

MAKE UAE

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United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates is famous for its relentless sunshine, its golden dunes that roll on for miles and some of the most ambitious, opulent building projects of modern times.

It is a modern and dynamic country immersed in culture and history, a fascinating place where traditionalism meets modernism and technology is integrated with traditional values.

The UAE is also one of the richest, if not the richest, country in the entire Middle East, and this makes it a unique place to enjoy a luxury vacation.



LANGUAGE

The official language of UAE is Arabic, but English is widely spoken.

You will also find a lot of expatriates who speak Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Tamil, Tagalog, Persian, Chinese, Malayalam, in addition to many other languages.

TIME ZONE

United Arab Emirates follows Eastern European Standard.

Time plus 4 hours (G.M.T. + 4)

CURRENCY

The local currency is the dirham (AED or Arab Emirate Dirham – also commonly abbreviated to Dhs or DH).

There are 100 fils in a dirham. Notes come in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000 dirhams..

Currency can be exchanged at major banks, exchange booths and at most hotels.

Street money-changers are best avoided.

Exchange rates are set daily by the UAE Central Bank.

CREDIT CARDS

Major providers such as Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted at major restaurants, stores and hotels in Dubai, with other cards such as American Express less likely to be accepted.

However, not all smaller stores and grocery shops will accept your card



BUSINESS HOURS

Friday is the weekly holiday.

The working week is generally Sunday to Thursday.

However, retail and some other businesses open six days a week, closing on Fridays.

Usual business hours are from 08:00 to 13:00, resuming after the temperatures have begun to cool from 16:00 and continuing until 19:00.

WEATHER

This is a desert climate, so even in winter, the weather is warm, in summer, it's downright sizzling.

The hottest months are July and August, when the temperature in Dubai averages around 42 °C.

During the winter season it has an average daytime temperature of 25 °C.

Near coastal areas humidity averages between 50% and 60%

ATTIRE

Although malls usually have a dress code displayed right at the entrance, people rarely follows it.

You will often find women (and men) in shorts and t-shirts or even short dresses. Yes, other emirates like Abu Dhabi and Sharjah are a lot more conservative than Dubai and while entering a holy place like the mosque, you're definitely expected to cover your arms and legs fully.

But feel free to wear whatever you feel like at the beach or while dining out / partying.



SAFETY

UAE is one of the safest countries in the world and the nightlife is amazing.

Places are well connected with the metro as well as ample taxis, which are available through the night. Crime is not one of the things that should be of concern while travelling here.

Having said that, no matter where you are in the world, it always helps to be aware of your surroundings and follow common sense.

TIPPING

Tipping is not expected, but it's a common practice.

Most restaurants add a service charge to the bill; if one doesn't, simply tack on 10 percent to the total.

Taxi drivers don't expect to be tipped, but they'll appreciate it if you do. (A 5 dh tip is good, or round the fare up to the nearest 5.) At hotels, bag carriers are usually tipped 2 dh.

ELECTRICAL CURRENT

In the United Arab Emirates the power plugs and sockets are of type C, D and G. The standard voltage is 220 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz.

WATER

Tap water here in general is perfectly safe to drink. That said, many residents continue to use bottled water for drinking, because they don't like the flavour of desalinated water, which tastes slightly different to fresh water.

Bottled water is cheap and readily available.





DUBAI

Dubai is a stirring alchemy of profound traditions and ambitious futuristic vision wrapped into starkly evocative desert splendour.

Innovation

It's hard not to admire Dubai for its indefatigable verve, ambition and ability to dream up and realise projects that elsewhere would never get off the drawing board. This is a superlative-craving society that has birthed audaciously high buildings and palm-shaped islands. Sci-fi concepts such as flying taxis, a lightning-fast Hyperloop train and an army of robocops are all reflections of a mindset that fearlessly embraces the future.

With many more grand projects in the pipeline for World Expo 2020, it's clear that Dubai is a city firmly in charge of writing its own narrative.

Shopping Haven

Dubai is a top retail haunt that hosts two huge annual shopping festivals. Shopping is known as a leisure activity, and malls are much more than just a collection of stores. Some look like an Italian palazzo or a Persian palace and lure visitors with surreal attractions such as: indoor ski slope, giant aquarium or an open-air botanical garden. Traditional souqs, too, are beehives of activity humming with timeless bargaining banter. Meanwhile, a new crop of urban-style outdoor malls has expanded the shopping spectrum yet again.

Nightlife

Its shape-shifting party spectrum caters for just about every taste, budget and age group. From flashy dance temples, sleek rooftop terraces and sizzling beach clubs to fancy cocktail caverns, shisha lounges and concerts under the stars.

Most of the nightlife centres on the fancy hotels, but there's no shortage of more wholesome diversions either, including community theatre, live-music venues and the world-class Dubai Opera.

Cultural Dynamism

The first Middle Eastern city to make the Unesco list of creative cities of design, Dubai is a bustling microcosm peacefully shared by cultures from all corners of the world. This diversity expresses itself in the culinary landscape, fashion, music and performance. Although rooted in Islamic tradition, this is an open society where it's easy for newcomers and visitors to connect with myriad experiences, be it eating like a Bedouin, dancing on the beach, shopping for local art or riding a camel in the desert.



ABU DHABI

Proudly modern and cosmopolitan, Abu Dhabi is the UAE's forward-thinking cultural heart where nothing stands still – except perhaps the herons in its mangroves.

Cultural Capital

The Louvre Abu Dhabi, with its globe-trotting collection covering the breadth of humanity's artistic achievements, finally threw open its doors in 2017. It's the first of the city's planned mega-museum projects to open and a major feather in Abu Dhabi's cap as it pushes to become the region's cultural leader. This world-class museum may get all the buzz but more locally focused sights get a look-in too.

