TOURISM

14 reasons to visit Dubai in 2025

Dubai is going all out in 2025. Just don't forget your Zing card!

Dazzling Dubai ticks all the boxes for an unforgettable holiday. Glistening skyscrapers, shopping malls bigger than your local town centre, and luxurious hotels that make lounging by the pool all day long a serious option.

But with so much going on, you'll want to explore the emirate's exciting entertainment – with Zing, of course!

Don't forget to take Zing!

Power up your Dubai trip with Zing – your worry-free travel money companion.

- Get real-time, competitive exchange rates that you can monitor in the app
- Pay no fees on the first £500 you convert every month*
- Make your first International ATM cash withdrawal for free each month

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Here's what's hot in Dubai for 2025:

Dubai Shopping Festival – 6th Dec 2024 – 12th Jan 2025

So the festivities have finished and the January blues are kicking in. The Dubai sunshine and a little retail therapy should help lift your mood.

Dubai Shopping Festival sees the emirate's malls come alive with entertainment, shows and extraordinary raffles. And of course, there are some big bargains to seek out too.

This year's 30th anniversary event promises to be the biggest yet. Make sure you leave enough space in your suitcase to bring it all back home!

Coldplay – 9th – 14 Jan

Coldplay's Music of the Spheres World Tour stops by Abu Dhabi's 45,000-seater Zayed Sports City Stadium for four shows in January.

All the tickets have sold out at the venue, which is about an hour's drive from Dubai.

But if you were lucky enough to get your hands on a ticket, or you're able to buy one in the resale, it's sure to be a spectacular show featuring the band's biggest hits.

Dubai Marathon – 12th Jan

Avoid soggy socks and try a road run with a difference.

The Dubai Marathon starts early – at 7am for the non-elite runners – to avoid the worst of the warm weather.

There's a full 42km course, which takes you past the iconic Burj Al Arab and Jumeirah Beach Hotel, a shorter 10km route, and a 4km fun run. Whichever option you choose… good luck!

Hero Dubai Desert Classic – 16th – 19th Jan

If a marathon sounds like too much hard work, you can always take a more relaxed approach and watch the pros in action at the Hero Dubai Desert Classic golf championship.

The event is part of the prestigious DP World Tour Rolex Series, and sees some of the world's top golfers teeing off at the Emirates Golf Club. The winner takes home a cool $9 million cheque.

The star of the show could be Rory McIlroy. He'll be defending his Dallah Trophy and trying to become the first ever five-time winner of the event.

Saadiyat Nights – 25th Jan / 15th Feb

Saadiyat Island sits 500m off the coast of Abu Dhabi. With its soft sands it's a beach lover's paradise. But it transforms for its multi-date open-air concert series, Saadiyat Nights.

Last year saw the likes of Mariah Carey, John Legend and Alicia Keys take to the stage.

So far this year US stars include R&B legends Boyz II Men (25th January) and pop royalty Christina Aguilera (15th February).

Green Day / The Offspring – 27th Jan

Like your music a bit rockier?

Punk rock pioneers Green Day and The Offspring join forces to bring back some 90s nostalgia at Expo City Dubai.

Expect hits such as American Idiot, Basket Case, and Pretty Fly, to rock the roof off!

UNTOLD Dubai – Feb (tbc)

Last year UNTOLD Festival landed in Dubai for the first time, bringing a line-up of the world's biggest DJs and live acts to the emirate.

The likes of Armin Van Buuren, Tiesto, Ellie Goulding, and Major Lazer moved the 185,000-strong crowd across four days at Expo City Dubai.

2025's event promises to be even bigger, but dates, acts and details are yet to be confirmed.

Party people, watch this space!

Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championship – 16th Feb – 1st Mar

The world's top tennis players promise to serve up a treat at the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Stadium, in February.

The tournament is a highlight in Dubai's sporting calendar, featuring WTA 1000 women's and ATP 500 men's events.

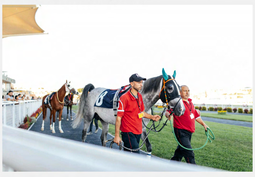
Past winners of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championship include legends of the game such as Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, and Venus Williams.

Dubai World Cup – 5th Apr

Meydan Racecourse is the place to be on 5th April, as Dubai's horse-racing season reaches its exciting climax.

With a prize purse of over $30 million on offer, you can expect some seriously competitive racing alongside all the glitz and glamour of the world's richest race day.

The Dubai World Cup was created in 1996 by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai, and it remains the crown jewel in Dubai's sporting calendar.



World Art Dubai – 17th – 20th Apr

Looking for some art to brighten up your walls at home? Head over to World Art Dubai at Dubai World Trade Centre for the world's largest contemporary retail art fair.

Over 10,000 pieces of art from over 65 countries will be on display, and if you see something you like, you can buy it! Prices start from $100 (and go all the way up to $20,000).

Live art performances, talks and workshops add a splash of colour to this creative showcase.