



AIR NEW ZEALAND



**Population:**

1,5 million

**Currency:**

1 Dirham (AED) = 100 fils

**Opening hours:**

Thanks to split-shift staffing systems, many shops are open 24 hours a day while most others stay open until 21:00 or 22:00. On Fridays many shops close between 11.30-12.30 for Muslim holy day prayers. Times are revised during Ramadan.

**Internet:**

[www.dubaitourism.ae](http://www.dubaitourism.ae)

**Newspapers:**

The Gulf Today  
The Gulf News  
Khaleej Times  
7 Days (free sheet)

**Emergency numbers:**

999 (Police)  
997 (Fire)  
999 (Ambulance)

**Tourist information:**

Dubai Department of Tourism & Commerce Marketing  
Address: 13th floor, National Bank of Dubai Building, Deira  
Tel: +971 (0)4 223 0000  
[www.dubaitourism.ae](http://www.dubaitourism.ae)

# DUBAI

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**Contents:** The City, Do & See, Eating, Cafés, Bars & Nightlife, Shopping, Essential Information, Maps

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## DUBAI

Flourishing as the Middle East's major commercial hub, vibrant Dubai – a mere fishing village 60 years ago – has blossomed over the past decade into the world's hottest new tourist destination. A hot but dry desert climate tempered by cooling Arabian Gulf breezes, the allure of the mystical desert, great beaches and a chance to sample Arabic culture while enjoying thoroughly modern Western-style amenities are all part of the irresistible appeal.



## THE CITY



Nothing in Dubai is really old but if you like cutting-edge modern architecture then nowhere else on earth can offer such a massive wow factor as does the United Arab Emirates' largest metropolis.

Dubai is growing – fast. On the way is the 700 metre tall Dubai Tower, set to be the world's highest building, along with the world's largest shopping mall, the world's first underwater hotel – Hydropolis – and The World, an amazing man-made series of 250 islands shaped to represent a map of the globe.

Already on hand are the iconic sail-shaped Burg Al Arab Hotel – currently the world's tallest – and the new Ski Dubai indoor winter sports centre at Mall of the Emirates where you can snow ski a stone's throw from desert sand dunes.

It's a large city and, given the climate, you will be taking lots of cabs and buses but a surprising amount of it is walkable, especially around the Creek, an attractive stretch of water that bisects the city.

Around 80 per cent of the residents are ex-pats, not only from Europe and North America but from all over the Middle and Far East too, making this the world's most vibrantly cosmopolitan city.

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## DO & SEE



### Dubai Museum

Located in the imposing Al-Fahidi Fort, built in 1787 to protect the landward approaches of a then sleepy desert village. Life-size figures set in an intriguing diorama reveal what life was like before the discovery of oil transformed Dubai.

*Address: Nr Bastakiya, Bur Dubai  
Phone: +971 (0)4 353 1862*

### Desert Safari

A Dubai must-do is a four-wheel drive excursion out into the sand dunes. They might stop to let you discover some of the wildlife. More likely the drivers will race each other dizzyingly up and down seemingly impossible slopes. The day's excitement ends with a barbecue under the stars.

### Arabian Desert Tours

*Phone: +971 (0)4 268 2880  
Internet: [www.arabiandesert-dubai.com](http://www.arabiandesert-dubai.com)*

### Off-Road Adventures



Phone: +971 (0)4 628 9667

### **Majlis Gallery**

An old windmill on Al-Faladi Street in Bastakiya displays traditional glassware, ceramics, furniture and fabrics as well as hosting 10 exhibitions of contemporary artists each year. Some 30 traditional houses have been restored in the neighbouring Shindagha quarter while Bastakiya itself has atmospheric old alleyways to explore.

Address: Al Musalla Roundabout, Bastakiya, Bur Dubai  
Phone: +971 (0)4 353 6233  
Internet: [www.themajlisgallery.com](http://www.themajlisgallery.com)

### **Grand Mosque**

At 70 metres tall, this grandiose building has the city's tallest minaret. Another fine edifice is the monumental Jumeira Mosque. Make sure to respect dress codes when visiting.

Address: Nr Ruler's Court, Bur Dubai

### **Sheikh Saeed Al Maktoum's House**

Dating from the late 19th century, this mansion in Al Shindagha is a fine example of traditional architecture, built from coral covered in plaster. It houses a collection of rare stamps and coins. Close by is the Heritage and Diving Village, telling the story of the once thriving pearl diving industry.

