



United Arab Emirates

Seven emirates between the desert and the warm waters of the Gulf, where pearl divers' villages became glittering cities within a single lifetime.

AT A GLANCE

Facts to know

CAPITAL

Abu Dhabi

POPULATION

About 11 million (2024 estimate); only around one in nine are Emirati citizens

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Arabic. Emiratis speak their own Gulf dialect, and English is the everyday language of shops and business

CURRENCY

United Arab Emirates dirham (AED), divided into 100 fils and pegged to the US dollar

AREA

About 83,600 km²; the emirate of Abu Dhabi alone covers about 87 percent of it

GOVERNMENT

Federation of seven emirates, each led by a hereditary ruler. The seven rulers form the Federal Supreme Council, which elects the president

HIGHEST MOUNTAIN

Jebel Jais in Ras Al Khaimah. Its summit, about 1,934 m, lies just across the border in Oman; the highest point on the UAE side is about 1,892 m

LONGEST RIVER

None. The UAE has no permanent rivers, only wadis, dry valleys that fill with water for a short time after heavy rain

NEIGHBOURS

Saudi Arabia to the west and south, and Oman to the east. Across the water: Qatar and Iran

DRIVES ON THE

Right

CALLING CODE

+971

A 45-minute trip to United Arab Emirates

Everything you need is in this pack. No preparation beyond printing. Adapt the timing to your group.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 0 to 5 min | Welcome. Show the map page and find United Arab Emirates together. Ask: who has been there, or knows someone from there? |
| 5 to 15 min | Read the facts at a glance, then three moments from the story:
3200 BC: The Hafit period begins; 1958: Oil is found at Umm Shaif;
2025: Faya joins the World Heritage List. |
| 15 to 25 min | At the table: talk about Machboos and Harees. Idea: bring a small taste (bread, cheese, fruit, tea) if your kitchen can help. |
| 25 to 30 min | Say it like a local: practise "As-salamu alaykum" (Peace be upon you (hello)), "Wa alaykum as-salam" (And upon you be peace (the reply)), "Ahlan wa sahan" (Welcome). Everyone says them together. |
| 30 to 40 min | Quiz: read the questions aloud, or play the big-screen version at https://preview.worldstroll.com/countries/united-arab-emirates/group . No scores needed. |
| 40 to 45 min | Talk about it (questions page), then stamp or sign everyone's passport page. |

You will need

- This printed pack (one per table, or one each)
- Pens for the quiz
- Optional: a world map or globe, a small tasting, music from the country

United Arab Emirates and its cities



- Abu Dhabi (Emirate of Abu Dhabi, Persian Gulf coast): The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, The Louvre Abu Dhabi, Qasr Al Hosn, the oldest stone building in the city
- Dubai (Emirate of Dubai, Persian Gulf coast): The Burj Khalifa, Dubai Creek and its abra water taxis, Dubai International Airport, one of the world's busiest
- Sharjah (Emirate of Sharjah, Persian Gulf coast): The Museum of Islamic Civilization, The restored Heart of Sharjah quarter, The Faya Palaeolandscape inland, a World Heritage Site
- Al Ain (Emirate of Abu Dhabi, inland on the border with Oman): The Al Ain Oasis and its falaj channels, The Cultural Sites of Al Ain, the country's first World Heritage Site, The drive up Jebel Hafeet
- Ajman (Emirate of Ajman, Persian Gulf coast): The smallest emirate, The Ajman Museum in the old fort, Beaches close to Dubai and Sharjah

- Umm Al Quwain (Emirate of Umm Al Quwain, Persian Gulf coast): Mangroves and lagoons, Siniyah Island, Fishing
- Ras Al Khaimah (Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, far north): Jebel Jais and its mountain road, A record-breaking zip line, The ruins of Julfar
- Fujairah (Emirate of Fujairah, Gulf of Oman coast): Fujairah Fort, Diving and snorkelling, Mountains close to the sea
- Khor Fakkan (Emirate of Sharjah, Gulf of Oman coast): Its sweeping bay and beach, One of the country's major container ports, Mountain hiking trails
- Hatta (Emirate of Dubai, inland exclave in the Hajar Mountains): The Hatta Heritage Village, Kayaking on the Hatta Dam lake, Mountain biking and hiking
- Liwa (Al Dhafra, Emirate of Abu Dhabi, on the edge of the Empty Quarter): The Moreeb Dune, about 300 m high, Date farms, Desert festivals and camel races

A short history of United Arab Emirates

People have lived along this coast and in its oases for thousands of years, trading copper with Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley and farming dates with the help of underground water channels called falaj. Islam arrived in the 7th century. From the 1820s the coastal sheikhdoms signed a series of treaties with Britain and became known as the Trucial States. After Britain decided to leave the Gulf, six of them formed the United Arab Emirates in December 1971, and Ras Al Khaimah joined on 10 February 1972.

