

United Arab Emirates

MercerPassport

June 2022

welcome to brighter

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MercerPassport® Guide - United Arab Emirates

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1 Tips for My Move

1.1 My Trip

Getting Ready to Go

- Ensure all passports, visas and necessary permits are in order
- Confirm journey dates and travel tickets/documents
- Locate all personal/private documentation you will need to take with you (including birth certificates, medical records, driving license, insurance policies, bank records and school records)
- Remember to change your address with all companies and persons that you correspond with, and arrange a mail forwarding service with the post office
- Cancel all utilities and services that you will no longer need and settle all accounts with these companies

Important Notes

- You should never eat with your left hand, nor extend your left hand to shake someone else's, nor offer a gift with your left hand.
- You should never ask about an Arab's wife; instead ask about his family.
- You should shake hands with everyone who is present at a meeting, except with the women. Men should wait for a woman to extend her hand, which she may or may not do.
- The person who asks the most questions during a business meeting is likely to be the least important. The final decision maker will most probably be the silent observer.
- You should have business cards printed with English on the one side and Arabic on the reverse side.
- LGBT individuals should be careful not to openly express their sexuality in public.
- Public stoning and flogging are legal forms of punishment under Sharia laws and discrimination against women is still commonplace.

Packing Your Bags

- Arrange packing and shipping of your belongings and storage of items you are leaving behind
- Decide what essentials you need to carry with you when traveling
- When packing, take into consideration the climate and availability of products within the country. The UAE has a hot climate throughout the year
- Find out what you can and cannot take through customs (see Customs and Import Regulations Section)
- Be aware of any particular rules and regulations in the country (see Etiquette Section)
- Make sure you have some local currency (Emirati dirham - AED) for your arrival in the country, and try to get small denominations of notes and also coins, which will be needed to pay the taxi/bus fares from the airport to your hotel or apartment

1.2 My Health

Air Ambulances

Air ambulance services are available in the UAE in case of an emergency medical evacuation. These services are extremely expensive and you should make sure that your health insurance or employer medical aid will cover you in the event of such an emergency.

Suitable local and international air ambulances, include:

- Air Charter Service

Web: www.airchartermideast.ae

- Gulf Care Middle east

Web: www.gulfcaredubai.com

- IAS Medical

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Web: www.iasmedical.com

- Universal Medical Transfer Services

Web: www.universalmedicaltransfers.com

Ambulances

For general emergency services, you can dial 998 (ambulance) or 999 (police) any time of the day. Although ambulance services are available, they are used primarily for road accidents and most expats use a private vehicle or a taxi in an emergency situation. Professional ambulance services are also available from hospitals.

National Ambulance is the leading pre-hospital emergency care provider in the UAE. It was established to serve government and private clients, and commenced its operations in 2010. The ambulance service is available daily on a 24-hour basis. They employ highly qualified staff with state-of-the-art equipment and modern technology. Services are available across the UAE.

Expats are encouraged to download the National Ambulance 998 App. The App allows residents in the Northern Emirates to request an ambulance in an emergency.

Abu Dhabi

- Abu Dhabi Government Ambulance
Tel: +971 2 666 4442
Web: www.abudhabi.ae/portal/public/en/business/safety-and-environment/safety/patients-transportation-by-ambulance
- National Ambulance
Tel: +971 2 596 8600 (non-emergency)
Email: info@nationalambulance.ae
Web: www.nationalambulance.ae

Dubai

- Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Services
Tel: 971 4 292 2222, 999 (emergency)
Email: dubaiambulance@dcas.gov.ae
Web: www.ambulance.gov.ae
- Ziqitza Gulf Medical Response and Ambulance Services
Tel: +971 4 324 5690
Email: contactus@zgmr.com
Web: www.zgmr.com

Dental Care

Most private medical insurance plans do not cover dental care. Some only provide very basic cover. The majority of dentists registered in the UAE work in the private sector. In just under 30 years, the Emirates have created one of the best dental care infrastructures in the world. Dental practices are generally open from around 8am or 9am and are normally closed on Fridays. However, some dental practices are available for emergency treatments on Fridays.

Abu Dhabi

Dental practices, which are popular with expats, include:

- American Dental Clinic
Web: www.americandentalclinic.com
Comments: There are two clinics in the city. Location maps are on the website
- Appolonia Dental Clinic
Address: Zayed 1st Street, Above KM Trading, Khalidiya Area, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 666 0997

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Email: info@appoloniadental.com

- **British Dental Clinic**
Address: 3rd Floor, Bin Ham Building, Hamdan Street, Al Markaziya, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 677 3308
Email: appointments@britishdentalclinic.ae
Web: www.britishdentalclinic.ae
- **Burjeel Hospital**
Address: Al Najdah Street, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 508 5555
Email: info@burjeel.com
Web: www.burjeel.com/abu-dhabi
Comments: The dental clinic at the hospital is popular with expats in Abu Dhabi
- **Cure Medical Centers**
Web: www.cure.ae
Comments: The group has three clinics in the city - the website has a location map
- **Dentacare Center**
Web: www.dentacarecentre.com
Comments: There are two clinics available in the city - the website has details
- **Firas Dental Clinic**
Address: Marina Office Park B16/B17, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 222 2600
Email: info@firasdoc.com
Web: www.firasdoc.com
Hours: Open from Sunday to Wednesday from 9am to 7pm; Thursdays from 9am to 3pm; Saturday hours are from 11am to 7pm; closed on Fridays
- **NMC Specialty Hospital**
Address: 1st and 2nd floor, Prestige Tower 17, 79th Street, Near Capital Mall, Mohammed Bin Zayed City, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 691 1500
Email: nmcddsc@nmc.ae
Web: <http://nmc.ae/hospitals/abu-dhabi/nmc-specialty-hospital-3>
Comments: The hospital has a dental clinic as well

Dubai

Recommended dentists include:

- **Drs. Nichols and Asp Dental Clinic**
Web: www.nicolasandasp.com
Comments: They have several centers in the city. The website has details
- **Dubai Smile**
Address: Jumeirah Beach Road. Jumeirah 3. Villa 512, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 380 8988
Web: www.dubaismile.com
- **Medcare**
Web: www.medcare.ae
Comments: The group has a few clinics in Dubai - the website has location details
- **Mediclinic Middle East**
Web: www.mediclinic.ae
Comments: The group has several clinics in Dubai. Details are on the website
- **MMDC Medical and Dental Center**
Address: Tameem Houses 2012, Tecom Barsha Heights, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 277 6055, +971 50 158 2454
Web: <http://mmdc.ae>

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- **Swiss Dental Clinic**
Address: Sheikh Zayed Road, Crowne Plaza, Commercial Tower, 5th Floor, Suite 504, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 332 1444
Web: www.swissdentalclinic.com

Health

Sanitation standards vary in the United Arab Emirates, so precautions are needed with food and water. Many expatriates use a water filter, or drink only bottled water, as the taste of tap water is rather metallic. Local food is generally considered safe to eat, but in summer expatriates should exercise caution (even in restaurants), as food is often stored in unrefrigerated warehouses. There is a large variety of foods available. It is important to wash vegetables, salads and fruit well before consumption. Some people treat their fruit and vegetables with chlorine based agents. Fish is generally fresh and safe to eat. It may take time for stomachs to adjust to food changes, especially to Middle Eastern foods.

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has spread to countries worldwide. As of June 2022, the UAE has confirmed more than 911,514 cases, including over 2,305 fatalities. The infection spreads quickly; therefore, expats in UAE should maintain social distancing, avoid gatherings, follow public advisories and seek immediate medical help if feeling sick. In case of an emergency, they can contact their country's nearest embassy or consulate.

The UAE has been declared rabies free by the WHO (2005). However, it borders Saudi Arabia and Oman, where rabies is considered high risk. Animal or bat bites should always be assessed carefully.

There is a very limited risk of benign vivax malaria in some valleys in the east of the country, but there is not normally any risk in Dubai or Abu Dhabi, therefore prophylactics are not generally advised. There have been some cases of malaria from the northeast emirates area, some prophylaxis is recommended for visitors to this area. When in the UAE, avoid mosquito bites by covering up with long sleeves and trousers, especially after sunset and by using insect repellent on exposed skin.

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) is a viral respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus. It was first identified in Saudi Arabia in 2012. Since 2012, more than 2,000 cases of infection with MERS-CoV have been reported, including more than 710 deaths from various countries including the United Arab Emirates. The majority of cases have been reported in Saudi Arabia.

Cases of Legionnaires' disease continue to be reported in travelers returning from Dubai. Since 1 October 2016 there have been 72 cases, including twodeaths. All had visited Dubai within two to 10 days before becoming ill.

Respiratory-related problems are often triggered and aggravated by sand and dust in the air, which are brought about by the continuous construction in the country. Heatstroke and sunburn are caused by the extreme temperatures in the country, which can reach as high as 50°C (122°F).

It is essential to drink large amounts of water in this climate, at least 2.5 liters per day. Needs may increase up to two or three times this, if playing sport or gardening. Remember to carry large amounts of water if you are traveling out into the desert. It is important to respect the damage the sun can inflict on the skin and eyes and as a contribution to dehydration. Always wear a broad brimmed hat, apply sun block and wear 100% UV filtering sunglasses. Almost 100% of skin cancers seen in the UAE are in Caucasians. Always apply strong sun block to children and encourage them to wear sunglasses. The sun is one of the greatest health risks in the UAE. High factor sunscreens and hats are recommended.

There are no major health risks in the United Arab Emirates; nevertheless, recommended vaccinations include those for hepatitis A and B, typhoid, rabies and measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) along with as-needed booster shots for tetanus-diphtheria. Some doctors recommend an influenza shot during the months November to April. A tick-borne encephalitis vaccine may be considered for long-term visitors who expect to be visiting rural or forested areas from April to October.

It is advisable to make sure that you are up-to-date with routine vaccines before every trip. These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine and a yearly flu shot.

Due to new outbreaks of Ebola fever in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), travelers who have visited the region recently, may be screened. Travelers to that area should notify the authorities on their arrival in the UAE.

Health Insurance

In the northern emirates, Sharjah, Ajman, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah and Umm Al Quwain, companies are not required by law to provide medical insurance to their employees, or to dependents.

Health insurance in the United Arab Emirates is essential. Medical insurance is mandatory for all expats. Although the state system pledges to treat all patients, medical care is not always free, depending on the type of treatment required and whether treatment is undertaken at a

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private or public hospital. In the event of having to evacuate a patient, the costs are always met by the patient. Fully comprehensive medical insurance is required. Medical care in the UAE is very expensive. Many hospitals listed in this section have lists of healthcare costs on their websites.

Should you already have private health insurance, it is essential to check you are fully covered for all eventualities in the Emirates.

The Dubai Health Authority website has a list of authorized medical insurance providers.

In Dubai, as of 2016, it is mandatory for employers to provide medical cover for their employees. Dubai law states that all dependents, including domestic workers, must be covered for basic health insurance, but the responsibility lies with the visa sponsor, and not always the employer.

It is mandatory in Abu Dhabi for employers to provide medical insurance to all employees and their dependents, unless you have a big family. The onus to insure a fourth child or subsequent children reverts to the employee.

In Abu Dhabi, there are two basic plans, the Thiqa for Emiratis and the Abu Dhabi Basic Plan for expatriates, provided by The National Health Insurance Company (Daman). In Dubai, there is the Essential Benefits Plan, provided by 12 companies.

All employees under the Abu Dhabi Basic Plan have to pay half of the insurance policy's premium for their dependents (wife and up to three children) and fully bear the costs for parents.

The employee has an obligation to subscribe to the insurance scheme for any other person under his/her sponsorship, who is not entitled to health insurance coverage by his/her employer. The employer is responsible for procuring health insurance coverage for employees' dependents who are not sponsored by the employer.

By law, the minimum cover per person per annum is AED 150,000, which may not go far in the case of an emergency or ongoing treatment. Employers may choose to go higher than this, but are not obliged to. Your employer may only provide you with certain benefits but not, for example, dental care, eye care or vaccinations. It may be cheaper to cover yourself for additional benefits, as you normally cannot modify a policy before the renewal date.

Additional health insurance may be considered, with specific overseas coverage. The policy should provide for direct payment to the overseas hospital and/or physician at the time of service and include a medical evacuation benefit. The policy should also provide 24-hour hotline access to a multilingual assistance center that can help arrange and monitor delivery of medical care and determine whether medical evacuation or air ambulance services are required. Suitable international health insurance companies include:

- Allianz Worldwide Care
Web: www.allianzworldwidecare.com
- Cigna Global
Web: www.cignaglobal.com
- Health Care International
Web: www.healthcareinternational.com
- IMG
Web: www.imglobal.com
- International SOS
Web: www.internationalsos.com
- MSH International
Web: www.asfe-expat.com

Hospitals in Abu Dhabi

Hospitals in Abu Dhabi are of a similar caliber to those in Western Europe; well equipped and with a generous staff to patient ratio, quality care is provided at all private and public hospitals.

Hospitals, which are popular with the expat community, include:

- Al Mafrak Hospital

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Address: Mafrag, Bani Yas, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 501 1111

Email: mafragcontact@seha.ae

Web: <https://www.seha.ae/>

Comments: 500-bed tertiary hospital located 35 km (22 miles) from Abu Dhabi. It serves as a general hospital for the city of Abu Dhabi and as a referral center for specialist treatment for the whole of the UAE. The hospital services provided include medicine, obstetrics, pediatrics as well as surgical and critical care services that support the trauma program

- **Al Noor Hospital (Medi Clinic Group)**

Address: Khalifa Street, Next to National Bank of Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 626 5265

Email: alnoorhospital@mediclinic.ae

Web: <https://www.mediclinic.ae/en/corporate/home.html>

Comments: The hospital has several branches around the city. These hospitals provide a wide range of in-patient and outpatient medical and surgical services with 24-hour emergency service to the residents of Abu Dhabi and other emirates. Address details are on the website

- **Al Corniche Hospital**

Address: Corniche Area, Near the port, Junction of Corniche Road, Al Salam Street and Al Meena Street, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 811 7777

Email: CornicheContact@seha.ae

Web: <https://corniche.seha.ae/>

Comments: Purpose-built obstetrics and gynecology facility providing service to the population of Abu Dhabi

- **Cure Medical Centers**

Web: <http://cure.ae>

Comments: The group has three clinics in the city. The website has details

- **Mediclinic Middle East**

Web: www.mediclinic.ae

Comments: The group has several clinics in the city, with specialist services in all fields of medical care. Details are on the website

- **NMC Specialty Hospital**

Address: Zayed The First Street, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 633 2255, 800 662 (toll free within UAE)

Email: hospitalauh@nmc.ae

Web: <https://nmc.ae/hospitals/abu-dhabi/nmc-specialty-hospital-1>

Comments: One of the oldest and most reputable healthcare facilities in Abu Dhabi. A multi-specialty hospital offering state-of-the-art treatment using latest technological developments. The group has other hospitals in the city

- **Sheikh Khalifa Medical City**

Address: Karama Street, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 819 0000

Email: skmcccontact@seha.ae

Web: <https://www.seha.ae/hospitals>

Comments: Tertiary care medical center, administered by the Abu Dhabi General Health Authority. Also provides 24-hour emergency facilities

Hospitals in Dubai

Hospitals in Dubai are well equipped with advanced medical facilities. The Dubai Department of Health and Medical Services is responsible for the Rashid, Al Wasl (specializing in maternity and gynecology) and Maktoum hospitals, plus the Dubai Hospitals, one of the best medical centers in the Middle East with a huge range of specialized clinics. The outpatient clinic in Jebel Ali is also run by the Department of Health. Most hospitals have an ambulance service.

Many of the staff speak English and many were trained in America, Europe or Australia.

The following information websites have full listings of clinics, doctors and pharmacies:

- **Dubai Healthcare City**

Web: www.dhcc.ae

- **Department of Health and Medical Services – Dubai**

Web: www.dha.gov.ae

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Government Medical Clinics have separate sections for males and females. If you have a son for example, after a certain age, his mother will not be able to take him into the clinic and he will have to be accompanied by his father.

The following list of hospitals, include those, which are recommended by expatriates.

- **American Hospital Dubai**
Address: 19th Street, Oud Metha Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 377 5500
Web: www.ahdubai.com
Comments: Private, general medical/surgical hospital with high quality American standard healthcare. It continues to expand its services in primary and secondary care, plus selective tertiary services
- **Dubai Hospital**
Address: Al Khaleej Street, Al Braha Area, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 219 5000
Email: DHWeb@dha.gov.ae
Web: <https://www.dha.gov.ae/en/facilities/hospitals/1>
Comments: 625-bed general medical and surgical hospital
- **Dubai London Specialty Hospital**
Web: www.dubailondonclinic.com
Comments: There are three hospitals in the city. They provide a wide range of medical services, including surgery and a baby clinic
- **Latifa Hospital**
Address: Oud Metha Road, Al Jadaf, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 219 3000
Email: LH@dha.gov.ae
Web: <https://www.dha.gov.ae/en/facilities/hospitals/3>
Comments: Hospital for mothers and children, providing gynecology, obstetrics, pediatrics and pediatric surgery services
- **Medcare**
Web: www.medcare.ae
Comments: The group has several clinics in Dubai - the website has location details. All types of specialist services are available
- **Mediclinic Middle East**
Web: www.mediclinic.ae
Comments: The group has several clinics in the city, with specialist services in all fields of medical care. Details are on the website
- **Prime Health Care Group**
Web: www.primehealth.ae
Comments: The group has a few centers in Dubai and elsewhere in the country. Every type of health service is available

Medical Care

The UAE health service provides comprehensive primary and specialized healthcare to all Emirati nationals and visitors, whether they are citizens, residents or non-residents. Public hospitals provide access to treatment with health cards, although there are many private hospitals supplementing the public system, which do require payment for medical care. Medical facilities in the UAE rank among the best in the world, however they are very expensive and therefore it is essential for expatriates to have comprehensive medical insurance. This insurance should also include provisions to cover you for emergency repatriation, in the event of having to be evacuated.

Medical procedures in the UAE, including sterilization and blood transfusions, are very reliable and the Emirates have a sound procedural record.

Private healthcare services are increasing at a rapid rate everywhere in the UAE through clinics, private hospitals and medical cities. The number of private hospitals exceeds the number of public hospitals. This growth has been driven by the large numbers of foreign workers and expatriates who are usually not allowed to use Ministry of Health facilities, except for emergencies.

Public medical facilities in the UAE are well organized, with a high standard of care. They are dedicated to the needs of the local population, may be overcrowded due to high demand, and are not user-friendly for foreign nationals and expatriates. Sophisticated medical care is available at all private hospitals and clinics, however quality can be variable and caution is advised. Medical staff are well trained, usually expatriates and English is spoken universally. Nursing care is usually performed by expatriate nurses from all over the world, commonly from the Philippines. Private hospitals do not usually deal with major trauma, certain complex emergencies, and other specified pathologies.

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Government healthcare regulations have been in flux in the UAE for a number of years. Historically, the UAE public healthcare was broadly based on the UK's National Health Service (NHS) system, in that healthcare was free, once employers had purchased a government health card for an employee.

A few years ago, the Dubai regulation changed in the following ways:

- The cost of the health card increased
- Pharmaceutical medications had to be purchased by patients, even when prescribed by a governmental doctor
- Specialist care, including consultations with specialists, any tests or hospitalizations were paid according to a subsidized list of prices

However, companies are not required to pay the cost of health insurance for their employees' dependents. Expat workers may therefore need to arrange protection for family members and any domestic workers (for example, nannies, maids, cooks and drivers) they may have.

In 2006, the government of Abu Dhabi made it mandatory for all organizations to have to purchase private medical insurance for their employees and their dependents. Medical insurance provided by the employer has to meet certain minimum guidelines, as defined by the Health Authority of Abu Dhabi (HAAD). There are different levels of cover on offer and what you will be granted depends on your job position – for example, local cover, international cover, dental, etc. Some companies include dependents. You cannot get a residence visa or renew a residence visa in Abu Dhabi, unless you have medical insurance.

Compulsory medical cover for expats has gradually been introduced across the seven emirates which make up the UAE. Dubai is reluctant to follow, as it has a high proportion of expat workers and does not want to provoke an exodus by removing medical care. Expats purchase their own health insurance in UAE and apply for health cards from the Health Ministry, which provides them with the access to the state system in an emergency.

Those with private insurance are expected to receive care at private facilities and may be turned away from public facilities outright.

Health Card

As medical care is very expensive, if residents are not covered by a company or private medical insurance, it is advisable to apply for a health card, which entitles residents to low cost medical treatment at public hospitals and clinics. An application form can be collected from any public hospital, then submitted (typed in Arabic), along with the correct documents to your local Health Care Centre. The health card is valid for one year and can be renewed on-line, via the Dubai Health Authority website.

Documentation Required

- Passport copy
- Covering letter from sponsor
- Visa application copy
- Two passport size photographs
- Completed Ministry of Health form
- Fee for health card plus fee for medical examination

For more health insurance information for resident expatriates, contact:

- UAE Government Portal
Web: <https://government.ae/en/information-and-services/health-and-fitness/health-insurance>

Abu Dhabi

- Health Authority Abu Dhabi (HAAD)
Address: Airport Road, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 4 333 3333
Email: contact@abudhabi.ae
Web: www.haad.ae
Comments: The website has comprehensive information related to public health in Abu Dhabi

Dubai

- Dubai Health Authority
Address: Al Maktoum Bridge Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 219 1990, 800 342 (toll free within Dubai)
Email: wasselsotak@dha.gov.ae
Web: www.dha.gov.ae
Comments: The website has information about health services and hospitals in Dubai

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Pharmaceuticals

There is a large number of pharmacies in both Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Most pharmacists speak English and usually other languages. Some pharmacies are open 24 hours. Local newspapers are the best place to look for details of pharmacies that operate an out-of-hours roster system. Hospitals usually dispense pharmaceuticals, when the prescriptions have been issued there.

Drugs are strictly controlled in the UAE, so if you are bringing medication for personal use, ensure you check with the UAE Customs Service prior to bringing pharmaceuticals into the country. Many international brands are available in the Emirates, however it is a good idea to note the generic name, as well as the brand name of any medication you use, should that particular manufacturer not be represented in the state. Some prescriptions or over the counter medicines purchased in other countries are illegal in the United Arab Emirates. Codeine, for example, is banned in the UAE and no products containing codeine can be imported or sold in the country.

While most pharmacies are generally open from 8.30am to 10.30pm, some are open 24 hours a day.

The following chains of pharmacies have branches in both cities.

- **Al Manara Pharmacy**
Web: www.almanarapharmacy.com
- **Aster Pharmacy**
Web: <http://asterpharmacy.com>
- **Boots**
Web: <http://me.boots.com/promotions/uae>
- **Planet Pharmacy**
Web: www.planetpharmacyme.com/en

Abu Dhabi

24-hour pharmacies in Abu Dhabi are listed on the Abu Dhabi Government website. Most hospitals also have a pharmacy on their premises.

- **Abu Dhabi Government**
Web: www.abudhabi.ae/portal/public/en/homepage/health

There are several 24-hour pharmacies, located along Hamdan Street. Planet Pharmacy has several locations in the city, many open 24 hours.

- **Al Mazroui Pharmacy**
Address: Najra Street, Al Mazroui Hospital Building, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 671 4006
Email: almaz@almaz.net.ae
Web: www.almazrouimedical.ae
- **Medicina Group of Pharmacies**
Web: <http://medicina.ae>
Comments: The group has a large number of pharmacies in Abu Dhabi. The website has details
- **NMC Pharmacy**
Address: Zayed the 1st Street, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 632 2379, +971 2 6179 171
Email: newpharmacy@nmc.ae
Web: <https://nmc.ae>
Hours: Daily 8.30am to 2pm and 6.30pm to 9.30pm
- **Planet Pharmacies**
Web: www.planetme.ae
Comments: The group has many pharmacies in the city. The website has details of locations
- **Thumbay Pharmacy**
Web: www.thumbaypharmacy.com/stores

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Comments: They have a few branches in the city. The website has address details

Dubai

A list of pharmacies in Dubai open 24 hours is available on the following website.

Recommended pharmacies, which have multiple stores in the city, include:

- **Life Pharmacy**
Comments: This is a hypermarket for medicine and supplements. Open 24-hours. Other locations throughout the city
- **Marina Pharmacy**
Web: www.marinapharmacy.com
Comments: There are several branches around the city. Some are open 24 hours. The website has details
- **Planet Pharmacies**
Web: www.planetme.ae
Comments: The group has many pharmacies in the city. The website has details of locations
- **Super Care Pharmacy**
Web: www.super-care.ae
Comments: There is a large network of Super Care pharmacies throughout the city. The website has details
- **Thumbay Pharmacy**
Web: www.thumbaypharmacy.com
Comments: There are several branches around the city. The website has details

1.3 My Safety

Emergency Numbers

Fire	997
Ambulance	998 (also 999)
Police	999

Natural Disasters

The UAE itself is not in a seismic zone, but tremors are felt frequently. The earthquakes are shallow, with tremors having been felt most recently in April 2013 and May 2014 in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and most of the UAE. In the last 20 years, the UAE has been subject to minor earthquakes, landslides, floods and tropical storms. During 2015, the Abu Dhabi City Municipality completed all phases of the Seismic Risks Monitoring and Management Project, by constructing a state-of-the-art monitoring network at world-class-standards, comprising 50 observation stations.

There were no significant natural disasters during 2017 - 2021 in the UAE.

Information about natural disasters in the UAE is available on the following websites:

- **Prevention Web**
Web: www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/asia/are
- **Relief Web**
Web: <https://reliefweb.int/country/are>

Safety

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The United Arab Emirates are currently considered under threat from terrorism against western interests. However, in 2014, the UAE undertook a more prominent role in countering extremism within the greater Middle East. The continuing increased regional security threat has the potential to affect security in the UAE.

Elsewhere in the region, attacks have been indiscriminate and civilian organizations have been targeted. The UAE's large expatriate population, with several million Indian and Pakistani nationals, increases the possibility that activities within their native countries could impact on security in the UAE.

Women should respect Muslim laws and dress conservatively, particularly in public places. Several governments recommend that women take extra precautions when traveling alone. It is advisable to check with your consulate on safety advice and tips. A reputable taxi company should always be used.

Incidents of street crime are rare, although it is advisable to keep a close watch on your personal possessions and to refrain from walking in unlit areas at night. Westerners are advised to stay in the main public areas. Traffic accidents remain the greatest threat to westerners in Dubai. Traffic accidents are frequent and common.

The actual crime rate is difficult to measure, due to the government's policy of not releasing crime statistics. It is believed that low level and petty thefts occur often, especially within the large expatriate workforce, which accounts for over 85% of the population in Dubai (80% in Abu Dhabi). There has been a measurable increase in highly publicized white-collar crimes involving debit and credit card fraud by suspected organized crime syndicates. Violent crime is rare, as is the use of weapons. Expatriates convicted of a crime receive swift and harsh punishment from the Dubai government. An expatriate convicted of a crime will receive a judicial sentence, as well as immediate deportation afterwards.

The UAE has not experienced political violence in recent years. However, in 2014, an American citizen was stabbed to death in a mall in Abu Dhabi by a lone extremist. Political demonstrations are rare and must have prior approval from the UAE government.

Public displays of affection are frowned upon, and there have been several arrests for kissing in public. Sex outside marriage is illegal, and problems will be encountered if an unmarried woman gives birth in the UAE. These problems can range from a refusal to issue a birth certificate, to arrest and imprisonment. A marriage certificate has to be provided to the UAE authorities to obtain a birth certificate. Cohabitation, adultery and being a homosexual are also illegal.

Swearing or making rude gestures are considered obscene acts and offenders can be prosecuted. It has been known for offenders to receive a six-month jail sentence. Particular caution should be exercised when dealing with the police and other officials.

Events in the Middle East, including Iraq and the Middle East Peace Process during 2016 and up to 2018, could affect local public opinion. Visitors should follow news reports and be alert to local- and regional developments, which might trigger public disturbances. It is recommended not to get involved in politics and to refrain from discussions about religion and war.

Some embassy websites issue regular travel warnings, if necessary. Consult your embassy regarding any travel alerts prior to your departure.

- UK Embassy
Web: www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/united-arab-emirates
- US Embassy
Web: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/UnitedArabEmirates.html>

A United Arab Emirates 2018 Crime and Safety Report, is available on the OSAC website:

- OSAC
Web: www.osac.gov/Pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=23671

1.4 Entry Requirements

Administrative Procedures on Arrival

On arrival in UAE, some visitors may have to complete an eye scan (retina scan) when they reach immigration. This process does not always apply to GCE residents, or residents of the countries that do not require an entry visa.

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The majority of embassies and consulates advise their expatriates to register with them once they have arrived in the United Arab Emirates. Consulates can give advice and information on many topics with regard to living in the country.

Persons with standard passports and those traveling with children under seven years of age must report at the normal arrival counters.

Holders of passports with a bar code can make use of the faster Smart Gates, which are located in terminal 3. First-time users of the Smart Gates must register for this service, which includes an eye scan.

Holders of the e-Card can speed up the arrival procedures by scanning their card at one of the e-Gates in terminal 1 or terminal 3. Applications for e-Cards can be made at one of the immigration offices, which are located at each terminal.

Entry Requirements

The articles on entry requirements are for general guidance and it is advisable to check on the exact requirements that specifically apply to you with the Consular Section at the embassy of the UAE in your home country.

In the wake of recent terrorist attacks, entry regulations may have changed and it is therefore advisable that you consult the local embassy or consulate, prior to your departure to the UAE.

Health Requirements

Screening measures at airports and other points of entry remain in place for visitors arriving in the UAE. These may include testing for COVID-19 and quarantine for 14 days at home or in a designated facility. Travelers are advised to reconfirm their travel itineraries due to travel restrictions as well as enhanced health screening measures at airports and other entry points.

There are no necessary health requirements for entry into the UAE. Nevertheless, all those who wish to reside in the UAE must undergo a series of medical examinations. The sponsoring company must arrange for a health card and medical fitness examination for the employee at a government health center. The employee must undergo a medical test and obtain a medical certificate.

Foreign nationals who apply for a residence visa have to take a blood test. Those testing positive for HIV or hepatitis are detained and then deported. Foreign nationals renewing their residency, who test positive for old, active or drug-resistant TB may be granted a conditional health certificate and one-year residency. Affected individuals will however have to undergo treatment as specified by relevant authority in the UAE. Non-compliance of this rule will lead to visa cancellation. There is no appeal process.

Only foreigners who come from yellow fever infected countries will have to provide a yellow fever vaccination card.

The yellow fever vaccination should be taken at least 15 days prior to your arrival in UAE.

As of 11 July 2016, new rules regarding yellow fever came into force. Certificates given as proof of receiving a yellow fever vaccination now state that they are valid "for the life of the person vaccinated." Those who already have a yellow fever certificate issued before 11 July 2016, will have a "valid to" date on it, showing a date, 10 years from the date of the vaccination. Do not cross it out or make any changes to your certificate, as writing on the certificate can make it invalid. However, you can consider that it is now valid for life.

Countries can no longer require travelers to show proof of re-vaccination, or a booster dose, as a condition of entry. Travelers should note that this new regulation may not be honored by all border authorities during the transition phase. If in doubt, carry a copy of the World Health Organization (WHO) ruling, along with your yellow fever certificate whenever you travel.

Make sure you and your family members are up-to-date on routine vaccines before your departure. These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot.

Other vaccinations, which should be considered are for hepatitis A and hepatitis B. You can get hepatitis A through contaminated food, or water in the UAE, regardless of where you are eating, or staying. You can get hepatitis B through sexual contact, contaminated needles, and blood products. Rabies are also present in the UAE and a vaccination may be required by persons who will work in remote areas of the country and who may come into regular contact with animals.

Passports

All travelers wishing to enter the United Arab Emirates (UAE) must be in possession of a valid passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months from the arrival date. Make sure that your passport has at least two blank pages for visa stamps. The company or hotel sponsoring the visa may want to keep your passport for a short period of time. They will issue a receipt for this, which should be used in place of a passport when required.

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Visas

Nationals of the five other Arab Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) member states do not need a visa for entry:

Bahrain	Oman	Saudi Arabia
Kuwait	Qatar	

As of April 2016, GCC residence permit holders will need to apply for a UAE visa before arriving in Dubai.

As of 1 May 2017, Indian nationals holding a normal passport valid for a minimum of six months from the arrival date, and a visit visa or green card issued by the USA which is valid for a minimum of six months, can obtain a visa on arrival for a maximum stay of 14 days and can apply to extend their stay for an additional 14 days.

Documentation Required

- Original passport of the sponsored person
- Valid residency visa
- Proof of employment in the country of residence
- Fees

The visa is valid for 30 days and renewable once for a similar period of 30 days.

Escorts of GCC Nationals

This visa is issued to an escort of a GCC national (domestic workers), valid for 60 days.

Documentation Required

- Original passport of the sponsored person
- Valid residency visa
- Fees

The visa is renewable twice and for a similar period (60 days each time). The service is provided through all UAE entry points.

Visas Exempt Countries

Citizens from the following countries can obtain a single entry visit visa on arrival to allow a stay of 30 days:

Andorra	Japan	Singapore
Australia	Kazakhstan	Ukraine
Brunei	Malaysia	United Kingdom
Canada	Mauritius	United States
China	Monaco	Vatican City
Hong Kong (SAR)	New Zealand	
Ireland	San Marino	

For the above nationals, the visa is free of charge and renewable for an additional 30 days.

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Citizens from the following countries can obtain a multiple entry 90-day visit visa that is valid for six months from the date of issue:

Argentina	Germany	Norway
Austria	Greece	Paraguay
Bahamas Islands	Grenada	Poland
Barbados	Honduras	Portugal
Belgium	Hungary	Romania
Brazil	Hungary	Russia
Bulgaria	Iceland	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Chile	Italy	San Marino
Costa Rica	Latvia	Seychelles
Croatia	Liechtenstein	Slovakia
Cyprus	Lithuania	Slovenia
Czech Republic	Luxembourg	Solomon Islands
Denmark	Maldives	South Korea
El Salvador	Malta	Spain
Estonia	Montenegro	Sweden
Finland	Nauru	Switzerland
France	Netherlands	Uruguay

Citizens of the European countries listed above are also entitled to apply for a paid pre-arranged visit visa if the "on arrival 90-days visa" has been fully utilized, or if they wish to use the pre-arranged visa.

The visa applications are completed differently, depending on whether the applicant is visiting an individual, or a company. The following information is available on the Emirates website.

All other visitors who wish to stay longer than 14 days in the UAE must obtain a visit visa in advance through a sponsor. The sponsor can be a travel agency, hotel, the company or department with which the applicant is doing business in the UAE, or an individual (for example, a relative, or friend resident in the UAE).

You can collect this visit visa on arrival at the airport. In order to complete the application, your sponsor will require your date of arrival, flight details and a photocopy of the first few pages of your passport, which should be valid for at least six months.

A hotel will only provide a visa if you are a guest. For an individual to sponsor a visit visa, he or she must earn a specified salary per month and hold a valid residence visa. Your visit visa must be deposited at airport immigration one hour before the arrival of your flight. Note that your airline may require evidence before departure that a valid visa awaits you on arrival.

30 Day Visit Visa

The visa is valid for one stay of up to 30 days in the United Arab Emirates.

Documentation Required

- Completed E-form application
- Two passport sized photos of the sponsored person approved by the sponsor or authorized signatories (signed and stamped)
- Passport copy of the sponsor
- Passport and passport copy of the sponsored person
- Copy of the salary certificate or employment contract of the sponsor (resident)
- Covering letter explaining reason for visit to UAE
- Invitation letter from sponsor accepting responsibility for the applicant whilst in UAE
- An employment letter; if you are:
 - Employed - A letter from your employer, on company letterhead, stating your position
 - Self-employed - A copy of your business license
 - Retired, non-employed, a student - A letter from your bank testifying that your account is in good standing
- Proof of family relationship
- Travel insurance
- Fees

90 Day Visit Visa

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The visa is valid for one stay of up to 90 days in the United Arab Emirates.

Documentation Required

- Completed E-form application
- Two passport sized photos of the sponsored person approved by the sponsor or authorized signatories (signed and stamped)
- Passport copy of the sponsor
- Passport and passport copy of the sponsored person
- Copy of the salary certificate or employment contract of the sponsor (resident)
- Covering letter explaining reason for visit to UAE
- Invitation letter from sponsor accepting responsibility for the applicant whilst in UAE
- An employment letter; If you are:
 - Employed - A letter from your employer, on company letterhead, stating your position
 - Self-employed - A copy of your business license
- Retired, non-employed, a student - A letter from your bank testifying that your account is in good standing
- Proof of family relationship
- Travel insurance
- Not have previously been banned from entry and/or deported
- Fees

All types of visit and tourist visas can be extended for 30 days twice on renewal without the need to leave the country.

Student Visa

Students attending schools in the UAE will usually be under the sponsorship of one of their parents on a family residence visa.

For students under their parent's sponsorship wanting to enroll at a tertiary level university, college or institute, following regulations apply:

- Sons, below the age of 18 years in full-time education can be sponsored by their parents
- Unmarried daughters of any age can be sponsored by their father, or their mother if she is employed in a high-level profession

Usually for students at a tertiary college, the sponsor must be one of the licensed universities or educational institutions in the UAE, recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education. Student visas are usually only valid for one year at a time and will need annual renewal for the period of study.

Effective from November 2018, the government of the UAE approved the decision to issue five-year visas to outstanding students who meet the eligibility criteria.

Documentation Required

- Completed E-form application
- Two passport sized photos of the sponsored person approved by the sponsor or authorized signatories (signed and stamped)
- Passport copy of the sponsor
- Passport and passport copy of the sponsored person
- Medical test results from an authorized UAE medical center
- Evidence of acceptance to a UAE tertiary institute (offer letter)
- Bank statements showing evidence of funds in the UAE
- Tenancy agreement or letter from university if staying in university accommodation
- Copy of tuition fee receipt for the current study year of the program
- Copy of visa fees receipt for the current study year of the program
- Post-graduate students will need to have their undergraduate degree verified
- Copy of Establishment Card*
- Copy of the institution's trade license
- Travel insurance
- Fees

*The establishment card is issued by the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs and permits the company to engage the DNRD for transactions related to securing residency for expatriate workers. It allows businesses to conduct business with the Ministry, which has to approve all applications to hire an expatriate worker

Transit Visa

Transit visa regulations vary according to the destination within the UAE and change frequently.

Generally, any person transiting less than 12 hours can stop at the airport until they make their connection, provided they have a visa and confirmed ticket to their next destination.

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Transit visas can be issued for 48 hours free of charge, or for 96 hours at the cost of AED 50. Both types of transit visas are not extendable.

Transit passengers whose stop is over eight hours are issued the transit visa by the airline they are flying with. The visa is subject to other conditions as below:

- Passengers must have a valid passport and a confirmed onward booking to the 3rd destination
- Passengers must leave the UAE within 96 hours of arrival, or 14 days after the visa was issued
- Passengers must have a confirmed hotel reservation in the UAE

Abu Dhabi

A transit visa is required for stays of more than 4 hours for passengers who wish to leave the airport. The airline should be able to arrange a transit visa prior to the journey.

- The transit visa is valid for 14 days, starting from the date of arrival in the UAE
- Passengers transiting to a third destination will need proof of a confirmed onward flight (in other words, an air ticket)
- Passport valid for a minimum of six months
- Citizens of the following countries are not eligible for a transit visa on arrival: Somalia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Niger and Yemen

Dubai

Transit passengers stopping at Dubai International Airport for a minimum of eight hours and meeting the following conditions are eligible for a 96-hour transit visa. Transit visas are not needed if airline passengers with a layover do not leave the terminal building, since they will not be entering the United Arab Emirates.

- Airlines sponsored only (prior arrangements maybe required)
- Applications should have confirmed onward booking to the third destination
- The transit passenger must have a valid passport and a valid onward, as opposed to return, air ticket
- The transit passengers must leave the UAE within 96 hours after the visa was issued

Documentation Required

- Original valid passport
- Application form
- A valid ticket for onward flight
- Fees

Procedure for Application

All visas are issued by the Dubai General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (DNRD), a branch of the Ministry of Interior. A visa must be applied for before entering the country, either through your respective embassy, which will forward it to the DNRD, or through your sponsor or local hotel. The fastest way to issue a visa is through your sponsor or hotel in the UAE. When this is the case, your visa will be waiting for you at the airport, when you arrive in the UAE.

When processing your visa through your hotel or sponsor in the UAE, it is very important to have them send a copy of it to you before your departure. Most airlines will require confirmation that your visa is waiting for you before you board your flight.

Documentation Required

- Copy of the intended visitor's passport, with at least six months of validity remaining
- Two passport-sized photographs
- Application form in duplicate
- Letter or fax from the sponsor in the UAE to the embassy concerned, showing proof of sponsorship (if applying through your embassy)
- A letter (and an extra copy) from the applicant's company or organization stipulating position held and purpose of visit. The sponsor's name, contact details and occupation (or nature of business if a company) must be noted. The letter must also state that the employee is guaranteed both return transportation and financial support for the duration of the visit
- Fees

Nationals of countries requiring a prearranged UAE visa can apply and pay for their visas online through emirates.com. Travelers who are traveling to or stopping over in Dubai with Emirates, can submit an application and receive a UAE visa online, without having to submit their passport for stamping.

The online visa application service is available for residents and nationals of many countries around the world. Applicant passports must have at least six months' validity from their date of travel to Dubai, and must be machine readable passports.

This service is only available to passengers with a confirmed Emirates booking, where an Emirates e-ticket has already been issued and the

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flight itinerary already includes the desired time in Dubai. The itinerary into and out of Dubai should be on one ticket, and these flights must be Emirates flights. Note that any itineraries including any flights to or from Dubai on other carriers are not eligible for the online visa service.

A minimum of four international working days prior to arrival in Dubai is required, however Emirates does recommend that online applications are made as early as possible. Visas issued through this service are available for a period of stay in Dubai of 96 hours, 30 days, or 90 days. Once approved, the visa cannot be extended beyond the original period of stay.

If you have a family member or close relative who is a UAE resident, they can apply for a visa on your behalf. Note that this service is only available to residents of the UAE. Otherwise, visit the Dubai Department of Naturalization & Residency website to find out more about other types of sponsors, such as hotels or companies.

Contact Details

- **Abudhabi e-Government**
Tel: +971 2 666 4442, 800 555 (within the UAE)
Email: contact@abudhabi.ae
Web: www.abudhabi.ae
Comments: The website has comprehensive information about work and residence permit application procedures
- **Establishment Card**
Web: www.moi.gov.ae
Comments: Registration is required to make use of this service. See the website for registration procedures
- **General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs - Abu Dhabi**
Address: Al Sa'ada Street, Mushrif Area, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 402 4500, +971 600 522 222
Email: info@adnrd.ae
Web: www.gdrfad.gov.ae/en
Hours: Sunday to Thursday 7.30am to 8pm
Comments: The website has information about entry and residence permits
- **General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs – Dubai**
- Web: www.gdrfad.gov.ae
Comments: There are many branch offices in the city. The website has a location map. Also refer to the new e-DNRD website for online services
- **General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs - Ministry of Interior**
Tel: 800 5000 (within the UAE), +971 600 522 222
Web: www.gdrfad.gov.ae/en
Comments: The website allows you to download electronic forms for all types of visas and permits

Work and Residence Permits

Details of procedures for Work and Residence Permits can be found on the Abu Dhabi Government e-service portal at the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs – Ministry of Interior.

The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MoHRE) issues work permits. The employer must apply to the MoHRE for the work permit.

Work Permits

UAE nationals have priority over foreign nationals when carrying out business and applying for employment in the UAE. If no UAE nationals are available for the required positions, priority of employment is first given to Arab employees (Arab by virtue of nationality) and then applicants of other nationalities. A non-UAE employee is one who works in the UAE without having UAE citizenship either by birth or naturalization.

The hiring of foreign employees is subject to previous authorization from the Ministry of Human Resources & Emiratisation.

To obtain a work permit, the foreign worker must be sponsored by a company or organization registered with the Ministry of Labor in the United Arab Emirates. The worker should be medically fit, between 18 and 60 years of age and should have professional or academic qualifications beneficial to the UAE. All applications must include the results of a comprehensive medical check-up. Expatriates who test

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positive for HIV are automatically deported.

The following information is available on the Official Portal of the UAE Government.

Work Permit for a New Job

An employee whose employment was terminated because of the expiry of his/her contract, whether limited or non-limited, can get a new work permit when he/she wishes to take up new employment.

An employee can also get a new work permit for all limited and non-limited contracts if:

- The employer has failed to meet the legal and contractual obligations, including, but not limited to, failure to pay wages for more than 60 days
- The MoHRE confirms that the employer has not provided work, due to the firm being inactive for more than two months and if the worker reports to the ministry during this period
- The final ruling in a labor case (which the MoHRE referred to the Labor Court on the basis of a complaint) is in favor of the employee and where the case pertains to early termination or outstanding wages, which are less than two months of payment owing for end of service.

If the employee is in the UAE, he/she must maintain a status which allows him/her to transfer his/her residency to a different sponsor.

New permits for unskilled workers

A new permit can be granted when both the worker and the employer mutually consent to terminating the contract during the term, provided that the worker has completed at least six months' employment.

A new permit can be issued to a worker whose employer terminated him/her employment unfairly, without the need to complete six months.

New permits for skilled workers

The requirement of six months' employment is waived if workers qualify for the skill set series 1, 2 or 3 as classified by the ministerial decree, which denotes holding a university degree, post-secondary diploma or high school diploma respectively. This is applicable if the employee fulfills his/her contractual commitments.

Procedure for Application

Procuring a work visa involves MoHRE and the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA) of the emirate where a person is employed.

The process starts with procuring a work permit for an expatriate from the MoHRE. The work permit allows the holder to enter the UAE for employment and it is valid for two months from the date of issue.

After the employee enters the UAE on the basis of the work permit, the sponsoring company arranges to complete the formalities of medical testing, obtaining UAE Resident Identity (Emirates ID) Card, Labor Card and stamping the work residency permit on his/her passport within a period of 60 days. The work residency permit on the employee's passport denotes that he/she is sponsored by the company he/she is employed by.

After this process, the employee can sponsor his/her family members and bring them into the country.

The authority for issuing employment visas is GDRFA under the Ministry of Interior. Its office is located in each emirate.

To expedite the process of work visas, the MoHRE and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation have set up centers outside the UAE. At the centers, employees can find information on their rights, duties and terms and conditions of employment. This mechanism ensures a transparent contractual relation between employers and employees and prevents any fraudulent attempt to replace job offers on the arrival of the employee in the UAE. A list of the centers is available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website.

When the employee has entered the country on the basis of an employment visa, the sponsoring company should arrange to complete the formalities for their residence.

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On entering the UAE, the employee should be in possession of a work contract, as well as a copy of their residence visa. This contract must be written in Arabic and may also be written in English. A copy must be held by the employer and another copy is sent to the Department for Labor, who review and certify the contract. For an employee, who already has work arranged in the UAE, the employer should arrange for the visa to be collected by the employee on arrival at the airport.

Once a medical certificate is issued by the health department, an application for a Labor Card should be submitted to the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MoHRE) within 30 days of the employee's entry into the country. Next, an application to the Immigration Department should be submitted, in order to stamp the residency on the employee's passport. All these formalities should be completed within 60 days of the arrival of the employee in UAE. The Labor Card must be renewed within 60 days of expiry.

Documentation Required

- Copy of the passport
- Application form
- Educational certificates duly notarized by the UAE embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Copy of the employer's commercial license
- Business establishment card

Once the sponsor has the approval of the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MoHRE), the sponsor must then obtain an employment visa. The following documents will be required to obtain the work visa:

- Approval letter from the Ministry of Labor
- A copy of the establishment card
- A copy of the sponsor's license

Once the employment visa has been approved, a residence visa must be obtained.

Residence Permits

All expats living in the UAE, including expat spouses and children, must apply for a residence permit within 30 days of arrival. This residence permit is valid for two years and allows expats to register with the local Emirates National Identity Authority. This is the residence section of the DNRD, a branch of the Ministry of Interior, which issues the residence permits. For residence permit holders who leave the UAE for a period of more than six months at any one time, their residency will lapse.

Residence permits require a sponsor (someone who can legally vouch for you) from the UAE. A residence permit is required in order to apply for a work permit (Labor Card). Normally the employer handles the residence visa formalities and applies for a residence permit on the employee's behalf, either prior to arrival, or shortly after. The employer sends the employee a copy of the final residence permit, then on arrival at the airport immigration desk, the original is given to the employee and their passport is stamped with the residence visa.

Once an employee has received his/her residence permit, the employer can apply for the following:

- Labor Card (see above)
- Health card: All employees, their spouses and children over 18 years old have to undergo a medical examination consisting of blood tests for AIDS and Hepatitis B and a chest X-ray (for men only). The card provides access to public hospitals in the UAE
- Residence permit for the family (providing the monthly salary is in excess of AED 4,000 if accommodation is not provided or AED 3,000 if accommodation is provided; proof of salary must be written in the employment contract)

The UAE residence visa becomes invalid if the holder stays out of the country for more than six months. Those who cancel their residence visas are normally given 30 days to leave the country. The employer has no right to force the employees to leave the country during this period.

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Residence visas, in the same way as Labor cards, are issued on a renewable three-year basis (five years for government organization employees). Residents of Abu Dhabi who wish to renew their residency permits are obliged to submit a valid tenancy agreement, in addition to their recent residency's utility bill. The resident should also list the landline phone number of his or her residence at the time of application.

Documentation Required to Renew Residency Permit

- Valid passport
- Renewal of residency application form stamped by the company
- Copy of the former residency
- Health certificate from the preventive medicine department
- Copy of the health insurance card
- Copy of the commercial license of the employer if it is a private company
- Valid lease agreement
- The last paid water and electricity bill
- Copy of the identity card or registration receipt
- Accredited marriage contract for families

The following information is available on the Official Portal of the UAE Government.

Sponsorship Requirements

Expatriate residents who are employed in the UAE can sponsor their family members subject to conditions which include minimum salary and minimum accommodation set out by General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA) of the emirate that has issued the visa. The conditions are subject to change and it is important to check with the GDRFA of the respective emirate.

Sponsoring your wife

For an expatriate employee to sponsor his wife, he would need to submit the following documents:

- Application form (available in most typing offices)
- Passport in which the original entry permit has been stamped
- One photograph of the wife on a white background
- Original medical clearance certificate for the wife
- Copy of the husband's employment contract
- Salary certificate from the employer stating the employee's monthly salary with a stipulated minimum in the respective emirate
- Legalized marriage certificate
- Registered tenancy contract
- Latest utility bill

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Sponsoring your children

An expatriate employee can sponsor unmarried daughters up to any age and sons up to 18 years of age. If a son is studying in the UAE after the age of 18 years, the father can continue to sponsor him until the age of 21 years, if evidence of his studies in the UAE is supplied.

The father would need to place a fixed deposit with the respective visa issuing authority for his residency. The permit is granted on a yearly basis, renewable until the person finishes his education.

The new rule, effective from October 2018, states that students graduating from universities or secondary schools, or those who complete 18 years of age, will be granted a one-year residence visa. This visa type will be renewable for another year from the graduation date or on completing 18 years. In this case, parents need not place bank deposits but must submit duly attested graduation certificates.

Sponsoring your stepchildren

An expatriate employee can sponsor his stepchildren. The sponsor has to put up a minimum deposit stipulated by their respective immigration department for each child.

Their residence visas are valid for one year; renewable annually.

Sponsoring your parents

An expatriate employee can sponsor his parents for a year's stay by paying a deposit as a guarantee for each parent, as stipulated by the respective immigration department.

An expatriate employee cannot sponsor only one of his parents. He needs to sponsor both parents together. He also needs to provide proof that he is their sole support and that they have no one else who could take care of them at home.

If one of the parents has passed away, or if the parents are divorced, he has to show the related official documents as justification to sponsor only one of his parents.

To sponsor parents, the employee must earn a minimum salary of AED 19,000 with an accommodation allowance, or minimum salary of AED 20,000 without an accommodation allowance.

The employee must obtain a medical insurance policy for his parents, with a minimum coverage of AED 600 for each, to be renewed each year.

Woman sponsoring her family

In Abu Dhabi, a woman can sponsor her husband and children if she holds a residence permit stating that she is an engineer, teacher, doctor, nurse or any other profession related to the medical sector and if her monthly salary is not less than AED 10,000 or AED 8,000 plus accommodation. She needs to provide additional documents as stipulated by the respective authority.

In Dubai, if a woman is not employed in one of these categories she may still get approval to sponsor her family if her monthly salary is more than AED 10,000 and with a special permission from the DNRD.

A single mother can sponsor her child. The authorities might ask for documents similar to those required to sponsor stepchildren.

