

DUBAI

From a young professional's point of view, Dubai is a dynamic and thriving market – it's full of excellent job opportunities for those with a strong Western background across all industry sectors. High profile development projects, a thriving tourism industry and opening of new finance centre means that it's a very busy place to be and the work here is interesting and top quality. Coupled with tax free earnings, you really can't go wrong! There is a lively ex-pat social scene with plenty of clubs to join and all manner of sports to watch and participate in. There's a wide variety of outstanding restaurants, bars and clubs to visit too. It's easy to meet people as everyone is in the same boat. Travel opportunities from the region are also amazing- India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Seychelles and parts of the Far East are easily accessible.

Dubai is a very family-orientated place and it is common to meet couples with young families out here. Childcare is very reasonably priced and there are some excellent (if slightly over-subscribed) schools to chose from. The outdoor lifestyle lends itself well to raising children.

The weather is very pleasant for the vast majority of the year, with the exception of the summer months of June-August when the temperatures can rise to 50 degrees and humidity levels can reach nearly 100%. Many ex-pats travel back to their home countries at this time and Dubai can become quite quiet. However, during the rest of the year, residents enjoy a beautiful dry heat and plenty of sunshine hours. On average there are only 4 days of rain per year!

There is no public transport at present, although a Light Railway is in the process of being built. This means that most people travel by car and the roads can get very congested. Taxis, cars and petrol are all extremely cheap but patience is the name of the game as you can find yourself stuck in traffic quite regularly.

Accommodation is expensive in Dubai and rent is payable upfront for the 12 months ahead in just one cheque. Many employers help out on this front and provide a housing loan for you. There is a good choice of properties to choose from in the market, from luxurious villas with swimming pools, to varying-sized apartments in the City or at the Marina. Very often accommodation is not simply just living space, it includes access to a fully-equipped gym, pool, spa, golf course, horse-riding facilities and so on. However, aside from accommodation, living costs are not exorbitant. General groceries, petrol and dry cleaning, for example, are all very cheap. The only thing that is pretty costly is alcohol in restaurants and bars...but at least you can buy it in the first place and it's not a dry country - unlike some of its Middle Eastern neighbours!

How much will it cost for essentials?

A latte - 11 Dirhams

A movie - 20 Dirhams

A glass of wine - 20 Dirhams

A 2 bedroom apartment per month - 10, 000 Dirhams

To convert your currency:

<http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

