

# Ras Al Khaimah Investment Authority Free Zone (RAKIA)

Ras Al Khaimah (RAK) has emerged as a thriving commercial hub, thanks to its strong economy and simplified business registration process. The **Ras Al Khaimah Investment Authority (RAKIA)** free zone was established to foster a business-friendly environment that attracts global entrepreneurs.

**Note:** In April 2017, **RAKIA merged with Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ)** to unify and strengthen business facilitation in the region.

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## Benefits of Starting a Business in RAKIA Free Zone

### Efficient Business Setup

RAKIA offers a seamless setup process with robust infrastructure, regulatory support, and **low setup costs**.

### Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)

The UAE has over **140 DTAA**s, helping businesses avoid being taxed in both home and foreign countries during international operations.

### Diverse Business Opportunities

RAKIA fosters growth in various sectors including **manufacturing, trading, and healthcare**, among others.

### Full Ownership & Autonomy

Foreign investors enjoy **100% ownership** and full control over capital and profits—**no local sponsor needed**.

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## Facilities Available in RAKIA Free Zone

Facility	Description
Industrial Land	Long-term lease options in <b>Al Hamra</b> and <b>Al Ghail</b> industrial zones.

<b>Warehouses</b>	State-of-the-art facilities for <b>trading, packaging, light manufacturing.</b>
<b>Offices</b>	A range of spaces including <b>executive offices, standard offices,</b> and <b>flexi desks</b> to suit all needs.

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## Types of Company Setup in RAKIA

Company Type	Details
<b>Free Zone Establishment (FZE)</b>	For a <b>single shareholder</b> , either an individual or a corporate entity.
<b>Free Zone Company (FZC)</b>	For <b>2 to 5 shareholders</b> , ideal for partnerships.
<b>Limited Liability Company (LLC)</b>	Limits personal liability of members for business debts.

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## Licenses Available in RAKIA

License Type	Description
<b>Commercial License</b>	For <b>import/export</b> , warehousing, and logistics businesses.
<b>Industrial License</b>	Allows for <b>manufacturing, processing, and exporting</b> of finished goods.
<b>Consultancy License</b>	For professionals offering <b>consulting or expert services.</b>
<b>Media License</b>	For <b>advertising, publishing,</b> and other <b>media-related activities.</b>

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## Documents Required

- Copy of **business plan**
- **Board resolution**
- **Power of attorney**

- **Certificate of registration**
  - **Passport copies** of shareholders
  - **Notarised MoA and AoA**
  - **Academic/professional certificates** (for consultancy licenses)
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## Steps to Avail a Business License in RAKIA

1. **Select Company Structure**  
Choose between **FZE, FZC, or LLC** based on your business model.
  2. **Obtain Trade Name Certificate**  
Check name availability via the RAKIA portal and register a unique trade name.
  3. **Pay the Required Fees**  
Receive an invoice and application form upon fee payment.
  4. **Submit Documents**  
Complete and submit all documents to the authorities.
  5. **Verification and Approval**  
After successful review, you'll be granted the license to operate.
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# Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ)



## Overview

RAKEZ was launched by merging **Ras Al Khaimah Free Trade Zone (RAK FTZ)** and **Ras Al Khaimah Investment Authority (RAKIA)**. It is now one of the **largest and most diverse free zones in the UAE**, offering a wide range of solutions for startups, SMEs, freelancers, and industrialists.

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## Key Benefits of Setting Up a Business in RAKEZ

- **Low Setup Costs**  
Multiple packages and tailored cost strategies for different business needs.
  - **Easy Incorporation Process**  
Simple and quick business registration and licensing procedures.
  - **Diverse Facilities**  
Access to flexi-desks, customizable office spaces, warehouses, and industrial land.
  - **Sector-Specific Zones**  
Includes zones for **manufacturing, trading, services, media, education, and industry.**
  - **Strategic Location**
    - Proximity to **Oman, northern Emirates, and Dubai**
    - Access to **ports, highways, and airports**
    - Beachfront coastline on the Arabian Gulf
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## Types of Entities in RAKEZ

