

HOW TO RELOCATE TO DUBAI IN 30 DAYS

A Step-by-Step Guide





Contents

- 01** Discover why Dubai is the perfect destination for your relocation
- 03** Dubai offers you a wealth of benefits and opportunities
- 04** Which Dubai Visa is right for you?
- 05** Essential documentation to relocate with confidence
- 06** Identify the correct industry for your business
- 07** Pinpoint the ideal location (or jurisdiction)
- 08** Get to know the most popular free zones in the UAE
- 09** Tax efficiency and wealth management
- 11** Pick the right legal/corporate structure
- 13** Follow the UAE's rules for choosing a company name
- 14** Apply for your trade licence
Open a bank account for your business
- 15** Get access to corporate services to support your business growth
- 17** Know the top proven ways to finance your business
- 19** Health and education excellence: Top services for your family
Finding your new home: Accommodation and transportation tips
- 21** What to expect in Dubai's housing market
- 22** Embrace the change: Make Dubai your new home



Introduction

Discover why Dubai is the perfect destination for your relocation

Dubai stands out as a premier global city that offers a unique blend of modernity and tradition, creating an unparalleled environment for both individuals and businesses. With its futuristic skyline, diverse cultural landscape, and strategic location at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa, Dubai presents an enticing opportunity for relocation. The city's booming economy, favorable tax regime, and exceptional lifestyle amenities make it a top choice for expatriates from the United Kingdom and beyond.





UAE Business Advantage

0% tax on income, capital gains and inheritance





Dubai offers you a **wealth of benefits and opportunities**

Excellent Quality of Life

Dubai offers an excellent quality of life through a combination of world-class infrastructure, healthcare, education, innovation and smart city initiatives.

Cultural Diversity

Dubai is home to over 2.2 million expatriates from all over the world, contributing to a vibrant and multicultural society.

Family-Friendly Environment

Dubai is known for its family-oriented culture, with numerous parks, recreational centers, and family-friendly events.

Robust Economy

Dubai's diversified economy, which derives over 95% of its GDP from non-oil sectors, offers plenty of business opportunities, particularly in real estate, tourism, hospitality, finance, retail and trade.

Business Hub

Dubai is a global business center attracting multinational corporations and startups alike. Its free zones offer various incentives for businesses, such as provisions for tax and customs exemption.

Safety & Security

Renowned for its safety, Dubai is consistently ranked as one of the world's safest cities. It has a low crime rate, a strong police force, a keen focus on crime prevention, and outstanding emergency services.



Which Dubai Visa is right for you?

Understanding the visa regulations is crucial for a smooth relocation to Dubai. The type of visa you require depends on your purpose of stay, employment status, and family situation.

Employment Visa

The most common visa type, an employment visa is typically sponsored by an employer and grants an individual permission to reside and work in the country.

Freelance Visa

Designed for self-employed professionals, this visa allows individuals to work independently without a local sponsor.

Family Visa

As the name implies, this visa is for dependents of visa holders, including their spouse, children and parents.

Investor Visa

An investor visa is issued to individuals making significant investments in the UAE economy. This visa category offers various options based on investment amounts and types.

Golden Visa

The UAE Golden Visa is a 10-year residency permit offering multiple benefits, including visa flexibility and ability to sponsor family members. Eligibility criteria vary based on property ownership, investment, talent, or specific professions.

Green Visa

The Green Visa is a five-year residency permit designed to attract skilled professionals, investors, freelancers, and entrepreneurs. It offers greater flexibility and benefits compared with traditional employment visas.

Key considerations when choosing a visa

Purpose of stay: Determine whether you are seeking employment, investment opportunities, or self-employment.

Duration of stay: Consider your desired length of stay in the UAE.

Eligibility criteria: Understand the specific requirements for each visa type, such as income, qualifications or investments.

Dependents: If you are bringing family members, ensure they meet the eligibility criteria for dependent visas.

Visa processing time: Be aware of the processing time for different visa types.



Essential **documentation** to relocate with confidence

Having the correct documentation ready ensures a smooth and stress-free visa application process.

Key documents include:

- 1 Passport and visa copies
- 2 Birth certificates of main applicant and dependents
- 3 Marriage certificate (if applicable)
- 4 Educational certificates and degrees
- 5 Medical records
- 6 Employment certificates
- 7 Proof of funds (if required)
- 8 Pet documentation (if applicable)

Identify the **correct industry** for your business

When setting up a business in Dubai, it's crucial to determine its nature and corresponding industry. The UAE has restrictions on specific business activities, and it's essential to research which industries and areas permit them.

