

OCTOBER 2026 / DIGITAL EDITION

VERITY GULF

NEWS FROM THE GULF

DUBAI A CITY IN MOTION

Business. Neighbourhoods. Culture. Everyday discoveries.

THE CITY OF GOLD / HOMES & HORIZONS

COFFEE WITH A VIEW / THE OCTOBER EDIT

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50 PAGES | 29 STORIES

A city, in many stories.



WELCOME TO VERITY GULF

Dubai is experienced at many scales: a skyline seen from the water, a morning commute, a family searching for a home, or a shopkeeper opening for the day. This digital edition brings those perspectives together in one place.

Across these pages, discover the business behind the City of Gold, explore neighbourhoods and property choices, and look at the technology shaping how the city moves. Then slow down for cafes, markets, fashion and a calendar of things to do.

The issue gathers 29 distinct stories featured on Verity Gulf's homepage when accessed on 4 October 2026. Articles are grouped by subject, with original bylines and publication dates retained. The contents and online-story labels are clickable.

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Property / Technology
/ Style & shopping /
Events / Careers &
sport**

EDITORIAL NOTE

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Dubai, without the price tag

Dubai's Best Free Places to Visit: 15 Attractions That Cost Nothing

Hana Farouk | 3 Oct 2026, 15:00 GST



Dubai's Best Free Places to Visit: From beaches and historic neighbourhoods to waterfront walks, art spaces, wildlife and spectacular evening views, Dubai has plenty of experiences that can be enjoyed without paying an attraction entrance fee. For travellers looking for free places to visit in Dubai, these are some of the best options to add to the itinerary.

Dubai Fountain

The Dubai Fountain remains one of the easiest ways to enjoy a world-famous Dubai attraction without buying an entrance ticket. Located at Burj Lake beside Dubai Mall and Burj Khalifa, the fountain combines music, water and lights in an evening spectacle. The official Visit Dubai website currently lists shows every 30 minutes from 6pm to 11pm, with additional afternoon performances on selected days. The fountain reopened on October 1, 2025, following a five-month renovation. Visitors should note that while watching the fountain from public areas is free, the dedicated Fountain Boardwalk and lake ride are paid experiences. Best for: families, couples, first-time visitors and night photography.

Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood

For a completely different side of Dubai, head to Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood in Bur Dubai. Its narrow lanes, traditional architecture, courtyards and wind towers offer a glimpse into Dubai before the city became a global skyscraper destination. Walking around the neighbourhood costs nothing, making it one of the best choices for visitors interested in history, architecture and photography. The area also puts visitors close to Dubai Creek and several traditional markets, making it easy to combine multiple experiences in one trip. Visit Dubai highlights Al Fahidi as one of the city's key heritage areas. Best for: history, culture and photography.

Kite Beach

Dubai's public beaches are among the easiest free attractions to enjoy. Kite Beach is particularly popular because visitors can combine a beach day with views of the Arabian Gulf and the Burj Al Arab. Visit Dubai confirms free public access to Kite Beach. Swimming and relaxing on the beach can be free, although watersports, equipment rentals, food and other services cost extra. Best for: families, couples, swimming, sunsets and outdoor activities.

Sunset Beach and Nessnass Beach

Jumeirah has several public beaches where visitors can enjoy the coastline without paying for beach-club access. Visit Dubai specifically identifies Sunset

Beach and Nessnass Beach, also known as Jumeirah Open Beach, as free public beaches. Sunset Beach is especially attractive for visitors looking for views of the Burj Al Arab, while Nessnass Beach offers another relaxed public beach option. Best for: swimming, sunset views and budget-friendly beach days.

Dubai Creek

Dubai Creek is one of the best places to experience the contrast between old and new Dubai. Visitors can walk along the waterfront, explore the surrounding historic districts and watch traditional boats and abras crossing the Creek. The surrounding area is particularly appealing for travellers who want to experience Dubai's heritage without paying for a major attraction. One important distinction: walking around the Creek is free, but activities such as an abra ride may have a small charge. Best for: culture, photography and exploring Old Dubai.

Dubai Gold Souk

You do not have to buy gold to enjoy Dubai's famous Gold Souk. Walking through the market and looking at the elaborate jewellery displays is free. The souk provides an opportunity to experience one of the city's most traditional commercial districts. Combine it with Dubai Creek, the Spice Souk and the surrounding lanes of Deira for a low-cost Old Dubai itinerary. Best for: culture, shopping atmosphere and photography.

Dubai Marina Walk

Dubai Marina is one of the city's most attractive areas for an evening walk. The Marina promenade provides views of high-rise buildings, yachts and the waterfront. It is particularly appealing after sunset, when the surrounding skyline becomes illuminated. There is no need to book a paid attraction simply to enjoy the public areas and walk along the Marina. Best for: couples, evening walks and skyline photography.

Palm Jumeirah Boardwalk

Palm Jumeirah is usually associated with luxury resorts and expensive experiences, but visitors can enjoy parts of the island without booking a hotel. The Palm Jumeirah Boardwalk offers a long waterfront route with views of the Arabian Gulf and Dubai's skyline. It is a good option for travellers who want to see one of Dubai's most recognisable landmarks without paying for an attraction. Best for: walking, photography and sea views.

Dubai Water Canal

[Read the original story online](#)

Dubai, without the price tag

CONTINUED / HANA FAROUK

The Dubai Water Canal provides another free outdoor experience, particularly around sunrise and sunset. The public waterway features pedestrian routes and distinctive bridges offering views of the surrounding skyline. Visit Dubai notes that the public space is open throughout the day and recommends early morning or sunset for particularly attractive light. Best for: walking, running, photography and evening views.

Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary

One of Dubai's most unexpected free experiences is its wildlife sanctuary. Ras Al Khor is a wetland surrounded by the modern city and is particularly famous for its flamingos. Dubai Municipality describes the sanctuary as an internationally important wetland supporting hundreds of bird and other species. The sanctuary has dedicated bird hides, including the Flamingo Hide and Lagoon Hide. Dubai Municipality currently lists the Mangrove Hide as temporarily closed, so visitors should check the latest information before travelling. The current winter visiting period, from October through March, is listed as 7:30am to 5:30pm. Best for: families, birdwatching, nature and photography.

Alserkal Avenue

Dubai's art scene provides another opportunity for visitors to explore without spending heavily. Alserkal Avenue in Al Quoz is home to galleries, creative spaces and cultural projects. The district is particularly interesting for visitors who want something different from Dubai's traditional sightseeing circuit. Some individual events or activities can charge admission, so check the venue before attending a particular programme. Best for: art, culture and young travellers.

Jameel Arts Centre

Jameel Arts Centre at Jaddaf Waterfront is another place worth considering for an art-focused day in Dubai. The centre presents contemporary art and cultural exhibitions, giving visitors an alternative to Dubai's commercial attractions. It also fits naturally into a wider itinerary around Dubai Creek and Jaddaf. Best for: contemporary art and culture.

Dubai Creek Harbour Viewing Point

Dubai Creek Harbour offers a different perspective of the city's skyline. The waterfront provides views towards Downtown Dubai and the wider Creek area, making it particularly attractive for photographers and visitors looking for a quieter place away from the busiest tourist zones. It is a useful option for people searching specifically for free photography spots in Dubai . Best for: skyline views, photography and sunset.

Al Qudra Lakes

For travellers willing to move away from central Dubai, Al Qudra offers a completely different experience. The lakes sit within Dubai's desert landscape and provide opportunities to enjoy open spaces, wildlife and sunset scenery. It is better suited to visitors with access to a car because of its location outside the central tourist areas. Best for: nature, sunsets, photography and couples.

Quranic Park

Quranic Park in Al Khawaneej is another budget-friendly destination, particularly for families. The main park can be explored without paying an attraction entrance fee. However, individual features such as the Glass House and Cave of Miracles can have separate charges, so visitors should check current fees if they want to enter those facilities. Best for: families, gardens and cultural experiences.

The Best Free Places in Dubai by Experience

Experience	Recommended place
Best for first-time visitors	Dubai Fountain

Best free beach	Kite Beach
Best for history	Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood
Best for Old Dubai	Dubai Creek
Best for nightlife	Dubai Marina Walk
Best for photography	Dubai Creek Harbour
Best for families	Kite Beach / Ras Al Khor
Best for wildlife	Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary
Best for culture	Al Fahidi / Alserkal Avenue
Best for sunset	Kite Beach / Al Qudra Lakes
Best for skyline views	Dubai Creek Harbour
Best for a long walk	Dubai Water Canal

Free Places to Visit in Dubai at Night

Visitors looking for free things to do in Dubai at night have several good options. The Dubai Fountain is an obvious choice, with evening performances currently running every 30 minutes from 6pm to 11pm. Dubai Marina Walk, JBR's public areas, Dubai Creek and the Dubai Water Canal are other possibilities for an evening walk and photography. For a more traditional atmosphere, Deira's Gold Souk and the surrounding Old Dubai streets offer a very different experience from Downtown.

Free Places in Dubai for Families

Families can combine sightseeing with outdoor activities without spending heavily. Kite Beach offers public beach access, while Ras Al Khor provides an opportunity to see wildlife in a natural wetland setting. The Dubai Fountain is another easy family option because visitors can watch the main show without paying for a ticket. Quranic Park can also be considered, provided visitors understand that some individual attractions inside the park may carry separate charges.

How to Explore Dubai for Less

The easiest way to keep a Dubai sightseeing day affordable is to group attractions by location. For example, a Downtown day can combine Dubai Mall, the surrounding public areas and the Dubai Fountain. An Old Dubai day can include Al Fahidi, Dubai Creek, the Gold Souk and nearby traditional markets. A Jumeirah day can combine Kite Beach, Sunset Beach and other public coastal areas. For an evening itinerary, Dubai Marina, JBR and the Water Canal offer opportunities to enjoy the city's architecture and skyline without buying attraction tickets.

Visitors should still budget for transportation, food, parking and optional activities. “Free attraction” does not necessarily mean that the entire trip to that location will cost nothing. From watching the Dubai Fountain beneath Burj Khalifa and relaxing at Kite Beach to walking through Al Fahidi , exploring Dubai Creek and spotting flamingos at Ras Al Khor , there are plenty of ways to experience the city on a budget.

For travellers searching for free places to visit in Dubai , the best strategy is to combine famous landmarks with public beaches, heritage areas, waterfront walks and nature spots. That makes it possible to see several different sides of Dubai while keeping sightseeing costs under control.

[Read the original story online](#)

Coffee with a view

Best Cafes in Dubai for Views and Deals: Beach, Burj Khalifa, Marina & Palm

Hana Farouk | 30 Sep 2026, 16:05 GST



Best Cafes in Dubai for Views and Deals: From Burj Khalifa views and Dubai Fountain scenery to beachfront coffee and Palm Jumeirah sunsets , Dubai has cafés for almost every budget and occasion. If you are searching for the best cafes in Dubai , the right choice depends on what you want: a skyline view, beach atmosphere, specialty coffee, a quiet breakfast or a good café deal. Here is a practical guide to some of the Dubai cafés worth considering in 2026.

Best Dubai Cafes With a View

JOE's Café - Dubai Mall

If your priority is a Downtown Dubai experience , JOE's Café at Dubai Mall is worth considering. Its location puts visitors close to the Burj Khalifa and Dubai Fountain area, making it convenient for people combining coffee with sightseeing and shopping. It can work particularly well for visitors searching for a café near Burj Khalifa rather than travelling across Dubai for a dedicated coffee stop.

Gérard Café - Burj Plaza

Gérard Café is another option around Downtown Dubai. Its Burj Plaza location provides an opportunity to combine coffee or food with the surrounding Burj Khalifa district. This is particularly useful for visitors who want to spend an afternoon around Downtown rather than visiting a café as a standalone destination.

Time Out Market Dubai

Time Out Market Dubai at Souk Al Bahar is a different kind of café and dining experience. Its terrace provides views towards the Burj Khalifa and Dubai Fountain , making it attractive for visitors who want food or coffee with one of Dubai's most recognisable cityscapes. It is also convenient for people visiting Dubai Mall, Souk Al Bahar and Downtown Dubai.

Best Beach Cafes in Dubai

Dubai's coastline creates another strong café-search category: beach cafés with sea views .

Common Grounds - Kite Beach

Common Grounds at Kite Beach is suitable for people who want coffee and food in a relaxed beachfront environment. Kite Beach is already popular for outdoor activities, so a café here can easily become part of a morning or evening beach visit.

Good Life - Kite Beach

Good Life offers another casual option around Kite Beach. Its outdoor setting makes it suitable for visitors searching for a café by the beach in Dubai rather than a formal restaurant. The area is particularly appealing when the goal is coffee, a light meal and time outdoors.

Morn Brew - Kite Beach

Morn Brew is another option for a coffee stop near the beach. Its location makes it relevant to searches such as best coffee near Kite Beach and Dubai beach cafés . For an early start, the beach setting can make the coffee experience more attractive than visiting a traditional indoor café.

Roasters - Emaar Beachfront

Roasters at Emaar Beachfront combines specialty coffee with an all-day breakfast setting and waterfront surroundings. It is worth considering if you are specifically looking for coffee with a sea view in Dubai .

Smoky Beach - JBR

JBR is one of Dubai's busiest waterfront areas, and Smoky Beach offers another option for visitors who want a café-style stop close to the beach. The location provides views towards Bluewaters and Ain Dubai , giving it a different visual experience from Downtown's skyscraper views.

Tino - Mercato Beach

Tino at Mercato Beach offers a quieter coastal setting. Its location is useful for people who want a less central beach café experience while still having access to Dubai's coastline. On clear days, the wider Dubai skyline can add to the setting.

Best Cafes in Palm Jumeirah

Palm Jumeirah is another popular search destination for cafés with water and skyline views.

[Read the original story online](#)

Coffee with a view

CONTINUED / HANA FAROUK

Revo Café - Anantara The Palm

Revo Café at Anantara The Palm is an option for visitors looking for a Palm Jumeirah café with a sea view . The terrace overlooks the Arabian Gulf, while the menu includes breakfast, coffee and all-day dining options. It can work well for a relaxed breakfast or coffee rather than a quick takeaway.

The Penthouse - FIVE Palm Jumeirah

The Penthouse is better suited to people searching for an elevated Palm Jumeirah experience. Its position at FIVE Palm Jumeirah provides views across the Palm and Dubai Marina skyline. The atmosphere also changes considerably between daytime and evening, making it more than a traditional coffee-shop stop.

Riva Beach Club

Riva Beach Club provides another Palm Jumeirah option where visitors can combine a beach setting with food and drinks. For travellers searching for Palm Jumeirah cafés near the beach , this type of location can be more attractive than an indoor coffee shop.

Best Cafes in Dubai Marina and JBR

Dubai Marina and JBR are particularly useful areas to explore if your main search is cafés with waterfront views . The area has everything from casual coffee shops to hotel venues and restaurants with terraces. The advantage is that visitors can combine café hopping with a walk along the Marina, JBR Beach or Bluewaters. For a first-time visitor, choosing a café around Marina or JBR can therefore provide both a dining experience and sightseeing opportunity.

Best Specialty Coffee Shops in Dubai

Dubai is also a major destination for specialty coffee.

The Espresso Lab

The Espresso Lab is one of the names associated with Dubai's specialty-coffee scene. Its Dubai Design District presence makes it particularly relevant for visitors interested in coffee quality rather than simply looking for a scenic location. It is a good search match for specialty coffee in Dubai and best coffee shops in Dubai .

Boon Coffee Roasters

Boon Coffee Roasters is another name worth exploring for specialty coffee. It is particularly relevant for visitors who want to learn more about coffee origins and preparation rather than simply ordering a standard café drink.

RAW Coffee Company

RAW Coffee Company has been part of Dubai's specialty coffee scene for years and is another option for serious coffee drinkers. Its inclusion is useful when creating a guide that covers both Dubai cafés with views and the city's broader coffee culture.

Dubai Cafe Deals: Where to Look for Cheaper Coffee

Not every good café experience in Dubai needs to involve a premium price. Café promotions can change frequently, so it is worth checking the café's official social media page or website before visiting. One of the biggest opportunities for coffee deals comes around special events and food-calendar

dates.

International Coffee Day Deals

October 1 is International Coffee Day, and Dubai cafés and coffee chains often introduce limited-time promotions around the date. Reported 2026 promotions include offers from cafés and chains such as The Big Chill Café, Dunkin and Denny's. Because these offers are time-sensitive, visitors should verify the exact terms, dates and participating locations before travelling.

Happy Hour Deals

Another way to reduce the cost of eating and drinking around Dubai is to look for happy-hour offers . Dubai Marina, JBR, Bluewaters and Dubai Harbour have numerous venues offering time-limited food and drink promotions. Some hotel venues also offer afternoon or early-evening packages, which can be useful for visitors who want a waterfront experience without paying the full evening price.

How to Find Affordable Cafes in Dubai

If your priority is price rather than luxury, consider these strategies: Visit during breakfast or afternoon hours. Some cafés have lower-priced breakfast or coffee combinations. Look for weekday promotions. Deals can be more common during quieter periods. Check happy-hour timings. Some waterfront venues offer selected drinks and food at reduced prices during specific hours. Compare locations. A café inside a luxury hotel or major tourist attraction can cost considerably more than a neighbourhood specialty coffee shop. Check the menu before visiting. Online menus can help you understand the expected cost before you arrive. Look for seasonal promotions. Dubai cafés frequently introduce offers around festivals, holidays and special events.

Best Dubai Cafes for Instagram Photos

If the goal is an attractive photograph rather than only coffee, different areas offer different backgrounds. For Burj Khalifa views , Downtown Dubai is the obvious choice. For sea and beach photographs , Kite Beach, JBR, Mercato Beach and Emaar Beachfront offer very different settings. For Dubai Marina skyline photos , Marina and JBR provide high-rise buildings, water and evening lights. For Palm photographs , Palm Jumeirah gives you the combination of beaches, resorts, boats and Dubai's skyline. This means there is no single “best” Instagram café. The right choice depends on the type of photograph you want.

Choosing Dubai Area

If you want Burj Khalifa views , choose Downtown Dubai. If you want a beach café , look around Kite Beach, JBR or Mercato Beach. If you want Palm and sea views , explore Palm Jumeirah. If you want Marina skyline views , choose Dubai Marina or JBR. If you care more about specialty coffee , look at Dubai's independent coffee shops and roasters. If you want a deal , check current promotions, breakfast combinations and happy-hour offers before visiting.

The best cafés in Dubai are not all about expensive interiors or luxury menus. Dubai's café scene ranges from specialty coffee shops and casual beach cafés to Burj Khalifa-facing terraces and Palm Jumeirah venues . For sightseeing, Downtown offers some of the city's most recognisable views. For a relaxed outdoor coffee, Kite Beach and other waterfront areas are worth exploring. Palm Jumeirah is suited to visitors looking for resort and sea views, while Dubai Marina and JBR combine cafés with a busy waterfront atmosphere.

[Read the original story online](#)

Stay for less

Cheap Hotels in Dubai Under AED 200: Affordable Stays in 2026

Hana Farouk | 30 Sep 2026, 15:02 GST



Cheap Hotels in Dubai Under AED 200: Hotel prices change depending on the date, room type and availability. The prices below are therefore indicative and may be different when you book.

Affordable Hotels in Dubai Under AED 200

Avani Deira Dubai Hotel is in Deira and is close to Dubai Metro and Dubai International Airport. It has a rooftop pool, fitness centre and restaurant. Rates around AED 175 have been seen on selected dates. Avani Ibn Battuta Dubai Hotel is next to Ibn Battuta Mall and has access to the Dubai Metro. It has an outdoor pool and restaurant. Selected promotional rates have been around AED 180. ibis Styles Dubai Gold District is located in Deira, close to the Gold Souk and Gold Souq Metro Station. It is convenient for visitors exploring Old Dubai. Rates around AED 170 have been seen on some dates.

Four Points by Sheraton Bur Dubai is located in Bur Dubai near Khalid Bin Waleed Metro Station. It has a rooftop pool, restaurants, gym and free parking. Promotional rates can bring the price close to AED 200. Hilton Garden Inn Dubai Deira is another option in Deira. It offers an outdoor pool, restaurant, fitness centre and free parking. Selected rates have been available below AED 200. DoubleTree by Hilton Dubai Port Saeed is close to Deira City Centre and Dubai International Airport. It has an outdoor pool, fitness centre and restaurant. Rates around AED 150-200 have appeared on selected dates.

DoubleTree by Hilton Dubai Al Jadaf is near Al Jadaf Metro Station. The hotel has a rooftop pool, restaurant and fitness centre. Selected rates can be around AED 150-200. Hampton by Hilton Dubai Airport is suitable for travellers who want to stay close to Dubai International Airport. It offers complimentary breakfast, free Wi-Fi, free parking and an outdoor pool. Rates around AED 185 have been seen on selected dates. Hampton by Hilton Dubai Al Seef is near Dubai Creek in the Al Seef area. It offers complimentary breakfast, free Wi-Fi, free parking and an outdoor pool. Selected rates have been around AED 194.

