



Country Overview

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) comprises seven emirates: Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain, Ras Al Khaimah and Fujairah. The country is a member of the Arab Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), an economic grouping that also includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Abu Dhabi is the largest of the emirates, accounting for more than 85% of the country's total landmass. Abu Dhabi city is the country's capital, the seat of federal government and home to most ministries, embassies, state broadcasting facilities and oil companies.

Abu Dhabi Emirate

Abu Dhabi is earning international acclaim for its long-held traditions of unparalleled Bedouin hospitality. This is a destination of near year-round blue skies, stunning white sand beaches and a modern cosmopolitan, capital city lifestyle which remains steeped in the richness of Arabian culture. Abu Dhabi city, and the wider emirate, is combined, a destination for travellers who seek an authentic experience and wish to immerse themselves in a resilient, and largely unchanged, culture.

The emirate's main global gateway – Abu Dhabi International Airport

– is currently being redeveloped to cater to increasing demand from more than 40 carriers who currently fly there. This includes Etihad, the rapidly expanding and multi-award-winning, Abu Dhabi-headquartered national airline of the UAE. Upon completion in 2010, the state-of-the-art Abu Dhabi International Airport will cater to an estimated 20 million passengers a year.

The emirate's second city is Al Ain in the eastern province. Built around a series of oases, this 'heritage centre of the emirate' is known as the Garden City of the UAE reflecting its lush greenery. It is home to a fascinating array of historic and archaeological sites including museums and forts which nestle under the shade of the towering Jebel Hafef heights – the largest peak in the emirate.

The emirate's Al Gharbia – Western Region – is fast emerging as a tourism destination in its own right and is home to Sir Bani Yas Island – the former Royal Nature reserve which is now an adventure retreat and to the renowned Rub Al Khali (Empty Quarter) made famous by the 1940s and 1950s desert crossings of British explorer Wilfred Thesiger.

Abu Dhabi's activities and attractions are as diverse as its stunning multi-faceted landscape – dramatic desert terrain, cooling oases, 400 kilometres of pristine coastline and 200 natural islands. Here, you'll discover a range of exhilarating sports, from diving and sailing upon

crystal Arabian Gulf waters, to thrilling safaris through stunning desert scenery. Evocative heritage areas and centuries-old forts resonate with those seeking an immersion in an ancient culture. Pristine beaches, an almost incomparably stunning capital city Corniche and lush parks speak to a slower, and more contemplative, pace of life.

In the capital, the landmark Emirates Palace is an amazing place to visit – a marvel of marble and Arabian mystique. As one of the world's most exclusive hotels, it regularly hosts cultural shows, music events and international art exhibitions.

Abu Dhabi's attractive malls, quaint souks and neon-lit shopping districts bring a whole new slant to retail therapy. Opt for haute-couture brands, hand-carved furniture of oak, rosewood and mahogany, gold, sold at not less than 18 carats, dazzling, richly-embroidered textiles or all the perfumes of Arabia – but not before trying your bargaining skill! With most options within an easily-accessible city centre, nothing is too far away. There is a vast array of quality restaurants and atmospheric coffee-houses with cuisine for all tastes.

Abu Dhabi's climate is warm most of the year, with temperatures peaking during the summer months (June-August). Abu Dhabi island is on the west coast of the Arabian Peninsula's eastern tip. A day trip to Dubai is just a 50 minutes' drive away.

Culture

Archaeological discoveries suggest that fishing communities were living on the region's coast thousands of years ago. Once a leading exporter of pearls, Abu Dhabi gradually turned into a trading centre and, by the end of the 19th century, had gained a reputation for its coastal souks. The discovery of oil in 1958 had a dramatic effect on the economy. Now, Abu Dhabi brings together old world charm and cosmopolitan chic in a clean and safe city.

Dress

Visitors are asked to dress modestly and respect local customs – this means women should cover their shoulders and wear skirts or shorts that end below the knee. Lightweight clothing is suitable for most of the year, while in winter something warmer may be needed. Hats and sunglasses are advised, especially if you plan to explore on foot.

Dining

Abu Dhabi boasts hundreds of restaurants with cuisine from across the world, including Arabian, Thai, Vietnamese, French, Spanish, German and Brazilian. Cafe culture is especially popular with Arabs from Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, who frequent roadside cafes to sip coffee and nibble on Iranian sweets. Many restaurants are within hotels.

