



## United Arab Emirates Country Guide

### Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to the United Arab Emirates Tourist Entry Requirements

Australian ordinary passport holders travelling to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as a tourist are generally not required to have a pre-obtained visa. Upon arrival in the UAE, Australian nationals will usually be issued with a visa free of charge which will allow them to stay in the Emirates for up to 30 days. Passports are recommended to be valid for six months beyond the period of intended stay. Travellers should also be able to show documentation confirming their return or onward tickets and travel documents.

Additional conditions may apply to minors. Travellers are recommended to contact a UAE mission on the details below for further information and to ensure their specific circumstances make them eligible receive a visa on arrival in the UAE.

### Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Thu, 1st November 2018.

*Exercise normal safety precautions in the UAE. Use common sense. Look out for suspicious behaviour as you would in Australia. See [Safety and security](#). All tourists and residents entering the UAE need prior approval to carry medication for personal use. See [Entry and exit](#). It's an offence to show sympathy or bias towards Qatar, or to object to the UAE Government's current policy. This includes social media. Local laws closely reflect Islamic practices and beliefs. Familiarise yourself with local laws and their impact on your personal circumstances, before you travel. See [Laws](#). The UAE has very strict laws regulating social behaviour, including social media. It's illegal to take photographs of people without their consent. Posting photos on social media with people in the background can violate this law. It's also illegal to make offensive comments about other people, the UAE or its government or royal family, including on social media. See [Laws](#). Legal processes are significantly different from those in Australia. If you're arrested, you may be detained for a significant period of time before trial. Even simple issues can be complex and take a long time to resolve. See [Laws](#). Not paying a bill or fine are considered criminal acts. If you become involved in litigation, you may be prevented from leaving. See [Laws](#).*

*Sex outside of marriage and homosexuality, are illegal. Victims of sexual assault may face criminal prosecution rather than being considered the victim. Some sexual assault victims have been imprisoned after reporting an incident to local police or upon seeking medical assistance. See [Laws](#). The UAE has zero tolerance on the trafficking and possession of illegal drugs. Penalties include the death penalty. Some medications available over the counter or by prescription in Australia are illegal in the UAE. See [Health](#).*

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in the UAE at [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au).

### Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a traveller's individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to the UAE. Frequent travellers or those intending a long stay should consider vaccination against hepatitis B, whilst vaccination against typhoid should be considered by those travelling to areas where sanitation and hygiene may be poor. Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations, including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures.

- Australians travelling to the UAE should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries (see the "Traveling with Medication" page on the UAE Embassy website listed below). Travellers carrying medication are advised to seek permission to enter the UAE with them from the UAE Ministry of Health at [www.mohap.gov.ae/en/services/Pages/361.aspx](http://www.mohap.gov.ae/en/services/Pages/361.aspx). For more information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit [www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips).

### Representatives of the UAE in Australia

Embassy of the United Arab Emirates, Canberra

12 Bulwarra Close  
O'MALLEY ACT 2606

Tel: (02) 6286 8802  
Fax: (02) 6286 8804

United Arab Emirates Consulate General, Melbourne

Level 4, 470 Collins Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Tel: (03) 9622 2000

Web: [www.uaembassy.org.au](http://www.uaembassy.org.au)



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### Time Differences between the United Arab Emirates and Australia

The UAE is GMT +4 hours. Daylight saving is not observed. The applicable time zone is called Gulf Standard Time (GST).

UAE, 12 noon, Winter (Dec) = Perth 4pm, Darwin 5:30pm, Brisbane 6pm, Adelaide 6:30pm, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 7pm.

UAE, 12 noon, Summer (Jun) = Perth 4pm, Darwin, Adelaide 5:30pm, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney, 6pm.

### Important Contact Numbers

UAE Country Code: +971

City Prefix Codes:

Dubai \*4 Abu Dhabi \*2  
 Al Khaimah \*7 Fujairah \*9

\*Prefix with 0 if calling from inside The UAE

To Dial Australia from the UAE Call:  
 00 61 <City> <Number>

Australian Reverse Charges Direct: 800 11 61

Travelex Card Services:  
 800 044 0089

Visa Global Assistance:  
 Call Australia 00 61 2 9251 3704

MasterCard:  
 Call the US on 00 1 636 722 7111

American Express Travellers Cheques:  
 800 0441 9406

Emergency Services:  
 Police 999  
 Fire 997  
 Ambulance 998 or 999

The emergency services may not always have English speaking staff. In this case, you should have a local call on your behalf or contact the Australian Embassy.

### Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Travel Insurance

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Arabic Words and Phrases

Yes	-	na'am	No	-	laa
Thank you	-	shokran	Please	-	Min Fadilak
Hello	-	Ahalan	Goodbye	-	Ma'a ElSalama
Where is..?	-	Ain ...?	Airport	-	Matar
Train station	-	Mahatit Al kitar	Bus station	-	Mahatit Al Autobees
Police Station	-	Kissam Shorta	Hospital	-	Mostashifa
Chemist	-	Sidali'ia	Cheers!	-	Fi sahitak
Coffee	-	Kahioa	Tea	-	Shai
Juice	-	Asir	Water	-	Ma'a
Beer	-	Bira	Wine	-	Khamr
Tourist Information	-		Mailomat al Sa'ih		
Do you speak English?	-		Hal Tatakalm Alingli'zia		
Where is the bathroom?	-		Ain Alhamaam?		
Please bring the bill	-		El Fatora Min Fadilak		
Do you accept credit cards?	-		Hal takibal bitakit el aitiman?		

### Australian Representation in the United Arab Emirates

Australian Embassy, UAE

8th Floor, Al Muhairy Centre  
 Zayed the First Street  
 ABU DHABI

Tel: (+971 2) 401 7500  
 Fax: (+971 2) 401 7501  
 Web: [www.uae.embassy.gov.au](http://www.uae.embassy.gov.au)

Australian Consulate General, Dubai

Level 25, Bur Juman Business Tower  
 Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Road  
 Mankhool, Bur Dubai  
 DUBAI

Tel: (+971 4) 508 7100  
 Fax: (+971 4) 355 1547

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in the UAE are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian Embassy in Abu Dhabi, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at [www.orao.dfat.gov.au](http://www.orao.dfat.gov.au).



## United Arab Emirates Country Guide

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### Duty Free Allowances for the UAE and Australia

Allowances when entering the Emirate of Dubai by air:  
 Alcohol: 4 L of alcoholic beverages or 2 cartons of beer.  
 Tobacco: 400 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 500g of tobacco.  
 Perfume: Reasonable amounts  
 Total Tax Free Goods: Not to exceed AED 3,000.

Allowances when entering Australia:  
 Alcohol: 2.25 L  
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.  
 Other Tax Free Goods: Up to \$900 (\$450 for minors)

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting the UAE and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. As each emirate within the UAE has its own customs department, the above allowances may vary by emirate. For further information on UAE customs and a list of the individual customs departments please visit [www.fca.gov.ae](http://www.fca.gov.ae). For further information on Australian customs please visit [www.homeaffairs.gov.au](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au).

### Electrical Adaptors and Voltage

Electrical socket: British (type G) sockets are the most common but European (type C) sockets may also be found in some areas.

Supply: 220-240 V, 50 Hz (same as Australia).

A voltage converter will not usually be required to use appliances designed for Australian use. A socket converter is generally all that is required for Australian appliances.

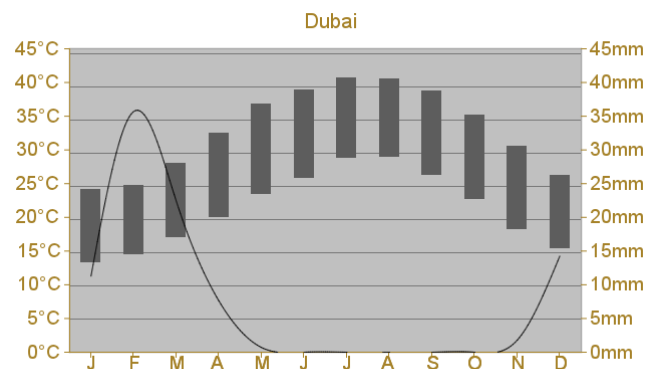
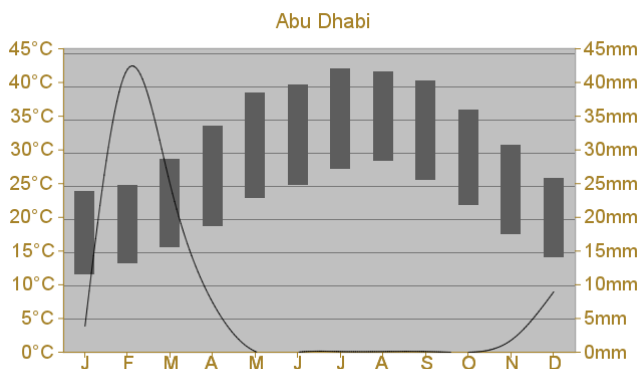


### Holidays in the UAE 2018

01 Jan: New Year's Day  
 13 Apr: Ascension of Mohammed  
 14 - 17 Jun: End of Ramadan  
 20 Aug: Arafat (Haj) Day  
 21 - 23 Aug: Feast of Sacrifice  
 11 Sep: Islamic New Year  
 21 Nov: Birth of Mohammed  
 30 Nov: Commemoration Day  
 02 Dec: National Day

Islamic holidays are determined by the sighting of the moon and thus may vary slightly to those dates outlined above. The weekend in the UAE is Friday (holy day of rest) and Saturday.

### Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in The United Arab Emirates



For local forecasts please go to [www.bbc.co.uk/weather](http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather).

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## United Arab Emirates Country Guide

### Page 4 of 5 United Arab Emirates Currency Information and Cheat Sheet Exchange Rate Purchasing Power Parity

#### Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 2.61 UAE Dirhams  
 1 UAE Dirham (AED) = 0.38 Australian Dollars

#### With 8% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 2.42 UAE Dirhams  
 1 UAE Dirham (AED) will cost 0.41 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 8% Margin" adds 8% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging these currencies. These currency rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

The following is a purchasing-power comparison of the United Arab Emirates Dirham and the Australian Dollar, using the Big Mac as a common good. While it does not present a faultless comparison, it is a useful indicator of the purchasing power of each currency.

Big Mac Australia: \$5.95 (AUD) = 15.5 UAE Dirham  
 Big Mac UAE: 14 (AED) = \$5.37 Australian Dollars

*A Big Mac in The United Arab Emirates is therefore 10% less expensive than in Australia.*

This comparison is based on 2018 prices using current exchange rates. Prices may not include variations by locality or local taxes.

### Currency Cheat Sheet

This cheat sheet uses the "With 8% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.	
5 AED = \$2.07 AUD	100 AED = \$41.39 AUD
10 AED = \$4.14 AUD	200 AED = \$82.79 AUD
20 AED = \$8.28 AUD	300 AED = \$124.18 AUD
30 AED = \$12.42 AUD	400 AED = \$165.58 AUD
40 AED = \$16.56 AUD	500 AED = \$206.97 AUD
50 AED = \$20.70 AUD	600 AED = \$248.37 AUD
60 AED = \$24.84 AUD	700 AED = \$289.76 AUD
70 AED = \$28.98 AUD	800 AED = \$331.16 AUD
80 AED = \$33.12 AUD	900 AED = \$372.55 AUD
90 AED = \$37.26 AUD	1,000 AED = \$413.95 AUD
	2,000 AED = \$827.90 AUD
	3,000 AED = \$1,241.85 AUD
	4,000 AED = \$1,655.80 AUD
	5,000 AED = \$2,069.75 AUD
	6,000 AED = \$2,483.70 AUD
	7,000 AED = \$2,897.65 AUD
	8,000 AED = \$3,311.60 AUD
	9,000 AED = \$3,725.55 AUD
	10,000 AED = \$4,139.50 AUD

### Notes and Coins

The currency of the United Arab Emirates is the Dirham. The subunit of the dirham is called "fils", of which there are 100 in every dirham. The following units of currency are the most common however other units are also in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images before travelling.





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**About the United Arab Emirates**

**Established:** 2 December 1971  
 (from the Trucial Sheikdoms, which were autonomous under the protection of the UK).

**Size:** 83,600 sq km (20% larger than Tasmania).

**Population:** 8.5 million (1 mil. Emiratis, 7.5 mil migrants).

**Ethnic Groups:** South Asian 50%, Other Arab and Persian 23%, Emirati 19%, Westerners and East Asians 8%.

**Language:** Arabic is the official language, but English is widely used as a second language.

**Religion:** Islam is the official state religion (mostly Sunni).

**GDP Per Capita:** US\$29,900 (Australia US\$43,000)

**Significant Dates:**

3000 BC - First recorded human settlement of the area.

630 AD - Islam is introduced to the local Bedouin tribes.

1515-1633 - The Portuguese briefly begin to garrison the area.

1820 - First of a number of treaties between the British and local sheiks. These treaties keep other foreign powers out of the region in exchange for British protection. The area becomes known as the Trucial States.

1950's - Oil is discovered in Abu Dhabi and later in other areas.

1961 - The first paved road in Abu Dhabi is completed.

1969 - Oil is exported from Dubai for the first time.

1971 - British withdrawal, the United Arab Emirates is formed.

1960's to present - Oil revenues transform the UAE from a small backwater into a centre of commerce, tourism & trade.

