



# ULTIMATE GULF HISTORIC TRAVEL GUIDE FOR DUBAI

## INTRODUCTION TO DUBAI: **A CITY OF WONDERS**

Welcome to Dubai, the dazzling city of the United Arab Emirates. Known for its luxurious lifestyle, futuristic architecture, and endless entertainment options, Dubai is a top destination for travellers from around the world.

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In this comprehensive guide, we'll provide you with practical tips and advice to make your exploration of Dubai and the wider Gulf region a memorable and enriching experience. Read on to discover the best spots to visit, fun experiences for the whole family, the finest restaurants to savour to help make your Dubai experience unforgettable both on and off track.







## 1 / Burj Khalifa

Start your Dubai journey by visiting the iconic Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building. Enjoy breath-taking panoramic views from the observation deck on the 148th floor.

## 2 / Dubai Mall

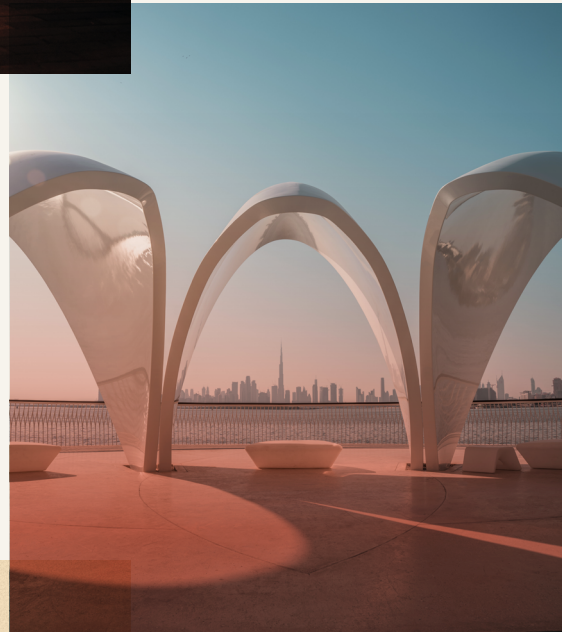
Adjacent to Burj Khalifa, explore the Dubai Mall, one of the world's largest shopping centres. Besides shopping there's fun for all the family. You can get up close with underwater wildlife at Dubai Aquarium, skate on an Olympic-sized ice rink or give your children an experience that combines learning and play in activity-packed indoor city, Kidzania.

## 3 / Palm Jumeirah

Visit the man-made island of Palm Jumeirah, shaped like a palm tree. You can relax on pristine beaches, enjoy water sports, or dine in one of the luxurious beachfront restaurants.

## 4 / Dubai Marina

Stroll along the Dubai Marina promenade, lined with skyscrapers and trendy cafes. Take a boat tour or dine at one of the many waterside restaurants.



## 5 / Dubai Desert

The beauty and expanse of the desert surrounding Dubai is a must see during your trip. Immerse yourself in the magic of the desert with a thrilling safari trip which combines a number of experiences from dune bashing, camel rides to sandboarding and buggy rides, followed by an Arabian dinner with traditional entertainment under the stars.



## 6 / Ski Dubai

Ever wanted to go skiing in the desert? The 22,500m<sup>2</sup> indoor ski resort, Ski Dubai, offers a variety of activities and gives you a chance to ski, snowboard, meet the penguins, zip line or take a chairlift ride.

## 7 / Global Village

Why not go on a round-the-world trip, without actually leaving Dubai. The Global Village combines cultures from 90 countries in one location with food, entertainment and shopping all representing their respective nations.

## 3 / Kartdrome

Want to put your racing driver skills to the test? Keen racers aged 13+ can do just that at Dubai Autodrome's 1.2km floodlit, outdoor circuit. Featuring 17-turns, a tunnel and a bridge, the exciting track hosts arrive and drive sessions daily. There is also a 620m indoor circuit aimed at younger drivers (aged 7+).



## 9 / Ferrari World Abu Dhabi

Just an hour's drive from Dubai is the home of the world's fastest rollercoaster – Ferrari World. The world's first Ferrari-themed park also features the highest loop ride, the tallest space-frame structure ever built on the planet and over 40 record-breaking attractions.

## 10 / Gold Souk

When you're visiting the "City of Gold" it's fitting to take a trip to this traditional market. Located in Dubai's commercial business district in Deira, the souk is home to over 380 retailers, most of whom are jewellery traders. Be sure to stop by to pick up a statement piece or special memento from your visit to Dubai, with prices that aren't set in stone.

Dubai offers a diverse culinary scene with options to satisfy every palate. Here are some must-visit restaurants:

## Pierchic ———— (\$ \$)

For seafood lovers, Pierchic is an overwater restaurant at the end of a pier. It offers fresh catches and a romantic setting.

