

United Arab Emirates (UAE)



History / Background (3 facts)

- UAE used to be a desert land occupied by nomadic Bedouin tribes
- Originally, the Bahrain, Qatar and the Trucial Coast states were supposed to form one state, but after negotiation, they all became independent and the Trucial Coast states became the United Arab Emirates
- Made up of seven Emirates: Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ra's al-Khaimah, Ajman, Umm al-Quwain and Fujairah

Language (2 facts)

- Arabic is the official language
- Other primary languages are English, Persian, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali and Chinese

Food (3 facts with pictures)

- Al Harees: a dish of boiled, coarsely-ground, or cracked wheat mixed with meat. The consistency is

usually like porridge or the fillings of dumplings.



- Maqluba: means “upside-down” in Arabic. It is a pot of stewed meat, rice, and vegetables. After it is cooked in a pot, it is flipped upside down onto a dish.



- Ghuzi



Traditions (4 facts and descriptions for each)

- Men greet each other with hugs and kisses, but they cannot hug or kiss people of the opposite gender

- During Ramandan, no one can eat, smoke, or drink in public
- They cannot eat pork
- Religion is a big part of Emirati culture, and is similar to Islamic culture

Interesting Facts (5 facts)

- Kissing or cuddling in public is strictly prohibited and such conduct can result in arrest
- It's actually polite to arrive 15 minutes late
- Usually people eat with the right
- There are distinct social classes, and the ruling Sheikh class are socially and politically powerful
- Everyone dresses very modestly and don't show a lot of skin

Famous People (2 facts)

- Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan: president of the UAE, the Emir of Abu Dhabi, the Supreme Commander of the Union Defence Force and the chairman of the Supreme Petroleum Council.
- Ahmed Al-Maktoum: first person to win an Olympic medal for his country

SOURCES:

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