[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox settlement](/wiki/Template:Infobox_settlement) **Dubai** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell); [Template:Lang-ar](/wiki/Template:Lang-ar) [*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl), [Gulf](/wiki/Gulf_Arabic) pronunciation: [Template:IPA-ar](/wiki/Template:IPA-ar)) is the [most populous](/wiki/List_of_cities_in_the_United_Arab_Emirates#Major_cities) [city](/wiki/City) in the [United Arab Emirates](/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates) (UAE).<ref name=dxbpopulation>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> It is located on the southeast coast of the [Persian Gulf](/wiki/Persian_Gulf) and is the capital of the [Emirate of Dubai](/wiki/Emirate_of_Dubai), one of the seven [emirates](/wiki/Emirate) that make up the country. [Abu Dhabi](/wiki/Abu_Dhabi) and Dubai are the only two emirates to have veto power over critical matters of national importance in the [country's legislature](/wiki/Federal_National_Council).<ref name=dxbshj>The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa. D Long, B Reich. p.157</ref> The city of Dubai is located on the emirate's northern coastline and heads up the [Dubai-Sharjah-Ajman metropolitan area](/wiki/Dubai-Sharjah-Ajman_metropolitan_area). Dubai is to host [World Expo 2020](/wiki/Expo_2020).[[1]](#cite_note-1) Dubai has emerged as a [global city](/wiki/Global_city) and business hub of the [Middle East](/wiki/Middle_East).[[2]](#cite_note-2) It is also a major transport hub for passengers and cargo. By the 1960s, [Dubai's economy](/wiki/Economy_of_Dubai) was based on revenues from trade and, to a smaller extent, oil exploration concessions, but oil was not discovered until 1966. Oil revenue first started to flow in 1969.[[3]](#cite_note-3) Dubai's oil revenue helped accelerate the early development of the city, but its reserves are limited and production levels are low: today, less than 5% of the emirate's revenue comes from oil.[[4]](#cite_note-4) The emirate's Western-style model of business drives its economy with the main revenues now coming from [tourism](/wiki/Tourism_in_Dubai), aviation, real estate, and financial services.[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[7]](#cite_note-7) Dubai has recently attracted world attention through many innovative large construction projects and sports events. The city has become iconic for its [skyscrapers and high-rise buildings](/wiki/List_of_tallest_buildings_in_Dubai), in particular the world's tallest building, the [Burj Khalifa](/wiki/Burj_Khalifa). Dubai has been criticised for [human rights](/wiki/Human_rights_in_Dubai) violations concerning the city's largely South Asian workforce.[[8]](#cite_note-8) Dubai's property market experienced a major deterioration in 2008–09 following the [financial crisis of 2007–08](/wiki/Financial_crisis_of_2007–08),[[9]](#cite_note-9) but the emirate's economy has made a return to growth, with a projected 2015 budget surplus.[[10]](#cite_note-10) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Dubai is the 22nd most expensive city in the world and the most expensive city in the Middle East.[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[12]](#cite_note-12) In 2014, Dubai's hotel rooms were rated as the second most expensive in the world, after [Geneva](/wiki/Geneva).[[13]](#cite_note-13) Dubai was rated as one of the best places to live in the Middle East by [American](/wiki/America) global consulting firm [Mercer](/wiki/Mercer_(consulting_firm)).[[14]](#cite_note-14)

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

Many theories have been proposed as to the origin of the word "Dubai". One theory suggests the word was used to describe the [*souq*](/wiki/Souq), which was similar to the *souq* in Ba.<ref name=jundi>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> Another theory states that the name came from a word meaning "money", as people from Dubai were commonly believed to be rich due to the thriving trading center of the location. An Arabic proverb says "*Daba Dubai*" ([Template:Lang-ar](/wiki/Template:Lang-ar)), meaning "They came with a lot of money."<ref name=MBR>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> According to Fedel Handhal, a scholar on the UAE's history and culture, the word Dubai may have come from the word *daba* ([Template:Lang-ar](/wiki/Template:Lang-ar)) (a past tense derivative of *yadub* ([Template:Lang-ar](/wiki/Template:Lang-ar)), which means "to creep"), referring to the slow flow of [Dubai Creek](/wiki/Dubai_Creek) inland. The poet and scholar Ahmad Mohammad Obaid traces it to the same word, but to its alternative meaning of "baby [locust](/wiki/Locust)" ([Template:Lang-ar](/wiki/Template:Lang-ar)) due to the abundant nature of locusts in the area before settlement.<ref name=UAEI>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Although stone tools have been found at many archaeological sites, little is known about the UAE's early inhabitants as only a few settlements have been found.<ref name=hist\_trad/> Many ancient towns in the area were trading centers between the Eastern and Western worlds. The remnants of an ancient [mangrove swamp](/wiki/Mangrove_swamp), dated at 7000 BC, were discovered during the construction of sewer lines near [Dubai Internet City](/wiki/Dubai_Internet_City). The area was covered with sand about 5,000 years ago as the coast retreated inland, becoming part of the city's present coastline.<ref name=hist\_trad>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[15]](#cite_note-15) Pre-Islamic ceramics have been found from the 3rd and 4th centuries.<ref name=preislam/> Prior to the introduction of Islam to the area, the people in this region worshiped [*Bajir*](/wiki/Bajir) (or *Bajar*).<ref name=preislam>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> After the spread of Islam in the region, the [Umayyad](/wiki/Umayyad) [Caliph](/wiki/Caliph) of the eastern Islamic world invaded south-east [Arabia](/wiki/Arabia) and drove out the Sassanians. Excavations by the [Dubai Museum](/wiki/Dubai_Museum) in the region of *Al-Jumayra* ([Jumeirah](/wiki/Jumeirah)) found several artifacts from the Umayyad period.<ref name=balbi>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Al_Bastakiya-Dubai8878.JPG)[Al Bastakiya](/wiki/Al_Bastakiya), Dubai

The earliest recorded mention of Dubai is in 1095 in the *Book of Geography* by the [Andalusian](/wiki/Al-Andalus)-Arab [geographer](/wiki/Geographer) [Abu Abdullah al-Bakri](/wiki/Abu_Abdullah_al-Bakri).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) The [Venetian](/wiki/Venice) pearl merchant Gaspero Balbi visited the area in 1580 and mentioned Dubai (*Dibei*) for its [pearling](/wiki/Pearl_hunting) industry.<ref name=balbi/>

Dubai is thought to have been established as a fishing village in the early 18th century[[16]](#cite_note-16) and was, by 1822, a town of some 7–800 members of the Baniyas tribe and subject to the rule of Sheikh Tahnoon of Abu Dhabi.[[17]](#cite_note-17) In 1833, following tribal feuding, members of the Al Bu Falasa tribe seceded from Abu Dhabi and established themselves in Dubai. The exodus from Abu Dhabi was led by Ubaid bin Saeed and Maktum bin Butti who became joint leaders of Dubai until Ubaid died in 1836, leaving Maktum to establish the Maktoum dynasty.[[16]](#cite_note-16) Dubai signed the treaty of 'Perpetual Maritime Truce' of 1853 along with other [Trucial States](/wiki/Trucial_States) and also – like its neighbours on the [Trucial Coast](/wiki/Trucial_States) – entered into an exclusivity agreement in which the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom) took responsibility for the emirate's security in 1892.

