

experience
abu dhabi



Transit Guide

Exploring
Abu Dhabi

www.visitabudhabi.ae

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Explore this guide

Visa and Transit FAQs

Do I need a visa to visit the UAE?

If you're eligible for a visa on arrival or you're a GCC citizen, you don't need to apply for a visa before traveling to the UAE. Otherwise, you'll need to apply for a visa in advance. This also applies if you're transiting through Abu Dhabi and plan to leave the airport. GCC citizens can simply present their passport or national ID card upon arrival in Abu Dhabi.

Visa on Arrival Eligible Countries

Check the list below to see if you're eligible for a visa on arrival. If you're not eligible, you'll need to apply for a visa before traveling to the UAE. This applies even if you're transiting through Abu Dhabi and plan to leave the airport.

[Visa-on-arrival eligible countries.](#)

Need a Transit Visa?

If you're not eligible for a visa on arrival and plan to visit the UAE, you'll need to apply for a visa in advance. Transit visas allow guests to stay in Abu Dhabi for up to 4 days (96 hours)

[Apply for a transit visa](#)



Important: You must have a valid visa to exit the airport and explore Abu Dhabi. Transit passengers without visas must remain in the terminal.

🕒 15 Minutes Away

Must-See Abu Dhabi Attractions



Entertainment

1



Warner Bros. World
Abu Dhabi



2



SeaWorld Yas Island,
Abu Dhabi



3



Ferrari World
Abu Dhabi



Shopping & Lifestyle

4



Yas Mall



Fine Dining

5



Yas Bay



🕒 20 Minutes Away

Must-See Abu Dhabi Attractions



Louvre Abu Dhabi



Observe the art!
Global art collections under iconic floating dome



Mamsha Al Saadiyat



Stroll in style!
Dine and stroll by the pristine shoreline



teamLab Phenomena Abu Dhabi



Art beyond limits!
An ever-changing world of digital art

 **30 Minutes Away**

Must-See Abu Dhabi Attractions



1



Qasr Al Watan

Celebrate UAE heritage!
Presidential palace with cultural exhibitions

2



Emirates Heritage Village

Where tradition comes to life!
Showcasing traditional Emirati life, heritage, and culture

3



Qasr Al Hosn

Discover a legacy!
The historic heart of Abu Dhabi City

10-12 Hour Layover Itinerary

Starting Point:

Zayed International Airport

Begin your journey

1

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque



Admire the grandeur!

A breathtaking and iconic landmark to explore



Drive
20 Mins



Recommended
visit duration
2 hours

Operating Hours: Saturday to Thursday: 9 AM – 10 PM
Friday: 9 AM – 12 PM and 3 PM – 10 PM (closed to visitors between 12 PM and 3 PM)

Note: Timings may vary during Ramadan and public holidays.

2

Qasr Al Watan



Celebrate heritage!

This presidential palace features cultural exhibitions



Drive
25 Mins



Recommended
visit duration
1 hour

Operating Hours: 11 AM – 5:40 PM

Note: The Palace in Motion light show typically runs in the evenings (check the official website for show timings).

3

Heritage Village



Where tradition comes to life!

Experience traditional Emirati life and shop for spices.



Drive
10 Mins



Recommended
visit duration
1 hour

Operating Hours: Saturday to Thursday: 9 AM – 4 PM
Friday: 7:30 AM – 12 PM & 3 PM – 9 PM

4

Marina Mall Abu Dhabi



Shop, dine, and unwind!

World-class shopping, dining, and family entertainment



Drive
5 Mins



Recommended
visit duration
2 hours

Operating Hours: Sunday to Thursday: 10 AM – 10 PM,
Friday & Saturday: 10 AM – 12 AM

Return to Airport

Head back to Zayed International Airport

Drive time 30 mins



Important: This itinerary takes approximately 7 hours total (6 hours at attractions + 1 hour total driving time). Allow additional 2–3 hours for airport procedures. Perfect for a 10–12 hour layover. Adjust timing based on your specific flight schedule. All attractions are planned with optimal visiting hours and include buffer time for unexpected delays.

13-15 Hour Layover Itinerary

Starting Point:

Zayed International Airport

Begin your journey

1

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque



Admire the grandeur!

A breathtaking and iconic landmark to explore



Drive
20 Mins



Recommended
visit duration
2 hours

Operating Hours: Saturday to Thursday: 9 AM – 10 PM
Friday: 9 AM – 12 PM and 3 PM – 10 PM (closed to visitors between 12 PM and 3 PM)

Note: Timings may vary during Ramadan and public holidays.

