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 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 cafes. Etisalat UAE Travelers helpline for tourism is 800 2300 and visitors may call 7000 1 7000 for enquiries on entertainment and shopping.

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 the known as the Arab Emirate Dirham denoted by AED or more commonly, Dhs. One dirham is divided into 100fils. 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.

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.

Visa 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 the latest regulation that apply (they do occasionally change) at the website of the General Firectorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs Dubai (http://www.dfrd.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.

Disclaimer
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