

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.

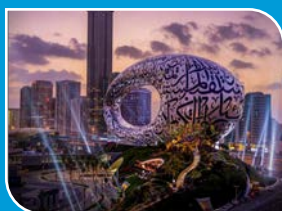
How it works

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





HUNGRY FOODIE

With everything from authentic street eats to world-class fine dining, there are endless opportunities to eat your way around **Dubai**.



Machboos

This is Emirati comfort food for the soul. Rice is cooked in a medley of spices and meat for an incredible flavour hit. Try it at Al Fanar Restaurant & Cafe.

 alfanarrestaurant.com

Manakish

Once a simple doughy flatbread, manakish has evolved into a worldly pizza-like creation with a range of toppings. Try it at Zaatar w Zeit.

 zaatarwzeit.net



Shawarma

Strips of spiced chicken rolled into soft bread and slathered with toppings – one bite and you'll fall in love. Try it at Automatic Restaurant and Grill.

 automaticrestaurant.com

Hummus

A simple dip of chickpeas, sesame tahini paste, olive oil, garlic and lemon juice but always irresistibly delicious. Try it at Arz Lebanon.

 arzlebanon.net





Shish tawook

Traditional chicken skewers marinated in a special spice mix and grilled for a gentle sear. Tuck in with dollops of garlic paste. Try it at Al Hallab Restaurant and Sweets.

 alhallabrestaurant.com

Luqaimat

Sticky, sweet dumplings with a drizzling of date syrup and sesame seeds, while modern variations delight with Nutella, honey and more. Try it at Logma.

 logma.ae



Did you know?

After winning acclaim from The World's 50 Best Restaurants, Michelin Guide and Gault & Millau, Dubai is growing its reputation as a global gastronomy hub.



INSIDER TIPS



Many restaurants in Dubai present affordable set lunch menus, which are a great way to try out the city's best for less.



The Dubai brunch is a culinary institution. Experience these all-you-can-eat feasts with prices starting from just AED150 per person.

SEE



Spice Souk

Discover new flavours and recipes as you explore this traditional market, where aromatic herbs and spices spill from large baskets at every turn.

 visitdubai.com

Downtown Dubai

The city's heart has a foodie soul. Expect everything from celebrity-helmed restaurants to trendy cafes and homegrown eateries serving up the best from near and far.

 visitdubai.com



Waterfront Market

Wander through the aisles to take in the sights, sounds and smells of this bustling market. Aside from fresh seafood, you can also pick up fruits, vegetables and spices.

 waterfrontmarket.ae

2nd of December Street

You won't find white tablecloths at this Satwa street but it's the perfect place for delicious and affordable dishes, served with a smile.

 visitdubai.com






By the beach

Discover shoreside gems at hotspots such as Kite Beach and The Beach, JBR. There are plenty of laidback restaurants serving up world flavours and perfect views.

 kitebeach.ae | thebeach.ae



 Al Fanar Restaurant & Cafe

📍 Señor Pico at Palm West Beach



Supper clubs

From gastronomic experimentation to pop-culture playfulness, supper clubs such as @kuvsecretssuppers and @casa21dxb (their Instagram handles) are taking diners on exciting culinary journeys.

🌐 visitdubai.com



Sky-high flair

Combine fine meals with scenic views across Dubai's dining hotspots like SushiSamba on Palm Jumeirah, CÉ LA VI in Downtown and Fi'lia at Business Bay.

🌐 sushisamba.com | celavi.com | sbe.com

Feast for the senses

Culinary expertise meets out-of-the-box creativity at Moonrise, a Michelin-starred restaurant with just 12 seats set within a glass box. Or enjoy a futuristic gastro-theatre experience at the ever-innovative Krasota Dubai.

🌐 moon-rise.xyz | krasota.art



EXPERIENCE




Molecular magic

Intricate plating, bold colours, billows of smoke and bubbling concoctions – taste the best in molecular gastronomy at Carnival by Trésind or the two Michelin-starred Trésind Studio.

 tresindstudio.com

Dinner shows

Combining memorable meals with mesmerising moves, check out Dream at Address Beach Resort, La Casa Del Tango in DIFC and The Theater at Fairmont Dubai.

 dreamdxb.com | lcdtango.com | thetheaterdubai.com



Food trails

Join a food tour with the experts at Frying Pan Adventures or Withlocals to uncover Dubai's hidden food gems, including street eats and Emirati flavours.

 fryingpanadventures.com | withlocals.com

Farm to table

Taste sustainable flavours at BOCA in Downtown and savour local produce at Orfali Bros Bistro in Wasl 51, where seasonality is a priority in their boundary-breaking Middle Eastern dishes.


 boca.ae | atlantis.com





Atlantis The Royal

The ultra-luxury experiential resort is home to an array of exceptional celebrity chef restaurants helmed by Heston Blumenthal, Nobu Matsuhisa, José Andrés and more.

 atlantis.com



STAY



Hotel Riu Dubai

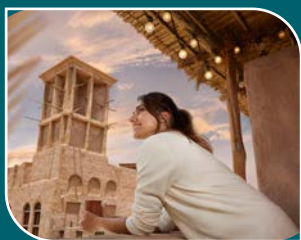
This all-inclusive hotel is a great choice for hungry families with live cooking stations, international menus and more. It's a foodie's dream come true.

 riu.com

Movenpick Hotel Jumeirah Lakes Towers

Located in the trendy neighbourhood opposite Dubai Marina, you'll find everything from exotic fare to comfort food within walking distance.

 movenpick.com



Al Seef Heritage Hotel Dubai, Curio Collection by Hilton

Located at Al Seef, a short walk away from Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood, discover charming cafes, heritage restaurants and a world of flavour.

 hilton.com

Banyan Tree Dubai

With restaurants including Demon Duck by celebrity chef Alvin Leung and Mediterranean tapas concept The Shack, there's plenty to savour. You're also just a short walk away from Bluewaters Island's other dining hotspots.

 banyantree.com



EVENTS



Dubai Food Festival

Apr - May 2024



Celebrating all things gastronomy, this carnival highlights the city's food scene from delicious meals at fine dining restaurants to street food stops and hidden gems.

dubaifoodfest.com

Etisalat by e& Beach Canteen

Apr - May 2024



An annual gastronomic extravaganza, Beach Canteen features an amazing line-up of dining concepts, live entertainment and activities for the whole family at Jumeirah Beach.

beachcanteen.ae



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

 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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