3200 BC **The Hafit period begins**

Around 3200 BC people began building beehive-shaped stone tombs on the slopes of Jebel Hafeet near today's Al Ain. The period is named after the mountain, and the tombs are part of a World Heritage Site.

2600 BC **The Umm an-Nar culture flourishes**

From about 2600 BC to 2000 BC people built large round tombs and towers, such as those at Hili in Al Ain, and traded copper from the Hajar Mountains. Sumerian texts speak of a land called Magan, which covered today's UAE and Oman.

AD 630 **Islam reaches the coast**

Islam is thought to have reached the region after the Prophet Muhammad sent a letter to the rulers of Oman in 630. Within a few years the peoples of the coast and the oases had become Muslim.

1761 **The Qasr Al Hosn watchtower is built**

A round watchtower was built on Abu Dhabi island to guard its only freshwater well. It later grew into a fort and palace, Qasr Al Hosn, the oldest stone building in the city of Abu Dhabi.

1793 **The Al Nahyan move to Abu Dhabi**

The ruling family of the Bani Yas tribe moved their residence from the Liwa Oasis in the desert to Abu Dhabi island on the coast, where pearling and fishing offered a living.

1820 **The General Maritime Treaty**

After British forces attacked Ras Al Khaimah, the rulers of the coast signed a maritime truce with Britain. The treaties that followed gave the

area its English name, the Trucial States or Trucial Coast.

1833

The Al Maktoum settle in Dubai

Members of the Al Bu Falasah tribe left Abu Dhabi and settled on the creek at Dubai, led by Maktoum bin Butti and Obeid bin Saeed. The Al Maktoum family has ruled Dubai ever since.

1892

The Exclusive Agreement

The rulers agreed to deal with no foreign power except Britain, which in return promised to protect them. The Trucial States became, in effect, a British protectorate while keeping their own rulers.

1958

Oil is found at Umm Shaif

A drilling rig towed from Germany struck oil under Umm Shaif, an old pearl bed in the waters of Abu Dhabi. It was the first commercial oil find on the Trucial Coast, and exports began in 1962.

1968

Britain announces its withdrawal

In January 1968 the British government announced that it would end its treaties with the Gulf sheikhdoms and withdraw its forces by the end of 1971. The rulers began talks about forming a union.

1971

The United Arab Emirates is founded

On 2 December 1971 six emirates, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain and Fujairah, formed the United Arab Emirates. The date is celebrated every year as National Day. Bahrain and Qatar, which had taken part in the talks, became separate countries instead.

1972

Ras Al Khaimah joins the union

Ras Al Khaimah, the northernmost emirate, joined the federation on 10 February 1972, making it the seven emirates of today.

1981

The Gulf Cooperation Council is founded

The UAE was one of the six founding members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and Abu Dhabi hosted its first summit in May 1981.

2010

The Burj Khalifa opens

The Burj Khalifa in Dubai opened on 4 January 2010. At 828 m it became the tallest building in the world, a title it still held as of September 2026.

2021

The Hope probe reaches Mars

On 9 February 2021 the UAE's Hope probe, launched from Japan in July 2020, went into orbit around Mars to study its weather and atmosphere.

2025

Faya joins the World Heritage List

UNESCO added the Faya Palaeolandscape in the emirate of Sharjah to its World Heritage List. Stone tools found at Jebel Faya are some of the earliest evidence of modern humans outside Africa.

What people eat in United Arab Emirates

Emirati cooking grew out of three ways of life: Bedouin herders with their camel milk and meat, fishermen of the Gulf, and farmers of the date-palm oases. Trade with India, Persia and East Africa brought rice and spices such as cardamom, saffron, turmeric and dried lime, called loomi. A traditional meal is a big shared platter of spiced rice with meat or fish, and a guest is always welcomed with small cups of Arabic coffee and a plate of dates. In the cities you can eat food from almost every country in the world, and Emirati dishes are easiest to find in heritage restaurants and during Ramadan.

