



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The United Arab Emirates are comprised of seven Arab states; Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Al Fuhairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Al Sharjah and Umm Al Quwain. Dubai and Abu Dhabi are perhaps the most well-known with a sizeable European population. Best known for their oil industry, the UAE are now becoming as well known for tourism and financial services. A fascinating blend of modern city and timeless desert, Dubai is firmly established as the business, financial and commercial hub of the region.

Cost of Living: Dubai is an inexpensive place to live and work and the standard of living is extraordinarily high. Food and drink are very cheap compared to Ireland.

Accommodation: The majority of foreigners live in compounds and accommodation is generally paid for by the employer. Domestic help is also provided.

Transport: Cars or interest free loans for cars are generally provided. If going into the desert, four wheel drives and the hire of a driver are advisable.

Socialising: Dubai has superb facilities for sports, shopping and entertainment. The golf courses are world renowned and its location on the Gulf coast is perfect for water-sports. The expatriate scene is extremely lively with bars and restaurants constantly busy. Dubai also has a range of excellent tax free open markets, perfect for the bargain hunters.

Dress Code: The office dress code is professional.

Taxation: There is no income tax in the UAE and salaries can be very generous. There is a possibility of VAT being introduced by 2010.

Getting There: Employers generally pay the cost of relocation and 1 return flight a year. There are daily flights to most global locations.

Visas: All visitors require a visa. If you are working there, the employer would arrange the visas. The actual immigration process can take up to 6 weeks, provided all relevant documentation is in order.



KEY FACTS

Population: 5,432,746
Area: 83,600 km²
Capital City: Abu Dhabi
Languages: Arabic
Currency: UAE Dirham (AED)
Time Zone: UTC/GMT +4 hours

CLIMATE

The UAE has a sub-tropical arid climate and is warm and sunny in winter, but hot and humid during the summer. Rainfall is virtually non-existent, with occasional short showers occurring mainly in winter (December to March).