

SHARJAH VISITOR'S GUIDE

SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION

**Sharjah Art Foundation has
compiled an insider's guide
to Sharjah city. This includes
contributions from staff,
visiting artists and curators.
We hope you enjoy it.**



- AIRPORTS

Sharjah International Airport
shj-airport.gov.ae

Dubai International Airport
dubaiairport.com

- TRAVEL AGENCIES

Skyline Travel
+971 6 563 6923
Contact Sadia Pasha at:
+971 50 5993652
sadia@sltts.ae
skylineuae.com

Contact: Nadir Khan
AlFaisal Travel, Tourism
& Cargo Agency L.L.C
+971 6 5683333

- HOTELS

Radisson Blu
+971 6 565 7777
reservations.sharjah@radissonblu.com

Sharjah Rotana
+971 6 563 7777
res.sharjah@rotana.com

Hilton Sharjah
+971 6 519 2222
sharjah.reservations@hilton.com

Copthorne Hotel Sharjah
+971 6 519 2222
copthorne.sharjah@mill-cop.ae

- MONEY

The monetary unit is the dirham, which is divided into 100 fils. It is also known as the Arab Emirate Dirham (AED). The dirham is freely convertible, making exchange of traveler cheques and currency easy. The local currency index is linked to the US dollar (1 USD= AED 3.67). The best rate of exchange is usually found in licensed exchange offices although banks and hotels also offer this service. Offices are generally open on weekdays from 08:30–13:00 and 16:30–20:30. Many open on Friday afternoons. The exchange office closest to SAF office is Al Ansari Exchange.

Al Ansari Exchange
Al Arouba Street
+971 6 562 8778

ATM machines:
ATM machines can be found on Bank Street, in Atlas Mall across the street from the Rotana Hotel and next to the Corniche Post Office.

- TRANSPORTATION

Driving License
Visitors on a visit visa can obtain a Temporary Driving License (please see below) to drive a private or hired vehicle provided they have a valid license from any of the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK and USA. Other visitors can drive a rented vehicle provided they hold an International Driving License, issued by their home country. GCC nationals may drive on their respective licenses within the UAE. A Temporary Driving License is issued at the Sharjah Traffic & Licensing Department, Al Ramtha (+971 6 538 1111) at a cost of AED 80 and is valid for one month, renewable for a further month at a cost of AED 30. Most car-hire companies will arrange for a temporary license as part of the hire agreement.

Car Hire

Sharjah has a number of local and international agencies. The hire rate per day for smaller vehicles, including insurance starts at AED 80, but prices do vary. The minimum age for car rental is 21. To hire a car you must produce your passport, 2 photos and a national or international license. Most car agents are located on Al Wahda, King Faisal, Al Mina and Al Estiqlal Roads.

Contacts

Auto Lease:

+971 6 573 5333

Fast Rent A Car:

+971 6 533 8877

fastuae.com

Hertz:

+971 6 552 8290

hertzuae.com

Maximum:

+971 6 550 1515

maximumcarrentals.com

Taxis

Taxis operating in Sharjah are metered. The starting fare is AED 10. For trips within Sharjah the cost is between AED 10 to AED 30. Expect to pay AED 50–70 (with an additional AED 20 surcharge added) to Dubai and around AED 300 to Abu Dhabi. Please note that there is heavy traffic going from Sharjah to Dubai from 6:00 – 10:00 am and from Dubai to Sharjah from 4:00 – 8:00 pm.

Contacts

Sharjah Taxi:

+971 6 568 8444

Toll free number: 600 52 52 52

Emirates Cab:

+971 6 539 6666

Citi Taxi:

+971 6 533 4444

Union Taxi:

+971 6 532 5555

- POSTAL SERVICE

The Rola Corniche Post Office is located near the Sharjah Art Museum. Sharjah's General Post Office is located in Al Soor (+971 6 572 2219). Both offer all the usual postal services and are open weekdays from 08:00 am – 8:00 pm with shorter hours on Friday. Most hotels will arrange to send mail anywhere in the world. Postcards mailed to countries outside the Middle East cost AED 2. Mail to Europe, India and the USA takes 5–10 days and Australia takes 8–10 days. The UAE is well served by local and international courier companies. Check with your hotel for details.

