



Shopping festival

• Karama Souq

This is the place to go for cheap leather goods and everyday designer wear. T-shirts, shorts, sunglasses, shoes, gifts and souvenirs are all available at rock-bottom prices, which can be further reduced if you haggle a little.

• Fruit and Vegetable Market

Stop by the Fruit and Vegetable Market in Deira for a different kind of shopping experience. As you walk past the small shops stacked with a variety of fresh produce, be prepared for some smooth salesmanship by the eager shopkeepers. Don't forget to taste the many varieties of local dates, which are abundantly found here.

• Fish Market

If you wish to see an incredible array of local fish on offer, then the Fish Market is definitely worth a visit. It is the largest and busiest one in Dubai with treats like blue lobster, baby shark and metre-long kingfish. But make sure you wear waterproof shoes and casual clothes to thoroughly enjoy this trip.

Dubai Shopping Festival

Although Dubai is considered a shopper's paradise throughout the year, during the Dubai Shopping Festival the city becomes the most sought-after shopping extravaganza in the world. Enjoy a menu of attractions during the month-long festival, which is dotingly called DSF.

The entire city offers unbelievable discounts on everything from cars, electronics and computers to fashion, jewellery and perfumes. Shop till your heart's delight at the Global Village, which is one of the major attractions of the festival. Here you can go on a mini-world tour, picking exotic products from every country pavilion you visit.

Enjoy scores of events that add a buzz of excitement into the city. These broadly include international fashion shows, children's events, street-side performances, nightly fireworks, Aqua Fantasia shows and many other cultural events that will leave you completely spellbound.

So whether you are looking for haute couture at world-class shopping malls or classic souvenirs at traditional souqs, 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 tele, 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 at the address below.



Shopping in **DUBAI**



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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
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND COMMERCE MARKETING
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



Shopper's paradise

After sunbathing at Dubai's pristine and serene beaches, it's time to go on an exciting shopping tour. From 21st century shopping malls and traditional *souqs* to extravagant festivals and international events, the city will tempt you to max out your credit cards. Book one of the shopping tours available, and see why Dubai is known as a shopper's paradise.

Shopping malls
Walk into any of the 49 world-class shopping malls and you'll soon realise why window shopping is impossible. From chic designer wear to the latest electronic gadgets, the tax-free price tags are sure to make you reach for your wallet. In addition, the magnificent architecture and grand interiors make your visit an unforgettable experience.

After shopping to your heart's delight, treat your taste buds at the bustling food courts. All the malls offer a variety of cuisines – Arabic, Mongolian, Thai,

Japanese, Chinese, Italian, Mexican and Indian. Some have a children's play area and arcade games to entertain the little ones. You could also go for a movie break to any of the cineplexes that are conveniently located inside.

Here's a brief glimpse of the major malls of Dubai, where an array of international and regional brands await you.

• BurJuman Centre
The residence of haute couture, BurJuman brings the world's leading fashion brands to you on a platter. Take your pick from Burberry, Calvin Klein, Cartier, Dolce & Gabbana, DKNY, Donna Karan, Fendi, Guess, Hermès, Kenneth Cole, Kenzo, La Perla, Louis Vuitton, Polo Ralph Lauren, Prada and Saks Fifth Avenue. With stunning passageways and modern sculptures, BurJuman's décor is equally impressive.

• Deira City Centre
Deira City Centre is one of the busiest shopping malls in the Middle East, and provides the ultimate shopping experience. With more than 300 outlets spread over three storeys, the mall has plenty to offer you - leading fashion houses, a hypermarket, restaurants, fast food outlets, children's entertainment centre and a cineplex. Visit the designated Textile Court for some stunning fabrics, and match it up with charming gems from the Jewellery Court. Don't forget to stop by the Arabian Treasures section, which houses oriental souvenirs, rugs, carpets and antique furniture.

• Ibn Battuta Mall
This unique mall is themed around the travels of the renowned 14th century Arabian explorer, Ibn Battuta. The mall is segmented into six distinct countries, representing the most influential places visited by Ibn Battuta. The décor of the Andalusian, North African, Egyptian, Persian, Indian and Chinese Courts are a fascinating sight and the stores within have treasures worth discovering.



