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1. Geographical location

Sharjah is the third largest and third most populous city in United Arab Emirates and located along the northern coast of the Persian Gulf on the Arabian Peninsula. The city covers an approximate area of 235km². Emirate of Sharjah covers 2,590 square kilometers. The total area of the city is 2,590 sq. km.



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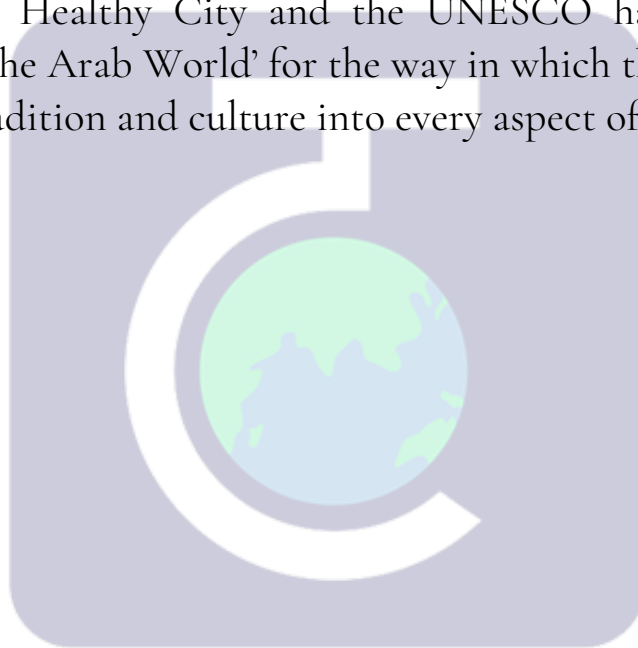
2. Neighbouring cities/countries

Southern Side Of The Sharjah Abu Dhabi Is Located 143kms Distance Away Which Is Famous For Island And Desserts. Eastern Side Of The Sharjah City Ras Al- Khaimah Is Located From The Distance Of 85.9kms Via The Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Road. North Prefecture Of The City Is Umm-al-Quwain Distance Is 42.9kms Which Is Famous For The Sand Beach, Museum & Building Yard. Sharjah's Western Side Is Covered By Dubai, And Distances Of Those Cities Are 37.9kms. The Ajman Persian Gulf Controls Two Small Inland Enclaves: Manama And Masfut Both Of Which Are Primarily Agricultural. It Has The Small Towns Named As Kalba, Dibba Al-hisn And Khor Fakkan.



3. Significance

Sharjah is mainly a residential hub for the expatriate community working in Dubai as the cost of living is comparatively low in Sharjah than in Dubai. Also, the emirate is closer to Dubai making commute easier. It is the center of culture and industry. The strict laws regarding the sale and consumption of alcohol has made SHarjah a favorite destination among Islamic tourists. The WHO has named Sharjah as a Healthy City and the UNESCO has awarded the title ‘Cultural Capital of the Arab World’ for the way in which the city has intricately woven the Islamic tradition and culture into every aspect of daily life.



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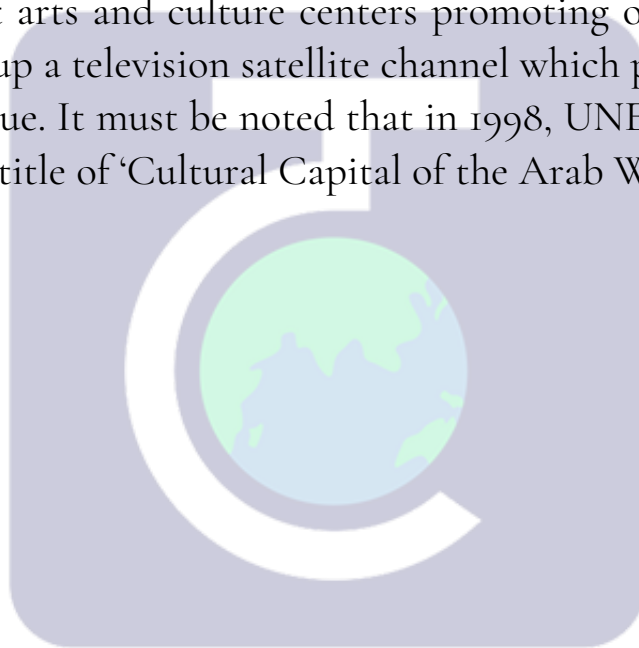
4. History

Sharjah was one of the richest towns in the region around 5000 years ago. The Qawasim clan (Huwayla tribe) settled in Sharjah in the early part of the 18th century and declared it as an independent entity. Sharjah was made part of the Act of Union on 2 December 1971; the date marked the formation of the United Arab Emirates – combining Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Ajman, Umm Al Qawain and Fujairah. The emirate of Ras Al Khaimah made a late-entry and joined the UAE on 10 February 1972.



5. Cultural identity

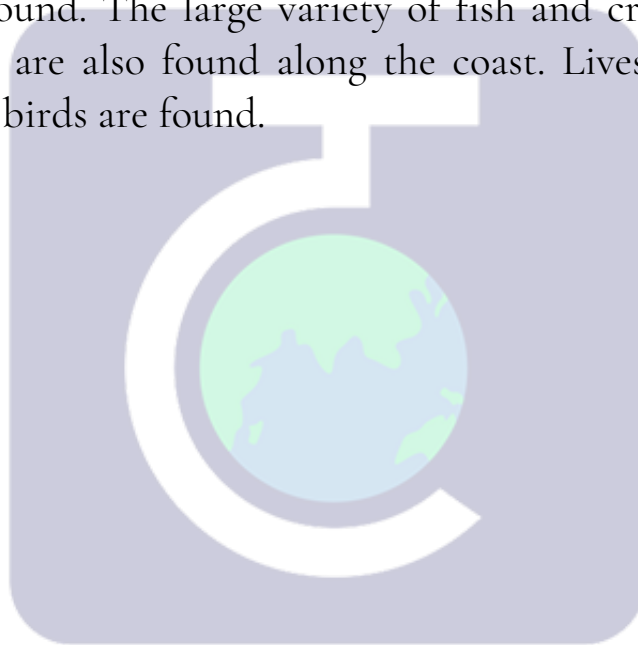
Sharjah is popularly known as the cultural center of the United Arab Emirates. The city boasts of a heavy influence of Islamic values and Arab culture in its architecture, apparel, cuisine and lifestyle. The ruling government of Sharjah has proactively established numerous cultural projects highlighting conservation of culture and heritage. Tourists visiting Sharjah will come across many museums and other prominent arts and culture centers promoting other cultures as well. The emirate also set up a television satellite channel which promotes the projects that have cultural value. It must be noted that in 1998, UNESCO recognized and awarded Sharjah the title of ‘Cultural Capital of the Arab World.’



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6. Natural resources

Its large oil reserves make up almost one-tenth of the world's total oil reserves. It is amongst the largest producer of Crude oil and also that of Aluminum. It is a leading producer of Natural gas. Mineral resources such as Cement, Lime, Gypsum, Sulfur, Steel, Petroleum are found. Industries: Aluminum, Cement, Construction materials, Boat building, Handicrafts, Textiles, Petroleum and Petrochemicals are found. The large variety of fish and crustaceans along with Dugong or Sea Cow are also found along the coast. Livestock such as Camel, Sheep and numerous birds are found.



