



DESTINATION GUIDE

Shopping in Dubai

Dubai is justifiably famous for its shopping, from spectacular multi-experiential malls, to traditional souks specialising in anything from gold to fabric to electronics – including some recently built, five-star examples that seem to have stepped straight out of an Arabian Nights story.

While visitors to Dubai World Trade Centre are in the city for business rather than pleasure, most still want (or need) to do some shopping while they are here. Whether it's for souvenirs, gifts for the family back home or new attire for a high-powered business meeting, our guide will help you go straight to the best that Dubai has to offer.

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مركز دبي التجاري العالمي
DUBAI WORLD TRADE CENTRE

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MEGA MALLS

The UAE's shopping malls are destinations in themselves, home to a dazzling array of local and international branded outlets and topped off with unique visitor attractions such as aquariums and ski slopes. For convenience, and for a true Dubai mega-mall experience, here are some of our top picks.



THE DUBAI MALL 'MOST CONVENIENT TO DWTC'

The world's largest shopping centre houses more than 1,200 shops, covering nearly every brand imaginable. It has its own gold souk with 60 shops and a high-end Fashion Avenue. Major international stores include Galeries Lafayette from France, the UK's Debenhams and Marks & Spencer, the first Bloomingdale's outside the US, plus Middle Eastern retailer Paris Gallery. There are also more than 20 electronics stores, 10 gift and craft shops, speciality luggage stores, male and female fashion from affordable high-street brands to bespoke tailors, and stationery stores.

Special features:

Dubai Aquarium & Underwater Zoo, 22-screen Reel Cinema, The Picturehouse arts cinema, Kidzania, SEGA Republic and The Dubai Fountain. There is also a spectacular view of Burj Khalifa, which at 828 metres high is the world's tallest building. Take a break from shopping and admire the view from one of the many lakeside terraces, ideal for the cooler months.

*By Metro: 6 minutes (Burj Khalifa/
Dubai Mall station, Red Line)*

By Taxi: About 8 minutes

www.thedubaimall.com

*Sun-Wed 10am-10pm; Thurs-Sat
10am-midnight*



DUBAI FESTIVAL CITY MALL

Rising along the banks of Dubai Creek, Dubai Festival City Mall houses 400 world-class retailers. There is a good range of men's and women's fashion and business clothes, eight electronics stores, and stationery. There are 75 restaurants, cafes and bistros, both licensed and non-licensed including Hard Rock Cafe, Dubai's largest Trader Vic's, and Al Fanar; the only authentic Emirati restaurant in town. For an afternoon of family fun, head to Bowling City with 12 bowling lanes.

Special features:

2km promenade overlooking Dubai Festival City Marina and canals, with abra boat rides on the waterways.

No Metro station

By Taxi: 11 minutes

www.dubaiFestivalcity.com

*Sun-Wed 10am-10pm; Thu-Sat
10am-midnight*

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WAFI MALL

Wafi Mall has a distinctive pyramid-style façade, with the Egyptian theme continuing throughout. It's known for its ultra-exclusive brands, but the real attraction is Khan Murjan, a reproduction of a 14th century souk, with 150 shops and vendors from across the Arab world, ideal for handcrafted souvenirs. There are more than 30 food and drink outlets (both licensed and non-licensed) and 10 electronics stores.

Special features:

The mix of essential shopping with antiques and souvenirs and the distinctive décor.

By Metro: 22 minutes (Dubai Healthcare City station, Green Line)

By Taxi: 13 minutes

www.wafi.com

Sat-Wed 10am-10pm; Thurs-Fri 10am-midnight

MALL OF THE EMIRATES

Another iconic mall with about 560 international designer and high-street brands, as well as plenty of souvenir shops and stalls. Spread over 223,000 square metres, major

outlets include Harvey Nichols, 80 of the world's most renowned fashion brands in the Fashion Dome and Via Rodeo, and more than 95 food outlets and 14 electronics shops. It also has two adjoining 5-star hotels, operated by Kempinski and Sheraton.

