

# MONOCLE 25/25 DUBAI

As the laissez-faire, tax-free Gulf hub, Dubai attracts visitors as diverse as Iranian entrepreneurs, jellaba-wearing Saudi princes and sunburnt British tourists with a penchant for partying. In between the cavernous construction sites – soon to be filled with the world's "largest" and most "fabulous" – are some of the finest spas and hotels in the Arabian Gulf, even the first self-awarded seven-star wonder, the Burj al Arab. The best time to visit is between October and May, unless you have a yearning for melting asphalt.

## 01 Essentials

- 01 Arabic may be the official language in Dubai but English is the most widely spoken. After that it's Urdu, then Arabic.
- 02 Friday is a day off. Don't plan on doing any business on this day, as it is a time for rest and prayer.
- 03 During the holy month of Ramadan (usually sometime in autumn) those who are not fasting should be prepared to eat behind curtains until Iftar, the evening meal to break the fast. Most restaurants are closed during the day and there are strict restrictions on drinking, smoking and eating in public.
- 04 Don't photograph local women unless you receive permission.
- 05 Taxis are easy to come by, particularly at all hotels and shopping malls. If given a choice, stick to using them rather than renting a car.
- 06 Alcohol is legally served on hotel premises only.
- 07 Most big hotels in Dubai have a stand at the airport arrivals hall. Still, during high season it is best to book in advance.
- 08 Women should wear modest clothing in public.
- 09 Don't drink and drive. Accidents are taken very seriously. Here, you are guilty until proven innocent.
- 10 Visas can be secured at no cost for most nationals upon arrival. Check the airport website to determine visa requirements. [dubaiairport.com](http://dubaiairport.com)

## 02 Hotels

**Independent and easy**  
**Jumeirah Emirates Towers**  
Sheikh Zayed Road  
+ 971 4 330 0000  
[jumeirahemiratestowers.com](http://jumeirahemiratestowers.com)

**Dependable chain**  
**Kempinski Hotel Mall of the Emirates**  
Sheikh Zayed Road, Al Barsha  
+ 971 4 341 0000  
[kempinski-dubai.com](http://kempinski-dubai.com)

**Premium**  
**One&Only Royal Mirage**  
Beach Road, Jumeirah Beach  
+ 971 4 399 9999  
[oneandonlyresorts.com](http://oneandonlyresorts.com)

## 03 Dining

**Fast breakfast**  
**More Café**  
Al Garhoud  
+ 971 4 283 0224; [morecafe.biz](http://morecafe.biz)

**Business breakfast**  
**Sloane's**  
Grosvenor House, West Marina Beach  
+ 971 4 399 8888  
[grosvenorhouse-dubai.com](http://grosvenorhouse-dubai.com)

**Mid-morning coffee**  
**Dunes Café**  
Shangri-La Hotel, Sheikh Zayed Road  
+ 971 4 405 2703; [shangri-la.com](http://shangri-la.com)

**Working lunch with colleagues**  
**The Glasshouse**  
Hilton Dubai Creek, Beniyas Road  
+ 971 4 227 1111; [hilton.com](http://hilton.com)

**Need-to-impress-clients lunch**  
**Café Chic**  
Le Meridien Dubai, Garhoud  
+ 971 4 282 4040  
[starwoodhotels.com/lemeridien](http://starwoodhotels.com/lemeridien)

**Lunch on your own**  
**Eauzone, Arabian Court**  
One&Only Royal Mirage,  
Beach Road, Jumeirah Beach  
+ 971 4 399 9999  
[oneandonlyresorts.com](http://oneandonlyresorts.com)

**Afternoon tea**  
**Sahn Eddar**  
Burj Al Arab  
+ 971 4 301 7600; [burj-al-arab.com](http://burj-al-arab.com)

**Dinner with colleagues**  
**Teatro**  
Towers Rotana Hotel  
Sheikh Zayed Road  
+ 971 4 343 8000; [rotana.com](http://rotana.com)

**Private dinner**  
**Traitreur**  
Park Hyatt Hotel, Deira  
+ 971 4 602 1234  
[dubai.park.hyatt.com](http://dubai.park.hyatt.com)