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)**7.1. Paid****7.1.1. Sharjah Aquarium - Al Khan - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates**

Address : Al Meena Street, Al Khan Area, Near Sharjah Maritime Museum - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.3303519, 55.35834030000001

Contact : +971 6 528 5288

Website : <http://www.sharjahmuseums.ae/Our-Museums/Sharjah-Aquarium.aspx?lang=en-US>

Entry Fee : Children (under 2 years): Free Children (2-12 years): 15 AED Adults (13+ years): 25 AED Children group (2-12 years) – “6 or more”: 10 AED each Adult group (13+ years) – “6 or more”: 15 AED each Tourist groups Entry Fees: Children tourist group (2-12 years): 10 AED each Adult tourist group (13+ years): 15 AED each Schools Entry Fees: Government school trips: Free Private school trips: 5 AED each

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-20:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 5 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.2. Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization - Al Sharq - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Address : Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.3649156, 55.38919929999997

Contact : +971 6 565 5455

Website : <http://sharjahmuseums.ae/Our-Museums/Sharjah-Museum-of-Islamic-Civilization.aspx>

Entry Fee : Children (under 2 years): Free Children (2-12 years): 5 AED Adults (13+ years): 10 AED Tourist groups Entry Fees: Children tourist group (2-12 years): 3 AED each Adult tourist group (13+ years): 7 AED each Schools Entry Fees: Government school trips: Free Private school trips: Free

Open & Close Timing : Saturday- Thursday 8hrs-20hrs; Friday 16:00hrs-20:00hrs
Time Required : 3
Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes
Buy Ticket : No



7.1.3. Natural History Museum - Al Bataeh - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Address : Al Dhaid Rd | Interchange 8, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
Location : 25.280373, 55.6943536
Contact : 06-5311411
Website : http://www.sharjah-welcome.com/html/ch_museums_natural.htm
Entry Fee : Adult: AED 15, Children (12–16 years): AED 5, Children (under 12): Free.
Open & Close Timing : Sunday-Thursday 9:00hrs-17:30hrs, Friday 14:00hrs-17:30hrs, Saturday 11:00hrs-17:30hrs. Closed on Tuesdays
Time Required : 5
Expected Wait Time : 30 minutes
Buy Ticket : No

7.1.4. Sharjah Heritage Museum

Address : Sharjah - United Arab Emirates
Location : 25.3574865, 55.38447050000002
Contact : +971 6 568 0006
Website : <http://sharjahmuseums.ae/Our-Museums/Sharjah-Heritage-Museum.aspx?lang=en-US>
Nearest Public Transport : Rolla Square Park Bus Stop
Entry Fee : Children (2-12 years): 5 AED Adults (13 years and above): 10 AED
Open & Close Timing : Saturday-Thursday: 8:00hrs-20:00hrs; Friday: 16:00hrs-20:00hrs
Time Required : 2
Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes
Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.5. Al Mahatta Museum - Al Qasimia - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Address : Al Estiqlal St, Al Qasimia Area, Opp Sharjah Mega Mall - 
Emirates Arab United - 

Location : 25.345858, 55.39596299999994

Contact : +971 6 573 3079

Website : <http://sharjahmuseums.ae/Our-Museums/Al-Mahatta-Museum.aspx?lang=en-US>

Nearest Public Transport : Moski Bus Stop

Entry Fee : Children (under 2 years): Free Children (2-12 years): 5 AED Adults (13+ years): 10 AED Tourist groups Entry Fees: Children tourist group (2-12 years): 3 AED each Adult tourist group (13+ years): 7 AED each Schools Entry Fees: Government school trips: Free Private school trips: Free

Open & Close Timing : Saturday -Thursday 8:00hrs-20:00hrs; Friday 16:00hrs-20:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.6. Sharjah Science Museum - Halwan Suburb - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Address : Next to Sharjah TV Station - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.3497105, 55.424743600000056

Contact : +971 6 566 8777

Website : <http://www.sharjahmuseums.ae/Our-Museums/Sharjah-Science-Museum.aspx?lang=en-US>

Entry Fee : Children (under 2 years): Free Children (2-12 years): 5 AED Adults (13+ years): 10 AED Tourist groups Entry Fees: Children tourist group (2-12 years): 3 AED each Adult tourist group (13+ years): 7 AED each Schools Entry Fees: Government school trips: 5 AED each Private school trips: 5 AED each Government school trips (with Workshops): 15 AED each Private school trips (with workshops): 15 AED each

Open & Close Timing : Saturday -Thursday 8:00hrs-20:00hrs; Friday

16:00hrs-20:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.7. Sharjah Calligraphy Museum - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Address : Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.357881, 55.384643999999998

Contact : +971 6 569 4561

Nearest Public Transport : Rolla Square Park Bus Stop

Entry Fee : Children (under 2 years): Free Children (2-12years): 5 AED Adults (13+ years): 10 AED Tourist groups Entry Fees: Children tourist group (2-12 years): 3 AED each Adult tourist group (13+ years): 7 AED each Schools Entry Fees: Government school trips: 5 AED each Private school trips: 5 AED each Government school trips (with Workshops): 15 AED each Private school trips (with workshops): 15 AED each

Open & Close Timing : Saturday -Thursday 8:00hrs-20:00hrs; Friday 16:00hrs-20:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.8. Sharjah Al Hisn Museum - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Address : Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.3586169, 55.386523200000056

Contact : +971 6 568 5500

Website : <http://sharjahmuseums.ac/Our-Museums/Sharjah-Hisn-Museum.aspx?lang=en-US>

Nearest Public Transport : Rolla Square Park Bus Stop

Entry Fee : Children (under 2 years): Free Children (2-12years): 5 AED Adults (13+ years): 10 AED Tourist groups Entry Fees: Children tourist group (2-12 years): 3 AED each Adult tourist group (13+ years): 7 AED each Schools Entry Fees: Government school trips: 5 AED each Private school trips: 5 AED each Government school trips (with Workshops): 15 AED each Private school trips

(with workshops): 15 AED each

Open & Close Timing : Saturday -Thursday 8:00hrs-20:00hrs; Friday 16:00hrs-20:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.9. Sharjah Archeological Museum - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Address : Sheikh Rashid Bin Saqr Al Qasimi Street, Sharjah Science Museum Center Behind Sharjah Television Building - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.34815600000001, 55.423835999999994

Contact : +971 6 566 5466

Website : <http://www.sharjahmuseums.ae/>

Entry Fee : Children (under 2 years): Free Children (2-12 years): 5 AED Adults (13+ years): 10 AED Tourist groups Entry Fees: Children tourist group (2-12 years): 3 AED each Adult tourist group (13+ years): 7 AED each Schools Entry Fees: Government school trips: 5 AED each Private school trips: 5 AED each Government school trips (with Workshops): 15 AED each Private school trips (with workshops): 15 AED each

Open & Close Timing : Saturday -Thursday 8:00hrs-20:00hrs; Friday 16:00hrs-20:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.10. Al Montazah Amusement and Water Park - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Address : Flag island - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.3423834, 55.37950950000004

