

# UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) IMPORTANT TRAVEL INFORMATION

## PREPARATION FOR TRAVEL

### U.S. passports

U.S. Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html)

Be sure your passport is up to date.

### UAE – Country specific information

U.S. Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1050.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1050.html)

This link will provide you with important information before you begin your trip to the UAE including country description, entry/exit requirements, safety and security, crime, information for victims of crime, medical facilities and health information, medical insurance, traffic safety and road conditions, aviation safety oversight, special circumstances, criminal penalties, children's issues and registration/embassy location.

### **UAE visa**

- U.S. Department of State:  
[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1050.html#entry\\_requirements](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1050.html#entry_requirements)  
A passport is required. For stays of less than 60 days, U.S. citizens holding valid passports may obtain visitor visas at the port of entry for no fee.
- UAE Interact: <http://www.uaeinteract.com/travel/visas.asp>

### **Embassy of the UAE**

3522 International Court, NW, Washington, DC 20037

Tel: (202) 243-2400

### **Travel alert for Arabian Peninsula and Persian Gulf**

U.S. Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/pa/pa\\_1155.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1155.html)

### **Health information for travelers to the UAE - Vaccinations and other health precautions**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinationUnitedArabEmirates.aspx>

Be sure you read through this guide.

### **Safety tips for traveling abroad**

- UAE Interact: <http://www.uaeinteract.com/travel/>
- U.S. Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips\\_1232.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html)  
This is an important safety guide. Please make sure you read through this guide. Register your travel plans with the State Department at <https://travelregistration.state.gov> is recommended by the State Department.

**OVERSEAS CITIZENS SERVICES:** Call 1-888-407-4747 (from overseas: 202-501-4444) for answers related to questions concerning the:

- Death of an American citizen abroad
- Arrest/detention of an American citizen abroad
- Robbery of an American citizen abroad
- American citizens missing abroad
- Crisis abroad involving American citizens
- After-hours number for an emergency involving an American citizen abroad

### **The U.S. Embassy and Consulate General in the UAE:**

#### **The U.S. Embassy in Abu Dhabi:**

Located at Embassies District

Plot 38, Sector W59-02, Street No. 4, P.O. Box 4009

Workweek: Sunday through Thursday

Tel: (971) (2) 414-2200

Fax (Consular Section): (971) (2) 414-2241

The email address for American Citizens Services inquiries, including passport questions, is [abudhabiacs@state.gov](mailto:abudhabiacs@state.gov). The after-hours telephone number is (971) (2) 414-2500.

Website: <http://uae.usembassy.gov>

### **The U.S. Consulate General in Dubai:**

Located on the 21st floor of the Dubai World Trade Center, P.O. Box 9343

Workweek: Sunday through Thursday

Tel: (971) (4) 311-6000 (for after-hours emergencies, contact the Embassy at (971)(2) 414-2200 for the Dubai Duty Officer)

Fax (Consular Section): (971) (4) 311-6213

The email address for American Citizens Services inquiries, including passport questions, is [dubaiwarden@state.gov](mailto:dubaiwarden@state.gov).

Website: <http://dubai.usconsulate.gov>

***Reminder:** Have your important documents, contact information, medications, a set of clothes and other necessities in your carry-on luggage in the event of lost or delayed luggage.*

## CULTURAL/NATIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE UAE

### **UAE profile**

U.S. Department of State: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5444.htm>

Information Includes geography, people, government, economy, history, political conditions, defense, foreign relations, U.S.-U.A.E. relations, and travel and business information.

### **More information about the UAE**

- <http://www.uaeinteract.org>  
News and information on the UAE including government, ministries, travel, business, culture, education and more.
- [http://wikitravel.org/en/Saudi\\_Arabia](http://wikitravel.org/en/Saudi_Arabia)  
Information Includes religions, cities, other destinations, understand, get in, get around, talk, buy, eat, drink, learn, work, stay safe, stay healthy and respect.

