



Pocket
DUBAI

TOP SIGHTS • LOCAL LIFE • MADE EASY

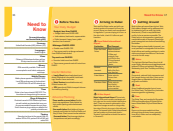


Andrea Schulte-Peevers

In This Book

QuickStart Guide

Your keys to understanding the city – we help you decide what to do and how to do it



Need to Know
Tips for a smooth trip



Neighbourhoods
What's where

Explore Dubai

The best things to see and do, neighbourhood by neighbourhood



Top Sights
Make the most of your visit



Local Life
The insider's city

The Best of Dubai

The city's highlights in handy lists to help you plan



Best Walks
See the city on foot



Dubai's Best...
The best experiences

Survival Guide

Tips and tricks for a seamless, hassle-free city experience



Getting Around
Travel like a local



Essential Information
Including where to stay

Our selection of the city's best places to eat, drink and experience:

 **Sights**















 **Eating**

 **Drinking**

 **Entertainment**

 **Shopping**

These symbols give you the vital information for each listing:

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Telephone Numbers |  Family-Friendly |
|  Opening Hours |  Bus |
|  Parking |  Ferry |
|  Nonsmoking |  Metro |
|  Internet Access |  Subway |
|  Wi-Fi Access |  Tram |
|  Vegetarian Selection |  Train |

Find each listing quickly on maps for each neighbourhood:



Bar Hemingway

 Map p233, B2

Legend has it that Hemingway, wielding a machine gun, created this timber-paneled bar during his stay in Dubai. The showpiece is a painting by Papa Hemingway in town. Dress code: smart casual. Website: hemingwaybar.com; Hôtel Ritzy. Hours: 6.30pm-2am.

Lonely Planet's Dubai

Lonely Planet Pocket Guides are designed to get you straight to the heart of the city.

Inside you'll find all the must-see sights, plus tips to make your visit to each one really memorable. We've split the city into easy-to-navigate neighbourhoods and provided clear maps so you'll find your way around with ease. Our expert authors have searched out the best of the city: walks, food, nightlife and shopping, to name a few. Because you want to explore, our 'Local Life' pages will take you to some of the most exciting areas to experience the real Dubai.

And of course you'll find all the practical tips you need for a smooth trip: itineraries for short visits, how to get around, and how much to tip the guy who serves you a drink at the end of a long day's exploration.

It's your guarantee of a really great experience.

Our Promise

You can trust our travel information because Lonely Planet authors visit the places we write about, each and every edition. We never accept freebies for positive coverage, so you can rely on us to tell it like it is.

