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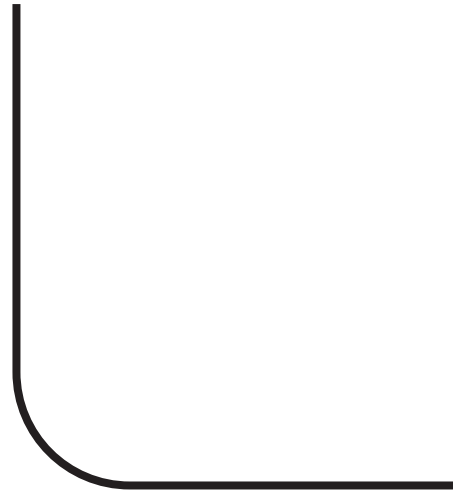
GUIDE TO SHARJAH

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GUIDE TO SHARJAH

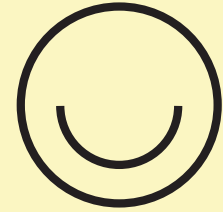
An insider's guide to Sharjah designed for visitors,
tourists and for those who wish to explore
the city better!

THE AFRICA INSTITUTE'S GUIDE TO SHARJAH



A local guide to Sharjah for tourists, visitors, and
anyone interested in getting to know the city better.

SMILE
YOU
ARE IN



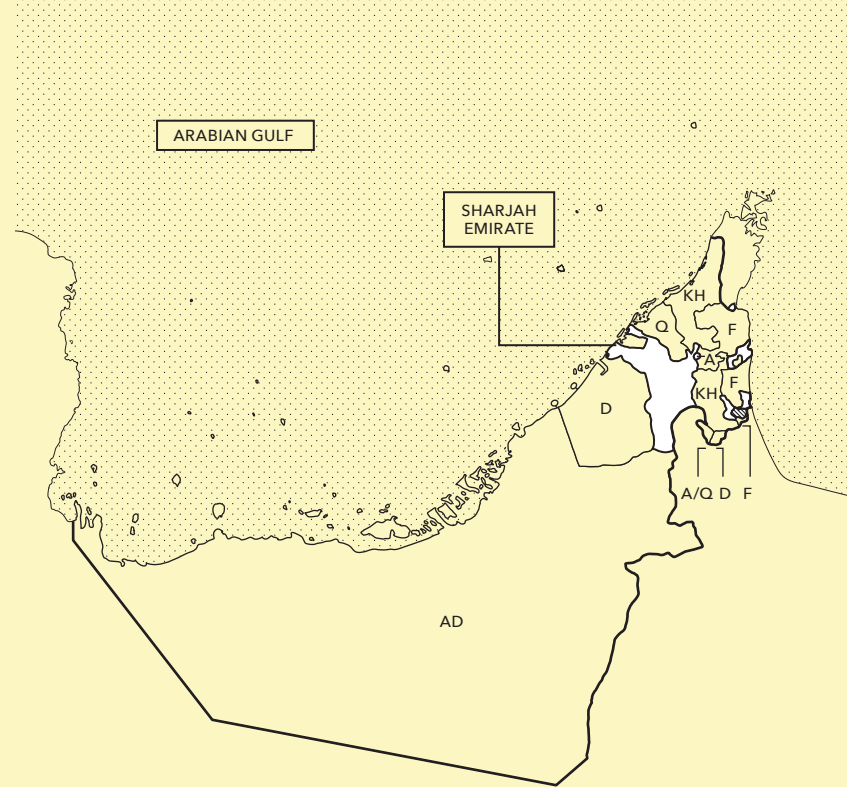
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SHARJAH

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'Sharjah' translates to 'East' or 'Rising Sun' and is the third largest emirate in the United Arab Emirates, covering approximately 2,650 square kilometers. It is the only emirate with land that has a coastline on both the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. Sharjah's strategic location, rich history, and natural resources have been key to the emirate's economic growth and development.

Sharjah's history dates back almost 10,000 years, with evidence of human settlement during the Neolithic, Bronze, and Iron ages (12400-400 BCE). As early as the 2nd century AD, the Greek geographer Ptolemy recognized Sarcoa (Sharjah) on one of his maps.



Emirates of the UAE

A.	Ajman
AD.	Abu Dhabi
D.	Dubai
F.	Fujairah
Kh.	Ras al-Khaimah
Q.	Umm al-Quwain
Sh.	Sharjah

ABOUT THE AFRICA INSTITUTE

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-  [africainstitute](#)
-  [theafricainst](#)
-  [theafricainstitute.org](#)

The Africa Institute is an interdisciplinary academic research institute that focuses on the study, research, and documentation of Africa, its people, and cultures. It aims to explore the complexities of Africa's past, present, and future and its connections with the rest of the world. Established in 2018 in Sharjah, UAE, The Africa Institute is the only institution of its kind located in the Gulf, which has been a historical nexus of African-Arab cultural exchange. This unique position allows the institute to expand the understanding of African and African diaspora studies globally.

The postgraduate curriculum at The Africa Institute is designed to train the next generation of critical thinkers in African and African diaspora studies. In addition to its program of international symposiums and conferences, visual art exhibitions and artist commissions, film and performance series, and community classes and outreach events, the institute aims to expand public understanding of Arab and African exchange within the scholarly community as well as the local Sharjah community, the region, and around the world.



Elizabeth W. Giorgis, Dagmawi Woubshet, Surafel Wondimu Abebe, and Salah M. Hassan in a panel discussion during Ethiopia: Modern Nation, Ancient Roots at the Africa Hall, 2019



The Africa Institute hosted Grammy award-winning musician and Senegalese superstar Youssou N'Dour who was joined by his group Le Super Étoile de Dakar in 2018



GENERAL INFORMATION



Things you should know before
you start exploring the city!

Safety & Convenience

Sharjah has been named as the fifth safest city in the world, according to Numbeo index (2022). The emirate is behind Abu Dhabi, who came in first place, but ahead of Dubai which is in 7th position. Additionally, Sharjah is a convenient city with each residential area equipped with a nearby grocery, pharmacy, laundry, cafeteria, and other amenities and services.

Climate

Sharjah has a hot desert climate, with warm winters and extremely hot and humid summers. Rainfall is generally light and erratic and occurs almost entirely from November to April. About two-thirds of the year's rain falls in the months of February and March, and Sharjah has an average of only 12 days of rain per year while it has more than 3,500 hours of sunshine per year. The emirate features oasis areas, including the fertile Dhaid region, where an assortment of vegetables and fruits are grown.

Winter falls between November and March, and the weather is warm and sunny, with cool evenings and daytime temperatures between 18°C and 30°C. Summer runs from May to September, with extremely warm temperatures reaching 40°C. During July and August, humidity reaches values of 100%.

Tip: Carry your hat, sun-glasses and stay hydrated!

How to Dress in Sharjah

Sharjah is generally more conservative than other neighbouring cities, and this applies to clothing and public appearance. Since 2001, Sharjah has developed 'decency guidelines' which cover a variety of public behavior guidelines, including how people should dress in public. The guidelines advise that women should

not wear clothing that exposes the stomach and back, reveals the full legs, or is tight and transparent. Men are urged to keep their shirts on, and to refrain from wearing short pants in public, including malls and public offices.

Working Days, Business hours and Weekends

Sharjah implemented the new four-day work week from Monday to Thursday, and the weekend from Friday to Sunday. Government offices and local businesses open and close early, often 7:30am - 3:30pm. Shops are normally open from 9am to 1pm and from 4pm to 9pm, but shopping centers stay open all through the day, and often later into the night, with extended working hours on weekends (Friday - Sunday).

Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community. During the month of Ramadan, businesses, schools and markets change their business hours. It's best to check their working hours before you travel to a place of choice.

Public Holidays

Here is a list of possible public holidays applicable to both public and private sectors:

- **Gregorian New Year:** 1 January
- **Eid Al Fitr:** From 29 Ramadan to 3 Shawwal* (4 days)
- **Arafah day and Eid Al Adha (Feast of Sacrifice):** From 9 to 12 Dhu al Hijjah* (4 days)

- **Dhu al Hijjah*** (4 days)
- **Hijri New Year** (Islamic New Year)
- **Prophet Mohammed's birthday**
- **Commemoration Day:** 1 December (Although the day is observed on 30 November, a public holiday for the same is given on 1 December)
- **National Day:** 2 and 3 December (2 days)

*Note: Islamic holidays are determined according to moon sighting.

Alcohol & Drugs

Alcohol and drugs are strictly prohibited in Sharjah. Being a dry emirate, any sale or possession of alcohol within Sharjah is forbidden. Alcohol is also available in the duty free and business class lounges of Sharjah International Airport, and if you have a personal alcohol license, you can bring in alcohol from other emirates and consume it privately at home. A person must be at least 21 to drink legally in the UAE. Visitors who wish to drink can go to other emirates. It is advisable to go by taxi or have a designated driver. Penalties for drunk driving are severe.

Tipping

Tipping is normally not expected in the UAE. A service charge is normally added to the end of bills in restaurants and hotels. However, tipping can be made to appreciate good service and food. It is not obligatory to give tips to the taxi drivers in Sharjah.

Emergency, Safety and Police Services

Below are the toll-free numbers to call in case of emergency:

- **Ambulance** - 998
- **Police** - 999
- **Fire department** - 997
- **Helicopter Service** - 999

Electric Points

In the UAE, the associated plug type is G, which is the plug that has three rectangular pins in a triangular pattern. Sharjah operates interchangeably on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz.

Newspapers

Newspapers in the UAE are widely available in both print and online formats dominated by the English and Arabic languages. There are several daily newspapers in the UAE, including Gulf News, Khaleej Times, The National, and Al Ittihad. These newspapers cover a range of topics from local news, international affairs, business, sports, and entertainment. In Sharjah, they can be easily found in bookshops, stationery stores, supermarkets, and select cafes, or read online for convenience.

Website Addresses for Local Newspapers

English:

- **The National** - thenational.ae
- **Gulf News** - gulfnews.com

- **Khaleej Times** - khaleejtimes.com

- **The Gulf Today** - gulftoday.ae

Arabic:

- **Al Bayan** - albayan.ae

- **Al Khaleej** - alkhaleej.ae

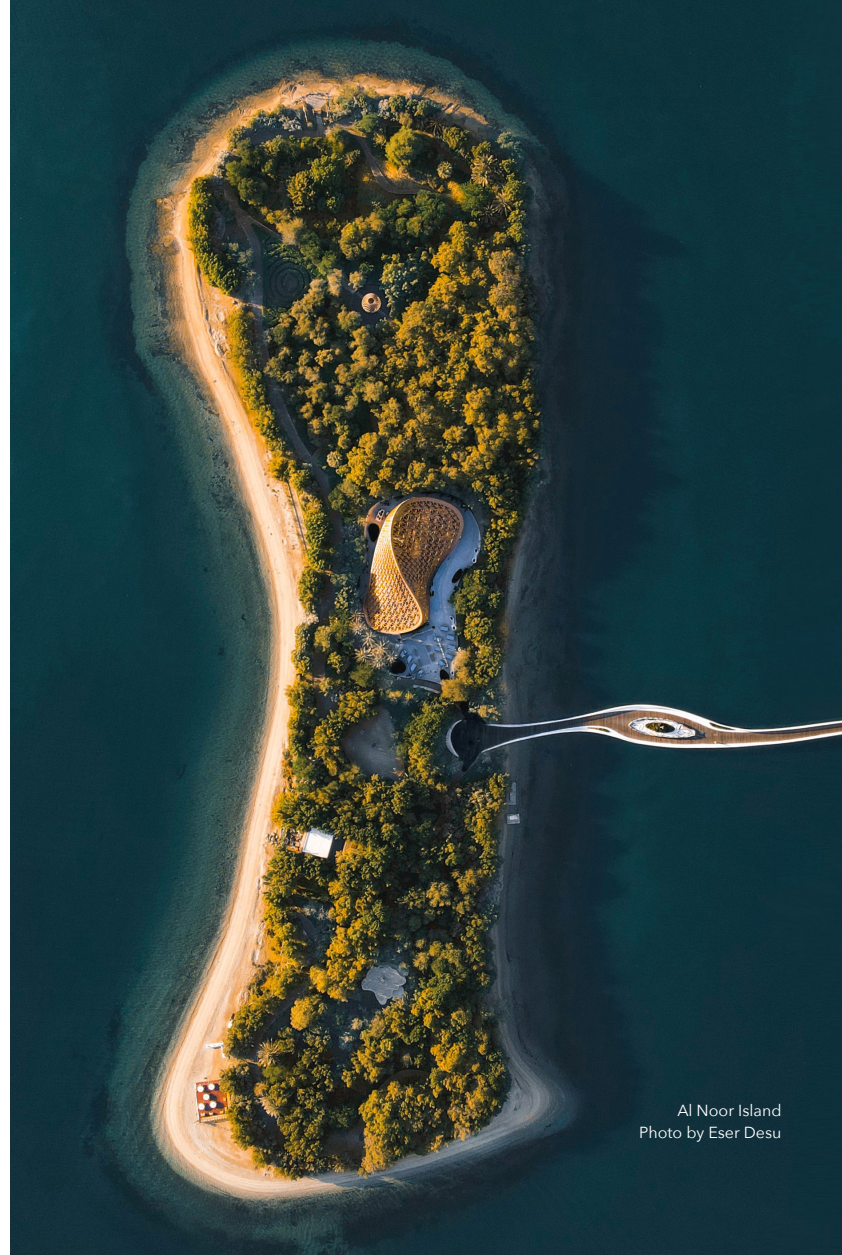
- **Al Ittihad** - alittihad.ae

Photography in Sharjah

For keen photographers, Sharjah offers many picturesque opportunities, from the ornate architecture of the mosques to the landscapes of the east coast. Normal tourist photography is welcome, but it is polite to ask permission before photographing people, particularly women and families. Caution should be exercised when posting pictures of others online, including via social media sites, and it is an offence in the UAE to publish someone's photo without their consent. As in many other countries, you should avoid taking photographs of government buildings, military areas, and strategic sites such as airports and ports.

Traffic (to and from Dubai)

Traffic from Sharjah to Dubai is extremely congested during rush hours (on weekday mornings from 8am until 10am, and evenings from 5pm until 6:30pm), so it is best to be avoided. If you need to commute to Dubai, try to do so outside of those hours or expect to be on the road for at least an hour and a half. It would be recommended to use Google maps to estimate the best routes to your destination.

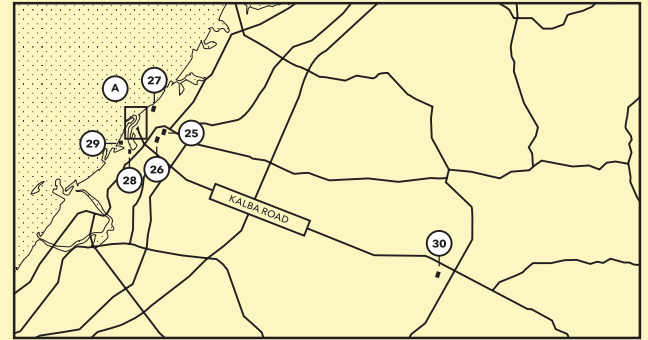


Al Noor Island
Photo by Eser Desu

The Africa Institute is situated in
Al Manakh, an urban
neighborhood located next to the
Kuwait Square roundabout, with
close proximity to Al Musalla and
Al Qasimia.