Machboos

The whole Gulf coast, a favourite for family lunches

Rice cooked in a fragrant stock with chicken, lamb, fish or shrimp, spiced with cardamom, cinnamon, turmeric and loomi, the sun-dried lime of the Gulf. It is served on a large platter in the middle of the table.

Harees

All of the Emirates, especially in Ramadan, at Eid and at weddings

Whole wheat and meat, usually chicken or lamb, cooked slowly for hours and then beaten until they melt into a smooth, thick porridge. It is served with a spoonful of melted ghee on top.

Thareed

Across the Emirates, a classic dish in Ramadan

A stew of meat, potatoes, marrow and other vegetables in a spiced tomato broth, ladled over thin pieces of regag bread that soak up the sauce.

Balaleet

The Gulf coast, a favourite for breakfast

Thin vermicelli noodles cooked with sugar, cardamom, rose water and saffron, served with a thin omelette laid over the top. The mix of sweet noodles and savoury egg is the whole point.

Luqaimat

All of the Emirates, at every gathering and in Ramadan

Small balls of yeast batter, flavoured with cardamom and saffron, deep-fried until crisp and golden outside and soft inside, then drizzled with date syrup and sprinkled with sesame seeds.

Khanfaroosh

The Gulf coast, served with tea at family gatherings

Small golden cakes made from eggs, flour, sugar, saffron and cardamom, sometimes with a little rose water. They are fried in oil until puffed and crisp at the edges.

Arabic coffee (gahwa)

The whole Arabian Peninsula; poured for guests in every Emirati home

Lightly roasted coffee boiled with cardamom, and sometimes saffron, served without sugar from a tall pot called a dallah into tiny cups without handles. It is almost always offered with dates.

Karak chai

From the Indian subcontinent; now sold at cafeterias across the Emirates

Black tea boiled hard with milk, sugar and cardamom until strong and creamy. Karak means 'hard' or 'strong'. It came to the Gulf from the Indian subcontinent and is now sold in small cups at cafeterias everywhere.

Dates

The oases of Al Ain and Liwa, and farms across the country

Soft, sticky dates from local palms, served with coffee to every guest and eaten to break the fast in Ramadan. The UAE grows many varieties, such as khalas, khenazi and lulu.

Camel milk

Bedouin tradition; now sold in supermarkets across the Emirates

Slightly salty, rich milk that once kept desert families alive. Today you can buy it fresh in supermarkets, and also as flavoured milk, ice cream and chocolate.

Shawarma

From the Levant; the favourite quick meal of the Emirates

Thin slices of spiced chicken or lamb carved from a turning spit and rolled in flatbread with garlic sauce, pickles and chips. Small cafeterias sell it late into the night.

Dubai chocolate

Created in Dubai in 2021

A thick milk chocolate bar filled with pistachio and tahini cream and crunchy shreds of kadayif pastry, the flavours of the dessert knafeh.

At the table

- When you visit an Emirati home you will be offered Arabic coffee and dates. Take and return the small cup with your right hand. Your host will keep refilling it until you gently shake the cup as you hand it back.
- Eat with your right hand, especially when eating from a shared platter.
- Traditional meals are often eaten sitting on the floor around a large platter, taking food from the part in front of you.
- Use only your right hand to pass things, shake hands or hand over a business card; the left hand is considered unclean.
- Pork is not served in most places, and alcohol is served only in licensed hotels, restaurants and bars, never in the emirate of Sharjah.

Machboos

Rice cooked in a fragrant stock with chicken, lamb, fish or shrimp, spiced with cardamom, cinnamon, turmeric and loomi, the sun-dried lime of the Gulf. It is served on a large platter in the middle of the table.