**Big dinner with partner/clients**  
**Al Nafoorah**  
Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel  
Sheikh Zayed Road  
+ 971 4 319 8088,  
[jumeirahemiratestowers.com](http://jumeirahemiratestowers.com)

**Drink after dinner**  
**The Rooftop Terrace**  
One&Only Royal Mirage  
Beach Road, Jumeirah  
+ 971 4 399 9999

**Late bite**  
**Mosaico**  
Emirates Towers Hotel,  
Sheikh Zayed Road  
+ 971 4 319 8088  
[jumeirahemiratestowers.com](http://jumeirahemiratestowers.com)

**On the tiles**  
**Trilogy**  
Madinat Jumeirah  
+ 971 4 366 6917; [trilogy.ae](http://trilogy.ae)

## 04 Reading

**Borders**  
1st Floor, Mall of The Emirates,  
Sheikh Zayed Road  
+ 971 4 341 5758; [bordersstores.com](http://bordersstores.com)

## 05 Thank yous

**Chocolates**  
**Choco'a**  
Al barsha, next to the  
Mall of the Emirates  
+ 971 4 340 9092  
[chocoachocolate.com](http://chocoachocolate.com)

## 06 Shopping

**Something you can't get anywhere else**  
**Limited edition Arafat scarf created exclusively for S'uice**  
Village Mall, Jumeirah Beach  
+ 971 4 344 7270; [shopatsauce.com](http://shopatsauce.com)

**Lost luggage – where to buy shirts, socks and underwear**  
**Harvey Nichols**  
Mall of the Emirates  
Sheikh Zayed Road, Al Barsha  
+ 971 4 409 8888; [harveynichols.com](http://harveynichols.com)

**Something for the kids**  
**Camel dolls by The Camel Company**  
Shop 137, Souk Madinat Jumeirah  
+ 971 4 368 6048  
[madinatjumeirah.com/shopping](http://madinatjumeirah.com/shopping)

**Something for someone you love**  
**Arabic calligraphy love bracelets designed by Taalali Oman, available at Five Green**  
Garden Home, Oud Metha  
+ 971 4 336 4100; [fivegreen.com](http://fivegreen.com)

**Something for yourself**  
**Walnut tea box from Nada Deb's East & East Collection, available at the XVA store**  
[nadadebs.com](http://nadadebs.com)

## 07 Two-hour tour

- 01 **XVA Gallery**  
Batsakyia Historical District,  
Bur Dubai  
+ 971 4 353 5383; [xvagallery.com](http://xvagallery.com)
- 02 **Gold Souk**  
Al Ras, Deira
- 03 **The Third Line**  
Al Quoz 3  
+ 971 4 341 1367  
[thethirdline.com](http://thethirdline.com)  
The Middle East's premier contemporary art gallery, featuring regional artists.

## 09 Transport

Opt for taxis rather than renting. Some hotels provide guests with transport to and from the airport in addition to their own limousine services. Still, there are 15 rental companies located in the arrivals hall of the airport.

## 10 Fitness

**Good gym**  
**The Big Apple Gym**  
Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel  
[jumeirahemiratestowers.com](http://jumeirahemiratestowers.com)

**Alternative diversion**  
**The Pavilion Marina & Sports Club**  
Jumeirah Beach Hotel  
[jumeirahbeachhotel.com](http://jumeirahbeachhotel.com)

# 25/25 Dubai UAE

As the liberal, tax-free transit lounge between Europe and Asia, Dubai attracts visitors as diverse as Lebanese entrepreneurs, jellaba-wearing Saudi princes and sunburnt British tourists with a penchant for partying. Among the sprawling construction sites are some of the finest spas and hotels in the Arabian Gulf, including the landmark Burj al Arab. The best time to visit is between November and May, unless you enjoy 40C heat.

## Essentials

- 01 Arabic is the official language in Dubai but English is the most widely spoken.
- 02 Friday/Saturday is the weekend. Don't plan on doing any business on a Friday, it is a day for rest and prayer.
- 03 During the holy month of Ramadan those who are not fasting should be prepared to eat behind curtains.
- 04 Don't photograph local women unless you have permission.
- 05 Taxis are easy to come by, particularly at hotels and malls.

