insurance and liability are another factor. A high-performance machine carries higher risk. Ask whether the rental includes damage waiver coverage, and what the excess amount is. Some companies offer a full coverage option that removes the financial sting if you roll the vehicle. In the dunes, rolls happen. They are usually low-speed and non-injurious, but they can damage the machine. Knowing your exposure ahead of time keeps the experience fun instead of stressful.



Tour length and route also vary. Some operators offer two-hour sessions focused on a single dune area. Others run half-day trips that cover more ground and include stops at landmarks like the fossil rock or the camel tracks. If you want to really open up the throttle, a longer session on a less crowded route is worth the extra money.

Practical Tips for the Day

If you decide to book a Can-Am Maverick X3 rental, a few small preparations make the day go smoother. Bring a buff or scarf. The dust in the red dunes is fine and it gets everywhere. Goggles or sealed sunglasses help keep your eyes clear. Wear sturdy boots, not trainers. The pedals on the X3 are well placed, but sand collects on the floor, and thin shoes slip off the brake in a bumpy section.

Hydrate before you go. The desert heat in Dubai is dry and deceptive. You sweat more than you realise. Two bottles of water during the ride is a minimum. Most operators provide water, but it is better to bring your own.

Listen to the safety briefing. It might sound basic, but the specific hazards of the Lahbab dunes - sudden drop-offs, soft patches, and other riders - are worth knowing. The guides know the terrain. Trust their advice on line choice and speed.

Comparing the Experience

I have driven several types of rental buggies in Dubai over the years. The standard models are reliable and approachable. They do the job. But the gap between a regular dune buggy and the Maverick X3 is not small. It is the difference between a comfortable ride that handles well and a machine that feels genuinely capable in demanding conditions. The X3 rewards attention and skill. It gives you feedback through the steering wheel and the seat. You learn to read the sand better because the vehicle responds to small inputs.

For anyone who has ridden motorcycles or driven on loose surfaces before, the X3 feels intuitive. The controls are well laid out, with a proper steering wheel instead of handlebars, and the pedals are spaced to allow easy heel-toe operation. The gear selector is a simple gate shifter. No complicated buttons or menus to navigate while bouncing over a dune.



The Can-Am Maverick X3 rental experience in Dubai is not cheap. It sits at a higher price point than standard buggies. But the cost reflects the capability. If you are looking for a memorable half day that pushes your driving skills and gives you a real sense of what a modern side-by-side can do, it is money well spent.

Desert Buggy Rental Dubai - Dune ATV Quad Bike Safari Tours, located at AL FAHAD TOWER - OFFICE 305 - Al Thanyah First - Barsha Heights - Dubai - United Arab Emirates, +971 52 440 9525, has been offering self-drive dune buggy tours, quad biking, and safari experiences in the Lahbab red dunes since 2020.