Address: Nr Al Shindagha Tunnel, Al Shindagha  
Phone: +971 (0)4 393 7139

### **Dubai Creek**

Inland, the Creek broadens into a wide marsh that is home to 27,000 birds, many of them colourful pink flamingos that are in year-round residence. Deira has a broad waterfront promenade while Bur Dubai side features a beautifully landscaped park.

## **EATING**



Thanks to its role as one of the great international crossroads and the truly cosmopolitan nature of its population, Dubai offers cuisine from all over the world. French, Italian, Spanish, Greek and Scandinavian establishments vie with the culinary delights of India, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan and Korea.

Then, of course, there's true Middle Eastern food, with Moroccan, Lebanese, Iranian, Jordanian and other specialities on offer as well as such local Arabic delights as hareis (succulent slow-cooked lamb with cracked wheat), matchous (highly spiced lamb served over rice), fattayer (bite-sized pastries stuffed with cream cheese and spinach), mehalabiya (a mouthwatering pudding topped with pistachio nuts and rose petals) and esh asaraya (a cream-topped variation on cheesecake). A good tip: for great value genuine Arabic food, try the long-established citywide Automatic chain.

This is one city where in-house hotel restaurants do extremely well – and offer a vast array of choice. Many hotels have six or more different outlets to provide a culinary tour of the world of fine food – and value often matches that of stand-alone eateries.

In what is officially a Muslim city, the entirely cosmopolitan nature of the populace means alcohol is widely available and pork and shellfish find their way onto



many menus.

### **Al Diwan**

Within the Metropolitan Palace at Deira, there's a generous selection of Lebanese meze delights and grilled meats then at midnight the lights dim, the music kicks in, the belly-dancers do their thing and the prices escalate.

*Address: Metropolitan Palace Hotel, Al Maktoum Street, Deira  
Phone: +971 (0)4 227 0000*

### **Scarlett's**

Transport yourself from the modern exoticism of the Arabian Gulf to the decadence of the Gulf of Mexico at this atmospheric New Orleans' flavoured slant on the Deep South. Classic American Cajun and Creole fare is accompanied by thumping pop music, with a busy dance floor. Note: there's a strict 'smart casual' dress code.

*Address: Jumeirah Emirates Towers  
Phone: +971 (0)4 319 8088*

### **The Glasshouse And Verre**

British super-chef Gordon Ramsey makes his presence felt in Dubai with these two outlets within the luxurious Hilton Dubai Creek Hotel. Trendy sophistication – and accompanying high prices – make Verre the place to be seen while the less stratospheric Glasshouse offers an interesting 'booze buffet' – drink as much as you like as long as you keep on eating!

*Address: Hilton Dubai Creek, Beniyas Road  
Phone: +971 (0)4 227 1111 / +971 (0)4 212 7551  
Internet: [www.dubai-creek.hilton.com/](http://www.dubai-creek.hilton.com/)  
[www.gordonramsay.com/dubai](http://www.gordonramsay.com/dubai)*

### **Malecon**

Learn to dance salsa before downing perfectly concocted mojitos and cubana libres at this atmospheric Cuban inspired hideout where paella is the speciality.

*Address: Dubai Marine Beach Resort, Jumeira  
Phone: +971 (0)4 346 1111  
Internet: [www.dxbmarine.com/malecon.php](http://www.dxbmarine.com/malecon.php)*

### **Al Koufa**

A long-standing favourite for visitors and locals. Here you can savour genuine Emirates' cuisine in a place that rarely warms up much before midnight but then packs to the gills as the band gets cooking.

*Address: Al Nasr Leisure Land  
Phone: +971 (0)4 335 1511  
Internet: [www.alkoufa.com](http://www.alkoufa.com)*

### **Al Dawaar**

Dubai's popular revolving restaurant atop the usually packed Hyatt Regency Hotel offers ever-changing views to set the mood and ever-changing buffet spreads to provide a perfect introduction to the delights of the middle-eastern table. The huge selection also offers Indian and European dishes and a selection of desserts.

*Address: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Deira  
Phone: +971 (0)4 209 1234  
Internet: [www.dubai.regency.hyatt.com](http://www.dubai.regency.hyatt.com)*

### **Lan Kwai Fung**

Authentic Hong Kong Chinese, right down to the décor. Wide choice and you can watch the chefs at work behind the kitchen's glass wall. They'll even cook your own suggestions to order.

