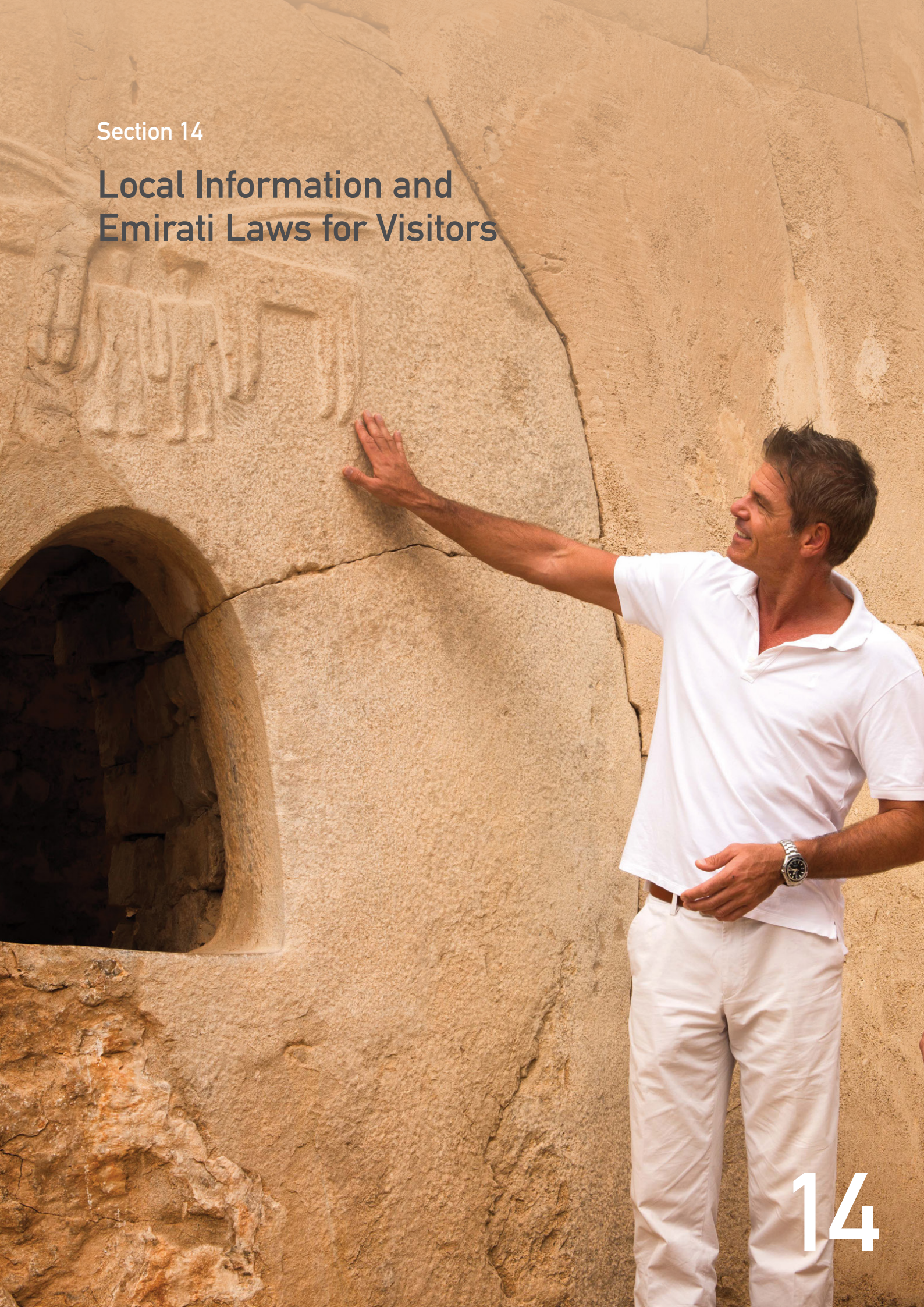


Section 14

Local Information and Emirati Laws for Visitors



Section 14: Local Information and Emirati Laws for Visitors

Through your work on this section, you will be gaining the following Abu Dhabi knowledge:

- Navigating around Abu Dhabi
- Public transport in Abu Dhabi
- Local legal system and general laws that should be highlighted to tourists to ensure awareness

You will also be able to:

LO16 Demonstrate awareness of the local legal system and laws that need to be highlighted to tourists

Welcoming new or returning visitors to Abu Dhabi involves providing information and answering questions on essential local information. This could include recommendations on places to stay, where to eat, what to see, where to shop and things to see and do. You may also need to provide information on the local laws and customs that are important for visitors to know about.

