

Dubai, United Arab Emirates - OVERVIEW

Updated: February 4, 2014



Country Name Long Form: United Arab Emirates

Government Type: Federation with specified powers delegated to the UAE federal government and other powers reserved to member emirates.

Languages Spoken: Arabic, Persian, English, Hindi, Urdu

National Flag



Dubai is a Tier III Country. Significant security measures are necessary.

	Overall Assessment	Political Violence	Crime	Terrorism	Travel Safety
Dubai					
Key: (L) Low – (M) Medium – (H) High – (C)Critical					

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Political Violence is rated at LOW

Political demonstrations are extremely rare and must be authorized by the host government.

TERRORISM

Terrorism is assessed as MEDIUM

The possibility of a terrorist attack against U.S. interests cannot be ruled out given the UAE's proximity to countries of concern, its importance as a major transit hub for regional travel and commerce and the large resident expatriate population.

RULE OF LAW / CORRUPTION

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The Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2013 gave The United Arab Emirates a score of 69, indicating that the country has moderate level of corruption. The CPI rates countries by the perceived levels of corruption in their public sector, with the least corrupt country receiving a maximum score of 100.

CRIME

Crime is assessed as **MEDIUM**

The crime rate in Dubai is considerably lower than most cities throughout the world of similar size. While the reported crime rate is low, actual crime rates may be higher due to under-reporting. The host nation is sensitive to maintaining a very safe and secure public image which may discourage individuals from reporting crime. Complacency and poor security practices have resulted in Westerners occasionally being the victims of residential, commercial and vehicle burglary.

White-collar crimes involving debit and credit card fraud continue to be of concern in Dubai.

The majority of reported crime occurs in areas populated primarily by lower income, temporary laborers originating from other countries.

Violent criminal acts are very rare and most often occur in the third country national (TCN) communities. Expatriates found by the police to be involved in criminal activity are usually deported following incarceration.

KIDNAPPING

Kidnappings are rare incidents.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Public offenses such as sexual assault are rare incidents.

NATURAL DISASTERS

The United Arab Emirates experiences particularly high temperatures (approximately 95 degree Fahrenheit/35 degrees Celsius on average) between April and September. Precautions against heat stroke and exhaustion should be taken. Sandstorms are also regularly reported and can lead to severe travel delays.

STANDING TRAVEL ADVICE

- Islamic religious laws should be observed – foreigners should dress modestly, respect local customs and behave courteously, particularly outside of Dubai and near religious sites.
- In addition, female travelers ensure that the tops of their arms and legs are covered.
- Swearing or making rude gestures is interpreted as an obscene act.

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- Stay in groups, travel in a caravan consisting of two or more vehicles, and stay on the main roads.
- Ensure that someone not traveling with you is aware of your itinerary.
- Avoid hotels that do not have adequate security.
- Intercity travel after dark anywhere in should be avoided.
- It is preferable to stay in the main tourist destinations.
- Pay close attention to your surroundings, especially when walking.
- Official taxis are a suitable means of travel in daylight hours in urban areas. It is highly recommended that taxis be arranged through your hotel, or program office. Negotiate the price in advance.
- Women should be especially careful when traveling alone and avoid staying out late without a trusted male escort.
- Make sensible security precautions to mitigate the risk of petty crime, particularly pick pocketing and bag snatching.
- Carry a photocopy of your passport when traveling to avoid losing it in a robbery.
- Do not resist if you are being robbed and avoid eye contact and to not make any sudden movements. Victims have been killed when they resisted attack or refused to give up their money or other valuables.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times and keep a low profile.
- Never leave your food, drinks or belongings unattended.
- Carry bags close to your body and make sure the fasteners are secure.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash or wearing expensive jewelry or valuables.
- Leave all important documents in a safe or safe deposit box at your hotel and only carry certified copies.
- Trust your instincts. If someone or something makes you uneasy, avoid the situation.

Important Contact Details

International Dialing Code: +971

International Dialing Prefix: 00

Victims of crime in should contact the following phone numbers for assistance

POLICE: The local equivalent to the “911” emergency line in is: 999/112

FIRE DEPARTMENT: 997

AMBULANCE: 998/999

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Note: Police, ambulance or fire department response may be unreliable in some parts of the country.

TRAVEL & ROAD SAFETY

- The standard of infrastructure in the United Arab Emirates is generally very high but can vary outside Dubai and Abu Dhabi, which are the most developed emirates.
- The government has invested significantly in expanding and maintaining existing systems, including transport infrastructure.
- Telecommunications and the supply of basic amenities are also generally good across the country.

RECOMMENDED TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

- No swearing in public; it can result in police detention, arrest or fine.
- No public display of affection, especially between unmarried people.
- Avoid drinking or being drunk in public.
- **Certain medicines which can be legally obtained in other countries may be illegal in the United Arab Emirates.**
- No bathing or swimming in rivers.
- No use of ATMs after dark.
- No rural travel after dark.
- No deviation from approved travel routes.

HEALTH

The standard of the healthcare system in the United Arab Emirates is relatively high. Good medical facilities and well-stocked pharmacies are present in the principal cities of Dubai and Abu Dhabi; however like many rural areas, there is a lack of adequate medical facilities in the outlying areas of the country.

- Tap water in the United Arab Emirates is generally not safe to drink; it is recommended to consume only sterilized or bottled water. This applies to water used for brushing teeth, making ice or washing foods.
- Pasteurized milk can normally be found in major cities, hotels and resorts.
- Unpasteurized milk should be boiled before consumption, or powdered or tinned milk should be used as an alternative.
- Fruit and vegetables should only be consumed if they have been peeled or cooked.
- Undercooked meat and fish should not be consumed.
- Food from street vendors should be avoided as this carries a higher risk of causing infection.

The following vaccinations are recommended or required for travel to the United Arab Emirates

- Hepatitis A

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- Hepatitis B
- Rabies (recommended only for persons at higher risk)
- Typhoid (recommended)

It is also important to ensure that routine vaccinations are up to date for diseases including influenza, varicella (chickenpox), polio, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus.

SIGNIFICANT DISEASES –

- **Diarrhea** – A common illness among travelers in the country and can be caused by bacteria, viruses or parasites. One of the most common causes is a bacterium known as E. coli, which is transmitted by ingesting contaminated food and liquids.
- **Brucellosis** – An infection that affects domestic and wild animals and is spread to humans through consumption of unpasteurized milk. The disease occurs primarily in Dubai.

HOSPITALS –

Al – Zahra Medical Center
Al Safa Tower
Dubai
Tel: +971 4 331 5000
Fax: +971 4 331 4369

Al Dowali International Private Hospital
P.O. Box 914
Dubai
Tel: +971 4 221 24 84
Fax: +971 4 227 8894

US EMBASSY – CONSULATE LOCATIONS

UNITED STATES EMBASSY

P.O. Box 4009
Abu Dhabi
Tel: +971 (0)2 414 2200
Fax: +971 (0)2 414 2241
Email: abudhabiacs@state.gov

USF INTERNATIONAL HOTLINE

USF 24/7 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE LINE: 813-317-5815

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AXA Assistance 24/7 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE LINE: 1-877-577-9504 / +1-203-399-5130 (Call collect from abroad)

ASSIST ID #: GLMN 04983932. <http://www.culturalinsurance.com/resources/>

* Information derived from CIA World Fact Book, US Department of State, OSAC, and Travel Guard. This travel overview summarizes some of the most important concerns; however, it does not negate the need for detailed trip planning.