

TRANSPORT

AIR

There are direct flights to Dubai from most European countries and hubs in Africa and Asia. The Americas are increasingly well connected, with Emirates and Etihad both flying from New York and Toronto, and Delta flying direct from Atlanta. Dubai is also increasingly a major stopover hub between Europe and Asia. For airport information and flight enquiries visit the website at www.dubaiairport.com.

Emirates Airlines (www.emirates.com), which is owned by the Dubai government, remains the major player in the region, flying to more than 100 destinations globally. In recent years, it has faced serious competition from Abu Dhabi-based **Etihad** (www.etihad.com), the United Arab Emirates' (UAE's) national airline. The first Dubai-based budget carrier, **FlyDubai** (www.flydubai.com), an affiliate of Emirates, began operating in June 2009. At the time of writing it offers a limited flight schedule to such Middle Eastern destinations as Beirut, Amman and Doha, although more cities are expected to come online before too long.

A more established regional low-cost airline is **Air Arabia** (www.airarabia.com), which uses Sharjah's airport as its base and covers many destinations in the Middle East and the Indian Subcontinent, as well as a few European cities (including Amsterdam, Paris and Barcelona).

Dubai is also served by Kuwait-based **Jazeera Airways** (www.jazeeraairways.com), which operates flights mostly within the region and to Istanbul and Mumbai. Most trips from Dubai involve a change in Kuwait.

Airlines

The following is a selection of carriers that fly to and from Dubai:

Air France (AF; Map pp54-5; ☎ 602 5400; www.airfrance.com; ground fl, Al-Shoala Bldg, cnr Al-Maktoum Rd & 9 St, Deira)

Air India (AI; Map pp54-5; ☎ 227 6747; www.airindia.com; Sheikh Rashid Bldg, Al-Maktoum Rd, Deira)

British Airways (BA; Map pp70-71; ☎ 800 0441 3322; www.britishairways.com; 21st fl, Al-Attar Business Tower, Sheikh Zayed Rd)

THINGS CHANGE...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

Cathay Pacific Airways (CX; Map pp54-5; ☎ 204 2888; www.cathaypacific.com; Al-Naboodah Travel Agencies, Al-Shoala Bldg, cnr Al-Maktoum Rd & 9 St, Deira)

Delta Air Lines (DL; Map pp64-5; ☎ 397 0118; www.delta.com; Sharaf Travel, Sharaf Bldg; Khalid bin al-Waleed Rd, Bur Dubai)

Emirates Airlines (EK; ☎ 214 4444; www.emirates.com) Map pp54-5; DNATA Bldg, Al-Maktoum Rd, Deira; Map pp70-71; DNATA Travel Centre, Sheikh Zayed Rd, btwn Metropolitan Hotel & Business Bay Metro Station.

Gulf Air (GF; Map pp52-3; ☎ 271 6207, 651 6888; www.gulfair.com; Salahuddin Rd, Deira)

KLM (KL; Map pp52-3; ☎ 602 5444; www.klm.com; ground fl, Al-Shoala Bldg, cnr Al-Maktoum Rd & 9 St, Deira)

Lufthansa (Map pp70-71; ☎ 343 2121; www.lufthansa.com; 2nd fl, Hilal Salim Bin Taraff Blvd, Sheikh Zayed Rd)

Oman Air (WY; Map pp62-3; ☎ 351 8080; www.omanair.com; mezzanine fl, Al-Rais Shopping Centre, Al-Mankhool Rd, Bur Dubai)

Qatar Airways (QR; Map pp52-3; ☎ 221 4210; www.qatarairways.com; Doha Centre, Al-Maktoum Rd, Deira)

Singapore Airlines (SQ; Map pp70-71; ☎ 316 6888; www.singaporeair.com; ground fl, DNATA Travel Centre, Sheikh Zayed Rd)

Thai Airways International (TG; Map pp54-5; ☎ 268 1701; www.thaiair.com; Shop 1, Bu Haleeba Plaza, Al-Muraqqabat Rd, Deira)

Virgin Atlantic (VS; Map pp64-5; ☎ 406 0600; www.virgin-atlantic.com; 3rd fl, Sharaf Bldg; Khalid bin al-Waleed Rd, Bur Dubai)

Dubai International Airport

In the north of the city, on the border with the Sharjah emirate, **Dubai International Airport** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 224 5555, flight enquiries 224 5777;

www.dubaiairport.com) is the busiest in the Middle East, with over 40 million passengers passing through in 2009. The major international airlines use Terminal 1, the main terminal. Smaller airlines and charter flights, mostly en route to Iran, East Africa and the countries of the former Soviet Union, use the dismal Terminal 2. The snazzy new Terminal 3, which opened in 2008, is only used by Emirates. For now, facilities in Terminal 1 are being pushed to extremes by large crowds, especially at the beginning and end of the day, when the bulk of departures and arrivals are scheduled.

There are several places to eat in the departures lounge including a small food court, a seafood bar, the Irish Village pub and Starbucks, although finding a table at peak times can be a problem. Dubai Duty Free sprawls over an entire floor of the departures terminal, so there's no lack of shopping facilities. Here you can find travel essentials, books and magazines, electronics, perfumes, cigarettes, and food and alcohol at competitive, if not world-beating, prices. You'll also find credit card-powered internet terminals, banks, several currency-exchange outlets, a business centre, a prayer room, a health club, designated quiet lounges and free wi-fi throughout. There's also an on-site hotel, **Dubai International Hotel** (☎ 224 4000; www.dih-dca.com), with two locations – one on the Arrivals level in Terminal 1 and the other in Terminal 3, levels 5 and 6, above Dubai Duty

Free. Upon request, rooms are available at hourly rates.

Sharjah International Airport

Sharjah is the emirate bordering Dubai to the north. Its **airport** (☎ 558 1111; www.shj-airport.gov.ae) is about 15km east of the Dubai–Sharjah border and has significantly increased its capacity since becoming the hub of Air Arabia, the region's first budget airline. The main problem, as ever, is the traffic on the roads. A journey to Dubai in the evening, when commuters are making their daily slog home, can take up to three hours. If possible, book flights that leave very late at night, early in the morning, or on a Friday.

To get to/from the airport you have to take taxis, since there's no public transport. Sharjah taxis are reliable, metered and comfortable. A trip to Dubai's Gold Souq from Sharjah airport costs approximately Dh60; a trip to Dubai Marina around Dh120.

Abu Dhabi International Airport

Abu Dhabi's **airport** (☎ 505 5555, flight information 575 7500; www.abudhabiairport.ae) is about 30km north-east of the city centre. It has three terminals, including Etihad's exclusive base, Terminal 3, which opened in early 2009 and raised the airport's capacity to 12 million passengers per year. Free wi-fi is available throughout the airport, which is compact and efficient, meaning

CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motor transport generates carbon dioxide (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the US will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

Carbon Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow travellers to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: www.lonelyplanet.com.