

Your Guide to Dubai

Welcoming you to our hometown,
< made by youth, for youth >



Table of Contents

No.	Content Title	Page
1	Preface	3-4
2	About Dubai	6
3	About The Weather	7
4	How To Dress	8-9
5	FAQs	11-12
6	In-depth Transportation Guide	14-18
7	Co-working Spaces	20-21
8	Restaurant Recommendations	23-26
9	Places To Visit	28-30
10	Prayer Times	32
11	Events and Activities happening during COY18 and COP28	34

Preface

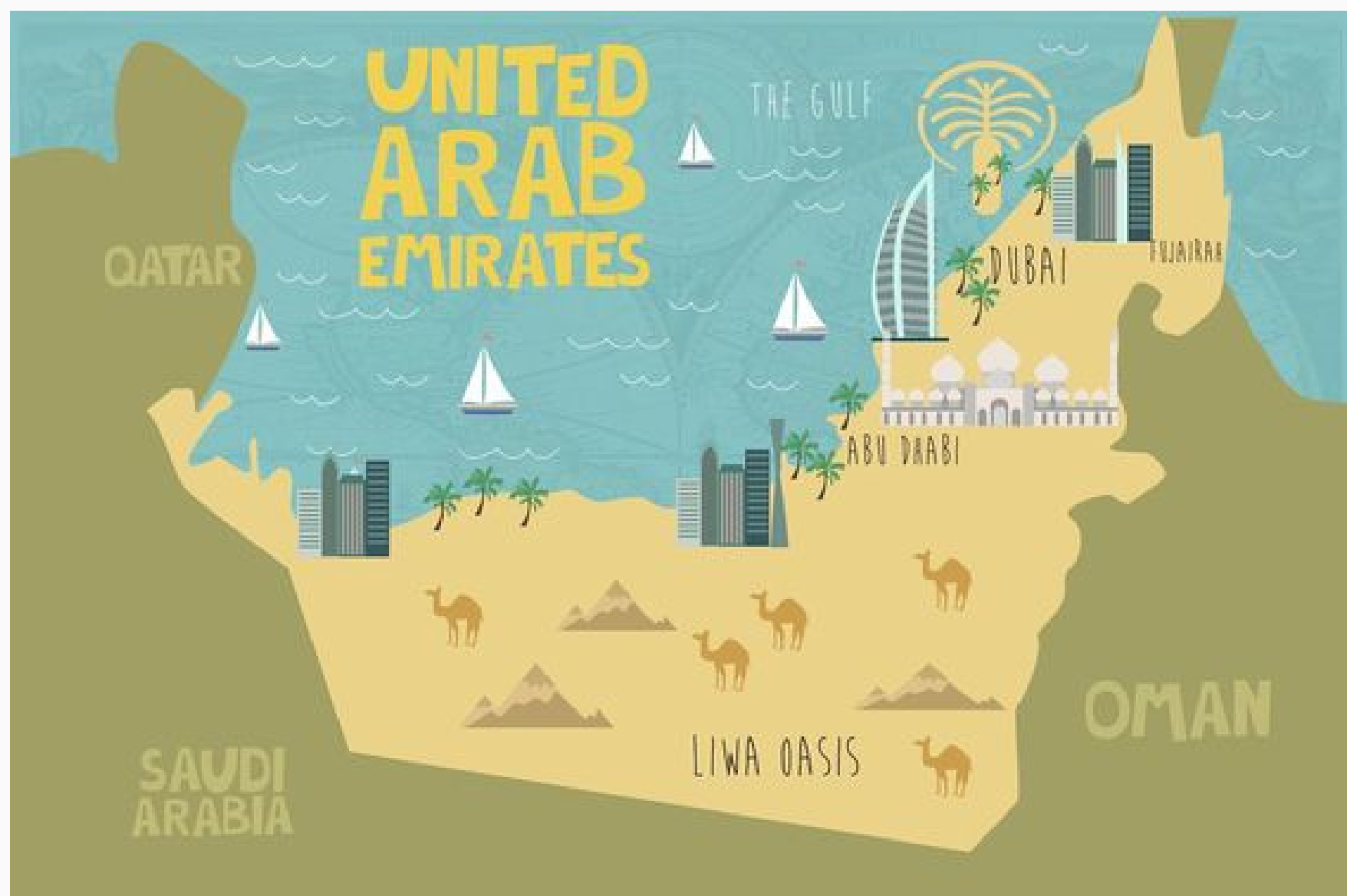
Welcome to Dubai!