2

Qasr Al Hosn



Discover a legacy!

The historic heart of Abu Dhabi City



Drive
20 Mins



Recommended
visit duration
1 hour

Operating Hours: Saturday to Thursday: 9 AM – 8 PM
Friday: 2 PM – 8 PM

A family-friendly destination for Emirati heritage, dining at Erth, and fun at the Children's Library.

3

Heritage Village



Tradition comes to life!

Live demonstrations and authentic craftsmanship



**Drive
10 Mins**



Recommended
visit duration
1 hour

Operating Hours: Saturday to Thursday: 9 AM – 4 PM
Friday: 7:30 AM – 12 PM & 3 PM – 9 PM

4

Louvre Abu Dhabi



Absorb global art!

Global art collections under the iconic floating dome



**Drive
25 Mins**



Recommended
visit duration
2 hours

Operating Hours: Tuesday to Thursday: 10: AM – 6:30 PM
Fridays to Sundays : 10 AM – 8:30 PM, Mondays closed
Note: Extended hours may apply during events or exhibitions.

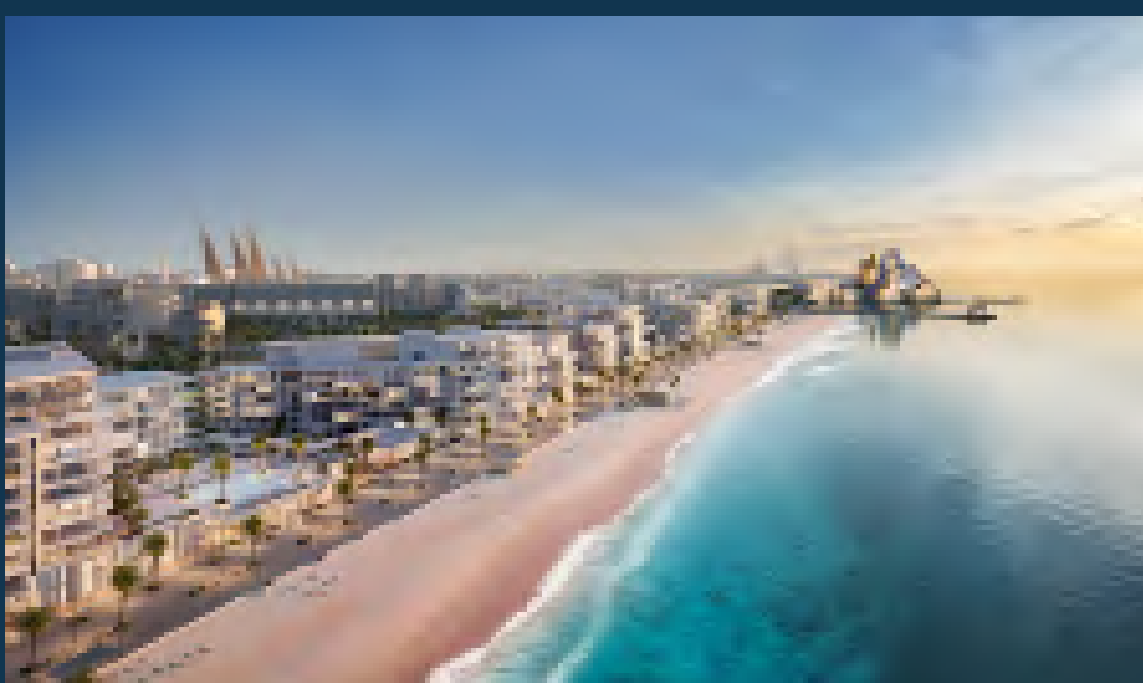
5

Mamsha Al Saadiyat



Stroll in style!

Dine and stroll by the pristine shoreline



**Drive
5 Mins**



Recommended
visit duration
2 hours

Operating Hours: Open 24 hours (restaurants and retail outlets have individual timings).
Note: Ideal for evening strolls and dining.

6

Yas Mall



Shop, dine, unwind!

A hub of fashion, flavours, and fun



Drive
30 Mins



Recommended
visit duration
2 hours

Operating Hours: 7 days a week, from 9 AM – 11 PM

Note: Dining and entertainment areas may have extended hours.

