Traveling with Medication

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 summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

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 travellers 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. For more information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit 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
Web: www.uaeembassy.org.au

United Arab Emirates Consulate General, Melbourne
Level 4, 470 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000
Tel: (03) 9622 2000
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 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
Thank you - shokran
Hello - Ahalan
Where is...? - Ain ...?
Train station - Mahatit Al kitar
Police Station - Kissam Shorta
Chemist - Sidali'a
Coffee - Kahiaa
Juice - Asir
Beer - Bira

Tourist Information -
Do you speak English?
Where is the bathroom?
Please bring the bill
Do you accept credit cards?

No - laa
Please - Min Fadilak
Goodbye - Ma’a ElSalama
Airport - Matar
Bus station - Mahatit Al Autobees
Hospital - Mostashifa
Cheers! - Fi sahitak
Tea - Shay
Water - Ma’a
Wine - Khamrr

Mailomat al Sa’ih
Hal Tatakalm Alingli’zia
Ain Alhamaam
El Fatora Min Fadilak
Hal takibal bitakit el altiman?

United Arab Emirates Country Guide

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

**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.

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Duty Free Allowances for the UAE and Australia

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.

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. For further information on Australian customs please visit 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.
Purchasing Power Parity

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 AED</th>
<th>$2.07 AUD</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 AED</td>
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<td>$8.28 AUD</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>900 AED</td>
<td>$372.55 AUD</td>
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<td>2,000 AED</td>
<td>$827.90 AUD</td>
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<td>3,000 AED</td>
<td>$1,241.85 AUD</td>
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<td>4,000 AED</td>
<td>$1,655.80 AUD</td>
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<td>5,000 AED</td>
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<td>6,000 AED</td>
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<tr>
<td>10,000 AED</td>
<td>$4,139.50 AUD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
Established: 2 December 1971 (from the Trucial Sheikhdoms, 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.