Contact : +971 6 511 0555

Website : <http://almontazah.ae/opening-times.html>

Entry Fee : 110 cm and above: AED 120 Under 110 cm: AED 75 Children under 80cm: FREE

Open & Close Timing : Saturday-Wednesday 10:00hrs-19:00hrs Tuesday

10:00hrs-22:00hrs Thursday–Friday 10:00hrs-22:00hrs

Time Required : 4

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.11. Adventureland - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Address : First Level, Sahara Centre, Al Nahda Street, Al Nahda 1 - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.297654, 55.372368000000005

Contact : +971 4 800 9 8888

Website : <http://www.adventureland-sharjah.com/en.html>

Nearest Public Transport : Al Nahda 1, Terminus 1 Bus Station

Entry Fee : Ride prices range from 9 AED to 15 AED

Open & Close Timing : Sunday-Wednesday 10:00hrs-23:00hrs; Thursday & Saturday 10:00hrs-00:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes



Index**7.2. Free****7.2.1. Al Majaz Waterfront - Al Majaz - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates**

Address : Al Buheirah Corniche Road, Al Majaz 2 - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.3258695, 55.388339399999995

Contact : +971 6 552 1552

Website : <http://almajaz.ae/>

Nearest Public Transport : Sharjah, Al Wahda Road , City Center 1 Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Al Qasba - Al Khan - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Address : Al Khan Street, Al Qasba - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.322311, 55.376233599999998

Contact : +971 6 525 2444

Website : <http://www.alqasba.ae/>

Nearest Public Transport : Sharjah, Al Wahda Rd, Subway 1 2 Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 11:00hrs-01:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. Central Souq - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Address : Central Souk (Blue Souk) Al Buhaira Corniche, Khalid Lagoon Sharjah-United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.3471676, 55.384129300000004

Nearest Public Transport : Sharjah, King Faisal Rd, Gold Souq (Old) Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Saturday-Thursday 9:00hrs-13:00hrs; 16:00hrs-23:00hrs;

Friday 9:00hrs-12:00hrs, 16:00hrs-23:00hrs

Time Required : 3

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. Al Noor Mosque - Al Majaz - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Address : Al Noor mosque, Corniche Street, Al Majaz District - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.33463, 55.38700399999993

Contact : 97165680055

Website : <http://www.shjculture.com/en/6/al-noor-mosque-visit.aspx#.WDQhPbJ97IU>

Nearest Public Transport : Moski Bus Stop

Open & Close Timing : Sunday-Thursday 09:00hrs-12:00hrs; Friday & Saturday Closed

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. King Faisal Mosque - S116 - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Address : S116 - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Zipcode : 116

Location : 25.3495951, 55.38748910000004

Contact : 00971-50-4506023

Nearest Public Transport : Sharjah, King Faisal Rd, Gold Souq (Old) Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 4:50hrs-19:30hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. Souk Al Arsah - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Address : Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.358172, 55.38368939999998

Contact : +971 800 80000

Website : <http://www.heartofsharjah.ae/souq-al-arsah.html>

Nearest Public Transport : Rolla Square Park Bus Stop

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00–13:00hrs, 17:00hrs–20:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. Quran Roundabout - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Address : Sowwah Square Tower 2 - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.3560618, 55.42799709999997

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Sharjah Art Museum - Al Gharb - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Address : Corniche street - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.361375, 55.38704269999994

Contact : +971 6 568 8222

Website : <http://sharjahmuseums.ae/Our-Museums/Sharjah-Art-Museum.aspx?lang=en-US>

Nearest Public Transport : Rolla Square Park Bus Stop

Open & Close Timing : Saturday -Thursday 8:00hrs-20:00hrs; Friday 16:00hrs-20:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. Wasit Wetland Centre - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Address : Al Batayeah - Al Dhaid Road - Interchange 9 - Sharjah

Location : 25.3621424, 55.47023319999994

Contact : +97165311501

Open & Close Timing : Daily 9:00hrs-6:30hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.10. City Centre Sharjah - Industrial Area - Sharjah - United Arab

Emirates

Zipcode : 0

Location : 25.3253113, 55.39309960000003

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

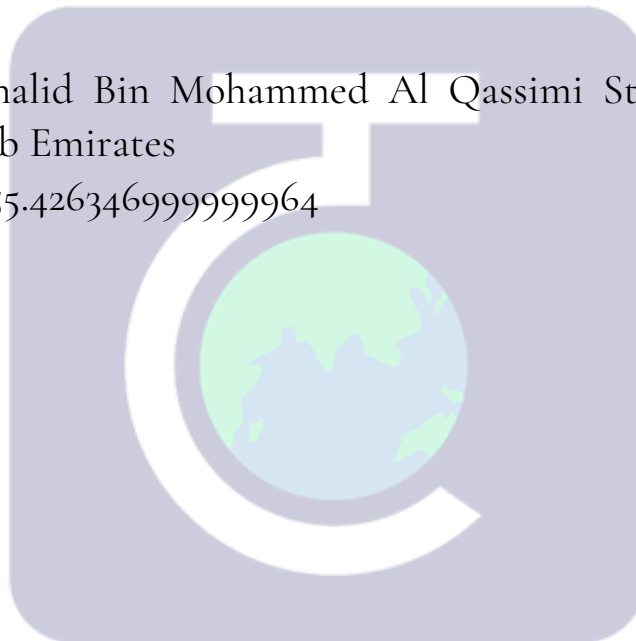
7.2.11. Al Shaab Village [?] [?] [?] [?] - Al Riqa Suburb - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Address : Sheikh Khalid Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi Street, Al Hazannah - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.371921, 55.4263469999999964

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No



8. Key sites sports & adventure

From the east to the west coast, Sharjah is full of adventurous activities. With an extensive coastline, tourists have the opportunity to swim in the city beach, dive in the ocean, hike or kayak through the mangrove forest. Other exciting activities include scuba diving, archery and shooting ranges, ice skating, horse racing, paintballing, powerboat racing, bowling, camel racing and much more.

- **Sharjah Golf and Shooting Club - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates -**

Address : Emirates Road, Near Tasjeel Auto Village, - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.3558294,55.48195420000002

Contact No : +971 6 548 7777

Website : <http://www.golfandshootingshj.com/>

Entry Fees : 105 AED – 375 AED

Open / Close Time : Daily 12:15hrs-22:00hrs

Time Required : 2.00

Wait Time : 30 minutes

- **Desert Safari -**

Address : 3206, Churchill Towers, Business Bay- United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.181016,55.26269219999995

Contact No : +971 52 904 2805

Website : <http://www.dubaidesertsafarioffer.com/dubaidesertsafari.php>

Nearest Public Transport : Lillian Tower 2 Bus station

Entry Fees : Starts from 40 AED

Open / Close Time : Daily 09:00hrs-21:00hrs

Time Required : 4.00

- **Ice skating -**

Address : Sheikh Khalid Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi Street, Al Hazannah - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.3716087,55.426516199999924

Contact No : +971 6 524 2007

Website : <http://www.alshaabvillage.com/>

Entry Fees : Single Ticket: AED 50 (2 or 1.5 hours) Group Ticket (25 pax): AED 25 (morning), AED 35 (evening) Membership: AED 600 (1 month), AED 1,500 (3 months), AED 2,100 (6 months), AED 3,300 (1 year) Skating Aid: AED 20 Locker: AED 10 Socks: AED 5