### 1. Free Zone Entity

- **Free Zone Limited Liability Company (FZ-LLC)**

### 2. Non-Free Zone Entity

- **Individual Establishment**
- **Limited Liability Company (LLC)**

### 3. Branch Offices

- **Branch of a UAE-Based Company**
  - **Branch of a Foreign Company**
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## **Types of Licenses Available**

<b>License Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Commercial License</b>	For trading activities including import/export
<b>General Trading License</b>	Broad trading activities
<b>E-Commerce License</b>	For online business activities
<b>Service License</b>	For service-oriented businesses
<b>Professional License</b>	For professionals offering services (e.g., consultants)
<b>Industrial License</b>	For manufacturing and industrial activities
<b>Media License</b>	For advertising, publishing, and media production
<b>Freelance Permit</b>	For independent professionals/freelancers
<b>Educational License</b>	For schools, training centers, and academic institutions
<b>Individual License</b>	For sole proprietors

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## **Steps to Set Up a Business in RAKEZ**

- 1. Select Business Activity**  
Define the nature of your business operations.
- 2. Choose Business Structure**  
Select the most suitable legal structure.
- 3. Reserve Trade Name**  
Ensure your business name is unique and compliant with regulations.

4. **Apply for Business License**  
Obtain the appropriate license based on activity.
  5. **Visa Processing**  
Apply for visas for business owners and employees.
  6. **Submit Documentation**  
Provide all required documents to RAKEZ authorities.
  7. **Open a Bank Account**  
Set up a corporate bank account for your company.
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## Required Documents

- Memorandum of Association (MoA)
  - Articles of Association (AoA)
  - Certificate of Incorporation
  - Bank Reference Letter
  - Board Resolution
  - Passport Copies of Shareholders
  - Application Forms
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## Trending Business Opportunities

- Technology & Innovation
- E-commerce & Digital Services
- Energy Sector

- Manufacturing & Industrial Sector

## ? FAQs


### Q1: What is the average time to get licensed in RAKEZ?

 Typically takes a few working days, depending on business activity and documentation.


### Q2: What are the cost components?

 License fees, visa fees, registration charges, and certification costs.

### Q3: Is RAKEZ suitable for international investors?

 Yes. It provides 100% foreign ownership, strategic location, and robust infrastructure.

### Q4: Do I need a local sponsor or agent?

 No, RAKEZ allows full foreign ownership without needing a local partner.

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## RAK Media City Free Zone – Overview

**RAK Media City Free Zone** is a dynamic and specialized zone catering primarily to media, entertainment, music, photography, and creative industries. Supervised by the **Ras Al Khaimah Free Trade Zone Authority**, it ensures a smooth licensing and registration process for startups, SMEs, and established businesses alike.

### Strategic Location

Located in Ras Al Khaimah, the free zone offers:

- Global market access
  - Connectivity to UAE ports and airports
  - Proximity to Oman borders and major UAE cities
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## Benefits of Setting Up a Business in RAK Media City







- 100% Foreign Ownership

- **Repatriation of Capital & Profits**
  - **Complete Control Over Business Operations**
  - **No Currency Restrictions**
  - **Full Tax Exemption (No Corporate or Income Tax)**
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## **Licenses Offered in RAK Media City**

Choose a license based on your business activity:

<b>License Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
 <b>Service Provider License</b>	For offering professional services within media sectors
 <b>Consultancy License</b>	For consultancy-related activities
 <b>E-commerce License</b>	For selling goods or services online
 <b>Commercial License</b>	For trading and distribution activities
 <b>Freelance Permit</b>	For individuals offering services independently
 <b>Dual License</b>	For operating both within the free zone and mainland

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## **Business Structures Available**

You can choose from the following legal forms:

- **Free Zone Establishment (FZE)** – Single shareholder
  - **Free Zone Company (FZC)** – Multiple shareholders
  - **Branch Office** – For UAE or foreign-based companies
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## Step-by-Step Company Setup Process