*Address: Nr Lamcy Plaza, Oud Metha  
Phone: +971 (0)4 335 3680*

### **Bateaux Dubai**

This well-appointed modern vessel takes 350 passengers a time on a dinner cruise up the Dubai Creek and back, with an emphasis on Greek cuisine but lots more beside.

*Address: Landing stage close to British Embassy on Al Seef Road.  
Phone: +971 (0)4 399 4994  
Internet: [www.bateauxdubai.com](http://www.bateauxdubai.com)*



## CAFÉS



### A'rukn

Sit inside or outside at this friendly location set next to the theatre in Madinat Jumeriah with the souk at hand. Lovely cakes and a wide selection of speciality coffees.

*Address: Souk Madinat Jumeirah, Umm Suqeim  
Phone: +971 (0)4 366 8888*

### French Connection

A bakery cum coffee shop offering generously proportioned sandwiches, crumbly croissants and excellent pastries. There's wireless internet connection and lots of newspapers and magazines to read.

*Address: Wafa Tower, Trade Centre 1  
Phone: +971 (0)4 343 8311  
Internet: [www.fcDubai.com](http://www.fcDubai.com)*

### Café Mozart

Austrian owned, operated and themed though the menu ventures far beyond the place's Viennese inspiration. The mood is laid-back and relaxing and the coffee smells perfect.

*Address: Nr Carlton Tower Hotel, Deira  
Phone: +971 (0)4 221 6565*

### Al Mallah

Set on a busy downtown street, this joint is wholly authentic Arabic with coffee so strong the spoon stands up. It's mostly outside seating, making it a perfect place to watch the world go by while tucking into superb falafel or manoushi.

*Address: Al Diyafah Street, Al Satwa  
Phone: +971 (0)4 398 4723*

### Paul

Archetypal French patisserie, with all that implies, and the food offering stretches to soups and salads as well as sandwiches. Relaxed Continental style and a great place to catch your breath after shopping for bargains in the local mall.

*Address: Mercato Mall, Jumeirah  
Phone: +971 (0)4 344 3505*

## BARS & NIGHTLIFE



### The Library & Cigar Bar

Elegant, opulent, atmospheric – this luxurious venue has the ambience of a gentleman's club with its hushed tones, leather Chesterfields and dark cherry wood décor. Classic, restrained jazz makes it the place for a late-night aperitif or classic cocktail.

*Address: The Ritz Carlton, Marsa Dubai  
Phone: +971 (0)4 399 4000  
Internet: [www.ritzcarlton.com](http://www.ritzcarlton.com)*

### Rock Bottom Café

As the evening wears on, dining couples and happy families give way to dance-the-night-away boppers. There's a big dance floor, two pool tables and big-screen TVs for sports fans.

*Address: Regent Palace Hotel, Bur Dubai  
Internet: [www.regentpalacehotel.co.uk](http://www.regentpalacehotel.co.uk)*

### Blue Bar

Sink Belgian beers while listening to hip blues and jazz – with live bands on occasion.



*Address: Novotel World Trade Centre 2  
Phone: +971 (0)4 332 0000  
Internet: www.novotel.com*

### **Cin Cin**

This chic wine bar has become a true destination for the urban set. The impressive wine selection includes 350 international labels and 55 wines by the glass.

*Address: The Fairmont Dubai, Sheikh Zayed Road  
Phone: +971 (0)4 332 5555*

### **Harry Ghatto's**

More than a thousand songs to choose from at this diminutive karaoke bar, with the action kicking off at 22:00 each night, though the bar is open from 20:00 and offers inexpensive drinks and light snacks.

*Address: The Boulevard at Emirates Towers  
Phone: +971 (0)4 319 8088  
Internet: www.jumeirah.com*

## **SHOPPING**



Shopping could almost be described as Dubai's raison d'être. This is real shop-till-you-drop territory, with an amazing array of vast, modern air-conditioned shopping malls, street markets, shops large and small, and the renowned gold, perfume and spice souks. There's plentiful opportunity to use credit cards but cash is king where bargains are concerned. Tax-free status plus lots of haggling – which, as in all Arab countries, almost reaches the level of an art form – ensures great value and even major stores may come up with special discounts if you ask

first, and you should never be afraid to ask.

Deira's mind boggling gold souk has some 320 outlets, with pricing usually by weight rather than design or craftsmanship. Perfumes, Arab arts and crafts and carpets have their own dedicated souks. Cameras, computers and other electrical are there in profusion and prices compare well with those in Hong Kong, Singapore and other Asian shopping paradise cities. There's also a vast fish market located close to the sea and to the Deira side entrance to the Shindagha Tunnel. Here there's an amazing variety of fish and shellfish, fresh from the sea, a good seafood restaurant and a museum devoted to Dubai's history as a fishing harbour.