AND THE
MANAKH
NEIGHBORHOOD

THE AFRICA
INSTITUTE



Sharjah Cultural Locations

- 1 The Africa Institute
- 2 The Africa Hall
- 3 Sharjah Architecture Triennial (SAT) Al Qasimiyah Primary School
- 4 Al Mahatta Museum
- 5 Flag Island (Khalid Lagoon)
- 6 1971 - Design Space
- 7 Sharjah Art Foundation - Collections Building
- 8 Sharjah Art Foundation - The Mureijah Square - Al Mureijah Art Spaces
- 9 The Urban Garden
- 10 Bait Al Naboodah
- 11 Sharjah Calligraphy Museum / Emirates Handcraft Center
- 12 Ceramics House
- 13 Sharjah Heritage Museum
- 14 Sharjah National Theater
- 15 Sharjah Institute of Theatrical Arts
- 16 Sharjah City Walls
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- 22 The Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization
- 23 Sharjah Art Foundation - Rain Room
- 24 The Flying Saucer
- 25 The Sharjah Science Museum
- 26 The Sharjah Archaeology Museum
- 27 Arab Theater Institute
- 28 Maraya Art Centre / Barjeel Art Foundation
- 29 The Sharjah Maritime Museum
- 30 Mleiha Archaeological Center

The Africa Institute

Established in 2018, The Africa Institute in Sharjah, UAE, is an interdisciplinary academic research institute dedicated to the study, research, and documentation of Africa and the African diaspora.

The Africa Hall

Sharjah's newly rebuilt Africa Hall serves as a venue for conferences, symposia, lectures, film screenings and stage plays related to the activities of the Africa Institute and as a meeting place for the larger community of Sharjah and the UAE.

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm
+971 6 511 2435

theafricainstitute.org
info@theafricainstitute.org



Artist, Elisabeth Efua Sutherland with her for powerful performance titled, "*still Aluta Continua*" at Sharjah Art Foundation, Al Hamriya Studios, Sharjah on March 10, 2022. This was part of the second edition of The Africa Institute's annual country-focused season, '*Global Ghana: Sites of Departure/Sites of Return*'.



Architect Mona El Mousfy's renovation of Khalid bin Mohammed School, now the vibrant nucleus of The Africa Institute in Al Manakh, exemplifies adaptive reuse, preserving modern heritage and embodying Sharjah's commitment to knowledge, culture, and progress.

ART, HERITAGE

& CULTURE

Sharjah's art, heritage and cultural scene is quite robust. Offering a diversity of museums, Sharjah is a historic city center that is being reconstructed and remodeled, and is also the host of Sharjah Biennial, the Sharjah International Book Fair and the Sharjah Architecture Triennial.

Al Mahatta Museum (Al Manakh Area)

The Al Mahatta Museum is a hidden treasure located in the heart of Sharjah that aviation enthusiasts will love. It's a converted old airport building that now serves as an aviation museum. The museum, opened in March 2000, provides a fascinating insight into aviation history, with a particular focus on the UAE. The main attractions of the museum include a collection of fully restored propeller planes and the original refueling truck. The museum offers a journey through time, exploring the development of flight and aviation history from the 1930s to the present day. Tickets can be purchased on site and online.

+971 6 573 3079
info@sma.gov.ae
sharjahmuseums.ae

Al Noor Island

The small yet charming Al Noor Island is an idyllic getaway in the heart of Sharjah, offering visitors a serene escape from the bustling city. Spanning 45,470 square meters, the island combines art and nature, and is home to a Butterfly House, a Literature Pavilion, art installations, a cafe, and a children's playground. Visitors can enjoy a leisurely stroll along the 3,500 meter walkway, which is adorned with light installations and gardens featuring plants from around the globe. Al Noor Island is also home to stunning sculptures and light paintings, including the OVO, Torus, and Edgar Tezak artworks.

+971 6 506 7000 , +971 56 992 9983
alnoorisland.ae

Arab Theater Institute (Al Heerah Suburb, Sharqan)

The Arab Theater Institute, founded in 2007, is a non-profit organization focused on Arab theater affairs, associated with the Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Science. The

institute provides a learning and training environment for young people in the performing arts to enhance their technical, artistic, and managerial skills. Through this, it seeks to play a significant role in shaping artistic taste and deepening cultural knowledge of theater in the Arab world.

+971 6 524 0800
atitheatre.ae

Archaeological Sites in Sharjah

The emirate of Sharjah has several archaeological sites that bear witness to ancient civilizations. While some sites are open to the public regularly, others can only be visited by appointment. The Sharjah Archaeology Authority, located within the Sharjah Archaeology Museum in the Halwan area of the city, provides information on all the archaeological sites in Sharjah, including their location, accessibility, and visiting hours.

Bait Al Naboodah

The charming two-storey house, Bait Al Naboodah, was built in 1845 and is set around a sun-drenched courtyard with coral walls. It belonged to a successful pearl trader and is reconstructed to show how an extended family lived together in the mid-eighteenth century. The house features elaborately carved decorations, wind catchers on the walls, and a grand entranceway. Visitors can wander through the various rooms and admire the traditional Gulf architecture, showcasing the craftsmanship and ingenuity of a bygone era. Today, Bait Al Naboodah serves as a museum and is open to the public.

+971 6 556 6002
info@sma.gov.ae
sharjahmuseums.ae

Bait Al Shamsi

Located across from the Sharjah Art Museum, Bait Al Shamsi is a historic creekside house built around 1845 and partially restored in 1997. With excellent views of the neighborhood and the nearby creek, the house has been used for artist studios and residency spaces.

heartofsharjah.ae

Barjeel Art Foundation (Al Khan Area)

Located in the Maraya Art Center, Barjeel Art Foundation is a non-profit organization, founded by Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi in 2010 to manage and exhibit his personal art collection.

+971 6 556 6555
info@barjeelartfoundation.org
barjeelartfoundation.org

Ceramics House

The Ceramics House is situated in the Calligraphy Square in the Heart of Sharjah. It serves as a meeting point for professional artists and provides a rare platform for them to showcase their creations. The house was founded in 2001 and consists of nine fully-equipped rooms and a square that is well-suited for holding various events and activities, including periodic exhibitions, specialized workshops, intellectual sessions, open dialogues, contemporary art films, and several international art and cultural events.

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info@heartofsharjah.ae
heartofsharjah.ae

Emirates Fine Arts Society

The Emirates Fine Arts Society, established as a non-profit organization in 1980, is located next to the Sharjah Art Museum. It has been instrumental in nurturing Emirati artists, representing them at local and international art events, and providing media support. The Society focuses on promoting art education and art appreciation, with a particular emphasis on Emirati artists. It also organizes courses and produces a range of fine arts publications.

+971 6 548 4488
heartofsharjah.ae

Emirates Handcraft Center

The Emirates Handcraft Center, also known as Bait Al Mazroo'a, is a traditional home located in the southeastern side of old Sharjah, surrounded by a stone and stucco wall. Originally owned by Mohammed Salim Al Mazroo'a, a descendant of a Saudi and Yemeni family who moved to Sharjah, the house contains 17 rooms, with most of them being rectangular in shape and having doors overlooking the outer yard but no windows or other openings, following the norm for traditional houses. The house boasts of 27 exceptional structural elements, including the Molasses production room, columns, and plaster and wooden embellishments. The center offers a unique glimpse into the traditional handicrafts of the Emirates.

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info@heartofsharjah.ae

Flag Island (Khalid Lagoon)

The Flag Island, one of three islands on Sharjah's Khalid Lagoon, is connected to the mainland by two motorized bridges. It features a 123-meter-high flagpole showcasing the UAE flag, which was named the world's seventh-tallest during its opening on December 2, 2012. The island serves as a celebration of the UAE's union and offers a unique experience for visitors to Sharjah, with a mix of design, fitness, and leisure activities.

The Amphitheatre (The Flag Island)

Host to a programme of culturally-engaging live shows and concerts as well as Flag Day and National Day celebrations, the amphitheatre at The Flag Island accommodates 1000 seats with breath-taking views over the city.

Maraya Art Centre (Al Khan Area)

Launched in 2006, the Maraya Art Centre aims to meet the growing need for accessible local work and art spaces. The centre features a space called 'The Community' which houses the Maraya Video Archive and offers a range of educational workshops and activities. Artworks and exhibitions are featured in 'The Gallery', which rotates curated exhibitions and showcases the private collection of Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi from the Barjeel Art Foundation.

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info@maraya.ae
maraya.ae

Mleiha Archaeological Center

The Mleiha Archaeological Center is situated in the Central Region, approximately 65 km southeast of Sharjah city. The center is home to the Mleiha UNESCO World Heritage Site, which offers both a natural history gallery experience and

guided eco-tourism activities such as star-gazing, cycling, off-road drives, desert treks, rock climbing, overnight camping, and more. The archaeological sites in Mleiha range from Palaeolithic to the modern age, and include fascinating locations such as Fossil Rock, Um an-Nar Tomb, and the Mleiha Fort. The center features several significant structures, including Bronze Age tombs and pre-Islamic forts, as well as pottery, iron tools, and camel skeletons that have been uncovered in the area.

+971 6 883 1111
discovermleiha.ae

Umm an-Nar Tomb, a Bronze Era circular burial where you may learn about ancient Bedouin civilization long before modern Emirati culture.

Muweilah Archaeological Site

Under excavation since 1994, Muweilah is an Iron Age settlement located in Al Jurainah near University City. Archaeologists have discovered the remains of a flourishing settlement and evidence of trade with Iran, Mesopotamia and Yemen around 1000 BCE. Visits are by appointment only. Contact the Sharjah Archaeological Authority.

+971 6 566 8001
saa.shj.ae

Rain Room: Sharjah Art Foundation (Al Majarrah Area)

The Rain Room is an experiential installation that is part of the Sharjah Art Foundation Collection and was opened in May 2018.

It is the first of a series of artist-designed permanent spaces. Created by Random International in 2012, the installation features a continuous downpour of rain that visitors can walk through without getting wet. The installation is located in Al Majarrah, Sharjah and is now a permanent feature.

+971 6 561 0095
rainroom.sharjahart.org

Sharjah Arab Culture Capital Monument

In 1998, His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, a Supreme Council Member and the Ruler of Sharjah, unveiled the monument of Sharjah, renowned as the cultural capital of the Arab world, and subsequently relocated it to a new site within the University City of Sharjah, situated within the Islamic World Garden. This relocation aimed to bring the monument closer to the university's vibrant community, including numerous students, educators, and researchers who frequent the area.

Sharjah Architecture Triennial (SAT) (Al Qasimiyah Primary School, Al Manakh)

The Sharjah Architecture Triennial (SAT) is a platform that focuses on architecture and urbanism in a region that spans West Asia, South Asia, and the African continent. SAT is physically based in Sharjah and the UAE, and aims to engage diverse audiences and stakeholders in a collective conversation on architecture at the neighborhood, city, and regional levels. Through exhibitions, publications, and public programs, SAT

supports ongoing critical reflection and institutional research and programming in conjunction with its international editions. SAT is committed to taking a multi-disciplinary approach that fosters a comprehensive understanding of the broader role of architecture, including its relation to social and environmental issues.

+ 971 6 526 2201
info@sharjaharchitecture.org
sharjaharchitecture.org

Sharjah Art Foundation (Al Mureijah)

The Sharjah Art Foundation (SAF), situated in the Heart of Sharjah, comprises of five buildings that exhibit a diverse range of art, photography, and design, featuring exhibitions and artworks from around the world. The Collections building, which is one of the five buildings, houses the Orientalist collection of His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi.

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sharjahart.org

Sharjah Art Institute

The Sharjah Art Institute, situated between the Collections Building and Bait Al Serkal, provides specialized courses in drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, graphics, and art history.

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heartofsharjah.ae

Sharjah Art Museum (Al Shuwaiheen Area)

The Sharjah Art Museum houses diverse galleries that display works by established and emerging regional artists, as well as renowned 18th and 19th century artists and a vast collection of lithographs. Every month, the museum presents different exhibitions alongside its permanent collection. Furthermore, the museum has a wing dedicated to the region's contemporary art movement, which allows visitors to discover the vibrant contemporary art scene in the region.

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info@sma.gov.ae
sharjahmuseums.ae

Sharjah Calligraphy Museum

The Sharjah Calligraphy Museum, located in the Heart of Sharjah, is housed in the former residence of Hamad Al Midfaa. The museum displays significant works by local and international calligraphers on various mediums. It explores the history of calligraphy and celebrates this timeless Islamic art form in a well-lit, covered courtyard.

+971 6 569 4561
info@sma.gov.ae
sharjahmuseums.ae

Sharjah City Walls

The Sharjah City Wall, which dates back to the 16th century, still stands and encloses the area of Al Mureijah that is farthest from the Corniche. Made from coral and gypsum, the wall is constructed in the same traditional style as the houses in the area.

Sharjah Heritage Museum

The Sharjah Heritage Museum, established in 2003 and recently expanded for its 2021 reopening, features several galleries that showcase and celebrate the rich heritage of Sharjah and Emirati culture. The exhibitions focus on various aspects of local life, including the landscape, lifestyle, celebrations, livelihoods, customs, and oral traditions of Sharjah.

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sharjahmuseums.ae

Sharjah Institute for Heritage

The Sharjah Institute for Heritage is a scientific, academic, and cultural organization dedicated to preserving heritage knowledge and folk arts. It achieves this through its offering of professional diplomas in various specializations related to cultural heritage. These diplomas are designed and overseen by a team of experienced academics, experts, and specialists in the field. The main goal is to train knowledgeable individuals in different branches of cultural heritage, addressing the existing gaps in scientific methodologies and frameworks for heritage research. This initiative aims to move away from the limitations of individual efforts, which often lack robust methodological foundations. By providing comprehensive and integrated programs, the institute caters to the needs of researchers and individuals seeking to enhance their expertise and skills in this field.

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info@sih.gov.ae
sih.gov.ae

Sharjah Institute of Theatrical Arts

Home of two state-of-the-art proscenium theaters, one that seats 209 and one accommodating 266, the Sharjah Institute of Theatrical Arts promotes the culture of theater in Sharjah by providing a stage for theater, drama training, theatrical workshops and academic studies. The institute also hosts conferences and school productions.

+971 6 568 1333
info@sdg.gov.ae
sdg.gov.ae

Sharjah National Theater

Theater is highly valued in Sharjah as a significant contributor to the development of culture and public opinion. The Sharjah National Theatre was founded in 1975 under the patronage of HH Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi to produce meaningful plays and promote the advancement of theatre in Sharjah. The theatre hosts various events such as theatrical, cultural, and intellectual forums, as well as lectures, seminars, and workshops. It has also participated in theatre festivals both locally and internationally.

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heartofsharjah.ae

The Flying Saucer (Dasman Area)

The Flying Saucer, constructed in the mid-1970s, has housed various businesses over the decades, including a patisserie, tobacconist, and gift shop. In 2012, the Sharjah Art Foundation acquired the building, which has been used as a venue since 2015. Today, it features a curated library, working space, courtyard, and art space.

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info@sharjahart.org
sharjahart.org

The Mureijah Square

The Sharjah Art Foundation has incorporated four gallery spaces within the premises, which are built on the foundations of original heritage buildings in Al Mureijah Square. The design and construction of these new art spaces took into account the historical context and scale of the original buildings to ensure seamless integration with the existing area.

The Sharjah Archaeology Museum (Halwan, Al Abar area)

The Sharjah Archaeology Museum displays the archaeological heritage of Sharjah and the surrounding region, showcasing the stories of its earliest history through artifacts excavated by archaeologists. The museum features films, interactive games, and realistic models of burials, houses, and tombs. The collection highlights findings from excavations at the Neolithic cemetery of al-Buhais 18 (BHS18), dating back to around 4000 BC.

+971 6 566 5466
sharjahmuseums.ae

The Sharjah Fort (Al Hisn)

First built in 1823, this historical fort provides insight into the history, defense forces, and architecture of ancient Sharjah. Visitors can learn the history of the ruling family of Sharjah through an interactive display. This museum provides a comprehensive lesson on the history and heritage of Sharjah.