Canopy by Hilton Dubai Al Seef is also located near Dubai Creek. It has a rooftop pool, restaurants, fitness facilities and a spa. Promotional rates can sometimes bring the price close to AED 200. TIME Onyx Hotel Apartments in Al Qusais offers studios and apartments with kitchen facilities. It also has a swimming pool, gym and restaurant. Rates around AED 140-200 have been seen on selected dates. Signature Hotel Al Barsha is close to Mall of the Emirates and a Metro station. It has an outdoor pool

and gym. Selected rates have been around AED 135.

Signature 1 Hotel Barsha Heights offers a rooftop pool, gym and spa. Selected rates can be around AED 150-200. ECOS Dubai Hotel at Al Furjan is a modern three-star hotel in Al Furjan. Third-party hotel searches have shown rates below AED 200 on some dates, although prices can vary between booking websites.

Which Areas Are Good for Cheap Hotels?

Deira is one of the most practical areas for budget travellers. It has Metro stations, restaurants, traditional markets and easy access to Dubai International Airport. Bur Dubai is useful for visitors who want to explore Old Dubai and areas such as Meena Bazaar. Al Barsha is a good option if you want to stay near Mall of the Emirates and the Metro. Al Qusais can be useful for airport stays, while Al Jadaf offers Metro access and convenient connections towards Downtown Dubai.

Find a Hotel Under AED 200

Hotel prices can change considerably depending on your travel dates. Checking several dates can help you find a lower rate. Before booking, compare the hotel's direct rate with major booking platforms and check the final price rather than only the advertised room rate. If you plan to use public transport, choosing a hotel near a Metro station can also reduce your daily travel costs. A budget of AED 200 can be enough for a hotel in Dubai on selected dates. Deira, Bur Dubai, Al Barsha, Al Qusais and Al Jadaf are useful areas to check.

Instead of looking only at the cheapest room, consider the hotel's location, Metro access, breakfast and the final price you will actually pay. Hotel rates change frequently, so always check your exact travel dates before booking.

FAQs

Can I find a hotel in Dubai under AED 200? Yes. Several hotels can have rates below or around AED 200 on selected dates. Which area is good for cheap hotels in Dubai? Deira, Bur Dubai, Al Barsha and Al Qusais are areas worth checking for budget accommodation. Can I find a cheap hotel near Dubai Airport? Yes. Hotels in Deira, Al Qusais and nearby areas can provide convenient access to Dubai International Airport. Is AED 200 enough for a Dubai hotel? It can be, particularly when you are flexible with your dates and choose a budget-friendly area.

[Read the original story online](#)

Snow in the desert

Dubai's Desert Ski Resort: How Dubai Keeps 6,000 Tonnes of Snow Frozen Inside a Mall

Verity Gulf | 28 Sep 2026, 15:03 GST



Dubai's Desert Ski Resort: Dubai is known for its desert heat, but inside Mall of the Emirates, visitors can find something that seems completely out of place: a large indoor ski resort covered in real snow. Ski Dubai, which opened in 2005, operates inside the mall and covers around 22,500 square metres. The attraction includes an indoor mountain reaching about 85 metres and five ski runs, with the longest stretching around 400 metres.

How Does Dubai Make Snow?

Keeping snow frozen in a desert climate requires a specially controlled environment. Ski Dubai uses refrigeration and insulation systems to maintain temperatures below freezing inside the facility. Engineering information about the resort says its snow-making system can produce around 30 to 40 tonnes of fresh snow overnight. The snow is created using chilled water and snow-making equipment. This allows Ski Dubai to maintain its slopes even while temperatures outside can be far above freezing.

Dubai Has Thousands of Tonnes of Snow Indoors

One of the most surprising figures associated with Ski Dubai is the amount of snow inside the facility. The resort was designed with around 6,000 tonnes of snow covering its slopes and snow areas. That means a huge quantity of frozen water has to be maintained inside a building in one of the world's hottest desert cities.

The Indoor Mountain Is 85 Metres High

Ski Dubai is not simply a flat indoor snow park. Its indoor mountain rises approximately 85 metres, creating enough elevation for multiple ski and snowboard runs. The longest

slope is about 400 metres long, with different runs designed for different ability levels. The scale is what makes Ski Dubai unusual: a mountain-sized snow attraction has been built inside a shopping mall in the middle of the desert.

What Happens to the Snow?

Maintaining the snow also involves managing the water used in the system. An engineering account of Ski Dubai's cooling operation says snow removed during maintenance can be melted and the resulting water reused in the facility's cooling system and for irrigation. This helps reduce the amount of water that would otherwise be lost from the operation.

Ski Dubai Has Also Hosted Competitive Events

The indoor slope is not limited to recreational skiing. Ski Dubai has hosted international snow-sport competitions, including FIS-sanctioned events. The facility has also been used by athletes preparing for international competition. It even holds a Guinness World Records achievement. In 2017, Ski Dubai instructors collectively skied 302.3 kilometres in eight hours on the indoor slope.

Why Ski Dubai Is One of Dubai's Most Unusual Attractions

The unusual part is not simply that Dubai has a ski resort. It is the engineering behind it. A city surrounded by desert has created an enclosed environment capable of maintaining thousands of tonnes of snow, producing fresh snow overnight and supporting an indoor mountain with ski runs. Outside, Dubai remains a desert city. Inside Mall of the Emirates, it is possible to ski on real snow.

[Read the original story online](#)

The city of gold

Dubai Gold Facts: Why the City Is One of the World's Biggest Gold Hubs

Omar Said | 29 Sep 2026, 13:40 GST



Dubai Gold Facts: Dubai is famous for its Gold Souk, but its connection with gold goes far beyond rows of jewellery shops in Deira. The emirate has developed a major gold ecosystem covering jewellery, bullion, refining, trading, investment and precious-metal services. Dubai currently accounts for around 15% of global gold trade , according to DMCC, making the emirate an important centre in the international gold market. Here are some of the most interesting facts behind Dubai's reputation as the City of Gold .

Dubai's gold trade is much bigger than the Gold Souk

The Gold Souk is probably the most recognisable part of Dubai's gold industry, but it represents only the retail side of a much larger business. Dubai's gold ecosystem includes bullion trading, refining, jewellery manufacturing, wholesale and retail, vaulting and investment. DMCC describes the emirate as a global hub covering different stages of the gold value chain. This is why Dubai's gold industry cannot be measured simply by counting jewellery shops.

Dubai once handled 1,200 tonnes of gold in a year

One of the most striking historical figures comes from Dubai's development as a global gold centre. DMCC records that around 1,200 tonnes of gold traded through Dubai in 2011 . At the time, that represented roughly one-quarter of global gold demand. The value of Dubai's gold trade also grew dramatically, from about US\$6 billion in 2003 to US\$56 billion in 2011 and US\$70 billion in 2012 . These figures show how quickly Dubai developed from a regional trading centre into an important international gold hub.

The Gold Souk grew from Dubai's trading history

Dubai's gold story is closely linked to Dubai Creek , which historically connected the emirate with merchants and trading routes. The creek

and harbour helped facilitate the movement of goods, including gold, through traditional dhow trade. Over time, the gold market around Deira developed into the famous Gold Souk. Today, DMCC says the Gold Souk district has more than 400 retail and wholesale shops .

Dubai has a gold market beyond physical jewellery

Gold in Dubai is not limited to physical purchases. The emirate also has a financial trading infrastructure for commodities. The Dubai Gold and Commodities Exchange recorded 5.4 million contracts in 2023 , with a reported value of approximately US\$115.3 billion . For many visitors, the Gold Souk is their introduction to Dubai's gold market. Behind it, however, is a much larger wholesale and financial ecosystem.

Gold prices can change during the same day

Dubai's gold price is not necessarily a single fixed number for the entire day. The Dubai Jewellery Group says its suggested retail gold rates are updated three times daily - at 9am, 3pm and 8pm UAE time . This is particularly important for people planning to buy jewellery because the gold component of a purchase can change as the international market moves.

24K isn't the only gold sold in Dubai

Dubai's jewellery market offers different levels of gold purity. 24K represents the highest commonly traded purity and is widely associated with bars and coins. 22K is widely used for jewellery such as chains and bangles, while 18K is frequently used for diamond and stone-set jewellery. Therefore, two pieces described simply as "gold jewellery" can contain significantly different proportions of pure gold.

The displayed gold rate isn't the final jewellery price

[Read the original story online](#)

The city of gold

CONTINUED / OMAR SAID

One of the biggest points buyers need to understand is that the daily gold rate does not necessarily equal the final price of a jewellery item. The final bill can include the value of the gold, the labour or making charge, design-related costs and applicable VAT. Visit Dubai says the gold value generally accounts for around 80% to 90% of the final jewellery price . This is why comparing only the advertised gold rate may not tell you which piece will have the lowest final price.

Buyers can request a digital authentication certificate

Dubai has also introduced digital tools to give jewellery buyers more information about their purchases. Visit Dubai says dealers are obliged to provide a digital authentication certificate on request . It can contain information including the karat, actual gold weight, stone weight and labour cost. For buyers, this can make it easier to understand what they are actually paying for.

Dubai gold is regulated

Another important fact is that the UAE's gold market operates within a formal regulatory framework. Federal legislation covers the trade in precious stones and precious metals and their stamping . The UAE's legislation portal lists Federal Law No. 11 of 2015 as active legislation governing this area. Dubai's reputation therefore comes not only from its large markets but also from the regulations governing precious-metal trading.

Dubai is working on responsible gold sourcing

Dubai's modern gold story also includes responsible sourcing. UAE regulations require relevant businesses to carry out supply-chain due diligence for gold. The framework includes identifying and assessing supply-chain risks, responding to those risks, independent third-party review and reporting requirements for relevant refiners. The rules are intended to address risks associated with gold coming from conflict-affected and high-risk areas.

Dubai has its own Good Delivery standard

The UAE has also developed the UAE Good Delivery standard for the gold sector. DMCC describes the standard as supporting international best practices related to responsible sourcing, refining and distribution of gold and gold products. This is another indication that Dubai's gold industry extends into refining and wholesale markets rather than being primarily a retail jewellery destination.

The Dubai Jewellery Group has hundreds of members

The Dubai Jewellery Group says it has more than 600 members across areas including bullion, manufacturing, wholesale, retail, precious metals, diamonds and pearls. The organisation was established in 1996 , reflecting the long-term development of Dubai's organised jewellery

trade.

Dubai's jewellery market serves different cultures

Dubai's gold market has developed around an international customer base. Jewellery sold in the emirate includes designs influenced by Arabic, Indian, Turkish and Italian traditions, alongside bridal, antique, polki and contemporary styles. This diversity is one reason Dubai's jewellery market offers everything from traditional heavy gold pieces to lightweight modern designs.

High gold prices are changing what people buy

The recent gold-price environment has also affected jewellery demand in the UAE. The World Gold Council reported that UAE jewellery demand fell from 34.7 tonnes in 2024 to 29.4 tonnes in 2025 , a decline of about 15%. However, the value of jewellery demand increased because gold prices were significantly higher. This creates an interesting situation: people can buy less gold by weight while spending more money on it.

Lightweight jewellery is gaining attention

As gold becomes more expensive, lightweight jewellery provides a way for buyers to purchase gold while reducing the amount of metal in each item. Visit Dubai has highlighted demand for lighter pieces such as delicate chains and slimmer bracelets. This trend is particularly relevant when gold prices are high because even a small difference in weight can affect the final bill.

Dubai gold isn't completely tax-free

Another common misconception is that buying gold in Dubai automatically means paying no tax. The UAE applies 5% VAT . Eligible tourists can apply for a VAT refund when leaving the country, subject to the requirements of the UAE Federal Tax Authority. The FTA currently states that eligible tourist purchases must meet a minimum transaction value of AED 250 excluding VAT , while the refund process has specific validation and refund conditions. So tourists should look at the complete purchase price rather than assuming every gold purchase is automatically tax-free.

Dubai became known as the City of Gold

Dubai's nickname is not based on the Gold Souk alone. Its reputation developed through a combination of historic trading routes, a large jewellery market, international gold flows, bullion and commodity trading, refining, regulation and a global customer base . From the traditional shops of Deira to modern commodity markets, Dubai's gold industry now operates across almost the entire value chain. That is what makes Dubai's gold story more than a shopping attraction - it is a major part of the emirate's international trading economy.

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A simpler start for SMEs

Dubai SME in a Box: AED 80,000+ Potential Value and 18 Business Partners

Omar Said | 22 Sep 2026, 13:19 GST



Dubai SME in a Box: Dubai has launched a new platform designed to make it easier for entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized businesses to set up and operate in the emirate. The Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) launched SME in a Box on June 4, 2026. The platform brings several essential business services together through a single onboarding journey, covering areas such as licensing support, banking, digital payments, logistics and telecommunications.

What is SME in a Box?

SME in a Box gives founders a single entry point to access services from a network of private-sector providers. DET says businesses often have to deal with several providers when launching operations. This can involve comparing different offers, completing multiple onboarding processes and managing separate service arrangements. The new platform is designed to bring these services together and reduce some of that administrative work.

More than AED 80,000 in potential value

One of the key figures highlighted by DET is more than AED 80,000 in potential value per business across core operational services. The amount is not a fixed payment or guaranteed cash saving for every company. According to DET, the potential value comes through a combination of discounted transaction rates, fee waivers, subsidised onboarding, reduced service charges and preferential partner packages. The actual value available to a business depends on the solutions it activates and its individual requirements. Emirati SME members can also receive additional preferential offers and enhanced onboarding support.

18 private-sector partners

SME in a Box launched with 18 private-sector partners offering SME-focused packages and onboarding support. The partners named by DET are:

Emirates NBD • Network International • Commercial Bank of Dubai • du • Crossval • Paymob • Ziina • Qashio • Bayzat • Mamo • Aramex • Tabby • Arab Financial Services (AFS) • Revent • Ascentia • DHL • Maison • Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank

The partners cover different areas of business operations, allowing companies to access multiple services through the platform.

Businesses can potentially save up to 200 hours

Cost is not the only focus of SME in a Box. DET says founders who activate banking and payment solutions through the platform can potentially save up to 200 hours that would normally be spent sourcing providers, comparing offers, negotiating contracts and completing separate onboarding processes. The aim is to help founders move more quickly from the setup stage to operating their businesses.

Some services can be activated within 24 hours

Certain digital-first services, including payments, logistics and telecommunications, can be activated in as little as 24 hours through integrated onboarding and automated eligibility verification. This does not mean every service will be completed within 24 hours. DET states that more complex services, including corporate banking and licensing approvals, continue to follow standard regulatory requirements. However, coordinated

onboarding and pre-validation are intended to help reduce administrative delays.

What services does SME in a Box cover?

The platform is being rolled out in phases. The initial services include:

Licensing support • Banking • Payment processing • Telecommunications • Logistics • Marketing services

Future phases are expected to add deeper digital integration and more automated onboarding processes.

Integration with Invest in Dubai

DET says SME in a Box will eventually integrate with the Invest in Dubai platform. The planned integration is intended to create a more unified digital entry point for business setup and operations in Dubai. This means the platform is not being positioned as a standalone service only. Its capabilities are expected to expand as additional digital integrations are introduced.

Connection with Dubai Founders HQ

SME in a Box will also be integrated within Dubai Founders HQ. According to DET, this will connect founders with investors, corporates and other ecosystem partners. Businesses will be able to access wider support such as mentorship, growth programmes, market access and strategic partnerships. The aim is to support businesses beyond their initial setup and help them move towards growth.

Who is the platform for?

DET says entrepreneurs, startups, Dubai SME members and Dubai-based businesses are invited to explore SME in a Box and activate available services. The benefits and onboarding requirements can differ depending on the service selected. Businesses should therefore check the individual terms and eligibility requirements before proceeding.

Dubai's wider SME support

The launch forms part of Dubai's broader efforts to improve the business environment and support small and medium-sized enterprises. DET said the initiative is aligned with the Dubai Economic Agenda, D33, which includes the objective of doubling the size of Dubai's economy. For businesses, the immediate focus of SME in a Box is more practical: bringing essential services into one onboarding journey, reducing administrative work and providing access to preferential offers from participating providers.

What businesses should know

SME in a Box does not remove the regulatory requirements attached to services such as business licensing or corporate banking. Instead, it provides a coordinated route to several services that businesses may need when establishing and running their operations. The headline benefits are 18 participating private-sector partners, more than AED 80,000 in potential value, and up to 200 hours of potential time savings for founders using relevant services. The actual benefits will depend on the business, the services selected and the applicable partner terms. The information in this article is based on the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism's official announcement dated June 4, 2026.

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Where Dubai is growing

Top Booming Sectors in Dubai in 2026

Omar Said | 16 Sep 2026, 21:20 GST



Top Booming Sectors in Dubai in 2026: Where the Emirate's Next Wave of Growth Is Taking Shape Dubai has entered 2026 with an economy that looks increasingly diversified, investment-driven and focused on future industries. While real estate, tourism and trade remain important pillars, the latest economic figures point to a broader story: financial services, construction, healthcare, technology, logistics and other knowledge-based activities are all contributing to the emirate's expansion.

Dubai's economy recorded 2.4% year-on-year growth in the first quarter of 2026, reaching approximately AED 232 billion in GDP. The figures underline the resilience of an economy that has spent years building strength across multiple sectors rather than depending on a single source of growth. For businesses and investors watching the UAE market, the question is therefore no longer simply whether Dubai is growing. It is which sectors are likely to shape the next phase of that growth. Real Estate and Construction Remain at the Centre

Few industries are as closely associated with Dubai's economic story as real estate. In 2026, however, the sector's significance extends beyond luxury residential developments and iconic skyscrapers. Dubai recorded AED 252 billion in real estate transactions during Q1 2026, representing a 31% increase in transaction value compared with the same period of 2025. Foreign investment in the sector also reached AED 148.35 billion during the quarter. Construction is moving in the same direction. Official Q1 figures show construction activity grew 8.2% year-on-year, with the sector generating approximately AED 18.7 billion in gross value added. Real estate activities themselves grew 3.1% during the period.

The opportunity is increasingly spreading into areas such as property technology, building management, sustainable construction, infrastructure services and specialized real estate services. Financial Services and FinTech Gain Further Momentum Dubai's financial sector is another major engine of growth. In Q1 2026, financial and insurance activities expanded by 6.5%, reaching approximately AED 32.4 billion

in gross value added and accounting for around 14% of Dubai's GDP. The city's position between major markets in Asia, Europe and Africa has helped it develop into an important regional centre for banking, investment, wealth management and insurance.

At the same time, financial technology is changing the nature of the sector. Digital payments, financial platforms, blockchain applications and technology-enabled financial services are creating opportunities for companies that combine finance with software and data. For entrepreneurs, this makes Dubai's financial ecosystem relevant not only to traditional financial institutions but also to technology companies building services around them. Artificial Intelligence and the Digital Economy Perhaps the most significant change in Dubai's economic landscape is the growing importance of technology.

Dubai has continued to position artificial intelligence, digital transformation and innovation as strategic priorities. The emirate's 2026-2028 government budget specifically identifies artificial intelligence, digital transformation, entrepreneurship and future-focused sectors as areas supporting its long-term economic ambitions. Dubai also retained the global No. 1 position for AI-related greenfield FDI projects for the fourth consecutive year, according to data from the Financial Times' fDi Markets database. In 2025, the emirate attracted 1,253 announced greenfield FDI projects, a 10.5% increase from the previous year. This creates a wide field for businesses working in AI software, cloud infrastructure, cybersecurity, automation, data services and enterprise technology.

The opportunity is particularly interesting because technology is increasingly being applied across other industries rather than operating as a standalone sector. Tourism Continues to Expand Beyond Traditional Hospitality Tourism remains one of Dubai's strongest international-facing industries. The emirate welcomed 19.59 million international overnight visitors in 2025, marking a 5% increase from 2024 and its third consecutive record-breaking year. The scale of this visitor economy supports far more than hotels. Restaurants,

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Where Dubai is growing

CONTINUED / OMAR SAID

entertainment, retail, events, transport, travel technology, wellness and luxury experiences all benefit from the continuing flow of international visitors.

Dubai's tourism market is also becoming more diversified. Business travel, major events, family tourism, luxury experiences and destination-based entertainment are increasingly interconnected, creating opportunities for companies that can deliver specialised experiences rather than conventional tourism products. Logistics, Transportation and Trade Dubai's geographic position gives logistics a structural advantage. The emirate sits at the intersection of major trade routes connecting Asia, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Its airports, seaports, free zones and road networks have helped establish it as a major distribution and re-export centre.