Medical requirements

All family members need to undergo medical tests at government approved health centers in the UAE. They are tested for communicable diseases such as AIDS and tuberculosis (TB). Those found to be HIV positive or having tuberculosis will be deported immediately by the UAE authorities. If you suspect you are suffering from a communicable disease, it is advisable to get yourself tested in your home country first.

Validity and Renewal

Generally, the validity of the visa is two years. The visa is renewed subject to conditions similar to those of fresh visas.

The family's residence permits are linked to the residence permit of the sponsoring expatriate employee. If the sponsoring family member's visa is canceled, the visas of the dependents are automatically canceled.

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Dependents are granted a 30-day grace period from the date of expiry or cancellation of their visa to obtain a new residence permit. If the employee fails to renew or cancel the visa of his dependents, the dependents would be considered illegal residents and could be liable to pay a fine.

Spouses and Partners

Spouses and dependent children (sons under 18 years and unmarried daughters) of foreign employees in the UAE are entitled to accompany the main Labor Card holder and will be issued a "residence permit without employment." In this case, the labor cardholder is the sponsor of the spouse and children. Spouses are not entitled to work without obtaining a Labor Card in their own right. The duration of the spouse's and children's residence permits will be limited to that of their sponsor.

If the female spouse of a Labor Card holder wishes to work, she is entitled to apply for a job, as long as she meets the criteria for a labor card to be issued. This means some form of attested qualification, a job offer and a legal labor contract. If all the criteria are met, a labor card is issued to her in her own right. The woman in this case can choose to remain under her husband's residency sponsorship, or move to that of her employers.

Since de-facto relationships are not recognized by the UAE, a Labor Card holder cannot sponsor their unmarried partner's residency. In rare cases, an employer may agree to sponsor an employee's unmarried partner, but this is entirely the employer's decision. Another option is for the partner to find an employment offer before moving to the UAE and obtain residence sponsorship through their employer.

Important note: It is important to remember that it is illegal for unmarried couples to cohabit in the UAE. Although unmarried western couples living together in the UAE rarely have any problems, this does not mean they are immune to prosecution if a problem does arise.

- **Abudhabi e-Government**

Tel: +971 2 666 4442

Email: contact@abudhabi.ae

Web: www.abudhabi.ae/portal/public/en/homepage

Comments: The website has comprehensive information about work and residence permit application procedures

- **General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs - Abu Dhabi**

Address: Al Sa'ada Street, Mushrif Area, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 402 4500, +971 600 522 222

Email: info@adnrd.ae

Web: www.abudhabi.ae/portal/public/en/departments/gdrfa

Hours: Sunday to Thursday 7.30am to 8pm

Comments: The website has information about entry and resident's permits

- **General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs - Dubai**

Web: <https://www.dnrd.ae/en>

Comments: There are many branch offices in the city. The website has a location map. Also refer to the new e-DNRD website for online services

- **General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs - Ministry of Interior**

Web: <https://gdrfad.gov.ae/en>

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Comments: A list of office locations is on the website. Visa and residence information is on the website

- **Government.ae**

Tel: +971 2 626 9999

Email: egov@tra.gov.ae

Web: <https://government.ae/en/>

Comments: The website has work and residency permit information

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Information Centers**

Tel: 800 44444 (within the UAE)

Web: <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/>

Comments: See the "Services" page for individuals on the website

- **Ministry of Interior**

Tel: 800 5000 (within the UAE)

Web: www.moi.gov.ae

Comments: A wide range of citizen services is available from the Ministry, including residence information. See the "e-Services" page on the website

- **Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MoHRE)**

Tel: +971 48 00 60

Email: ask@mohre.gov.ae

Web: www.mohre.gov.ae/en/home.aspx, www.mol.gov.ae/en/services/government-services.aspx

Comments: Also see the e-services page on the website for more information

- **Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MoHRE) - Abu Dhabi**

Address: Sultan Bin Zayed the First Street, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 4 702 3333

Email: callcenter@mol.gov.ae

Web: www.mohre.gov.ae/en/home.aspx

- **Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MoHRE) - Dubai**

Address: 62 Doha Road, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 702 3333

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Email: callcenter@mol.gov.ae

Web: www.mohre.gov.ae/en/home.aspx

1.5 Customs and Import Regulations

Car Import

Holders of residence visas may import cars. Import duty of 5% of the value of the vehicle + 1% insurance + cost of the shipment (CIF), as assessed by UAE Customs is payable for all used motor vehicles. Only one vehicle can be imported per year. Vehicles must be less than five years old. Once shipped, in order to collect your car, you will need to provide all the shipping documents plus the following:

Documentation Required

- Registration documents
- Original Bill of Lading – plus a copy for used vehicles
- Copy of purchase invoice
- Authenticated certificate of Origin for new vehicles only
- Copy of passport
- Insurance policy
- Proof of ownership
- Residence Permit
- Inspection report for used vehicles
- Fees

Certain brands of new cars may require special authorization from the UAE Customs. It is worth taking into consideration the types of vehicles that are more popular in the UAE. Although most major manufacturers are very well represented, you may find difficulties in sourcing spare parts, or having a vehicle serviced, if the car is an uncommon model. Cars with tinted glass are not allowed to be imported. After paying the customs duty, you will be given a certificate of registration addressed to the Traffic & Licensing Department. There is a fee due on registering a vehicle.

The Ministry of Interior announced that as of 1 May 2017, registration of imported used vehicles will be subject to a conformity letter by the Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology (ESMA), verifying compliance with the new regulations on import of used vehicles. These include a ban on burnt out, water-damaged, rebuilt and non-repairable cars, as well as vehicles with major manufacturing defects.

Cars will also need to be 'imported' when the owner changes residence from one emirate to another. The regulations vary with the emirates.

Car Registration During Import

The registration of your vehicle will be done at the Vehicle Licensing Department. The owner or legal representative of the car must be present in person. For the registration procedure you will need the following documentation:

- Customs or transfer or ownership certificate
- Vehicle insurance for 13 months
- Vehicle technical test certificate, if previously registered or if the vehicle model is not of that year
- Purchase invoice of the vehicle containing the data thereof and the signature authentication of the agency
- Emirates ID or passport
- Driver's license
- Application form for vehicles licensing

Contact Details

- Abu Dhabi Police GHQ

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Tel: 800 3333 (within UAE)

Email: contactus@adpolice.gov.ae

Web: www.adpolice.gov.ae/en

- **Abu Dhabi Police e-Services**

Tel: +971 2 446 1461

Web: <https://es.adpolice.gov.ae/TrafficServices/Default.aspx?Culture=en>

Comments: To make use of the e-services you must be registered. An Emirates ID is required to do the registration. The website has details

- **Dubai Customs**

Address: Al Mina Road, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 417 7777

Email: client.relations@dubaicustoms.ae

Web: www.dubaicustoms.gov.ae/en

- **Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology (ESMA)**

Address: Old Airport Road Building, Ministry of Environment and Water, Abu Dhabi

Address: Business Avenue Building, Sheikh Rashid Road, Dubai

Tel: 600 565 554 (within UAE)

Email: customercare@esma.gov.ae

Web: www.esma.gov.ae/en-us

Comments: A confirmation letter is required from ESMA with regards to your imported vehicle

- **Roads and Transport Authority - Dubai**

Tel: +971 4 284 4444

Email: ASK@rta.ae

Web: www.rta.ae

Comments: There are various offices in Dubai. The website has location details

Customs and Import Regulations

The following section is for guidance only. It is advisable to check information with the UAE Embassy or Consulate before departure.

Duty-free Allowances

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The following items may be imported into the United Arab Emirates without incurring customs duty by passengers over the age of 18 years:

- 400 cigarettes up to a value of AED 2,000, cigars up to a value of AED 3,000
- 24 cans of beer or four liters of alcohol (any kind) - Dubai Airport
- Four liters of alcohol (any kind) - non-Muslim passengers only. Abu Dhabi and Fujairah airports
- Two liters of alcohol and one case of beer - Sharjah Airport
- Perfume and gifts not exceeding AED 3,000 in value or equivalent
- Medicine for personal use, with a doctor's prescription

*You are not generally allowed to bring alcohol into the country if you are traveling by land

Household Effects

Note that customs regulations are subject to change without notice. It is recommended that you make use of an experienced shipping agent to handle the import of your household effects to the country.

All used personal and household effects may be imported duty and tax-free, provided the customs officials are convinced that the items are not for resale. The shipper's physical presence is compulsory during the customs clearance procedure.

Customs will detain all CDs, videos, laser discs and books for screening purposes, so it is important that you pack these items in separate boxes. The screening process usually takes between one and two months.

Do not ship any tobacco or alcohol, as it will be confiscated. Customs normally return these to the agent after a month or two. Any items classified as new, or in commercial quantities, are subject to 5% duty on the cost, insurance and freight (CIF), finally assessed by the customs authorities. Only one type of each item can be imported duty free. Duty is payable when more than one of the same type of items are imported.

Documentation Required

It is important that all documentation is marked: "used personal and household effects only" and the following documents will be required:

- Letter from your employer stating your residency is in process or valid proof of your UAE residency.
- Original bill of lading or airway bill
- Detailed inventory/packing list in English.
- Copy of your passport
- Insurance policy if any
- Residence permit
- Employment visa with entry stamp if residence visa is not ready
- Copy of passport

Importing Currency

There are no restrictions on the import and export of local and foreign currency. All passengers arriving in the country are required to declare cash amounts in their possession, which exceed AED 100,000, or other equivalent currencies and traveler's checks, by filling in the declaration form. Any passenger younger than 18 years will have his/her currency added to that of the accompanying adult and included in the adult's allowance.

Prohibited Goods

- Electronic cigarettes in checked baggage
- Narcotic drugs
- Arms and explosives
- Banned medicines
- Items associated with gambling
- Goods from Israel or bearing Israeli trademarks or logos
- Media items (publications, photographs, films, etc.) that are banned by UAE laws
- Goods imported from boycotted countries
- Any other goods, the importation of which is prohibited under the authority of UAE customs laws or any other laws in the country
- Forged and duplicate currency
- Crude ivory and rhinoceros horn
- Original engravings, prints, lithographs, sculpture and statues in any material
- Erotic statues/figurines, idols, made of any metal/clay/glass, etc., considered offensive to Islamic teachings and principles
- Pornographic, political and religious material which might be deemed offensive to the United Arab Emirates government or the Islamic faith
- Used or reconditioned tires
- Radiation polluted substances
- Cooked and home-made foods

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As the UAE is an Islamic country, religious propaganda, potentially offensive printed matter, CDs, videos or films should not be brought into the country. All personal imports of such materials are inspected at customs. Copyright laws are strictly enforced in the UAE and all pirated videos, audiotapes, and illegal computer software will be confiscated. Unstrung pearls are also prohibited, as is seafood, fruit, and vegetables originating from countries infected by cholera. The import of alcohol and pork products is strictly regulated.

Any trade with Israel is illegal, as is the importation of Israeli goods.

Controlled substances (drugs) are banned from the country and the penalties for handling these drugs are very severe. The importation of firearms and dangerous weapons is also restricted.

For a full and up-to-date list of prohibited items, contact the relevant Customs Department.

If you are transporting items from home for your stay in the UAE, the Customs Services will check your belongings. Your container should contain no alcohol or drugs. Any video tapes will be taken away and examined. It can be up to two months before these items are returned to you.

Entry of the following personal effects accompanying the passengers is allowed and exempt from customs duty:

- Still and moving image video cameras with their appropriate tapes, films and accessories
- Projectors for displaying slides and films including accessories and acceptable quantities of slides and films
- Telescopes
- Portable music equipment
- Radio systems, combined broadcasting apparatus, CD and DVD players with acceptable quantities of discs
- Cell phones
- Portable TV sets
- Portable typewriter
- Computers including laptops
- Portable calculators
- Baby pushchairs or other means of baby carriage
- Wheelchairs and cars for disabled people
- Sports equipment
- Cash, money, currencies and traveler's checks amounting to less than AED 60,000 for a passenger aged not less than 18 years

The Federal Customs Authority oversees the customs' activities in the UAE.

- **Federal Customs Authority**
Address: 2nd Floor, Fatima Bint Mubarak Street, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 697 9700 (Abu Dhabi), +971 4 311 9900 (Dubai)
Email: FCA@fca.gov.ae
Web: www.fca.gov.ae/En/Home/Pages/default.aspx
Hours: Offices are open from Monday to Thursday from 7.30am to 2.30pm

The main customs offices are located at the following points of entry.

- **Abu Dhabi Customs**
Web: <https://www.customs.ae/en/uae-customs/pages/auhcustoms.aspx>
- **Dubai Customs Department**
Address: Al Mina Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 417 7777, 800 800 80 (24-hour service)
Email: client.relations@dubaicustoms.ae
Web: www.dubaicustoms.gov.ae
- **Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department (RAK)**
Tel: +971 7 233 3733
Email: info@customs.rak.ae
Web: www.rakcustoms.rak.ae
Comments: Ras Al Khaimah is a port located about 94 kilometers (58 miles) north of Dubai
- **Sharjah Customs - Department of Sea Ports and Customs**
Tel: +971 6 528 1666
Email: Jumruki@sharjahcustoms.gov.ae
Web: www.sharjahcustoms.gov.ae
Comments: Sharjah is a port located about 39 kilometers (24 miles) north of Dubai

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1.6 Embassies

Foreign Embassies in United Arab Emirates

Australia	Address: 8th Floor, Al Muhairy Centre, Sheikh Zayed the First Street, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 401 7500; Fax: +971 2 401 7501; Email: abudhabi.embassy@dfat.gov.au; Web: http://uae.embassy.gov.au
Austria	Address: Sky Tower, Office 504, Reem Island, Abu Dhabi; Postal Address: PO Box 35539, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 694 4999; Fax: +971 2 694 4988; Email: abu-dhabi-ob@bmeia.gv.at; Web: www.bmeia.gv.at/en/oeb-abu-dhabi
Bahrain	Address: Villa West 16, 173 Baynana Road, Al Butain, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 665 7500; Fax: +971 2 667 4141; Email: abudhabi.mission@mofa.gov.bh; Web: www.mofa.gov.bh/Default.aspx?tabid=3500&language=en-US
Belgium	Address: Al Masood Tower, 6th floor, Hamdan Street, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 631 9449; Fax: +971 2 631 9353; Email: abudhabi@diplobel.fed.be; Web: https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_arab_emirates
Brunei	Address: Villa No.11, W-48, New Mushrif Area, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 448 6999; Fax: +971 2 448 6333; Email: abudhabi.uae@mfa.gov.bn; Web: http://mfa.gov.bn/uae-abudhabi/Theme/home2.aspx
Canada	Address: Abu Dhabi Trade Towers (Abu Dhabi Mall), West Tower, 9th & 10th Floors, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 694 0300; Fax: +971 2 694 0399; Email: abdbi@international.gc.ca; Web: www.canadainternational.gc.ca/uae-eau/index.aspx?lang=eng
China	Address: Plot 26, Sector W-22, Al Khaleej, Al Arabi St. 30, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 443 4276; Fax: +971 2 443 5440; Email: chinaemb_ae@mfa.gov.cn; Web: http://ae.china-embassy.org/eng
Czech Republic	Address: Marina Village, Villa A-09, Breakwater, Abu Dhabi; Postal Address: PO Box 27009, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 678 2800; Fax: +971 2 679 5716; Email: abudhabi@embassy.mzv.cz; Web: www.mzv.cz/abudhabi
Finland	Address: Al Masood Tower, 12th floor, 1202 Hamdan Street, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 632 8927; Fax: +971 2 632 5063; Email: embassy.abo@formin.fi; Web: www.finland.ae
France	Address: Etihad Towers, Tower 3, Floor 22, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 813 1000; Email: admin-francais.abou-dabi-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr; Web: https://ae.ambafrance.org
Germany	Address: Abu Dhabi Mall, Towers at the Trade Center, West Tower, 14th Floor, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 596 7700; Fax: +971 2 664 6942; Email: info@abu-dhabi.diplo.de; Web: www.uae.diplo.de/Vertretung/uae/en/021_The_20Embassy/Botschaft.html
Greece	Address: Al Fayd Street No.49, Muroor Area, Abu Dhabi; Postal Address: PO Box 5483, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 449 2550; Fax: +971 2 449 2455; Email: gremb.abd@mfa.gr; Web: www.mfa.gr/missionsabroad/en/uae-en
India	Address: Plot 10, Sector W-59/02, Diplomatic Area (Off the Airport Road) Abu Dhabi; Postal Address: PO Box 4090, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 449 2700; Fax: +971 2 444 4685; Email: amb.abudhabi@mea.gov.in; Web: www.indembassyuae.gov.in/
Italy	Address: Villa 715, Mubarak bin Mohammed Street (ex 26th St.), Al Rawdah Area, Abu Dhabi; Postal Address: PO Box 46752, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 443 5622; Fax: +971 2 445 3673; Email: italianembassy.abudhabi@esteri.it; Web: www.ambabudhabi.esteri.it
Japan	Address: Mubarak bin Muhammad 26th Street, Abu Dhabi; Postal Address: PO Box 2430, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 443 5696; Fax: +971 2 443 4219; Email: embjpn@ab.mofa.go.jp; Web: www.uae.emb-japan.go.jp

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Jordan	Address: Hay Al Diplomacy, Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum Street, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 509 9000; Fax: +971 2 444 9157; Email: abudhabi@fm.gov.jo; Web: www.jordanembassy.ae
Netherlands	Address: Centro Capital Center Office Tower, Building 11, 14th Floor, Al Khaleej Al Arabi Street, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 695 8000; Fax: +971 2 631 3158; Email: abu@minbuza.nl; Web: www.netherlandsworldwide.nl/countries/united-arab-emirates/about-us/embassy-in-abu-dhabi
Norway	Address: Etihad Towers 3, West Corniche, Level 11, Abu Dhabi; Postal Address: PO Box 47270, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 403 8400; Fax: +971 2 403 8401; Email: emb.abudhabi@mfa.no; Web: www.norway.no/en/united-arab-emirates
Romania	Address: 2nd Street 9, W 14/1, Plot 13, Al Rodha Area, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 445 9919; Fax: +971 2 446 1143; Email: abudhabi@mae.ro; Web: http://abudhabi.mae.ro
Russia	Address: Shark-9, Khalifa Street 65-67, Abu Dhabi; Postal Address: PO Box 8211, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 672 3516; Fax: +971 2 678 8731; Email: rusembuae@gmail.com; Web: http://uae.mid.ru
Saudi Arabia	Address: Nasla Alabd Street, Abu Dhabi; Postal Address: PO Box 4057, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 444 5700; Fax: +971 2 444 8491; Email: aeemb@mofa.gov.sa; Web: http://embassies.mofa.gov.sa/sites/uae/EN/Pages/default.aspx
South Africa	Address: Corner Airport Road and 25th Street, Villa 202, Al Mushref Area, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 447 3446, +971 2 633 7565; Email: nzimanden@dirco.gov.za; Web: www.dirco.gov.za/abudhabi
Spain	Address: Al Nahyan Commercial Buildings 96, Al Ladeem Street, Abu Dhabi; Postal Address: PO Box 46474, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 407 9000 Fax: +971 2 627 4978; Email: emb.abudhabi@maec.es; Web: www.exteriores.gob.es/embajadas/abudhabi
Sweden	Address: 12th Floor, Al Otaiba Tower, Electra Street, Abu Dhabi; Postal Address: PO Box 31867, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 417 8800; Fax: +971 2 417 8850; Email: ambassaden.abu-dhabi@gov.se; Web: www.swedenabroad.se/en/embassies/united-arab-emirates-abu-dhabi
Switzerland	Address: Centro Capital Center Building, 17th Floor, Capital Center/ADNEC Area, Kaleej Al Arabi Street, Abu Dhabi; Postal Address: PO Box 46116; Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 627 4636; Fax: +971 2 626 9627; Email: abudhabi@eda.admin.ch; Web: www.eda.admin.ch/uae
Syria	Address: Airport Road, Al-Safarat, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 444 8768; Fax: +971 2 444 9387; Web: www.mofaex.gov.sy/abu-dhabi-embassy
United Kingdom	Address: 22 Khalid bin Al Waleed Street, Abu Dhabi; Postal Address: PO Box 248, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 610 1100; Fax: +971 2 610 1585; Web: www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/british-embassy-abu-dhabi
United States	Postal Address: PO Box 4009, Abu Dhabi; Tel: +971 2 414 2200; Web: https://ae.usembassy.gov

United Arab Emirates Embassies Abroad

Australia	Address: 12 Bulwarra Close, O'Malley, Canberra, ACT 2606; Tel: +61 2 6286 8802; Fax: +61 2 6286 8804; Email: CanberraEMB@mofaic.gov.ae; Web: https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/missions/canberra
Belgium	Address: 11 rue des Colonies, 1000 Brussels; Tel: +32 2 640 6000; Fax: +32 2 647 7816; Email: BrusselsEMB@mofaic.gov.ae; Web: https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/missions/brussels
Canada	Address: 125 Boteler Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 0A4; Tel: +1 613 565 7272; Fax: +1 613 565 8007; Email: Ottawa@mofa.gov.ae; Web: www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/missions/ottawa

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China	Address: 22 Dongfang East Street, Liangmachia Diplomatic Complex, Chaoyang District, 100600 Beijing; Tel: +86 10 6532 7650; Fax: +86 10 6532 7652; Email: BeijingEMB@mofaic.gov.ae; Web: https://sp.mofaic.gov.ae/EN/DiplomaticMissions/Embassies/Beijing/Pages/home.aspx
Egypt	Address: 4, Ibn Sina Street, Giza, Cairo; Tel: +20 2 3776 6101; Fax: +20 2 3570 0844; Email: CairoEMB@mofaic.gov.ae; Web: www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/missions/cairo
France	Address: 2 Boulevard de la Tour Maubourg, 75007, Paris; Tel: +33 1 4434 0200; Fax: +33 4 4755 6104; Email: ambassade.emirats@wanadoo.fr; Web: https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/missions/paris
Germany	Address: Hiroshimastrasse 18-20, 10785 Berlin; Tel: +49 30 516 516; Fax: +49 30 516 51900; Email: BerlinEMB@mofa.gov.ae; Web: https://www.uae-embassy.de/
India	Address: 12 Chandra Gupta Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021; Tel: +91 11 2611 1111; Fax: +91 11 2687 3272; Email: NewDelhiEMB@mofaic.gov.ae; Web: https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/Missions/New-Delhi
Italy	Address: Via Della Camilluccia 492, 00135 Rome; Tel: +39 06 3630 6100; Fax: +39 06 3630 6155; Email: RomeEMB@mofaic.gov.ae; Web: www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/missions/rome
Japan	Address: 9-10 Nanpeidai-cho, Shibuya-Ku, Tokyo 150-0036; Tel: +81 3 54890804; Fax: +81 3 54890813 Email: Tokyo@mofaic.gov.ae; Web: https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/Missions/Tokyo
Jordan	Address: Building 65, Boumedyan Street, 5th circle, Jabal Amman; Postal Address: PO Box 2623, Amman; Tel: +962 6 593 4780; Fax: +962 6 593 2666; Email: ammanEmb@mofaic.gov.ae; Web: https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/Missions/Amman
Kuwait	Address: Al Deya'a, Block 5, Istiqlal Street, Embassies Area 7, Kuwait; Tel: +965 2252 8544; Fax: +965 2252 6382; Email: kuwait@mofa.gov.ae; Web: https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/Missions/Kuwait/The-Embassy/Welcome-Message
Lebanon	Address: Al-Jnah-Ramlet Al-Baida- Facing Eden Rock, Beirut; Tel: +961 185 7000; Fax: +961 185 7009; Email: beirut@mofa.gov.ae; Web: www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/missions/beirut
Libya	Address: Qarqaresh -Abu Al Nawias, Tripoli; Postal Address: PO Box 3996, Tripoli; Tel: +218 21 483 2593; Fax: +218 21 483 2598; Email: Tripoli@mofa.gov.ae; Web: https://uae.visaonlinegov.org/embassy/libya
Netherlands	Address: 130, Eisenhowerlaan, 2517 The Hague; Tel: +31 70 338 4370; Fax: +31 70 338 4373; Email: info.lahaye@mofa.gov.ae; Web: www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/missions/the-hague
Qatar	Address: Diplomatic Area, West Bay, Doha; Tel: +974 4483 8880; Fax: +974 4483 6186; Email: doha@mofa.gov.ae
Romania	Address: Aleea Modrogan 4 Sector 1, Bucharest; Tel: +4021 231 7676; Fax: +40 21 231 5588; Email: bucharestemb@mofaic.gov.ae; Web: www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/missions/bucharest
Russia	Address: Ulofa Palme Street 4, Moscow 115127; Tel: +7 495 234 4060; Fax: +7 495 234 4070; Email: moscowemb@mofa.gov.ae; Web: www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/missions/moscow
Saudi Arabia	Address: Abu Bakr Al Karkhi Zone, Amr bin Omayad Street, Riyadh 11693; Tel: +966 1 488 1227; Fax: +966 1 482 7504; Email: riya dhembb@mofa.gov.ae; Web: www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/missions/al-riyadh
South Africa	Address: 992 Arcadia Street, Arcadia 0083, Pretoria; Postal Address: PO Box 57090, Pretoria; Tel: +27 12 342 7736; Fax: +27 12 342 7738; Email: pretoria@mofa.gov.ae; Web: www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/missions/Pretoria
Spain	Address: Calle Hernandez de Tejada 7, 28027 Madrid; Tel: +34 91 570 1001; Fax: +34 91 571 5176; Email: madrid@mofa.gov.ae; Web: https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/es-es/missions/madrid

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Sweden	Address: Torsgatan 2, 5th floor, 111 23 Stockholm; Tel: +46 8 411 1244; Fax: +46 8 411 1245; Email: stockholm@mofa.gov.ae; Web: https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/missions/UAE-Missions-Abroad/UAE-Missions-Abroad-Details?countryId=149ec9b5-d0fe-46cf-8039-28d062427049
Switzerland	Address: Schweizerhof Hotel- Bern, Bahnhofplatz Street, Geneva; Tel: +41 3 1312 1710; Fax: +41 3 13131 18092; Email: geneveUNPRM@mofa.gov.ae; Web: www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/missions/bern
Syria	Address: Al Mahdi Bin Barakah, Abu Rumana, Damascus; Tel: +963 11 333 0308; Fax: +963 11 332 7961; Email: damascus@mofa.gov.ae; Web: www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/Missions/Damascus
United Kingdom	Address: 30 Prince's Gate, London SW7 1PT; Tel: +44 20 7581 1281; Fax: +44 20 7581 9616; Email: LondonEmb@mofaic.gov.ae; Web: https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/missions/london
United States	Address: 3522 International Court, Suite 400, NW, Washington, DC 20008; Tel: +1 202 243 2400; Fax: +1 202 243 2432; Web: www.uae-embassy.org/?fbclid=IwAR0NSyY8Zpf9ctw0Nr-5iFUx640Wt2DIVCj82RMRxcZQZW9B3PWfl-rY6AQ
Yemen	Address: Circular Lane, Behind Central Security Building, Sana'a; Postal Address: PO Box 2250 Sana'a-Al Daery Al Janobi, Sana'a; Tel: +967 1 248 777; Fax: +967 1 248 779; Email: sanaa@mofa.gov.ae

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2 Living in United Arab Emirates

2.1 My Living Accommodations

Availability and Costs

Costs of accommodation for international assignees can vary according to availability, size and neighborhood. Therefore, indicated cost figures are provided for general reference only.

Abu Dhabi

The residential rental market in Abu Dhabi has not yet recovered. The high-end sector still faces quite a high vacancy rate and a drop in rental values. The landlords who have been inflexible with re-negotiating better rental rates in the past, are becoming increasingly receptive to the present market conditions to maintain occupancy levels by reducing rent.

A new real estate law was introduced in January 2016 in Abu Dhabi. It had been anticipated that this law would introduce some sort of rent cap or calculator. However, there is no new rent cap and rents will continue to be set by landlords as the market will allow.

The average monthly cost of a two-bedroom unfurnished apartment ranges from AED 19,000 to AED 13,000 (March 2022). A Municipality Tax of 5% is paid in addition to rent, and is not included in the housing costs. A security deposit depends upon the rental value of the property. Usually, the security deposit is anything from AED 5,000 upwards

Serviced apartments fees are subject to additional tax called "Tourist Dirham" which can amount to AED 7 to AED 20 per bedroom per night, depending on the accommodation category and rating.

Parking is usually included in rents when available. A new 3% municipal fee has been introduced on all international assignees living in Abu Dhabi. The fee will be added as a monthly charge to utility bills.

Apartment rents sometimes include property maintenance, pest control, security and pool maintenance. This needs to be checked and discussed before signing a contract.

Dubai

Rental values have been mostly stable, with some slight decreases over the last couple of months. Development in Dubai has continued increasing. Serviced apartment fees are subject to additional tax called "Tourist Dirham" that can amount to AED 7 to AED 20 per bedroom per night, depending on the accommodation category and rating.

Garage is usually included in the rent. Utilities costs are not included and bills are sent out every month depending on usage. A Municipality Tax of 5% is paid in addition to rent, and is not included in the housing costs. Property maintenance for houses is usually included in the rent, but this should be verified before signing the lease. Apartment rents generally include property maintenance, pest control, security and pool maintenance. A refundable security deposit of AED 1,500 to AED 2,500 is required for utilities.

The average monthly cost of a two-bedroom unfurnished apartment ranges from AED 10,000 to AED 21,000 per month (March 2022).

Buying Furniture and Electrical Equipment

Expatriates living in the UAE suggest bringing your furniture with you if at all possible, rather than buying it once you have arrived. Furniture is expensive and choice is limited. Electra Street in Abu Dhabi has a good range of furniture stores.

These are the three main stores where expatriates buy their furniture. These are IKEA, Home Center and Homes R Us. All have branches in Abu Dhabi and Dubai and offer good value furniture and furnishings. The One has branches throughout the Middle East and offers modern furniture in establishments that they call 'Theaters.' There are also local independent stores.

Some expatriates choose to rent furniture, or to purchase a furniture pack containing all the items needed to furnish whichever size of property is required. This can be an expensive option.

Secondhand furniture and electrical items are also available from Dubizzle, which is the Middle East's leading classified ads website. The large transient population of expats ensures a constant supply of used items.

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Electrical and electronic goods are widely available. The hypermarkets and larger supermarkets, such as Lulu, Spinney's and Carrefour, sell a good range of budget priced items.

Most of the furniture stores have several branches in the city. Location details are available on the websites. The following stores are popular with the expat community. Most stores offer an online shopping facility. Credit cards are accepted.

Furniture and other homeware items are advertised in the classifieds section of Dubizzle:

- **Dubizzle**
Web: <https://uae.dubizzle.com>
Comments: The website has details of furniture availability and other homeware items. See the "Classifieds" page on the website

Furniture and appliance stores include:

- **Better Life**
Web: www.betterlifeuae.com
Comments: Specialist home appliance company, with branches in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. The website has location details
- **Carrefour**
Web: www.carrefouruae.com
Comments: There are branches in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Details are on the website
- **Emax**
Web: <http://landmarkgroup.com/int/emax>
Comments: They specialize in home electronics and appliances. There are branches in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Details are on the website
- **Home Center**
Web: www.homecentre.com/ae/en/storelocator
Comments: There are locations in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Location addresses are on the website. They sell a wide selection of elegant furniture
- **Homes R Us**
Web: www.homesrusgroup.com
Comments: There are a few branches in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The website has details. They sell furniture and home accessories, such as crockery and soft furnishings
- **IKEA**
Web: www.ikea.com/ae/en
Comments: Scandinavian budget furniture and furnishings store. There are 3 branches in the UAE, including Abu Dhabi and Dubai
- **Jashanmal Department Store**
Web: www.jashanmalgroup.com/our-brands/jashanmal-home-stores
Comments: Has several branches in Abu Dhabi and Dubai selling many goods including electrical items. Address details are on the website
- **Lulu**
Web: <https://www.luluhypermarket.com/en-ae>
Comments: There are stores in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Address details are on the website
- **Pan Emirates Home Furnishings**
Web: www.panemirates.com
Comments: There are locations in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Address details are on the website
- **Sharaf DG**
Web: <https://uae.sharafdg.com>
Comments: They stock an excellent range of appliances, electronics and other homeware. There are locations in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Address details are on the website
- **THE One**
Web: www.theone.com
Comments: There are locations in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Address details are on the website

Districts in Abu Dhabi

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Preferred Neighborhoods

- **Expensive:** Al Saadiyat Island, Al Bateen, Marina Village, Corniche, Al Gurm, Jumeirah at Etihad Towers Residences, Mangrove Village, Al Khalidiyah, Al Raha Beach, Seashore Villas
- **Moderate:** Khalifa City A, Tourist Club Area, Al Manasir, Al Karama, Muroor, The Hills, Al Bateen, Beach Rotana, Electra, Mangrove Village, Al Khalidiyah, Airport Road, Hamdan
- **Less Expensive:** Khalifa City A, Tourist Club Area, Al Karama, Muroor, Al Mushrif, Hamdan

Apartment rentals vary, with some parts of the city being typically more expensive than others. Areas such as Khalidiya, Corniche, Al Bateen and Al Manasir are either near the sea, or they are more sought after because they are quieter, have more parking availability, or have buildings which are only four to 12 stories high. In the city center, in locations such as Hamdan, the rent is slightly less, but parking is difficult to find and traffic is heavy at peak times. The American International School is located in the green Educational Zone approximately 10 km (6 miles) outside the city center. The actual city center is not close to most of the residential areas, as many of the developments took place near the marina areas, which is around 50 km from the city center. However, all amenities are located within the residential areas.

Al Bateen

This is a very popular, prestigious and quiet area. Accommodation consists mainly of larger villas and more expensive low-rise apartment blocks. Roadside parking is usually available. There are some large properties, each occupying several square kilometers of almost priceless urban real estate, each surrounded by ornate walls and elaborate gates. Many expat Arabs and UAE nationals live in the area. The district is located on the west side of the island and has many large parks and a shipyard, which still practices the ancient skill of dhow building. The Middle East's first executive airport is to be built here. The area is located about 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) from the city.

Al Gurm

Al Gurm is an exclusive area with large villas. There are no apartments available. The Al Gurm Resort is one of the nearby attractions. Most amenities are available at the Al Mushrif Mall, which is near this area. Several schools are located in the surrounding areas. The residential area is located about 9 kilometers (5.5 miles) from the city center.

Al Karama

Al Karama is a much sought after, long established expatriate area. Accommodation consists mainly of low-rise apartments, compounds and older, independent villas. The area is popular, as it is close to the schools, parks, embassies and still only a short car journey from the city center.

Al Manasir

Al Manasir is very popular with Abu Dhabi's expat residents. The leafy streets are home to a number of embassies and palaces, and being relatively traffic free, they are a good place to go cycling and jogging. The area is further into the island and the thriving expat community lives in an assortment of low-rise apartments, compounds and independent villas, within a short drive of the city center. The residential area is located about 3 kilometers from the city center .

Airport Road & Khalifa City A

Airport Road is located alongside Khalifa City A, south of the city, about 27 kilometers (17 miles) from the city center. The area is centrally located with all amenities close by. The Abu Dhabi Golf Club and the Al Ghazal Golf Club are conveniently located in the area. Excellent houses and apartments are available, but these are mostly unfurnished.

Al Zanyiah (formerly known as Tourist Club)

The Abu Dhabi municipality has changed the name of this area to Al Zanyiah. It is located about 7 kilometers (4 miles) from the city center. It is alive with activity and is one of the most vibrant parts of Abu Dhabi. It is located at the eastern end of the Corniche, with a cosmopolitan mix of residents. The area consists predominantly of apartments. Traffic is heavy at all hours of the day and night, although the extension to the Eastern Ring Road will help to ease the congestion. There are plenty of shops, with more than 200 in Abu Dhabi Mall. There are also good restaurants and it is also a busy evening venue. There are no schools in the immediate area, and it would take approximately 25 minutes to drive to the Al Khubairah British School.

Beach Rotana

The Beach Rotana is a large hotel in Abu Dhabi's Al Zanyiah Area. This residential area is about 8 kilometers (5 miles) from the city. The hotel houses several restaurants and bars, spa, swimming pools and a gymnasium. The Beach Rotana is next to Abu Dhabi Mall and is directly linked by an internal entrance. All apartments are fully furnished and feature fitted kitchens, bath and shower, minibar, coffee and tea-making facilities, multi-satellite TV, individually controlled air-conditioning, high speed Wi-Fi, working desk, voice mail and an in-room safe.

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- **Beach Rotana**

Web: www.rotana.com/rotanahotelandresorts/unitedarabemirates/abudhabi/beachrotana

Corniche

The Corniche is one of Abu Dhabi's main attractions and stretches for 8 km (5 miles) along the island's mangrove-fringed and white sandy shores. The area is 7 kilometers (4.5 miles) from the city. Many of the city's top class hotels and restaurants are located along the downtown section of this scenic stretch. At the western end of the Corniche is an area of reclaimed land, the Breakwater. One of Abu Dhabi's most iconic hotels, the Emirates Palace, in this area, also features a shopping mall, water sports club, the Heritage Village and many Arabic cafés and restaurants. This is a very expensive, exclusive area of modern, high-rise apartments with beautiful sea views. Parking is difficult to find, unless the building has underground parking. Exclusive houses and apartments are available in this sought after area.

Electra

Electra is located 9 kilometers (5.5 miles) north of the city center and offers a good selection of apartments. There are no houses available. Electra Street runs through the area with the American Community School of Abu Dhabi, just off Electra Street, to the west of the suburban area. Electra Park is available for recreation purposes and the coastal areas near Le Meridien Hotel, is close by. Al Maryah Island, which is regarded as the heart of Abu Dhabi's new central business district, is located just east of the suburb.

Hamdan

Here there is a lively mix of commercial and residential tower blocks. Due to the nature of this residential area, there are no houses in Hamdan. These are mainly older buildings, but there are some newer, more expensive apartments. Parking can be a problem if a space is not included in the rent and there is traffic congestion during the rush hour. The residents form a good mix of nationalities and rents are lower in this more central district. This popular residential area is located about 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the city.

Jumeirah at Etihad Towers Residences

The complex is made up of five towers: three residential towers, one office tower and the Jumeirah at Etihad Towers hotel. The serviced residences offer stunning views of the surrounding cityscape and Arabian Gulf, as well as three swimming pools and a private beach. Accommodation ranges from studio apartments to three bedroom options. The residential complex is about 7 kilometers from Abu Dhabi city. Jumeirah at Etihad Towers Residences

- **Jumeirah at Etihad Towers**

Web: www.jumeirah.com/en/hotels-resorts/abu-dhabi/jumeirah-etihad-towers

Khalidiya

Al Khalidiya is the most upmarket area for villas, as well as some more exclusive apartments. It is very popular with expatriates, but is a little more expensive than other areas. The popular Al Khalidiya Village comprises 150, five- and six-bedroom villas, situated near the Abu Dhabi Corniche. Recreational facilities include swimming pool and deck, fully equipped gym, sauna and steam room, tennis court, squash court, children's playground and games room. Located in the heart of Khalidiya, this compound is close to international schools, shopping opportunities and the beach. There are pleasant parks in the area with a good selection of shops at this end of the island. The residences are located 7 kilometers from the city.

Khalifa Street

This area is dominated by the Khalifa Park, located 13 kilometers (8 miles) from the city. One of the city's larger parks and a major landmark, these gardens are set in a landscape of canals, fountains, lakes and waterfalls. With play equipment for children, picnic facilities and an outdoor auditorium, it is a popular place to get some fresh air in the cooler months. A number of mixed commercial and residential buildings have been built around the park and several government departments have recently relocated here. Further development is expected in this up and coming area. Rents are lower than in Al Khalidiya or along the Corniche.

Mangrove Village

Mangrove Village is particularly popular with Western families, less so with singles. It is located 19 kilometers (12 miles) from the city at the intersection of Maqta Creek and Arabian Gulf on the edge of City. Accommodation consists mainly of upmarket modern villa complexes, with three to four bedrooms, by the sea. Communities generally have indoor and outdoor swimming pools, sauna, health clubs, tennis and basketball courts, children's play area, water sports facilities, daycare and nursery for infants, café, supermarket and 24-hour security. The village is quiet with little traffic. There is no significant nightlife and parking is available. There are no apartments available in this area.

Marina Village

Marina Village is located at Saadiyat Beach and home to several beachfront hotels, apartments, attached and detached luxury villas. However,

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there are no villas available for rent, but there is a good selection of exclusive apartments. There is also a marina, community center, post office, nursery, medical center and grocery store. Marina Village is located 9 kilometers (5.5 miles) from the city

Muroor

The accommodation is primarily low-rise residential and single-family housing in old villas, but there are also some new compounds, which are popular with families. There are several expatriate communities and, being away from the hustle and bustle of the city center, it is quiet and close to several good international schools. The British School is located just off Airport Road. The American International School, French School, Lycée Louis Massignon and the Indian School are located in the area. There are no big shopping malls, but the local grocery stores stock a good range of basics. Most of the downtown facilities are accessible within a short driving distance. Traffic is not really a problem except for during rush hour. Parking is available, but there is occasional noise from military cargo flights taking off from Al Bateen airport. The area is located about 7 kilometers (4 miles) from the city.

Mushref

Al Mushref is a mainly residential area, located on the southeastern edge of Abu Dhabi Island, just over 3 kilometers from the city. Accommodation consists mostly of low-rise apartment buildings, but there is also a good selection of houses available. There are some villas in the area, but the availability is scarce. It offers wide streets and easy parking, combined with several international schools, making the area a good choice for families. Local amenities include Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) and Zaid Sports City.

Raha Gardens and Raha Beach

The area is located on the coast, 27 kilometers (17 miles) north west of the city center. Accommodation consists of villas, apartments, shopping malls and several developments for residential and commercial use. Al Raha Beach has 11 waterfront developments and Al Raha Gardens has low-rise villas and regional retail centers. Al Raha Gardens Community retail center Gardens Plaza was completed in 2011, providing a supermarket, ATMs, fashion shops, dry cleaners, beauty salons for men and women and Jones the Grocer.

- Al Raha Gardens
Web: <http://alrahagardens.info>

Saadiyat Island

Saadiyat Island is a prime development with exclusive types of townhouses and villas. The residences are located 21 kilometers (13 miles) from the city. The area consists of a number of selected residential types, located on lagoons and on the beach area. Amenities, such as shopping facilities, entertainment and recreation options are plentiful. Other facilities include restaurants, a golf club, beauty salons and the public beach area of Saadiyat.

Seashore Villas

One of Abu Dhabi's most exclusive compounds, consisting of two, three and four-bedroom properties in shady, tree-lined avenues, with gardens surrounded by picket fences. The compound is located about 19 kilometers (12 miles) from the city. There are no apartments in this prime area. The compound's leisure facilities and amenities include two swimming pools, tennis and basketball courts, gym, sauna, massage room, games and billiards room and squash court. It is very popular with families, as the compound is safe, secure and very child friendly. It is also very quiet. The compound's central clubhouse has its own café and function room, resembling a community center and adding to the village-life atmosphere. The Mangrove Village slip road on to Airport Road is only a two-minute drive away, offering easy access to Dubai and a car is advisable. The drive to the city center takes at least 20 minutes.

The Hills

The Hills is a new compound of 147 villas – all five-bedroom properties and in four different designs. There are standalone, semi-detached and terraced models. The Hills is opposite the Officers Club on Abu Dhabi island. The compound is accessed from Khaleej al Arabi Street and is close to Musaffah Bridge. The compound is located 14 kilometers (9 miles) from the city. The Hills has wide streets and landscaped roundabouts, lawns and children's play areas. Annual maintenance may attract an additional charge. Rent in the compound is very high.

- The Hills
Web: www.propertyshopinvestment.com/abu-dhabi/hills-abu-dhabi

Districts in Dubai

Preferred Neighborhoods

- **Expensive:** Emirates Hills, Jumeirah Park, Downtown Dubai, Palm Jumeirah, Jumeirah, Dubai Marina, The Meadows, Ramada Downtown

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Dubai, Umm Suqeim

- **Moderate:** The Lakes, Jumeirah Park, Downtown Dubai, Business Bay, Palm Jumeirah, Jumeirah, Dubai Marina, Arabian Ranches, DIFC, Sheikh Zayed Road, The Meadows, Umm Suqeim, The Greens, Marina Hotel Apartments
- **Less Expensive:** Remraam, Garhoud, Satwa, Business Bay, The Springs, Arabian Ranches, Abido Executive Hotel Apartments Al Barsha, Falcon City of Wonders, Discovery Gardens, Mirdif, Al Barsha

Abidos Hotel Apartments Al Barsha

The complex offers one and two-bedroom luxury serviced apartments. The complex is located 15 kilometers (9 miles) from the city. The apartments offer high-speed Wi-Fi internet access, living room with LCD TV, bathroom, fully equipped kitchen, tea and coffee making facilities and safe deposit box. Some apartments have a private balcony.

- **Abidos Hotel Apartments Al Barsha**
Web: <https://abidos-hotel-apartment-al-barsha-dubai.at-hotels.com/en/>

Al Barari

The complex offers nearly many ultra-modern, exclusive villas and apartment-style homes, providing views of the nature reserve, the gardens and the city skyline. The villas have four bedrooms, private pool, outdoor entertainment area and landscaped gardens. There are no apartments in this area. The area is located about 26 kilometers (16 miles) from the city center.

- **Al Barari**
Web: www.albarari.com

Al Barsha

The Al Barsha area lies between Arabian Ranches and the Marina on Sheikh Zayed Road, close to Dubai Media City (DMC). Dubai city center is 22 kilometers (14 miles) from this area. The City Centre shopping Mall of the Emirates is nearby, which even has an indoor ski slope. There are also bars, hotels, clubs, a theater, cinemas, beach and sailing facilities. This area is becoming popular with families, due to the proximity of well-established schools. Most compounds have pools and some have gyms. The facilities at individual villas are more variable. The American School of Dubai is located in Al Barsha district. Houses and apartments are available.

Al Garhoud

Al Garhoud is close to Dubai International Airport, about 13 kilometers (8 miles) from the city. It is attractive to foreign residents, due to its location near the airport. The area is mainly commercial, but some residential properties can be found, which are mostly low-rise apartments and townhouses. The high volume of traffic around Al Garhoud causes problems on the roads. Expatriates generally leave out the 'Al' part of Al Garhoud and call it 'Garhoud.' The Cambridge High School is located in this area.

Arabian Ranches

Arabian Ranches is a quiet, landscaped villa community located on Emirates Road, about 10 to 15 minutes' drive from the Dubai Marina area. The area is 27 kilometers (17 miles) from the city center. Accommodation is small and medium sized villas and townhouses. The area offers local entertainment, dining and bars, and retail facilities. The community has an equestrian theme, which includes large stables and fields, which are home to prominent polo matches. The community also has a challenging golf course, which some of the houses overlook.

- **Arabian Ranches**
Web: www.arabianranches.com

Burj Dubai

Burj Dubai is the international financial and business center of the city. It is located just over 2 kilometers from the proper city center. The area is situated near the Bur Juman shopping mall and has many interesting architectural features. Residential property consists mainly of villas. Bur Dubai is on Sheikh Zayed Road, just after the first interchange (Defense Roundabout) surrounded by a man-made lake. It is also surrounded by a combination of residential, commercial, hotel, entertainment and leisure outlets, along with open green spaces, water features and pedestrian boulevards. The Bur Dubai Residence is one of the residential areas of central Dubai, containing nine luxury freehold apartment towers with open water, greenery, state-of-the-art gyms, pools and spas. These towers contain one to three bedroom suites, penthouses or villas. The district is crowded with restaurants, shops and large commercial building projects. The Dubai World Trade Centre is located here and is one of the world's busiest business complexes. Accommodation in this area is currently very scarce (2018).

Business Bay

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Business Bay was planned as an extension of the high-rise office buildings in downtown Dubai, about 7 kilometers (4.3 miles) from the city center. Dubai authorities hoped to make Business Bay the center for commerce and trade in the region, but it is not being developed beyond a residential area, with predominantly apartment accommodation. In total, the plan for the area includes 230 high-rises, with the Burj Al Alam standing tallest at over 500m. In addition, Bay Square hosts other amenities, including restaurants and shopping. The Dubai Metro station planned in the area is not yet operational.

- Business Bay
Web: www.dubai-businessbay.com

DIFC

Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) is located 3 kilometers from the city center, near central Dubai and mainly consists of commercial properties. However, there are apartment developments throughout the area. The residential DIFC towers are built to a high standard. The buildings offer first class facilities, including swimming pools, gymnasiums, sauna, spa and 24-hour security. Apart from being the home of impressive art galleries and stylish restaurants, DIFC has direct access to variety of retail and dining options found in the Emirates Towers Boulevard, north of DIFC. The area is served by two metro stations: Emirates Towers and Financial Centre.

- DIFC
Web: www.difc.ae/properties/masterplan/residential-zone

Discovery Gardens

Discovery Gardens is located at an interchange on Sheikh Zayed Road in Dubai, between Interchanges 5 and 6, providing easy access to Emirates Road, Jebel Ali and the Dubai Metro. The area is located 26 kilometers (16 miles) from the city center. However, public transport facilities are available. It is inspired by garden living in the heart of Dubai. The development comprises studios, one- and two-bedroom apartments and 200 retail shops. The buildings are grouped into themed clusters and are home to nearly 60,000 residents. The six themed communities are Zen, Mediterranean, Contemporary, Mogul, Mesoamerican and Cactus courtyard gardens. Discovery Gardens is considered environmentally friendly. Energy Saving options have been used, such as district cooling.

Downtown Dubai

This large, mixed-use complex, which is partly still under development, provides hundreds of exclusive residences, including villas and apartments. All amenities are available, which include shopping, entertainment and recreation options. There is a large area allocated for prime office development and will attract businesses from across the globe. Other amenities include parks, VIP drop-off areas, electronic access and much more. The area is located almost within the city center and is regarded as the new city hub.

Dubai Marina

Dubai Marina is an entirely man-made marina containing about 70 tower blocks up to 60 levels high. The area is located 22 kilometers (14 miles) from the city. This number will rise to 200 blocks. It is being built along a 3.34 kilometer stretch of Dubai's shoreline and is a mixed-use canal-city inspired in the Venetian tradition. It will accommodate over 120,000 people in their luxury apartment towers and villas, with a unique waterfront view. The project will have 20,000 apartments and is situated midway between Dubai City and Jebel Ali port. Dubai Internet City, Media City, Knowledge Village and the Emirates Golf Club are all nearby.

- Dubai Marina
Web: www.dubai-marina.com

Emirates Hills

Emirates Hills is a prestigious gated community and one of the most exclusive in the city. The compound is located 23 kilometers (14 miles) from the city center. The villas are home to the wealthiest citizens of Dubai, surrounded by the lush landscaping. Each of its villas is unique. Many of the very large villas and mansions offer views of the 18-hole Montgomerie Championship Golf Course.

- Emirates Hills
Web: www.emirateshillssales.com

Falcon City

Falcon City offers a wide range of houses and apartments, in an area, which is popular with locals and expatriates. The residential areas are located 24 kilometers (15 miles) from the city. Villas in the new developing areas are ultra-modern and very expensive. The website has details of the area.

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- Falcon City
Web: <http://falconcity.com>

Jumeirah

Jumeirah is a residential coastal area stretching south from the center of Dubai, about 3.5 kilometers (2 miles) from the city. It is ideally situated near the beach, park and schools. Accommodation consists of exclusive villas, either large individual properties, or smaller villas grouped in compounds. Compounds have their own swimming pools, squash and tennis courts. The more modest townhouses vary in styling. Jumeirah is one of the most exclusive parts of Dubai. The world famous Burj Al Arab hotel is one of many hotel and leisure projects constructed along the beachfront. The Emirates International School, Jumeirah Primary College and the American School of Dubai are located in this area.

Mankhool

Al Mankhool is located in western Dubai, near Bur Dubai, about 7 kilometers (4 miles) from the city center. It is largely a residential area, with mainly houses and it is popular with families rather than singles. A car is advisable, as taxis are hard to find. However, the Al Karama Metro Station is nearby, which allows for convenient transport to Dubai and the surrounding areas.

Marina Hotel Apartments

The complex is located 22 kilometers (14 miles) from the city. The complex consists of 74 suite apartments, comprising one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, three-bedroom duplexes and three-bedroom penthouses. Many offer views of the Dubai Marina. Each apartment has a TV, fully equipped kitchen, utility room, family room and master bedroom. There is a health club, swimming pool and squash court. The apartments are close to Marina Walk, Dubai Marina Mall, Jumeirah Beach, Mall of the Emirates and Ibn Batuta Mall. The Dubai Marina Metro Station will serve the area.

- Marina Hotel Apartments
Web: <http://marinahotelapt.com>

Mirdif

Mirdif is a small but rapidly growing residential area, located 21 kilometers (13 miles) from the city. Property is relatively less expensive, but there are fewer amenities. It is also on the flight path for the airport. However, facilities are being improved all the time. The current project involves creating villas, apartments, play areas and recreation facilities, a cinema, healthcare center and a primary school. Construction is also under way for more than 2,000 units of accommodation, both villas and apartments. The residents in the area make up a wide variety of all nationalities, including nationals and expatriates.