Open / Close Time : Sunday to Wednesday: 10:00am - 11:00pm Saturday to Thursday: 10:00am - 12:00am Friday: 3:00pm - 12:00am

Time Required : 2.00



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9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

For ball games enthusiasts, Sharjah is home to several golf courses, rugby clubs, cricket, football, tennis, badminton, volleyball etc. The city is well endowed with sport complexes, venues, clubs and stadiums. Some sports clubs include the Sharjah sports club, Al-shabaab sports club, Sharjah ladies club and many others. Major sports complexes are;

- **Sharjah Cricket Stadium - Industrial Area - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates:**

Address : Second Industrial Street, Industrial Area 5 - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.3309196, 55.42092109999999

Contact No : +971 6 542 2991

Website : <http://www.sharjahcricket.ae/>

- **Sharjah Football Stadium - Industrial Area - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates:**

Address : Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.3331803, 55.41959070000007

- **Hamdan Sports Complex - United Arab Emirates:**

Address : Exit 611, Opp. Global Village, Emirates Rd - Dubai - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.0513009, 55.317969899999998

Contact No : +971 4 306 2666

Website : <http://www.hamdansc.com/>



10. Spas and relaxation

- **O2 Spa - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates:**

Address : Radisson Blu Resort Corniche Street - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.371272,55.39146299999993

Contact No : +971 6 565 7777

Website : <http://uae.o2spa.org/locations/uae/sharjah/>

- **Body & Soul Health Club & Spa - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates:**

Address : Al Khan Road - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.321221,55.37470600000006

Contact No : +971 6 554 0080

Website : <http://www.bodyandsoulhealthclub.com/>

- **The Beauty Oasis spa - Badr Street - Ajman - United Arab Emirates:**

Address : Sharjah - Ajman Border, Al-Nuamiya - Badr St - Ajman - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.3889167,55.439377000000036

Contact No : +971 6 746 6677

Website : <http://www.thebeautyasisspa.com/>

- **Friends Massage Centres - Damascus Street - Dubai - United Arab Emirates:**

Address : 224 Damascus Street - Dubai - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.2688819,55.379181099999998

Contact No : +971 56 257 7599

Website : <http://friendsmassagedubai.com/>




11. Events calendar

Month

Events

SteelFab Industrial Show @ Sharjah Expo Center, Sharjah (16th-19th)



This is the best technology event in the region that gathers global key players in the steel industry. With various brands on display and amazing technology exhibitions, this event is definitely interesting to everyone.

Sharjah Light Festival @ Various locations within Sharjah.(2nd-11th)

This fest highlights major landmarks and historic buildings in Sharjah. It floods the entire city with light and colour; combines music and imagery to create an unforgettable experience.

Electric Run Sharjah @ Sharjah waterfront (25th)

Having toured over 30 cities worldwide, the Electric run is finally in Sharjah to give tourists and locals a spectacular night-

out. Participants will run/walk through several courses with electrifying music and beaming lights.

The Sharjah Children's Reading Festival (SCRF @ Expo Centre, Sharjah (20th -30th)



Come and meet over 120 local/international publishers and world's best children authors as they interacts with guests and sell their books. There will also be special award events such as Sharjah Children's Books Awards. Chinese Products Exhibition @ Expo Center, Sharjah (19th May-3rd June)

Witness exceptional Chinese product exhibitions ranging from household commodities to recent electronic brands and appliances.

Ramadan Village @ Sharjah Expo Center, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (16th June-9th July)

This festival features a multi-consumer product fair and lots of family entertainment for duration of 3 weeks.

Ramadan & Eid

One of the holiest celebrations and month here, Ramadan is celebrated praying and enjoying artistic, cultural and religious events. Eid is celebrated at the end of fasting during Ramadan. Jewelry Exhibition @ Sharjah Expo Center, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. (27th Sept – 1st Oct)



All tourists and locals are invited to the 41st Mideast watch and jewelry show where they will have opportunities to purchase jewelry at discounted prices. Xposure International Photography Festival 2016 @ Sharjah Expo Center, Sharjah (12th)

This photography, imaging and educational show will be hosted for the first time in 2016 and thereafter become an annual feature for photographers, filmmakers, students and photo enthusiasts from all over the globe.

Global Village 2016-2017 @ Global Village, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Road, Sharjah (1st Nov – April 2017)

This is the biggest seasonal-

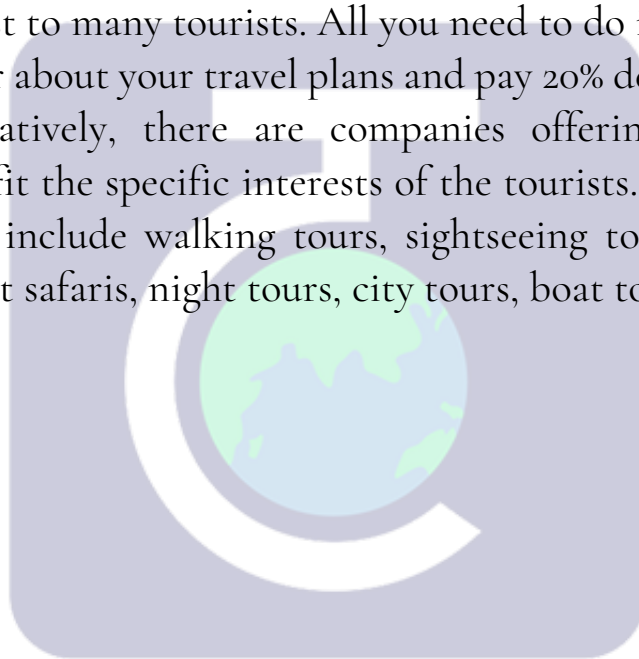
**cultural extravaganza in UAE
featuring lots of entertainment,
festivities and shopping in an
open air theme park. Visitors will
also enjoy fun rides and food
varieties served by restaurants
from all over the world.**



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12. Key local guides and tours

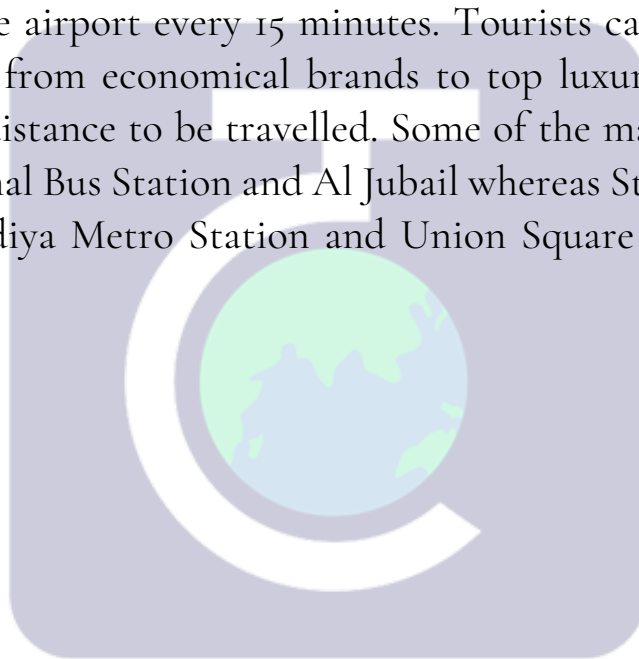
Sharjah has a booming tourist industry courtesy of the various attraction sites, art fair and the culture of the locals. The local authorities require that all tours guides should be trained and licensed before they operate within the city. This policy is aimed at improving the tourism sector through professional expertise services. The tour guides are very knowledgeable about the City and the Emirati culture which is a key interest to many tourists. All you need to do is choose a tour guide online, email him/her about your travel plans and pay 20% deposit to secure his or her services. Alternatively, there are companies offering tour packages or customized tours to fit the specific interests of the tourists. Some of the exciting packages in Sharjah include walking tours, sightseeing tours, stand-up paddle boarding tours, desert safaris, night tours, city tours, boat tours and many others.