In this final section of module one, you will gain knowledge of the essential local information and important laws so you can inform visitors and tourists and ensure their stay in Abu Dhabi is both relaxed and enjoyable.

Navigating around Abu Dhabi

One of the first things visitors need to know when travelling somewhere unfamiliar is how to get around.

You read about Abu Dhabi's grid road system in Section 12. This road system should make it simple to drive or walk around the city. However, some road names have changed, or have more than one name, which can be confusing for visitors and even for some taxi drivers. Taxi drivers will know the major landmarks, places of interest and the numerous hotels but may not know the exact location of some less well-known places.

Official tourist/visitor maps

Most hotels and tour operators will have a stock of city maps to give out to visitors. These free maps do not always provide all the information a visitor would need and are mostly concerned with marketing restaurants or services. It is therefore advisable for you to have a stock of the official **Visit Abu Dhabi map** to give out to visitors as necessary.

You can download Visit Abu Dhabi App here:

Google Play- <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.visitabudhabi.android&hl=en&gl=US>

Apple Store- <https://apps.apple.com/ae/app/visit-abu-dhabi/id721678554>

It would be advisable to contact the Department of Culture & Tourism (DCT) to enquire about getting a stock of maps.

Their contact details are:

PO Box 94000, Abu Dhabi UAE

Tel: +971 2 444 0444, Fax: +971 2 444 0400,

E-mail: info@visitabudhabi.ae

Website: www.visitabudhabi.ae

Free phone number in the UAE: 800 555

International free phone number: +971 2 666 4442

If you are studying this programme outside of Abu Dhabi, use the following link and scroll to the bottom of the page to find details of the Department of Culture & Tourism's (DCT) international offices:

<https://visitabudhabi.ae/en/contact-us>

Once visitors have their map and know where they want to go, the next question will be, "How can I get there?"

Public transport in Abu Dhabi

Taxis

Taxis are cheap, always available and are safe for visitors to use. Taxis can be booked in advance or easily hailed in the street or by hotel staff. Official taxis in Abu Dhabi are silver and have a yellow roof sign. The taxi fare is displayed on a meter. Since 2010, pink taxis have been introduced. They are intended exclusively for female passengers and boys under the age of 10. They are driven by women and have the same fares as the silver taxis.

All official taxis are licensed and regulated by the Centre for Regulation of Transport by Hire Cars (TransAD), a government organisation established in 2006.

Although the level of English spoken by drivers is usually of a good standard, the Visit Abu Dhabi website advises anyone using a taxi to carry the address and contact details of their destination. This is in case either the passenger or the driver needs to call the destination if they are lost or if it is difficult to find.

Another useful piece of advice for visitors is to take a receipt from the driver when paying for the journey in case shopping or belongings are mistakenly left behind. The receipt will detail the driver and the taxi, making it easier to track down your items. Since June 2015, all Abu Dhabi taxis have been fitted with CCTV cameras and sound-recording equipment and, recently, a free Wi-Fi service has been introduced allowing visitors to browse the web on the move.

For family trips in taxis, TransAD provides a dedicated fleet and service for families travelling with children under 10. There are four- and seven-seater taxis available. For passengers in wheelchairs, TransAD also provides a fleet of cars and vans equipped for wheelchair users. Drivers are trained to help passengers with physical disabilities. Passengers using family or wheelchair-equipped taxis are advised to book in advance to ensure their needs can be met when they wish to travel.

Taxis can be ordered in advance by using the following number: TransAD **hotline 600 535353**. This is an automated system. Visitors will be sent a text message with the car and driver details and the estimated time of arrival. The driver will then call the visitor when he or she has arrived outside.

Specially registered airport taxis operate from the Arrivals terminals. Black Mercedes-Benz Vito van airport taxis can be hired at a cost of AED 25 with the rate per kilometre the same as the conventional taxis. To find them, follow official Taxi signs in the terminal. The vehicles, which run on green diesel fuel, are equipped with an online tracking system, a speed limiter and updated GPS.

Chauffeur-driven services

Chauffeur-driven services are operated by **Careem Limo** throughout Abu Dhabi. Visitors wishing to use Careem can book online or they can download and use the dedicated app available on iOS and Android platforms.

The Careem app is available for visitors to download here:

<https://www.careem.com/abu-dhabi/node>

Visitors entering Abu Dhabi via the airport can also travel to the city centre in a limousine, available at the taxi pick-up area. The limousines have a fixed rate, which is controlled by Abu Dhabi International Airport and the fares are posted at the taxi stand.

See the Knowledge Bank for this section for further information on taxis.