- TELEPHONES

There are two mobile telephone companies in the UAE: Du and Etisalat. The SIM card usually costs around AED 75.

Etisalat Directory service: 181

Du Directory service: 199

Emergency numbers

Police: 999

Ambulance: 998

- HOSPITALS

Al Zahra Hospital

+971 6 561 9999

alzahra.com



Zulekha Hospital
+971 6 565 8866
zulekhahospitals.com

Central Private Hospital
+971 6 516 9221
centralprivatehospital.ae/

- **DO'S AND DON'TS**

- There is a very strict policy in the UAE when it comes to recreational drugs, they are prohibited.
- The Emirate of Sharjah is a dry Emirate, alcohol is prohibited.
- Sharjah is a fairly conservative Emirate. We recommend that you wear non-revealing clothing (it is recommended to cover shoulders and knees).
- Always drink bottled water. Tap water is desalinated but not recommended as drinking water.

- **SIGHTSEEING**

Sharjah Art Museum

The Sharjah Art Museum, one of the main landmarks in the Arts Area, was inaugurated during the 3rd Sharjah Biennial in April 1997. The two museums have a total area of 111,000 square metres. Located just off the Corniche and on the north side of Burj Avenue (Bank Street), the Arts Area comprises five architecturally acclaimed heritage buildings and a mosque dating back to the end of the eighteenth century. Taxi drivers who don't know the museum may know the Iranian Souk, which is parallel to the museum.

+971 6 568 8222

Saturday – Thursday 8:00 am – 8:00 pm | Friday 4:00 – 8:00 pm
sharjahmuseums.ae

Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization

The Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization houses more than five thousand artefacts from around the Islamic world arranged across seven spacious galleries and display areas. The museum opened in a renovated house in the Heritage Area in 1996, then moved in 2008 to its current home in a converted Middle Eastern souk on the Majarra Waterfront, just one block away from the Sharjah Art Museum.
Saturday–Thursday 8:00 am–8:00 pm, Friday 4:00 pm–8:00 pm
Admission: Adult AED 5/Family 10 AED
sharjahmuseums.ae

Sharjah Calligraphy Museum

The Sharjah Calligraphy Museum is the only museum in the Arab world devoted entirely to calligraphy. The museum features works by local artists and well-known international calligraphers. Located in Calligraphy Square.
+971 6 569 4561
Saturday – Thursday 8:00 am–8:00 pm, Friday 4:00 – 8:00 pm
Admission: Adult AED 5/Family 10 AED
sharjahmuseums.ae

Heritage Area

On the opposite side of Burj Avenue (Bank Street) is the Heritage Area, devoted to local markets, meeting places and small museums. This beautifully renovated district is a shining example of Sharjah's commitment to heritage and culture; the district played an instrumental role in the Emirate's achievement as the UNESCO Arab Capital of Culture in 1998.

Al Mahatta Museum

This museum is dedicated to aviation history with a particular focus on the UAE. Named after the first airport in the Gulf region, the museum explores flight development and aviation history from the 1930s to the present. One of the main attractions is the collection of fully restored propeller planes that stand by the original refuelling tanker.
+971 6 573 3079

Saturday – Thursday 8:00 am – 8:00 pm | Friday 4:00 – 8:00 pm
Ticket prices: Adult AED 5, Family AED 10.

Sharjah Maritime Museum

The mission of the Sharjah Maritime Museum is to preserve and interpret the stories and material evidence of the emirate's rich maritime heritage. Its collection includes traditional wooden seafaring dhows used for fishing, trading and pearling and the respective tools and instrumentation for each activity.

+971 6 522 2002

Saturday – Thursday 8:00 am–8:00 pm | Friday 4:00 –8:00 pm

Admission: Adult 8 AED/Family 20 AED

sharjahmuseums.ae

Dr Sultan Al Qasimi Centre for Gulf Studies

Dr Sultan Al Qasimi Centre for Gulf Studies provides researchers with integrated and comprehensive historical and geographical research materials that trace the development, history and heritage of life in the Arabian Gulf. The centre includes exhibits from His Highness's private collection: original and historical collector's maps, the first images of the region and rare coins with special relevance to the Gulf as well as his published works, degrees, awards and documentation of his early life. The Archive Library consists of a collection of rare publications and access to more than one and a half million historical documents, maps and records. Admission: Free.

