

United Arab Emirates

Information for applicants

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The United Arab Emirates (UAE) are often associated exclusively with the Emirate of Dubai, whose imposing buildings and spectacular events attract worldwide attention. In fact, the country consists of seven emirates, which joined together in 1971-72 to form the United Arab Emirates. The UAE are located in the eastern part of the Arabian Peninsula. Their total area corresponds to around one quarter of Germany's. Situated directly on the Arabian Gulf, they are one of the group of countries often referred to as the Gulf States. Their neighbour to the west is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the Sultanate of Oman to the east. The official language is Arabic. The English language is also long-established and people use it universally for day-to-day communication. The currency is the UAE Dirham (AED).

Climate and sights

The UAE have a subtropical, arid and hot desert climate with large temperature fluctuations between day and night. It is especially hot from May to October, with average temperatures of 28 to 34 degrees and extremes of up to 40 to 50 degrees in the daytime. The maximum daytime temperature between November and April is 22 to 30 degrees. Precipitation is low at only 50 to 100 mm and falls in the winter months. The coastal areas are extremely sultry, with humidity levels of up to 90 per cent. North-westerly 'shamal' winds are particularly prevalent in winter and early summer, carrying large amounts of sand and dust. Apart from when shamals are blowing, the weather is generally sunny with blue skies throughout the year. There is a huge variety of leisure options, including for families with children. Besides the classic sights in

Dubai, weekend visits to the neighbouring emirates (1 to 3 hours' drive) are well worth the trip, providing opportunities for hiking, camping and water sports of all kinds. There are also many indoor activities on offer, particularly in the summer months, for example in the numerous shopping malls and theme parks. The choice of restaurants and cafés in all price categories is virtually unlimited.

Dubai International Airport is the world's busiest airport. There are direct flights between Dubai and Germany (e.g. Frankfurt, Munich, Düsseldorf and Hamburg) with a flight time of around six hours. Other interesting travel destinations are a one to three-hour flight away (popular choices include Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Oman, Uzbekistan and Georgia) and are readily accessible for short trips.

Health

Medical care in the UAE can be described as good overall, and corresponds largely to (Western) European standards. Many doctors speak German. State hospitals are generally well equipped but only treat tourists and foreigners without local health insurance in acute emergencies. Medical treatment in private clinics must be paid for immediately. Patients normally have to pay the bill themselves initially and then submit it to their health insurer for reimbursement. Importing medication or pharmaceutical ingredients without a doctor's prescription is prohibited in some instances. This needs to be borne in mind when putting together a travel first-aid kit or packing long-term medication.

Accommodation and quality of life

Apartments and houses are available in large supply and a range of prices on the commercial residential market in the UAE. Rents vary widely and depend on the location, fittings (furnished or unfurnished) and size. Rental agreements generally have a one-year term. Shared accommodation can be found via social media sites.

The Emirate of Dubai combines tradition and modernity and is more westernised than the other emirates, which tend to be more conservative (e.g. Sharjah). The UAE attract people from many different cultures and nations, making them one of the most international places in the world. Only 20 per cent of the population are locals. The other 80 per cent come from a diverse range of countries. The UAE are one of the safest travel destinations worldwide.

Women are subject to very few restrictions in everyday life in the UAE. They do not have to wear a veil, can drive a car, and receive cordial and often preferential treatment in shops and from the state authorities.

The GIZ office is located in the International Humanitarian City (IHC) Free Zone, some 30 to 40 minutes from the city centre near the Expo site. The IHC Free Zone has set up a bus link for people working there that runs twice a day from Ibn Battuta Station. There are currently no public transport connections.

Shops and services

Obtaining supplies and services in the UAE is straightforward. Large supermarket chains offer a wide selection of food, most of which is imported. Depending on its origin and the type of supermarket, food may be more or less expensive than in Germany. Electronics, cars and petrol are cheaper.

The Emirate of Dubai is home to world-famous shopping malls offering products and prices across the whole spectrum from mid-range to luxury.

Accompanying partners and children

Before taking up an assignment, it is advisable to research which forms of personal relationship are legally and socially acceptable in the country of assignment.

Accompanying partners must be married to be granted long-term residence permits and be able to live together legally.

Schools and childcare: State schools in the UAE are reserved for national citizens. There are more than a hundred international private schools spanning the full range of costs and standards, mostly based on the English school curriculum. Schools following other national curricula, for example those of the USA, Canada, Australia and India, are also available. German schools can be found in Dubai, Sharjah und Abu Dhabi. There is a wide choice of kindergarten and pre-school arrangements for younger children.

Useful links

<https://uae.diplo.de/ae-en/vertretungen/botschaft>

<https://uae.diplo.de/ae-de/service/leben-und-arbeiten/1389390>

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/aussenpolitik/laender/vereinigearabische-emirate-node/vereinigearabischeemiratesicherheit/202332?openAccordionId=item-301216-4-panel>

https://www.bva.bund.de/DE/Das-BVA/Aufgaben/A/Auswanderer_Auslandstaetige/_documents/Laenderauswahl/Laender_Arab_Emirate_Inhalt.html

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