Special features:

Ski Dubai, the city's famous indoor ski slope. Even if you don't want to ski, there are restaurants and cafes overlooking the snow.

By Metro: 18 minutes (Mall of the Emirates station, Red Line)

By Taxi: 13 minutes

www.malloftheemirates.com

Sat-Wed 10am-midnight;

Thurs-Fri 10am-1am

FOR ESSENTIALS SHOPPING

CITY CENTRE DEIRA

City Centre is the quick-and-easy place to head in a shopping emergency – such as replacing the contents of a lost suitcase. With more than 370 stores, there is a great selection of mid-market fashion,

Debenhams department store and Carrefour hypermarket, electronics retailer Sharaf DG, and other mall essentials such as dining. It's also compact enough for shopping in a hurry, within easy reach of DWTC.

By Metro: 14 minutes (Deira City Centre station, Red Line)

By Taxi: 12 minutes

citycentredeira.com

Sat-Wed 10am-midnight; Thurs-Fri 10am-1am

FOR DESIGNER LABELS

BURJUMAN

BurJuman mall has one of the finest concentrations of high-fashion luxury brands in Dubai including Saks Fifth Avenue, Louis Vuitton, Dior, Hermès, Valentino, Dolce & Gabbana, Versace, Fendi and Cartier.

By Metro: 7 minutes (BurJuman station, Red Line & Green Line)

By Taxi: 11 minutes

www.burjuman.com

Sat-Wed 10am-10pm; Thurs-Fri 10am-11pm

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LUXURY CLOSE BY

Most 'destination' malls have a good selection of upmarket retailers, but two boutique centres with a particular focus on luxury shopping are within minutes of Dubai World Trade Centre, in the rapidly emerging financial and high-end residential districts between the DWTC complex and The Dubai Mall. In cooler months, these are within strolling distance for anyone of average fitness.



Boulevard at Jumeirah Emirates Towers

BOULEVARD AT JUMEIRAH EMIRATES TOWERS

This exclusive retail complex connects the twin Jumeirah Emirates Towers office and hotel buildings, and hosts upscale names including Cartier, Rodeo Drive and Lanvin. It also houses 19th Century Antiques, an exclusive boutique selling genuine 19th-century French rarities; chocolate and gift stores such as Patchi, and Galerie Hamadan selling handmade carpets. There are 14 fine-dining options including famous Hakkasan and The Ivy.

By Metro: 2 minutes (Emirates Towers Metro station, Red Line)

By Taxi: 5 minutes

Walking: 15 to 20 minutes

www.jumeirah.com

Sat-Thurs 10am-10pm;

Fri 2pm-10pm

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE

DIFC is the 'free zone' established for the international banking and finance industries, and as an environment designed to attract an affluent, international community, it also features some of the city's most exclusive shopping. In particular, it's a great place for art, with a number of galleries and fine-dining outlets in Gate Village, adjacent to the centre's landmark 'The Gate' building. High-end galleries include Art Space, Art Sawa, Ayyam Gallery and the Cuadro Fine Art Gallery.

By Metro: 2 minutes (Emirates Towers Metro station, Red Line)

By Taxi: 5 minutes

Walking: 20 to 25 minutes

www.difc.ae

Opening times vary



Jumeirah Emirates Towers



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OLD SOUKS

Souks are the heart and soul of any Arabian city and these densely packed networks of lanes and arcades are a must-see for any visitor. The emirate's old souks are clustered around the Creek and are best explored by foot from Al Ras Metro Station in Deira, or Al Ghubaiba Metro Station in Bur Dubai, both about 15 minutes from DWTC. Traditional 'abra' water taxis, meanwhile, connect the two sides of the Creek.