+971 6 568 5500
sharjahmuseums.ae

The Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization (Al Majarra Area)

Located in the heart of the city on the Majarra Waterfront, the Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization first opened in 2008 and showcases artifacts from around the Islamic World. The museum's exhibitions aim to provide a deeper understanding of scientific and cultural activities throughout Islamic civilization and offer historical and religious context to these artifacts.

+971 6 565 5455
sharjahmuseums.ae

The Sharjah Science Museum

The Sharjah Science Museum is an interactive exhibition that displays science, innovation, and technology, making it ideal for families and children. Visitors can explore over 50 different interactive exhibitions that cover topics such as physics, the universe, biology, chemistry, and more.

+971 6 566 8777
sharjahmuseums.ae

The Urban Garden

The Urban Garden, located within Al Mureijah Square, is often referred to as the 'secret garden' by community members. It is a space where people can come together for social and educational events, as well as to plant and harvest. The garden hosts creative workshops and workshops for garden enthusiasts alike.

1971 - Design Space

The Flag Island is home to 1971, a dynamic design space that showcases and fosters discussion around contemporary design in all its forms, from graphic and furniture to interior, interactive, and new technologies. With curated exhibitions and public programs, 1971 aims to become a leading design hub in the UAE, working in close collaboration with local designers, architects, schools, and universities. Beyond exhibitions, 1971 also offers a fully serviced café, serving as a welcoming meeting point for the public.

+971 6 528 4644
info@1971design.ae
1971design.ae



House of Wisdom
Photo by Owaiz Razaan

LIBRARIES

Al Dhaid Public Library

Opened in 2010 under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi– Ruler of Sharjah.

+971 6 516 6840 , +971 6 882 6500

dhaidlib@shjlib.gov.ae

shjlib.gov.ae

Dibba Al Hisn Public Library

Dibba Al-Hisn has been an important site of maritime trade and settlement since the pre-Islamic era. The library opened in 2003 under the patronage of H.H. Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi– Ruler of Sharjah.

+971 6 516 6870 , +971 9 244 1799

debbalib@shjlib.gov.ae

shjlib.gov.ae

House of Wisdom

Opened in 2019, The House of Wisdom is a contemporary library, workspace and cultural center designed by international architecture firm Foster + Partners. The Scroll monument outside the facility is a contemporary interpretation of the ancient Arabic scroll and a monument to celebrate Sharjah as the UNESCO World Book Capital for 2019.

+971 6 594 0000

houseofwisdom.ae

Sharjah Public Library

The Sharjah Library is a cultural landmark, and one of the oldest libraries in Sharjah. Established in 1925 as Qasimi Library by Sheikh Sultan bin Saqr Al Qasimi, it was originally located in

the Sharjah Fort and was used by the ruler to keep his personal collection of books. Today, the library offers a wide range of books, references, letters, scientific journals, audio-visual aids, and other information sources that are beneficial to researchers.

+971 6 516 6888
shjlib@shjlib.gov.ae
shjlib.gov.ae

Kalba Public Library

Opened in 1989 under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi, the Ruler of Sharjah, Kalba Public Library overlooks the Kalba Corniche.

+971 9 277 8631
kalbalib@shjlib.gov.ae
shjlib.gov.ae

Khor Fakkan Public Library

Opened in 1989 under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi, the Ruler of Sharjah, the Kalba Public Library is a subsidiary of the Sharjah Book Authority (SBA) and overlooks the Kalba Corniche.

+971 6 516 6850 , +971 9 238 6900
khorlib@shjlib.gov.ae
shjlib.gov.ae

Sharjah Mosque Library

Sharjah Mosque Library serves as a collection hall equipped with a unique treasury of books and antiques from different Islamic eras. The mosque welcomes non-Muslim visitors and knowledge enthusiasts from around the world.

+971 6 505 5888
sia.gov.ae

Wadi Al Helo Public Library

Wadi Al Helo Public Library is situated in the Sweet Valley, also known as Wadi Al Helow, which was once considered one of the harshest geographical areas in the Emirate of Sharjah. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi, the ruler of Sharjah, it has now become one of the most beautiful villages. The library opened in 2008 under his patronage, and it is located between Kalba and Hatta.

+971 6 516 6860 , +971 4 852 5616
wadilib@shjlib.gov.ae
shjlib.gov.ae

UNIVERSITIES

Al Qasimia University (AQU)

Al Qasimia University is an Islamic institution that focuses on Islamic studies, Sharia law, and related disciplines. It aims to promote Islamic knowledge and values while fostering academic excellence and research. It was established in year 2014 by its founder, president and chairman, the ruler of Sharjah His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi.

+971 6 5181111
alqasimia.ac.ae

American University of Sharjah (AUS)

American University of Sharjah is a private university in the United Arab Emirates. It was founded in 1997 by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah. The university offers bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees.

+971 6 515 5555
aus.edu

Dr. Sultan Al-Qasimi Center for Gulf Studies

The Center, located near the University City Hall in Sharjah, is unique in that all its contents originate from His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad al-Qasimi's collections. Set amidst the well-maintained grounds of Sharjah's university district, the center boasts a rich collection of centuries-old maps, manuscripts, and books that provide researchers with integrated and comprehensive historical and geographical research materials tracing the development, history, and heritage of life in the Arabian Gulf. In addition to His Highness's private collection, the center houses a library and archive with over one and a half million historical documents, maps, and records, some of which are rare.

+971 6 558 5855
dsqc.ae

Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT)

The Higher Colleges of Technology in Sharjah is a prominent institution of higher education, offering a diverse range of academic and vocational programs to students. As part of the HCT system in the United Arab Emirates, the Sharjah campus provides a modern and innovative learning environment for men and women. With state-of-the-art facilities and a commitment to academic excellence, the Higher Colleges of Technology in Sharjah prepares its students for successful careers in various industries. The institution focuses on practical, hands-on training, aligning its curriculum with the needs of the job market. Through its various faculties and campuses, HCT in Sharjah continues to play a crucial role in shaping the future workforce of the region, fostering a culture of innovation and research.

+971 800 69428
hct.ac.ae

Lincoln University of Business and Management (LUBM)

Lincoln University of Business and Management is a private institution based in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, with campuses in Sharjah and Fujairah. LUBM offers management programs in bachelor, master and diploma levels in association with international institutions. With a strong focus on practical application and industry relevance, the university equips its students with the necessary skills to excel in the dynamic business world. Through experienced faculty and modern teaching methods, Lincoln University strives to nurture leadership qualities and entrepreneurial spirit among its students. With a commitment to academic excellence, the university prepares graduates to become successful business professionals and leaders in their respective domains.

+971 6 598 2111
lincoln-edu.ae

London American City College (LACC)

London American City College is a reputable higher educational institution in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) accredited by the European Council for Business Education (ECBE) and the Accreditation Service for International Schools, Colleges, and Universities (ASIC) in England. It has also been awarded the status of Candidate for Accreditation by the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE) in the USA. LACC is committed to providing world-class European and American education and has a rich heritage, founded by two renowned professors with over 42 years of experience. The college has produced over 15,000 successful graduates and post-graduates who are excelling in multinational corporations and local industries. LACC focuses on developing essential skills and traits desired by employers, and its courses are offered

in partnership with top-ranking universities in America and Europe. The college provides students with excellent facilities and a global learning environment, and its graduates can easily migrate to various countries for their future careers.

+971 800 5222
lacc.ae

Sharjah Academy of Astronomy, Space Sciences & Technology (University City)

The Sharjah Center for Astronomy and Space Sciences (SCASS) promotes astronomy and space sciences education in the UAE and the Arab world. It offers attractions such as a planetarium, astronomy and space exhibitions, an astronomical observatory, and a cosmic park, along with a cafeteria and gift shop. It opened in 2015 and aims to become a recognized destination for education, research, and tourism.

+971 6 516 6000
saasst.ae

Sharjah Research, Technology, and Innovation Park

The Sharjah Research, Technology, and Innovation Park was established in 2016 by a royal decree of H.H. Sheikh Sultan Bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, the Ruler of Sharjah, in the United Arab Emirates. The park's main objective is to develop and manage an innovation ecosystem that promotes research and development, as well as supports enterprise activities and the triple helix collaboration between industry, government, and academia. As a free zone, SRTIP offers a variety of services, incentives, and benefits to local and international companies in the fields of technology, innovation, and R&D, making it a strategic location for businesses seeking growth and expansion opportunities in the region.

+971 6 502 2000
srtp.ae

Skyline University College (SUC)

Skyline University College is a private institution offering undergraduate and postgraduate programs in business administration, information technology, and other fields. The university emphasizes practical learning and aims to prepare students for successful careers in their respective fields.

+971 6 544 1155
skylineuniversity.ac.ae

Success Point College

Success Point College in Sharjah is a reputable educational institution that offers three levels of studies including Diploma, Bachelor's, and Master's Programs designed for young students and working professionals. All programs lay equal emphasis on research, case studies, and internships to ensure that students develop all-around theoretical and practical knowledge. All Bachelor's and Master's programs offered by Success Point College are validated by Arden University, UK university, and diplomas are offered by OTHM, which in turn, is accredited by Ofqual (Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) in the United Kingdom. The programs offered are both internationally recognized and federally approved, enabling learners to effectively use the qualification for professional development and continuous studies. The programs are designed to ACCA and CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants) curriculums.

+971 800 303030
successpoint.ae

University City

Established in 1997 by His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, member of the Federal Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, University City is home to over 10 educational institutions situated along a wide landscaped boulevard, the various university buildings feature a range of architectural styles, including ornate entrance gates and great domed libraries and classroom buildings.

+971 6 511 4111
universitycity.gov.ae

University of Kalba

In 2023, His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi issued an Emiri Decree establishing the University of Kalba as a non-profit Arab academic institution in Sharjah, with full legal, financial, and administrative independence, under his leadership.

+971 9 2034555
ukb.ac.ae

University of Sharjah (AOS)

The University of Sharjah is an Emirati private national university located in University City, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. It was established in October 1997 by its founder the ruler of Sharjah Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi to meet the emirate of Sharjah's aim of educational needs. UoS offers 122 programs across multiple academic disciplines.

+971 6 558 5000
sharjah.ac.ae

Westford University College (WUC)

Westford University College is a private educational institution offering programs in business management, marketing, finance, and human resources. It focuses on providing accessible education and flexible learning options to meet the needs of working professionals and aspiring students.

+971 55 872 0177
mywestford.com

PLACES OF WORSHIP

In total, Sharjah has over 600 mosques in total. We have listed a few of the most popular and notable, in addition to a list of some of Sharjah's most well-visited churches.

General Etiquette in Places of Worship

When visiting places of worship, it's important to be aware of general etiquette. If you're not praying, it's best to visit during non-prayer times. Dressing modestly, keeping noise to a minimum, refraining from eating inside, and following instructions for footwear are all important considerations. Women should cover their hair in mosques.

It's also essential to be mindful of your surroundings, maintain a calm atmosphere, and show respect for the place and its worshippers.

MOSQUES

Sharjah is home to over 600 mosques, and the following are among the most well-known:

Al Noor Mosque

Located on the Khalid lagoon on the Buhaira Corniche, Al Noor Mosque's design largely inspired by the Sultan Ahmed Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey. Al Noor Mosque is an example of traditional Islamic architecture. Completed in 2005, it is an example of traditional Islamic architecture, featuring intricate frameworks, sweeping curves, and soaring spires. Al Noor Mosque is the first mosque in Sharjah to open its doors to the expatriate community and visitors, under the auspices of the Sharjah Center for Cultural Communication, to promote learning about UAE national culture and religion.

If you're interested in visiting the Al Noor Mosque, you can join a special one-hour tour every Monday and Thursday at 10:00 AM. Please note that registration is required for these tours. Private visits can also be arranged upon request between Sunday and Thursday.

Contact: Sharjah Centre for Cultural Communication (SCCC) located on Wasit Street, Al Abar, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates open on Monday - Thursday: 8:00am - 2:00pm

+971 6 568 0055
shjculture.com

Sharjah Mosque
Photo by Aboody



Al Qasimia University Mosque

Al Qasimia University Mosque, located in the Al Qasimia University Campus in Muwailih Commercial, is considered an architectural masterpiece. It follows a Fatimid design that incorporates closely packed rocks in the construction of its external walls. The mosque consists of two floors, with the ground floor dedicated to men and the upper floor designated for women. With its spacious layout, the mosque can accommodate more than 4,000 worshippers.

Al Zahra Mosque

Al Zahra Mosque, located next to the Sharjah Art Foundation near the Corniche, welcomes worshippers on a regular basis. The mosque is adorned with hand-painted blue tiles, which is how it gets its name, as 'Zahra' means blue in Arabic.

King Faisal Mosque

This modernist mosque was designed by Saudi architect Abdul Rahman Abdul Hafidh Al Junaidi and was inaugurated in January 1987 after more than two years of construction. With a total area of 12,000 square meters, the mosque can accommodate up to 16,670 worshippers.

Sharjah Mosque

Located in the area of Tay, at the junction of the Emirates Road and the road to Mleiha, the Sharjah Mosque is the largest mosque in Sharjah. It officially opened in 2019 and has a capacity to accommodate over 25,000 worshippers. In addition to the main prayer hall, the mosque features a library, souvenir shop, museum, and fountains. A rubber track encircles the mosque for visitors who want to go for a walk around the complex. There are also two ablution areas and 100 wheelchairs available for elderly visitors.

CHURCHES

Most of Sharjah's churches are in Al Yarmook neighborhood.

Church of the Living God

A Pentecostal church in Sharjah, the Church of the Living God is located right next to the Russian Orthodox Church.

+ 971 55 743 3706
clgi.org

Russian Orthodox Church

With an area of 1,800 square meters, the Russian Orthodox Church is the largest church in the UAE. Also known by the name St. Philip the Apostle Russian Orthodox Church, the planning for construction began in 2005, and it was completed and opened to the public in August 2011. The church is open to the public on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

+971 55 685 0331
prav-church.ae

Sharjah City Assembly of God Church

Established in 2000, Sharjah City Assembly of God is affiliated to Malabar District Council of the South India Assemblies of God.

+971 6 8827084
sharjahcityag.com

St. Gregorios Orthodox Church (Malankara Orthodox)

+971 6 566 9622 , +971 6 5661765
gulfparumala.com

St. Gregory the Illuminator (Armenian Orthodox Parish)

Also known by the name Yerevan Cathedral, the Saint Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral is the largest Armenian Apostolic Church--the national church of Armenians--in the world. The church comprises three buildings; the Cathedral with 1,700 seats and the Chapels of St. Tiridates the King and of Saint Ashken the Queen (each with 150 seats). The church was completed and opened to the public in the year 2001.

+971 6 566 0320
emahay.com

St. Martin's Anglican Church

St. Martin's Anglican Church follows the Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, under the leadership of Bishop Michael Lewis. In the UAE, the church partakes in the Chaplaincy of Dubai, Sharjah and the Northern Emirates. St. Martin's Anglican Church runs various ministries, where each ministry concentrates on a particular group of people; women, teens, and children or a matter of importance (sports, activities, fellowships).

+971 6 566 3388
stmartinsshariah.org

St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Soonoro Patriarchal Cathedral

One of the oldest churches in Sharjah, St Mary's Jacobite Syrian Cathedral was established in the 1980s. In addition to its regular services, this church also provides educational services for children on Sundays.

+971 6 566 3384
stmarysshariah.com

St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church

Founded in 1971, St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church serves many different communities in Sharjah, and offers masses in various languages, including English, Arabic, Tagalog, Tamil, Urdu and Malayalam, amongst others.

+971 6 566 2424
stmichaelsshariah.org

St. Thomas Marthoma Parish Sharjah

The Sharjah Marthoma Parish was established in the 1970s by Marthoma Christians who migrated to the UAE for job opportunities. It began as a prayer group in Sharjah and later expanded to include groups from other emirates. In 1997, they consecrated their own church building after years of faith and determination. The parish actively participates in charity projects in India, focusing on development, housing, education, and disaster relief. Today, it serves as a symbol of unity and cultural heritage, with over 4000 members and families in the vibrant Sharjah community.