We are so excited to welcome you to our home town. We hope that your stay here is enjoyable and filled with good memories that you can cherish and take back home. This is why we decided to put this guide together to help you navigate Dubai as well as introduce you to some tips that will come in handy as you travel around here and of course let you in on some of the hidden gems here ;)

First, let's go over some quick geography.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a country in the South West of Asia, otherwise known as the Middle East. The UAE comprises seven emirates: Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah, Umm Al Quwain. Dubai, where COP28 will be held, is one of the seven Emirates. Abu Dhabi is the capital of the UAE. The official language of the UAE is Arabic, although most people can fluently or conversationally speak English here. The local people are called Emaratis. The local currency is Dirhams (smaller denominations are called 'Fils').

Our topography consists of widespread deserts with marvelous sand dunes as well as hefty mountains covered in palm trees and other wildlife. It's quite a different kind of beauty to watch the sun set into golden brown sand dunes. We hope you have some time to explore this as well.





About Dubai

Dubai is an emirate that is a hub to a large immigrant population, making the place very diverse and fueled by a lot of culture. Dubai is particularly famous for its eye-catching landmarks, including Burj Khalifa (the world's tallest building), Dubai Mall, The Dubai Fountain, Burj Al Arab, Palm Jumeirah (a man-made island in the shape of a palm tree) and more.

With around 200 nationalities represented in Dubai, how people dress is incredibly varied – yet the traditional attire of the UAE is bold and distinctive. You can see it all across the city. Emirati national dress is a symbol of pride and identity that has been designed with the dual intent of providing comfort and adhering to religious beliefs. In Dubai, men wear an ankle-length, loose-fitting garment made of white cotton, known as a kandora or dishdasha. A ghutra covers the head and is held in place by the agal, a type of black cord. This garment was originally used to protect the face from the harsh desert environment. Traditionally, women in Dubai wear an abaya – a long, black flowing light coat over their clothing. This is worn over their Western clothes or a traditional long-sleeved full-length dress known as a jalabeya. A black scarf called a shayla is often draped over the head.

About the weather

In summer months, closer to COY18, you do not want to step out of an indoor space for more than 30 minutes without a bottle of cold water. Cases of heat-related illnesses are incredibly common here.

In winter months (and during COP), however, the temperature never really exceeds 26° Celsius (79 F) and never really falls far below 16° Celsius (61 F). You should still carry loads of sunscreen, though. It remains as sunny as ever even during winter months.

It can definitely get quite chilly at night with cool winds, so would definitely recommend you to pack some long sleeves, sweaters or hoodies, and a light jackets for the evenings and night.



How To Dress

There is no official dress code in Dubai; however, you are encouraged to dress modestly to respect the local culture. This means avoiding revealing clothing, such as tank tops, short shorts, and mini-skirts, in public areas.

You can wear any kind of swimwear on Dubai's public beaches, including bikinis, burkinis, and one-piece swimsuits. However, you should avoid wearing see-through shirts and thong bottoms and never sunbathe topless or naked, as it is not allowed in the UAE. Also, make sure to cover up when you leave the beach or poolside since swimwear is not appropriate for public places.

Here are the main don'ts when it comes to dressing in Dubai:

1. Clothing should not be see-through or revealing in a way that shows private body parts.
2. Clothing must not contain offensive graphics or slogans.
3. Nudity is prohibited; this includes sunbathing topless.
4. Cross-dressing (wearing clothing typically associated with the opposite gender) is against the law in the UAE.

The case in other emirates than Dubai can be more stringent. For example, if you are in the emirate of Sharjah, the dress code is more strict. Visitors should be mindful that, in accordance with Sharjah's decency guidelines established in 2001, revealing attire is deemed inappropriate for both men and women. While swimwear is acceptable at the beach or hotel pool, visitors are expected to dress modestly in public spaces such as shopping malls and hotel lobbies. This involves covering from shoulder to knee and refraining from wearing tight, transparent, or revealing clothing. Lightweight summer clothing is suitable for most of the year, with the addition of a cardigan, sweater, or light jacket for cooler winter nights and air-conditioned environments.