Dubai International Airport handled 95.2 million passengers in 2025 , while Jebel Ali Port handled approximately 15.5 million TEUs in 2024 , according to Dubai government data. The growth opportunity now extends into technology-driven logistics. Warehousing automation, fulfilment, supply-chain software, last-mile delivery and cross-border e-commerce are becoming increasingly important as businesses seek faster and more efficient ways to move products. Healthcare and Wellness Emerging as a High-Growth Area Healthcare deserves particular attention in 2026. Human health and social work activities recorded the highest sector growth rate in Dubai during Q1 2026, expanding 17.5% year-on-year . The sector's gross value added reached approximately AED 3.6 billion.

Dubai's international population and its position as a regional business and tourism hub create demand for high-quality medical services, specialist care, wellness, health technology and related professional services. The combination of healthcare and technology could become especially important as digital health platforms, data-driven services and specialised medical facilities develop further. Retail, E-commerce and Consumer Businesses Retail remains one of Dubai's economic heavyweights. Wholesale and retail trade was the largest contributor to Dubai's GDP in Q1 2026 , accounting for approximately 22% of the economy. The sector recorded 2.6% year-on-year growth and generated around AED 50.9 billion in real gross value added.

Dubai's role as a global shopping destination has traditionally been built around malls, luxury brands and major retail events. Increasingly, however, the market is being shaped by e-commerce, social commerce, quick delivery and digitally connected consumer experiences. This creates room for businesses that combine physical retail with digital platforms, specialised online services and data-driven customer engagement. Manufacturing and Advanced Industry Manufacturing is another area receiving increasing attention as Dubai works to diversify its economic base. Dubai's 2025 data placed manufacturing at approximately AED 47.4 billion in real GDP , with industrial areas such as Dubai Industrial City and Jebel Ali Free Zone supporting the sector.

More importantly, Dubai ranked No. 1 globally for greenfield manufacturing FDI projects in 2025 , according to the Dubai government citing fDi Markets data. It also ranked highly across industrial equipment, consumer goods and other strategic clusters. The

direction suggests that manufacturing in Dubai is increasingly connected to advanced production, international supply chains and export-oriented businesses rather than traditional domestic manufacturing alone.

Sustainability and Clean Infrastructure Sustainability is becoming an increasingly visible part of Dubai's growth strategy.

The emirate's 2026 government budget allocates substantial funding to infrastructure, including renewable energy facilities, waste management, public transport and related infrastructure. Infrastructure investments account for 48% of projected government expenditure in the 2026 budget . This creates opportunities in renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable buildings, waste management, water technology, electric mobility and environmental services. For businesses entering Dubai, sustainability is therefore increasingly relevant not simply as an environmental consideration but as part of the city's infrastructure and investment agenda. What Makes Dubai's 2026 Growth Different? The most notable feature of Dubai's current economic cycle is diversification

Real estate continues to perform strongly. Tourism is reaching new records. Financial services are expanding. Healthcare has recorded particularly rapid growth, while technology and AI are receiving increasing investment and policy attention. Dubai's investment environment is also attracting companies across a wide range of industries. The three economic zones operated under the Dubai Integrated Economic Zones Authority recorded 96% occupancy during the first half of 2026 , reflecting continued demand from businesses and investors. That breadth matters.

Instead of relying on one or two headline industries, Dubai is building an interconnected ecosystem in which property supports business expansion, tourism supports retail and hospitality, logistics supports international trade, and technology increasingly connects all of them. Looking Ahead The outlook for Dubai in 2026 is therefore broader than the traditional image of construction cranes, luxury hotels and financial centres. The next stage of growth is likely to be defined by the combination of technology and traditional industries : AI in finance, PropTech in real estate, automation in logistics, digital health in healthcare, e-commerce in retail and clean technology across infrastructure.

Dubai's Q1 economic performance, record tourism numbers, strong property activity and continued foreign investment suggest that the emirate remains firmly positioned as an international centre for business and investment. Its challenge now is not simply maintaining growth, but converting that momentum into sustainable, innovation-led expansion. For companies considering the region, 2026 presents a market where established sectors continue to offer scale while emerging industries are creating new opportunities. That combination may ultimately prove to be one of Dubai's biggest competitive advantages. Sources

This article is based primarily on official Dubai government economic, investment and sector data, including the Dubai Department of Finance/Public Debt Management Office, Dubai government investment information and official tourism figures.

[Read the original story online](#)

The Binghatti price guide

Binghatti Prices 2026: Cheapest 1BR, 2BR and 3BR Apartments

Nadia Rahman | 29 Sep 2026, 14:17 GST



Binghatti Prices 2026: Binghatti property prices in Dubai can look very different depending on whether you are checking a project's advertised starting price or the price of an actual one-, two- or three-bedroom apartment. The developer's current portfolio shows projects starting from AED 585,000 , but Binghatti's live property listings show that the cheapest available 1-bedroom apartments are generally above AED 1 million. For buyers searching for Binghatti prices in 2026 , the bedroom-specific figures are therefore more useful than simply looking at a project's headline starting price.

Binghatti 1-Bedroom Prices in 2026

Binghatti's current 1-bedroom property page lists apartments across Majan, JVC, Motor City, Al Jadaf, Dubai Science Park and other Dubai locations. Some of the lowest publicly displayed 1BR starting prices are:

Binghatti Titania, Majan: AED 1,057,999 • Binghatti Skyflame 1, Majan: AED 1,099,999 • Binghatti Skyflame 2, Majan: AED 1,099,999 • Binghatti Vintage, Majan: AED 1,112,999 • Binghatti Elite, International Media Production Zone: AED 1,124,999 • Binghatti Skyterraces, Motor City: AED 1,165,930 • Binghatti Amberhall, JVC: AED 1,199,999 • Binghatti Etherea, JVC: AED 1,199,999 • Binghatti Luxuria, Jumeirah Village Triangle: AED 1,248,999 • Binghatti Starfall, Al Jadaf: AED 1,265,999 • Binghatti Wraith, Al Jadaf: AED 1,299,999 • Binghatti Hillcrest, Al Barsha South: AED 1,303,999 • Binghatti Cullinan, Al Jadaf: AED 1,399,999.

The current official listings show that AED 1,057,999 at Binghatti Titania is among the lowest displayed prices for a 1-bedroom apartment in Binghatti's inventory. Binghatti Titania's listed starting size is 674 sq ft, while Skyflame 1 starts at 680 sq ft and Vintage at 706 sq ft.

Cheapest Binghatti 2-Bedroom Apartments

The price moves higher for two-bedroom apartments. Binghatti's current 2-bedroom search page starts at AED 1.549 million and includes projects across Majan, JVC, Al Jadaf, Motor City and other areas. Among the publicly displayed project prices, buyers can currently find:

Binghatti Titania: from AED 1.549 million • Binghatti Skyflame 1: from AED 1,691,999 • Binghatti Skyflame 2: from AED 1,691,999 • Binghatti Etherea: around the AED 1.7 million starting level • Binghatti Vintage: around the AED 1.7 million level • Higher-priced 2BR options extend well beyond AED 2 million depending on the project.

For example, Binghatti's current Skyflame page shows a 2-bedroom apartment from AED 1,691,999 , with a starting size of 1,210 sq ft. The developer's broader 2-bedroom search currently covers a price range from approximately AED 1.549 million to AED 11.5 million , reflecting the very different types of properties within Binghatti's portfolio.

Binghatti 3-Bedroom Prices

The 3-bedroom segment is very different from Binghatti's entry-level apartments. The developer's current 3-bedroom inventory shows:

Binghatti Ghost, Al Jadaf: AED 3,749,999 • Project Maybach: AED 4,950,000 • Maybach Ultimate Luxury: AED 4,950,000 • Maybach 6: AED 4,950,000 • Vision Iconic: AED 6,250,000 • Binghatti Skyblade: AED 13,394,999 • Mercedes-Benz Places | Binghatti: AED 19,999,999 • Bugatti Residences by Binghatti: AED 29.4 million for the listed 3-bedroom Riviera - Saint Tropez residence.

This shows the huge spread within the Binghatti portfolio. A buyer searching for a three-bedroom Binghatti apartment is dealing with a completely different price segment from someone looking for an entry-level studio or 1BR.

What Is the Cheapest Binghatti Property?

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The Binghatti price guide

CONTINUED / NADIA RAHMAN

If the question is simply “What is the cheapest Binghatti apartment?”, the answer depends on whether you mean a project's advertised starting price or a specific bedroom category. Binghatti's current portfolio lists Binghatti Skyflame from AED 585,000 . The portfolio also shows Etherea from AED 764,999, Luxuria from AED 766,999 and Cullinan from AED 819,999. But Skyflame's current 1-bedroom listing starts at AED 1,099,999 . That difference is important. A project advertised from AED 585,000 does not mean buyers can purchase a 1-bedroom apartment for AED 585,000. The lower headline price generally refers to the smaller unit category available within the project.

Binghatti Prices Under AED 1 Million

This is one of the most useful price points for buyers searching Binghatti properties. Binghatti's overall live property-search page currently begins at approximately AED 688,000 , while its portfolio advertises some projects at even lower headline starting prices. However, the current official 1BR page starts at approximately AED 1.058 million for Titania. That means buyers with a strict AED 1 million budget should not assume that the cheapest advertised Binghatti project will provide a 1-bedroom apartment within that budget. The exact unit type and current availability need to be checked.

Binghatti JVC Prices

Jumeirah Village Circle is one of the most important locations in Binghatti's current portfolio. The developer's current 1BR listings include:

Binghatti Amberhall: AED 1,199,999 • Binghatti Etherea: AED 1,199,999 • Binghatti Luxuria: AED 1,248,999 in nearby Jumeirah Village Triangle • Binghatti Royale: AED 1,699,999 for a 1BR Royal Suite • Binghatti Grove: AED 2,064,999 for a 1BR Royal Suite.

The price difference between standard 1BR apartments and Royal Suites is significant, so comparing projects only by the word "1-bedroom" can also be misleading.

Binghatti Starfall Price

Binghatti Starfall in Al Jadaf is another example of why buyers should check the individual unit listing. Binghatti's current portfolio advertises Starfall from AED 759,999 , while the developer's current 1-bedroom property page lists a Starfall 1BR from AED 1,265,999 , with a starting size of 633 sq ft. The two numbers are not contradictory: they refer to different levels of the inventory. The portfolio figure is the project's headline starting price, while the property-search figure is for a specific bedroom category.

One Binghatti Project Can Have a Huge Price Range

Binghatti's current portfolio includes entry-level apartments as well as branded luxury residences. For example, One by Binghatti currently has:

1BR from AED 2,574,999 • 2BR Suite from AED 4,499,999 • 3BR Suite from AED 9,722,222.

At the other end of the portfolio, Skyflame is advertised from AED 585,000. This is why a single "Binghatti property price" figure does not accurately describe the developer's current inventory.

Developer Price vs Actual Sale Price

Another important distinction is between Binghatti's current asking price and an actual completed transaction . For example, Bayut's DLD-based data for One by Binghatti shows average recorded sale prices of approximately:

Studio: AED 1.478 million • 1BR: AED 2.847 million • 2BR: AED 4.398 million • 3BR: AED 9.75 million.

These figures are not Binghatti's current asking prices. They represent recorded transaction data and therefore should not be directly substituted for the developer's current inventory prices. The distinction matters because a buyer may see a project advertised at one price while completed transactions in the same project show a different range.

Buyers Should Check Before Comparing Binghatti Prices

Before comparing two Binghatti apartments, check more than the headline price. Look at:

Apartment size • Unit category • Floor • View • Project location • Completion date • Payment plan • Service charges • Registration and administration costs • Whether the price is for a developer unit or resale • Whether the property is ready or off-plan

For example, Binghatti Skyflame currently publishes a 20% booking, 50% during construction and 30% on completion payment structure. The project is scheduled for completion by December 31, 2027. Payment plans can differ between projects, so the latest project-specific terms should be checked before booking.

Binghatti Property Prices 2026: The Key Numbers

For buyers searching for the lowest current Binghatti prices, the numbers tell a clearer story than a generic project list. Cheapest headline project price: AED 585,000 for Binghatti Skyflame. Lowest currently displayed 1BR price in the official search: AED 1,057,999 for Binghatti Titania. Current 2BR search starting point: about AED 1.549 million. Lowest currently displayed 3BR price: AED 3,749,999 for Binghatti Ghost. The biggest takeaway for buyers is simple: Binghatti's advertised project starting price and the price of a specific 1BR, 2BR or 3BR apartment can be very different.

Prices and available units can change as inventory is sold or new units are released, so the developer's live property-search pages should be checked for the latest price before making a purchase decision. Prices in this article are publicly displayed starting prices from Binghatti's current online inventory, not guaranteed final purchase prices or average market values.

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What AED 1 million buys

Dubai Property Prices 2026: What AED 1 Million Can Buy From Developers

Nadia Rahman | 29 Sep 2026, 13:57 GST



Dubai Property Prices 2026: Current developer listings show that the entry point varies considerably by developer, location and apartment size. Some projects have one-bedroom homes close to AED 1 million, while two- and three-bedroom properties can quickly move into the AED 1.5 million to AED 2.5 million range. The important point is that a developer's advertised starting price is not the same as the final price paid in a completed property transaction. Prices also change as units are sold. Here is what current developer listings show.

Dubai Property Prices Around AED 1 Million

Azizi Wares

Azizi Wares in Downtown Jebel Ali is one of the projects that puts a one-bedroom apartment close to the AED 1 million mark. Current advertised figures researched for the project show:

1-bedroom: about AED 978,000 • 2-bedroom: about AED 1.505 million • 3-bedroom: about AED 2.208 million

This makes the project relevant for buyers specifically searching for a Dubai apartment around AED 1 million.

Binghatti

Binghatti's official property search currently covers projects across JVC, Motor City, Al Jadaf, Majan, Business Bay and other Dubai communities. Its current listings show Skyterraces in Motor City from AED 777,999 for a studio, while one-bedroom units start at about AED 1.166 million and two-bedroom units at about AED 1.89 million. Other current Binghatti listings include:

Skyflame 1, Majan: 1-bedroom from AED 1.10 million • Amberhall, JVC: 1-bedroom from AED 1.175 million • Wraith, Al Jadaf: 1-bedroom from AED 1.30 million • Wraith, Al Jadaf: 2-bedroom from AED 2.10 million • Ghost, Al Jadaf: 2-bedroom from AED 2.625 million • Ghost, Al Jadaf: 3-bedroom from AED 3.75 million.

Binghatti's official website currently shows a broad property price range from about AED 688,000 to AED 165 million, illustrating how widely prices vary across its portfolio.

Sobha Realty

Sobha's current official listings put The Woods in Dubai Land among its lower-priced projects. The developer currently lists:

The Woods: AED 999,000 to AED 1.81 million • The Woods Abode: AED 1 million to AED 1.86 million • The Woods Serenity: from AED 1.04 million

The Woods and its related developments offer one- and two-bedroom apartments. Sobha states that the prices are subject to availability. For buyers with a budget around AED 1 million, this makes the Woods developments particularly relevant to investigate.

Danube Properties

Danube's current published figures for Aspirz in Dubai Sports City show:

1-bedroom: AED 1.094 million • 2-bedroom: AED 1.763 million • 3-bedroom: AED 2.402 million

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What AED 1 million buys

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The developer also lists Aspirz with a starting price of around AED 1.1 million on its current project material. This gives buyers a clear example of how quickly the price changes when moving from a one-bedroom to a larger apartment.

DAMAC

DAMAC's published pricing for Riverside Views has placed one-bedroom apartments around AED 888,000 , with two-bedroom homes around AED 1.9 million . That puts a one-bedroom unit below the AED 1 million threshold, although buyers should check current availability and the exact unit price before treating the figure as a live offer.

Emaar

Emaar's pricing is generally higher in many of its established and premium communities, although individual projects can have different entry points. Its official property system displays individual available units rather than relying only on a single project-wide starting price. For example, current Emaar listings include one-bedroom units at Albero in Dubai Creek Harbour from about AED 1.81 million , while some two-bedroom units in newer developments are above AED 2 million. This illustrates an important difference between Emaar's live inventory and a simple “Dubai property starting price” headline.

Ellington Properties

Ellington's current portfolio includes projects in Dubai Silicon Oasis, MBR City, Jumeirah Lakes Towers and other locations. The Hillgate in Dubai Silicon Oasis is currently advertised from around AED 1.3 million . Other current Ellington projects are priced higher, including developments in MBR City where starting prices are generally around the AED 1.7 million-plus range. The developer's public listings do not consistently provide a bedroom-by-bedroom starting price for every project, so buyers should check the specific available unit rather than assuming that the project headline price applies to every apartment.

Meraas

Meraas operates in a significantly higher price segment in many of its current developments. Its current project listings include:

The Edit at d3: from around AED 2 million • City Walk
Crestlane: from around AED 2.7 million • Jumeirah Residences
Emirates Towers: from around AED 3.5 million • Madinat
Jumeirah Living Nouvelle: from around AED 3.7 million

This means an AED 1 million budget generally does not target the entry-level projects currently displayed in Meraas' main portfolio.

What AED 1 Million Gets You in Dubai

The current developer listings show that an AED 1 million budget can still reach the Dubai off-plan market, but the choice depends heavily on the developer and location. At roughly this budget, buyers can encounter:

Studios below AED 1 million • Some one-bedroom apartments around AED 1 million • Two-bedroom apartments generally requiring a higher budget • Three-bedroom homes usually requiring considerably more than AED 1 million

For example, Sobha currently lists The Woods from AED 999,000, while Danube's Aspirz one-bedroom price is around AED 1.094 million. Binghatti's current Skyterraces one-bedroom listing is about AED 1.166 million.

Developer Prices Can Be Misleading

A “starting from” price should not automatically be treated as the price of every apartment in a project. Several factors can change the final price:

Apartment size • Floor • View • Layout • Payment plan • Availability • Launch stage • Premiums for specific units • Developer incentives or offers

For example, Binghatti's current official property search shows individual units and their starting prices, while its project pages can display different figures as inventory changes. Sobha also explicitly states that its displayed prices are subject to inventory availability.

Developer Price vs Actual Dubai Property Price

Buyers should also distinguish between three different numbers: Developer price: the price advertised for a new unit by the developer. Portal asking price: the amount an owner or broker is asking for a resale property. DLD transaction price: the price recorded when a property transaction is registered. These numbers can be different. Therefore, a developer advertising a one-bedroom apartment for AED 1 million does not mean that every similar apartment in the same area is worth AED 1 million. Prices and availability can change without notice, so buyers should verify the exact unit and price directly with the developer before making a purchase decision.

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Living in Al Nahda

Al Nahda Dubai Rent: Average Rent, Areas, Metro and Facilities

Yusuf Idris | 27 Sep 2026, 17:08 GST



Al Nahda Dubai Rent Average Rent, Areas, Metro and Facilities: Al Nahda is one of Dubai's established apartment communities, known for relatively accessible rents, metro connectivity and easy access to everyday facilities. Its location on the Dubai-Sharjah border also makes it an important residential choice for people who regularly travel between the two emirates. In 2026, the area continues to offer studios, one-bedroom and larger apartments, with rental prices varying by apartment size, building, location and facilities.

Average Rent, Areas, Metro and Facilities Al Nahda Dubai Rent 2026

H1 2026 rental market data puts the average annual asking rent in Al Nahda Dubai at around AED 64,000 . Typical asking rents are approximately:

Studio: AED 44,000 per year • 1-bedroom: AED 56,000 per year • 2-bedroom: AED 72,000 per year

These figures represent asking rents and should not be treated as a fixed price for every apartment. Actual rents can vary according to the building, apartment size, condition, amenities and exact location. Current property listings also show some variation in average prices, which is normal because listing portals and market reports can use different datasets and methodologies.

Al Nahda 1 vs Al Nahda 2

Al Nahda Dubai is generally divided into Al Nahda 1 and Al Nahda 2 . Al Nahda 1 has a strong mix of residential towers, shops and commercial activity. It is convenient for residents

who want everyday services close to their homes. Al Nahda 2 has a more residential character and includes schools, healthcare facilities and Al Nahda Pond Park. It is particularly relevant for families looking for apartments close to schools and other daily services. Rental prices can also differ between the two sections, so tenants comparing properties should check the exact sub-area rather than treating all of Al Nahda as one rental market.

Apartments in Al Nahda

Al Nahda is primarily an apartment community, with studios and one-bedroom apartments for individuals and couples, along with larger two- and three-bedroom homes for families. Many residential buildings offer facilities such as covered parking, swimming pools and gyms, although the facilities vary from one building to another. Apartment size is another factor behind rental differences. A larger two-bedroom apartment in an older building may have a different asking price from a newer apartment with upgraded facilities.

Al Nahda Metro Access

Public transport is one of the area's major advantages. The Dubai Metro Green Line serves the community through Al Nahda Metro Station and Stadium Metro Station . The Green Line provides connections toward areas including Deira and Bur Dubai and connects with the wider Dubai Metro network. This makes Al Nahda relevant to tenants who want access to the metro without living in one of Dubai's more expensive central residential districts. For people searching specifically for apartments near Al Nahda Metro , the distance from the

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Living in Al Nahda

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building to the station can make a noticeable difference to convenience and rental value.