Two catastrophes struck the town during the 1800s. First, in 1841, a [smallpox](/wiki/Smallpox) epidemic broke out in the [Bur Dubai](/wiki/Bur_Dubai) locality, forcing residents to relocate east to [Deira](/wiki/Deira,_Dubai). Then, in 1894, fire swept through Deira, burning down most homes.[[18]](#cite_note-18) However, the town's geographical location continued to attract traders and merchants from around the region. The emir of Dubai was keen to attract foreign traders and lowered trade tax brackets, which lured traders away from [Sharjah](/wiki/Sharjah_(emirate)) and [Bandar Lengeh](/wiki/Bandar_Lengeh), the region's main trade hubs at the time. Persian merchants naturally looked across to the Arab shore of the Persian Gulf finally making their homes in Dubai. They continued to trade with Lingah, however, as do many of the dhows in Dubai Creek today, and they named their district Bastakiya, after the Bastak region in southern Persia.[[18]](#cite_note-18)[[19]](#cite_note-19)

### Pre-oil Dubai[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

Dubai's geographical proximity to [Iran](/wiki/Iran) made it an important trade location. The town of Dubai was an important port of call for foreign tradesmen, chiefly those from Iran, many of whom eventually settled in the town. By the beginning of the 20th century, it was an important port.[[20]](#cite_note-20) Dubai was known for its [pearl](/wiki/Pearl) exports until the 1930s; the pearl trade was damaged irreparably by the [Great Depression](/wiki/Great_Depression) in the 1930s and the innovation of [cultured pearls](/wiki/Cultured_pearls). With the collapse of the pearling industry, Dubai fell into a deep depression and many residents starved or migrated to other parts of the Persian Gulf.[[21]](#cite_note-21) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:AlRas_Deira_Mid1960s.jpg) [Al Ras](/wiki/Al_Ras) district in [Deira](/wiki/Deira_(Dubai)), Dubai in the 1960s

In the early days since its inception, Dubai was constantly at odds with [Abu Dhabi](/wiki/Abu_Dhabi). In 1947, a border dispute between Dubai and Abu Dhabi on the northern sector of their mutual border escalated into war.<ref name=dxbadconflict>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Arbitration by the British and the creation of a buffer frontier running south eastwards from the coast at Ras Hasian resulted in a temporary cessation of hostilities.<ref name=rashasian>The Middle East and North Africa. Schofield, C. p 175</ref>

Despite a lack of oil, Dubai's ruler from 1948, [Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum](/wiki/Rashid_bin_Saeed_Al_Maktoum), used revenue from trading activities to build infrastructure. Electricity, telephone services, and an airport were established in Dubai in the 1950s and, in 1959, the emirate's first hotel, the Airlines Hotel, was constructed. This was followed by the Ambassador and Carlton Hotel in 1968.[[22]](#cite_note-22) On 7 April 1961, the Dubai-based [Template:MV](/wiki/Template:MV), a five thousand ton British flagged vessel that plied the route between [Basra](/wiki/Basra) (Iraq), [Kuwait](/wiki/Kuwait) and [Bombay](/wiki/Bombay) (India), was caught in unusually high winds off Dubai. Early the next morning in heavy seas off Umm Al Qawain, an explosion tore out the second class cabins and started fires. The captain gave the order to abandon ship but two lifeboats capsized and a second explosion occurred. A flotilla of small boats from Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman and Umm Al Qawain picked up survivors but in all 238 lives were lost in the disaster.

In 1962 the British [Political Agent](/wiki/Political_Agent) noted that "Many new houses and blocks of offices and flats are being built... the Ruler is determined, against advice [from the British] to press on with the construction of a jet airport... More and more European and Arab firms are opening up and the future looks bright."[[22]](#cite_note-22) The asphalt runway was constructed in 1965, opening Dubai to both regional and long haul traffic. In 1970 a new terminal building was constructed which included Dubai's first [duty-free shops](/wiki/Duty-free_shop).[[23]](#cite_note-23)

### Oil era[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

After years of exploration following large finds in neighboring Abu Dhabi, oil was eventually discovered in territorial waters off Dubai in 1966, albeit in far smaller quantities. The first field was named 'Fateh' or 'good fortune'. This led the emirate to grant concessions to international oil companies, thus leading to a massive influx of foreign workers, mainly Asians and Middle easterners. Between 1968 and 1975 the city's population grew by over 300%.[[24]](#cite_note-24) As part of the infrastructure for pumping and transporting oil from the Fateh field, located offshore of the Jebel Ali area of Dubai, a number of 50,000 gallon storage tanks were built, known locally as 'Kazzans',[[25]](#cite_note-25) by welding them together on the beach and then digging them out and floating them to drop onto the seabed at the Fateh field. These were constructed by the [Chicago Bridge and Iron Company](/wiki/Chicago_Bridge_&_Iron_Company), which gave the beach its local name (Chicago Beach) until the Chicago Beach Hotel was demolished and replaced by the [Jumeirah Beach Hotel](/wiki/Jumeirah_Beach_Hotel) in the late nineties.

Dubai had already embarked on a period of infrastructural development and expansion. Oil revenue, flowing from 1969 onwards supported a period of growth with Sheikh Rashid embarking on a policy of building infrastructure and a diversified trading economy before the emirate's limited reserves were depleted. Oil accounted for 24% of GDP in 1990, but had reduced to 7% of GDP by 2004.[[3]](#cite_note-3) Critically, one of the first major projects Sheikh Rashid embarked upon when oil revenue started to flow was the construction of Port Rashid, a deep water free port constructed by British company [Halcrow](/wiki/Halcrow_Group). Originally intended to be a four-berth port, it was extended to sixteen berths as construction was ongoing. The project was an outstanding success, with shipping queuing to access the new facilities. The port was inaugurated on 5 October 1972, although its berths were each pressed into use as soon as they had been built. Port Rashid was to be further expanded in 1975 to add a further 35 berths before the larger port of Jebel Ali was constructed.[[3]](#cite_note-3) Port Rashid was the first of a swathe of projects designed to create a modern trading infrastructure, including roads, bridges, schools and hospitals.[[26]](#cite_note-26)