+971 6 566 9868
marthomaparishshariah.com

The Church of South India (CSI)

The Church of South India (CSI) is the largest uniting church in the whole world. There are a total of eight parishes in Tamil Nadu, six in Andhra Pradesh, four in Kerala, three in Karnataka, and one in Sri Lanka. The CSI Tamil Church in Sharjah is the mother church of all the Tamil churches in UAE. The worship services and other programmes in this church are conducted in Tamil.

+971 50 703 2150
csitamilshariah.com



HOTELS &

LEISURE



HOTELS

Carlton Hotel

This 4-star resort offers an outdoor pool and tennis court, right next to the beach. Set in green gardens in Al Khan, it is 20 minutes' drive from Dubai.

+971 6 528 3711
sharjahcarlton.website

Coral Beach Resort

A 4-star resort hotel surrounded by landscaped gardens and the Arabian Gulf.

+971 6 522 9999
hnmhotelgroup.com

DoubleTree Hilton

Overlooking Al Majaz Waterfront, the hotel and residences are a five-minute walk from the city center. Al Noor Island and the Amphitheater are less than four kilometers away by car.

+971 6 511 1900
hilton.com

Four Points Sheraton

Located in the center of town close to shopping and entertainment, as well as cultural and business hubs.

+971 6 513 1000
marriott.com

Marbella Resort

Conjuring up visions of Iberian grandeur and luxury, the Marbella Resort Sharjah is the ideal family getaway offering a secluded and intimate ambiance.

+971 6 574 1111
sharjahnationalhotel.com/marbella-resort/

Sheraton Sharjah Beach Resort & Spa

Resort offering four restaurants, outdoor pools and a spa, gym and private beach area.

+971 6 563 0000
marriott.com

Swiss-Belhotel

Located a few minutes' drive from Sharjah Beach, Swiss-Belhotel Sharjah offers 205 non-smoking rooms. Heart of Sharjah is 1.4 km from the accommodation.

+971 6 563 777
swiss-belhotel.com

The Act Hotel

Modern hotel located near the Sharjah Corniche, offering a spa, outdoor pool and dining options.

+971 6 598 0000
theacthotel.com

The Chedi Al Bait

Contemporary design hotel set in 4 traditional manor houses featuring an outdoor pool, a luxury spa, and terrace dining.

+971 6 502 5555
ghmhotels.com

Occidental Sharjah Grand

This 4-star property is located on the beach in Sharjah, overlooking the Arabian Gulf. It offers a fitness center, hot tub, tennis court, massage treatments, and a large outdoor pool with a waterslide, along with on-site restaurants. The hotel also has a 24-hour reception desk that can provide information about the local area and the hotel's car rental service.

+971 6 593 7979
barcelo.com

Pullman

Modern quarters in an upscale high-rise hotel with dining and a female-only spa, plus pools and a gym.

+971 6 591 0000
pullman-sharjah.com

SPAS & SALONS

Al Habasha Ladies Saloon (Halwan Suburb, Al Yarmook)
+971 55 637 0564

Al Inekas Ladies Salon (Al Mahatah)
+971 6 525 7200
alinekasladiessalon.com

Al Mansour Ladies Saloon

With several branches in Sharjah, this is a hair, beauty and nails saloon for women only.

+971 6 545 6774

Al Marasim Ladies Parlor

+971 6 568 9722

Amouage

A modest ladies-only beauty spa
+971 6 528 4888

Anwar Addis Ababa ladies salon (New Al Taawun Rd)
+971 50 102 7504

Bedashing Beauty Lounge (2 Branches)

- Al Jada (Misk 2, Muwaileh)
- Zawaya Walk (University City Road)

+971 600 560037
bedashingbeauty.com

Dalouk Spa

Luxury spa experience with an extensive facial menu, located inside the Sharjah Ladies Club.

+9716 506 7880

Ethiopia Ladies Saloon (Halwan Suburb , Al Yarmook)
+971 55 204 4547

Madinat Addis Ababa Ladies Salon (Al Nahda St)
+971 6 525 9994

Moon Beauty Parlor

Go to place for ladies henna tattoos

+971 6 568 4502

Orchid Beauty Boutique

The Orchid Beauty Boutique is situated within the Sharjah Ladies Club, offering high-quality beauty services. With a sophisticated interior design, it stands out as one of the best beauty boutiques in the UAE. The boutique features high-end hair, nail, and skin care products, along with an experienced team of beauty professionals.

+971 6 506 7878
slc.ae

Saga Spa for Men

This spa offers a range of spa services for men only. It's located in University city, Al Maha building.

+971 6 544 3344

Shine Spa

Shine Spa, situated within the Sheraton Sharjah Beach Resort, provides a range of services for guests. These services include body scrubs, massages, fitness classes, manicure and pedicure, body wraps, and access to steam rooms. To ensure availability, appointments are required for spa treatments.

+971 6 599 0077

Stone Salon

The Stone Salon is a salon exclusively for women that specializes in nail and hair services. In addition to their beauty services, they also offer coffee to their clients.

+971 6 555 3390

The Spa at The Chedi Al Bait

The Spa at The Chedi Al Bait hotel provides a luxurious experience for its guests, but also accepts appointments from visitors. Their spa services range from traditional hammams to various massage styles, as well as sauna and spa treatments for relaxation.

+971 6 502 5555

Trimmers Gents Salon & Spa

With several branches in Sharjah, men can get their hair cuts, spa services at reasonable prices.

+971 6 552 0242

For your pets:

Woofeline Mobile Pet Grooming Service

Woofeline offers exceptional pet care in Dubai and Sharjah, delivering affordable pet spa and grooming services through a skilled mobile team, catering to pet owners across the UAE.

+971 52 103 3030
thewoofeline.com

Yalla Grooming

Yalla Grooming's comprehensive grooming services, expert care and a stylish makeover for all pets especially for dogs, cats, birds and rabbits.

+971 58 264 5050
yallagrooming.com

PUBLIC BEACHES

Sharjah offers a variety of public and private beaches located throughout the city and eastern regions of the emirate. However, visitors should be aware that Sharjah is a conservative emirate where a dress code requiring shoulders and knees to be covered applies in all public areas. In privately owned or operated beach areas, standard swimwear is generally acceptable.

Al Khan Beach

Al Khan Beach is a public beach, featuring a dedicated area for swimming and water sports, in addition to a surf school which offers kayaking, parasailing, surfing, and flyboarding. The beach also has a playground for smaller children, and is near to the Sharjah Maritime Museum and Sharjah Aquarium. The beach also has showers, changing rooms, and toilets.

Heera beach

Al Heera Beach is the city's longest shoreline, spanning 3.5 kilometers along the Arabian Gulf. Visitors can enjoy various activities and dining options, including a jogging track, bike path, sports fields, and a children's play area. The beach also features Sharjah's first professional skate park, 'Kota Skate Park', catering to all levels of skaters and roller sports like skateboarding, roller skating, scootering, and BMX.

Public Beaches

The area from Al Khan Lagoon to Al Mamzar Lagoon, situated on the border between Dubai and Sharjah, is an active location for motorised water sports.

ACTIVITIES & PARKS

Al Jada Food Trucks

Al Jada Food Trucks in Sharjah offer a diverse culinary experience with a variety of cuisines on wheels, creating a vibrant hub for food enthusiasts and community gatherings. Explore a range of delectable offerings while enjoying the lively ambiance of this outdoor dining destination.

Al Jada Skate Park

Al Jada Skate Park is a popular attraction located in the heart of Sharjah's Al Jada development. It is the perfect destination for skateboarding enthusiasts and offers an opportunity to show off their skills on the ramps, bowls and rails. The park has an excellent layout and design, and its facilities cater to all levels of skateboarding proficiency, from beginners to experts. The park also hosts regular events and competitions, making it a great place to meet fellow skateboarders and showcase talents. Whether you are a local or a visitor, Al Jada Skate Park is a must-visit destination for skateboarders in Sharjah.

Al Majaz Waterfront (Between Al Majaz areas 1 and 2)

Located in the heart of vibrant Sharjah city, Al Majaz Waterfront offers a stunning view of Khalid Lagoon, covering an area of 231,000 square feet. This iconic leisure destination features various recreational facilities, including the spectacular Sharjah Musical Fountain overlooking international restaurants and cafes, a jogging track, snack and drink kiosks, a magnificent mosque, Maraya Art Park, Splash Park for kids with a playground, mini-golf for all ages, beautiful gardens for relaxation, and event areas for hosting activities.

+971 6 552 1552
almajaz.ae

Al Montazah Amusement and Waterpark

Al Montazah Parks, previously known as Al Jazeera Park, is located on the emerald island of Khalid Lagoon, opposite Flag Island. It was built in 1979 and remains a beloved destination for visitors. Al Montazah Parks is one of the UAE's first adventure parks and features two thrilling attractions: Island of Legends and Pearls kingdom.

+971 6 511 0555
info@almontazah.ae
almontazah.ae

Arabia's Wildlife Center

Located in Sharjah Desert Park, Arabia's Wildlife Center offers habitats to various animals, including the Arabian Oryx, the national animal of the UAE, and the Arabian leopard. These endangered animals have their own expansive landscaped enclosures and come from the nearby Sharjah wildlife center where they are bred. Sharjah Desert Park also features a conservation center and an Islamic Botanical Garden. The Sharjah's wildlife sanctuary and nature reserve also offers things to do with kids, including a petting zoo.

+971 6 531 1999

Buhais Geology Park

The Buhais Geology Park, designed by Hopkins Architects, is located around 50 km southeast of Sharjah. It is a region of prehistoric and geological importance, with an abundance of marine fossils dating back over 65 million years, mountain ranges, and ancient burial sites from different ages.

+971 6 801 2101
visitsarjah.com

Desert Park Center

Located on Al Dhaid Road, approximately 40 minutes from Arts Square, the Desert Park Center is host to six different entities: Arabian Wildlife Center, Breeding Center for Endangered Arabian Wildlife, Children's Farm, Natural History and Botanical Museum, Islamic Botanical Gardens.

+971 6 531 1411
booking@epaa.shj.ae
epaashj.ae

Khalid Lagoon (Al Majaz areas 1, 2, and 3)

Located in the heart of vibrant Sharjah city, Al Majaz Waterfront offers a stunning view of Khalid Lagoon, covering an area of 231,000 square feet. This iconic leisure destination features various recreational facilities, including the spectacular Sharjah Musical Fountain overlooking international restaurants and cafes, a jogging track, snack and drink kiosks, a magnificent mosque, Maraya Art Park, Splash Park for kids with a playground, mini-golf for all ages, beautiful gardens for relaxation, and event areas for hosting activities.

Qanat Al Qasba

Al Qasba straddles either side of the canal, linking Al Khan Lagoon with Khalid Lagoon. A cultural landmark that features art centers, outdoor attractions, and a number of other attractions.

+971 6 525 2444
alqasba.ae

Racks Board Game Cafe

Racks is the first cafe with the board game concept in Sharjah. Racks has a curated collection of board games available for in-store play, and an excellent selection of retail games for purchase. The cafe also serves a diverse menu of food and drinks.

+971 50 276 9442
racks.cafe@gmail.com
Racks.ae

Sharjah Aquarium (Al Khan Area)

The Sharjah Aquarium is a marine nature reserve and the first and largest government educational center in the UAE. The facility spans over 6,500 m², with two floors housing 21 aquariums filled with 1.8 million liters of water and featuring over 150 species of marine life. Additionally, Sharjah Aquarium runs a turtle rehabilitation program, where the husbandry team takes care of sick or injured sea turtles before releasing them back into the sea after their recovery. The center's main objective is to educate the public about the significance of preserving marine ecosystems. Visitors can purchase a joint ticket with the Maritime Museum to gain access to both attractions.

+971 6 528 5288
sharjahmuseums.ae

Sharjah Golf and Shooting Club

The Sharjah Golf and Shooting Club boasts a fully floodlit nine-hole golf course designed by architect Peter Harradine and hosts various tournaments throughout the year. Additionally, the club features a unique "Glow Golf" course that glows in the dark, providing a one-of-a-kind experience. Beyond golf, the club offers an array of recreational activities such as a paintball park, archery, a state-of-the-art shooting range for pistols, revolvers,

and rifles, a swimming pool, bubble soccer, football, tennis, paddle and basketball courts, a gym, a hair salon, and Italian and Asian restaurants. Visitors can also try out the escape room "Escapology," which features four different themes within the premises.

+971 6 548 777
golfandshootingshj.com

Sharjah Safari Park

Sharjah Safari Park, the world's largest park outside of Africa, opened on February 17, 2022. It includes 12 themed environments representing different regions of Africa and covers 8 square kilometers with 120 animal species and 100,000 African trees. The park is located within the Al Bardi Reserve, a natural and tourist landmark in the UAE's city of Al Dhaid, covering an area of 16 square kilometers. Avail your tickets online or at the venue.

+971 6 803 7777
info.safari@epaa.shj.ae
sharjahsafari.ae/en

The Children's Farm

The Children's Farm familiarizes children with the characteristics of local domestic animals and allows visitors to interact with the animals and birds under the supervision of guides. The Natural History and Botanical Museum Exhibit the geological history of Sharjah and the development of plant and animal life from a million years ago until today. In the Botanical Garden section, over 90 species of local plants are on display to show different environments in Sharjah.

booking@epaa.shj.ae
epaashj.ae

The Islamic Botanical Garden

The garden aims to establish a connection between the Qur'an and environmental conservation by showcasing over 50 plants, including 30 mentioned in the Holy Qur'an. The exhibit provides information about the significance of these plants as referenced in the Qur'anic verses, Hadith, and Sunnah.

+971 6 531 1411
booking@epaa.shj.ae
epaashj.ae

Virtuality (Arcade)

Virtuality, a gaming hub, introduces captivating virtual reality gaming encounters to Al Jada's East Boulevard. This arcade provides top-notch amusement through advanced AI and technology-driven escapades suitable for all ages. It features both personal and communal stations, along with atmospheric illumination and top-tier audio setups.

+971 6 5280 188
virtuality.ae

The Chedi Al Bait, Heart of Sharjah
Photo by Jonny Kenneough



FOOD & BEVERAGES



Sharjah offers a plethora of restaurants, cafes, coffee shops, and cafeterias. Here is a curated list of restaurants, cafes, and diners that highlight local, regional, and international cuisines.

RESTAURANTS & CAFES

Abayomi (Restaurant, Cafe)

Select African dishes, in addition to pastries, coffee & tea

+971 50 656 9598

Addis Ababa City Restaurant (Ethiopian Cuisine)

+971 6 575 0388

African Kingdom Restaurant (African Cuisine)

+971 50 409 1434

Amoon Restaurant (Egyptian Cuisine)

+971 6 561 3215

Arabian Teahouse (Restaurant & Cafe)

Traditional Emirati food

+971 6 561 2686

arabianteahouse.com

Aroos Damascus (Middle Eastern cuisine)

+971 6 573 9900

Al Fanar Restaurant & Cafe (Middle Eastern)

+971 6 552 0666

alfanarrestaurant.com

Al Gahwa Al Shaabiya (Emirati Cuisine)

+971 56 260 4432

Al Majaz Waterfront restaurants

Selection of restaurants and coffee shops serving Lebanese, Moroccan, Turkish and Italian cuisine.