### **Educational system**

UNESCO: [http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems\\_data/ae.rf](http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/ae.rf)

***Reminder:** Please check the educational system in which the visited institution resides and make sure the visited programs are postsecondary level in the host country.*

### **Etiquette, culture and customs in the UAE**

The Southern African Group in Dubai & UAE: <http://www.sagroupuae.com/uae-culture.asp>

## OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION AND LINKS ABOUT THE UAE

\* **Public Holidays and Bank Holidays** – Check for local weekends and religious/official/non-official holidays before setting the visit dates at

[http://www.qppstudio.net/publicholidays2009/uae\\_united\\_arab\\_emirates\\_.htm](http://www.qppstudio.net/publicholidays2009/uae_united_arab_emirates_.htm)

***Reminder:** Please request that the institution provide the institution's work week, daily schedule for praying, local, national and religious holidays. Please read the "2008-09 lessons learned from non-domestic visits" for pre-visit preparation and Appendix B regarding timing of visits, logistics, and obtaining visitor visas.*

\* **The Umm al-Qura Calendar** – This calendar is commonly used in the Arabian Peninsula including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Please check with the institution for the calendar they adopt and the institution's holidays. Learn more about Islamic calendar and its versions at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic\\_calendar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_calendar)

\* **Currency** - The currency of the UAE is the Dirham (AED), which is divided into 100 fils. Use the currency converter at <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cross-cultural/currency-converter.html> to compare to dollars, GBP or Euro.

\* **Money** – where to exchange money? Can I use traveller cheques or credit card? Get info at <http://www.wordtravels.com/Travelguide/Countries/United+Arab+Emirates/Currency>

\* **Airport/Transportation Guides** -

<http://www.wordtravels.com/Travelguide/Countries/United+Arab+Emirates/Airports>

\* **Dialing Code** – The International code for the UAE is +971. The outgoing international code is 00. City/area codes are in use, e.g. (0)2 for Abu Dhabi and (0)4 for Dubai. Calls made within each state are free of charge.

\* **Time** – Local time is GMT +4. Get the time in the UAE at

- <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/city.html?n=2> (Abu Dhabi)
- <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/city.html?n=776> (Dubai)
- <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/city.html?n=1482> (Sharjah)

\* **Weather** - visit Yahoo!'s up to date weather for the UAE at

<http://weather.yahoo.com/regional/AEXX.html>

\* **Language** – Arabic is the official language of the Emirates, but English is widely used. Want to pick up few Arabic words before the trip? Try this website

[http://www.gulfarabic.com/v21\\_gulf\\_arabic\\_greetings.php](http://www.gulfarabic.com/v21_gulf_arabic_greetings.php)

\* **Electricity** - 220 and 240 volts, 50Hz. The most frequently used plugs are the square three-pin type.

\* **Tipping** - Tipping practices are similar to most parts of the world. Where no service charge is included, 10% is adequate and many hotels and restaurants add a service charge, so it is best to check the bill.

<http://www.wordtravels.com/Travelguide/Countries/United+Arab+Emirates/Basics>

\* **Translation Services** - if you need an Arabic Translation Service you can try this link at

<http://www.atanet.org/onlinedirectories/individuals.php>

\* **News** - check out all the latest Google news on the UAE at

<http://news.google.co.uk/news?hl=en&ned=uk&q=United+Arab+Emirates>

\* **History** – read about the history of the UAE at

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_Arab\\_Emirates](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_United_Arab_Emirates)

\* **Emirates On Line** -- [www.uaeol.com](http://www.uaeol.com)

\* **Dubai On Line** -- [www.dubai-online.com](http://www.dubai-online.com)

\* **Dubai City Guide** -- [www.dubaicityguide.com](http://www.dubaicityguide.com)

A complete guide to Dubai shopping, Events, Hotels, Restaurants and Sightseeing information

\* **UAE Internet Yellow Pages** -- [www.uae-ypages.com](http://www.uae-ypages.com)

\* **UAE On-Line Yellow Pages** -- [www.onlineyellow.com](http://www.onlineyellow.com)

\* **Maps** -- [www.geocities.com/fayarus/dubailinks](http://www.geocities.com/fayarus/dubailinks)

\* **Citibank UAE** -- [www.citibank.co.ae](http://www.citibank.co.ae)