



Trekking the Planet

Discovering the Cultural and Natural Significance of the World



Where are we now?

- Darren and Sandy are in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, located at 25° N and 55° E.
- We have traveled approximately 44,205 miles (50,091 kilometers) from our starting point in California.



People and Culture

- Recorded human activity in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) dates back to 5500 B.C.
- The UAE was part of the Trucial States, which was a 19th-century truce between local sheikhs, territory rulers and the United Kingdom. When the British withdrew from the region in 1971, two of the territories, Bahrain and Oman, became independent and the rest formed the present-day UAE federation of seven emirates.
- The capital of the UAE is Abu Dhabi, which is also the largest emirate. It is the second largest city. Another of the seven emirates, Dubai, is the largest city with about 2.2 million inhabitants. Only about 20% of the population of the UAE is comprised of UAE citizens. About half of the non-UAE population is from India.
- The official language is Arabic and the predominant religion is Muslim.
- Dubai has attracted global attention with its projects. The Palm Islands are artificial archipelagos that contain residences and commercial structures. These are the largest artificial islands in the world.
- Popular sports include soccer, cricket and camel racing.



Dubai at night (source: [Flickr.com/Kamel Lebtahi](https://www.flickr.com/photos/kamel_lebtahi/))

Did you know?

The current tallest building in the world is in Dubai. It is called Burj Khalifa and is more than 2,716.5 feet (828 meters) tall. Completed in 2010, it has over 160 stories and holds the following world records:

- Tallest free-standing structure
- Highest number of stories
- Highest outdoor observation deck
- Elevator with the longest travel distance



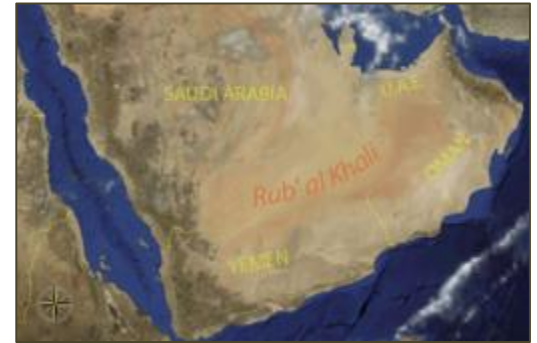
source: Burjkhalifa.ae



One of the Palm Islands
(source: Wikipedia.org)

Nature and Environment

- The United Arab Emirates is in Western Asia in an area known as the Middle East. It borders the countries of Oman and Saudi Arabia, as well as the Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf. It is slightly smaller than the U.S. state of Maine.
- UAE has the sixth largest oil reserves in the world.
- The world's largest peninsula, the Arabian Peninsula, is about 1,200 miles (1,900 kilometers) long. Within the peninsula are the countries of Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain.
- Desert is the primary terrain of this entire region. Few places receive more than 7 inches of rain each year and the temperature can reach as high as 130° F (54.4° C).
- The Rub' al Khali or 'Empty Quarter' is one of the largest sand deserts in the world. It comprises about one-third of the Arabian Peninsula. The sand is a reddish-orange color, due to the presence of feldspar. The sand dunes are as high as 820 feet (250 meters).



The Arabian Peninsula with countries and Rub' al Khali (source: Wikipedia.org)

Arabian Leopard

Smaller than its African and Asian counterparts, the Arabian leopard weighs an average of 66 pounds (30 kilograms) for the male and 44 pounds (20 kilograms) for the female. They are critically endangered, with less than 200 animals remaining. Some leopards can be found in Southern Oman at the Jebel Samhan Nature Reserve.



sources: Wikipedia.org, People.tribe.net



*Rub' al Khali sand
(source:
Flickr.com/Panoramas)*

Our Plans

- We have arrived in Dubai, UAE for a few days after completing our Africa travels.
- After visiting the city, we will move on to Jordan and our next trek. We will end up in Petra, which is a famous archaeological site.
- As we travel through the Middle East, let us know what questions you have. We will try to include our answers in a future email.

More Information

- <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0502/feature1/index.html>
- <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/31551/Arabia>
- <http://www.arab.de/arabinfo/parabia.htm>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uae>
- <http://www.interestingfacts.org/fact/dubai-facts>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Peninsula
- <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108074.html>
- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ae.html>

Kabsa

Traditional food of the UAE has been adopted from countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran and Oman. One dish from Saudi Arabia is called Kabsa. It is a family of rice dishes made from long-grain basmati rice, spices, meat and vegetables. The spices are key to the dish and are usually made up of black pepper, cloves, cardamom, saffron, cinnamon, bay leaves and nutmeg. The meat used may be chicken, goat, lamb or camel. In the UAE these dishes are known as *machbūs*.



source: Wikipedia.org

Our Partners



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 Unported License.