

Golfing in **DUBAI**

International tournament

was conceived. Soon, the first Dubai Desert Classic was hosted in 1989 as part of the PGA European Tour.

A yearly golfing tournament, Dubai Desert Classic has been attracting many of the world's leading golfers and thousands of avid spectators, year after year. In addition to playing an important role in the international sporting arena, it is universally recognised as one of the finest golf events in the Middle East.

This tournament is usually held during the winter months (January to March). In case you happen to be

in Dubai during this time, don't miss this opportunity to attend this fabulous event live. Observe the masterful strokes of players like Tiger Woods, Vijay Singh, Ernie Els, Colin Montgomerie among other greats. Feel your heart skip a beat as you watch a breathtaking eagle on the last hole. And finally, share the jubilation at the grand presentation finale as the worthy winner proudly holds aloft the massive Dubai Desert Classic trophy.

So whether you want to experience the thrills of adventure sports or enjoy the serenity of golf, you're sure to find it all in the multifaceted city of Dubai.

United Arab Emirates
Dubai is the second largest of the seven emirates that form the United Arab Emirates and ranks as the country's leading commercial centre. The other six emirates are Abu Dhabi - the federal capital, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain, Ras Al Khaimah and Fujairah.

Location and Area
Dubai is located on the southern shore of the Gulf in the south-eastern part of the Arabian Peninsula. It lies between 55°16 East and 25°16 North. The total area of the Emirate is 3,885 sq. km.

Visas
• **AGCC Citizens** - Citizens of the Arab Gulf Co-operation Council member states (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia) do not need a visa.
• **AGCC Residents** - AGCC expatriate residents who meet certain conditions may obtain a non-renewable 30-day visa upon arrival at the approved ports of entry.
• **Citizens of Western Europe and the Pacific Rim** - Citizens of UK (with the right of abode in the United Kingdom), France, Italy, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Greece, Finland, Spain, Monaco, Vatican City, Iceland, Andorra, San Marino, Liechtenstein, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Brunei, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and holders of Hong Kong SAR passports will be granted a free One Entry Visit visa on arrival in the UAE. Currently, it has been decided to postpone the implementation of the new regulation as far as Cyprus is concerned. The visa enables them to stay for 60 days. The visa is renewable for a total stay of 90 days for a fee of AED 500.

• **German Citizens** - German citizens (tourists and business people) may apply to the UAE embassy in Germany for a one or two year multiple-entry visa. No sponsor is required. The maximum duration of stay of visa holders should not exceed three months a year. The visa fee is AED 1,500.
• **US Citizens** - US citizens (tourists and business people) may apply to the UAE embassies in the US for one to ten year multiple-entry visas. A sponsor is required and the visa will be granted free of charge. The maximum duration of stay should not exceed six months a visit.

• **Entry Service Permit** - An Entry Service Permit applies to the following categories and their families accompanying them: company manager's representatives, sales managers, account auditors, delegations from companies or establishments to carry out a commercial activity in the UAE, enquirers requested by any of the establishments/companies operating in the UAE assumed to carry out an urgent task. Such visa is also granted to nationalities authorised to obtain a tourist visa, as per the Ministerial Council's decision. This visa is valid for use within 14 days from the date of issue.

• **Tourist Visa** - A special category of visas under the Visit Visa type is a Tourist Visa, which can be obtained for individual tourists from: East and West Europe, Turkey, Bulgaria, Poland, Ukraine, Albania, Russia, the Hellenic Republic, St Kitts-Navis, St Lucia, Mexico, Cuba, Bermuda, Belize, Guyana, French Guiana, Martinique, Antigua and Barbuda, St Vincent, Kingston, Palao other non-defined American nationalities, Thailand, South Africa, Singapore, China, Malta, Cyprus. The Tourist Visa entitles its holder to a 30-day stay and is non-renewable.

