

Tripadvisor  
Travellers'  
Choice Awards  
Best of the Best



دبي  
DUBAI

**#1** Destination  
in the World



**CITYGUIDE**

2024 EDITION



# WELCOME TO DUBAI

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Where dynamic contrasts meet  
endless possibilities.



# دبي

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With its unparalleled coastline, beautiful desert and magnificent cityscapes, memories are just waiting to be made in Dubai, Tripadvisor's most popular destination in the world, for the third year in a row.

Embark on the holiday of a lifetime as you delve into living history by the creek, journey up the world's tallest tower, relax on golden beaches, experience record-breaking theme parks and enjoy some of the most spectacular shopping and dining on the planet.

**Let's explore.**

# THE TIMELINE

**1958**



HH Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum becomes the Ruler of Dubai

**1985**



Dubai's flagship airline, Emirates, is launched

**1971**



Dubai joins the other emirates to form the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

**1833**

The Al Maktoum tribe establishes the fishing settlement of Dubai

Pearling and maritime trade begin to flourish

**1892**

Oil is discovered in Dubai, attracting foreign trade and boosting the economy

**1966**

**1940**



Dubai World Trade Centre, the city's first skyscraper, opens

**1979**



## A Brief History of Dubai

**2003**



Dubai is recognised by the World Bank and IMF as a financial hub

**2022**



Museum of the Future opens to reveal how the world could evolve

**2010**



Burj Khalifa becomes the tallest building in the world

**2023**



Expo City Dubai hosts COP28, the global summit to tackle climate change

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum becomes the Ruler of Dubai

HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum becomes the Ruler of Dubai



**1990**



**2006**

Dubai hosts Expo 2020, the first World Expo in the region



**2021**



# THE ESSENTIALS

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To help you hit the ground running the moment you arrive in Dubai, here's all the information you need to know.



## Currency

The UAE currency is the dirham (AED/Dhs)  
**US \$1 = AED3.67**



## Visas

Citizens of 70+ countries are eligible for visa on arrival, while GCC nationals enjoy visa-free entry to the UAE.

Transit visas (48 to 96 hours) are also available to all passport holders. See the latest visa information on [visitdubai.com](http://visitdubai.com)



## Stay connected

**Electricity:** Power supply is 220/240 volts. Sockets are compatible with UK-standard three-pin plugs. For US equipment, use a 220V to 110V transformer.

**Phones and Wi-Fi:** The country code for the UAE is +971. Tourists get a free prepaid SIM card from telecom operator du at the airport, while free Wi-Fi is widely available across the city – even on the beach.



## Health

If you are travelling with prescribed medication, bring your doctor's note with you. The Rashid, Latifa and Dubai Hospitals offer free emergency services.

Important numbers to know:

- Police – 999
- Ambulance – 998
- Fire Department – 997
- Coastguard – 996



## Weather

Enjoy year-round sunshine in Dubai. **Average temperatures are around 23°C in winter and 41°C in summer.**



# OUR TRADITIONS

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## Arabian culture

Dubai's famed hospitality stems from our inherent values of integrity and respect. Islam is the official religion here, and it plays a significant role in the city's culture. Pay a visit to Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Centre for Cultural Understanding (SMCCU) in the heart of old Dubai to learn more about our customs and traditions.

## National dress



### Women

Emirati women wear a long, loose black coat called an *abaya* over their clothes and cover their hair with a headscarf (*hijab*) for cultural purposes.

Some women also choose to wear a face veil known as a *niqab*, or a traditional face mask worn over the nose known as a *burqa'a*.



### Men

Men wear a long tunic known as a *kandoora*, often with open-toed leather sandals.

The *ghutra* head-dress may also be worn, which was originally used to protect the face from the desert environment. The black rope that sits on top of the *ghutra* is called an *agal*.

## Did you know?

There are more than 200 nationalities living and working in the UAE



# Dubai demystified



## ISN'T IT REALLY EXPENSIVE?

**Dubai** caters to all budgets with affordable hotels, restaurants and activities, and free parks and beaches



## IS ALCOHOL AVAILABLE?

Non-Muslim adults aged 21 and over can drink alcohol in licensed hotels, establishments and restaurants across **Dubai**



## CAN WOMEN DRIVE THERE?

Our culture holds women in very high regard. Both men and women can drive in **Dubai** to their hearts' content



## IS IT OKAY TO HOLD HANDS?

Yes, but visitors are advised to refrain from dramatic displays of affection while in public

## What can I wear?

**Dubai** is a cosmopolitan city that is a melting pot of diverse cultures and religious faiths. All attires are generally acceptable, although there are a few general guidelines to follow:



Swimwear is fine while at the beach and pool, but not appropriate in areas such as business districts and shopping malls.



When you're out and about, especially in summer, make sure you are protected from the sun.



It is advisable to dress conservatively when visiting historical areas and cultural sites.

