

New Dubai

Neighbourhood Top Five

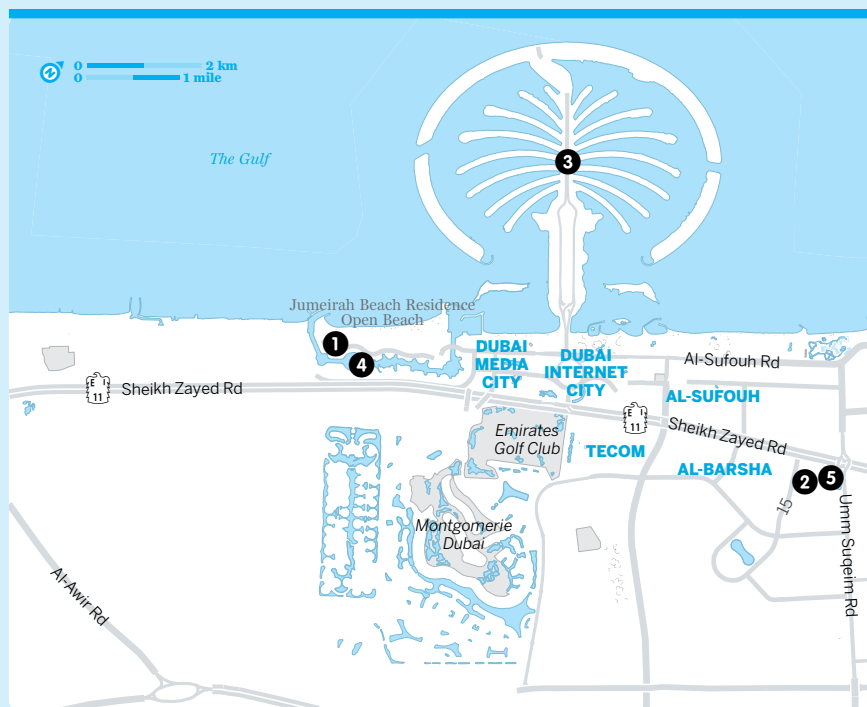
1 Strolling along **The Walk at JBR** (p106) provides a rare opportunity in this city to stretch your legs in the open air. This attractive pedestrian walkway has a Mediterranean-holiday feel with its cosmopolitan restaurants, cafes and boutiques.

2 Skiing at **Ski Dubai** (p113) is a real novelty and a great way to cool off.

3 Taking a monorail trip to the fascinating attractions of **Atlantis** (p106) at the Palm Jumeirah.

4 Enjoying a waterfront lunch and gorgeous views at one of the restaurants at **Dubai Marina** (p107).

5 Indulging in some of Dubai's best shopping, entertainment and restaurants at the **Mall of the Emirates** (p106).



For more detail of this area, see Map p220 ➡

Explore New Dubai

New Dubai is well named and most dramatically reflects the city's ability to reinvent itself, creating artificial islands out at sea and constructing a lofty thicket of skyscrapers in the middle of the desert. Although the best view of the Palm Jumeirah is from above (from a plane or Google Earth!), it's worth hopping on the monorail to the major landmark, the Atlantis luxury resort, with its unabashed over-the-top decor, superb nightlife and elaborate family-friendly aqua attractions.

Dubai Marina has some fine restaurants and bars as well. Try and grab a waterfront table at dusk to enjoy an illuminated skyscraper landscape, or take a morning boat ride from the marina and head to Marina Mall, a mini mall that packs a serious retail punch. You can stride out at The Walk at JBR or the waterfront Marina Walk, which both have plenty of places to stop for refreshments and some suitably impressive, if neck-craning, views.

As you travel south of Jumeirah, remember that there was nothing here except a few hotels fronting a pristine beach only a few years ago. Then the construction boom arrived with a vengeance, giving birth to hundreds of apartment buildings, office towers and even more hotels. There's no sightseeing in the traditional sense here, and much of the architecture is... well... uninspired, but the plethora of upmarket restaurants, bars and clubs, plus the lovely beach, will probably bring you here at some point in your trip.

New Dubai also covers the inland neighbourhood of Al-Barsha, which is bisected by the remaining stretch of Sheikh Zayed Rd linking the Mall of the Emirates with Jebel Ali via the Ibn Battuta Mall; both shopping malls are well worth a visit.

Local Life

- ➔ **Barasti time!** Barasti (p111) is the local expats' favourite place to party. It's loud, welcoming and refreshingly informal.
- ➔ **Sheesha** Get puffing on a *sheesha* pipe at one of the bars or cafes on Marina Walk.
- ➔ **Red-carpet viewing** Splash out on an Emirati favourite: the Gold Class screening room at the Vox Mall of the Emirates cinema (p112).

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** Dubai metro's Red Line stops include Mall of the Emirates, Dubai Marina and Ibn Battuta shopping mall. For the Mall of the Emirates, hop on the F09 feeder bus at the metro station.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If you are visiting Dubai just after the two big shopping festivals (either at the end of August or March), then you may well find that there are still some seriously slashed prices in the shops, particularly at the Mall of the Emirates. The sales racks will probably be concealed at the back of the shop, so do ask – it's well worth it as you could save up to 80% on the price tag.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Rhodes Mezzanine (p107)
- ➔ Eauzone (p107)
- ➔ Indego (p107)

For reviews, see p107 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Rooftop Bar (p109)
- ➔ BiCE Sky Bar (p110)
- ➔ Buddha Bar (p111)

For reviews, see p109 ➔

Best Views

- ➔ Bar 44 (p111)
- ➔ Jumeirah Beach Residence Open Beach (p106)
- ➔ Dubai Marina (p106)