Ingredients

- 1 kg chicken pieces, skin on
- 2 tablespoons ghee or vegetable oil
- 2 onions, sliced
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 tomatoes, chopped
- 2 dried limes (loomi), pierced with a knife
- 1 cinnamon stick and 4 cardamom pods
- 1 teaspoon ground turmeric and 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon baharat (mixed spice) or a pinch each of black pepper, coriander and cloves
- 400 g basmati rice, washed and soaked for 30 minutes
- 1 litre hot water or chicken stock
- A handful of fresh coriander, and toasted almonds and raisins to serve (optional)

Method

1. Heat the ghee in a large pot and fry the onions until golden. Add the garlic and all the spices and stir for one minute.
2. Add the chicken and turn it in the spices for 5 minutes, then add the tomatoes, dried limes and hot water with a little salt.
3. Cover and simmer for about 35 minutes, until the chicken is cooked through. Lift out the chicken and keep it warm; you can brown it under the grill if you like.
4. Drain the rice and stir it into the stock, which should cover it by about 1 cm. Cook uncovered until the liquid has sunk into the rice, then cover tightly and cook on the lowest heat for 20 minutes.

5. Pile the rice on a large platter, lay the chicken on top and sprinkle with coriander, almonds and raisins.

Harees

Whole wheat and meat, usually chicken or lamb, cooked slowly for hours and then beaten until they melt into a smooth, thick porridge. It is served with a spoonful of melted ghee on top.

Ingredients

- 250 g whole wheat grains (or pearled wheat), soaked overnight
- 500 g lamb or chicken on the bone
- 1.5 litres water
- 1 cinnamon stick
- Salt to taste
- 3 tablespoons ghee, melted, to serve
- A pinch of ground cinnamon or cumin to serve (optional)

Method

1. Drain the wheat. Put the meat, wheat, water and cinnamon stick in a large heavy pot and bring to the boil, skimming off any foam.
2. Cover and cook on a very low heat for 3 to 4 hours, stirring from time to time and adding hot water if it gets too thick, until the wheat is very soft.
3. Take out the bones and the cinnamon stick. Beat the mixture hard with a wooden spoon, or use a hand blender in short bursts, until it becomes a smooth, sticky porridge.
4. Season with salt, spoon into bowls, make a hollow in the middle and pour in the melted ghee. Sprinkle with cinnamon or cumin if you like.

Balaleet

Thin vermicelli noodles cooked with sugar, cardamom, rose water and saffron, served with a thin omelette laid over the top. The mix of sweet noodles and savoury egg is the whole point.

Ingredients

- 200 g thin vermicelli, broken into short pieces
- 2 tablespoons ghee or butter
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom
- A pinch of saffron soaked in 2 tablespoons warm water
- 1 teaspoon rose water
- 4 eggs, beaten with a pinch of salt and turmeric
- 1 tablespoon oil for the omelette

Method

1. Cook the vermicelli in boiling water for 3 to 4 minutes, until just soft, and drain well.
2. Melt the ghee in a pan, add the sugar and cardamom and stir until the sugar dissolves. Add the vermicelli, the saffron water and the rose water, and toss over a low heat for 3 minutes.
3. In a separate pan, heat the oil and cook the beaten eggs as a thin omelette until fully set, with no runny egg left.
4. Put the sweet vermicelli on a plate and lay the omelette on top. Serve warm.

Luqaimat

Small balls of yeast batter, flavoured with cardamom and saffron, deep-fried until crisp and golden outside and soft inside, then drizzled with date syrup and sprinkled with sesame seeds.

Ingredients

- 250 g plain flour
- 1 tablespoon cornflour
- 1 teaspoon dried yeast
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom
- A pinch of saffron soaked in 2 tablespoons warm water
- About 300 ml warm water
- Vegetable oil for deep frying
- Date syrup or honey, and sesame seeds, to serve

Method

1. Mix the flour, cornflour, yeast, sugar, cardamom and a pinch of salt. Stir in the saffron water and enough warm water to make a thick, smooth batter, a little thicker than pancake batter.
2. Cover and leave in a warm place for about an hour, until it has doubled and is full of bubbles.
3. Heat the oil to about 170 °C in a deep pan, filling it no more than a third full. Drop in small spoonfuls of batter, a few at a time, and fry, turning them, until golden all over.
4. Lift them out onto kitchen paper, drizzle with date syrup and sprinkle with sesame seeds. Eat them warm.

Arabic coffee (gahwa)

Lightly roasted coffee boiled with cardamom, and sometimes saffron, served without sugar from a tall pot called a dallah into tiny cups without handles. It is almost always offered with dates.

