

NEWSLETTER

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UAE announces five year tourist Visa

With a focus on further boosting its presence as a global tourist hub, the United Arab Emirates has launched its first multi-entry five-year tourist visa for all nationalities.

The amended tourist visa system will come into effect during the first quarter of 2020. However, details on the visa application fee and other formalities haven't been released yet.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai announced the new tourist visa system in the country. So that the duration of the tourist visa is five years and multi-use for all nationalities.

Sheikh Mohammed said: "We have reviewed achievements made over the past year... we planned for 2020 to be a different year as it marks the year of preparation for the upcoming 50 years (2020: towards the next 50). It is the year in which we design the future of the UAE."



So what does this mean for UAE residents and visitors?

- ✓ Boosting tourism in the UAE
- ✓ Boosting medical tourism
- ✓ Ease business travel to UAE
- ✓ Create more employment opportunities
- ✓ New Visa can help UAE parents
- ✓ Ease of travel for residents planning a temporary relocation.



Sheikh Mohammed and Mohamed Bin Zayed inaugurate Expo 2020's Al Wasl Plaza

Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, today inaugurated Al Wasl Plaza, the heart of the Expo 2020 Dubai site.

Their Highnesses said that under the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE has consolidated its status as a leader in the global arena. The country is a perfect host for Expo 2020, which will promote optimism, hope and collaboration and inspire people to work towards achieving positive change and a better future.

"We will celebrate the accomplishments of the last 50 years. Thanks to the efforts of UAE citizens and residents, as well as all those who have contributed to its success and prosperity, Expo 2020 will mark the start of new 50-year phase of leadership and achievements,"



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Coronavirus in UAE: Ministry announces free check-up

The UAE will now offer free novel coronavirus tests to citizens and expatriates if their symptoms are aligned with the 'surveillance definition' or the clinical features of the deadly virus that has claimed 133 lives since its outbreak.

The assistant undersecretary of Health Centers and Clinics Sector at the Ministry of Health and Prevention, says that the tests are offered at all facilities run by the ministry and the various health regulatory authorities across the country, such as the Dubai Health Authority, Sharjah Health Authority or the Abu Dhabi Department of Health.

"However, the cases have to be aligned with the definition, or the clinical features, of the novel coronavirus. For example, the tests can be undertaken by a patient who has a recent travel history to China,"



UAE Stocks gain AED2.6bn

Traders continue to buy and sell amidst bullish sentiments at the UAE's two main bourses that led to gains of AED2.6 billion by the end of today's session, driven by property and banking blue chips and institutional recommendations to distribute lucrative dividends.

FAB was the best performer and edged up to AED15.60, followed by Dubai Islamic Bank which closed high at AED5.70.

The positive sentiments led the General Index of ADX to close high at 5178 points, up 0.21 percent over the past session, with DFM following suit, ending up 0.13 percent at 2792 points.

Up to 3475 transactions were conducted worth AED300 million over 150 million shares.



Innovation Festival on 4th February

The Ministry of Education, MoE, will launch the 4th edition of the National Science, Technology and Innovation, NSTI, Festival 2020 on 4th February, 2020.

The festival, which will continue through until 8th February and run concurrently with the UAE Innovation Month, will feature a global conference, a student retreat, a science fair and an innovation lab. It will also showcase the latest innovations of students together with the family festival and other purposeful activities.

The festival is attracting attention because it presents innovative programmes and reviews student projects that simulate future orientations related to scientific fields devoted by the MoE for students to raise their awareness and improve their skills.



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New guidelines to promote inclusion in Dubai schools

New guidelines that protect the rights of children with disabilities and promotes their inclusion in mainstream schools have been released by Dubai's private school regulator.

The handbook, issued by the Knowledge and Human Development Authority on Sunday, aims to protect pupils with disabilities from extra charges levied against them by schools for potentially needing extra support. It also provides wider information about the legal responsibilities of a school towards pupils with disabilities.

"We share a responsibility to remove all barriers to learning and work towards an inclusive education community that offers equal opportunities for everyone."

The handbook *Directives and Guidelines for Inclusive Education* is intended for private schools and governing boards.

It is also a good resource for teachers and parents so they are aware of the initiatives undertaken to include children with disabilities.

Brexit: Win-win game for UAE-GCC and UK

Trade between the UK and GCC will increase in post-Brexit era as the European nation will be able to negotiate deals with the Gulf countries that are more liberal.

In addition, pound will strengthen in post-Brexit period which will greatly benefit Dubai's tourism and real estate sectors due to increased inflow of tourists from the UK as well as more British citizens investing in Dubai's property market.

Dh22.76 billion in the same period last year. The UAE's exports to the UK fell 16 per cent to Dh6.1 billion in H1 2019, down from Dh7.26 billion in the same period last year. While the UAE's imports from the UK grew by around 18.4 per cent to Dh18.35 billion, up from Dh15.5 billion.

On June 23, 2016, the British citizens had voted in favour of leaving the European Union in a referendum. British prime minister Boris Johnson had announced that Britain will leave EU on January 31, 2020.



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This is what you'll be paying for petrol in February 2020

For the second month in a row (and second time ever) in the UAE, the petrol prices next month will be exactly the same as this month. In February, prices will remain at Dhs2.24 per litre for Super 98 and Special 95 will be priced at Dhs2.12 a litre.

Diesel prices will increase slightly by 2 fils from Dhs2.38 to Dhs2.40.

All prices include the VAT rate of 5 per cent.

The UAE's Ministry of Energy first began setting fuel prices based on average global prices in August 2015. Before that, the price of petrol in the UAE was subsidised by the government, which shielded consumers from global fluctuations in the cost of petrol.

Parking tickets to go paperless as dubai expands e-ticket meters

Beginning with the first quarter of 2020, Dubai will upgrade the parking meters to issue eParking tickets which will replace the paper tickets that currently need to be displayed on the windscreen or dashboard, the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced.

The RTA said it is readying for the launch of the eParking tickets which do not require users to display a paper ticket.

Earlier, the e-tickets were issued only when parking payment was made using SMS for mParking or RTA's app.

However, the new eParking ticket, that can be produced using payment through a Nol card or coins on the smart meters, is not sent to the user. It will be stored in the RTA's electronic system, the RTA clarified.



Metro Red Line services timing to change on 7 Fridays

Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) is introducing a change in the opening hours of Dubai Metro Red Line, on Fridays only, commencing Friday January 31st 2020. This will include seven consecutive Fridays; 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th February, 6th and 13th March 2020. On these dates, the metro service on the Red Line will start at 02:00 pm and continue up to 01:00 am (of the following day). Metro timing will revert to normal operational hours on 14th March 2020.

"The change of operational timing of the Dubai Metro Red Line on the above mentioned dates is dictated by the need to carry operational tests for the integration of the systems of Route 2020 and ensure the optimal operation of the network. It will also ensure that the regular service on those days is not disrupted."

"RTA is always keen on the smooth running of the metro service for riders on all weekdays, Fridays and holidays unless in exceptional cases, such as this. We are keen on improving the metro timings and tailoring it to the mobility needs of customers; which raise satisfaction and happiness with RTA services."



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