Return to Airport

Head back to Zayed International Airport

Drive time 15 mins



Important: This itinerary takes approximately 10.5 hours total (10 hours at attractions + 1.5 hours total driving time). Allow additional 2-3 hours for airport procedures. Perfect for a 10-12 hour layover. Adjust timing based on your specific flight schedule. All attractions are planned with optimal visiting hours and include buffer time for unexpected delays.

Experience Abu Dhabi Your Way

Abu Dhabi Pass

Unlock great savings with exclusive access to top attractions and experiences across the city. Ideal for visitors with limited time who want to see more while spending less.



Abu Dhabi Events

From cultural festivals to world-class concerts and sports, explore Abu Dhabi's packed event calendar while you are here. There's always something exciting happening.



101 things to do in Abu Dhabi

Short on time but curious to explore? This curated list helps you discover the must-see spots, hidden gems, and unique experiences—perfect for making the most of your visit.



Getting around in Abu Dhabi



Taxi

Wondering what the best way to get around the city is? For quick and convenient taxi bookings, download the Uber or Careem app.

Uber

iOS

Android

Careem

iOS

Android

You can also use the Abu Dhabi Taxi app or Yango for easy access to taxis.

Abu Dhabi Taxi

iOS

Android

Yango

iOS

Android



Public Bus

Abu Dhabi's modern, air-conditioned buses operate round-the-clock. For more information, visit Abu Dhabi Mobility.

[Discover more](#)

Get a Hafilat card from the public bus counter at the arrival hall.



Experience Abu Dhabi Free Shuttle Bus

Free-of-charge shuttle bus offers comfortable seating, air-conditioning, wheelchair accessibility, and Wi-Fi access, ensuring a convenient and inclusive travel experience.

[Check routes](#)

Essential Information for Abu Dhabi Visitors



Abu Dhabi Travel Tips

- Local currency is UAE Dirham (AED), 1 USD ≈ 3.67 AED
- Major credit cards are widely accepted.
- Currency exchange available at the arrival zone
- Get a free local SIM card from the Etisalat counter at the arrival zone
- For flight updates, contact the airport center at: 02 505 5555



UAE Cultural Etiquette

- Abu Dhabi is a destination with almost year-round sunshine, little rainfall and near-perfect winter temperatures. Lightweight summer clothing is suitable for most of the year, but something slightly warmer may be needed for the winter months. Although the attitude towards clothing style is fairly liberal throughout the UAE, a healthy amount of respect for local customs doesn't go amiss, especially when shopping or sightseeing.
- Showing respect for local customs is recommended, especially when shopping or sightseeing.
- Respect Ramadan customs if visiting during the holy month.
- Ask permission before photographing people.

Essential Information for Abu Dhabi Visitors



Language

- Abu Dhabi is a multicultural city, with residents speaking a vast variety of world languages. The UAE's official language is Arabic but English is also widely spoken and understood.



Emergency Contacts in Abu Dhabi

- Abu Dhabi Police Emergency: **999**
- Ambulance Services: **998**
- Abu Dhabi Tourism Police: **+971 800 2626**
- Abu Dhabi Airport: **+971 2 505 55555**

Essential Airport Information



The airport provides comprehensive facilities

- **Lounge Access:** Comfortable lounges with various amenities.
- **Locker Service:** Secure storage for your belongings.
- **Sleeping Pods:** Private pods for rest and relaxation.
- **Duty-Free Shopping:** A range of luxury items and local products.
- **Food & Beverage:** Dining options for all tastes.
- **Free Wi-Fi:** Stay connected throughout the airport.
- **Medical Assistance:** 24/7 health services.
- **Currency Exchange:** Currency exchange counters for your convenience.
- **Information Desks:** Helpful staff for any inquiries or assistance.
- **Baggage Assistance:** Help with handling or transporting luggage.
- **Rent a Car:** Convenient car rental services for your travels.
- **Accessibility:** Provides comprehensive wheelchair assistance services to ensure travelers with reduced mobility or specific accessibility needs travel comfortably and confidently

[Discover more](#)

experience abu dhabi

Thank you for visiting Abu Dhabi

We look forward to welcoming you to Abu Dhabi soon and hope you make the most of your short visit. We can't wait for you, along with your friends and family, to experience the beauty and grandeur of our city. Safe travels, and we hope to see you again for a longer stay to explore all that Abu Dhabi has to offer!

For more information

Please visit our Visitor Information Stand inside the airport at the arrivals hall.

Or visit [our website](#)

