

ESCAPES FOR YOU TRAVEL

DUBAI

TRAVEL GUIDE



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WELCOME

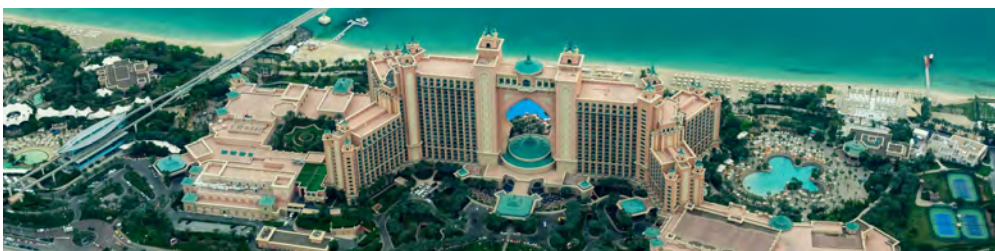
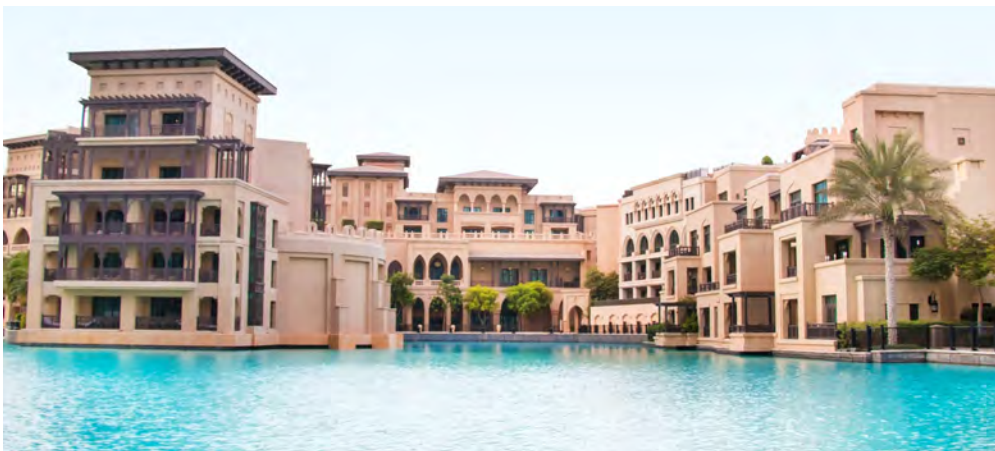
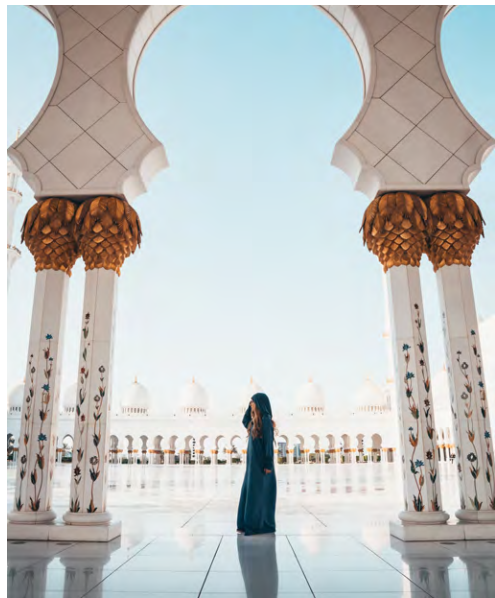


Thought you knew luxury? Not if you haven't been to Dubai!

Welcome to Dubai. It's a city renowned across the world – enough so that many people probably think it's an independent country! (It's not... It's one of the seven United Arab Emirates, a country called the UAE.) But people are right about one thing: Dubai stands on its own. A place so rich and luxurious that a Porsche or a BMW is the vehicle of the working class.

A location so overwhelming that it's got to be featured on almost every page of the Guinness Book of World Records in regards to construction. Dubai is truly difficult to believe – but it exists, and it stands.

Travel there and see for yourself.



QUICK INFO

CAPITAL

UAE: Abu Dhabi

POPULATION

Population of the UAE:
9.8 million

Population of Dubai: 3.3
million

CURRENCY

Dhram ([click here](#) for
current conversion rates)

VISA

Most nationalities get a
visa on arrival. U.S.
citizens don't need a
visa. With an Israeli
passport, you cannot
enter the UAE.

SAFETY RANK

#41 on the [Global Peace
Index](#) (for the entire UAE)

LANGUAGES

Arabic

TIME ZONE

Summer: UTC+03:00;
winter: UTC+02:00
(Eastern European Time)



SO WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT?

Dubai really only has two seasons: hot, and hotter!

High Season: November to March (winter) Shoulder Season: (as much as there is one) April and October Low Season: May to September (summer)

HIGH SEASON (NOVEMBER TO MARCH)

Winter in Dubai is by far the most pleasant time to visit. Temperatures are warm but not excruciating. It's the best beach weather. Beware, the month of February has the highest rainfall. Granted, this is the desert – so even that isn't much at all!