Palm Jumeirah

Palm Jumeirah is the world's largest man-made island and stretches into the Arabian Gulf in the shape of a palm tree. The island is located 21 kilometers (13 miles) from the city. In 2006, the island's first residences comprising 4,000 luxury villas and apartments were released for occupation. Since then, the tourism, leisure and retail elements of the island have been developed, creating a spectacular, world-renowned residential and tourism destination. The island features beachfront properties, including waterfront apartments, villas, restaurants and hotels, all with spectacular views of the sea. The island can be accessed by car or via a monorail.

- Palm Jumeirah
Web: www.visitdubai.com/en/pois/palm-jumeirah

Ramada Downtown Dubai

The complex offers one and two-bedroom apartments, overlooking Burj Khalifa and The Dubai Fountain. It is within walking distance of the Dubai Mall and offers a free shuttle service to Jumeirah Beach Park, Dubai Mall and the Metro. The accommodation features spacious, open-plan studios and suites with a separate living room. All of the suites have a full kitchen and a private bathroom with a rain shower. Facilities at the hotel include swimming pool, badminton, a racquetball court and a gym. There is also a children's club and a daycare center. The complex is located almost 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) from the city center.

- Ramada Downtown Dubai
Web: www.ramadadowntowndubai.com/en

Remraam

Remraam is located 31 kilometers (20 miles) southeast of the city and hosts a large range of houses and apartments, which are popular with

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locals and foreign nationals. Several sports clubs, which include Golf City and Dubai Sports City, are close by. Apartments are located in high-rise buildings, but these are not as high as the new complexes close to the city. Restaurants, pubs and other recreation facilities are located nearby at the sports clubs.

Satwa

Satwa is a desirable area to live in for singles looking for a vibrant district. Satwa is less than 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) from the city center. The main street, Diyafah is home to several of the city's favorite Arabic restaurants, as well as plenty of fast food venues. There are a number of low-rise apartment blocks on Diyafah Street and Al Hudeiba Street, but apartment accommodation is not currently available. However, there is a good selection of houses in Satwa, which is a popular area due to its close proximity to the sea front areas. Rydges Plaza has an active nightlife with several hotels in the area that are home to licensed restaurants and bars. Traffic can be very heavy during rush hour and street parking is difficult to find. There are no schools in Satwa, but several in neighboring Jumeirah and Al Wasl.

Sheikh Zayed Road

Sheikh Zayed Road is a main road, which leads west from the World Trade Centre, just west of Deira. It is lined with some of the tallest and most exclusive hotels and other buildings in Dubai. There are no houses available along this area, but there is an excellent choice of apartments available, which is particularly popular with foreign nationals in Dubai. The residences are located about 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the city.

Tecom

Tecom is a free zone near to Al Barsha and the Mall of the Emirates just over 17 kilometers (10.5 miles) from the city. Accommodation is reasonably priced in the area, as there is plenty of availability. Serviced apartments are common and the area is popular with young couples or single people. Tecom boasts many buildings with large spacious apartments. The biggest advantage of living in Tecom is its easy accessibility to the main arterial roads of Dubai, such as Shaikh Zayed Road and Al Khail Road. Getting into the area is also easy with the underpasses and bridges available. In addition, the Dubai Internet City Metro Station is located within Tecom. There are several schools within the vicinity, such as the Gems Wellington International School, Regent International School and American School of Dubai. There are also good shopping and restaurant facilities.

The Greens

The Greens is located in a prime location, directly opposite Palm Jumeirah, 18 kilometers (11 miles) from the city. The Greens is a development of mid-rise, high specification apartment blocks grouped around a courtyard. There is a total of eight, four-building complexes and the units come as studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. The recreational facilities provided include swimming pools, gymnasiums, children's play areas and outdoor dining areas. Its popularity is increased by its proximity to the Sheikh Zayed Road, Emirates Golf Club and Internet City.

- The Greens

Web: www.propertyfinder.ae/area-guides/the-greens

The Lakes

The Lakes is a residential area built around a lake, located between the Emirates Golf Club and Montgomerie Golf Course. The residential area is 22 kilometers (14 miles) from the city. The villas and townhouses have between two bedrooms and five bedrooms. The facilities include parks, tennis and squash courts, gym, children's play areas and a swimming pool.

The Meadows

The Meadows is a gated development of exclusive villas offering two-story townhouses with three to seven bedrooms. Each property has its own garden and garage. The area is located on the marinas, which are popular with boat enthusiasts. The Meadows Dubai British School is also in the area. Shopping facilities are ample, which include the Dubai Marina Mall. Recreation facilities are available at the nearby Emirates Golf Club. The Meadows is located 22 kilometers (14 miles) from the city.

- The Meadows

Web: <http://themeadowsproperty.com/the-meadows-dubai>

The Springs

The Springs is a modern townhouse waterfront development, built on the shores of man-made lakes and are grouped around a communal pool area. The distance from The Springs to Dubai city is around 22 kilometers (14 miles). The properties range from two to five bedrooms, single-family attached villas, each with their own small garden. It is a gated community of residential townhouses with scenic waterways and lush landscaping, making it a perfect environment for young families and couples. It is located off Sheikh Zayed Road's Interchange 5 and has borders with The Meadows, Emirates Hills and Jumeirah Islands. The development's amenities include swimming pools, parks, nurseries, spas, community centers and gymnasiums. The area is very popular with foreign residents.

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Umm Suqeim

Umm Suqeim is in the district of Jumeirah, 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) from the city and is just as exclusive as Palm Jumeirah, but with many newly built properties. Palm Jumeirah is located almost opposite this popular area. It is in close proximity to the Burj Al Arab Hotel and the Jumeirah Madinat resort. This area has beautiful beaches, Umm Suqeim Park, a library and established neighborhoods with many small shops and restaurants. Villas are available, but apartments are scarce.

Finding Accommodation

Property can be bought in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, as well as other emirates. However, there are restrictions. For instance, in Abu Dhabi foreign nationals can only buy in designated areas on 99-year leases, while in Sharjah, they are only permitted to buy leasehold property. In other areas, amendments in the laws allow foreign nationals to own freehold title.

High quality rental accommodation is easily available and there are many real estate agents. The best sources for finding accommodation are by word-of-mouth from colleagues or friends, via real estate agencies, or checking listings in the local newspapers.

The following websites provide information:

Newspaper	Website	Comments
Gulf News	http://gulfnews.com	English-language newspaper, lists classified sections with properties to rent/buy
Khaleej Times	www.khaleejtimes.com	English-language newspaper, lists classified sections with properties to rent/buy
Expatriates	www.expatriates.com	Lists sections with properties to rent/buy
Dubizzle	http://uae.dubizzle.com	Extensive list of properties for rent

If you find accommodation through a real estate agency, you will be required to pay a commission fee, which is typically around 5% of the annual rental cost for the property.

Lease and Rental Conditions

To lease a property in your name you will need a resident visa, or a document from your company saying that the visa is being processed.

If the lease is in name of your company, certain documents are required from the company:

- Power of attorney of the mandate to sign the contract
- Trade License in chamber of commerce
- Registration in the municipality

Lease and rental conditions may vary between landlords. In general, a refundable deposit ranging from AED 2,000 to AED 5,000 is payable. However, this is not a fixed rate and the deposit may be as high as AED 25,000. It is advisable to inquire about this when you search for accommodation. The deposit is refundable if there is no outstanding bill relating to water, electricity or maintenance. In case of damage to the property, the deposit will not be refunded. Most landlords will expect the full annual rent to be paid in advance, but this may be negotiated down to two, six-month payments. An AED 1,000 deposit is payable to the Abu Dhabi Distribution Company (ADDC) for electricity and water supply, but is refundable on termination of the lease. Real estate agency's fees are usually 5% of the annual rent. In addition, municipal tax is 5% of the annual rent. Some landlords also charge an additional 2.5% management fee for the first year.

In many cases, parking spaces are included in the rental costs. New properties often have covered car parking.

Most rented accommodation is unfurnished, although you may find kitchens at least partially equipped. It is advisable to look for properties that have air-conditioning. Many new apartments and houses have a central air-conditioning and a central gas system already installed. However, in older apartment complexes, there is no central air-conditioning or central gas supply and residents will have to rely on independent units for both these services. In Abu Dhabi, all accommodation is required to have air-conditioning, and the maintenance of the unit will be included in the rental agreement. Some apartments have a standard fee for electricity, although it is more common that this will be billed separately by the Water and Electricity Department. Some residential complexes will provide a daily maid service.

Real Estate Agencies

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There are many real estate agencies located throughout the country. A full list can be found in the Yellow Pages directory (search for "real estate"). A major online agency is Bayut. Dubizzle lists available accommodation in the country with different real estate agencies. Property Finder is a popular website with a comprehensive list of real estate and estate agencies.

- Bayut
Web: www.bayut.com
- Dubizzle
Web: <http://uae.dubizzle.com>
- Property Finder
Web: www.propertyfinder.ae

Abu Dhabi

The following estate agents have offices in Abu Dhabi. Some agents assist expatriates with complete relocation procedures.

- Asteco Real Estate
Address: SJ Tower, Level 8, Office 804-805, Airport Road
Tel: +971 2 626 0068
Email: customermanagement@asteco.com
Web: www.asteco.com
- First Choice Properties
Address: Al Falah Building, Office 401, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 445 5574
Web: www.facebook.com/fchoiceprop
- Homestyle Property
Tel: +971 2 621 8123
Email: homestyl@emirates.net.ae
Web: www.homestyle-property.co.ae
- Intouch Relocations - Dubai Office
Tel: +971 4 447 2535
Email: info@intouchrelocations.com
Web: www.intouchrelocations.com
Comments: The office is located in Dubai, but it represents residents in Abu Dhabi
- LLJ Property
Address: Al Jazira Sports & Cultural Club (West Wing), Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 495 0500
Email: customerservice@lljproperty.com
Web: www.lljproperty.com

Dubai

Some estate agents in Dubai provide relocations services from your home country, assisting you with more than just finding suitable accommodation.

- Arencore Real Estate
Address: Arencore Tower, Dubai Internet City, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 355 1115
Email: barbra.murunga@arencore.ae
- Asteco Real Estate
Web: www.asteco.com
Comments: The company has multiple offices in the city. The website has location details
- Better Homes
Web: www.bhomes.com
Comments: There are several offices in Dubai. The website has details

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- **Hamptons International**
Web: www.hamptons.ae/en
Comments: There are several offices in Dubai. The website has details
- **Intouch Relocations - Dubai Office**
Tel: +971 4 447 2535
Email: info@intouchrelocations.com
Web: www.intouchrelocations.com
Comments: The office is located in Dubai, but it represents residents in Abu Dhabi
- **Nadia Properties**
Address: Office 110, Mardoof Building, Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 346 6252
Email: info@nadiapro.com
Web: <https://www.dubairealcity.com/real-estate/nadia-properties>
- **Santa Fe Relocation Services**
Address: Office 1201, Onyx Tower 1, The Greens, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 332 1595
Email: UAE@santaferelo.com
Web: <https://www.santaferelo.com/en/>

Types of Accommodation

There are different types of accommodation available to rent, including individual villas, homes in compounds and apartments. The majority of properties can be rented fully furnished.

Houses

Compounds are popular. They can either be small apartment blocks or villas. Most compounds have facilities, such as a swimming pool, gym, tennis courts, children's playground and even small supermarkets. There are many newly constructed detached villas for rent, some with swimming pools and large gardens. Houses are very modern and almost every bedroom has its own en-suite bathroom. Fitted cupboards are standard in all bedrooms. Kitchens are modern with ample kitchen units and ceramic floors. Open-plan designs are popular. Many houses are double story buildings, with servant's quarters and outside laundry rooms. Central heating and air conditioning are available in most areas. In compounds, pets are generally allowed. However, you should check on this regulation when searching for suitable house accommodation. In some compounds, there is no private garaging available, but suitable, safe covered parking spaces are provided.

Apartments

There are high-quality apartment blocks, which usually come with security and maintenance services. Thousands of apartments are currently available in the UAE, which include a vast selection in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Apartments are mostly located in high-rise buildings and are extremely modern with all the latest technology, such as internet services, cable television, concierge services and cleaning services. Serviced apartments are available in both Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Studio apartments usually include one bathroom. Most larger apartments may have a bathroom for every bedroom. Flooring consists mostly of ceramic tiles. Many apartments have balconies, with excellent views over the city. Open-plan designs are popular and kitchens are well laid-out, with good kitchen cabinets. Appliances are often available in un-furnished units. Central heating and air conditioning are generally available. Other amenities at apartment complexes include, shared gym facilities, parking and even hot tubs. Servant's quarters are available in some complexes. Some older apartment blocks may not have built-in cupboards for clothing. It is therefore advisable to check on the closet space, when searching for suitable accommodation.

Apartment sizes range from one-bedroom to larger accommodation with more than four bedrooms.

2.2 Utilities & Services

Air Conditioning

Summer temperatures are very high and may pose a health risk for people who are not used to the extreme heat. Air conditioners are generally available in most types of accommodation and service agents are readily available in the cities. Note that high air conditioner usage will affect your electricity bill.

Domestic Services

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Domestic staff in the UAE has to be sponsored by their employer. An employer must earn at least AED 6,000 per month. You will be responsible for sponsoring the person(s) visa, labor card and health card. They are entitled to free accommodation and a return air ticket to their home country once a year, as well as their wages. Many domestic employees come from the Philippines, Sri Lanka or Thailand.

In December 2016, the Council of Ministers assigned the Human Resources and Emiratization Ministry, formerly the Labor Ministry, to oversee the recruitment and employment of domestic workers, beginning in 2017. Previously, the Interior Ministry's General Directorate of Residency and Foreign Affairs, the immigration department, performed this role. The employment of domestic workers will now be overseen by the same ministry that oversees all other workers in the United Arab Emirates.

A way of making the process easier is to find domestic staff who are looking for a new employer, as their current employer is leaving the area. You will find notices put up in supermarkets from families trying to find their staff positions as they leave the country. An advantage of this is that the visas will have been paid for and you just take over responsibility for the home leave tickets, accommodation and monthly wage.

If you live in an apartment, your landlord will ask to see valid visas for your domestic staff, before issuing them a permit for the residence. You may well be charged for this. There are a number of agencies in the region who will assist with recruitment, and will also charge a fee for their services.

It is illegal to be the employer of domestic staff on a part-time basis. However, there are local agencies that can provide you with casual help for cleaning, baby-sitting and general household chores, which is legal.

In June 2014, in Abu Dhabi, a new standard contract for domestic staff took effect that guarantees the rights of both workers and their employers. The aim of the contract is to grant more legal protection for domestic staff. The UAE Labor Law's website has extensive information about the hiring regulations for all types of workers, including domestic workers.

Many families, particularly those without children, no longer have full-time staff, but rely on part-time help. It is illegal to employ any domestic help who are not sponsored either by the employer, or an agency. It is however quite easy to get part time help via an agency. Gardeners often come included with a villa. Part time gardeners can be easily arranged. They will use their own equipment, including lawn mowers.

Selected hourly rates for 2021:

	Dubai	Abu Dhabi
Domestic help	AED 40 to AED 68 per hour	AED 40 to AED 50 per hour
Babysitters	AED 30 to AED 45 per hour	AED 35 to AED 45 per hour

- **UAE Labor Law**
Web: <http://uaelaborlaw.com>
Comments: The website provides extensive information about worker regulations and requirements

Dry Cleaning Services

As well as cleaning services, for ironing services there are a number of shops throughout the UAE that provide a quick and quality service from AED 4 per garment. Long opening hours make it easy to pick up and drop off clothing. Dry cleaning services are also available at hotels, but this service is mostly for the hotel residents. Most serviced apartments provide a dry cleaning service. Many of the service providers have a pick-up and delivery option.

Recommended cleaners include:

Abu Dhabi

- **Alessia Couture**
Address: W-H23J3-A-16 ICAD Musaffah, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 555 2088
Email: customerservice@alessiacouture.com
Web: www.alessiacouture.com
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 8am to 8pm; closed Friday
- **Bianco Dry Clean**
Address: Off Muroor Road, Al Nahyan Compound, Abu Dhabi

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Tel: +971 2 633 3157
Email: info@biancodryclean.com
Web: www.biancodryclean.com
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 9am to 11pm; Friday 5pm to 10pm

- **Champion Cleaners**
Web: www.champion-cleaners.com
Comments: There are a few branches around the city. The website has details
- **Jeeves**
Address: Sheikh Zayed, The First Street, Khalidiya Area, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 666 3755
Web: <https://www.jeevesofbelgravia.com/>

Dubai

- **Black & White Dry Cleaners**
Web: www.blackandwhite.ae
Comments: There are two branches in the city. The website has address details
- **Butler's Laundry**
Address: Dubai Investment Park, Dubai
Tel: +971 600 562 229
Email: laundry@butlersdream.com
Web: <https://www.facebook.com/butlerslaundryllc/>
- **Champion Cleaners**
Web: www.champion-cleaners.com
Comments: There are a few branches in the city. The website has details.
- **Martinizing Laundry & Dry Cleaning Services**
Address: Deira, Al Qusais Industrial 1, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 6085555
Email: martinizing@alhathboor.com
Web: <http://alhathboor.com/company/martinizing>
- **The Concierge Dry Cleaner**
Web: www.theconcierge.ae
Comments: There are several laundry and dry cleaning services in the city. The website has details

Electricity and Water

In Abu Dhabi, the utilities are managed by the Abu Dhabi Distribution Company, which has 14 branches throughout the state. The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), is responsible for the water distribution in the Dubai.

Water in large cities, such as Dubai and Abu Dhabi, is suitable for drinking, although most expatriates only drink bottled water.

Getting Connected

In order to get water and electricity connected, you will need to take a copy of your lease agreement and a deposit to the city's electricity and water supplier. The deposit of AED 1,000 is refundable. The amount of the deposit is increased when the tenant is a company, rather than an individual.

In Dubai, you have to go to the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), located near the Wafi Shopping Mall in Bur Dubai or behind the Mazaya Center off Sheikh Zayed Road. You will also need your DEWA account number, which is normally written on a small plaque outside the property.

Paying Bills

Bills are paid monthly and there are several methods of payment, including by internet and cell phone. Both electric companies have an app, which you can download on your cell phone in order to manage your account. Online registration facilities are also available on the websites, from where you can manage your account.

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The rates charged for water and electricity are much higher for expats than for UAE nationals. New tariffs were introduced in 2016 to boost environmental protection and sustainability.

- **Abu Dhabi Distribution Company**

Web: www.addc.ae

Comments: There are several locations throughout the city. The website has a location map

- **Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA)**

Web: www.dewa.gov.ae

Comments: There are several locations throughout the city. The website has details

Gas

There is no central gas supply in either Abu Dhabi or Dubai. However, most new tower blocks are equipped with natural gas, from storage tanks. This is supplied by authorized companies, which connect the gas supply directly to the apartments. Each building has the name and contact number of the supplier stated in the entry lobby, or you can ask the concierge for the number.

LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas) can be used in properties where there is no central gas connection, which includes almost all villas. LPG is available at ADNOC gas outlets, or can be purchased from the gas distribution companies. Trucks belonging to these companies drive through areas where there is no central gas supply. You can identify them by their orange color and the constant ringing of the bell.

Residents in Abu Dhabi can now apply online for a Rahel e-Gas card from ADNOC Distribution, which will enable them to buy subsidized gas cylinders. The subsidized option also applies to expatriates. Specific quotas apply. The website has details of the quotas. The application for e-Gas can be made online, or at Rahal centers or service stations. Identification documents and proof of residence, by means of a utility bill, are required for the registration procedure.

Payment for gas supplies can be made online, at outlets, or from collectors, who will call at your home. Credit cards are accepted.

Gas distributors include:

Abu Dhabi

- **Adnoc Distribution**

Web: <https://adnocdistribution.ae/en>

Comments: Location details of Rahal centers are on the website

- **Brothers Gas**

Address: Hamdan Center, Hamdan Street, Abu Dhabi

Tel: 800 2427 (within UAE) (LPG cylinder orders)

Email: sales@brothersgas.ae

Web: www.brothersgas.com

Comments: Suppliers of domestic gas in cylinders. They also provide bulk gas services

- **Sergas**

Web: www.sergas.com/en/home

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Comments: Gas distribution to domestic customers. There are several outlets in the city. The website has location details

- **Tarish Gas - Abu Dhabi**

Address: Opposite Delma Mall, Mussafah, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 559 9477

Email: admin@tarishgas.com

Web: www.tarishgas.com

Comments: Online payments are available

Dubai

- **Brothers Gas**

Web: www.brothersgas.com

Comments: They are suppliers of domestic gas in cylinders. They also provide bulk gas services. There are several locations in the city - details are on the website

- **Happy Way Gas**

Address: Warehouse 12, Al Qusais Ind Second, Al Qusais, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 267 3200

Email: sales@happywaygas.com

Web: www.happywaygas.com

Comments: They provide cylinder and bulk domestic gas services

- **Emirates Gas**

Web: www.emiratesgas.com

Comments: They have a wide network of distributors. The website has contact details. Home deliveries are available

- **Sergas**

Address: Office No. 1404, One Building by Omniyat Business Bay, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 451 7773

Email: igsdubai@sergas.com

Web: www.sergas.com/en/home

Comments: Gas distribution to domestic customers

Hair Salons

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There are many upmarket hair salons in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Most hair salons are unisex establishments and provide a service for men, women and children. However, some outlets specialize in either men or women only. Some hair salons have a nail salon and beauty salon on the same premises. Some of the five star hotels also have their own hair salon. Most salons have multiple branches in the cities. Some hair salons are closed on Fridays.

Hair salons, which are popular with the expatriate community, include:

Abu Dhabi

- **ST Beauty Salon**
Address: Podium Level 3, Jumeirah at Etihad Towers, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 665 5459
Web: <https://www.jumeirah.com/en/article/facilities/abu-dhabi/st-beauty-womens-salon>
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 10am to 8pm. Friday 11am to 8pm
Comments: The hair salon is located at the Jumeirah Hotel
- **Gilles Poplimont**
Address: Hotel Mercure, Hamdan Street, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 50 616 7624
Email: gillespoplimontfrenchairsalon@gmail.com
Web: <http://gillespoplimontsalon.weebly.com/>
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 9.30am to 8pm; closed Sunday
- **Hairwaves By Charbel**
Web: www.hairwavesbycharbel.com
Comments: Salons are located at the Four Seasons Hotel, Khalidiya Palace Hotel and the Sheraton Hotel
- **Red Emerald Salon**
Address: Al Muroor, Near Al Mushrif Mall, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 447 7590
Email: monsad5680@yahoo.com
Web: <http://redemeraldsalon.weebly.com>
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 10.30am to 9pm; closed Friday
- **Toni & Guy**
Address: Al Bandar, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 584 8399
Web: www.toniandguyuae.com
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 9am to 9pm; Friday 11am to 8pm

Dubai

- **Carita Paris Beauty Salon**
Web: www.caritaparis.com
Comments: There are four outlets in the city - the website has contact details
- **Kozma & Kozma**
Address: Al-Wasl Road, Opposite side of J3 Mall, Dubai
Tel: +971 56 554 4534
Email: info@kozmaandkozma.com
Web: <http://kozmaandkozma.com/dubai>
Hours: Open from Tuesday to Thursday and Saturday from 10am to 9pm. Friday hours are from 11am to 8pm. Closed on Mondays
- **Pace e Luce**
Web: www.paceeluce.com
Comments: There are several branches in Dubai - the website has location details
- **Salon Ink**
Address: Villa 14, Al Reef Villas, Al Wasl Road, Umm Sequim 2, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 385 4402
Email: info@saloninkdubai.com
Web: www.saloninkdubai.com
Hours: Sunday and Monday 10am to 7pm; Tuesday to Wednesday 10am to 9pm; Thursday 10am to 7pm; Saturday 9am to 6pm; closed Friday

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- **Toni & Guy**
Web: www.toniandguyuae.com
Comments: There are three branches in the city. See the website for addresses

Heating

Due to the weather conditions in the country, there is no need for heating. Summer months, which are from April to September, are very hot and winters are mild. Gas or electric heaters will suffice during the cooler months, if needed.

Utilities and Services

A water and electricity deposit, refundable on disconnection of supply, is to be paid in cash and in advance to the department of distribution (electricity and water). For gas, there is also a separate connection deposit. All the bills are the responsibility of the tenant, which include electricity, water, gas, telephone and TV channels, if additional ones are required.

Electricity in the UAE is 220/240 Volts. Standard British plugs are used. An adaptor is necessary for American appliances.

Waste Disposal

Like all other cities across the world, the UAE is also facing waste management challenges. However, their waste collection systems are among the best in the world. The cities are immaculately clean and the countryside is also kept almost spotless. At the same time, there is still a lack of awareness towards efficient recycling. The turnover period of expatriates is around two years and therefore constant awareness of waste management is required. Landfills are the main method of waste disposal, but challenges still exist as far as illegal dumping is concerned. Recycling is still a new concept, but awareness is fast growing and a number of institutions work together to promote efficient recycling programs.

Residents of apartments and large complexes will have their waste collection fees included in the rent. House rent will not include the waste collection fee. As of 2016, a new pay-as-you-throw initiative began in Abu Dhabi, in an effort to encourage residents to recycle more waste.

Abu Dhabi

Tadweer is the main service provider in the Abu Dhabi emirate. Besides larger projects, they also provide domestic waste collection services. A number of organizations provide services to pick up recyclable waste from the workplace. Recyclable waste include paper, plastic and metal, as well as glass items. Most waste management companies have operations in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Waste management and recycling companies include:

- **Dulsco**

Address: Plot 136, Musaffah Industrial Zone, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 551 1220

Email: abudhabi@dulsco.com

Web: www.dulsco.com

Comments: They offer recycling services, street sweeping and general waste management

- **Green Mountains Waste Management**

Address: Plot 30, M-11, Mussafah Industrial Area, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 555 9954

Email: info@greenmountains.ae

Comments: They do waste collection, various recycling programs and neighborhood cleaning

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- **Suez Recycling**

Address: Mussafah Industrial Area, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 551 1828

Email: info.dubai@suez.com

Web:<https://www.suez.com/en/>

Comments: They do domestic waste collection in the residential areas of the city, as well as various recycling projects

- **Tadweer**

Address: Abu Dhabi Delma Street, Old PWD, Abu Dhabi

Email: info@tadweer.ae

Web:<https://www.tadweer.gov.ae/en/Pages/default.aspx>

Comments: Organizes the collection and transport of domestic waste and street cleaning, as well as industrial waste management

- **Zone Waste Management and Recycling**

Address: Musaffah Industrial Area, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 551 5153

Email: zonewp@eim.ae

Web:<https://zonenviro.ae/>

Comments: They do domestic waste collection and recycling

Dubai

Tadweer is the general service provider in Dubai. Other approved waste management companies provide additional services, such as recycling, street sweeping and other clean-up services.

- **Al Nouras**

Tel: +971 4 333 8339, 971 50 758 9566

Email: info@alnouras.com

Web:www.alnouras.com

Comments: This is a municipality approved waste management company. They provide domestic and industrial services

- **Dulsco**

Address: No: 4, 26th Street, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 340 4660

Email: dulsco@dulsco.com

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Web: www.dulscoco.com

Comments: They offer recycling services, street sweeping and general waste management

- **Emirates Environmental Group**

Address: Jumeira 1, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 344 8622

Email: eeg@emirates.net.ae

Web: www.facebook.com/EmiratesEnvironmentalGroup

Comments: Collects waste from the workplace for recycling, as well as general waste management and recycling campaigns

- **Enviroserve**

Tel: +971 4 885 2434

Email: info@enviroserve.ae

Web: www.enviroserve.org

Comments: Electronic waste management

- **Tadweer Waste Treatment**

Address: Manama Road, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 333 3088

Email: info@tadweer.ae

Web: www.tadweer.com

Comments: They take care of domestic waste management

More information about waste management in the UAE is available in the *Waste & Recycling* magazine

2.3 Communication

Bookshops

There are many English-language bookshops in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, offering a good selection of literature. The large expatriate population enjoys swapping novels and a variety of books between themselves, but you should have no problem finding what you want in the shops below. Most offer an on-line ordering service and major internet-based book suppliers deliver to the UAE.

Abu Dhabi

A list of bookstores in Abu Dhabi is on the website:

- **Book Stores in Abu Dhabi**

Web: www.uaeresults.com/Bookstores/Abu_Dhabi

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The following bookshops are popular with the expatriate community in Abu Dhabi. Some stores have multiple branches.

- **All Prints Books**
Address: Corner Al Nasr & Tariq ibn Ziyad Street, Al Markaziyad West, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 633 6999
Email: allprints@allprints.ae
Web: www.all-prints.com
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 8.30am to 1.30pm and 5pm to 9.30pm; Friday 5pm to 9.30pm
Comments: A large range of books, travel guides, phrase books, maps and magazines. Huge selection of stationary and art supplies, plenty of books for both children and adults, including academic books
- **Al Mutanabbi Bookshop**
Web: www.albatra.com
Comments: Also provides on-line service. There are several branches in the city. The website has details
- **Jarir Bookstore**
Web: <https://www.jarir.com/>
Comments: Chain of stores selling office supplies, school supplies, IT products and books in Arabic and English. There are 2 branches in the city
- **Magrudy's**
Address: World Trade Centre Mall, Al Danah, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 4 287 9191
Email: shopwt@magrudy.com
Web: <https://magrudy.com>
Hours: Saturday to Wednesday 10am to midnight; Thursday and Friday 10am to 1am
Comments: Stocks a very wide range of books and will order books that are not in store. Very popular with teachers and schools.
- **Virgin Mega Store**
Web: www.virginmegastore.ae/en
Comments: There are a few stores in the city and elsewhere in the country. The website has location addresses

Dubai

A list of bookshops in Dubai is on the website:

- **UAE Results - Bookstores in Dubai**
Web: www.uaeresults.com/Bookstores/Dubai

Popular bookshops in Dubai, where you can buy English literature, include:

- **Al Mutanabbi Bookshop**
Web: www.albatra.com
Comments: There are several branches in the city. Address details are on the website. An online bookshop is available
- **Bookworm Bookshop**
Address: Al Wasl Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 394 5770
Email: info@bookworm.ae
Web: www.facebook.com/bookwormdubai
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 8am to 8pm; Friday 10am to 8pm
Comments: Children's books and story times
- **Kinikuniya**
Address: Dubai Mall, Level 2, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 434 0111
Email: webstore_dubai@kinokuniya.com
Web: <https://uae.kinokuniya.com>
Hours: Sunday to Wednesday 10am to 10pm; Thursday to Saturday 10am to midnight
Comments: The bookshop is popular with expats. They sell a wide range of English, French and Japanese books
- **Magrudy's Bookshop**
Web: <https://magrudy.com>
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 9am to 10pm; Friday 2pm to 10pm
Comments: There are 3 stores in the city - the website has details of locations

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- Virgin Mega Store
Web: www.virginmegastore.ae/en
Comments: There are a few stores in the city and elsewhere in the country. The website has location addresses

Cell Phones

The United Arab Emirates has signed a multitude of international roaming agreements, with most other global network subscribers to make and receive calls in the UAE. The only domestic network providers at present are “du” and Etisalat. Both companies offer standard GSM (post-paid) and pre-paid cell phone service. The main difference between the two operators is that du charges by the second, while Etisalat charges per minute usage. Both cell phone operators are governed by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA).

From time to time, both operators also provide special discount and promotion schemes. Visitors can also make use of temporary cell phone services. Both companies offer visitor packages. See the websites for details.

When calling landlines from a cell phone, you will have to dial the full national number. All calls to cell phones from landlines require the 050 prefix (from Etisalat) or 055 (from du). If calling from cell phone to cell phone, you can drop the 050/055 code, and simply dial the 7-digit number.

Since June 2012, every cell phone user in the UAE has to re-register their SIM cards as part of a campaign to crackdown on the fraudulent and criminal use of handsets. Etisalat and du cell phone customers will have to provide valid identification documents, such as passports, Emirates ID cards and residency visas for the process. The scheme, called “My Number, My Identity” was launched by the Telecommunications and Regulatory Authority (TRA). Registration of the SIM card is only required once, after which all unregistered SIM cards will be canceled once the registration period expires.

Getting Connected

As with landlines, in order to own a telephone number, you need to be at least 21 years of age. You can obtain a number by visiting the Etisalat or “du” offices and it will cost in the region of AED 300. On registration, you will receive your SIM card straight away.

Documentation Required

For Postpaid Cell Phone: SIM only

- Original Emirates ID

Plus, one of the following:

- Stamped salary certificate (min. AED 2,500)
- Vehicle license
- Three-month bank/online bank statement
- Last month utility bill with physical address
- Tenancy/ Ownership contract
- Ministry of Labor contract (minimum salary AED 2,500)
- Credit card issued in UAE

Smartphone Plan

- Original Emirates ID

Plus, one of the following:

- Gold/Platinum credit card issued in UAE
- Salary certificate, with a minimum salary of AED 4,000
- Vehicle license

Paying Bills

- The easiest way to pay your landline or cell phone bill is by making use of the online facility on the websites. Registration is required on the websites
- You can also pay your cell phone bill directly from your phone. The cell phone service provider will guide you through the procedures to follow
- Other methods of settling your bill, include payment at service points, which are located across the city in malls and supermarkets
- Auto-payment facilities are also available, by which you have to register your credit card with the telephone service provider and your bill will then be charged directly to your credit card
- Bill payment options are also possible by means of online banking, through your bank account, or at the banks’ ATMs
- Over 300 “Quick Pay” machines are available where you can pay your bills

There are only two cell phone service providers in the UAE:

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- du
Web: www.du.ae
- Etisalat
Web: www.etisalat.ae

Communication

The UAE has one of the most advanced telecommunication networks in the world. While a residence visa is required for the installation of a landline, cell phones with SIM cards are permitted, regardless of residency.

The two telecommunications corporations in the UAE are Etisalat and Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company (EITC), operating under the trade name "du." Services include internet access, LAN and WAN networks, prepaid phone service, cell phone service, cable television and local telecommunications. 4G and 3G applications and Blackberry products are also available.

In terms of physical and electronic infrastructure, the UAE is among the best-equipped nations in the world.

Courier Services

Courier services are widely used within and between cities. An express mail service is also available at the post office.

A wide choice of national and international carriers is available, including:

- Century Express Courier Service
Tel: 600 555 512 (within the UAE)
Web: www.centuryexpress.me
- DHL
Tel: 600 567 567 (within the UAE)
Web: www.dhl.ae
- Emirates Post (EMS)
Tel: +971 4 600 599 999
Web: www.epg.gov.ae
- FedEx
Tel: +971 4 218 860, 800 33 339 (toll free within the UAE)
Web: www.fedex.com/ae
- Max Express Courier Services
Tel: +971 4 252 0123
Web: www.maxexuae.com
- UPS
Tel: +971 4 381 5200
Web: www.ups.com
- TNT
Tel: +971 4 295 5519, 800 4333 (toll free in the UAE)
Web: www.tnt.com/express/en_ae/site/home.html

Domestic Telephones

Telecommunications systems are provided by the Emirates Telecom Corporation Etisalat (60% majority owned by the Government) and du (du is 40% owned by the government). The network is fully digitalized and you can call direct from the UAE to over 110 countries. Cheaper calls are available on Fridays and on public holidays.

Getting Connected

In order to get a residential telephone line, you will have to go to the nearest du or Etisalat office. The main Etisalat office in Abu Dhabi is on the

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corner of Zayed, the Second and Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum St. Etisalat's main office in Dubai is on the corner of Beniyas and Omar ibn Al Khatab Roads. They are both open 24 hours a day.

Installation will normally be carried out within two days.

Paying Bills

Once you set up a bank account, you can subscribe to a postpaid plan, although some expats prefer to stay with the prepaid credits. Etisalat and du offer a choice of plans, many of which include an allotted amount of international minutes.

- The easiest way to pay your landline or cell phone bill is by making use of the online facility on the websites. Registration is required on the websites
- You can also pay your cell phone bill directly from your phone
- Other methods of settling your bill, include payment at service points, which are located across the city in malls and supermarkets
- Auto-payment facilities are also available, by which you have to register your credit card with the telephone service provider and your bill will then be charged directly to your credit card
- Bill payment options are also possible by means of online banking, through your bank account, or at the banks' ATMs
- Over 300 "Quick Pay" machines are available where you can pay your bills

Documentation Required

- Completed application form
- Passport and photocopy
- Residence Visa and photocopy
- Credit card issued in United Arab Emirates

For more information:

- **du**
Web: www.du.ae
Comments: There are many locations in the city. The website has details
- **Etisalat**
Web: <https://www.etisalat.ae>
Comments: The website has a call schedule facility where you can request an advisor to call you at a specified time. Offices locations are on the website

e-Commerce

In spite of recent progress, online shopping accounts for only a small portion of retail activity in the UAE. The shopping mall culture, preference to cash purchases and fears of fraud, are some of the factors holding back online shopping in the country. Most consumers find old shopping habits generally hard to shake. This is driven by a continued preference for cash payments across the region, obliging online retailers to offer cash on delivery services.

When ordering items from foreign online stores to be delivered to your UAE address, you will have to pay customs duty and tax in most cases.

Shopping online incurs three extra costs:

- VAT
- Customs duty
- Shipping costs. DHL, FedEx, and USPS usually charges a declaration fee

In some cases, the shipping agent can automatically clear the shipment for you. This means that it is the freight forwarder who calculates the duties and pays these to customs on your behalf. The shipping agent will charge a fee for storage and customs clearance in this instance. In some cases, you have to pay the duties to the shipping agent before the items are delivered to you, or the items are delivered and you are responsible for paying any charges due upon delivery.

SOUQ is one of the main ecommerce players in the country and most products are available from them. SOUQ is one of the companies that accepts cash payment on delivery.

Mumzworld sells all mother and child related items and are very popular in the UAE. Mumzworld also has a baby gift registry facility, where new parents can register for baby shower gifts.

Letstango sells a wide variety of electronics and fashion wear as well as sports and fitness items.

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The websites have more product information:

- Letstango
Web: www.letstango.com
- Mumzworld
Web: www.mumzworld.com
- SOUQ
Web: <https://uae.souq.com/ae-en>

Other international shopping agents like MyUS.com and USGoBuy.com offer specialized shopping services that enable you to shop online with US retailers. These agents can arrange shipping to you from their distribution centers.

- MyUS.com
Web: www.myus.com
- USGoBuy.com
Web: www.usgobuy.com

A list of the UAE's most popular e-commerce companies is on the following website:

- GO-Gulf
Web: www.go-gulf.ae/blog/ecommerce-sites-middle-east

Internet

The UAE has one of the highest internet penetration rates in the Arab world. By 2016, there were 8.5 million users (InternetLiveStats.com). Extensive, automated filtering is in place at ISP level. Targeted content includes opposition politics and religion.

Legislation bans the dissemination of online material that can threaten "public order," and provides prison terms for those who "deride or damage" the reputation of the state and "display contempt" for religion.

Emirates Internet and Multimedia (a branch of Etisalat) and du, are the Internet Service Providers (ISP) in the UAE at present. Services include dial-up, ASDL, ISDN and cable internet. Domestic broadband internet in the UAE is among the most expensive in the Arabian Gulf. Several bundles are available to suit your personal requirements.

There are only two internet service providers in the country:

- du
Web: www.du.ae/personal/at-home/broadband
- Etisalat
Web: www.etisalat.ae/nrd/en/personal/elif/justinternet_landingpage.jsp

Getting Connected

In order to get connected, you will need to complete an application form at the Etisalat or du offices and produce the necessary documents.

The cost of installation and subscription depends on the type of connection purchased. A 12-month contract is required.

Documentation Required

- Completed application form
- Resident's visa
- Passport and photocopy of passport

All web pages viewed in the UAE are routed through the Emirates Proxy. This will block all pages containing pornographic material, religious offensive material and any subject matter derisive towards the UAE Government. VoIP services are blocked in the UAE because only the two operators, Etisalat and du, are licensed to provide telecommunication services in the UAE.

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Making a Call

- Making an international call to the United Arab Emirates: Dial the IDD code (for example 00 from Europe; 011 from US; 0011 from Australia) + 971 (the country code for UAE) + the area code (without the 0) + the telephone number
- Making an international call from the United Arab Emirate: Dial the IDD code + the country code + the area code (without the 0) + the telephone number
- Making a national call: Dial the area code (including the 0 prefix) + the telephone number
- Making a local call: Local calls within states are free. Simply the telephone number has to be dialed

Area Codes

Abu Dhabi	02	Umm al Qaywayn	06
Ajman	06	Tarif	088
Dubai	04	Aweer	058
Fujayrah	09	Ajman	06
Ra's al Khaymah	07	Al Ain	03
Sharjah	06	Cell phones	050/055

Useful Telephone Numbers

Fire	997
Ambulance	998 (also 999)
Police	999
Electricity and water	991
Fault reporting	171
Mobile General Enquiries	101
Directory Enquiries	181
Telephone Assistance	100

Newspapers

The official news agency of the UAE is the Emirates News Agency (WAM). Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah all have local newspapers, and some are published in English. Popular papers among expatriates are the business-orientated Gulf News and the leading English-language paper, the Khaleej Times. These both provide good classified sections and have informative on-line services. Friday and Entertainment Plus magazines are both from the publishers of the Gulf News. What's On is a popular monthly magazine detailing local cultural events and entertainment in the UAE.

English-language newspapers include:

Newspaper	Website	Comments

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Emirates Business 24/7	www.emirates247.com	English-language on-line publication
Gulf News	http://gulfnews.com	Dubai-based
Khaleej Times	www.khaleejtimes.com	Private Dubai-based daily
The National	www.thenational.ae	Abu Dhabi-based
Go Dubai	www.godubai.com	English-language on-line media service: on-line articles from the Gulf Today newspaper
WAM Emirates News Agency	www.wam.org.ae	English on-line media service; news and up-to-date financial developments from the official Emirates News Agency. In Arabic and English

Foreign newspapers, particularly British and Asian newspapers, are readily available throughout the UAE in hotels, bookshops and supermarkets.

Postal Services

Postal services in the United Arab Emirates are operated by Emirates Post. The postal system is efficient, with red post collection boxes located throughout the cities and towns. Mail is usually collected morning and evening. Express postal facilities are also available at post offices.

In general, post office opening hours are Saturday to Wednesday 8am to 1pm and 4pm to 7pm; closed Thursdays and Fridays. However, post offices in the main cities are open Saturday to Thursday 7.30am to 9pm (larger offices) or 7.30am to 3pm (smaller offices). There are no telephone or fax facilities at post offices in the UAE and poste restante facilities are not available.

All mail is addressed to post office boxes. Most residents use their company PO Box address for private mail. If you cannot use your company's post box, then you can rent a personal PO Box from the central post office or select a PO Box located close to your residence. PO Boxes can be rented online, via the Emirates Post website.

Emirates Post offers a series of bundles that are different services available to those with a PO Box. Some bundles include home delivery. The website has full details.

Documentation Required

- Application form (downloadable from Emirates Post website)
- Two passport valid copies
- Residence visa copy
- Two passport size photographs

You should expect a letter to take between three and eight days by airmail to Europe and up to two months via surface mail.

- **Emirates Post**
Tel: +971 4 600 599 999
Email: custservice@epg.gov.ae
Web: www.epg.gov.ae
Comments: There is an extensive post office locator on the website
- **Abu Dhabi Main Post Office**
Address: Emirates Post Complex, Madinat Zayed, Al Muroor Street (New Airport Road), Abu Dhabi
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 7.30am to 9pm; closed Friday
- **Dubai Main Post Office**
Address: Zaisabeel Road, Bur Dubai, Dubai
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 7.30am to 9pm; closed Friday

Public Telephones

Public telephones are fast becoming something of the past in the UAE. The wide use of cell phones has mainly contributed to the lack of interest

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in public phones.

Public telephones, operated by Etisalat, take pre-paid telephone cards. Phone cards can be purchased in bookstores, grocery stores and from Etisalat offices in denominations of AED 25 upwards. The fall in popularity of public telephones means that cards can be hard to find in retail outlets. You must specify that you require a pre-paid card for a public pay phone, not for a cell phone. Although calls within states are free from fixed telephones, public payphones are excluded from this and there is a charge for local calls.

Radio and Television

The constitution of the United Arab Emirates provides for freedom of speech, but there is strong regulatory and political control of media content. Publications must be licensed and follow official guidelines on reporting. Foreign publications are censored before distribution. Journalists tend to practice self-censorship.

The presence of millions of expatriates adds variety to the media scene, which caters to Arab, English-speaking and South Asian audiences.

Most domestic UAE media outlets are run by state-owned Abu Dhabi Media and Dubai Media Incorporated.

You do not need a license to have television set or a radio.

Radio

Dubai is well served by terrestrial radio (AM and FM), with a huge variety of stations broadcasting in the languages commonly spoken in the city; Arabic, English, Hindi, Urdu, Malayalam and Filipino. The FM band is particularly crowded, with a new station every 2 or 3 MHz apart, some from neighboring Emirates and countries in the Persian Gulf. Due to crowding of the FM band, there is often interference between stations.

General standards have improved greatly in the past few years and many stations are now on a par with leading stations in major metropolitan cities in the world. However, the media is still heavily government regulated. Most stations, even those privately owned, are often still government controlled. In particular, all radio stations must cease normal broadcasting in the event of the death of a Sheikh, or close relative of a Sheikh. This normally happens for a period of three days to a week, or more, depending on the standing of the deceased.

Dubai radio is the essential guide to surviving Dubai's hectic traffic, with most stations placing importance on frequent traffic updates during the day, mostly from listeners. The use of SMS as a means of communication is also common on Dubai Radio & TV stations for events such as competitions.

English-language radio stations include:

Station	Website	Comments
Channel 4 FM	www.channel4fm.com	English with pop music
Dubai 92 FM	http://dubai92.com	English with pop music
Radio 1	N/A	English with pop and dance music
Radio 2	N/A	English with classic hits
Star FM	www.adradio.ae/starfm	Arabic and English
Virgin Radio Dubai	http://virginradiodubai.com	Western pop music. English

International radio Stations include:

Station	Frequency	Comments
BBC World Service	www.bbc.co.uk/worldserviceradio	World news in English

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RFI	https://www.rfi.fr/en/	World news in English
Voice of America	www.voanews.com	World news in English

The Abu Dhabi City Guide website has a list of foreign-language radio stations.

- Abu Dhabi City Guide

Web: www.abudhabicityguide.com/residents/radio-guide.asp

Television

Abu Dhabi Television broadcasts across the whole Middle East region, as well as North America, South America, Europe and Australia. It consists of three channels:

- Emirates Channel, which focuses mainly on the Gulf region
- Abu Dhabi Sports Channel, a pay channel carried in the Middle East on the Showtime platform
- Abu Dhabi Channel, which includes an extensive news operation

There are a few terrestrial television channels, but most people choose from the hundreds of regional channels on offer via satellite or cable. Pay or subscription television in Abu Dhabi is available on cable, or via satellite directly from providers such as Showtime, Orbit, Star TV and ART. Showtime and Orbit both provide a wide selection of English (primarily US, but also UK, Canadian and Australian) programming, subtitled in Arabic.

The main free-to-air English television channels are Dubai One, MBC 4, MBC Action, MBC 2 and City 7. Most shows are broadcast in English, with Arabic subtitles, with the exception of City 7, which does not subtitle its programming. Dubai One, MBC 4 and MBC Action show mostly well-known US series and some UK series, but are generally around six months or more behind the pay or subscription channels.

Channel	Website	Comments
Dubai Media Incorporated (DMI)	www.dmi.gov.ae	Pan-Arab broadcaster, operates Dubai TV, Dubai One
Abu Dhabi TV	www.adtv.ae	Pan-Arab broadcaster
Ajman TV	www.almuradgroup.com/ajmantv.asp	Arabic family programming
MBC	www.mbc.net/en.html	Dubai-based pan-Arab broadcaster
Al-Arabiya	http://english.alarabiya.net	English news channel operated by MBC

English-language television channels include:

Channel	Website	Comments
Abu Dhabi Media	www.admedia.ae	English-language
Dubai One	www.dmi.ae/dubaione	English-language
Ajman Channel 4	www.almuradgroup.com/ajmantv.asp	Arabic and English programs

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Cable and Satellite

Pay or subscription television in Dubai is available on cable via E-Vision, a division of Etisalat, or via satellite directly from the providers; OSN (Orbit Showtime Network), Star TV and ART (E-vision). OSN provides a wide selection of English, primarily from the US, but also UK, Canadian and Australian programming, subtitled in Arabic. Leading English shows and films are primarily shown first and exclusively on OSN. Star TV also has some first-run programs.

These satellite services have informative websites and will provide customers with a range of network packages tailored to requirements in addition to the necessary hardware such as set-top box, decoder etc. Most apartment blocks and villa compounds have satellite receiving dishes, however if yours does not, the installation will be at your expense. You should seek prior permission from your landlord.

Cable television networks include:

- du TV+

Web: www.du.ae/personal/at-home/TV/du-tv

- E-vision Cable Television

Web: www.evision.ae

- OSN

Web: www.osn.com

Wi-Fi

Both Abu Dhabi and Dubai have facilities for public Wi-Fi access, although not all of it is free or straightforward. Almost all Wi-Fi locations are serviced by Etisalat, which charges for access, or du, which generally does not charge for any connection. In both cases, customers do not need to be a du or Etisalat phone or internet customer, but must ensure that the laptop is Wi-Fi-enabled, so they can connect to either provider. Access can be found in locations such as Starbucks, Costa, shopping malls and libraries. Sometimes limits are in place, such as only 30 minutes connection for customers only. Wi-Fi zones in both cities are listed below.

Wi-Fi UAE is a countrywide initiative to provide Wi-Fi access to the public, in line with UAE Vision 2021. With Wi-Fi UAE, customers can enjoy high speed access to all UAE government online services. Wi-Fi UAE is available to all users with a Wi-Fi-enabled device, including smartphones, laptops and tablets. Wi-Fi UAE is available to anyone. However, customers need to authenticate their Wi-Fi session by SMS using a valid UAE cell phone number. Charges apply.

- Wi-Fi UAE

Web: <https://u.ae/en/resources/wi-fi-hotspots>

Abu Dhabi

- Wi-Fi Zones Abu Dhabi

Web: www.abudhabicityguide.com/residents/wifi-zones.asp

Dubai

- Wi-Fi Zones Dubai

Web: www.dubaicityguide.com/site/residents/wifi-zones.asp

2.4 Money and Banking

Banks

The UAE's banking system is efficient and modern. Regulated by the UAE Central Bank, many of the world's top banks have branches in the UAE. The Emirates have their own banks, such as the National Bank of Dubai and the Emirates International Bank, which all provide a full range of

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services.

Internet banking is advanced in the UAE and most accounts can be fully managed remotely. Banks also have banking apps, which will allow you to manage your account from your cell phone. Banking services include bill payment options for your utility suppliers.

Banks are usually open Saturday to Wednesday 8am until 1pm, and on Thursday until midday. Banks are closed Fridays and on public holidays. Women should use their own counters in banks when provided. An advantage for women is that the lines are frequently shorter.

Most of the banks in Abu Dhabi and Dubai are located in close proximity to each other. In Abu Dhabi, you will find banks on the Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Street and in Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Street, in the center of the city. Dubai's banks are generally along the Khalid bin Al Waleed Road, in the Bur Dubai district. Branch locators are available on the websites.

Banks have increased security with regard to cash transactions, following revelations that the attackers of the World Trade Center in New York received cash payments from Al-Qaeda, via the Dubai banking system and the city's informal hawala money-transfer network.

Local Banks

Banks, with multiple branches and ATMs in the cities, include:

- **Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB)**
Web: <https://adcb.com>
- **Commercial Bank of Dubai**
Web: www.cbd.ae
- **Emirates NBD**
Web: <https://www.emiratesnbd.com/en/>
- **Mashreq Bank**
Web: www.mashreqbank.com
- **First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)**
Web: <https://www.bankfab.com/en-ae/personal>

International Banks

The following international banks are operational in the UAE.

- **BNP Paribas**
Web: <http://mea.bnpparibas.com/en>
- **Citibank**
Web: www.citibank.com/uae
- **Commercial Bank International**
Web: www.cbuae.com
- **HSBC**
Web: www.hsbc.ae
- **Rak Bank**
Web: www.rakbank.ae
- **Standard Chartered Bank**
Web: www.sc.com/ae
- **Union National Bank**
Web: www.unb.com

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Opening an Account

Salaries earned in the UAE must be paid into an account based within the emirate.

Many banks have internet and phone banking options. However, others require you to visit the branch for all changes. The internet and phone banking, bill payment and remittance facilities vary from one bank to another, so it is important to research the options before choosing a bank.

