

Moving to Dubai — Complete Guide 2026

Visa, housing, schools, bank accounts, taxes... Everything you need to know before

Free Summary — *Visa, housing, schools, bank accounts, taxes... Everything you need to know before*

Why Dubai?

- Zero personal income tax
- 200+ nationalities — truly international city
- Exceptional safety for families
- Strategic hub: Europe, Asia, Africa

Visa & Emirates ID

- Employment Visa: 2-3 years, renewable — most common
- Golden Visa 5/10 years: investors and talent
- Green Visa: qualified freelancers

The Emirates ID is your #1 priority. Without it: no bank account, no lease, no school enrolment.

Housing — Key Neighbourhoods

- Jumeirah: villas, near international schools
- Dubai Marina: sea-view apartments, vibrant
- JLT: great value, diverse community
- Arabian Ranches: gated community, ideal for families

Average 2-bed rent: AED 80,000–130,000/year. Post-dated cheques (2–4/year).

Schooling — Key Steps

- GEMS Wellington (KHDA Outstanding) — British
- GEMS World Academy — Full IB
- Lycée Georges Pompidou — French AEFÉ

Apply 12–18 months in advance for top schools.

Check KHDA rating at [khda.ae](https://www.khda.ae) before committing.

Tax in Brief

- 0% personal income tax in UAE
- 5% VAT (far below European rates)
- UAE-UK/US/EU tax treaties avoid double taxation

Consult a tax adviser before leaving if you retain income in your home country.

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