

LIVE, WORK & INVEST IN DUBAI · 30 JULY 2026 · 12 MIN READ

Live, work and invest in Dubai: a practical starting point

A connected guide to residency, careers, banking, property, mobility, education, wellness, and everyday life.

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01 / Visas and entry

Choose the right entry and residency pathway.

Visa requirements vary by nationality, trip type, employment status, investment plans, and intended length of stay. Start with the purpose of your move before preparing documents or committing to a structure.

02 / Get a job

Build a career strategy for Dubai.

Understand the employment market, prepare locally relevant credentials, evaluate offers carefully, and confirm how sponsorship, benefits, probation, and end-of-service arrangements work.

03 / Open a bank account

Prepare for personal banking requirements.

Banks commonly review residency status, Emirates ID, address evidence, employment or income documentation, and the expected source and use of funds.

04 / Dubai neighbourhoods

Choose an area around the life you want.

Compare commute, schools, amenities, community atmosphere, property type, future development, and overall cost rather than choosing from rent alone.

Understand the property landscape.

Before renting, buying, or investing, assess ownership rules, registration costs, service charges, financing, expected yield, handover risk, and exit flexibility.

06 / Roads and driving

Get ready to drive with confidence.

Check licence conversion or testing requirements, vehicle registration, insurance, road tolls, parking systems, traffic rules, and the ongoing cost of ownership.

07 / Public transport

Move around Dubai conveniently.

Metro, tram, bus, taxi, ride-hailing, and marine transport can be combined around your location and routine. Consider last-mile access when choosing a home or office.

08 / Education ecosystem

Plan an academic journey early.

Dubai offers varied curricula, universities, nurseries, training institutions, and professional qualifications. Admissions timelines and fee structures should be part of the relocation budget.

09 / Health and wellness

Understand healthcare and insurance.

Review mandatory insurance, provider networks, employer coverage, family policies, primary care access, specialist needs, and wellness options before selecting a plan.

10 / Resources for city living

Set up the digital essentials.

Government platforms, transport tools, utility services, delivery applications, digital identity, payment services, and community platforms make everyday life easier once configured correctly.

11 / Work remotely

Base your remote career in Dubai.

Remote-working residency can provide a one-year Dubai base for eligible overseas professionals. Review income evidence, insurance, employer documentation, tax position, and renewal requirements.

12 / Practical information

Prepare the first weeks before arrival.

Organise documents, temporary connectivity, initial accommodation, transport, payments, emergency contacts, climate-appropriate clothing, and key appointments before travelling.

13 / Accommodation

Compare short- and long-term stays.

Balance flexibility, furnishing, deposit requirements, utility setup, contract duration, registration, location, and total occupancy cost when choosing accommodation.

Online edition: <https://iraaglobal.com/insights/live-work-invest-dubai/>

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Keep exploring practical guidance from IRAA Global, or move from reading to a focused conversation with our advisory team.

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Tax-readiness quick check

1. Confirm the responsible legal entity and registration position.
2. Reconcile the accounts, tax adjustments and supporting evidence.
3. Document ownership, review and approval before filing.

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Insight beyond numbers.

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