+971 6 552 1552

almajaz.ae

Al Reef Al Shami (Local Bakery)

+971 6 566 1006

Al Subat Restaurant (Sudanese Cuisine)

+971 6 563 8988

Bahar Al Emarat (Seafood Cuisine)

+971 6 564 5757

Bait Al Majbus (Kuwaiti & Emirati Cuisine)

+971 50 595 6116

Beyalah Cafe (Traditional Emirati Food)

+971 54 476 6166

Black Salt (International cuisine)

+971 6 533 3384

Caya (Mediterranean Cuisine)

+971 56 480 4682

Chie Restaurant (International)

+971 6 594 0090

Crisol (American Cuisine)

+971 6 551 0000

crisol.ae

Chettagong Fresh Cool (Juice Shop - Open 24 hours)

+971 56 716 8082

East Boulevard (Al Jada by Arada)

A diverse variety of local and international cuisines, coffee-shops and fast food served at Foodtrucks and dine-in restaurants. Even catch a movie in their open-air cinema.

+971 4 607 3302 , +971 800 27232
arada.com/en/east-boulevard/

Eat SOL

Fusion fast food with an Arabian flavor

+971 6 535 2222

Fen Café & Restaurant (International Cuisine)

+971 6 561 3029

Gazebo (Indian Cuisine)

+971 6 553 2999

Fish Basket Restaurant (Seafood)

+971 6 559 9775

Jones The Grocer (International Cuisine)

+971 6 554 4433

Juice World (Cafeteria)

+971 6 531 2224

Kamat (Indian cuisine)

+971 6 559 9044
kamat.ae

KulfiChai (South Asian Tea & Ice cream)

+971 55 600 7362

Madfoon Al Khaimah (Yemeni Cuisine)

+971 6 574 1144

Mama'esh (Palestinian Cuisine)

Sharjah Beach House

+971 600 548287
mamaesh.com

Najmat Lahore (Pakistani Restaurant)

+971 6 568 2202
Najmatlahore.com

Nahar Riviera Restaurant (Sudanese Cuisine)

+971 6 554 1040

On The Wood (Middle Eastern Cuisine)

+971 600 546008
onthewood.com

Rajasthan Al Malaki (Indian Cuisine)

+971 52 379 0881

Peking Chinese Restaurant (Chinese Cuisine)

+971 6 567 2122

Paperfig

Emirati and international cuisine, specialists in desserts, breakfast and catering

+971 600 560601

Ratios Coffee Cafe (International)

+971 6 533 3384
Ratios.coffee

Ryoog Yadoo (Emirati Cafe)

+971 58 582 2698
order.radyes.co

Sammach (Seafood)

+971 6 528 0095
binhendi.com

Spice Grill (Filipino, Seafood)

+971 6 764 8167

Thai Gate Restaurant (Thai Cuisine)

+971 6 530 6434

The Arabic Restaurant at The Chedi Al Bait

Contemporary Moroccan & Mediterranean Cuisine

+971 6 502 5555

FOOD DELIVERY

Discover a range of on-demand food delivery services in Sharjah, offering everything from restaurant delights to groceries, all accessible through online portals, enhancing your convenience and lifestyle.

Barakat Fresh Vegetables

Cultivating wellness since 1976, offering a bounty of freshness - from organic veggies to cut fruits, invigorating juices, creamy ice-creams, and more.

barakatfresh.ae

Carrefour Online

Shop for groceries and household essentials online, ensuring a hassle-free experience.

carrefouruae.com

Careem

Beyond rides, Careem offers a range of services including food delivery for your convenience.

careem.com

Deliveroo

Indulge in a wide selection of restaurant delicacies delivered to your doorstep

deliveroo.ae

Elgrocer

Discover a diverse assortment of groceries and more, all delivered with care.

elgrocer.com

HeroGo

First grocery delivery company that eliminates food waste in the UAE.

herogo.ae

Instashop

Instantly access a wide variety of products for swift delivery to your doorstep.

instashop.ae

Kibsons

Enjoy the convenience of fresh groceries op fresh groceries, fruit & vegetables, hormone-free meat, baked goods, organic foods, fresh flowers & more.

kibsons.com

Lulu Online

Explore Lulu's extensive range of products through their online platform.

luluhypermarket.com

Manbat

Founded in 2021, Manbat is a partnership between Arada and the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment that aims to celebrate and promote the very best of the UAE's healthy, home-grown produce.

manbat.ae

Noon Daily

Fulfill your daily needs with essential items brought straight to your door.

grocery.noon.com

Talabat

Satisfy your cravings with an extensive range of cuisines delivered right to your door.

talabat.com

Near Souq al Jubail
Photo by Ainur Kamaev





Sharjah offers a broad variety of shopping, ranging from modern malls like City Centre Sharjah and Sahara Centre, to small boutiques, bazaars and souks like Blue Souk and Central Souk. Browse our list of some of the outlets where you can find everything from international brands to more bespoke souvenirs and regional goods.



RETAIL

MALLS & CINEMAS

Al Jada Drive-in Outdoor Cinema

All movies at the drive-in cinema at Madar at Al Jada, Muwaileh, Sharjah, start at 8pm and are free to enter on a first-come, first-served basis. You can also enjoy delicious food and beverages from the food trucks delivered to your window.

+971 800 27232
arada.com

City Centre Al Zahia (with Cinema)

City Center Al Zahia, which opened in 2021, is a one-stop shopping and entertainment destination that offers a wide range of retail, leisure, dining, and entertainment options. Located in a central city location, the mall provides easy access to visitors looking for a convenient and enjoyable shopping experience.

citycentrealzahia.com

Mega Mall (with Cinema)

Mega Mall offers a variety of local, regional and international brands, along with places for entertainment, including Novo Cinema, Games Corner and Antic's Land.

megamall.ae

Rahmania Mall

Rahmania mall is a one-stop community shopping and leisure destination, strategically located at the heart of the Kshisha district and 10 minutes away from Sharjah Airport. The mall offers convenient shopping and various entertainment options like Cinema City and Faby Land, along with integrated services like Health Center, Banks, and Gym facilities.

+971 600 574574
rahmaniamall.ae

Sahara Center (with Cinema)

Sahara Center offers a wide variety of shopping outlets, dining options and entertainment facilities. The mall also features Adventureland, a family and indoor themepark.

saharacentre.com

Sharjah City Centre (with Cinema)

Opened in 2001, this massive mall hosts over 120 international brands, ranging from household furniture to books, stationery, toys and electronics.

citycentresharjah.com

Oasis Mall (with Cinema)

Oasis Mall at Al Wahda Road is a space designed to cater to the needs of the residents and visitors in the emirate. Developed by the Landmark Group, the mall covers 30 million+ sq. ft. of retail space. The three-floor mall features many trusted brands which offer value for money. Visitors are also facilitated with parking spaces, prayer area and kids' play area.

oasisshoppingmalls.com

Zawaya City Walk

Zawaya City Walk located at Al Shahba, University road in the Mughaidir suburb is a charming and well-frequented spot, featuring a picturesque waterway surrounded by palm trees. This popular hangout boasts a diverse selection of eateries and shops, ranging from florists to home décor and a neighborhood Carrefour supermarket. Whether you're strolling along the water before or after dinner, enjoying the fresh air, or relishing the delightful dining choices, Zawaya Walk appeals to both locals and residents alike.

+971 56 563 3333
instagram.com/zawayawalkshj

06 Mall (with Cinema)

Located near Sharjah University City, 06 Mall is a luxury mall boutique that caters to the lifestyle needs of modern consumers. The mall offers a variety of unique entertainment, leisure, shopping, and fitness activities under one roof, making it a go-to destination for families. It is also popular among university and school students, as it is usually bustling with activity.

zero-6.ae

ONLINE MARKETPLACE

On-demand delivery app for retail, electronics and online marketplace:

- **Amazon** - amazon.ae
- **Carrefour** - carrefouruae.com
- **Namshi** - en-ae.namshi.com
- **Noon** - noon.com/uae-en
- **Sharaf DG** - uae.sharafdg.com
- **Shein** - ar.shein.com

SOUQS, GROCERIES & MARKETS

Abdul Samad Al Qurashi

Popularly known as “Masters of Royal perfumes” with their range of oriental fragrances.

+971 50 950 6170

Ajmal Perfumes

High quality oud (Arabian incense), other types of incense and well crafted perfume reflecting both Eastern and Western tastes can be purchased in this store.

+971 6 568 6432
ajmalperfume.com

Al Baar & Al Bahar Roastery

For over 40 years, this shop has been a beloved local landmark, offering a wide range of high-quality nuts and exotic spices. Whether you're looking for a unique ingredient to spice up your next meal or a special gift for a foodie friend, this shop is the perfect destination for all your nut and spice needs.

+971 6 568 1565

Al Shaab Village

Al Shaab Village, located in Sharjah Emirate, is a popular shopping destination that offers traditional attire, electronics, accessories, and more than 250 exhibition-style shops. The mall is part of the Al-Shaab CSC Complex and includes an ice-skating rink and amusement park with various rides for children.

alshaabvillage.com

Al Souq Al Markazi

The Blue Souk, or Al Souq Al Markazi, is a market in Sharjah consisting of two large buildings connected by bridges. Completed in 1978, it is famous for its blue-tiled exterior and hosts over 600 shops selling souvenirs, electronic appliances, jewelry, antiques, carpets, and clothing.

LuLu Hypermarket (Grocery and Essentials)

+971 6 535 2001

Nesto Hypermarket (Grocery and Essentials)

+971 56 318 1657

Matajer (Grocery and Essentials)

+971 6 552 6044

Qasr Paris Household and Electric Ware

The Qasr Paris Household and Electric Ware shop is a one-stop shop for all your kitchenware and household needs. The store offers a variety of products, with highlights including cooking pots, and traditionally styled cups, glasses, and thermos jugs for coffee and tea.

+971 6 568 0871

Sharjah Cooperative Society (Grocery and Essentials)

+971 6 516 4555

Sharjah Textile Market

A picturesque traditional Arabic souk, the Textile Souk is popular on the Sharjah map as a shopping destination for every type of clothing material. People from all over the UAE travel to Sharjah for the shops here, which feature collections of raw silk, cotton, and embroidered fabrics.

Souk Al Arsah

Souk Al Arsah, also known as the Courtyard Souk, is Sharjah's oldest market. This traditional souk is home to a collection of individual shops offering a diverse range of items, including souvenirs, antiques, copper coffee pots, handmade jewelry, shawls, palm-leaf baskets, and more.

Souq Al Jubail

Once known for its thriving clothes and gold trading, this traditional souq now specializes in a variety of goods, such as spices and herbs, henna, palm leaf baskets, traditional Emirati household items, perfumes, oils, sheesha, flavoured tobaccos, and clothing. The gold trade has since moved to the Central Souq (Souq Al Markazi), making it the go-to destination for gold seekers.

heartofsharjah.ae

Souq Al Shanasiyah

Sharjah offers a diverse range of fabric shopping options, with the Textile Souk being the most popular destination for raw silk, cotton, and embroidered fabrics. For those looking to explore other fabric shops in the city, they can head to the Al Shuwaiheen area along the Creek, Rolla Square Park, Souk Al Soor textile center opposite King Faisal Mosque, and Al Shaab Village.

visitsharjah.com

Souq Saqr

Known in the past for clothes and gold trading, this traditional souq now specializes in spices and herbs, henna, palm leaf baskets, traditional Emirati household items, perfumes, oils, sheesha, and flavoured tobaccos as well as clothes. The gold market trade shifted elsewhere.

Viva Supermarket (Grand Avenue)

+971 6 555 0088

USEFUL SERVICES AND ART SUPPLIES

Afnan Studio

This studio is useful if you need a passport, visa or photos to be taken or printed. They also offer photography and videography services.

+971 6 562 5972

Al Jubail Mobile Phone Trading

Specializes in repairing mobile phones.

+971 52 734 7738

Al Mutanabbi Bookstore

The Al Mutanabbi Bookstore offers a great selection of books, art supplies, and stationery. It is situated off Al Mureijah Street, behind the old Sharjah Cinemas.

+971 5 568 3499

Dar Al Hayat Bookstore

Dar Al Hayat Bookstore sells a wide variety of books, stationery, and school supplies, including Arabic and English language books. It is located near the Sharjah Mega Mall.

+971 6 572 3736

Dubai Library Distributors

This 2 floor store sells art supplies, stationery and a wide range of books.

+971 6 563 9992

Jarir Bookstore

Located in University City, Jarir Bookstore is ideal to shop Office and School Supplies, Children's Toys and Educational Aids,

Arabic and English Books and Publications, Arts and Crafts Materials, Computer Peripherals and Software, Mobile Phones and Accessories, Audio Visual Instruments, Photography Tools, Smart Television and Maintenance of Computers and Electronic items.

+971 6 503 2000

jarir.com/ae-en

Mosaic Gallery

This store has a good range of art supplies and stationery.

+971 6 568 1517

hannahaicah.com

New Century Computer LLC

The New Century Computer LLC provides services to both individuals and companies. They offer hardware and software sales, as well as services such as computer repair and data recovery.

+971 6 56 9939

newcenturycomputers.net

Tanja Typing & Photocopy Center

Located near Rolla Square on Al Arouba Street, Tanja Typing & Photocopy Center offers typing services for legal documents and also photocopies various types of documents.

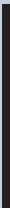
+971 6 561 3021

Sharjah Art Foundation (SAF) Shop

The SAF Shop, located in Arts Square, offers a wide selection of art supplies, gifts, and stationery for artists and creatives.

+971 6 544 7575

HEALTH



When traveling to Sharjah, it is important to be aware of key information regarding health. This includes having proper health insurance, knowing the locations of hospitals, pharmacies, and health clinics, as well as having access to sports and fitness facilities to maintain a healthy lifestyle while on the go.

HEALTH INSURANCE AND TRAVEL INSURANCE

Health insurance is a mandatory requirement for all visitors who need a visa to enter the UAE. Companies and tour operators sponsoring visitors should ensure that health insurance coverage is arranged for them.

Visitors who can enter the UAE without a visa are advised to consider purchasing travel insurance or local insurance to cover any unforeseen medical visits during their stay in the country. Local insurance plans start at AED 40 for a thirty-day period. In case of emergencies, medical care is accessible to everyone at local hospitals.

While no specific vaccines are required for entry into the UAE, it is highly recommended that all visitors ensure their vaccinations are up to date prior to their trip.

AIG Travel Guard Insurance

Toll free: 800 1244
aig.ae

AXA Insurance

Toll free: 800 292
axa.ae

Oman Insurance Company

Toll free: 800 4746
tameen.ae

HOSPITALS

The healthcare system in Sharjah is composed of a comprehensive network of hospitals, clinics and medical facilities that can be found throughout the emirate. Public hospitals provide free treatment for emergency cases, while private hospitals charge for all medical services provided, including non-emergency cases. Ambulance services can be requested by calling 998 in case of emergencies. However, visitors should note that some prescription drugs or over-the-counter medicines purchased in other countries may be illegal in the United Arab Emirates. It is advisable to carry a physician's prescription for any necessary medications, along with a medical report listing any required medical equipment.

Main hospitals in Sharjah:

Emirates Hospital Clinic (Hours: 9am - 9pm, closed on Fridays)
+971 800 444 444
emirateshospitals.ae

Central Hospital Sharjah (Open 24 hours)
+971 6 563 9900
centralhospitalsharjah.com

Medcare Hospital Sharjah (Open 24 hours)
+971 800 633 2273
www.medcare.ae

NMC Royal Hospital Sharjah
+971 6 561 9999
nmcroyalhospitalsharjah.ae

Oriana Hospital

+971 6 5918888

orianahospital.ae

Saudi German Hospital

+971 800 2211

saudigerman.com/Sharjah

University Hospital Sharjah

+971 6 505 8555

uhs.ae

Zulekha Hospital Sharjah (Open 24 hours)

+971 600 524442

zulekhahospitals.com/sharjah

MEDICAL CENTERS**Aster Medical Center**

+971 6 550 9007

asterclinic.ae/clinic/sharjah/

Prime Medical Center

+971 4 7070999

primehealth.ae

Starcare Medical Centre

Specialized clinic in Sharjah

+971 6 561 1099

starcare.ae

PHARMACIES

There are many pharmacies in Sharjah; below, we recommend a few that have more than one location around the city and also offer home deliveries. While most are generally open from 8:30 to 22:30, some are open 24 hours a day and can be found throughout the emirate.

