

Dubai Travel Guidelines

What to expect and what to pack – the following are a few points that should help in preparation for your trip.

What to Pack

For the most part, you will see people dressed in Western/American style clothing, as there are a lot of foreign residents. You will not be expected to follow any cultural customs for dress, but the following is recommended to be respectful.

Men:

- Long pants and business casual attire (Kakis and light weight shirts) are preferred for day to day excursions
- Shoes: Anything goes; Shoes, Sneakers, and Sandals are fine
- Sport Jackets are recommended but not required for dinners and meetings
- At the Mosque: Where light weight shirt with sleeves
- Do not show bottom of your shoe when crossing legs – it is considered rude

Women:

- Somewhat conservative (nothing that will attract too much attention)
- Tank tops are OK
- At the Mosque: Where light weight shirt with sleeves
- Do not need to cover hair except Mosque
- Capris are OK
- Do not uncover to the point of attention
- Dresses and skirts acceptable
- Hair: Up or down
- Shoes: all OK
- Pashminas when cool (on the water, in AC)
- Do not show bottom of your shoe when crossing legs – it is considered rude
- Women do not extend hand to shake that of an Emirate man, it is against customs

What to Expect While Traveling

How do you reference the locals?

- Outside of the many European, Russian and German residents in Dubai, the local people are referred to as Emirati or Dubaians, not “natives”

Where can I get a beer?

- Hotel restaurants are licensed to serve alcohol; local restaurants are not.
- Guests are responsible for the expense of alcohol ordered during their visit with the exception of when they attend a hosted event.

What is the currency?

- AED or Dirham
- 3.65 / rate of exchange (extremely stable)
- 1 USD = 4 Dirham
- You can exchange money at hotel, ATM, airport, etc. and it will not be more expensive than a bank

Money and Tipping?

- All major credit cards are accepted
- It is recommended to tip in local currency
 - Restaurant = 10%
 - Bus boys: 2 Bags = 5 Dirham
 - Taxi: 10%

What should I expect in town?

- No strong/uncomfortable police presence
- You can hail or call a taxi through the concierge (we will have a driver for all group activities)
- Extremely low crime rate

What can I do after-hours?

- Bars, Cafes and Nightclubs:
 - Vibrant and lively
 - Many have live bands and world-renowned DJs

How do I call home?

- Using email or Skype from an internet cafe or Wi-Fi hotspot works best
- Your hotel will also have wireless internet and you can make international calls from your room (phone charges and incidentals are the responsibility of each guest and can be quite expensive)
- Consider buying a prepaid phone overseas. If you take a cell phone, be sure to sign up for a temporary international plan and insurance for your device

Social Ethics

Dubai is characterized by the interaction of a large number of cultures and nationalities. However, the culture, customs and traditions of the United Arab Emirates and its people shall be respected by adopting courtesy and moderation and avoiding all types of improper behavior in the Emirate.

The symbols of the state:

It is the duty of every citizen, resident and visitor to show respect for the symbols of the United Arab Emirates' rulers, flag and national emblem. The abuse of any of those symbols is a crime punishable by law.

Public displays of affection:

Displays of affection among couples - whether married or not - in public places does not fit the local customs and culture. Holding hands for a married couple is tolerated but kissing and petting are considered an offence to public decency. Public displays of affection, as well as sexual harassment or randomly addressing women in public places is liable to be punished by imprisonment or deportation.

Dancing and music:

Loud music and dancing are forbidden in public places like parks, beaches or residential areas and must be restricted to licensed venues only.

Substance abuse:

The consumption of alcohol as well as any other drug or psychotropic substance is strictly prohibited in Islam and is punishable by law. Due to the large diversity of cultures and nationalities present in Dubai, alcohol consumption is closely regulated.

Drugs:

Holding, consuming, buying or selling any kind of drug - in any quantity - as well as being tested positive to any drug by the authorities in the UAE is considered a crime.

Alcohol consumption:

Alcohol consumption shall be confined to designated areas (i.e. licensed restaurants and venues that serve alcohol to their clients). Being caught under the effect of alcohol outside these places (even in light doses) can lead to a fine or incarceration. The UAE has adopted a zero-tolerance policy in terms of driving under the effect of alcohol. Being caught driving with even the smallest dose of alcohol can lead to a fine, incarceration or deportation.

Prescriptions for some medicines:

Some medicines containing psychotropic substances are forbidden in the UAE. Their holders must carry a prescription from a UAE-licensed medical doctor. Visitors shall verify that their medicines are allowed in the UAE before entering the country.

Insults:

Swearing, profanities, insults and all kinds of vulgar language are strictly forbidden in Dubai and are legally reprehensible in case of complaint. All kinds of aggressive or offensive gestures are considered a public offence and are subjected to fines or imprisonment.

Photography:

Photos of people - and especially photos of women and families - in public places shall not be taken without their permission. Taking photos of people is a sensitive issue in Dubai's local culture.

Littering and spitting:

Spitting in public and littering waste or cigarette butts in public areas are considered an offence and are subjected to fines.

Ramadan:

During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn to sunset. Throughout this month, eating, drinking or smoking in public spaces during daylight is considered a public offence and is punishable by law.

IMPORTANT NOTES WHILE VISITING MOSQUES/OLD AREAS

- Modest, conservative, loose fitting clothing; long sleeves, long skirts and trousers
- No transparent (see-through) clothing
- No shorts for men
- For Women, no shorts and skirts must be ankle length
- No tight clothing, no swimwear and no beachwear
- Shoes will be removed before entering the mosque, so we recommend slip off shoes
- Headscarf for ladies is essential (these can be provided when you arrive)
- Intimate behavior; i.e. holding hands or kissing is not acceptable in a Muslim place of worship or in most public areas
- For respect to worshippers, visitors should always stay with the guide
- Smoking and food are not allowed in the mosque area
- Visitors are requested not to touch the Holy Quran (Holy Book) and other architectural elements inside the main prayer hall.



آداب المسجد ضوابط اللباس

MOSQUE MANNERS DRESS CODE

ALLOWED مسموح

NOT ALLOWED غير مسموح

PLEASE ADHERE TO يرجى



المحافظة على الهدوء
SILENCE



عدم التدخين
NO SMOKING



إطفاء الهواتف المتحركة
SWITCH OFF MOBILE PHONE



عدم إدخال الأطعمة
NO FOOD, NO DRINKS

• No transparent (see through) clothing.

• يرجى عدم ارتداء الملابس الشفافة

• No shorts and skirts

• يرجى عدم ارتداء الملابس والتنانير القصيرة

• No sleeveless shirts

• يرجى عدم ارتداء قميص بدون أكمام

• No clothing with profanity

• يرجى عدم ارتداء ملابس برسومات غير لائقة

• No tight clothing, no swimwear
and no beachwear

• يرجى عدم ارتداء الملابس الضيقة أو
ملابس السباحة