## Guide/Info

### Hotels

#### Independent and easy

Jumeirah Emirates Towers  
Sheikh Zayed Road  
+ 971 4 319 8732  
[jumeirah.com](http://jumeirah.com)

#### Dependable chain

Shangri-La  
Sheikh Zayed Road  
+ 971 4 343 8888  
[shangri-la.com](http://shangri-la.com)

#### Premium

Desert Palm  
Al Awir Road  
+ 971 4 323 8888  
[desertpalm.ae](http://desertpalm.ae)

### Dining

#### Fast breakfast

More Cafe  
Al Murooj, Doha Street  
+ 971 4 343 3779  
[morecafe.biz](http://morecafe.biz)

#### Business breakfast

The Glasshouse  
Hilton Dubai Creek  
+ 971 4 212 7551  
[hilton.com](http://hilton.com)

#### Mid-morning coffee

Shakespeare's  
Sheikh Zayed Road  
+ 971 4 331 1751

#### Working lunch with colleagues

Al Nafoorah  
Jumeirah Emirates Towers,  
Sheikh Zayed Road  
+ 971 4 319 8088  
[jumeirah.com](http://jumeirah.com)

#### Need-to-impress-clients lunch

Zuma  
Building 8  
DIFC, Gate Village  
+ 971 4 425 5660  
[zumarestaurant.com](http://zumarestaurant.com)

### Lunch on your own

Almaz by Momo  
Harvey Nichols,  
Mall of the Emirates,  
Sheikh Zayed Road  
+ 971 4 409 8877  
[malloftheemirates.com](http://malloftheemirates.com)

### Afternoon tea

Sahn Eddar  
Burj Al Arab  
+ 971 4 301 7777  
[burj-al-arab.com](http://burj-al-arab.com)

### Dinner with colleagues

Teatro  
Towers Rotana Hotel  
Sheikh Zayed Road  
+ 971 4 343 8000  
[rotana.com](http://rotana.com)

### Private dinner

Rivington Grill  
Souk Al Bahar,  
Old Town Downtown Burj  
Dubai  
+ 971 4 423 0903  
[rivingtongrill.ae](http://rivingtongrill.ae)

### Big dinner with partner/clients

Asado  
The Palace Hotel,  
Old Town Downtown Burj  
Dubai  
+ 971 4 428 7971  
[thepalace-dubai.com](http://thepalace-dubai.com)

### Drink after dinner

360°  
Jumeirah Beach Hotel,  
Umm Suqeim  
+ 971 4 406 8769 [jumeirahbeachhotel.com](http://jumeirahbeachhotel.com)

### Late bite

Mosaico  
Jumeirah Emirates Towers  
Hotel, Sheikh Zayed Road  
+ 971 4 319 8088  
[jumeirahemirates-towers.com](http://jumeirahemirates-towers.com)

### On the tiles

Boudoir  
Marine Beach Resort,  
Jumeirah Beach Road  
+ 971 4 345 5995  
[myboudoir.com](http://myboudoir.com)

### Reading

#### Bookshop

Kinokuniya  
The Dubai Mall, Sheikh  
Zayed Road  
+ 971 4 434 0011  
[kinokuniya.com](http://kinokuniya.com)

### Thank yous

#### Dates and delicacies

Bateel  
Burjuman Shopping Mall,  
Bur Dubai  
+ 971 4 355 2853  
[bateel.ae](http://bateel.ae)

### Shopping

#### Something you can't get anywhere else

Mosque alarm clock  
Classic City, Satwa  
+ 971 4 349 1012

#### Lost luggage – where to buy shirts, socks and underwear

Paul Smith  
Burjuman, Bur Dubai  
+ 971 4 352 0222  
[burjuman.com](http://burjuman.com)

#### Something for the kids

Camel dolls by  
The Camel Company  
Shop 137, Souk Madinat  
Jumeirah  
+ 971 4 366 8888  
[madinatjumeirah.com/shopping](http://madinatjumeirah.com/shopping)

#### Something for someone you love

Frankincense and rose  
petal tea from  
The Spice Souk  
Deira, central Dubai

#### Something for yourself

Quirky accessories and  
cupcakes from Kitsch  
Souk Al Bahar,  
Old Town Downtown Burj  
Dubai  
+ 971 4 367 4504  
[kitschconcept.com](http://kitschconcept.com)

