

## Hotels & Hostels

Want more sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travellers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to [lonelyplanet.com/hotels](https://www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels) and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

# SLEEPING

## top picks

- **Best B&B:** Jumeirah Garden Guesthouse (p162)
- **Best boutique hotel:** XVA Art Hotel (p157)
- **Best for beaching:** One&Only Royal Mirage (p163)
- **Best for bragging rights:** Burj al-Arab (p161)
- **Best for business:** Jumeirah Emirates Towers (p160)
- **Best for shopping:** Address Dubai Mall (p159)
- **Best modern Arabian:** Al-Qasr, Madinat Jumeirah (p161)
- **Best newcomer:** Address Downtown Dubai (p159)
- **Best 'Old World' opulence:** Palace – The Old Town (p159)

# SLEEPING

Dubai's steady stream of visitors have more than 50,000 beds to accommodate them, with more hotels scheduled to come online in the next few years. Overcapacity and the economic crisis have brought once-stratospheric room rates somewhat down to earth, although the city's in no danger of turning into a budget destination. Still, even five-star places offer the occasional bargain, and a recent crop of budget brands like Holiday Inn Express, Ibis and Premier Inn is also making the city more attractive for the slimmer-wallet crowd. Another way to economise is by checking into a furnished hotel apartment. Generally speaking, rates drop as temperatures soar, so if you can bear 50°C heat, come between June and September.

But make no mistake, Dubai is still primarily a luxury travel destination. There's definitely no shortage of stylish and ultra-posh lodging options catering for the cravings of the 'Rolls-Royce crowd'.

If you need a tourist visa (see p195), most hotels will arrange one for their guests, usually for a reasonable fee. Many also offer airport pick-ups and drop-offs. Check if these services are offered by the property of your choice.

Accommodation in this chapter is listed by neighbourhood, with listings sorted by the price of a double room, from highest to lowest.

## ACCOMMODATION STYLES

Dubai runs the gamut of places to unpack your suitcase, from fleabag hotels in Deira to international chain hotels in the financial district and five-star beach resorts like the iconic Burj al-Arab. There are essentially two types of hotel in Dubai: the city hotel and the beach resort. City hotels range from one star to five, while the beach resorts are generally all five-stars. Though there are no official camping sites in Dubai, some residents spend weekends camping on beaches or in the desert, but given the temperatures and lack of facilities, camping is neither a reliable nor popular option for a Dubai holiday.

Before you choose a hotel, determine what you want from your holiday. If you like to drink, make sure your hotel isn't 'dry'. City hotels are ideal for jaunts to shopping malls, souqs and historic areas. Beach resorts tend to be more lavish, with expansive grounds, swim-up bars and sandy shores. Most resort guests do the sights in a day and spend the rest of their time soaking up the sun.

Top-end resorts are like villages unto themselves, with multiple restaurants, bars and nightclubs. Alcohol is generally only served in hotels, which means expats flock to them in droves. At a good hotel, the party comes to you. Conversely, if you're at a low-end hotel, you'll wind up travelling to the big hotels for fun.

Increasingly popular among short-term visitors, especially groups and families, are stays in furnished hotel apartments. These

## PRICE GUIDE

\$\$\$	over Dh1000
\$\$	Dh500-1000
\$	under Dh500

vary in size from one-room studios to multi-bedroom flats and usually come with a kitchenette and a washing machine. Rates include daily cleaning and access to the building's facilities (pool, gym, parking etc).

There's also a small but growing number of B&Bs, usually set up by expats in private homes in residential areas. Staying in one of these won't give you buckets of privacy or a wide range of top-end amenities but it will give you easy access to personal perspectives on life in Dubai.

## CHECK-IN & CHECKOUT TIMES

Because flights arrive in Dubai at all hours, it's crucial to confirm your check-in time with the hotel prior to arrival. Get a confirmation number when you book and present it at check-in; it's shocking how many reservations get lost. If you're really worried, call the hotel a day before your departure to confirm. Check-in is generally at 2pm or 3pm, although it's sometimes possible to get into your room earlier. Checkout is 11am or noon, unless you arrange for a late checkout, which is often granted for free on a goodwill basis unless the hotel is at capacity. If you must keep the room