# Events in the UAE

The UAE has an eventful calendar all year round. There are shopping festivals, cultural events, trade shows, exhibitions, conferences etc. taking place across various venues. The UAE receives several thousand visitors around the year. Here is a list of some popular events. Find out which ones interest you!

## Shopping festivals

Shopping festivals around the year distinguish the shopping experience in the UAE. Discounts and bargains are an important feature of these festivals. The festival runs all over the emirates and almost all malls and stores participate in it by offering deals. Notable shopping festivals in the UAE are:

* Abu Dhabi Shopping Festival as part of [Abu Dhabi Summer Season](http://tcaabudhabi.ae/en/tourism/product.development/Pages/abu-dhabi-summer-season.aspx)
* [Abu Dhabi Electronics Shopper](http://www.adeshopper.ae/)
* [Dubai Shopping Festival](http://www.mydsf.ae/)
* Shopping discounts and promotions as part of [Dubai Summer Surprises](http://www.visitdubai.com/en/discover/festivals/dubai-summer-surprises)
* [Gitex Shopper](http://www.gitexshopperdubai.com/)
* [Sharjah Summer Shopping Festival](http://sharjahmydestination.ae/en-us/Explore-Sharjah/Sharjah-Events)
* [Chinese Commodities Fair Sharjah](http://sharjahmydestination.ae/en-us/Explore-Sharjah/Sharjah-Events)

## Religious festivals

Special activities and events are planned during the holy month of Ramadan, Eid Al Fitr, which follows Ramadan and Eid Al Adha. Streets and public places in the UAE are lit up. Festoons, decorative articles and artwork are set up at public places. Cultural shows and concerts are the highlight of these festivities. Find out what special events will be held this year.

* [Ramadan in Abu Dhabi](https://www.abudhabi.ae/portal/public/en/citizens/religion_and_community/islamic_life_and_seasons/gen_info30?docName=ADEGP_DF_141682_EN&_adf.ctrl-state=dnvusdcae_4&_afrLoop=8628901901710525#!)
* [Ramadan in Dubai](http://www.visitdubai.com/en/discover/festivals/ramadan-in-dubai)
* [Eid Al Adha in Dubai](http://www.visitdubai.com/en/articles/five-reasons-to-celebrate-eid-al-adha)

## Art and cultural events

There are several art and culture events held in the UAE that are of great importance across the world. Some of these events are:

### Art events

* [Abu Dhabi Art](https://www.abudhabiart.ae/en/Pages/default.aspx)
* [Art Dubai](http://www.artdubai.ae/)
* [Sharjah Biennale](http://www.sharjahart.org/biennial/sharjah-biennial-12/welcome)

### Literary festivals

* [Emirates Literature Festival](https://www.emirateslitfest.com/)
* [Sharjah International Book Fair](http://www.sharjahbookfair.com/default.aspx)
* [Abu Dhabi International Book Fair](http://www.adbookfair.com/)

### Film festival

* [Dubai International Film Festival](https://dubaifilmfest.com/)

### Music festival

* [Abu Dhabi Festival](http://www.abudhabifestival.ae/en)

### Food festivals

The UAE organises many food festivals, which bring cuisines from around the world and are popular amongst citizens and residents. Popular food festivals in the UAE are:

* [Taste Abu Dhabi](http://www.tasteabudhabi.com/)
* [Dubai Food Festival](http://dubaifoodfestival.com/)
* [Al Qasba Food Festival](http://sharjahmydestination.ae/en-us/Explore-Sharjah/Sharjah-Events)
* [Gulf Food](http://www.gulfood.com/)

## Sport and leisure events

Several big budget international sports and leisure competitions, tournaments and events involving high prize money are held in the UAE. Some of them are:

* [Arabian Gulf League](http://web.agleague.ae/?__lang=en)
* [Abu Dhabi Golf Championship](http://www.abudhabigolfchampionship.com/)
* [Mubadala World Tennis Championship](http://www.mubadalawtc.com/)
* [Dubai Desert Classic](https://dubaidesertclassic.com/)
* [Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships](http://www.dubaidutyfreetennischampionships.com/)
* [Rugby Sevens](http://www.dubairugby7s.com/index.aspx)
* [Dubai World Cup](http://www.dubaiworldcup.com/)
* [Dubai Marathon](http://www.dubaimarathon.org/)
* [Festival of Falconry](http://www.falconryfestival.ae/)
* [Al Dhafra Festival](http://www.aldhafrafestival.ae/?lang=en) for camels
* [Abu Dhabi International Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition](http://www.adihex.net/Home/)
* [Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge](http://www.abudhabidesertchallenge.com/index.aspx) for motorcars
* [Formula 1 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix](http://www.yasmarinacircuit.com/en/formula-1)
* [Volvo Ocean Race Abu Dhabi](http://www.volvooceanraceabudhabi.com/)
* [UAE Dragon Boat](http://www.dubaidragonboat.com/)
* [Desert Premier League Twenty20 Cricket Tournament](http://www.dpltwenty20.com/home.html)
* [Kart racing](http://www.dubaiautodrome.com/events/)

## Trade shows, conferences and exhibitions

The UAE is hub for trade shows, conferences and exhibitions. Events are held in the fields of:

* Cosmetics
* Defence equipment and technology
* eCommerce
* eGovernment
* Environment
* Economy
* Fashion
* Food
* FMCG
* Health
* Information and communication technology
* Jewellery
* Lights
* Medical
* Mechanics
* Mining
* Photography
* Paper
* Pharmaceuticals
* Plastic
* Real estate
* Sound
* Telecommunications
* Wood

Some of the popular trade shows are:

### Air shows

* [Al Ain Aerobatic Show](http://www.alainaerobaticshow.com/)
* [Dubai Air Show](http://www.dubaiairshow.aero/welcome-dubai-airshow-2017)

### Car shows

* [Custom Show Emirates](http://www.customshowemirates.com/)
* [Abu Dhabi International Motor Show](http://www.adimotorshow.com/)
* [Dubai International Motor Show](http://www.dubaimotorshow.com/)

### Boat show

* Used Boat Show, Abu Dhabi
* [Dubai International Boat Show](http://www.boatshowdubai.com/)

### Bike show

* Abu Dhabi International Motorbike Show
* [Gulf Bike Week](http://gulfbikeweek.com/)

### Toy show

* [Big Boys Toys UAE](http://www.bigboystoysuae.com/)

Trade shows are mostly held in:

* [Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre](http://www.adnec.ae/), Abu Dhabi
* [Dubai World Trade Centre](http://www.dwtc.com/en/Pages/Default.aspx), Dubai
* [Expo Centre Sharjah](http://www.expocentresharjah.org/)

## Global Village

[Global Village](http://globalvillage.ae/en/) is a venue, a destination for family entertainment. It offers facilities and options for shopping, dining, recreation and amusement. It is open from November to April every year.

## Expo 2020

[Expo 2020](http://expo2020dubai.ae/content/expo2020.aspx) is forecasted to be the UAE’s biggest event. It will be held from 20 October 2020 to 10 April 2021 in the Dubai South district, adjacent to Al Maktoum International Airport. According to the official website:

* The UAE is expecting Expo to be visited 25 million times
* 70 per cent of all visitors are expected to come from outside the UAE - the largest proportion of international visitors in Expo history
* The Expo site covers 4.38 square kilometres, including a 200 hectare gated area

**Useful links:**

Refer to events in:

* [Abu Dhabi](https://abudhabievents.ae/en/Pages/default.aspx) – the official events portal of Abu Dhabi
* [Dubai](http://www.dubaicalendar.ae/en)  – the official events portal of Dubai
* [Sharjah](http://sharjahmydestination.ae/en-us/Explore-Sharjah/Sharjah-Events) – Sharjah Commerce and Tourism Development Authority
* [Ras Al Khaimah](http://www.rasalkhaimahtourism.com/events.aspx) – Ras Al Khaimah tourism website
* [Ajman](http://www.ajmantourism.ae/en/Events/Pages/atdd/Events.aspx) – Ajman Tourism Development Authority
* [Fujairah](http://www.fujairahtourism.ae/index.php?action=Events) – Fujairah Tourism and Antiquities Authority
* [Special events in the UAE](http://www.uaeinteract.com/travel/when.asp#spec) – the UAE Interact website