

12. Marine vessels

There is a difference in the capacity, level of service, frequency and technology between the passenger vessels operated by RTA. Single deck ferries are fully equipped and travel over longer times and distances. Abras operate on shorter distances and travel times. Water taxis provide service on demand only.

Ferry Dubai has a dual base (Catamaran Low Wash), an air-conditioned interior, and comfortable seating for 100 passengers (84 seats as economy class, 14 seats as business class and 2 seats for people with functional limitations). The ferry is fitted with three LCD and DVD monitors, three toilets (for men, women and persons with disabilities), and a kiosk for selling gift items and snacks. Ferry Dubai extends 32 meters in length and 7.2 meters in width, and has a designed speed of up to 24 knots per hour. Each boat weighs around 20 tons and is fitted with twin diesel engines of 450 hp.

The new AC Abra has wooden seats for 20 passengers, with an enclosed cabin, with air conditioning and LCD monitors. There are no spaces for persons using mobility devices.

The AC Abra has a single-base low-wash fibreglass body, and two eco-friendly engines powered by high-octane gasoline that produces minimal gas emissions. Measuring 10 metres in length and 3.4 metres in width, it conforms to the highest standards of security and safety worldwide. It has a robust hull ensuring high safety levels, and easy driving offering 360-degree vision with the possibility of side movement and smooth manoeuvring.

12.1. Considerations

For children, seniors, parents with strollers, persons with baggage and persons with mobility devices, the major obstacles for the marine mode are the horizontal and vertical gaps between the vessel and the berth. Except for the ferry, the steps to the cabin and the door width present an issue for users of mobility devices. Passengers using mobility devices require boarding and securement systems. Next-stop announcements, transfer information; safety, emergency and evacuation/rescue instructions in multiple formats throughout the vessel are required to make the trip safe, secure and stress-free for all passengers.

Access to marine vessels shall be universal and apply to the dimensions and maneuvering characteristics of all persons using mobility aids, luggage, prams/ strollers, service animals, persons with vision, hearing and cognitive and other disabilities.