

**DUBAI**

**Dubai** is one of the seven emirates and the most populous city of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). It is located along the southern coast of the **Persian Gulf** on the **Arabian Peninsula**. The Dubai Municipality is sometimes called **Dubai city** to distinguish it from the emirate.

Written accounts document the existence of the city for at least 150 years prior to the formation of the UAE. Dubai shares legal, political, military and economic functions with the other emirates within a federal framework, although each emirate has jurisdiction over some functions such as civic law enforcement and provision and upkeep of local facilities. Dubai has the largest population and is the second largest emirate by area, after **Abu Dhabi**. Dubai and Abu Dhabi are the only two emirates to possess veto power over critical matters of national importance in the country's legislature. Dubai has been ruled by the Al Maktoum dynasty since 1833. Dubai's current ruler, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, is also the Prime Minister and Vice President of the UAE.

The emirate's main revenues are from tourism, trade, real estate and financial services. Dubai has attracted attention through its real estate projects and sports events. This increased attention, coinciding with its emergence as a world business hub, has highlighted labor and human rights issues concerning its largely foreign workforce.



**Dubai Shopping Festival (DSF):** started on February 15, 1996 as a retail event intended to revitalise retail trade in Dubai. It has since been promoted as a tourist attraction. This yearly month long event is usually scheduled during the first quarter of the year.

During **Dubai Shopping Festival**, shops offer deep discounts on their merchandise, daily car raffles are drawn, and fireworks light Dubai's night sky. Tourists from all around the world are lured not only for Dubai's tax free shopping, but also for all of the events that take place during the festival.

**Burj Dubai:** is a supertall skyscraper in the Downtown Burj Dubai district of Dubai, and is the tallest man-made structure ever built, despite being incomplete. Construction began on 21 September 2004.

**Ski Dubai:** is claimed to be one of the largest indoor ski resorts in the world, with 22,500-square metres of indoor ski area. It is a part of the Mall of the **Emirates**.

An extremely efficient insulation system is the key to maintain the temperature of -1 degrees Celsius during the day and -6 degrees during the night when the snow is produced.

Ski Dubai has 5 runs of varying difficulties, the longest being 400m.



**The Mall of the Emirates:** is a shopping mall in **Dubai**. The mall was designed by the American architectural firm, F+A Architects. It contains approximately 2,400,000 square feet (223,000 m<sup>2</sup>) of shops and the entire mall forms a total of approximately 6.5 million square feet.

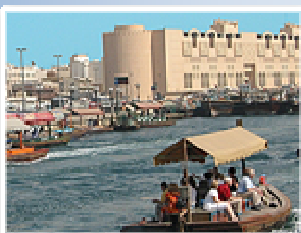
Although it features the usual amenities for a mall (a fourteen-screen movie theater, a gaming arena, a typical variety of stores, and a dramatic theater), its biggest claim to fame is the **Middle**

**East's** first indoor ski slope.

**Beaches and sea.** There are endless water-sport opportunities as Dubai has some of the whitest and sandiest beaches in the world. Ocean temperatures range from 22°C in winter up to 35°C in summer. One can make the 90 minute road journey to the East coast Emirate of Fujairah or the Sharjah enclave, Khor Fakkan, for top class diving on coral reefs supporting extensive marine life.

**Desert Safari or Dune Bashing.** Head out to the desert in an SUV with specialist Desert Drivers. The drivers will take you for a roller-coaster ride over sand dunes, show you the sunset from a strategic vantage point and then take you to a lavish dinner with music and dance to complete the atmosphere.

**Wild Wadi :** Located in the heart of the city, next to Jumeriah Beach Hotel, this is a water amusement park that is loved by kids as well as adults. It has light as well as adventurous rides; and sports like water surfing.



**Dubai Creek Cruise/Ride :** The Dubai creek is the foundation from which Dubai grew. It originally served as a port for trading vessels plying to and from India, Africa and the Middle East. Today a bit of the old shipping culture still remains. In and around the creek one can see some of the original buildings that have served as customs houses and defense structures. You can book a ride on the creek with a dinner cruise or even rent a private boat to take you on a hour long ride up and down the creek.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### **Tourism Office of Dubai**

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