Ingredients

- 600 ml water
- 3 tablespoons lightly roasted Arabic coffee, ground
- 1 teaspoon ground cardamom
- A few saffron threads (optional)
- Dates to serve

Method

1. Bring the water to the boil in a small pot, stir in the coffee and let it simmer gently for about 10 minutes.
2. Take it off the heat for a minute so the grounds settle, then add the cardamom and saffron and simmer for 2 minutes more.
3. Let it stand for a few minutes, then pour the clear coffee into a flask or dallah, leaving the grounds behind.
4. Serve a small amount in each little cup, with dates on the side.

Karak chai

Black tea boiled hard with milk, sugar and cardamom until strong and creamy. Karak means 'hard' or 'strong'. It came to the Gulf from the Indian subcontinent and is now sold in small cups at cafeterias everywhere.

Ingredients

- 300 ml water
- 2 heaped teaspoons strong loose black tea
- 3 cardamom pods, lightly crushed
- 150 ml evaporated milk or whole milk
- 2 to 3 teaspoons sugar
- A few saffron threads (optional)

Method

1. Bring the water to the boil with the cardamom and the tea, and let it boil for 3 minutes until very dark.
2. Add the milk, sugar and saffron and bring back to the boil. Let it rise up the pot, lower the heat, and repeat two or three times.
3. Strain into small cups and drink hot.

Useful phrases

As-salamu alaykum

as-sa-LAA-moo a-LAY-koom · Peace be upon you (hello)

Wa alaykum as-salam

wa a-LAY-koom as-sa-LAAM · And upon you be peace (the reply)

Ahlan wa sahlan

AH-lan wa SAH-lan · Welcome

Sabah al-khair

sa-BAAH al-KHAIR · Good morning

Masa al-khair

ma-SAA al-KHAIR · Good evening

Shlonak?

SHLOH-nak · How are you? (to a man; to a woman: shlonich)

Zain, al-hamdulillah

ZAIN, al-HAM-doo-lil-lah · Fine, thank God

Shukran jazeelan

SHOOK-ran ja-ZEE-lan · Thank you very much

Afwan

AF-wan · You're welcome; also excuse me

Min fadlak

min FAD-lak · Please (to a man; to a woman: min fadlich)

Inshallah

in-SHAA-al-lah · God willing

Mashallah

maa-SHAA-al-lah · What God has willed (how wonderful)

Bikam hatha?

BI-kam HAA-tha · How much is this?

Ma afham

ma AF-ham · I don't understand

Titkallam ingleezi?

tit-KAL-lam in-GLEE-zee · Do you speak English?

Wain al-hammam?

WAIN al-ham-MAAM · Where is the toilet?

Ma'a as-salama

MA-a as-sa-LAA-ma · Goodbye (go in safety)

Yalla

YAL-la · Come on, let's go

Things you might not know

1. As of September 2026 the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, 828 m tall, is the tallest building in the world. It was called Burj Dubai until the day it opened in 2010.
2. Snow was recorded in the UAE for the first time on 28 December 2004, on the Jebel Jais mountains in Ras Al Khaimah.
3. Abu Dhabi means 'father of the gazelle' in Arabic. The emirate of Abu Dhabi covers about 87 percent of the whole country.
4. On 9 February 2021 the UAE's Hope probe went into orbit around Mars, making the UAE the first Arab country to reach the planet.
5. Only about 11 percent of the people living in the UAE are Emirati citizens; most residents come from other countries, above all from South Asia.
6. In 2024 Dubai International Airport was the world's busiest airport for international passengers, with more than 92 million travellers.
7. As of 2026 the UAE has three World Heritage Sites: the Cultural Sites of Al Ain (2011), the Faya Palaeolandscape in Sharjah (2025) and Wadi Wurayah, a mountain valley in Fujairah with waterfalls and rare wildlife (2026).
8. The Dubai Metro opened on 9 September 2009, at 9 minutes and 9 seconds past 9 in the evening. Its trains have no drivers.
9. Falconry is a treasured Emirati tradition. In 2010 UNESCO listed it as intangible cultural heritage, nominated by the UAE together with ten other countries.
10. Around 1907, at the height of the pearl trade, about 4,500 pearling boats worked from ports around the Gulf, employing more than 74,000 people.
11. Hatta is part of Dubai, yet to get there from the city you drive about 134 km inland into the mountains. Several emirates own such separate pieces of land, called exclaves.
12. On Sir Bani Yas Island, off the coast of Abu Dhabi, archaeologists found a Christian monastery and church from around the 7th century.
13. The Palm Jumeirah was built from sand dredged from the sea floor and rock, and seen from the air it really does look like a palm tree.