Most banks offer customers the option to open accounts in major currencies such as USD, GBP or EUR, and some provide JPY accounts. Most banks in the UAE also accept checks in major currencies.

Customers who want to transfer their salary to a bank account require a no-objection letter from the employer. This letter is addressed to the appropriate branch manager and most Human Resource departments will have this letter on file as a template.

Paying Bills

Personal checks are not widely used in the UAE. Normally residents use checks only to pay their utility bills, but even this option is becoming less popular, with the introduction of cell phone apps, which allow you to settle almost any bill from your cell phone. Once you have written a check, it cannot be stopped. Also, there are legal implications if you write a check without sufficient funds.

Other bill-paying options are available, depending on the service provider. Online payment of your bills is now widely accepted.

Mastercard and Visa credit cards are available through a UAE bank account, although you can still retain your credit card from your own country if you prefer, just informing them of your change of contact and address details.

To open a bank account, you can visit a local branch, but you can also do the transaction on the internet.

Documentation Required

- Original passport containing a valid residence visa, plus a copy
- Salary certificate from your employer
- Some banks require an additional piece of ID, such as a driving license or a labor card
- Dependents on their husband's or father's sponsorship will need an original passport which verifies the sponsorship
- If you require a joint account, your spouse will need to attend and bring their original passport plus a photocopy

Some banks will allow you to open an account if your residence visa is pending, as this can take several weeks. You will need to provide a letter from your company, stating your guaranteed employment and residence status. Others may open an account for you if you provide an introductory letter from a bank in your home country.

Cash, Traveler's Checks and Credit Cards

Foreign nationals will have no difficulty in paying for goods and services, or for withdrawing cash from ATMs with almost any international credit card. There are many banks in all the cities in the UAE, which offer a comprehensive range of exchange services and which are both efficient and reliable. Money can be easily exchanged, not only in banks, but also at exchange offices, in markets, shopping centers and in hotels. Almost any denomination can be exchanged at these places and exchange rates are usually good.

Moneychangers can be located near to the Central Souk, off Liwa Street in Abu Dhabi; in Dubai head to the central Deira and Bur Dubai, where you will easily find places to change money.

The following exchange offices have branches throughout the UAE and contact details are available on the websites.

Exchange Office	Website
UAE Exchange Center	www.uaexchange.com
Al Rostamani Exchange Center	www.alrostanianexchange.com
Al Fardan Exchange	www.alfardanexchange.com

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Cash

Cash payments in both dirhams (UAE) and American dollars (USD) are accepted in the Emirates for hotels, larger restaurants and in shopping malls, although if you pay in dollars you will usually receive your change in dirhams. Otherwise, it is a good idea to keep some small denomination notes in dirhams available to pay for taxis and in smaller shops, restaurants and the markets (souks). The UAE is essentially a cash-driven society. Once away from the main tourist and business areas, payment is more than likely required in cash. The markets too, will usually require cash payments for goods.

Travelers Checks

Banks and hotels can change traveler's checks, however the best rate of exchange for traveler's checks is found at privately owned bureaux de change. Unlike banks, the exchange offices are also open in the afternoon, and sometimes on a Friday. Additionally, you can find some moneychangers in the souks, who will change traveler's checks. These can offer variable rates, but some good deals can be found. It is advisable to check the daily exchange rate listed in most local newspapers in order to make accurate comparisons. Taking travelers checks in US dollars is recommended, as these are the easiest to change. Pounds Sterling traveler's checks are also widely accepted. Banks charge approximately AED 10 for changing traveler's checks. Hotels tend to offer less favorable exchange rates.

Credit Cards

Payment by credit card is the norm in most hotels, larger shopping centers and principal restaurants; however, few smaller establishments will accept card transactions. If they do, be prepared to pay a 5% supplement for the processing of the card. Almost all international credit cards are accepted in the UAE, including MasterCard, Diners, American Express and Visa.

ATMs

Many international ATM cash cards will also allow you to withdraw money from UAE. However, it would be wise to check beforehand with your own bank whether your card will work in the UAE. Check also whether there is a transaction fee for cash withdrawal from ATM machines using a foreign bankcard. Both the Emirates Bank International and the Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank are on the Global Access, Cirrus and Plus networks. Some banks have Switch facilities.

Currency Information

The currency of the United Arab Emirates is the dirham (AED).

- 1 dirham = 100 fils
- Notes are available in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1000 dirhams
- Coins are available in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 25 and 50 fils and AED 1 (although the 1, 5 and 10 coins are rarely used). The monetary value on coins is written in Arabic only, but it is easy to get to know them

Given the economic strength of the UAE, the currency is stable and is index-linked to the dollar.

The UAE operates a free, open economy and there are no currency regulations in operation. Any kind of involvement in fraudulent services in the Emirates is considered a serious offense and can result in imprisonment or heavy fines.

Taxes

There is no personal income tax in the United Arab Emirates. Social security payments are only applicable to UAE citizens.

There are no capital gains taxes in the UAE. The only taxable revenue within the country is payable by some oil companies and foreign banks.

Value Added Tax (VAT)

As of 1 January 2018, a 5% value added tax (VAT) was introduced for the first time in the UAE's history. The VAT applies to most goods and services. Certain basic food items and services, such as healthcare and education, are exempt from VAT.

As of February 2022, the UAE has taxation treaties with the following countries:

Angola	Albania	Argentina

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Belize	Bermuda	Brazil
Cameroon	Comoros Islands	Costa Rica
Ethiopia	Fiji	Guinea
Israel	Maldives	Mauritania
Moldova	Niger	North Macedonia
Paraguay	San Marino	Saudi Arabia
Senegal	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Zimbabwe
Algeria	Italy	Romania
Andorra	Japan	Russia
Armenia	Jersey	Serbia
Austria	Jordan	Seychelles
Azerbaijan	Kazakhstan	Singapore
Bangladesh	Kenya	Slovak Republic
Barbados	Kosovo	Slovenia
Belarus	Kyrgyzstan	South Africa
Belgium	Latvia	South Korea
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Lebanon	Spain
Brunei	Liechtenstein	Sri Lanka
Bulgaria	Lithuania	Sudan
Canada	Luxembourg	Switzerland
China	Macedonia	Syria
Cyprus	Malta	Tajikistan
Czech Republic	Malaysia	Thailand

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Egypt	Mauritius	Tunisia
Estonia	Mexico	Turkey
Finland	Montenegro	Turkmenistan
France	Morocco	Ukraine
Georgia	Mozambique	United Kingdom
Italy	Netherlands	Uruguay
Greece	New Zealand	Uzbekistan
Hungary	Pakistan	Venezuela
Hong Kong	Panama	Vietnam
India	Philippines	Yemen
Indonesia	Poland	Croatia
Ireland	Portugal	

2.5 Brief Introduction to United Arab Emirates

Brief Introduction to United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a federation of seven independent states, located in the southeast of the Arabian Peninsula. It is bordered to the north by the Persian Gulf, to the south and west by Saudi Arabia, and to the east by Oman and the Gulf of Oman. The seven member states are Abu Dhabi (Abu Thaby), Ajmān, Al Fujayrah, Sharjah (Ash Shāriqah), Dubai (Dubayy), Ra's al Khaymah and Umm al Qaywayn. The city of Abu Dhabi is the largest city and the federal capital, with the state covering over 80% of the UAE territory.

Although Abu Dhabi is the capital of the country, the main focus of business and therefore expatriate life is Dubai. Both are located on the coast, just a two-hour drive from each other. Dubai is growing at a much faster rate than Abu Dhabi, due to the boom in businesses centered there. The population of Dubai is over 3 million (2022), with men making up over 70% of residents, while that of Abu Dhabi is around 2.8 million (2022). The city of Dubai is separated by a water creek called Khor Dubai, which is 14 km (8.75 miles) long, but between just 100m (328 feet) and 500 m (656 feet) wide.

Until the discovery of oil in the middle of the last century, the United Arab Emirates region consisted of an undefined group of sheikhdoms. The small population lived mainly by the sea, diving for pearls and fishing. The catch would be for domestic consumption and provided the majority of export revenue. The Emirati region was barely touched by outside influences, except for the few traders who passed through the gulf. The discovery of oil led to a phenomenal change in culture and infrastructure, shaping the skyline and coastline in just a generation. The previous rural territory and its fishermen inhabitants were transformed into one of the most cutting-edge, modern conurbations, home to some of the richest people in the world.

Climate

In the summer months (April to September), temperatures in the UAE range between 38°C and 48°C (100°F and 118°F) during the day, and drop to between 26°C and 30°C (79°F and 86°F) at night. The humidity level is high. During the winter months (October to March), the days are sunny and pleasant, with an average temperature of 26°C (79°F). The nights are cool, with an average temperature of 15°C (59°F).

Rainfall is infrequent and usually occurs between November and March, with an average annual rainfall of 152 mm (6 inches). There can be occasional sandstorms from the desert and some winter mornings bring fog, although this usually dissipates fairly quickly.

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Abu Dhabi has a sub-tropical, arid climate. Sunshine and high temperatures can be expected most of the year. Rainfall is sporadic, falling mainly in winter (November to March). Rain is more common in the 'Oasis City' of Al Ain, the emirate's second largest city, due to its proximity to the Hajar Mountains. Temperatures range from a low of around 13°C (50°F) at night during the winter, to a high of around 42°C (118°F) on a summer's day. The cooler months are November to April, when temperatures are around 24°C (75°F) during the day and 13°C (56°F) at night.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES IN Abu Dhabi

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
High (°C)	23.8°	24.6°	28.6°	33.4°	38.4°	39.6°	42.0°	41.5°	40.1°	35.8°	30.6°	25.7°
Low (°C)	11.8°	13.2°	15.8°	19.1°	22.8°	24.8°	27.6°	28.7°	25.6°	21.8°	17.5°	14.1°
Rain (mm)	0.8	3.5	3.9	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	2.1

Dubai also has an arid subtropical climate. The skies over Dubai are generally blue, with little cloud cover. There can be short and irregular rainfall, as is typical for the Middle East. Most of the rainfall in Dubai occurs between December and March. The period between December and March is when the Dubai weather conditions are considered to be the most comfortable. The hottest time is from June until September, when even local Dubai residents try to escape the Dubai weather by taking long holidays abroad. The Dubai weather conditions create an average daily temperature of over 40°C (120°F), which can be unpleasant, especially when combined with high levels of humidity.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES IN Dubai

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
High (°C)	24.0°	24.6°	27.9°	32.4°	36.8°	36.8°	40.6°	40.4°	38.7°	35.1°	30.5°	26.2°
Low (°C)	13.7°	14.5°	17.0°	20.1°	23.5°	26.1°	28.9°	29.3°	26.3°	22.7°	18.3°	15.4°
Rain (mm)	1.8	3.7	3.8	1.6	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	2.0

Country Information

Official name	<i>Conventional long form:</i> United Arab Emirates <i>Local long form:</i> Al Imarat al Arabiyah al Muttahidah <i>Former:</i> Trucial Oman, Trucial States <i>Abbreviation:</i> UAE	
Area	Total: 83,600 km2 Land: 83,600 km2 Water: 0 km2	
Capital	Abu Dhabi (Federal Capital)	
Population	9,915,803 (2022 estimate)	
Population density	118.6 inhabitants per km2	

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Age structure	0-14 years: 14.45% 15-64 years: 83.6% 65 and over: 1.9% (2021 estimate)		
Life expectancy at birth	Total population: 79.56 years Female: 80.99 years (2022 estimate) Male: 78.21 years		
Language	Arabic (official), Persian, English, Hindi, Urdu, Malayam, Pashto, Tagalog		
Ethnic groups	Emirati 11.6%, South Asian 59.4% (includes Indian 38.2%, Bangladeshi 9.5%, Pakistani 9.4%, other 2.3%), Egyptian 10.2%, Philippino 6.1%, other 12.8% (2015 estimate)		
Religion	Muslim 76%; Christian 9%, other (primarily Hindu and Buddhist, less than 5% of the population consists of Parsi, Baha'i, Druze, Sikh, Ahmadi, Ismaili, Dawoodi Bohra Muslim, and Jewish) 15%		
Currency	Emirati dirham (AED)		
Exchange Rate (June 2021)	1 AED = 0.2602 EUR 1 EUR = 3.8430 AED	1 AED = 0.2722 USD 1 USD = 3.6725 AED	1 AED = 0.2230 GBP 1 GBP = 4.4840 AED
GDP growth rate	3.8% (2021 actual)	5.4% (2022 estimate)	4.2% (2023 forecast)
Inflation rate	2.5% (2021 actual)	1.8% (2022 estimate)	2.5% (2023 forecast)
Unemployment rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
Form of state	Federation		
Time difference	UTC+4		
Electricity	220V, 50Hz		
System of measurement	Metric		
Country telephone code	+971		
Country internet domain	.ae		

Did You Know?

- The Dubai police fleet includes a Lamborghini, Ferrari and Bentley. This is to allow them to catch speeders who can outrun other cars.
- There are ATMs in Dubai that dispense gold bars.

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- In Dubai, you must obtain a "liquor license" to drink in the privacy of your own home.
- The iconic Chrysler Building in Manhattan, USA, is owned almost entirely by the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.
- Despite the many camels you may see in artwork around the country, the UAE's national animal is actually the Arabian Oryx.
- Falcons are very special birds in the UAE. They hold a place of pride in the country's history, helping local Bedouins to hunt in the desert. They are part of the national emblem and appear on the currency.
- Ski Dubai is the first indoor ski resort in the Middle East and has 22,500 square meters covered with real snow for skiing.
- More than 750 US firms have a presence in the UAE.

Geography

Most of the country is desert, with a flat coastal plain. There are no rivers or lakes in the UAE, but there are underground water deposits at several oases, including Al 'Ayn and Līwā.

The geography of the UAE is a matter of two extremes. Much of the inland area is desert with few roads, towns and communications facilities. Around the coastline, there are huge international ports, hundreds of kilometers of white sand beaches and world-class hotels dotted around the cities. The building program for homes is extensive, mainly due to the number of expatriate workers. Expatriates are a necessary resource, as the Emirati population is not expanding quickly enough to meet the demands of the economy. Tourism is a major contributor to the Emirati economy. The large hotels dominating the cities in the UAE, with their leisure and entertainment facilities, have become a focal point for not only tourists, but also the large expatriate population.

Historical Events

- The earliest signs of settlement in the region have been found dating back to the Stone Age. Relics from the Bronze Age have been unearthed, as have ancient Greek ruins
- **7th century:** The arrival of Islam
- **Middle Ages:** The states were part of the Kingdom of Hormuz, controlling much of the trade passing through the Gulf
- **17th century:** The British and the Dutch were the main defenders of the area. Portuguese settlers who had been in the region for 150 years were pushed out, as the British asserted their naval supremacy in the area
- **1820:** Prior to the forming of the United Arab Emirates, the country was known as the Trucial States or Trucial Oman. The British imposed a treaty on the region in an attempt to quell piracy from the Qawasim tribe. The Maritime Truce, later gave rise to the name the 'Trucial States'
- **1833:** Sheikh Zayed the Great (the great-grandfather of President, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahayan) came to power. He is credited for elevating Abu Dhabi to one of the most pre-eminent states in the Middle East. He was also responsible for the treaty signed with Great Britain which assured defense and international representation from the UK, yet permitted full independence for the states to follow the autocratic rule of their Arab monarchy
- **1953:** Oil was finally discovered, a full 14 years after the British officially determined the borders of each Sheikhdom in order to grant the oil concessions
- **1962:** The region remained largely untouched and undeveloped, with small settlements, rudimentary industry and few external influences until the first exportation of oil
- **1968:** The British decided to withdraw from the Gulf States, effective from 1971
- **1971:** The following Gulf States got together to form the United Arab Emirates; Abu-Dhabi, Ajam, Dubai, Fujairah, Sharjah and Umm-al-Qaywayn. A couple of months later Ras al-Khaimah joined to make the seventh state of the UAE. The new country saw Sheikh Zayed of Abu Dhabi (grandson of Sheikh Zayed the Great) take office as the Emirates first President
- **1972:** The Federal National Council (FNC) was established as a consultative body of 40 members selected by the seven states
- **1987:** An attempted coup in the state of Sharjah: Sharjah's ruler Sheikh Sultan Bin-Muhammad al-Qasimi abdicated following admissions of financial mismanagement, but was later re-instated by the Council
- **1991:** The UAE joined the Allied forces against Iraq following the invasion of Kuwait
- **1998:** The Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) collapsed. The bank was 77% owned by the Abu Dhabi ruling family. Over the next few years, the family successfully prosecuted 11 of the 12 executives of the BCCI, who received prison sentences and were forced to pay compensation. Two of the executives were later cleared on appeal. The Emirates were also hit by the world slump in oil prices, which fell by around a third. At the time, oil accounted for around 70% of the government's revenue
- **1999:** Marriage of the Crown Prince of Dubai to the daughter of Abu Dhabi's reigning Sheikh, signaling an end to rivalry between the two states
- **2003:** The UAE refused to enter into the US-led invasion of Iraq, yet maintained good relations between Britain and the United States
- **2005:** Sheikh Khalifa announced plans for the UAE's first elections. Half of the members of the consultative Federal National Council were to be elected by a limited number of citizens
- **March 2006:** A political storm in the US forced state-owned Dubai Ports World to relinquish control of terminals at six major American ports. Critics of the ports deal feared an increased risk of terrorist attack, saying the UAE was home to two of the 9/11 hijackers
- **March-June 2006:** Economic changes were announced. They included introducing laws to reduce the dependence on foreign workers and allowing laborers to form trade unions
- **December 2006:** The UAE held its first-ever national elections where a small number of voters chose half of the members of the Federal National Council
- **September 2007:** Dubai and Qatar became the two biggest shareholders of the London Stock Exchange, the world's third largest stock exchange
- **January 2008:** France and the UAE signed a deal allowing France to set up a permanent military base in the UAE's largest emirate, Abu Dhabi
- **July 2008:** The UAE canceled the entire debt owed to it by Iraq - a sum of almost USD 7 billion
- **February 2009:** Dubai sold USD 10 billion in bonds to the UAE in order to ease its liquidity problems. In the same month, there was international outcry after UAE refused a visa to Israeli tennis player Shahar Peer for the Dubai Tennis Championships on grounds that her presence might incite anger over the Gaza conflict
- **May 2009:** The UAE withdrew from plans for Gulf monetary union, dealing a blow to further economic integration in the region. In the same months, Abu Dhabi prosecutors detained a member of the ruling family, Issa bin Zayed al-Nahyan, after a video was circulated apparently showing him torturing another man

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- **November 2009:** The giant Dubai investment conglomerate Dubai World requested a moratorium on debt repayments, prompting fears in world markets that it might default on billions of dollars of debt held abroad
- **January 2010:** Burj Khalifa tower opened in Dubai as the world's tallest building and man-made structure. Known as Burj Dubai during construction, it was renamed after ruler of neighboring Abu Dhabi and UAE president Sheikh Khalifa al-Nahyan at completion. The brother of Abu Dhabi ruler Sheikh Khalifa, Sheikh Issa bin Zayed al-Nahyan, was cleared of charges that he tortured a business associate on a video circulated in 2009. Palestinian militant leader Mahmoud al-Mabhouh was killed in a Dubai hotel, in an incident widely blamed on Israel
- **March 2011:** UAE joined the international military operation in Libya
- **April 2011:** Five political activists who called for democratic and economic reforms were arrested
- **April 2012:** The UAE ambassador to Iran was recalled following the Iranian president's visit to the Gulf island of Abu Musa, which is claimed by both countries. In the same month, a member of the ruling family in Ras al-Khaimah was put under house arrest after calling for political openness
- **July 2012:** The UAE began operating a key overland oil pipeline which bypassed the Strait of Hormuz. Iran had repeatedly threatened to close the strait at the mouth of the Gulf, a vital oil-trade route
- **November 2012:** Being aware of the protests in nearby Bahrain, the UAE prohibited mockery of its own government or attempts to organize public protests through social media websites
- **July 2013:** 68 people were jailed on charges of planning to overthrow the UAE government
- **November 2013:** The trial was held of Egyptians and Emiratis accused of starting a branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, outlawed in UAE
- **January 2014:** Sheikh Kalifa, president of the UAE Federal Council and ruler of Abu Dhabi's underwent surgery after suffering a stroke
- **March 2014:** Saudi Arabia, UAE and Bahrain withdrew their ambassadors to Qatar, after Qatar's failure to uphold an agreement on security and stability of the GCC
- **March 2015:** The UAE and four other GCC states took part in Saudi-led air strikes on Houthi rebels in Yemen
- **January 2017:** Five UAE diplomats were killed in a bomb attack in Afghanistan
- **February 2017:** The UAE signed an agreement with the breakaway republic of Somaliland to station a military base there, angering the government of Somalia
- **June 2017:** A diplomatic crisis developed as Saudi Arabia led an air, land and sea blockade to get Qatar to cut its alleged connections with terrorism. The UAE denied it was behind a hacking attack on Qatar's news websites, which helped trigger the crisis
- **April 2018:** The UAE landed armed forces on the Yemeni island of Socotra, as part of the ongoing Saudi-led intervention in Yemen. The Yemeni government condemned the takeover as an act of aggression
- **January 2020:** During a visit by Indonesian President Joko Widodo, the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia affirmed deeper economic ties.
- **May 2020:** To help curb the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Palestinian territories, the UAE delivered 14 tons of protective gear, ventilators and medical items to Palestine.
- **February 2021:** The United Arab Emirates put a probe called Hope in orbit around the planet Mars, making it the country's first mission to Mars.

2.6 Map of United Arab Emirates

Map of United Arab Emirates

2.7 Government

Executive and Legislative

The highest political authority is the Supreme Federal Council (SFC), which comprises the seven emirate rulers. The Council usually meets four times a year and establishes general policies. The council elects the president to serve for a 5-year term, which is indefinitely renewable. Each ruler has a vote, but on crucial matters, the dominant Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai have the ability to exercise a veto.

The Council of Ministers, appointed by the president, is both the Federal Cabinet and principal source of legislative authority. The SFC ratifies the laws enacted by the Council of Ministers.

The Federal National Council (FNC) is the legislature, with an advisory role, as well as acting as a forum for the discussion of important national issues. The 40 members of the FNC serve for 2-year terms.

Government

The constitution was provisionally adopted in 1971, after independence from Britain and was made permanent in 1996. Although there is a federal government, most of the power lies with the Emirate sheiks. There are no political parties in the Emirates. The first elections ever to be held in the country took place in December 2006, when half of the Federal National Council, which has 40 members, was elected.

Head of State	President Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan (since November 2004)
Head of Government	Prime Minister Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum (since February 2006)
Last election	5 October 2019 (Parliamentary)

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Next election	To be announced (Parliamentary)
---------------	---------------------------------

Judiciary

The judiciary consists of a supreme court and courts of the first instance. The legal system is based on Islamic law, but incorporates elements of Western legal systems in areas such as commercial law.

Many legal disputes are decided by local customary practices, under the supervision of the ruler of each Emirate.

Local Government

Administrative Divisions

The seven emirates are Abu Dhabi, Ajmān, Al Fujayrah, Sharjah, Dubai, Ra's al Khaymah and Umm al Quwain.

Current leaders of the Emirates are as follows (2018):

Emirate	Head of Emirate
Abu Dhabi	Sheikh Kalifah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
Dubai	Sheikh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al-Maktoum
Ajman	Sheikh Humaid Bin-Rashid Al-Nuaimi
Fujayrah	Sheikh Hamad Bin-Muhammad Al-Sharqi
Ra's Al Khaymah	Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi
Sharjah	Sheikh Sultan Bin-Muhammad Al-Qasimi
Umm Al Quwain	Sheikh Saud Bin Rashid Al Mu'allah

Present Government

Parliamentary elections were held in the United Arab Emirates on 5 October 2019 to elect half of the members of the 15th Chapter of the Federal National Council, and appoint the other half of the members. Twenty new independent members were elected, and as there were no political parties at the time of the elections, all candidates ran as independents. Twenty other members were appointed, which brought the Federal National Council to 40 members. The emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai elected four members each, Sharjah and Ra's al Khaymah 3 each, and 'Ajmān, Al Fujayrah and Umm al Qaywayn 2 each.

The elections were held using the two-round system, with candidates having to achieve at least 50% of the vote in the first round to be elected. Each voter had as many votes as there were seats elected by their college. A total of 479 candidates contested the elections. Seven of the 20 elected members were women.

2.8 Economy

Economy

Prior to the oil and gas mining industry in the Emirates, principal industries were in agriculture, husbandry, fishing and pearl production. Oil and natural gas are now at the heart of the United Arab Emirates economy and have made the country the prosperous entity it is today.

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Approximately 10% of the world's oil reserves are found in Abu Dhabi alone, and 30% of the GDP and 70% of UAE exports are from hydrocarbons. Dubai has more limited reserves of oil and has been forced to look at other revenue options, as reserves deplete.

The Emirates are therefore investing heavily in alternative industries; high-class tourism, telecommunications, aviation and re-export trade are just a few examples. These are proving to be successful moves in economic diversification, with large foreign exchange reserves and overseas investments. Dubai's economy is now primarily based on its buoyant tourist industry and thriving free trade zone.

Sharjah's oil production is even less significant than Dubai's. The state has built up a good reputation in manufacturing, despite the fact that prosperity is less pronounced in the Northern Emirates. Nevertheless, all of the Emirate's impressive domestic and international portfolios are reliant on funds channeled through from Abu Dhabi and the Federal Government. Investments are increasing in magnitude and diversity; despite the setbacks when the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (based in Abu Dhabi) collapsed in 1991. The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority claims to manage over USD 150 billion of overseas investments.

Domestic industry is also faring well. The United Arab Emirates is virtually self-sufficient in fruit and vegetable production, thanks largely to heavy investment in irrigation and desalination plants, to provide the agricultural sector with all necessary water. UAE residents are the highest consumers of water per person in the world.

The Emirate states have been a member of the World Trade Organization since 1995. Principal trade partners are India, China, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Iran, Oman and Jordan, being predominately concentrated in Asian markets.

The domestic political environment and outlook are stable and the president, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan, is expected to maintain the UAE's relatively liberal social and economic policies, as well as its pro-Western foreign policy stance. If international tensions related to Iran's development of a nuclear capability were to worsen, the UAE would find it increasingly hard to balance its extensive commercial interests in Iran with its strong political ties to the US.

The global economic downturn sent the top Gulf Arab economies, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, into a downturn in 2009, but high state spending and a turnaround in oil prices helped the world's top oil-producing region to recover.

Expatriates have increased their share of the UAE population to over 80%. Many expats left during the world economic crisis, but numbers are now rising again. The domestic population grew sharply and an economic downturn slowed the increase in foreign nationals to nearly nil, figures from the National Bureau of Statistics show.

Experts warn that Gulf countries are risking severe problems from an over-reliance on foreign labor. Policy makers are not doing enough to ensure that the skills and knowledge foreign nationals bring with them are transferred to locals, to create employment and ensure domestic values and cultures are not swamped by a preponderance of outsiders.

Popular revolts against oppressive regimes and economic grievances swept through the Arab world in the first half of 2011, sending Gulf stock markets lower and pushing up debt insurance costs in the region. As a result of the civil protests in nearby Bahrain and Oman, the government pledged to spend USD 1.6 billion on improving living conditions in the less-developed northern emirates.

According to the IMF, growth in the UAE was expected to be moderate, as oil production levels peak. The considerable oversupply of real estate, which has been ongoing for a number of years including 2018, continues to be a drag on the economy. However, the UAE's growth is expected to remain strong, supported by tourism, hospitality and real estate.

However, oil production is expected to rise, due to investments in oilfield development. Non-oil growth is also projected to rebound, as the expected improvement in oil prices and its positive effects on confidence and financial conditions dampen the effects of fiscal consolidation.

The UAE is part of a group of countries which are closely connected through "The Economic Agreement between the GCC States" and "The GCC Customs Union". VAT was introduced across the UAE on 1st January 2018 at a standard rate of 5%. Despite pressures, key investment areas will be maintained, as evidenced by the recently announced nuclear energy project. Abu Dhabi's aerospace manufacturing industry has secured contracts with Airbus and Boeing, underscoring its commitment to diversification. New bankruptcy and investment laws are also being prepared, with a potential positive impact on investment.

The UAE has weathered the low-oil-price environment better than its Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) neighbors, thanks to a more diversified economy, and its fiscal position remains among the healthiest in the region.

The real estate sector in particular has seen a sharp recovery, particularly in Dubai. Growth in the coming years is expected to benefit from a number of megaprojects and Dubai's successful bid for Expo 2020. Expo 2020 expects to welcome 25 million visitors to its attractions. As well as driving tourism, Expo will also create thousands of new jobs and demand for new facilities, including housing, hotels, shopping malls and entertainment complexes.

Abu Dhabi's Economic Vision 2030 and Dubai's Strategic Plan 2015 are leading the drive towards diversification. The strategy is to increase investment in industrial and other export-oriented sectors, including heavy industry, transport, petrochemicals, tourism, information technology, telecommunications, renewable energy, aviation and space, and oil and gas services.

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At the federal level, the UAE is pursuing its 2021 Vision, which aims to place innovation, research, science and technology at the center of a knowledge-based, highly productive and competitive economy, by the time of the federation's golden jubilee in 2021.

Despite the lower oil prices during 2016 and the weak global demand for oil, the UAE has succeeded in showing strong growth, which was much better than that of other neighboring Gulf countries. Much of this growth is attributed to the export of non-oil products. Non-oil sectors now account for 69% of GDP, with oil supplying the remainder.

As the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic affected many businesses and operations, the UAE's economy is impacted like other global economies. After posting a GDP growth rate of -5.9% in 2020, the country's GDP growth rate reached 3.1% in 2021. After the crisis has subsided, GDP growth is projected to rebound by 5.4% in 2022.

The inflation rate in 2020 was -2.9%, and 2.5% in 2021. In 2022, it is projected to be 1.8%.

2.9 The People

Ethnic Groups

The UAE had an estimated population of around 9.9 million in 2022. The United Arab Emirates has a very diverse population, of which less than 12% are UAE nationals, with the majority of the population (88%) being immigrant workers. The native population of the UAE is Arab. However, a different tribe dominates each emirate.

The country has one of the highest net migration rates in the world and the highest gender imbalance in the world, with a male/female ratio of 2.32:1 for the 15 to 65 age group.

The largest group of non-UAE nationals is South Asian (59.4%), followed by other Asians (17%) and Western expatriates (8.5%). There is an increasing presence of Europeans, particularly in cities such as Dubai.

Languages

The official language of the UAE is Arabic, but English, Hindi, Urdu and Persian are widely spoken by the expatriate communities.

Religion

The constitution of the UAE ensures religious freedom. The government follows a policy of tolerance toward foreign nationals and allows them to practice their own religion. At the same time, non-Muslims are expected to respect the religious customs of the country.

The official religion of the country is Islam and 76% of the population is Muslim, of which 80% are Sunni Muslims. The remaining population is mainly Christian (9%), Hindu and Buddhists, with other minority faiths.

The daily lives of Muslims are governed by the teachings of their holy book, the Koran (Q'aran or Quran). All aspects of Muslim life are controlled by this comprehensive code of conduct, influencing both home and professional life and being the structure and focal point of Islamic living.

Muslims pray five times a day and always do so with their shoes removed and facing the holy city of Mecca. Muslims may pray wherever they happen to be at the time of prayer, whether that be in a Mosque, or in a public place. You will hear the Muezzin call for prayer five times a day, as he chants from the Minaret on the Mosque. Mosques are located throughout the UAE and prayer times are noted in local daily newspapers.

Despite the strong influence of Islam in the UAE, the Muslims are very tolerant of other religions, providing they respect the Islamic faith traditions and culture. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims cannot eat or drink between the hours of sunrise and sunset. Non-Muslims are respectfully asked to not eat, drink or smoke in public during this time.

The People

The people of the United Arab Emirates consist of local Arabs and foreign nationals from across the globe. Only about 10% of the total population are citizens of the UAE. The UAE relies heavily on foreign labor to keep its projects and economy running. More than 55 % of the people residing in the UAE come from South Asian countries. Men outnumber women by about 300%.

2.10 Pets

Cat and Dog Care

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Abu Dhabi

Pet boarding facilities are available from many veterinarians. Pet food is available at grocery stores and supermarkets. Dogs can be a little hard to take out for walks, as they must be kept close to you at all times. In Abu Dhabi, dogs are banned from beaches, shopping centers, public parks, swimming pools and restaurants.

It is possible to find dog walkers and people who will pet sit, so that the animals can remain in their own homes while the owners are away. The American Veterinary Clinic has boarding facilities for cats and dogs.

Bookings are essential, as most boarding facilities fill up very fast. Up to seven months booking in advance is required for boarding during peak periods, which are from June to the end of August and during the Christmas season.

- **American Veterinary Clinic**
Address: See the location directions on the website
Tel: 971 2 551 1578 (kennels), +971 2 665 5044 (cattery)
Email: kennels@americanvet.ae (kennels), info@americanvet.ae (cattery)
Web: www.americanvet.ae
- **British Veterinary Center - Boarding**
Address: 30th (Khaleej Al Arabi) Street, Khalidiya, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 665 0085
Email: info@britvet.ae
Web: www.britvet.com
Comments: There is a second branch in Khalifa City
- **Cloud 9 Pet Hotel and Care**
Address: Khalifa City A, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 556 4111
Email: info@cloud9pethotel.com
Web: www.cloud9pethotel.com
Comments: Pet boarding, day care, pet shop with accessories, grooming, training and other services
- **Pet Care Center - Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital**
Address: Near Abu Dhabi International Airport, along the Abu Dhabi - Sweihan road 3 km after the Sweihan Bridge
Tel: +971 2 575 5155
Email: info@falconhospital.com
Web: www.falconhospital.com
Comments: Boarding for cats and dogs

Dubai

There are specialized pet shops in Dubai. However, these tend to be expensive. All the major supermarkets carry the usual brands of wet and dry dog food. However, as the products are imported, they are more expensive than in the country of origin.

There is a severe shortage of dog parks and dogs in general are not allowed in public places, for example, they cannot be walked on the beach. Dogs will need to wear a municipality tag which can be obtained from veterinary clinics.

- **Dubai Kennels & Cattery**
Address: Street 34, Umm Ramool, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 211 4800
Email: boardingdaycare@dkc.ae
Web: <http://dkc.ae>
Comments: The Dubai Kennels & Cattery can organize the importation of pets
- **Pet Palace**
Address: 26th Street, Al Quoz Industrial Area 4, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 323 6993
Email: info@petpalace.ae
Web: www.petpalace.ae
Comments: Dog and cat boarding
- **Urban Tails Pet Resort**
Address: Dubai Investment Park 2, Behind Green Community, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 884 8847
Email: info@urbantailsdubai.com

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Web: www.urbantailsdubai.com

Comments: Dog and cat boarding

- **Woof Pet Services Dubai - Boarding**

Address: Al Quoz Industrial Area 3, Street 8, Opposite Dubai Driving Center, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 338 5488

Email: info@woofdogroomers.com

Web: www.woofdubai.ae

Comments: Dog boarding and day care

Pets

Taking your pet abroad can be stressful for both the animal and the owners. Factors you should consider when taking your pets with you to your new location include the living conditions of your expat destination: you should research the climate, veterinarian and pet care services and local attitudes of having a pet. Additionally, you should consult with a veterinarian as to whether your pet is fit to travel.

Rental agreement terms, in furnished accommodation for example, may not allow pets. Only two pets can be imported per person.

It is advisable to make use of an experienced pet relocation agent, to assist you with the required procedures.

Pets must be shipped to the UAE as cargo and this can be quite expensive. The airline or shipping company will advise you of the flight details. The person in whose name the pets are shipped will have to go to the cargo section of the airport to collect the pets.

Below is a list of dog breeds that the UAE has banned from entry:

- Pit Bull Terrier or American Pit Bull Terrier
- Japanese Tosa (Tosa Inu; Tosa Fighting Dog)
- Argentinian Fighting Dog (Dogo Argentino; Argentinian Mastiff)
- Brazilian Fighting Dog (Fila Brasileiro; Brazilian Mastiff)
- Cross breeds with extract of the above listed breeds
- Saluki and Greyhound
- Wolf Dog Hybrid (Any dog mixed with a wolf)

The following information refers to dogs and cats. The animal must have been vaccinated against rabies disease at least 30 days before departure from the country of origin, but not more than 12 months previously, as stipulated the Dubai Public Health Department. The pet must be micro-chipped. Make sure that the microchip complies with the international ISO standard chip, which will allow most scanners to read the device. Your veterinarian will be able to advise you accordingly.

Import Permit

To bring a pet into the United Arab Emirates, an Import Permit is required. In order to obtain the permission, you will have to prove that your pet is at least four months old and has received all regular vaccinations, including rabies. The pet will also need a microchip number for identification. The permit is obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Importation papers will not be issued more than one month in advance.

The UAE has introduced an internet-based system for animal import permits. It is possible to apply for a pet import permit online. As soon as the pet has a recognized microchip identification, this is the easiest way to obtain an import permit. Create a user account on the website of the Ministry of Environment & Water and follow the steps described. Via the e-service, you will be able to submit all required documentation by email and obtain detailed information on necessary documents and regulations. The required fees can be paid by E-Dirham on arrival at Abu Dhabi or Dubai International Airport. The permit is valid for one month.

Vaccinations Required

- Dogs and Cats: Valid rabies vaccine: This must be given more than 22 days prior to departure, but less than 365 days prior to departure. For puppies and kittens, the rabies vaccine should be given only after the puppy or kitten is three months old
- Dogs: The dog combination vaccine, which includes distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza, parvovirus and leptospirosis, must be up to date and given more than 21 days prior to departure, but less than 365 days prior to departure
- Cats: The cat combination vaccine, which includes rhinotracheitis, calicivirus and panleukopenia, must be up-to-date and given more than 21 days prior to departure, but less than 365 days prior to departure

Documentation Required

- Vaccination Certificate
- Health Certificate issued within 10 days of arrival in UAE
- Microchip number. The number should be clearly marked on the vaccine book or on a microchip certificate
- Full details of pet; breed, date of birth, color/markings, weight, etc.
- Valid rabies titer test may be required for entry, depending on the country of export

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- Copy of the owner's passport
- Copy of the owner's residence visa or offer of employment letter
- UAE import certificate
- Fees – currently AED 500 for each cat inspection, AED 1000 for each dog inspection, and AED 500 per animal for the permit

Health Certificate

This must be issued by your veterinarian, stating the name, age, breed, color and sex of the pet. The certificate must state that the animal is rabies-free and in a healthy condition to travel. The country of export must be free from rabies for the previous three years prior to export. The certificate must be signed and stamped by the veterinarian and be endorsed by the veterinarian of the national government of the exporting country, within 10 days of arrival in UAE.

Vaccination Certificate

The certificate must include the dates of all vaccinations and must be signed and stamped by the veterinarian. The minimum age for rabies vaccination is 12 weeks, so the minimum travel age for young animals is 16 weeks. The rabies injection must be given at least 21 days before arrival in UAE.

To gain access to all the information on the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment's website, regarding pet health and pet travel, registration is required. The website has registration information available. There are also useful videos available, which will guide you through the procedures of pet import.

- **Animal Health Department of Ministry of Climate Change and Environment - Abu Dhabi**
Address: Old Airport Road, behind Carrefour, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 444 4747, 800 3050 (toll free within UAE)
Email: adarchievements@moew.gov.ae
Web: www.moccae.gov.ae/en/contact-us.aspx
- **Animal Health Department of Ministry of Change and Environment and Water - Dubai**
Address: Al Ain Road, Beside Zayed University, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 214 8424, 800 3050 (toll free within UAE)
Email: archives@moew.gov.ae
Web: <https://www.moccae.gov.ae/en/knowledge-and-statistics/wealth-and-animal-health.aspx>
- **Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and Water**
Web: <https://www.moccae.gov.ae/en/home.aspx>
Comments: The website has information about importing your pets. There is also a short information video on the website. See the "Our Services" page on the website

Veterinarians

Abu Dhabi

Vets are not easy to find in the city, but the following vets have been recommended by expatriates. All of the clinics provide healthcare, grooming and boarding for pets. Pet accommodation must be booked as far in advance as possible, as it gets very booked up. Clinics also sell pet food, generally the more expensive brands.

- **American Veterinary Clinic**
Address: Al Falah (9th) Street, Between 28th Street and 30th (Khaleej Al Arabi) St., Khalidiya, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 665 5044
Email: info@americanvet.ae
Web: www.americanvet.ae
Hours: Sunday and Thursday 7.30am to 6.30pm; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 7.30am to 8pm; Friday and Saturday 8am to 4pm
Comments: Also provides dog boarding
- **Australian Veterinary Hospital**
Address: Street 12, Khalifa City A, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 556 2990, +971 2 556 2344
Email: info@australianvet.com
Web: www.australianvet.com
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 9am to 10pm; closed Friday
- **British Veterinary Center**
Address: 30th (Khaleej Al Arabi) Street, Khalidiya, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 665 0085

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Email: info@britvet.ae
Web: www.britvet.com
Hours: Sunday to Thursday 7.30am to 10pm; Saturday 9am to 8pm; closed Friday
Comments: There is a second branch in Khalifa City

- **German Veterinary Clinic**
Address: Khalifa City A, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 556 2024
Email: info@germanvet.ae
Web: www.germanvet.ae
Hours: Sunday and Wednesday 8am to 9pm; Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8am to 7pm; Friday and Saturday 9am to 5pm
Comments: Boarding facilities for cats are available
- **National Veterinary Hospital**
Address: Zone 2, Sector 19, 17th and 10th street, Al Mushrif Area off Shaik Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum Road, opposite Shaik Mohammad Bin Zayed Mosque and Street, Andrew Center, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 446 1628, +971 2 446 4910
Web: www.nationalvet.com
Comments: 24-hour emergency cover

Dubai

Veterinary facilities in Dubai are plenty and have excellent standards.

- **Al Barsha Veterinary Clinic**
Address: Al Barsha 1, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 340 8601, 800 838 123 (toll free in Dubai)
Email: info@abvc.ae
Web: www.abvc.ae
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 8am to 10pm; Friday 10am to 6pm
Comments: Also provides cat and dog boarding and dog day care
- **Umm Suqeim Veterinary Clinic**
Address: Villa 1138 & 1140 Al Wasl Road, Umm Suqeim 2, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 321 0799, +971 4 348 3799
Email: info@usvetcentre.com
Web: www.usvetcentre.com
Hours: Open 24 hours
- **Blue Oasis**
Address: Street 70, Next to Premier Inn Hotel, Dubai Investment Park, Green Community, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 884 8580
Email: office@bovc.ae
Web: www.blueoasispetcare.com
Hours: Sunday to Thursday 9am to 9pm; Friday and Saturday 10am to 8pm
Comments: They can also assist with pet relocation
- **Pet Connection Veterinary Hospital**
Address: Al Barsha 1, Summerland Building, Near Lulu Hypermarket, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 447 5307
Email: info@petconnection.ae
Web: <https://www.petconnection.ae>
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 9am to 9pm; Friday 2pm to 9pm
- **The Veterinary Hospital**
Address: Street 8, Near Home Center Warehouse, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 338 7726
Email: contact@tvh.ae
Web: www.vet-hosp.com
Hours: Sunday to Thursday 8am to 8pm; Friday and Saturday 9am to 6pm

2.11 Business Etiquette

Business Dress

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Men should wear smart trousers and a shirt during the day, with a collar and tie for night. Women have more freedom of dress in the UAE than elsewhere in the Middle East, but business dress should still be conservative and never revealing. It is strictly forbidden for foreign nationals to wear the Emirati local or traditional dress.

Business Etiquette

In the United Arab Emirates, life and law in the UAE are dominated by religion.

Although women in the UAE enjoy a much more liberal lifestyle than others in the Gulf, the society is still very much rooted in strong traditions.

Business Etiquette Tips

Most business is now conducted along the same lines as in the United States or in Western Europe. It is advisable to observe closely on arrival, until you are confident of the etiquette employed by your company and associates.

- It is usual to use 'Sayed' (Mr) or 'Sayeda' (Mrs), followed by the first name. The name should always be prefixed with the person's title when conducting business
- The UAE rates personal image very highly. Attractive employees have been known to beat other more experienced and capable employees to promotions and job positions, purely because they look good. Résumés (CVs) must always include a photograph
- You should shake hands with everyone who is present, except the women. Men should wait for a woman to extend her hand, which she may or may not do
- The value of networking in the UAE is not to be underestimated. Personal contacts both within the expatriate community and in the Emirati culture are invaluable
- It is widely acceptable for Arab businesspeople to be late in the United Arab Emirates, however it is considered rude for a western business person to attend a meeting late. You should arrive on time, but expect to be kept waiting
- Never get emotional or animated. Business culture is always conducted calmly and it is important not to deviate from facts
- Arabs do not discuss business on the first meeting. Expect to have several encounters before you are able to discuss business issues
- Learning and practicing the art of negotiation is essential when working in an Arab culture. It is a custom that is popular among citizens of the UAE and foreign nationals are expected to participate
- It is important to be aware that management culture in the UAE is dominated by a small number of individuals from principal ruling families
- Communication is slow. Do not feel obliged to speak during periods of silence. "Yes" usually means "possibly"
- Meetings are commonly interrupted by phone calls and visits from friends and family
- The person at a meeting who asks the most questions is likely to be the least important. The decision maker is likely a silent observer
- Strikes and labor unions are illegal in the United Arab Emirates
- The Arabs will respect someone who has a firm grasp on their argument, as long as they remain courteous. It is important to distinguish between this and the notion of quarreling, which is abhorred
- Business entertaining is lavish in the UAE, but you must be careful not to assume that the more lavish the affair, the better your negotiations are proceeding. Extravagant entertaining can be a way of letting people down gently
- Giving business gifts in the UAE is difficult, as most items can be bought for less in the UAE and the citizens are used to quality, usually handmade items. It is normal for the recipient to open their gift on presentation, and will look for a hallmark, or stamp of distinction on the gift. The giving of counterfeit goods is seen as highly disrespectful to the recipient
- Discussions in business are similar to those in social occasions. They exist in the eyes of the Arabs to enrich the knowledge of each participant, rather than making winning the debate the object
- English is widely spoken in business circles, but translation services will usually be available
- You should never ask about an Arab's wife; instead refer to 'the family'
- Secretaries in the UAE do not generally make appointments for their bosses
- Often it is better to turn up to see someone on the off chance, rather than try to arrange an appointment
- You should have business cards printed with English on one side and Arabic on the other

Business Hours

For some public offices in the UAE, the weekend is on Thursday afternoons and Fridays, although this is changing to align with Western practices. For private offices, the weekends are on Friday and Saturday. Working hours vary depending on the organization, but generally, businesses work from 8am until 6pm, with an hour's lunch break from 1pm until 2pm. Some organizations adjust their hours slightly according to the season, opening and closing an hour earlier in summer, although this is very rare. Banks, embassies and consulates usually only open in the morning, until around 1pm. Although the trend in extending opening hours is continuing among private businesses, it is unlikely these institutions will alter. Domestic government departments usually open between 7.30am and 8am. In general, business in Dubai operates on European principal. More and more companies in Abu Dhabi are adopting the same regimes.

It is important to remember that during the month of Ramadan, business hours are limited to six hours per day. Government departments are closed in the afternoons during Ramadan.

It is not uncommon for employees to spend between two and four hours commuting each day to work, due to the intense congestion on the roads in and around the cities.

Health and Safety Practices

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The employer should provide all means to protect employees from risks of occupational accidents and disease occurring during the course of work and from the risk of fire and other hazards, which may result from the use of equipment while at work. The employer is also bound to abide by all other preventive measures, decided by the Ministry of Resources and Emiratisation. The Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, after consulting with the Ministry of Health, determines the hygienic measures applicable to establishments that hire employees.

Each employer must prepare medical first-aid boxes and related materials as decided by the Ministry of Resources and Emiratisation. Every 100 employees must have access to a first-aid box, placed in a noticeable location, immediately reachable by all employees and which can be handled by a specialist in first aid.

The employer should also provide hygienic premises and proper aeration, along with proper lighting and potable water, as well as toilets.

Employers must appoint a doctor to undertake medical check-ups every six months for all employees exposed to occupational diseases.

The employer should provide employees with medical care according to the standards set by the Ministry of Resources and Emiratisation, in cooperation with the Minister of Health.

Employers or any representatives cannot allow any kind of alcohol consumption on the work premises and also cannot permit employees to enter the work premises, or stay there, while drunk.

Women

There are some provisions specifically dedicated to work of women.

- Women may not work by night; "night" refers to a period of not less than 11 consecutive hours, including the period between 10pm and 7am
- Women may not be employed in risky or exhausting work, that causes nuisance to health and morals, or similar work as determined by the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs listed after consulting with the concerned authorities

This restriction does not apply if:

- Work in the establishment is held up due to force majeure causes
- Women work in senior management positions
- Women work in healthcare and other business as determined by decision of the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs

Religion in the UAE

The main religion in the UAE is Islam, and the religion plays a pivotal role in all aspects of life. Religion also dictates dress and the structure of the day, as well as prohibiting alcohol and the consumption of some foods.

It is crucial that Muslims are allowed to practice their religion, in their country without observing any disrespectful behavior from foreign visitors. The United Arab Emirates are very tolerant of other religions, more so than elsewhere in the Middle East.

It is important not to schedule business meetings or appointment during prayer times; check the local newspapers for listings of prayer times.

As a guideline, the five prayers take place as follows:

Prayer	Time
Fajr	Between dawn and sunrise
Dhuhr	About 30 minutes after midday
Asr	Mid-afternoon
Maghrib	Immediately after sunset
Isha	1½ hours after sunset onwards

Working Hours

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The maximum ordinary workday for adult employees is eight hours per day, or a maximum of 48 hours per week, over a six-day week. It can be increased up to nine hours per day (in commercial practices, hotel business, patrolling), or even reduced by the decision of the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, in the case of exhausting business, health harming work, etc. In the Ramadan holy month, the workday is reduced by two hours. Policies and practices of flexible working hours for Muslim or all employees varies from company to company and may differ in certain free zones.

If it is necessary, it may be possible for employees to work in addition to their normal working hours. Such work is classified as overtime work. The employee's remuneration for such overtime increases by 25% of their normal hourly rate.

The maximum daily overtime is two hours, with exceptions allowed to prevent the occurrence of substantial damages and dangerous events, or to mitigate or remove the impact of these effects.

Friday is the weekly rest day for all employees except those paid on a daily basis. If the employee works on Friday, the employer should designate another day to compensate for the required rest day. Otherwise, the employee's remuneration for such overtime increases

by 50% of their normal hourly rate. The employer should not compel employees to work more than two consecutive Fridays, except those paid on a daily basis.

Employees who hold managerial or supervisory positions are not entitled to be paid any additional remuneration for any overtime worked.

2.12 Language & Phrasebook

Language and Phrasebook

Arabic is the official language of the United Arab Emirates, with English being spoken widely. Hindu, Urdu and Persian languages are also spoken. Arabic is estimated to be spoken by over 186 million native speakers.

The language heard on the radio, on the television and written in the press is generally agreed to be the standard language (known as Modern Standard Arabic), however there are big differences in dialect between areas such as North Africa, Egypt and the Gulf, then sub-divided again into rural, urban and nomadic dialects within each region. Variations occur to such an extent that native speakers living in different regions may face difficulties in understanding each other.

Despite how the language may at first seem, teachers maintain that it is easier to learn than Latin and some modern European languages, helped largely by the fact that there are few exceptions to grammatical rules. The language has 28 consonants and three vowels, and is written from right to left.

Links to useful Arabic-language websites:

- Fun With Arabic

Web: www.funwitharabic.com

- Look Lex – Learn Arabic

Web: <http://i-cias.com/babel/arabic/001.htm>

- Arabic Online

Web: <http://arabic.tripod.com>

Some basic words and phrases that may be useful (to simplify, the words are written in Latin script):

English	Arabic	English	Arabic
My name is...	Essmy	No thanks	La, Shokran

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What is your name?	Shu Esmak?	Have a nice day	Yawm Sayeed
OK - feeling well	Taaban	Excuse me	Maazeratan
Goodbye	Ma Salamaa	Please	Fadluk
Nice to meet you	Lateef an oqabilok	Thank you	Shukran
Hello	Ahlan	Pardon me	Oozorny
Good afternoon/evening	Masaa el khair	One	Wahad
Hello, how are you?	Ahlan keefak?	Two	Ethnan
I'm fine thank you	Ana bil Khayr, Shokran	Three	Thalaathah
Breakfast	Eftaar	Four	Arbaa
Lunch	Ghadaa	Five	Khamisa
Spicy/hot	Haar	Ten	Asharah
Sweet	Hollowe	Fifty	Khamse
I'm sorry	Aasif	Hundred	Miye

Language Courses

There are many places to learn Arabic in both Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Although you can comfortably get by in the UAE speaking English, learning the local language helps you to integrate better into the culture, and it helps when shopping in the markets for example, where people are less likely to speak English.

