

Dubai Today

Dubai has become a principal business and tourism hub for the region. It has achieved this success in a relatively short period of time due largely to a visionary leadership, a high-quality infrastructure, an expatriate-friendly environment, low import duties and zero tax on personal and corporate income.

Lifestyle

Dubai has an excellent infrastructure and offers everything you would expect of a modern, international city. Citizens, expatriates and visitors alike, enjoy a relaxed and pleasant lifestyle. Dubai has a wide choice of cuisine to suit any palate and all pockets.

Climate

The UAE has a sub-tropical, arid climate. In April, day temperatures vary between 32 and 37 Degrees Celsius and night temperatures between 20 and 24 Degrees Celsius. To be on the safe side, it is advisable to bring a sweater or a shawl especially for the desert.

Language

The UAE's national language is Arabic. However, English is widely spoken throughout Dubai, and appears on all street signs, so delegates should have no problems travelling around the city.

Getting Around

Dubai offers traditional Arabic hospitality coupled with a world-class service industry, while an excellent infrastructure facilitates easy transport around the city. Taxis are easily obtainable and the Dubai Transport Corporation's ivory coloured cabs are fitted with fare meters. Driving is on the right hand side of the road. The metro was inaugurated in 2009 and offers a great alternative to cars.

Heritage

Dubai's culture is rooted in the Islamic traditions of Arabia. The UAE's Rulers are committed to safeguarding their heritage against erosion caused by the speed of change. They are keen to promote cultural and sporting events that are representative of their traditions such as falconry, camel racing and dhow sailing. Arabic culture in poetry, dancing, songs and traditional art are encouraged. Weddings and religious celebrations are still colourful occasions of feasting and music.

Banking and Exchange

The official currency in Dubai is Dirhams (AED/Dhs).
Banking hours are Sunday to Thursday 08:00 - 14:00. Weekends and all afternoons closed.
Automated cash dispensers are located outside every bank and other areas and cash can be withdrawn 24 hours a day.
Foreign currency may be changed at banks, hotels, airports and in exchange offices.
All major credit cards are accepted in most hotels, restaurants and shops.

Tipping and Gratuities

Tipping practices are similar to most other parts of the world. Most restaurants include a 10% service charge, but tipping in general is at the customer's discretion.

Dress Code

Visitors are expected to abide by local standards of modesty. A jacket and tie are usually required for men at business meetings. Men wearing visible jewelry, particularly around the neck are not accepted in general.

For ladies, normal smart lightweight office wear is expected during the professional programme. In the evenings for informal dinners, casual evening dresses or long sleeved blouse and skirt are the norm. It is also recommended to bring a shawl as the air-conditioning in hotels and restaurants can be quite strong.

Greeting

There are several styles of greetings in use, it is best to wait for your counterpart to initiate the greeting. Men shake hands with other men. It is advisable for a businesswoman to wait for a man to offer his hand

Shopping in Dubai

Dubai is also a world renowned shopping destination hosting one of the most exciting world's annual shopping festival and home to some of the largest and most luxurious malls in the world.

Major Sports Events

Dubai also plays host to many international sporting events such as the Dubai World Cup horse race, the Dubai Tennis Championship and the Dubai Desert Classic gives sports enthusiasts the opportunity to watch all the world's top golfers up close.

Interesting Highlights

- Business Monitor International ranks the UAE as the fourth most politically stable Country in the world.
- Hosts 139 of the fortune 500 including 9 of the top 10.
- Progressive, tolerant and multicultural society.
- Cosmopolitan city with residents representing 185 nationalities.
- Home of the tallest tower in the World 'Burj Khalifai'.
- Home of the biggest mall in the world 'Dubai Mall' covering an area of 12.1 million square feet.
- Ski Dubai, the first indoor ski slope in the Middle East.
- Jebel Ali Port ranks alongside the Great Wall of China and the Hoover Dam as the only three man-made objects that can be viewed from space.
- The Palm Jumeirah which is a man-made island created using land reclamation increasing Dubai's shoreline by a total of 520 km.

Electricity



The voltage used in Dubai is 220 V.

You will need a UK style 3pin plug, as shown in the picture. If you have a thin 2pin you can unlock the earth pin and squeeze in your plug. - If you have a thick 2pin you will need a converter that you can buy in any supermarket or will get from the concierge at your hotel.

For more information about Dubai:

Dubai Government Portal www.dubai.ae to find more about:

- Dubai Government Departments
- Electronic Government services
- Business information's
- Visitor information's

Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing www.dubaitourism.ae to find more about:

- Culture and heritage
- Shopping and entertainment
- Dubai in focus
- The website in English, French, Italian, and Japanese languages.