**Dubai**

**Overview**

With rows of skyscrapers lining the Sheikh Zayed road, multiple mega malls and many multi-million pound offshore developments, Dubai may look like a temple to the petrodollar but, as anyone who spends more than a few days here will tell you, there’s far more to the city than that.

Dubai has an old quarter too, most of it clustered around Al Satwa, Deira and Port Rashid, which teems with life and is home to the city’s oldest building – a 17th century British fort.

It is here that you’ll get a taste of ‘real Arabia’ in the shape of the abra boats that ply the creek and the bustling spice and gold souks that have changed little over the years. Al Satwa and nearby Al Karama are a real melting pot, home to scores of Indian and Pakistani immigrants as well as expats from Lebanon and Syria.

As a result, eating well and cheaply is easy, whether you’re in the market for the full Lebanese kebab and mezze experience or a visit to Ravi’s, an unprepossessing Indian establishment decorated with formica tables, that has become a cult favourite with expats.

Immigrants dominate the city, with the majority of Westerners clustered in the upmarket Marina, the glamorous Palm or the almost entirely brand new Downtown Dubai.

The latter is home to one of Dubai’s most striking landmarks, the gargantuan Burj Khalifa tower, as well as the similarly enormous Dubai Mall. Set back from the sea, the area is awash with slick new hotels.

Back on Sheikh Zayed Road, not far from the airport, is the Wafi Mall, an Egyptian-themed temple to shopping that is arguably Dubai’s nicest thanks to the presence of an upmarket souk beneath. Further south are Mall of the Emirates and Ibn Battuta Mall, both vast and selling everything from designer clothes to pungent *oudh* (perfume).

But don’t get stuck in the shops. The city also boasts stunning beaches and (on the outskirts) spectacular desert scenery that would still be familiar to the Bedouins who once wandered this stretch of land.

**Getting Around**

**Public Transport**

Dubai Municipality (tel: (04) 221 5555; [www.dm.gov.ae](http://www.dm.gov.ae)) operates a reasonable public bus service on over 50 routes. Fares depend on destination and are paid to the driver upon boarding; it is useful for travellers to have the exact change ready.

‘Period Passes' are useful for those staying more than a week in Dubai, allowing cheaper bus travel on a smart card. Passes, timetables and bus maps are available from the bus stations in Deira and Bur Dubai. Routes and bus numbers are posted in both Arabic and English.

To boost connectivity and access to the Metro, the Roads & Transport Authority has introduced an extensive network of ‘feeder buses’ which operate to and from stations. The train’s NOL smart cards can also be used on the buses.

Simple wooden boats, locally referred to as *abras*, cross the creek from Bur Dubai to the Al-Sabkha Station. These are operated by Dubai Municipality (journey time - 5 minutes) and are a good-value, enjoyable and useful way of avoiding a traffic-constricted road journey. Air-conditioned Dubai Waterbus (tel: 800 9090; [www.rta.ae](http://www.rta.ae/)) also run across the creek but charge four times as much.

The Green Line of Dubai Metro ([http://dubaimetro.eu](http://dubaimetro.eu/)) opened in 2011, complementing the 52km-long (32 miles) Red Line, which runs from Rashidiya Station to Jebel Ali Station.There are plans for two additional lines – one running between the existing airport and the planned airport at Jebel Ali, and another linking Emirates Road to the airports, but they haven’t been confirmed to date.

**Taxis**

Air-conditioned taxis can be hailed on the street or pre-booked by telephone (tel: (04) 208 0808). The Dubai Taxi Corporation (tel: (04) 264 1111) operates metered taxis. Occasionally, drivers do not have detailed knowledge of the city and might ask passengers for directions so beware if you’re a new arrival. Fixed fares are applied to journeys outside the city boundaries. It is also possible to hire a taxi for half a day or a full day for sightseeing. Tipping is not expected.

**Driving**

Dubai has an excellent and well-signposted road network. Unfortunately, driving standards do not match the quality of the roads. Many local drivers travel at speed, change lanes with wild abandon and make sudden and dangerous manoeuvres. Accidents occur frequently and visitors are advised to drive defensively.

Traffic congestion is nothing like it was but can be a problem during the morning and evening rush hours; and in certain heavily populated districts such as Deira, or two-lane roads such as Al Wasl and Jumeirah Beach Roads. The Salik (Arabic for ‘clear’) road toll system has been a revenue-spinning success with drivers passing under gates on Garhoud and Maktoum bridges, Al Safa Interchange and near Mall of the Emirates deducted AED4 a time from their in-car tags. Drivers should note that there is an exit tax on leaving the UAE.

Two centrally located covered car parks are situated near the Spice Souk and Bani Yas Square in Deira.

**Car Hire**

A valid International Driving Permit, passport and credit card are required to hire a car in Dubai. Fully comprehensive insurance is essential. Drivers must be at least 21 years old, although the age limit is often raised to 25 years for more expensive models. Payment must be made by credit card. Major providers include Avis (tel: (04) 224 5219; [www.avis.com](http://www.avis.com/)), Budget (tel: (04) 295 2722; [www.budget-uae.com](http://www.budget-uae.com/)), Hertz UAE (tel: 800-43789; [www.hertzuae.com](http://www.hertzuae.com/)) and Fast Rent a Car (tel: (04) 224 5040; [www.fastuae.com](http://www.fastuae.com/)).

**Bicycle Hire**

Considering the desert environment, cycling in Dubai is not advisable in the summer heat. Nevertheless, some hotels hire out bicycles.

**Sightseeing**

**Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DTCM) Welcome Bureau**

The airport office is open 24 hours (tel: (04) 224 5252). Offices are also available in most major malls, including City Centre and Ibn Battuta.

**Thoroughfare**

Beni Yas Square

**Neighborhood**

Deira

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 228 5000.

**Website**

http://www.dubaitourism.ae/

**Opening Times**

Sat-Thurs 0900-2100, Fri 1500-2100.

**Passes**

XXX

**Attractions**

**Jumeirah Beach**

Much of the long expanse of Jumeirah Beach is dominated by luxury hotels and their facilities. However, there are stretches of public beach available, next to Dubai Marine Beach Resort opposite Jumeirah Mosque and in ‘New Dubai’ further along the coast, opposite Movenpick Jumeirah Beach Hotel, where you can find clean white sand, crystal-clear water and bath-temperature surf. Some of the hotels allow non-guests to use their pools and stretches of beach if they buy lunch or pay a nominal fee.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

XXX

**Website**

XXX

**Opening Times**

XXX

**Admission Fees**

No

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

High

**Dubai Creek**

The 14km (8.7 mile) Dubai Creek is a natural seawater inlet that divides central Dubai into two parts – Deira on one side, Bur Dubai on the other – and despite the city’s numerable high-rises, retains its old-world charm in the heart of the city. A wildlife sanctuary that's home to over 27,000 birds has been set up at the inland end of the creek. Reflecting the wealth of one of the fastest growing economies in the world, boutique hotels, golf courses and yachting clubs have sprang up along the Creek's banks.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

Dubai Creek

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

XXX

**Website**

http://http://www.dubaigolf.com/dubai-creek-golf-yacht-club.aspx

**Opening Times**

XXX

**Admission Fees**

No

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

High

**Grand Mosque**

The Grand Mosque was only rebuilt in 1998 and boasts the city's tallest minaret, at 70m (231ft). Located on the Bur Dubai side of the creek, near the Ruler's Court, the Grand Mosque consists of nine large domes and 45 smaller ones. This huge religious edifice can house up to 1,200 worshippers. Non-Muslims cannot enter but the mosque is worth visiting for its drama, scale and the special place it holds in the hearts of many locals.