Abu Dhabi

- Berlitz Language School**
 Web: www.berlitz.ae
 Comments: There are three centers in the city. The website has location details
- Eton Institute**
 Address: Park Rotana Office Complex, Khalifa Park, Abu Dhabi
 Tel: +971 2 449 9641
 Email: contact.uae@etoninstitute.com
 Web: <https://etoninstitute.com>
- Expression Training Institute**
 Address: Alwahda Commercial Tower 1, 1702, Hazza Bin Zayed Street, Abu Dhabi
 Tel: +971 2 626 6006
 Email: courses@expression.ae
 Web: <https://www.facebook.com/expressionuae>
- Mother Tongue Arabic Language Center**
 Address: Zayed the First Street, Bin Fardan Tower, Khalidiya, Abu Dhabi
 Tel: +971 2 639 3838
 Email: info@mothertongue.ae

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Web: <http://mothertongue.ae>

- **Nadia Training Institute**
Address: Al Mansoor Tower, M1 & M2, Salam Street, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 677 4031, 800 2566 (toll free within UAE)
Web: www.nadia-training.com

Dubai

- **Arabic Language Centre**
Address: Sheikh Rashid Tower (World Trade Centre), 4th floor, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 331 5600
Email: info@arabiclanguagecentre.com
Web: www.arabiclanguagecentre.com
- **Berlitz Language School**
Web: www.berlitz.ae
Comments: There are two centers in Dubai. The website has location details
- **Eton Institute**
Address: Dubai Knowledge Village, Block 3, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 438 6826
Email: contact.uae@etoninstitute.com
Web: <https://etoninstitute.com>
- **Mother Tongue Arabic Language Center**
Address: Al-Wadi Building, Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 338 2229
Email: info@mothertongue.ae
Web: <http://mothertongue.ae>
- **Nadia Training Institute**
Address: Al Moosa Tower 2, Level 23, Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 331 3959
Web: www.nadia-training.com
- **University of Wollongong in Dubai**
Address: Block 5,14 and 15, Dubai Knowledge Village, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 278 1800
Email: info@uowdubai.ac.ae
Web: www.uowdubai.ac.ae
Comments: They offer beginner- and elementary Arabic evening classes. Also private tuition

2.13 Social Etiquette

Entertaining and Gift Giving

- The Arabs love entertaining, especially in the home. They are quite happy to be invited to social occasions in restaurants. However, you will normally be asked to join them for a meal in their home
- Traditional perfume is the preferred gift for men in the UAE. This can be expensive, but is a way of demonstrating status. Perfume should only be given to women by either another woman, or a male close relation
- You should refrain from admiring personal items belonging to your hosts, as they may take this to mean you are asking for a gift, and is considered bad manners. The host will feel duty bound to offer you the gift and you will be expected to return a gift of similar stature on the next occasion
- Most meals in Emirati houses are eaten at floor level. Be careful not to show the soles of your feet when you sit down
- You will be asked to remove your shoes on arrival, so ensure you have clean feet or smart socks

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Etiquette Tips and Taboos

- You should be aware that although the UAE is one of the most liberal countries in the Gulf, it is still very conservative by Western standards. Muslim traditions should always be respected
- It is illegal to smoke or drink in public places during Ramadan. It is seen as courteous if foreign visitors also fast, at least in public, during daylight hours for Ramadan
- Women, when socializing in local company, wait until a hand is offered for a handshake. Do not take offense, but be aware that some devout Muslims prefer not to shake hands with a woman
- Foreign visitors should be aware of their dress. It is acceptable to wear longer length shorts and T-shirts, but the shoulders should be covered. Women should avoid wearing tight-fitting clothing, and should cover up as much as possible
- Speaking and laughing loudly are considered to be bad mannered in the UAE
- You should never eat with your left hand, nor extend your left hand to shake someone else's, nor offer a gift with your left hand
- Do not discuss the subject of women, not even to inquire about the health of a wife or daughter. The topic of Israel should also be avoided
- Homosexuality is not permitted in Islamic society
- Arabs greatly appreciate subtlety and understatement in conversations. While they appreciate gentle flattery, over the top praise is seen as vulgar
- It is advisable to avoid talking about interstate tensions in the UAE and Middle East, but generally, lively conversations undertaken with an open mind and without prejudice are encouraged and enjoyed. Be careful not to agree with people's opinions just to 'please' them, or you will quickly lose their respect

Gestures

- When passing, or receiving an object, it is rude to do so with your left hand. Your left hand is considered to be unclean. Always use your right hand
- When beckoning someone, do so with an extended arm, while making a scratching movement with your fingers, pointing downwards
- When sitting down, always cross your legs at your ankles and not at your knees. Also, do not show the bottom of your feet or shoes
- Avoid pointing with your finger. It is a rude gesture. You should point with your whole hand
- The "thumbs up" gesture can be considered offensive and insulting, by some people

Greetings

- Kissing on both cheeks, on the nose and holding hands between men is quite normal and implies no sexual connotations at all
- Men should shake hands with everyone present, with the exception of the women. Men should wait for a woman to extend her hand, which she may or may not do
- It is essential to never shake hands with your left hand
- Greetings can at times be protracted, as an Arab person may enquire after you and your family's health. It is polite to reply that all is well, thanks be to God
- It is usual to use 'Sayed' (Mr) or 'Sayeda' (Mrs), followed by the first name

LGBT

United arab emirates OVERVIEW

Global Acceptance Index (2021)	No information
LGBT+ Acceptance Trend (1981-2021)	No information
F&M Global Barometer of Gay Rights® (2019)	Persecuting (F, 7%)
The F&M Global Barometer of Transgender Rights™ (2019)	Persecuting (F, 12%)

LGBT+ RIGHTS IN UAE

Same-sex sexual activity	Illegal
Transgender expression	Illegal

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Right to change gender marker	No
Recognition of same-sex marriages	No
Recognition of same-sex civil partnerships	No
Joint adoption	No
Anti-discrimination legislation in place	No

COUNTRY INTRODUCTION

The UAE have strict laws and visitors should pay close attention when traveling to the UAE. Sexual relations outside a traditional, heterosexual marriage are a crime. The death penalty applies for homosexuality. Punishments range from imprisonment, fines, deportation and the death penalty. Adultery and fornication are also crimes and a person convicted of homosexuality may also face charges of adultery, if they have a spouse while having sexual relations with a person of the same sex.

Although LGBT visitors may not be refused entry to the UAE, individuals should be careful not to openly express their sexuality in public.

The legal and social sanctions against LGBT people mean that no formal LGBT organizations or nightclubs exist in Dubai.

IMPORTANT INCIDENTS

In 2013, two men were sentenced to three years in prison for posting photos of cross-dressing and offering sexual services.

In 2017, two Singaporeans were detained in a shopping mall for conducting a photo shoot involving a trans woman. They were sentenced to one year in prison but were deported after three weeks in custody.

In 2020, the first gay romantic Bollywood comedy was reportedly banned in the UAE.

TRANSGENDER AND NON-BINARY VISITORS

Transgender individuals should not openly express their orientation. Openly expressing one's non-binary or trans orientation is a crime.

PRIDE EVENTS

There are no Pride events in the UAE.

Local LGBT+ Organizations and NGOs

- AWAA
Web: <https://ahwaa.org/>
- Rainbow Street
Web: <https://www.rainbow-street.org/>

Further Reading

- Recent news about the LGBT+ community
Web: <https://ilga.org/>
- ILGA Trans Legal Mapping Report 2019
Web: https://ilga.org/downloads/ILGA_World_Trans_Legal_Mapping_Report_2019_EN.pdf#page=107
- F&M Global Barometers of Gay and Transgender Rights
Web: <https://www.fandmglobalbarometers.org/countries/united-arab-emirates/>
- Global Acceptance Index
Web: <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Global-Acceptance-Index-LGBTI-Nov-2021.pdf>

Smoking and Drinking

Smoking is forbidden in government areas, offices and shopping malls. There are however many designated areas where smoking is allowed. The law bans smoking on public transport and in public places, such as churches, educational and health facilities, and stadiums. You are not allowed to smoke in private vehicles carrying children under the age of 12 years. The bans are not rigorously enforced.

You also cannot bring to the Emirates any tobacco products, if their packages do not have clear notes about the warnings of the dangers of smoking. Sales of tobacco products are allowed only in strictly defined places. There are designated smoking areas in Dubai, which are for people aged 20 years and more.

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The drinking of alcohol is not permitted in the Muslim religion, however concessions are made to allow some foreign nationals to purchase alcohol in hotels and bars and nightclubs chiefly frequented by expats. Only alcohol purchased on the premises is allowed to be consumed, and must be drunk on the premises. Alcohol is served at bars in some major hotels, but is intended only for the hotel guests. Those who are not guests of the hotel, and who consume alcohol in restaurants and bars in a hotel, are required to have their own personal liquor licenses. Liquor licenses are issued only to non-Muslims who possess UAE Residency Permits. Drinking or possession of alcohol without the Ministry of Interior liquor permit is illegal and may result in arrest and/or fine and imprisonment.

Drunkenness in public is not only disrespectful, but also illegal, incurring harsh penalties. Even legally purchased alcohol cannot be displayed publicly.

Liquor Permits

As the Muslim faith prohibits the consumption of alcohol, the purchase of alcoholic drinks in the UAE is strictly regulated. It is an offense to buy, transport, store and consume alcohol, as a resident in the UAE, without a valid Liquor License. Most employers of foreign nationals are quite used to this procedure and will be able to help you. If not, your local embassy or consulate can provide guidance. The license is valid in the issuing Emirate only.

You cannot apply to have a liquor permit until you have a residence permit and you must be a non-Muslim, over 21 years of age and earning at least AED 3,000 a month. The amount of alcohol you can purchase depends on your salary. If the residence visa is issued in another Emirate, the applicant must attach a document from the relevant authorities in that Emirate, certifying that no license has been obtained from there. In addition, a letter issued by the employer, certifying that the applicant has moved to the other Emirate is required.

You cannot apply for a liquor license if your company does not support its employees consuming alcohol.

Those who fall into the Drivers category of employment are not allowed to obtain a liquor permit. For renewals, the old liquor permit must be presented. Once approved, the applicant will be told the monthly amount that can be spent on purchasing alcohol. The amount is based on salary, age, job title and size of family.

Alcohol is served in hotels, some restaurants and specially licensed bars and clubs, generally aimed at expat customers. All alcohol has to be imported and is expensive, incurring an additional 30% tax once in the UAE. The duty free allowance authorizes visitors to bring four liters of wine or two bottles of spirits into the country without needing a liquor permit.

Abu Dhabi

Since April 2012, a new government office is responsible for issuing liquor licenses in the emirate. The Special License Office will accept applications only online via its website. Licenses are granted to be used at preferred liquor outlets indicated on the application form. There is no longer a fee for the annual license. The licenses are in the form of an electronic card. License holders are entitled to spend up to 20% of their monthly income on buying alcohol. Licenses to purchase and consume alcohol were previously issued by the Criminal Investigation Department of Abu Dhabi Police.

Licenses can be collected from Spinneys stores, after they have been ordered online from the Special License Office. Spinneys can also help with the liquor license application.

Applicants must now download an application form from the website and attach scanned copies of the following documents:

Documentation Required

- Application form
- Passport, including the visa page
- Salary certificate
- Emirates ID
- Passport-sized photograph
- No-objection letter from their employer confirming the applicant's salary
- Color copy of residence visa (PDF). If the residence visa is issued by another emirate, you will need to provide a No-Objection Certificate from the Police Department of the respective emirate
- Foreign nationals who are non-Muslims, but originating from a Muslim country, are required to also provide a certified religion certificate issued by their home embassy

A non-employed spouse may request a supplementary license using the same process, but must submit a no-objection letter from their sponsor in lieu of an employer. The non-objection form can be downloaded from the website.

- **Special License Office**
Email: info@auhsl.ae
Web: www.auhsl.ae

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Dubai

Liquor permit application forms can be obtained from the alcohol outlets MMI and African & Eastern (A&E) liquor stores, situated all over Dubai, often within shopping malls.

Documentation Required

- Liquor Permit application form, stamped and signed by the employer and applicant
- Original passport plus a copy
- Residence visa
- Employment contract, original and copy, stating monthly salary
- Tenancy contract
- Two recent passport sized photos
- If there is doubt about religion (possible due to nationality or name), present religion certificate from either the appropriate embassy or other authority
- Salary Certificate from the applicant's company must be presented, in Arabic
- Applicants may include their wife/husband on the license, if they provide two photos and their passport copy and residence visa copy. They will then be permitted to use the license
- Foreign nationals employed by a company in any of the Dubai Free Zones will require a NOC from the Police Station of your visa Emirate
- Application fee

If application is made at the MMI or A&E store, the store will process the application with the Dubai Police. The process usually takes around two to three weeks. Licenses are valid for one year, and then need to be renewed. The easiest way to apply for a permit or to renew an existing permit is to make your application directly with the Special License Office.

- **African and Eastern (A&E)**
Tel: +971 4 352 8085 (alcohol license)
Email: alcohollicence@ane.ae
Web: www.africaneastern.com
Comments: The liquor license application can also be made on the website. A list of the stores is also available online
- **MMI**
Tel: +971 4 304 0331
Email: lipsadmin@mmi.ae
Web: www.mmidubai.com/retail/#retail_licence
Comments: License application forms are available from any MMI store
- **Special License Office - Application for Permits**
Email: info@auhsl.ae
Web: www.auhsl.ae
Comments: Registration is required on the website to make use of the facilities

Social Etiquette

Tradition and culture play an important role in society and there is a mixture of old and modern elements. In Dubai especially, there is a very cosmopolitan attitude towards life.

Social Prejudices

The laws of the UAE prohibit all forms of discrimination based on religion, belief, sect, faith, creed, race, color or ethnic origin. However, many forms of discrimination still exist.

Citizens do not have the right to elect a government based on the principles of democracy. Government leaders are mostly appointed and only half of the parliamentary leaders are elected members. Members of the royal family enjoy preferential treatment in government processes. Furthermore, stoning and flogging are legal forms of punishment under Sharia laws and discrimination against women is still commonplace. Under Islamic law, women have few rights and local women especially, bear the consequences of these strict laws. There is no freedom of speech or freedom of the press. Local media is censored, in order to avoid public criticism of the government.

Expatriates, who work in the country, should refrain from discussions about politics, religion and the war in neighboring countries. Expats are generally highly respected in the workplace and there are many professional expatriate women, who work in the public- and private sector.

Tipping

Tipping practices in the UAE generally reflect those of the western world

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- Taxis: It is not usual to tip taxi drivers in the UAE
- Restaurants: In a restaurant, service charges may often be included; if not, add 10% for a tip
- Most hotels, restaurants and clubs do add quite a high service charge, so if this is already included in the bill, do not add a tip

2.14 Public Holidays

Public Holidays

Public holidays are observed as follows:

Public Holiday	2022	2023
New Year's Day	1 January	1 January
Leilat al-Meiraj (Ascension of the Prophet)	1 March	17 February
Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan)	1-5 May	20-23 April
Arafat Day	9 July	27 June
Eid al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice)	10 July	29 June
Al-Hijra (Islamic New Year)	30 July	19 July
Martyr's Day	1 December	1 December
Mouloud (Birth of the Prophet)	8 October	27 September
National Day	2 December	2 December

The Hejira calendar used by the Muslims is 11 days shorter than the Gregorian calendar used in western societies. The Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha festivals move back 11 days a year. Public holidays are determined by the current sightings of the moon, and can sometimes only be confirmed a couple of days in advance. Therefore, the dates listed above must be used as a guideline only.

In the case of the death of a member of the Royal Family or a Minister, the passing away is marked by a three-day long general mourning period.

Some holidays may be on a Friday or a Saturday. Public holidays which fall on a Sunday, may be celebrated on the Monday following.

2.15 International Associations & Clubs

International Associations and Clubs

The UAE is one of the most tolerant countries in the Muslim world. Foreign workers make up 90% of the population. Abu Dhabi has a much smaller expat community than Dubai, but there is still plenty to do. Abu Dhabi is quieter than the commercial hub of Dubai. The city is particularly suitable for families. There are numerous clubs, many of which are associated with major hotels, which provide sporting and social facilities. Sailing, golf, scuba diving and bridge are among the most popular pastimes. Most western expats belong to private clubs that provide social and leisure activities.

Abu Dhabi is popular with expat families, due to the good schools and opportunities for outdoor recreation. It a good place to live for singles, couples and families alike, being a diverse multi-cultural society, with an excellent standard of living.

The city is very family-friendly, with playgrounds in almost every shopping mall, restaurants, which welcome children, and a wealth of family-oriented festivals and activities.

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A large number of sports and leisure clubs and other social groups has also developed within the expatriate community. Among the many sports available, there is golf, soccer, rugby, horseracing, polo, ice hockey, ice-skating, shooting, tennis, cycling and netball. Many expatriates join the leisure clubs of hotels or beach resorts, in order to be able to use their private facilities.

Golf is a particularly popular pursuit. The city has several championship-standard golf courses and hosts the annual Dubai Desert Classic. Camel racing and horseracing are very popular spectator sports during winter and the Dubai Racing Club is host to the famous Dubai World Cup. A short drive away from the city center brings you either to the coast, where water sports, diving and sailing are very popular, or to the desert, where many expatriates enjoy off-road driving, camping and sand skiing in their leisure time.

Internations organizes monthly expat events in both Abu Dhabi and Dubai:

- **Internations - Abu Dhabi**

Web: www.internations.org/abu-dhabi-expats

- **Internations - Dubai**

Web: www.internations.org/dubai-expats

The following magazines are recommended by foreign nationals living in the UAE and provide useful information for foreign residents.

- **Emirates Woman**

Web: <http://emirateswoman.com>

Comments: Monthly glossy magazine dedicated to women living in the UAE and the Gulf

- **Time Out Dubai / Time Out Abu Dhabi**

Web: www.timeoutdubai.com , www.timeoutabudhabi.com

Comments: Monthly magazines similar to Time Out New York and London

Abu Dhabi

- **Abu Dhabi Mums**

Address: The Dome, Sheik Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum Street, Abu Dhabi

Web: www.abudhabimums.ae

Comments: The membership application form is available on the website

- **Alliance Française**

Address: Al Bateen, Villa 75, Al Bateen Street (Street 32), Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 612 2900

Email: info@afabudhabi.org

Web: www.afabudhabi.org

- **American Women's Network**

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Email: newcomers@awnabudhabi.com

Web: <http://awnabudhabi.com>

- **Aussies Abroad - Abu Dhabi**

Email: gday@aussies-abroad.com

Web: <http://aussiesabroad-abudhabi.com>

- **British Council**

Address: Villa 16, Next to Bateen Healthcare Centre, Al Qasbah Street, Al Bateen, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 666 4340, 600 529 995 (within UAE)

Email: information@ae.britishcouncil.org

Web: www.britishcouncil.ae/en

- **Goethe Institut**

Address: Al Qasbah Street Al Bateen, Abu Dhabi (between Al Bateen Street and Bainunah Street)

Tel: +971 2 409 9400

Email: info@abudhabi.goethe.org

Web: <https://www.goethe.de/de/index.html>

Dubai

- **Australia and New Zealand Association**

Email: avalon@emirates.net.ae

- **British Council**

Address: Tariq Bin Ziyad Street, Behind Dubai TV, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 337 0703, 600 529 995 (within UAE)

Email: information@ae.britishcouncil.org

Web: www.britishcouncil.ae/en

- **German Emirates Club**

Web: www.german-emirates-club.com

Comments: See the contact form on the website for membership application

- **Goethe Institut, German Language Center Dubai**

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Address: Al Aghadeer Building, Office 203/204, Crossroads Mankhool Road and Al Kuwait Street, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 325 9865

Email: info@dubai.goethe.org

Web: <https://www.goethe.de/de/index.html>

- **International Business Women's Group**

Tel: +971 50 387 1948

Email: administrator@ibwgabudhabi.org

Web: www.ibwgabudhabi.org

2.16 Religion / Worship

Religion / Worship

There is no official recognition of Christian denominations in the United Arab Emirates. However, Christians are free to worship and wear religious clothing, so long as this does not interfere with Islam. The country has Oriental Orthodox and Eastern Orthodox churches, along with Protestant and Roman Catholic churches. The government does not permit churches to display crosses on the outside of their buildings, nor to erect bell towers. However, this restriction is not always enforced and some churches display cross designs on their buildings. There are no synagogues for the small expatriate Jewish population. There are two Hindu temples and a Sikh temple in Dubai. There are no Buddhist temples. Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs conduct religious ceremonies in private homes without interference.

The importation and sale of religious material is allowed. However, attempts to spread Christianity among Muslims are not permitted. The schools in public ownership have no Christian religious education. Christian men are not allowed to marry Muslim women and conversion from Islam to Christianity is not permitted.

The following churches have services in English:

Abu Dhabi

- **Assembly of God Church**
Address: Mussafah Center, 6th Street, Behind Marthoma Church and ADNOC, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 501 223 293
Email: adagchurch@gmail.com
Web: www.adag.ae
- **Evangelical Community Church of Abu Dhabi**
Address: 19th Street, Located Near the Korean Embassy, First Street, Al Mushrif, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 446 4563
Email: admin@eccad.org
Web: www.eccad.org
Hours: Sunday services are at 9am and 3pm
- **St Andrew's Church**
Address: Al Mushrif area, Next to Al Khubairat British School, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 446 1631
Web: <http://standrewauh.org>

Dubai

- **Christ Church - Jebel Ali**
Address: Near Jebel Ali Industrial Zone, Near Ibn Battuta Mall, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 884 5436
Email: ccjaweb@gmail.com
Web: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/ChristChurchJebelAli/>

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- **Holy Trinity Church**
Address: 301 Road Oud Metha Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 337 0247
Email: adminmanager@holytrinity.ae
Web: www.holytrinitychurchdubai.org
- **St. Mary's Catholic Church**
Address: Oud Metha Street, Opposite Indian High School, Bur Dubai, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 337 0087, +971 4 335 8504
Email: office@saintmarysdubai.org
Web: <http://saintmarysdubai.org>

Useful Resources

Websites for good information on the United Arab Emirates:

- **Abu Dhabi eGovernment**
Web: www.abudhabi.ae/portal/public/en/homepage
- **Expat Arrivals**
Web: www.expattarrivals.com/united-arab-emirates/moving-to-united-arab-emirates
- **Expat Exchange**
Web: www.expatexchange.com/uae/liveinuae.html
- **Expat Focus**
Web: www.expatfocus.com/expatriate-uae
- **Expat Woman**
Web: www.expatwoman.com/middle_east.aspx
- **Government of Dubai**
Web: <http://dubai.ae/en/pages/default.aspx>
- **Living in Dubai**
Web: www.livingindubai.org
- **Your Abu Dhabi Guide**
Web: www.yourabudhabiguide.com/abu-dhabi-expats.html

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3 Travel and Leisure

3.1 Public Transport

Air Travel

Due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the government of the UAE has imposed stringent health screening measures and enhanced travel restrictions at airports. Travelers are advised to reconfirm their travel plans to avoid inconvenience.

The national airlines of the UAE are Emirates and Etihad. Gulf Air also offers services in the region. Emirates and Etihad operate flights between Dubai and international destinations. Gulf Air operates to and from all UAE airports.

Rotana Jet is an airline based in Abu Dhabi, which commenced domestic flights in 2012.

Air Arabia is a low-cost airline based at Sharjah International Airport, offering national and international flights, mainly to other Middle Eastern destinations.

- Air Arabia
Web: www.airarabia.com/en
- British Airways
Web: www.britishairways.com
- Emirates
Web: www.emirates.com
- Etihad
Web: www.etihad.com
- Rotana Jet
Web: <http://rotanajet.com>

Approximate Flight Times

From	To	Flight Time (hours and minutes)
Frankfurt	Dubai	6.00
Hong Kong	Dubai	8.00
London	Abu Dhabi	6.35
London	Dubai	7.45
Los Angeles	Dubai	19.55
New York (direct flight)	Dubai	14.00
Toronto	Dubai	14.10
Sydney	Dubai	16.15

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Bus Travel

International bus routes run from Abu Dhabi to Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Only Gulf Cooperation Council countries (GCC) citizens are permitted to travel on these buses. GCC countries include Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

The Public Transport Agency provides inter-emirates bus services on various routes, in addition to several other routes served by Al Ghazal and Al Jawaher companies, linking Dubai Emirate with all the other emirates and cities across the UAE. Details of routes are on the Roads and Transport Authority website.

There are certain bus travel rules. The most important rule is that women travel in the front section of the bus and men in the rear section.

- **Road and Transport Authority**
Tel: +971 4 284 4444
Email: ASK@rta.ae
Web: www.rta.ae

Domestic Air Travel

Domestic air services are also available from a few international carriers, which operate short-haul flights around the immediate Gulf States from Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Al Ain. These airlines include:

- **Air Arabia**
Web: www.airarabia.com/en
- **Emirates**
Web: www.emirates.com
- **Etihad**
Web: www.etihad.com
- **Rotana Jet**
Web: <http://rotanajet.com>
- **Gulf Air**
Web: www.gulfair.com

Getting Around Abu Dhabi by Bus

The Al Ghazal Transport Company is responsible for the bus transport in the city. They also operate a 24-hour taxi service and offer cars, including stretch limousines, for rent. A recent addition to the transport system is a bus shuttle service between Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Dubai.

The Department of Transport (DoT) in Abu Dhabi began a bus service in 2008. They operate a fleet of modern buses with nine routes. The OJRA website has an interactive map of routes. Since 2011, the services operate 24 hours a day.

Since October 2015, bus fare payment is available using the Hafilat Smart Card. Cash payments are no longer accepted. The card is available in several categories. The Hafilat card enables users to recharge their cards at ticket offices, ticket vending machines, or at Swift Reloaders. All these facilities are available in malls and other strategic locations in the city. Hafilat cards are available at bus stations, shopping malls, ticket vending machines, or from the customer care centers. Temporary cards and permanent cards are available, depending on how long you plan to stay in the city. The Hafilat Card works on the same principle as the NOL Card in Dubai. The website has more information.

The Big Bus Company operates open-top sightseeing buses in Abu Dhabi, seven days a week, from 9am until 5pm. The bus tickets are valid for 24 hours and permit a 'hop-on hop-off' facility.

Some bus services have an app to download.

There are certain bus travel rules. The most important rule is that women travel in the front section of the bus and men in the rear section. Eating and drinking are not allowed on the buses.

Bus stations and bus shelters have air-conditioners and are in a tidy condition. Waiting time for public buses is around five minutes for inner-city travel and about 20 minutes to 30 minutes for longer distances.

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Bus services include:

- **Abu Dhabi Digital Government**
Web: www.abudhabi.ae/portal/public/en/citizens
Comments: See the "Vehicles & Transport" page on the website for all bus travel information in Abu Dhabi. The website also has details of the Hafilat travel card
- **Abu Dhabi Region Bus Services**
Tel: 800 5 55 55 (within UAE)
Web: https://itc.gov.ae/Transport-in-Abu-Dhabi/Public-Transport/Buses#buses-publications_e=0
- **Al Ghazal Transport Company**
Tel: +971 2 550 2160
Email: bus@adnh.com
Web: www.agt.ae
- **Big Bus Company**
Tel: +971 800 244 287
Web: <https://www.bigbustours.com/en/abu-dhabi/abu-dhabi-bus-tours>
Comments: Make sure that you download the app with which you can manage your bus travel
- **Department of Transport - DoT**
Tel: 800 88888 (toll free within UAE)
Email: customer.care@dot.abudhabi.ae
Web: <https://dot.gov.abudhabi/en/home>
Comments: The website offers extensive information about bus travel in Abu Dhabi
- **The website has information about the Hafilat card**
Web: <https://www.dubizzle.com/blog/cars/hafilat-abu-dhabi/>

The planned Abu Dhabi Metro and Abu Dhabi tram projects have faced delays and have no anticipated completion dates. The tram system will connect with the new metro system.

Getting Around Abu Dhabi by Car Rental

There are also numerous car rental agencies and private companies operating in Abu Dhabi. The international companies have several branches in the city. The opening hours are generally shorter than those at the airport. See the car rental regulations as listed earlier in this document.

- **Avis**
Tel: +971 2 666 6138 (city office at Intercontinental Hotel)
Web: www.avisuae.ae
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 8am to 5pm; closed Friday
- **Budget**
Tel: +971 2 443 8426
Web: www.budget-uae.com
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 8am to 8pm; closed Friday
- **Europcar**
Tel: +971 2 443 8430 (Khalifa Residential Complex)
Web: www.europcar-abudhabi.com
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 8am to 8pm; closed Friday
- **Hertz**
Tel: +971 2 672 0060, 800 43789 (toll free within UAE)
Web: <https://www.hertz.ae/>
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 8am to 7pm; closed Friday
- **National Car Rental**
Tel: +971 2 513 9810
Web: www.nationalcar.com
Hours: Saturday to Wednesday 7.30am to 5.30pm; Thursday 7.30am to 1.30pm; closed Friday
- **SIXT**

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Tel: +971 2 550 7478 (city branch)
Web: <https://www.sixt.ae/#/>
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 8am to 9pm; closed Friday

Getting Around Abu Dhabi by Cycling

Cycling along the streets of the city is not recommended, due to traffic conditions and driver recklessness. There are no official bicycle lanes in the general city areas.

There are a number of suitable areas, where you can ride your bike and renting options are available. However, according to reports, some rental facilities are not reliable. There are also ample bicycle shops where you can buy bicycles and accessories.

For casual cycling for the whole family, the best area is along the Corniche, which has a 12 km bike path. The path stretches from Port Said to the Marina Mall. The route is completely flat and suitable for children. The path can be busy at times. You also need to be careful of pedestrians crossing the cycle path in some areas.

For more experienced riders, there is the Al Watha Cycle Track, which is about a 20-minute drive from the Al Maqta area, on the E22 Abu Dhabi-Ain Road. The track is suitable for road bikes and mountain bikes. The route weaves through the dunes and is very scenic at sunrise and sunset. The track is illuminated at night, which makes it suitable for night riding. There are five courses, ranging from 8 km to 30 km. There is a shop on the route, where you can buy refreshments.

The Yas Marina Circuit is open every Sunday and Tuesday evening from 6pm to around 10 pm and offers a relaxing way to enjoy your cycling. Good quality bicycles and helmets are available at the location. The cost is around AED 50 per hour and AED 75 for two hours. The circuit is 5.5 km long with some good uphill areas.

There is a new 2 km route at the Abu Dhabi City Golf Club, where you can ride from 10am to 11pm. This facility is not open on Sundays.

There are over 50 bicycle stations in the city, where you can rent a bicycle. Various sizes are available, making it accessible for all types of riders. A number of renting options are available at the bike stations, ranging from one-day passes to one-year membership. To rent a bike you can only pay with a bankcard. Full details are on the website. The Cycle Mobile App allows users to find the nearest station, view numbers of available bicycles, plan routes and share rides with friends. It is free to download on iOS and Android phones.

Safety is important and therefore, wearing proper headgear, while riding your bicycle, is compulsory.

Cycling route information for experienced riders is available on the Map My Ride website.

Rental facilities, sales outlets and cycling route information are available as follows:

- **Bikeshare (Cycle)**
Web: www.bikeshare.ae
Comments: The group has several bike stations in the city - the website has location map. Membership is required to make use of this service. The membership application form is on the website
- **Fun Ride Sports**
Web: <https://www.facebook.com/FunRideSports>
Comments: They have bikes available at locations in the city - the website has location details. A brand new cycle station also opened at the Abu Dhabi City Golf Club
- **Where to go Cycling in Abu Dhabi**
Web: <http://whatson.ae/abudhabi/2015/02/where-to-go-cycling-in-abu-dhabi>
Comments: The website has details about cycling venues around the city
- **Map My Ride**
Web: www.mapmyride.com/ae/abu-dhabi-abu-dhabi
Comments: The website has cycling route information

Getting Around Abu Dhabi by Ferry

The Department of Transport operates two passenger and vehicle ferries to and from Delma Island through Jabal Al Dhanna (Mugharaq Port) and Delma Island Port. Both ferries have daily trips departing from each port, making it possible to visit Delma Island and return to the mainland in one day.

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If you plan to take the Delma ferry, you must have the following documents with you before proceeding to the port:

- Identification, such as a passport
- Vehicle registration card, if you want to transport your car

Ticket prices, for persons above the age of 12 years are AED 20. Children under 12 years of age, travel free of charge. The tariff for a vehicle is AED 100.

Timetables and ports locations are available on the website. It is important to check the weather conditions with the Abu Dhabi weather service before you finalize your ferry booking.

- **The Weather Network - Abu Dhabi Weather**
Tel: 7000 13000 (in English within UAE)
Web: www.theweathernetwork.com/ae/weather/-/abu-dhabi
- **Ferry Services - Department of Municipal Affairs and Transport**
Tel: 800 88 888 (within UAE)
Email: customer.care@dot.abudhabi.ae
Web: <https://itc.gov.ae/Transport-in-Abu-Dhabi/Public-Transport/Ferries>

Getting Around Abu Dhabi by Taxi

The primary means of local transport in Abu Dhabi is by taxi. Very reasonably priced and available in profusion, taxis are mainly white and yellow in color. The official fares are AED 5.00 initial meter charge, and AED 1.82 per kilometer for the new silver taxis only (March 2022). Night fares, from 10pm to 6am, are slightly more expensive.

Al Ghazal taxis cost approximately three times more than the street taxis. However, you will find they are normally of higher quality, cleaner and the drivers speak English. Street taxis are nevertheless of a good standard and you should not normally expect to pay more than AED 5 for a standard trip. In Abu Dhabi, the streets are often known by names other than their official names, therefore it is easier to quote landmarks rather than road names. Since post is delivered to post boxes, rather than premises, it is less crucial to clearly number properties.

There is a central booking facility for taxi services in the city.

- **Centralized Booking Center for Taxis**
Tel: 600 535 353 (within UAE)

Recommended taxi services include:

- **Al Ghazal Transport**
Tel: +971 2 635 6060
Web: www.alghazaltransport.ae
Comments: Taxi and limousine services available
- **National Taxi**
Tel: +971 2 554 2231
Web: www.nationaltaxi.ae

Getting Around Dubai by Boat and Water Bus

The RTA is also responsible for the water link between Deira and Bur Dubai. The crossing is by motorized boat. The cost to cross the creek is AED 2, payable by NOL card. The motorized abra currently operates across the creek, linking Deira and Bur Dubai areas. The service operates from 6am to midnight and the journey time is about five minutes.

The Water Bus service was inaugurated in mid-2009. Ten boats operate the routes, which contribute to alleviating traffic congestion in Dubai, by crossing the Dubai creek. These special Dubai water taxis can be found all along the creek in Dubai. The service operates daily from 10am to 10pm. You pay the fare once the water taxi is out on the water.

The waterbus service operates three routes:

- Dunai Marina Mall to Dubai Marina Promenade
- From Dubai Marina Walk to Dubai Marina Mall
- From Dubai Marina Walk to Marina Terracel

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- From Dubai Marina Promenade to Dubai Marine Terrace

For all the routes, tickets cost from AED 2. With a NOL card, tickets cost AED 3 for a single trip and AED 4 for a round trip.

- **Water Bus**
Tel: 800 9090 (within UAE)
Web: www.rta.ae/wpsv5/links/special_needs/en/waterbus.html

Getting Around Dubai by Bus

The public transport system in Dubai is run by the Dubai Roads and Transport Authority (RTA). They have an extensive network across the city, including the airport and the free port zone of Jebel Ali. The RTA has introduced air-conditioned bus stops to ease commuters' journeys. They also operate six express bus lines with limited stops. The website has a comprehensive map of the routes around the area.

The NOL Card is a smart card that enables you to pay to use RTA transport in Dubai with a single card. You can use the NOL Card to travel on Dubai's metro, buses, waterbuses, as well as to pay for RTA Paid Parking. Various types of NOL cards are available. Details of fares, zones and types of card are available on the RTA website. Application procedures and management options for your NOL Card are available on the website. Online top-up facilities require secure registration.

These cards do not automatically mean you have a valid ticket. Smart cards have to be inserted into the machine on the bus and a ticket obtained. Individual tickets require exact change for the machine. Passes must be handed to the driver for inspection. Animals are not permitted on the buses, and the first three rows are reserved for females only.

The Big Bus Company operates open-top sightseeing buses in Dubai seven days a week from 9am until 5pm. The bus tickets are valid for 24 hours and permit a 'hop-on hop-off' facility. Tickets are available on line, from most hotels, outside the Wafi Shopping Mall or Mall of the Emirates, on the bus or by telephone. The Big Bus app for your cell phone is available on the website and gives you information about the service, including timetables and routes.

Apps for your cell phone are now available. The websites have details how to download the apps.

- **Big Bus Company**
Tel: +971 4 340 7709
Web: www.bigbustours.com/en/dubai/dubai-bus-tours
- **Bus Routes Dubai**
Web: <http://gulfnews.com/guides/life/community/complete-guide-to-rta-bus-routes-in-dubai-1.1565349>
Comments: All bus routes in Dubai are listed on the website
- **Dubai Bus**
Web: <http://www.dubai-bus.com/>
- **Dubai Roads and Transport Authority (RTA)**
Tel: +971 4 284 4444, 800 9090 (toll free – customer services)
Web: www.rta.ae
- **NOL Travel Card**
Tel: +971 4 284 4444, 800 9090 (toll free – customer services)
Web: www.nol.ae

Getting Around Dubai by Car Rental

Check the car rental regulations listed earlier in this document. The following international companies have rental offices in the city and at the international airport:

- **Avis**
Tel: +971 4 295 7121 (city office)
Email: customerservice@avisuae.ae
Web: www.avis.ae
- **Budget**
Tel: +971 4 884 0022
Email: reservations@budget-uae.com

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Web: www.budget-uae.com

- **Europcar**
Tel: +971 4 319 8162 (city office)
Email: reservations@europcar.ae
Web: www.europcardubai.com
Comments: There are several locations around the city. The website has details
- **Hertz**
Tel: +971 4 701 1239 (city office)
Email: reservations@hertz.ae
Web: <https://www.hertz.ae/>
Comments: There are several locations around the city. The website has details
- **National Car Rental**
Tel: +971 4 283 2020
Email: reservationsncr@national-ae.com
Web: www.national-ae.com
- **SIXT**
Tel: +971 4 384 7301
Web: <https://www.sixt.com/car-rental/united-arab-emirates/dubai/#/>

Getting Around Dubai by Cycling

Bike riding is growing fast in the UAE and there is a good support network for bike enthusiasts in Dubai. The government is also actively promoting cycling as a way of maintaining fitness.

The use of headgear is compulsory. Wearing reflective clothing for night rides, as well as having sufficient front and rear lighting is required. Certain areas are banned for cyclists, such as pedestrian paths. Riding in these areas, will attract a fine of AED 200. Cyclists are also not allowed to ride on roads with a 60 km/h speed limit, or on major roads or highways. Cyclists are encouraged to use internal roads and dedicated cycle paths.

There are suitable cycling areas in Dubai, including areas for children. These areas include:

- **Al Barsha Park.** The park has a 1.5 kilometers path and is popular for families with small children. The park is open daily from 8am to 10pm. The area is located next to the Barsha Mall
- **Al Qudra Cycle Path.** There are two cycle paths stretching over 86 kilometers. The first section is 18 km long. The path is suitable for long-distance riders
- **Dubai Autodrome.** This closed circuit is 2.5 kilometers long. Entry to the area is free. Helmet wearing is compulsory
- **Jumeirah Open Beach Track.** Located on the beach front, this 2 km cycle path is very popular with all ages
- **Mushrif Park.** The area is located in Mirdif, where a large expat community resides. There is a 4.5 kilometers cycle path. Entry fees to the park apply
- **Nal Al Sheba Cycle Path.** This old camel track has been converted to a cycle path. There are routes of 4, 6 and 8 kilometers. Changing rooms, lockers and shower facilities are available. There is also an 850 meters path for children. The path has road signs to teach children about road safety. The facility is illuminated for night riding

There are a number of cycling clubs and related organizations in the city. The websites have details.

Bike rentals are available in the city. BYKY has more than 80 bike stations in the city. To make use of the service you need to register. BYKY allows you to rent a bike for up to 24 hours and also offers family fun bikes, go-karts and tricycles. A cell phone app is available on the website. A customer card, which will be allocated to the renter, makes it easy to access the stations and the facilities. Details of the registration procedure, are on the website.

Rental facilities are also available from specialist bicycle shops. Accessories are available. For those riders, who wish to buy their own bicycle, there are a few specialist stores in the city.

Cycling routes for experienced riders are listed on the Map My Ride website. The routes range from short comfortable rides, to longer routes of around 50 kilometers.

The following websites have details for cyclists.

- **BYKY Bicycle Rental**
Web: www.q8byky.com
Comments: There are various outlets in the city. The website has location details

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- **Cycle Safe Dubai**
Tel: +971 50 680 4528
Web: <http://cyclesafedubai.com>
Comments: A group of cyclists, who ride together at the Autodrome on Wednesday evenings. Membership is required. Details are on the website
- **Dubai Cycle Tracks**
Web: www.visitdubai.com/en/articles/dubai-outdoors-cycling-tracks-guide
Comments: General cycling information for Dubai is on the website
- **Map My Ride**
Web: www.mapmyride.com/ae/dubai-dubai
Comments: Information about cycling routes around the city areas are on the website
- **Revolution Cycles**
Address: 5 Apex Atrium Motor City, Dubai Motor City, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 369 7441
Email: info@revolutioncycles.ae
Web: www.revolutioncycles.ae
Comments: Cycling training. They also meet at the Autodrome on Wednesday evenings
- **Trek Bikes**
Web: <http://trekbikes.ae>
Comments: There are two stores in the city. The website has address details. Bike rentals and accessories are available
- **Velo Vixens**
Web: <http://velovixensdubai.tumblr.com>, www.facebook.com/groups/vvdx
Comments: A cycle group for women riders only. You can join the group on their Facebook page
- **Wolff's Bike Shop**
Address: Sheikh Zayed Road, Before Audi Showroom, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 339 4453
Email: info@wbs.ae
Web: www.wbs.ae
Comments: Bike rental service. Helmets and accessories are available

Getting Around Dubai by Ferry

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has recently started to run a ferry service around the suburban areas of Dubai. However, this service is mostly aimed at the tourist market. It is also not yet a general mode of public transport. The service provides three trips, which run from the ferry station and return to the same station after about an one-hour sightseeing trip. To improve the appeal of the ferry service, there is an additional trip from the ferry station to another port, where passengers can disembark. There are currently three ferry stations and three ferries. The ferries provide different levels of comfort and you can choose between gold tickets or silver tickets. Ticket prices range from AED 15 to AED 75. Children travel at a reduced price. The ferries take 100 passengers each and only operate if there are at least 10 passengers on-board. Tickets and more information are available from the RTA.

Details of the waterbus, water taxi and Dubai ferry services can be found on the RTA website under Marine Transport as well as the Dubai Ferry website.

- **Dubai Ferry**
Tel: 800 9090 (within UAE)
Web: www.dubai-ferry.com
- **Dubai Roads and Transport Authority (RTA)**
Tel: 800 9090 (within UAE)
Web: www.rta.ae
- **Dubai Water Taxi**
Tel: 800 9090 (toll free within UAE)
Web: www.rta.ae/links/marine/en/dubai-water-taxi.html
Hours: The water taxi operates daily from 10am to 10pm
Comments: There is a link on the website that will take you to the water taxi booking facility

Getting Around Dubai by Metro / Subway

Disclaimer:

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To ease the traffic problems in the city, a metro system is under construction. Two lines - the Red and Green Lines, are currently operational. The complete project will be fully operational by 2030.

Line	Route
Red	Rashidiya (near Dubai International Airport) - Jebel Ali
Green	Etisalat Metro Station (Al Qusais) - Dubai Healthcare City (Umm Hurair)

Passengers can transfer between lines at either Union or Burjuman

The driverless trains are modern and efficient. The first car, which costs a little more, is designated Gold Class and features a section for women and children. The metro runs approximately every eight minutes on Saturday to Wednesday from 6am to 11pm; Thursday 6am to midnight and Friday 1pm to midnight, but the timing of the last train varies from station to station and should be checked before departure.

Fares

The fare is charged at the end of the journey and depends on the number of zones passed through. The fare is deducted when the card is tapped on one of the card readers located at the exits of Metro stations, buses or waterbuses.

New fares came into effect in November 2014, to coincide with the opening of the Dubai Tram. Fares depend on the class of NOL card used. Cash fares are not available.

If you just make one journey on the tram, however far, you will only be charged AED 4, if you are using a silver NOL card. If you do not have a NOL card, you can buy one at any tram, metro or bus station, at RTA offices, and also at many other locations including supermarkets. The NOL card is the only way to pay for travel.

A comprehensive metro guide can be downloaded from the RTA website. Planning your journey is a new feature, which is available on the RTA website.

- **Dubai Metro**
Web: www.dubaimetro.eu
- **Dubai Roads and Transport Authority (RTA)**
Tel: +971 4 284 4444, 800 9090 (toll free - customer services)
Web: www.rta.ae
Comments: The website has general public transport information
- **RTA Travel Planner**
Web: <http://wojhati.rta.ae>

Getting Around Dubai by Taxi

Dubai taxis are generally reliable and operate on a meter system. They are all cream with a different colored roof depending on the company. The initial charge range is AED 5 and then AED 1.82 per kilometer (March 2022). Night tariffs may be slightly higher.

The above rates are for taxis hailed on the street. Rates are higher for taxis booked in advance.

Expatriates generally use Dubai Taxis (other taxi companies are very small). National Taxi is a subsidiary of Dubai Taxi.

- **CARS Taxis - Blue Top Taxis**
Tel: +971 4 269 3344, 800 8294
Web: www.carstaxi.ae
- **Dubai Taxi Corporation**
Tel: 800 88088 (within UAE)
Web: www.dubaitaxi.ae

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- **National Taxi**
Tel: +971 4 339 0002
Web: www.nationaltaxi.ae

Additional reading about taxi services in Dubai is available on the Dubai Taxi website.

- **Dubai Taxi**
Web: <http://dubai-taxi.com>

Getting Around Dubai by Tram

One tramline opened in November 2014 and the other is under construction. The opening of the lines is in phases from November 2014. Phase one starts from Dubai Marina, passes through Jumeirah Beach Road, Dubai Knowledge Village, Dubai Media City, Dubai Internet City and ends at Al Sufouh. There is a map on the website.

The tram operates from 6.30am to 1.30am Saturday to Thursday and 9am to 1.30am on Friday. Trams run at six to 12 minute intervals. Payment is with a NOL Card and there is a gold class and a silver class. Separate facilities are available women and children. The tram provides services to 11 stations over a distance of 10.6 km. The tram is safe to use and has security police onboard. Services include Wi-Fi internet connections. To make your public transport travel easier, you must download the app. The NOL app has 26 transactional, interactive and information services covering all public transport facilities. The NOL app is available on the RTA website.

- **Dubai Roads and Transport Authority (RTA)**
Tel: +971 4 284 4444, 800 9090 (toll free – customer services)
Web: www.rta.ae
- **Dubai Tram**
Tel: 800 9090 (within UAE)
Email: ASK@rta.ae
Web: www.rta.ae/wps/portal/rta/ae/public-transport/tram/about-tram
Comments: The NOL app can be downloaded from the RTA website
- **Dubai Tram Guide**
Tel: 800 9090 (within UAE)
Web: www.rta.ae/links/handy-guide/tram-handy-guide-en.pdf

International Airports

In 2016, a departure tax was introduced in Dubai airport, but is included in the ticket prices.

Abu Dhabi

The Abu Dhabi government has implemented restrictions for people traveling between Abu Dhabi and other emirates as preventive measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. Travelers who are not vaccinated must present negative COVID-19 PCR test results issued within 48 hours, or negative laser DPI blood test results issued within 24 hours. On top of that, those who are entering Abu Dhabi using a negative COVID-19 PCR test will have to do another COVID-19 PCR test on the fourth day and additionally on day eight after arrival. If a negative DPI test result was used for entry, then a COVID-19 PCR test must be conducted on the third day and the seventh day of entry. Vaccinated travelers do not have to have a negative test within 48 hours, but must still have taken a PCR test within seven days after their arrival in the country.

The airport is open 24 hours a day and is located 32 km (20 miles) east of Abu Dhabi city. There are three terminals and airport facilities include a bank, bureau de change, post office, ATMs, café, restaurant and shops, and also free Wi-Fi access provided to airport passengers. Abu Dhabi airport has a 5-star VIP area, consisting of a gymnasium and health club, with sauna and Jacuzzi, a business lounge with internet facilities and even an 18-hole sand golf course. Travel to the city takes approximately 40 minutes. Abu Dhabi airport is one of the three home bases of the international airline Gulf Air.

A complimentary shuttle service is available between the terminals every 15 minutes. Shuttle stops are signposted and are located outside Terminal 1 at Entrance 5 (upper curbside) and at Terminal 2 in front of Departures.

An additional check-in terminal located in Abu Dhabi city permits passengers to check in their luggage and obtain a boarding pass, saving time on arrival at the international airport. This service is provided free of charge for all business and first class passengers.

- **Abu Dhabi International Airport (AUH)**
Tel: +971 2 505 5555

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Web: www.abudhabiairport.ae

Getting Downtown - Bus

There is an air-conditioned bus service to and from the airport and Abu Dhabi city. The service number A1 has green and white buses, which depart from:

- The lower curbside outside Terminals 1 and 3 and outside Terminal 2
- The Cargo Building
- The Police Complex

All bus stops are clearly indicated with blue and white signs. The bus stops at each of the three terminals and at all authorized bus stops going into the city. Services operate every 40 minutes for 24 hours a day and the journey time to the city center is about 45 minutes, depending on the traffic. The single fare is AED 4

Getting Downtown - Taxis and Limousines

There are two types of taxis available at Abu Dhabi International Airport: metered taxis and limousines. For passengers arriving at Terminal 1 or Terminal 3, both services are available from the taxi pick-up area outside Terminals 1 and 3. For passengers arriving at Terminal 2, there are taxis outside the terminal. For a limousine from Terminal 2, enquire at any of the Customer Service desks. Fixed limousine rates are listed at the curbside pick-up point, which lists fares according to destination. These fares are controlled by Abu Dhabi International Airport. Many foreign currencies are accepted. Fares range from AED 79 to AED 90 (March 2022).

An indoor taxi line system has been established to ensure that passengers remain in air-conditioned comfort while queuing for a taxi. Abu Dhabi has launched a centralized booking center to make a taxi reservation. Services operate 24 hours.

The call center will be able to assist you with any taxi related enquiries.

- **Centralized Booking Center for Taxis**
Tel: 600 535 353 (within UAE)

Taxis services, which provide airport transfer services, include:

- **Al Ghazal Transport**
Tel: +971 2 635 6060
Email: taxi@adnh.com
Web: www.alghazaltransport.ae
Comments: Taxi and limousine services available
- **National Taxi**
Tel: +971 2 554 2231
Web: www.nationaltaxi.ae

The national air carrier, Etihad, provides free transport from the airport. Etihad Chauffeur Service is available free for Etihad passengers flying First or Business Class. The service must be booked at least 24 hours in advance. The booking facility is available on the website. The Etihad Chauffeur Desk and Lounge is located within the Arrivals meet and greet area at the airport. The Etihad Coach Service is free for Etihad Economy Class passengers and is located at Terminal 1. A boarding card is required for free access. The Etihad Express service must be booked 24 hours prior to travel. Passengers traveling on flights operated by Etihad Airways, Virgin Australia, Air Seychelles, Air Serbia, Jet Airways, Alitalia, Niki, Royal Air Maroc, Hainan Airlines, Bangkok Airways, Vietnam Airlines and Garuda are eligible for the free service of Etihad coach.

- **Etihad Express Coaches**
Tel: +971 2 511 0000
Web: www.etihad.com/en-ae/experience-etihad/etihad-express
Comments: The form to make your booking for the transfer service is on the website

Help with taxi services can be found at the Abu Dhabi Police Counter in the Arrivals terminal. Customers who prefer a private limousine can enquire at any of the Customer Service desks.

Taxi apps are becoming more popular. By downloading the app, you will be able to find a taxi, which suits your price range and quality rating. The app automatically locates you and shows the driver approaching on the map. A one-time registration is required from some dispatchers. A smart-phone or android is required.

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Uber suspended its services in Abu Dhabi in 2016.

The use of the taxi app is free of charge. Downloads are available on the website.

- **Abu Dhabi Taxi App**
Web: <https://itc.gov.ae/>
- **Careem**
Web: <https://www.careem.com/en-ae/careem-ride/>

Car Rental

Foreign nationals from most western countries can drive a rented car, if they are in possession of their home country license. However, foreign nationals from some countries are required to also have an international driver's license. It is important to check on these requirements when making your booking. The minimum age to rent a car is 23 years, but this regulation may differ with service providers. A young-driver surcharge usually applies for drivers under the age of 25 years. It is recommended that you check on the correct age requirements when making your booking. Bookings in advance are recommended. Credit cards are accepted.

