

***The Spirit of Dubai* celebrates reaching halfway point of Landmark Journey with spectacular flight over Rome's historic icons**

Rome 12 December 2006 - *The Spirit of Dubai* Airship today celebrated reaching the midway point of its landmark journey from London to Dubai in spectacular style by flying over some of Rome's greatest landmarks.

The airship, whose journey is marking the first residents moving into The Palm Jumeirah, circled over some of history's greatest monuments including the Colosseum, the Trevi Fountain, the Vatican, the Pantheon and the monument of Vittorio Emanuele. Crowds of people watched from the streets of the city as *The Spirit of Dubai* made an exclusive trip around the skies of Rome.

Manal Shaheen, Director of Marketing, Sales and Customer Service for Nakheel was present on the airship's first flight over the historic centre and said, "Today has truly been a remarkable day for all on board and we couldn't have asked for more perfect conditions. The views of Rome's ancient monuments across the crisp cloudless skies were absolutely breathtaking. With the Colosseum being an icon that symbolizes one of history's greatest civilisations, it was the perfect setting to mark such a pivotal moment in our journey of celebrating the creation of a new landmark and commemorating some of the great landmarks of the world."

The Spirit of Dubai's voyage across Europe and North Africa began in early November in London and has already taken in such famous sights as Big Ben, Stonehenge, the Eiffel Tower, the Palace of Versailles, Monte Carlo and the Leaning Tower of Pisa, attracting widespread media coverage and attention in each city it has passed through.

Manal Shaheen continued: "It has been a challenging journey but we are now halfway through and looking forward to bringing the airship to its final destination, The Palm Jumeirah. Having seen London, Paris and Rome from onboard *The Spirit of Dubai*, I know that this is the best way to appreciate the size and scale of The Palm and Nakheel's other projects, such as The World. In every city we have visited, we have

received great interest from media and residents alike and this has been a unique way of communicating the creation of The Palm Jumeirah and its role in the continuing development of our great city”.

The Spirit of Dubai's next destination is Athens, before it flies across the Mediterranean and down to the Great Pyramids in Egypt and onwards to Dubai where it will arrive at The Palm Jumeirah - the world's newest landmark - in January.