1. **Select Business Activity**  
Identify your media or creative business niche.
  2. **Choose Business Structure**  
Based on ownership, liability, and scalability.
  3. **Trade Name Registration**  
Pick a unique name and get it approved by authorities.
  4. **Apply for License**  
Submit the application and necessary forms for approval.
  5. **Pay Fees**  
Pay government and license issuance fees.
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## Documents Required

Ensure you have the following:

- Passport copies (all shareholders)
  - Trade license copy (for branches)
  - Business plan
  - Bank reference letters
  - Good standing certificate (if applicable)
  - Sample signatures of shareholders
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## Facilities Provided

RAK Media City offers:

- Furnished office spaces
  - Co-working areas
  - Shared meeting rooms
  - Flexi-desk arrangements
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## ? FAQs

### Q1. What business structures are available?

→ FZE, FZC, and branches of foreign companies.

### Q2. How long does registration take?

→ Usually completed within **2 weeks**.

### Q3. What facilities can I expect?

→ Offices, coworking spaces, and meeting rooms.

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## RAK Maritime City Free Zone – Overview

**RAK Maritime City (RMC)** was established by **Emiri Decree in December 2009** as a specialized **free zone** offering:







- International port facilities
- Business services for industrial, commercial, and maritime sectors
- Modern harbor infrastructure

Strategically located near the **Strait of Hormuz**, it offers cost-effective, globally connected, and secure operations for diverse businesses.

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## Key Features & Zoning











RAK Maritime City covers **several million square meters**, segmented into:

-  Retail zones
-  Warehousing zones
-  Cargo handling areas
-  Industrial and manufacturing zones
-  Tank storage facilities
-  Shipbuilding & repair yards

Each zone is tailored for businesses of **all sizes** across **multiple sectors**.

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## Benefits of Setting Up in RAK Maritime City

-  **100% Company Ownership**
  -  **100% Tax Exemption**
  -  **100% Foreign Investment**
  -  **No Customs Duties or Tariffs**
  -  **Access to State-of-the-Art Port Infrastructure**
  -  **High-End Communication & Utilities**
  -  **Flexible Hiring Policies (Expats)**
  -  **Unrestricted Global Market Access**
  -  **100% Repatriation of Profits & Capital**
  -  **Simple and Transparent Setup Process**
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## Types of Licenses Offered

License Type	Description
 <b>Commercial License</b>	For import, export, distribution, sales, and storage of specific goods
 <b>General Trading License</b>	Broad license (under commercial category) allowing more than 7 product types
 <b>Industrial License</b>	For importing raw materials and manufacturing, processing, or assembling products

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## Business Entity Types

Companies in RAK Maritime City can register as:

- **Free Zone Establishment (FZE)** – Single shareholder
  - **Free Zone Company (FZC)** – Multiple shareholders
  - **Local Branch** – Branch of a UAE-registered company
  - **Foreign Branch** – Branch of a non-UAE company
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## Steps to Set Up a Company in RMC







1. **Download & Fill Application Form**  
– Available on RAK Free Zone's official website
2. **Submit Required Documents**  
– After approval from authorities
3. **Notarize the Memorandum of Association**
4. **Register the Trade Name**
5. **Obtain Certificate of Incorporation**
6. **Fulfill Licensing & Lease Requirements**

7. **Activate Bank Account & Apply for Visas**

8. **Begin Business Activities**

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## **Required Documents**

-  Application form for incorporation and license
  -  Brief business/project description
  -  Copy of passport (owner & manager)
  -  Company resolution
  -  Bank statement (proof of capital)
  -  Registration certificate
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## **Why Choose RAK Maritime City?**

- **A future-proof investment** in a major maritime hub
  - **One-stop-shop** for all business needs: license, port access, infrastructure
  - **Flexible legal framework** and easy procedures
  - Long-term value for companies in **shipping, logistics, manufacturing, and industrial sectors**
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