### Reaching the UAE's Act of Union[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

Dubai and the other '[trucial states'](/wiki/Trucial_states) had long been a British [protectorate](/wiki/Protectorate) where the British took care of foreign policy and defence, as well as arbitrating between the rulers of the Eastern Gulf. This was to change with PM [Harold Wilson's](/wiki/Harold_Wilson) announcement, on 16 January 1968, that all British troops were to be withdrawn from 'East of Aden'. The decision was to pitch the coastal emirates, together with [Qatar](/wiki/Qatar) and [Bahrain](/wiki/Bahrain), into fevered negotiations to fill the political vacuum that the British withdrawal would leave behind.[[27]](#cite_note-27) The principle of union was first agreed between the ruler of Abu Dhabi, [Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan](/wiki/Zayed_bin_Sultan_Al_Nahyan), and Sheikh Rashid of Dubai on 18 February 1968 meeting in an encampment at Argoub Al Sedirah, near Al Semeih, a desert stop between the two emirates.[[28]](#cite_note-28) The two agreed to work towards bringing the other emirates, including Qatar and Bahrain, into the union. Over the next two years, negotiations and meetings of the rulers followed -often stormy- as a form of union was thrashed out. The nine-state union was never to recover from the October 1969 meeting where heavy-handed British intervention resulted in a walk-out by Qatar and [Ras Al Khaimah](/wiki/Ras_Al_Khaimah).[[22]](#cite_note-22) Bahrain and Qatar were to drop out of talks, leaving only six emirates to agree on union on 18 July 1971.

On 2 December 1971, Dubai, together with Abu Dhabi, [Sharjah](/wiki/Sharjah), [Ajman](/wiki/Ajman), [Umm Al Qawain](/wiki/Umm_Al_Qawain) and [Fujairah](/wiki/Fujairah) joined in the Act of Union to form the [United Arab Emirates](/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates). The seventh emirate, [Ras Al Khaimah](/wiki/Ras_al-Khaimah), joined the UAE on 10 February 1972, following giant non-Arab neighbour [Iran's](/wiki/Iran) annexation of the RAK-owned [Tunbs](/wiki/Tunbs) islands.

In 1973, Dubai joined the other emirates to adopt a uniform currency: the [UAE dirham](/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates_dirham).[[20]](#cite_note-20) In that same year, the prior [monetary union](/wiki/Monetary_union) with Qatar was dissolved and the UAE Dirham was introduced throughout the Emirates.

### Modern Dubai[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

During the 1970s, Dubai continued to grow from revenues generated from oil and trade, even as the city saw an influx of immigrants fleeing the [Lebanese civil war](/wiki/Lebanese_civil_war).[[29]](#cite_note-29) Border disputes between the emirates continued even after the formation of the UAE; it was only in 1979 that a formal compromise was reached that ended disagreements.[[30]](#cite_note-30) The [Jebel Ali](/wiki/Jebel_Ali) port was established in 1979. JAFZA ([Jebel Ali Free Zone](/wiki/Jebel_Ali_Free_Zone)) was built around the port in 1985 to provide foreign companies unrestricted import of labor and export capital.[[31]](#cite_note-31) Dubai airport and the aviation industry also continued to grow.

The [Gulf War](/wiki/Gulf_War) of 1990 had a negative financial effect on the city, as depositors withdrew their money and traders withdrew their trade, but subsequently, the city recovered in a changing political climate and thrived. Later in the 1990s, many foreign trading communities—first from [Kuwait](/wiki/Kuwait), during the Gulf War, and later from [Bahrain](/wiki/Bahrain), during the [Shia](/wiki/Shia) unrest—moved their businesses to Dubai.[[19]](#cite_note-19) Dubai provided refueling bases to allied forces at the Jebel Ali Free Zone during the Gulf War, and again during the [2003 Invasion of Iraq](/wiki/2003_Invasion_of_Iraq). Large increases in oil prices after the Gulf War encouraged Dubai to continue to focus on free trade and tourism.[[32]](#cite_note-32)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|This time-lapse video shows the rate of Dubai's growth at one frame per year from 2000 through 2011. In the false-color satellite images making up the video, bare desert is tan, plant-covered land is red, water is black and urban areas are silver.](/wiki/File:Dubai's_Rapid_Growth.ogv) [thumb|City level map of Dubai](/wiki/File:Dubai_map_city.svg) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:City_of_Dubai_at_Night,_United_Arab_Emirates.jpg) [Dubai-Sharjah-Ajman metropolitan area](/wiki/Dubai-Sharjah-Ajman_metropolitan_area) at night

Dubai is situated on the [Persian Gulf](/wiki/Persian_Gulf) coast of the United Arab Emirates and is roughly at sea level ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) above). The emirate of Dubai shares borders with Abu Dhabi in the south, [Sharjah](/wiki/Sharjah_(emirate)) in the northeast, and the [Sultanate of Oman](/wiki/Sultanate_of_Oman) in the southeast. [Hatta](/wiki/Hatta,_United_Arab_Emirates), a minor [exclave](/wiki/Exclave) of the emirate, is surrounded on three sides by Oman and by the emirates of [Ajman](/wiki/Ajman) (in the west) and [Ras Al Khaimah](/wiki/Ras_Al_Khaimah) (in the north). The Persian Gulf borders the western coast of the emirate. Dubai is positioned at [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) and covers an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), which represents a significant expansion beyond its initial [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) designation due to [land reclamation from the sea](/wiki/Land_reclamation#Land_amounts_added).

Dubai lies directly within the [Arabian Desert](/wiki/Arabian_Desert). However, the topography of Dubai is significantly different from that of the southern portion of the UAE in that much of Dubai's landscape is highlighted by sandy desert patterns, while gravel deserts dominate much of the southern region of the country.<ref name=geo1>[Environmental Development and Protection in the UAE](http://uaeinteract.com/uaeint_misc/pdf/perspectives/14.pdf). Aspinall, Simon</ref> The sand consists mostly of crushed shell and coral and is fine, clean and white. East of the city, the salt-crusted coastal plains, known as *sabkha*, give way to a north-south running line of dunes. Farther east, the dunes grow larger and are tinged red with iron oxide.<ref name=pop7/>

The flat sandy desert gives way to the Western [Hajar Mountains](/wiki/Hajar_Mountains), which run alongside Dubai's border with Oman at Hatta. The Western Hajar chain has an arid, jagged and shattered landscape, whose mountains rise to about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in some places. Dubai has no natural river bodies or oases; however, Dubai does have a natural inlet, [Dubai Creek](/wiki/Dubai_Creek), which has been dredged to make it deep enough for large vessels to pass through. Dubai also has multiple gorges and waterholes, which dot the base of the Western Al Hajar mountains. A vast sea of sand dunes covers much of southern Dubai and eventually leads into the desert known as [The Empty Quarter](/wiki/The_Empty_Quarter). [Seismically](/wiki/Seismic), Dubai is in a very stable zone—the nearest seismic fault line, the Zagros Fault, is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) from the UAE and is unlikely to have any seismic impact on Dubai.<ref name=seismic>[Far enough from the fault lines.](http://www.thenational.ae/news/uae-news/science/a-straight-line-to-disaster) The National, 23 April 2008</ref> Experts also predict that the possibility of a [tsunami](/wiki/Tsunami) in the region is minimal because the Persian Gulf waters are not deep enough to trigger a tsunami.<ref name=seismic/>