### Two-hour tour

- 01 Gate Village  
DIFC, The Gate  
+ 971 4 362 2222
- 02 Bastakiya Historical  
District  
Old courtyard houses  
and windtowers.  
Bur Dubai  
[dubaitourism.ae](http://dubaitourism.ae)
- 03 Aerial city tour Seawings,  
Jebel Ali  
The only way to get your  
head around Dubai is  
from the sky.  
+ 971 4 883 2999  
[seawings.ae](http://seawings.ae)

### Transport

Opt for taxis rather than  
renting cars. Some hotels  
provide guests with  
transport to and from the  
airport in addition to their  
own limousine services.  
Still, there are 15 rental  
companies located in the  
arrivals hall of the airport.

### Fitness

#### Good gym

Quantum Health Club  
The Monarch Hotel,  
Sheikh Zayed Road  
+ 971 4 334 2966  
[themonarchdubai.com](http://themonarchdubai.com)

#### Alternative diversion

Dolphin Bay  
Atlantis Hotel, The Palm  
+ 971 4 426 1030  
[atlantis.thepalm.com](http://atlantis.thepalm.com)



# MONOCLE

A BRIEFING ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS, BUSINESS, CULTURE & DESIGN

issue 20 . volume 02  
FEBRUARY 09

- A AFFAIRS** Guns for hire – after Iraq, where next?
  - B BUSINESS** Three new Japanese retailers who inspire
  - C CULTURE** Boom! Pakistan's television explosion
  - D DESIGN** Fashioning a new running regime for 2009
  - E EDITS** Portland Property Prospectus, sounding good in Sydney and the fastest wood in Norway
- EXPO** The Busan bustle

## The pursuit of education

Worldwide  
Ten countries host 75 per cent of all the foreign students in the world. South Africa and Russia are the only two that are not developed countries. Most of their students come from neighbouring countries.



## House keeping

Lebanon

Lebanon has announced that it will give the Palestinian Liberation Organization's (PLO) offices in Beirut embassy status. That's good news for PLO leader Mahmoud Abbas (pictured below). Ever since the Arab League recognised the PLO as the sole representative of Palestine in 1974, a string of embassies has opened in the Arab world.

The Palestinian embassy in Lebanon, however, was closed after Yasser Arafat left the country in 1982, in the midst of the Lebanese civil war. According to a Palestinian diplomat, ever since the closure of the embassy the Palestinian camps in Lebanon (which house 400,000 refugees in dismal conditions) have been manipulated by various forces working against Lebanon.

"The reopening of the embassy will guarantee security in the camps and make sure Lebanon's sovereignty is respected," explains Leila Shahid, the Palestinian Authority's ambassador to the European Commission in Brussels. With talks of a Syrian embassy also opening soon, Lebanon is finally putting its diplomatic house in order. — CC

## On the rocks? Iceland's race to recover

From Reykjavik, a **SPECIAL REPORT** on a looming mass exodus and the people fighting to keep the country afloat

## Wage war

Saudi Arabia

If you are a teacher in Saudi Arabia, one of the richest countries in the world, chances are your salary is miserably low. This is why the kingdom's labour minister, Ghazi al-Gosaibi (pictured above), has announced a set of minimum-wage guidelines that are being prepared for jobs such as cashiers and teachers – but he hasn't revealed any numbers yet.

According to the International Labour Organisation, the minimum wage in the private sector is roughly 1,500 riyals, (£280) a month. The minister faces a few problems enforcing any new code because despite a government programme requiring companies to favour Saudi nationals, many firms hire foreign workers who are willing to accept lower pay. Saudi Arabia has a population of 26 million and employs seven million foreign workers, for whom there is no plan to set up a similar scheme. — CC



## Like it or hump it

Dubai

The world's first camel-milk chocolate has been launched in Dubai. Al Nassma (Arabic for a cool desert breeze) comes in date and arabia (local spices) flavours, and is available as a bar or in a box as a "caravan" of camel-shaped chocolates.