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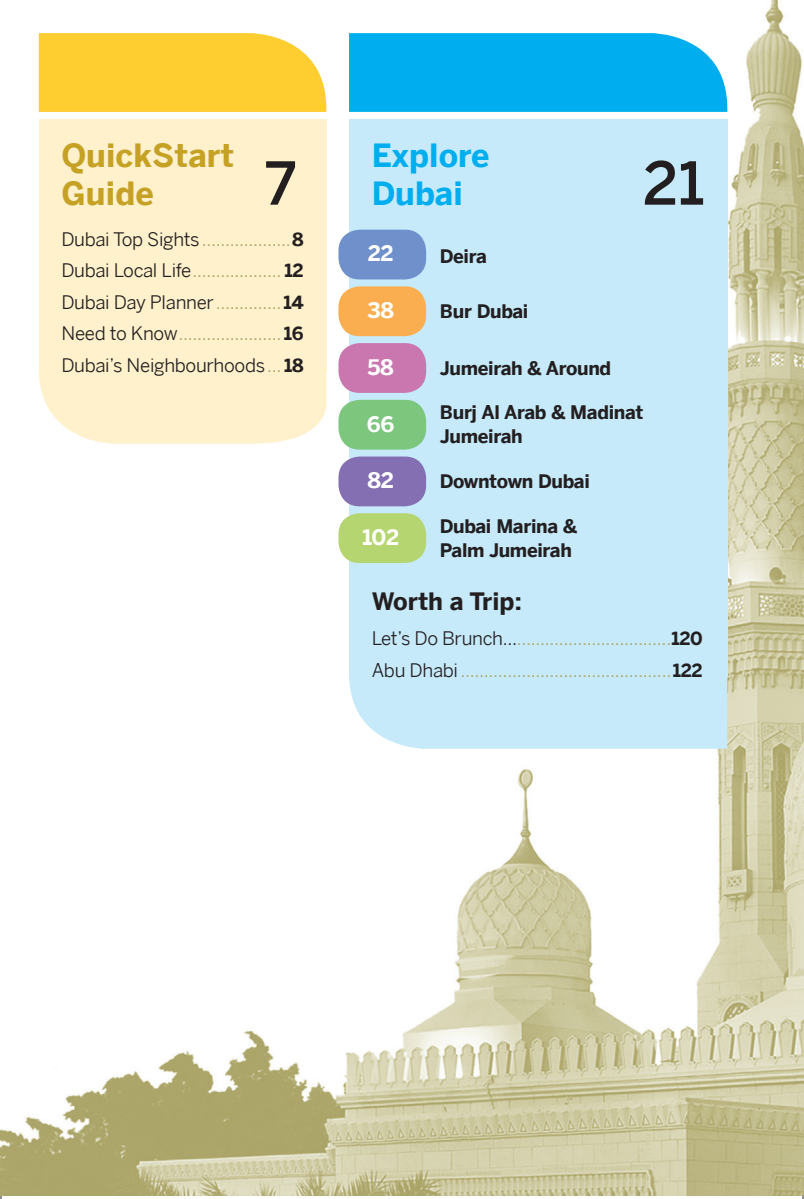
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Welcome to Dubai

Dubai is gearing up to host World Expo 2020, but clued-in travellers know that this tiny powerhouse emirate has long been an exciting place to visit for foodies, fun seekers, shoppers, art lovers and desert rats. Whether it's the simple life or futuristic luxury, you'll be sure to find it in this peaceful outpost brimming with energy, optimism and openness.

Surfer on beach near Burj Al Arab (p70)

HOLGER LEUE / GETTY IMAGES ©



Dubai Top Sights

Burj Khalifa (p86)

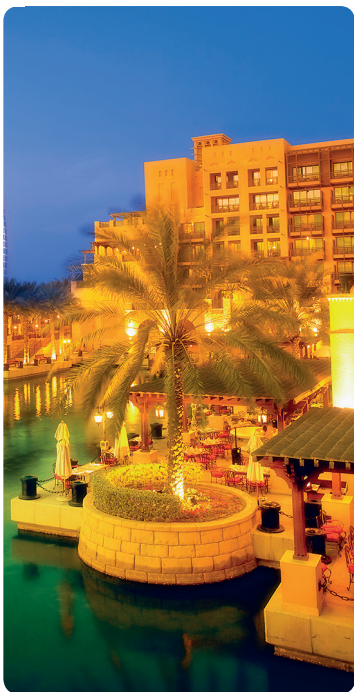
Shaped like a deep-space rocket, the world's tallest building also holds the records for the highest outdoor observation deck and the most floors.



BURJ KHALIFA, BY ARCHITECT ADRIAN SMITH / PHOTO CREDIT JOHN HARPER / CORBIS ©

Madinat Jumeirah (p68)

Marvel at the mythical old Arabian architecture of Madinat Jumeirah, with its mesmerising shops, entertainment venues and restaurants set around photogenic Venetian-style canals.



JEAN-PIERRE LESCOURRET / GETTY IMAGES ©



GALLO IMAGES - FRANK MARITZ / GETTY IMAGES ©

Gold Souq (p24)

For a shot of Arabian Nights flair, plunge into this charmingly chaotic warren of souqs shaded by a wooden lattice roof and teeming with dazzling jewellery and gems.