**Thoroughfare**

Ali ibin Ali Talib Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

XXX

**Website**

XXX

**Opening Times**

Daily 24 hours (entrance to non-Muslims is forbidden).

**Admission Fees**

No

**Disabled Access**

No

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

High

**Palm Islands and the World**

The three Palm islands, said to be visible from space, form the largest man-made islands in the world. The Palm Jumeirah boasts a number of hotels as well as private residences and the 522-berth Palm Jumeirah Marina opened in 2011. Construction work has been carried out on Palm Jebel Ali and Palm Deira, but both of them have been high-profile casualties of the recession and won’t be opening to their original 2012 completion dates – as has ‘The World', an ambitious attempt to recreate the global map in the form of 300 offshore islands.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

Palm Islands

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

XXX

**Website**

www.thepalm.ae

**Opening Times**

XXX

**Admission Fees**

No

**Disabled Access**

No

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

Low

**Majlis Ghorfat Um-Al-Sheef house**

At the Majlis Ghorfat Um-Al-Sheef, it is possible to delve into the opulent world of the moneyed men of Dubai. The late ruler of Dubai, Ghorfat Um-Al-Sheef, used this building as his 'home from home' but it is now open to the public. The building dates back to 1955 and its most impressive feature are the majlis gardens, which include a reproduction of a traditional Arab irrigation system.

**Thoroughfare**

17 Street

**Neighborhood**

off Al-Jumeirah Road

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 394 6343.

**Website**

XXX

**Opening Times**

Sat-Thurs 0830-2030, Fri 1430-2030.

**Admission Fees**

Yes.

**Disabled Access**

No

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

Low

**Jumeirah Mosque**

The Jumeirah Mosque is the most photographed building in the city and an impressive example of modern Islamic architecture. Built along medieval Fatimid lines, entirely of stone, the mosque and its two minarets are unmistakable. It is particularly attractive at night, when subtle lighting increases its dramatic effect. Non-Muslims are not allowed to enter mosques in Dubai, although they can enter this one if on an organised tour. Visitors should call the tourist office to check if these are available.

**Thoroughfare**

Al-Jumeirah Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 353 6666.

**Website**

XXX

**Opening Times**

Daily 24 hours; access to non-Muslims through organised tours only.

**Admission Fees**

Yes (for tours).

**Disabled Access**

No

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

High

**Heritage and Diving Villages**

These two recreations of former Emirati settlements are an attempt to weave in some local colour among Dubai's rapidly developing 21st-century skyline. The emphasis is on recalling the Bedouin way of life, with barasti housing, locals dressed in traditional garb, displays of traditional handicrafts and the paraphernalia of pear diving, once the mainstay of the Gulf. During winter months, the area comes alive with traditional song and dance, and local families sharing their heritage with their children. Local handicrafts are also available for purchase.

**Thoroughfare**

Near Shindagha Tunnel

**Neighborhood**

Al-Shindagha Road

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 393 7151.

**Website**

XXX

**Opening Times**

Sat-Thurs 0800-2200, Fri 0800-1100 and 1600-2200.

**Admission Fees**

No

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

Medium

**Dubai Museum**

The building that houses the Dubai Museum, Al-Fahidi Fort, is an attraction in itself. The historic fort, dating back as far as 1799, was converted into a museum in 1970. The exhibits range from old weapons and pearl-diving outfits to an impressive range of military artefacts. Some of the most fascinating exhibits are those recovered from the 3,000- to 4,000-year-old graves at Al-Ghusais, while perhaps the most striking is the huge wooden sailing craft that is beached outside.

**Thoroughfare**

Al-Fahidi Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 353 1862.

**Website**

XXX

**Opening Times**

Sat-Thurs 0830-2030, Fri 1430-2030.

**Admission Fees**

Yes

**Disabled Access**

No

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

High

**Children's City**

Housed in Dubai Creek Park, Children's City is a big hit with both local and international youngsters. The 7,700sq m (82,882sq ft) development takes young minds on a journey through the human body, science and space, with the help of different ‘zones'. With plenty of hands-on action to keep even the most demanding children occupied, this is no dull old museum. All exhibits are in English as well as Arabic. Creek Park also features Dubai Dolphinarium which is equally popular with youngsters.

**Thoroughfare**

Creekside Park

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 334 0808.

**Website**

www.childrencity.ae

**Opening Times**

Sat-Thurs 0900-2030, Fri 1500-2030.

**Admission Fees**

Yes

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

Medium

**Burj Khalifa**

At 828m (2,717ft), the Burj Khalifa is the world’s tallest building featuring the world’s first Armani Hotel, a mall, restaurants, a fitness centre and the world’s highest public observation deck, ‘At the Top’, on the 124th floor, offering unparalleled views of the city. The skyscraper, which opened in 2010 in Downtown Dubai, remains Dubai’s latest must-see attraction.

**Thoroughfare**

1 Emaar Boulevard

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Downtown Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 888 8124.

**Website**

www.burjkhalifa.ae

**Opening Times**

Sun-Wed 1000-2200, Thurs-Sat 1000-midnight.

**Admission Fees**

Yes

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

High

**Bastakiya Quarter**

Stroll through historic Bastakiya and explore the local houses alongside Dubai Creek. In the days before electricity and air conditioning, the local houses alongside Dubai Creek used to be cooled by wind towers. These ecologically sound structures and the traditional courtyard houses they served can now be visited in the newly restored Bastakiya district. As well as a modest museum, a sprinkling of cafés, some small art galleries and a new street market every Saturday in this quiet and Bohemian quarter of Dubai's city centre.

**Thoroughfare**

Al-Fahidi Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

XXX

**Website**

XXX

**Opening Times**

Sat 1000-dusk (souq).

**Admission Fees**

No

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

Medium

**Jumana**

Jumana, in Al Sahra Desert Resort, was one of the first Dubailand attractions to open and is well worth the hike out into the dark deserts. The set-up is dinner buffet or à la carte before moving on into the massive 1,500-seat outdoor auditorium. Here an audiovisual extravaganza, *Jumana: Secret of the Desert*, awaits with a collage of spouting waterworks, bursting fireworks, first-rate dancers, wandering camels, galloping steeds and piercing lasers telling the Arabian tale of love and family lost and found. Omar Sharif is on hand with a typically smooth voice-over to complete an impressive picture.