• **Multiple-entry Visa** - Multiple-entry Visas are granted to business visitors who have a relationship with either a multinational or other reputable local establishments, and who are frequent visitors to the UAE. This type of visa is valid for six months from the date of issue and the duration of each stay is 30 days. The validity is non-renewable. The cost of this visa is AED 1,000. The visitor must enter the UAE on a visit visa and obtain the multiple entry visa while in the country. The visa would be stamped on the passport.
• **96-hour Visa for Transit Passengers** - Transit passengers stopping at Dubai International Airport for a minimum of 8 hours are eligible for obtaining a 96-hour transit visa.
• **Transit Visas** - This is a special type of visa, which applies to passengers passing through UAE airports. For those who travel with Emirates Airlines, transit visas can be arranged by the Airline itself. But those flying through other Airlines have to contact the Marhaba Services directly. For transit passengers or those holding special permits, or for visit or mission, the passport or the document must be valid for at least three months.
• **Nationals of Israel** may not enter the UAE.
• A penalty charge of AED 100 per day is imposed on visitors who overstay.
For further information visit www.dnrd.gov.ae or e-mail: dxbinmig@emirates.net.ae

Climate
Dubai has a sub-tropical arid climate. May to September is summer, when temperatures range between 40°C and 48°C. However, during the winter months, temperatures range from 10°C to 30°C in winter. Rainfall is predominantly in winter and amounts to some 13cm annually.

Clothing
Summer clothing may be worn for most of the year but the temperature can drop during the winter. At the pool or on the private beaches, swimwear is quite acceptable, but when in the city and public areas, care should be taken not to give offence by wearing clothing that may be considered revealing.

Language
The national language is Arabic but English is widely used.

Currency
The monetary unit is the Dirham (AED) which is divided into 100 fils. The official exchange rate is US\$1 = AED 3.675.

Banks
Many international banks are represented by branches in Dubai. Bank hours are 0800 to 1300, Saturday to Wednesday and 0800 1200, Thursday.

Credit Cards
American Express, Diners Club, Visa, MasterCard, etc. are generally accepted in the main hotels and shops.

Tipping
Tipping practices are similar to most parts of the world.

Working Hours
Business: 0800 - 1300 and 1600 - 1930, Saturday to Thursday. Most of the multinational companies work from 0900 - 1800 with a one hour lunch break.
Government offices: 0730 - 1430, Saturday to Wednesday.
Exchange houses: 0830 - 1300 and 1630 - 2030, Saturday to Thursday.
Shopping malls: 1000 - 2200, Saturday to Thursday and 1600 - 2200, Friday. Thursday afternoon and Friday is the weekend in the Islamic world.

Photography
Normal tourist photography is acceptable but it is considered offensive to photograph Muslim women. It is also courteous to request permission before photographing men.

Bargaining
Bargaining is expected in the souq and is quite usual elsewhere. Vendors will usually drop the price and often quite substantially, particularly for a cash sale.

Communications
Telecommunications in Dubai are excellent. Telephones have international direct dialling to most countries in the world. Full telex, telefax, and electronic mail facilities are widely available. There is an efficient and reliable postal service. The General Postal Authority also offers a courier service. Muntaz Post delivers to most parts in the world and commercial courier services are widely used.

Media
There are three English language newspapers published in Dubai - Gulf News, Khaleej Times and Emirates Today. International newspapers, magazines and journals can be bought at bookshops and supermarkets. Dubai has both Arabic and English commercial radio and television stations, as well as access to international satellite TV programming.

Medical Care
Medical services in Dubai are of an international standard.

Electricity
The electricity supply in Dubai is 220/240 volts at 50 cycles. US-made appliances may need a transformer.

Water
Tap water is quite safe to drink. But locally bottled mineral water is generally served in hotels and restaurants.

For complaints about your Dubai experience or the Department of Tourism, please contact Business Development Department on DTCM address below or e-mail ecomplaints@dubaitourism.ae.

For further information on DTCM's overseas offices in Australia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, South Africa, USA and UK, please contact DTCM on the address below.



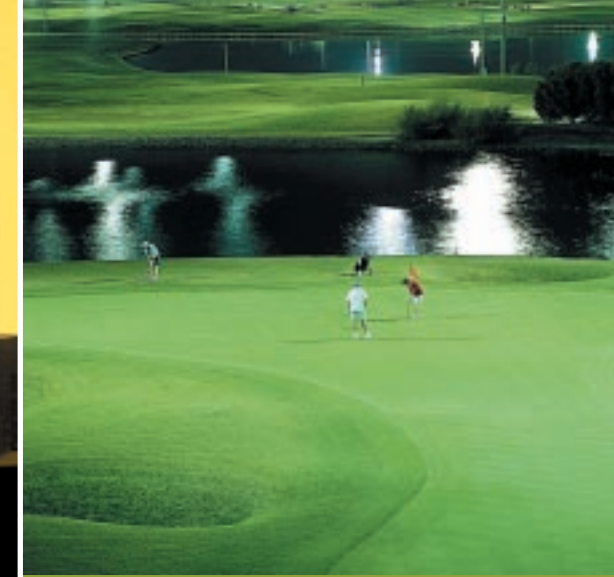
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DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND COMMERCE MARKETING
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To position Dubai as the leading tourism destination and commercial hub in the world and to strengthen the Dubai economy.



GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI
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Golfer's paradise

After feeling the adrenaline rush of a desert safari, take a journey on a different kind of dune at any of Dubai's world-class golf courses. These lush green landscapes are found abundantly in this year-round golfing destination, making it the perfect venue for international tournaments. In fact, some of these courses are designed by international masters like Colin Montgomerie, Ernie Els and Greg Norman.

Work on your swing, tee off or simply observe the masterful strokes of players like Vijay Singh and David Howell at the Dubai Desert Classic and pick up some useful tips. You'll also be surprised to know that it was in Dubai, where Tiger Woods drove off the tee from the world's tallest hotel – Burj Al Arab. Fore!

Spectacular courses

If you fancy a splendid game of golf, then head down to any of Dubai's spectacular courses and tee off on your best vacation ever.

Most of the leading golf courses are nestled on the outskirts of the city to offer a peaceful and picturesque environment. Play your way down the immaculate fairways, which are surrounded by beautiful lakes and tall palm trees.

But if you want to escape from the heat, especially during summers, then take this unique opportunity to putt under the floodlights. Nad Al Sheba, Montgomerie and Dubai Creek Golf & Yacht Club are some of the many golf clubs that offer 'Night Golfing'.

Being impressed with the city's state-of-the-art infrastructure, many international golfers have taken the initiative to personally design the golf courses, thus starting the trend of world-class designer dunes. You can book your tee times at any of the designer golf courses below.

The Montgomerie, Dubai

With 14 lakes and 72 bunkers, the Montgomerie is the first example of a successful association between one of the champion golfers, Colin Montgomerie and golf course architect, Desmond Muirhead.

Located at the Emirates Hills, this potential par 72 championship course covers more than 200 acres and boasts of some unique characteristics including the world's largest green and the Snake Hole. Play on a 360-degree teeing ground and enjoy the challenges of a totally different golf hole every time you tee off. Also, try your skills to putt on the 656 yards 18th, which is considered to be the signature hole of the course.

Al Badia Golf Course

The magnificent Al Badia 18-hole championship golf course is designed by internationally renowned golf architect, Robert Trent Jones II. Built on the banks of

Dubai Creek as part of the waterfront Dubai Festival City, this 7,250 yards, par 72 course is visually stunning with its use of water and sculpted fairways. Designed to offer a challenge to golfers at any level, experience a rewarding and enjoyable game at Al Badia.

The Dunes

Located at the Dubai Sports City, the Dunes is designed by golf master Ernie Els and is managed by Troon Golf, the world leader in upscale golf course management, development and marketing. It consists of a combination links golf course and traditional 'classical era' design. At 7,452 yards from the back tees and featuring more than 60 bunkers, the Dunes is a showpiece that can be transformed from a friendly everyday player course to one that offers a challenge to the world's best golfers. The Dunes is scheduled to open in early 2007.

Nakheel Golf

Nakheel Golf is a project that consists of six prestigious golf courses designed by international golfing star, Greg Norman. These are located in Dubai at select

Nakheel projects. Four championship golf courses are designed around the elements of earth, fire, air and water. All its courses focus on eco-friendly principles, and feature flora and fauna that are indigenous to the region.

One of Nakheel Golf's projects is the Little White Shark, which is located on the Jumeirah Islands and features a 3 par, 6 hole course. A family-oriented venue, the highlight of the course is its Clubhouse, built in the shape of a shark, which is also the logo of Greg Norman's private company.

The most spectacular course of this project is the Inspiration, which is designed as a tribute to Greg Norman's long career in the sport. The course is based on a realistic re-creation of the legendary golfer's favourite holes from around the world. Among these legendary holes that have inspired and challenged Norman include those from Augusta National and Shinnecock Hills (US), Turnberry and St. Andrews (UK) and Royal Melbourne and Kingston Heath (Australia). The Inspiration is located at the Dubai Lost City and is scheduled to open in 2007.

Designer dunes