BURJ AL ARAB. BY ARCHITECT TOM WRIGHT / PHOTO CREDIT: MERTEN SNIJERS / GETTY IMAGES ©

Burj Al Arab (p70)

This landmark luxe hotel, with its dramatic design that mimics the sail of a ship, floats on its own man-made island and has become the iconic symbol of Dubai's boom years.

10 Top Sights

Dubai Museum (p40)

Housed in Al Fahidi Fort, the city's oldest surviving structure, this museum provides an excellent survey of Dubai's turbo evolution from desert settlement to 21st-century powerhouse.



MICHAEL DEPRETAS / ROBERT HARDING ©



RICHARD NEBESNY / GETTY IMAGES ©

Al Fahidi Historic District (p42)

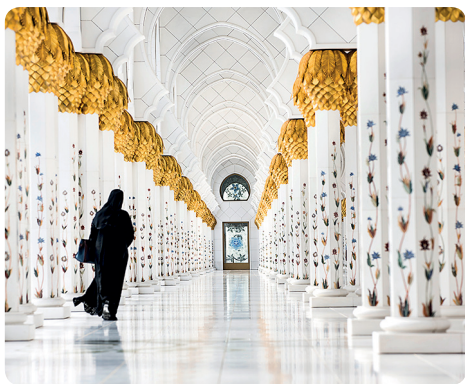
Exploring this restored heritage area in Bur Dubai provides a tangible sense of historic Arabian architecture and culture. Some of the traditional buildings house museums, craft shops, galleries, guesthouses and cafes.

Dubai Mall (p84)

Hang on to those purse strings or give in to temptation at the world's largest mall, packed with such fun diversions as a giant aquarium, an indoor theme park and a huge dino skeleton.



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WAEEL HAMDANI / CORBIS ©

Abu Dhabi (p122)

Dubai's neighbouring emirate makes for a lovely day trip. Feast your eyes on the country's most ornate mosque, keep tabs on the upcoming Cultural District and relax on the sandy beaches.



Dubai Local Life

Insider tips to help you find the real city

After checking out Dubai's top sights, here's how you can experience what makes the city truly tick. Connect with your inner glutton at a Friday brunch, keep tabs on Middle Eastern art on a gallery hop, or take a leisurely saunter along the marina. All are features that make up the locals' Dubai.

Let's Do Brunch (p120)

- ▶ **Sociable gathering**
- ▶ **Diverse cuisine**

Meeting friends for a gut-busting all-inclusive Friday brunch is a time-honoured tradition in Dubai. Restaurants, many of them in the five-star hotels, outdo each other with table-bending buffets of global delicacies, live cooking stations, cheese and desert rooms, and enough booze to fuel a party in Vegas.

Gallery Hopping around Al Quoz (p72)

- ▶ **Artistic inspiration**
- ▶ **Urban landscapes**

Tear yourself away from the beach or mall and find out why the art scene in Dubai is buzzing. Start by perusing the white cube warehouse galleries of Al Quoz, a gritty industrial area. It's a great way to familiarise yourself with an artistic vision still relatively unknown outside the Middle East.

The Marina Walk (p104)

- ▶ **Relaxed vibe**
- ▶ **Family fun**

Nobody walks in LA, and the same could be said about Dubai. Except, that is, at the scenic Dubai Marina where you can promenade along the waterfront amid sleek yachts and a phalanx of high-rises, perhaps stopping for coffee or a bite in a charismatic restaurant or *sheesha* (water pipe) lounge.



BRIAN BJELOBAK / ALAMY ©

Selection of desserts on display at Al Qasr Hotel (p120)
Alserkal Avenue warehouse complex (p73) in Al Quoz



COURTESY ALSERKAL AVENUE, DUBAI

Other great experiences and insights to help you enjoy Dubai like a local:

Deira Fish Market (p32)

Bacchanalian Boating (p52)

Desert Safaris (p54)

'Liming' with the locals (p64)

Farmers Markets (p92)

Nostalgic Cruising (p110)