**Thoroughfare**

Al Sahra Desert Resort

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubailand

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 367 9500.

**Website**

www.alsahra.com

**Opening Times**

Tues-Sat, show starts 2100.

**Admission Fees**

Yes

**Disabled Access**

No

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

Medium

**Dubailand**

This massive development, comprising myriad attractions, hotels, sports and leisure centres, was expected to be completed by 2015 but the downturn has also impacted its pace of development. The Tiger Woods-designed course has been cancelled and it is unclear whether other projects, such as a Universal Studios theme park, the Great Dubai Wheel (projected to be bigger than the London Eye) and Bawadi (the world’s largest hotel project with 51 hotels and 60,000 rooms), will achieve their original vision. Phase one of Dubailand is now complete and offers five attractions including Dubai Outlet Mall, Al Sahra Desert Resort and Dubai Sports City.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

(04) 368 0000.

**Website**

www.dubailand.ae

**Opening Times**

XXX

**Admission Fees**

No

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

Medium

**Shopping**

**Introduction**

Shopping is undoubtedly one of the Dubai’s greatest draw cards, with the city often regarded as the ‘Shopping Capital of the Middle East'.

**Souvenirs**

Spices, gold, designer wear and electronics goods are among the popular souvenirs purchased in Dubai.

**Key Areas**

The souks, or traditional markets, are one of Dubai's greatest attractions. They are located on both sides of the Dubai Creek, with the most impressive on the Deira side.

**Markets**

Dubai’s souks offer an atmospheric shopping experience with sights, sounds and aromas that hint of yesteryear. The Spice Souk, Al-Sabkha Road, is more of a tourist attraction, while the buzzing Gold Souk, Sikkat al-Khali Street, offers some great deals on gold necklaces, rings, bangles, earrings and brooches, with gold prices among the lowest in the world. The gold souks are strictly regulated, so there is little chance of customers being ripped off in terms of quality, although prices do vary greatly and bargaining is essential.

The Electronics Souk, near Beniyas Square, might sound a slightly incongruous idea but this is Dubai, which means that, with shopping, anything goes.

**Shopping Centres**

The gargantuan Mall of the Emirates has been usurped in size by the largest mall in the world, Dubai Mall, which opened at the end of 2008 in a space equivalent to over 50 soccer fields.

After an initially cautious start, Dubai Mall is now buzzing with 1,200 retail outlets, a 22-screen Cineplex, 160 food options, 220 gold and jewellery outlets, an Olympic-sized ice-skating rink and a Hamley’s toy store.

The best-value items at the large shopping malls are mainly electrical goods and designer clothing, although interesting local products include carpets, Bedouin jewellery and Arabian souvenirs.

Mirdif City Center Mall, barely 15 minutes from Deira City Centre, has opened its doors with 430 shops and larger emphasis on leisure (i-FLY, Aquaplay) than some of its counterparts.

Established malls are remodelling their services in the face of new competition.

Deira City Centre, for example, located not far from Dubai Intenational Airport, has opened 18 new convenience and service-oriented stores in the Metro Link, which starts from the mall entrance by the Dubai Metro station, providing 1,680sq m (18,083sq ft) of additional retail space. The shopping centre’s large cinema facilities, Carrefour hypermarket, food court, coffee shops and numerable small stores cater for a range of budgets and ages.

If you’re looking for a shopping experience beyond the malls, Global Village, located off the Emirates Road highway that skirts around the city, offers more than 30 pavilions which blend retail, art and entertainment. In 2011, this included a dancing fountain show, water screen and global cultural theatre.

**Opening Times**

Dubai’s shops are rarely closed although Friday morning is the one exception, when most stores are shut as it’s the holy day. Larger malls are open 1000-2200 and often even later during festival periods. Dubai’s souks are open Saturday-Thursday 0700-1200 and 1700-1900,  and Friday from1700-1900.

**Tax Information**

There is no sales tax in Dubai and the airport is renowned for having one of the finest duty-free opportunities in the world.  
This is open to both arriving and departing passengers.

**Nightlife**

Much like any city, Dubai’s nightlife scene is now fairly scattered, growing in tandem with the disparate communities which have shot up in the emirate.  
  
A few years ago, the heart of Dubai’s nightlife was in and around the swish Madinat Jumeirah complex, where a string of trendy bars recline by the water's edge. But now there are abundant  options in the Al Barsha district, and throughout the nearby ‘New Dubai’ tower-ridden district, encompassing Palm Jumeirah, Dubai Media City, Dubai Marina, The Walk and Jumeirah Beach Residence. Comedy nights, gigs from up-and-coming (and fading) stars and big-name DJs are all part of the city’s increasingly broad entertainments scene.

Dress codes for bars are generally relaxed, although some bars and all clubs insist on no jeans, trainers or sandals.

A more mellow night out can be had at one of Dubai's coffee houses, where you can smoke apple-flavoured tobacco from a shisha pipe.

For latest entertainment listings, pick up a copy of *What’s On Dubai* or or *Time Out Dubai*, which can be found in many hotels or online ([www.timeoutdubai.com](http://www.timeoutdubai.com/)). Both provide a full rundown of what is happening in any given month. The *Time Out* Ticket Line sells tickets for events (tel: 800 4669; [www.itp.net/tickets](http://www.itp.net/tickets)).

**Layali Arabic Nightclub**

Dubai is a good place to see regional dance, such as belly dancing and traditional tribal dancing. These can be seen at local Arabic nightclubs, such as the one in the Dubai Mayfair Hotel.

**Type**

Dance

**Thoroughfare**

Rigga Al Buteen

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 228 4444.

**Website**

http://www.mayfairdubai.ae

**Ballet Centre**

The renowned Ballet Centre offers tuition in ballet, jazz, tap and modern dance.

**Type**

Dance

**Thoroughfare**

Jumeirah Plaza

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 344 9776.

**Website**

http://www.balletcentre.com

**First Group Theatre Madinat Jumeirah**

The First Group Theatre hosts regular crowd-pleasing entertainment from Russian plays to West-End musicals and first-class comedy sure to keep Dubai's culture vultures happy. Performances take place in the striking theatre, the big arena, or outdoors at the charming waterside amphitheatre.

**Type**

Theatre

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

(04) 366 6546.

**Website**

http://www.madinattheatre.com

**Dubai Community Theatre and Arts Centre (DUCTAC)**

Dubai's first purpose-built community theatre hosts classical music, opera, drama and musicals, as well as art exhibitions, photography and workshops.

**Type**

Theatre

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

(04) 341 4777.