Alia Pharmacy (Open 24 hours)

+971 6 565 0597

Aster Pharmacy (Open until 10pm)

+971 6 561 0012

Bin Sina Pharmacy (Open 24 hours)

+971 6 556 7662

Life Pharmacy (Open until 12am)

+971 6 556 0640

Makkah Pharmacy (Open 24 hours)

+971 800 625524

800-Pharmacy (Open 24 hours)

+971 800 742 76229

FITNESS & HEALTH CLUBS

Sharjah has quite a few options for health and fitness activities, in addition to many walking and cycling tracks around the city.

Altitude

Located in Sharjah Golf and Shooting Club, Altitude has various sports and physical activities such as padle, crossfit, and a gym loaded with one of the highest level equipment.

+971 6 548 7777

Body & Soul Ladies Health Club

Located inside the Women's Union Association, this health club is only for women, and offers a training center, gym and a place to play sports or work with a fitness trainer.

+9716 567 1100

Fitness Time Sharjah (3 Branches)

Fitness Time is a well-known gym in the UAE with multiple branches spread across the country, their newest gym is located right next to Al Shaab Village.

+971 6 767 6443

Fitness First Sharjah (4 Branches)

Fitness First Middle East offers state-of-the-art training and gym facilities, in addition to aerobic classes like Zumba and BoxFit.

- Al Fardan Centre
- Safeer Mall
- Sahara Center
- 06 | Women only

+9716 564 7226

Gymnation

Known as "the people's gym", this homegrown brand has 24/7 access through the year, personal trainers, group classes, and more.

gymnation.com

Round (Al Jada by Arada)

Ladies-only fitness studio

+971 58 884 8840
round.ae

Wellfit Fitness

Located in Al Nasma and Al Jada, Wellfit is an indoor health and fitness club, boasting world-class facilities and amenities.

+971 54 345 2640
wellfit.me

SPORTS CLUBS

It is recommended to use sports activities enablers like *playo.com*, a one-stop platform to help sports enthusiasts meet playpals, discover venues, skill-up their game, manage their activities seamlessly and buy gear.

Here is a list of sports centers and academies:

Al Masah Sports Center

A prime sports facility located in the heart of Sharjah with four hybrid synthetic courts and a gallery view for spectators for badminton.

+971 54 701 4103

Al Thiqa Club for the Disabled

Al-Thiqa Club for the Disabled in Sharjah, which was established in 1987, is the first club for the disabled in the United Arab Emirates concerned with the affairs of people with disabilities (cultural, social, rehabilitation and sports).

+971 6 538 9999
althiqahclub.com

Football and Padel Academy

Football and Padel Academy (FPA) is a sports club located at Flag Island, Sharjah.

+971 50 211 6559

Sharjah Cricket Academy

In 1985, Sharjah Cricket Academy was introduced at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium under the umbrella of Sharjah Cricket Council. It's one of the oldest Cricket Academy in UAE and they have been playing a pivotal role in offering world- class training to over a hundred budding cricketers since its inception. Each program is precisely designed in the academy by highly trained and qualified coaches to ensure that students go through training steps in a more professional manner and understand the nuances of the game. Sharjah Cricket Academy holds various levels of teams which includes the youth, women and senior teams. The academy currently trains students aged between 5 to 20 years and Adults as well.

+971 6 5422991
sharjahcricket.ae

Sharjah Cricket Stadium

The Sharjah Cricket Stadium, located in Sharjah, UAE, is a historic cricket venue renowned for hosting international matches and leagues. Its central location, passionate crowds, and floodlights for day-night games make it an iconic hub for cricket in the Gulf region.

Sharjah Cultural and Chess Club

Founded by Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi, the ruler of Sharjah, the Sharjah Cultural and Chess Club was inaugurated on March 28, 2013. Encompassing an expansive 34,000 cubic feet, the Sharjah Chess Club consists of a central hall capable

of hosting 500 players, along with two spacious gaming zones, multiple classrooms, a library, VIP lounge, and a regional FIDE office. The club is equipped with cutting-edge chess technology and innovations, offering a comprehensive experience for enthusiasts. There is also a designated Sharjah Ladies Chess and Cultural Club.

+971 6 545 5888
shjchessmasters.com

Sharjah Football Stadium

Sharjah Stadium is a multi-purpose stadium currently used mostly for football matches and is the home ground of Sharjah FC. The stadium has a capacity of 18,000.

+971 6 523 9889

Sharjah Golf and Shooting Club

Sharjah Golf features a 9-hole golf course illuminated for evening play. Designed by renowned architect Peter Harradine, playing the course twice forms a par 72 layout extending over 7,300 yards. Golfers, both professional and amateur, come from distant places to enjoy this popular UAE golf course. Visit the website to view tee time and green fees.

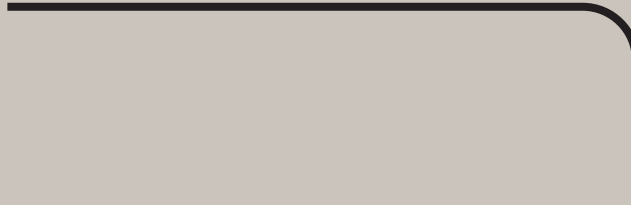
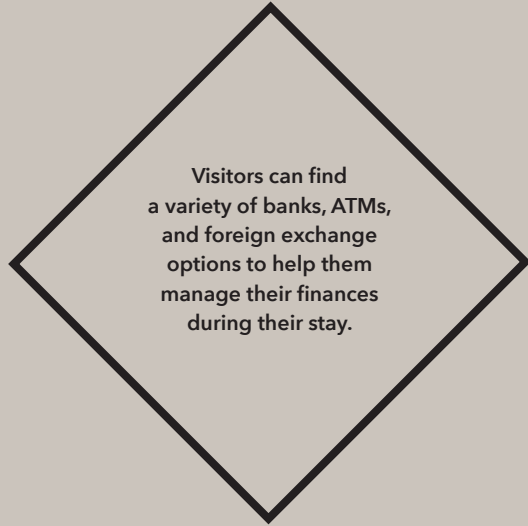
+971 6 548 7777
golfandshootingshj.com

Sharjah Wanderers Sports Club

Sharjah Wanderers Sports Club is a sporting club based in the Samnan suburb of Sharjah.

+971 6 566 2105
sharjahwandererssc.com

FINANCES



CURRENCY & BANKING

CURRENCY

The official currency of the United Arab Emirates is the Dirham, which is abbreviated as Dhs or AED. One dirham is divided into 100 fills. Dirham notes are available in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, and 1000, while coins are available in denominations of 1, 0.5, and 0.25 dirhams. The value of the dirham is fixed to the US Dollar at a rate of Dhs 3.67 to one US Dollar. There are no restrictions on foreign exchange in the UAE, and foreign currency of almost any denomination can be exchanged easily. Credit cards such as MasterCard, Visa, American Express, and Diners Club are widely accepted in the UAE, as are traveler's cheques.

BANKS

Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB), Main Branch

+971 6 519 1616

Emirates NBD

Emirates NBD is the largest banking group in the Middle East and has several locations and ATMs throughout Sharjah

+971 600 540 000

Sharjah Islamic Bank, Main Branch

+971 6 599 9999

Mashreq Bank, Main Branch

+971 4 424 4444

ATMS

ATMs can be found inside various banks on Bank Street, and next to the Corniche Post Office. To find a specific ATM, you can search for the website of the specific bank and locate their branch/ATM locator tool.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES AND REMITTANCE

The monetary unit is the dirham, which is divided into 100 fils. It is also known as the Arab Emirate Dirham (AED). The dirham is freely convertible, making exchange of travellers cheques and currency easy. The local currency index is linked to the US dollar (1 USD= AED 3.67). The best rate of exchange is usually found in licensed exchange offices although banks and hotels also offer this service.

Al Ansari Exchange

alansariexchange.com

Al Fardan Exchange

alfardanexchange.com

Al Rostamani Exchange

alrostamaniexchange.com

GCC Exchange

gccexchange.com

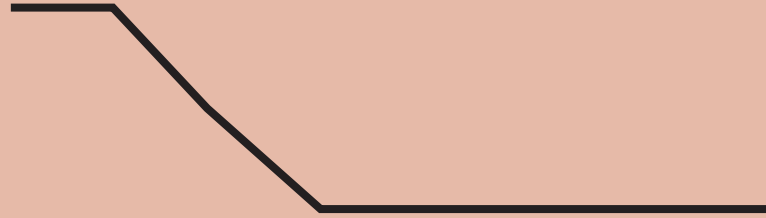
Lulu Exchange

luluexchange.com

UAE Exchange

uaeexchange.com

TELECOMMUNI- CATIONS & POSTAL SERVICES



POSTAL SERVICES

The Old Souq or Al Corniche Post Office (+971 6 568 2427) is located within a short walking distance from SAF offices. The Sharjah Central Post Office is located in Al Soor (toll free 600 5 99999). Both offer all the usual postal services and are open from Saturday till Thursday, 7:30 am-9:00 pm. Additionally, most hotels will arrange to send mail anywhere in the world. Postcards mailed to countries outside the Middle East cost AED 2. Mail to Europe, India and the US takes 5-10 days, and mail sent to Australia takes 8-10 days. The UAE is also well served by local and international courier companies. Visitors can check with their hotels for details.

Country code and codes for individual emirates

The UAE international calling code is +971, and telephone numbers are fixed at seven digits, with the area code being the first two or three digits.

CODES FOR INDIVIDUAL EMIRATES

- Abu Dhabi - (0)2
- Al Ain - (0)3
- Dubai - (0)4
- Sharjah, Ajman and Umm Al Qaiwain - (0)6
- Ras Al Khaimah - (0)7
- Fujairah, Khorfakkan - (0)9

Mobile phone codes vary. The most common codes are (0)50, (0)52, (0)55 and (0)56.

To call a UAE number from outside the country, use the country code (+971), the code for the individual emirate or mobile phone and then the local phone number. Please note that if a call is made inside the UAE, it is necessary to add a zero before the code for The UAE international calling code is +971, followed by the code for the emirate or mobile phone and then the local phone number, which is seven digits. If calling within the UAE, add a zero before the emirate or mobile phone code. For instance, the telephone number for The Africa Institute is +971 6 511 2435 for international calls and 06 511 2435 for local calls.

UAE country code: +971

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

- Police (Emergency) - 999
- Police (non-emergency) - 901
- Ambulance - 998
- Fire Department (Civil Defence) - 997
- Coast Guard - 996
- For electricity failure (DEWA) - 991
- For water failure (DEWA) - 922

MOBILE PHONE OPERATORS

The two main mobile network operators in the UAE are **Du**, based in Dubai, and **Etisalat**, based in Abu Dhabi. Both companies provide coverage across the country, with Etisalat being the older provider and Du having been operating for more than ten years.

Mobile Phone Plans and Contracts

The mobile phone plans and contracts offered by Du and Etisalat range from 40 AED to 200 AED per month and include affordable options for international calling and texting to many countries.

Visitor Lines for Mobile Phones

The Etisalat Visitor Line offers a range of options for talking, texting, and surfing with individual packages costing AED 75 each. The initial cost for the Visitor Line is AED 100, and the number is valid for 90 days. The packages are good for 14 days and can be renewed for an additional AED 75 each. The Visitor Line SIM card is available at the airports, Etisalat business offices, some hotels, and local malls' WH Smith, Jumbo, and Emax stores.

How to Get a Mobile Phone Contract

Getting a mobile phone contract in the UAE may require several documents, such as a GCC-issued debit or credit card, an Emirates ID, and/or a job contract. You can apply for a contract online, in person at a provider store or mall kiosk, with some providers in the UAE offering free SIM card delivery within an hour. To find out more about specific plans and pricing, you can visit the websites of **Du** and **Etisalat**.

Home Internet Services

Setting up home internet services in Sharjah is a streamlined process that ensures seamless connectivity for your household. With a plethora of reliable providers to choose from, you can select a plan that suits your data needs and preferences. Begin by researching the available options, comparing packages, speeds, and pricing. Once you've made your choice, contact the chosen provider to initiate the application process. They will guide you through the necessary paperwork, installation details, and equipment setup. Enjoy high-speed internet access, whether for work, entertainment, or staying connected with loved ones, enhancing your home life in Sharjah.

Etisalat Directory Service

181
etisalat.ae

Du Directory Service

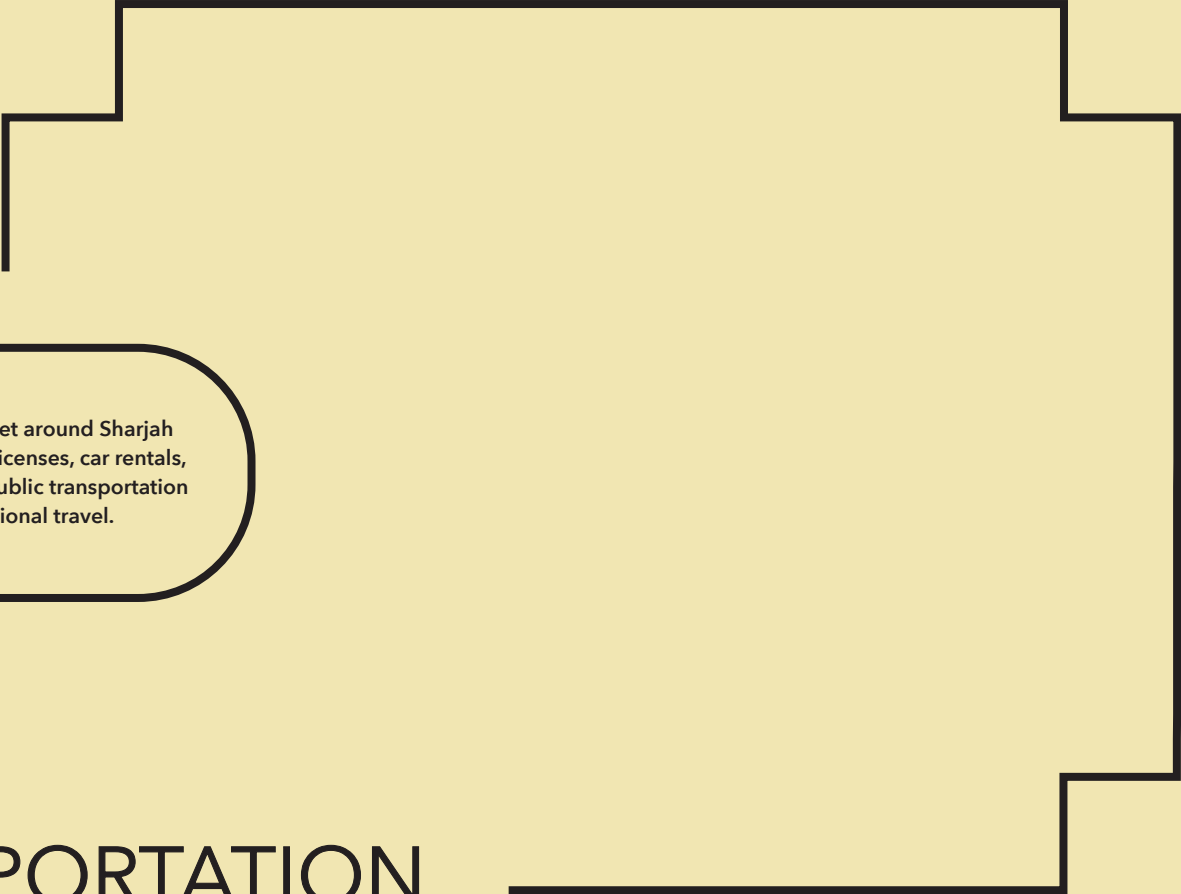
199
du.ae

Virgin Mobile Directory

virginmobile.ae



Al Khan Area, between Al Montazah
Waterpark and Flag Island
Photo by Ahmed Aldaie



Discover how to get around Sharjah easily with driving licenses, car rentals, ride-hailing apps, public transportation and international travel.