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13. Transportation hubs

The closest airport to Sharjah is Sharjah International Airport which is located 18.8 Km East South East of Sharjah. Tourists can get to the city center by hiring taxis which charge 35 AED (during the day) and 40 AED (during the night) and take approximately 20 minutes when there is free traffic flow. Public transport is also available particularly through Line 111bus, Metro which charge between 14 – 33 AED and leave the airport every 15 minutes. Tourists can also rent cars from the Airport ranging from economical brands to top luxury cars at convenient rates depending on distance to be travelled. Some of the major bus stations here are BMW Maaza Signal Bus Station and Al Jubail whereas Stadium Metro Station , Al Qiyadah, Rashidiya Metro Station and Union Square are the major metro stations.



14. Transportation cost

Getting around Sharjah is convenient as there are sufficient private and public transport systems. Driving in Sharjah is a pleasant experience as the roads are in excellent condition. Car rentals are available at the Sharjah International Airport at convenient prices. Taxi services are operated by licensed companies such as Union, Citi, Advantage, Sharjah and Emirates. All taxis are metered and have a drop charge of 3 AED which increases to 4 AED between 11pm to 6 am. The intercity minimum charge is AED 3 and intra-city trip minimum costs AED 10. Busses in Sharjah use 7 different routes and 3 express routes. You can access bus services by purchasing a ticket from the driver or using a slayer card (prepaid electronic card). A pre-loaded slayer card can be bought at bus stations within the city. The RTA buses are undergoing developments to introduce monthly passes which will curb the recent fare hikes from 7 AED to 10 AED for Sharjah-Dubai route. There are NOL cards to travel around with metros. These are divided in different colors that starts from 7.5 AED.

15. Baggage allowance

Getting around Sharjah with extra baggage is quite convenient. Taxis allow baggage that is less than 35 Kgs with additional cost for extra weight. Public transit such as the metros allows 2 bags of varying sizes (i.e W 81 x H 58 x D 30 cm, W 55 x H 38 x D 20 cm). The weight specification is determined by the Metro staff. There are several luggage storage facilities for those who may not wish to move around with their bags. This includes the Carrfure department store which offers 24 hour services at affordable rates.



Index**16. Must try food and local savouries**

The must-have local foods – also known as Emirati cuisine – are more or less common across all emirates of the UAE. The food-culture which the locals abide by same and the food favorites which one must not miss in Sharjah are:



17. Restaurant & Nightlife

Most of the restaurants are on and around the Corniche Street.

Food -

Most of the restaurants are on and around the Corniche Street.

- **Katis Restaurant - Al Khan Street - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates:**

Address : Al Khan St - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.3257812,55.376385700

Contact No : +971 6 556 5650

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:30hrs-15:00hrs; 17:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **Bait Al Mandi restaurant - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates:**

Address : Khalid Suwaidi Building, Al Khan Street, Al Khalidiya - Sharjah - United Arab

Location : 25.345232,55.394166799

Contact No : +971 6 528 1798

Website : <http://baitalmandi.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 10:300hrs-00:00hrs

- **Aroos Damascus Restarurant - Al Qasimia - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates:**

Address : Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.346198,55.390641700

Contact No : +971 6 573 9900

Open / Close Time : Daily 08:00hrs-00:30hrs

- **Sharjah Dhow Restaurant - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates:**

Address : Corniche St - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.342791,55.383878999

Contact No : +971 6 573 0222

Open / Close Time : Saturday-Thursday 10:30hrs-23:30hrs; Friday Closed

- **Shababeek - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates:**

Address : Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.3225567,55.376227500

Contact No : +971 6 554 0444

Open / Close Time : Daily 12:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **Milas Restaurant - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates:**

Address : Al Estiqlal Street (Immigration Road) - Sharjah - United Arab Emirates

Location : 25.344876,55.398758999

Contact No : +971 6 550 3190

Website : <http://www.milas.cc/>

Open / Close Time : Saturday-Wednesday 09:00hrs-00:00hrs; Thursday-Friday 12:00hrs-02:00hrs

Index**18. Average meal cost**

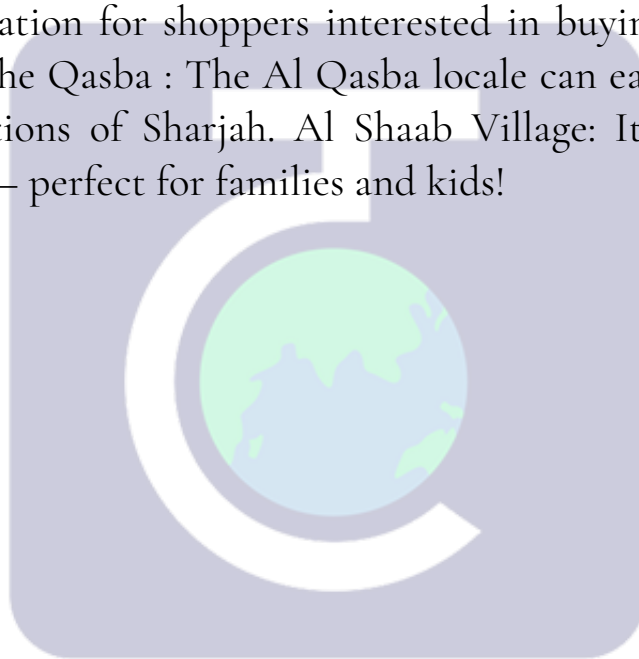
In an inexpensive restaurant a normal meal is available at 20.00 AED. A three-course meal at a mid-range restaurant for two people is available at 95.00 AED. A combo meal at McDonald's can be purchased at 25.00 AED. You can have a fresh cappuccino at 11.44 AED. 11.2 oz small bottle of water is available at 1.19 AED. A domestic non-alcoholic wine (0.5litre bottle) is available at 45.00 AED.