Questions for the group

- Have you ever been to the United Arab Emirates, or has someone in your family? What do you remember?
- Have you ever tasted Machboos or Harees? What is a dish you remember from a trip?
- Ras Al Khaimah joins the union (1972). Do you remember hearing about it? Where were you then?
- The Gulf Cooperation Council is founded (1981). Do you remember hearing about it? Where were you then?
- Have you seen The Burj Khalifa, in person or in pictures? Which famous place would you most like to see?
- If you could spend one day in any city of the United Arab Emirates, which would it be and why?

QUIZ

How well do you know United Arab Emirates?

Circle the right answer. The answers are on the last page.

1. How tall is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai?

- A) 828 m
- B) 508 m
- C) 1,008 m
- D) 632 m

2. Qasr Al Hosn in Abu Dhabi began as a watchtower guarding a freshwater well on the island.

- A) True
- B) False

3. In 2024 Dubai International Airport was the world's busiest airport for international passengers.

- A) True
- B) False

4. What is almost always served with Arabic coffee to a guest in an Emirati home?

- A) Cheese
- B) Olives
- C) Bread rolls
- D) Dates

5. Which emirate joined the union in February 1972, after the other six?

- A) Umm Al Quwain
- B) Fujairah
- C) Ajman
- D) Ras Al Khaimah

6. As of 2026, visitors need approval from the UAE Ministry of Health before bringing in medicines the UAE classes as controlled.

- A) True
- B) False

7. What is the capital of the United Arab Emirates?

- A) Dubai
- B) Abu Dhabi
- C) Al Ain
- D) Sharjah

8. On Dubai Creek, what is an 'abra'?

- A) A desert camp
- B) A fish market
- C) A wind tower
- D) A wooden water taxi

9. Where should swimwear be worn in the UAE?

- A) In the old souqs
- B) Only on beaches and at pools
- C) In shopping malls
- D) Anywhere in Dubai

10. Before 1971, what did the British call the sheikhdoms of this coast?

- A) The Aden Protectorate
- B) The Barbary Coast
- C) The Trucial States
- D) The Gold Coast

11. Snow has been recorded in the UAE, on the Jebel Jais mountains.

- A) True
- B) False

12. About how much of the country's area does the emirate of Abu Dhabi cover?

- A) About 87 percent
- B) About 50 percent
- C) About 25 percent
- D) About 10 percent

Quiz answers

1. A) 828 m

828 m. It opened in 2010 and, as of September 2026, is the tallest building in the world.

2. True

True. The tower was built in 1761, grew into the ruler's palace, and is now a museum; it is the oldest stone building in the city.

3. True

True. It handled more than 92 million passengers in 2024.

4. D) Dates

Dates. Small cups of cardamom-scented coffee and a plate of dates are the classic welcome.

5. D) Ras Al Khaimah

Ras Al Khaimah, the northernmost emirate, joined on 10 February 1972. Fujairah, Ajman and Umm Al Quwain were among the six founders in December 1971.

6. True

True. The application is made online before travel, and bringing such medicines without approval can lead to prosecution.

7. B) Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi is the capital, home to the federal government. Dubai is the largest city, Sharjah the third largest, and Al Ain is an oasis city inland.

8. D) A wooden water taxi

An abra is a wooden water taxi, a small boat that carries passengers across Dubai Creek. A wind tower is a barjeel.

9. B) Only on beaches and at pools

Only on beaches and at pools, says British government advice. In malls and other public places, clothes that cover the shoulders and knees are advised.

10. C) The Trucial States

The Trucial States, after the treaties and maritime truces the rulers signed with Britain in the 1800s. The Barbary Coast was in North Africa, the Gold Coast is today's Ghana, and Aden is in Yemen.

11. True

True. Snow was recorded there for the first time on 28 December 2004.

12. A) About 87 percent

About 87 percent. The other six emirates together cover only about an eighth of the country.

United Arab Emirates visa page

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