



HAMILTONS
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An essential guide to relocating in

United Arab Emirates



If you are moving abroad, there is a lot more to consider than choosing an international removals service. Our relocation guide below provides additional information on healthcare, schooling, visas and finances to assist you in planning your overseas house move. Please note this information is believed to be accurate at the time of writing, but please check with our international removals department prior to your moving date.

Visas and Work Permits

Many people are moving to the United Arab Emirates for work purposes. Due to its fast growing economy the UAE are experiencing skill shortages in many areas including engineering, construction, IT, sales and marketing, media, banking and more.

To work in the UAE, you must hold a work permit and a residency visa. To obtain a work permit, you must first have been offered a job. Your employer will then arrange your residency visa application on your behalf. The immigration department of the emirate you will be staying in will issue your visa and it will usually be valid for three years. In order to be successful in your visa application, you must also test negative for HIV and be in good health.

It is possible to apply for a residency visa, after arriving in the country on a tourist visa.

If you are moving to the United Arab Emirates with other family members, then you can apply for a family visa. These will allow you to sponsor your spouse, children and parents, providing that you meet the minimum earning requirements.

Finances

You cannot open a bank account in the United Arab Emirates until you have moved out there. Some international banks have branches in the UAE, such as Lloyds TSB - which will allow you to open a multi currency account. Other banks include Citibank UAE, Emirates Bank Group and the National Bank of Dubai.

Schools

Schooling is compulsory for all children in Dubai from the age of five years and up. To enrol, a child must have a valid residence visa.



There are a range of schooling options, which include public schools, private schools, community schools and independent schools. It is possible for expatriate children to attend public schools, however they do have to pay attendance fees to the government.

Private and independent schools charge a higher level of fees, the amount of which varies according to the establishment.

Community schools embrace citizens from India, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Japan and many others, and teach the pupils in a similar way to their home country curriculum.

All schools in the United Arab Emirates teach Arabic, and most teach girls and boys separately.

Health care

Expatriates living in the UAE must take out a comprehensive insurance policy to cover their health care bills. Quite often this is provided by an employer, and in Abu Dhabi, the law now obliges all employers/sponsors to provide health insurance for their workers and their families. This policy is of a basic nature, which individuals can then add to if required.

The standard of health care you can expect in the United Arab Emirates, is generally equivalent to care provided in the UK, except for specialised treatments. The vast majority of medical staff in the UAE are foreign and were trained abroad.

Common health problems experienced by expatriates include respiratory diseases caused by the sand and dust in the air. Sunstroke and sunburn is also common. The UAE is affected by Malaria, therefore it is important to review the area you will be moving to, and taking anti-malarial medicine if required.

Taking your pet

It is possible to take your dog and cat with you to your new home in the UAE. You will need to take into account the heat that your pets will be subjected to for most of the year - however good air conditioning in the home will help to work round this.

It is also important to consider the type of accommodation that you will be moving into on arrival in the United Arab Emirates. If you are moving into a purchased property then you will have no problems in taking your cats and dogs with you. Rented accommodation should also be fine, providing that you are not intending to live in an apartment. It is worth double-checking your pets are allowed prior to signing any rental agreements!

Pets imported to the United Arab Emirates must be brought in as cargo rather than passenger baggage. You will need to obtain an import permit, and this requires that the animal be vaccinated for Rabies, micro chipped and in general good health. Most domestic pets can be imported, and will not require a stay in quarantine. Pets can only be imported if they are over 120 days old.



United Arab Emirates Customs Information

Below is a guide to current Customs & Excise regulations. Please note that information is correct at time of publishing but may change at any time. Hamilton's international removals department will guide you through all relevant Customs & Excise regulations prior to your overseas move.

All used household goods and personal effects are usually treated as duty free, but are subject to you obtaining and producing a Residence Permit. All new household goods are subject to duty, which is determined by the customs officials. Your shipment must arrive within one month of your arrival and you must be present for your goods to be granted customs clearance. Most shipments will be subject to a physical inspection.

You may be asked to provide sales receipts, invoices or insurance papers for dutiable items to ascertain your ownership of the goods, period of ownership or their value. All cartons containing books, CDs, videos, DVDs and magazines must be clearly marked so they can be identified easily by customs.

We will require the following documentation to clear your goods through customs.

- Passport (two clear copies)
- Residence permit (or letter from sponsor indicating Visa has been applied for)
- Confirmation of employment letter
- Detailed inventory (original and two copies) - our removal team will produce this at the time of packing
- Insurance certificate

Restrictions / Prior Authorisation Required

- All political and religious literature needs prior approval from the Ministry.
- Plants and plant material require a Health Certificate.
- Medication and foodstuff (subject to special approval and inspection by the Ministry of Health and must be packed separately)
- Flammable or corrosive items
- Exposed film or other valuables, stamp or coin collections of high value
- Garden implements, outdoor furniture, golf clubs, tents, camping equipment, barbeques, shoes, bicycles, prams need to be cleaned thoroughly and be free of dirt, soil, grass food etc.

Prohibited Items

- Firearms, weapons and ammunition (real or ornamental)
- Military uniform or equipment
- Alcohol
- Narcotics of all kinds including poppy seeds, flowers & leaves
- Banned drugs and medicines
- Transmitters, radios or communication equipment
- Any items made out of ivory or related to endangered animals
- All items manufactured by Israeli blacklist and of Israeli origin
- Erotic statues/figurines, idols, made of any metal/clay/glass etc defined offensive to Islamic teachings and principles
- Pornographic, political and religious material which may be deemed offensive
- Pork meat
- All printed matter, books, pictures, records, films, tapes, slides, movies, videos, CDs, computer software etc are subject to censorship and confiscation (must be packed separately for easy access and clearly marked on the inventory)

Importing Cars and Motor Vehicles

Used motor vehicles can be imported but are subject to duty (provided you hold a United Arab Emirates Residence Visa). You will need to provide the following documentation:

- Registration documents
- Title or deed
- Copy of purchase invoice
- Certificate or origin
- Copy of passport
- Insurance policy
- Proof of ownership
- Residence permit

Please note that cars with tinted glass may not be imported.

Pets

Pets can be imported into the UAE. You will need to obtain a health certificate, which we will forward onto the destination agents a few weeks prior to the arrival of your pet. The agents will then take the certificate to The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who will issue an import licence. The original import license and health certificate is attached to the Air Waybill that accompanies your pet

Useful Information

Electricity	The electricity supply in Dubai is 220/240 volts and 50 cycles. Socket type is identical to the three point British system. Adaptors can be purchased at any grocery or hardware shop.
Internet	For connection to the World Wide Web, Emirates Internet & Multimedia is the sole provider of Internet services through its UAE proxy server. Access to some sites is restricted. You can access Emirates Internet from any standard telephone line using a 56K modem.
Post	There is no house address based mailing system in the UAE. All post is delivered to the central post office and then distributed to centrally located post office boxes. It is also possible to rent a personal PO box in the UAE.
Time	GMT + 4 hours
Dialing code	+971



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