

FACTSHEET – DUBAI



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Introduction

Nestled on the coasts of the Persian Gulf, Dubai has grown to become one of the foremost commercial hubs in the World. Dubai is the largest and most populated city in the UAE. Garnering revenues from trade, tourism, aviation, real estate, and financial services, Dubai's economy has grown steadily. Concerning tourism, Dubai has grown to become one of the foremost destinations in the World and they welcomed a staggering 16 million tourists in 2019.

Dubai is a melting pot of cultures, with 80% of its population being foreign. It has developed the emirate to meet the demands of the tourist. Many locations in Dubai, cater to different needs of the tourist. Deira and Bur Dubai is known as the old city packed with history including the gold, spice, and perfume souks. Down Town, Dubai which boasts soaring skyscrapers including the World's tallest building, Burj Khalifa, and the world's largest mall, Dubai Mall. The Palm Jumeirah is a manmade island with many top-class hotels including the world-renowned Atlantis the Palm. Additionally, Jumeirah Beach, Dubai Marina, Blue Waters Island are other popular tourist hotspots hosting some of the top hotel brands, beaches, and restaurants. Dubai is one of the seven emirates in UAE and the ruler, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, is also the Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates.

Geography of Dubai



Land Area: 83.6 km²

Total Area: 4,114 km²

Population: 3.38 million

Population Density: 860.49/km²

Government Type: Monarchy

GDP (PPP): \$102.67 Billion

GDP Per Capita: \$32,868.18

Currency: Dirhams (AED)

Airports

Dubai city has 2 main international airports.

1. Dubai International Airport (DXB)

Dubai international airport is the aviation hub in the middle east and is also known as the world's busiest airport by international passenger traffic. The airport is equipped with three terminals, and all are magnificent specimen of architecture. The airport also has two runways which were extended to accommodate the Airbus A380. It connects more than 240 destinations all around the 6 continents with almost 100 airlines. Emirates airlines have its own airport in Dubai International with 3 terminals and 3 concourses in collaborative share with Fly Dubai.

2. Dubai World Central (DWC)

Dubai World Central airport, also known as Al Maktoum International Airport, is situated in the south of the city adjoining the fastest developing city "New Dubai". It was opened on 27th June 2010 for cargo operations first and the was followed by passenger flights in 2013. Once it is fully completed it will be the world's largest and most comprehensive global gateway with a capacity of 160 million passengers per year. It will also serve as a multi-modal logistics hub for 12 million tons of freight.

Accommodation Types

Dubai accommodations principally comprise of Hotels, Apartments, Camps, and Dessert camps.

Hotels

There are more than 550 hotels and over 100,000 hotel room in Dubai with a range from 3 to 5star classification. Many of the renowned hotel groups are Hilton, Accor, Hyatt, Marriot, Radisson, Intercontinental Hotels, and Starwood Hotels.

Apartments

There are more than 180 hotel apartments in Dubai that vary in quality from 3 to 5-star hotels. Most hotel apartments are completely furnished including all amenities.

Camps

There are plenty of opportunities for camping outside Dubai city although there are no specific camping laws or campsites in Dubai. Dessert camps are famous for 1–2-night stays with new experiences such as desert safari, star gazing, etc.

Top Tourists Attractions

1. Burj Khalifa

Burj Khalifa in Dubai is the tallest building in the world which is 2700 feet tall. A visit to the observation deck on the 124th floor is a must if you are traveling to Dubai. You must ensure that you purchase the tickets well in advance to avoid any hassle.

2. Dubai Creek

Dubai creek is a saltwater creek that divides the city into and connects the trading port to the desert and is one of the major ports in the UAE. This place is a popular visit in the evening where you can witness the lights and the music shows, floating yachts, dhows, vessels and also get a glimpse of the old Dubai during the trade times. A meal on this dhow cruise is a highlight to end your trip on a good note.

3. Miracle Garden

Miracle Garden is one of the biggest and most beautiful natural gardens in the world. It is spread across an area of 72,000 square meters. It features over 45 million flowers and plants. The Garden is open only from mid-November to mid-May. This visit is ideal for those who are seeking nature's beauty in the busy city.

4. Dubai Frame

It is one of the recent projects that Dubai launched in January 2018. Dubai Frame is the world's largest frame structure which was inspired by the upcoming Dubai World Expo. Inside you will find a series of galleries that would take you through the history of the city and explore Emirati heritage before traveling to the sky deck where there are some lovely panoramas of both old and new Dubai. Thereafter explore the Future Dubai gallery which will let you imagine what the future of the city will be like.

5. Dubai Aquarium & Underwater Zoo

Dubai Aquarium is one of the top touristic attractions in Dubai. It is located on the ground floor of the Dubai Mall. It houses over 33,000 marine life occupying the 10 million liters of water in the tank. Different activities there get you a closer look at the sea life. Cage snorkeling and shark diving activities are offered as well.