SHOULDER SEASON – APRIL AND OCTOBER

There isn't really much of a "shoulder season" here. If you come at the ends of the high season, you may be able to avoid some of the crowds and also the worst of the summer.

LOW SEASON (MAY TO SEPTEMBER)

Not only is it HOT in the summer, it's also extraordinarily humid. You'll be glad that most things – such as metro stations and malls – are connected by indoor, air-conditioned walkways! Yes, you can avoid the crowds. But any time that you spend outdoors won't be pleasant or relaxing. (The good news is most of what you want to see in Dubai is indoors, though!)



WHAT ARE THE TOP FIVE PLACES TO GO IN DUBAI?

In other words: five things whose very existence you'll struggle to believe!

The Burj Khalifa

It's not only the tallest building in the world. It's the tallest building in the world by a long shot.

The world's next-tallest building is only four-fifths as tall!

So – other than, of course, to say that you've stood on the top of the tallest structure on Earth, and the only one to rise above half a mile from the ground – why come here? Because the views are incredible. Imagine a mix between the view from something high – say the Eiffel Tower – and the views from an airplane. That's what you'll get from the Burj Khalifa – the city's most iconic landmark.

The Gold Souk

Dubai loves gold. In fact, its most famous, and most luxurious hotel (the Burj Al Arab) uses 0.44 acres of gold leaf! And nowhere is this city's fascination with this untarnishable metal so apparent as in the famous Gold Souk.

A haven for shoppers from the world over, Dubai's Gold Souk offers some of the most exquisite, well-designed jewelery to be found on this planet. Not only gold – but silver, copper, and precious stones like sapphire and diamond can all be found here.

The quality is good. The workmanship is excellent. You'll leave this market with a stunning souvenir that you'll cherish for a lifetime!



The Burj Al Arab Hotel

Even if you don't spend a night here, this iconic hotel (the world's seventh tallest such structure, mostly outdone by other hotels in Dubai) is well worth a visit. From 1790 square metres (19,267 ft²) of 24-carat gold leaf, to an incredible, Michelin-star restaurant that you take a submarine ride to get to, this resort defies belief. It's situated on the Palm Jumeirah, the largest artificial island in Dubai (and the whole world). It's got incredible views. Stunning, curvy architecture that looks impossible from a distance – and even more so up close! Don't leave a visit here out of your itinerary in Dubai!

The beach

Okay, so “the beach” isn't a specific destination. But Dubai has so many of them! If you like luxury at a private club, check out Riva Beach Club on the Palm Jumeirah. Or maybe you just want a place with loads and loads to do. Try La Mer in Old Dubai, or head to the marina and check out “The Beach” (at JBR). Or just the waves and the sand, without all of the glitz and the bang? Black Palace Beach is a haven for locals, and not at all crowded.

The Dubai Mall

While it's not the biggest mall in the world (China stole that title, but Dubai's building another, bigger one!) the Dubai Mall – with a thousand retailers – is an experience that you really won't find anywhere else in the world. It's got a full, huge, and world-class aquarium on the premises – marketed as an “underwater zoo”. It's got swanky shops galore, each trying to outdo the others. With over 54,000,000 visitors each year – or sixteen times the population of the city itself – it's often the #1 most visited building in the world!



BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THIS CITY HAS EVEN MORE TO OFFER:

Dubai loves the impossible. If you think that they can't make it, they will!

Ski Dubai

Yes, Dubai – the sweltering city of Dubai – has an indoor ski rink. Where you can, well, ski. Yes, in snow. Yes, of course it's artificial. But they've done it.

The Green Planet

Also worth mentioning is Dubai's indoor rainforest. You read that tight. A rainforest – indoors. Complete with sloths, snakes, and piranhas: the works. If you want you can sleep here overnight – if you're not afraid!

Al Mahara

This restaurant, in the Burj Al Arab, doesn't just offer Michelin-level dining. The walls are giant aquariums, so large that you'll forget you aren't underwater!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TRAVELERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DUBAI

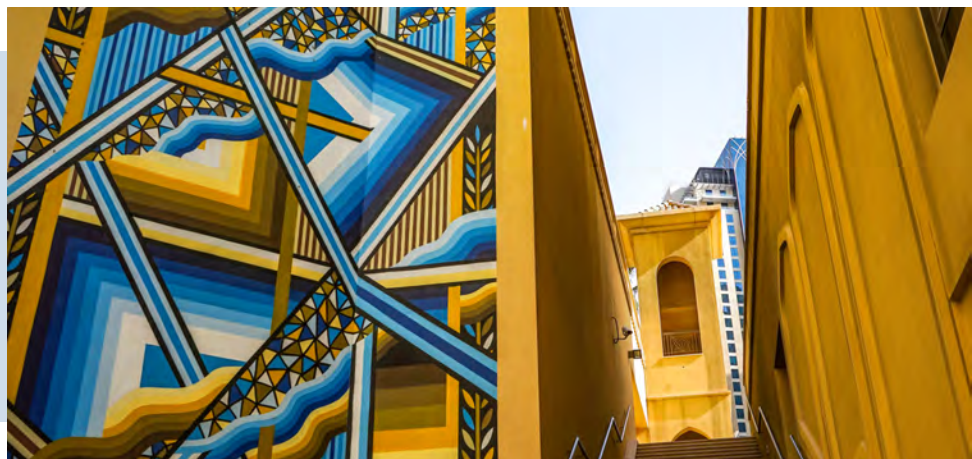
DO

- Do stand up if an elder or high-ranking person enters the room. It shows respect.
- It's customary to receive food and eat with your right hand.
- Do always ask before you take pictures of locals!
- Do take in the view from the top of a very tall building. Like the tallest: the Burj Khalifa. And do spend some time at the beach!