Buses

Like the official taxis, the public buses in Abu Dhabi are regulated and operated by TransAD. They operate regular services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with more than 650 buses servicing over 95 routes.

Points to note:

- Local services for Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Al Dhafra are hop-on, hop-off
 - Passengers pay two dirhams per journey
 - Regional services are four dirhams per journey
- Frequent passengers can purchase a *Hafilat* Smart Card from accredited selling points in Abu Dhabi Island
- The seats for female passengers are situated immediately behind the driver
- The seating section for men is at the back of the bus

TransAD provides a smart website which displays real-time bus information by visiting:

<https://darbi.itc.gov.ae/darbweb/map-viewer.html>

Car hire

Visitors wishing to hire a car can find all major car rental companies in Abu Dhabi together with some local firms as well.

The Visit Abu Dhabi website advises visitors to remember that the more well-known companies will have reliable cars and a good level of customer service support should there be a problem with the rental or if an accident occurs.

Visitors can find car rental booths at Abu Dhabi International Airport and in most of the major hotels and stores around the Emirate. As in most countries, the most competitive rates for car rental are usually found online.

Visitors will need the following documents to be able to rent a car in Abu Dhabi:

- Driver's passport
- A credit card
- A valid driving licence

The Visit Abu Dhabi website lists the car rental companies and up-to-date contact information at the following link: <https://visitabudhabi.ae/en/plan-your-trip/around-the-emirate/car-rental-and-mawaqif>

Car Parking - *m-Mawaqif*

m-Mawaqif is the name of Abu Dhabi's parking system. It is very important that visitors hiring cars are familiar with the system as fines for unauthorised parking are costly.

The system consists of restricting parking in public zones and spaces within the city that have a high volume of traffic. The zones are shown clearly to drivers on the kerbside using colour coding. There are parking meters that indicate the type of zone, how long drivers can stop there and the fee to be paid. Parking fees can be paid by coins, prepaid cards or via registered mobile phones.

Premium parking zones are indicated by white-and turquoise-coloured kerbs. Drivers can park in these zones for up to four hours at a time.

Standard parking zones are indicated by black-and turquoise-coloured kerbs and drivers are permitted to park there for up to 24 hours.

If drivers park outside the designated zones during the period of operation they will be fined. As visitors are often in hire cars, the rental company will pass on any fines incurred to the driver as soon as possible after receiving them.

The parking system is in operation in Abu Dhabi from 08.00 am – 12.00 midnight, Saturday – Thursday. Fridays and public holidays are free.

Find out more about up-to-date charges and the latest developments with the system by visiting the *Mawaqif* website:

<https://mawaqif.ae/ar/home>

Local information and Emirati laws

Women and children

Women can usually travel around the Emirate of Abu Dhabi with ease. It is however a good idea for female visitors to dress appropriately and with respect for local traditions. Female visitors should bring lightweight cotton clothes that cover their arms and legs and it is a good tip to carry a pashmina or other scarf to cover shoulders and arms. Visitor dress and etiquette will be covered in more detail in Portfolio 2.

Abu Dhabi warmly welcomes all children. The Emirate is safe and very well equipped for younger visitors and has a vast number of places and activities to keep them entertained. (Please see Section 10 for more information)

Beaches, parks and fun days out are plentiful for families with children. Most shopping malls feature Kid's Zones and some even have crèche facilities where children and babies are looked after while parents shop. Hotels usually always have children (and parents) in mind with babysitting facilities, activities and children's pools. It is best for visitors to check individual hotel websites for more information. TripAdvisor has published a list of the top family-friendly hotels in Abu Dhabi according to real guests.

Visitors can access this information from the following link:

[www.tripadvisor.com/Hotels-g294013-zff4-Abu Dhabi Emirate of Abu Dhabi-Hotels.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotels-g294013-zff4-Abu_Dhabi_Emirate_of_Abu_Dhabi-Hotels.html)

Child-friendly restaurants are also plentiful, although visitors are advised to check before they arrive to ensure the restaurant has a children's menu or highchairs if needed.

Further your knowledge

Top tips and facts for visitors travelling to the UAE with children:

<http://ourglobetrotters.com/facts-visiting-uae-with-kids/>

Some great ideas of what to do and see with children in and around Abu Dhabi:

<http://www.family-travel-scoop.com/things-to-do-in-abu-dhabi.html>

What to wear in Abu Dhabi

It depends what kinds of activities visitors are going to take part in but for the majority of the time they should consider bringing lightweight and loose-fitting summer clothing in natural fibres to keep cool and modestly covered. This is applicable for both men and women.

