

Transportation in UAE



Transportation in UAE

Since you're moving to the UAE, you're probably wondering how you're going to get around. You might be surprised to learn that public transportation, for the most part, is fairly inexpensive in the UAE. Expect traffic congestion, though. The UAE is growing at a fast pace, and with the amount of construction going on in the cities, it's easy to see why roadways might be clogged. Here's a breakdown of what you can expect to see on the roads in the UAE.

Private vehicles

These are probably the most common type of transport in the UAE. Most people have their own cars and use this as their means of transport. You have to be 18 years old or over to drive a car in the UAE and women are allowed to drive.

There is a massive road system which connects all of the coastal cities of the UAE. However the desert is a lot less developed in this sense. Making getting around a lot more difficult.

Taxis

Taxis in the UAE are relatively inexpensive and safe. Most large cities have extensive taxi systems, which are by far the most frequently used means of public transport within the Emirate. You'll find government-operated and private cab companies in operation. Meters generally start at 6.00 Dirham and are charged by the distance at 1.5/km

Buses

There are bus systems in the UAE which can come regularly and are fairly efficient. The bus will not cost you much but the travel can be a little far and tiresome. You can also travel in between cities using the bus service as well as inner city bus services.

Rail

Transport by rail is not very popular in the UAE, however this is an area that is up and coming in the UAE. Most people choose to get around by taxi or in their own car, and this is how it has been for a long time, so the train system has been slow to develop.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN AND AROUND DUBAI

How to get around Dubai and United Arab Emirates overall? Many travel guides state that it's not possible without private transportation and using taxi, but we'd say that travelers who don't mind walking a few kilometers, are just fine with using public transport. However, if you'd like to explore destinations outside the city centers, options for public transport can be either very limited or nonexistent. In this short guide post we provide some information on how to get around central Dubai and Abu Dhabi, and how to move between the capital cities of different emirates. The price details in this post are in local currency AED, and the exchange rate is roughly 0,25 € / 1 AED, so one euro is around 4 Dirhams.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN DUBAI

First of all, note that Dubai City is huge. When looking it in a map, it might not look that big, but what looks like a block in a map, often is a distance of around 1 km. For example, even if the metro line seems to run quite close to the coastline, most of the stations are several kilometers away from the beaches. Also, the footbridge called Metro link that leads from Burj Khalifa / Dubai Mall metro station to the mall itself is 820 meters long! However, Dubai Metro is very useful for moving between the different parts of the city, and when you combine it with the extensive bus network and tram line, you can get pretty much everywhere in the city center.

Dubai tram runs in Dubai Marina and along the coast in front of Palm Jumeirah Island, and is linked to two metro stations, as well as to the monorail to Palm Jumeirah. Yet another way of public transport are the small, wooden boats called abra (in the cover picture of this post), that take you cross the Dubai Creek between Deira and Bur Dubai. Cost of one abra ride is 1 AED. There are also (rather expensive) water bus and Dubai Ferry services for longer distances along the creek, and in Dubai Marina. The operator of public transportation is governmental Dubai Road and Transportation Authority, in short RTA. Their website is useful for finding information about transport services and route maps.

TRAVELING BETWEEN DIFFERENT EMIRATES

There are altogether seven different emirates in UEA, and some of them have their own transportation operators. NOL card can be used for intercity trips operated by RTA, so basically for the trips from Dubai to different emirates. We used NOL card for intercity bus from Dubai to the emirate of Fujairah and back, and to get from Ajman to Dubai. Intercity buses between Sharjah and Ajman, and north from there, are operated by a Sharjah RTA, and paper tickets to them can be bought in cash. Also the bus we used to get from Abu Dhabi to Sharjah was operated by SRTA, and paper tickets for it could be bought from the bus station. New Sayer smart card system has been taken in use in orange Mowasalat buses that operate in Sharjah emirate, but cash payments are still possible as well.

Fares for long distance bus routes are surprisingly affordable. We listed for a reference the intercity bus trips that we made in December 2018;

Abu Dhabi (Central station) to Sharjah (Al Jubail): 30 AED (bus 117, paper ticket)

Sharjah (Al Jubail) to Ajman (Central station): 5 AED (bus 112, paper ticket)

Ajman to Dubai (Union Square): 15 AED (bus E400, with NOL card)

Dubai (Union Square) to Fujairah (city center): 25 AED (bus E700, with NOL card)

Dubai (Al Ghubaiba) to Abu Dhabi (Central station) : 25 AED (bus E100, with NOL card)

Sources:

www.reachtoteachrecruiting.com

www.finnsaway.com