



Selective
Travel Management

Dubai

Travel Guide



Introduction

Dubai, the leading business hub in the Middle East, functions as a vital global transportation centre for both passengers and cargo. Initially driven by oil revenue, its economic focus has now shifted to tourism, aviation, real estate, and financial services. The city's commercial sector is rapidly expanding due to substantial investments, attracting global investors and brands. Despite its modernity, Dubai preserves distinctive customs and traditions essential for business success. The sizable expatriate community significantly influences daily business practices, resulting in a unique blend of global and local dynamics.

For a successful business trip to Dubai, here are some tips from your arrival onward:

Business Etiquette

Dubai's business etiquette is characterised by formality. When greeting hosts, shake hands with men, and for women, place your right hand over your heart. Exchanging business cards after initial greetings is customary, so ensure you have an ample supply of quality cards.

Business attire in Dubai leans toward conservatism. Simplicity and elegance are preferred, so avoid flashy or extravagant clothing. Women should steer clear of low necklines and short skirts, while both men and women should avoid overly tight attire, which may be impractical and uncomfortable, especially during the hot summer months.

Business Hours: Fridays and Ramadan

It's important to avoid scheduling business activities on Fridays, as it's a day of prayer and rest in this Muslim Emirate. Instead, opt for Sundays, which operate as usual workdays. Office hours generally span from 8 am to 1 pm and 4 pm to 8 pm, Sunday through Thursday.

During Ramadan, a significant religious observance in Dubai, the business landscape adapts to the spiritual nature of the month. Meetings are often rescheduled to more suitable times, and business dinners are typically held after iftar, the meal that breaks the fast.

Language

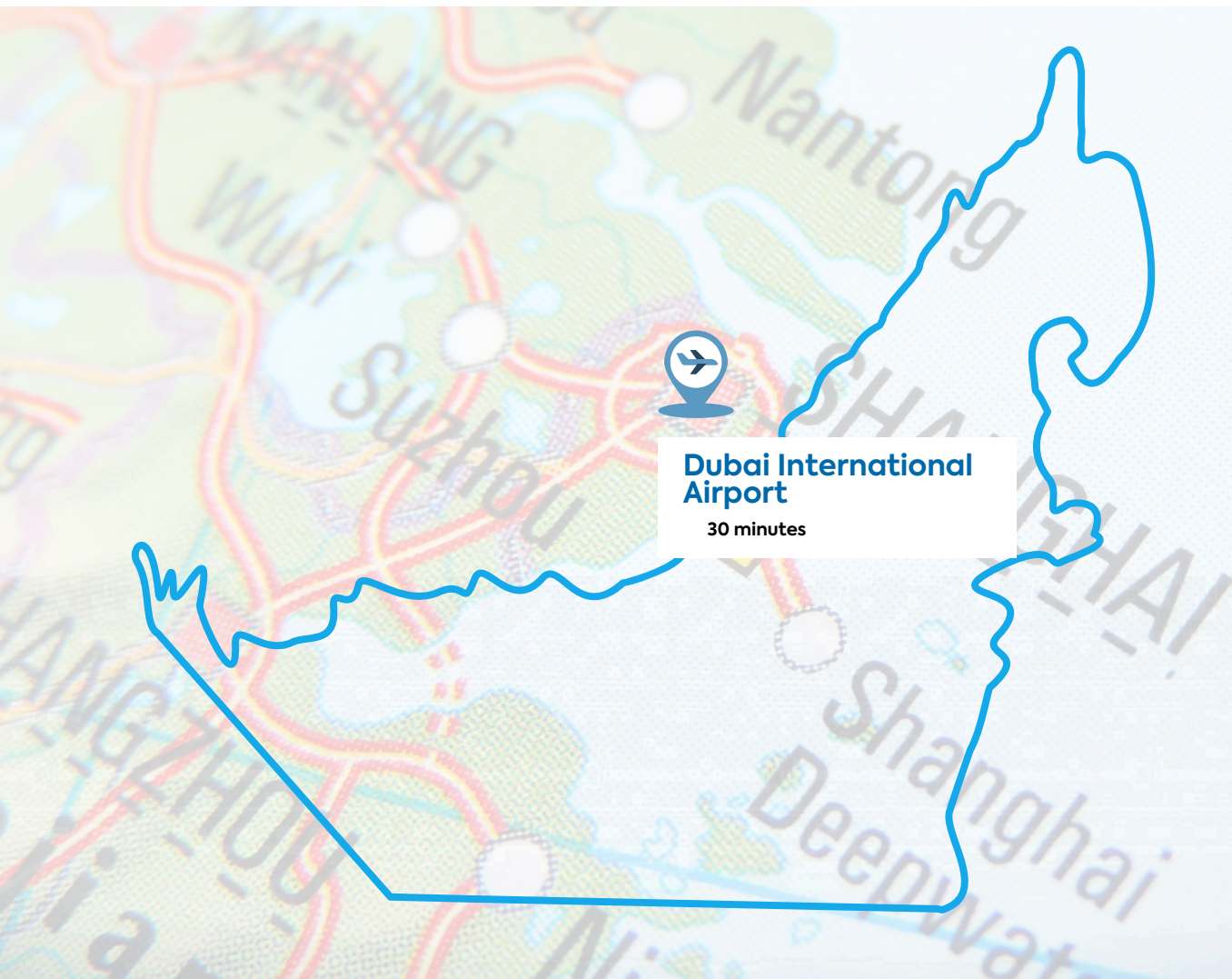
While English serves as the primary business language in Dubai, making an effort to learn a few Arabic phrases, such as the greeting "As-salamu alaykum" can leave a positive impression.