Sweetmeats and exotic fruits on display on stalls throughout the city are equally enticing and you'll also find grocery stores that resemble Aladdin's Cave with their bounty.

Beating America at its own game, Dubai has a plethora of western-style air-conditioned shopping malls, including the massive Gardens Mall, which currently claims to be the world's largest - though the soon to be opened AED 235 billion Dubailand and Mall of Arabia will be even bigger.

Among the best malls are Burjuman Centre, Deira City Centre, Lamcy Plaza, Mercato, Wafi Mall, Jumeriah Centre, Village Mall and the Oasis Centre. Many hotel lobbies also incorporate malls where designer labels rule, ok. And when feet get weary, many malls feature extensive food courts, catering for everything from a simple burger or sandwich to full-blown Arab cuisine and gourmet offerings.

In Dubai you can have a suit made to measure overnight or have jewellery specially crafted and there is scarcely a



commodity you cannot find somewhere.

Straddling January and February, the month-long Dubai Shopping Festival attracts more than three-million shopaholics annually, with prices even more competitive than usual. Summertime's Dubai Summer Surprises is another shopping bonanza. Both these major events are accompanied by dancing, entertainment and a carnival atmosphere.

Neeretail outlets are opening at breakneck pace and the city's 20 million square feet of retail space already accounts for more than four times per capita what the USA can offer.

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



### Airport

The Dubai International airport is located 4 km (2.5 miles) southeast of Dubai.

Transportation from the airport is possible by taxi and bus.

Transfer between the terminals takes about 10 minutes using the airport shuttle service. The Terminal 1 Departures concourse (Sheikh Rashid Terminal) is linked to Terminal 1 via a tunnel with travelators. Terminal 2 is used exclusively for business and charter flights.

The taxi service is provided by the government-run Dubai Transport airport taxi service, where each cab is meter-run.

Bus service: Bus stations are located opposite both terminals. Bus no's 4, 11,

15, 33, 44 connect with Terminal 1 while bus no 2 connects with Terminal 2 connects with Terminal 2.

The Dubai Municipality public bus system costs Dhs. 2 per person and takes bus routes 401 and 402 to either the Al Sabkha or Al Ghubaiba bus stations, passing by, or near, many of the hotels and apartments found in Dubai.

Internet: [www.dubaiairport.com](http://www.dubaiairport.com)

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### Public Transport

A major 70 km long metro system is under construction. At present, Dubai Municipality Transport Section operates 60 bus lines in and around the city, carrying 150,000 passengers daily. Fares are low and paid to the driver on boarding though a pre-purchased E-Go Card electronic ticket, which can be topped up, is a cost-saving option.

### Taxi

The most convenient way of getting around. Beware uninsured illegal taxis. The four government franchised official operators have strictly controlled fares. Cabs can be hailed at the roadside, or summoned via telephone or one of the electronic booking machines found around town. Driver knowledge is sometimes lacking so use a major landmark as a homing device when saying where you want to go.



### **Post**

Local post offices, filling stations, shopping malls and many souvenir shops sell postage stamps.

#### **Central Post Office**

*Address: Zabeel Road, Al-Karama*

*Opening hours: 08:00-20:00 every day*

*Phone: +971 (0)4 337 1500*

### **Pharmacy**

Pharmacies provide 24hr service on a rotating basis listed in local newspapers.

### **Dentist**

Dental services are of high standard. Dr Nicholas & Asp Dental Centre has a 24hr emergency hotline.

*Phone: +971 (0)50 349 7777*

*Internet: [www.nicolasandasp.com](http://www.nicolasandasp.com)*

### **Telephone**

Country code: +971

Area code: 04

There are many public phone boxes, mostly credit card operated, but calls from them are very expensive, as are calls from hotel rooms.