**Website**

http://www.ductac.org

**Cavalli Club**

Roberto Cavalli's luxurious night spot in Dubai is opulent with decadent, lavish interiors, gold-coloured glass, crystal-encrusted walls and dramatically lit staircases.

**Type**

Clubs

**Thoroughfare**

Sheikh Zayed Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 332 9260.

**Website**

http://www.cavalliclubdubai.com

**Boudoir**

This swanky, wannabe Parisian club was one of Dubai’s top nightclubs during the boom years and appealed to the Lebanese crowd. Dress to impress or you won’t get past the door staff. Different nights play host to various music genres.

**Type**

Clubs

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

(04) 345 5995.

**Website**

http://www.myboudoir.com

**The Irish Village**

One of the oldest expat bars, The Irish Village is still going strong, with a good range of beers and an outdoor seating area. It also hosts many live acts and with The Aviation Club on the other side of the lake, restaurant-studded Century Village round the corner and the upcoming Jumeirah Creekside hotel on site, it’s the focal point of leisure life in the Garhoud district (close to the airport). The area buzzes even more during the Dubai Tennis Championships, held every February/March.

**Type**

Live Music

**Thoroughfare**

Al-Garhoud Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 282 4752.

**Website**

http://www.theirishvillage.ae

**The Apartment Lounge & Club**

The Apartment is another established venue with its blend of urban sounds and local and international DJs. Friday hip hop and R&B nights are always packed.

**Type**

Clubs

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

(04) 406 8000.

**Website**

http://www.jumeirah.com

**Barasti Bar**

Did we say no jeans? This perennial outdoor favourite is one of the few places where dressing down is positively encouraged, thanks to its direct on-the-beach location at the back of Le Meridien Mina Seyahi. It had a trendy revamp, with a second square bar introduced and elevated TV screens, but it’s managed to retain its laid back, chilled out charm.

**Type**

Bars

**Thoroughfare**

Al Sufouh Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 399 3333.

**Website**

http://www.lemeridien-minaseyahi.com/en/barasti

**Ginseng**

Another established and popular venue, Minimalist Ginseng features mood lighting, Asian-themed décor and first-rate cocktails. The music is a mixture of chilled, funky, Asian lounge music with more upbeat selections later in the night and a DJ on Thursdays.

**Type**

Bars

**Thoroughfare**

Wafi City

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 324 4777.

**Website**

http://www.wafi.com

**Carter's**

Housed in a replica pyramid with colonial-style décor and staff in leather waistcoats, Carter's is one of the city’s old haunts. Daily happy hour 1800-2000 and ladies' nights on Tuesdays and Sundays offer two complimentary drinks.

**Type**

Bars

**Thoroughfare**

The Pyramids, Wafi Centre

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 324 4100.

**Website**

http://www.wafi.com

**Buddha Bar**

A favourite with the local ‘beautiful people' is the Buddha Bar, with its stunning décor, fantastic cocktails and free servings of pretension. Grosvenor House Tower Two – directly opposite the first tower – recently opened its doors, featuring the Rhodes in Residence (named after British chef Gary Rhodes) lobby lounge specialising in London-style afternoon teas and a two-level South American restaurant, Toro Toro, with dishes overseen by another leading chef, Richard Sandoval.

**Type**

Bars

**Thoroughfare**

Grosvenor House Hotel, Dubai Marina

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 399 8888.

**Website**

http://www.grosvenorhouse-dubai.com

http://www.buddha-bar.com

**Activities**

**Desert adventure**

You can’t visit Dubai and not visit the desert, and there are a range of operators who will happily whisk you out of the city, where you can ride a camel and sandboard down the dunes before enjoying a sizzling barbecue under the stars. Arabian Adventures is one of the best-known operators.  
  
Tel: (04 303 4888).  
Website: [www.arabian-adventures.com](http://www.arabian-adventures.com/)

**Watersports**

Guests staying at the resorts along the Jumeirah coastline have access to the best range of watersports in the city, from water skiing and kayaking to banana boat rides and windsurfing. Prices vary but expect to pay AED200 an hour to water ski, for example. Most of the resorts are so well equipped that you may find everything you need on site. For those that are looking to venture out, fishing trips are popular in the cooler winter months.

**Go-karting**

Dubai Autodrome is on the outskirts of town, but it’s a comprehensive facility – featuring a 1.2km (0.5 miles) outdoor track and 620m (2,034ft) indoor track - which has everything for seven-year-olds upwards. The Kartdrome offers a fleet of leisure karts which are ideal for casual drivers, while more serious drivers can release their inner F1 fantasies at the dedicated car track days.

Tel: (04) 367 8700.  
Website: [www.dubaiautodrome.com](http://www.dubaiautodrome.com/)

**Golf**

You don’t have to be Luke Donald to appreciate Dubai’s immaculate greens and fairways. The Race to Dubai, where Donald picked up the 2011 trophy, was held at one of the city’s newer courses, at Jumeirah Golf Estates, and other courses include the nearby Els Club at Dubai Sports City, Montgomerie Dubai, The Desert Course at Arabian Ranches, Dubai Creek Golf & Yacht Club and the pioneer, The Emirates Golf Club, which hosts the Dubai Desert Classic each year. Club hire is widely available.

**Restaurants**

Dubai has a fantastic assortment of international-standard restaurants catering to all budgets and tastes. With a large expatriate community from the Sub Continent, it's little wonder there are some truly world-class Indian restaurants among the top-billings.   
  
As Dubai is a Muslim city, many restaurants, especially at the cheaper end of the market, are not licensed to serve alcohol. In contrast, restaurants in tourist and business hotels almost always serve alcohol, although with taxes drinks can be expensive (particularly wine).

The restaurants below have been classified into three pricing categories:   
Expensive (over Dh500)   
Moderate (Dh150 to Dh500)   
Cheap (under Dh150)   
These prices are for a three-course meal for one with a bottle of house wine or equivalent, including tax. Sales tax at 10% is added to all bills. Service charges at 10 to 15% are also frequently added but, if they are not, a 10% tip is expected.

**Al Muntaha**

Al Muntaha, meaning 'The Ultimate' or 'The Top', in Arabic, arguably has the best location in Dubai, suspended 200m (656ft) above the Arabian Gulf, at the top of the Burj Al Arab hotel. Service is immaculate and the slanted glass windows give the restaurant the feel of a great ocean liner heading out to sea. Al Muntaha also delivers on the plate: try the roasted prime beef rib with mustard crust. Reaching the restaurant in one of the world's fastest panoramic elevators is almost - but not quite - enough to put you off your dinner.

**Price**

Expensive

**Thoroughfare**

Burj Al Arab Hotel

**Neighborhood**

Jumeirah Beach

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 301 7600.

**Website**

http://www.burj-al-arab.com/

**Cuisine**

XXX

**La Baie**

This fine dining restaurant would not look out of place in a major European capital, with its mellow piano music, unfaltering service and elegant table settings. One of the most exotic starters is the marinated sturgeon carpaccio with caviar and yoghurt sauce, while a highlight among the mains (and rumoured to be the chef's favourite) is the grilled hammour fish on a bed of green lentils.