6. Palm Jumeirah

Palm Jumeirah is a man-made island that resembles a stylized palm tree that was created by land reclamation and artificial archipelagos that extend to the Persian Gulf. It was one of the first tourist projects in the UAE and currently houses some of Dubai's most luxurious resorts including Atlantis The Palm, One & Only The Palm, and many more. It is also packed with fantastic dining options such as Nobu and 101 Dining Lounge. The Palm is well developed with roads, tunnels and public transport, therefore, can easily access to these restaurants and resorts.

7. Dubai Mall

Dubai shopping mall is known as the home for the Dubai shopping festival. At 12 million square feet the mall's total area is equivalent to 200 soccer pitches. It is known as the world's largest destination for shopping, entertainment, and leisure and is located next to the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa. It features over 1200 retail shops, 2 major department stores, and hundreds of food and beverage outlets.

8. Dubai Fountain

The Dubai Fountain is the world's tallest performing fountain. At over 900 feet in length. It is situated on the very famous 30 acres of Burj Lake and performs to a selection of different melodies. The fountain is designed uniquely and is visible from as far as 20 miles away when the shows are on. The design comprises five circles of various sizes and two acres.

9. Desert Safari

Landscape in Dubai is mostly set up of sandy deserts along with gravel-filled deserts. Dubai Desert safari in the surrounding sandy desert is an amazing experience that you must try. You can choose from morning, evening, and overnight safari. At the end, you will be served either breakfast or dinner depending on the safari you choose.

Helpful Tips

1. When to travel?

It is best to travel between November and March which is the winter period as during the summer period the weather in Dubai gets unbearable due to the high temperature.

2. Documents and currency

- It is advisable to apply for your visa at least a month prior in order to avoid any last minute panic or delays.
- Ensure you carry your travel insurance along with the passport.
- The official currency in Dubai is AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham). Possible to get your currency exchanged at many local shops which has a better exchange rate and international credit/debit cards are also accepted.

3. Safety

- Dubai is known to be one of the safest places to travel with low crime rate in the Middle East.
- Street crime such as pickpocketing, and bag snatching is uncommon.
- However basic precautions such as leaving your important documents in the hotel safe is advisable.

4. Arriving at the airport

- Dubai airport is one of the busiest airports in the world therefore it is important to know your way around it.
- Once you are through with the baggage, immigration and inbound security screening you need to find your chosen mode of transport to the hotel
- It is important to keep in mind that there is a limit of alcohol and tobacco that can be carried into Dubai.
- You have three options to get to the Dubai city center or your hotel from the airport. You should purchase an NOL travel smart card from the airport and this is required to pay for all three modes as they do not accept cash.

5. Dress Code

No matter how modern and developed Dubai is, it is an Islamic country where locals respect their culture and values. Therefore, it is preferable and respectful to wear clothes that covers your shoulders and knees. However, shorts and sleeveless clothing is accepted at tourist sites as well as the dune bashing areas and swimwear is also accepted at the beach and around the pool area at hotels.

6. Is PDA allowed in Dubai?

Public Display of affection is not allowed in Dubai and you could be arrested if you do so as Dubai still follows the Sharia law.

7. Consumption of alcohol

Alcohol is available at all restaurants, hotels and pubs. However, if you want to get your own alcohol in the city you need to get a license. But during the holy month of Ramadan alcohol is not served in most of these places even if you are a tourist.

8. Taking photographs in public

It is important to keep few things in mind when taking photographs in public. You should not take a picture of a Muslim woman without her permission. Also avoid taking pictures of government building, military installations, airports, docks etc.

9. Tipping in Dubai

Tipping is not a custom in Dubai. However, it your personal choice and common practice. Restaurants may add a tip to the bill but you do not need to tip taxi drivers. However, you can tip the luggage carrier and bellboys at the hotels.

10. Public Transport

Dubai is not a place to explore by foot and is best explored by cars as the roads are made only focused on vehicles to move around. You can either hire a vehicle or use public transport such as bus/metro which are much cheaper options.

11. Climate and Weather

- The climate in Dubai is characterized by a tropical desert with hot conditions created as it is close to the tropic of Cancer and the northern desert belt.
- Dubai consists of two seasons, summer, and winter. Summer season starts from May and lasts till end of October. Winter starts from November and lasts until end of April.
- During the summer period the weather is generally extremely hot, and the temperature climbs up to 40 degrees and above. It rarely drops below 30 degrees.
- During the winter period the weather is still warm. However, the temperature drops around 14 degrees.
- Dubai's annual rainfall is generally expected between December to March. February is known to be the wettest month and June is considered to be the driest month in Dubai.