International Airports

Dubai is served by two airports: Dubai Airport (DXB) and Al Maktoum Airport (DWC). DXB reigns as the city's primary international airport, holding the title of the world's busiest airport for international passenger traffic. It's also the fifth busiest worldwide for overall passenger numbers, a hub for Airbus A380 and Boeing 777 movements, and renowned for the highest average passengers per flight. Located in the Al Garhoud district, DXB spans 7,200 acres of land. Terminal 3, its centrepiece, ranks as the world's second-largest building by floor space and the planet's largest airport terminal.

For travellers, DXB offers unmatched convenience as it sits closest to Dubai's city centre. Various transportation options, including metro trains, buses, shuttles, taxis, and car rentals, seamlessly connect the airport to central Dubai, with a swift 30-minute taxi ride to the heart of the city.



Getting into Dubai



Dubai International Airport offers travellers a multitude of transportation options to reach the vibrant city centre. Whether you prefer the efficiency of the metro, the convenience of buses, the flexibility of taxis, or the modern ease of rideshare services, Dubai ensures a seamless journey to its heart.

Metro

This is a convenient and efficient way to travel from the airport to the city centre. The Red Line of the Dubai Metro connects the airport to key destinations in the city. The metro stations at the airport are conveniently located within the terminals.

Bus

The fastest option is the Express Bus 13B to Al Qusais Bus Station in Dubai city centre. They run every 30 minutes from the Dubai bus station at the airport, outside Terminal 2, and the journey takes around 40 minutes.

***You'll need to have a Nol transport card so you can travel using the public transport. You can't pay the driver on the bus. Nol cards are available to purchase from the ticket machines at arrivals (in all three terminals).**

Taxi

Taxis are readily available at Dubai International Airport, and they offer a convenient door-to-door service to the city centre. The journey takes around 20–30 minutes, depending on traffic conditions. Taxis accept both cash and credit cards for fare payment. The fares are metered, and there may be additional charges for airport pick-up.

Rideshare Services

Uber and Careem are popular rideshare options in Dubai. Download the respective app, create an account, and request a ride to your destination.



Transport Options

Exploring Dubai's diverse landscape is made easy with a wide array of transportation options catering to every traveller's preference.

Travelling by rail

Dubai's world-class metro system, operational since September 2009, is known for its affordability, safety, and reliability. It efficiently connects you to the city's main attractions. All metro stations feature designated areas for women, the elderly, and the disabled. To enhance your commute, download the RTA Dubai app for comprehensive information and assistance.

Travelling by bus

With over 1,500 air-conditioned buses, Dubai's budget-friendly bus network is extensive. Air-conditioned shelters provide comfort at most bus stops, and buses run frequently for hassle-free commuting. Additionally, consider booking a hop-on, hop-off tour for a quick and fun-filled tourist experience, available for online booking or at major malls.