**Price**

Expensive

**Thoroughfare**

Ritz Carlton Dubai

**Neighborhood**

Jumeirah Beach

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 399 4000.

**Website**

http://www.ritzcarlton.com/

**Cuisine**

XXX

**Verre**

Gordon Ramsay's Dubai venture has proved a resounding success and is firmly established in the city's top-tier gastronomic list. The minimalist décor might not suit all tastes but the simple surrounds and the well thought-out lighting help focus deserved attention on the food. A nice touch is the chef's specialities - tasty morsels of food that come between the impressive courses. Mains include ravioli of lobster, salmon with a fricassee of peas and horseradish or poached chicken on a bed of tagliatelle. The desserts are divine. The three-course lunch specials offer excellent value.

**Price**

Expensive

**Thoroughfare**

Hilton Dubai Creek

**Neighborhood**

Beniyas Road

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 212 7551.

**Website**

http://www.gordonramsay.com/dubai

**Cuisine**

XXX

**India Palace**

With venues scattered across the city, the emphasis at this popular restaurant is on Rajasthani cooking backed up by themed décor and artefacts shipped in from the region. The open kitchen is a nice touch, as are the family booths upstairs, with privacy available at no extra charge. The excellent-value menu features starters such as lentil soup and prawn bisque with fresh vegetables, while mains include chicken and vegetarian kebabs and a range of delicately spiced curries. Alcohol is not available but the lassis (yogurt-based drink) are excellent, especially the unusual lassi seasoned with salt.

**Price**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Opposite Dubai Marine Hotel

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Bur Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 286 9600.

**Website**

XXX

**Cuisine**

XXX

**Pierchic**

Seafood-loving trendies are flocking to Pierchic, in the glamorous Madinat Jumeirah development, the place to be in Dubai at the moment. Located on a wooden pier, with views of the expansive Arabian Gulf, the venue is perfect for trying some local and international seafood dishes. Mains include the likes of poached Atlantic lobster with snow peas, enoki mushrooms and passion fruit dressing, or Arabian chilled seafood platter laced with Iranian caviar.

**Price**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Al Qasr Hotel

**Neighborhood**

Madinat Jumeirah

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 366 6730.

**Website**

http://www.jumeirah.com/Hotels-and-Resorts/Destinations/Dubai/Madinat-Jumeirah/Al-Qasr-Hotel/Restaurants--Nightlife/Pierchic/

**Cuisine**

XXX

**Cactus Jacks**

It may never win any culinary awards but Cactus Jacks seldom disappoints a hungry stomach. A Mexican theme for the décor includes Aztec fabrics and bright designs, as well as multicolour tiled pillars. The restaurant has a live DJ at weekends and things can turn quite wild after 2300, when the spicy Tex Mex food and the tequila kick in. Parties of eight diners or more receive a 30% discount on their bill.

**Price**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Millennium Airport Hotel

**Neighborhood**

Al Garhoud

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 282 3464.

**Website**

http://www.millenniumhotels.ae/millenniumdubai/dining/restaurants/cactus-jacks.html

**Cuisine**

XXX

**Deira City Centre Food Court**

Of the many food courts that are dotted all around Dubai, this is one of the most popular. On sale is the full smorgasbord of international foods, with the only unifying feature being that all the stands are cheap. The most popular stands serve up simple Chinese and Indian specialities accompanied by boiled rice. They also have a play area for kids.

**Price**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Deira City Centre Mall

**Neighborhood**

Deira

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 295 1010.

**Website**

XXX

**Cuisine**

XXX

**Thattukada**

The excellent South Indian restaurant at the Palm Beach Rotana Inn serves great-value food. Diners sit on long, wooden benches and are surrounded by film posters on the walls. The Kerala-influenced dishes include kappa erachi (tapioca and chicken curry) and karimeem porichathu (fish fry) and are guaranteed to fill diners up without breaking the bank.

**Price**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Palm Beach Rotana Inn

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 393 1999.

**Website**

XXX

**Cuisine**

XXX

**Al Mahara**

Making a fair stab at being the most expensive restaurant in Dubai, the Al Mahara often divides local opinion. Some say it is overpriced for what you get, but others swear by it, especially if someone else is paying. The experience begins with a three-minute mock submarine ride to the restaurant, located alongside a giant aquarium. This puts diners in the mood for savouring the high-quality seafood that has won the restaurant numerous awards, including the What's On category for Best Seafood Restaurant in 2008.

**Price**

Expensive

**Thoroughfare**

Burj Al Arab Hotel

**Neighborhood**

Jumeirah Beach

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 301 7600.

**Website**

http://www.burj-al-arab.com/

**Cuisine**

XXX

**Café Chic**

Top quality ingredients, smooth service and a menu that cuts deftly between the classics and some daring variations make this is a top dining choice. Relax afterwards in the cigar bar for supreme decadence.

**Price**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Le Méridien Hotel

**Neighborhood**

Garhoud

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 217 0000.

**Website**

http://www.dubai.lemeridien.com

**Cuisine**

XXX

**Flights**

**Introduction**

Airlines flying to Dubai from the UK include British Airways, Emirates, Virgin Atlantic, bmi and KLM. Peak travel periods include school half-terms, Christmas (inbound/outbound) and July (outbound), although good deals can be had during off-peak periods, such as Ramadan and the hottest months between June and September.

**Flight Times**

From London - 7 hours 45 minutes; New York - 14 hours 50 minutes; Los Angeles - 19 hours 55 minutes; Toronto - 14 hours 10 minutes; Sydney - 16 hours 15 minutes.

**Rail**

**Services**

There are currently no railways serving Dubai, although the city now has two Metro lines. The five-carriage trains contain separate carriages for Gold Class, Women & Children and special needs passengers. Prices are affordable – you can travel the length of the line for AED11.60 in leather-chair Gold Class comfort – and based on how far you travel across three designated tiers.  
  
Plans are afoot for a Gulf-wide rail network, with Etihad Rail connecting the UAE to Saudi Arabia via Ghweifat in the west and Oman via Al Ain in the east, but the first passenger trains are not scheduled to run until the end of 2014.

**Operators**

XXX

**Journey Times**

XXX

**Transport To The City**

XXX

**Road**

**Introduction**

The United Arab Emirates boasts an impressive network of first-class roads that connect major towns and villages, including a multi-lane highway between Dubai and Abu Dhabi, and the Emirates Road highway connecting Dubai with the Northern Emirates in 45 minutes.  
  
Driving in the UAE is on the right-hand side. Speed limits are clearly displayed on road signs and are usually 60-80kph (37-50mph) around town and 100-120kph (62-74mph) elsewhere, and beware the abundant cameras which will flash should you exceed the limits. Certain minor traffic offences incur on-the-spot fines.

