



# Unlimited thrills

## Wild Wadi

Get wet and wild at Wild Wadi, the most popular water park in Dubai. With over thirty rides and attractions, start a journey full of unlimited thrills that will leave you screaming for more.

Experience the exhilaration of weightlessness on the Jumeirah Sceirah, a speed slide that hurtles you at speeds of up to 80 kms per hour. It's the tallest and fastest free-fall speed slide outside North America, cascading a breathtaking 33 metres. Enjoy the ride as you go on a spine-tingling journey of twists and turns.

If surfing is your sport, then the Wipeout FlowRiders is definitely worth a try. Being one of the four such rides

in the world, they produce a realistic wave effect that is ideal for body-boarding, knee-boarding or surfing.

Have a huge splash with your family on the Summit Surge and Rushdown Ravine, which are some of the most daring rides. Feel your adrenaline rush as the ride first blasts you uphill into a pool area and then takes you on a 170-metre downhill.

After all the adventurous rides, take a pleasant break on Juha's Journey, which is a 360-metre long lazy river. This is the perfect ride to relax and have a great time while marvelling at Wild Wadi's impressive architecture.

## Wonderland

Catch the excitement at Wonderland, a family fun park that features a wide range of state-of-the-art rides. Try Space Shot, which goes from 0 to 130 km/hr in 2.5 seconds. Or go for the Terminator, which will take you in every conceivable direction at unbelievable speed. At Splashland, experience great thrills with exciting water rides that will leave you coming back for more.

So whether you are looking for a peaceful getaway or an exciting playtime, 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](http://www.dnrd.gov.ae) or e-mail: [dxbinmig@emirates.net.ae](mailto: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](mailto: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.

Parks in **DUBAI**



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DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND COMMERCE MARKETING  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES





**Children's City** - At the Creekside Park, you can relive your childhood days at Children's City, the first educational city in the UAE. Although the City is devoted to children between two and fifteen years, adults too can enjoy it to the fullest. In addition to the children-under-five corner and a planetarium, the City embraces several exhibits and programmes on applied sciences, nature, space exploration, human body, local and international culture. These help children to investigate, explore, play, discover and learn about the world in an interesting manner. Don't miss the educational workshops that are held throughout the year. Do visit the exclusive Gift Shop for a range of educational toys and books.

After touring the park, relax by the waterside and listen to the rhythmic melodies of the Arabian Sea. If you wish to travel like in the days of yore, then go for an unforgettable ride in an *abra* (old wooden boat) and take in the magnificent view of Dubai Creek.

#### Zabeel Park

A visit to Zabeel Park is a must. It's the first technology-based recreational theme park in the Gulf. This unique park is spread over 47 hectares of land and is divided into three zones - Alternative Energy Zone, Communications Zone and a Techno Zone. All three zones offer plenty of play areas for children.

Start with an early morning jog on the 4.3 km jogging track. Take a coffee break at the lakeside restaurant and enjoy the magnificent greens of the park.

The ornamental boating lake at the southern area is definitely worth your while. Choose from a range of pedal, rowing and battery-powered motor boats that are available on hire.

If you enjoy sports, then play a game of cricket on the mini-cricket pitch or football on the grassed football pitch. Otherwise, simply tour the park on quad cycles that are easily available on hire.

In addition to exhibition centres and an amphitheatre, the park also features a series of high-tech interactive displays including educational and recreational exhibits. Don't miss the panoramic tower, the IMAX theatre and a space maze modelled on the planetary system, all of which are some of the major attractions at Zabeel Park.



## Scenic parks

Take a break from the contemporary shopping malls of Dubai and go for a stroll to any of the beautiful and serene parklands. From family and beach parks to water and adventure parks, the city will tempt you to get close to nature and also enjoy the thrills in store.

To spend some quality time with your kith and kin, visit any of the parks that provide a respite from urban life.

#### Mushrif Park

Unwind at Dubai's largest park, Mushrif Park, which has a variety of trees, shrubs, flower beds and ornate plants. Lie on the cool grass lawns that extend over an area of 24,500 sq m. But if you and your family are looking for some fun and excitement, then choose from a variety of leisure games that are available for both adults and children. You'll also find swings, slides, seesaws, climbing ropes and other games to keep you entertained.

One of the most prominent areas of Mushrif Park is the International Village, where you can marvel at the thirteen models of houses from different nations.

From a typical Arabic home to a traditional Dutch mill, the Village also exhibits English, Norwegian, Thai, Indonesian, Chinese, Japanese and Burmese houses, which are intricately designed to express the architecture of the respective countries.

If you're a keen sports enthusiast, then go for a game of basketball, football or volleyball on the sports playground. Follow it up with a refreshing dip in the pool.

After a day full of activities, relax as you enjoy a barbecue meal at any of the 56 barbecue areas, which are equipped with wooden shades, seats and modern grills.

#### Creekside Park

Located on the banks of Dubai Creek, the Creekside Park is one of the most scenic parks in the city. The beautifully landscaped greens perfectly harmonise with the aquamarine waters of the Arabian Gulf.

The park offers you a range of recreational activities to choose from. Take on a splendid game of golf at the 18-hole mini golf course. Or admire a fascinating view of Dubai from atop a cable car, which runs along a stretch of 2.5 kms. This is the first of its kind in the Emirates and offers an unrestricted view of the city, 30 metres above.

A better way to tour this park is to either rent the two-wheel bikes or four-wheel cycles. Enjoy the cool breeze as you ride through the narrow lanes that are beautifully dotted with a variety of trees and flowers. Stop by the Date Palm Groves that recreate the past by showcasing the traditional irrigation method called '*falaj*'.



## Tranquil escape

## Bewitching beaches

#### Safa Park

One of the first parks in Dubai, Safa Park offers a scenic environment for you and your family. Walk into the electronic games parlour, where you'll find bumper cars and other games. Also enjoy a bird's eye view of the park from the giant wheel.

Safa Park offers a range of sporting facilities like tennis courts, volleyball, basketball and football pitches. Touring the park on a Segway Transporter is also very exciting.

Children can enjoy the Traffic Village that encompasses battery-run mini cars, roads, traffic signals and pedestrian lines. While having their share of fun, this area helps them to learn about traffic rules at an early age. In addition to traditional games like swings, slides

and seesaws, the Village also has an elaborate maze. This is formed of various passages surrounded by bushes. After many twists and turns, feel the joy of victory as you discover your way out.

Later, simmer down as you take in the beautiful view of the waterfalls streaming from the hilltop down into a big lake. End your day with a scrumptious barbecue meal, which can be prepared at the barbecue areas.

#### Jumeirah Beach Park

Be amazed by the unsurpassed beauty of the first beach park in Dubai. The Jumeirah Beach Park offers perfect harmony between aquamarine Gulf waters and artistically-designed greens.

Head to the beach and soak in the warm sun or cool waters of the Arabian Sea. There are sunbeds and umbrellas available on hire. If you wish to play some beach sports, then enjoy beach volleyball, football or frisbee.

As you prepare a barbecue meal, observe how children have fun with traditional games like slides, seesaws and swings.

#### Al Mamzar Park

Take in the breathtaking view of the Arabian Gulf at Al Mamzar Park. With chalets, swimming pools, children's play area and barbeque pits, this park will be an unforgettable experience.