In the winter months, a light jacket or sweater/cardigan is advisable to protect arms and shoulders of both men and women. For women, a scarf or pashmina is useful for occasions where modesty (or the air-conditioning) requires it.

You will look at etiquette and dress code when on tours in more detail in Portfolio 2. Please also refer back to Section 6: Emirati Culture and Traditions for in-depth information on Emirati hospitality and etiquette concerning greetings, communication style, and eating and drinking.

Emirati laws for visitors

In Section 4 of this portfolio, you looked briefly at the judicial system in the UAE. In this final section, you will look at some of the laws and areas of social responsibility which affect visitors travelling to and around the UAE generally and Abu Dhabi specifically.

Recap of the legal system in the UAE

As mentioned in Section 4, the main basis of the legal system in the UAE is founded on Sharia law¹ although most of the laws passed and the system itself are a blend of Islamic and European models of civil law.

At the time of the formation of the federation of the UAE in 1971 and the unification of the Emirates, the Constitution of the UAE was created. Union laws were passed at this time to protect all Emiratis and to safeguard the security and stability of the new unified nation. Equality, social justice, safety, security and equal opportunities for all citizens were decreed as the pillars of society. The constitution provides the procedure for how all federal laws are to be created and then issued.

Please refer back to Section 4 to remind yourself of the structure of the legal system in the UAE and Abu Dhabi.