Schools in Al Nahda

Schools are an important consideration for families renting in the area. Al Nahda and its surrounding neighbourhoods have schools following different curricula, including British, American, Indian and other international programmes. Schools are particularly concentrated around Al Nahda 2. Families should compare school location, curriculum, fees and transport arrangements before choosing an apartment because the distance between a building and a school can affect the daily commute.

Supermarkets and Shopping

Residents do not have to travel far for basic shopping. Al Nahda has a wide range of supermarkets, hypermarkets, pharmacies, restaurants and smaller shops serving the residential buildings. Large supermarkets and neighbourhood stores operate across both Al Nahda 1 and Al Nahda 2, making groceries and other everyday purchases relatively convenient for residents. The community is also close to Sahara Centre in Sharjah, giving residents another major shopping and entertainment option across the Dubai-Sharjah border.

Healthcare Facilities

Healthcare is another established part of the area. Residents have access to hospitals, clinics, pharmacies and other medical services in and around Al Nahda. NMC Specialty Hospital Al Nahda is located in Al Nahda 2, while other clinics and medical facilities serve residents across the neighbourhood. The availability of healthcare within or close to the community is particularly useful for families and people who prefer having medical services near their homes.

Al Nahda Pond Park

Al Nahda 2 is home to Al Nahda Pond Park, one of the area's main outdoor recreational spaces. The park adds a family-oriented feature to the residential neighbourhood and gives residents an option for outdoor activities without travelling to another part of Dubai.

Dubai-Sharjah Border Location

One of the biggest reasons people consider Al Nahda is its location directly next to Sharjah. The community provides

road connections toward both Dubai and Sharjah, making it relevant to residents whose jobs, businesses or family commitments are spread across the two emirates. However, the border location also means that commuting times can vary significantly during busy periods. Anyone choosing Al Nahda primarily because of its location should check the actual peak-hour journey to their workplace.

Who Should Consider Al Nahda?

Al Nahda can be relevant for several types of renters. Families can benefit from larger apartments, schools, healthcare facilities, supermarkets and recreational areas. Professionals may find the Green Line useful if their daily commute is connected to areas served by the metro. Dubai-Sharjah commuters may consider the area because of its border location. Tenants looking for apartment space at a relatively accessible rent can compare Al Nahda with other established residential areas before choosing a home.

Al Nahda Dubai Rent 2026: What to Check Before Renting

The advertised annual rent is only one part of the total cost. Before signing a tenancy contract, renters should check:

Whether the building is close to a Metro station or bus stop • Parking availability • Chiller or cooling arrangements • Building maintenance • Gym and swimming-pool facilities, if required • Apartment size and layout • School and workplace commute • Access to supermarkets and pharmacies • Dubai-Sharjah peak-hour traffic • Additional tenancy and utility costs

For the latest available asking prices, renters should compare several current listings rather than relying on one average figure.

Al Nahda Rent at a Glance

With an H1 2026 average asking rent of around AED 64,000, Al Nahda remains an important Dubai rental market for people comparing apartment communities. Studios are around AED 44,000, one-bedroom apartments around AED 56,000 and two-bedroom apartments around AED 72,000 in the H1 2026 market data. Beyond rent, the area's Green Line metro stations, schools, supermarkets, healthcare facilities, park and Dubai-Sharjah location are key factors when comparing it with other Dubai residential areas.

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The city that moves itself

Dubai Metro Has No Drivers: How the Automated Train System Helps Move Millions of People

Yusuf Idris | 28 Sep 2026, 14:45 GST



Dubai Metro Has No Drivers: The Metro operates without conventional train drivers, while a central control system monitors train movements, doors, brakes, communications, ventilation and other critical systems. At the same time, Dubai is increasingly using AI, robotics, energy-recovery technology and automated maintenance to keep the network moving. For motorists, the Metro also plays an important role in Dubai's wider traffic system. Every passenger who uses the Metro for a journey instead of a private car represents one less vehicle journey on the road.

Dubai Metro has been driverless since 2009

Dubai Metro began passenger operations on September 9, 2009 , with the Red Line. The Green Line opened in 2011. The system was designed as a fully automated railway, meaning there is no conventional driver sitting at the front of the train controlling acceleration, braking and normal operations. The famous opening itself was timed for 9:09:09 pm on 09/09/2009 , giving the Metro one of the most unusual launch dates in Dubai's transport history. RTA says the Metro has since carried nearly 2.8 billion passengers from its launch through the end of 2025 . In 2025 alone, the Metro carried about 295 million passengers .

That scale matters for road traffic because the Metro provides a high-capacity alternative to private vehicles across some of Dubai's busiest corridors.

There is no driver, but the trains are constantly monitored

Calling Dubai Metro “driverless” does not mean that the trains operate without human supervision. Dubai's Rail Operations Control Centre operates around the clock. It monitors train movements and automated train-operation systems as well as several other railway functions. RTA says the control system monitors areas including:

Train movements • Automatic train operation • Communications • Electrical systems • Passenger information • Train starting and stopping • Brakes • Doors • Fire protection • Ventilation • Air conditioning

So instead of one driver controlling an individual train, Dubai Metro relies on automated systems supported by a centralised operational team.

What happens if something goes wrong?

This is one of the lesser-known parts of the Metro. The trains and stations have emergency communication facilities, while the wider system includes CCTV, radio communications and links with emergency services. RTA's Metro information says the network has more than 3,000 CCTV cameras across trains and stations. Emergency Call Boxes are also available in trains and stations. These systems allow incidents to be identified and communicated to the people responsible for responding to them. For passengers, this means “driverless” does not mean “unmonitored”.

Dubai Metro once held a driverless world record

There is an important distinction when discussing Dubai's driverless Metro. The Red Line was recognised by Guinness World Records in 2011 as the longest driverless metro line , measuring 52.1 kilometres . However, an older claim that Dubai has the world's longest driverless Metro network should not be used as a current fact. Guinness now lists Riyadh Metro's 176-kilometre driverless network as the world's longest driverless metro network. Dubai's record therefore relates specifically to its Red Line and the record established in 2011.

The Metro is also becoming automated behind the scenes

The most interesting development isn't just the absence of a driver. Dubai is increasingly using automation to maintain the railway itself. RTA introduced ARIIS - Automated Rail Infrastructure Inspection System - an AI-powered robotic inspection system for Dubai Metro. The system uses technologies including LiDAR, lasers and 3D cameras to inspect railway infrastructure. RTA says the technology can reduce manual inspections by up to 70% and inspection time by approximately 75% . That means the Metro is moving toward a system in which automation is involved not only in operating trains but also in checking the infrastructure on which those trains run.

Dubai Metro can recover energy when trains brake

Another technology hidden from passengers is the Metro's energy-recovery system. When a train brakes, energy is produced. Dubai Metro uses HESOP technology to recover electrical energy generated during braking and feed it back into the network. RTA has said the recovered energy can be used for systems such as station ventilation, lighting and lifts. The technology was installed across both the existing Metro lines and Route 2020. RTA estimated significant annual electricity and carbon savings from the system. In simple terms, some of the energy involved in slowing a Metro train does not simply disappear as heat. Part of it can be recovered and reused.

Some Metro depots generate solar power

Dubai Metro also has solar infrastructure. Solar-panel installations have been developed at the Jebel Ali and Al Qusais Metro depots , as part of a wider RTA renewable-energy project that also includes the Al Safouh Tram Depot. The planned combined capacity across the three sites is approximately 9.959 MW . RTA says the panels are expected to have a lifespan of around 25 to 30 years . This gives Dubai Metro another unusual characteristic: parts of the infrastructure supporting the rail system can generate renewable electricity.

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Nearly 20,000 Metro lights have been replaced with LEDs

RTA has also been working on reducing electricity consumption inside Metro facilities. A project replaced 19,968 lights with LED lighting during its first two phases. RTA reported electricity savings of approximately 16.7 million kWh over two years and estimated energy-cost savings of around AED 7.6 million . The project also reduced the reported carbon footprint by about 7,283 tonnes of CO₂ . For passengers, it may simply look like station lighting. Behind the scenes, however, thousands of individual lights form part of a large energy-management programme.

Dubai Metro trains are built for high passenger volumes

Dubai Metro is not designed like a conventional low-capacity urban train. RTA says newer trains introduced for Route 2020 increased capacity from 643 to 696 passengers , an increase of about 8%. The newer trains also received changes to seating layouts, handles, luggage areas, lighting and passenger-information displays. That capacity becomes particularly important during peak periods when roads are carrying large numbers of vehicles. Instead of hundreds of separate cars travelling along a road, a single Metro service can carry a large number of passengers along the same corridor.

The Metro runs alongside some of Dubai's busiest traffic corridors

The Red Line provides a rail connection along major parts of the Sheikh Zayed Road corridor. This is significant from a traffic perspective because Sheikh Zayed Road is one of Dubai's most important road routes. The Metro gives commuters an alternative to driving along the same broad urban corridor, particularly for people travelling between major business, residential and commercial areas. The Green Line serves areas including Deira and Bur Dubai, connecting parts of older Dubai and providing another alternative to road-based travel.

Route 2020 added another major connection

Route 2020 extended Dubai Metro by 15 kilometres , including approximately 11.8 kilometres of elevated track and 3.2 kilometres underground . The extension connected the Metro network with areas around Dubai South and Expo City Dubai. The trains introduced for Route 2020 also received capacity and interior changes designed around the needs of passengers using the extended network.

Dubai is now building the Blue Line

The next major expansion is the Dubai Metro Blue Line . RTA says the project will cover approximately 30 kilometres , including 15.5 kilometres underground and 14.5 kilometres elevated . The line is planned to have 14 stations and is scheduled to open on September 9, 2029 . It will connect major areas including Dubai Creek Harbour, Ras Al Khor, International City, Dubai Silicon Oasis, Dubai Academic City, Mirdif, Al Warqa and Dubai Festival City. For traffic, this expansion is important because it will connect several areas that currently depend heavily on road transport.

A 1.3-kilometre Metro bridge is coming

One of the most unusual features of the Blue Line will be a 1.3-kilometre Metro bridge crossing Dubai Creek . The project will combine elevated sections, tunnels and the major creek crossing as part of the new route. RTA says the Blue Line is being designed to serve areas with a combined population expected to reach around one million people under Dubai's 2040 urban planning framework.

Dubai is planning a 74-metre-high Metro station

The Blue Line will also bring another unusual piece of Metro infrastructure. RTA says the future Emaar Properties Station will rise approximately 74 metres , making it

the world's highest Metro station once completed. The station is planned to cover around 11,000 square metres and is expected to accommodate approximately 160,000 riders per day . Another planned Blue Line station in International City is expected to become the network's largest underground interchange station, covering more than 44,000 square metres .

Even the tunnel construction is highly automated

Dubai's next Metro expansion involves enormous construction equipment. RTA says a tunnel boring machine named Al Wugeisha is being used for the Blue Line. The machine is approximately 163 metres long and weighs more than 2,000 tonnes . It is designed to operate around the clock and is expected to excavate approximately 13 to 17 metres per day , depending on conditions. That means the technology behind Dubai Metro extends well beyond the trains passengers see at stations.

Dubai Metro's tunnels require their own maintenance programme

The underground sections also require specialised maintenance. RTA reported completing 51 specialised tunnel inspections during a major maintenance programme and resolving 873 corrective maintenance tasks . The work included inspections, cleaning, rehabilitation and replacement of ageing components in Metro tunnel infrastructure. This is an important point for understanding how a driverless railway remains reliable: automated trains still depend on thousands of physical components that need regular inspection and maintenance.

The Metro's punctuality is closely monitored

RTA reported a 99.7% punctuality rate in its 15-year Metro anniversary information. That figure is an RTA-reported operational measure, rather than a claim that every individual passenger will experience a train arriving exactly on schedule. Still, it illustrates the level of operational monitoring required for a railway carrying hundreds of millions of passengers each year.

Why this matters for Dubai road traffic

Dubai Metro is more than a tourist attraction or an alternative way to travel around the city. It is part of Dubai's strategy for moving large numbers of people without requiring every journey to be made by private car. The numbers show the scale. The Metro carried approximately 295 million passengers in 2025 , while the network has carried nearly 2.8 billion passengers since opening . At the same time, Dubai is expanding the network through the Blue Line and adding automated technologies for inspection, energy management and maintenance.

For drivers, that means Dubai's rail network is becoming increasingly important to the city's overall traffic system. The Metro gives commuters another option for travelling through major urban corridors, while its automation allows trains and infrastructure to be monitored and maintained through increasingly sophisticated technology.

The bigger story behind Dubai Metro

The most interesting fact about Dubai Metro is therefore not simply that there is no driver sitting inside the train . The network has developed into a highly automated transport system involving:

Driverless train operation • A 24-hour operations control centre • AI-powered infrastructure inspection • Automated railway monitoring • Energy recovery from braking • Solar power at selected depots • Large-scale LED energy-efficiency projects • Automated safety and passenger-monitoring systems • Specialised tunnel maintenance • Robotic and machine-based infrastructure inspection • New automated Metro infrastructure under the Blue Line

Dubai started operating its driverless Metro in 2009. More than 17 years later, the city is continuing to push automation beyond the driver's cabin and into maintenance, energy management, infrastructure inspection and future rail construction .

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The return of Y2K tech

Y2K Tech Is Back: Why Digicams and iPods Are Trending Again

Yusuf Idris | 22 Sep 2026, 14:45 GST



Y2K Tech: Compact digital cameras, iPods, wired earphones and simple phones are getting attention again, particularly among younger consumers. The trend is closely connected to Y2K fashion, social media and a growing interest in technology that feels simpler and less polished. It does not mean people are giving up their smartphones. Instead, older gadgets are being used for specific reasons - and sometimes simply because they look and feel different.

Digicams are getting a second life

The biggest example of the comeback is the small digital camera. Remember the compact cameras that were common before smartphone photography took over? Many of them are now being used again. Canon's 2026 Integrated Report says compact digital cameras are back in the spotlight and that demand is growing, especially among younger people. Canon also says these cameras are increasingly being seen as a fashion statement. So why use an older camera when a smartphone can take a technically better picture? For many users, that is exactly the point.

Older digital cameras often produce photos with a different look. Flash can be harsher, colours can look less polished and images may have the slightly grainy appearance associated with early digital photography. That style has become popular on social media. There is also something different about taking a picture with a separate camera. You take the photograph and put the camera away instead of immediately switching between the camera, Instagram, messages and other apps.

The iPod is becoming a nostalgia item

[Read the original story online](#)

The iPod is another old piece of technology getting attention. The device changed the way people carried music in the 2000s, but smartphones eventually made dedicated music players unnecessary for most people. Now the iPod has become a nostalgia item. Recent search data reported by Axios showed renewed interest in older iPod models. The report also cited eBay data showing that searches for the iPod Classic increased 25% and searches for the iPod Nano increased 20% between January and October 2025 compared with the same period a year earlier. There is a simple reason why an old music player can still be attractive.

An iPod does not constantly ask you to check social media. You can simply choose your music and listen. That idea fits into a wider interest in what is sometimes called "slow tech" - using devices with fewer distractions and less constant connectivity.

Wired earphones are no longer just old-fashioned

Wireless earbuds have become normal, but wired earphones are finding a new audience. Part of the appeal is practical. Wired earphones do not need to be charged, do not require Bluetooth pairing and can provide a straightforward connection between the device and the listener. But appearance matters too. The thin white cable hanging from a phone or music player has become part of the Y2K-inspired look that is appearing again in fashion and social media. Recent reporting based on Google Trends data found that searches for "wired earpods" reached a five-year high in May

The return of Y2K tech

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2026.

For some younger users, the cable is no longer something to hide. It has become part of the look.

Flip phones are part of the same conversation

The return of older technology is not limited to cameras and headphones. Some consumers are also experimenting with flip phones and simpler mobile devices. These phones cannot compete with modern smartphones when it comes to apps, cameras or online services. Their appeal is that they do less. For someone who wants fewer notifications or less time scrolling, a basic phone can provide a simple alternative. However, this is still a niche behaviour. There is no evidence that smartphones are being replaced on a large scale.

Y2K fashion is helping the trend

Technology does not exist separately from fashion anymore. The Y2K aesthetic has returned through clothing, accessories, beauty and social media. Old-looking gadgets fit naturally into that style. A small digital camera can become part of an outfit. Wired earphones can work as an accessory. An old music player can add to a nostalgic look. Google's 2026 fashion coverage has also highlighted renewed interest in nostalgic styles, showing that the fascination with earlier eras extends well beyond technology. This is one reason retro gadgets can attract attention even when newer alternatives are easier to use.

Is retro tech a major Dubai search trend?

There is an important difference between a global trend and what people in Dubai are actually searching for. Google Trends' UAE Trending Now page does not currently show "retro tech" as one of the country's major breakout searches. UAE trending searches are currently driven more by breaking news, sports and major events. So it would be too strong to say that retro technology is one of Dubai's biggest search trends right now. For publishers targeting UAE readers, specific topics are more useful than the broad phrase "retro tech." Search-focused topics include digicam trends, Y2K fashion in Dubai, iPod comeback, wired earphones, digital cameras and Gen Z fashion .

Y2K Tech: Why the trend is interesting for Dubai

Dubai has a strong mix of fashion, entertainment, influencers, photography and social-media culture. That makes the retro-tech trend relevant to local lifestyle coverage. But the story is not really about people in Dubai replacing their smartphones with 20-year-old gadgets. It is about how older technology is being used differently. A digital camera can be used to create a particular type of photograph. Wired earphones can become part of a Y2K-inspired outfit. An old music player can be used simply to listen to music without the distractions of a smartphone. The technology may be old, but the way people are using it is new.

Why people are interested in technology that does less

Modern devices are designed to make life more convenient. One phone can now handle almost everything. The retro-tech trend shows another side of technology. Sometimes having fewer features can be appealing. A camera that only takes photographs does not tempt you to check notifications. A music player that only plays music does not have social media. Wired earphones do not need another battery to charge. That does not make these products better than modern technology. It simply gives people a different experience.

The comeback is selective, not a return to the past

The current interest in older gadgets should not be confused with a complete return to 2000s technology. People are choosing individual parts of that era that fit today's lifestyle. The digital camera is being used for its distinctive photography. The iPod represents dedicated music listening. Wired earphones combine a retro appearance with practical benefits, while flip phones appeal to people looking for fewer distractions. That is what makes the trend interesting. Technology that once became outdated is finding a new purpose - not because it is more advanced, but because sometimes people like having a device that simply does one thing well.

[Read the original story online](#)

The iPhone deal checklist

iPhone 18 Pro Deals in Dubai: Latest Offers, Discounts & Where to Buy

Yusuf Idris | 30 Sep 2026, 15:50 GST



iPhone 18 Pro Deals in Dubai: The latest Apple flagship is now available in the UAE, and buyers have several ways to reduce the upfront cost, including Apple Trade In, monthly payment options and retailer offers. The iPhone 18 Pro starts at AED 5,099 in the UAE for 256GB, while the iPhone 18 Pro Max starts at AED 5,499. Apple and UAE retailers are offering the latest models in multiple storage configurations.

Latest iPhone 18 Pro deals in Dubai

The easiest way to save on the iPhone 18 Pro in Dubai is to compare the available buying options rather than looking only for a straight discount.

Apple Trade In

Apple currently offers Trade In in the UAE, allowing eligible customers to receive credit toward a new iPhone. Apple's current UAE information shows up to AED 3,260 in trade-in credit for eligible devices, although the actual value depends on the model and condition of the phone being exchanged. For someone upgrading from an older iPhone, this can make a bigger difference than a small retailer discount. Apple allows customers to check an estimated value online and can also process eligible trade-ins at an Apple Store.

iPhone 18 Pro price before applying an offer

Apple's UAE pricing currently starts at: iPhone 18 Pro 256GB - AED 5,099 • 512GB - AED 5,949 • 1TB - AED 7,649 • 2TB - AED 10,199

iPhone 18 Pro Max

256GB - AED 5,499 • 512GB - AED 6,349 • 1TB - AED 8,049 • 2TB - AED 10,599

The Pro Max is AED 400 more than the standard Pro at each corresponding storage level. These prices are useful as a benchmark when checking whether a Dubai retailer is actually offering a discount.

To find iPhone 18 Pro offers in Dubai

There are several places to check when looking for the latest iPhone 18 Pro deal.

Apple Store UAE

Buying directly from Apple gives you access to Apple Trade In, monthly payment options and Apple's direct sales support. Apple also offers free shipping and store pickup for online purchases. For buyers who want an official Apple purchase experience, this is an important price benchmark.

Jumbo Electronics

Jumbo currently lists the iPhone 18 Pro and iPhone 18 Pro Max in the UAE across different storage capacities. Its product page also highlights that selling prices, stock and applicable offers can change, so buyers should check the live listing before purchasing. This makes Jumbo worth checking when comparing Dubai iPhone deals.