+971 6 558 5855

Sunday – Thursday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Closed on Friday and Saturday

dsgc.ae

Bait Al Serkal

Bait Al Serkal is a three-storey house and former home of the British Commissioner for the Arabian Gulf. This residence was later turned into a missionary hospital where many prominent Sharjah residents were born.

Bait Al Shamsi

A restored creek-side house that now includes a series of artist studios and SAF residency spaces set around the traditional courtyard. The space has an air of tranquility during the day, but comes alive in the evenings when the artists usually meet to discuss their work.

Bait Al Naboodah

Located in the Sharjah Heritage Area, this two-storey house dates back to 1845 and pays tribute to traditional Gulf architecture. A family home as it would have been in the mid-18th century has been reconstructed in this double storey house depicting several generations of an extended family all living under the same roof. True to tradition, all the rooms are built around a central courtyard. The rooms display items relating to everyday life and include Arabic chests and four-poster beds, traditional children's toys and kitchen utensils. (Under renovation until May 2015)

Sharjah National Theatre

In Sharjah theatre is valued as one of the most important arts that contribute to the development of culture and the awareness of the audience. Sharjah National Theatre was established in 2007 under the office of HH Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, to manage the care and development of theatre in the Emirate of Sharjah.

Al Noor Mosque

Sharjah has over 600 mosques, the best known of which is Al Noor Mosque. Bordering the lagoon on Buhaira Corniche, Al Noor Mosque is built using traditional Islamic architecture. The mosque, completed in 2005, features intricate framework, sweeping curves and soaring spires. Al Noor Mosque is the first mosque in Sharjah to open its doors to the expatriate community and visitors to Sharjah so that they may learn about the UAE National culture and religion. You can join a special 1 hour tour of Al Noor Mosque every Monday at 10am, registration is required.

+971 6 568 0055

info@shjculture.com

Khalid Lagoon

This area is one of the earliest known Gulf settlements and some of its current residents can trace their ancestry to that early period. This artificial lagoon is spread over 1,720,000 square hectares of water surface and includes a water fountain.

Sharjah Golf and Shooting Club

The Sharjah Golf Club, a 9-hole, fully flood-lit course was designed by renowned architect Peter Harradine and hosts many tournaments



throughout the year. The club also has a number of activities and facilities including a hi-tech shooting range for pistols, revolvers and rifles, a swimming pool, tennis and basketball courts, a gym and a hair salon.
+971 6 548 7777
golfandshootingshj.com

Al Majaz Park

The Majaz Park covers over 300 square metres in the heart of the city. The park is located between Jamal Abdul Nasser Street and the corniche of the Khalid Lagoon. It is landscaped and boasts several concrete monuments, palm trees, a fountain, flower beds and all vital services. Admission to the park is free of charge.
+971 6 552 1552

Sharjah Aquarium

The Sharjah Aquarium has an impressive display of more than 250 species including small fish, rare eels and reef sharks.
+971 6 528 5288
Saturday - Thursday 8:00 am - 8:00 pm | Friday 4:00 - 8:00 pm
Closed on Sundays
sharjhaaquarium.ae

Sharjah Desert Park

Sharjah's Desert Park area provides access to three venues – The Arabian Wildlife Centre, The Sharjah Natural History and Botanical Museum and a Children's Farm. It houses the largest collection of Arabian wildlife in the Middle East.
+971 6 531 1999
Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 am–5:30 pm | Friday 2:00 – 5:30 pm | Saturday 11:00 am – 5:30 pm
Closed on Tuesdays.

Islamic Botanical Garden

Gardens and exhibits display and explain the significance of plants referenced to in the qur'anic verses Hadith and Sunnah. Located within Sharjah Desert Park, approx 30 minutes drive from the Arts Area.
+971 6 531 1999

Beaches

There are public beaches in Al Khaledia area, as well as along Corniche road on the way to Ajman. Please note that Sharjah is a conservative Emirate, and the dress code applies in all public areas. Private hotel beaches can also be used for a fee.