Take a look at the top and most profitable industries in the UAE as of 2024:



Construction



Real estate



Tourism



Logistics and transportation



Financial services



Healthcare



Retail



E-commerce



Oil and gas

Pinpoint the ideal location (or jurisdiction)

The UAE's business landscape is divided into different economic zones or jurisdictions — mainland, free zone and offshore. Each jurisdiction has its own pros and cons when it comes to business setup.

Assess the pros and cons of each jurisdiction and choose the best for your business.

Jurisdiction	Mainland	Free zone	Offshore
Foreign ownership	100% *	100%	100% of shares can be owned by a non-UAE resident
Trading regulations	All over the UAE and internationally	Within the free zone only and internationally	Cannot conduct commercial activities
Audits	Required	Might not be required**	Not required
Employee visa quota	Unlimited number of visas	Limited number of visas**	Cannot obtain resident visas
Corporate tax	Subject to corporate tax	Might not be subject to corporate tax***	Might not be subject to corporate tax***
Office Requirements	Requires an office lease agreement	Office space is not always required**	Cannot have a physical office

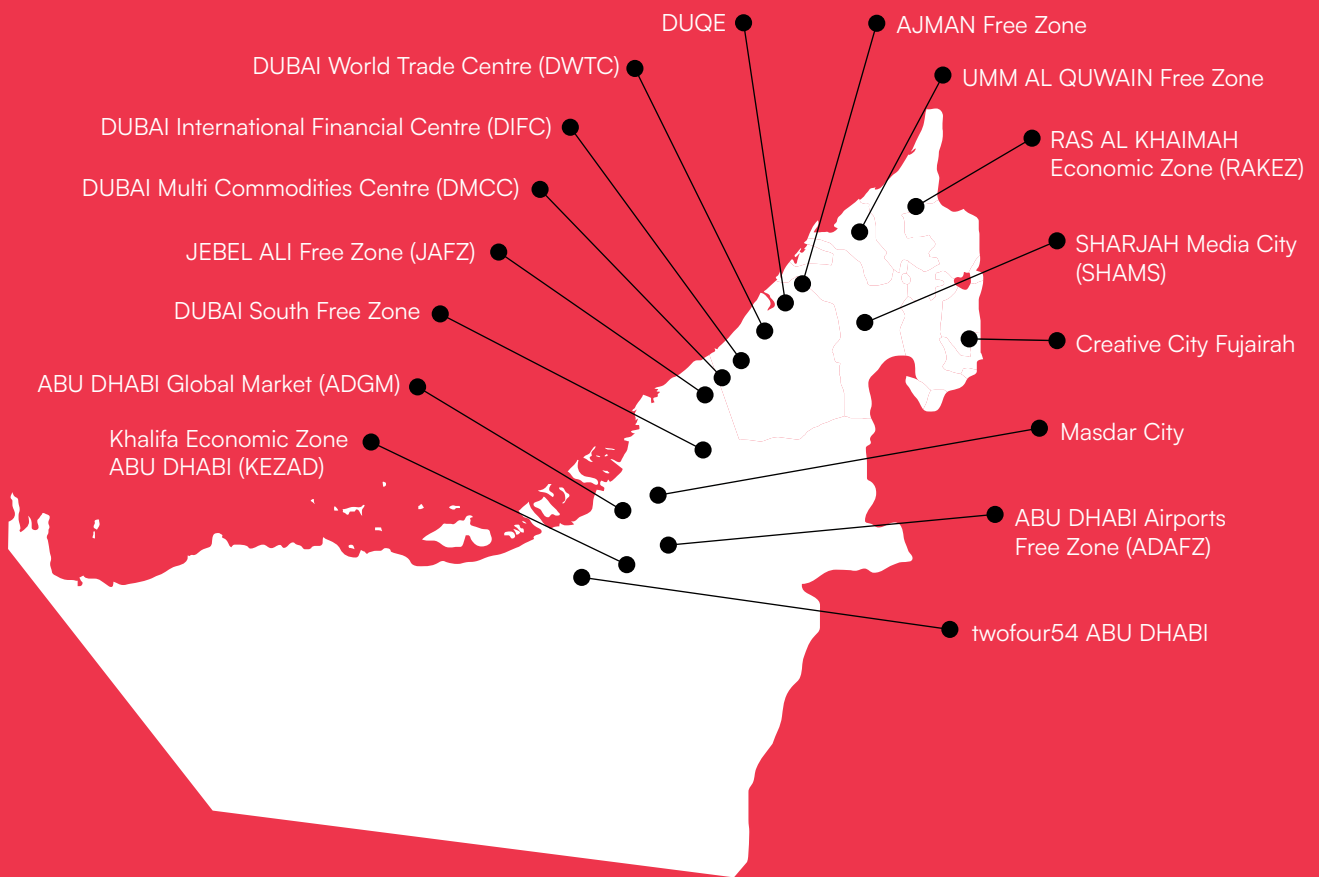
*Except in strategic sectors

**Depending on the free zone

***Depending on activities/operations

Get to know the most popular free zones in the UAE

The UAE has more than 40 free zones, each with its own unique advantages, requirements, processes and infrastructure. Choosing the free zone that best fits your business needs and goals is critical to your success.





Tax advantages for non-domiciled individuals

As a non-domiciled individual, you can enjoy significant tax benefits by relocating to Dubai. Non-domiciled means your permanent home is in a different country than where you currently reside. For example, a UK resident with a permanent home in India may qualify as non-domiciled in the UK. By moving their domicile to Dubai, they can protect their global income and optimize their tax position.

By establishing residency in Dubai while maintaining your non-domicile status, you can enjoy:

Personal Income Tax Exemption

Safeguard your foreign income.

Capital Gains Tax Freedom

Benefit from 0% tax on capital gains.

Inheritance and Gift Tax Exemption

Protect your wealth for future generations.

The corporate tax landscape

While the UAE introduced a corporate tax in 2023, it remains a business-friendly environment.

Key points to note:

Competitive Tax Rate

Enjoy a low corporate tax rate of 9%. (Certain business activities may qualify for a 0% corporate tax rate.)

Taxable Income Threshold