The sandy desert surrounding the city supports wild grasses and occasional date palms. Desert hyacinths grow in the *sabkha* plains east of the city, while acacia and [ghaf](/wiki/Prosopis_cineraria) trees grow in the flat plains within the proximity of the Western Al Hajar mountains. Several indigenous trees such as the date palm and [neem](/wiki/Neem) as well as imported trees such as the [eucalypts](/wiki/Eucalypts) grow in Dubai's natural parks. The [houbara bustard](/wiki/Houbara_bustard), [striped hyena](/wiki/Striped_hyena), [caracal](/wiki/Caracal), [desert fox](/wiki/Fennec_fox), falcon and [Arabian oryx](/wiki/Arabian_oryx) are common in Dubai's desert. Dubai is on the migration path between Europe, Asia and Africa, and more than 320 migratory bird species pass through the emirate in spring and autumn. The waters of Dubai are home to more than 300 species of fish, including the [hammour](/wiki/Hammour). The typical marine life off the Dubai coast includes tropical fish, jellyfish, coral, [dugong](/wiki/Dugong), dolphins, whales and sharks. Various types of turtles can also be found in the area including the [hawksbill turtle](/wiki/Hawksbill) and [green turtle](/wiki/Green_turtle), which are listed as endangered species.[[33]](#cite_note-33)[[34]](#cite_note-34) [Dubai Creek](/wiki/Dubai_Creek) runs northeast-southwest through the city. The eastern section of the city forms the locality of [Deira](/wiki/Deira,_Dubai) and is flanked by the emirate of [Sharjah](/wiki/Sharjah_(emirate)) in the east and the town of [Al Aweer](/wiki/Al_Aweer) in the south. The [Dubai International Airport](/wiki/Dubai_International_Airport) is located south of Deira, while the [Palm Deira](/wiki/Palm_Deira#The_Palm,_Deira) is located north of Deira in the [Persian Gulf](/wiki/Persian_Gulf). Much of Dubai's real-estate boom is concentrated to the west of Dubai Creek, on the [Jumeirah](/wiki/Jumeirah) coastal belt. [Port Rashid](/wiki/Port_Rashid), [Jebel Ali](/wiki/Jebel_Ali), [Burj Al Arab](/wiki/Burj_Al_Arab), the [Palm Jumeirah](/wiki/Palm_Jumeirah) and theme-based free-zone clusters such as [Business Bay](/wiki/Business_Bay) are all located in this section.

## Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Dubai has a [hot desert climate](/wiki/Hot_desert_climate). Summers in Dubai are extremely hot, windy, and humid, with an average high around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and overnight lows around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the hottest month, August. Most days are sunny throughout the year. Winters are warm with an average high of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and overnight lows of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in January, the coldest month. Precipitation, however, has been increasing in the last few decades, with accumulated rain reaching [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) per year.[[35]](#cite_note-35) Dubai summers are also known for the moderate to high humidity level, which can make it uncomfortable for many.[[36]](#cite_note-36) The highest recorded temperature in Dubai is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), reached in July 2002.[[37]](#cite_note-37) [Template:Dubai weatherbox](/wiki/Template:Dubai_weatherbox)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dubai mean sea temperature[[38]](#cite_note-38) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Jan** | **Feb** | **Mar** | **Apr** | **May** | **Jun** | **Jul** | **Aug** | **Sep** | **Oct** | **Nov** | **Dec** |
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## Governance and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Dubai has been ruled by the [Al Maktoum](/wiki/Al_Maktoum) family since 1833; the emirate is an [absolute monarchy](/wiki/Absolute_monarchy) with no elections (other than the few thousand Dubai citizens participating in the electoral college for the [Federal National Council](/wiki/Federal_National_Council) of the UAE). The ruler, [Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum](/wiki/Mohammed_bin_Rashid_Al_Maktoum), is also the Vice President and [Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_the_United_Arab_Emirates) and member of the Supreme Council of the Union (SCU). Dubai appoints 8 members in two-term periods to the [Federal National Council](/wiki/Federal_National_Council) (FNC) of the UAE, the supreme federal legislative body.<ref name=uaegovt>US Library of Congress – Legislative Branches</ref>

The [Dubai Municipality](/wiki/Dubai_Municipality) (DM) was established by the then-ruler of Dubai, [Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum](/wiki/Rashid_bin_Saeed_Al_Maktoum), in 1954 for purposes of city planning, citizen services and upkeep of local facilities.<ref name=dmhistory>Organizational Chart. Dubai Municipality</ref> DM is chaired by [Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum](/wiki/Hamdan_bin_Rashid_Al_Maktoum), deputy ruler of Dubai, and comprises several departments such as the Roads Department, Planning and Survey Department, Environment and Public Health Department and Financial Affairs Department. In 2001, Dubai Municipality embarked on an [e-Government](/wiki/E-Government) project with the intention of providing 40 of its city services through its web portal, [ dubai.ae]. Thirteen such services were launched by October 2001, while several other services were expected to be operational in the future.[[39]](#cite_note-39) Dubai Municipality is also in charge of the city's sanitation and sewage infrastructure.[[40]](#cite_note-40) The UAE has a Minister of Happiness, appointed by his High Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The UAE has also appointed a Minister of Tolerance to promote tolerance as a fundamental value of the UAE, a country filled with a diverse range of faiths and ethnicities,[[41]](#cite_note-41) and also a Minister for Youth Affairs.

### Law enforcement[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

The [Dubai Police Force](/wiki/Dubai_Police_Force), founded in 1956 in the locality of [Naif](/wiki/Naif), has law enforcement jurisdiction over the emirate. The force is under direct command of Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, ruler of Dubai.

Dubai and [Ras al Khaimah](/wiki/Ras_al_Khaimah) are the only emirates that do not conform to the federal judicial system of the United Arab Emirates.[[42]](#cite_note-42) The emirate's judicial courts comprise the Court of First Instance, the Court of Appeal, and the Court of Cassation. The Court of First Instance consists of the Civil Court, which hears all civil claims; the Criminal Court, which hears claims originating from police complaints; and [Sharia Court](/wiki/Sharia_law), which is responsible for matters between Muslims. Non-Muslims do not appear before the Sharia Court. The Court of Cassation is the supreme court of the emirate and hears disputes on matters of law only.[[43]](#cite_note-43)

### Sharia laws[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

Kissing in public is strictly illegal and can result in [deportation](/wiki/Deportation).[[44]](#cite_note-44)[[45]](#cite_note-45)[[46]](#cite_note-46)[[47]](#cite_note-47) Non-Muslims are allowed to consume alcohol in licensed venues, typically within hotels, or at home with the possession of an alcohol license. Restaurants outside hotels in Dubai are typically not permitted to sell alcohol.[[48]](#cite_note-48)

### Dress code[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

The Emirati attire is typical of several countries in the Arabian peninsula. Women usually wear the "Abaya", a long black robe with a hijab (the head-scarf which covers the neck and part of the head). Some women may add a niqab which cover the mouth and nose and only leaves the eyes exposed. Men wear the "Kandurah" also referred to as "dishdasha" or even "thawb" (long white robe) and the headscarf (Ghotrah). The UAE traditional Ghotrah is white and is held in place by an accessory called "Egal", which resembles a sort of black cord. The younger Emiraties prefer to wear red and white Ghotras and tie it round their head like a turban.