Are there discounts on the iPhone 18 Pro in Dubai?

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The iPhone deal checklist

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A common mistake is to assume that every listing marked “offer” is cheaper than Apple's price. Instead, compare the final purchase value. A retailer may offer:

A lower phone price • An accessory bundle • A bank or payment promotion • A trade-in promotion • A limited-time launch offer • Different financing terms

The actual saving depends on the offer conditions. For this reason, use Apple's UAE price as your baseline and then compare the final retailer price.

iPhone 18 Pro deals with trade-in

Trade-in can be one of the most useful ways to reduce the cost of an iPhone 18 Pro in Dubai. Apple says the value depends on the device, model and condition. Customers can answer questions about their phone to receive an estimated value. For example, if your eligible device receives a AED 1,500 trade-in value, a 256GB iPhone 18 Pro priced at AED 5,099 would have a remaining cost of AED 3,599 before considering any other applicable terms. Your actual trade-in value can be different, so check the current estimate before making a decision.

Buy the iPhone 18 Pro on monthly payments

Yes. Apple UAE shows monthly payment options for the iPhone 18 Pro. Monthly payment plans can make the phone easier to budget for, but don't judge an offer only by its monthly amount. Check:

Total amount payable • Number of instalments • Any interest or fees • Eligibility requirements • Whether the offer is tied to a particular card or provider

The lowest monthly payment isn't necessarily the lowest total cost.

iPhone 18 Pro or iPhone 18 Pro Max: which deal costs less?

If price is your main concern, the standard iPhone 18 Pro has the lower starting price. The 256GB iPhone 18 Pro costs AED 5,099, compared with AED 5,499 for the 256GB Pro Max. The Pro Max costs AED 400 more at each storage level. So when comparing deals, look at the same storage capacity. Comparing a discounted 256GB Pro with a 512GB Pro Max, for example, won't give you a meaningful price comparison.

How to spot a genuine iPhone 18 Pro deal in Dubai

Before buying, check these five things: 1. Compare with Apple's UAE price. This tells you whether the advertised price is actually lower. 2. Check the storage. A lower price may simply be for the 256GB model. 3. Check whether it is new and officially covered. Read the retailer's product and warranty information. 4. Look at the complete offer. Check whether accessories, financing or other conditions are included. 5. Check stock before travelling to a store. Availability can change quickly for newly launched iPhone models.

Is the iPhone 18 Pro worth buying during a Dubai deal?

That depends on the offer and what you need. If you already have an eligible iPhone, Trade In can reduce the amount you need to pay. If you don't have a device to exchange, comparing Apple with major UAE retailers may reveal different promotions or payment options. The iPhone 18 Pro is available with 256GB, 512GB, 1TB and 2TB storage, so choosing the right capacity can also have a major impact on your final spending. For most buyers, the best comparison is not simply “Which store has the lowest number?” but “What will I actually pay after the available offer?”

iPhone 18 Pro deals in Dubai: What to check today

If you're planning to buy an iPhone 18 Pro in Dubai, start with Apple's UAE price and then check current retailer promotions. The biggest potential saving routes are:

Apple Trade In • Retailer promotions • Monthly payment offers • Limited-time launch deals • Storage-specific discounts

Apple's UAE store currently lists the iPhone 18 Pro from AED 5,099, with Trade In and monthly payment options available. Because retailer prices and stock can change, always check the live offer before purchasing. The best iPhone 18 Pro deal in Dubai may not be a simple cash discount. For an existing iPhone owner, Trade In can significantly reduce the purchase cost, while other buyers may find value through retailer promotions or payment plans. If you're comparing offers, use the official Apple UAE price as your starting point and calculate the final amount you will actually pay before choosing a deal.

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Seven principles for city life

Sheikh Mohammed's 7 Rules for Life in Dubai: Principles for Residents and Visitors

Layla Hassan | 3 Oct 2026, 13:11 GST



Sheikh Mohammed's 7 Rules for Life in Dubai: According to Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the identity of Dubai is shaped by the values of the people who live, work and contribute to the city. In a recent letter addressed to the Dubai community, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, outlined seven principles that reflect his vision for life in the emirate.

The message forms part of his new book, *The Letters*, the second part of his *Lessons from Life* series. The book brings together 26 letters covering leadership, society, family, public service and lessons drawn from his long experience in building Dubai and serving the UAE.

Seven Principles for Life in Dubai

The first principle focuses on responsibility. Sheikh Mohammed describes responsibility as something that gives life meaning, highlighting the importance of people understanding their role and contributing positively to the community around them. The second principle is respect. In a city where people from different nationalities and backgrounds live and work together, respect is presented as an essential part of social life. It recognises the value and dignity of every individual.

The third principle is excellence. Sheikh Mohammed places importance on striving for high standards and allowing one's work and achievements to speak for themselves. Excellence, in this context, is presented as a way of representing Dubai to the wider world. The fourth principle is humility. Despite Dubai's international success and rapid development, the message places emphasis on remaining grounded. Humility is presented as a quality that strengthens rather than diminishes a person's standing.

The fifth principle is optimism. Sheikh Mohammed has frequently associated Dubai's development with an outlook focused on opportunity and the future. The principle encourages optimism as an approach to everyday life rather than simply a response to difficult circumstances. The sixth principle is doing good. The message presents kindness and positive action as an ongoing way of life. Contributing to society is described as a path that can create value beyond individual success.

The seventh principle concerns loyalty and belonging. Sheikh Mohammed highlights the importance of appreciating a country that provides opportunities, security and a place to build a future. For Dubai's diverse community, the principle reflects the value of recognising and respecting the society in which people live.

A Message Beyond Dubai's Skyline

This message comes at a significant time for Sheikh Mohammed's new literary work. *The Letters* contains 26 letters written for different audiences, including family members, government teams, UAE citizens and readers around the world. The Arabic edition of the book became available in UAE bookstores on October 1, 2026, while the English edition is scheduled for release on October 15. For Dubai residents, the seven principles provide a concise look at the values Sheikh Mohammed associates with the emirate's social and civic identity. For international residents and visitors, they also offer insight into the ideas that have accompanied Dubai's transformation into a global city.

Rather than presenting Dubai only through its landmarks and economic achievements, the message places people and their conduct at the centre of the city's continuing story.

[Read the original story online](#)

Arrive. Park. Connect.

Etihad Rail Dubai Parking Charges 2026: Al Yalayis Station Fees, Free 15 Minutes & Overnight Rates

Layla Hassan | 2 Oct 2026, 15:45 GST



Etihad Rail Dubai Parking Charges 2026: Passengers travelling from Etihad Rail's Dubai station can use the parking facilities at Al Yalayis Station, but the parking charges depend on how long the vehicle stays and the time it enters the car park. The Dubai station began passenger operations at the end of September 2026, making parking one of the practical questions for people planning their first journey from the station.

Etihad Rail Dubai parking charges

The latest parking structure at Al Yalayis Station provides a 15-minute free period. After that, charges apply according to the length and timing of the stay. For vehicles entering during the main daytime period, the current charges are:

First 15 minutes: Free • Up to 2 hours: AED 10 per hour • More than 2 hours up to 24 hours: AED 30 • Overnight entry between 1am and 5am: AED 40 for up to 24 hours

The parking system is designed to automatically record vehicles when they enter and leave, so passengers do not need to collect a traditional parking ticket.

Is parking free at Etihad Rail Dubai Station?

Only for a limited period. Passengers can use the parking area for up to 15 minutes without a parking charge. This can be useful for quick drop-offs or pick-ups, but anyone staying longer should expect the applicable parking fee. If you are travelling by train, it is worth allowing extra time for parking and walking to the station rather than relying on the free period.

How much is 24-hour parking at Al Yalayis Station?

For a stay of more than two hours and up to 24 hours, the charge can reach AED 30 during the applicable daytime entry period. There is a different rate for vehicles entering between 1am and 5am, when the 24-hour charge is AED 40. This makes the entry time important for passengers planning to leave their car at the station while travelling.

Etihad Rail Dubai overnight parking

Overnight parking is particularly relevant for passengers taking late-night or early-morning trains. Vehicles entering the parking facility between 1am and 5am are subject to the overnight tariff. The current rate is AED

40 for up to 24 hours. Passengers planning a longer trip should also check the applicable rate for additional 24-hour periods rather than assuming that the first day's charge covers the entire stay.

Where is Etihad Rail's Dubai station?

The Dubai passenger station is located at Al Yalayis, in the Jebel Ali area. Because this is a new passenger station, travellers who are driving there for the first time should check their route and allow enough time for parking before their scheduled train departure.

Can you use Etihad Rail parking for pickup and drop-off?

Yes, the free 15-minute period can be useful for short visits such as dropping off or collecting passengers. However, the free period is limited. If the vehicle remains in the parking facility beyond the applicable free period, parking charges can apply. For someone simply meeting a passenger, arriving close to the expected arrival time can help avoid an unnecessary longer parking stay.

What to know before parking at Etihad Rail Dubai

The parking system uses automatic entry and exit detection. Passengers do not need to arrange a parking reservation in advance. The most important things to remember are:

The first 15 minutes are free. • Parking charges depend on the duration of the stay. • The daytime 24-hour rate is AED 30 after the initial two-hour pricing period. • Entry between 1am and 5am has a different AED 40 rate for up to 24 hours. • Longer stays can result in additional 24-hour charges. • Allow enough time to park and reach the station before your train.

As Etihad Rail's Dubai passenger service is new, parking information and operational arrangements may be updated as passenger operations expand. Travellers should check the latest official information before leaving for the station. For most passengers, the key takeaway is simple: short drop-offs can use the 15-minute free period, while travellers leaving their cars should budget for the applicable daily parking charge at Al Yalayis Station.

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Five years, many journeys

Dubai 5-Year Tourist Visa 2026: 180-Day Rule, \$4,000 Bank Balance and Key Requirements

Hana Farouk | 3 Oct 2026, 13:57 GST



Dubai 5-Year Tourist Visa 2026: Dubai remains one of the UAE's most popular destinations for international travellers, and its five-year multiple-entry tourist visa continues to attract people who visit the emirate regularly. But the name of the visa can be misleading. A five-year tourist visa does not allow a visitor to live in Dubai continuously for five years. The visa provides a longer validity period for repeated visits, while strict limits apply to the amount of time a traveller can spend in the UAE. For travellers considering the visa in 2026, the stay limit, financial requirement and overall cost are among the most important details to understand before applying.

Five-Year Validity Does Not Mean Five Years of Stay

The Dubai five-year tourist visa is designed for multiple visits. Instead of applying for a new tourist visa before every trip, eligible travellers can use the same visa for repeated entries during its validity period. Under the current Dubai rules, a visitor can generally stay for up to 90 days during a visit. The stay may be extended under the applicable rules, but the total period spent in the UAE cannot exceed 180 days within the relevant year. An important detail is that the annual calculation is linked to the traveller's first entry rather than simply following the calendar year from January to December.

This makes the visa more suitable for frequent visitors who want flexibility for several trips rather than people looking for long-term residence in Dubai.

\$4,000 Financial Requirement

One of the most important requirements for the five-year tourist visa is proof of sufficient financial resources. Applicants are required to demonstrate a bank balance of at least US\$4,000 or its equivalent. The financial evidence must cover the six months immediately preceding the visa application. For potential applicants, this means the bank statement is not merely a formality. Travellers should ensure that their financial documents clearly meet the requirement before submitting an application. The requirement is significantly different from what many travellers expect when applying for a conventional short-term holiday visa.

Visa Fees and AED 3,000 Guarantee

The five-year visa also involves several charges rather than one simple application fee. GDRFA Dubai lists an application fee of AED 100 and an issuance fee of AED 500. A refundable financial guarantee of AED 3,000 is also listed for the service. The authority's published calculation puts the overall amount at approximately AED 3,713, although the final amount can vary depending on the circumstances and applicable service charges. Travellers should therefore look beyond the basic visa fee when estimating the total amount needed for the application.

Passport and Travel Requirements

Applicants need a passport or travel document with at least six months of validity. The visa requirements also include UAE-valid health insurance and a ticket for continuing the journey or leaving the country. These requirements are separate from the financial condition and should be checked

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Five years, many journeys

CONTINUED / HANA FAROUK

before the application is submitted. Travellers should also remember that fees and application procedures can differ depending on how the application is submitted and whether additional service charges apply.

A Separate Visa Development for Indian Travellers

Indian travellers are also seeing changes in UAE entry options during 2026. The UAE's Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Port Security expanded a special entry-visa facility in June. Eligible Indian passport holders who meet the specified conditions and hold qualifying visas or residence permits connected with countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, European Union countries, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Canada, Singapore and New Zealand may qualify for the facility. The programme includes different short-term entry options and has its own eligibility and documentation requirements. This facility should not be confused with the Dubai five-year tourist visa. They are separate visa routes with different conditions.

Temporary Free Visa Initiative for Indian Tourists

Another development attracting attention in 2026 is a temporary Abu Dhabi tourism initiative for Indian visitors. Under the programme, eligible Indian tourists can have the UAE entry-visa cost covered when they make a qualifying Abu Dhabi holiday booking through participating travel partners. The package requires a return flight from India and a minimum three-night stay at an Abu Dhabi hotel. The initiative is scheduled to continue until 31 October 2026 and is aimed at up to 20,000 visas.

It is important to note that this is not a general announcement of free Dubai tourist visas. It is a specific Abu Dhabi tourism promotion with its own booking and eligibility conditions.

Key Dubai Tourist Visa Details in 2026

For travellers considering the five-year multiple-entry visa, the main points are:

Validity: Five years • Entry type: Multiple entry • Stay: Up to 90 days per visit under the applicable conditions • Annual limit: Up to 180 days • Bank balance: Minimum US\$4,000 • Financial evidence: Six months • Passport validity: Minimum six months • Health insurance: Required • Travel ticket: Required • Financial guarantee: AED 3,000 • Published approximate total: AED 3,713, subject to applicable charges

The Important Point for Dubai Travellers

The Dubai five-year tourist visa offers convenience for people who expect to travel to the UAE repeatedly, but it should not be mistaken for a residence permit. The most important distinction is between visa validity and permitted stay. A visa can remain valid for five years while the traveller is still subject to limits on how many days they can spend in the UAE. For Indian travellers, the situation is becoming more interesting as the UAE introduces additional entry options and targeted tourism initiatives. However, the five-year Dubai visa, the special entry facility for qualifying Indian nationals and the temporary Abu Dhabi free-visa programme are different schemes.

Anyone preparing an application should verify the latest conditions through the relevant UAE immigration authority before booking travel, as visa fees, eligibility criteria and procedures can change.

The second-hand city

Dubai Flea Market October 2026: Dates, Locations, Timings and Entry Fee

Layla Hassan | 3 Oct 2026, 14:11 GST



Dubai Flea Market October 2026: Unlike a traditional retail market, Dubai Flea Market focuses on second-hand and pre-loved products. The market has been operating since 2007 and has developed into a community-driven marketplace where people can buy, sell and exchange used goods. For shoppers searching for a flea market in Dubai , October brings events at different locations, including Zabeel Park, Reef Mall, Al Hanna Center, Festival Plaza and Al Barsha Pond Park.

Dubai Flea Market October 2026 Dates

The official event calendar currently lists five Dubai Flea Market events during October 2026.

Date	Location	Timings	Visitor Entry
October 3, 2026	Zabeel Park	4 PM-10 PM	AED 5 park fee
October 4, 2026	Reef Mall, Deira	10 AM-6 PM	Free
October 10, 2026	Al Hanna Center	11 AM-8:30 PM	Free
October 11, 2026	Festival Plaza	11 AM-8:30 PM	Free
October 31, 2026	Al Barsha Pond Park	4 PM-10 PM	Free

The schedule can change, so visitors should check the official event calendar before travelling.

Dubai Flea Market at Zabeel Park

The October calendar opens with the Dubai Flea Market at Zabeel Park on Saturday, October 3 . The market will operate from 4 PM to 10 PM , with visitor access through Gate 1 or Gate 2. The organiser expects more than 200 second-hand sellers and says the event could attract more than 5,000 shoppers . The nearest metro station is MAX Station , located close to Gate 1. Visitors should note that Zabeel Park charges an AED 5 entrance fee . Payment can be made using a pre-loaded NOL card, cash at the cashier or cards at the gate ticket machines.

The evening timing also makes the Zabeel Park event different from several of the indoor flea-market dates later in the month.

Reef Mall Flea Market in Deira

The next event takes place on Sunday, October 4, 2026, at Reef Mall in Deira . This is an indoor market running from 10 AM to 6 PM , with free entry for visitors. The organiser lists the market across the first floor near Nesto and the second floor near the food court. More than 75 second-hand sellers are expected, with the organiser estimating around 1,500 shoppers. Reef Mall also hosts the flea market on the first and third Sunday of each month, according to the current schedule.

For people searching for Dubai Flea Market this weekend , the October 3 Zabeel Park and October 4 Reef Mall events are therefore particularly relevant.

Other Dubai Flea Market Locations in October

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The second-hand city

CONTINUED / LAYLA HASSAN

The October schedule continues with indoor events at Al Hanna Center near Satwa on October 10 and Festival Plaza on October 11. The Al Hanna Center market is scheduled from 11 AM to 8:30 PM, while the Festival Plaza event has the same operating hours. Both are listed as free-entry events for visitors. The month concludes with the Al Barsha Pond Park Flea Market on October 31. The Halloween Edition is scheduled from 4 PM to 10 PM, with more than 100 second-hand sellers expected. Visitor entry is listed as free, although the organiser notes that RTA parking fees apply.

What You Can Buy at Dubai Flea Market

One reason the Dubai Flea Market continues to attract bargain hunters is the changing selection of products. Depending on the seller and event, shoppers can find:

Pre-loved clothes and shoes • Furniture and household goods • Used electronics and gadgets • Kitchenware and home appliances • Books and DVDs • Toys and games • Sports equipment • Accessories • Tools • Textiles and ceramics • Antiques and other unusual items • Unwanted gifts

The organiser describes the market as a place where used belongings can find new owners instead of going to waste. This also gives the market a sustainability angle. Buying pre-loved products can extend the useful life of items while giving shoppers an alternative to purchasing everything new.

Why Dubai Flea Market Is Different

Dubai is known for large shopping malls and modern retail destinations, but the flea market offers a very different experience. There is no fixed product catalogue. Every event can bring different sellers, products and prices. A shopper may arrive looking for books or homeware and leave with vintage clothing, a household item or something completely unexpected. That changing inventory is part of the attraction. The official website describes the market as having new locations and sellers across different events, making each visit potentially different.

Dubai's official tourism website also lists Dubai Flea Market among the city's shopping markets and highlights categories including household items, textiles, ceramics, toys, games, books, clothes and antiques.

Dubai Flea Market Entry Fee

Entry depends on the venue. The October 3 Zabeel Park market has an AED 5 park entrance fee, while the currently listed Reef

Mall, Al Hanna Center, Festival Plaza and Al Barsha Pond Park events have free visitor entry. This distinction is important for visitors searching for the Dubai Flea Market entry fee, because there is no single fee applicable to every location. Seller or stall fees are separate from visitor entry charges.

Selling at Dubai Flea Market

The market is not only for shoppers. People can also use it to sell belongings they no longer need. The official website promotes the market as an alternative to listing individual items online, allowing sellers to bring multiple second-hand products to one event and meet buyers directly. Items commonly promoted for sale include used clothing, children's products, toys, electronics, kitchenware, books, household goods and unwanted gifts. People planning to sell should check the organiser's current rules, product restrictions, stall availability and pricing before booking.

A Growing Second-Hand Shopping Culture in Dubai

The popularity of flea markets reflects a broader interest in buying pre-loved goods. For some shoppers, the attraction is the possibility of finding a bargain. For others, it is the opportunity to discover unusual products that are not normally found in mainstream stores. The market's long-running presence since 2007 also gives it an established place in Dubai's second-hand shopping scene. For anyone searching for a second-hand market in Dubai, the changing flea-market schedule provides several opportunities to explore different venues during October.

What to Know

The key point for visitors is that Dubai Flea Market does not have one permanent venue or one universal opening time. The location and schedule change depending on the event. For October 2026, shoppers can choose between outdoor and indoor markets, morning and evening sessions, and free-entry venues or the AED 5 Zabeel Park park entrance. The latest official schedule makes October 3 at Zabeel Park and October 4 at Reef Mall especially useful dates for anyone looking for a flea market in Dubai this weekend, while additional events later in the month provide more opportunities to shop for pre-loved goods.

Before heading out, visitors should check the organiser's latest calendar for any changes to dates, timings, locations or entry arrangements.

[Read the original story online](#)

The colour of Meena Bazaar

Meena Bazaar Dubai Shopping: Indian Clothes, Pakistani Suits, Wedding Wear & Jewellery

Hana Farouk | 28 Sep 2026, 15:34 GST



Meena Bazaar Dubai Shopping: Looking for Indian clothes, Pakistani suits, sarees, wedding outfits or jewellery in Dubai? Meena Bazaar in Bur Dubai is one of the areas where shoppers can find several of these South Asian shopping categories in one place. From traditional fabrics and ethnic clothing to bridal wear and gold jewellery, the market has stores catering to different shopping needs. Here are some of the shops to explore when visiting Meena Bazaar Dubai for South Asian shopping .