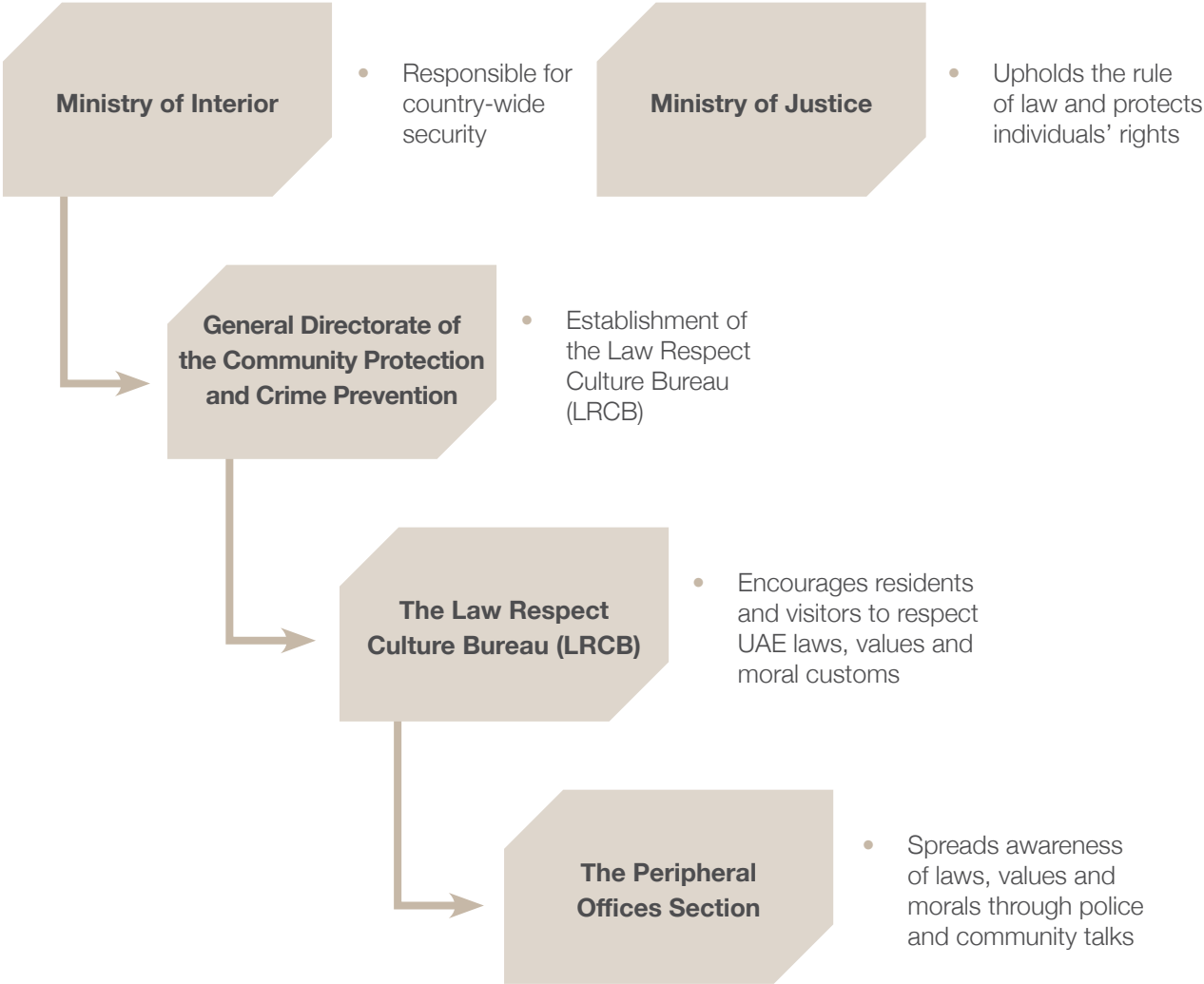
Government bodies that uphold the law

The UAE **Ministry of Justice** ensures the rule of law is upheld and that all individuals' rights and freedoms are protected. The UAE **Ministry of Interior** is responsible for the country's security. In the Ministry of Interior's Strategic Plan towards 2021, members of the public (residents and visitors alike) are encouraged to take responsibility for the reduction of crime and for promoting safety in the country.

The Ministry's General Directorate of the Community Protection and Crime Prevention established the **Law Respect Culture Bureau (LRCB)** in 2013. The Bureau also urges residents and visitors to respect written UAE laws as well as observe and uphold local values and moral customs. Its aim is to give information about the law and customs in a simplified and understandable way.

¹ Source: Sharia law is a religious law forming part of the Islamic tradition. It is derived from the religious precepts of Islam, particularly the Quran and the Hadith.

The Peripheral Offices Section, affiliated with the LRCB, is the body responsible for spreading awareness of laws, values and morals through police and community education lectures.



UAE Government bodies that uphold the law and security

In the following part of this section, you will study the laws that affect visitors travelling in Abu Dhabi. You will then look at security measures in place in the country.

Information for visitors on Emirati laws

The UAE extends a warm welcome to visitors from around the world who wish to respect local laws and traditions. Culture, moral codes and laws in the UAE go hand in hand, protecting personal freedom and, at the same time, ensuring that everyone is respectful of each other regardless of their faith and nationality.

Visitors are strongly advised to familiarise themselves with the law and local traditions so they understand that certain activities which may be tolerated elsewhere in the world may not be socially or legally acceptable in the UAE. There is an emphasis on visitors gaining this information for themselves and not remaining ignorant of local laws and customs.

DID YOU KNOW? In the UAE, visitors and residents can be arrested for violating public morals ²

According to a recent report by the UAE Law Respect Culture Bureau (LRCB) ³, visitors repeatedly either break the law or commit cultural or moral offences when visiting the country by:

- dressing in a way that offends local people
- displaying affection between couples in public - this includes kissing and excessive touching
- taking photographs of strangers
- driving while under the influence of alcohol

You need to inform your visitors that these and other common offences can carry penalties.

The following part of this section will list the laws that every visitor to the UAE and Abu Dhabi will need to know and obey.

Identification

It is mandatory to carry personal identification at all times. This should either be a passport or a national ID card.

Importing goods

Importing any pork products into the UAE is illegal, as is importing pornography.

Drugs

It is important for visitors to know about the **zero tolerance for drugs-related offences**. There are strict penalties for possession of even a small amount of an illegal substance; from a minimum four-year jail sentence, up to the death penalty for drug trafficking. ⁴

Over-the-counter (OTC) and prescribed supplements and medication

The UAE has strict drug and medication laws and restrictions. Visitors must check the banned list from their local consulate or embassy (**do not** just rely on hotel or travel agency information) to make absolutely sure they can travel with the over-the-counter or prescribed medicines they need and what type of doctor's note they are required to carry with them.

² Source: <https://www.adjd.gov.ae/EN/Pages/Legal%20Guidance/CRM-arrestandprovisional.aspx>

³ Source: <https://www.thenational.ae/business/travel-and-tourism/top-legal-blunders-made-by-uae-tourists-1.457462>

⁴ Capital punishment is a legal penalty in the United Arab Emirates, although it is rarely carried out. Under Emirati law, multiple crimes carry the death penalty, and the sole method of execution is firing squad.

As a general rule, if visitors are using doctor-prescribed drugs such as painkillers or antidepressants they should carry a doctor's note. This note should contain certain details such as the period of travel in the UAE, the type of illness the medicines are treating and the specific medicines themselves. Visitors may on occasion require clearance from their UAE consulate or embassy before travelling.

Refer back to Section 2: General Knowledge of the UAE and the Emirate of Abu Dhabi for a list of banned substances, OTC and prescribed medicines.