Most dispatchers now have a convenient cell phone app, which you can download, to assist you with your car rental requirements. The websites have details.

International and national car rental companies are located in Skypark Plaza which is opposite Terminal 3, a short walk from Terminals 1 and Terminal 3. From Terminal 2, Skypark Plaza is a short, free bus journey using the inter-terminal shuttle which operates every 20 minutes from outside Terminal 2. The rental offices are open 24 hours.

- **Avis**
Tel: +971 2 599 8826
Web: www.avis.ae
- **Budget**
Tel: +971 2 599 8969
Web: www.budget-uae.com
- **Europcar**
Tel: +971 2 599 8959
Web: www.europcar-abudhabi.com
- **Hertz**
Tel: +971 2 599 8939
Web: www.hertz.ae
- **SIXT**
Tel: +971 2 550 7478
Web: www.sixt.ae

Dubai

All people entering Dubai need to present a negative COVID-19 PCR test made not more than 72 hours before arriving in the country. Travelers will have to show their COVID-19 PCR report as a QR code linked to the original report for verification purposes. Updates about the new travel guidelines and screening measures are available on the Government of Dubai website.

Dubai's airport is regarded as one of the best in the world. Currently three terminals serve the airport. Most international flights arrive and depart from Terminal 1. Approximately 100 airlines fly in and out of Dubai, connecting the city to over 140 destinations across the world. Facilities include:

- Health Center, including swimming pool, jacuzzi and sauna
- Two business centers, including internet access, fax, telephone and secretarial services all available 24-hours
- 24-hour banking facilities
- 25 food and drink outlets serving a range of international cuisine, from fast food outlets to an à la carte restaurant
- Mother's lounge and children's play area
- Post office operating full services 24 hours
- Fully equipped medical center
- Lounges; first class, business class, individual airline lounges and a free of charge 'quiet' lounge with special reclining chairs

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- Dubai Duty Free shopping complex
- Special needs services and prayer rooms

Dubai International offers a 24-hour inter-terminal shuttle bus service, solely for passengers transferring airside between Terminals 1, 2 and 3. On exiting Dubai International, passengers can also take the Metro to travel between Terminal 1 and Terminal 3.

As with Abu Dhabi, Dubai International Airport has a VIP check-in area (Val Majlis) and provides special baggage clearance facilities, as well as immigration and check-in services. This facility is open to all passengers. A fee is payable and reservations must be made at least 24 hours in advance. The passengers enjoy both VIP and VVIP services including private office facilities, showers and exclusive dining.

- **Dubai International Airport (DXB)**
Tel: +971 4 224 5555
Web: www.dubaiairports.ae

Getting Downtown - Bus

The airport is easily accessible by public transport. Bus stops are located outside Terminals 1, 2 and 3. For up-to-date routes and times, visit the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) website.

Passengers need to buy a NOL card in advance. It is not possible to pay the driver in cash. Various NOL cards are available. The price of the card ranges from AED 2 to AED 70. The cards are available online or at bus stations. You can also perform a top-up of the card on the website. A Red paper ticket is also available at a cost between AED 4 and 8.5 AED, depending on the zone you transfer through.

Special air-conditioned Dubai International buses with ample luggage space have also been introduced. These buses serve the most popular corridors in the city center.

There is also a bus (F55), which runs every hour from the airport to the Ibn Battuta metro station, during the metro's operational hours.

- **NOL Card**
Tel: 800 90 90 (toll free within UAE)
Web: www.nol.ae
- **Roads and Transport Authority (RTA)**
Tel: 800 90 90 (within the UAE)
Web: <https://www.dubai-online.com/transport/buses/>
Comments: The website has information about NOL cards and other bus travel tips

Getting Downtown - Metro

Dubai's Metro operates automated trains that run at 10 minute intervals, between 10 stations located across the city. The metro Red Line can be accessed directly from Terminal 1 and Terminal 3. Current rules allow commuters to carry up to two pieces of luggage. Air-conditioned walkways equipped with escalators and elevators have been built to link the arrival and departures lounges of the terminal buildings with the Dubai metro stations.

The metro operates Saturday to Thursday from 6am to midnight and Friday from 1pm to 1am. There is a separate carriage for women and children only. For more information, visit the Roads & Transport Authority website.

In order to use the metro, you need to have a NOL card or a NOL Red Ticket. Different cards are available. The website has comprehensive details.

An app is available for your cell phone, which will help you to manage your metro rail travel. With the app you can also refill your parking account, renew your vehicle registration and perform other useful features. The app is available on the website.

A series of information videos are on the RTA website, which will assist travelers to the UAE to familiarize themselves with the public transport system.

- **Dubai Metro**
Tel: +971 4 284 4444
Web: www.godubai.com/dubaimetro/dubaimetrotimings.html
- **Dubai Metro**
Tel: +971 4 284 4444
Web: www.dubai-online.com/transport/metro

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- **NOL Card**
Tel: 800 90 90 (toll free within UAE)
Web: www.nol.ae
- **Roads & Transport Authority – Dubai Metro**
Tel: +971 4 284 4444, 800 9090 (toll free within UAE)
Web: www.rta.ae
Comments: See the Public Transport Services page
- **RTA Dubai App**
Web: www.rta.ae/links/promotions/en/rta-dubai-app.html

Getting Downtown - Taxi

Taxis operate around the clock. They are the most common way of getting to the city. Dubai Transport taxis operate a service from the airport. A limousine service is also available. The pink top taxis are reserved for ladies and families. There is an AED 20 surcharge from the airport. General taxi tariffs from the airport to the city range from AED 55 to AED 91.

Recommended taxis from the airport include:

- **Arabia Taxis - Blue Top Taxis**
Tel: +971 4 285 511
- **CARS Taxis - Blue Top Taxis**
Tel: +971 4 269 3344, 800 82 94 (toll free within Dubai)
Web: www.carstaxi.ae
- **Dubai Taxi**
Tel: +971 4 208 0808
Web: <http://dubai-taxi.com>
- **Dubai Taxi Corporation**
Tel: 800 88088 (within Dubai)
Web: www.dubaitaxi.ae
- **National Taxi**
Tel: +971 4 339 0002
Web: www.nationaltaxi.ae

Taxi apps are becoming more popular. By downloading the app, you will be able to get hold of a taxi, which suits your price range and quality rating. The app automatically locates you and shows the driver approaching on the map. A one-time registration is required from some dispatchers. A smartphone or android is required.

The use of the taxi apps is free of charge. The download facilities are available on the websites.

- **Careem**
Web: <https://www.careem.com/en-ae/>
- **RTA Smart Taxi App**
Web: www.rta.ae
Comments: See the Public Transport Services page
- **Uber**
Web: www.uber.com/en-GB/cities/dubai

Car Rental

Foreign nationals from most western countries can drive a rented car, if they are in possession of their home country license. However, foreign nationals from some countries are required to also have an international driver's license. It is important to check on these requirements when making your booking. The minimum age to rent a car is 23 years, but this regulation may differ with service providers. A young-driver surcharge usually applies for drivers under the age of 25 years. It is recommended that you check on the correct age requirements when making your booking. Bookings in advance are recommended. Credit cards are accepted.

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Most dispatchers now have a convenient cell phone app to download. The websites have details.

The airport has around 15 car rental companies, with the majority providing chauffeur services. They are located in the arrival halls and are open 24 hours. Advance reservations are usually required. Desks are usually open 24 hours.

- **Avis**
Tel: +971 4 224 5219
Web: www.avis.ae
- **Budget**
Tel: +971 4 224 5192
Email: reservations@budget-uae.com
Web: www.budget-uae.com
- **Europcar**
Tel: +971 4 220 3933, +971 4 224 5240
Email: reservations@europcar.ae
Web: www.europcardubai.com
- **Hertz**
Tel: +971 4 224 5222
Email: reservations@hertz.ae
Web: <https://www.hertz.ae/>
- **National Car Hire**
Tel: +971 4 220 3023, +971 4 224 5056
Email: reservationsncr@national-ae.com
Web: www.national-ae.com
- **SIXT**
Tel: +971 4 220 0777
Web: www.sixt.ae

Other International Airports

Airport	Website
Al Ain International Airport	www.adac.ae/english/what-we-do/airports/al-ain-international-airport
Sharjah International Airport	www.sharjahairport.ae
Fujairah International Airport	https://fujairah-airport.ae/
Ras al-Khaimah International Airport	www.rakairport.com

Rail Travel

There are no railways in the United Arab Emirates. However, the United Arab Emirates intends to construct a nationwide railway network connecting all seven kingdoms of the UAE and with Saudi Arabia and Oman. It is hoped that the railway will increase trade between the emirates and ease traffic congestion.

Sea and River Travel

The UAE's main international ports are all commercial ports and are not designed for tourists. Some companies can offer ferry services to Iran, such as Naif Marine, which connects Dubai to Iraq.

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has recently started to run a ferry service around the immediate areas of Dubai. However, this service is mostly aimed at the tourist market and does not yet travel to other countries. It is also not yet a general mode of public transport. The service

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provides three trips, which run from the ferry station and return to the same station after about a one-hour sightseeing trip. To improve the appeal of the ferry service, there is an additional trip from the ferry station to another port, where passengers can disembark. There are currently three ferry stations and three ferries. The ferries provide different levels of comfort and passengers can choose between gold tickets or silver tickets. Ticket prices range from AED 15 to AED 75. Children travel at a reduced price. The ferries take 100 passengers and only operate if there are at least 10 passengers onboard. Tickets and more information are available from the RTA.

- **Dubai Ferry**

Tel: 800 90 90 (within the UAE)

Web: www.dubai-ferry.com

Comments: The website has more information about ferry timings and routes

- **Road and Transport Authority - Dubai Ferry**

Tel: +971 4 284 4444, 800 90 90 (within UAE)

Email: ASK@rta.ae

Web: www.rta.ae/wps/portal/rta/ae/public-transport/marine/dubai-ferry

Comments: The website has comprehensive information about the ferry service including a travel map

- **Naif Marine**

Tel: +971 4 396 0808, +971 4 277 7333

3.2 Driving

Accidents

In case of an accident, all persons involved should remain at the scene and contact the police. You will have to produce your vehicle registration documents and license to the police when they arrive. The police will assess blame at the scene. You will be issued with a pink form if you are deemed responsible for the accident and a green form if the accident was not your fault. You will be unable to take your vehicle to a garage to be repaired without one of these forms.

Automobile Clubs

- **Arabian Automobile Association (AAA)**

Tel: +971 4 257 8484

Web: <http://aaaemirates.com>

Comments: Based in Dubai, the AAA covers all vehicle breakdowns from flat tires to towing a vehicle for repair, and offers vehicle registration and license processing and even a lockout service. They provide a nationwide service

- **International Automobile and Touring Club UAE**

Address: Mussallam Makhtoom Building, Al Falah Street Corner, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 632 4400 (Abu Dhabi), +971 4 340 0383 (Dubai)

Email: info@iatcuae.com

Web: www.iatcuae.com

Comments: This Abu Dhabi based company provides recovery in the event of breakdown, plus lockout and gasoline delivery services. Assistance with some vehicle related administrative formalities is also available. Service available nationally

- **International Automobile and Touring Club UAE - Emergencies**

Tel: 800 5 200 (roadside emergencies)

Web: www.iatcuae.com

Automobile Dealers

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There is a very wide selection of new and used car agencies in the cities. Driving luxury cars are very much a way of life in the Emirates and there is no lack of suitable outlets in the country. Service centers and spares centers are readily available.

Agencies, which are popular with expats include:

Abu Dhabi

- ADM Abu Dhabi Motors - BMW
Web: www.bmw-abudhabi.com/en/index.html
Comments: There are various outlets in the city. The website has details
- Al Futtaim Motors - Toyota
Web: www.toyota.ae
Comments: There are two branches in the city - the website has a location map
- Honda Al Futtaim
Web: www.honda.ae/cars
Comments: There are a few centers in the city - the website has a location map
- Mercedes Benz - Abu Dhabi
Web: <https://mercedesbenzme.com/abu-dhabi/en>
Comments: There are several branches in the city - see the website for location details
- Trading Enterprises - Volvo, Dodge, Chrysler
Web: <http://tradingenterprises.ae>
Comments: There is a wide network of agencies in the city
- Volkswagen Abu Dhabi
Web: www.volkswagen-abu-dhabi.com
Comments: There are two branches in the city - see the website for details

Dubai

- Al Futtaim Motors – Toyota
Web: www.toyota.ae
Comments: There is a wide network of branches across the city
- Al Naboodah Automobiles - Volkswagen, Audi and Porsche
Web: <http://nabooda-auto.com>
Comments: The group has a few showrooms in the city - the website has details
- Al Tayer Motors - Ford
Web: www.altayermotors.com
Comments: There are a few branches in the city - the website has location details. The agency is popular with the expat community
- Mercedes Benz - Dubai
Web: <https://mercedesbenzme.com/dubai/en>
Comments: There are four branches in the nearby areas
- Trading Enterprises - Honda and Volvo
Web: <http://tradingenterprises.ae>
Comments: They have a good network of agencies in Dubai and elsewhere in the country

Automobile Insurance

You should have at least third-party car insurance if you own a car in the UAE. This type of policy covers the damages caused to another party by your car. This is the most basic and mandatory form of motor insurance as per the UAE law. The policy is usually cheaper compared to comprehensive insurance. Third-party insurance cover will not pay for any damages to your own car. If you buy a new car, the dealership will likely not release the car without full comprehensive insurance.

You should compare insurance quotations before you sign an insurance contract. There are many car insurance companies available and they all offer various insurance packages.

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There is a free quotation feature on the following website:

- Souqalamal (Car Insurance Quotations)

Web: www.souqalmal.com/ae-en/car-insurance/car-info#/journey/CarMake

Recommended car insurance companies in the UAE include:

- Dubai Insurance

Web: <https://www.dubins.ae/en>

- Noor Takaful

Web: www.noortakaful.com/p/home

- Salama

Web: <https://salama.ae/auto-takaful>

- Union Insurance Company

Web: www.unioninsurance.ae

- Watania

Web: www.watania.ae/motor

Buying a Car

Unless you have a residence visa for the UAE and an Emirates driver's license, you will not be allowed to buy a car in the UAE. Both new and used vehicles are available. The best place to look for a used car is in the local papers and on notice boards in supermarkets. There are a good number of used car dealers throughout the Emirates region.

Documentation Required

When you buy a car, both the seller of the vehicle and the buyer have to attend the traffic offices together. In order to register the car, you must take the following with you:

- Letter (in Arabic) from the seller, stating he has agreed to sell the car to you (standard forms for this are available from the Traffic Department).
- Resident's permit
- Driver's license
- Passport and photocopy
- Letter from your sponsor confirming you work for them
- Four passport sized photographs
- Proof of car insurance
- Fee
- If the vehicle is financed through a bank, take the bank documents with you. This must include the "No Objections" letter (if applicable)
- All outstanding fees, such as fines, if applicable, must be paid. There is a special website where you can check if any outstanding fines are still payable
- If the vehicle is being bought for your wife, a letter written by you and translated into Arabic must be produced, giving your permission for her to drive

Car Registration While Buying

All vehicles need to be re-registered every year. This involves a physical check of the vehicle. You will need to produce the documents listed above at each annual registration, except the letter from the vendor. If you have any outstanding traffic violation fines or parking tickets, for example, you will have to pay these before your car can be re-registered.

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Important: The date for re-registration is not necessarily the date you bought the vehicle. It is necessary to check the vehicle documentation to confirm the exact date.

Useful website when buying a car include:

- Government of Dubai - Dubai Police

Web: www.dubaipolice.gov.ae/wps/portal/home

Comments: Website that shows if there are any outstanding fines against cars being sold

- Register Car Abu Dhabi

Web: www.abudhabi.ae

Comments: See the Vehicles and Transport section on the website. The website has comprehensive information about all aspects of car ownership

- Register Car Dubai

Web: www.dubai.ae/en/Lists/HowToGuide/DispForm.aspx?ID=13

- Vehicle Testing RTA

Tel: 800 9090 (within UAE)

Web: www.rta.ae/wpsv5/links/VIMS.pdf

Comments: The document gives information about vehicle testing and vehicle safety

Driving in United Arab Emirates

Despite well-maintained roads, and modern vehicles, traffic accidents are the leading cause of death in the UAE. Dangerous driving is commonplace and many drivers exceed the speed limits and drive too fast for the conditions. Other common hazards include unmarked speed bumps and sand on the road. Riding a motorbike is strongly discouraged in the United Arab Emirates on safety grounds. Generally, this means of transport is reserved for dispatch riders. Pedestrians should take great care in the UAE as 25% of road fatalities involve pedestrians.

Persons involved in an accident where someone has been injured, are jailed until the person is released from hospital. In the event of a death, the driver of the other vehicle is required to pay compensation of approximately USD 55,000. This is known as the 'Dhiyya.' It is essential you check your insurance covers you in this event. Minor accidents are easy to resolve, by calling the police. The police decide who is at fault, and give each driver specific papers relating to the individual's circumstances. Once the drivers have these papers, they are given to their respective insurance companies. Traffic (including parking) laws in the UAE are strict and infringements are punished by imposing fines.

The UAE has a zero limit for intoxication, and the penalties for driving under the influence of any alcohol at all can be severe. People arrested for drunk driving are generally sent to jail for many days while awaiting a court hearing, and are then subject to heavy fines, possible imprisonment, and for Muslims, even those of non-UAE origin, actual lashings.

Driving License

In order to obtain a driver's license in the United Arab Emirates, you need to verify that your job category entitles you to be able to apply for a license. Currently 36 categories of employment exempt personnel from driving, in addition to earning a wage under AED 3,500 per month.

Until you obtain full residency, most foreign nationals are able to rent a car, provided they hold a valid driver's license from their country of origin, or an International Driving License.

If you are a resident of Dubai, but have a visa issued in another emirate, then you need to obtain a transfer form, which will allow you to obtain your driver's license for Dubai. The same procedure applies when transferring residence from any emirate to another. The minimum age for obtaining a driver's license is 18 years.

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For private vehicles, a temporary license must be obtained from the Traffic Police, which is valid for one month. A privately registered vehicle cannot be driven on an International license, as the vehicle is insured for UAE license holders only. Always carry your UAE driver's license and car registration with you. If you are stopped by the police and cannot produce your license, you are liable to be fined.

New driver's licenses in the country are issued only for a period of two years. After that, the license renewal validity is 10 years for UAE citizens and five years for non-citizens.

Documentation Required

Submit the application form along with the following items:

- Passport and a photocopy of the passport
- Copy of UAE residence visa
- One passport size photograph
- Authorization letter from employer
- Original driver's license and a copy. If the original license is not in English or Arabic, you will need to get the license translated by your consulate or embassy
- Fee in cash
- Eye examination certificate
- Women may require a 'No Objection' certificate from their husbands

For more information, please contact:

- **Abu Dhabi Driving License Replacement**
Tel: 800 5000 (within UAE)
Email: dvl@adpolice.gov.ae
Web: www.abudhabi.ae/portal/public/en/citizens/vehicles-and-transport/driving-services/foreign-driving-licence-replacement
Comments: The procedures for the replacement of a driver's license as well as the fee information, are on the website
- **Dubai Government**
Web: <http://dubai.ae/en/Lists/HowToGuide/DispForm.aspx?ID=3>
Comments: The website also has information about authorized driving schools
- **General Directorate of Abu Dhabi Police**
Tel: +971 2 666 4442, 800 555 (within UAE)
Email: contact@abudhabi.ae
Web: www.abudhabi.ae
Comments: See the "Vehicles & Transport" page on the website
- **Road Transport Authority**
Tel: +971 4 284 4444, 800 9090 (within UAE)
Email: ASK@rta.ae
Web: www.rta.ae
Comments: The Road Transport Authority's website has more information about license requirements. See the Driver & Car Owner Services page
- **Traffic Police Department - Dubai**
Address: Al Quds Street, Al Twar First, Al Qusais, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 269 2222, +971 4 609 9999
Email: mail@dubaipolice.gov.ae
Web: www.dubaipolice.gov.ae
- **UAE Foreign Driving License Replacement**
Web: <http://gulfnnews.com/qn-focus/special-reports/features/how-to-convert-a-foreign-driving-licence-into-a-uae-one-1.1679567>
- **Roads and Transport Authority**
Web: <https://www.rta.ae/wps/portal/rta/ae/home/rta-services/service-details?serviceld=3704306&lang=en>

Foreign Driving License Replacement

Through this service, holders of foreign driver's licenses from accredited countries can replace their licenses with a UAE driver's license. Holders of licenses from the following countries are eligible. The license must be issued by the same country as the passport.

Australia	Ireland	Saudi Arabia

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Austria	Italy	Singapore
Bahrain	Japan	South Africa
Belgium	Kuwait	South Korea
Canada	Netherlands	Spain
Cyprus	New Zealand	Sweden
Denmark	Norway	Switzerland
Finland	Oman	Turkey
France	Poland	United Kingdom
Germany	Portugal	United States
Greece	Qatar	
Hong Kong	Romania	

The following procedure must be followed:

- Visit Traffic & Licensing Department
- Undergo eyesight examination
- Submit the Documentation Required
- Present yourself at the photography room to collect your driver's license

Documentation Required

- Passport - original and copy
- Three recent photos
- Foreign license - original and copy
- Legal translation of the license. If the original license is not in English or Arabic, you will need to get the license officially translated by your Consulate or Embassy
- No-objection letter from sponsor or workplace
- Copy of Trade license (for investors only)
- Eye sight test. In Abu Dhabi, the eye test is done directly at the Traffic and Licensing Department in Mushrif.
- Blood type
- AED 870 in fees, including AED 200 for opening a file, AED 600 for issuing a license, AED 50 for a handbook manual, and AED 20 - Knowledge and Innovation fee

In addition:

- Driver's license holders from Canada require a letter from the Canadian Consulate in Dubai to verify that the license is genuine
- Driver's license holders from Canada, Cyprus, Greece, Japan, Poland, South Korea and Turkey will require a translation of their driver's license from their respective consulates

Application Procedure for a National License

Driver's licenses can be obtained by adult UAE citizens and residents after training from an authorized driving school in Dubai. If you are 18 to 21 years of age, you can apply for a probationary license.

If you have never driven before, or have a driving license that is not on the approved list for foreign driver's license replacement (as listed above), then you must undergo training.

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Procedure

- Get an eye test done either at an optician or at your driving school
- The school will handle all paperwork with the RTA, who may even have a counter at the driving school
- Receive your temporary driver's license, which you must carry in your training car
- Once you have passed all internal tests, such as garaging and parking, your school will apply for your theory test, followed by your road test

Documentation Required

- Passport (original and copy)
- Residence permit
- No-Objection Certificate from employer
- Eight passport sized photos

Theory Test

The theory test is carried out at an authorized driving school. The test can be carried out in English, Arabic or Urdu, with more languages to be added later. If the candidate passes the theory test, they progress to the road test.

Documentation Required

- Relevant ID
- Driving file
- Two photos
- Theory test RTA fee

Road Test

On the date assigned, go with your documentation to the RTA License Section as advised by your driving school. When your name is called out, go along with the other three candidates and the RTA inspector to the designated car. You will be given just a few minutes to demonstrate driving and reaction skills.

Documentation Required

- Passport
- Driving file
- Two photos
- Completed application form
- Fees

If you fail, you will have to register with your driving school for at least seven more lessons and get a new road test date.

If you pass:

- Collect the approval paper from your inspector
- Go to the Pass Counter
- Submit along with suitable ID and the fee
- Collect your test file
- Submit to the Control Counter
- After processing, pay required fee and proceed to photo area. When your name is called out, have your photo taken
- Collect driver's license

Contact Details

- **Traffic Police Department - Dubai**
Address: Al Quds Street, Al Twar First, Al Qusais, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 269 2222, +971 4 609 9999
Email: mail@dubaipolice.gov.ae
Web: www.dubaipolice.gov.ae

Authorized Driving Schools

The procedures are similar in Abu Dhabi, but the theoretical training takes place at the Emirates Driving Company. The road training can be done at the Emirates Driving Company, or at any of the private driving institutes in Abu Dhabi. However, if you fail the road test three times, your file will be transferred to the Emirates Driving Company, where you will have to undergo the road training again.

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Further information, about training courses and other driving related matters, can be obtained from the Emirates Driving Institute. They have multiple offices in the Dubai.

- **Emirates Driving Company**
Address: Street 17, Mussaffah Industrial Area, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 551 0227
Email: info@edcad.ae
Web: www.edcad.ae
- **Emirates Driving Institute**
Address: Opposite Al Madina Supermarket, Al Quoz Mall, Al Quoz, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 323 7439
Web: www.edi-uae.com
Comments: There are two other branches in the city. The website has address details

Driving Rules and Regulations

- Vehicles are driven on the right
- The wearing of seatbelts by the driver and all passengers is compulsory, even in buses and taxis
- Children under 10 years of age are prohibited from sitting in the front of the car
- Children up to four years of age must be provided with a child safety seat
- Pedestrians have right of way, although it is an offense for a pedestrian to cross a road outside designated crossings
- It is illegal to drive while talking on a cell phone
- Drivers caught under the influence of drugs and or alcohol have their license suspended for one year, starting from the day of the verdict. The court will decide the fine and/or jail term.
- Traffic already on a roundabout has priority over vehicles approaching. Discipline on roundabouts is limited and you may well see drivers taking the quickest route rather than going all the way around to their exit. This is illegal
- It is forbidden to make a right turn at a red traffic light
- Drivers of all vehicles must stop at a minimum distance of 5m when public transport vehicles or school buses stop at authorised places to let passengers on and off
- Drivers must carry at all times while driving, a valid driver's license, registration documents and insurance documents
- You will see some drivers using the paved hard shoulder area of the highways. This is against the law

Take note that there are many hidden cameras on the roads to check the speeds of motorists.

Gasoline

Since 2016, motorists in Abu Dhabi have been able to pump their own gasoline and pay for it by swiping their Emirates ID cards. This service is not available at all service stations, but is expected to become more widely available.

Some self-service gas (petrol) stations have been available in Abu Dhabi since 2014, mainly during night hours. It is also possible to pay at the pumps, rather than in the station's convenience store.

Otherwise in the UAE, you remain in your car while the service station attendant refuels your vehicle – often they will clean your windshield too. Gas stations are abundant, as the majority of transport in the UAE is by car. Emarat and Eppco in Dubai and Adnoc and in Abu Dhabi are the only distributors. A liter of gasoline costs around AED 2.53 in Dubai and around AED 3.12 in Abu Dhabi. (March 2022).

Parking

Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi international airport offers a number of convenient parking options, which range from short-term to long-term parking. Parking areas are located at all three terminals and at the Garden Parking Car Park. Depending on the parking area and the duration, fees range from AED 10 to AED 20 per hour. There is an option to leave a car in the parking for 24 hours. The fee for this service is from AED 120 to AED 240. A valet parking facility is also available, where you can just stop at the drop-off area and then leave your car with an official driver. This service cost AED 75 per hour.

In Abu Dhabi, the government has begun a parking strategy to remedy the parking problems. Paid parking is in the form of parking meters.

The parking areas are classified into two categories, premium and standard parking. The parking fees are applicable Saturday to Thursday from 8am to midnight. Parking is free on Fridays and on public holidays and for people with special needs. Additionally, parking spaces in the vicinity of a mosque are free for 45 minutes, starting from the call for prayer (Adhan). For standard parking, up to a maximum of 24 hours, the fees are AED 2 per hour, or AED 15 per day. For premium parking up to a maximum of four hours a day, the fees are AED 3 per hour. The standard parking areas can be identified by the turquoise and black sidewalk, and the premium parking areas by the turquoise and white sidewalk.

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The first Park and Ride service was introduced in Al Bateen area. Free shuttle buses operate from 6am to 5pm Sunday to Thursday, to transport commuters from the free parking area to nearby destinations.

Payment at parking meters can be made either using coins, or by a prepaid card which costs AED 50 and is available at Mawaqif Customer Service Centers. The Mawaqif mobile service, called 'm-mawaqif', allows drivers to pay their parking fees via cell phones. After registering their Etisalat or du cell phone number online, drivers can send an SMS in a pre-defined format to the number 3009 and will receive their permit via another SMS. Drivers have to create their individual account, that is linked to the registered cell phone number. Mawaqif sends a reminder message 10 minutes before the expiry of the permit. Drivers can extend their permit for another hour, by simply sending 'E' via SMS to the number 3009.

Two new pay-parking areas opened during October 2016 in the central Abu Dhabi area, which will alleviate the city's parking problems to a certain degree. The area adds an additional 579 parking spaces in the city. These parking lots are located at two sectors, W34 in Al Bateen and W1-01 in Corniche.

Motorists should never park illegally, as it will result in a heavy fine.

Residential Permits

Residential permits allow drivers to park in the paid parking areas that are located within their own residential sector, without paying the hourly or daily rates. Each household is allotted two residential permits, which are sector and vehicle specific. The annual fees for non-UAE nationals are AED 800 for the first vehicle and AED 1,200 for the second vehicle. The residential permits are issued electronically. Residents can obtain their electronic permits from the Mawaqif Customer Service Centers.

Mawaqif has also established Residential Permit Only areas reserving 75% of the parking spaces from 9pm to 8am for resident permit holders.

Free parking is allowed on certain religious public holidays.

- **Mawaqif MWallet**
Web: www.mpark.mawaqif.ae/index.jsp
Comments: New users can register on the website. Your cellphone number is required to initiate the registration process
- **Parking Abu Dhabi**
Tel: +971 2 666 4442, 800 555 (within Abu Dhabi)
Email: contact@abudhabi.ae
Web: www.abudhabi.ae/portal/public/en/paid-parking-in-abu-dhabi

Dubai

Short-term and long-term parking facilities are available at Dubai international airport. Parking areas are located at all three terminals. Parking fees at the terminals range from AED 15 to AED 40 per hour, depending on the area.

Paid parking zones in the city are divided into three main categories: commercial, non-commercial and special areas.

Commercial

- **Zone A:** This includes all roadside parking in commercial areas. Tariff: AED 4 per hour, AED 8 for two hours, AED 12 for three hours and AED 16 for four hours. Drivers can also park for half an hour for AED 2. Costs apply continuously between 8am and 10pm
- **Zone B:** This includes all car parks in commercial zones. Tariff: AED 3 per hour, AED 6 for two hours, AED 8 for three hours, AED 12 for four hours, AED 15 for five hours and AED 20 for 24 hours. Costs apply continuously between 8am and 10pm

Non-commercial

- **Zone C:** This covers roadside parking in non-commercial areas. Tariff: AED 2 per hour, AED 5 for two hours, AED 8 for three hours, AED 11 for four hours. Costs apply continuously between 8am and 10pm
- **Zone D:** This covers all car parks in non-commercial areas. Tariff AED 2 per hour, AED 5 for two hours, AED 8 for three hours, AED 10 for 24 hours. Costs apply continuously between 8am and 10pm

Special Areas

- **Zone E:** This used to be the dedicated parking code for the Deira Fish Market. Now that the fish market has changed location, the parking logistics have also changed. The new market is called the Waterfront Market and has underground parking spaces (free) and public parking spaces (payable)
- **Zone F:** This is the dedicated parking code for parking in Tecom areas. Tariff AED 2 per hour, AED 5 for two hours, AED 8 for three hours, AED 11 for four hours. Costs apply continuously between 8am and 11pm
- **Zone G:** This includes the paid parking areas in Downtown Dubai. Costs apply continuously between 8am and 10pm

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Parking Cards

Seasonal parking cards are available.

- Roadside parking: Card rates for roadside parking are AED 1,400 for three months, AED 2,500 for six months and AED 4,500 for one year
- Car parks: Card rates are AED 700 for three months, AED 1,300 for six months and AED 2,500 for one year

Methods of Payment

There are six methods of payment for parking in Dubai.

- Coins: You can buy your ticket using coins at the nearest paid parking machine
- Prepaid card: The pre-paid parking cards are available at supermarkets and grocery stores in denominations of AED 30 and AED 100. The ticket amount is deducted from the balance on the card when inserted into its slot in the machine
- Seasonal parking cards: Seasonal parking cards are available in different values and periods of validity. Cards fall into A, B and T categories and are available for three-month, six-month and one year validity
- mParking: Send an SMS to 7275. You can opt for hourly alerts for renewing your parking tickets at an extra charge of 30 fils per SMS
- NOL Card: Using a NOL card to buy a parking ticket will deduct its price from the card balance
- Smart Parking: A free app for parking. Smart Parking charges no additional cost for transactions done on the app

Residents

A customer can obtain one card for one car, two cars or three cars, provided that this is stated when obtaining the card and that the plate numbers of the two or three cars are stated on the card. Cards are valid for three months, six months or 12 months.

Cardholders are not entitled to park in the car parks of the following areas:

- Dubai International Airport
- Dubai Media City
- Dubai Internet City
- Cards can be bought from:
 - Al Twar Centre
 - Dubai Municipality - Al Karama branch
 - Main building of Dubai Roads and Transport Authority

Documentation Required

- Copy of car registration document

Contact Details

- Dubai Parking Guide
Web: <http://gulfnews.com/guides/life/community/parking-in-dubai-complete-guide-1.1717111>
Comments: All parking tariffs for each zone are listed on the website
- Parking Cards
Web: www.dubai.ae/en/Lists/HowToGuide/DispForm.aspx?ID=42

Road Signs

Road signs in United Arab Emirates are modeled on the British and Southern African Development Community (SADC) road sign system that are regulated by the Road Traffic Authority (RTA) in Dubai and Department of Transport (DoT) in Abu Dhabi. It should not be difficult for any motorist to understand the signs. However, it is recommended that you familiarize yourself with the road signs prior to your departure to the UAE.

Listings of motoring offenses and fines, as well as other useful information, can be found on the Automotive Directory website.

- Automotive Directory of the UAE
Web: www.auto-uae.com/Rules/index.shtml
Comments: Details of traffic violations and fines are on the website
- Guide to Dubai - Dubai Road Signs
Web: www.guide2dubai.com/living/transportation/road-traffic-signs

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Speed Limits

Speed limits may vary on highways ranging from 100 km/h (60 mph) to 140 km/h (87 mph).

Built-up areas	80 km/h (50 mph)
Highways (general)	120 km/h (75 mph)

There are currently moves to reduce speed limits in order to try to reduce the number of traffic accidents. There are also indications that the speed limits may increase on certain highways, in order to reduce traffic jams due to drivers, which are driving too slow. Speeding is a particular problem on the Dubai – Abu Dhabi highway, where the speed limit has recently been reduced from 160 km/h to 140 km/h.

Minimum speed limits are also imposed on many main roads, typically at 60 km/h. The minimum speed limit on the Emirates Road and the Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Road was raised from 60 km/h to 100 km/h.

Toll Roads

There are six toll gates in the UAE. The Salik toll road system was started in Dubai in 2007, to help reduce the problem of serious congestion. Each time drivers pass through a Salik tolling point, the toll of AED 4 is deducted from their pre-paid toll account, using advanced Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology. The cost of a subscription online is AED 120, including AED 50 for the cost of the tag, AED 20 for delivery charges and AED 50 for the prepaid toll balance, which is added into the Salik account. The cost of subscription purchased from gas stations and banks costs 100 AED, including AED 50 for the cost of the tag and AED 50 for the prepaid toll balance. Tags, which are fixed to your car windshield, can be.

The website allows you to do the required secure registration for a new service and afterwards you can manage your account online.

- **Salik**
Tel: +971 4 233 5000, 800 72545 (toll free within UAE)
Web: <https://id.salik.gov.ae/core/web/login>

Vehicle Regulations

All cars must undergo regular inspection by official test centers. Car registrations must also be renewed annually. When buying a new car, the formalities of initial registration are generally dealt with by the car dealer. After that, the car can be re-registered in any Emirate.

Renewing Car Registration

The Dubai government portal provides information on renewing car registration. It is possible to renew vehicle registration online with RTA e-services. However, this only applies to owners of new vehicles that do not need testing, or vehicles that have already been tested. Since November 2010, it is also possible to renew car registration by telephone. If vehicle registration has lapsed for two years or more, the Road and Traffic Authority may decide to write off the car.

Documentation Required

- Proof of insurance
- Previous car registration card
- Valid car test certificate, if the vehicle is over two years old
- If the car is no longer financed by a bank, then the driver must also show a bank clearance certificate

Contact Details

- **RTA**
Tel: +971 4 284 4444, 800 9090 (toll free within UAE)
Web: www.rta.ae

Vehicle Tax and Annual Vehicle Inspection

Abu Dhabi

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The procedures are similar in both Abu Dhabi and Dubai, but the vehicle licensing and testing in Abu Dhabi, takes place at the Traffic and Licensing Department, or at designated ADNOC stations in the emirate. ADNOC manages Salama Vehicle Inspection Centers (VIC) in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and the Western region. These are authorized by Abu Dhabi Police for testing and inspection. In Abu Dhabi, vehicles must be tested when they are over two years old.

- **ADNOC**

Web:<https://adnocdistribution.ae>

Comments: The company has a large number of testing centers around the city. The website has a location map of these centers

- **Abu Dhabi Government Contact Center**

Tel: +971 2 666 4442, 800 555 (within Abu Dhabi)

Web:www.abudhabi.ae

Comments: See the "Vehicles and Transport" page on the website for additional car motoring information

Dubai

Vehicles over three years old must undergo an annual roadworthiness test in Dubai. Vehicles are usually tested at the same time as the car is registered. In Dubai, vehicle testing can be completed at certain RTA customer service centers, or at one of two organizations that offer this service at sites throughout Dubai.

Testing centers in Dubai include:

- **Al Ghandi Auto Group – Tamam**

Web: <https://www.alghandi.com/tamam-vehicles-testing-center/>

Comments: Approved RTA vehicle-testing center. There are many testing centers available. The website has location details

- **Tasjeel Car Testing Center**

Web:<https://www.enoc.com/Our-Businesses/Other-Businesses/Automotive-Services/Tasjeel> , www.facebook.com/TasjeelOfficial

Comments: The company has various car testing centers. Address details are on the website

An extensive list of test center locations, as well as the testing procedures, can also be found on the RTA website.

- **Vehicle Testing RTA**

Tel: 800 9090 (within UAE)

Web:www.rta.ae/wpsv5/links/VIMS.pdf

Any outstanding traffic fines must be paid before the car can be tested or registered. This can be done on the Dubai Police website. Although it is possible to make appointments, most people simply go to a testing station with the required paperwork. Ensure that no valuables are left in the car.

Documentation Required

- Passport copy
- Existing vehicle registration card

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- Fee (differs according to the vehicle type)

On arrival go to an empty bay and handover the documentation. The test is performed while the driver waits. Once the test is complete, the driver is informed whether the vehicle has passed or failed. If the vehicle fails the test, it must be repaired and re-tested within 31 days. The owner also receives a new car registration card and a date sticker, which must be stuck onto the rear number plate.

3.3 Shopping

Department Stores in Abu Dhabi

The shopping malls sometimes house department stores and boutiques selling a wide variety of goods.

- **Debenhams**
Web: <https://mystore.debenhams.com/store/972-uae-abu-dhabi-dalma-mall>
Comments: A popular British department store with a full range of clothing for men, women and children as well as furniture and items for the home. There are two branches in the city. The website has details
- **IKEA**
Address: Yas Island, close to Yas Marina Formula 1 circuit, Abu Dhabi
Tel: 971 2 493 5888, 800 4532 (toll free within UAE)
Web: www.ikea.com/ae/en
Hours: Saturday to Wednesday 10am to 11pm; Thursday and Friday 10am to midnight
Comments: A branch of the world's largest home furniture and furnishings store
- **Salam Department Store**
Address: Yas Mall, Yas Island, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 414 6401
Web: www.salams.com
Hours: Open daily from 10am to midnight
Comments: Sells a wide range of homeware, photographic items, clothing, perfumes and jewelry
- **Marks and Spencer**
Web: www.marksandspencer.com/ae
Comments: There are four branches in the city. It is a British department store selling clothing and homewares

Department Stores in Dubai

- **Bloomingdales**
Address: Dubai Mall, Al Doha Street, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 350 5333
Email: contactus@bloomingdales.ae
Web: <https://bloomingdales.ae/>
Hours: Sunday to Wednesday 10am to 10pm; Thursday to Saturday 10am to midnight
Comments: The two Bloomingdale's locations, a three-level clothing and accessories store and a one-level Home store now anchor The Dubai Mall.
- **Debenhams**
Web: <http://mystore.debenhams.com/store/894-uae-dubai-mall>
Comments: A combination of own brands, exclusive designer ranges and leading international brands, across ladies wear, cosmetics, skincare and fragrances, accessories, menswear, children's wear, lingerie and homewares. There are several branches in Dubai - the website has details
- **IKEA**
Address: Dubai Festival City, Al Rebat Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 800 4532
Web: www.ikea.com/ae/en
Hours: Sunday to Wednesday 10am to 11pm. Thursday to Saturday 10am to midnight
- **Robinsons**
Address: Ground Floor, Level 1 & 2, Dubai Festival City Mall, Dubai
Tel: +971 800 67667
Web: <https://robinsons.me>
Hours: Daily opening hours are at 10am. Sunday to Wednesday closing time is at 11pm and from Thursday to Saturday the closing time is at midnight

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Comments: They sell clothing, homeware and beauty products. There is a good restaurant at the store

- **Marks and Spencer**

Web: www.marksandspencer.com/ae/stores

Comments: There are a number of branches in the city. The new store at Dubai Festival City is the most contemporary and modern M&S store in the UAE. The store features a wide range of clothing collections for women, men and children and an extended range of home products and foods

Markets in Abu Dhabi

Traditional markets have evolved into bustling tourist attractions, selling a fascinating range of goods. Souk is Arabic for 'marketplace.' Alongside the spices, silks and perfumes, you will find electronic goods, souvenirs, clothing and household items. Abu Dhabi's souks are worth a visit for their bustling atmosphere, eclectic variety of goods and to observe the traditional way of doing business. Some of the souks selling fresh food and produce include:

- **Al Mina Fruit and Vegetable Souk**

Comments: Located inside an air-conditioned building, the market offers fresh vegetables, fruits, as well as meat and sweets. Across the road from the Fish Souk

- **Al Zafaranah Souk**

Address: Around the corner from Al Jimi Mall in Al Ain, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 3 762 1868

Hours: Open daily from 10am to 1pm and then again from 8am to midnight

Comments: A large market located in Al Ain, consisting of over 200 shops, including fruit and vegetable stores, textiles, perfumes, a popular seafood restaurant and a play area

- **Carpet Souk**

Address: Mina Road (near Abu Dhabi's main port area)

Comments: The markets stock a variety of mattresses, carpets and cushions. Special orders can be made up

- **Fish Souk**

Address: Mina Zayed Port, 31st Street

Comments: They stock freshest fish, including shrimps, sardines, hammour and sherry fish. Prices vary considerably, depending on the season and availability

- **Ripe Market**

Address: Umm Al Eramat Park, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 4 315 7000

Email: markets@ripeme.com

Web: www.ripeme.com

Hours: Saturday 3pm to 9pm

Comments: Indoor market selling organic groceries from Ripe, including fresh organic fruits and vegetables, eggs, local honey, super foods and more. Held outside during the good weather

- **The Souk at Qaryat Al Beri**

Address: Near Maqta Bridge, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 558 1670

Email: info@soukqaryatalberi.com

Web: www.facebook.com/SoukQAB

Comments: The market is located between Maqtaa and Mussafah bridges in Abu Dhabi, on the Abu Dhabi waterfront. Water taxis will take you around the souk, via the manmade canals. There is a large variety of shopping facilities, with restaurants and modern architecture

Markets in Dubai

The souks can be visited on both sides of the Dubai Creek by taking a water taxi across the creek. In Bur Dubai, Al Fahidi Street and Cosmos Lane are particularly known for their electronic goods and textiles, whereas the Karama area is home to a lot of replica merchandise. On the other side of the creek in Deira, the souks are well known for their spices and gold. One good place to visit in the old Gold souk is Chetan Jewelers, who can custom-make jewelry in just 24 hours.

Dubai's fruit and vegetable market is located in Deira adjacent to the Fish Souk and a short stroll away from the Gold Souk. The quality of items for sale can vary and bargaining is a necessity to get the best deal.

- **Farmers' Market**

Address: Souk Al Bahar on Burj Lake Island, Dubai

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Tel: +971 4 427 9856

Web: <https://www.visitdubai.com/en/places-to-visit/the-farmers-market-on-the-terrace>

Hours: Friday 10am to 5pm (between December and April)

Comments: Locally grown seasonal produce, organic eggs and poultry from farms in Dubai and the other emirates

- **Food Souk**

Address: Near Shindagha Tunnel, Deira

Hours: Saturday to Thursday 6am to 1pm and 4pm to 10pm; Friday 4pm to 10pm

Comments: The popular fish market and a smaller fruit and vegetable market make up the food souk. The seafood market sells freshly caught seafood at wholesale prices. The best times to visit are early in the morning or late in the evening as the catches come in

- **Fruit and Vegetable Market**

Address: Off Emirates Road and Al Khail Interchange in Ras Al Khor Industrial 3

Web: <https://www.visitdubai.com/en/places-to-visit/fruit-and-vegetable-market>

Hours: Saturday to Thursday 9am to 10pm; Friday 4pm to 10pm

Comments: Local and imported produce from Asia, Europe and the Mediterranean. Mainly caters to wholesale purchasers, but individual buyers are welcome to shop here

- **Ripe Market**

Tel: +971 4 315 7000 (head office)

Email: markets@ripeme.com

Web: www.ripeme.com

Hours: Saturday 9am to 2pm

Comments: The group has markets at several locations in Dubai - the website has details. They sell organic groceries, including fresh organic fruits and vegetables, eggs, local honey, super foods, tea, gluten free items and more

- **Spice Souk**

Address: Near Dubai Creek, Al Ras area of Deira

Web: www.visitdubai.com/en/pois/the-spice-souk

Hours: Saturday to Thursday 9am to 1pm and 4pm to 10pm; Friday 4pm to 10pm

Comments: They sell aromatic and colorful spices and herbs in the oldest souk in Dubai

- **Textile Souk**

Web: www.visitdubai.com/en/pois/the-textile-souk

Comments: Located in Bur Dubai, the market is a treasure trove of textiles, colors, textures and weaves from across the world

Shopping

Shopping in Abu Dhabi and Dubai is said to be an experience. There is an abundance of goods, from souvenirs to electrical items, many designer labels and goods imported from all over the world, all at very competitive prices. The majority of large shopping malls remain open during the long early afternoon break. Other shops are usually open between 9am and 9pm, closing between 1pm and 4pm. Supermarkets are normally open through the day, every day except Friday.

The souks (markets) are an experience too for the traveler. There are many souks all over the emirates, some are known for trading in particular goods, such as gold or textiles. Haggling is expected in souks and you can get some worthwhile bargains. Some retailers in the souks do not accept credit cards, and not all people speak English. Many traders are now Indian, rather than Arab, but the markets still have the same bustling ambiance that they have always enjoyed.

The supermarkets and department stores provide many imported goods for their large expatriate clientele.

Shopping in Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi's shopping malls are spacious, modern and air-conditioned, a welcome escape from the summer heat and a world of choice when it comes to shopping. During celebrations such as Al-Hijra or Ramadan, malls are venues for special events, such as dance or cultural shows, often featuring international acts. They also hold numerous raffles, often with huge prizes, such as luxury cars or cash. All malls in Abu Dhabi have food courts and are non-smoking, but some cafés have designated smoking areas.

Whether it is traditional or contemporary, Abu Dhabi's shopping venues reflect the culture and lifestyles of the emirate. There are a vast number of traditional markets, as well as state of the art shopping malls and boutiques. Many prestigious brand names are available in Abu Dhabi, which is also a central market place for trading both local and regional arts and crafts.

Abu Dhabi is home to many impressive shopping malls and centers that are located in the city itself. Among the largest are the famous Marina Mall and Abu Dhabi Mall. Most of these large-scale shopping precincts feature cinemas, coffee shops and an extensive selection of restaurants.

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The main areas for department stores in Abu Dhabi are Zayed the Second, Sheikh Hamdan and Sheikh Khalifa, all of which run parallel to and behind the Corniche.

Probably the highlight of the Abu Dhabi shopper's year is the Abu Dhabi Shopping Festival held each March, selling reduced items and offering lots of prizes and special offers.

Pets are generally not allowed at shopping malls. Store hours during Ramadan may change.

Shopping in Dubai

Dubai has a full range of shopping opportunities from the traditional souks and gold jewelry stores, to huge shopping malls for designer fashions and accessories. The giant Dubai malls serve as complete entertainment centers, with miles of air-conditioned corridors lined with entertainment, eating and shopping outlets.

Some of Dubai's streets are particular centers for certain goods. For example, the Al Maktoum Street is known for its watch shops; the Satwa and Karama districts are famous for Indian shops, whereas the Al Fahidi Street and Al Nasr Square are known for their good selection of electronics shops.

The local souks or markets can be found around the city. There are the narrow alleyways of the gold, perfume, spice, electronics and textile souks in Deira and Bur Dubai, or the more modern venues at the other end of the city. The souks represent a large part of Dubai's traditional trading culture. The Gold Souk is where you can find some of the world's cheapest jewelry. Prices vary, depending on weight, but are considerably less than elsewhere. The Spice Souk has bustling narrow streets and fragrant spices stacked up against one another. It is a good place to stock up on saffron, thyme, vanilla pods, dried cinnamon and dried orange and lemon.

The Souk Al Kabeer and the Meena Bazaar area are interesting places to visit for those in search of some colorful fabrics. With many Dubai shops offering goods from India and Pakistan, there is a huge range of highly decorated materials. Prices are reasonable and the goods are unusual.

New Dubai is home to one of the few outdoor shopping precincts in the city, with great beach views. The Walk at Jumeirah Beach Residence is 1.7 km long and is spread across two levels; a plaza level and beach level. It is a mix of high-end retail and homewares, interspersed with an array of restaurants and bustling cafés.

In Dubai from January to February, the DSF (Dubai Shopping Festival) takes place and between June and August, there is the DSS (Dubai Summer Surprises). Throughout these festivals, shoppers can enjoy sizeable discounts (up to 80% off in some cases) and find some excellent bargains, from clothing to electronics. There are also many cultural and educational activities. During DSF, nightly shows take place, along with street carnivals, fireworks and fairgrounds.

Throughout DSS, children's activities take place all around the city, offering educational and fun zones to entertain the children. Modhesh World at Dubai Airport Expo is a major attraction with non-stop entertainment for children.

Raffles galore take place during both festivals, but the prizes are considerably more valuable than for the average raffle. Prizes could be the latest BMW, Bentley or Mercedes, millions of dirhams of cash, gold bars, luxury holidays, or even an apartment.

Dubai's malls are social hubs, as well as a shopping experience. All malls in Dubai are air-conditioned and are very modern. Most locals tend to do their shopping in the evenings.