Indian Clothes and Ethnic Wear in Meena Bazaar

Regal Fabrics Meena Bazaar

Regal Fabrics Meena Bazaar is a popular option for shoppers looking for fabrics and traditional clothing materials. Located on 50B Street, Cosmos Lane , opposite Meena Jewellers, the store is particularly relevant for people searching for fabrics for Indian and South Asian outfits. For shoppers who prefer selecting fabric before getting an outfit stitched, the surrounding Meena Bazaar area also has tailoring businesses.

Bawree Global

Bawree Global , near Dolphin Hotel, is another option for Indian ethnic wear in Dubai . The store caters to shoppers looking for traditional and occasion clothing. Its location in Meena Bazaar also makes it possible to explore other ethnic-wear shops in the surrounding streets.

Wedding Moments

For shoppers searching specifically for Indian wedding wear in Dubai , Wedding Moments is another Meena Bazaar option. The store is located on 41st Street and focuses on Indian ethnic clothing, making it relevant for wedding and traditional-event shopping.

Pakistani Clothes in Meena Bazaar

Junaid Jamshed - Dubai

Shoppers looking for Pakistani clothes in Dubai can visit Junaid Jamshed - Dubai in Meena Bazaar. The branch is located in the Jumaa Al Majid Building on Al Fahidi Street . It is associated with Pakistani traditional fashion and provides another option for shoppers searching for Pakistani-style clothing in Bur Dubai.

Jewellery Shopping in Meena Bazaar

Meena Bazaar is also known for its jewellery stores, making it possible to combine clothing and jewellery shopping during the same visit.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has a Meena Bazaar branch on Cosmos Lane, near Dubai Museum . The store offers gold and diamond jewellery , making it relevant for shoppers looking for jewellery for weddings, celebrations or traditional occasions.

Kwashy Fashion

Kwashy Fashion is another jewellery store in the area. It is located in the Al Zarooni Building near Veg World Restaurant . Shoppers can include the store while exploring the jewellery and clothing businesses around Meena Bazaar.

What to Buy at Meena Bazaar Dubai

If you are planning a South Asian shopping trip, the area covers several popular categories:

Indian ethnic wear • Pakistani suits • Sarees • Traditional fabrics • Wedding outfits • Bridal wear • Men's traditional clothing • Gold jewellery • Diamond jewellery • Occasion wear

This makes Meena Bazaar particularly relevant for wedding shopping and festival shopping in Dubai .

Meena Bazaar for Wedding Shopping

One reason shoppers visit Meena Bazaar is that clothing and jewellery can be found within the same shopping area. Someone looking for a saree, Pakistani suit, wedding outfit or traditional fabric can explore clothing stores before moving to nearby jewellery shops. This makes the area useful for shoppers who need several items for a wedding or other South Asian celebration.

Where Meena Bazaar Is Located

Meena Bazaar is in Bur Dubai , with shops spread around streets including Al Fahidi Street, Cosmos Lane and the surrounding lanes . Because it is a market area rather than one single shopping centre, shoppers will find different stores distributed across the neighbourhood.

Meena Bazaar Dubai Shopping Guide

For anyone searching for Indian clothes in Dubai, Pakistani suits, sarees, wedding wear, ethnic clothing or jewellery , Meena Bazaar offers several options within the same area. Start with the category you need most - whether that is fabrics, ready-made ethnic wear, wedding clothing or jewellery - and then explore nearby stores to compare the available styles before buying.

[Read the original story online](#)

Designer labels, outlet prices

Dubai Outlet Mall Brands and Discounts: Best Branded Clothes, Shoes and Sportswear

Hana Farouk | 26 Sep 2026, 12:14 GST



Dubai Outlet Mall Brands and Discounts: Looking for branded clothes, shoes or sportswear without paying the usual full price? Dubai Outlet Mall is one of the places in Dubai where you can browse outlet collections from international brands in one location. The mall is on Dubai-Al Ain Road (Route 66) and has more than 340 stores and over 1,300 international brands . Discounts vary from one store to another, with selected products available at discounts of up to 90% .

Brands

There is a wide choice of fashion brands, including Ralph Lauren, Off-White, Palm Angels, Burberry, Nautica, Hackett London, American Eagle, Marks & Spencer, Boggi Milano, Guess and Fred Perry . If you are mainly shopping for clothes, the selection covers men's, women's and children's fashion as well as accessories.

Sports Shoes and Sportswear

For sportswear and footwear, you can find brands such as Adidas, Puma, New Balance, Under Armour, Columbia, Vans and Converse . Other footwear options include Skechers, Crocs, Birkenstock, Ecco and Aldo . This makes the mall worth checking if you are specifically looking for sneakers, sports shoes or casual footwear at outlet prices.

Luxury and Designer Shopping

There are also premium and designer names, including Palm Angels, Off-White, Burberry, Ralph Lauren and Christian Lacroix . The VIE Department Store adds another option for premium shopping, with brands such as Brunello Cucinelli, Alexander McQueen, Salvatore Ferragamo, Zegna, Jacquemus, Bally and Kenzo .

How Much Can You Save?

There is no single discount across the mall. Prices and offers depend on the individual store and the products available. Selected promotions can offer 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70% or 80%+

discounts , while some products can have discounts of up to 90% . The Outlet Plus Card can provide additional savings at participating stores. The discount and conditions vary between retailers.

More Than Clothes and Shoes

Shopping at Dubai Outlet Mall is not limited to fashion. Other categories include:

Perfumes • Beauty products • Watches • Jewellery • Bags and accessories • Home products • Kids' products • Toys • Selected electronics

The availability of specific brands and products can change, so the selection may be different from one visit to another.

Are the Branded Products Genuine?

Yes. Products sold through the branded outlets are described as genuine and sourced from authorised suppliers .

Location and Timings

Dubai Outlet Mall is located on Dubai-Al Ain Road (Route 66) . Opening hours are: Sunday to Thursday: 10am-10pm Friday and Saturday: 10am-midnight RTA buses 66 and 67 serve the mall, and parking is available.

Facilities for Shoppers

The mall has practical facilities including free Wi-Fi, prayer rooms, baby-changing facilities, mother-and-baby rooms, wheelchair services, baby carts, luggage storage, ATMs, money exchange, first aid, lost and found, valet parking and car-wash services . There are also children's play facilities. If your main goal is to find branded fashion, sneakers, sportswear or designer products at reduced prices , Dubai Outlet Mall gives you several categories and brands to check in one shopping trip. Discounts and stock can change, so individual store offers may vary. Official source: Dubai Outlet Mall

[Read the original story online](#)

Nine stops for your wardrobe

Best Clothing Stores in Dubai: 9 Popular Shops With 500+ Reviews

Hana Farouk | 24 Sep 2026, 13:38 GST



Best Clothing Stores in Dubai: Dubai has everything from large department stores and mall retailers to specialist shops in areas such as Meena Bazaar. This guide focuses on nine clothing stores in Dubai with more than 500 Google reviews based on the listings provided. The stores cover different shopping styles, including everyday fashion, Indian clothing, vintage pieces, pre-loved fashion and multi-brand shopping.

1. Regal Fabrics Meena Bazaar

Rating: 4.9 | 3,468 reviews Regal Fabrics Meena Bazaar is one of the most-reviewed clothing stores in the list. It is located on 50 B Street, Cosmos Lane, opposite Meena Jewelers in Meena Bazaar . The store is particularly relevant for shoppers looking for Indian fabrics and outfits . A customer review in the provided listing specifically mentions the store for buying Indian fabrics and outfits. Regal Fabrics' official store locator confirms its Meena Bazaar location and also lists tailoring services at the store. The Google listing provided shows the store open until 11pm .

2. Regal Fabrics & Stitching Center Karama

Rating: 4.9 | 1,698 reviews The Karama branch of Regal Fabrics is located on Kuwait Street, opposite Karama Center . It has more than 1,600 reviews and a 4.9 rating in the supplied listing. This location can be useful for shoppers looking for fabrics, Indian clothing and stitching-related services . Regal Fabrics' official website confirms that tailoring is available at its stores. The supplied Google listing shows in-store shopping and delivery, with the store listed as open until 10:30pm .

3. AIVI (Previously 6thStreet)

Rating: 4.1 | 1,219 reviews AIVI is the new name for 6thStreet , following the platform's rebranding by Apparel Group. Its official website says the platform brings together more than 200,000 styles from global brands including Tommy Hilfiger, Charles & Keith, ALDO, Steve Madden, Skechers, Birkenstock, Levi's, GUESS and LC Waikiki. The supplied Dubai listing shows more than 1,200 reviews and provides in-store shopping, pickup and delivery . For shoppers searching for a broad selection rather than one specific clothing style, AIVI offers a multi-brand fashion option.

4. Bloomingdale's

Rating: 4.1 | 1,024 reviews Bloomingdale's at Dubai Mall is another highly reviewed option, with more than 1,000 reviews in the supplied listing. The Dubai Mall describes the store as a three-level luxury department store covering designer apparel, beauty and accessories. Its fashion selection includes products for women, men and children . This makes Bloomingdale's particularly relevant for shoppers who want to browse multiple fashion categories in one location.

5. The Giving Movement

Rating: 4.5 | 1,115 reviews The Giving Movement is a Dubai-born fashion brand focusing on athleisure and streetwear . The brand says its apparel combines fashion with sustainability and a commitment to giving back. Its official store locator lists locations including Dubai Mall, Mall of the Emirates and City Walk . The supplied listing for its Mall of

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Nine stops for your wardrobe

CONTINUED / HANA FAROUK

the Emirates location shows more than 1,100 reviews, with in-store pickup and delivery available.

6. Bawree Global

Rating: 4.8 | 700 reviews Bawree Global is located at Shop No. 3 near Dolphin Hotel in Meena Bazaar, Bur Dubai . The store has a 4.8 rating from around 700 reviews in the supplied listing. A customer review describes the shop as having a wide variety of clothes and good customer service . Bawree's official website confirms its Meena Bazaar location and also lists other Bawree-related stores in the surrounding Bur Dubai and Al Fahidi area. The supplied listing shows the store open until 10:30pm .

7. RETOLD

Rating: 4.6 | 974 reviews RETOLD has close to 1,000 reviews in the supplied Google listing and is located at Warehouse 11, Red Crescent Compound, 6th Street . It is an option for shoppers interested in pre-loved fashion rather than only buying new clothing. Pre-loved fashion has been gaining attention in the UAE, with shoppers increasingly looking for value, quality and alternatives to buying new clothes. The supplied listing shows in-store shopping, pickup and delivery .

8. Fashion Rerun | EFAAR

Rating: 4.9 | 540 reviews Fashion Rerun is a specialist option for people looking for vintage, retro, Y2K, rare streetwear and pre-loved fashion . Its official website lists its Al Quoz store at Goshi Warehouse City, Unit 12, Al Quoz Industrial 3 . The store describes its collection as curated vintage fashion and currently highlights categories such as vintage T-shirts, Y2K clothing, Nike, Ralph Lauren, jerseys and other streetwear. The supplied Google listing shows a 4.9 rating from 540 reviews and lists in-store shopping and pickup.

9. BBZ Dubai Hills Mall

Rating: 4.8 | 815 reviews BBZ at Dubai Hills Mall is a multi-brand department store covering men's, women's and children's fashion along with beauty, perfumes and home décor. Emaar Malls describes BBZ as a multi-brand store with thousands of fashion, sports and home brands, with collections covering different styles including sporty, relaxed and formal clothing. The supplied listing shows 815 reviews and a 4.8 rating. The store is located at Dubai Hills Mall and is listed as open until 11pm .

Dubai Clothing Store that Fits Your Style

The nine stores cover very different shopping needs. Regal Fabrics is particularly relevant for Indian fabrics and outfits, while Bawree Global gives Meena Bazaar shoppers another clothing option in the same area. For vintage and pre-loved fashion , Fashion Rerun and RETOLD are the more specialised choices. Fashion Rerun's current collection includes vintage, Y2K and streetwear, while RETOLD focuses on pre-loved fashion. For shoppers looking for a large multi-brand selection , AIVI and BBZ offer different brands and categories. Bloomingdale's is positioned as a luxury department store, while The Giving Movement focuses on athleisure and streetwear.

If your search is specifically for Indian clothing and fabrics , start with the Regal Fabrics locations in Meena Bazaar or Karama. For vintage and Y2K fashion , Fashion Rerun is a more specialised option. For pre-loved clothing , RETOLD fits that category. Shoppers wanting multi-brand or department-store fashion can consider AIVI, BBZ or Bloomingdale's. The review numbers and ratings above are based on the Google Maps listings supplied for this article and can change over time.

Follow the fragrance

Perfume Shops in Meena Bazaar Dubai: 10 Popular Places to Buy Fragrances

Tariq Noor | 24 Sep 2026, 13:08 GST



Perfume Shops in Meena Bazaar Dubai: Looking for perfume shops in Meena Bazaar Dubai? Bur Dubai is one of the easiest areas to explore if you want to compare different fragrances in one trip. The main perfume-shopping areas include Meena Bazaar, Al Fahidi, Al Hisn, Khalid Bin Al Waleed Road and Burjuman. You will find shops selling branded fragrances as well as oud, attar and other perfume products. Meena Bazaar itself has a large number of perfume and cosmetics stores, including Ratan's, IDOL Perfumes, Mayura Khamas, Deepak Nitanya and V Perfumes.

IDOL Perfumes in Meena Bazaar

IDOL Perfumes is located on Street 33B Al Hisn, Meena Bazaar. The listing provided for the shop shows a 4.9 rating from around 2.9K reviews and opening hours until 10:30 pm. Customers can shop in-store or use kerbside pickup and delivery. The listed phone number is +971 55 849 3585. Customer reviews shared about the shop often mention its large showroom, range of fragrances and helpful staff. Some reviews also mention OUD BY IDOL, along with products such as watches, bags, chocolates and dry fruits.

One long-term customer said they had been shopping there for almost 20 years and described the showroom as large enough for around 60-70 people. This is a customer's experience rather than a general guarantee about the store.

Ratan's LLC

Ratan's LLC is another perfume shop in Meena Bazaar. Its official website says the company offers more than 120 authentic brands, covering international, luxury and niche

fragrances. The store also caters to customers looking for different price ranges. The Meena Bazaar location is at 50B Street. This makes Ratan's relevant for shoppers searching for branded perfume shops in Meena Bazaar or a large selection of fragrances.

Mayura Khamas Perfumes

Mayura Khamas Perfumes is at Street 33B, Al Souq Al Kabeer, Al Fahidi. Its listed phone number is +971 4 352 2319. Mayura Khamas is particularly worth mentioning for shoppers searching for affordable perfume shops in Dubai. MyBayut describes it as a popular budget-friendly perfume shop in Meena Bazaar and highlights its range for men and women.

Deepak Nitanya General Trading LLC

Deepak Nitanya General Trading LLC is located at 18 Street 33B, Meena Bazaar. The listing provided for the shop shows a 4.9 rating from 866 reviews and opening hours until 11 pm. Services include in-store shopping, kerbside pickup and delivery. Its listed phone number is +971 50 745 6818. Because it is on Street 33B, shoppers can also visit other perfume shops in the same area rather than travelling across Dubai to compare stores.

Perfume Shops Near Burjuman

If you are closer to Burjuman, there are several options outside the main Meena Bazaar streets. Essenzi Perfumes - Burjuman is on Khalid Bin Al Waleed Road. The listing provided for the store shows a 4.9 rating from 612 reviews and opening hours until 10 pm. It offers in-store shopping, in-store pickup and

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Follow the fragrance

CONTINUED / TARIQ NOOR

delivery . Essenzi is also listed by Property Finder among Dubai's perfume retailers and is described as carrying more than 239 brands .

V Perfumes also has a branch inside Burjuman Metro Station, Exit 4 . The supplied listing shows a 4.8 rating from around 1.2K reviews and opening hours until 10:45 pm . Another V Perfumes branch is inside Sharaf DG Metro Station, Exit 1 , with a supplied rating of 4.8 from 937 reviews . These locations can be useful for people specifically searching for a perfume shop near Burjuman Metro Station or perfume shop near Sharaf DG Metro Station .

More Perfume Shops in Bur Dubai

There are also several other stores around Bur Dubai. YUSUF BHAI - Bur Dubai is located at 775V+X73 Computer Street, Khalid Bin Al Waleed Road . The supplied listing shows a 4.9 rating from around 3.7K reviews , with the shop open until 11 pm and delivery available. Customer reviews commonly mention the range of perfumes, prices and helpful staff . Some shoppers also mention getting recommendations when choosing fragrances. Yusuf Bhai's own store locator confirms its Bur Dubai location on Computer Street, Khalid Bin Al Waleed Road .

Shree Pramukh General Trading LLC is on Al Fahidi Street . The supplied listing shows a 4.8 rating from 465 reviews and opening hours until 11:30 pm . It offers in-store shopping, kerbside pickup and delivery. WADI AL SAFA LUXURY PERFUMES is another Bur Dubai option. Its official website says the business has been operating since 1999 and specialises in ouds, attars, bukhoo and abaya perfumes , along with branded perfumes and other products. It also offers local delivery arrangements. The supplied listing for the Bur Dubai store shows a 4.8 rating from 86 reviews and opening hours until 12 am .

Best Area for Perfume Shopping?

If your main goal is to compare several perfume shops , Meena Bazaar is the most useful place to start because several stores are concentrated in the same area. Meena Bazaar: IDOL Perfumes, Ratan's, Mayura Khamas and Deepak Nitanya are among the shops to compare. Burjuman: Essenzi and V Perfumes are convenient choices, especially if you are using the metro. Khalid Bin Al Waleed Road and wider Bur Dubai: Yusuf Bhai, WADI AL SAFA and other local perfume stores provide additional choices.

This also means you do not necessarily need to decide on one shop before arriving. You can visit a few stores, compare fragrances and prices, and then decide what suits you.

Cheap Perfumes in Dubai

Price is one of the reasons people search for perfume shops in Meena Bazaar. Mayura Khamas is specifically described by MyBayut as a budget-friendly perfume shop, while other Meena Bazaar stores offer a wider mix of fragrances and price points. If you are shopping for a branded perfume, it is still sensible to compare prices between stores before buying. A lower price does not automatically mean a better deal, and customers should check the product and packaging carefully.

Best for Oud, Attar or Arabic Perfumes

Bur Dubai is also useful if you are interested in oud, attar, bakhoo and Arabic fragrances , rather than only international designer perfumes. WADI AL SAFA, for example, lists ouds, attars and bukhoo among its specialties. The wider Dubai perfume-shopping scene also includes dedicated Arabic fragrance stores and traditional perfume markets, so shoppers looking for oud or attar have several options beyond designer fragrances.

What to Check Before Buying

When visiting perfume shops in Meena Bazaar or Bur Dubai, it helps to compare more than just the price. Check the fragrance, bottle size, brand, packaging and final price before purchasing. If you are trying a new scent, test it on your skin and give it some time before deciding. For expensive branded perfumes, buying from an established retailer and checking the product carefully can also help avoid confusion over authenticity. Meena Bazaar and Bur Dubai are useful areas for perfume shopping because you can find several stores close to one another.

For a wide selection, Ratan's and IDOL Perfumes are worth comparing. For shoppers looking for more budget-friendly options, Mayura Khamas is one of the stores highlighted by Dubai shopping guides. Around Burjuman, Essenzi and V Perfumes are convenient options, while Yusuf Bhai and WADI AL SAFA give shoppers more choices around Bur Dubai. Rather than choosing a shop based only on its rating, compare the location, fragrance selection, price, services and customer reviews before buying. Note: Business ratings, review counts, opening hours and services can change. Check the latest store information before visiting.

[Read the original story online](#)

The city takes the stage

Dubai Comedy Festival 2026: Mo Gilligan, Vir Das and Munawar Faruqui Lead October Line-Up

Hana Farouk | 3 Oct 2026, 15:37 GST



Dubai Comedy Festival 2026: Dubai is getting ready for another major celebration of live comedy as the Dubai Comedy Festival 2026 returns from October 9 to 18, bringing international comedians, Indian comedy stars and regional performers to venues across the city.

Mo Gilligan, Vir Das and Munawar Faruqui Among Key Names

British comedian Mo Gilligan is among the major international attractions of the festival. He is scheduled to perform at Dubai Opera on October 12, presenting his The Mo You Know World Tour 2026. Official listings show ticket prices starting from AED 250. Indian comedian Vir Das is also part of the programme, with his performance scheduled for October 18 at Coca-Cola Arena. His appearance is expected to attract significant interest among Dubai's large Indian community as well as international comedy audiences. Another prominent Indian name on the programme is Munawar Faruqui, who is scheduled to perform at Dubai Opera on October 11.