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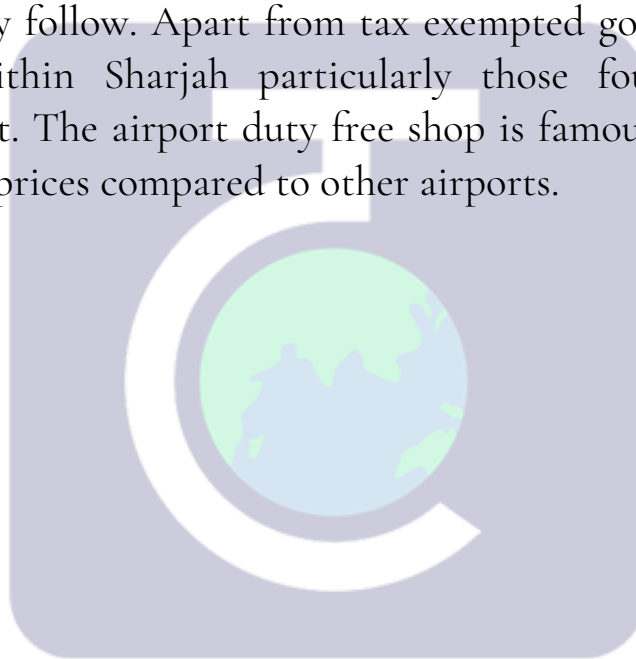
19. Shopping

Sharjah offers many shopping delights for tourists and travelers. There are number of old and newly developed souks and shopping malls where visitors can go and shop for all kinds of goods and items. Sharjah City Center: It is a shopping mall which has 120 stores, and 50 of them are dedicated to international fashion brands. The Blue Souk : It is one of the landmarks of Sharjah and it is a very popular go-to destination for shoppers interested in buying souvenirs, carpets, and antique items. The Qasba : The Al Qasba locale can easily termed as one of the signature attractions of Sharjah. Al Shaab Village: It offers a wholesome shopping experience – perfect for families and kids!



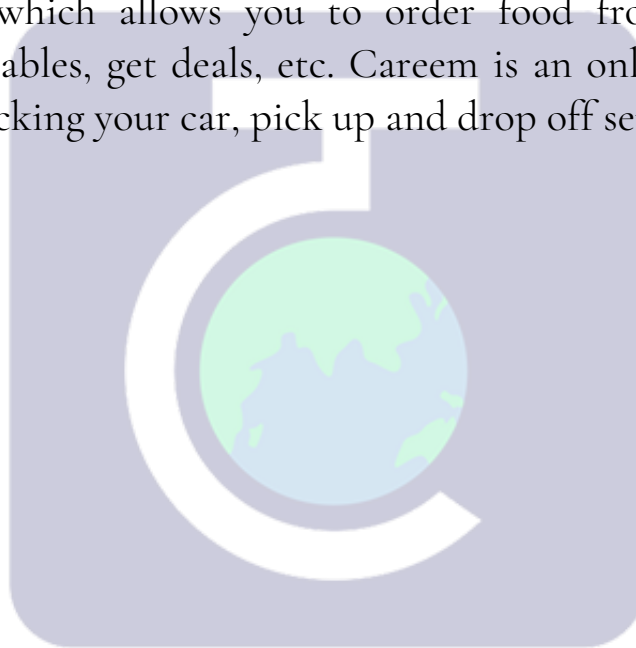
20. Tourist benefits

There is no existing law to enforce VAT or GST for goods and services purchased in Sharjah. Therefore there are no VAT refunds to foreigners shopping within the city. However there are hidden taxes such as 5%-10% charged in restaurants and 10%-15% included in room rates for daily accommodation. Subsequently, plans are underway to introduce 5% VAT by 2018 and implementation of VAT refund policies will probably follow. Apart from tax exempted goods, there are several duty free shops within Sharjah particularly those found at the Sharjah International Airport. The airport duty free shop is famous for offering quality goods at unmatched prices compared to other airports.



21. Essential local apps

There are many historical and cultural sights and events in Sharjah that attract visitors from all over the world. It will be useful to have some travel apps to help you to get around in Sharjah. Sharjah Airport is an official application of the Sharjah International Airport with details like flight arrivals and departures, airport facilities and services, and maps of airport sections. EatEasily is an offline food ordering app which allows you to order food from the participating restaurants, reserve tables, get deals, etc. Careem is an online taxi booking app with features like tracking your car, pick up and drop off services, etc.



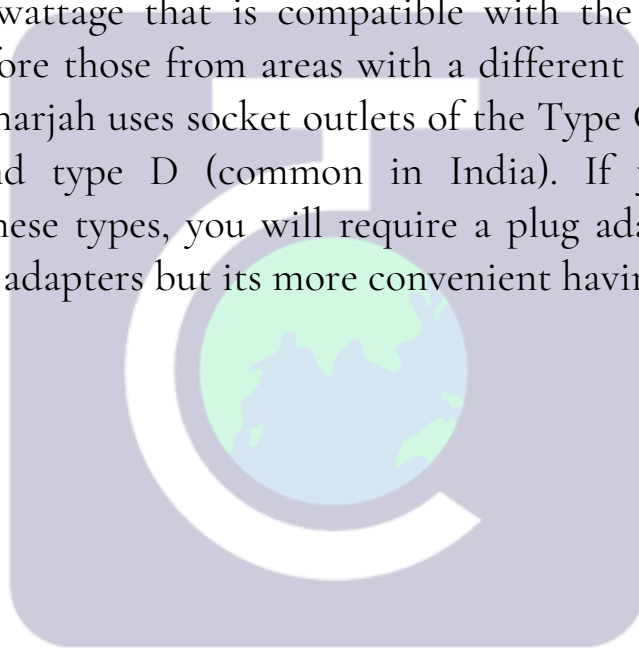
22. Driving

Foreigners can drive in Sharjah provided they have an International Driving Permit. However those who have acquired their international permits in India will have to get a local driving license. Foreigners from some states can transfer their valid foreign licenses without undergoing tests or through a driving school. (Please call RTA on 8009090 to inquire if your country is among those allowed to transfer licenses to the UAE). License holders from Canada are required to present consulate letters authenticating their licenses. Those from Poland, Greece, Japan, Turkey, Cyprus, Canada and South Korea will require translation of their licenses. Some of the transfer requirements include residence permit copy, valid passport, current driving license, passport photo, eye test certificate and some transfer fee. License transfers are only paramount to those intending to reside in Sharjah. Alternatively, aspiring residents can acquire an UAE license after undergoing driving school and passing tests. Tourists visiting for short periods can use their International driving Permits.

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23. Travel essentials

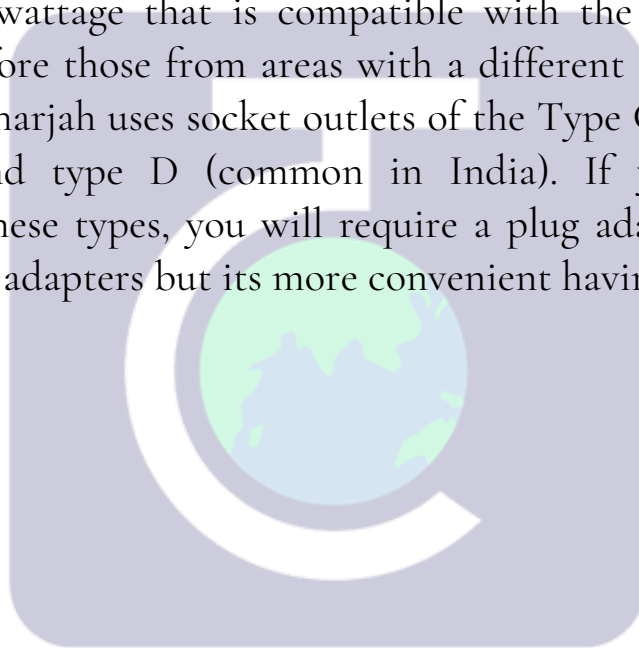
Sharjah has a standard output voltage of 220-240 Volts alternating at 50 Hz. This standard differs from that of Canada, USA OR Japan which is 110-120 V. Visitors with electronic appliances using the 110-120 V standard are advised to get a step-down transformer which are readily available in Sharjah. You can easily know the wattage of your device by checking its user manual. Additionally, most devices are manufactured with wattage that is compatible with the destination of their intended use. Therefore those from areas with a different standard will require voltage converters. Sharjah uses socket outlets of the Type C (euro plug), type G (British BS-1363) and type D (common in India). If your device plug is incompatible with these types, you will require a plug adapter. Most hotels in Sharjah provide plug adapters but its more convenient having your own.



