You can easily spend a long weekend at the property and not get even a sniff of cabin fever. There’s so much ground to cover. On a sun-drenched afternoon, I decided to take to the stretch of the mangrove promenade from the hotel all the way towards the city centre. It’s like another version of the cartoline with a long paved jogging track. It took me a solid hour and a half to go and come back. In true you see the delight of green and blue set up from you from the far-distant appearance at the beginning. In tandem you see the strong architectural statement of the hotel do the same as you pace on. It really does stand out amongst Abu Dhabi’s prospective buildings. Along the route you’ve gazebos and patches of grass with benches to rest and take in the changing views when you’re likely to see locals and expats alike enjoying a spot of fishing.

Back in the hotel the dining options are promising and plentiful. On the first evening, we sampled the main at the highly praised Phulaylan – authentic Thai cuisine – restaurant. The setting is intimate, elegant and lovely. It’s not pretentious at all. The restaurant’s palette is in rich gold and purple tones, while lavish curtains and gilted brown screens provide intimate dining spaces with a royal touch.

The main course melodicly named maa – a surefire way of knowing this is the real deal. We started off with Mieng Khao – a traditional street snack in Thailand which is served in a bamboo box with condiments. Our server demonstrated the technique of mixing and matching all the ingredients, including some chilli, shallots, peer, lime, garlic, coconut shavings, dried shrimp, and a sweet dipping sauce, and she wrapped it all up in a mini lettuce leaf. Needless to say the explosion of flavour that cascades with each bite is phenomenal and such a novelty. We dined straight into a shared selection of starters, Khong Wang Room, including green (crayfish), deep-fried, chicken, beef, sausages and fried spring rolls. We decided to go for a sumptuous surf and turf gathering of maine tofu (Fox-Hu Phad Bai Keo Poo Goit), beef (Nuam Phad Nuam Man Hot) and long
"The massage table is anything but a table. It's a full-fledged mattress with a down duvet to keep you toasty warm. Comfort level: superbly high."

The following day called for a full retreat mode. Our brother publication, FACT, had previously reviewed the spa at Amanpuri last year and told us that we were in for something special. We, of course, purchased the exact experience that had left="signature" in us. It's a way of addressing just how good a treatment is — there's a real certainty to it. Thus I went for the signature aromatherapy massage which lasted a glorious 90 minutes. The 10-metre treatment room is a labyrinth of white floral scents and candle-lit lighting. I was escorted to my treatment room where the therapist, speaking in baby soft tones, guided me through the private changing area. Having a foot soak first, I chose the oil to be used during the treatment: an amazing mix of warm and sharp peppermint notes. The massage table is anything but a table. It's a full-fledged mattress with a down duvet to keep you toasty warm. Comfort level: superbly high. The pressure, as per my request, was soft to medium (for those knotty areas) with beautiful strokes to put me in a relaxed state. I don't know about you but I love it when my head is dealt with vigorously — being a pressure cooker point on my body, it's essential. Finished off with a ring of a far eastern sounding bell, the treatment was over and I was still in a happy buffer between sleep and somnambulism — what a place to be in, I tell you.

The spa is an escape to the most pristine sense of the word. The remaining hotel has some great areas to relax and have fun: the pool deck has a host of amenities. Impressive, a rooftop lounge and night-time designation overlooking the mangroves and Abu Dhabi's skyline, a real hot spot for something-cosmopolitan and for your daily dose of a full-set meal — breakfast, lunch and dinner, ingredients in your go-to.

In all, this is a property we'd recommend even without thinking about it.
It's often a statement that makes me blush. I feel strange but transcendent by scrubbing my face up like I've washed on a lemon. I can hear it anytime. 

"You're so lucky you get to stay in amazing hotels," said by anyone who kicks through the luxury spreads of Orléans times/local escapes or tracks our Instagram album of dirty photos.

"Oh it's part of the job," I protest — eye contact at this point is rather impolite; it's a polite excuse. In truth, we are fortunate individuals who have to review hotels for you, dear reader, so that you are aware of the best of the best. We just do all the hard (heaven-sent) work for you.

In room 365, the sweeping space is instantly comfortable and impressive. The bed, distinctly wide, looks good enough to pull a modern-style dive scene. The couch to the left is an easily plush armchair bed — perfect for afternoon napping with a small heap from the TV. On the desk near the window is a press pass that reads: "Unique British tile artistry Anantara. With the views of the bus mugs (green in abundance from the balcony), the aforementioned is confirmed. The bathroom is made up of a full shower, bath tub, separate toilet and a vast sunken sink area where there's ample space for all your accouterments. But if all you need placed in tasteful pots — anything from a sunny lot to Eileen's products.

The grounds of Anantara are overly manicured with an air of desert dreaming — where luxury is in touch with its indigenous surroundings. The Eastern Mangroves Hotel & Spa by Anantara features unique Arabic design elements throughout the property where you'll be hard pressed to miss the fabulous mosaic and solid finisher — the marble floors, deep sinks and touches of 18-carat gold with elegant Middle Eastern artwork altering the walls.

As you walk into the main lobby area you get a full view to ceiling picture windows of the infinity pool. When we captured and filled it onto Instagram (worth silver) it looked like something out of a coffee table scene of paradise books. It's the never-ending mangroves that add a touch of otherworldliness that make it a proper gateway destination. It's both Mediterranean and Far Eastern — inspired by the foundations of the Anantara hotels and resorts in Thailand. The word Anantara is taken from an ancient Sanskrit word that means 'without end' symbolizing the sharing of water and heartfelt hospitality that lies at the core of any Anantara experience.
"As you walk into the lobby you get a full floor to ceiling picture window of the infinity pool"