## Zuma ———— (\$ \$ \$)

Indulge in Japanese cuisine at Zuma, a trendy restaurant known for its sushi and robata grill dishes.

## 3Fils ———— (\$)

A culinary gem, 3Fils offers a delightful experience with no reservations required.

## Ninive ———— (\$ \$ \$)

Enjoy exceptional Arabic cuisine surrounded by stunning décor at this authentic restaurant in the Jumeirah Emirates Towers.

## Nusr-Et ———— (\$ \$)

An acclaimed steakhouse restaurant at the Four Seasons, Nusr-Et is the creation of famously charismatic Nusret Gökçe, a butcher and meat specialist.

## HoneyComb ———— (\$ \$)

Experience local flavours at HoneyComb, a hidden gem in Dubai's culinary scene with Izakaya style dining and stunning rotating art exhibitions.



## One & Only Royal Mirage — (\$ \$)

This hotel features 16 remarkable restaurants, bars and lounges, each with its own deliciously authentic menus to indulge in.

## Sal's Bistro ———— (\$)

Overlooking the lake in the Jumeirah Islands Pavilion, this bistro serves a wide variety of cuisine in a picturesque, peaceful setting.

## CARS Café ———— (\$)

This automotive-focused community café is a great spot to grab breakfast, a light lunch or a coffee while on site given its welcoming atmosphere, motoring memorabilia and convenient location within the Dubai Autodrome paddock.

## Gaia ———— (\$ \$)

This stylish restaurant in Dubai is known for its modern ambiance and a menu that highlights the flavors of the Mediterranean region. It's a top choice for those seeking a taste of Mediterranean cuisine in the city.

## Le Petit Belge ———— (\$)

Popular restaurant in the heart of Motor City known for its traditional Belgian cuisine and a cozy, pub-like ambiance. It's a favorite spot for those seeking Belgian classics like moules-frites and a variety of Belgian beers closed to the Dubai Autodrome and ParkInn Hotel.

## Sansation ———— (\$)

Indulge in Japanese cuisine at Zuma, a trendy restaurant. Located near to the Dubai Autodrome in Motor City, this Mediterranean restaurant is a real hidden gem with a welcoming atmosphere and excellent food. Known for its sushi and robata grill dishes.



## Visa and Passport 🛂

Ensure that you have a valid passport with at least six months of validity from your intended departure date. Check the visa requirements for your nationality and obtain the necessary visa if required.

## Currency 🇦🇪

The currency used in Dubai is the **UAE Dirham (AED)**. Exchange some currency at the airport or local banks, or use ATMs to withdraw cash. Credit cards are widely accepted.

## Language 🌐

Whilst **Arabic** is the official language, **English** is commonly spoken and understood, especially in tourist areas. Signs and information are often in both languages.



## Local Laws and Customs 🚫

- Dress modestly, especially when visiting religious sites or public places.
- Public displays of affection are strongly discouraged.
- Drinking alcohol in public places is not allowed.
- Don't drink alcohol if you're driving. The UAE has a zero-tolerance policy in place.
- Be respectful of local customs and cultures. As for permission before taking photos of people, especially in traditional areas.

## Transportation 🚗

- Taxis and ride-sharing services are readily available.
- Renting a car is an option, but traffic can be challenging, and road rules are strictly enforced.



## Weather 🌤️

During the Gulf Historic, temperatures are expected to be around **25 to 30 degrees** Celsius maximum. There is a higher chance of rain, and flooding, in the region in December.

## Shopping Hours 🛍️

Most shops and malls in Dubai open late in the morning until late in the evening (22h).

## Tipping 💵

Tipping is customary in Dubai. In restaurants, it's common to leave a **10-15% tip** if a service charge is not already included. Tipping is also appreciated by hotel staff and taxi drivers.

## Apps to download 📱

**Careem** is your one-stop-shop when in Dubai. Covering a number of transport options (taxi, bike, car rental) in addition to food deliveries, groceries, tickets and salon treatments, it is highly recommended for making your trip as convenient as possible.

## Safety 🚔

Dubai is generally considered a **safe destination** for all visitors.

## Emergency Numbers 📞

Memorise or save emergency contact numbers, including **999** (police), **998** (ambulance), and **997** (fire) for any unforeseen emergencies.

## Electrical Outlets ⚡

Dubai uses the **Type G** electrical outlet with a voltage of 230V and a frequency of 50Hz (UK). Bring appropriate adapters and converters if necessary.

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By following these practical tips, you can ensure *a smooth and enjoyable visit* to Dubai while respecting the local culture and regulations. Dubai offers a rich and diverse experience that we hope this guide will help you make the most of during your trip.

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