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24. Essential clothes

Sharjah has a standard output voltage of 220-240 Volts alternating at 50 Hz. This standard differs from that of Canada, USA OR Japan which is 110-120 V. Visitors with electronic appliances using the 10-120 V standard are advised to get a step-down transformer which are readily available in Sharjah. You can easily know the wattage of your device by checking its user manual. Additionally, most devices are manufactured with wattage that is compatible with the destination of their intended use. Therefore those from areas with a different standard will require voltage converters. Sharjah uses socket outlets of the Type C (euro plug), type G (British BS-1363) and type D (common in India). If your device plug is incompatible with these types, you will require a plug adapter. Most hotels in Sharjah provide plug adapters but its more convenient having your own.



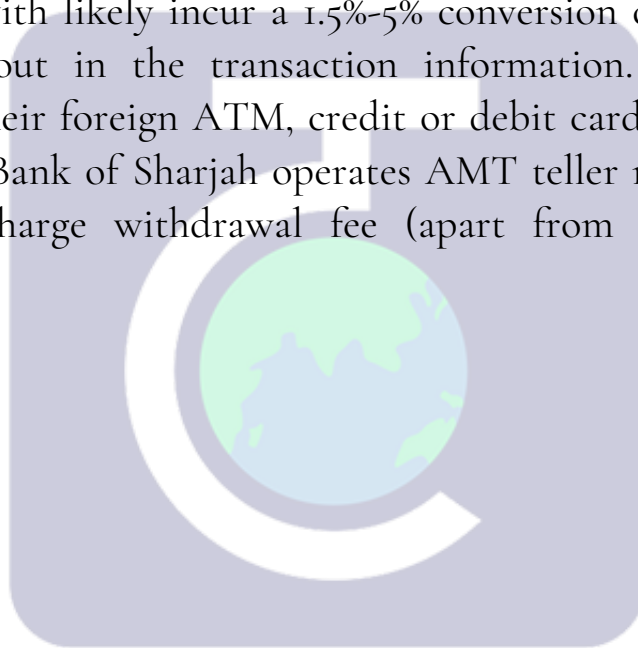
25. Local currency

Arab Emirate Dirham or simply Dirham is the local currency of Sharjah. It is denoted as AED. $1 \text{ USD} = 3.67 \text{ AED}$



Index**26. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges**

Sharjah is a renowned tourist's destination and therefore a vast network of currency exchange dealers exists within the city. Exchange rates differ from dealer to dealer and subsequently fluctuate (almost on a daily basis) due to the local demand of foreign currency. The estimated average vendors' commission is 2.5%-3%. Banks in Sharjah also offer currency exchange services. Debit card or ATM withdrawals with likely incur a 1.5%-5% conversion commission which in most cases is left out in the transaction information. Tourists can make withdrawals using their foreign ATM, credit or debit cards provided it has the PLUS or Visa logo. Bank of Sharjah operates AMT teller machines all over the city and do not charge withdrawal fee (apart from currency conversion commission).



27. Staying connected

The telecom sector monopoly is run by two stated-owned telecom giants – Etisalat and Du. If you're in Sharjah, you can visit any of the many Etisalat or Du stores to purchase a postpaid or prepaid SIM. In order to do so, you will need to show the original copy of your passport and valid UAE visa, and submit a xerox copy of the same. Both telecom providers have different tourist plans available, and the tariff charges are different as well. Recharge vouchers for Internet and talktime are easily gettable. Most public places in Sharjah are wired with Wi-Fi connectivity.



28. Time Zone

Sharjah follows Gulf Time Zone with UTC + 04:00 hours.



29. Languages

Arabic is the main language and an official language here. The following languages are Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, Persian, Urdu and Bengali.



30. Political Scenario

The highest constitutional authority in Sharjah is the Supreme Council. It also holds the position of executive and legislative authority. Sharjah is one of the emirates of United Arab Emirates. Its legislative body is the Federal National Council that consist 40 members. The election is held with citizens of the emirate and the ones holding political power. The supervisory and legislative role, both are accorded by the FNC, thus acting as the main body in terms of consultation and proposing bills.



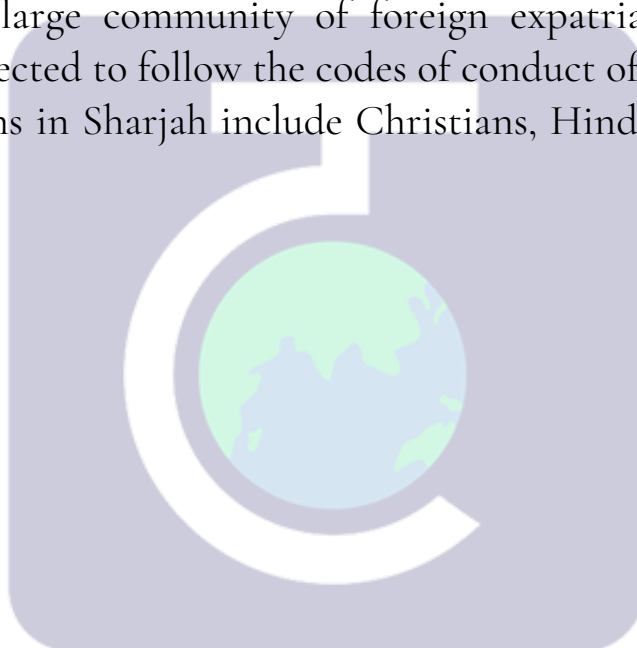
31. Economic Scenario

Sharjah is home for nearly 6000 companies which are set up in the Sharjah Airport Free Zone, popularly known as SAIF Zone, and it is one of UAE's well-known free zones. To set up a business in Sharjah is fairly cheaper compared to other emirates. The SAIF Zone has attracted rich investment from over 90 countries of the world. In the last couple of years, the emirate of Sharjah is focused on transforming into a commercial center, thanks to the increasing industrialization which has been ongoing in the emirate now.



Index**32. Religious belief**

Sharjah is a very conservative Islamic state. The religion and its tenets are strictly followed by the people and the government ensures strict adherence of the residents and visitors to the laws and traditions prescribed in Islam. Everything including architecture, music, dress, food, and lifestyle are prescribed by Islamic and Arab culture and tradition. Though there are many other religions present in Sharjah among the large community of foreign expatriates who live in the emirate, they are expected to follow the codes of conduct of Islam as prevalent in the city. Non-Muslims in Sharjah include Christians, Hindus, Jews, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, etc.