Travelling by water

Embrace tradition by commuting via sea on the iconic abra wooden boats, accessible from designated creekside stations in Bur Dubai or Deira. You can hire a private abra for sightseeing, starting at AED 60 for half an hour. Inspired by the abra, modern Dubai water taxis offer scenic waterfront journeys to over 40 stops.

Travelling by foot

For those who prefer exploring on foot, Dubai offers well-planned walkways with clear signboards guiding your way. Pedestrian over-bridges link different areas, ensuring safe crossings on highways.

Travelling by bicycle or scooter

If you seek a more adventurous experience, Dubai provides government-regulated two-wheeler options. Electric scooters are a common sight in neighbourhoods like Jumeirah Lakes Towers, Downtown Dubai, and Dubai Internet City, available for rent from various operators, including Skurtt, Tier, and Lime. Alternatively, the Careem BIKE Dubai app offers bicycle rentals at tourist hotspots such as Dubai Marina, Jumeirah, Dubai Water Canal, Deira, and more, marking the region's first large-scale bike-sharing initiative.

Hotel Options

As a business traveller in Dubai, it's important to choose accommodation that aligns with your needs for convenience, comfort, and access to business-related amenities. Consider staying in the heart of Dubai's business districts, such as the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), Sheikh Zayed Road, or Business Bay. These areas are well-connected, with easy access to corporate offices, conference centres, and government institutions. Hotels in these districts often cater to business travellers and provide facilities like meeting rooms and business centres.

At Selective Travel Management, we have a Hotel Process in place to ensure we fulfil our Duty of Care as a professional travel Booker and to make sure you receive the service you expect. We quality check all hotels and make recommendations based upon a benchmark of the review sites on the day that you confirm your hotel. The final choice of where you want to stay is yours, we will simply provide our recommendations.

For recommendations on hotel options in Dubai, please get in touch with your Dedicated Team, who can advise on the best accommodation to suit your travel needs. Our team of experts will use their personal experience, expertise, and knowledge to advise on the best accommodation for your trip. We will take into consideration many factors including: the reason for travel, your travelling scenario (solo, female, group etc.), your personal preferences, and more.



Work Facilities

For those in search of co-working spaces, we've handpicked these exceptional options that cater to various needs and preferences.

A4 Space

Al Serkal Avenue's inclusive co-working hub, offers two floors, a café, cinema room, and loft library. This non-profit space caters to diverse work and leisure needs, and is open for all, and completely free of charge.

House of Wisdom

The House of Wisdom is a stunning library free for all, offering two floors and cozy reading corners for work or study. Additionally, a café serves coffee and snacks. Meeting rooms are available for booking at an additional cost, ensuring versatile workspace options.

Foundry

Foundry is a dynamic, forward-thinking art space born in response to the UAE's ever-changing cultural landscape. It encompasses a podcast studio, project room, art gallery, café, and, naturally, co-working facilities.

The Bureau

Located at Dubai's Gold & Diamond Park, this unique co-working space, co-founded by sisters Nikita and Rhea Patel, offers a female-focused environment. It includes a co-working lounge, private offices, meeting rooms, podcast studio, and phone booth. Additional amenities include NAÖ fitness studio, a vanity room, a pumping room, and an on-site Jones The Grocer for refreshments.



Business Environment

Dubai's business landscape stands as a testament to its commitment to fostering future-ready enterprises. The emirate takes immense pride in cultivating a knowledge ecosystem that nurtures businesses poised for tomorrow's challenges. It offers an array of compelling advantages tailored for discerning professionals.

Dubai's economy is remarkably diversified, with oil contributing less than 1% of GDP. This economic resilience is underpinned by an attractive taxation regime, featuring 'nil' corporate tax and a 5% VAT rate, promoting transparency and profitability. Its strategic connectivity through airports, seaports, and major highways offers unparalleled accessibility, while the forthcoming District 2020 is designed to unite start-ups, entrepreneurs, and Fortune 500 companies across diverse sectors.

