

m B E L L A b  
*nota bene*



*Introducing Dubai*

# Introducing Dubai



## DUBAI AT A GLANCE

**LANGUAGES:** Arabic (official), Farsi, English, Hindi, Urdu

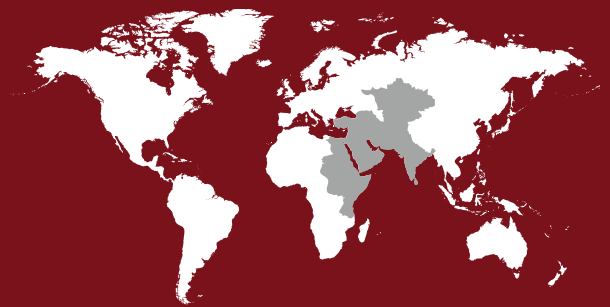
**RELIGIONS:** Muslim (official), Christian, Hindu, Buddhist

**POPULATION:** Approximately 2 million

**MONEY:** United Arab Emirates Dirhams

**EXCHANGE:** 3.673 Dirhams to 1 US Dollar

**INDUSTRIES:** Real Estate, Financial Services, Tourism, Trade, Aviation



Strategically situated in the heart of the area commonly known as MENASA (Middle East North Africa South Asia), on the southeast coast of the Persian Gulf and directly within the Arabian Desert, Dubai is the most populous of the seven emirates that form the Federation of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Dubai is also widely considered as the Middle East's cultural, business and financial hub in which many international companies from Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa have established offices for their operations within the region.

As one of the most liberal jurisdictions in the Middle East, there are over 200 nationalities that make up approximately 2 million residents of Dubai with millions visiting every year from around the globe. While Arabic is the national and official language in the UAE and English is used as a second language (and chosen language for commerce), many other languages such as Urdu, Hindi, Farsi, Spanish and Chinese can be heard on Dubai's busy streets. While the official religion of Dubai and the UAE is Islam, there are many other religious communities residing in Dubai including Christians, Hindus and Buddhists. Non-muslim communities may practice their religion freely in the UAE.

# DUBAI IS RENOWNED FOR ITS LEVEL OF SAFETY AND STABLE GOVERNMENT.



Historically, Dubai's economy was primarily dependent on the oil industry but today this represents less than five percent of its GDP having been replaced with the real estate, tourism, financial services, trade and aviation sectors, among others. Throughout recent history, Dubai has been an integral and important trading route and this continues today with its port in Jebel Ali being one of the busiest in the world and the largest in the region. To allow and enable its diversification from being a predominantly oil and trade focused jurisdiction into one that is based on services and tourism, Dubai has built an impressive, state of the art and extensive real estate, transportation and information technology infrastructure.

With the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and the Ruler of Dubai, and a relentless focus in establishing Dubai as one of the leading business jurisdictions in the world, the Dubai government has created a western style free market economy and a world class business investor friendly environment.

# Doing Business in Dubai

The various corporate structures and forms available in Dubai enable a unique and flexible environment for conducting business in this ever increasing key jurisdiction. Jurisdictionally, there are various choices in establishing a company such as within mainland Dubai (or onshore) or one of the many specialized free zones located throughout Dubai. Each free zone has its own distinct legal system for commercial activities.

## WHICH FREE ZONE IN DUBAI IS RIGHT FOR YOUR COMPANY'S PRODUCTS OR SERVICES?

- ▶ JEBEL ALI FREE ZONE
- ▶ DUBAI MULTI COMMODITIES CENTER
- ▶ DUBAI INTERNET CITY
- ▶ DUBAI MEDIA CITY
- ▶ DUBAI HEALTHCARE CITY
- ▶ DUBAI WORLD CENTRAL
- ▶ DUBAI INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE

Above is an indicative list of free zones in Dubai. Contact mBELLAb for a description of each free zone and assistance with determining which is best suited for your operations in Dubai.





The primary difference between an onshore company and a free zone company is that an onshore company must be at least %51 owned by a UAE national (or an entity owned by an UAE national) whereas a free zone company may be %100 owned by non-UAE nationals. Furthermore, an onshore company may conduct its licensed activities in mainland Dubai whereas a free zone company may not do so (and instead is typically limited to its particular free zone). Presently all companies, onshore and free zone, can benefit from a tax-free regime (except in the case of some specific industries such as banking). All companies within mainland Dubai as well as in any free zone are required to have physical office space which may be in a number of various forms.

There is yet a third jurisdictional option to establish a company in Dubai, an offshore jurisdiction in the Jebel Ali Free Zone. Offshore established companies primarily act as holding companies, as opposed to operating companies, and therefore do not require a business license, physical presence or office.



**DUBAI IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR BUSINESS HUBS WITH MOST INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES HAVING ESTABLISHED OFFICES IN THE CITY**

## CORPORATE STRUCTURES AVAILABLE

General Partnership	2 or more partners with joint and unlimited liability
Limited Partnership	1 or more general partners with joint and unlimited liability & 1 or more limited partners with limited liability
Joint Venture Company	2 or more partners whereby a trading partner has unlimited liability and the other partners have limited liability (generally)
Public Joint Stock Company	10 or more shareholders with limited liability
Private Joint Stock Company	3 or more shareholders with limited liability
Limited Liability Company	2 to 50 shareholders with limited liability
Branch of a Foreign Company	Parent company is the foreign company shareholder



WE STRIVE TO BE YOUR  
COMPLETE BUSINESS ADVISORY  
AND SERVICE PROVIDER

**FROM ITS OFFICES IN DUBAI, MBELLAB BUSINESS SERVICES AND ADVISORS DMCC'S TEAM OF DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS ARE WELL POSITIONED TO ASSIST WITH BUSINESS SERVICES AND ADVISORY REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO OPERATING IN, OR EXPANDING TO, DUBAI AND THE UAE.**

mBELLAb personnel have extensive knowledge of, and experience in, conducting business in this ever increasingly important and significant jurisdiction within MENASA. More specifically, for doing business in Dubai initiatives, mBELLAb's services include:

- ▶ Assisting with analysis and determination of the suitable structures and corporate forms to effectively operate in Dubai and the UAE based on client's goals and objectives;
- ▶ Assisting with all aspects of establishment and formation of the entity;
- ▶ Advising and assisting with structuring and corporate governance matters of the entity to maximize productivity and efficiency in operations;
- ▶ Advising and assisting with administrative aspects of the entity such as residency visas, office space, and utility and IT requirements;
- ▶ Advising and assisting with banking requirements;
- ▶ Advising and assisting with any required agents and service providers within Dubai and the UAE; and
- ▶ Providing ongoing business services such as bookkeeping, web design, social media, and payroll.

OPERATING IN A RELATIVELY NEW JURISDICTION CAN SOMETIMES BE A DAUNTING TASK. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT ALONE. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE AND KNOW-HOW OF MBELLAB. LET'S DISCUSS YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS.

Member of mBELLAb group of companies

[www.mBELLAb.com](http://www.mBELLAb.com)



A: #1505, JBC5 Building, Cluster W, Jumeirah Lakes Towers, PO Box 392779, Dubai, UAE  
T: +971 (0)4 276 7172 F: +971 (0)4 276 7152 E: [info@mbellab.com](mailto:info@mbellab.com) W: [www.mbellabcorporate.com](http://www.mbellabcorporate.com)