

Tripadvisor  
Travellers'  
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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 *kumma*, 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.

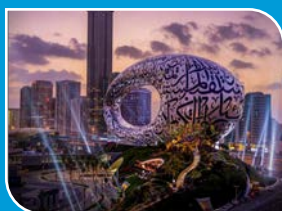
### How it works

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





## SUN & SAND SEEKER

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**Dubai** is one of the best destinations in the world for sun, sea and sand. Soak up the fun at outdoor hotspots and beachside gems.



### The Beach

The relaxed district is like a sunny beach resort that anyone can access. It has it all, including restaurants and entertainment, located on a long stretch of golden sand.

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

### The Club at Palm West Beach

This buzzing beachside destination on Palm Jumeirah houses five concepts (with more set to follow), featuring private pools, beach access and culinary experiences.

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



### Bluewaters Island

A manmade marvel that's home to the beautiful Banyan Tree Dubai resort, as well as a plethora of stylish restaurants and lounges.

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

### Dubai Islands Beach

This new hotspot is the city's first fully pet-friendly beach, and offers everything from watersports to beach football and volleyball.

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





## INSIDER TIPS



Most hotels in Dubai offer beach and pool day passes, combined with special deals like F&B credit.



Dubai has exceptional public beaches that are free to access all year round. Pack your own essentials, including snacks, for a wallet-friendly day out.




Looking for a beach stay for less? Check out exclusive deals and offers on [visitdubai.com](http://visitdubai.com)

# SEE




## Sunset Beach

One of the quieter spots along the coast, with Burj Al Arab in the distant background, this beach is ideal for watching the sunset across the Arabian Gulf.

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

## The Dubai Balloon

Float 300m above Palm Jumeirah on a tethered hot air balloon, and get unbeatable views of the Palm, the Arabian Gulf and the Dubai skyline.

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



## Kite Beach

While it's known as a watersports haven, this beach truly has something for everyone with delicious bites and fun in the sun for the whole family.

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





## DRIFT Beach Dubai

Soak up the sun at One&Only Royal Mirage's adults-only beach club. There's the option of renting a private VIP cabana, elevated above the swimming pool.

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



# EXPERIENCE



## Al Qudra Lakes

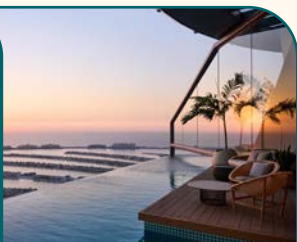
Located a short drive from the city centre, Al Qudra is a striking desert oasis that's picture-perfect. Think pretty lakes and native wildlife – find your perfect spot and take it all in.

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

## AURA Skypool

Dip, sip and dine at the world's highest 360-degree infinity pool. Located 200m above ground at The Palm Tower, expect premium service and stellar skyline views.

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




## Take to the water

Name a watersport and you'll find it in Dubai. Kitesurfing, jetskiing, flyboarding, kayaking and paddleboarding are popular options all year round.

 [dubai-jetski.com](http://dubai-jetski.com)

## Bla Bla

An ideal day-to-night option, soak in the sun's rays at the beach club – the private cabanas are always in demand – before heading to one of the many restaurants and lounges.

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





## Tagomago

Tuck into exquisite Spanish dishes at this Palm Jumeirah beach club and restaurant, named after a paradise island off the Ibiza coast. It's family-friendly too, so everyone is welcome to join in the fun.

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

## Tent Jumeirah Restaurant

With an enviable location by shimmering shores and traditional majlis-style seating on the sand, it's one of the city's casual dining gems.

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



## Verde Beach

Sitting just across the water from Burj Al Arab, the shoreside venue offers fine European dining. After your meal, relax and take in the views from the beach as a DJ spins laidback beats.

[verdebeach-dubai.com](http://verdebeach-dubai.com)



## KYMA

Taking pride of place at Palm West Beach, this Greek restaurant presents a sunshine-fuelled menu of traditional plates with a dash of Mediterranean flair.


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





## ZETA Seventy Seven


Perched on the rooftop of Address Beach Resort, located 310m above sea level, you'll be treated to skyline views and contemporary Asian dishes.

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




## Bungalo34

Catch a perfect Dubai sunset while savouring incredible seafood and Mediterranean favourites at this stylish spot in Nikki Beach Resort & Spa.

 [bungalo34.com](https://www.bungalo34.com)

## Nobu by the Beach

The latest creation from celebrity chef, Nobu Matsuhisa, Nobu by the Beach combines world-class Japanese-Peruvian cuisine and a luxurious beach club at Atlantis The Royal.

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





### Atlantis The Royal

Palm Jumeirah's newest gem, expect the very best with luxury rooms, celebrity restaurants, a grand rooftop infinity pool and five-star hospitality.

🌐 [atlantis.com](http://atlantis.com)



### Waldorf Astoria Dubai Palm Jumeirah

A glamorous address, enjoy the resort's private beach, distinguished restaurants and lounges, watersports and leisure facilities, and superb spa.

🌐 [hilton.com](http://hilton.com)

# STAY



## The Ritz-Carlton, Dubai

One of the most popular resorts along the Jumeirah shoreline, you'll have access to the pristine beach, multiple pools and excellent service.

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

## Nikki Beach Resort & Spa Dubai

Located on Pearl Jumeira, next to next to Nikki Beach Club, this spectacular resort shines with luxurious cabanas and all-star hospitality.

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



## Madinat Jumeirah

Choose from four luxury stay options, designed around a series of charming canals. Souk Madinat Jumeirah is right next door too.

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

## Anantara World Islands Dubai Resort

Located on The World Islands, the resort is an exclusive haven with lavish suites and fine dining. Book a spa session, try eco-friendly golfing or watch movies on the sands.

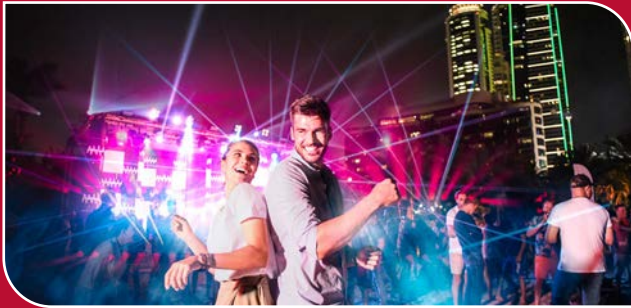
 [anantara.com](http://anantara.com)



# EVENTS

## Beach parties

Seasonal 



Dubai's best beach resorts regularly host daytime soirees and after-dark parties on the sand every winter. There's a vibe for everyone.

 [fivehotelsandresorts.com](https://www.fivehotelsandresorts.com) | [marriott.com](https://www.marriott.com) | [atlantis.com](https://www.atlantis.com)

## Dubai Food Festival

Apr - May 2024 



A culinary carnival that's celebrated across the city, expect delicious meals and live entertainment at some of Dubai's best restaurants.

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



## The Ripe Market

Year-round



Explore diverse crafts, live entertainment and fresh food at this weekly market. Held at a range of venues, it's a community favourite.

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



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

[dubaicalendar.com](http://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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