Useful Numbers	Capital Gardens	3-F2
Operator	Corniche Beach Park	3-F3
Directory Enquiries	Formal Park	3-F4
Fire / Police	Heritage Park	3-C2
Ambulance	Khalifa Park	1-D5
Abu Dhabi Intl Airport	Khalidiya Garden	3-C3
Flight Enquiries	Lake Park	3-E2
Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority	Mushrif Central Park	1-D7
Trans AD (Abu Dhabi Taxi)	Old Airport Garden	1-D5
Dept of Immigration	Urban Park	3-D2
Etihad Airways Call Centre	Shopping Malls & Souks	
UAE Country Code	Al Rahma Mall	3-G3
Mobile Telephones	Al Wadha Mall	3-E5
Abu Dhabi 02 Ajman	Al Wadha Mall	3-E5
Al Ain 03 Dubai	Bawabat Al Sharq Mall	1-H8
Fujairah 09 Ras Al Khaimah 07	Carpet Souk	3-A2
Sharjah 06 Umm Al Quwain 06	Central Market	3-E2
Hotels, Hotel Apartments & Resorts	Dalma Mall	1-F7
Abu Dhabi Airport	Free Zone Market (Iranian Market)	3-H1
Al Ain Palace	Khalidiyah Mall	3-D3
Al Diar Palm Apts	Madinat Zayed Shopping &	3-F4
Al Forsan Resort	Gold Centre	3-F4
Al Maha Arjan by Rotana	Marina Mall	3-B1
Al Manzil Apts	Mushrif Mall	1-C5
Al Raha Beach	Qaryat Al Beri Souk	1-E5
Al Rawda Arjan by Rotana	Places Of Interest	
Altoft	ADNEC	1-D5
Armed Forces Officers Club	Al Masrafiya Sports Complex	1-F5
Beach Rotana	Al Maqta Fort	1-E3
Centro	Cultural Foundation	3-E3
Centro Al Manhal	Dhow Building Yard	3-A4
City Seasons Al Hamra	Emirates Palace	2-A2
Cristal	Fish Market & Vegetable Souk	3-F1
Cristal Salam	Ferrari World Abu Dhabi	1-H3
Crowne Plaza	Heritage Village	3-F3
Crowne Plaza Yas Island	Manarat Al Saadiyat	1-C2
Eclipse Suites	Qasr Al Hosn	3-D3
Emirates Palace	Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque	1-E5
Fairmont	Yas Marina Circuit	1-H3
Grand Millennium Al Wadha	Hospitals	
Hala Arjan by Rotana	Al Mafraq Hospital	02 582 3100 3-F2
Hilton Abu Dhabi	Al Noor Hospital	02 626 5265 1-D5
Hilton Baynunah Tower Apts	Al Salamah Hospital	02 671 1220 3-G3
Hilton Corniche Apts	Corniche Hospital	02 672 4900 3-G2
Holiday Inn	Lifeline Hospital	02 633 5522 3-F3
Hyatt Capital Gate	National Hospital	02 671 1000 3-F3
InterContinental	NMC Hospital	02 633 2255 3-E3
Jumeirah at Etihad Towers	Sik Khalifa Medical City	02 610 2000 3-E4
Khalifa Palace Reyhan	Zayed Military Hospital	02 444 4530 1-C5
Al'Arabia Apts	Main Streets	
Le Meridien	Abu Dhabi-Al Ain Rd	1-G7
Le Royal Meridien	Abu Dhabi-Dubai Rd	1-F5
Lina Suites	Airport Rd	1-G5
Mafraq	Al Corniche St (1)	3-E2, 3-F4
Millennium	Al Falah St (9)	3-A2
One to One	Al Karamah St (24)	3-D5
Oryx	Al Khalediyah Al Arabi St (30)	3-C7
Park Hyatt Saadiyat Island	Al Maqta Bridge	1-G2
Park Inn Abu Dhabi	Al Mina St (10)	3-E5
Park Rotana	Al Saada St (19)	3-D8
Radisson Blu	Al Salam St (8)	3-F4
Radisson Blu	Bainunah St (14)	3-B4
Rocco Forte	Delma St (13)	3-D6
Sands	Fourth St	3-E7
Shangri-La	Hamdan Bin Mohamed St (5)	3-E3
Sheraton Khalidiya	Hazza Bin Zayed The First St (11)	3-D5
Sheraton Resort & Towers	Khalifa Bin Shakhbut St (28)	3-F4
Sofitel	Khalifa Bin Zayed Hwy	1-E2
St Regis Saadiyat Island	Khalifa St (3)	3-E2
The Westin Golf Resort & Spa	Mohamed Bin Khalifa St (15)	3-C7
Traders	Mussafah Bridge	1-E5
Yas Island Rotana	Rashid Bin Sa'eed Al Maktoum St	3-F5
Yas Viceroy	Sixth St	3-F4
Yas Viceroy	Tweed Rd	1-F6
Yas Viceroy	Twenty Sixth St	3-D3
Yas Viceroy	Zayed Bridge	3-E5
Yas Viceroy	Zayed The First St (7)	3-D3

This map is licensed to Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority and shall not be replicated or reproduced except upon express written authorisation of its licensee. 01/2012