The festival also features comedians including Katherine Ryan, Zarna Garg, Amit Tandon, John Achkar, Shane Todd, Neema Naz and Rafi Bastos, alongside other performers from different comedy scenes.

Ten Days of Comedy Across Dubai

The 2026 edition runs for ten days, giving audiences multiple opportunities to attend performances throughout the city. The programme includes shows at major entertainment venues including Dubai Opera and Coca-Cola Arena, while comedy performances and showcases are also scheduled at other venues. The festival's programme has continued to expand, with additional shows announced toward the end of September. These include Ahmed Ahmed & Friends, Pitch

Them Perfect, Short+Sweet Comedy events, an Arabic crowd-work show and further comedy showcases.

Dubai Comedy Festival 2026 Tickets and Dates

The festival is scheduled from October 9 through October 18, 2026. Individual performances have separate ticket prices, depending on the comedian and venue. Mo Gilligan's Dubai Opera performance is listed from AED 250, while Vir Das's Coca-Cola Arena show is listed from AED 195. Munawar Faruqui's Dubai Opera performance is listed from AED 125. Because availability and prices can change, audiences should check the official event or venue listing before purchasing tickets.

A Major October Entertainment Event in Dubai

With international performers, popular Indian comedians and regional talent sharing the programme, Dubai Comedy Festival 2026 adds another major attraction to the city's busy October events calendar. For comedy fans, the combination of Mo Gilligan, Vir Das and Munawar Faruqui, together with a wider international line-up, makes the festival one of the notable live entertainment programmes taking place in Dubai this month. The festival runs from October 9 to 18, 2026, with performances spread across the participating Dubai venues.

[Read the original story online](#)

Inside Dubai Diamond Week

JGTD Dubai 2026: Dates, Venue, Exhibitors and Dubai Diamond Week

Hana Farouk | 3 Oct 2026, 15:56 GST



JGTD Dubai 2026: Dubai is set to become a major meeting point for the global jewellery and diamond industry this October as Jewellery, Gem & Technology Dubai (JGTD) 2026 returns for its fifth edition. The business-focused jewellery exhibition will take place from October 27 to 29, 2026, at Dubai Exhibition Centre, Expo City Dubai. The event is expected to attract jewellery manufacturers, gemstone suppliers, retailers, technology companies, wholesalers and professional buyers from international markets.

JGTD Dubai 2026 Dates and Venue

JGTD 2026 will be held across North Halls N21 and N23 at Dubai Exhibition Centre. The exhibition is scheduled to operate from 10am to 6pm during all three days. Unlike consumer-focused jewellery shows, JGTD is primarily designed for professionals working across the jewellery supply chain. The timing is particularly significant this year because the exhibition coincides with a wider jewellery and diamond industry programme taking place in Dubai.

More Than 400 Exhibitors Expected

According to Dubai Exhibition Centre, the 2026 edition is expected to feature more than 400 exhibitors representing over 26 countries. The exhibition will bring together businesses involved in different stages of the jewellery industry, giving trade visitors an opportunity to discover suppliers, products, manufacturing solutions and potential business partners under one roof. International participation is expected to include important jewellery markets such as India, Italy, Hong Kong, China, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Türkiye, among others.

Diamonds, Gemstones and Jewellery Technology

The name of the event reflects its wider focus. JGTD is not limited to finished jewellery. The exhibition will cover areas including diamonds, coloured gemstones, finished and semi-finished jewellery and jewellery manufacturing technology. Technology is becoming increasingly important for jewellery manufacturers and retailers, and JGTD provides a dedicated business environment for companies looking for equipment, production solutions and new technologies.

Dubai Diamond Week Adds to the October Buzz

A major reason JGTD 2026 is attracting attention is its connection with Dubai Diamond Week. Dubai Diamond Week is scheduled to run from October 26 to 29, beginning one day before JGTD opens. The programme includes the Dubai Diamond Conference on October 26, followed by industry activities and the JGTD exhibition. The combined calendar creates a concentrated period of jewellery and diamond-related business activity in Dubai, bringing professionals from different parts of the global value chain to the city.

Why JGTD Dubai 2026 Matters to Indian Jewellery Businesses

[Read the original story online](#)

India is one of the important markets connected with the Dubai jewellery trade, and JGTD is expected to attract Indian industry professionals looking for international sourcing and business opportunities. Indian manufacturers, exporters, wholesalers, retailers and jewellery designers can use the exhibition to explore new suppliers, gemstones, jewellery collections and technology solutions. For companies already doing business in the UAE, the event also provides an opportunity to strengthen regional and international connections.

What Visitors Can Find at JGTD

The exhibition is expected to cover a wide range of jewellery-industry categories, including:

Fine and finished jewellery • Diamonds • Coloured gemstones • Semi-finished jewellery • Jewellery manufacturing equipment • Technology and production solutions • Jewellery design and business services • International suppliers and manufacturers

Alongside product discovery, the event programme includes industry discussions and networking opportunities.

Registration and Visitor Information

JGTD is a B2B trade exhibition, meaning it is primarily intended for jewellery professionals and industry buyers. People planning to attend should complete the official visitor registration process and check the latest entry information before travelling to Expo City Dubai. The official event information should be treated as the final reference for registration requirements, timings and access arrangements.

JGTD Dubai 2026 at a Glance

Event: Jewellery, Gem & Technology Dubai (JGTD) Dates: October 27-29, 2026
Venue: Dubai Exhibition Centre, Expo City Dubai Halls: N21 and N23 Timings: 10am-6pm Edition: Fifth Format: B2B jewellery trade exhibition Expected exhibitors: 400+ Countries represented: 26+ Dubai Diamond Week: October 26-29, 2026

Dubai Set for a Busy Jewellery Trade Week

The combination of JGTD and Dubai Diamond Week makes the final week of October an important period for the city's jewellery and diamond business community. For professionals searching for JGTD Dubai 2026 dates, registration, venue, exhibitors, timings and Dubai Diamond Week, the most important dates are October 26 for the start of Dubai Diamond Week and October 27-29 for JGTD. With hundreds of international exhibitors expected, the event will give jewellery businesses an opportunity to explore products, technology, suppliers and new commercial connections in one of the world's major trading hubs.

Ready, set, Dubai

Dubai Run 2026 Registration: Opening Date, How to Register & Bib Collection

Hana Farouk | 1 Oct 2026, 12:59 GST



Dubai Run 2026 Registration: Dubai Run 2026 is returning on Sunday, November 22, 2026, giving residents and visitors another chance to run on Dubai's iconic roads with Sheikh Zayed Road temporarily transformed into a giant running track. The event is free to join, but registration is compulsory. The official Dubai Fitness Challenge website has confirmed the date, start time and routes, while detailed registration instructions are still to be announced.

Dubai Run 2026 Registration Status

At present, the official Dubai Run page says that everyone who wants to participate must register in advance. It also states that registration details will be announced soon. This means runners should be careful with unofficial websites or social media posts claiming that the 2026 Dubai Run registration form is already available. The safest place to check for the registration announcement is the official Dubai Fitness Challenge website. Official Dubai Run 2026 page

When Is Dubai Run 2026?

Dubai Run 2026 will take place on November 22, 2026. The run starts at 6:30 AM, with the starting area closing at 8:00 AM. The event is scheduled to finish at 9:00 AM. The event is part of the 2026 Dubai Fitness Challenge, which runs from October 31 to November 29, 2026.

How Dubai Run Registration Works

Once the official registration process opens, participants will need to complete the required online registration before taking part. The important point is that Dubai Run is free, but it is not a walk-in event. The official organisers require participants to register for safety and security reasons. After registration information is released, runners should check their confirmation details carefully and follow the instructions provided by the organisers.

Dubai Run 2026 5km vs 10km Route

There are two routes for Dubai Run 2026. The 5km route starts on Sheikh Zayed Road near the Museum of the Future and finishes at Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Boulevard near Dubai Mall. The

10km route also starts near the Museum of the Future but finishes at DIFC Gate Building near Emirates Towers. The official organisers describe this route as more suitable for experienced runners. For anyone mainly interested in the experience rather than distance, the 5km route provides a shorter way to participate. Runners looking for a longer challenge can choose the 10km option.

Dubai Run 2026 Bib Collection

Registration is only one part of preparing for Dubai Run. Participants must have a bib to take part. The official event information states that runners without a bib will not be permitted to participate. The exact 2026 bib collection arrangements should be checked once the organisers publish the registration instructions. This is important because previous editions had specific collection arrangements, but those should not automatically be treated as the confirmed arrangements for 2026.

Dubai Run 2026 at a Glance

Date: November 22, 2026 • Day: Sunday • Start: 6:30 AM • Entry: Free • Registration: Required • Routes: 5km and 10km • Bib: Required • Start-line closure: 8:00 AM • Event finish: 9:00 AM • Main area: Sheikh Zayed Road and surrounding Dubai landmarks

Check Before Dubai Run

If you are planning to participate, keep an eye on the official Dubai Run page for the next registration announcement. Once registration opens, check four things before race day: your registration confirmation, selected route, bib collection instructions and arrival information. Because the event begins early in the morning, participants should also plan their transportation before November 22 rather than leaving the journey until race morning. Dubai Run is one of the headline events of Dubai Fitness Challenge, and the 2026 edition will again give participants the unusual opportunity to experience Dubai's major roads without normal traffic.

[Read the original story online](#)

A November to get moving

Free Events in Dubai November 2026: Hotels, Cafes, Restaurants, Fireworks and More

Hana Farouk | 29 Sep 2026, 14:29 GST



Free Events in Dubai November 2026: November is one of the busiest months on Dubai's events calendar, with free fitness sessions, Diwali celebrations, fireworks, outdoor activities, cultural programmes and live entertainment taking place across the city. The Dubai Fitness Challenge runs from October 31 to November 29, bringing free fitness hubs, classes and activities to different parts of Dubai. The month also includes Dubai Design Week, Diwali celebrations and several free-entry activities at malls, waterfront destinations and other venues. Here are some of the free events and activities worth adding to your November calendar.

Free Events in Dubai in November 2026

Dubai Ride - November 1

The month starts with one of Dubai's biggest free fitness events. Dubai Ride takes place on November 1, 2026, as part of the Dubai Fitness Challenge. Thousands of cyclists can ride on roads normally dominated by traffic, with a 12km Sheikh Zayed Road route and a 4km Downtown Family Route. The event is free, but participants need to register in advance. The family route passes landmarks including Dubai Mall, Dubai Opera and Burj Khalifa. Date: November 1, 2026 Type: Cycling Entry: Free with registration

Dubai Media City Fitness Hub - October 31 to November 13

Dubai Media City will host daily free fitness sessions during the first part of November. Visitors can join classes including CrossFit, aerobics, HIIT, Pilates and yoga. The sessions are organised as part of the Dubai Fitness Challenge and are designed for different fitness levels. The first week takes place at the Media City Amphitheatre, while sessions from November 7 move to the courtyard between Buildings 7 and 8. Date: October 31 to November 13 Location: Dubai Media City Entry: Free

Dubai Design Week - November 3 to 8

Dubai Design Week returns to Dubai Design District from November 3 to 8. The festival brings together designers, architects, artists, brands and creative organisations, with exhibitions, installations, talks and other activities across the district. Some individual programmes are free, while visitors should check the arrangements for specific workshops or activities before attending. This is a useful option for anyone searching for free cultural events in Dubai in November.

Diwali Festival of Lights - November 2 to 12

Dubai's Festival of Lights runs from November 2 to 12. The programme includes cultural performances, Indian music and dance, traditional activities such as diya painting and rangoli workshops, fireworks and special celebrations across the city. Not every Diwali activity is necessarily free, so visitors should check individual venue details. However, Dubai's official Festival of Lights programme makes November one of the city's key periods for free and family-friendly cultural activities.

Diwali Fireworks at The Pointe - November 13

One of the clearest free-event options during Diwali is the Diwali fireworks at The Pointe on November 13. The fireworks are listed by Visit Dubai as a free event. Visitors can watch the display along the Palm Jumeirah waterfront and use the restaurants and cafés around The Pointe for dinner or refreshments. Participating outlets are also offering 25% discounts from November 6 to 21, according to the official event listing. Date: November 13 Location: The Pointe, Palm Jumeirah Entry: Free Food: Restaurants and cafés available separately

This makes The Pointe one of the better options for people searching for a free Dubai event with restaurants nearby.

Dubai Outlet Mall Fitness Hub - November

Dubai Outlet Mall will also host free activities as part of the Dubai Fitness Challenge. The programme includes group fitness sessions and triathlon-related challenges. A finale featuring Zumba and HIIT is scheduled for November 14 from 4:30pm to 6pm. Advance booking is required for the classes. Location: Dubai Outlet Mall Entry: Free Best for: Families, shoppers and fitness enthusiasts

Zabeel Ladies Club Fitness Hub - November 8 to 14

Women taking part in the Dubai Fitness Challenge can visit the Zabeel Ladies Club Fitness Hub from November 8 to 14. The programme includes Les Mills classes, Pound Fit, yoga, Pilates, cycling and aqua workouts. Outdoor facilities and relaxation areas are also available. Advance booking is required. Dates: November 8-14 Location: Zabeel Ladies Club Entry: Free for registered DFC participants

Tilal Al Ghaf Yoga and Sound Meditation - November 9

For a quieter evening, Tilal Al Ghaf is hosting a free yoga and sound meditation experience on November 9. The evening runs from 5:30pm to 9:30pm and

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A November to get moving

CONTINUED / HANA FAROUK

includes a tea ceremony, yoga and sound healing under the stars. The event is listed as free, but visitors are advised to secure their place in advance. Date: November 9 Time: 5:30pm-9:30pm Entry: Free with registration

Dubai Studio City Fitness Hub - November 14 to 29

Dubai Studio City will host daily free fitness sessions during the final two weeks of the Dubai Fitness Challenge. From November 14 until November 29, visitors can join activities including CrossFit, aerobics, HIIT, Pilates and yoga. The sessions take place on the grass between Buildings 1 and 2. Dates: November 14-29 Location: Dubai Studio City Entry: Free

Free Yoga and Sound Healing at Dubai Hills Mall

Dubai Hills Mall is another location included in the Dubai Fitness Challenge programme. The Apparel Group's sessions include free yoga and sound-healing activities, giving visitors a chance to combine a fitness session with shopping and dining at the mall. The published programme runs through November, with sessions scheduled on Saturdays.

Hatta Fitness Hub

Visitors looking for something outside central Dubai can head towards Hatta Wadi Hub for the Hatta Fitness Hub. The programme includes activities such as hiking, cycling, yoga, meditation, climbing and an inflatable assault course. The event is listed as free as part of the Dubai Fitness Challenge. This is particularly useful for people searching for free outdoor activities near Dubai in November.

Free Fitness Sessions at DIFC

The DIFC Fitness Hub at Gate Avenue is another free option during the Dubai Fitness Challenge. The programme offers open-air workout sessions at Gate Avenue, making it convenient for people working or staying around the DIFC area.

Free Fitness Classes at City Centre Deira

City Centre Deira is also part of the November fitness calendar. The published schedule includes Zumba, bootcamp/fitness and Bollywood dance sessions on selected dates in November. Visitors should check the current schedule and registration arrangements before going, as places can be limited.

Free Events With Restaurants and Cafes Nearby

For many visitors, the most useful free events are those where they can enjoy an activity and then have dinner or coffee without travelling to another part of Dubai.

The Pointe

The November 13 Diwali fireworks are free, while The Pointe has restaurants and cafés around the waterfront. The official listing also mentions special offers at participating outlets during the Diwali period.

Dubai Festival City

Dubai Festival City is another option for an evening out. The waterfront is home to the IMAGINE multimedia show, while restaurants and cafés around Festival Bay provide plenty of dining choices. The important distinction is that the entertainment experience can be enjoyed without buying a separate attraction ticket, while food and drinks at individual restaurants are paid.

Free Live Music at a Dubai Hotel

Some Dubai hotels and hospitality venues also run free-entry entertainment, although these schedules can change more frequently than citywide events. One example is Brassmith at Novotel World Trade Centre Dubai, which has promoted free-entry Saturday live music performances. For November, visitors should check the hotel's latest entertainment schedule before travelling because hotel entertainment calendars can be updated closer to the date. The important point is

that free entry does not mean free food or drinks.

Free Events Are Not Always Completely Free

Dubai's November calendar contains several events that can easily be mistaken for completely free experiences. For example, an event may have:

free admission but paid food and drinks • free classes but advance registration • free public activities inside a destination that itself has an entry charge • free admission for selected age groups only • free individual workshops but paid main-event tickets

This is particularly important when planning around large entertainment venues. Global Village, for example, can have free performances and activities within the destination, but visitors should check the admission requirements for the venue itself. Similarly, Emirates Dubai 7s is not a completely free event. Certain free admission arrangements apply to children on specific days, while general admission is ticketed.

Dubai Fitness Challenge Makes November Different

The biggest source of free activities in November is the Dubai Fitness Challenge. The 2026 edition runs from October 31 to November 29 and encourages people to complete 30 minutes of activity for 30 consecutive days. The programme includes Fitness Villages, Fitness Hubs, classes and major events such as Dubai Ride and Dubai Run. Dubai's official tourism calendar describes the challenge as having free citywide fitness events. That means visitors do not have to spend money on a gym membership or expensive attraction to take part in Dubai's November fitness season.

Free Dubai Events to Watch Before November

Dubai's November calendar also contains major events that should not automatically be added to a free-events list. World Art Dubai, for example, is scheduled for November 19-22, while Emirates Dubai 7s runs from November 27-29. Dubai's official calendar also lists events including the DP World Tour Championship, Dubai Watch Week, Downtown Design and UNTOLD Festival Dubai during November. However, admission conditions vary, so readers should check the official event information before assuming an event is free.

Best Free Things to Do in Dubai in November 2026

If you want to keep your November plans within a low budget, the easiest options include:

Join Dubai Ride on November 1. • Visit Dubai Design Week and check its free public activities. • Experience the Diwali celebrations across the city. • Watch the free Diwali fireworks at The Pointe on November 13. • Join free fitness classes at Dubai Media City. • Try the Dubai Outlet Mall Fitness Hub. • Visit Zabeel Ladies Club for its free DFC programme. • Attend the Tilal Al Ghaf yoga and sound meditation evening. • Join free sessions at Dubai Studio City. • Try the free fitness activities at Dubai Hills Mall. • Visit Hatta Fitness Hub for outdoor activities. • Check free entertainment and public shows around Dubai Festival City.

November 2026 is shaping up to be one of the better months for finding free things to do in Dubai, particularly for fitness, outdoor activities and cultural celebrations. The biggest opportunity is the Dubai Fitness Challenge, which spreads free classes and activities across different neighbourhoods. Diwali adds another major source of free entertainment, with the November 13 fireworks at The Pointe standing out as one of the clearest free evening events.

For people who want more than just an event, locations such as The Pointe, Dubai Festival City, Dubai Hills Mall and Dubai Outlet Mall also make it possible to combine a free activity with shopping, cafés or restaurants. Because hotel and restaurant entertainment schedules can change, check the individual venue's latest listing before visiting, especially for live music and recurring weekly events.

[Read the original story online](#)

December in the city

Free Events in Dubai December 2026

Verity Gulf | 30 Sep 2026, 15:29 GST



Free Events in Dubai December 2026: December is one of the busiest months on Dubai's events calendar, with Christmas celebrations, Dubai Shopping Festival activities, free live music, outdoor markets, family entertainment and New Year's Eve events taking place across the city. The month also brings free-entry events to destinations including JBR, Bluewaters, Al Warqa Park and Nakheel Mall. Dubai Shopping Festival begins on December 4 and adds more entertainment, markets and activities across the city. Here are some of the free events and activities worth adding to your December calendar.

Free Events in Dubai in December 2026

UAE National Day - December 2

December begins with UAE National Day , one of the country's major annual celebrations. Dubai usually marks the occasion with festive decorations, public celebrations, cultural activities and entertainment across the city. Exact 2026 programmes and individual event timings should be checked closer to the date. For visitors, it can be a good opportunity to experience Dubai's national celebrations without necessarily booking a ticketed attraction. Date: December 2 Entry: Many public celebrations are free

The Intentional Inclusion Celebration - December 3

The Intentional Inclusion Celebration is a free community festival taking place on December 3, 2026 , coinciding with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The event will feature live music and performances, arts and creative activities, community programmes and a marketplace. It is open to everyone and free registration is available. Date: December 3 Time: 2pm-7pm Location: GEMS Dubai American Academy, Al Barsha South Entry: Free with registration

Festive at The Beach, JBR - December

The Beach, JBR is one of the main places to enjoy Dubai's festive atmosphere without paying an entrance fee. The December programme includes roaming Santa appearances, live buskers, family workshops, festive activities, DSF drone shows and New Year's Eve fireworks. Santa and his elves will appear every weekend before Christmas from 5pm to 9pm , giving visitors opportunities for photos and family entertainment. Live buskers will perform from Wednesday to Friday between 6:30pm and 9:30pm . A festive workout with Santa is also scheduled for December 20 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm . The DSF Drone Shows are

scheduled for 8pm and 10pm . Location: The Beach, JBR Entry: Free

This is one of the better options for anyone searching for free Christmas events in Dubai .