The above dress code is not compulsory, but prohibitions on wearing "indecent clothing" or revealing too much skin are aspects of the UAE to which Dubai's visitors are expected to conform, and are encoded in Dubai's criminal law.[[49]](#cite_note-49) The UAE has enforced anti-indecency prohibitions in all public places (aside from waterparks, beaches, clubs, and bars).

## Human rights[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

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Human rights organisations have heavily criticised violations of human rights in Dubai.<ref name=Rape\_laws\_Dubai>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)[Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link)</ref> Most notably, some of the 250,000 foreign labourers in the city have been alleged to live in conditions described by [Human Rights Watch](/wiki/Human_Rights_Watch) as "less than humane".[[50]](#cite_note-50)[[51]](#cite_note-51)<ref name=hrw>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>[[52]](#cite_note-52) The mistreatment of foreign workers was a subject of the difficult-to-make documentary, *Slaves in Dubai* (2009).[[53]](#cite_note-53) The Dubai government has denied labour injustices and stated that the watchdog's (Human Rights Watch) accusations were 'misguided'. The filmmaker explained in interviews how it was necessary to go undercover to avoid discovery by the authorities, who impose high fines on reporters attempting to document human rights abuses, including the conditions of construction workers. Towards the end of March 2006, the government had announced steps to allow construction unions. UAE labour minister Ali al-Kaabi said: "Labourers will be allowed to form unions."[[54]](#cite_note-54)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

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### Ethnicity and languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) According to the census conducted by the Statistics Centre of Dubai, the population of the emirate was 1,771,000 [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), which included 1,370,000 males and 401,000 females.<ref name=pop1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The region covers [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The population density is 408.18/km2 – more than eight times that of the entire country. Dubai is the [second most expensive city](/wiki/List_of_most_expensive_cities_for_expatriate_employees) in the region and 20th most expensive city in the world.[[55]](#cite_note-55) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), only about 15% of the population of the emirate was made up of [UAE nationals](/wiki/Emirati_people),[[56]](#cite_note-56) with the rest comprising expatriates, many of whom either have been in the country for generations or were born in the UAE.[[57]](#cite_note-57)[[58]](#cite_note-58) Approximately 85% of the [expatriate population](/wiki/Expatriates_in_the_United_Arab_Emirates) (and 71% of the emirate's total population) was Asian, chiefly [Indian](/wiki/Indians_in_the_United_Arab_Emirates) (51%) and [Pakistani](/wiki/Pakistanis_in_the_United_Arab_Emirates) (16%); other significant Asian groups include [Bangladeshis](/wiki/Bangladeshis_in_the_United_Arab_Emirates) (9%) and [Filipinos](/wiki/Filipinos_in_the_United_Arab_Emirates) (3%). There is a sizable community of [Somalis](/wiki/Expatriates_in_Dubai#Somalis) numbering around 30,000, as well as other communities of various nationalities.<ref name=migrationinformation>["Country and Metropolitan Stats in Brief](http://www.migrationinformation.org/dataHub/GCMM/Dubaidatasheet.pdf). MPI Data Hub</ref> A quarter of the population (local and foreign) reportedly [traces their origins to Iran](/wiki/Iranians_in_the_United_Arab_Emirates).[[59]](#cite_note-59) In addition, 16% of the population (or 288,000 persons) [living in collective labour](/wiki/Labour_force_of_the_United_Arab_Emirates) accommodation were not identified by ethnicity or nationality, but were thought to be primarily Asian.[[60]](#cite_note-60) There are over 100,000 British expatriates in Dubai, by far the largest group of Western expatriates in the city.[[61]](#cite_note-61) The median age in the emirate was about 27 years. In 2014, there were estimated to be 15.54 [births](/wiki/Birth_rate) and 1.99 [deaths](/wiki/Mortality_rate) per 1,000 people.[[62]](#cite_note-62) [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic_language) is the national and official language of the United Arab Emirates. The [Gulf dialect](/wiki/Gulf_Arabic) of Arabic is spoken natively by the Emirati people.[[63]](#cite_note-63) [English](/wiki/English_language) is used as a second language. Other major languages spoken in Dubai due to immigration are [Hindi](/wiki/Hindi)-[Urdu](/wiki/Urdu) (or [Hindustani](/wiki/Hindustani_language)), [Persian](/wiki/Persian_language), [Malayalam](/wiki/Malayalam), [Punjabi](/wiki/Punjabi_language), [Pashto](/wiki/Pashto_language), [Bengali](/wiki/Bengali_language), [Sindhi](/wiki/Sindhi_language), [Balochi](/wiki/Balochi_language), [Tulu](/wiki/Tulu_language),[[64]](#cite_note-64) [Tamil](/wiki/Tamil_language), [Kannada](/wiki/Kannada), [Sinhala](/wiki/Sinhala_language), [Marathi](/wiki/Marathi_language), [Telugu](/wiki/Telugu_language), [Tagalog](/wiki/Tagalog_language) and [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_language), in addition to many other languages.[[65]](#cite_note-65)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Dubai_UAE_Jumeirah_Mosque_1301200712683.jpg)[Jumeirah Mosque](/wiki/Jumeirah_Mosque) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

Article 7 of the UAE's Provisional Constitution declares [Islam](/wiki/Islam) the official state religion of the UAE. The government subsidises almost 95% of mosques and employs all [Imams](/wiki/Imam); approximately 5% of mosques are entirely private, and several large mosques have large private endowments.<ref name=loc\_religion>[Country Profile: United Arab Emirates (UAE)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/UAE.pdf). United States Library of Congress</ref> All mosques in Dubai are managed by the Government of Dubai and all [Imams](/wiki/Imam) are also appointed by the Government. An Imam caught preaching [racism](/wiki/Racism) or [religious hatred](/wiki/Racial_discrimination) or caught promoting [Islamic extremism](/wiki/Islamic_extremism) is usually jailed and deported.[[66]](#cite_note-66)

#### Minorities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

Dubai also has large [Christian](/wiki/Christian), [Hindu](/wiki/Hindu), [Sikh](/wiki/Sikh), [Bahá'í](/wiki/Bahá'í), [Buddhist](/wiki/Buddhist) and other religious communities residing in the city.[[67]](#cite_note-67) Non-Muslim groups can own their own houses of worship, where they can practice their religion freely, by requesting a land grant and permission to build a compound. Groups that do not have their own buildings must use the facilities of other religious organisations or worship in private homes.[[68]](#cite_note-68) Non-Muslim religious groups are permitted to advertise group functions openly and distribute various religious literature; however, outright [proselytising](/wiki/Proselytism) is strictly prohibited under penalty of criminal prosecution, imprisonment and [deportation](/wiki/Deportation) for engaging in behaviour offensive to Islam.<ref name=loc\_religion/> Strict prohibition extends to small groups such as the [Ahmadiyya](/wiki/Ahmadiyya).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Catholics have no proper jurisdiction in the UAE, but are served pastorally by the [Apostolic Vicariate of Southern Arabia](/wiki/Apostolic_Vicariate_of_Southern_Arabia).

