

25/25 Dubai UAE

As the liberal, tax-free transit lounge between Europe and Asia, Dubai attracts visitors as diverse as Lebanese entrepreneurs, jellaba-wearing Saudi princes and sunburnt British tourists with a penchant for partying. The first Arab capital to build an urban rail network, Dubai is home to some of the Gulf's finest hotels, including the landmark Burj al Arab and Burj Khalifa. The best time to visit is between November and May, unless you enjoy 40C heat.

Essentials

- 01 It is prohibited to chew gum and carry take-away food or drinks on the metro.
- 02 Don't photograph local women unless you have permission.
- 03 Friday/Saturday is the weekend. Don't plan on doing any business on a Friday, it's a day for rest and prayer.
- 04 When introduced to a Muslim woman, wait for her to offer her hand. Some prefer not to.
- 05 Don't reject an offer of tea or coffee and always have more than one cup.

Guide/Info

Hotels

Independent and easy

Bonnington
Jumeirah Lakes Towers
+ 971 4 356 0000
bonningtontower.com

Dependable chain

Shangri-La
Sheikh Zayed Road
+ 971 4 343 8888
shangri-la.com

Premium

Desert Palm
Al Awir Road
+ 971 4 323 8888
desertpalm.ae

Dining

Fast breakfast

More Cafe
Mall of the Emirates,
Sheikh Zayed Road
+ 971 4 395 0967

Business breakfast

The Glasshouse
Hilton Dubai Creek
+ 971 4 212 7551
hilton.com

Mid-morning coffee

XVA Café
Bastakiya Historical
District
+ 971 4 3535383

Working lunch with colleagues

Al Nafoorah
Jumeirah Emirates Towers,
Sheikh Zayed Road
+ 971 4 319 8088
jumeirah.com

Need-to-impress-clients lunch

Zuma
Building 8
DIFC, Gate Village
+ 971 4 425 5660
zumarestaurant.com

Lunch on your own

Almaz by Momo
Harvey Nichols,
Mall of the Emirates,
Sheikh Zayed Road
+ 971 4 409 8877
malloftheemirates.com

Afternoon tea

Sahn Eddar
Burj Al Arab
+ 971 4 301 7777
burj-al-arab.com

Dinner with colleagues

Teatro
Towers Rotana Hotel
Sheikh Zayed Road
+ 971 4 343 8000
rotana.com

Private dinner

Rivington Grill
Souk Al Bahar,
Old Town Downtown Burj
Dubai
+ 971 4 423 0903
rivingtongrill.ae

Big dinner with partner/clients

Asado
The Palace Hotel,
Old Town Downtown Burj
Dubai
+ 971 4 428 7971
thepalace-dubai.com

Drink after dinner

360°
Jumeirah Beach Hotel,
Umm Suqeim
+ 971 4 406 8769 jumeirah.com
beachhotel.com

Late bite

RED Lounge Terrace
Raffles Dubai, Sheikh
Rashid Road, Wafi
+ 971 4324 8888
raffles.com

On the tiles

Armani Privé Club
Burj Khalifa, Dubai Mall
+ 971 4 888 3308
dubai.armanihotels.com

Reading

Bookshop

Kinokuniya
The Dubai Mall, Sheikh
Zayed Road
+ 971 4 434 0011
kinokuniya.com

Thank yous

Dates and delicacies

Bateel
Burjuman Shopping Mall,
Bur Dubai
+ 971 4 355 2853
bateel.ae

Shopping

Something you can't get anywhere else

Mosque alarm clock
Classic City, Satwa
+ 971 4 349 1012

Lost luggage – where to buy shirts, socks and underwear

Paul Smith
Burjuman, Bur Dubai
+ 971 4 359 0099
burjuman.com

Something for the kids

Camel dolls by The Camel Company
Shop 137, Souk Madinat
Jumeirah
+ 971 4 368 6048
madinatjumeirah.com/shopping

Something for someone you love

Artisan foodie supplies and fresh treats from the deli counter at Gourmet Lafayette.
The Dubai Mall
+ 971 4 339 9933
Something for yourself
Suit up with the help of Dubai's oldest tailoring dynasty, the Parmar family.
Bespoke,
DIFC, The Gate
+ 971 4 363 7237
bespoke.ae

Two-hour tour

- 01 Gate Village
DIFC, The Gate
+ 971 4 362 2222
- 02 Bastakiya Historical District
Old courtyard houses and windtowers.
Bur Dubai
dubaitourism.ae
- 03 Aerial city tour Seawings, Jebel Ali
The only way to get your head around Dubai is from the sky.
+ 971 4 883 2999
seawings.ae

Transport

Opt for taxis rather than renting cars. Some hotels provide guests with transport to and from the airport in addition to their own limousine services. Use the metro if possible, especially in the gridlocked rush hour.

Fitness

Good gym

Quantum Health Club
The Monarch Hotel,
Sheikh Zayed Road
+ 971 4 334 2966
themonarchdubai.com

Alternative diversion

Dolphin Bay
Atlantis Hotel, The Palm
+ 971 4 426 1030
atlantisthepalm.com

