



**Lurn** *Voyage*

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**A GLIMPSE INTO THE JEWEL  
OF THE MIDDLE EAST**

**UAE COUNTRY  
PROFILE.**



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## OVERVIEW

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), a federation of seven emirates in the Arabian Peninsula, is a land of dazzling modernity set against a backdrop of timeless desert landscapes. From its meteoric rise as an economic powerhouse to its rich cultural heritage, this country profile offers a glimpse into the UAE's unique blend of tradition and progress.



## CULTURE AND GEOGRAPHY

**Culture:** The UAE's culture is a fusion of Bedouin traditions and a vision for the future. Local traditions, including falconry, camel racing, and dhow sailing, are celebrated alongside the modernity of glittering skyscrapers and state-of-the-art infrastructure. The country embraces a cosmopolitan lifestyle with people from various nationalities and backgrounds coexisting harmoniously. Traditional Emirati cuisine, infused with flavours from the Arabian Peninsula and South Asia, is enjoyed alongside international dishes. Cultural festivals, such as the Dubai Shopping Festival and the Al Dhafra Camel Festival, showcase the rich tapestry of traditions.

**Geography:** Situated along the southeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula, the UAE boasts diverse geography, including vast deserts, picturesque coastlines along the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, and the dramatic Hajar Mountains. Its most famous emirate, Dubai, is known for its iconic skyline and man-made islands, while the Empty Quarter (Rub al Khali) in Abu Dhabi presents endless dunes and solitude. The natural beauty of the UAE is a captivating contrast to its urban centres.

### Places to Visit

**Dubai:** Explore the iconic Burj Khalifa, shop in the opulent malls, and visit the historic Al Fahidi neighbourhood.

**Abu Dhabi:** Marvel at the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, explore the cultural districts of Saadiyat Island, and visit the Heritage Village.

**Sharjah:** Discover the rich art and cultural scene,



explore Sharjah's museums, and stroll along the Corniche.

**Ras Al Khaimah:** Hike the rugged Hajar Mountains, visit the historic Dhayah Fort, and unwind on the beautiful beaches.

**Population:** The United Arab Emirates is home to a diverse population of over nine million people. The majority of residents are expatriates drawn to the country for employment opportunities and business. Emiratis make up a smaller portion of the population. The dynamic demographic mix contributes to the country's cosmopolitan nature, with people from various nationalities and backgrounds coexisting harmoniously.

**Cuisine:** Emirati cuisine is influenced by the traditions of the Arabian Peninsula and South Asia. Dishes often feature ingredients like lamb, rice, fish, and aromatic spices. Iconic Emirati dishes include Biryani, Al Harees, and Machboos. Dates and Arabic coffee are traditional staples of hospitality. The UAE also offers an array of international cuisines, thanks to its diverse expatriate population.

**Religion:** Islam is the predominant religion in the UAE, with the majority of the population adhering to Sunni Islam. The country is known for its tolerance and openness to other religions, and residents and visitors are free to practise their faith. The UAE hosts various places of worship for different religious communities, including Mosques, Churches, Temples, and Gurdwaras.

**Currency:** The currency of the United Arab Emirates is AED which is also known as United Arab Emirates Dirham. The Dirham is further subdivided into 100 Fils.



**Language:** Arabic is the official language of the UAE, and it is widely spoken and understood. However, English is also widely used, especially in business, education, and as a lingua franca among the multicultural population. The country's linguistic diversity extends to the presence of numerous other languages spoken by expatriate communities.

**Climate:** The UAE has a desert climate characterised by hot and sunny weather. Summers are scorching, with temperatures often exceeding 40°C (104°F). Winters are milder, with daytime temperatures ranging from 18°C to 28°C (64°F to 82°F). Rainfall is scarce, and the country experiences high levels of sunshine year-round. Coastal areas benefit from a more moderate climate due to the cooling influence of the Arabian Gulf. The desert climate is ideal for outdoor activities such as dune bashing, camel riding, and enjoying the pristine beaches.





## EDUCATION

Higher Education in the United Arab Emirates has witnessed remarkable growth and development over the past few decades. The country is home to several world-class universities and institutions that offer a wide range of academic programmes. Many of these institutions have established themselves as global centres of excellence, attracting students and faculty from around the world. The UAE's higher education system places a strong emphasis on research, innovation, and international collaborations, making it an attractive destination for students seeking quality education and a multicultural learning environment. The government has invested significantly in education, resulting in state-of-the-art campuses and resources that support academic and research endeavours. With its focus on excellence, the UAE continues to be a hub for higher education in the Middle East.

**International Students:** According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, there were over 77,463 international students enrolled in higher education institutions in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 2023. This represents a significant increase from the 48,653 international students enrolled in the UAE in 2016.

There are 59 universities in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), according to the UAE Ministry of Education. Of these, 11 are world-ranked by the QS World University Rankings 2023.



## World Ranking Universities

Universities	World Ranking
Khalifa University	191
NYU Abu Dhabi	201-250
American University of Sharjah	348
United Arab Emirates University	571-580
Zayed University	651-700
Sharjah University	701-750
Heriot-Watt University Dubai	751-800
Murdoch University Dubai	801-1000
Middlesex University Dubai	801-1000
Wollongong University in Dubai	801-1000
Rochester Institute of Technology Dubai	801-1000
Manipal Academy of Higher Education Dubai	801-1000

## Top Universities

- Khalifa University
- NYU Abu Dhabi
- American University of Sharjah
- United Arab Emirates University
- Zayed University





- Sharjah University
- Heriot-Watt University Dubai
- Murdoch University Dubai
- Middlesex University Dubai
- Wollongong University in Dubai
- Rochester Institute of Technology Dubai
- Manipal Academy of Higher Education Dubai

### Duration and Course Fee:

Course	Duration	Fee Range	Academic Year
UG	4 to 6 years	AED 10,000- AED 100,000	Sep-Jun
PG	1 - 2 years	AED 20,000 - AED 200000	Sep-Jun
Research	3 to 4 years	AED 30000 - AED 300000	Sep-Jun



## ACCOMMODATION AND FINANCIALS

**Accommodation Options:** The UAE offers a wide range of accommodation options to suit various preferences and budgets. Major cities like Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Sharjah provide choices that include modern apartments, luxury hotels, and residential compounds.