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)[thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Dubai_WTC_at_night.jpg)[Dubai World Trade Centre](/wiki/Dubai_World_Trade_Centre). Dubai has established itself as a prominent regional hub for finance, trade, tourism, and shopping [thumb|](/wiki/File:Jebel_Ali_Port_1_Imresolt.jpg)[Jebel Ali](/wiki/Jebel_Ali) Port One of the world's fastest growing economies,[[69]](#cite_note-69) Dubai's gross domestic product is projected at USD 107.1 billion, with a growth rate of 6.1% in 2014.[[70]](#cite_note-70) Although a number of core elements of Dubai's trading infrastructure were built on the back of the oil industry,<ref name=oilgas2>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> revenues from oil and natural gas account for less than 5% of the emirate's revenues.[[5]](#cite_note-5) It is estimated that Dubai produces [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of oil a day[[71]](#cite_note-71) and substantial quantities of gas from offshore fields. The emirate's share in the UAE's total gas revenues is about 2%. Dubai's oil reserves have diminished significantly and are expected to be exhausted in 20 years.<ref name=oilgas>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Real estate and construction (22.6%),[[7]](#cite_note-7) trade (16%), [*entrepôt*](/wiki/Entrepôt) (15%) and financial services (11%) are the largest contributors to Dubai's economy.<ref name=dubchamber>[Prospects of Dubai Economic Sectors](http://www.dcci.gov.ae/content/Bulletin/Issue10/SectorMonEn_ISSUE10.pdf). Dubai Chamber of Commerce. 2003</ref>

Dubai’s non-oil foreign trade stood at $362 billion in 2014. Of the overall trade volumes, imports had the biggest share with a value of $230 billion while exports and re-exports to the emirate stood at $31 billion and $101 billion respectively.[[72]](#cite_note-72) By 2014, China had emerged as Dubai's largest international trading partner, with a total of $47.7 billion in trade flows, up 29% from 2013. India was second among Dubai’s key trading partners with a trade of $29.7 billion, followed by the United States at $22.62 billion. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was Dubai’s fourth trading partner globally and first in the GCC and Arab world with a total trade value of $14.2 billion. Trade with Germany in 2014 totalled $12.3, Switzerland and Japan both at $11.72 billion and UK trade totalled $10.9 billion.[[72]](#cite_note-72) Historically, Dubai and its twin across Dubai Creek, Deira (independent of Dubai City at that time), were important ports of call for Western manufacturers. Most of the new city's banking and financial centres were headquartered in the port area. Dubai maintained its importance as a trade route through the 1970s and 1980s. Dubai has a free trade in gold and, until the 1990s, was the hub of a "brisk smuggling trade"[[20]](#cite_note-20) of gold [ingots](/wiki/Ingot) to India, where gold import was restricted. Dubai's [Jebel Ali](/wiki/Jebel_Ali) port, constructed in the 1970s, has the largest man-made harbour in the world and was ranked seventh globally for the volume of container traffic it supports.[[73]](#cite_note-73) Dubai is also a hub for service industries such as information technology and finance, with industry-specific [free zones](/wiki/Free_economic_zone) throughout the city.[[74]](#cite_note-74) [Dubai Internet City](/wiki/Dubai_Internet_City), combined with [Dubai Media City](/wiki/Dubai_Media_City) as part of TECOM (Dubai Technology, Electronic Commerce and Media Free Zone Authority), is one such enclave, whose members include IT firms such as [Hewlett-Packard](/wiki/Hewlett-Packard), [EMC Corporation](/wiki/EMC_Corporation), [Oracle Corporation](/wiki/Oracle_Corporation), [Microsoft](/wiki/Microsoft), [Dell](/wiki/Dell) and [IBM](/wiki/IBM), and media organisations such as [MBC](/wiki/Middle_East_Broadcasting_Center), [CNN](/wiki/CNN), [BBC](/wiki/BBC), [Reuters](/wiki/Reuters), [Sky News](/wiki/Sky_News) and AP.

The government's decision to diversify from a trade-based, oil-reliant economy to one that is service- and tourism-oriented made [property](/wiki/Real_estate) more valuable, resulting in the property appreciation from 2004 to 2006. A longer-term assessment of Dubai's property market, however, showed depreciation; some properties lost as much as 64% of their value from 2001 to November 2008.[[75]](#cite_note-75) The large-scale real estate development projects have led to the construction of some of the tallest skyscrapers and largest projects in the world such as the [Emirates Towers](/wiki/Emirates_Towers), the [Burj Khalifa](/wiki/Burj_Khalifa), the [Palm Islands](/wiki/Palm_Islands) and the most expensive hotel, the [Burj Al Arab](/wiki/Burj_Al_Arab).<ref name=burjalarab>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Dubai's property market experienced a major downturn in 2008[[76]](#cite_note-76) and 2009 as a result of the slowing economic climate.[[9]](#cite_note-9) By early 2009, the situation had worsened with the [Great Recession](/wiki/Great_Recession) taking a heavy toll on property values, construction and employment.[[77]](#cite_note-77) This has had a major impact on property investors in the region, some of whom were unable to release funds from investments made in property developments.[[78]](#cite_note-78) As of February 2009, Dubai's foreign debt was estimated at approximately $80 billion, although this is a tiny fraction of the sovereign debt worldwide.[[79]](#cite_note-79) Dubai real estate and UAE property experts believe that by avoiding the mistakes of the past, Dubai's realty market can achieve stability in the future.[[80]](#cite_note-80) The [Dubai Financial Market](/wiki/Dubai_Financial_Market) (DFM) was established in March 2000 as a secondary market for trading securities and bonds, both local and foreign. As of [fourth quarter](/wiki/Fourth_quarter_of_a_calendar_year) 2006, its trading volume stood at about 400 billion shares, worth $95 billion in total. The DFM had a [market capitalisation](/wiki/Market_capitalization) of about $87 billion.<ref name=pop4/> The other Dubai-based stock exchange is [NASDAQ Dubai](/wiki/NASDAQ_Dubai), which is the international stock exchange in the Middle East. It enables a range of companies, including UAE and regional small and medium-sized enterprises, to trade on an exchange with an international brand name, with access by both regional and international investors.