FAQs

1. Adapter type: Type G (two horizontal and one vertical rectangular pins in a triangular configuration)
2. Helpline Numbers:
 - Police– 999
 - Ambulance– 998
 - Fire department– 997
3. Transportation cost:
4. Bus & Metro: AED 3.50 – AED 7.50 (0.95 \$ – 2.04 \$)
5. Apps for booking taxi: Careem (by ‘Hala taxi’ rather than ‘Rides’) or the DTC app. Uber is always the double the price compared to ‘Hala taxi’.
6. SIMs, mobile data, and calling: At the airport, you have the opportunity to receive a free SIM from Du at their airport kiosk. They will provide you with 1GB data and a limited number of calling minutes, but you can simply recharge this amount by calling Du on #555*, for which you only pay 0.02 dirhams for the first 15 minutes. Visitors to Dubai can take visitors sim by using passport and visa copy. Need the arrival stamp. Validity of sim is valid as per visa and automatically gets cancelled.

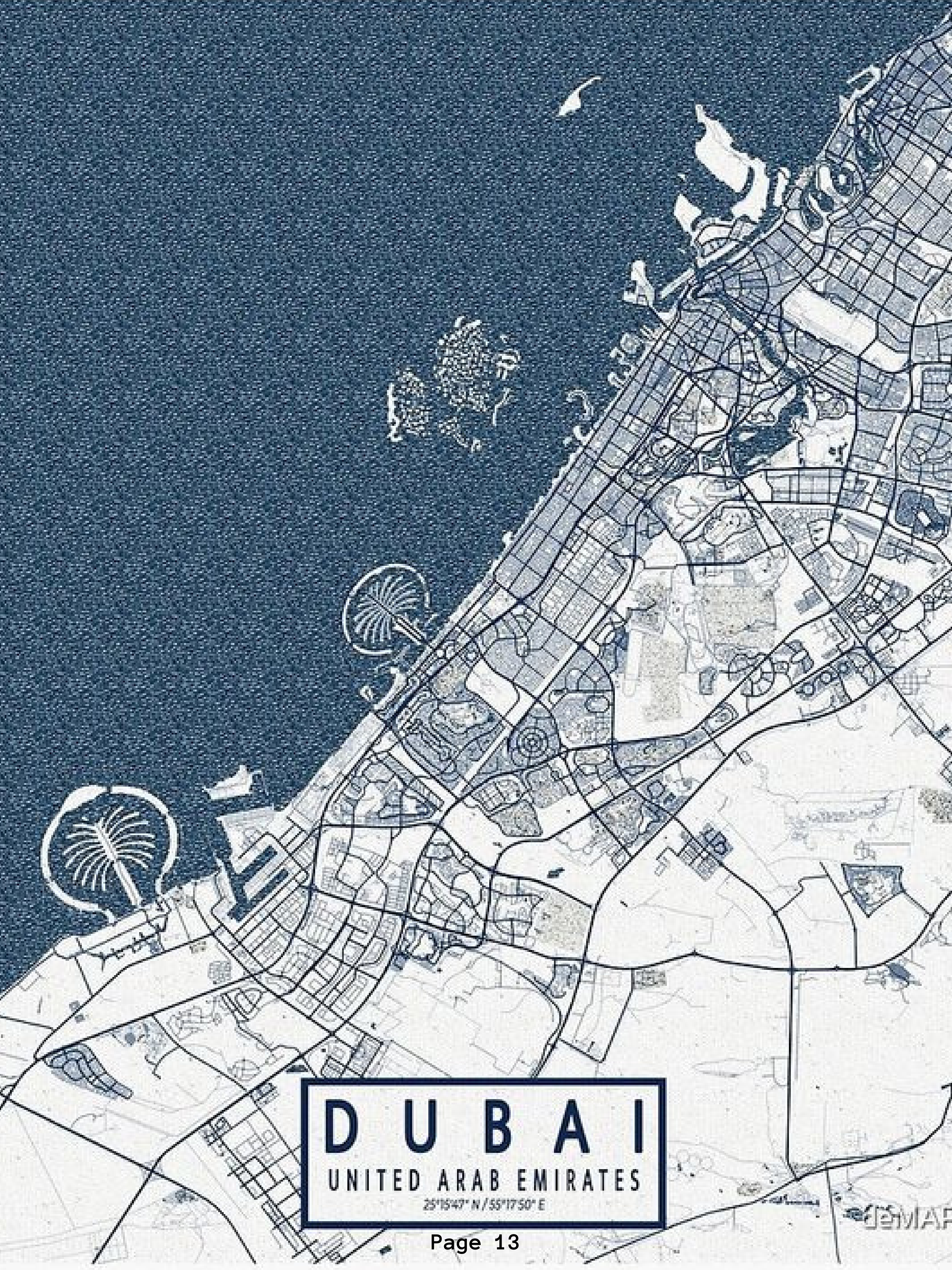
7.No, you cannot drink tap water in the UAE. Please only consume bottled water, or the water that comes in the blue dispensers.