Companies earning less than AED 375,000 annually are exempt.

Incentive-Based System

Benefit from various tax incentives and exemptions offered by the government.



Did you know?

You can bid on government contracts and projects with a mainland licence.



Pick the right legal/corporate structure

Choosing the legal form of your company is crucial. Before applying for a business licence, you must determine your company's legal form. Below are the main corporate structures available in the UAE.

Mainland

Sole Proprietorship

- ✓ Single shareholder
- ✓ Unlimited liability

Civil Company

- ✓ 2 to 50 shareholders
- ✓ Unlimited liability

Limited Liability Company

- ✓ Up to 100 shareholders
- ✓ Limited liability

Free zone

Free Zone Establishment

- ✓ Single shareholder
- ✓ Limited liability

Free Zone Company

- ✓ Up to 50 shareholders
- ✓ Unlimited liability



UAE Business Advantage

Ranks 16th on The World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index



Follow the UAE's rules for choosing a company name

The UAE has some strict naming conventions, so before you commit to a company name, make sure it is legally acceptable. For example, you cannot include any offensive words and your company name cannot include names that refer to Allah, Him or any other religious, sectarian or political groups, such as the FBI or Mafia.

Quick checklist of business name rules in the UAE:

- 1 Avoid including offensive words or names that refer to Allah or anything related to Him.
- 2 Make sure all words are non-offensive when said in Arabic.
- 3 Your business name shouldn't start with words such as "International," "Middle East," or "Global."
- 4 Words or phrases referring to political, religious or sectarian groups are not allowed (e.g., FBI or Mafia).
- 5 Do not include the name of a country or government.
- 6 Punctuation marks should not be included in your business name.
- 7 If you're naming a company after a person, then that person should either be a company owner or partner.
- 8 Only full personal names can be included (both first name and last name are required).



Apply for your **trade licence**

Once your application has been processed, the government will issue your trade licence. Regardless of your chosen location or jurisdiction, you'll usually only require a few standard documents: a completed application form, shareholder passport copies, and the like.

3 types of mainland licences in Dubai

Commercial licence

A commercial licence is issued to businesses that carry out trading activities.

Industrial licence

An industrial licence covers businesses engaged in industrial and manufacturing activities.