The police must be called to any road traffic accident (no matter how minor) and those involved in the accident must remain at the scene with their vehicles.

A valid International Driving Permit, valid national licence and passport are required to drive in Dubai. Visitors from many European, North American and Pan-Asian countries can obtain a temporary local driving licence if they do not have an international licence - a valid national licence, passport and two passport-size photographs are required for applicants to obtain this. Drivers must be over 18 years old. Third party insurance is compulsory.

Arabian Automobile Association (tel: (04) 266 9989; [www.aaauae.com](http://www.aaauae.com/)) can provide further information.

**Emergency Breakdown**

Arabian Automobile Association (tel: 800 4900).

**Routes**

The main Emirate Route Numbers into Dubai are 77 from Jebel Ali, E311 from Dubai to the Northern Emirates, 88 from Sharjah, 44 from Wajajah, 66 from Al-Ain, 11 from Abu Dhabi.

**Driving Times**

From Al-Ain - 1 hour 15 minutes; Abu Dhabi - 1 hour 30 minutes; Muscat - 4 hours.

**Coaches**

Buses for Muscat (capital of Oman) depart from the car park at the Airline Centre, Al-Maktoum Road, Deira (tel: (04) 203 3923). Tickets can be purchased from the driver or the Airline Centre. The Gold Souk Bus Station, off Al-Khor Street, and Al-Ghubaiba Bus Station, Al-Ghubaiba Road, are the main departure points for local and intercity services. Dubai Municipality (tel: 800 900; [www.dm.gov.ae](http://www.dm.gov.ae)) can provide further information. There are also buses from Dubai to Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Dubai Transport Corporation (tel: (04) 264 1111; [www.dubaitransport.gov.ae](http://www.dubaitransport.gov.ae)) operates minibus services to the main cities of the UAE, but it is only possible for travellers to catch these once they are out of Dubai city.

**Water**

**Introduction**

Dubai’s port (Jebel Ali Port and Port Rashid) is located 30km (18.5 miles) from the city centre and is the world's largest man-made port. A new government-owned Dubai Cruise Terminal located in Port Rashid was inaugurated in February 2010 to cater for the emirate’s increasing number of cruise tourists. The terminal has been designed to handle four ships simultaneously and cater to the increased number of cruise ship calls.

**Ferry Services**

Ferry services operate to ports in Iran from Sharjah, although these are not recommended for tourists and timetables are erratic. Plans have been mooted for a more developed and comprehensive regional ferry service but these are very much on the back burner at present.

**Transfer To City**

Taxis are the best way of getting into town. Dubai Cruise Terminal has its own taxi stand.

**Excursions**

**Hajar Mountains**

The Hajar Mountains, located 100km (62 miles) east of Dubai, run along the most easterly Fujairah emirate and border Oman. The best way to explore the rugged mountainous terrain is in 4-wheel drive vehicles. Highlights are the *wadis* (dry river beds), which often collect rain or flood water and offer the chance to cool off, and the hill town of Hatta, which has been recreated as a mountain oasis. Alpha Tours and Arabian Adventures both offer tours to this region.

**Telephone**

XXX

**Website**

www.alphatoursdubai.com; www.arabian-adventures.com

**Desert trips**

A popular activity from Dubai is to explore the sand dunes in a 4-wheel drive vehicle. This whimsically beautiful natural environment is home to a surprising number of animals and plants that have adapted to the extreme desert environment. Visitors should not hire their own vehicles, as desert driving can be dangerous for the inexperienced. Alpha Tours and Arabian Adventures both run regular tours and can combine a trip into the dunes with desert dinners in recreated Bedouin camps.

**Telephone**

XXX

**Website**

http://www.alphatoursdubai.com

http://www.arabian-adventures.com

**Sharjah**

Sharjah is located 20km (12 miles) east of Dubai and making a trip there is easy, with regular minibus services. Taxis are perhaps a better idea, as it can be difficult to get a return minibus from Sharjah. This emirate may lack Dubai’s glitz and glamour but it is well established and more cultural, with a string of more cerebral attractions that are mainly located in its Heritage District. These include Literature Square with its House of Poetry, Bait al-Gharbi cultural centre and the Sharjah Heritage and Islamic museums. Outside this quarter there is also an Arts Museum and Al-Hisn Fort, a museum that sheds light on the history of Sharjah and shows how, like Dubai, Sharjah has come a long way in a very short time.

**Telephone**

(06) 556 6777.

**Website**

www.sharjah-welcome.com

**Tours**

**Sand skiing**

Arabian Adventures operates a ‘Rides and Slides' tour combining camel rides with sand skiing. Rides on the original ‘ships of the desert' offer a totally different perspective on Dubai's desert landscapes. A half-hour journey in a traditional caravan introduces tourists to Dubai's traditional way of life, before throwing them back into the 21st century with the exhilarating sport of sand skiing.

**Telephone**

(04) 303 4888.

**Website**

http://www.arabian-adventures.com

**Boat tours**

Arabian Adventures offers a variety of cruises on Dubai Creek. Alpha Tours operates evening dhow dinner cruises, which take two hours. Alternatively, tourists should go down to Dubai Creek and charter a traditional *abra* (water taxi) for a short river tour lasting 60 to 90 minutes. The length of the tour and the price should be agreed in advance. Otherwise, visitors can just ride one across the creek to the other side (journey time - 5 minutes).  
  
As part of its sustainable transport drive, the Roads & Transport Authority has introduced water taxis on Dubai Creek recently, and you can pay for voyages using the same NOL cards that you swipe on the Metro. More ferry services linking each of the emirates are planned in future.

**Telephone**

800 9090; (04) 303 4888 ; (04) 294 9888.

**Website**

http://www.rta.ae

http://www.arabian-adventures.com

http://www.alphatoursdubai.com

**Bus tours**

A number of companies offer half-day city tours, including Arabian Adventures and Net Tours Dubai. Tours vary depending on the operator but most go to the old and new Dubai souks, Jumeirah Mosque, the thriving commercial area and include a creek crossing by *abra*. Another option is to see Dubai by night. Post-tour dinner in one of Dubai's many restaurants is usually a feature of the night-time tours, which also incorporate the mosques, palaces and souks. You can’t miss the double-decker Big Bus Tours that dart around the city, which are invariably full of tourists during the cooler winter months. They have a range of half and full-day excursions that take in most of the popular sights across the city.

**Telephone**

XXX

**Website**

http://www.bigbustours.com

**Walking tours**

A self-guided stroll around the older central parts of Deira and Bur Dubai is a great way of discovering the delights of the city, exploring its traditional souks or stumbling across hidden mosques or wind towers. Arabian Adventures offers various walking tours, such as ‘A Walk through the City of Contrasts', covering Bastakiya and including an abra ride (local water taxi) from Shindagha across the creek and a walk through the gold and spice souks.