### **Electricity**

220/240 AC





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B

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PORT RASHID

AL SHINDAGHA 311

AL RAFFA 316

AL RIGGA 119

Khor Dubai

Heritage and Diving Village Museum

Deira Fish, Produce and Vegetable Market

Twin Towers Dubai Tower

Deira Tower Dubai Tower

Al Maktoum Hospital Rd

Future Bridge

Al Shindagha Tunnel Pedestrian Tunnel

Al Khaleej Road

Al Khaleej Road

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AL RAFFA 316

AL RIGGA 119

Khor Dubai

Heritage and Diving Village Museum

Deira Fish, Produce and Vegetable Market

Twin Towers Dubai Tower

Deira Tower Dubai Tower

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10 Sikka	C3 C4 D2	31 Sikka	B2	Al Raffa Street	A3
103 Road	D1	32 Sikka	C2	Al Ras Road	B3
10A Sikka	D3	33 Sikka	B2 C2	Al Rolla Road	A4
10B Sikka	A3	33C Sikka	B4	Al Sabkha Road	C2 D2
11A Street	A3 B4 B2 C2	34 Sikka	B3	Al Seef Road	C4
11B Street	D3 B3	34A Sikka	B4 D3	Al Shindagha Tunne.	B2 C2
11C Sikka	A4	34B Sikka	B4 C2	Al Soor Street	C2
11D Sikka	A4 B4	35A Sikka	A3	Al Souk Al Kabeer .	C3
12A Sikka	C4 D2	36A Sikka	D3	Al Suq Street	A3 B3
12B Sikka	B4 C4	37B Sikka	A3	Ali Bin Abi Taleb .	B3
13 Street	A4	37C Sikka	A3	Baniyas Road	B2 B3 C3 D4
13A Street	B4 A3	37D Street	A4 B4	Deira Street	D3
13B Sikka	D3	38 Sikka	C2	Future Bridge	C1
13C Sikka	A3 B3	38A Street	D3	Khalid Bin Al Wa.	A3 A4 B4
14 Sikka	C4	38B Sikka	B3	Mankhool Road	A4 B4
14A Street	A3 A4 D3	3C Street	A4	Naif Road	D2
14B Sikka	C2	3D Sikka	A4 B4	Sikkat Al Khail Ro.	C2 D2
15A Street	B2 B4	4 Street	C2 D2	Union Square	D4
16 Street	C4 D2	40A Sikka	B3		
16A Street	A4 D2	41 Street	B4		
17 Street	B4 D2 D4	44A Sikka	B3		
17A Sikka	D2 D3	45 Sikka	C2		
17B Street	A4	45A Sikka	A3		
18 Street	A4 B2 C3 D2	45B Sikka	A3		
18A Street	C3 D3	4A Sikka	C2 C3 C4		
18D Sikka	C2	4B Sikka	C2		
19 Street	A4	5 Sikka	B3 C3 C4 D2		
1A Sikka	C2	50A Sikka	B3		
2 Sikka	C2 D2	50B Street	B4		
20 Street	A3 C2 D2	54B Sikka	B3		
20B Street	A4	5E Sikka	A4 B4		
21 Sikka	B2	6 Street	B4 C3 C4 D2		
21A Sikka	A3	62B Sikka	B4		
21B Street	A4	64 Sikka	B4		
21C Sikka	D3	6A Street	D3		
21D Sikka	B4	6B Sikka	C3		
22 Street	C3 D2	7C Sikka	C3		
22C Street	A4	7D Sikka	A4		
23A Sikka	D3	8 Street	A3 C3 C4 D2 D4		
24 Sikka	C2	8B Sikka	D3		
24B Street	A4	9 Street	C4		
25 Street	D3	9A Sikka	C2		
25A Sikka	B2	9B Street	A4		
25B Sikka	C2	9C Street	D3		
25C Street	A3 B3	Al Abra Street	B3		
25D Sikka	B4	Al Ahmadiya Street	B2		
25E Sikka	B4	Al Burj Street	D3		
26C Sikka	D3	Al Daghaya Street	C2 D2		
27 Street	D2	Al Esbij Street	A3 A4		
27A Sikka	A3 B2	Al Fahidi Street	B3 B4		
27C Sikka	A3	Al Falah Street	A2 A3		
27E Sikka	B4	Al Ghubaiba Road	A3		
28A Sikka	B3	Al Hadd Street	B2 B3		
28C Street	C2	Al Hisn Street	B4		
29A Sikka	A3	Al Khaleej Road	C2 D2		
29B Sikka	B3 B4	Al Khor Street	B2		
2A Sikka	D2	Al Maktoum Hospita.	D3		
2B Sikka	C2 D2	Al Maktoum Road	D4		
2C Sikka	D3	Al Mina Road	A2		
3 Street	B2 B3 C4	Al Nahdha Street	A3		
30 Street	A4	Al Nakhal Road	D3		