Alcohol

Alcoholic drinks are served in licensed hotels and clubs. Due to strict alcohol licensing, visitors will not be able to purchase alcohol in general stores and supermarkets. If alcohol is sold in stores, it can only be purchased by residents who have obtained the required liquor licence to purchase alcohol for personal consumption at home. This does not include visitors staying in Abu Dhabi temporarily. It is a punishable offence to drink while walking in the street or in a park and it is against the law to be drunk in a public place.

The legal age for drinking alcohol is 18 in Abu Dhabi (although a Ministry of Tourism by-law allows hotels to serve alcohol only to those over 21), 21 in Dubai and the Northern Emirates and, in the Emirate of Sharjah, drinking alcohol is illegal. If visitors are travelling from one destination to another and pass through any of the Emirates under the influence of alcohol they may be arrested.

Smoking

The legal age to smoke tobacco in the whole of the UAE is 18 years. Smoking is illegal in government buildings, offices and shopping malls. In areas where smoking is permitted, it must be done so in designated areas. These areas include bars, enclosed smoking lounges and booths. Interestingly, electronic or E-cigarettes are illegal in the UAE and are likely to be confiscated at the border; a fact that some visitors may not be aware of!

Cheques and bills

If a visitor pays for something by cheque and they do not have enough money in their account to clear it, they will face criminal and civil charges. If a visitor does not pay a bill of any type, including hotel or restaurant bills, they could be fined or even face arrest and imprisonment. Bank accounts and other assets can be frozen if bills are not paid.

Anti-social or offensive behaviour

Swearing or making rude gestures using fingers, hand or other gestures are considered obscene acts and the offenders could be jailed or deported. Public displays of affection, including kissing or touching, should be avoided as visitors could be arrested for doing so.

Photography/internet access/social media/books

Taking pictures of certain government and military buildings is illegal. There will usually be signs prohibiting photography. You will need to instruct visitors not to photograph these sites and to look out for the signs. Photographing aircraft and plane spotting is also illegal! Taking pictures or recordings of strangers, particularly women, without permission is illegal and can lead to arrest or fines.

Posting written material and images online that criticise Abu Dhabi, its authorities, companies or individuals is considered a crime under UAE federal law. This also applies to incidents that occur in the Emirate.

Videos, books and magazines, regardless of the country of origin, could be subject to scrutiny by customs and/or censored. Strict copyright laws are enforced in the whole of the UAE. Any pirated video/audio recording or illegal computer software found will be confiscated on arrival into the Emirate. Visitors should not purchase pirated DVDs while in Abu Dhabi.

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) decides on what is censored on the internet throughout the UAE. Restricted content is that which:

- is contradictory with the ethics and morals of the UAE, this includes nudity and dating
- contains material which expresses hate to religions
- is not in line with UAE laws
- allows or assists users to access blocked content
- is relevant to gambling
- provides information on buying, making, promoting or using illegal drugs

Visitor security

Taking good care of visitors and tourists is a serious business in the UAE. Abu Dhabi has a dedicated and robust Tourism Police Section which is very active in looking after and issuing guidance for visitors. They are advised by the Peripheral Offices Section, affiliated with the Law Respect Culture Bureau (LRCB).

“The Tourism Police Section has worked in close coordination with foreign embassies in the UAE with a view to properly serve their nationals visiting the country,”

Lieutenant Colonel Muzeed Fahd Al Otaibi, Chief of Tourism Police Section at Abu Dhabi Police ⁵

This guidance on adhering to the law and staying safe supports tourism and contributes to making the UAE one of the most popular and safest tourist destinations for world travellers.

⁵ Source: <https://www.adpolice.gov.ae/en/media/news/Pages/114314.aspx>

Crime

Crime is very low in Abu Dhabi but, as in all cities, visitors are advised to take sensible precautions to ensure a safe and enjoyable visit. It is a good idea to gently remind visitors of such precautions at suitable moments.

Visitors should not carry large amounts of cash; there are many cash machines and all major credit cards are accepted in most shops and restaurants.

If hiring a car, visitors should always lock it when not in use. Valuables or handbags should not be left inside the car. If they are left in the car for any reason they should not be left on view.

Female visitors should take care when walking or travelling alone, and should use an official taxi company, particularly at night. Drink spiking can occur (when someone adds a harmful substance to a drink). Visitors should not accept drinks from people they do not know or leave drinks unattended at any time.

Beach safety

Staying safe on the beach is something that visitors and tourists should be aware of. Strong currents including rip tides can occur on any beach and even good swimmers can be swept out to sea very easily.