Kempinski Ajman

kempinski.com/ajman
+971 6 714 5555
Weekday AED 150 / Weekend and public holidays AED 200

Coral Beach Resort Sharjah

coral-beachresortsharjah.com
+ 971 6 522 9999
Weekday AED 75 / Weekend and public holidays AED 150

Radisson Blu

http://radissonblu.com/resort-sharjah
+971 6 565 7777
Weekday AED 100 / Weekend and public holidays AED 150

Sharjah Ladies Club

http://slc.ae/
+971 6 506 7777
Weekday AED 100 / Weekend and public holidays AED 200
For women only.

Ajman Saray

175aed/pp weekday
250aed/pp weekend

Farewell to Sharjah



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RESTAURANTS
In SAF neighbourhood

Majlis Cafe

Emarati cuisine
Arts Area | Opposite SAF offices

Ghazi Bakery

Opposite Corniche Post Office
Afghani Bread
Cost: ~AED 2-3

Sadaf Restaurant

Iranian cuisine
Al Meena Road | Al Mareija Street
+971 6 569 3344
Cost: ~AED 50-70 per person.

Najmat Lahore

Authentic Pakistani cuisine
Al Meena Road | Al Mareija Street
+971 6 568 2202
najmatlahore.com
Cost: ~AED 40-60 per person.

Al Masgoof

Iraqi cuisine
Al Meena Road | Al Mareija Street
+971 6 569 0222
Cost: ~AED 50-70 per person

Diplomat

Palestinian cuisine
+971 6 568 1155
Behind the Heritage Area
Cost: ~AED 20-30 per person

Karachi Darbar

Pakistani cuisine
Al Rolla Street
+971 6 569-4447
Cost: ~AED 20-25 per person

Zahrat Al Sham

Arabic ice cream
Al Meena Road | Al Mareija Street
Cost: ~AED 5-10 per person

Smoothies

Family run dessert shop offering waffles, ice cream sundaes, candy shakes, smoothies and other sweet treats.
Al Meena Road | Al Mareija Street

Souk Al Arsa café

Emarati cuisine
Heritage Area
Cost: ~AED 15-25 per person

Kebab Afghani

Al Meena Road | Al Mareija Street
Cost: ~AED 20-30

Afrina Iranian Sweets

Al Meena Road | Al Mareija Street
9:30 am – 12:30 am
Cost: ~AED 15-25 per person

Chettagong Fresh Cool

Al Qasimi Street | Opposite Radisson Blue Resort
A wide selection of freshly squeezed juices.
Open 24 Hours
+971 56 716 80 82
Cost: ~AED 5-15 per person

Pak Ghazi Restaurant & Sweets

Pakistani cuisine, serves breakfast, dinner and lunch.
Al Ghuwair | Opposite Rolla Park
+971 6 5682199
Cost: ~AED 5-25 per person

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Other places in Sharjah

Bait El Mandi

Gulf/Yemeni cuisine
+971 6 528 1799

Located on Al Taa'wun Road in Al Khan Area next to Sharjah Cooperative Society. It's a ten-minute taxi ride from SAF Offices.
Cost: ~AED 15-25 per person

Canton Chinese Restaurant

Radisson Blu
+971 6 564 0307
12:00 pm – 12:00 am
Cost: ~AED 30-40 per person

Al Shira' Restaurant

Seafood
+971 6 572 4417
10-15 minute taxi ride to King Faisal Street
Cost: ~AED 30-40 per person

Shababeek Restaurant

Lebanese cuisine
Located at Al Qasba
+971 6 554 0444
Cost: ~AED 50-80 per person

Al-Sammach Restaurant

Seafood by the sea, at Sharjah Aquarium in the Al Khan Area.
+971 6 528 0095
Cost: ~AED 50-60 per person

Al Kalha Restaurant

Palestinian cuisine
On Jamal Abdul Nasser Street, Al Majaz, near HSBC Bank.
+971 6 5537735
Cost: ~AED 15-25 per person

Arous Dimashq

Syrian cuisine
On King Abdul Aziz Street, near Citibank and Dubai Islamic bank.
+971 6 573 9900
Cost: ~AED 40-50 per person

Bangkok Town

Thai cuisine
Located behind Grand Cinemas, Al Majaz 3, Buhaira Corniche.