Islamic Architecture

Opulent, dramatic and no expense spared: the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque is a triumph of Islamic architecture for the modern world. Architectural nods to all the great Islamic empires of past from Fatimid Egypt to South Asia's Mughal dynasty are represented among its blinding white marble facade, but this is a mosque thoroughly of and for the 21st century, with striking contemporary artistry at its heart. Non-Muslims may only be allowed to enter a single mosque in the city, but the one they can, is magnificent.

Thrills & Spills

Need some adrenaline in your life? Yas Island provides enough distractions to keep even the most dedicated thrill-seeker happy. This is the setting for the famed Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, the track hallowed ground for Formula One fans. Year-round there are opportunities to hop in the driving seat yourself and make your own Yas Marina Circuit memories.

Off the track, Ferrari World and its speed-freak favourite Formula Rossa roller coaster plus Warner Bros World provide full-on family entertainment with enough rides to wear out and sate the thrill tick-list of kids and adults alike.

Coastal Pleasures

Abu Dhabi offers a swath of sand for everyone. Saadiyat Island has one of the nicest slices of public beach (with a minimal fee) while Al Bateen, the Corniche and the brand-spanking-new beach on Hudayriat Island offer up completely free swags of sandy fun. On the water, Abu Dhabi's Mangrove National Park showcases a completely different face to a city more known for glinting glass-and-steel skyscrapers than nature. Keep your eyes peeled for flamingos, heron and scuttling crabs as you explore the waterways of this vast forest by kayak.







Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building.



Dubai Mall, the world's largest mall.



The Dubai Fountain show.



Over night desert safari.



Souk Madinat Jumeirah.



Spikes Souks.



Skydive Dubai experience.



Yacht day around the Palm and World map.



Selection of best restaurants.



Dubai Night life.





Sheikh Zayed mosque.



Louvre Abu Dhabi.



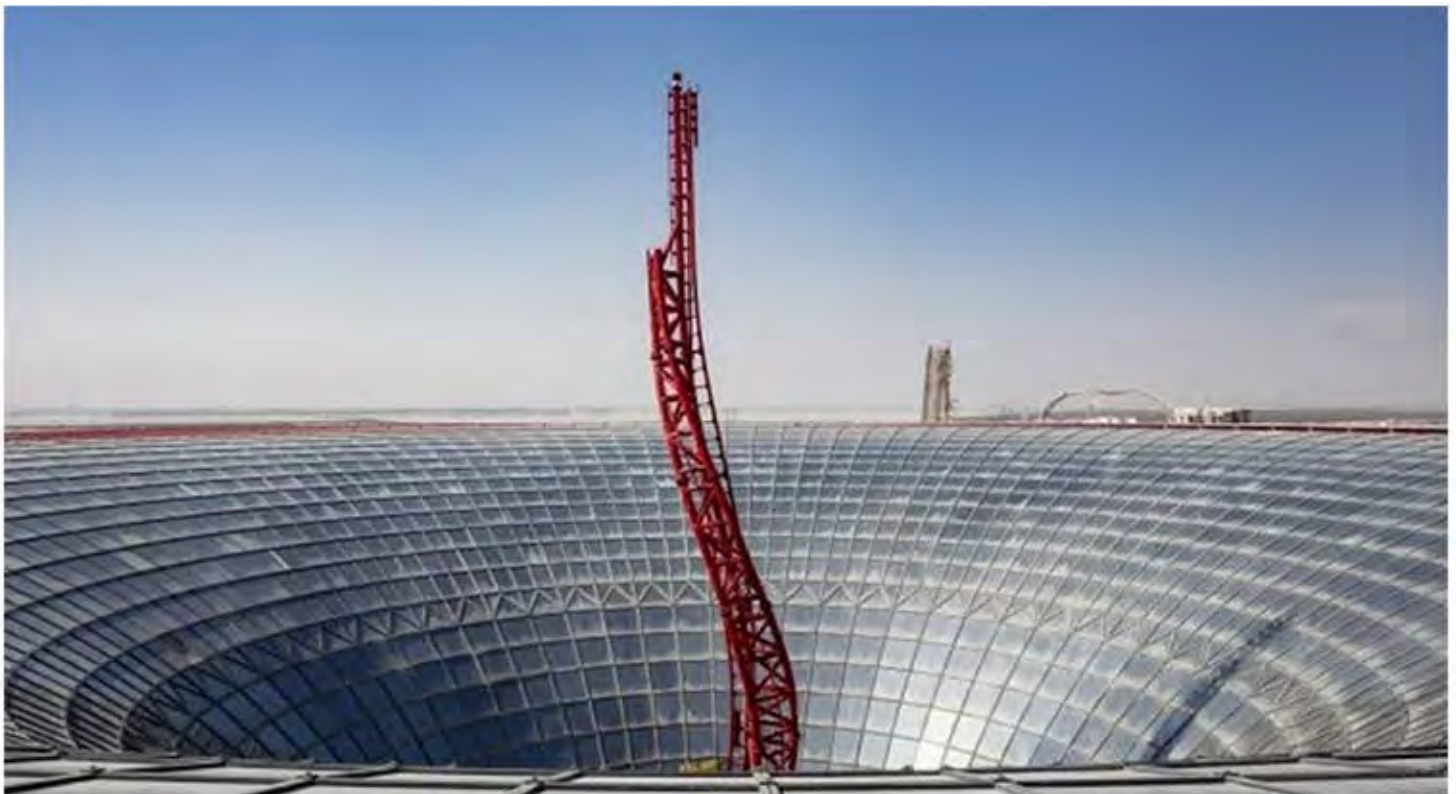
Emirates palace.



Qasr el watan.



Dune Bashing.



Ferrari World.