Gold Souk



Spice Souk



Textile Souk

GOLD SOUK

The world-famous gold souk in Deira houses 90 jewellers and gold merchants, crammed full of necklaces, rings, bangles, earrings and brooches. On display in one of the shops is the world's largest gold ring, certificated from the *Guinness Book of World Records*. Gold is bought by weight, so check the day's prices with your hotel concierge to make sure you get a fair price.

www.goldsouks.com/dubai

SPICE SOUK

The Spice Souk in Deira contains bulging spice sacks crowding the narrow alleyways. Find frankincense, cinnamon and bezar (a mix of Arabian spices) to take home – assuming import rules in your home country allow it. Saffron, the world's most expensive spice, is also available.

PERFUME SOUK

Whether you want a branded 'international' perfume, or one of the sharper scents typical of Arab countries, this collection of merchants along Sikkat Al Khail Road in Deira is the place to find it – mixed to your own, personal preference if you desire. The perfume souk is also good for buying frankincense.

TEXTILE SOUK

Find a treasure trove of rainbow-hued colours, textures, weaves and embroidery from around the world. The Textile Souk, or Old Souk, is in Bur Dubai in the laneways stretching back from the abra station.

THE ELECTRONICS SOUK

Souks aren't all about traditional crafts. Located on Al Sabkha Road, Deira, the Electronics Souk contains

hundreds of dusty neon-lit shops that stock anything and everything electrical.

Dubai's old souks are open Sat-Thur 10am-10pm; Fri 4-10pm

THE 'BEST PRICE'

Haggling is a key part of shopping in the old souks. As a rule of thumb, offer about half the vendor's first price. He drops the figure a little, you go up a little, and so on until you reach an agreement. If you can't lower the price sufficiently then say it's too much and politely walk away – if the merchant hasn't reached his 'final price', he'll call you back.

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Souk Madinat Jumeirah

NEW SOUKS

Dubai's new souks are modern and upscale, built in the style of a traditional Middle Eastern bazaar, with all modern comforts. They are great places for arts, crafts and antiques, although you won't find them at bargain prices. They also offer a wide selection of high-end restaurants.

SOUK AL BAHAR

Souk Al Bahar is part of the enormous Downtown Dubai district, which also includes The Dubai Mall and Burj Khalifa. From exquisite art pieces and one-of-a-kind souvenirs to henna tattoos and Persian carpets, shops are geared to the tourist market and every corner is a must-find. Bateel and Selsal are great for edible gifts (dates), Gallery One for affordable wall art, and Ascots & Chapels for tailoring.

By Metro: 6 minutes (Burj Khalifa/ Dubai Mall station, Red Line)

By Taxi: 12 minutes

Note: Metro is via walk through The Dubai Mall.

www.soukalbahar.ae

SOUK MADINAT JUMEIRAH

Built to resemble a traditional market and set within a much larger resort, this bustling souk houses 75 boutique shops. Retail outlets include the Camel Company, selling everything from mugs and T-shirts to soft toys and notepads, and Gallery One, with its many images of Dubai. Persian carpet houses, luxury jewellers and upmarket chocolate stores are also in abundance. It all features a canal network with abra rides, and a stunning view of the seven-star Burj Al Arab hotel.

No Metro station

By Taxi: 16 minutes

www.jumeirah.com

GOLD AND DIAMOND PARK

This is a different kind of 'new' souk – being a less chaotic alternative for buying premium jewellery. Located on Sheikh Zayed Road, the mall has a selection of 90 leading retailers showcasing vast, high-end collections. Outlets include Arabian Gems, Al Liali Jewellers and Al Nobala Diamonds, most of which can custom-make jewellery designs from the understated to more ostentatious.

By Metro: 17 minutes (First Gulf Bank station, Red Line)

By Taxi: 15 minutes

www.goldanddiamondpark.com

Sat-Thurs 10am-10pm;

Fri 4pm-10pm

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AND BEFORE YOU LEAVE...

DUBAI DUTY FREE

Of course, one of the best places to shop in Dubai is at the airport as you fly home. Dubai Duty Free has outlets at all three arrivals and departure terminals, with an extensive range of gold, jewellery, perfume, leather goods, cosmetics, electronics and watches. All stores are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so there is no excuse for arriving home empty handed.

www.dubaidutyfree.com



Dubai Duty Free