

Tripadvisor
Travellers'
Choice Awards
Best of the Best



دبي
DUBAI

#1 Destination
in the World



CITYGUIDE

2024 EDITION



WELCOME TO DUBAI

Where dynamic contrasts meet
endless possibilities.



دبي

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

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



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

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.

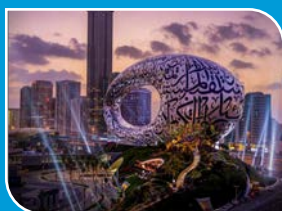
How it works

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





HAPPY FAMILY

With endless beaches and kid-approved thrills aplenty, **Dubai** is one of the best cities in the world for unforgettable family holidays.

SEE



Museum of the Future

Experience a 'living museum' that unravels our future, exploring how society could evolve in the coming decades using science and technology.

 museumofthefuture.ae

Dubai Miracle Garden

The world's largest natural flower garden features a showstopping line-up of famous buildings and structures completely transformed into colourful floral displays.

 dubaimiraclegarden.com




The Green Planet

Take a walk through a tropical rainforest, home to thousands of exotic plants and animals. Don't miss the resident sloths!

 thegreenplanetdubai.com

Dubai Mall Chinatown

Enjoy a spectacular Chinese odyssey at the world's largest shopping and leisure destination – including top-notch retail options, eye-catching decorations and delicious cuisines.


 thedubaimall.com






Skyline shots

Dubai's aerial views are world-famous. Take the best family photos from The View at The Palm, At the Top, Burj Khalifa or Dubai Frame.

 theviewpalm.ae | burjkhalifa.ae
| dubaiframe.ae

Dubai Garden Glow

A glow-in-the-dark park with wonderful installations that delight all. Admirably, they are made using energy-saving bulbs and recycled materials.

 dubaigardenglow.com



Legoland Dubai

Children aged two through 12 are in for a treat at this Lego-themed park filled with brick-loving fun. There's also a themed waterpark and the region's first Legoland Hotel.

 legoland.com

Sunny shores

There's a beach for everyone in Dubai. See the sunshine kiss the coast along Kite Beach or The Beach, JBR.

 kitebeach.ae | thebeach.ae





EXPERIENCE

Motiongate Dubai

Visit the largest Hollywood-inspired theme park in the region. Try incredible rides based on much-loved characters such as John Wick, Shrek and Papa Smurf.

 motiongatedubai.com



Dubai Safari Park

Home to nearly 3,000 creatures from across the world, this wildlife sanctuary is committed to animal conservation, protection and education. Feed the giraffes, watch the birds of prey live show, visit the children's farm and so much more.

 dubaisafari.ae



Aventura Parks

This treetop activity centre at Mushrif Park promises plenty of rope climbing, ziplining and tree swinging. Children as young as four can join in the fun.

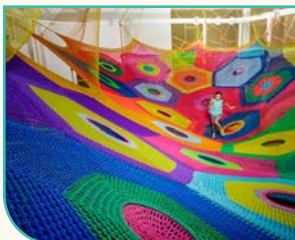
 aventuraparks.com



Olioli

This interactive children's museum has redefined the playtime rulebook. Explore interactive galleries, experiment with science and let your creativity run wild.


 olioli.ae





IMG Worlds of Adventure

Adventures await at this indoor theme park with famous friends like Ben 10, The Powerpuff Girls, Spider-Man and The Avengers.

 imgworlds.com

Ski Dubai


Make friends with penguins, build a snowman or brave the challenging slopes as a family with skis, toboggans or snowboards.

 skidxb.com




Wild waterparks

Spend a day at Aquaventure or Wild Wadi to enjoy record-breaking slides and themed activities, or have fun staying afloat at the AquaFun inflatable waterpark.

 atlantis.com | jumeirah.com
| aquafun.ae

Dubai Mall

Stay entertained at this sprawling mall that's home to an ice rink, virtual reality theme park, indoor karting, 'underwater' zoo and much more.

 thedubaimall.com



EAT



Couqley French Bistro

If you're in the mood for classic Gallic cuisine, from steak frites to fabulous cheeses, make your way to Couqley. Choose between the original eatery in JLT and the new location in Downtown Dubai.

 couqley.ae

Jones the Grocer

With locations across Dubai, this Aussie-born concept combines a modern supermarket with a Mediterranean-style delicatessen. You can also brush up on your kitchen skills at regular cooking classes.

 jonesthegrocer.com



SALT

A food truck turned burger restaurant, SALT is about simply good food. Kids will love the juicy burgers and superb soft serves.

 findsalt.com/menu

Gastronomy

Visit the new gourmet dining hall at Atlantis The Royal and go on a global culinary journey to remember. Explore 17 live cooking stations and more than 100 dishes from around the world.


 atlantis.com





Last Exit

These culinary pit stops are dotted around Dubai and designed in entertaining themes, each featuring retro food trucks that are open day and night.

 lastexit.ae



Tom & Serg

This industrial-style café in Al Quoz is a foodie haven. The kids menu features gluten-free options alongside burgers, pasta and babycinos.

 eatx.com

INSIDER TIPS



Some hotels in Dubai let children stay and dine for free, so research different deals and packages on offer.



Alternatively, consider hassle-free, all-inclusive stays at Hotel Riu or JA The Resort.



Take advantage of Dubai Mall's exclusive in-mall childcare services while you shop and dine. Book at +971 4 453 8164 or info@malaak.me

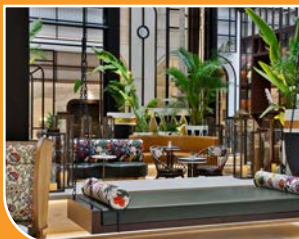


Legoland Hotel

Big and little Lego fans will love spending the night at this brightly-coloured hotel where the rooms are decked out in whimsical motifs.


 legoland.com

STAY




The Westin Dubai Mina Seyahi Beach Resort & Marina

Located on a private stretch of beach, children will love the Jungle Bay Waterpark and kids club while parents will appreciate the resort's many restaurants and luxe amenities.

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

Jumeirah Beach Hotel


The hotel's kids club, brilliant beach activities and laidback restaurants never fail to impress. There's even free access to Wild Wadi Waterpark for every guest.

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




JA The Resort

Dubai's largest experience resort is ideal for sporty families. It boasts a golf course, equestrian centre and a huge range of watersports.

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

Atlantis, The Palm

Non-stop entertainment awaits. Slip and slide at Aquaventure Waterpark, say hi to the sharks at The Lost Chambers Aquarium and enjoy arcade fun at Wavehouse.

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



EVENTS



Dubai Shopping Festival

8 Dec 2023 - 14 Jan 2024 



Look forward to live entertainment, alfresco events, amazing deals and fun for the whole family at this citywide festival that promises to be out of this world.

 mysf.ae

Dubai Summer Surprises

Jun - Sep 2024 



Alongside amazing bargains and spectacular staycation deals, the summer calendar will be packed with live performances and family activities.

 mydss.ae

La Perle

Year-round 



The region's first permanent show combines breathtaking choreography with daring stunts in a novel 'aqua theatre'. You'll be on the edge of your seat.

 laperte.com

New Year's Eve in Dubai

31 Dec 2024 



With spectacular entertainment, fireworks displays and dining deals for the whole family, there is something for everyone to enjoy when ringing in the new year in Dubai.

 visitdubai.com

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

 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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