Many universities also offer on-campus housing for students, providing convenience and a community atmosphere. Expatriates and students can also find private apartments and shared flats to rent.

Accommodation options in the UAE cater to various lifestyles and can range from affordable to high-end, depending on location and amenities.

**Cost of Living:** The cost of living in the UAE varies depending on the emirate and the individual's lifestyle. While the country is known for its luxurious options, it is possible to live within a budget.

Everyday expenses, such as dining out and groceries, can vary, but there are options to suit different price ranges. Public transportation, including the Dubai Metro and bus services, is convenient and cost-effective. Tuition fees can be a significant expense, but scholarships and financial aid opportunities are available. The UAE's diverse expatriate community often finds a balance between luxury and cost-efficient living.

**Health Assurance:** Healthcare in the UAE is of high quality and is accessible to residents and expatriates. The government has made significant investments in healthcare infrastructure, resulting in modern hospitals and medical facilities.





Health insurance is mandatory for residents, including expatriates and students. Many universities offer health insurance plans for their students, and employers typically provide coverage for working expatriates. Mandatory health insurance ensures that individuals have access to quality healthcare services, including clinics, hospitals, and specialised medical facilities, in case of illness or injury. The UAE's healthcare system is known for its efficiency and advanced medical technology.



## VISA, WORK RIGHTS AND IMMIGRATION

**Study Visa:** Obtaining a study visa is a crucial step for international students planning to pursue higher education in the UAE. To secure a study visa, students typically need to be accepted by a recognised institution in the UAE and provide necessary documents, such as an acceptance letter, a valid passport, and proof of financial means. The application process may vary slightly depending on the emirate and institution, but once granted, the study visa allows students to reside in the UAE for the duration of their academic programme.

**Work Rights:** International students in the UAE often can work part-time during their studies, typically up to 20 hours per week. This part-time employment can help students gain practical experience and supplement their finances. During semester breaks, students may be allowed to work full-time. Job opportunities are available both on and off campus, and students often find employment in areas such as Retail, Hospitality, and Administrative roles. The specific work regulations may vary depending on the emirate and the institution, so students should ensure they understand the terms and conditions of their visa.

**Post-Study Visa:** The UAE offers post-study work opportunities for international graduates who wish to stay and work in the country after completing their education. The specific rules and eligibility criteria may vary between emirates, but in many cases, graduates have a window of time, typically a year, to secure employment and transition to a work visa. This allows recent graduates to gain work experience and potentially explore long-term career prospects in





the UAE, a feature that appeals to many international students seeking to launch their professional careers in the region. Students should stay updated on the latest regulations regarding post-study work visas in the UAE.



## **PATHWAYS TO PERMANENT RESIDENCY**

**Investor Visa:** The UAE offers various investor visas for individuals who make substantial financial investments in the country, such as through property purchases, establishing a business, or contributing to certain government-sponsored initiatives. Meeting the required investment threshold can lead to permanent residency.

**Retirement Visa:** The UAE has introduced retirement visas for expatriates aged 55 and above. To be eligible, applicants must meet certain financial criteria and health requirements.

**Long-Term Visa:** The UAE's long-term visa, also known as the "Golden Visa," offers residency to investors, entrepreneurs, skilled professionals, and exceptional talents in various fields. This visa grants a ten-year residency and may be renewable.





## **PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP**

**Exceptional Contributions:** UAE citizenship may be granted to individuals who have made significant contributions to the country, such as excelling in sports, culture, or academics. This pathway is typically at the discretion of UAE authorities.

**Marriage to a UAE Citizen:** Foreign spouses married to UAE citizens can apply for UAE citizenship after a certain period of marriage and residency in the country.

**Children of UAE Citizens:** Children born to Emirati citizens are eligible for UAE citizenship. The specifics may vary depending on the nationality of the parents.

**Residency-Based Naturalisation:** Foreign nationals who have legally resided in the UAE for a specified number of years and meet certain criteria may be eligible for UAE citizenship through naturalisation.



## CONCLUSION

The UAE's country profile is a testament to its remarkable journey from a desert landscape to a global hub of commerce and culture. It offers a unique blend of tradition and innovation, where you can find ancient souks alongside cutting-edge technology.

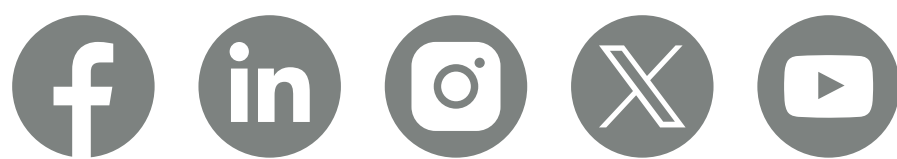
With its welcoming spirit, diverse population, and breathtaking landscapes, the UAE invites travellers to experience its extraordinary charm and embrace the allure of this modern-day oasis in the Arabian Desert.





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