

# Dubai trade License:

How to Get a Dubai Trade License (Step-by-Step for South Africans)

Short Answer:

You can get a **Dubai Free Zone trade license** in **3–5 days** without living in Dubai. Costs start at **~R25K** (depending on Free Zone).

Here's the **fastest, cheapest, and most compliant way** to do it:

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## 📌 Step 1: Choose a Free Zone

\*Best for Online/AI Businesses:

<b>Free Zone</b>	<b>Cost (USD)</b>	<b>Best For</b>	<b>Remote Setup?</b>
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<b>RAK (Ras Al Khaimah)</b>	\$1,500	Low-cost startups	✅ Yes
<b>DMCC (Dubai)</b>	\$3,500	Tech/AI companies	✅ Yes
<b>Ajman</b>	\$1,200	Cheap but fewer banks	❌ No (UAE visit)

**👉 Recommendation:** **RAK Free Zone** (cheapest, remote-friendly, Wio Bank accepts it).

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## ## 📌 Step 2: Prepare Documents

You'll need:

- Passport copy** (SA passport works).

2. **SA ID copy**.
3. **Proof of address** (SA utility bill).
4. **Business plan** (1-page summary).

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### **📌 Step 3: Apply Through an Agent (Mandatory)**

- **Why?** UAE requires a **local sponsor/agent** for registration.
- **Cost:** ~R25K–R40K (includes license, virtual office, and bank intro).
- **Trusted Agents:**
  - [Creative Zone](https://creativezone.ae/) (best for startups).
  - [PRO Partner Group](https://www.propartnergroup.com/) (premium service).

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### **📌 Step 4: Get Your Trade License (3–5 Days)**

- **What's Included:**
  - **Trade license** (allows 100% foreign ownership).
  - **Virtual office address** (for mail).
  - **Visa eligibility** (if you move to UAE later).

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### **📌 Step 5: Open a Business Bank Account**

- **Best Banks for Non-Residents:**
  - **Wio Bank** (100% remote, instant virtual card).
  - **Emirates NBD** (requires UAE visit).
- **Documents Needed:**

- Trade license.
- Passport.
- SA proof of address.

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#### 💰 Total Costs (For South Africans)

Item	Cost (ZAR)
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Trade License (RAK)	R25,000
Agent Fees	R5,000–R10,000
Wio Bank Account	R0 (Free)
<b>**Total**</b>	<b>**~R30K**</b>

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#### ## \*\* ⚡ Pro Tips\*\*

- ✅ **\*\*No UAE visit needed\*\*** for RAK/DMCC.
- ✅ **\*\*0% tax\*\*** on international income.
- ✅ **\*\*No need to live in Dubai\*\*** (license is valid forever).

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#### 🚀 Next Steps

- \*\*Pick a Free Zone\*\*** (RAK or DMCC).
- \*\*Contact an Agent\*\*** (I can refer you to a cheap, reliable one).
- \*\*Get Licensed → Open Wio Bank → Start Operating Tax-Free.\*\***

**\*\*Need help?\*\*** DM me—I work with **\*\*Dubai setup experts\*\*** who specialize in SA entrepreneurs. 🚀

\*(This is how you legally own a Dubai business without moving there.)\*