TRANSPORTATION

AIRPORTS

Abu Dhabi International Airport

abudhabiairport.ae

Dubai International Airport

dubaiairports.ae

Fujairah International Airport

fujairah-airport.ae

Sharjah International Airport

sharjahairport.ae

TRAVEL AGENCIES

Air Arabia (Travel Center)

+971 6 5580000

Al Saadah Travel

+971 6 522 3236 , +971 55 125 2328

Cozmo Travel Sharjah

+ 971 600 524444

Dnata Travel

+ 971 800 36282

Emirates (Travel Center)

+971 600 555555

Marcopolo Holidays

+971 6 562 6601

Orient Travel & Tourism Agency LLC

+971 6 591 2222

Kanoo Travel

+971 6 561 6058

Sharjah Airport Travel Agency (SATA)

+971 6 561 8888

Sharjah National Travel & Tourist Agency (SNTTA)

+ 971 800 76882

DRIVING LICENCES

Visitors can drive a private or hired vehicle in the UAE with a valid driving licence from countries such as Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, and US. GCC nationals can drive with their respective licences within the UAE. Other visitors need an International Driving Permit (IDP) issued by their home country. For visitors on a visit visa, the Sharjah Traffic & Licensing Department issues a Temporary Driving Licence for AED 80, valid for one month and renewable for another month at a cost of AED 30.

+971 6 538 1111

u.ae/en/information-and-services/transportation/get-a-driving-licence

CAR HIRE

The car rental agencies in Sharjah consist of both local and international agencies. The daily rate for smaller vehicles, inclusive of insurance, starts at AED 80, but prices may differ. The minimum age for renting a car is 21, and visitors must provide their passport, two photographs, and a valid national or international driving licence to rent a car.

Autolease Rent A Car

+971 6 573 5333
autolease-uae.com

Dollar Rent A Car

+971 6 572 2402

Fast Rent A Car

+971 6 533 8877
fastuae.com

Hertz

Sharjah International Airport and Al Wahda Street
+971 6 552 8290 , +971 6 553 0964
hertz.ae

Maximum

Sharjah International Airport, Radisson Blu Resort
and Al Khan Street
+971 6 550 1515 , +971 6 556 0601
maximumcarrentals.com

Maximum Rent A Car

+971 6 550 1515

Thrifty Car Rental

+971 6 539 6084

RIDE HAILING APPS

Careem

Considered among the best public transport apps in the UAE, Careem allows users to track the real-time location of a booked Careem car and share Captain's details. Payments can be made with cash, credit card or Careem credits.

careem.com

Uber

In 2020, Uber expanded services into Sharjah and can be used throughout the emirate.

uber.com

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The Sharjah Roads and Transport Authority (SRTA) manages the infrastructure of buses and taxis in the emirate, while Mowasalat is the public transport system in Sharjah. To facilitate payments for Mowasalat buses, Sayer and Mowasalat cards are available, providing convenient payment options.

The SRTA website will give you all the information you need.

srt.a.gov.ae

Main bus station and inter-city buses:

Al Jubail Bus Station

The Al Jubail Bus Station is located opposite the Souq Al Jubail - Fish and Vegetable Market on Corniche Street. It serves as the main bus station in Sharjah and offers inter-city bus routes. In addition, visitors can purchase an NOL card at the station, which can be used for buses, ferries/boats, and metros in Dubai.

Sharjah City Sightseeing Official Bus Tours

Explore the city of Sharjah with flexible hop-on and hop-off service with one or two-day unlimited passes. The main office is located at Al Qasba, Block D, Entrance 2, 1st floor.

+971 6 525 5200 , +971 6 556 0777
citysightseeing.ae

Boat/Ferries

The Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) offers a ferry service that operates between Dubai and Sharjah to provide a new commuting option and bypass frequent traffic jams. The Dubai Sharjah Ferry is the first ferry service to connect two emirates. It runs 42 times a day, with a station in Sharjah at the Aquarium Marine Station and Al Ghubaiba Marine Station in Dubai. Air-conditioned waiting areas are available in Sharjah, and upon arrival in Dubai, passengers can connect to the Dubai Metro at Al Ghubaiba station.

dubai-ferry.com/dubai-sharjah-ferry

The city of Sharjah offers traditional boat tours called abras, which are available from various locations including Al Majaz Waterfront, Al Qasba, and docks on the Khalid Lagoon. Visitors also have the opportunity to join workers who use abras for transportation between the Corniche in the Al Mureijah area (a short walk from Sharjah Art Foundation) to the industrial and port area across the creek, offering a fantastic panoramic view of the heritage areas.

Timings and prices for these boat tours may vary.

Sharjah Boat Tours

+971 6 573 3030
sharjahboats.ae
almajaz.ae
alqasba.ae

Taxis

All taxis in Sharjahs run on meters, with a starting fare of 3.5 AED and a minimum fare for a trip in Sharjah costing 13.50AED as of 2022. You can also request a ladies-only taxi, or a taxi for people of determination, as private vehicles have been allocated for this purpose.

+971 600 525252
srta.gov.ae

These are the major taxi operators in Sharjah:

- **City Taxi**

+971 6 533 3550

- **Emirates Cab**

+971 6 539 6666

- **Sharjah Taxi**

+971 6 535 6111

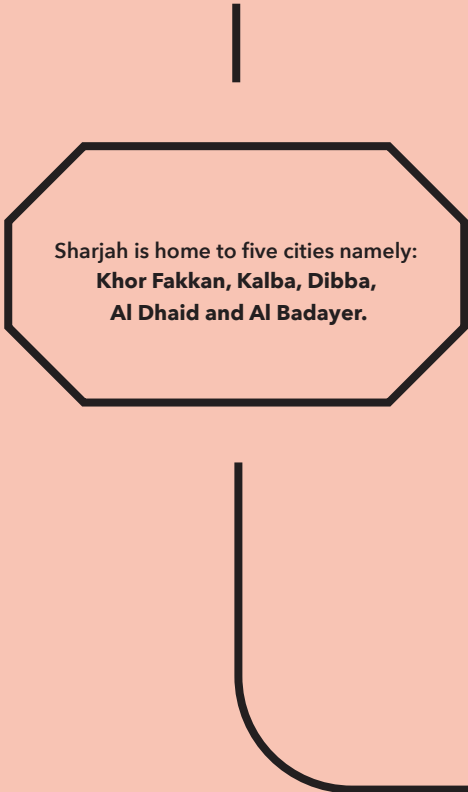
- **Union Taxi**

+971 6 532 5555



Al Majaz Amphitheatre
Photo by Vivek V

SHARJAH'S FIVE CITIES



Sharjah is home to five cities namely:
**Khor Fakkan, Kalba, Dibba,
Al Dhaid and Al Badayer.**

Khorfakkan is the largest town on the east coast, situated midway between Dibba Al Hisn and Fujairah, featuring an expanding container terminal and port.

Kalba maintains historical charm, known for its old forts and attracting bird watchers, kayakers, and hikers

Dibba is a set of three seaside villages; Dibba Bayah belongs to the Sultanate of Oman, Dibba Muhallab belongs to Fujairah, and Dibba Al Hisn, which lies in between, belongs to Sharjah.

Al Dhaid, the third largest town in Sharjah, is known for their date palm plantations, fruit farms, and camel race festivals.

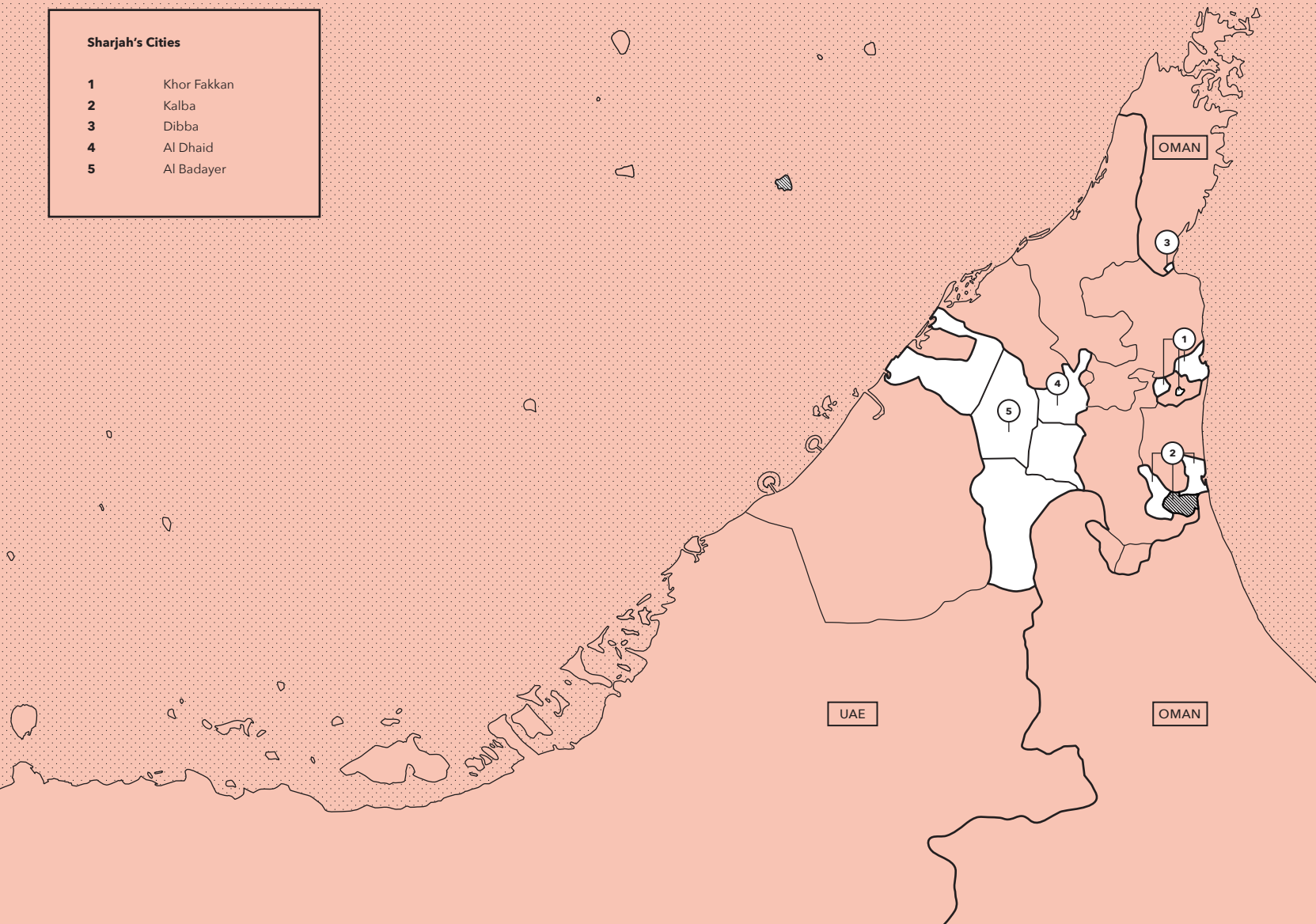
Al Badayer, located in the Al Madam area, is one of the most popular desert areas in the emirate of Sharjah, attracting campers and off-road driving enthusiasts.

If you are keen to take a day trip or make an overnight stay from these five cities, we recommend exploring the recommended list of places, all of which are open for visits but some may lack interpretive commentary.

All sites are open for visits, however some have no interpretive commentary currently available.

Sharjah's Cities

- 1 Khor Fakkan
- 2 Kalba
- 3 Dibba
- 4 Al Dhaid
- 5 Al Badayer



ART & CULTURE OUTSIDE SHARJAH CITY

Sharjah Art Foundation (SAF) continues to acquire historic buildings threatened with demolition and other culturally significant sites, which are being converted into exhibition and/or education spaces. Three such spaces are:

Al Hamriyah Art Center

Inaugurated in February 2017, Al Hamriya Studios is under the care of Sharjah Art Foundation (SAF). It houses artist workspaces and communal exhibition areas designed by Dubai based architect Khaled Al Najjar. His design combines avant-garde and modern architectural technologies with regionally-inspired customs and traditions of the built environment. In keeping with SAF's other urban development projects, which have readapted historic architectural elements to new uses, Al Hamriya Studios was constructed on the site of a former souq.

Art Centers in Central and Eastern Sharjah

The six art centers located in the central and eastern regions of Sharjah were incorporated into Sharjah's Art Foundation in 2016. These art centers are Al Madam Art Center, Al Dhaid Art Center, Al Hamriyah Art Center, Kalba Art Center, Khorfakkan Art Center, and Dibba Al Hisn Art Center. They are committed to promoting education and community outreach by offering a variety of classes and programs throughout the year, including painting, sculpture, calligraphy, ceramics, and photography classes. These centers are also host to various other activities and events.

Kalba Ice Factory

The Kalba Ice Factory, located on the East Coast of Sharjah, UAE, is an art space and gallery that was renovated from a derelict feed mill and ice factory. It serves as an exhibition space for events such as the Sharjah Biennial installations and more. Adjacent to the ice factory, visitors can find the Fen Restaurant, which is renowned for its seafood and barbecue offerings.

1970s prototype kindergarten building in Kalba

In the 1970s, two renowned modernist architects, Georges Rais and Jafar Tukan, were commissioned to design a prototype for kindergartens that would be built across the UAE. Although tens of these kindergartens were built, some have been demolished, while others have been repurposed. The only kindergarten in Kalba designed by Rais and Tukan was constructed in 1979, and it has been abandoned in recent years. In 2016, Sharjah Art Foundation acquired the building with the intention of transforming it into a community center that caters to the cultural needs of the city. Since the Foundation's acquisition of the kindergarten, it has been utilized for various purposes, including hosting Mohamed Bourouissa's Sharjah Biennial 14 artwork, Blida-Joinville (2018-2019). The artwork brought together the architecture and histories of a psychiatric hospital in Algeria and the school in Kalba.

KHOR FAKKAN

The Arab Union for Tourist Media declared Khorfakkan as the "top Arab tourist city" for 2023. Offering exquisite beaches, mountains, ancient castles, museums, and mosques, Khorfakkan is a true paradise for tourists seeking natural beauty and cultural landmarks.

Al Adwani Tower

Al Adwani Tower, built in 1623 as a lighthouse to direct ships into Khorfakkan Port, offers spectacular views of the town. It has been restored in its original place after being demolished in 1985 and now serves as a museum.

Al Suhub Rest Area

Al Suhub Rest Area is a newly built mountain-side rest stop located 600 meters above sea level, offering panoramic views across Khorfakkan. It features a luxury restaurant and observation locations along a well-designed, safe road. One of its unique attractions is the "Dinner in the Sky" experience, where diners can enjoy their meal in a cloud lounge.

Al Rabi Tower and Hiking Trail

The Al Rabi Tower is a historic landmark and the start/end point of a scenic hiking trail with panoramic views of Khorfakkan and the bay. The well-marked trail leads to a 395m summit, recommended for beginners but rocky terrain and proper footwear are advised. Non-hikers should consider going in professional groups and bring plenty of water and food.

Al Rafisah Dam

The Al Rafisah Dam, visible from the Sharjah-Khorfakkan bypass road, features a tourist center, clean lake, and stunning views of the Hajar mountains. Travel time from Sharjah has been reduced to 45 minutes. The site includes a mosque, play areas, parking, grocery, and a restaurant. A walkway passes the plantations and Najd Al Maqsar fort. Ideal for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts.