Dubai is also known as the City of Gold, because a major part of the economy is based on gold trades, with Dubai's total gold trading volumes in H1 2011 reaching 580 tonnes, with an average price of US$1,455 per troy ounce.[[81]](#cite_note-81) A *City Mayors* survey ranked Dubai 44th among the world's best financial cities in 2007,[[82]](#cite_note-82) while another report by *City Mayors* indicated that Dubai was the world's 27th richest city in 2012, in terms of [purchasing power parity](/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity) (PPP).[[83]](#cite_note-83) Dubai is also an international financial centre and has been ranked 37th within the top 50 global financial cities as surveyed by the MasterCard Worldwide Centres of Commerce Index (2007),[[84]](#cite_note-84)[[141]](#cite_note-141) Major holidays in Dubai include [Eid al Fitr](/wiki/Eid_al_Fitr), which marks the end of [Ramadan](/wiki/Ramadan), and [National Day](/wiki/National_Day) (2 December), which marks the formation of the United Arab Emirates.

The [International Festivals and Events Association (IFEA)](/wiki/International_Festivals_and_Events_Association), the world's leading events trade association, has crowned Dubai as *IFEA World Festival and Event City, 2012* in the cities category with a population of more than one million.[[142]](#cite_note-142)[[143]](#cite_note-143) Large shopping malls in the city, such as [Deira City Centre](/wiki/Deira_City_Centre), [Mirdiff City Centre](/wiki/Mirdiff_City_Centre), [BurJuman](/wiki/BurJuman), [Mall of the Emirates](/wiki/Mall_of_the_Emirates), [Dubai Mall](/wiki/Dubai_Mall) (the world's largest) and [Ibn Battuta Mall](/wiki/Ibn_Battuta_Mall) as well as traditional *souks* attract shoppers from the region.

### Food[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|200px|Traditional Emirati tea](/wiki/File:Tea-224-nevit.jpg) [Arabic food](/wiki/Arab_cuisine) is very popular and is available everywhere in the city, from the small [*shawarma*](/wiki/Shawarma) diners in [Deira](/wiki/Deira,_Dubai) and [Al Karama](/wiki/Al_Karama,_Dubai) to the restaurants in Dubai's hotels. Fast food, South Asian, and Chinese cuisines are also very popular and are widely available. The sale and consumption of pork, though legal, is regulated and is sold only to non-Muslims, in designated areas of supermarkets and airports.<ref name=pork>[Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards](http://www.stat-usa.gov/agworld.nsf/505c55d16b88351a852567010058449b/898e8206171d628385256d02006df0d7/$FILE/TC3003.PDF). *GAIN Report*. United States Department of Agriculture [Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback)</ref> Similarly, the sale of alcoholic beverages is regulated. A liquor permit is required to purchase alcohol; however, alcohol is available in bars and restaurants within hotels.[[144]](#cite_note-144) [*Shisha*](/wiki/Hookah) and [*qahwa*](/wiki/Coffee) boutiques are also popular in Dubai. Dubai is known for its nightlife. Clubs and bars are found mostly in hotels due to the liquor laws. The [*New York Times*](/wiki/New_York_Times) described Dubai as "the kind of city where you might run into Michael Jordan at the Buddha Bar or stumble across Naomi Campbell celebrating her birthday with a multiday bash".[[145]](#cite_note-145) [Biryani](/wiki/Biryani) is also a popular cuisine across Dubai with being the most popular among Indians and Pakistanis present in Dubai.[[146]](#cite_note-146)

#### Dubai Food Festival[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

The inaugural Dubai Food Festival was held between 21 February to 15 March 2014.[[147]](#cite_note-147) According to [*Vision*](/wiki/Vision_(magazine)) magazine, the event was aimed at enhancing and celebrating Dubai’s position as the gastronomic capital of the region. The festival was designed to showcase the variety of flavours and cuisines on offer in Dubai featuring the cuisines of over 200 nationalities at the festival.[[148]](#cite_note-148) The next food festival will be between 22 February 2016 to 21 March 2016.[[149]](#cite_note-149) while [*Gulf News*](/wiki/Gulf_News), [*Khaleej Times*](/wiki/Khaleej_Times) and [*7DAYS*](/wiki/7days) are the largest circulating English newspapers.<ref name=gulfnewskhaleejtimes>[Gulf News continues to lead the way](http://www.zawya.com/pdfstory.cfm?storyid=GN_03022010_040214&l=000000100204). zawya. February 2010</ref>

[Etisalat](/wiki/Etisalat), the government-owned telecommunications provider, held a virtual monopoly over telecommunication services in Dubai prior to the establishment of other, smaller telecommunications companies such as Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company (EITC—better known as Du) in 2006. Internet was introduced into the UAE (and therefore Dubai) in 1995. The network has an Internet bandwidth of 7.5 Gbit/s with capacity of 49 STM1 links.[[156]](#cite_note-156) Dubai houses two of four Domain Name System (DNS) data centres in the country (DXBNIC1, DXBNIC2).[[157]](#cite_note-157) Censorship is common in Dubai and used by the government to control content that it believes violates the cultural and political sensitivities of Emirates.<ref name=etisalatmon>[United Arab Emirates](http://opennet.net/sites/opennet.net/files/united_arab_emirates.pdf). OpenNet Interactive. 2008</ref> Homosexuality, drugs, and the theory of evolution are generally considered taboo.[[144]](#cite_note-144)[[158]](#cite_note-158) Internet content is regulated in Dubai. Etisalat uses a proxy server to filter Internet content that the government deems to be inconsistent with the values of the country, such as sites that provide information on how to bypass the proxy; sites pertaining to dating, gay and lesbian networks, and pornography; and sites originating from [Israel](/wiki/Israel).[[159]](#cite_note-159) Emirates Media and Internet (a division of Etisalat) notes that as of 2002, 76% of Internet users are male. About 60% of Internet users were Asian, while 25% of users were Arab. Dubai enacted an Electronic Transactions and Commerce Law in 2002 which deals with digital signatures and electronic registers. It prohibits Internet Service Providers (ISPs) from disclosing information gathered in providing services.[[160]](#cite_note-160) The penal code contains official provisions that prohibit digital access to pornography; however, it does not address cyber crime or data protection.<ref name=privacy>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|](/wiki/File:DTC1.jpg)[Dubai Tennis Stadium](/wiki/Aviation_Club_Tennis_Centre)

