



Country Information

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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About the country

General

Name of the country: United Arab Emirates

Area: 77,700 sq km

Population: 4.4 million

Capital: Abu Dhabi (1.5 million)

Government: Constitutional federation of seven emirates.

Geography: The Emirates are bordered to the north by the Gulf and the Musandam Peninsula, to the east by Oman, to the south and west by Saudi Arabia and to the northwest by Qatar. They comprise a federation of seven small former sheikhdoms. Abu Dhabi is the largest emirate, and the remainder (Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras al-Khaimah, Sharjah and Umm al-Qaiwain) are known collectively as the Northern States. The land is mountainous and mostly desert.

Language: Arabic is the official language. English is widely spoken and used as a second language in commerce.

Time: GMT + 4

Religion: Mostly Muslim, of which 16% are Shiite and the remainder Sunni.

Electricity: 220/240 volts AC, 50Hz. Square three-pin plugs are widespread.

Money

Currency: UAE Dirham (AED) = 100 fils. Notes are in denominations of AED 1,000, 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of AED1, and 50, 25, 10 and 5 fils (10 and 5 fils coins are rarely used).

Exchange Rates:

Currency Exchange Rates*			
AED 1.00 =	US\$ 0.2723	£ 0.1693	CHF 0.2917

* Date's rate: June 09

Credit cards: American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted.

Banking hours: Sat-Wed 0800-1300, Thurs 0800-1200. Some also open Sat-Wed 1630-1830.

Tipping: Most hotels and restaurants add fairly high service charges to the bill, therefore tipping is not necessary.

International travel

By Air

Main Airports

- **Abu Dhabi (AUH)** (website: www.abudhabiairport.ae) is 32km east of the city (journey time - 40 minutes). To/from the airport: Buses and taxis are available at the airport. Al-Ghazal taxis operate a fixed-rate service.

- **Dubai (DXB)** (website: www.dubaiairport.com) is 4km southeast of the city (journey time - 10 minutes). To/from the airport: Buses (tel.: 800 9090; website: www.rta.ae) and taxis are available at the airport. Bus stations are opposite both Terminal 1 and 2.

By water

Main ports: Jebel Ali, Rashid and Zayed (Abu Dhabi), Khalid (Sharjah), Saqr (Ras al-Khaimah) and Fujairah.

By road

There is a good road into Oman and also a good one into Saudi Arabia, which connects with the Trans-Arabian Highway on the overland route to Europe.

Buses run daily between Dubai or Abu Dhabi and Oman. There are also services between Dubai or Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia and between Abu Dhabi and Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

Visas & Passport information

If your country of nationality appears on the list below, no advance visa arrangements are required to visit the UAE. Simply disembark your flight at Dubai International Airport and proceed to Immigration, where your passport will be stamped with a 30-day visit visa. This can be extended for an additional 30 days at an additional charge.

Eligible countries

Australia	Hong Kong	Norway
Andorra	Iceland	Portugal
Austria	Ireland	San Marino
Brunei	Italy	Singapore
Belgium	Japan	South Korea
Canada	Liechtenstein	Spain
Denmark	Luxembourg	Sweden
Finland	Malaysia	Switzerland
France	Monaco	United Kingdom
Germany	Netherlands	United States of America
Greece	New Zealand	The Vatican

In addition to nationals of the countries listed above, citizens of the GCC nations of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia are eligible for the visa on arrival at Dubai International Airport.

Visas for all other travelers

For travelers from countries not listed above, you will need to have a sponsor to arrange a visa for you.

If you do not have family living in the UAE who can arrange your visa, please visit the [Dubai Department of Naturalization & Residency](#) website to find out more about other types of sponsors, such as hotels or companies.

Venue

Please check the [IB website](#).

Hotel Booking Form

Please check our Events Calendar at [IB website](#).

Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from the event.

Health & Safety

There is virtually zero crime rate in Abu Dhabi, and the Abu Dhabi Police has highly efficient law enforcement and emergency procedures in place. Law enforcement officers are also extremely courteous and helpful to visitors and residents alike.

Vaccinations against tuberculosis and hepatitis B are sometimes advised.

Medical facilities are of a very high quality but are extremely expensive. Private health insurance is essential.

Mains water in major cities is safe to drink, but in small villages it should be filtered or bottled water used. Milk is unpasteurized and should be boiled. Vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled.

Customs

Muslim religious laws should be observed. Women are expected to dress modestly and men should dress formally for most occasions. Alcohol is tolerated, with non-Muslims allowed to drink alcohol in the city's bars, restaurants, clubs and hotels. Smoking is banned in public places. It is illegal to eat, drink or smoke in public during Ramadan.

Climate

Straddling the Tropic of Cancer, the UAE is warm and sunny in winter and hot and humid during the summer months. Winter daytime temperatures average a very pleasant 26°C, although nights can be relatively cool, between 12–15°C on the coast, and less than 5°C in the depths of the desert or high in the mountains. Local north-westerly winds (shamal) frequently develop during the winter, bringing cooler windy conditions. Summer temperatures are in the mid-40s, but can be higher inland. Humidity in coastal areas averages between 50 and 60 per cent, touching over 90 per cent in summer and autumn. Inland it is far less humid.

Communications

Telephone

Country code: 971. Telephone calls within each state are free.

Emergency Calls

998 - Ambulance services

999 - Police (also +971 2 4461461)

997 - Fire

999 - Helicopter

Useful links

- Department of Naturalization & Residency – Dubai
<http://www.dnrd.ae>
- Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority
<http://www.visitabudhabi.ae>
- World Travel Guide
http://www.worldtravelguide.net/country/290/passport_visa/Middle-East/United-Arab-Emirates.html