Shopping Malls in Abu Dhabi

- **Abu Dhabi Mall**

Address: 10th Street, Near Canadian Embassy, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 645 4858

Email: info@abudhabi-mall.com

Web: www.abudhabi-mall.com

Hours: Saturday to Wednesday 10am to 10pm; Thursday and Fridays 10am to 11pm. Some restaurants will remain open until 2am, as does the cinema. Summer opening hours may differ

Comments: There are over 200 outlets. Home to a supermarket, cinema complex and a choice of 40 cafés and restaurants, as well as shops selling the latest in fashion, jewelry and electrical and media items. Throughout the year, there are many special promotions, demonstrations and community events

- **Al Wahda Mall**

Address: Hazza Bin Zayed Street, Al Wahdah, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 443 7000

Email: info@alwahdamall.com

Web: www.alwahda-mall.com

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Hours: Sunday to Wednesday 10am to 10pm; Thursday to Saturday 10am to 11pm

Comments: The mall houses 152 brands. Some of the major brands include Mamas and Papas, Gap, Banana Republic, Cool Cat, Adidas, The Body Shop, Starbucks and Dome Café. It also houses the biggest Lulu Hypermarket in the city

- **The Galleria**

Address: Al Maryah Island, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 616 6999

Email: info@thegalleria.ae

Web: www.facebook.com/TheGalleriaUAE

Hours: Saturday to Wednesday 10am to 10pm; Thursday 10am to midnight; Friday midday to midnight

Comments: Opened in August 2013 and located on Al Maryah Island, with over 130 of the world's most famous brand outlets. There is also a range of restaurants and cafés

- **Khalidiyah Mall**

Address: Mubarak Bin Mohammed, Abu Dhabi,

Tel: +971 2 635 4000

Email: enquiry@khalidiyahmall.ae

Web: www.khalidiyahmall.com

Hours: Sunday to Wednesday 10am to 10pm; Thursday to Saturday 10am to 1am

Comments: Three levels with outlets offering everything from fashion to furnishing and cosmetics to consumer electronics. It has 160 stores including a Lulu hypermarket, a Debenhams department store and a bowling alley. The mall's expansive multicultural food court offers an array of international cuisine, alongside a number of cafés and restaurants

- **Madinat Zayed Shopping Centre and Gold Centre**

Address: Muroor Road, Madinat Zayed, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 633 3311

Email: mzm@lineinvestments.ae

Web: www.madinatzayed-mall.com

Hours: Daily 9am to 11pm

Comments: This is a vast retail complex. It offers shoppers an opportunity, in air-conditioned surroundings, to shop in major international and local outlets for fashion, perfumes, cosmetics, shoes, watches, electronics, cafes, etc. Children can enjoy one of the largest entertainment complexes

- **Marina Mall**

Address: Situated on the Abu Dhabi Breakwater, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 681 8300

Email: info@marinamall.ae

Web: www.marinamall.ae

Hours: Saturday to Wednesday 10am to 10pm; Thursday and Friday 10am to midnight

Comments: One of the largest and most exciting shopping malls. There are over 400 retail outlets, from international companies such as IKEA and Bulgari, to domestic retailers such as Rivoli and Axiom. There is an extensive food court with a very good selection of cafés and restaurants, a hypermarket and a Cineplex; there are plenty of underground parking spaces. There is also an ice rink, bowling and Fun City

Shopping Malls in Dubai

Selected shopping malls include:

- **Bur Juman Mall**

Address: Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 352 0222

Email: info@burjuman.com

Web: www.burjuman.com

Hours: Saturday to Wednesday 10am to 10pm; Thursday and Friday 10am to 11pm. All food and beverage outlets Saturday to Wednesday 10am to 11pm; Thursday and Friday 10am to midnight

Comments: Designer fashions fill this upmarket mall, from Dior to Louis Vuitton. The mall is also home to the ultra-fashionable Saks Fifth Avenue store. With shops covering three floors, you will also find many restaurants and cafés situated on the top floor

- **The Dubai Mall**

Address: Financial Center Road, Dubai

Tel: 800 38224 6255 (within UAE)

Email: enquiry@thedubaimall.com

Web: www.thedubaimall.com

Hours: Monday to Wednesday 10am to 11pm; Thursday to Sunday from 10am to midnight

Comments: One of the largest malls in the world with over 1,200 stores. The shopping complex has a world-class aquarium, the world's largest indoor Gold Souk, an indoor Olympic-size ice skating rink, and a SEGA indoor theme park

- **Ibn Battuta Mall**

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Address: Sheikh Zayed Road, Interchanges 5/6, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 390 9999

Email: info@nakheel.com

Web: www.ibnbattutamall.com

Hours: Sunday to Wednesday 10am to 10pm; Thursday to Saturday 10am to midnight.

Comments: The mall has a multi-cultural atmosphere and retail zoning, whereby the zones are divided into four sections: Family and convenience; major department stores; upmarket brands and lifestyles; and entertainment and leisure. Over 275 retailers, 50 restaurants and food outlets, 21 cinema screens including the UAE's only IMAX theater and a continual array of events and promotions

- **Mall of the Emirates**

Address: Sheikh Zayed Road, Al Barsha District, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 409 9000

Email: info.moe@maf.ae

Web: www.malloftheemirates.com

Hours: Sunday to Wednesday 10am to 10pm; Thursday to Saturday 10am to midnight.

Comments: Home to over 450 retailers from high range designer boutiques to middle market stores. This mixed use development includes a 5-star Kempinski hotel, a two-level Magic Planet for children and Ski Dubai – the first indoor ski destination in the Middle East as well as a community theater, an arts theater and a 14 screen multiplex cinema. Also, home to the largest Carrefour in the city

- **Mercato Mall**

Address: Jumeriah Beach Road, Dubai.

Tel: +971 4 344 4161

Email: management@mercatothecentre.com

Web: www.mercatoshoppingmall.com

Hours: Daily 10am to 10pm

Comments: One of the latest shopping malls, popular themed mall with a French, Spanish and Italian flavor

- **Wafi Shopping Mall**

Address: Sheikh Rashid Road, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 324 4555

Email: customerservice@wafi.com

Web: www.wafi.com

Hours: Saturday to Wednesday 10am to 10pm; Thursday and Friday 10am to midnight

Comments: This is an immense shopping center, with stylish boutiques selling quality goods often from Europe. The impressive entertainment, seasonal decorations and displays make this a popular center to visit

Supermarkets in Abu Dhabi

The following supermarket chains have branches in the city:

- **Al Ahlia Prisunic**

Address: Khalidya, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 681 3366

Email: info@alahliagroup.com, aoadsha@emirates.net.ae

Web: www.alahliagroup.com

Comments: Through Al-Ahlia's tie-up with Prisunic, the supermarket sells French products, including foodstuffs, fashion cosmetics and general household goods

- **Carrefour**

Web: www.carrefouruae.com

Comments: There are several stores in the city. The website has details

- **Choithram**

Web: <https://www.choithrams.com/en/>

Comments: There are several locations around the city

- **Lulu**

Web: www.luluhypermarket.com/AE/all

Comments: There are many stores throughout the city

- **Spinneys**

Web: www.spinneys-dubai.com

Comments: There are many stores throughout the city

Supermarkets in Dubai

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Most expats should be able to find a supermarket that stocks items similar to those found at home, although the range of items might be more limited. Some chains are more popular with certain nationalities, usually because of the range of products stocked, which itself might depend on the prevailing nationality or nationalities living in the suburb of Dubai in which the supermarket is located. Several supermarkets are open 24 hours, seven days per week - some Union Coop stores, one or two Spinney's and the Choithram shop at Dubai Tower for example.

- **Al Ahlia Prisunic**
Tel: +971 4 359 3322
Email: aoadsha@emirates.net.ae
Web: www.alahliagroup.com/alahliagroup/stores.html
Comments: Through Al-Ahlia's tie-up with Prisunic, the supermarket sells French products, including foodstuffs, fashion cosmetics and general household goods
- **Carrefour**
Web: www.carrefouruae.com
Comments: This is the most popular and most affordable supermarket, with a wide range of French products. There are several outlets in the city.
- **Choithram**
Web: <https://www.choithrams.com/en/>
Hours: Some stores are open 24 hours
Comments: There are several stores throughout Dubai
- **Lu Lu Hypermarket**
Web: <https://www.luluhypermarket.com/en-ae>
Comments: Somewhere between the department store and supermarket category, this huge hypermarket offers a wide range of food and household goods. There are a number of outlets in the city of varying sizes
- **Spinney's**
Web: www.spinneys.com/en-ae/
Comments: There are many locations throughout the city. Produce from all over the world is available
- **Union Coop**
Web: <https://corporate.unioncoop.ae/en/branches>
Comments: Union Co-operative Society is a chain of hypermarkets having several outlets in major residential areas in Dubai. The Jumeirah, Tawar & Karama branches are open 24-hours

3.4 Eating Out

Eating Out

There is a huge variety of restaurants to suit all tastes in both Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Hotels often have several high quality restaurants, with varying themes, although bistros are just as easily found in shopping malls and anywhere frequented by tourists.

Unless it is part of a hotel, no restaurant in Dubai can serve alcohol. All of the Emirates, with the exception of Sharjah, permit the consumption of alcohol by non-Muslims.

Time Out magazines have good guides to eating out.

- **Time Out - Abu Dhabi**
Web: www.timeoutabudhabi.com
- **Time Out - Dubai**
Web: www.timeoutdubai.com

Meal Times

Due the cosmopolitan nature of the country, there are no real fixed meal times in the cities. Breakfast hours are the same as in Europe and other western countries. The midday break in some months is from 12.30pm until 3pm, during which some people will go home or eat elsewhere in the city. Many people work until 8pm at night and may grab a quick meal on their way home. Regular evening meal times are from around 7pm.

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Restaurants in Abu Dhabi

Cuisines from around the world are on offer in Abu Dhabi, with restaurants offering a mix of flavors and impressive culinary standards. All food outlets are regularly inspected for hygiene by Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority. Non-Muslims can consume pork in certain outlets. Any dishes using pork ingredients will be prepared separately from non-pork dishes, and clearly marked on the menu. Fast food outlets such as Burger King, TGI Fridays, Hardee's, KFC, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Popeye's and Subway all have locations in the city.

Abu Dhabi's restaurants offer a wide range of Arabic, Far Eastern, European, Latin and Continental cuisines, served in authentic style and unique ambience. Other than authentic cuisine, some restaurants specialize in certain types of food, such as seafood, vegetarian and others. Many of Abu Dhabi's upmarket restaurants are located inside hotels. For an excellent buffet, visit the popular areas around the Breakwater, Sheikh Zayed Street, Corniche Road or Tourist Club area, where they will find some of the best restaurants tucked away in hotel lobbies. Many international chains of restaurants, such as steak houses, have outlets in Abu Dhabi. Many bars in hotels also serve a full meal. In the evening, restaurants usually open at 7pm. Weekends are usually busy; it is therefore advisable to book a table in advance.

The following restaurants are popular with the expat community in Abu Dhabi.

- **Vasco's**
Address: Corniche Road West, Al Khubeirah, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 692 4328
Web: <https://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/uae/hilton-abu-dhabi-AUHHITW/dining/vascos.html>
Hours: Daily midday to 3.30pm and 7pm to 11pm
Comments: The restaurant is popular with expats. It is located at the Hilton Hotel serving international cuisine. Guests can choose to dine inside or outside on the deck, enjoying spectacular views of the Arabian Gulf. Vasco's was Highly Recommended in the Best International category by Abu Dhabi Time Out
- **Bord Eau**
Address: Level 3 (Lobby Level), Shangri-La Hotel, Qaryat Al Beri, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 509 8511
Email: bordeau.slad@shangri-la.com
Web: www.shangri-la.com/abudhabi/shangrila
Hours: Sunday to Friday 6.30pm to 11.30pm; closed Saturday
Comments: Award-winning restaurant featuring French fine dining offering a la carte menu and daily specials. Dress code is smart casual. Children under 12 years old are not permitted in the restaurant
- **Cafe Firenze**
Address: Al Zeina, Al Raha Beach, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 566 4643
Web: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/CafeFirenzeAlZeina>
Hours: Daily 6.30am to 11pm
Comments: Popular café with international and local food; takeaway and outdoor seating
- **Fish Market**
Address: InterContinental Hotel, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud St, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 666 6888
Email: dine.icabudhabi@ihg.com
Web: <https://abudhabi.intercontinental.com/fishmarket>
Hours: Sunday to Thursday 12.30pm to 4pm and 7pm to 11.30pm; Friday and Saturday 12.30pm to 11.30pm
Comments: Award winning Thai-style seafood cuisine. Smart casual and over 21 year olds only
- **La Mamma**
Address: Sheraton Abu Dhabi Hotel, Corniche Road, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 677 3333
Email: sheraton.abudhabi@sheraton.com
Hours: Daily midday to 3.30pm and 6pm to 11pm
Comments: Popular Italian restaurant
- **Noodle House**
Address: Souk Qaryat Al Beri, Between Two Bridges, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 800 666 353
Web: www.thenoodlehouse.com
Hours: Sunday to Wednesday midday to 11.30pm; Thursday and Saturday midday to midnight
Comments: Well-cooked, imaginative and tasty dishes served by friendly and efficient staff. It is a child-friendly restaurant. Home delivery is available from midday to midnight
- **Trader Vic's**
Address: Beach Rotana Abu Dhabi, Al Zahiyah, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 697 9011

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Web: <http://tradervicsabudhabi.com>

Hours: Open from 5pm to 2am. Closing time on Thursday and Friday is 3am

Comments: Bar food with Asian/Pacific influences. Live music

Restaurants in Dubai

Eating out in Dubai is an immensely popular pastime. There are literally hundreds of fast food establishments, bistros, cafés and elegant award-winning restaurants across the city; Dubai city alone has several Russian specialty restaurants and many Irish restaurants.

Many of the restaurants in Dubai are located in the skyscrapers and luxury hotels. Being on the Arabian Peninsula, almost all of the restaurants in Dubai offer beautifully prepared fresh seafood. While alcohol is freely available in Dubai hotels and clubs, the vast majority of independent Dubai restaurants are not licensed.

With so many quality Dubai restaurants offering a broad range of cuisine, Dubai is a city made for dining after dark.

The following restaurants are popular with the expatriate community. Most restaurants have outlets throughout the city.

- **Baker & Spice**

Web: www.facebook.com/bakerandspicedubai

Comments: The restaurant has menus, with some meat-free options and delivery available. There are five branches in the city

- **Carluccio's**

Web: www.carluccios.com/restaurants/united-arab-emirates

Hours: Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner

Comments: This British brand has restaurants located at malls in Dubai - the website has location details. They have a good menu with Italian food

- **Pier Chic**

Address: Jumeira Al Qasr Hotel, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 432 3232

Email: pierchic@jumierah.com

Web: www.jumeirah.com/en/hotels-resorts/dubai

Hours: Daily from midday to 3pm and from 6.30pm to 11pm

Comments: The restaurant has received many awards. Popular for its seafood dishes

- **Table 9**

Address: Hilton Dubai Creek, Baniyas Road, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 227 1111

Email: reservations.dubai@hilton.com

Hours: Sunday to Friday 6.30pm to 11pm; closed Saturday

Comments: Award winning signature restaurant of Hilton Dubai Creek Hotel and one of the finest restaurants in Dubai. The restaurant serves a wide range of international delicacies. This 70-seater restaurant also has an exotic selection of wines

- **The Meat Company**

Web: <http://themeatco.com>

Comments: They have two restaurants in the city - the website has details. The restaurant is popular with meat lovers

- **Trader Vic's**

Address: Souk Madinat Jumeirah, Jumeirah District, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 368 6559

Web: <http://tradervics.com/locations/dubai>

Hours: Daily midday to 3pm and 7pm to 11.30pm

Comments: They serve bar food with Asian/Pacific influences. Live music

Specialties and Popular Foods

Specialties of Arab cuisine and the Emirates:

Hummus	Chickpea and sesame paste	Fuul	Pasta made from fava beans, garlic and lemon
Tabbouleh	Bulgur wheat with mint and parsley	Schwarma	Spicy meat served in pita bread pouches

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Ghuzi	Roast lamb with rice and nuts	Hareis	slow cooked wheat and lamb
Warak enab	Stuffed vine leaves	Shurba Addis	Lentil soup
Koussa	Stuffed courgettes/zucchini	Ful Medames	Beans in tomato sauce (breakfast)
Makbous	Spicy lamb with rice	Umm Ali	Bread pudding with raisins and nuts (dessert)

Also popular is seafood. Locally caught fish is excellent - hamu r (grouper); chanad (mackerel) and beyah (mullet)] with spiced rice. It is important to remember that Muslims do not eat pork. Starters are called mezze and are beautifully presented in restaurants in the UAE. Gulf food is generally very similar to Lebanese cuisine.

3.5 Entertainment

Cinemas in Abu Dhabi

Audiences can watch the latest Hollywood, Bollywood and Arabic blockbusters at any of the Emirate's numerous cinemas. There are several major cinemas in Abu Dhabi, with most showing English and Arabic language films and a few showing Indian films.

The majority of the cinemas are multi-screens complexes, where filmgoers can enjoy comfortable seating and state-of-the-art visual and audio technologies. Many cinemas are located within shopping malls. Timings can be found in the local daily newspapers, or on the cinema websites.

The Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation regularly hosts foreign film festivals and showings in association with the foreign embassies and cultural centers in the capital. Abu Dhabi is also home to the Emirates Film Festival, held annually at the Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation. The Festival showcases mainly short films and documentaries, as well as animation and experimental films, made by young filmmakers from the region. Usually held in March, the Festival is a must for those visitors looking to gain an insight into local culture and society. Another highlight of the Emirates' film scene is the Abu Dhabi Film Festival held in October at the Emirates Palace Hotel.

The following website has information about movies at cinemas in Abu Dhabi

- Cinema UAE
Web: www.cinemauae.com/abu-dhabi

Cinema chain groups have several locations throughout the city.

- Al Mariah Cinema
Address: Al Najda Street, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 678 5000
Email: info@cinemaalmariah.com
Web: <http://cinemaalmariah.com>
Comments: International cinema
- Cine Royal
Web: www.cineroyal.ae
Comments: A list of cinema locations is on the website
- Novo Cinemas
Web: <https://uae.novocinemas.com/uae>
Comments: They have a few cinemas in Abu Dhabi. Address details are on the website
- Oscar Cinema
Web: <https://oscarcinema.ae>
Comments: The group has various cinemas in shopping malls. They show local and international films featuring 3D, 2D films, animation films and DVD releases
- Vox Cinemas
Web: <http://uae.voxcinemas.com>
Comments: The cinemas are located inside shopping malls in the city. The website has details

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Cinemas in Dubai

Dubai has a wide selection of English-language films. Most cinemas are large multiplexes that show Hollywood blockbusters, as well as European, Bollywood and Arab films in English, or with English subtitles. American films are released in Dubai about two months after their US release date. In addition, there are a few seasonal open-air cinemas that show films around a central theme. Each December, some of the cinemas also host special screenings for the Dubai International Film Festival.

Some scenes in films may be cut, if they are considered to be offensive, culturally or morally. Some films displaying explicit or graphic scenes, or dealing with a sensitive issue, are not granted screening licenses by the Media Council.

The following website has information about movies at cinemas in Abu Dhabi

- Cinema UAE
Web: www.cinemauae.com/dubai

The following cinema chains have several locations in the city. See the websites for location details.

- Novo Cinemas
Web: <https://uae.novocinemas.com/uae>
- Reel Cinemas
Web: www.reelcinemas.ae/en
- Roxy Cinemas
Web: www.theroxycinemas.com
- Vox Cinema
Web: <http://uae.voxcinemas.com>
- The Scene Club
Address: Dubai Knowledge Village Conference Center, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 391 0051
Email: office@d-seven.com
Comments: Non-profit film club that shows the best of world independent cinema twice a month in Dubai and provides a platform to celebrate and discuss independent productions. Also has special screenings for children

Entertainment in Abu Dhabi

A good reference for entertainment in Abu Dhabi is the Time Out guide, available from main bookshops and newsagents, and online.

- Time Out - Abu Dhabi
Web: www.timeoutabudhabi.com
Comments: The website also has information about the availability of ticket for shows
- Visit Abu Dhabi
Web: <https://visitabudhabi.ae/en/see.and.do/leisure/events.aspx>
- What's On Abu Dhabi
Web: <http://whatson.ae/abudhabi>

Entertainment in Dubai

Many restaurants offer theme nights; often with live music and dancing. Dubai has come to be a center for 70s and 80s retro music of late. Bands from the era, such as Kim Wilde and Blondie have performed in Dubai.

Tickets for most concerts, theater performances and other events in the UAE are available online from a number of dispatchers.

- 800 Tickets
Web: www.800tickets.com

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- **Platinumlist**
Web: <https://dubai.platinumlist.net>
- **Virgin Mega Store**
Web: <https://tickets.virginmegastore.me/ae>

A good reference for entertainment in Dubai is the Time Out guide, available from main bookshops and newsagents, and online.

- **Time Out Dubai**
Web: www.timeoutdubai.com

The following websites have information about entertainment in Dubai:

- **Dubai World Trade Center**
Web: www.dwtc.com
Comments: The Dubai World Trade Centre is a huge exhibition complex. Consult their site for the latest events. Many exhibitions make no charge to enter
- **Visit Dubai**
Web: www.visitdubai.com/en/events/#/?type=Leisure
- **What's On - Dubai**
Web: <http://whatson.ae/dubai/section/nightlife>

Entertainment in United Arab Emirates

Top entertainment acts regularly visit Dubai and Abu Dhabi. The Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi (one of the world's few seven star hotels), usually hosts opera and ballet productions, as well as theater productions and comedy acts. Many international musical acts such as Mariah Carey, Beyoncé, Sean Paul, Robbie Williams, Tom Jones, Bryan Adams and Shakira have entertained audiences.

What's On is a monthly magazine covering details of forthcoming events. Visit Dubai has up to date information on entertainment on offer in the UAE.

- **Visit Dubai**
Web: www.visitdubai.com/en/events/#/?type=Leisure

Tickets for most concerts, theater performances and other events in the UAE are available online from a number of dispatchers.

- **800 Tickets**
Web: www.800tickets.com
- **Platinumlist**
Web: <https://abu-dhabi.platinumlist.net>
- **Virgin Mega Store**
Web: <https://tickets.virginmegastore.me/ae>

Festivals in Abu Dhabi

Although many festivals are based on Islam, there is an increasing number of cultural and arts based celebrations in the city.

- **Abu Dhabi Festival**
Web: www.abudhabifestival.ae
Comments: Abu Dhabi Festival is organized by the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation and is the UAE's foremost celebration of art and culture bringing together the greatest musicians, performers and artists from both East and West. The festival takes place in November
- **Abu Dhabi Shopping Festival**
Comments: This is the biggest of all shopping extravaganzas in the city. The shopping festival is a time when the entire city bears a festive look, complete with lavish decorations and crowds all around. The discounts and prizes offered during the shopping festival also entice

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shoppers. The festival usually takes place in March or April

- **Abu Dhabi Science Festival**
Web: www.facebook.com/AbuDhabiScienceFestival
Comments: Held in October/November, this is a festival of hands-on scientific activities aimed at children and young people. Events take place around the city, including the shopping malls
- **Al Ain International Music Festival**
Web: <https://www.facebook.com/alainmusicfestival>
Comments: The Al Ain International Music Festival is an annual affair and one of the most elaborate musical extravaganzas hosted by in the Gulf region. It is more of a classical music event and draws many musicians from the region along with some internationally celebrated names. Normally held in the first quarter of the year, this festival lasts for three days
- **Qasr Al Hosn Festival**
Web: <http://qasralhosnfestival.ae/en>
Comments: An annual event held on the grounds of Qasr Al Hosn to celebrate several centuries of history of the fort and Emirati culture and traditions. The festival takes place over several days in February and is organized by the Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority which is leading the conservation project of the fort

Festivals in Dubai

Dubai's culture is firmly rooted in the Islamic traditions of Arabia. Arabic culture in poetry, dancing, songs and traditional art is encouraged and weddings and celebrations are colorful occasions of feasting and music. Although the culture and heritage of Dubai is linked to its religion, there are also arts and cultural festivals in the city. Many events aimed at attracting visitors are organized during the period November to March, when the weather in Dubai is more pleasant.

- **Dubai Shopping Festival**
Web: www.visitdubai.com/en/dsf
Comments: Throughout January, over two million visitors flock to Dubai for the month-long Shopping Festival. Good for bargain hunters, discounts, competitions, prizes, fireworks and entertainment
- **Taste of Dubai**
Web: <https://www.landing.tasteofdubaifestival.com/>
Comments: Held in March at Dubai Media City, the festival runs for a period of one week, where top global chefs come and prepare their most delicious specialties for social events and even give tips on cooking and presentation
- **Dubai Summer Surprises**
Web: <https://www.visitdubai.com/en/whats-on/dss>
Comments: Held in July or August, the weeks of DSS are divided into separate themes such as food, the arts, adventure and nature, as well as hotels in the city offering special 'shopaholic' packages in order to attract more guests
- **Dubai International Film Festival**
Web: <https://www.dubaifilmfestival.org/>
Comments: Held in December, the festival encourages independent and art-house cinema with special guests attracting large audiences

Museums in Abu Dhabi

There are several museums and art galleries under construction, including the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, The Performing Arts Centre and the Maritime Museum. These are due to open from 2017 onwards.

- **Al Ain National Museum**
Address: Al Ain, next to the Eastern Fort on the outskirts of the Al Ain Oasis, adjacent to Zayed Bin Sultan Street, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 3 764 1595, +971 3 711 8331
Email: contact@abudhabi.ae
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 8.30am to 7.30pm; Friday 3pm to 7.30pm; closed Monday
Comments: Run by the Department of Antiquities and Tourism, this museum shows ethnographical development in the state, from archaeological finds to recent developments
- **Dalma Island Museum**
Email: info@dalmaisland.com
Web: www.dalmaisland.com
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 8am to 4pm; closed Friday
Comments: The Island lies approximately 30 km (20 miles) off the coast of Abu Dhabi. The museum was formerly the house of a pearl merchant. Recent excavations near the house revealed a date press (madbasah), which has now been completely restored. The museum

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contains an exhibition of local finds, including a collection of British and Indian currency in use during the 19th and early 20th centuries when the pearl industry was at its height

- **The Emirates National Auto Museum**

Address: Hamim Road, Al Bhasra, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 55 749 2155

Web: www.enam.ae

Hours: Daily 9am to 6pm

Comments: The museum is located about one hour's drive south of Abu Dhabi. This museum is a private collection of vehicles of H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Hamdan Al Nahyan. The collection includes a vast array of cars and other vehicles, including several Mercedes, one in each color of the rainbow for each day of the week

- **Heritage Village**

Address: Al Wehda, W19, Central Abu Dhabi, Near the Marina Mall, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 445 6456

Email: info@torath.ae

Web: <http://torath.ae>

Hours: Saturday to Thursday 9am to 5pm; Friday 3.30pm to 9pm

Comments: Heritage Village is an authentic replica of a Bedouin encampment. Mud-brick houses, a traditional mosque, shopping in a traditional souk, taking a camel ride and watching a demonstration of the sport of falconry are highlights of the village. One exhibit recreates farming life in an oasis while another highlights the life of a coastal fisherman, trader or pearl diver. Visitors can sample a typical Bedouin meal and see displays of horsemanship and camel riding

- **Louvre Abu Dhabi**

Address: Saadiyat Cultural District, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 600 56 55 66

Email: contact@louvrebudhabi.ae

Web: www.louvrebudhabi.ae

Comments: Due to open in November 2017. Louvre Abu Dhabi hosts four temporary exhibitions per year as part of the unique collaboration between Abu Dhabi and France. They will be organised and created by thirteen French museum partners

- **Manarat Al Saadiyat**

Address: Saadiyat Island

Tel: +971 2 657 5800

Email: manaratalsaadiyat@tdic.ae

Web: <https://manaratalsaadiyat.ae/en/default.aspx>

Hours: Daily 9am to 8pm

Comments: This is a purpose-built artistic venue with several exhibition spaces. Manarat Al Saadiyat is also the permanent home of The Saadiyat Story – an interactive experience bringing the history and future of Saadiyat to life

Museums in Dubai

- **Dubai International Art Centre**

Address: Villa 27, Street 75b, Jumeirah 1, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 344 4398

Email: info@artdubai.com

Web: www.artdubai.com

Hours: Saturday to Wednesday 9am to 4pm; closed Thursday and Friday

Comments: Offers art classes of many different types as well as exhibitions, mainly of modern art. Gallery 76 hosts a broad range of exhibits from established and renowned artists to the center's own students

- **Dubai Museum**

Address: Located within the Al-Fahidi Fort, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 353 1862

Email: info@dubaiculture.ae

Web: www.visitdubai.com/en/pois/dubai-museum

Hours: Saturday to Thursday 8.30am to 8.30pm; Friday 2.30pm to 8.30pm

Comments: This museum contains 4,000-year-old relics and artifacts from Emirati history including items from ancient trading partners in Africa and Asia

- **Jumeirah Mosque**

Address: Al Jumeira Road, (D94) & 17B Street, Jumeira 1, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 353 6666

Email: smccu@cultures.ae

Web: www.cultures.ae, www.visitdubai.com/en/pois/jumeirah-mosque

Hours: Sunday to Thursday at 8am to 6pm; Saturday 9am to 1pm; closed Friday

Comments: Not exactly a museum, but you can visit this stunning mosque with a guide from the Sheikh Mohammed Centre of Cultural Understanding

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- **Sheikh Saeed Al Maktoum's House**
Address: On the Corniche, Shindagha, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 393 7139
Email: contactus@dubaicity.com
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 8am to 8.30pm; Friday 3.30pm to 9.30pm
Comments: The former home of the late ruler of Dubai, this palace dating back to the end of the 19th century has been restored and now houses a museum of photographs and money
- **XVA Gallery**
Address: Al Fahidi Area, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 353 5383
Email: xva@xvagallery.com
Web: www.xvagallery.com
Hours: Daily 10am to 6pm
Comments: This is a surprisingly modern gallery, café and boutique, all in one building. The XVA Gallery houses exhibitions of art, sculpture and design

Theaters Concert Halls in Abu Dhabi

The Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation organizes regular concerts featuring the world's top opera singers and classical music performers, which are usually staged at the Cultural and Heritage Center Auditorium or at the Emirates Palace Auditorium. The Cultural and Heritage Center is located opposite the new Emirates Telecommunications Company (Etisalat) Building, with its landmark gigantic golf ball at the top of the building on Sheikh Zayed 1st Street.

The majority of music concerts and shows take place in hotels. They have excellent facilities for hosting a wide variety of events, whether large or small, and tend to compete against each other in hosting the most prestigious or spectacular show. Venues such as the Jumeirah Beach Hotel and Madinat Jumeirah are some of the more popular locations. Jumeirah has the first theater in Dubai.

A Performing Arts Center is being constructed on Saadiyat Island and should be completed in 2020. The proposed Performing Arts Centre has five theaters which include a music hall, concert hall, opera house, drama theater and a flexible theater with a combined capacity of 6,300.

For details of forthcoming events, two good contacts are the Culture Authority and the Intercontinental Hotel.

- **Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture**
Web: <http://tcaabudhabi.ae/en/default.aspx>

Selected venues include:

- **Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation - ADMAF**
Address: 3rd Floor, Makeen Tower, (Ajman Bank Building), Tourist Club Area, Opposite Abu Dhabi Mall, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 333 6400
Email: info@admaf.org
Web: www.admaf.org
Comments: Music and arts venue
- **Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority**
Tel: +971 2 444 0444
Email: info@dctabudhabi.ae
Web: <http://tcaabudhabi.ae/en/default.aspx>
Comments: Organizes lectures and seminars in collaboration with other museums, as well as exhibitions, performances, artsclapes and other artistic and cultural events. The authority has several locations throughout the city. The website has details
- **Emirates Palace Auditorium**
Address: West Corniche Road, Near the ADNOC Complex, Near the Breakwater, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 690 8897
Email: mice@emiratespalace.ae
Web: www.kempinski.com/en/abudhabi/emirates-palace/welcome
Comments: The auditorium at the hotel has a capacity of 1,000 seats
- **Intercontinental Hotel**
Address: King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud Street, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 666 6888
Email: meetings.icabudhabi@ihg.com
Web: www.ihg.com/intercontinental/hotels/gb/en/abu-dhabi/auhha/hoteldetail
Comments: Event rooms are available at the hotel

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- **Yas Arena**
Address: Yas Island, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 600 511 115
Email: contact@yasconcierge.com
Comments: Enormous venue for top international acts

Theaters Concert Halls in Dubai

- **Dubai Opera**
Address: Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Boulevard, Downtown Dubai, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 440 8888
Web: www.dubaiopera.com
Comments: The website has details about shows and ticket availability. Shows include musicals, ballet, opera, jazz and much more
- **Dubai Media City Amphitheatre**
Address: Al Sufouh Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 391 4555
Email: info@dmc.ae
Web: <https://dmc.ae/venues/amphitheatres>
Comments: The venue is home to the Dubai Jazz Festival and Taste of Dubai. In addition, it hosts numerous open-air concerts, film screenings, promotional events and festivals
- **La Perle By Dragone**
Address: Al Habtoor City, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 437 0001
Email: boxoffice@laperle.com
Web: www.facebook.com/LaPerleByDragone, <http://laperle.com/en>
Comments: They have received various awards for their shows. The website has details
- **Madinat Theatre**
Address: Souk Madinat, Jumeirah, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 366 6546
Email: MadinatTheatre@jumeirah.com
Comments: The Madinat Theatre is the first purpose built theater in Dubai and is a prestigious entertainment venue, staging a wide variety of shows. Since opening in September 2004 a broad range of events, including drama, opera, film screenings, magic and musicals have been staged
- **The Junction**
Address: Street 8, Al Quoz 1, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 338 8525
Email: info@thejunctiondubai.com
Web: www.thejunctiondubai.com
Comments: This is one of the city's most popular concert venues. The website has detail of current shows

3.6 Rest and Recreation

Rest and Recreation in Abu Dhabi

It is possible to visit other nearby countries, such as Bahrain, Oman and Qatar for a short break. However, keep in mind that normal visa requirements will apply. Travel to Qatar may also be somewhat difficult due to the political tensions between the UAE and Qatar.

Popular recreation areas around Abu Dhabi include:

- **Abu Dhabi Desert Safari**

Web: www.abudhabi-desert-safari.com , www.abudhabidesertsafari.net

Comments: Safaris can be accomplished by crossing sand dunes at high speed in four-wheel drive vehicles, or the more sedate camel trekking. Tours often include dinner at a Bedouin campsite, belly dancing, a traditional henna artist, a falconry demonstration and the chance to try out sandboarding

- **Al Ain**

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Web:<https://visitabudhabi.ae/en/where-to-go/about-abu-dhabi/al-ain>

Comments: Al Ain, the Garden City, has an abundance of greenery with well-maintained parks and gardens and is the second largest city of the UAE. Situated 148 km (93 miles) east of the capital, Al Ain is a historical city dating back to 4000 BC. Its attractions include the Al Ain National Museum, the Al Ain Palace Museum, several restored forts and the Hili archaeological site, dating back to the Bronze Age (2500-2000 BC). Jabel Hafit is a steep mountain overlooking the city and rising to 1340 feet. Mineral springs at the base of this mountain and sunset scenes from the top of the mountain are mostly popular. Al Ain also has a zoo and an aquarium which are worth a visit. Qattarah Oasis is located on the outskirts of Al Ain is noted for its archaeological sites

- **Camel Racing**

Web:<https://visitabudhabi.ae/en/plan-your-trip/culture-and-traditions/camel-racing>

Hours: Races are held early on Thursday and Friday mornings from August to February

Comments: A visit to the camel racetrack near Abu Dhabi allows visitors to experience this traditional Middle Eastern sport. Admission is free. The racecourse is located 45 km (25 miles) from Abu Dhabi on the Al Ain Road

- **Dhow Cruise**

Web: www.abudhabidhowcruise.org

Comments: A trip on an authentic Arabic sailing boat while enjoying panoramic views of the Abu Dhabi skyline can be taken from Mina Port. Several companies in Abu Dhabi offer sunset Dhow cruises that include traditional food and drink, and Dhows may be chartered for larger private parties

- **Liwa Oasis**

Web:<https://abudhabiculture.ae/en/experience/cultural-landscapes-and-oases/liwa-oasis>

Comments: About 3 hours' drive (220 km) from Abu Dhabi is Liwa, which is an oasis area located on the edge of The Rub Al Khali (Empty Quarter). This is the largest sand desert in the world, having more sand than any other desert in the world. The area has freshwater pools and date plantations, and is the home to the Bani Yas tribe, the Bedouin ancestors of Abu Dhabi's ruling family. Camel tours of the Liwa dunes and overnight camping are available

- **Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Mosque**

Web: www.szqmc.ae/en

Hours: Saturday to Thursday 9am to 10pm; Friday 4.30pm to 10pm

Comments: The Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Mosque is probably the most imposing religious and national landmark in Abu Dhabi. It is also arguably one of the most important architectural treasures of the contemporary UAE society and one of the most beautiful in the world. Complimentary tours are conducted daily (except Friday)

- **The White Fort - Qasr Al Hosn**

Web: www.qasralhosn.ae/en

Comments: Al-Hosn Palace is also known as the Old Fort or the White Fort. It is the oldest building in the city being built in the late 19th century. Today the interior of the palace has been renovated and totally modernized. Exhibitions are held there displaying traditional artifacts and photographs

Rest and Recreation in Dubai

It is possible to visit other nearby countries, such as Bahrain, Oman and Qatar for a short break. However, keep in mind that normal visa requirements will apply. Travel to Qatar may also be somewhat difficult due to the political tensions between the UAE and Qatar.

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Dubai is one of the most modern and well-kept cities of the world and the surrounding country offers everything from rugged mountains and sand dunes to sandy beaches and lush green parks.

Popular recreation areas around Abu Dhabi include:

- **Al Fahidi Historic District**

Web:<https://www.visitdubai.com/en/places-to-visit/al-fahidi-historical-neighbourhood>

Comments: The Fahidi Historic District with its narrow lanes and tall wind-towers gives a glimpse of old Dubai. Immediately to the east of Al Fahidi Fort is the largest concentration of traditional courtyard houses with wind towers. Sophisticated houses with rough walls shielded the privacy of the wealthy families. Wind towers topped the walls, trapping the wind and funneling it down into the houses as an effective form of early air-conditioning

- **Water Sports**

Web:<https://www.visitdubai.com/en/articles/dubai-watersports>

Comments: Dubai's setting on the shores of the Persian Gulf has long made the city popular with water sport enthusiasts; with jet skiing, waterskiing and sailing all widely available and popular with local residents and visitors alike. Jumeirah Beach is the place to go for wind sports, such as windsurfing, paragliding and kite surfing. The calm clear waters of the Arabian Sea also offer excellent scuba diving opportunities, with several wreck sites and coral reefs offering dives to suit all levels of experience

- **Sand Skiing and Sand Boarding**

Web:<https://sand-boarding.com/sandboarding-in-dubai/>

Comments: These are very popular in Dubai. A good way to enjoy sand skiing in Dubai is to take a day trip and a popular option is to combine sand skiing with a camel ride. Sand skiing is suitable for all ages and all levels of experience. Many tour operators offer an overnight camping expedition, which can include sand skiing in the Dubai desert, or other desert sports such as Desert Bashing

- **Bedouin Village**

Web: <http://arabianincentive.com>

Comments: The Bedouin village is located in the outskirts of Dubai, near the mouth of the Creek and can only be reached by car. This village provides an experience of the traditional desert way of life and may include camel-riding lessons. Visitors can see the traditional women's dresses, Bedouin jewelry, and sample Arabic coffee. The Bedouin tents and their traditional way of life offer a contrast with modern Dubai. The villagers are happy to share their traditions, their history and their typical story telling

- **Jebel Al Jais**

Web: <http://oma.eu/projects/jebel-al-jais-mountain-resort>

Comments: Part of the Al Hajar Mountains, Jebel Al Jais is the tallest mountain in the UAE standing at 1,910m in Ras al-Khaimah near the UAE-Oman border. It is a good getaway with plenty of space to camp overnight, and the peak offers an interesting drive and break that makes for an amazing sunrise view over the surrounding peaks

- **Hatta Dam**

Web:<https://www.visitdubai.com/en/places-to-visit/hatta-dam-2>

Comments: Located on the southeastern border of the UAE and Oman, just a few hours' drive away from the city center, the town offers a peaceful escape from the city. The scenic drive through the sandy desert and into the mountains gives visitors an idea of the varying landscapes in the UAE.

- **Tim's Reef**

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Comments : Located in Fujairah, on UAE's east coast looking out into the Indian Ocean, this is one of the best surf spots in the Emirates. Fujairah's beaches are a good setting for an overnight camping spot and a good place to wake up to and watch the sunrise

3.7 Nightlife

Bars in Abu Dhabi

There is a wide selection of bars in Abu Dhabi. Many of the popular bars are located at the hotels, with good views over the city. The dress code at hotels is generally business casual.

Bars, which are popular with expats, include:

- **The Trap**
Address: Al Diar Dana Hotel, Al Zahiya Street, Al Meena, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 645 6000
Email: alaa@dana-htl.ae
Web: www.aldiarhotels.com/aldiardanahotel/dining
Hours: Daily midday to 3am
Comments: English style bar with LCD TV screens. Offers a wide selection of drinks and cocktails
- **Aquarius Bar- Yas Island Rotana**
Address: Golf Plaza, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 656 4000
Web: www.rotanatimes.com/yasislandrotana
Hours: Daily 11am to 9pm
Comments: The bar is located at the poolside on the ground level
- **Hemingway's**
Address: Hilton Hotel, Corniche Road, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 681 1900
Email: abudhabi.reservations@hilton.com
Hours: Open daily from midday to 2am
Comments: Smooth music played in a jazz bar environment. Live music Monday to Saturday, Sunday night quiz. There is a good choice of draught beers. They also have large screens for sports events
- **Heroes**
Address: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sheikh Hamdam Street, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 616 6132
Email: reservations.cpauh@ihg.com
Web: www.crowneplaza.com
Hours: Daily midday to 4am
Comments: The American-style bar is located in the basement. The venue is very popular with expatriates. There is a large screen for sports events and live music. The Vincent's Bar at the hotel is equally popular with expatriates
- **Ray's Bar – Jumeira Hotel**
Address: Jumeira at Etihad Towers, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 811 5666
Email: JADrestaurants@jumeirah.com
Web: www.jumeirah.com/en
Hours: Daily 5pm to 3am
Comments: Award winning elegant bar with DJ music, serving Asian cuisine on level 63 of the hotel. Smart casual dress code
- **The Tavern English Pub**
Address: Sheraton Hotel, Corniche Road, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 677 3333
Email: sheraton.abudhabi@sheraton.com
Web: <https://visitabudhabi.ae/en/where-to-go/dining-and-restaurants/tavern-pub>
Hours: Sunday to Thursday from 4pm to 2am. Friday and Saturday from 2pm to 2am
Comments: Bar menus are available. There is a live band and sports on the big screens
- **PJ O'Reilly's**
Address: Le Royal Méridien Abu Dhabi, Al Markaziyah, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 695 0450, +971 800 101 101
Email: restaurants.lrmad@lemeridien.com
Web: www.pjpubabudhabi.com
Hours: Saturday to Wednesday midday to 2am; Thursday and Friday midday to 3am; children until 7pm only

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Comments: Traditional Irish bar. They have regular comedy nights with live music. There are sports on the big screen and resident band. They serve a famous brunch on Fridays. There is a special ladies-night as well

Bars in Dubai

- **Alta Badia Bar**
Address: Level 50, Emirates Tower, Sheikh Zayed Highway, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 319 8008
Web: www.jumeirah.com/en/hotels-resorts/dubai/jumeirah-emirates-towers/restaurants_bars
Hours: Daily 6pm to 3am
Comments: This is a swish, cocktail lounge, with a selection of the best international cocktails. The venue is popular with expats in the city
- **Barasti Beach**
Address: Le Meridien Mina Seyahi Beach Resort & Marina, Al Sufouh Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 318 1313
Email: 03034.restaurants@westin.com
Web: <http://barastibeach.com>
Hours: Saturday to Wednesday 11am to 1.30am; Thursday and Friday 11am to 3am
Comments: The bar is located in the heart of Dubai Marina, with a superb beachfront location. The place gets packed out with a cool, casual crowd most nights of the week. Sports on the big screen
- **The Irish Village**
Address: The Aviation Club, 31A Street, Al Garhoud, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 282 4750
Email: info@theirishvillage.com
Web: www.theirishvillage.com
Hours: Saturday to Wednesday 11am to 1am; Thursday and Friday 11am to 2am
Comments: This is a popular Irish pub. Customers can sit inside the traditional wooden pub or out on the terrace overlooking gardens and lake. They have traditional Irish music, authentic meals. Expat favorite. International stars performing live
- **Vintage Cheese and Wine Bar**
Address: Near Healthcare City Wafi Pyramids, Wafi City, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 324 4100
Email: fnbsales@wafi.com
Web: www.pyramidsrestaurantsatwafi.com/restaurants/vintage.html
Hours: Friday to Wednesday 5pm to 1am; Thursday 5pm to 2am
Comments: Good bar for a quiet evening or a gathering of friends pre dinner. A bar with leather sofas, cigars, vintage cheeses and a superb selection of wines
- **West Beach Bistro & Sports lounge**
Address: Mövenpick Hotel Jumeirah Beach, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 449 8888
Email: hotel.jumeirahbeach@movenpick.com
Web: www.jumeirah.com/en/hotels-resorts/dubai/jumeirah-beach-hotel
Hours: Daily midday to 3am
Comments: Multi screens of sports entertainment. Also bistro-style dining and American pool

Casinos in Abu Dhabi

There are no casinos in Abu Dhabi, respecting the Muslim laws against gambling.

Casinos in Dubai

There are no casinos in Dubai; respecting the Muslim laws against gambling.

Nightclubs in Abu Dhabi

Nightclubs and bars in Abu Dhabi host both local DJs, as well as big international names. Local nightclubs feature regional Arab singers, musicians and belly dancers. World famous groups and individual stars also perform at hotels in Abu Dhabi. Much of the nightlife in Abu Dhabi takes place in malls and hotels.

- **Enigma**
Address: Al Raha Beach Hotel, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 508 0555

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Email: fnb.alraha@danathotels.com

Web: <https://www.abudhabinight.com/venues/enigma>

Hours: Thursday and Friday 10.30pm to 3.30am

Comments: Large nightclub featuring a two-level open dance floor which houses UAE's most popular DJ's. The club features state of the art lighting system, video and sound, an elevated DJ booth, large dance floor, exclusive VIP Lounge and four serving bars

- **Hysteria**

Address: 11th Street, Near The Hilton, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 54 444 7841

Email: reservations@hysteriaclub.ae

Web: www.facebook.com/HysteriaAbuDhabi, <http://hysteriaclub.ae>

- **Legends**

Address: Sheraton Hotel, Corniche Road, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 677 3333 (hotel)

Web: www.facebook.com/LegendsAbuDhabi/?rf=669348119876996

- **Mad On Yas Island**

Address: Near Yas Tunnel, Leisure Drive, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 55 834 6262

Email: reservations@madyasisland.com

Web: <https://www.yasisland.com/en/attractions/mad>

- **SAX Club**

Address: Khalifa Bin Zayed the First St, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 674 1286

Email: sax@elitermcgroup.com

Web: <https://www.timeoutabudhabi.com/bars/sax>

Nightclubs in Dubai

Most of the clubs are open until 3am. There may be an entry charge. During Ramadan, check to see if they are open. Many will be closed, and the ones that are open will be very subdued, as no live music or dancing is allowed then.

- **360°**

Address: Jumeirah Beach Hotel, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 406 8741

Email: 360@jumeirah.com

Web: www.jumeirah.com/en/hotels-resorts/dubai/jumeirah-beach-hotel

Hours: Daily 5pm to 3am

Comments: House-music all night long. It is an outside bar with ocean and sunset views. There is a dress code and over 21-year-old persons only. Identification is required

- **Club Boudoir**

Address: Dubai Marine Beach Resort and Spa, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 345 5995

Email: info@clubboudoirdubai.com

Web: <https://www.dxbmarine.com/dining-entertainment-at-jumeirah-beach-hotel-and-restaurant-club-boudoir-dubai/>

Hours: Open all nights from 10pm to 3am

Comments: This is a very luxurious venue. Crystal chandeliers, rich fabrics and opulence, set Boudoir apart from the rest of Dubai's club scene. It is popular with the celebrity set and the city's elite. Funky house, hip-hop, pop and rock as the night wears on and the dance floor fills with an international crowd

- **Buddha Bar**

Address: Grosvenor House Dubai, Al Emreef Street, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 317 6000

Email: resbook.grosvenorhouse@luxurycollection.com

Web: www.buddhabar-dubai.com

Hours: Saturday to Wednesday 7pm to 1.30am; Thursday and Friday 7pm to 2.30am

Comments: Nightspot with top-floor panorama, with chill-out sounds from guest DJs, plus cocktails

- **Viceroy Pub**

Address: Four Points by Sheraton Bur Dubai, Khalid Bin Walid Street, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 397 7444

Email: restaurants.burdubai@fourpoints.com

Web: <https://www.zomato.com/dubai/the-vice-roy-pub-four-points-by-sheraton-bur-dubai-mankhool>

Hours: Daily midday to 2am

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Comments: This is an English pub with a colonial setting. There are several LCD-screens in the pub showing a wide variety of sports. Good selection of beers, with a variety on tap

- **N'Dulge**

Address: Atlantis the Palm Hotel, Crescent Road, Jumeirah, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 426 2000

Email: info@atlantisthepalm.com

Web: www.atlantisthepalm.com/thingstodo/ndulgenightclub.aspx

Hours: Friday 4pm to 3am; Thursday and Saturday 9pm to 3am

Comments: This is a modern nightclub, boasting a dance zone, lounge area and outdoor terrace. The music is House, Electro, RnB and Dance. The weekend events focus around performers, burlesque showgirls and dancers, with themed decor. The club features a dance floor surrounded by a suspended catwalk, with the latest music and lighting technology. The more relaxed lounge opens up to an outdoor terrace with lounge style seating. Over 21s only

- **Zinc**

Address: Crown Plaza Hotel, Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 331 1111

Email: crowneplaza.cp.dubai@ihg.com

Web: www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/gb/en/dubai/dubtc/hoteldetail/dining

Hours: Daily 9pm to 3am

Comments: Popular with the younger 20-something professional crowd, there is a resident DJ and live music, R&B and Hip Hop nights. Ladies go free many nights. Persons under 21 years are not allowed at the club.

Nightlife in Abu Dhabi

There are several nightclubs located in major shopping centers and malls, but the overwhelming majority is found in hotels, as they are almost without exception the only ones that can sell alcohol.

Entertainment ranges from Arabic singers and dancers to international pop stars and comedy acts. Bars are found in all good hotels and range from sophisticated cocktail lounges to English and Irish style pubs. Thursday and Saturday nights are the principal nights out in the United Arab Emirates. In addition to Abu Dhabi hotels and restaurants, nightlife in Abu Dhabi also features several piano and jazz bars.

The hotels, in particular, stage the best live shows. Cabaret and belly dancing are customary events in the hotels' nightclubs. There is sometimes a dress code. As Abu Dhabi is in a Muslim country, most bars do not allow open toed sandals.

The minimum age for purchasing alcohol in the UAE is 21 years of age and you have to be over 25 years old to get into the majority of clubs. Alcohol purchase and consumption is restricted to non-Muslims only. You can face penalties for buying an alcoholic drink for a Muslim.

Nightlife in Dubai

Local licensing laws mean that most outlets serving alcohol are limited to being in Dubai hotels, golf clubs and some government-owned establishments. Recent years have seen a proliferation of nightspots across Dubai. Locations such as Bur Dubai, Dubai Marina and Deira have some good venues. Along the high-rise golden mile of Sheikh Zayed Road, nightlife venues are also plentiful and similarly, Madinat Jumeirah is a prime venue for bar and club hopping.

Most bars have some sort of dress code for the men. Men should wear a shirt with a collar, jeans or trousers, and shoes - no sandals or sneakers. Women should also not wear open toed shoes or revealing clothes.

3.8 Sports

Sporting Events in Abu Dhabi

Many of the events in Abu Dhabi are related to sports. With globalization, Abu Dhabi has managed to improve its sporting infrastructure. There are many stadiums, training centers, practice courts and coaches to aid the development of sports in Abu Dhabi.

Sporting events include:

- **Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge**

Web: www.facebook.com/AbuDhabiDesertChallenge

Comments: It is a 5-day race staged across the deserts of Abu Dhabi emirate in April. It is the opening round of the FIM Cross-Country World

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Rally Championships and the second round of the FIA Cross Country Rally World Cup

- **Abu Dhabi Formula 1 Grand Prix**

Web:https://www.formula1.com/en/racing/2022/United_Arab_Emirates.html

Comments: Introduced in 2009, it is held at the Yas Marina circuit; F1's only day/night race, held under floodlights

- **Abu Dhabi Golf Championship**

Web:<https://www.abudhabigolfclub.abudhabi/>

Comments: This prestigious golf championship takes place annually in January

- **Abu Dhabi Striders Half Marathon**

Web:<https://en-gb.facebook.com/abudhabistriders>

Comments: This popular half marathon takes place during November - the website has information about other races. They also organize other running events. Details are on the website

- **European Golf Tour**

Web:www.europeantour.com/europeantour/tournament/index.html

Comments: Takes place annually at the Abu Dhabi Golf Club in January

- **Mubadala World Tennis Championship**

Web:www.mubadalawtc.com

Comments: Played on hard courts at the Abu Dhabi International Tennis Complex, the event has been ongoing since 2009. It is also known as Mubadala World Tennis Championship for sponsorship reasons. The annual championship takes place during December

Sporting Events in Dubai

Many high profile national and international sports events fill the Dubai calendar each year including:

- **Dubai International Rally**

Web:www.facebook.com/DxbInternationalRally

Comments: The final round of the FIA Middle East Rally Championship, and has been staged in Dubai in December since the mid-1980s

- **Dubai Racing World Cup - Horse Racing**

Web:<https://dubairacingclub.com/>

Comments: This is the richest horserace in the world. Held in March

- **Dubai Rugby Sevens**

Web:www.dubairugby7s.com

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Comments: Over 160 international invitations, Gulf, local social, ladies, veterans, and youth teams. Held in December

- **Dubai Marathon**

Web: www.dubaimarathon.org

Comments: Attracts athletes from all over the world. Held in January

- **Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championship**

Web: www.dubaidutyfreetennischampionships.com

Comments: Professional men's and women's tournament including the best players in the world. Held in February and March

- **Omega Dubai Desert Classic**

Web: www.omegadubaidesertclassic.com

Comments: This is a round of the European Golf Tour. Held in January/February

Sports

Sports is a strong element running through the cultural fabric of the UAE. Traditional sports, such as camel riding, endurance horse racing and dhow sailing are heavily promoted and subsidized, ensuring the sports remain alongside the more international sports, such as football, show jumping, polo, golf, powerboat racing, yachting, motor racing, tennis, cricket, boxing, chess, snooker, ice hockey and ice skating, basketball and rugby.

