



Dubai Top Tips



Geography

Located in the north-western region of the UAE, Dubai is the second largest of the seven Emirates and spans an area of 3,900sqkms. Its most interesting and important geographical feature is the Dubai Creek – a natural inlet that divides the city into two parts, Deira Dubai and Bur Dubai. The Emirate's strategic location affords it convenient links with all the neighbouring Gulf countries as well as South Asia and East Africa. Dubai is also blessed with the largest natural harbour in the region making it one of the Middle East's leading trading and commerce hubs.



Telecommunication

Etisalat and du are the key telecommunications operators in the country. Direct dialing is available to most countries in the world. Calls made from one fixed line to another within Dubai are free of charge. Full telex, fax and electronic mail facilities are widely available. Most local hotels provide guests with internet facilities at a nominal charge. Dubai also has several internet cafés. Etisalat UAE Travelers helpline for tourism is 800 2300 and visitors may call 7000 1 7000 for enquiries on entertainment and shopping.



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 offend others by wearing clothing that may be considered revealing.



Visas and Entry Formalities

Citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and a number of others specified can enter without a visa. Please be aware of the latest regulation that apply (they do occasionally change) at the website of the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs Dubai (<http://www.dnrd.gov.ae>) or with your local UAE embassy or airline.



Photography

There are many great opportunities to take photographs in Dubai, however we do recommend you consider asking for permission before any photography, especially when people are involved.



Medical Care

Medical Services in Dubai are of an international standard and are widely available.



Language

Arabic is the official language of the UAE, but English is widely spoken and understood, both languages are commonly used in business and commerce.



Climate

A sub-tropical, arid climate ensures clear blue skies throughout the year. Winter may see a few infrequent 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.



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. Linked to the Special Drawing Right of the International Monetary Fund, the dirham has held constant against the US dollar at a mid-rate of approximately US\$1 = Dhs3.679.



Time

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



Drinking Water

Tap water is considered safe to drink, however it is common to drink bottled water as there are procedures for services in hotels and restaurants.



Electricity

The electricity supply in Dubai is 220/440 volts at 50 cycles. U.S or European made appliances may require a transformer and an adaptor.



Banks

Many international banks are represented by branches in Dubai. Bank hours are subject to the location and branch. Opening hours are usually 8:00am to 3:00pm and as late as 9:00pm in some malls, from Saturday to Thursday.



Driving

Cars are left-hand drive and proceed on the right side of the road as they do in Europe. (Note that international driving permits and overseas driving licences are not valid in private cars in the UAE).

Disclaimer

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