# DUBAI SIGHTSEEING & ATTRACTION PASSES

Unlock huge savings with pre-paid access to top attractions, tours and activities. Choose from the available attraction passes below.

## Dubai Pass

Experience all that's possible in Dubai for less, with the Dubai Pass. With 48 must-visit attractions and activities to choose from citywide, you can create your own tailor-made Dubai experience, choosing from a wide variety of things to see and do. Each pass offers unbeatable value and convenience – there's no need for cash or a pocketful of tickets. Simply present your pass and you're in.

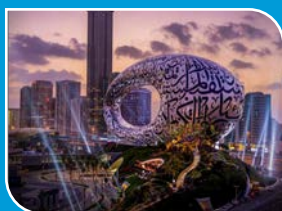
### How it works

1. Pick & Choose: Select the pass of your choice and the attractions you'd like to visit
2. Show & Go: Present your card or iPass at entry or when booking
3. Enjoy & Share: Tag **#DubaiPass** and share your experiences with family and friends



### DUBAI FLEXI ATTRACTIONS PASS

SAVE UP TO 40%



### DUBAI SELECT ATTRACTIONS PASS

SAVE UP TO 50%



### DUBAI UNLIMITED ATTRACTIONS PASS

SAVE UP TO 60%

SCAN FOR MORE DETAILS



DUBAI  
PASS



GO DUBAI  
PASS

## Go Dubai Pass

Enjoy even more flexible savings with the Go Dubai Pass. With access to more than 45 of the emirate's most loved destinations and activities, you have more control to curate a perfect holiday experience that's gentle on the wallet. Say goodbye to multiple cash transactions and keeping track of different tickets – you just show your digital pass and enjoy the experience.

### How it works

1. Pick & Choose: Once you've purchased your pass, it's ready to use
2. Download & Go: Add your pass to the Go City app and start exploring
3. Enjoy & Share: Tag **#GoDubai** when you share your experiences on social media



ALL-INCLUSIVE PASS



EXPLORER PASS





# CURIOUS ADVENTURER

If you want to get your heart racing, **Dubai** has you covered with thrilling activities from high in the sky to the deep blue sea.

# SEE



## Hatta

Located around 130km from central Dubai, this mountain getaway presents a setting worth exploring with craggy cliffs, scattered springs and lush valleys.

 [visithatta.com](http://visithatta.com)

## Al Qudra Lakes

These desert wetlands are a sight to behold – think tranquil lakes with native birds flying overhead and incomparable views.

 [visitdubai.com](http://visitdubai.com)



## Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve

Go wildlife spotting at the UAE's first national park, created to conserve the natural desert habitat and protect many endangered desert species.

 [ddcr.org](http://ddcr.org)

## Deep Dive Dubai

Take the plunge in the world's deepest swimming pool for diving and explore its 'sunken city'. You can also try freediving and scuba diving courses in the 60.02m-deep pool.

 [deepdivedubai.com](http://deepdivedubai.com)



# EXPERIENCE

## Skydiving


Experience a breathtaking freefall with Skydive Dubai. Take the leap from 13,000 feet above Palm Jumeirah or over the Arabian desert.

 [skydivedubai.ae](http://skydivedubai.ae)



## Desert drives


The Dubai sandscape is thrill-filled. Sign up for a 4WD adventure with leading tour operators such as Platinum Heritage and Arabian Adventures.

 [arabian-adventures.com](http://arabian-adventures.com) | [platinum-heritage.com](http://platinum-heritage.com)



## Scuba diving

Plunge beneath Arabia's waters as experts from Al Boom Diving lead the way, or go on record-breaking explorations at Deep Dive Dubai.

 [alboomdiving.com](http://alboomdiving.com) | [deepdivedubai.com](http://deepdivedubai.com)



## Terra Solis by Tomorrowland

Book a stay, day access or dining adventure at this unforgettable desert destination, which closes during the summer.

 [terrasolisdubai.com](http://terrasolisdubai.com)






## Equestrian sports

Showjumping, desert rides and more – there's equestrian fun for everyone. Perfect your skills at Emirates Equestrian Centre or Al Jiyad Stables.

 [emiratesequestriancentre.com](https://emiratesequestriancentre.com) | [aljiyadstables.com](https://aljiyadstables.com)

## Ziplining


An adventure must-try, XLine Dubai Marina is the world's longest urban zipline. Alternatively, swap skyscrapers for mountains with Hatta's twin zipline experience.

 [xdubai.com](https://xdubai.com) | [visithatta.com](https://visithatta.com)




## Thrilling rides

There's something for all scare levels at Dubai's theme parks and waterparks. Take on epic rides at Motiongate Dubai and Aquaventure Waterpark.