33. Visa requirements

Visitors from the Arabic Gulf Cooperation Council (AGCC) states do not require visas to enter into Sharjah or other destinations within the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Similarly expatriate residents from AGCC countries can acquire a 30-days non-renewable visa on arrival. Other visitors from some countries are granted a visit visa upon arrival which is valid for 60 days and is renewable once for an extended period of 30 days. Countries covered by this arrangement include the 28 European Union States, Norway, Italy, Iceland, Belgium, Australia, Andorra, Brunei, Canada, Cyprus, Finland, France, Holland, Germany, Greece etc. (confirm in your local immigration office if your home country falls within this list). If your home country is not part of this arrangement, you can apply for a visa in UAE consulates, embassies or authorized agents in your home country. Citizens from Hong Kong or those with Hong Kong identification documents are not granted visas to visit the UAE.



Index**34. Essential vaccination**

It is recommended to be vaccinated for Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Rabies, Typhoid, Measles, Tetanus and Diphtheria and that of Routine vaccines.



Index**35. Theft and Safety**

Sharjah is a safe place for tourists. Being a conservative society, women travelling alone are stared at sometimes, but no physical harm is done towards them. Always apply precaution with your valuable things in hotel rooms and keep them locked in safes.



Index**36. Embassy/Consulate**

There are no foreign embassies and consulates in Sharjah. You can have more information at <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/united-arab-emirates>.



37. Accessibility

The UAE Government has taken steps to make its public places accessible for persons with disabilities. However, the programmes are not yet comprehensive.



Index**38. Emergencies**

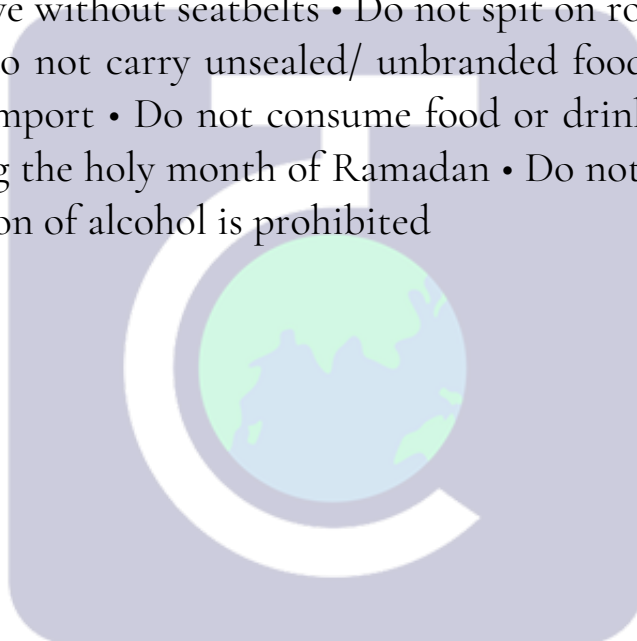
In case of emergencies you can call 999 for Police, 997 for Fire and that of Ambulance, you can call at 999. You are provided with top-notch medical services and facilities even if you are a tourist. The hospital that provides the travel insurance is Sarjah Corniche Hospital .



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39. Do's and Don'ts

Adhere to the rules and regulations stipulated by the authorities while visiting Sharjah. Do's - • Dress appropriately in public places • Use only the designated areas for smoking • It is advisable to carry a certified doctor's prescription along with the medicines to ensure hassle free import clearance. • Cover the head before entering mosques • Respect the religion, tradition, and customs of the place Don'ts - • Do not drive without seatbelts • Do not spit on roads or public places • It is advisable that do not carry unsealed/ unbranded food articles as the same may be banned for import • Do not consume food or drink, play loud music or dance publicly during the holy month of Ramadan • Do not hug or kiss in public Selling or consumption of alcohol is prohibited



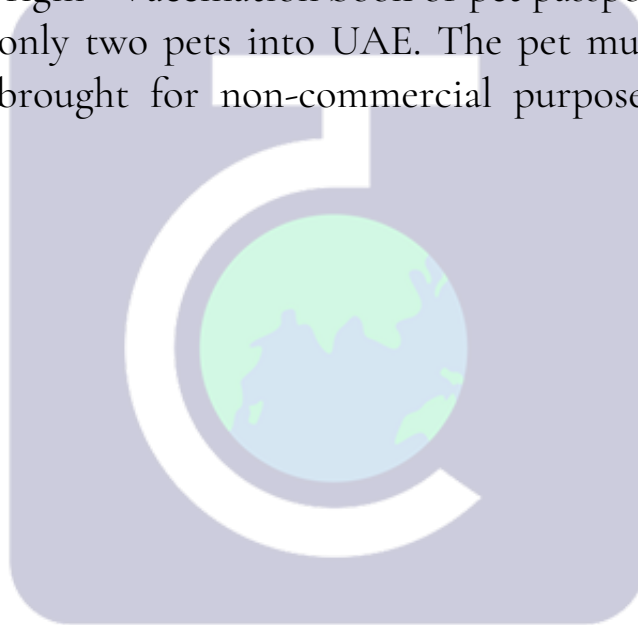
Index**40.Tipping basics**

Tipping is not a common mandate here. Restaurants and bars tips are expected and that is shared equally among staff which is approximately 10% of the total bill. It is advisable to add more dirhams. Parking valets and porters get 10 AED.



Index**41.Pet info**

All pets that enter UAE must have an Import Permit obtained from the UAE Ministry of Environment and Water. The pet must be microchipped and vaccinated against rabies prior to travel. The animals must be accompanied by copies of the following documents: • Veterinary certificate from the country of origin • Analysis certificate approved by a licensed lab to examine rabies infection from the country of origin • Vaccination book or pet passport • Owner's passport A person can bring only two pets into UAE. The pet must not be less than 4 months. Only pets brought for non-commercial purposes are issued Import Permit.



Conclusion – Why to select this destination

Why choose Sharjah ? Sharjah is generally regarded as a suburb and residential quarters of its neighboring emirate Dubai as more expatriates who work in Dubai have made Sharjah their home. In contrast to the glitz and glamour of Dubai, Sharjah is the center of history and culture. The city's heritage is evident in its buildings, museums, cultural flavor, and its people. The Islamic culture and customs are strictly followed in Sharjah and the visitors are required to adhere to certain dress codes in public. In some areas, there is a separate visiting time for women. The Sharjah Heritage Area is a favorite haunt of history lovers. Buildings and houses restored and reconstructed with traditional materials offer a view of the architectural styles of the past. Several museums catering to the history of the emirate, Islamic Civilization, and calligraphy can be found here. Opposite to the Heritage Area is the Art Area with the Sharjah Art Museum for contemporary art by local and international artists. Another stop for history and culture lovers is the Sharjah Archaeology Museum with its wide collection of artifacts, coins, and other relics of the past. The cultural life of Sharjah is marked by several regional festivals and celebrations. These are the occasions when the traditions and customs of the Muslim community get manifested in camel rides, henna designing, Arabian food, and many such fun and entertainment activities. The Date Festival is a unique experience that celebrates the date season. Souqs and malls are plenty in Sharjah. Antiques, handicrafts, carpets, dates, and many imported products from the neighboring countries are sold for the best price.

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