**Telephone**

(04) 303 4888.

**Website**

http://www.arabian-adventures.com

**Events**

**Dubai Desert Classic**

Played on the beautiful Emirates Golf Club course in Dubai, this annual tournament is part of the European Tour and is loved by golfers and golf fans around the world. Always attracting the biggest names in the sport, the tournament boasts past winners who are such greats as Seve Balsteros, Ernie Els, Colin Montgomerie and Tiger Woods. One of the most famous Dubai Desert Classics of recent years was the 2001 tournament when a certain Tiger Woods found the water on the tricky 18th hole allowing Thomas Bjorn to steal victory on the final hole. The Dubai Desert Classic has been complemented by The Race to Dubai, in which the European Tour’s top players compete in a minimum of 50 tournaments in a season-long contest that replaced The European Tour Order of Merit.

**Theme**

Sport

**Start Date**

26 Jan 2016

**End Date**

01 Feb 2016

**Date Description**

XXX

**TBC**

Yes

**Cost**

XXX

**Website**

http://www.dubaidesertclassic.com

**Venue Name**

Emirates Golf Club

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

Medium

**Dubai Rugby Sevens**

From its humble beginnings as a game played by a handful of British expatriates in the 1960s, the Dubai Rugby Sevens has grown to become a major sporting event in the country – and to accommodate the increasing numbers, it now has its own purpose-built stadium on the Al Ain Road. The modern-day tournament features 16 international teams who play in games lasting just 22 minutes each. Held in the Dubai Exiles Rugby Ground with a 50,000 crowd capacity, the Dubai Rugby Sevens always generates an exciting atmosphere that attracts rugby fans from all over the world. The Sevens Stadium complex now features a cricket ground too, and has hosted several fixtures. A selection of English county teams played matches as part of their pre-season training.

**Theme**

Sport

**Start Date**

04 Dec 2015

**End Date**

06 Dec 2015

**Date Description**

XXX

**TBC**

Yes

**Cost**

Various.

**Website**

http://www.dubairugby7s.com

**Venue Name**

Dubai Exiles Rugby Ground

**Thoroughfare**

Dubai Exiles Rugby Ground

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

Medium

**Dubai Tennis Championships**

Featuring singles and doubles competitions for both men and women, the annual Dubai Tennis Championships attract some of the biggest names from the sport. Roger Federer, Andre Agassi, Rafael Nadal, Maria Sharapova and Lindsay Davenport have all played here in the past. With huge prize money at stake, the women's tournament is part of the WTA Tour and the men's is part of the ATP Tour and always produces some explosive matches.

**Theme**

Sport

**Start Date**

23 Feb 2016

**End Date**

02 Mar 2016

**Date Description**

TBC.

**TBC**

Yes

**Cost**

Various.

**Website**

http://www.dubaidutyfreetennischampionships.com/

**Venue Name**

Dubai Tennis Stadium

**Thoroughfare**

Dubai Tennis Stadium

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

Medium

**Dubai Marathon**

Take in the dynamic sights of this world-renowned city while pounding a marathon, 10km (6 miles) road race or shorter charity run, depending on your ability. The Dubai marathon attracts local and international athletes every year, with big prize money for the winners.

**Theme**

Spectacle

**Start Date**

23 Jan 2016

**End Date**

23 Jan 2016

**Date Description**

XXX

**TBC**

Yes

**Cost**

Various fees according to race entered; different prices for UAE residents.

**Website**

http://www.dubaimarathon.org

**Venue Name**

Course starts and finishes at the Dubai World Trade Centre

**Thoroughfare**

Dubai World Trade Centre

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

Medium

**Dubai World Cup (horse race)**

A huge event not only in Dubai but in horse racing circles around the world, The Dubai World Cup is the richest horse race meeting globally. The Dubai World Cup is always the thrilling finale, but it is one race on the 2km (1.3 mile) sand and dirt track which is flood-lit at night and crowded with thousands of cheering spectators. A further five thoroughbred group races are included in the day's programme plus another group for purebred Arabian horses. The races attract some of the best horses and riders in the field, eager to compete for million of dollars that are at stake in prize money. This one is a must for horse racing aficionados.

**Theme**

Sport

**Start Date**

01 Mar 2016

**End Date**

28 Mar 2016

**Date Description**

XXX

**TBC**

Yes

**Cost**

Various.

**Website**

http://www.dubaiworldcup.com/

**Venue Name**

Nad Al Sheba Racecourse

**Thoroughfare**

Nad Al Sheba Racecourse.

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

Medium

**Dubai Shopping Festival**

All the big stores and almost every shop in Dubai slashes prices in this month-long retail extravaganza.

**Theme**

Home & Fashion

**Start Date**

01 Jan 2016

**End Date**

01 Feb 2016

**Date Description**

January-February

**TBC**

Yes

**Cost**

XXX

**Website**

http://www.mydsf.ae/en

**Venue Name**

Various shopping malls

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

High

**Al-Hijra (Islamic New Year)**

Celebrated throughout the Muslim World, the Islamic New Year or 'Al-Hijra' occurs on the first day of the month of Muharram which begins on Hijra in the Muslim calendar. Hijra occurred in 622CE and marks the occasion when the Prophet Muhammad emigrated from Mecca to Medina to create the first Islamic state. It is not as big as the two main Muslim festivals of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha and is more a time of reflection and contemplation.

**Theme**

Religion

**Start Date**

24 Oct 2015

**End Date**

25 Oct 2015

**Date Description**

Muslim festivals begin from sundown on the previous day.

**TBC**

Yes

**Cost**

Free.

**Website**

XXX

**Venue Name**

Throughout Dubai

**Thoroughfare**

Throughout Dubai

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Countrywide

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

Medium

**Hotels**

Dubai hotels don't come cheap but options range from some of the world's best and most iconic hotels (including the new Atlantis Hotel) to some simple, good value options for transit visitors.   
  
The hotels below have been classed into three pricing categories:   
Luxury (over Dh 2,000)   
Moderate (Dh1,000 to Dh2,000)   
Cheap (under Dh1,000)   
These prices are the starting prices for a double room, including tax but excluding breakfast, unless otherwise specified. Sales tax of 10% and service charges of 10% are automatically added to the bill at checkout; tipping of porters is expected.

**Sheraton Deira Hotel**

Perfect for business travellers, this central hotel's rooms have all mod cons, with three telephone lines, voicemail, Wi-Fi access and large safes. A number of state-of-the-art conference rooms are available to meet the different requirements of its business guests, with the centrepiece, Al Massah Ballroom, catering for up to 1,200 people. Other plusses include complimentary airport transfers, a rooftop pool with views over Dubai's skyline and no fewer than nine eating and drinking venues. For days off there are also free shuttle transfers to the Sheraton at Jumeirah Beach.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Al Mateena Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 268 8888.