Visitors and tourists must always look out for and comply with warning signs on beaches, especially red flags which indicate it is not safe to swim, and only swim from approved or guarded beaches.

Road safety

In all of the Emirates, drinking and driving is a criminal offence. There is **zero tolerance on consuming any alcohol before getting behind the wheel of a vehicle.**

DID YOU KNOW? If a driver flashes his or her lights at you in Abu Dhabi, it can mean they want to proceed, rather than giving way to you as is the case in some countries.

The activity known as 'dune bashing' can be dangerous and so visitors and tourists should always use a reputable company which equips their 4 x 4 vehicles properly and safely.

Anyone sightseeing and moving around Abu Dhabi on foot should take great care. Walkers should only cross the road using marked pedestrian crossings, to ensure their safety, as vehicles often do not stop for pedestrians. Pedestrians who ignore traffic signals (known as jaywalking) could face prosecution.

Air travel

While you are responsible for visitors and tourists while they are on your tours, it is also well worth knowing what can and cannot be taken in and out of the UAE, as well as the security procedures at Abu Dhabi Airport. This is information you can give out in suitable dry areas of tours.

Luggage and passport checks and regulations

All luggage will be scanned by customs officials on arrival at Abu Dhabi airport. Once visitors have presented their passport and visa (if necessary) at passport control, they will go to baggage reclaim to collect baggage. There is then an additional check at Customs Control where officials may search baggage for any prohibited or restricted goods. Luggage and other bags can be checked at any time in the airport by customs officers, other certified officers from other controlling authorities or agencies and the police.

Passports must be valid for the duration of the trip. Visitors to Abu Dhabi will need to check with their individual governments or embassies about the rules and restrictions on passport validity, visa, transit and entry requirements as they are all different. Visitors need to keep their knowledge about rules and restrictions up-to-date.

Further your knowledge

The following Abu Dhabi Airport link provides specific information on luggage restrictions, to which you can refer visitors and tourists:

www.abudhabiairport.ae/english/airport-information/luggage/luggage-regulations.aspx

Duty free allowances

At the time of writing, the UAE permits the following to be brought into the UAE as a whole and Abu Dhabi specifically. Always refer your visitors and tourists to the official customs area of the airport's website to be sure of legal allowances:

- Four litres of alcohol or one carton / 24 cans of beer
- AED 2,000 worth of cigarettes or 400 sticks of cigarettes
- AED 3,000 worth of cigars
- Two kilogrammes of tobacco
- AED 3,000 worth of gifts, including perfume ⁶

Prohibited items

Information found within this section as well as in Section 2, under healthcare, will inform you of prohibited items.

Abu Dhabi International Airport's customs information can be found here:

<https://www.abudhabiairport.ae/en/passenger-guide/transit/procedures/customs>:

Visitors should note that equipment including satellite phones, listening or recording devices, radio transmitters, powerful cameras or binoculars, may require a licence for use in the UAE.

On departure from Abu Dhabi

When visitors check in at the airport to return home, their luggage will be screened to make sure they are not carrying prohibited items. Visitors should therefore ensure that they have packed their bags themselves and are not carrying anything that does not belong to them personally, including wrapped gifts, without knowing the contents.

If passengers are carrying liquids or gels in hand luggage, they should be less than 100mls and all items must fit into a single see-through one litre bag as per international regulations.

Passengers will go through the usual international security checks and x-ray scans for luggage. If a female passenger needs to be checked personally, she will be directed to a dedicated booth for a discreet security check.

Further your knowledge

Find out more about the security procedures at Abu Dhabi International Airport by watching this short airport video – scroll to the end of the webpage to view the video:

www.abudhabiairport.ae/english/airport-information/airport-security/security-checks.aspx

For detailed information on what visitors can expect, see and do at the airport, please look at the Abu Dhabi International Airport website:

www.abudhabiairport.ae/english

⁶ Source: www.abudhabiairport.ae/english/airport-information/check-in-and-passport-control/customs.aspx

Knowledge Bank: Local Information and Emirati Laws for Visitors

1. Navigating around Abu Dhabi
2. Public transport in Abu Dhabi
3. Local legal system and general laws that should be highlighted to tourists to ensure awareness

1. Navigating around Abu Dhabi

Official tourist/visitor maps

Free maps provided by hotels do not always provide all the information a visitor would need and are mostly concerned with marketing restaurants or services. The official Visit Abu Dhabi map should be given out to visitors. The map is available to download from the Visit Abu Dhabi website. Alternatively, you can request a stock of these maps from the Department of Culture & Tourism (DCT).