Khor Fakkan Amphitheater and Waterfall

The Khorfakkan Amphitheater is a well-known local landmark with Roman-style construction. It spans 1700 square meters, can hold over 3500 people, and features a cutting-edge cooling system, making it the ideal outdoor venue for events. The theater's restaurant and café serve delicious cuisine to visitors.

+9716 512 3440
visitsharjah.com

Khor Fakkan Beach

Explore the ocean with a calm swim and other various fishing sites deeper in the sea where you can capture fish. You may go sailing, scuba diving, or snorkeling near Shark Island, which is only a short boat trip from the beach.

Khorfakkan Square

Drive through the square or pull over to one of the many benches that dot the area. At Khorfakkan Square, visitors will observe a big Mabkhara, a traditional incense burner and symbol of Arabic hospitality. With four stunning fountains and planted flora, Khorfakkan Square honors national pride.

Khorfakkan Waterfall

The 45-meter-high Khorfakkan Waterfall, made of natural granite, surrounds the nearby Amphitheater and is illuminated at night. Observation windows at the top offer visitors a unique vantage point to observe the water cascading down the rock.

Resistance Monument

The Resistance Monument, situated at the town's entrance, commemorates Khorfakkan's history and the people who fought back against the Portuguese invasion in 1507. Its curved

geometric shape is visible from various locations throughout the city. Remnants of the Portuguese era can be seen throughout Khorfakkan, and the promenade around the memorial offers a great area to take in the scenery and reflect on the town's past.

Shark Island

Shark Island, a small rocky island situated off the coast of Khorfakkan public beach, is a paradise for those who enjoy swimming, snorkeling, and scuba diving. Snorkelers can relish in the sight of sea anemones and turtles, while divers can explore the stunning rock formations teeming with moray eels, rays, and Arabian angelfish. If you prefer to stay above the water, take a kayak out and observe schools of fish through the clear waters.

For families with children, it is recommended to choose a local diving center for island guides. You can rent diving equipment or snorkeling fins, snorkels, and masks from them. You may also enjoy a picnic on the sandy Sharjah beach. With its beautiful weather, Shark Island offers a variety of activities for both children and adults.

Shees Park

Shees Park, located near Khorfakkan with the Hajar Mountains as a backdrop, features palm-lined walks, a native plant collection, a games area, an outdoor theater, and a BBQ area with high safety and environmental standards. It's an ecotourism project in the eastern region of Sharjah and can be reached via the new Khorfakkan route 142, around one hour's drive from Sharjah. The park's unique location distinguishes it from tall mountains and provides a one-of-a-kind tourism experience to explore the region's mountain ranges.

Wadi Shees Fortress

The Wadi Shees Fortress is a historic fort located near the Al Rafisah Dam in Khorfakkan, UAE. It was built in the 18th century and served as a strategic defensive post. The fortress has been restored as part of a reconstruction plan and is now open to the public for visits. It offers a glimpse into the region's rich history and provides a scenic view of the surrounding landscape.

Wadi Wurayah Biosphere Reserve

Wadi Wurayah is known for its unique water network, featuring streams, waterfalls, and an abandoned oasis named after the giant reed in Arabic. This biosphere is home to various species, including the Omani blind cavefish, Arabian leopard, Bonelli's eagle, Barbary falcon, and Blanford's fox. With 29 archaeological sites, the reserve offers a glimpse into pre-Islamic graves, Bedouin communities, ancient Islamic graveyards, rock sculptures, and pottery shards dating back to the 14th to 18th centuries.


HISTORIC MOSQUE IN KHORFAKKAN: IMAM SALEM

Al Mutawa Mosque

The Imam Salem Al Mutawa Mosque is the oldest landmark in Khorfakkan and is pictured on one side of the UAE five-dirham note. Located on the Corniche, this 200-year-old mosque was renovated and reopened to the public in 2011. With an open-air, arched minaret and star and moon shaped holes in the walls, the mosque promotes the flow of cooling air. It can accommodate 70 to 100 worshippers.

The Port of Khor Fakkan faces
the Emirate of Sharjah's eastern
seaboard, extending connections
with Asia and the Far East
Photo by Marvin Castelino





Kalba is an exclave of the emirate of Sharjah on the eastern coast of the UAE. Bordering Oman towards the south, the city was known as Ghallah in the 16th century when it was overtaken by the Portuguese empire. A developing city popular for its nature reserves, and home to some of the oldest mangrove forests, rare bird species as well as heritage sites on the western end. Kalba is the ultimate animal conservation destination, with plenty of activities for children and environment enthusiasts.

Al Hefaiyah Mountain Conservation Center

Al Hefaiyah Conservation Center is a wildlife reserve supporting over 30 native mountain and desert-adapted species. It's a fun family activity to request a guided tour, during which children are encouraged to ask questions. If you're traveling with a larger group, you can inquire about golf cart rides for an express tour.

Al Qurm Nature Reserve

Al Qurm Nature Reserve is a must-see wildlife sanctuary in the UAE, with approximately 500 hectares of protected mangroves. Rare bird species, sea turtles, and mammals live in the mangroves, known as qurm in Arabic. Guided kayak and paddle board tours take you deeper into the nature reserve, or bring a pair of binoculars to observe wildlife from afar.

Bait Sheikh Saeed Bin Hamad Al Qasimi

Bait Sheikh Saeed Bin Hamad Al Qasimi is a seafront museum, renovated from a residence built for Sheikh Saeed in the late 19th century. The bait boasts exquisite stucco and carved wooden doors, making it one of the UAE's most magnificent heritage residences. It features barjeel (wind towers) and a central courtyard that offer a glimpse into life over a century ago. The Majlis (sitting hall) in the eastern section was designed to receive male guests, while the dwelling quarters in the western area were for women.

Kalba Beach

The 7-kilometer long Kalba Beach is a serene destination to relax while keeping an eye out for endangered wildlife. It is a significant nesting site for hawksbill turtles and also home to the endangered Arabian-collared kingfisher. The beach is located adjacent to the Khor Kalba Conservation Reserve, a mangrove jungle thriving with Sharjah species. Scuba diving is a popular

summer activity, especially for kids who enjoy discovering aquatic life. The sight of local fishermen trying to make a catch along the horizon adds to the beach's charm.

Kalba Birds of Prey Center

Hunting birds of prey has long been a tradition among Bedouin tribes, and falconry is still a popular hobby today. The Kalba Birds of Prey Center is a must-see attraction in the Khor Kalba nature reserve, Sharjah. It showcases a variety of native raptor species through live demonstrations and displays, including owls, eagles, buzzards, vultures, and falcons, which are used in the traditional hobby of falconry. Visitors can enjoy free-flying demonstrations and learn about the region's wildlife habitat. After visiting the center, explore Kalba's diverse terrains and fauna.

Kalba Conservation Reserve

The Kalba Conservation Reserve offers stunning views, diverse ecosystems, and activities for nature enthusiasts of all ages. Located in Sharjah, Khor Kalba boasts three main tourist attractions: the Kalba Bird of Prey Center, perfect for falconry lessons; the Al Hefaiyah Mountain Conservation Center, featuring a variety of trails for a beautiful hike; and the Al Hafiya Picnic Park. Visitors can also kayak along clean waterways, pitch tents, and stargaze at the reserve.

Kalba Corniche Park

The Kalba Corniche Park is a popular destination for tourists and families, offering a great spot for picnics and barbecues. The park includes an open playground for children and a beach, although swimming is not recommended. The park is well-maintained, with public facilities and parking available, and nearby grocery stores, cafeterias, and restaurants within walking distance.

Kalba Fort

The Kalba Fort, situated inland from the coastal city of Kalba on the eastern Sharjah seaboard, dates back to the early 17th century. Originally built by the Portuguese in 1624 on the site of an earlier Islamic fort, the fort was later taken over by Arab forces who built their own fort on the ruins. While it is not open for visitors to enter, the fort is a great spot for taking photos of its historic architecture.

The Kalba Kingfisher Lodge

Staying overnight at the reserve is a great way to taste camping in the UAE. The Kalba Kingfisher Lodge features 20 luxurious tents connected by boardwalks that safeguard turtle breeding areas. Whatever your plans are for your trip, this east coast site is undoubtedly one of Sharjah's must-see attractions.

Wadi Al Helo

Wadi Al Helo, meaning "sweet valley," boasts an archaeological site and an Islamic watchtower in Sharjah. This wadi is a protected haven for endangered wildlife, including birds, reptiles, rodents, and freshwater fish, nestled amidst the Hajar mountains. The wadi offers a variety of scenic hiking paths, with the most popular leading to the hill's summit, where a historic fort offers a stunning 360-degree view of the UAE mountain range. Follow animal paths to encounter wildlife, such as the Arabian Oryx and desert flowers blooming along the route. Guided hiking tours are recommended for families, as exploring the wadi is enjoyable for children. With personalized attention from guides, Wadi Al Helo is an exciting family activity and one of Sharjah's lesser-known destinations.

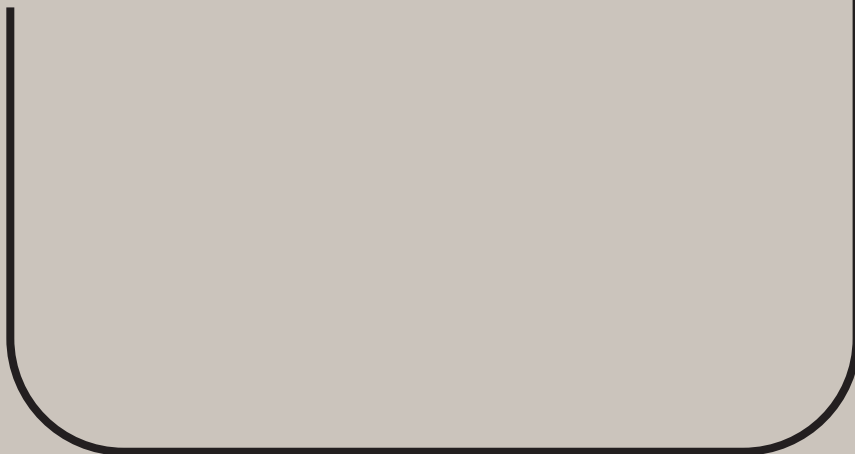


Kalba Road
Photo by Stanislav Ferreo



The northern emirate of Sharjah is home to the city of Dibba Al Hosn, which comprises several small neighborhoods. This area is situated between the mountains and the coast, making it a popular camping spot during the winter and a hub for beach activities in the summer.

DIBBA






Dibba Al-Hisn Fort
Photo by Makalu

Deep-sea Fishing, Scuba-Diving & Snorkeling and Dhow Cruises

Dibba is a great place for deep-sea fishing, swimming, and snorkeling. The fishing voyage starts at the seaport of Dibba. If you're interested in seeing turtles while snorkeling, the seaward side of the island is the best spot, where several coral reefs are located. You may also encounter other fish species, such as the peculiar jawfish, that have large heads and eyes and decorate their drainpipe homes with beautiful shells. Additionally, joining a tour to Panoramic Musandam Dibba will provide an opportunity to enjoy the stunning scenery, crystal-clear waters, and pleasant temperatures of the region.

Dibba Al-Hisn Fort

Dibba Al Hisn Fort is a small and well-built fort with a crenelated watchtower facing the Gulf of Oman. The town has historical significance as one of the most significant conflicts of the Ridda Wars took place here in 632 AD. After exploring the fort, take a stroll up to the marina and visit the Fish Souk in the afternoon to see the daily catch brought in by local fishermen.



Al Badayer, located in the emirate of Sharjah, is a destination known for its impressive sand dunes, offering visitors a thrilling experience of desert adventures and breathtaking natural beauty.

AL BADAYER

Al Badayer Oasis

Al Badayer Oasis is a picturesque spot where visitors can enjoy the natural beauty of palm trees, lush greenery, and a serene atmosphere. It's an ideal place for a leisurely stroll or a picnic.

Camel Riding

Explore the desert surroundings in a more traditional way by embarking on a camel ride. Take in the breathtaking views of the golden dunes as you leisurely traverse the landscape atop these majestic creatures.

Desert Camping

Experience the tranquility of the desert by setting up a camp in Al Badayer. Spend a night under the starry sky, enjoying traditional Bedouin hospitality and cultural activities. It's an excellent opportunity to disconnect from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Desert Photography

Al Badayer provides endless opportunities for photography enthusiasts. Capture the beauty of the desert landscapes, the shifting sand dunes, and the mesmerizing sunset or sunrise scenes. It's a haven for those seeking to capture unique and awe-inspiring moments in the desert.

Dune Bashing

Al Badayer is known for its expansive desert dunes, making it a perfect destination for adrenaline junkies. Engage in thrilling dune bashing adventures, where you can ride over the sandy terrain in powerful off-road vehicles.

Sandboarding

For those who enjoy adventure sports, sandboarding is a must-try activity in Al Badayer. Glide down the slopes of the sand dunes on a sandboard, similar to snowboarding. It's an exhilarating experience that combines thrill and enjoyment.

AL DHAID

Al Dhaid, nestled in the heart of Sharjah, is a vibrant town surrounded by lush greenery and fertile agricultural lands. It showcases a blend of traditional charm and modern development, making it an appealing destination for both locals and visitors alike.

Al Dhaid Camel Racing Track

Experience the exhilaration of traditional camel racing at the Al Dhaid Camel Racing Track. Watch as these majestic animals compete in this age-old sport, which is a significant part of Emirati culture. The track often hosts races during the cooler months, typically in February or March.

Al Dhaid Fort

Explore the historic Al Dhaid Fort, a well-preserved fortress that dates back to the 16th century. This architectural gem provides insights into the region's heritage and serves as a cultural landmark in Al Dhaid.

Al Dhaid Souq

Immerse yourself in the vibrant local culture by visiting Al Dhaid Souq. This traditional market offers a variety of goods, including fresh produce, spices, textiles, and handicrafts. It's a great place to experience the authentic atmosphere of the region.

Al Dhaid Wildlife Centre

The Al Dhaid Wildlife Centre in Sharjah is a conservation sanctuary where visitors can admire a wide array of animal species in their natural habitats, promoting education and awareness about wildlife preservation.

+971 6 802 6111

Arts Palace and Al Dhaid old Clinic building

The former residence of the ruling Al Qasimi family, the Arts Palace in Al Dhaid is a cultural hub that showcases the vibrant arts scene of the region, hosting exhibitions, performances, and workshops, while the Al Dhaid old Clinic building stands as a historic landmark, preserving the architectural heritage of the town.

Fruit and Vegetable Market

Al Dhaid is known for its fruitful agricultural lands, and visiting the Fruit and Vegetable Market is a must. Explore the vibrant market filled with a wide range of locally grown fruits, vegetables, and other farm produce. It's an opportunity to taste fresh and organic delights.

Ghost Town (Buried Village of Al Madam)

The Ghost Town, also known as the Buried Village of Al Madam, in Al Dhaid, Sharjah, is a captivating and eerie sight where abandoned houses and structures lie partially buried in the desert sands, creating a haunting atmosphere that intrigues explorers and photographers. It is recommended to visit with a local guide.

WEB RESOURCES ABOUT SHARJAH

Contemporary Art & Cultural Heritage in Sharjah

sdci.gov.ae
sharjah-heritage.ae
sharjahmuseums.ae
shjlibrary.ae

Learn more about the Emirate of Sharjah and its tourist sites

visitsharjah.com
sharjahmydestination.ae
sharjah-welcome.com
sharjahevents.ae



Al Khan Bridge overlooking the iconic
Central Souk in the heart of Sharjah
Photo by Ahmed Aldaie

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 **africainstitute**

 **theafricainst**

 **theafricainstitute.org**