8.You don't need to know Arabic to navigate across Dubai. All signs are in both Arabic and English. People communicate in English in all places.

9.Yes you can get vegan and vegetarian food in Dubai, you will find more about this in the later sections of this guide.

10.In case you need to purchase any essentials, there are grocery stores, convenience stores, and pharmacies across Dubai. They take both card and cash. You can also purchase groceries and pharmacy items via the Careem App (yes the same app mentioned above for taxi).

11. For all things related to safety, security, and the laws in Dubai and across UAE, we recommend you to visit <https://www.ycmsafety.com/cop28-comingsoon> and follow the Safety Hub Guide for Youth Activists.



DUBAI
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
25°15'47" N / 55°17'50" E

In-depth Transportation Guide

The public transport in Dubai is cheap, safe, and reliable. The public transport ranges from Metros and Buses (the most commonly used) to trams, ferries, and taxis. The Metros are split into two major lines, the Red line and the Green line. The Red line spans across downtown Dubai and the northern side of Dubai whereas the Greenline spans across several older cities of Dubai and the southern side. There are two interchange stations that connect between the Redline and Greenline. They are Burjuman Station and Union Station. Note these two nations in case you need to change from MGreen to MRed or vice versa. Remember that Expo City is on the Red line.

Dubai is rather a small emirate and so the Metro stops are very compact and easy to figure out. Taking buses can sometimes feel overwhelming especially if you are a newcomer. But not to fret, we have made an easier to understand guide that even our friends with no sense of direction can get to places. Studying these routes can help you get from one end of Dubai to the other using only 17 dirhams!

We encourage you to get well adjusted with public transport as traffic in Dubai is no joke especially during peak times where everyone is rushing to offices and schools. Heavy traffic usually occurs during 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

What is a Nol Card?

Nol card is a smart card that enables you to pay for the use of various RTA transport modes in Dubai with a single tap. You can use your Nol card to travel on Dubai Metro, Buses, Dubai Tram and marine transport modes like Water Buses. You are required to punch your Nol card while entering and exiting the public transport. Not doing so can lead you to a fine of 200 Dhs. You can also use Nol cards for paying Taxi fare as well as convenience stores such as Zoom at metro stations or petrol pumps.



Some guidelines on using public transport in Dubai:

- Public transports in Dubai specifically Metros and Trams have three cabins. The Regular Cabin, the Women and Children's Cabin, and the Gold Cabin. You may only use the women and children's cabin if you fall in either of this category, if not you will bear a fine of 100 Dhs. Similarly, you may only use the Gold Cabin if you have a Gold Nol Card, if not you will bear a fine of 100 Dhs.
- In Buses there are no separate cabins. However, there is priority seating for women, children, elderly, and people with disabilities. During times where the bus is full, you are expected to give away your seat if any person from the above category enters the bus.
- You are not allowed to eat or drink in any of the public transports with the exception of consuming water. You cannot chew gum in any of the public transports. In situations where these rules are violated, you could bear a fine of 100 Dhs.
- There are Pink Taxis available in Dubai, these are Taxis driven by women for women, children, and family. Especially if you are a women traveling alone and would like to book this service, you can do so via: the DTC app ([app store](#), [google play store](#))