 [dubaiparksandresorts.com](https://dubaiparksandresorts.com) | [atlantis.com](https://atlantis.com)

## Sky-high fun

At 219.5m above ground, Sky Views Dubai sweeps visitors off their feet with escapades accompanied by views of the city skyline.

 [skyviewsdubai.com](https://skyviewsdubai.com)







## Dinner in the Sky

Experience sky-high dining at this seasonal table suspended by a crane 50m high. You'll enjoy an international menu alongside the best views.

 [dinnerinthesky.ae](http://dinnerinthesky.ae)

## Sonara Camp

Nestled between rolling desert dunes, Sonara Camp boasts a fine dining menu, complemented by live entertainment and a charming alfresco setting.

 [nara.ae](http://nara.ae)




## Ossiano

The Michelin-starred restaurant's floor-to-ceiling aquarium view means you can admire colourful marine creatures from your table as you savour the finest European cuisine.

 [atlantis.com](http://atlantis.com)

## Frying Pan Adventures

Combine a meal with a scavenger hunt. You'll explore the city on foot, all the while enjoying dishes based on the mission's clues.

 [fryingpanadventures.com](http://fryingpanadventures.com)





## Waterfront Market

A must-try for foodies, choose the day's freshest catch and have it prepared to your liking at any of the on-site restaurants.



 [waterfrontmarket.ae](http://waterfrontmarket.ae)

## INSIDER TIPS



Enjoy access to the city's theme parks and adventure zones for less thanks to value-packed passes, available to purchase on [visitdubai.com](http://visitdubai.com)



Plan visits to thrilling attractions in advance or consider off-peak days and times to save on costs.



 The Lost Chambers Aquarium at Atlantis, The Palm



**Al Maha, a Luxury  
Collection Desert  
Resort & Spa**

Designed to evoke Dubai's Bedouin heritage, Al Maha transports guests to another world with stunning panoramic views and luxury amenities.


 [marriott.com](https://www.marriott.com)

# STAY



## Atlantis, The Palm

Experience it all in one incredible destination. Enjoy dolphin swims, record-breaking waterpark rides, shark encounters, non-stop entertainment and much more.

 [atlantis.com](http://atlantis.com)

## Sedr Trailers Resort


The region's first 'trailer hotel' has an enviable location by Hatta's rugged mountains. There are barbecue pits and food trucks nearby too.

 [visithatta.com](http://visithatta.com)



## Lapita Hotel, Dubai Parks and Resorts

The Polynesian-style hotel has a family pool, charming rooms and friendly service, with Dubai's best theme parks at your doorstep.

 [marriott.com](http://marriott.com)

## The NEST by Sonara

This unique experience was designed by renowned architect Gianni Ranaulo. Spend a night in chic dune-shaped 'nests', complete with ensuite bathrooms and a private terrace.

 [nara.ae](http://nara.ae)



# EVENTS



## Emirates Dubai 7s

Dec 2024 

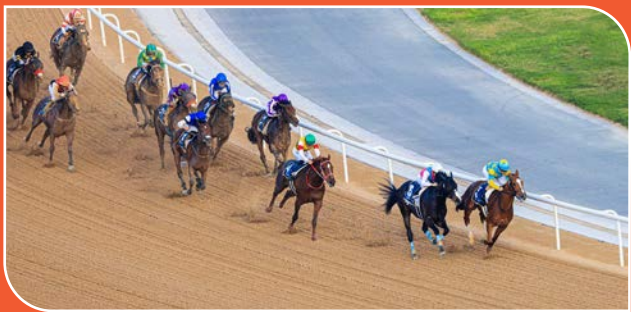


This ever-popular tournament sees the best international men's and women's rugby teams go head-to-head for coveted trophies.

 [dubairugby7s.com](https://dubairugby7s.com)

## Dubai World Cup

30 Mar 2024 




A starred event in the horse racing calendar, the Dubai World Cup attracts the world's elite and features a prize purse worth US\$30.5 million

 [dubairacingclub.com](https://dubairacingclub.com)



## Dubai Fitness Challenge

Oct - Nov 



An annual celebration of health and wellness, the Dubai Fitness Challenge encourages everyone to get in 30 minutes of activity every day for 30 days.

 [dubaifitnesschallenge.com](http://dubaifitnesschallenge.com)

## DP World Tour Championship

Nov 2024 



Catch the world's greatest golfers battle it out in Dubai at the DP World Tour Championship, the season-ending Rolex Series event. Past editions have seen the likes of Rory McIlroy and Matt Fitzpatrick take to the greens for the trophy.

 [europeantour.com](http://europeantour.com)

Download the official Dubai Calendar app or visit the website to see a full list of upcoming shows and events.

 [dubaicalendar.com](http://dubaicalendar.com)



 Available on the  
App Store

 ANDROID APP ON  
Google Play

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Disclaimer: All efforts have been made to ensure accuracy of information at the time of print (February 2024). Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism accepts no responsibility for errors or omission.

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