

Packing & Money Tips for the UAE

Essential Packing Checklist

Category	Must-Have Items
Travel Documents	Passport valid for at least 6 months; printed & digital copies of flight tickets, hotel confirmations, travel insurance papers, international driving permit (if renting a car).
Clothing	Lightweight, breathable outfits for daytime; modest pieces (long sleeves, full-length trousers/skirts) for mosques and traditional areas; a light sweater or jacket for cool desert evenings and strong indoor air-conditioning.
Footwear	Comfortable walking shoes or sandals; flip-flops for beaches/pool.
Sun Protection	High-SPF sunscreen, sunglasses, wide-brim hat, reusable water bottle.
Health & Personal Care	Prescription medications in original packaging, basic first-aid kit, hand sanitizer, travel-size toiletries.
Electronics	Universal power adapter (Type G plug, 230V); phone and camera chargers; portable power bank.
Optional Extras	Swimsuit for hotel pools and beaches; light scarf or shawl for women to cover shoulders/head when needed; small daypack for excursions.

Typical Daily Budget Ranges (per person)

Style of Travel	AED	Approx. USD	What's Included
Budget	250–400	≈ 70–110	Hostel or budget hotel; public transport/metro; inexpensive restaurants or street food; 1–2 paid attractions.
Mid-Range	450–800	≈ 120–220	3-star hotel or good Airbnb; mix of taxis & public transport; mid-range dining; popular paid attractions or tours.
Luxury	1,000 +	≈ 275 +	4–5-star hotel or resort; private car hire or frequent ride-hailing; fine dining; premium excursions and shopping.

Money Tips

The currency is the **UAE Dirham (AED)**; ATMs are plentiful and cards are accepted almost everywhere. Carry some cash for souks, taxis in smaller emirates, and tips. Tipping is appreciated but not mandatory—about **5–10 %** in restaurants or for taxi drivers is common. Hotels and larger shops include a service charge in the bill; no extra tip required unless you wish to. Consider a **multi-currency or travel debit card** to avoid high foreign-transaction fees.