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- For a comprehensive set of all the rules and regulations to follow within public transport in Dubai, follow this link:
<https://www.rta.ae/wps/portal/rta/ae/public-transport/metro/about-metro>
 - We've included a map for metro routes below for your perusal:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11B2IYSJb5o1KR2Z9g8BjMm6-M4wm4YBJ/view>
 - Overall transportation map:
<https://www.rta.ae/links/buses/FullBusNetwork-08-2019.pdf>(I know the first look can scare you. Just pay attention to the Red line and Green line and try to navigate the different stations where you can get your specific buses) To be honest you most likely would not need to even use this thanks to Google Maps, but just in case you ever get stranded with no wifi or data, we could go old style with the map.
 - For booking Taxis in **Dubai** you can do so via the Careem app or the DTC app (available on both android and ios).
 - For booking Taxis in **Abu Dhabi**, you can use the Abu Dhabi Taxi app available for both iOS and Android platforms.

You can travel back and forth b/w Abu Dhabi and Dubai via Bus. It will just cost you 25 Dirhams. There more information on cross emirates travel and cross airport travel on [YCM Safety Website](#)

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- We do not recommend using the Uber app and encourage using the alternatives provided above as Uber will simply cost you double of what you will be paying if you were to book the regular taxis.
 - Please note that in certain areas you may be approached by people asking if you want taxi service or rideshare. **This is illegal activity.** Do not go to private drivers offering ride services.

Bus and Metro Timings:

Please note that Buses and Metros do not operate 24/7 and have strict timings, so please make sure that you do not miss the last Bus or Metro.

- Dubai Bus is fully operational from 04:00 AM to 01:00 AM (next Day)
- Dubai Metros run from 5:00 to 24:00 except on Fridays where it runs from 5:00 AM to 01:00 AM (next day)
- Please note that if you plan on taking the metro from the airport to your accommodation site, the Airport Metro will also stop running by 24:00 AM

The Trams run everyday from 06:00 AM to 01:00 AM (next day) except on Sunday where it runs from 09:00 AM to 01:00 (next day).



Co-Working Spaces

We understand that you might also want to work or hold team meetings outside the COP venue. Don't worry, we got you covered.

1. [Coworking] **Dubai Youth Hub**

Location: Emirates Towers Boulevard, Trade Center 2

One of our favourite spots for meeting professionally and for coworking, the youth hub is equipped with meeting rooms, as well as a cafe inside and loads of cafes around it. Working here with a pair of headphones makes you romanticize work unlike any other spot. This spot is also a federally sponsored area (by the ministry of youth and AYC), so it is free to enter.

2. [Coworking] **A4 Space**

Location: Alserkal Avenue

Located in a trendy area of alternative Dubai, A4 Space is a must-visit according to us. Not only does this coworking space have good facilities, the area in which it's located has a range of other places you have to visit.

3. **Jameel Arts Centre**

Location: Jaddaf Waterfront, Dubai Creek side.

This a personal favorite. A quite and bountiful place that we often use as an escape. Jameel Arts Centre is not only a gallery space but also offers working spaces. Visitors can sit on the tables by the water outside or amongst the archives and work.

Co-Working Spaces

4. Foundry

Location: Downtown Dubai, Boulevard Crescent, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Boulevard.

Foundry describes itself as a “hybrid progressive art space founded as a response to the evolving cultural scene in the UAE.” The space itself features a podcast studio, project room, art gallery, café, and of course, co-working space.

5. Sketch Art Cafe

Location: Box Park, Dubai

The place being filled with beautiful artwork, ambience, and splendid drinks and food really boosts your productivity. You can also call them to reserve tables to hold your meetings. If you end up having a productive meeting you could also reward yourself with a stroll down Box Park;).

6. [Coworking & Cafe] WrkBay

Location: AlKarama, Dubai

A hidden gem. Located in the center of a buzzing community, Wrkbay offers a wide range of workspaces, shared office space for meetings and event spaces for corporate and special gatherings.

