

Tripadvisor  
Travellers'  
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دبي



**#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 *kandoor*, 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.

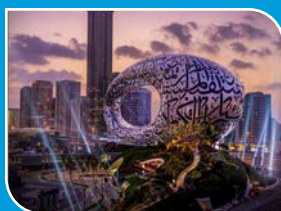
### How it works

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





# ENTERTAINMENT FAN


The city's calendar is packed with concerts, theatre shows, comedy gigs and plenty of star power all year round. Plan your next **Dubai** holiday around the best of the best.

# SEE



## The Dubai Fountain

One of the most-talked about fountains in the world, expect a grand spectacle of water, music and light right beside Burj Khalifa every evening.

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

## Palm West Beach

There's always something exciting to discover at this shoreside gem. Expect live music and DJ beats, complete with gourmet menus, beachside lounging and more.

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



## Cinema Akil

Enjoy a memorable movie-going experience at this cosy arthouse cinema in Alserkal Avenue. Don't forget to pick up delicious snacks at Run by Project Chaiwala café in the foyer, from saffron chais to sweet potato masala fries.

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

## La Perle

Deep dive into a masterpiece created by Franco Dragone. The region's first permanent show combines breathtaking choreography with daring stunts in a novel 'aqua theatre'.


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






## Burj Khalifa

Piercing through the Downtown Dubai skyline, the tallest building in the world is a must-see. Head inside to discover a record-breaking restaurant, lounge and observation decks.

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

## Inside Burj Al Arab

Dubai's famed Burj Al Arab now opens its doors to visitors, granting access to the hotel's ultra-luxurious interiors on an immersive tour.

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



## AYA

Enter a universe of immersive entertainment at AYA in Wafi City; walk through an environment that responds to your touch, float in clouds and find hidden worlds.

 [aya-universe.com](http://aya-universe.com)

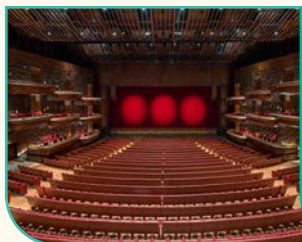
Download the Dubai Calendar app to see what's on during your trip and buy tickets to concerts, festivals and more. There's always something happening in Dubai.



 Available on the  
App Store

 GET IT ON  
Google Play





## Dubai Opera

The performing arts venue stages world-class shows and concerts, but you'll also want to check out the backstage tour to see how the magic unfolds.

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

## Madame Tussauds

Pose with the stars at the first Madame Tussauds in the Middle East. The waxwork museum features themed rooms filled with regional and international celebrities.

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



## Deep Dive Dubai

The world's deepest pool for diving has plenty of surprises, including a 'sunken city' with abandoned streetscapes. Meanwhile, special lighting and sound systems create underwater moods.

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




# EXPERIENCE




## Beach parties

Head to Dubai's beach lounges and you'll find everything from DJ beats to poolside feasts and live concerts.

 [atlantis.com](http://atlantis.com) | [barastibeach.com](http://barastibeach.com)  
| [0-gravity.ae](http://0-gravity.ae)

## Playa Beach Club


Chill out by the infinity pool, enjoy atmospheric house music, tuck into Peruvian and Japanese dishes, try a yoga or sound healing session and more at this boho-chic spot on Palm West Beach.

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




## Topgolf Dubai

Stay swinging at this high-tech driving range where microchipped balls are tracked in real-time, while music and dining keep evenings upbeat.

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

## Dancing after dark

Vibe with A-listers and stay entertained at luxury nightspots. Dubai has a party for you at Armani/Privé, Billionaire Dubai and Sky 2.0.


 [armanihoteldubai.com](http://armanihoteldubai.com) | [billionairesociety.com](http://billionairesociety.com) | [skydubai.com](http://skydubai.com)






## Dinner theatres

Combine evening feasts with an all-dancing, all-singing show to remember at popular hotspots such as Dream and The Theater.

 [dreamdxb.com](http://dreamdxb.com) | [thetheaterdubai.com](http://thetheaterdubai.com)

## Chef's tables


Admire creative courses by the talented chefs at 3Fils, sample molecular gastronomy menus at Trèsind Studio or take a seat right by the kitchen at GAIA.

 [3fils.com](http://3fils.com) | [tresindstudio.com](http://tresindstudio.com) | [gaia-restaurants.com](http://gaia-restaurants.com)



## Underwater dining

With incomparable aquarium views right from your table, Ossiano at Atlantis, The Palm and Ristorante L'Olivo at Al Mahara in Burj Al Arab know how to impress.

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

## Rooftop sessions

Dubai's sky-high lounges pull out all the stops with live music and more. Head to LookUp in City Walk, Iris at Meydan or Soho Garden on Palm Jumeirah.

 [irisdubai.com](http://irisdubai.com) | [sohogardendxb.com](http://sohogardendxb.com)





## Sail away


Get on board for the ultimate cruise experience with Xclusive Yachts as they present delicious dinners and superb entertainment at sea.

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



## Karaoke time

Sing your heart out at Dubai's top karaoke spots, including Lucky Voice in Barsha Heights and Hibiki in Deira. Book ahead, especially on weekends

 [luckyvoice.ae](https://luckyvoice.ae) | [hyattrestaurants.com](https://hyattrestaurants.com)






📍 At The Top, Burj Khalifa

# STAY



## FIVE Palm Jumeirah Hotel

A favourite haunt of visiting celebrities and trendsetters, FIVE offers a beautiful beach, poolside entertainment and effortlessly chic service.

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

## Nikki Beach Resort & Spa


Right next door to Nikki Beach Dubai, the resort offers the perfect combination of beachside leisure and world-class festivities.

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




## Address Beach Resort

Whether you're looking to laze around or treat yourself, this stunning 77-storey hotel is the place to be. Indulge in amazing dining or head to the record-breaking rooftop pool and five-star spa.

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

## W Dubai - The Palm

All about contemporary style and good times, this resort has an energetic vibe with regular live performances and trendy restaurants.

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



# EVENTS



## Live from Dubai

Jan - Dec



The city has a packed events calendar all year round! Look forward to incredible live performances galore in 2024, including Rewind Fest DXB, bringing nostalgic names from yesteryear including Bananarama and Chesney Hawkes.

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

## Dubai Comedy Festival

Apr - Jun



Mark your diaries as the annual Dubai Comedy Festival returns at top venues across the city. Comedy fans will be spoilt for choice with stand-up sets, energetic variety shows and more.

[mydss.ae](https://mydss.ae)



One of the world's largest electronic music extravaganzas is coming to Expo City Dubai, with a headline set from superstar DJ Armin Van Buuren. Originating in Romania, the festival will welcome a host of other world-famous acts for its Dubai debut, from Ellie Goulding to Bebe Rexha.

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



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

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



For more information about Dubai, please contact:  
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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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