**Website**

http://www.starwoodhotels.com

**Armani Hotel Dubai**

Located towards the base of the world’s tallest tower, the first Armani Hotel in the world makes a classy statement. The linear corridors resemble a catwalk and inside, the rooms are full of the great fashion man’s touches and surprises, although there’s an underlying functionality. The spartan lobby makes a refreshing change from the clutter you see in many hotels and the restaurants towards the back afford striking views of the Dubai Fountain. The large spa has some intriguing twists and turns, and beyond is a small but sumptuous pool – just float on your back and gaze up the tower, which seems to stretch up to the heavens.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Burj Khalifa

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 888 3888.

**Website**

http://dubai.armanihotels.com

**Al Bustan Rotana**

Conveniently located near the airport, Al Bustan Rotana's newly renovated rooms include the 'Club Rotana' executive floor and a range of luxurious suites. The first-floor rooms offer direct access to the outdoor pool and tennis courts. Voted the 'Best Thai Restaurant' in Dubai, the Blue Elephant with waterfalls and tropical foliage is a good place to relax.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Casablanca Road

**Neighborhood**

Al Garhoud

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 282 0000.

**Website**

http://www.rotana.com

**Jumeirah Emirates Towers**

These two ultra-modern skyscrapers are among the tallest buildings in the Middle East. Part office, part hotel, the towers are very conveniently located right at the heart of the Central Business District. Each state-of-the-art room is geared towards business guests - there is access to the Internet via high-speed modem points and the in-room TVs as well as individual fax/printer/copy machines, each with their own fax number. The deluxe rooms even have their own chaises longue.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Sheikh Zayed Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 330 0000.

**Website**

http://www.jumeirahemiratestowers.com

**Atlantis**

This outrageously decadent and eccentric hotel opened in November 2008 in a suitably flamboyant manner with more fireworks than the Beijing Olympics and a synchronised light show that illuminated the entire palm island. The hotel's location alone, at the top of the Palm Island, is a minor miracle given the logistics of building in the middle of the sea. Not to miss a trick, the hotel has brought some of that ocean breeze in through the windows in an aquarium that supports 65,000 marine animals, cared for by marine experts. Sleep with the sharks if you dare, in a room with an underwater view of this giant tank. Alternatively, swim with the dolphins in the on-site dolphin rehabilitation centre.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

The Palm

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 426 2000.

**Website**

http://www.atlantisthepalm.com

**Burj Al Arab**

The 'Arab Tower' has become one of the most instantly recognisable symbols of Dubai and for good reason. Visible from the air above the early morning steam clouds, and a beacon of postmodern chic from the becalmed night-time seas, it shimmers in the heat haze like the sail of the dhow that inspired its design. Quite simply, it's a spectacular piece of architecture. The interior, however, is another matter. The decadent and ornate colour scheme is quintessentially Middle Eastern and not to everyone's taste. Still, who cares when rooms, depending on price, come with dining tables and individual business centres, Jacuzzis, snooker tables, cocktail bars and even a private cinema.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Jumeirah Beach

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 301 7777.

**Website**

http://www.burj-al-arab.com/

**One&Only The Palm**

Occupying the final spot along the Western Crescent, One&Only The Palm marks the latest classy addition to Palm Jumeirah. With its Moorish-meets-European design, it features a 2,400sq m (25,833sq ft) spa and STAY restaurant from Michelin-starred chef, Yannick Alleno. In many ways it’s the antithesis of Atlantis, which you can see on the horizon; with just 91 keys, and four exclusive beach villas, the emphasis is on understated luxury.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Western Crescent

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 4401010.

**Website**

http://http://thepalm.oneandonlyresorts.com

**Citymax**

Citymax has targeted the budget market in a bold way, opening large properties in Al Barsha, near Mall of the Emirates, and in the heart of the central Bur Dubai district, posting rates from an affordable AED175 (and more recently in Sharjah too).

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Al Barsha

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

(04) 409 8000.

**Website**

XXX

**EasyHotel Dubai**

Another notable budget arrival has been EasyHotel in the Jebel Ali Free Zone, although its location isn’t as central. It is about 25km (16 miles) from the Jumeira public beaches and the Mall of the Emirates. All of the bedrooms are air conditioned and have wireless internet access.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Jafza, Street 724

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Dubai

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United Arab Emirates

**Telephone**

XXX

**Website**

http://www.easyhotel.com

**History**

Within less than 300 years, Dubai has grown from small pearl fishing village into a modern metropolis with a skyline studded with skyscrapers. The story begins with the current rulers, the Al Maktoum family.

In 1833, they led 800 members of the Bani Yas tribe to what is now Dubai Creek, where they set up home. The creek was a natural harbour and during the 19th century, it served as Dubai’s commercial engine, establishing itself as a centre for fishing, pearling and maritime trade. Old dhows (traditional sailing boats) still ply the routes between Dubai, India and beyond.

By the turn of the 20th century, Dubai had established itself as a successful port. The souk on the Deira side of the Creek was the largest on the coast with 350 shops, attracting a steady stream of visitors and businessmen. By the 1930s, the city’s population was nearly 20,000, a quarter of whom were expatriates.

In the 1950s the creek began to silt, so ruler Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum decided to have the waterway dredged. It was ambitious and costly project but one that proved visionary thanks to the vast increase of cargo traffic as a result.

When oil was discovered in 1966, Sheikh Rashid turned the petro-dollars into building projects, and also used it to kick-start the tourist industry. In 1971, Dubai became part of the United Arab Emirates following the British withdrawal. In 1972, the project was completed when the final emirate, Ras Al Khaimah, joined the fledgling country.

Even though the visionary Sheikh Rashid died in 2006, and was succeeded by his son Sheikh Mohammed, Dubai and the United Arab Emirates have continued to flourish.

The city state suffered a setback in 2008 when recession hit and it had to be bailed out by Abu Dhabi, but today Dubai is back on track and the cranes that dot its skyline are as busy as ever.

**Did you know?**  
• Before the discovery of oil, the pearl trade was Dubai’s major source of wealth.  
• The oldest reference to Dubai is by the Venetian Gasparo Balbi in 1580.  
• In 2001, Dubai became the home of the world’s largest artificial island, the Palm Jumeirah, which can be seen from space.

**Weather**

**Best Time To Visit**

Year-round sunny skies and warm waters make Dubai endlessly inviting. The heat and humidity of summer (between late April and early September) is offset by giant air-conditioned malls and enclosed public spaces. Indeed, Dubai must be the only city in the world where you can ski in the snow when the outside temperature is 50°C (122°F). If visiting the surrounding desert, it’s better to avoid the midsummer heat and plump for the balmy winter season. Shoppers will be particularly keen to time their visit with the Dubai Shopping Festival (January/February) when the city is abuzz with bargain hunters.

**Data**

**Dialling Code**

4

**Population**

1923403

**Population Year**

2011