Besides some of our recommendations above, you can also find meeting rooms, workspace, suitable for your specific meeting or work on the LetsWork platform: <https://www.letswork.io/>



Restaurant Recommendations

We don't think you can ever go hungry in Dubai. Whether you're looking for healthy, cultural, or fusion delights, you can find everything here for generally reasonable prices. Dubai is a cultural melting pot and hence you can find almost all cosines here.

VEGAN OPTIONS

Common Grounds

Locations:

- Mall of the Emirates
- Dubai Hills Mall
- Jumeirah Beach Residences (JBR)
- Jumeirah Lake Towers (JLT)
- Nakheel Mall
- Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC)
- La Mer

Price range (for one dish): 40–90 dirhams

Wild and the Moon

Locations:

- Alserkal Avenue (amazing district)
- Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Boulevard (must visit street)
- Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC)

Price range (for one full meal; starter, main, drink): 80–120 dirhams

Restaurant Recommendations

Moby

Location: Alserkal Avenue

Price range: 40–60 dirhams (11–16 \$)

SEVA Table

Location: Jumeirah 1

Price range: 60 dirhams

Neat Burger

Location: The Dubai Mall

Price range: 40 dirhams per person.

Green Earth Café

Location: Wasl 51 Mall, Al Wasl Road, Dubai

Price range: around 50 dirhams per person.

Little Erth By NABZ & G

Locations: Cluster J, JLT, Dubai

Price range: 60 dirhams per person.

Planet Terra

Location: Panorama Building, The Greens, Dubai.

Price range: 50–100 dirhams.

Wabi Sabi

Location: Mirdif Avenue Mall, Dubai

Price range: 60 dirhams

Restaurant Recommendations

PERSONAL FAVORITES

Mukbang Show Restaurant

Location: Al Ittihad Rd, next to Deira – Port Saeed, Dubai

Amazing Korean cuisine. And they taste so good too! they have Korean barbeque and hot pot.

Price range: AED 50–100

Boho X

Location: Souk Al Bahar, Dubai Mall

This place is so beautiful. Their interior is filled with plants and it has such a calm and peaceful vibe and is also in such a beautiful part of the city! A personal favorite on the menu is their Udon Noodles, honestly cured a depressive episode.

Price range: not gonna lie, this one's a bit on the pricier side. 30 – 200 dirhams.

Maiz Tacos

Location: Jumeirah Lake Towers Cluster y Lower Level B10 – Dubai

If you are craving Mexican food then this is definitely the spot to hit. The place is a little small but the vibes are great. The food is so good and packed with flavor. They even got Mexican sodas and the Birria Tacos.

Price range: AED 50–100

Restaurant Recommendations

PERSONAL FAVORITES

Laffah Restaurant

Location: multiple branches across Dubai.

Their Shawarmas hit the spot, like I mean the right amount of garlic paste and pickle and fries.

Price range: 8-30 dirhams

Mama'esh

Location: there are multiple branches but the one at Business Bay might be more accessible.

This is an authentic Palestinian restaurant owned by great people serving comforting, flavorful, iconic arabic, Palestinian food. The place is also beautiful with art and culture and so homely. Omg the Baqlawa (arabic sweet) here hits home!

Price range: 10-30 dirhams.

Aroos Damascus

Location: Ground Floor, Green Palace Hotel – Al Muraqqabat Rd

The amount of birthdays and family dinners spent here is wild. If you want Lebanese food, this is the place to go. Also they have seating outside, especially in December with good weather, we recommend this. Lets say the vibes here with hearty food is unlike other.

Price range: 14-40 dirhams



Places To Visit

Dubai Mall/ Burj Khalifa

You can't really leave Dubai without watching the dancing fountain at Dubai Mall and the spectacular view of the Burj Khalifa from there! Pro tip, December is a very touristic month and these places can get crowded, if you want to get a good view just go to the Apple store at Dubai mall, less people, more view ;) or head to the souq al bahr area, hardly any people there.

Dubai Frame

This is a cultural landmark. Dubai Frame is an iconic structure that 'frames' impressive views of Old and New Dubai, while serving as a metaphorical bridge connecting the emirate's rich past with its magnificent present. Offering spectacular panoramic views across the city, Dubai Frame celebrates the story of Dubai from its early establishment to its ambitious plans for future.