Camel milk, drunk by desert bedouins, is being promoted by the UN for its health benefits. The salty, smoky taste has until now put townies off, but the chocolates are proving popular at home and abroad. — YC

## Africa/Middle East



## City safari

Africa  
Africa's cities are growing faster than anywhere in the world. By 2050, Africa will have an urban population of 1.2 billion or nearly a quarter of the world's city dwellers.

## Mr Motivator

Congo [POLITICS]

Moïse Katumbi, the first democratically elected governor of Congo's mineral-rich Katanga province, has begun to turn the place round since he took over in 2007. The mining sector has been reformed, investment is up and the capital, Lubumbashi, is getting a spring clean. He's done it by personally funding what the province needs (he's from a wealthy mining family) and by taking a hands-on approach to its problems. Katumbi may not be perfect. Before he became governor he was accused of corruption, which he denies. But if more

leaders used some of his techniques, life could look up in a lot of African cities. — SB

## How to sort out a sink state Katumbi style:

- Ambulances:** Buy 60 ambulances and several hearses (there were none).
- Spot-checks:** Go to the tax offices at 08.00 to check the books – and see who's come to work.
- Music:** Organise and fund the Lubumbashi music festival, which features Africa's biggest stars.
- Football:** Bankroll the local football team – in this case TP Mazembe, one of the best sides in Congo.
- Cash:** Announce a minimum wage of \$150 (£107) a month and embarrass firms into respecting it.
- Resources:** Ban the export of raw metals and minerals.
- First impressions:** Plant roses at the airport.

## Q & A

Nir Barkat  
Mayor of  
Jerusalem  
Israel



Which cities are setting the benchmarks for quality of life? New York City. Mayor Michael Bloomberg hosted me a few weeks ago and I was very impressed with what he has done for the city.

And where is falling behind?

# MONOCLE

A BRIEFING ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS, BUSINESS, CULTURE & DESIGN

## Where to live and work? The Most Liveable Cities Index

Our 2009 survey of the **TOP 25 CITIES** for quality of life: who's improved, who's slipped and who's dropped out of Monocle's global ranking of the places that have it sorted

issue 25 . volume 03  
JULY/AUGUST 09

- 50** People, places and products to improve your life
- 25** Cities where the living is more relaxed and rewarding
- 20** Dates for your summer cultural diary
- 15** Staple accessories for travel, town and beach
- 10** Visionaries who make our cities hum
- 05** Developers who have the right idea
- 01** Firm that continues to engineer the world

## On the rails

UAE [TRANSPORT]

Abu Dhabi has decided it needs a public transport network. Learning from Dubai's mistakes – namely a lack of planning – a feasibility study will begin in August and construction could start in 2011. Besides helping traffic flow, psychologists speculate that a metro could lead to a less stressed population that's more comfortable mixing with different social and cultural groups. — YC

## Clean sweep

Burkina Faso [COMMUNITY]

Unlike most other cities in West Africa, Ouagadougou impresses by its orderliness. Well-tended avenues culminate in neat roundabouts. Public gardens add a splash of green to the Sahelian palette of reds. And the heaps of rotting rubbish that are common in Abidjan, Dakar and Conakry are few and far between here.

"We don't have much money, so what we did was take ladies from poor families [to clean the city]. At the beginning there were 20 – now there are 1,700," explains Simon Compaoré, who has been mayor since 1995. The women earn about £3 a day, but the mayor says grateful residents also give the army of cleaners extra food and money. — JC



## Burkina Faso facts:

**Name:** In 1984, Upper Volta became Burkina Faso, which means "Land of the upright men".

**Numbers:** one tenth of the 15 million inhabitants live in the capital Ouagadougou. About 60,000 move there each year.

**Quality of life:** 173 out of 179 in the UN Human Development Index.

around the next generation. How do we provide better education? Create more jobs in the future? How do we leave cleaner air and purer water?

## Do we need to bring back craft and manufacturing to our cities?

Each city must find its own, unique competitive advantages. In Jerusalem, we are focusing on two business clusters: culture-tourism and health and life sciences.

If you could move to another city, where would you go? I moved to Jerusalem when I was two weeks old. I love Jerusalem with all of my heart and am committed to returning it to the top of the map. — MK