

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 *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.

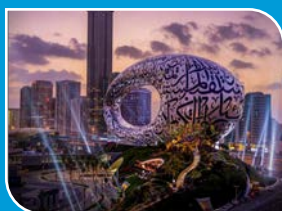
### How it works

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



# SHOPPING LOVER

From malls to markets and eclectic finds to cutting-edge fashion, shopping in **Dubai** is a dream come true.

# SEE



## Dubai Mall

Don't miss the world's largest shopping, entertainment and leisure destination, with over 1,200 stores and everything from a giant aquarium to an Olympic-size ice rink.

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

## Mall of the Emirates

Home to a ski slope, cinema complex, 560 shops and pop-up concepts, a visit here is a must on any trip to Dubai. Shop, dine and stroll in luxury.

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



## City Walk

At Dubai's most exciting urban precinct, you can expect chic shops, al fresco restaurants and beautifully designed outdoor spaces complete with boulevards.

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

## Ibn Battuta Mall

Shop your way across the six courts at Dubai's largest themed shopping centre, each reflecting the different regions through which Arab explorer Ibn Battuta travelled.

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







# SEE



## Souk Madinat Jumeirah

With endless alleys filled with perfumed scents, glowing lanterns, fragrant spices and artisanal souvenirs, it's a setting that inspires.

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

## Dubai Hills Mall

This lifestyle destination is bright, airy and filled with artistic sculptures. Alongside great high-street and designer stores, it's also home to a record-breaking indoor roller coaster, a cinema, an adventure park and more.

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



## INSIDER TIPS



Want to find designer labels at lower prices? Head to the city's discount hotspots The Outlet Village and Dubai Outlet Mall. There are also many boutiques for pre-loved fashion, notably Retold.

 [theoutletvillage.ae](http://theoutletvillage.ae) | [dubaioutletmall.com](http://dubaioutletmall.com) | [shopretold.com](http://shopretold.com)



Watch out for the 3 Day Super Sale shopping extravaganza, which takes place twice a year and offers savings of up to 90 per cent off your favourite brands.




Shopping in the souks? Don't forget to haggle to get the best price (it's expected and welcomed).





### Luxury services

Dubai's leading malls have elevated the shopping experience with a host of VIP extras – think in-mall chauffeurs and childcare, and 'shop and deliver' services.

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



### Personal shoppers

The city has plenty of style gurus willing to accompany you to whichever malls and stores you'd like – or they could show you their own favourite spots.

 [ninaiskander.com](http://ninaiskander.com) | [your-uniqueimage.com](http://your-uniqueimage.com)

### Concept stores

Giving the retail experience a fresh spin, there are many concept stores to discover in Dubai. Start with Gigi, O'de Rose and The Lighthouse for great gifting pieces.

 [gigiconcept.com](http://gigiconcept.com) | [o-derose.com](http://o-derose.com) | [thelighthouse.ae](http://thelighthouse.ae)




# EXPERIENCE




## Dubai labels

A hotspot for creative talent, Dubai's homegrown designers are ruling international runways. Discover celebrity favourites Bambah Boutique and Rami Al Ali.

 [bambah.com](http://bambah.com) | [ramialali.com](http://ramialali.com)

## Brilliant boutiques

Showcasing stylish multi-brand collections, stores such as Symphony, Etoile La Boutique and Sauce let shoppers explore the best from the region and beyond.

 [bysymphony.com](http://bysymphony.com) | [etoilelaboutique.com](http://etoilelaboutique.com) | [shopatsauce.com](http://shopatsauce.com)




## Souk shopping

Lavish gold jewellery, handwoven fabrics, traditional perfumes and special souvenirs – you'll find them all at the storied souks in Deira and Bur Dubai.

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

## Dubai souvenirs

Pick up colourful Dubai-branded souvenirs, including trendy caps, T-shirts, notebooks and more, at gifting stores such as Discover Dubai, I Love Dubai and Al Jaber Gallery.

 [bluewatersdubai.ae](http://bluewatersdubai.ae) | [thebeach.ae](http://thebeach.ae) | [aljabergallery.ae](http://aljabergallery.ae)



DISCOVER DUBAI

I ♥ DUBAI™



## Logma

Get an irresistible taste of local cuisine. Logma offers traditional Emirati fare with a contemporary feel at several shopping locations across the city.

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

## Din Tai Fung

Located in Dubai's top malls, it's delicious, it's popular and it's always worth the wait (even if there's a short queue to be seated).

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



## Time Out Market Dubai

Taking pride of place at Souk Al Bahar, the market's wraparound outdoor terrace presents enviable views while inside it's buzzing with beloved homegrown eateries.

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



## Depachika Food Hall

This food hall at Nakheel Mall features homegrown favourites such as The Lime Tree Cafe & Kitchen and Salmontini, alongside the Mamalu Kitchen cooking studio.


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





## Asia Asia


Located at Pier 7 by Dubai Marina Mall, the restaurant features spectacular views of the waterways from its terrace, matching the creative dishes on its menu.

 [asia-asia.com](http://asia-asia.com)



## Akiba Dori


Inspired by the anime culture of Akihabara in Tokyo, expect plenty of creative Japanese cuisine. Find it at Dubai Hills Mall, Dubai Design District and other hotspots.

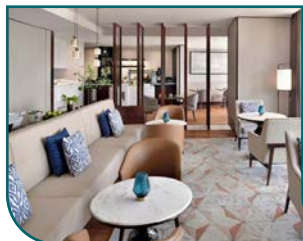
 [akibadori](http://akibadori.com)








 Dubai Mall



## Kempinski Central Avenue Dubai

With direct access to Dubai Mall – one of the city's hottest shopping destinations – this hotel is also just a short walk away from Downtown Dubai's other top sights.

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



## Kempinski Hotel Mall of the Emirates

Connected to Mall of the Emirates, this hotel has great restaurants and chic rooms. The Aspen Ski Chalet with snowy views of Ski Dubai is always popular.

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

## Raffles Dubai

This pyramid-shaped hotel is a mere five-minute walk from Wafi City – an Arabian-inspired shopping centre, complete with a traditional souk filled with novel gifts.

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



## InterContinental Dubai Festival City

With an enviable waterfront location and just a short walk away from Dubai Festival City Mall, guests can also enjoy the brilliant restaurants and infinity glass pool.

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

## The St. Regis Dubai, The Palm

Stay and play on Palm Jumeirah. The hotel connects to Nakheel Mall, The View at The Palm and the Palm Monorail, and the 24-hour butler service is legendary.

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



# EVENTS



## Dubai Shopping Festival

8 Dec 2023 - 14 Jan 2024 



Get ready for the city's famous retail festival. Expect amazing discounts, alfresco entertainment, family shows, pop-up markets, extraordinary raffles and much, much more.

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

## Dubai Summer Surprises

Jun - Sep 




Along with great deals from Dubai's most-loved brands, this summer extravaganza is packed with live shows, raffle prizes and plenty of fun.

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



## 3 Day Super Sale


Bi-annual 



One of Dubai's most anticipated retail events, leading brands across the city offer discounts of up to 90 per cent. Enjoy incredible savings on everything from lifestyle, beauty and fashion items to electronics and homeware.

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

## Seasonal celebrations

Year-round 



Dubai hosts an array of sales and retail promotions all through the year to celebrate new fashion seasons and global holidays, including Eid, Chinese New Year, Diwali and more.

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

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

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