

Tripadvisor
Travellers'
Choice Awards
Best of the Best



دبي



#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.

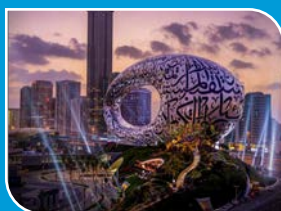
How it works

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





Jumeirah Al Qasr



RELAXATION TRAVELLER

With unparalleled beaches, world-class spas, desert escapes, peaceful city strolls and more on offer, find out how **Dubai** can help soothe your mind and body.

SEE



Cloud 22

Unwind in the ultra-luxurious, sky-high infinity pool at Atlantis The Royal, and enjoy spectacular views of Palm Jumeirah plus delicious French-Mediterranean bites.

 atlantis.com

Dubai Creek Harbour

Located next to Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary and home to an abundance of native flora and fauna, this is a place to enjoy the sunshine and postcard-worthy views.

 dubaicreekharbour.com



Dubai Water Canal

Stroll beside the picturesque canal which meanders through the centre of the city, transforming the face of Downtown Dubai.

 visitdubai.com

Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary

Relax and take in the wonders of the natural world at this protected reserve, where the flamingos steal the show in winter.

 visitdubai.com





Al Safa Art & Design Library

Designed and curated specifically for designers and artists, explore stylish reading areas, galleries and a large open courtyard.

 dubaiculture.gov.ae

Dubai Creek

Away from the bustle and energy, sit beside the creek at sunset and watch the traditional wooden boats glide through the waters.

 visitdubai.com



The View at The Palm

Admire spectacular views from this Palm Jumeirah observation deck, located 240m high. For a luxury twist, book the VIP lounge experience at sunset.

 theviewpalm.ae

Luxury beach clubs

With sun, sea and golden sands aplenty, Dubai's beach clubs are always a treat. Luckily, most beachside hotels and resorts in the city offer day passes too.

 visitdubai.com






EXPERIENCE



Traditional hammam


Try an authentic hammam treatment in a five-star spa. The decadent massage, skin treatments and steam bath will transport you.

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



Luxury desert safari

Book desert safaris designed more around relaxation than thrills. Spot native desert animals, before retiring overnight in a simple stone dwelling.

 [platinum-heritage.com](https://www.platinum-heritage.com)



 **Hatta**



Relax like royalty

Located in Jumeirah Zabeel Saray, this splendid spa offers exceptional wellness therapies, outdoor cabanas and an entire floor dedicated to couples.

 jumeirah.com

Soar over the skies

The serenity of sailing over magnificent desert dunes on a hot air balloon is something that must be seen to be believed.

 balloon-adventures.com



Yoga in Dubai

Practise your sun salutations at unique locations across Dubai – in the desert, on a sky-high observation deck and even underwater.

 lifestyleyogaworld.com | theviewpalm.ae | atlantis.com

Sound healing

Let the soulful sounds of ancient gongs and Tibetan singing bowls guide you on a journey to destress and reconnect.

 yogahouse.ae | illuminations.ae | sevaexperience.com



EAT



Fish Beach Taverna

Filled with Mediterranean-inspired coastal charm, take a seat by your table on the sand and enjoy a leisurely meal. The seafood here is spectacular.

 fish-dubai.com

The Farm Restaurant

Only a short drive from Downtown Dubai, it feels a world away thanks to lush vegetation and an 'oasis of calm' feel.

 thefarmdubai.ae



SEVA Table

Tucked away in a serene garden, the cafe offers a variety of tasty vegan options including eggless omelettes and acai bowls.

 sevaexperience.com



L'Amo Bistro del Mare

Perched by the waterfront of Dubai Harbour, this eatery offers a taste of fresh Italian fare in a chic setting, complete with panoramic skyline vistas.


 lamorestaurant.com





Pavilion at The Beach


With a prime spot at one of Dubai's top lifestyle destinations, expect year-round dining with extraordinary views. The sprawling space houses top restaurants, including homegrown favourites.

 thebeach.ae

The Farm Restaurant, Al Barari





 Park Hyatt Dubai

INSIDER TIP



Many luxury spas offer mid-week promotions and combine treatments with pool and beach access. A little research often reaps big rewards.

STAY



Mandarin Oriental Jumeirah

This urban hideaway on the beach features first-class spa and wellness facilities, plus incredible views of the Arabian Gulf.

 mandarinoriental.com

One&Only The Palm

An exclusive retreat on Palm Jumeirah, admire Dubai's soaring skyline from your room and unwind at the UAE's only Guerlain Spa.

 oneandonlyresorts.com



The Retreat Palm Dubai MGallery by Sofitel

Dubai's first five-star wellness resort, there are a range of personalised retreats, healthy dining options and wellbeing extras.

 theretreatpalmdubai.com

Park Hyatt Dubai

Nestled on the shores of Dubai Creek, the hotel is chic and sunny, with an infinity lagoon, private beach and one of the best spas in the city.

 hyatt.com



EVENTS



Dubai Fitness Challenge

Oct - Nov 



An annual event that inspires everyone to seek healthy, active lifestyles. Expect a month-long calendar of free workouts and wellness-centric entertainment.

 dubaifitnesschallenge.com

Underwater yoga


Year-round 




Find your flow with the fish at Atlantis, The Palm. Every Saturday and Sunday morning, you can take part in a guided session as you stretch out and pose with an audience of sharks and rays.

 atlantis.com



 One&Only Spa

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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