DON'T

The “don'ts” in Dubai have to do with respecting that this is a Muslim culture, in a Muslim country (the UAE):

- Don't sunbathe topless! And don't wear a string bikini. Regular bikinis are okay at the beach resorts in Dubai, but be sure to change before you head back to the street!
- Don't initiate a handshake with someone of the opposite sex.
- Don't smoke, eat, or drink in public during Ramadan. This is disrespectful, and in many places, illegal. Exceptions are made in many areas frequented by tourists. When is Ramadan?
- Don't voice negative opinions about Islam, even in jest. This is very disrespectful, and contributes to locals' negative images of Westerners.



BECOME A FOODY IN DUBAI

Dubai attracts some of the top chefs from around the world! Almost every major cuisine can be found here, and often the best of it. Here are some options:

French: La Petite Maison. The most sought-after food in Dubai is served at the city's most popular restaurant. Reserve well before your trip, as it's always full!

Italian: Torno Subito. It's the first restaurant outside Italy for chef Massimo Bottura, the creative mastermind behind the three-Michelin-starred Osteria Francescana (which was voted #1 in the world in 2016 and 2018).

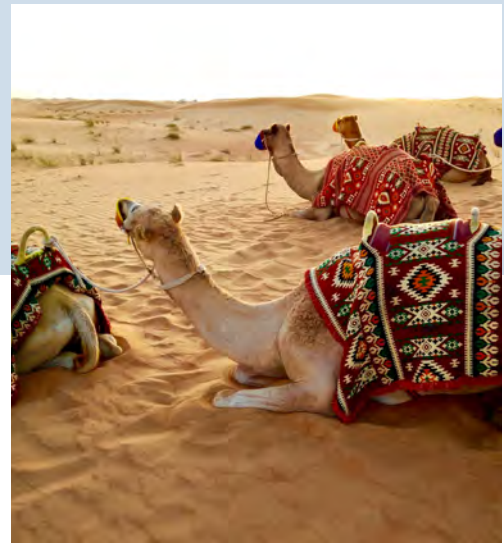
Pakistani: Ravi's. It's a bare-bones restaurant that saves its frills for the flavors in its dishes. The lightly-spiced daal will make you turn up your nose at Western lentil dishes forever.

British: Rhodes W1. Chef Gary Rhodes loved Dubai so much that he packed his bags, hopped on a plane from London and became a full-time resident of the city. You can often find him around his outstanding restaurant.

Lebanese: Ibn Albahr. This Lebanese seafood restaurant boasts "a fish for every dish." Start with hummus and muhammara (chili, cashew, walnut, and pine nuts) and wash it down with cinnamon tea with nuts.

Japanese: Zuma. One of chef Rainer Becker's six izakaya-style Japanese restaurants. It serves inventive small plates downstairs – or head up to the dimly-lit bar for strong cocktails!

Emirati (local): Al Fanar. With an ambience of Dubai in the 1960's, Al Fanar Restaurant & Cafe will revive the memories of Dubai when it was a small town on the shore of the Arabian Gulf. Try machboos, a dish of meat, rice, and onion, flavored with loomi.



HOW TO GET AROUND DUBAI

Within the city: Taxis are ubiquitous, and easy to find. The metro is also easy to use and convenient, and will bring you most places you'll want to go. For a different experience, try taking a ferry to cross the water!

Going elsewhere? To get to the other emirates, buses are nice and convenient, and the roads are good. Other options are private drivers, or renting a car. Dubai and surroundings are easy to drive around. It's a city designed for cars!

TIPPING IN DUBAI

Restaurants: The usual is around 10-20% for wait staff.

Hotel staff: Around 5 dirhams for porters, 7-10 dirhams for the valets, and 12-15 for the room cleaners.

Taxi drivers: Depending on service. 5 dirhams for a happy drive, but closer to 10 (or even to 20) if they go above and beyond – like carrying your bags to the door.

Tour guides: While tipping tour guides isn't necessary, it's a good way to show your appreciation, from 5 dirhams for a run-of-the-mill excursion to – for an extra special experience – 10% of the total bill.

GO TO DUBAI IN STYLE!

That's Dubai. Well, some of it. Because Dubai is such a kaleidoscope of everything – always evolving. But the one thing that's guaranteed is that, any time you go to Dubai, you'll have an amazing experience.

See it now, see it again in five years. Every trip will be different in this ever-changing city.

But start with now!

Judith Narcisse-Notice



LET'S PLAN YOUR
DUBAI GETAWAY
TODAY!

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Book a call today to get a
complimentary travel consultation.

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