The more unusual pursuits of falconry and camel racing are widely followed in the UAE. Camel racing now takes place on customized tracks, that have been built throughout the country. Race meetings are held in the winter months from October to April, culminating in the annual camel race festival at Al Wathba, which attracts entrants from all over the world.

The United Arab Emirates has the infrastructure required to maintain sporting facilities at a world-class level. Sports clubs are normally at the center of expatriate cultural life, as well as a hub for sporting activities.

Nearly every hotel in the UAE offers excellent sporting facilities, from swimming pools and racquet sports courts to gymnasiums and fitness studios. All are of first-rate quality and anyone can join. Either you can pay on a daily basis, or you can subscribe to a six-month or 12-month membership. Most of the hotels also benefit from beach clubs, and many have beauty therapy spas attached to the facilities.

The bright green parks of the Emirati cities are popular places for fitness and leisure, especially in-line skating, and provide a safe environment for children to ride their bicycles and play ball games. You must pay a small entrance fee for most public parks. On certain days of the week, public parks and paying beaches are open only to women and children; this excludes boys over the age of six years.

Tickets for sports events are available online from the following providers:

- **800 Tickets**

Web: www.800tickets.com

- **Platinumlist**

Web: <https://abu-dhabi.platinumlist.net>

- **Virgin Mega Store**

Web: <https://tickets.virginmegastore.me/ae/sports>

Details of national sports and sports people can be found on the following websites.

- **Dubai.com**

Web: www.dubai.com/blog/traditional-sports-in-the-uae

Comments: The website has details of traditional sports in the UAE, such as camel racing and boat races

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- **Gulf News - UAE Sport**
Web: <http://gulfnews.com/sport/uae>
- **The National (Newspaper)**
Web: www.thenational.ae/sport

Sports Facilities in Abu Dhabi

Golf

Abu Dhabi has more than a dozen golf courses for visitors, which include three challenging PGA championship golf courses, with five additional courses, which are open to visitors. Golf courses either have lush fairways, or are made of sand, or can be a mixture of both. Membership is mostly required, but affiliated guests can also play. Day fees will apply.

The following golf clubs are popular with the expat community:

- **Abu Dhabi City Golf Club**
Address: Al Mushrif, off 19th Street between 26 and 28th Streets, Abu Dhabi
Postal Address: PO Box 33303, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 445 9600
Email: office@adcitygolf.ae
Web: <https://adcitygolf.com>
Comments: A scenic lake runs through the course, forming a formidable obstacle on this versatile 9-hole course. There is a variety of membership options including, social membership, midweek membership, corporate membership and special junior rates are available. Green fees are also available
- **Abu Dhabi Golf Club**
Address: Sas Al Nakhl, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 885 3555
Email: info@adgolfclub.com
Web: www.adgolfclub.com
Comments: One of the most luxurious golf resorts in the Middle East. The club is located 15 minutes from the city center and 10 minutes from Abu Dhabi International Airport. The venue features 27 championship holes, over undulating terrain with seven spectacular saltwater lakes. Membership options and green fees are available
- **Al Ghazal Golf Club**
Address: Located near Abu Dhabi International Airport, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 505 3314
Email: trustus.rolly@gmail.com
Web: www.alghazalgolf.ae
Comments: This is an 18-hole course. There is also a golf academy for new players and for those who want to improve their skills. The club has a wide variety of other sports recreation facilities. Various categories of membership are available, including Junior
- **Saadiyat Beach Golf Club**
Address: Saadiyat Island
Tel: +971 2 499 8100
Email: info@sbgolfclub.ae
Web: www.sbgolfclub.ae
Comments: A brand new course designed by Gary Player. This is the Arabian Gulf's first and only ocean course, featuring several beachfront holes with spectacular views. Shaped in a figure eight, the course is designed so that golfers do not have to play the same hole twice. Membership options and green fees are available
- **Yas Links Golf Club**
Address: Yas Island, Near the Marina and the Yas Marina Circuit, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 810 7710
Email: info@yaslinks.com
Web: www.yaslinks.com
Comments: The course is located 15 minutes from the city center. There is an 18-hole course and a 9-hole course. There is also a golf academy. Floodlights are available for nighttime practice. Various categories of membership are available, including Junior

Tennis

Tennis players are well catered for in Abu Dhabi, with courts available for use by the public in hotels, or in private clubs, solely for their members. Many courts have floodlighting to allow play in the evenings. Group or individual coaching is widely available. Tennis facilities are open for all age groups. Coaching is available. Membership is mostly required, but guests may also play. Day fees apply - the websites have details.

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For those who are interested in tennis lessons, the CF Tennis Academy offers professional coaching at various locations in Abu Dhabi. The website has details.

- **CF Tennis Academy**
Web: <http://cftennisacademy.com/venues>

Clubs, which are popular venues for expatriates, include:

- **Abu Dhabi City Golf Club**
Address: Al Mushrif, off 19th Street, Between 26 and 28th Streets, Abu Dhabi
Postal Address: PO Box 33303, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 445 9600
Email: office@adcitygolf.ae
Web: <https://adcitygolf.com>
Comments: The club has three floodlit tennis courts
- **Abu Dhabi Country Club**
Address: Shakbout Bin Sultan St., Al Mushrif, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 657 7777
Email: club@adcountryclub.com
Web: <http://adcountryclub.com>
Comments: Leisure facilities include nine tennis courts. Abu Dhabi Country Club Tennis Program offers a wide variety of instructional, competitive and social opportunities for players of all levels. Private lessons for adults and juniors are available
- **Tennis at The Club**
Address: Off Sheikh Khalifa Highway, Mina Sadyat, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 673 1111
Email: marketing@the-club.com
Web: www.the-club.com
Comments: Four floodlit tennis courts, bookable by members. The Tennis Section at The Club welcomes beginners and experienced players, both the young and not so young
- **Zayed Sports City**
Address: Airport Road, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 403 4200
Email: info@zsc.ae
Web: www.facebook.com/ZayedSportsCity
Comments: There are nine tennis courts, tennis membership program including unlimited court time, priority on bookings, and the opportunity to play on the ATP standard center court. They provide professional coaching for both young and adults, beginners and advanced player. A variety of membership options is available. Courts can be rented by the hour for non-members

Swimming Pools

Most sports clubs have swimming pools and some will allow pool only membership or payment for occasional use. Many top hotels will also allow non-residents to use the pool for a fee. Swimming pools are also located at some of the residential complexes in the city.

The following website has general details of swimming activities in the city:

- **Advantage Sports UAE**
Web: www.advantagesportsuae.com/activities/swimming

Facilities in Abu Dhabi include:

- **Abu Dhabi City Golf Club**
Address: Al Mushrif, Off 19th Street between 26 and 28th Streets, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 445 9600
Email: office@adcitygolf.ae
Web: <https://adcitygolf.com>
Hours: Open daily from 8am to 8pm
Comments: There is a large swimming pool for adults as well as a pool for children. Snacks are available
- **Abu Dhabi Country Club**
Address: Shakbout Bin Sultan Street, Al Mushrif, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 657 7777

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Email: club@adcountryclub.com

Web: <http://adcountryclub.com>

Comments: Leisure facilities include a swimming pool with lessons available

- **Al Jazirah Sports Club**

Address: Located near Abu Dhabi Police Head Quarters, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 445 4455

Email: info@jc.ae

Web: www.jc.ae/en

Comments: The club has a 50m pool; visitors can pay hourly or take up membership monthly/yearly

- **Hilton Abu Dhabi Hotel**

Tel: +971 2 692 4324

Email: abudhabi.reservations@hilton.com

Web: <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/auhyih-hilton-abu-dhabi-yas-island/>

Comments: The Hiltonia Beach Club has three pools available

- **The Club**

Address: Off Sheik Khalifa Highway, Mina Sadiyat, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 673 1111

Web: www.the-club.com

Comments: There is a 25m pool as well as two shaded pools for children. Swimming lessons are available at the club

Fitness Clubs

The favorable weather enjoyed for most of the year is conducive to outdoor sporting activities. However, for those who prefer to maintain their fitness levels indoors, there are many health clubs and gyms in Abu Dhabi. Health clubs may be attached to beach clubs. These leisure facilities with beach access are very popular, especially with families. Beach club membership can be quite expensive. Independent health clubs offer excellent gym facilities, pools and tennis courts. This may be a less expensive option. Health clubs are situated in residential areas, office blocks and adjacent to shopping malls.

Many of the newer apartment blocks and residential areas offer gym facilities to their residents. Sports clubs attached to rugby or football clubs and some golf clubs offer social membership, allowing use of the gym, pool areas, etc. Many health clubs offer crèche facilities at an hourly rate and beach clubs offer supervised kids clubs. Some clubs may have waiting lists, but they move quickly.

Clubs, which are frequented by expats in Abu Dhabi, include:

- **Abu Dhabi Country Club**

Address: Shakbout Bin Sultan Street, Al Mushrif, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 657 7777

Email: club@adcountryclub.com

Web: <http://adcountryclub.com>

Comments: Exclusive health and fitness club set in landscaped gardens; has two custom-designed gyms, aerobics room, two squash courts, three tennis courts, a stable of 20 horses, Japanese restaurant, swimming pool, Jacuzzis and other recreational facilities

- **Al Jazira Sports & Cultural Club**

Address: Located near Abu Dhabi Police Head Quarters, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 445 4455

Email: info@jc.ae

Web: www.jc.ae/en

Comments: Abu Dhabi-based sports club with facilities for handball, volleyball, basketball, weightlifting, gymnasium, air-conditioned swimming pool with under water cameras, football grounds, bowling hall and other events

- **Fitness First**

Web: <http://uae.fitnessfirstme.com>

Comments: There are five centers in the city - the website has location details. Popular with expats

- **Golds Gym**

Web: www.goldsgym.ae

Comments: This group has three centers in the city - the website has details

- **Lifeline**

Web: www.lifelinewellness.com

Comments: There is a wide network of clubs in the city - the website has location maps. Popular with the expat community

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- **The Club**
Address: Off Sheik Khalifa Highway, Mina Sadiyat, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 673 1111
Web: www.the-club.com
Comments: The gym boasts the latest equipment and is manned by a team of fully qualified expatriate Fitness Instructors and Personal Trainers. Personal training sessions, dietary programs and fitness assessments are also available from the personal training team. In order to apply for Membership, all applicants must hold UAE residency and should be sponsored by three current Members

Sports Facilities in Dubai

Sports enthusiasts can find a wide range of activities in Dubai. The most popular participatory sports are golf, sailing, windsurfing, water-skiing, fishing, snorkeling and scuba diving, with many of the beach hotels and clubs offering facilities for water sports and lessons. Indoor skiing is available at Ski Dubai, the first indoor ski resort in the Middle East, located within the Mall of the Emirates.

There are also numerous sports to play or watch, including rugby, soccer, ice hockey, shooting, go-kart, racing, netball, golf, cycling and more. Dubai has many sports and recreational clubs for all ages and interests. Most require annual membership, but non-members can participate in some of the activities on offer.

Golf

Details of golf courses and golfing news are available on the Golf in Dubai website.

- **Golf in Dubai**
Web: www.golfindubai.com

Most golf courses in Dubai follow a dress code that includes golfing attire and forbids the wearing of jeans to play a game of golf. Shirt with collars, only rubber soled golf shoes or soft spikes are allowed and round neck shirts are not allowed. Membership is required, but affiliated members can also play at the clubs. Day fees apply.

The following clubs have a large expat membership:

- **Arabian Ranches Golf Club**
Address: Emirates Road 311, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 366 4700
Email: info@arabianranchesgolf.ae
Web: www.arabianranchesgolfdubai.com
Comments: This is an 18-hole, 72-par course. Facilities include restaurants and a golf academy. Many expats play at the course
- **Dubai Creek Golf & Yacht Club**
Address: Baniyas Road, Port Saeed, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 295 6000
Email: cgye@dubaigolf.com
Web: www.dubaigolf.com
Comments: This is one of the world's most famous golf clubs. The par-71, 6,857-yard course has a floodlit driving range, practice putting green, chipping greens and practice bunkers. There is also a 9-hole par-3 course offering facilities for every level of golfer. Membership options and green fees are available
- **Emirates Golf Club**
Address: 20 kilometers from Dubai town center, 10 minutes from Jumeirah Beach, Interchange 5, Shaikh Zayed Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 417 9999
Email: egc@dubaigolf.com
Web: www.dubaigolf.com/emirates-golf-club.aspx
Comments: 2 championship courses, a friendly yet testing 9-hole par-3 course, the Emirates Golf Academy, numerous practice facilities and 2 driving ranges. Listed among the top 100 courses in the world. Membership options and green fees are available
- **JA Jebel Ali Golf Resort**
Address: Next to Jebel Ali Free Zone, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 814 5555
Email: jagr@jaresorts.com
Web: <https://www.jaresortshotels.com/>
Comments: The resort is very popular with expats. Besides the 9-hole golf course, there are numerous other recreation options
- **The Els Club**
Address: Dubai Sports City, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Road, Dubai

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Tel: +971 4 425 1000
Email: reservations@elsclubdubai.com
Web: www.elsclubdubai.com
Comments: The course was designed by Ernie Els and offers five-star facilities. Membership is required

The central reservations office can be contacted for golf bookings.

- **Dubai Golf - Central Reservations**
Tel: +971 4 380 1234
Email: golfbooking@dubaigolf.com
Web: www.dubaigolf.com
Comments: Information about golf courses and booking facilities are on the website

Tennis

Most sports and health clubs have tennis courts that are available for use by members. Hotels and resorts usually have tennis courts that can be used by non-residents for a fee.

- **Arabian Ranches**
Address: Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 366 1688
Email: customercare@emaar.ae
Web: <http://arabianranches.ae>
Comments: There are 13 courts available. The courts are for residents and visitors
- **Club Olympus**
Address: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Deira Corniche
Tel: +971 4 209 6000
Email: clubolympus.hyattregencydubai@hyatt.com
Comments: Coaching is available for members and non-members. Membership fees include exclusive use of the pool, gymnasium, tennis courts, squash courts, table tennis, jogging track, sauna, steam room, plunge pool, jacuzzi, lockers and towels. In addition, members are entitled to a discount on the use of the Hyatt Golf Park and ice rink
- **Dubai Tennis Academy**
Address: American University, Dubai Media City & Dubai Modern Academy, Off Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 50 286 8025
Email: dtatennis@gmail.com
Web: www.dubaitennisacademy.com
Comments: Tennis tuition and general playing takes place at the American University and the Grand Hyatt
- **Fitness First**
Web: <http://uae.fitnessfirstme.com>
Comments: Many expats make use of the tennis facilities at the clubs. There are more than 20 branches in Dubai
- **Habtoor Grand Resort**
Address: Al Falea Street, Jumeirah, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 399 5000
Web: www.marriott.co.uk/hotels/travel/dxbhg-habtoor-grand-resort-autograph-collection/
Comments: Facilities include four floodlit tennis courts
- **Meydan Tennis Academy**
Address: Meydan Race Course, Al Meydan Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 381 3500
Email: info@tennisthreesixty.com
Web: <https://www.tennisthreesixty.com/venues/meydan-tennis-academy/>
Comments: There are nine courts at the center. The venue is popular with expats. Coaching is available
- **Grand Hyatt Hotel**
Address: Sheikh Rashid Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 317 2335
Email: spa.grandhyattdubai@hyatt.com
Web: <https://www.grandhyattdubairesidences.com>
Comments: Open- air courts are available at the hotel, along with other recreational facilities. Professional tuition is available

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Swimming Pools

With the weather being hot for most of the year, swimming pools in Dubai are plentiful. Most villa compounds provide a communal outdoor pool and as more and more people move into their own villas, they are choosing to have a swimming pool in their garden. Most other pools are located within clubs that require membership. Many top hotels will also allow non-residents to use the pool for a fee.

Mushriff Park (near Mirdiff) has two 25m swimming pools, separated into men's and women's areas.

Fitness Clubs

Given the beach culture and al fresco lifestyle in Dubai, there is a high demand for fitness training. Most hotels have a fitness club and additional services such as massages and general spa treatments. The clubs have a wide range of membership options. However, at some clubs, day passes are available for guests. Membership is also available to children. Clubs generally open around 6am.

Fitness clubs, which are popular with expats in Dubai, include:

- **Fidelity Fitness Club**
Address: Almas Tower, Jumeirah Lake Towers, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 451 1133
Email: memberships@fidelityfitnessclub.com
Web: www.fidelityfitnessclub.com
- **Fitness First**
Web: <http://uae.fitnessfirstme.com>
Comments: There are many branches in Dubai - the website has details
- **Riva Beach Resort Gym**
Address: Building 8, The Shoreline, Palm Jumeirah, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 430 9466
Email: info@riva-beach.com
Web: www.riva-beach.com/en/access/access.aspx
Comments: The gym offers a wide range of fitness activities, including Yoga. Popular with expats
- **Talise Fitness**
Web: <https://www.jumeirah.com/en/rejuvenate/dubai/jumeirah-al-naseem/talise-fitness>
Comments: There are several facilities around the city. The website has details
- **V Fitness Club**
Address: International City, Spain Cluster, Prime Residence 2, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 430 8405
Email: contact@vfitness.com
Web: <https://www.vfitness.club/>

3.9 Tourist Information Offices

Abu Dhabi

- **Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture**
Address: Nation Towers Corniche, Building B, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 444 0444
Email: info@dctabudhabi.ae
Web: <http://tcaabudhabi.ae/en>
- **Visitors Information Bureau**
Address: Al Salam Street, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 444 0444, +971 2 666 4442, (international toll free number), 800 555 (Toll free within UAE)
Email: info@visitabudhabi.ae
Web: <https://visitabudhabi.ae/en>
Comments: The website has a list of all international offices

Dubai

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- **Dubai Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing**
Address: 9th, 8th and Ground Floors, Al Fattan Plaza, Airport Road, Deira, Dubai
Tel: +971 600 555 559
Email: info@visitdubai.ae
Web: www.visitdubai.com/en

Overseas Offices for Abu Dhabi

A list of international tourist offices is on the website:

- **International Offices Abu Dhabi**
Web: <https://tcaabudhabi.ae/en/who.we.are/our.offices.aspx>

Australia	Address: Level 11, 117 York Street, Sydney NSW 2000; Tel: +61 2 9286 8964; Email: australia@dctabudhabi.ae
China	Address: RM0720, 7th Floor, Jingxin Plaza, 2 East 3rd Ring North Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing, 100027; Tel: +86 10 5676 2100; Email: china@dctabudhabi.ae
France	Address: 11 Rue Blance, 75009 Paris; Tel: +33 1 5325 0352; Email: france@dctabudhabi.ae
Germany	Address: Bavariaring 38, 80336 München; Tel: +49 89 6890 638 66; Email: germany@dctabudhabi.ae
India	Address: M-2 Mezzanine Floor, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi 110001; Tel: +91 11 2373 7348; Email: india@dctabudhabi.ae
Italy	Address: Via Vigevano 18, 20144 Milan; Tel: +39 02 5737 8315; Email: italy@dctabudhabi.ae
Russia	Address: 29, Serebryanicheskaya Emb., 8th floor, Business Center, Silver City, Moscow 109028; Tel: +7 903 196 2292; Email: russia@dctabudhabi.ae
Saudi Arabia (GCC)	Address: TCA Abu Dhabi/Etihad Airways Office, Serafi Mega Mall, Tahlia Street, Jeddah; Tel: +966 56 767 9941; Email: KSA-Office@dctabudhabi.ae
United Kingdom & Ireland	Address: 1 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LY; Tel: +44 20 7201 6400; Email: uk@dctabudhabi.ae
United States	Address: 600 Fifth Avenue, 20 th Floor, New York, NY 10022; Tel: +1 212 554 1314; Email: usa@dctabudhabi.ae

Overseas Offices for Dubai

Australia & New Zealand	Address: Level 9, Suites 1, 3 Spring Street, Sydney NSW 2000; Tel: +61 2 9956 6620; Email: dtdcm_au@dubaitourism.ae
China	Address: Lido Office building, Room 412, 6 Jiangtai Road, Chao Yang, Beijing 100004; Tel: +8610 5979 2062; Email: dtdcm_beijing@dubaitourism.ae
Germany	Address: Bockenheimer Landstrasse 23, 60325 Frankfurt; Tel: +49 69 71 000 20; Email: dtdcm_ge@dubaitourism.ae
India	Address: Suite 811, Hubtown Viva, 8th Floor, Western Express Highway, Andheri-Jogeshwari (East), Mumbai 400060; Tel: +91 22 2282 8836; Email: dtdcm_in@dubaitourism.ae
Italy	Address: Via Carducci 36, 20123, Milan; Tel: +39 02 8366 0917; Email: dtdcm_it@dubaitourism.ae

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Japan	Address: Akasaka Biz Tower, 5-3-1 Akasaka, Minato-Ku, Tokyo 107-6322; Tel: +81 3 6441 4603; Email: japanrep@visit-dubai.jp
Russia, CIS & Baltic States	Address: 6 Nizhniy Kislovskiy Lane, 129005 Moscow; Tel: +7 495 644 3938; Email: dtcm_russia@dubaitourism.ae
Nordic countries	Address: Lommervad 7, 1 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark; Tel: +45 7023 3577; Email : info@related.dk
United Kingdom & Ireland	Address: 4th floor Nuffield House, 41-46 Piccadilly, London, W1J 0DS; Tel: +44 207 321 6110; Email: dtcm_uk@dubaitourism.ae

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4 Family Corner

4.1 Childcare

Abu Dhabi

In addition to specialist nursery provision, international schools have facilities for children, usually from three years of age.

- **Bright Beginnings Nursery**
Web: www.brightbeginnings.ae
Hours: Sunday to Thursday 7am to 5pm. There is some variation between branches
Comments: Offers care and education for children from 4 weeks to 4 years of age. English language, with Arabic and French. Bright Beginnings has three centers in the city. The website has location maps
- **British Orchard Nursery**
Web: www.britishorchardnursery.com
Comments: Provides care and education for children from six months to 4 years of age. Bus services are available. There are several branches around the city. The website has details
- **Busy Bees Nursery**
Address: Off 4th Street, Near Brazil Embassy, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 621 9492
Email: admin@busybees-nursery.com
Web: www.busybees-nursery.com
Hours: Sunday to Thursday 8am to 1pm, with early morning drop off from 7.30am and afternoon pick-up until 1.30pm
Comments: Offers care and education for children from 18 months to 4 years of age
- **First Steps Nursery and Pre-School**
Address: Al Karama Street, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 446 0960, +971 2 445 4920
Email: info@firststeps.ae
Web: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/firststepsabudhabi/>
Comments: Provides care and education for children aged 18 months to 4 years. A bus service is available
- **Jigsaw Nursery**
Address: Near the corner of Delma Street and Al Karama Street, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2445 5222
Email: info.karama@jigsawnursery.ae
Web: www.jigsawnursery.ae
Hours: Sunday to Thursday 7am to 6pm
Comments: Care for children between the ages of 1 and 4 years
- **Teddy Bear American Nursery**
Web: www.teddybearnursery.net
Hours: Sunday to Thursday 8am to 2pm, with extended hours until 5pm available
Comments: Incorporate elements of Montessori philosophy and principles, supported by a number of Montessori qualified staff. The nursery offers care 2 to 5 days a week, with an optional afternoon program. The group has two schools in Abu Dhabi - the website has details

Dubai

There is a considerable number of nursery and pre-school facilities in Dubai. Expatwoman.com has a list of facilities that can be searched by area.

- **Expatwoman.com**
Web: www.expatwoman.com/dubai/monthly_nurseries.aspx

Selected childcare facilities include:

- **Alphabet Street Nursery**
Address: Um Suqeim 2, Al Manara Street, Road 8A, Villa 11, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 348 5991

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Email: admin@alphabetstreetnursery.com

Web: <http://asndxb.wix.com/asndubai>

Hours: Sunday to Thursday 8am to 12.30pm, 2.30pm or 5.30pm

Comments: Attendance can be either on a full or part-time basis. Part-time attendance is either 3 days per week (Saturdays, Mondays and Wednesdays), or 4 days per week. Provides care and education for children from 14 months to 4 years of age. Offering a mix of the Montessori education and the Early Years & Foundation Stage Program. School bus services are available

- **British Orchard Nursery**

Web: www.britishorchardnursery.com

Comments: Provides care and education for children from six months to 4 years of age. Bus services are available. There are several branches around the city. The website has details

- **Emirates British Nursery**

Web: www.ebnnursery.com

Hours: Sunday to Thursday 8am to 12.30pm or 3pm

Comments: There are three branches in Dubai - the website has location details. They provide care and education for children from 3 months to 4 years of age. The school follows the British Early Years program

- **Little House Nursery**

Address: Jumeirah 3, Al Wasl Road, Umm Al Sheif, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 338 4243, +971 4 388 7130

Email: admin@littlehousenursery.ae

Web: <https://littlehousenurseryuae.wordpress.com/>

Hours: Sunday to Thursday 7:15am to 1pm, 3pm or 6pm

- **Jebel Ali Nursery**

Web: www.javn.ae

Comments: There are several branches around the city. The website has details. They follow the British Early Years curriculum

4.2 Education

Education

In the United Arab Emirates, education is compulsory for ages six to 12 years, and the literacy rate among UAE citizens is estimated at 94%. The government funds public schools. For UAE citizens, public schools are free. Schools are taught in Arabic, with an emphasis on learning English as a second language. The UAE also has many accredited private schools. Since 2006, expatriate students are allowed to attend government schools by paying tuition fees.

In September 2017, the Ministry of Education and Abu Dhabi Education Council announced that schools across the UAE will follow a new common education system. According to the announcement, all government and private schools that follow the government curriculum will adopt what is called the "Emirati School Model," with the aim of improving standards and producing better results.

Full details of the new unified education system are still to be released, but it is expected to be in line with the UAE Vision 2021. There has already been a significant push in the public school curriculum towards science and math subjects to better prepare pupils for further education. The Ministry's Emirati School Model will play a central role in standardizing education across all seven emirates.

Primary and secondary education are provided for all UAE citizens.

Class	Age Group	Comments
Kindergarten	Children aged 4 to 5 years	-
Primary	Children aged 6 to 12 years old.	Primary school education is compulsory for all UAE citizens
Preparatory	Children aged 12 to 15 years old	-
Secondary	Children aged 15 to 18 years old	Exams for Secondary School Leaving Certificate
Technical Secondary School	Children aged 12 to 18 years old	Exams for Technical Secondary Diploma

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Most schools and universities in the UAE have switched to remote learning while others have implemented a hybrid model of learning to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. School administrators will be able to answer questions and advise on educational activities for children until classes resume.

International Schools in Abu Dhabi

- **American International School in Abu Dhabi**

Address: 29th Street of Airport Road, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 444 4333

Email: admissions@aisa.sch.ae

Web: www.aisa.sch.ae

Curriculum: The school offers a US curriculum as well as the International Baccalaureate (IB). Exams available include SATs, the Advanced Diploma (AP) and the IB Diploma Program (DP). Students from Preschool to grade 5 follow the IB PYP (Primary Years Program). Instruction is in English, with English as a second language (ESL) provided for students requiring English language support. The school takes children between the ages of three and eighteen years (Pre-kindergarten to Grade 12). The school is co-educational up to grade 5 and segregated in the secondary school. The school is accredited by the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)

Comments: The school provides bus services and a uniform policy is applied. A canteen is available for children who wish to eat at school. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process. School hours are from 7.50am to 2.40pm

- **British School - Al Khubairat**

Address: PO Box 4001, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 446 2280

Email: primaryenquiries@britishschool.sch.ae, secondaryenquiries@britishschool.sch.ae

Web: www.britishschool.sch.ae

Curriculum: The school offers a UK curriculum. Exams available include IGCSE, AS levels and A levels. Instruction is in English, with English as a second language (ESL) provided for students requiring English language support. The school takes children between the ages of three and eighteen years (Nursery to Year 12).

Comments: Bus services are provided. The school does apply a uniform policy. Canteens are available for children who wish to eat at school; one for boys and one for girls. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process.

- **International School of Choueifat in Abu Dhabi**

Address: Mushrif Area, Abu Dhabi

Postal Address: PO Box 7212, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 446 1444

Email: iscabudhabi@sabis.net

Web: <http://iscabudhabi.sabis.net>

Curriculum: The school offers a SABIS education system curriculum. Exams available include the Advanced Diploma (AP). Instruction is in English, with English as a second language (ESL) provided for students requiring English language support. The school takes children between the ages of three and eighteen years (Pre-kindergarten to Grade 12).

Comments: Bus services are provided. The school does apply a dress code. A canteen is available for children who wish to eat at school. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process. School hours are from 7.45am to 3.10pm for the kindergarten- and primary school and from 7.50am to 7.10pm for the other classes

- **American Community School of Abu Dhabi**

Address: See the location map on the website

Tel: +971 2 681 5115

Email: acs@acs.sch.ae

Web: <http://acs.sch.ae>

Curriculum: The school offers a national and US curriculum as well as the International Baccalaureate (IB). Exams available include SATs and the IB Diploma Program (DP). Instruction is in English, with English as a second language (ESL) provided for students requiring English language support. The school takes children between the ages of three and eighteen years (Pre-kindergarten to Grade 12). The school is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA) and the Council of International Schools (CIS).

Comments: Bus services are not provided. The school applies a uniform policy. Two canteens are available for children who wish to eat at school; one for boys and one for girls. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process. School hours are from 8am to 3.20pm

- **The Cambridge High School-Abu Dhabi**

Address: Shabia 9, Mohammed bin Zayed City, Musaffah, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 552 1621

Email: info_chs@gemsedu.com

Web: www.gemscis-abudhabi.com

Curriculum: The school offers a UK curriculum. Exams available include IGCSE, AS levels and A levels. Instruction is in English, with English as a second language (ESL) provided for students requiring English language support. The school takes children between the ages of four and eighteen years (Kindergarten to Grade 12).

Comments: Bus services are provided. The school does apply a uniform policy. Two canteens are available for children who wish to eat at school; one for boys and one for girls. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process. School hours are from 8am to 1.50pm

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- Lycée Louis Massignon**
Address: Rabdan Street, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 444 8085
Email: secretariat.apellm@gmail.com
Web: <http://llm.ae>
Curriculum: The school offers a French curriculum. Exams available include the French Baccalaureate. Instruction is in French. The school takes children between the ages of three and eighteen years (Pre-kindergarten to Grade 12). The school is a French international school belonging to a network of establishments operated by the Agence pour l'enseignement français à l'étranger (AEFE), part of the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs
Comments: The school provides bus services. The school applies a uniform policy. A canteen is available for children who wish to eat at school. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process. School hours are from 7.45am to 1pm
- Deutsche Internationale Schule Abu Dhabi**
Address: See the location map on the website
Tel: +971 2 666 8668
Email: info@gisad.ae
Web: <http://gisad.ae>
Curriculum: The school offers a German curriculum. Exams available include the German International Abitur. Instruction is in German and English. The school takes children between the ages of three and eighteen years (Pre-kindergarten to Grade 12). The school is a member of the network of German Schools Abroad under the German Central Agency for Schools Abroad
Comments: The school provides bus services. The school does not apply a uniform policy. A canteen is available for children who wish to eat at school. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process. School hours are from 8am to 1.15pm. The kindergarten section closes at 3.20pm
- Japanese School Abu Dhabi**
Postal Address: PO Box 8120, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 444 6104
Email: jsad@jsad.ae
Web: <http://www.jsad.ae/>
Curriculum: The school offers a Japanese curriculum. Instruction is in Japanese. The school takes children between the ages of three and fifteen years (Kindergarten to Grade 10). The school is authorized by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT), as a school following the Educational Curriculum of Japan.
Comments: The school provides bus services. There is no canteen available. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process. The school also has a kindergarten section. School hours are from 7:15am to 3pm

International Schools in Dubai

- Emirates International School**
Address: Al Thanya Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 362 9009
Email: mail@eishschool.com
Web: www.eishschools.ae
Curriculum: The school offers a UK and US curriculum as well as the International Baccalaureate (IB). Exams available include GCSE, IGCSE and the IB Diploma Program (DP). The school offers all three International Baccalaureate (IB) Programs: the Primary Years Program (ages 3 to11), the Middle Years Program (ages 11 to16) and the Diploma Program (ages 16 to19). Instruction is in English, with English as a second language (ESL) provided for students requiring English-language support. The school takes children between the ages of four and eighteen years (Kindergarten to Grade 13). The school is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA) and the Meadows School is accredited by the Council of International Schools (COIS)
Comments: The school provides bus services. The school applies a uniform policy. A canteen is available for children who wish to eat at school. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process. There are two school sites, EIS Jumeirah and EIS Meadows. School hours are from 7.40am to 2.50pm
- American School of Dubai**
Address: Intersection of First Al Khail Road and Hessa Street, Al Barsha, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 395 0005
Email: asdadmin@asdubai.org
Web: www.asdubai.org
Curriculum: The school offers a US curriculum. Exams available include the Advanced Placement (AP). Instruction is in English, with English as a second language (ESL) provided for students requiring English language support. The school takes children between the ages of three and eighteen years (Pre-kindergarten to Grade 12). The school is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)
Comments: The school does not provide bus services. The school does apply a uniform policy. A canteen is available for children who wish to eat at school. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process. School hours are from 8am to 3pm
- Dubai American Academy**
Address: Hessa Street, Sheikh Zayed Road, Al Barsha, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 704 9777
Email: communication_daa@gemsedu.com

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Web: www.gemsaa-dubai.com

Curriculum: The school offers a US curriculum as well as the International Baccalaureate. Exams available include the SATs and the IB Diploma Program. Instruction is in English, with English as a second language (ESL) provided for students requiring English language support. The school takes children between the ages of three and eighteen years (Pre-kindergarten to Grade 12). The school is accredited by the Council of International Schools (COIS) and the New England Association of Colleges and Schools (NEASC)

Comments: The school provides bus services and applies a uniform policy. A canteen is available for children who wish to eat at school. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process. School hours for the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten-1 are from 7.45am to 12 noon. All other classes start at 7.45am to 2.45pm. The school is often full and a waiting list applies for places

- **Deira International School**

Address: Al Badia, Dubai Festival City, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 232 5552

Email: info@disdubai.ae

Web: www.disdubai.ae

Curriculum: The school offers a UK curriculum as well as the International Baccalaureate. Exams available include IGCSE and the IB program. Instruction is in English, with English as a second language (ESL) provided for students requiring English-language support. All students learn Arabic. The school takes children between the ages of three and eighteen years (Pre-school to Grade 12). The school is accredited by the Council of International Schools (COIS)

Comments: The school provides bus services and applies a uniform policy. A canteen is available for children who wish to eat at school. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process

- **Dubai British School**

Address: Springs 3, Emirate Hills, Behind Spinneys/Springs Town Center, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 361 9361

Email: reception@dubaibritishschool.ae

Web: www.dubaibritishschool.ae

Curriculum: The school offers a UK curriculum. Exams available include GCSE, IGCSE and A levels. Instruction is in English, with English as a second language (ESL) provided for students requiring English-language support. The school takes children between the ages of three and eighteen years (Pre-school to Grade 12). The school is accredited by the Council of International Schools (COIS).

Comments: The school provides a bus service and applies a uniform policy. A canteen is available for children who wish to eat at school. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process and a placement test is required for entry. School generally starts at 8am with closing times for different age groups. The school is often full and a waiting list applies for places

- **Jumeirah College**

Address: 19th Street, Dubai (secondary section), Al Safa 1, Dubai (primary section)

Tel: +971 4 394 3500 (primary section), +971 4 395 5524 (secondary section);

Email: info_jcd@gemsedu.com, info_jps@gemsedu.com (primary school)

Web: www.gemsjc.com , www.jumeirahprimaryschool.com (primary school)

Curriculum: The school offers a UK curriculum. Exams available include GCSE, AS levels and A levels. Instruction is in English, with English as a second language (ESL) provided for students requiring English-language support. The school takes children between the ages of three and eighteen years (Pre-kindergarten to Grade 12).

Comments: The school provides a bus service. The school applies a uniform policy. A canteen is available for children who wish to eat at school. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process. School hours are from 7.40am to 12.30pm for the kindergarten and to 2.15pm for the primary school students

- **Lycée Georges Pompidou**

Tel: +971 4 326 0026 (Lycée), +971 6 567 3430 (Sharjah), +971 4 337 4161 (Dubai)

Email: administration@lgp.ae

Web: <http://lfgp.org>

Curriculum: The school offers a French curriculum as well as the International Baccalaureate (IB). Instruction is in French. The school takes children between the ages of three and eighteen years (Pre-kindergarten to Grade 12). The school is a French international school belonging to a network of establishments operated by the Agence pour l'enseignement français à l'étranger (AEFE), part of the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs

Comments: The school has four locations for different grades of students, which includes a kindergarten section. Location details are on the website. Bus services are provided. The school has a uniform policy. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process. School hours are from 8am to 4:30pm

- **Deutsche Schule Sharjah**

Postal Address: PO Box 1465, Sharjah

Tel: +971 6 567 6014

Email: office@dsSharjah.org

Web: www.dsSharjah.org

Curriculum: The school offers a German curriculum. Exams available include the International Baccalaureate. Instruction is in German and English, with German as a second language provided for students requiring German-language support. The school takes children between the ages of three and eighteen years (Pre-kindergarten to Grade 12) . The school is a member of the network of German Schools Abroad under the German Central Agency for Schools Abroad

Comments: Bus services are provided. The school does not apply a uniform policy. A canteen is available for children who wish to eat at school. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process. School hours

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are from 8am to 1.15pm for the kindergarten and until 3.30pm for the other classes

- **Dubai Japanese School**

Address: 48 B Street, Al Wasl, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 344 9119

Email: djschool@emirates.net.ae

Web: www.japanese.sch.ae

Curriculum: The school offers a Japanese curriculum. Instruction is in Japanese. The school takes children between the ages of six and fourteen years (Grade 1 to Grade 9). The school is accredited by Japan's Ministry of Education and Science

Comments: The school provides bus services. The school does not apply a uniform or dress code policy. Children must bring their own packed lunches. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process. School hours are from 7.45am to 2.50pm

4.3 Entertainment for Children

Entertainment for Children in Abu Dhabi

Entertainment options for children in Abu Dhabi include:

- **Falcon Hospital**

Address: Abu Dhabi-Sweihan Road, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 575 5155

Email: info@falconhospital.com

Web: www.falconhospital.com

Hours: Sunday to Thursday 8.30am to 2pm

Comments: The venue offers a different type of experience for all the family. The Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital is the world's largest hospital dedicated to falcons and birds of prey. As well as all the medical services, they also offer guided tours, which last 2 hours. All tours have to be booked in advance

- **Abu Dhabi Pottery**

Address: Dabbas Street, Building No. 29, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 666 7079

Email: mail@abudhabipottery.com

Web: www.abudhabipottery.com

Hours: Saturday to Thursday 9am to 1pm and 4.30pm to 9pm; closed Friday

Comments: Catering for children aged 5 years and above, teaching the basics of pottery with regular new workshops. The venue is available for children's birthday parties

- **Al Ain Zoo and Aquarium**

Address: Al Ain

Tel: +971 3 799 2000

Email: info@alainzoo.ae

Web: <http://alainzoo.ae>

Hours: Daily 9am to 8pm

Comments: The zoo is famous for its research facilities, in particular the ongoing breeding program for endangered native animals. Has night shows featuring birds of prey. The zoo is located about 145 kilometers from Abu Dhabi

- **Ferrari World**

Address: Yas Island, Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 600 511 115

Web: <https://ferrariworldabudhabi.com>

Hours: The park is open daily from 11am to 8pm

Comments: Besides the display of a wide selection of Ferraris, there are other rides and entertainment areas. Rides include mini Ferraris and a drive around the circuit. Tickets are available online

- **Fun City**

Web: www.funcity.ae

Hours: Sunday to Wednesday 10am to 10pm; Thursday and Friday 10am to midnight

Comments: Fun City is a large amusement park. There are five locations in malls in the city. The website has details

- **Hili Fun City**

Address: Al Ain, UAE

Tel: +971 3 784 5542

Email: info@hilifuncity.ae

Web: www.hilifuncity.ae

Hours: Monday to Thursday 4pm to 10pm; Friday and Saturday midday to 10pm; closed Sunday. Wednesday is reserved for women only.

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Times vary with the time of year

Comments: This is the largest theme park in the Gulf. Ice-skating at the Olympic-sized rink, landscaped gardens, a mini train, a looping rollercoaster, a sky flyer and a Dynamic Motion Theater are all in the park. The facility is located about 145 kilometers from Abu Dhabi

Entertainment for Children in Dubai

Some good entertainment for children is often found in shopping malls. A comprehensive list of activities for children can be found on the Time Out Dubai website

- **Time Out Dubai**
Web: www.timeoutdubai.com/kids

Selected highlights include:

- **Children's City**
Address: Creek Park, Gate 1, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 334 0808
Email: childcity@dm.gov.ae
Web: www.childrencity.ae/en
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 9am to 8pm; Friday 3pm to 9pm
Comments: Dubai's first interactive science and cultural center, aimed at educating children from two to 15 years old in a fun and informative way., including hi-tech interactive computer displays, audiovisual exhibits, 3-D animation and slide projections. There are also daily educational workshops throughout the year, a planetarium and a special area for children under five
- **Dubai Creek Park**
Address: Between Al Maktoum and Al Gharoud Bridge, Bur Dubai, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 336 7633
Web: www.visitdubai.com/en/pois/creek-park
Hours: Thursday to Saturday and on public holidays 8am to 11pm. Sunday to Wednesday 8am to 10pm
Comments: In line skating, children can ride on camels or miniature trains. Parks usually charge for entry. There is also a cable car and some restaurants
- **Dubai Dolphinarium**
Address: Creek Park, Gate 1, Umm Hurair, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 336 9773
Email: info@dubaidolphinarium.ae
Web: www.dubaidolphinarium.ae
Comments: There are bottlenose dolphins and playful seals in action-packed shows. The venue is also home to the Creek Park Bird Show. Discover about natural habitats, social structures, how they are trained, diets and conservation. Has the UAE's only mirror maze
- **Dubai International Art Centre**
Address: Villa 27, Street 75b, Jumeirah 1, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 344 4398
Email: info@artdubai.com
Web: www.artdubai.com
Comments: Offers art and pottery classes for children from 4 to 12 years of age
- **Dubai Miracle Garden**
Address: Al Barsha South 3, Barsha, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 422 8902
Email: info@dubaimiraclegarden.com
Web: www.dubaimiraclegarden.com
Comments: This is the one of the most beautiful gardens in the world. Besides the flowers, there is a children's play area and a butterfly garden. The facility is closed during winter for preparation for summer
- **Fantasy Kingdom**
Address: Al Bustan Centre, Al Nahda Road, Al Qusais, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 263 0000
Hours: Saturday to Thursday 10am to 10pm; Friday 4.30pm to 10pm
Comments: This is an indoor amusement center in the ground floor of the Al Bustan Center, themed as a mediaeval castle. A favorite among both locals and visitors
- **Magic Planet**
Hours: Sunday to Wednesday 10am to 10pm; Thursday to Saturday 10am to midnight
Comments: This children's entertainment center is a unique indoor site with 10-pin bowling, a crawling bungee jungle, variety of electronic

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games and a mini pitch and putt. There are many centers in the city - the website has a location map

- **Mamzar Park**
Tel: +971 4 296 6201
Address: Al Mamzar Beach Park, Dubai
Web: <https://www.dubaicity.com/mamzar-beach-park/>
Hours: Sunday to Wednesday 9am to 9pm; Thursday to Saturday 9am to 10pm; Monday and Wednesday is for women only
Comments: Facilities include sandy beaches, swimming pool and barbecue areas; children can ride on camels or miniature trains
- **Wild Wadi Water Park**
Address: Opposite Burj Al Arab, Jumeirah, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 364 7777
Email: MEsales@jumeirah.com
Web: www.jumeirah.com/en/hotels-resorts/dubai/wild-wadi
Hours: Sunday to Thursday 10am to 5.30pm; closed Friday and Saturday; opening times are seasonal
Comments: The park is designed around a tale from Arabian folklore featuring Juha and his seafaring friend, Sinbad with 30 rides and attractions

Entertainment for Children in United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates is a child-friendly country, with many sectors of entertainment dedicated to children. This is partly because the government is actively trying to encourage domestic population growth. Social life in the Emirates for locals tends to revolve around the home and the family. Expatriates are, however, more active in social clubs, with many social events being based on sporting activities and located in sporting clubs. The family is still the focus, however, and the clubs and events are always well equipped with facilities for children. See the section on 'Sports' for more details.

Children are accepted at restaurants. Check that children are permitted when dining out in the evening and there is a lot of entertainment laid on to keep children amused throughout the cities. Shopping malls often have lavish displays and demonstrations for children and the majority of celebrations and festivals are family oriented.

4.4 Activities for Children

Activities for Children in Abu Dhabi

There are many activities, which will keep children occupied during their leisure time. Some venues may require a once off registration. Security and safety concerns are generally good.

- **Abu Dhabi Mums Group**
Address: The Dome, Shaikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum Street, Abu Dhabi
Email: admums@gmail.com
Web: <https://www.facebook.com/AbuDhabiMums>
Comments: They meet usually once a week in a variety of places and organize a range of activities
- **Bowling**
Address: Armed Forces Officers Club, Near the Grand Mosque, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 441 5900
Email: info@afoc.mil.ae
Web: www.afoc.mil.ae
Hours: Daily 10am to 10pm
Comments: Children are very welcome at the Club. This huge sports complex has four bowling alleys and boasts an Olympic-size swimming pool. The Children's Village has a play area and two swimming pools, one with a tunnel slide and another with open slides. Also offers paintball. They also organize summer camps for children
- **Sailing School - Abu Dhabi International Marine Sports Club**
Address: Opposite Marina Mall, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 681 5566
Email: adimsc@eim.ae
Web: <http://adimsc.ae>
Comments: The focus is on children over the age of 8 years. Children must be good swimmers to participate in the sailing lessons
- **Turning Point Dance Studios**
Tel: 800 32623 (within Abu Dhabi)
Email: info@turningpointe.ae
Web: www.turningpointe.ae
Comments: There are studios in the city. They specialize in dancing for children. Dance styles include ballet, hip-hop, modern dancing, tap,

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cheerleader dancing and other styles

- **Wanasa Land**

Web: www.wanasaland.com

Comments: Wanasa Land provides non-stop entertainment for children of all ages. Parents will enjoy the place as well. There are bumper cars, video games, party rooms, a bowling center, wall climbing and much more. There are three centers in the city, which are all located at shopping malls. The website has location details

Activities for Children in Dubai

- **Adventure Zone - Adventure HQ**

Web: www.adventurezone.ae

Comments: This is a safe indoor adventure facility, which can be enjoyed all year round with a wide range of fun activities, such as caving, boulder wall and cable climb, skate park, pump track, trampoline park and other fun things to do. There are several centers around the city. The website has details

- **Bounce - Trampoline Park**

Address: Building 32, 4B Street, Al Quos 1, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 321 1400

Email: info@bounce.ae

Web: www.bounce.ae

Comments: This is the place to go with children, who want to jump and bounce. There are many fun areas, which include trampolines, jumping bags, dodge ball, wall running and other activities

- **The Jam Jar**

Address: Unit H-74, Alserkal Avenue, Al Quos 3, Dubai

Tel: +971 4 341 7303

Email: info@thejamjardubai.com

Web: www.thejamjardubai.com

Comments: Kids can try their painting skills and other art abilities at this exiting center. Different workshops are available. The facility is popular with adults as well

- **Ski Dubai**

Address: Mall of the Emirates, Shiekh Zayed Road, Exit 39 (4th interchange), Dubai

Tel: 971 4 409 4090, 800 386 (toll free within UAE)

Email: info@skidxb.com

Web: <https://www.skidxb.com/>

Hours: Sunday to Wednesday 10am to 11pm; Thursday 10am to midnight; Friday 9am to midnight; Saturday 9am to 11pm. Last tickets are sold 90 minutes prior to closing time

Comments: Ski Dubai has five runs that vary in difficulty, height and gradient, the longest run being 400m, with a fall of over 60m. It has the world's first indoor black run as well as gentle beginner slopes. Skiers and snowboarders of all skill levels will enjoy these slopes and snowboarders can also practice their stunts in the Freestyle Zone. The interactive Snow Park is the largest indoor snow park in the world

- **E Sports**

Web: www.esm.ae

Comments: This is Dubai's leading sports training academy for both children and adults of all levels. Programs include athletics, basketball, cricket, dance, golf, gymnastics, tennis, football, swimming, rugby, climbing and holiday camps. Activities take place at various venues in Dubai. The website has location details

4.5 Sports for Children

Sports for Children in Abu Dhabi

A comprehensive list of children's sports is available at UAE4Kidz

- **UAE4Kidz**

Web: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/DubaiKidz.biz>

Sports facilities for children are available at all sports clubs. Sports participation is also promoted at the international schools.

Sports for children in Abu Dhabi include:

- **Abu Dhabi Sailing and Yacht Club**

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Address: Abu Dhabi Theatre Road, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 658 3333
Email: info@adsyc.ae
Web: www.adsyc.ae
Comments: Sailing training for boys and girls of all ages

- **Emirates Divers Centre**
Web: <http://emiratesdivers.com>
Comments: Special training courses for children from age 8 years to 14 years. There are two centers in the city - the website has details
- **Harlequins Rugby Club**
Address: Zayed Sports City, Abu Dhabi
Email: clubcaptain@abudhabiquins.com
Web: www.abudhabiquins.com, www.facebook.com/abudhabiquins
Comments: Friendly multi-cultural club, with training for men, women and children from 3 years of age
- **Sports School**
Address: Abu Dhabi Country Club, Shakbout Bin Sultan Street, Al Mushrif, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 657 7765
Email: sportsschool@adcountryclub.com
Web: <https://adcountryclub.com/sport-school/sports-schools>
Comments: Offers a wide range of classes in sports and fitness activities, including a circuit training class gym for boys and girls from age 4 to 17 years. The Sports School offers different types of holiday programs during school holidays, public holidays and during the summer break
- **ZSC Academy**
Address: Zayed Sports City, Old Airport Road, Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 2 403 4200
Email: academy@zsc.ae
Web: www.zscacademy.ae
Comments: Instruction in several sports is available. Ages vary according to the chosen sport. Sports include tennis, football, ice skating and sports camps

Sports for Children in Dubai

A comprehensive list of children's sports is available at UAE4Kidz.

- **UAE4Kidz**
Web: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/DubaiKidz.biz>

Sports facilities for children are available at all sports clubs. Sports participation is also promoted at the international schools.

Popular sports activities and venues include:

- **Al Nasr Leisureland**
Address: Oud Metha, Behind American Hospital, 12A Street, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 337 1234
Email: mail@alnasrll.ae
Web: www.alnasrll.com
Comments: Houses one of Dubai's 2 ice-skating rinks, as well as tennis, squash, bowling, boxing, fitness and swimming
- **The Ballet Centre**
Address: Offices 603 & 603, Detroit House, Plot 3, Business Park, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 344 9776
Email: balletct@emirates.net.ae
Web: www.balletcentre.com
Comments: Provides classes for children from the age of 3 years. Locations maps are available on the website. Classes in all types of dance are available as well as gymnastics and martial arts
- **Dubai Sports City**
Address: Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 425 1111
Email: info@dsc.ae
Web: www.dsc.ae
Comments: Offers a variety of sporting academies including golf, cricket, soccer (football), rugby and swimming

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- **Dorell Sports**
Address: World Trade Centre Apartments, Block C, Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 306 5061
Email: info@dorellsports.com
Web: <http://dorellsports.com>
Comments: Professional organized sports and activity camps during festive holidays, including climbing, tennis, swimming, computer, arts and crafts and fitness
- **FC Dubai**
Address: Football Center, Al Quoz Industrial 1 15A Street, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 348 3869
Email: info@justplay.ae
Web: <http://justplay.ae/fc-dubai-justplay>
Comments: Academies and football camps for children from 18 months old. Other sports activities include rugby, wrestling and fitness training
- **Jebel Ali Equestrian Club**
Address: Jebel Ali Village, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 884 5101
Web: <https://www.facebook.com/JebelAliEquestrianClub>
Comments: JAEC is an approved branch of the British Pony Club where both children and ladies can learn to ride

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