

TRAVEL TIPS

Dubai is one of seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates. It is considered the global business and cultural hub of the Middle East. Below, you will find some beneficial travel information about Dubai.



BANKS

All international banks have branches in the city. ATMs are widely available.



BUSINESS HOURS

The working week is Monday to Friday with Saturday and Sunday being the weekend. Most shops are open every day from 10am to 10pm. Embassies, consulates and government offices operate from 7.30am-2.30pm.



CREDIT CARDS

Major credit cards such as American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels, shopping malls, taxis etc.



CURRENCY

The UAE currency is known as the Arab Emirate Dirham denoted by AED, or more commonly Dhs. One dirham is divided into 100 fils. The dirham is pegged to the US dollar at a mid-rate of approximately US\$1=Dhs 3.679.



DRESS CODE

Dubai is a cosmopolitan city that is a melting pot of diverse cultures and religious faiths. All attires are generally acceptable. Swimwear is fine while at the beach and pool, but not appropriate in areas such as business districts and shopping malls. It is advisable to dress conservatively when visiting historical areas and cultural sites.



LANGUAGE

Arabic is the official language of the UAE. English is widely spoken and understood.



DRINKING WATER

Tap water is considered safe to drink. However, it is common to drink bottled water.



ELECTRICITY

The electricity supply in the UAE is 220/224 volts at 50 cycles using a UK-style three-pin plug. For US equipment, use a 220V to 110V transformer.



EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency phone number for police is 999 and for ambulance it's 998. The numbers can be called from any telephone. The operator will speak English.



GREETING

The acceptable male greeting on meeting a Gulf Arab is to stand up and shake hands. However, for a man to shake the hand of a Muslim woman (and vice versa) is, in most circumstances, considered unacceptable. Local women will usually not offer their hand to a man and will nod and smile instead and some local men prefer not to shake hands with women. If in doubt, wait until a hand is offered when meeting someone for the first time.



MEDICAL SERVICES

Medical care in Dubai is of international standard and is widely available. Dubai Health Authority (DHA) regulates all medical services in the emirate. Rashid, Latifa and Dubai Hospitals are operated by DHA itself and all emergency services are free for both residents and visitors. If you are traveling with prescribed medications, bring your doctor's note with you.



PERSONAL CONDUCT AND ETIQUETTE

Rude and arrogant behaviour is unacceptable. Public displays of affection between a man and woman are considered disrespectful. There is zero tolerance for driving under the influence (DUI), and inappropriate behavior while under the influence of alcohol. Swearing is considered offensive. During the holy month of Ramadan, eating, drinking and smoking in public is strictly prohibited.



PHOTOGRAPHY

There are many great opportunities to take photographs in Dubai. It's recommended to ask for permission before taking photos involving people unknown to yourself. Photographing military installations, government buildings and private premises is prohibited.



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Dubai Metro is a modern and fully automated rail system connecting Dubai International Airport with Dubai International Convention & Exhibition Centre (Dubai World Trade Centre), hotels and the shopping and entertainment district in Downtown Dubai. Taxis are plentiful, efficient, metered and reasonably-priced, with well-trained and courteous drivers.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Telecom services are provided by Etisalat and Du. Direct dialing is available to most countries. Calls made from one fixed line to another within Dubai are free. The country code is +971 and the area code is 04.



TIME

Dubai operates on Gulf Standard Time (GST), which is GMT+4. There is no daylight saving.



TIPPING

There are no rules when it comes to tipping in Dubai. How much you tip varies from profession to profession, and is also largely down to personal preference. It is customary to offer a little extra in most cases, but it certainly isn't compulsory.



VISAS

Citizens of 50+ countries are eligible for visas on arrival, while GCC Nationals enjoy visa-free entry into the UAE. Transit visas (48 to 96 hours) are also available to all passport holders. See latest visa information on visitdubai.com



WEATHER

Some say hot, we say perfect beach weather, all year-round. Expect clear blue skies almost throughout the year. Winter may see a few light rain showers. Temperatures vary from season to season: January can fall to a low of 15°C/59°F, while July can rise to a high of 48°C/118°F.



WIFI

You will receive a free prepaid SIM card from telecom operator, Du, on arrival at the airport. You can also check out the competitive roaming and data packages from Etisalat, Du and Virgin Mobile. Free Wi-Fi is available at Dubai International Airport, Dubai Metro, hotels and in most shopping malls. Several public parks and beaches are also offering free Wi-Fi.