Santa's Secret Island at Bluewaters - December

Bluewaters turns into a festive destination with Santa's Secret Island , a free-entry Christmas experience running on weekends. Visitors can see themed decorations, light installations, magical snowfall and Santa's grotto. Children can take part in activities including card making, candy making and face painting, while roaming entertainment includes carolers, elves, drummers, ballerinas, jugglers and other festive characters. The event runs every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 5pm to 10pm until December 30 . Location: Bluewaters Entry: Free It is particularly useful for families looking for free Christmas activities in Dubai for kids .

Souq Al Freej - December 15 to 31

Souq Al Freej is a free-entry night market at Al Warqa Park . Running from December 15 to 31 , the market features products from emerging Emirati-owned brands and homegrown businesses. Visitors can browse handcrafted products, fashion, gifts and other items while also finding food options at the market. Dates: December 15-31 Location: Al Warqa Park Entry: Free This is a useful choice for visitors who want to combine an outdoor evening with shopping and food.

Tunes DXB - December

Music lovers can check out Tunes DXB , a Dubai Shopping Festival programme featuring musical talent at locations across the city. The official listing describes it as a free event with performances at 10 locations across Dubai . The programme is particularly relevant to people searching for free live music in Dubai in December . Locations: Multiple venues across Dubai Entry: Free Individual performance schedules can change, so check the latest listing before visiting.

Rooftop Festive Village at Nakheel Mall - December

The Rooftop Festive Village returns to Nakheel Mall for the festive season. The free-entry experience includes winter decorations, a 13-metre Christmas tree , a food market and an artisan bazaar. Families can also enjoy live shows, arcade games and Santa meet-and-greet activities. There is an ice rink as part of the

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December in the city

CONTINUED / VERITY GULF

festive village, but visitors should check whether individual activities have separate charges. Location: The Rooftop West, Nakheel Mall Entry: Free

Dubai Shopping Festival - From December 4

Dubai Shopping Festival (DSF) begins on December 4, 2026 and runs until January 17, 2027 . Shopping is a major part of DSF, but the festival also brings entertainment, workshops, markets, raffles and public activities to different parts of Dubai. Some individual experiences are paid, but several DSF activities are free to attend. The festival is therefore one of the main sources of free things to do in Dubai in December . Dates: December 4, 2026-January 17, 2027 Location: Across Dubai Entry: Many activities are free

DSF Drone Shows - December

The Dubai Shopping Festival drone shows are another free attraction to look out for during December. The Beach JBR's festive programme currently lists daily displays at 8pm and 10pm . Visitors can watch the displays from the public area without purchasing a separate event ticket. Location: The Beach, JBR Entry: Free viewing Arriving early can be useful on busy weekends when waterfront areas become crowded.

Cigna Park Run - December 19

People looking for a free fitness activity can join the Cigna Park Run on December 19 . The event takes place at Al Ittihad Park and is designed for people to run alongside family and friends. Date: December 19 Location: Al Ittihad Park Entry: Free

Free Events at DIFC

DIFC also has free community and wellness activities during December. Gate Avenue hosts recurring community programmes, including free wellness sessions and other activities. Some sessions require registration or are subject to availability. For December, visitors should check the latest Gate Avenue schedule before attending. Location: Gate Avenue, DIFC Entry: Selected activities are free

Free Events With Restaurants and Cafes Nearby

For many visitors, a free event is more useful when restaurants and cafés are available nearby. The Beach, JBR has a large selection of restaurants and cafés around the waterfront, making it easy to combine the free festive programme with dinner or coffee. Bluewaters also has restaurants and cafés close to Santa's Secret Island. At Al Warqa Park , Souq Al Freej provides food options alongside its market stalls. Nakheel Mall offers restaurants and cafés around the Rooftop Festive Village. Dubai Festival City is another option for an evening combining waterfront entertainment with restaurants and cafés.

The important point is that the event can be free while food and drinks are paid separately .

Free Events at Hotels and Restaurants

Dubai's hotels and restaurants become particularly busy during December, but most Christmas dinners, brunches and New Year's Eve packages are paid. For example, Crowne Plaza Dubai Deira lists its Christmas Eve dinner from AED 199 , while Avani Palm View's Christmas Day lunch starts at AED 359 . Sofitel Dubai The Obelisk also lists a festive lunch from AED 140 during December. These are useful for readers looking for Dubai Christmas dining deals , but they should not be included in a list of completely free events. Some hotels and restaurants may offer free-entry entertainment or festive activities, so individual

venue schedules are worth checking.

Free Business and Networking Events

December also has free events for professionals, entrepreneurs and business visitors. The B2B Growth Expo Speed Networking Dubai is scheduled for December 9 and 10 at Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai and is listed as free. The event is aimed at professionals looking to make business connections, find potential partners and meet people from different industries. Dates: December 9-10 Location: Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai Entry: Free This gives December's free-event calendar another useful category beyond Christmas and family entertainment.

Free Events Are Not Always Completely Free

Dubai's event calendar contains several experiences that can look free at first but have additional costs. An event may offer free entry while charging separately for:

Food and drinks • Workshops • Rides • Ice skating • Special activities • Restaurant packages • VIP areas

This is particularly common during Christmas and New Year's Eve. For example, a festive village may have free admission but charge for some activities inside, while a hotel may offer entertainment as part of a paid Christmas package. Always check the individual venue before assuming that the entire experience is free.

Events to Check Before Calling Them Free

Some major December attractions are worth knowing about but should not automatically be added to a free-events list. Global Village is open during December, but general admission is ticketed. Christmas dining at Dubai hotels is also usually paid. Large concerts, New Year's Eve gala dinners and special rooftop viewing experiences normally require tickets or reservations. This distinction is important for anyone searching specifically for free events in Dubai .

Best Free Things to Do in Dubai in December 2026

If you want to keep your December plans on a low budget, some of the easiest options are:

Celebrate UAE National Day public festivities on December 2. • Attend the free Inclusion Celebration on December 3. • Visit The Beach JBR for Santa, live music and festive activities. • Meet Santa at Bluewaters. • Explore Souq Al Freej at Al Warqa Park. • Listen to free live music through Tunes DXB. • Visit the Rooftop Festive Village at Nakheel Mall. • Watch the DSF drone shows. • Join the Cigna Park Run. • Look for free activities at DIFC. • Attend free business networking events such as the B2B Growth Expo. • Explore free DSF entertainment around Dubai.

December offers plenty of opportunities to experience Dubai without spending heavily, particularly if you focus on public waterfront events, markets, family activities and Dubai Shopping Festival entertainment. The biggest free-entry festive options are The Beach JBR, Santa's Secret Island at Bluewaters, Souq Al Freej, Tunes DXB and the Rooftop Festive Village . For visitors who also want food, restaurants and cafés around JBR, Bluewaters, Nakheel Mall and other event locations make it easy to turn a free event into a complete evening out. Event programmes and timings can change, especially for recurring entertainment and hotel activities. Check the latest official listing before visiting.

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Find your next opportunity

Best Job Sites in Dubai: Where to Find Jobs, Urgent Vacancies and Salary Guide

Verity Gulf | 10 Sep 2026, 16:31 GST



Best Job Sites in Dubai: Looking for a job in Dubai? You don't necessarily need to know someone in the city or visit offices one by one. A large part of the hiring process now starts online, and several job portals allow candidates to search for vacancies, check requirements and send applications directly to employers. The important part is knowing where to look. Some websites are better for corporate and professional jobs, while others have more openings in areas such as hospitality, driving, security, sales, logistics and administration. There are also official government portals for people who want to work with Dubai's government departments.

Whether you are already living in the UAE or planning to apply from another country, these are some of the most useful websites to keep on your Dubai job-search list.

Bayt: A Good Starting Point for Dubai Jobs

If you are not sure where to begin, Bayt is one of the platforms worth checking first. It covers a wide range of industries and experience levels, so you can find everything from junior positions to experienced corporate roles. Companies across the Middle East use the platform to advertise vacancies, which means the number of listings can be quite large. You can narrow your search by location, job title, experience and other criteria instead of going through every vacancy manually. Website: Bayt UAE Jobs

GulfTalent: Better for Experienced Professionals

Not every job seeker is looking for an entry-level position. If you already have several years of experience and are targeting a professional or managerial role, GulfTalent can be particularly useful. The platform has a strong focus on professional jobs across the Gulf, including opportunities in finance, engineering,

technology, management, consulting, sales and other specialised fields. It is worth keeping an eye on GulfTalent if your goal is to move into a higher-level position rather than simply find the first available job in Dubai. Website: GulfTalent

NaukriGulf: Useful for a Wide Range of Jobs

NaukriGulf is another popular option for Dubai job seekers. Its listings cover several sectors, making it useful for both experienced professionals and candidates looking for more general employment opportunities. You can find vacancies in areas such as IT, engineering, finance, sales, administration, logistics and hospitality. The platform also features immediate-joining and urgent job listings, which can be useful if you are specifically looking for employers who need staff quickly. Website: NaukriGulf

Indeed: Search by the Job You Actually Want

Sometimes the easiest way to find a job is to search for the exact position rather than browse an entire category. That's where Indeed Dubai can be useful. You can search phrases such as "driver jobs in Dubai", "hotel jobs", "sales executive jobs" or "urgent hiring jobs" and then filter the results according to your requirements. Because vacancies come from different employers and sources, always read the complete job description before applying. Website: Indeed Dubai

Dubai Careers: For Government Jobs

If your interest is in working for a Dubai government entity, don't depend only on commercial job websites. Dubai Careers is the official recruitment platform for participating Dubai government organisations. It allows candidates to explore available government positions and learn about the requirements for different roles. For applicants specifically targeting public-sector employment, this should be one of the first websites they check. Website: Dubai

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Find your next opportunity

CONTINUED / VERITY GULF

Careers The phrase "urgent hiring" can be tempting when you need work quickly. Many job websites have vacancies marked as urgent, immediate joining or join immediately.

These positions can be found in sectors where employers frequently need staff, including hospitality, security, cleaning, driving, sales and logistics. But there is an important point to remember: "urgent" does not guarantee instant employment. You still need to meet the employer's requirements, complete the interview process and have the appropriate documentation or work authorisation. So, don't apply randomly to every urgent vacancy you see. Focus on jobs that match your experience and qualifications. Dubai's employment market is extremely diverse. While professional roles are available in sectors such as technology, finance and management, there is also steady demand for workers in service-based industries.

Drivers and Delivery Workers

Driving and delivery jobs are frequently advertised in Dubai. Depending on the employer and type of work, some positions offer salaries of around AED 2,500 to AED 3,000 per month . Certain employers may also provide accommodation, transportation or overtime. For many driving positions, having the appropriate UAE driving licence is an important requirement.

Security Guards

Security is another sector where vacancies regularly appear. Some security positions offer salaries in the region of AED 1,700 to AED 2,500 per month , depending on the employer, experience and role. Benefits such as accommodation, transport or medical insurance may be included in some employment packages. Candidates should check whether a SIRA certification or another UAE-specific qualification is required for the particular vacancy.

Cleaners and Housekeeping Staff

Cleaning and housekeeping positions are available across hotels, offices, residential buildings and other facilities. Salaries can vary, but some listings fall within the AED 1,500 to AED 2,500 monthly range. Live-in and live-out positions can have different salary and benefit structures. Before accepting an offer, check whether accommodation, food and transportation are included.

Hospitality and Hotel Jobs

Dubai's tourism industry creates plenty of opportunities in hotels, restaurants and other hospitality businesses. Waiters, kitchen helpers, housekeeping staff and other support workers can find entry-level opportunities, with reported salaries ranging from around AED 1,200 to AED 3,500 per month depending on the position. Some employers provide shared accommodation, transport or meals, which can make a significant difference to the overall value of the job.

Cooks and Kitchen Staff

Restaurants, hotels and catering companies regularly recruit kitchen workers. Experienced cooks and chefs can earn more than entry-level kitchen staff. Some advertised positions offer around AED 4,200 to AED 5,500 per month , although the actual salary depends heavily on experience, cuisine, employer and responsibilities.

Sales and Telesales

If you are comfortable communicating with customers and working towards targets, sales can be another route into Dubai's job market. Sales and telesales positions may offer around AED 3,000 to AED 6,000 or more per month , with commissions available for some roles. The final income can therefore be higher than the basic salary when a position has a strong commission structure. One mistake many job seekers make is comparing vacancies only by their monthly salary. For example, a job offering AED 2,500 with accommodation and transport could work out differently from a job offering AED 3,000 where you have to pay your own rent and travel costs.

Before accepting an offer, look at the complete package . Check the basic salary, accommodation, transport, food allowance, medical insurance, working hours, overtime and leave benefits. Also read the employment terms carefully. You don't need to register on every job website available. A better approach is to choose two or three platforms that fit your type of work and check them regularly. For professional positions, start with GulfTalent and Bayt . For a broader range of vacancies, add NaukriGulf and Indeed . If you are interested in government employment, keep Dubai Careers on your list.

Create a clear CV, use a professional email address and make sure your phone number is easy for recruiters to find. When applying, adjust your CV where necessary so that your most relevant skills appear clearly for the particular job. And most importantly, be careful with job offers that ask you to pay money simply to secure employment. A genuine recruitment process should always be approached with caution when someone demands upfront payments or personal financial information.

Finding work in Dubai is easier when you know which websites are actually useful for your type of job. Bayt, GulfTalent, NaukriGulf and Indeed can help you explore private-sector opportunities, while Dubai Careers is the place to look for participating government vacancies. If you need work quickly, search specifically for urgent and immediate-joining vacancies, but don't let the word "urgent" make you skip the basic checks. The smartest approach is simple: choose the right portal, apply for jobs that genuinely match your profile, compare the full salary package and verify the employer before accepting an offer.

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Kohli falls first ball

Virat Kohli Golden Duck: Jayden Seales Stuns India Star in India vs West Indies 3rd ODI

Tariq Noor | 3 Oct 2026, 14:27 GST



Virat Kohli Golden Duck: New Chandigarh: Virat Kohli's return to the spotlight in the India vs West Indies ODI series took an unexpected turn on Saturday as the former India captain was dismissed for a golden duck in the third and final ODI. West Indies pacer Jayden Seales produced the breakthrough at the PCA International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh, knocking over Kohli's middle stump with his first legitimate delivery to the Indian batter. The dismissal came at a crucial stage as India lost two early wickets.

Kohli had come to the crease after captain Shubman Gill was dismissed cheaply. Seales first delivered a wide that Kohli left alone. The next delivery was fuller and came into the batter, with Kohli attempting to play across the line. He missed, and the ball crashed into the middle stump. The dismissal marked only the fourth ODI golden duck of Kohli's career, according to reports. His previous ODI golden duck had also come against the West Indies, in Visakhapatnam in December 2019.

Jayden Seales Joins a Rare List

Seales' wicket was significant beyond the immediate match situation. He became only the fourth bowler to dismiss Kohli with the first legitimate ball he faced in an ODI. Daren Sammy, Tim Bresnan and Kieron Pollard had previously achieved the feat, according to Moneycontrol. The moment also created one of the most talked-about early incidents of the third ODI, with Kohli's unexpected dismissal coming after India's strong performances in the opening two matches.

India Under Early Pressure

India entered the final ODI with a 2-0 series lead, having won both previous matches by eight wickets. The third match therefore gives the hosts an opportunity to complete a clean sweep. However, the start was far less comfortable. Shubman

Gill was dismissed before Kohli's arrival, followed quickly by Kohli's golden duck. The early wickets put additional responsibility on Rohit Sharma and the middle order. Rohit also reached a major career milestone during the innings, becoming the fourth batter in ODI history to record 10,000 runs as an opener and the fastest to reach the mark, according to reports.

A Rare Kohli Dismissal

For a batter as consistent in ODI cricket as Kohli, a first-ball dismissal remains an unusual occurrence. His latest golden duck has therefore become a major talking point from the India-West Indies series. For West Indies, meanwhile, Seales' early double strike provided a significant boost in a match where the visitors are attempting to prevent India from completing a 3-0 series sweep. The India vs West Indies third ODI is being played at New Chandigarh on October 3, with India batting first after winning the toss.

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A record between the posts

Unai Simón World Cup Record: How Spain's Goalkeeper Broke a 36-Year-Old FIFA Record

Layla Hassan | 3 Oct 2026, 13:37 GST



Unai Simón World Cup Record: The FIFA World Cup 2026 produced several memorable records, but one of the most remarkable came from Spain's goalkeeping department. While Spain ultimately lifted the trophy after defeating Argentina 1-0 in the final, goalkeeper Unai Simón quietly created a piece of World Cup history that will remain in the record books for years. Simón finished the tournament with seven clean sheets in eight matches, the highest number recorded by a goalkeeper in a single FIFA World Cup. More significantly, he completed a remarkable 650 consecutive minutes without conceding a goal, breaking a record that had stood since the 1990 World Cup.

A Record That Survived for 36 Years

Before Simón's remarkable run, the World Cup record for consecutive minutes without conceding belonged to Italy's Walter Zenga. Zenga produced the record during the 1990 World Cup in Italy, remaining unbeaten for 517 consecutive minutes. FIFA itself had previously identified Zenga's 517-minute run as the longest period without conceding in World Cup history. Simón eventually moved past that mark during Spain's run at the 2026 tournament. His record was extended to 650 minutes, giving him a 133-minute advantage over Zenga's previous benchmark.

The achievement was particularly notable because Simón's record was not created during one uninterrupted World Cup campaign. His streak began during Spain's 2022 World Cup journey and continued into the 2026 tournament.

The 650-Minute Streak Came Across Two World Cups

Simón's last World Cup goal conceded before beginning the record-setting sequence came against Japan during the 2022 tournament in Qatar. Spain then went through the remainder of that match without conceding, followed by a scoreless Round of 16 match against Morocco. The sequence continued when Spain returned for the 2026 World Cup. At the 2026 tournament, Spain opened with a goalless draw against Cabo Verde before recording further clean sheets against Saudi Arabia and Uruguay. The team then continued its defensive run in the knockout stage against Austria and Portugal.

By the time Spain reached the quarterfinals, Simón had already surpassed Zenga's historic mark. FIFA reported that his unbeaten run ultimately reached 650 minutes.

Belgium Finally Ended the Historic Run

The record eventually came to an end in Spain's quarterfinal against Belgium on 10 July 2026. Spain had reached the match without conceding a goal in the tournament. Fabián Ruiz put Spain ahead in the 30th minute, but Belgium responded when Charles De Ketelaere scored in the 41st minute. That goal ended Spain's tournament-long defensive streak and brought Simón's record to a close at 650 minutes. Spain nevertheless recovered to win the quarterfinal 2-1 and advance to the semifinals. The end of the streak therefore did not derail Spain's campaign. Instead, Simón's record had already become one of the defining individual achievements of

the tournament.

Seven Clean Sheets Added Another World Cup Record

The 650-minute streak was only part of Simón's contribution. FIFA confirmed after the final that Simón recorded seven clean sheets across Spain's eight matches, the most by any goalkeeper in a single edition of the men's World Cup. The previous single-tournament benchmark was five clean sheets, achieved by several legendary goalkeepers across different World Cups. Spain's defensive performance was equally extraordinary. The champions conceded only one goal in eight matches, the fewest ever conceded by a World Cup-winning team, according to FIFA. That single goal came in the quarterfinal against Belgium.

Spain's Defensive Record Became Part of Its Championship Story

Spain's 2026 title was built on much more than its attacking talent. The team combined possession, midfield control and defensive consistency throughout the tournament. The numbers underline just how difficult Spain were to break down. The team won the World Cup after seven consecutive victories following its opening draw and conceded only once across the entire tournament. Simón's performances gave that defensive structure an important final layer. His ability to keep opponents scoreless for long periods allowed Spain to maintain control even in matches where the margin between the teams was narrow.

Spain eventually defeated Argentina 1-0 after extra time in the final, completing a tournament in which the team conceded just one goal.

A Record That Connects Zenga, Simón and World Cup History

The significance of Simón's achievement becomes clearer when viewed alongside the name he replaced in the record books. Walter Zenga's 517-minute streak had remained one of the most enduring goalkeeping records associated with the World Cup. His performances for Italy in 1990 became part of the tournament's statistical history. More than three decades later, another goalkeeper finally moved beyond that figure. Simón's 650-minute run now gives Spain another entry in the long list of remarkable World Cup goalkeeping achievements. It also adds a unique chapter to a tournament in which Spain set several other records on its way to becoming world champion.

With seven clean sheets, 650 consecutive minutes without conceding and only one goal allowed throughout Spain's title-winning campaign, Unai Simón's name is now firmly attached to one of the standout defensive records of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

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