Beyond business, Dubai's exceptional quality of life and pro-business environment make it a magnet for global talent, drawing professionals and their families alike. The city's vibrant business events scene, characterised by global connectivity, modern hotels, cutting-edge venues, and renowned hospitality, complements its status as a global marketplace. Whether you are an entrepreneur, a multinational corporation, or a talent seeker, Dubai's dynamic ecosystem invites you to partake in its journey toward a prosperous future.



Sightseeing

If your business trip brings you to Dubai and you've got a few days to spare, below are the must-visit attractions that perfectly balance work and leisure. These attractions are strategically chosen to provide a holistic experience without overwhelming your schedule. After all, successful business ventures thrive not just on numbers, but on fresh ideas, forward-thinking, and a dash of wonder.

Burj Khalifa

Standing tall as a symbol of Dubai's ambition, the Burj Khalifa invites you to soar to new heights. Gaze upon the city's ever-evolving skyline as you reflect on your own aspirations. It's a reminder that no goal is too high to reach, and no business objective is unattainable.



The Museum of the Future

A glimpse into tomorrow's innovations. As a business traveller, you'll appreciate the cutting-edge technologies and concepts showcased here. Witness how Dubai is shaping the future through innovation.

Miracle Garden

A moment of serenity amidst your busy schedule. Take a breather at Miracle Garden, a kaleidoscope of colour and nature's beauty. The floral wonders provide a refreshing break, perfect for rejuvenating your mind and focus.



Atlantis, The Palm

Unwind and network in style. This luxurious resort offers a perfect blend of relaxation and indulgence., and a refined backdrop for business discussions outside the office.

Dubai Mall

The ultimate retail and entertainment destination. Amidst its vast shopping and dining options, you'll find attractions like the Dubai Aquarium and Underwater Zoo - a reminder that even in the heart of bustling commerce, there's room for discovery and connection.



Food and drinks

In Dubai's vast culinary landscape, selecting a single spot to dine can be daunting. A great restaurant requires an exceptional menu, captivating ambiance, top-notch service, and, crucially, value for money. Below is a curated list of dining destinations to savour:

Ossiano, a highly acclaimed fine dining restaurant at Atlantis, The Palm, offers an award-winning degustation menu by innovative chef Grégoire Berger, inspired by life experiences and sustainability, with stunning underwater views.

Mayabay at Jumeirah Al Naseem offers a diverse Asian menu, successfully blending Thai, Japanese, and Chinese influences. Chef Shane Mac Neill delivers consistently impressive dishes, and the menu's presentation enhances the dining experience.

Twiggy by La Cantine is a must-visit European restaurant in Dubai, known for its stunning aesthetics, Mediterranean cuisine, and relaxing atmosphere, making it perfect for both daytime outings and night time gatherings with guests.

LPM Restaurant & Bar in Dubai is a renowned French dining spot, offering exquisite dishes inspired by the Côte d'Azur and Ligurian coastline, perfect for business meetings, romantic dates, or celebrations. Booking in advance is essential due to its popularity.



Useful Apps

Before travelling to Dubai, consider downloading handy mobile apps to enhance your travel experience. To navigate seamlessly throughout your stay, we suggest the following essential mobile apps:

Careem: Upon landing in Dubai, you'll likely need a taxi to reach your accommodation. This app offers various ride options, from cost-effective to luxurious, all easily accessible through this user-friendly app. You can even choose between cash or digital wallet payments, eliminating the need for ATM stops.

RTA app: The Roads & Transport Authority app is indispensable for navigating Dubai's public transport system or driving around the city. It facilitates route planning, schedule checking, real-time traffic updates, and parking validation. Additionally, you can conveniently top up your Nol travel card, essential for using the Metro and buses.

Talabat: If you prefer dining in, Talabat offers a diverse array of local and international cuisines, including familiar chain restaurants and unique delicacies. You can place advance orders for food delivery to your hotel room, with payment options ranging from debit and credit cards to cash on delivery.

Duolingo: To prepare for your trip, Duolingo helps you get acquainted with the Arabic language and alphabet. While you may not become fluent before arriving in Dubai, this app enables you to learn basic greetings, cultural insights, and grammar, providing a valuable head start.

Interested in other useful business travel apps? [View Top Business Travel Apps](#) 





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