



# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

When traveling in Abu Dhabi, UAE and exhibiting at IDEX 2019

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Whether this is your first IDEX or you've been to the UAE a dozen times, there are a few details that will make your exhibition easier and your stay more pleasant.

- ✘ **Local currency is the Emirati Dirham (AED)**
  - 1 USD = 3.67250 AED
  - The exchange rate is relatively static, so no need to check this daily to make sure you're getting the best rate.
- ✘ **Please be culturally sensitive and respectful of the nation's etiquette.**
  - Women – while Western dress is accepted, you may want to consider avoiding short skirts and shorts and strapless or low cut tops.
  - Your left hand is considered dirty so it is polite not to use it when interacting with people.
  - The soles of your feet and shoes are also considered dirty, so make sure that you do not turn them towards anyone. Make sure they are either pressed to the floor or facing you if you sit cross legged.
- ✘ **Visa requirements:** All Americans with U.S. passports (Tourist Passports) valid for more than six months are welcome to enter the UAE, and no longer need to obtain a visa to enter the country if the duration of stay is less than one month. This includes U.S. citizens with visas or entry stamps from other countries.
- ✘ **Electricity is a different voltage than what we have in the U.S.**
  - Electrical sockets (outlets) in the United Arab Emirates are one of three types: the "Type C" European CEE 7/16 Europlug, the "**Type G**" **British BS-1363** (most common) or the "Type D" Indian 5 amp BS-546. If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug in. Travel plug adapters simply change the shape of your appliance's plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into. The type G is what is most often found at ADNEC during the show.
  - Electrical sockets (outlets) in the United Arab Emirates usually supply electricity at between 220 and 240 volts AC. If you're plugging in an appliance that was built for

220-240 volt electrical input, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need.

- North American appliances are generally built for 110-120 volts. Please be conscious of whether the appliance you are plugging in also requires a converter to make it compatible with the local voltage.
- Generally, mobile phone and computer chargers can adapt without a converter. You will also find that in many of the higher end hotels, they have different outlets, to include North American.

## ABOUT ABU DHABI

(Source - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu\\_Dhabi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Dhabi))

### Location & Geography

The city of Abu Dhabi is on the northeastern part of the Persian Gulf in the Arabian Peninsula. It is on an island less than 250 meters (820 feet) from the mainland and is joined to the mainland by the Maqta and Mussafah Bridges. A third, Sheikh Zayed Bridge, designed by Zaha Hadid, opened in late 2010. Abu Dhabi Island is also connected to Saadiyat Island by a five-lane motorway bridge. Al-Mafraq Bridge connects the city to Reem Island and was completed in early 2011. This is a multilayer interchange bridge and it has 27 lanes which allow roughly 25,000 automobiles to move per hour. There are three major bridges of the project, the largest has eight lanes, four leaving Abu Dhabi city and four coming in.



### National Flag

The flag of the United Arab Emirates was adopted on December 2, 1971. It contains the Pan-Arab

colors red, green, white, and black, which symbolize Arabian unity. Merchant ships may fly the alternative civil ensign, a red flag with the national flag in the canton.



### **Official Language and Religion**

The official national language in Abu Dhabi is Arabic, spoken widely among the native Arab community. The high concentration of expatriates from the Indian subcontinent has made Hindi, Urdu and several other languages from the region like Malayalam also fairly common.

English is used widely, even though Arabic is the official business language. Most of the official documentation is in Arabic, and some applications like educational and marriage certificates are accepted in this language only.

Islam is the majority religion in the United Arab Emirates. All Emiratis are adherents of Islam, approximately 85% are Sunni and 15% are Shi'a. Their followers include the Al Qasimi ruling family.

Other religions represented in the country including Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism are practiced by non-nationals.

### **Climate**

Abu Dhabi has a hot desert climate. Sunny blue skies can be expected throughout the year. The months of June through September are generally extremely hot and humid with maximum temperatures averaging above 38 °C (100 °F). During this time, sandstorms occur intermittently, in some cases reducing visibility to a few meters.

The cooler season is from November to March, which ranges between moderately hot to cold. This period also sees dense fog on some days. On average, January is the coolest month in the year, while August is the hottest.

### **Currency**

The United Arab Emirates dirham also known as simply the Emirati dirham, is the currency of the United Arab Emirates. The dirham is often abbreviated "AED," while unofficial abbreviations include "DH" or "Dhs." The dirham is subdivided into 100 fils. The name Dirham derives from the Greek word Drachmae, literally meaning "handful," through Latin. Due to centuries of old trade and usage of the currency, dirham survived through the Ottoman Empire.