Location: Zabeel Park

Admission Fee: Adults AED 50, Children (3-12 years) AED 20.

Global Village

You all have to go to Global Village at least ONCE! I would recommended going here on UAE national day, December 2nd just so you can enjoy some extra things like an orchestra concert and other cultural events. But dont worry there's always events here.

Places To Visit

You can just hop from one country to the other and be teleported to a whole different land of culture, food, craft, and goods. You can go on a mini world tour at Global Village. Ps: the Korean pavilion has a whole kpop store (for any of our activists that like kpop ;))

Location: Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Road E 311 road
Dubai

Admission Fee: Any day tickets are for AED 30 (AED 27 online)

Al Seef Dubai

You need to take a stroll down Al Seef District to see the beautiful Bastakiyas, architecture deep in culture and the vibrant souqs selling all things dates to spices. It is a waterfront promenade along the bank of Dubai Creek in the historic Al Fahidi neighborhood.

Abra

Now Al Seef is great, but it's no the real deal. For that you need to hop on the Abra, the 1 dirham boat ride. This is where the history of the people lie. An abra, which means "to cross" in Arabic, runs every few minutes throughout the day between four stations along Dubai Creek. The first route goes from Deira Old Souk Abra Station (near the Spice Souk) to Bur Dubai Abra Station (west of the Textile Souk). The second, much busier route, runs continuously from Al Sabkha Abra Station (just southwest of Baniyas Square) to Dubai Old Souk Abra Station.

Places To Visit

Hive Boardgame Cafe:

Do you wanna unwind after a hard day at COP, gather your squad and hit the Hive cafe to play some board games and gobble some delicious food. Hive is dedicated to bring the community together.

Location: GR-03 The Onyx 1 – Sheikh Zayed Rd – The Greens – Dubai

Kefi Books and Games Cafe

This is another board game cafe, but the vibes here are different, it's very warm and homely. The best part is, if you decide to hit this cafe then you can also go to the Mamzar beach nearby. The food here tastes great too and there's so many different games.

Location: 79X6+792 – Tower 1 – Al Mamzar – Dubai

La Mer Dubai

Location: Jumeirah 1 region

La Mer Dubai beach extends right up to the sea and offers the people a stunning destination to unwind. The beach is lined with palm trees, arts and murals. If you are an art lover, you'll definitely notice graffiti and murals have beautifully blended the minimalist and contemporary design together, offering a treat for your eyes.



Prayer Times

As a Muslim country, the United Arab Emirates observes prayer times five times a day, these are determined based on the position of the sun in the sky. These are the times for each prayer for the duration of COP28 (+/-5minutes)

Fajr (Dawn Prayer): 05:23 AM

Dhuhr (Noon Prayer): 12:11 PM

Asr (Afternoon Prayer): 15:10 PM

Maghrib (Evening Prayer): 17:30 PM

Isha (Night Prayer): 19:00 PM

In addition to the prayer times, there are also specific guidelines for silence and respect during these times, especially in public places. The call to prayer (Adhan) will be broadcast from mosques and loudspeakers in public places at those specific times. All music and performances will be halted for a 15 minute duration out of respect for those who are praying (within designated prayer spaces).

Ps: The Entertainment + Culture Pavilion will be hosting mindfulness sessions during those slots!



Events and Activities happening during COY18 and COP28

Date	Event	Tickets
November 25	Cele Retro Fest, Emirates Golf Club	Starting at 200 dhs (54\$), buy here
November 25–26	Down To Earth, Jameel Arts Centre, Jaddaf Waterfront Sculpture Park	FREE, RSVP here
December 8–10	Earth Soul Fest 2023, Dubai Media City Amphitheatre	Starting at 157 dhs (42\$), buy here
December 8–10	SOLE DXB, Dubai Design District	Starting at 349 dhs (95\$), buy here
December 8	Bongo's Bingo Christmas Special, Zero Gravity	Starting at 150 dhs (40\$), buy here
Every weekend	Ripe Market at Academy Park	Entry Fee Aed 5