2. Public transport in Abu Dhabi

Taxis

- Taxis in Abu Dhabi are regulated by the Centre for Regulation of Transport by Hire Cars (TransAD), a government organisation established in 2006
- TransAD's mission is to establish a safe, secure, accessible and efficient public transportation system in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi
- TransAD works in collaboration with the Emirates Driving Company which provides training programmes and assessments to develop practical skills for taxi drivers
- There is no specific city centre taxi stand apart from at shopping malls and centres
- Customer bookings over the phone or through an app are monitored to ensure customers are updated on their pick-up times and that taxi drivers complete job requests

Passenger rights and responsibilities

- Customers have the right to:
 - decide on the route
 - see the taxi meter
 - refuse multiple hiring
 - have the air conditioner on
 - refuse to pay additional amounts or tip
 - see the driver's photo identity card
- Customers are responsible for:
 - paying the correct fare, including any tolls and booking fees that apply
 - wearing a seat belt at all times
 - not eating, drinking or smoking in the taxi
 - not asking the driver to stop where it is illegal or unsafe to do so
 - ensuring any child under 12 months is secured in an approved child seat ⁷

⁷ Source: www.abudhabi.ae/portal/public/en/citizens/vehicles-and-transport/public-transport/taxi-service-in-abu-dhabi

Chauffeur-driven services

- Chauffeur-driven services are operated by Careem Limo throughout Abu Dhabi
- Visitors entering Abu Dhabi via the airport can travel to the city centre in a fixed-rate limousine available at the taxi pick-up area

Buses

- Public buses in Abu Dhabi are regulated and operated by TransAD. They operate regular services with more than 650 buses servicing over 95 routes
- The seats for female passengers are situated immediately behind the driver
- The seating section for men is at the back of the bus

Car hire

Visitors will need the following documents to be able to rent a car in Abu Dhabi

- Driver's passport
- Credit card
- Valid driving licence

Car Parking - m-Mawaqif

- *m-Mawaqif* is the name of Abu Dhabi's parking system
- Premium parking zones are indicated by white- and turquoise-coloured kerbs. Drivers can park in these zones for up to four hours at a time
- Standard parking zones are indicated by black-and turquoise-coloured kerbs and drivers are permitted to park there for up to 24 hours
- The parking system is in operation in Abu Dhabi from 08.00 am – 12.00 midnight Saturday – Thursday. Fridays and public holidays are free

3. Local legal system and general laws that should be highlighted to tourists to ensure awareness

- The main basis of the legal system in the UAE is founded on Sharia law ⁸ although most of the laws passed and the system itself are a blend of Islamic and European models of civil law
- The **Constitution** of the UAE was created at the time of the formation of the federation of the UAE and the unification of the Emirates in 1971
- **The Peripheral Offices Section**, affiliated with the LRCB, is the body responsible for spreading awareness of laws, values and morals through the police and community education lectures.
- It is mandatory to carry personal identification at all times. This should be either a passport or a national ID card
- Importing any pork products into the UAE is illegal
- Importing pornography into the UAE is illegal
- There is a **zero tolerance for drugs-related offences**; penalties for possession of even a small amount of an illegal substance can incur a minimum four-year jail sentence
- If visitors are using doctor-prescribed drugs such as painkillers or antidepressants, they should carry a doctor's note
- It is a punishable offence to drink alcohol while walking in the street or park and it is against the law to be drunk in a public place
- The legal age for drinking alcohol is 18 in Abu Dhabi

⁸ Source: Sharia law is a religious law forming part of the Islamic tradition. It is derived from the religious precepts of Islam, particularly the Quran and the Hadith.

- The legal age to smoke tobacco in the whole of the UAE is 18 years
- Smoking is illegal in government buildings, offices and shopping malls
- Electronic or E-cigarettes are illegal in the UAE and are likely to be confiscated at the border
- If a visitor pays for something by cheque and they do not have enough money in their account to clear it, they will face criminal and civil charges
- People who swear, make rude finger, hand or other gestures could be jailed or deported
- People kissing or touching each other in public could be arrested for doing so
- Taking pictures of certain government and military buildings is illegal as is photographing aircraft and plane spotting
- Taking pictures or recordings of strangers, particularly women, without permission is illegal and can lead to arrest or fines
- Equipment like satellite phones, listening or recording devices, radio transmitters, powerful cameras or binoculars, may require a licence for use in the UAE

Find out more on the UAE federal laws

<https://u.ae/en/information-and-services/justice-safety-and-the-law/how-are-uae-laws-issued-and-how-to-find-them/where-to-find-uae-federal-laws>