

Dubai is part of the seven states that comprises the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the second largest. The UAE has a sub-tropical, arid climate. Rainfall is infrequent and irregular. Falling mainly in winter, it amounts to some 13 centimetres a year.

Dubai encompasses more sand than you can shake a stick at, though why you would run around an arid desert shaking sticks when there's arguably the best shopping to be done in the East is anyone's guess. With guaranteed sun, laid-back tourist escapes and a city of lavish sophistication and culture, there's no wonder Dubai is in the top 10 destinations for Honeymooners.



Only a century ago, Dubai was a tranquil town with little more than a desert and sea, where Bedouin tribes roamed, and settlers crowded around the banks of the creek. This population comprised of Bedouin traders, pearl divers and Shepherds. Today's Dubai is a city where the dynamics of the 21st century lays happily among the simplicity of a bygone era. Here skyscrapers stand alongside the stunning mosques and wind towers of Old Dubai.

Dubai successfully manages to retain its cultural dignity while welcoming the future of enterprise. With its liberal attitudes Dubai has embraced development of the economic and social infrastructure in such a vast way that even in the event of running out of coastline to build hotels, they happened upon the idea to build them on artificial islands, a stunning feat for even the most uninterested in architectural development.

With such diversity of old meets new, you can be sure to find plenty to do in Dubai with Art Galleries and museums for those attempting to appear intellectual to Camel and horse riding. Sand skiing is popular as are other desert activities such as desert safaris and dune driving. Take a trip out Bedouin style and have a feast in the desert, and explore its natural beauty. Dubai also has a Zoo. And more sports and fun activities than you could possibly do during your stay.



Words of Wisdom

Dubai is very welcoming to its visitors and will enjoy being the host of your holiday. The U.A.E to which it belongs is wonderfully liberal minded, and the least restrictive country of the gulf region. Because of this and the metropolitan image it portrays, it is easy to forget that it is a Muslim country. Muslims adhere to modesty, and tradition of their religion, and would encourage you as guests in their country to be courteous of their beliefs and customs. Ramadan is a very important part of the Muslim year. It is discourteous to eat, drink or smoke in front of Muslims in daylight hours during Ramadan.

Hopefully you will get out and explore the beauty of Dubai and it is possible you may meet and

greet with the locals. Arabs in this area have a mixture of both eastern and western ideology, so it is best to behave in the traditional way so as not to offend any locals. If a resident offers you anything by hand it is wise not to accept with your left hand. Other no no's are drunkenness in public areas, presenting the sole of your foot to an Arab, or expressing admiration for something belonging to your Arab host. They will consider this as asking for it as a gift, and think of you to be quite rude.

Twinning



Geographically Dubai shares the same continental shelf as some of the most stunning destinations in the world. Many honeymooners will 'Twin holiday' Dubai with places such as Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Seychelles, and Maldives. This is ideal if you want to experience the culture, diversity and pace of the Middle East with the tropical relaxed romance of these other destinations.