+971 6 556 8282
Cost: ~AED 30-50 per person

Gazebo

Indian cuisine
Located on King Faisal Street, opposite HSBC.
+971 6 553 2999
Cost: ~AED 40-60 per person

Chai Al Fakhar

Close to Radisson Blu Hotel
This take-away tea shop serves unusual teas and karak in a clay pot for you to take home.
Cost: ~AED 3 per person

Al Majaz Waterfront

A selection of restaurants including Lebanese, Moroccan, Italian and some coffee shops and fast food options.

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SHOPPING AND OTHER

Souks & Malls

Souk Al Arsa

The oldest souk in the UAE, located in the Heritage Area. You can find antiques, pashminas, traditional dresses, and silver jewellery.

The Blue Souk (or Central Souk)

Gold, jewellery, clothes and carpets. Located in Al-Majaz at the southern end of the Buheira Corniche.

Al Mu'tamad Precious Stone Jewellery | +971 55 768 6890

Opening Times: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, 5:00 - 11:00 pm
Located in the Heritage area, near Obeid Bin Issa mosque, immediately to your right after crossing Bank Street (coming from Sharjah Art Museum) and before Souk Al Arsa, this shop sells precious stones and jewellery for great prices.

Mega Mall, Sharjah | sharjahmegamall.com + Cinema

City Centre Sharjah | sharjahcitycentre.com

Sahara Centre | saharacentre.com + Cinema

Beauty Salons

Amouage

Next to Carlton Hotel, Al Khan

+971 6 528 4888

5:30 – 11:00 pm

A ladies-only beauty spa, best known for its early morning AED 100 package: 2 1/2 hours of treatments including Moroccan bath, mini facial, massage, manicure and pedicure. Arrive between 5:30 – 8:30 am for this special offer, otherwise you can get the same treatments for about AED 250 until 11:00 pm. Not the most glamorous of 'spas' but a Sharjah institution.

Moon Beauty Parlor

Al Shuwaiheen

+971 6 568 3755

9:00 am – 9:00 pm

A few minutes walk from SAF Offices, the go-to place for ladies Henna tattoo. Prices vary upon design but you would pay around AED 50 for both hands front and back.

Dalouk Spa

Sharjah Ladies Club

+971 6 506 7880

Saturday – Thursday 9:00 am to 9:00 pm | Friday: 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm

More of a 5* hotel experience, extensive facial menu.

- WEB RESOURCES ON SHARJAH

sharjah.com

sharjahtourism.ae

sharjah-welcome.com

sharjahmuseums.ae

shjlib.gov.ae

- NEWSPAPERS

The National: thenational.ae

Gulf News: gulfnews.com

The Gulf Today: gulftoday.ae

Al Bayan (Arabic): albayan.ae

Al Khaleej (Arabic): alkhaleej.ae

Daily Al Sharq (Urdu): dailysharq.com



 SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION

 SAF VENUES

- A. BAIT AL SHAMSI
- B. BAIT AL SERKAL
- C. COLLECTIONS BUILDING
- D. BAIT AL NABOODAH
- E. DAR AL NADWA
- F. CALLIGRAPHY MUSEUM
- G. BEYOOT AL KHATATEEN
- H. CERAMICS HOUSE
- I. CALLIGRAPHY SQUARE
- J. SHARJAH INSTITUTE OF THEATRICAL ARTS
- H. SAF ART SPACES

RESTAURANTS

- 1. MAJLIS CAFE
- 2. SADAF
- 3. SMOOTHIES
- 4. NAJMAT LAHORE
- 5. KEBAB AFGHANI
- 6. TOOTI FRUTTI
- 7. AL MAKSOOF
- 8. AFRINA IRANIAN SWEETS
- 9. ZAHRA AL SHAM
- 10. DIPLOMAT





SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION

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Twitter: @SharjahArt
Instagram: @SharjahArt

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