[Football](/wiki/Association_football) and [cricket](/wiki/Cricket) are the most popular sports in Dubai. Five teams ([Al Wasl FC](/wiki/Al_Wasl_FC), [Al-Ahli Dubai](/wiki/Al-Ahli_Dubai), [Al Nasr SC](/wiki/Al_Nasr_SC_(Dubai)), [Al Shabab Al Arabi Club](/wiki/Al_Shabab_Al_Arabi_Club) and [Dubai Club](/wiki/Dubai_Club)) represent Dubai in [UAE Pro-League](/wiki/UAE_Pro-League).[[144]](#cite_note-144) Al-Wasl have the second-most number of championships in the UAE League, after Al Ain. Dubai also hosts both the annual [Dubai Tennis Championships](/wiki/Dubai_Tennis_Championships) and The Legends Rock Dubai tennis tournaments, as well as the Dubai Desert Classic golf tournament and the Dubai World Championship, all of which attract sports stars from around the world. The [Dubai World Cup](/wiki/Dubai_World_Cup), a [thoroughbred](/wiki/Thoroughbred) horse race, is held annually at the [Meydan Racecourse](/wiki/Meydan_Racecourse). Dubai also hosts the traditional [rugby union](/wiki/Rugby_union) tournament [Dubai Sevens](/wiki/Dubai_Sevens), part of the [Sevens World Series](/wiki/Sevens_World_Series) [Event pictures of Rugby 7 Dubai 2015](http://planbadv.com/gallery/rugby-7-dubai-2015/). In 2009, Dubai hosted the [2009 Rugby World Cup Sevens](/wiki/2009_Rugby_World_Cup_Sevens). Auto racing is also a big sport in Dubai, the [Dubai Autodrome](/wiki/Dubai_Autodrome) is home to many auto racing events throughout the year. Cycling became one of the biggest sports in the UAE [Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) and Fun Ride Sports focus on cycling events and to be at all the races to provide world class events.

### Cricket[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

[thumb|Dubai Sports City Pak vs Aussies](/wiki/File:Dubai_Sports_City_Pak_vs_Aussies.jpg) Cricket is followed by Dubai's large community of Indians and Pakistanis alongside the residents from other cricket playing nations (Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, England, Australia, South Africa and Nepal). In 2005, the [International Cricket Council](/wiki/International_Cricket_Council) (ICC) moved its headquarters from London to Dubai. The city has hosted several Pakistan matches and two new grass grounds are being developed in [Dubai Sports City](/wiki/Dubai_Sports_City). Numerous tournaments also take place in Dubai.[[161]](#cite_note-161) Since Pakistan played Australia in a One-Day International in Dubai in 2009, not only have top international teams competed in the city, but the emirate is helping to improve the standard of cricket around the world with the ICC Cricket Academy, a training and coaching facility which is used by the world’s leading nations. [Board of Control for Cricket in India](/wiki/Board_of_Control_for_Cricket_in_India) played some [Indian Premier League](/wiki/Indian_Premier_League) matches here.

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|Dubai Knowledge Village was built to allow universities to open branches and campuses in Dubai.](/wiki/File:Knowledge_Village_1.jpg)

The school system in Dubai follows that of the United Arab Emirates. [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), there are 79 public schools run by the Ministry of Education that serve Emiratis and expatriate Arab people as well as 145 private schools.<ref name=pop1/> The medium of instruction in public schools is Arabic with emphasis on English as a second language, while most of the private schools use English as their medium of instruction. Most private schools cater to one or more expatriate communities.[[162]](#cite_note-162) More than 15 schools offer an international education using the one or more of the four International Baccalaureate Programmes for students aged 3–19.[[163]](#cite_note-163) Several schools have introduced the new IB Career-related Programme that can be combined with a vocational qualification such as a BTEC.[[164]](#cite_note-164) The Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) signed an agreement with the IB in efforts to widen the options offered for parents and to meet the different needs of students in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).[[165]](#cite_note-165) Additionally a number of schools offer either a CBSE or an Indian Certificate of Secondary Education Indian syllabus. [The Indian High School](/wiki/The_Indian_High_School,_Dubai), [DPS](/wiki/Delhi_Private_School,_Dubai) are some examples. Similarly, there are also several reputable Pakistani schools offering FBISE curriculum for expatriate children in Dubai.

A number of schools also offer British primary education up to the age of eleven. British style eleven-to-eighteen secondary schools offering General Certificate of Secondary Education and A-Levels include [Dubai Gem Private School](/wiki/Dubai_Gem_Private_School), [Dubai British School](/wiki/Dubai_British_School), [English Language School Pvt.](/wiki/English_Language_School,_Dubai) Some schools, such as The [American School of Dubai](/wiki/American_School_of_Dubai), also offer the curriculum of the United States.<ref name=schlist>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The most well-known universities in Dubai are [American University in Dubai](/wiki/American_University_in_Dubai), [Hult International Business School](/wiki/Hult_International_Business_School), [Al Ghurair University](/wiki/Al_Ghurair_University), The American College of Dubai, [University of Wollongong in Dubai](/wiki/University_of_Wollongong_in_Dubai), [British University in Dubai](/wiki/British_University_in_Dubai) offering courses in Business Administration, Engineering, Architecture and Interior Design. American University in Dubai is one of the six UAE universities featured in QS World University Rankings 2014/2015.[[166]](#cite_note-166) In 2013 [Synergy University Dubai Campus](/wiki/Synergy_University_Dubai_Campus)[[167]](#cite_note-167) opened its campus in [Jumeirah Lakes Towers](/wiki/Jumeirah_Lakes_Towers) being a first University in Dubai to be located outside of Educational Zones (Knowledge Village or Academic City).[[168]](#cite_note-168)

## Healthcare[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Dubai's Iranian Hospital](/wiki/File:Dubai_Al_Wasl_Rd.jpg)

Healthcare in Dubai can be divided into two different sectors: public and private. Each Emirate is able to dictate healthcare standards according to their internal laws, although the standards and regulations rarely have extreme differences. Public hospitals in Dubai were first built in the late 1950s and continued to grow with public health initiatives. There are now 28 hospitals in Dubai, 6 public and 22 private, with 3 more major hospitals scheduled to be built by 2025.[[169]](#cite_note-169) By the end of 2012, there were also a total of 1,348 medical clinics, 97% of which are operated privately.[[170]](#cite_note-170) In 2015, Dubai phased in mandatory health insurance for all inhabitants, thereby leading to increased demand for medical services.[[171]](#cite_note-171)

## Notable people[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

* [Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum](/wiki/Mohammed_bin_Rashid_Al_Maktoum)

## International relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

### Twin towns and sister cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]

[Template:Refimprove section](/wiki/Template:Refimprove_section) Dubai is [twinned](/wiki/Twin_towns_and_sister_cities) with the following cities:[[172]](#cite_note-172)[Template:Unreliable source?](/wiki/Template:Unreliable_source?)

[Template:Colbegin](/wiki/Template:Colbegin)

* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Barcelona](/wiki/Barcelona), Spain (2006)[[173]](#cite_note-173)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Beirut](/wiki/Beirut), Lebanon[[174]](#cite_note-174)