• Mall of the Emirates
Mall of the Emirates is home to one of the world's largest indoor snow parks - Ski Dubai. Take this unique opportunity to ski down the 450-metre slope in a land known for its desert. The Mall, which is one of the largest shopping malls outside North America and whose size is equivalent to 73 football pitches, offers a dizzying choice of over 400 brands, 65 restaurants, a 14-screen cineplex, a children's entertainment area and a community theatre and arts centre.

• Mercato Centre
Mercato (Italian for market) offers a charming atmosphere that is quite unique in the Middle East. Based on a distinctive Renaissance architectural concept, it predominantly blends Italian, French and Spanish designs to recreate an authentic European marketplace. The mall provides more than just

world-famous brands; it offers an unforgettable shopping and entertainment experience, right down to the cobblestone bridges and stone archways.

• Souk Madinat Jumeirah
Wander through the Souk Madinat Jumeirah to experience the true Arabian bazaar-like atmosphere, in which open-fronted shops spill onto the sandstone streets. The huge wooden-arched pathways are home to a range of exceptional brands, cosy cafés and exotic restaurants.

• The Boulevard
The Boulevard, located in the impressive confines of Jumeirah Emirates Towers, takes the shopping and dining experience to new heights of luxury. As you stroll around the remarkable interiors, you'll feel like you are in one of the world's most fashionable and

refined quarters. Choose from a range of designer boutiques like Bottega Veneta, Cartier, Emporio Armani, Gucci, Giorgio Armani and Yves Saint Laurent. These neighbour fashionably chic restaurants like Harry Ghatto's, Mosaico, Scarlett's and Vu's.

• Wafi City
Distinct with its pyramid-shaped atrium roofs and hieroglyphics on the walls, Wafi City is regarded as one of the most opulent and elegant shopping malls in Dubai. The spacious corridors feature a staggering range of fabulous boutiques. From high fashion brands and diamond jewellers to specialty retailers and department stores, you'll find all you need to live the high life.



Enchanting souqs

Traditional Souqs
After visiting the awe-inspiring malls, walk through the charming alleys of the legendary Arabian *souqs*, where shopkeepers amusingly attract your attention to their wares. '*Souq*' is the Arabic word for a market, where different kinds of goods are bought or exchanged. This is the ideal place to visit if you are looking for some great bargains

• Deira Old Souq
Widely known as a trader's paradise, the Deira Old Souq is Dubai's largest *souq*. In this fascinating maze of alleyways, you'll find a variety of trinkets, kitchenwares, glasswares and textiles - all at very low prices.

• Spice Souq
In the tiny lanes of the Spice Souq, take in the wafting aromas of spices, nuts and dry fruits. As you stroll

around, observe how sacks overflow with frankincense, dried lemon, ginger root, cardamom, nuts, pulses and traditional medicine, giving you an authentic feel of Dubai's trading past.

• Gold Souq
As you walk past the glittering splendour of the world's biggest Gold Souq, you'll be convinced that Dubai is indeed the City of Gold. Ogle at the endless rows of dazzling ornaments that are available in 18 to 24 carats. The *souq* is packed with jewellery in every form imaginable, from bracelets, rings, earrings and necklaces to even gold ingots. Take time to observe the wooden-lattice archways and roofs that take you back to a bygone era. If you are looking for some ethnic items, silver jewellery or pearl and precious stones, then wander through the narrow alleys to find a plethora of shops hidden behind the main arcade.

• Deira Covered Souq
Gaze into the small shops of Deira and you'll find rare antiques and curios of the region. Take home some of the popular souvenirs, which include the symbol of Arabic hospitality – *dallah* (coffee pot) as well as silver and wooden knick-knacks such as dhows, miniature camels and falcons, and beaded necklaces. Ancient rifles and decorative daggers (*khanjars*) are also popular buys. The *souq* also features exclusive alleys for textiles that are full of bright and inexpensive materials from India and the Far East.

• Textile Souq
Meander through the Textile Souq in Bur Dubai, which has every kind of material you can dream of, in every colour and price range. From printed and plain silk to linen and cotton fabrics, the wide variety will surely amaze you. After buying your material, visit any of the nearby tailors who will be happy to turn your stunning fabrics into perfectly-fitting garments.

Breathtaking malls