Professional licence

A professional licence is for professional services, craftsmen and artisans.

Open a **bank account** for your business

Once you have your trade licence, visa, Emirates ID and other corporate documents ready, you can now open a bank account for your business. You will need a bank account before you can start trading in the UAE.

Opening a bank account is one of the biggest challenges that UAE startups face, which is why it's important to find a bank that matches your needs. For a faster process and minimum requirements, consider digital banks like Wio or Mashreq Neo Biz.





Get access to corporate services to support your business growth

Setting up your business in the UAE goes beyond just getting a trade licence. That is why it's important to choose a corporate services provider that can support your business as it grows.

Look for company formation specialists that can offer you support not just in getting a licence and visa, but can also help you with bank account opening, accounting, corporate tax, compliance, legal, insurance, and more.

Common corporate services in the UAE



Bank Account Opening



Corporate Tax & VAT



Accounting & Payroll



Mandatory Compliance Services



Golden Visa



Trademark & Copyright Registration



Will Registration



HR Services



Tourist Visa



PRO Services



Mail Management



IT Services



Virtual Receptionist



Branding Services



Legal Services



Second Citizenship



Health Insurance



UAE Business Advantage

Strategic geographic
position that offers easy
access to markets in the
Middle East, Asia, Africa
and Europe



Know the **top proven ways** to finance your business

The UAE attracted USD 23 billion in foreign direct investment in 2022, representing 60% of the FDI poured into the GCC bloc, according to a report by the United Nations. With a booming venture capital scene, the UAE has become a prime business hub for start-ups looking to tap into a lucrative market with robust financing options available.

Here are top 5 ways you can secure business funding in the UAE:

- 1 Local funding and outreach programs
- 2 Angel investors
- 3 Business incubators
- 4 Venture capitalists
- 5 Institutional investors



Did you know?

You can run **multiple e-commerce** websites on one e-commerce licence.





Health and education excellence: Top services for your family

Healthcare

Research health insurance options, locate reputable hospitals and clinics, and understand the process of registering with the Dubai Health Authority.

Education

Explore various school options, from public to private, and consider factors like curriculum, location, and fees.

Finding your new home: Accommodation and transportation tips

Accommodation

Research different neighborhoods, property types (e.g., apartments and villas), and rental prices. Consider factors like proximity to work, schools, and amenities.

Transportation

Explore public transport options, such as the metro and bus, or consider car ownership. Understand driving regulations, licensing requirements, and road conditions.

Understanding the Cost of Living in Dubai

Dubai offers a diverse range of lifestyles, from budget-friendly to luxurious. While it's known for its opulence, the city also caters to those seeking a more affordable lifestyle.

What to expect in Dubai's housing market

Rental Costs:

Studio apartments:	AED 3,000 - AED 6,000 per month
One-bedroom apartments:	AED 5,000 - AED 10,000 per month
Two-bedroom apartments:	AED 8,000 - AED 15,000 per month
Villas:	AED 15,000 upwards

Factors Affecting Rent: Location, size, amenities, and property type significantly impact rental prices.

Utility Bills and Getting Around:

Utilities:	Average monthly utility bills (electricity, water, internet) range from AED 500 to AED 1,500.
Transportation:	Public transport is relatively affordable, with metro fares starting from AED 3. Owning a car incurs costs for fuel, insurance, and parking.

Comparing Costs: Dubai vs. the UK

While Dubai offers a luxurious lifestyle, the overall cost of living can be comparable or even lower than some parts of the UK. However, specific expenses may vary. Factors such as lifestyle, location, and family size significantly impact overall costs.

Please note: These are approximate figures and costs can fluctuate. It's advisable to conduct thorough research based on your specific needs and preferences.

Embrace the change:

Make Dubai your new home

Moving your business and life to Dubai is a smart and strategic decision. Embrace the sunshine, maximize your business potential, and enjoy an unparalleled quality of life. With Virtuzone's expert guidance by your side, the transition to Dubai will be smooth and rewarding.

Next Steps:

- 1 Visit **virtuzone.uk** for more information and resources on relocating to Dubai.
- 2 Book a free consultation with our relocation expert. They'll guide you through every step of the process and ensure a successful move for your business.
- 3 Start dreaming about your new life in Dubai! Embrace the sunshine, the opportunities, and the endless possibilities that await you.



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Disclaimer:

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